



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

520 US Hwy 41 E + Negaunee, MI 49866
(906) 475-9161 + FAX (906) 475-9403

Office@ImmanuelNegaunee.org + www.ImmanuelNegaunee.org
Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, 9:30 am, Monday, Dec. 18, 2023, 6:00 pm Services

Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome to worship! Please complete a Connection Card and place the card in the offering plate. Thank you!

“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thesalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a state-ly, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

(Please stay seated.)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Week Three: Joy

When I look around, I see shadows of sadness, families who have lost loved ones, people in prison, people who are isolated and feel on their own...When I look around, I see shadows of grief, people dreading the holidays because of painful memories, or because they don't want to spend another Christmas alone... In the face of sadness, we light a candle of joy...In the face of grief, in the face of loss, we light a candle of joy. May the light from this candle overwhelm the world. May the light from this candle say to all that God’s joy is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven. Friends, be not afraid, God’s joy is at hand!

ADVENT HYMN

Wait for the Lord (sing 3 times)

#262

HOLY BAPTISM

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors:

I present Julia for baptism.

Parents, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have *Julia* baptized into Christ?

I do.

As you bring *her* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

- to live with *her* among God's faithful people,
- bring *her* to the word of God and the holy supper,
- teach *her* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
- place in *her* hands the holy scriptures, and nurture *her* in faith and prayer,
- so that *she* may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Parents, do you promise to help *Julia* grow in the Christian faith and life?

I do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *Julia* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help *her* live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with

the church?

I do.

People of God, do you promise to support *Julia* and pray for *her* in *her* new life in Christ?

We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy spirit now and forever.

Amen.

Julia Kay, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain *Julia* with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Julia Kay, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, **and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn. 3

it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Word of God. **Word of Life. Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 126

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**

³The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. ²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Word of God. **Word of Life. Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are comfortable.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al - le -
lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28

The holy gospel according to...

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither

The Lord has done great things for us. (Ps. 126:3)

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

Renew our lives that we may welcome and care for one another and that we may live and serve within the greater community of Negaunee and the world, witnessing to others your abundant love, grace, and welcome.

the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated.)

SERMON

Pastor Bre Kinnunen

(Please stand as you are comfortable.)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Drawn to the Light

#593

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as we bear witness to the great things you have done. Give your church a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let the trees of the field sing your praise. Protect forests, orchards, rainforests, and all wooded areas from disease and deforestation. Keep us grateful for their gifts of oxygen, food, shade, and shelter. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You love justice and promise your favor to those who are oppressed, brokenhearted, and incarcerated. Grant wisdom and compassion to those who work for public safety and all who work within prisons, jails, and courts, that mercy may increase and violence wither away. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Give us strength to pray for our world without ceasing and provoke us toward love and good deeds for all who are in need (especially). Provide for all without adequate housing, food, employment, or access to health care. Empower us as helpers and advocates. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Open our hearts to those who serve as truth-tellers in our church and in our society. Bless leaders in church and society in their task of proclamation. Amplify voices of peacemakers, advocates, and especially those whose voices are ignored or marginalized. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With gratitude we rejoice in the saints (especially) who witnessed to your life in all circumstances, in whom your Spirit was not quenched, even in death. Through them, teach us always to hold fast to what is good. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **Amen.**

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

(Please be seated.)

MEAL

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.



OFFERING

(Please stand as you are comfortable.)

OFFERING SONG

He Came Down

#253

OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider, **by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

COMMUNION HYMNS:

All Earth is Hopeful

#266

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

#251

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

#242

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SENDING

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Bre Kinnunen

(Please stand as you are comfortable.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF December 17—December 24, 2023

- * **BAPTISM** We welcome into the family of God: **Julia Kay Soeltner**, daughter of Sanna Paulson and Brent Soeltner. She was born on September 6, 2023. Her sponsors are Preston Paulson and Henna DuMoulin.
- * **ALTAR FLOWERS** The altar flowers are in memory of the birthdays of Hilja Lahde and Ray Jarvi from June Jarvi, Chyrl & Jack Hemmila & Family, Christine & Bill Flis and Dale & Jill Jarvi & Family.
- * **QUAKE** The Immanuel youth will be going to Minneapolis for Quake on **March 14-17, 2024**. Any Immanuel youth in 6th-9th grade as well as a friend may go on this trip. A non-refundable deposit of **\$75** is due by **January 2, 2024**. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board outside the church office or call Stacy at 361-9123 for more information.
- * **FELLOWSHIP HOUR:** Are you willing to help with Fellowship hour? Donations that are needed are bakery items, crackers, cheese, fruit, or whatever suits your fancy, & cleanup! Your Fellowship Hour committee for January is Social Ministry. If it fits your schedule to bring items before Sunday morning, there are shelves in the refrigerator tagged for **Coffee Hour** or leave on the counter marked "Coffee Hour". Please contact **Linda Sjolund at 517-242-5364** with your date and any item you wish to bring. **THANK YOU ALL FOR VOLUNTEERING!**
- * **SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CONVERSATION** The Sunday Bible Study will be on **HOLD** as of **December 17**.
- * **TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY** All are welcome to come to our study on **TUESDAYS** from 7:30pm-9:00pm at **Pasquali's** in Negaunee. We welcome you to drop in as your schedule allows. Each week's discussion will be structured as a stand-alone study. Bring your questions, confusions, and doubts! There will be **no meeting this week**. If you have questions, call or text 540-435-4915.
- * **ELEVATOR 'OUT-OF-COMMISSION':** The elevator is NOT USEABLE. Work is being done to retrofit the elevator with a new lift. The company we are working with is A4 Access. 80% of the work is complete. We have run into issues to complete the final 20%. There has been an add-on cost of \$7,500 due to a State of Michigan Code change. Martin Saari and members of the Property Committee are diligently working to bring this project to completion. Your patience is greatly appreciated.
- * **"GOT SNEAKERS??"** We are collecting used ATHLETIC SNEAKERS which are then sent to a company that reuses those that are still usable and recycles those that aren't. There is currently a bag in the Stewardship corner where they can be deposited. Thank you for your donation.
- * **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** The order form for your poinsettias is on the table in the upstairs hallway. Remember your loved ones with a poinsettia this Christmas season. Return your order form by **December 20th** to be included in the poinsettia booklet acknowledging your donation.
- * **ELCA ADVENT GOOD GIFTS TREE** is by the Fellowship Hall. Through ELCA Good Gifts we can help a family with independence and sustainability. There are various ornaments on the Good Gifts tree - goats, pigs, fruit tree, school supplies, etc. Your donations can be placed in the offering plate for this project OR you can go to the ELCA Good Gifts web page and order your gift. <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>
- * **BEACON DEADLINE** The final day to submit for the January/February Beacon is **December 18**.
- * **ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE** The final day to submit for the 2023 Annual Report is **January 18**.
- * **CHANGES TO CHURCH SERVICE TIMES** Starting on **Sunday, January 7** we will begin Sunday Worship Services at 6:00pm in addition to the regular 9:30am service. This service will replace the Monday night service. The last Monday night service will be December 18.

***IMMANUEL WELCA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** will be held on **Thursday, December 21** at **12:30pm** in the lower level quilting room.

***JOINT ABIGAIL AND MIRIAM CIRCLE MEETING** will be held on **Tuesday, December 19** at **12:30pm**. There will be a potluck with Gather Magazine Bible study to follow.

***CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE TIMES** The **9:30am** service will be the 4th Sunday of Advent. The **4:00pm** and **6:00pm** services will be Candlelight Services. In addition, the 6:00pm service will be live streamed online and in the Fellowship Hall.

***UGLY SWEATER SUNDAY** On **Sunday, December 31**, wear your ugly sweaters to service. The uglier the better!

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**KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**Pray For:** *Lori Bell, Betty Carilli, Kevin Carlson, Karen Couture, Dan Hendrickson, Betty Kinnunen, Michael Kjellman, Anna Laurila, Don & Mary Leece, Jessica Luck, Kathryn Madison, Diane Nault, Gerald Neldon, Ezra Newman, Stephanie Penhale, Shirley Pizziola, Jim Ritzenhein, Jessica Roberts, Marlene Romback, Louise Spickerman, Kathy Stambaugh, Mr. and Mrs. Taseris, Bob Walker.*

**Our Shut-ins:** *Bettie Ahola, Jonelle Collins, Rudy Gagnon, June Jarvi, Timothy Kjellman, Betty Lukkarinen, Butch Pynnonen, Dolores Reichel, Lillian Rivers, Paul Alan Smith, Elsie Suardini, Lynne Tossava.*

**Members in the Armed Service:** *Luke DeWitt, Adrianna Gustafson, Michael Gustafson, Spencer Harvala, Hunter (Jessica) Hetrick, Dennis Koski, Tanner Romback, Michael Sedlock, Ethan Wallner, and all Armed Services Families.*

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VOLUNTEERS ASSISTING IN SERVICE

SERVING IN WORSHIP: *Pastor Bre Kinnunen*

ORGANIST/PIANIST/MUSICIAN:
Sunday & Monday - *Connie Scanlon*

Worship Services: Sunday @ 9:30am / Monday @ 6:00pm
Office Hours are 8:00am-2:00pm, Monday-Thursday (or by appt.)

ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE:

9:30am GREETERS	<i>Mike Lempinen Vicki Lempinen</i>	6:00pm	<i>Deb Hicks Need Volunteer</i>
9:30am USHERS	<i>Mike Lempinen Vicki Lempinen</i>	6:00pm	<i>Deb Hicks Need Volunteer</i>
9:30am LECTOR	<i>Kathleen Partanen</i>	6:00pm	<i>Paulette Patron</i>
9:30am COMM ASSTS	<i>Alice & Bill Zinsser Danielle Songer</i>	6:00pm	<i>Paulette Patron</i>
9:30am Tech Team	<i>Tyler Moore</i>		

DECEMBER'S MONTHLY MISSION

IN DECEMBER, our mission emphasis is Room at the Inn, our area emergency night shelter for adults.



Room at the Inn opened Marquette's first ever permanent homeless shelter on December 24, 2020 above the Room at the Inn Warming Center. Local churches had operated a rotating shelter between churches for nearly 14 years. The improved shelter is a 30-bed emergency shelter with 24/7 shelter access. Over 1600 meals are served per month.

The Warming Center continues to provide a warm and friendly location for shelter guests to gather, socialize, eat and - of course- to warm up during cold days.

Room at the Inn provides food, shelter and assistance for individuals transitioning out of homelessness. Room at the Inn serves primarily Marquette area residents.

Donations of money and food for meals is much appreciated. Food donations are under stricter regulation so best to check directly with Room at the Inn or check the Beacon for suggestions. Volunteers are always welcome!

If you wish to give above-and-beyond to this mission, please use December's mission emphasis envelope from your offering envelope box or in some other way designate your gift. *Thank you for your generosity!*



Thank you for giving \$735 in November to the
Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Operations & Maintenance.
The recipients will be richly blessed with your generosity! Thank you!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
December 17, 2023—December 24, 2023

YOU CAN FIND ALL ONLINE INFORMATION REFERENCED BELOW AT...
www.ImmanuelNegaunee.org

	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	
Sunday	8:00am	Prayer Vigil ends
	9:30am	Worship Service
	9:30am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Coffee & Fellowship
	7:30pm	AA Group Meets (men & women)
Monday	BEACON DEADLINE	
	6:00pm	Worship Service
Tuesday	10:00am	Bible Study
	12:30pm	Joint Circle Meeting & Potluck
	6:00pm	Executive Meeting
	6:30pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday	6:00pm	Choir Practice
Thursday	POINSETTIA DEADLINE	
	10:00am	Quilting
	12:30pm	WELCA General Member Meeting
Friday	OFFICE CLOSED	
	10:00am	AA
Sunday	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	
	9:30am	Worship Service
	9:30am	NO Sunday School
	10:30am	Coffee & Fellowship
	4:00pm	Christmas Worship
	6:00pm	Christmas Worship
	7:30pm	AA Group Meets (men & women)

(FYI: Pastor Bre can be reached at 507-993-1909 or email: upbre3@gmail.com.)

YOUR 2024 DONATION BOX CAN BE PICKED UP.
THEY ARE LOCATED AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.
PLEASE PICK UP YOUR BOX. (If you cannot find one and you would like one, please contact the office and they will prepare one for you.) THANK YOU!

