



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Office@ImmanuelNegaunee.org + www.ImmanuelNegaunee.org
Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023, 9:30am Service

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

God keeps the
promise made to
David to give him
an everlasting
throne. The angel
tells Mary that
God will give Da-
vid's throne to
her son Jesus. She
is perplexed by
Gabriel's greeting
and by the news
of her coming
pregnancy, but
she is able still to
say, "Count me
in." We who
know that Jesus is
called king only
as he is executed
still find it a mys-
tery hard to fath-
om, but with
Mary today we
hear the news of
what God is up to
and say, "Count
us in."

GATHERING

PRELUDE

(Please stay seated.)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Week Four: Love

Because too many people are wandering in the wilderness, because too many people are sitting in the valley of the shadow of death, because too many of our conversations are laced with conflict and bitterness, we light candles...Because people all over the world are suffering, and we're often too distracted to notice, we light candles... One for hope, one for peace, one for joy, and one for love...May the light from these candles overwhelm the world. May the light from these candles illuminate the valley of the shadow of death. And may the fire from these candles burn away whatever would prevent God's love from being born among us. Friends, be not afraid, even now — even now — God's love is overwhelming the world, on earth as it already is in heaven!

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 Elias for baptism.

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

I do.

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

to live with *him* among God's faithful people,

bring *him* to the word of God and the holy supper,

teach *him* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,

place in *his* hands the holy scriptures, and nurture *him* in faith and prayer,

so that *he* 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 *Elias* grow in the Christian faith and life?

I do.

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

I do.

People of God, do you promise to support *Elias* and pray for *him* in *his* 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.

Elias Grunwald, 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 *Elias* 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.

Elias Grunwald, 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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. **With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them,

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, ⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

⁵⁰**You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.**

⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit, ⁵²**casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.**

⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,**

⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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: Luke 1:26-38

The holy gospel according to...

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

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

Unexpected and Mysterious

#258

Sung to tune of #561

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.

You promise mercy to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever. Bring your church into thoughtful, caring, and collaborative relationship with those of other faiths. Strengthen our shared values, that we work together in caring for our world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

As fields and crops lie dormant, bless them with holy rest. Prepare them to thrive, that they provide abundant food in due season. Protect animals who hibernate and provide for all who scavenge for food in the lean season. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You raise up the lowly and cast down the arrogant. Teach humility to all in positions of authority. Break down systems of oppression, especially systems that perpetuate inequity and exclusion. Do not allow wealth, power, or pride to become idols that obscure your call to justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Look with favor upon all who cry out to you. Accompany with tenderness all who are afraid or ill (especially). Rescue all who experience abuse or who live under threat of violence, especially refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers in search of a safe and stable home. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You are pleased to make your home among us. Make our homecomings joyful as we gather with friends, families, and chosen families in celebration. Grant safety to all who travel. Sustain the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and other ministries that assist in setting up new homes. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Blessed are you for Mary and all your servants in every generation who lived according to your promise of mercy (especially). Strengthen us by their example until the revelation of your glory is made known. 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.**

In this announcement, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

(Please be seated.)

OFFERING

(Please stand as you are comfortable.)

OFFERING SONG

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

#247

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:

Savior of the Nations, Come

#263

People, Look East

#248

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.)



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: **Elias Grunwald Bhatia**, son of Annalisa and Souful Bhatia. He was born on January 10, 2022. His sponsors are Michael and Nicole Grunwald. Elias is the Great Grandson of Loraine Lehto.

***HAPPY 96TH BIRTHDAY TO BETTY LUKKARINEN** on December 31!

***QUAKE** The Immanuel youth will be going to Minneapolis for Quake on **March 14-17, 2024**. Any Immanuel youth in 6th-12th 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 Sjölund 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 is on **HOLD**.

***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.

***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.

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

***FINAL RESULTS ARE IN!** In the recent **Thrivent** campaign, **“Carols for a Cause”**, Fortune Lake Bible Camp won 1st prize and is the recipient of \$15,000.00! Fortune Lake’s Christmas Carol was “Joy to the World!”

***CHURCH CLOSING PROCEDURES** In the event of inclement weather, a closing announcement will be placed on the church phone message, signs will be posted on the church doors, a post will be added to the church webpage and on Facebook and the closure will be listed on TV6 Closures. Sunday School closures will be posted on our Sunday School Facebook page by 7:30am. When you see the cancellation notice, please pass it on to your friends who may not have seen it yet.

***CHURCH DECORATING** Thank you to all who helped in decorating the church for Christmas!

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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*

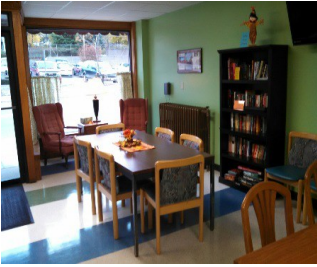
ORGANIST/PIANIST/MUSICIAN:
Sunday & Monday - Connie Scanlon

Worship Services: *Sunday @ 9:30am / 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>
9:30am USHERS	<i>Mike Lempinen Vicki Lempinen</i>
9:30am LECTOR	<i>Mike Lempinen</i>
9:30am COMM ASSTS	<i>Walter Scanlon Linda Dillman</i>
9:30am Tech Team	<i>Luanne Skrenes</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 24, 2023—December 31, 2023

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

	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	
Sunday	9:30am	Worship Service
	9:30am	NO Sunday School
	10:30am	Coffee & Fellowship
	4:00pm	Christmas Eve Worship
	6:00pm	Christmas Eve Worship
	7:30pm	AA Group Meets (men & women)
Monday	OFFICE CLOSED/CHRISTMAS DAY	
Tuesday	10:00am	NO Bible Study
Wednesday	6:00pm	NO Choir Practice
Thursday	10:00am	Quilting
Friday	OFFICE CLOSED	
	10:00am	AA
Sunday	<i>First Sunday of Christmas</i>	
	9:30am	Worship Service
	9:30am	NO Sunday School
	10:30am	Coffee & Fellowship
	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!

