



# 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. 31, 2023, 9:30am Service

## First Sunday of Christmas

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

The psalmist calls  
on the natural  
world, celestial  
bodies, fire and  
earth, creatures,  
and all humanity,  
to praise God. The  
voices of Simeon  
and 84-year-old  
Anna join the cho-  
rus today, recog-  
nizing what God is  
doing in Jesus.  
Simeon's song is  
often sung after  
communion, for  
we have seen  
God's salvation in  
the assembled  
community and  
have held Jesus in  
our hands in the  
bread. Then, like  
the prophet Anna,  
we tell of Jesus to  
all who look for  
the healing of the  
world.

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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.**

### GATHERING HYMN

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

#288

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, **you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10—62:3

<sup>10</sup>I 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. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. <sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

### HYMN

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

#289

### SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

To the people  
who returned  
to Jerusalem  
after the exile,  
the prophet  
proclaims that  
God's salvation  
will fully come  
to pass. Jerusa-  
lem will be-  
come a shining  
light to the na-  
tions and right-  
eousness and  
praise will  
spring up as  
surely as the  
earth puts forth  
vegetation.

Paul seeks to  
show the Gala-  
tians that the  
purpose of  
Christ's birth  
was to liberate  
us from the  
law's condem-  
nation so that  
we would be  
fully adopted  
into God's fami-  
ly as beloved  
children.

*(Please stand as you are comfortable.)*

## HYMN

## *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

#279

### GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

The holy gospel according to...

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." <sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." <sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

***Love Has Come***

#292

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

*A brief silence.*

You inspire faith in our hearts and call us to rejoice with our whole selves at the salvation you bring. Make our churches places of belonging for all people in the fullness of their being. Raise up the gifts and the witness of people who are neurodivergent, liv-

ing with disability, or bearing invisible illness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your praise is sung throughout creation in all times and seasons. As the new year turns, ground us in your changeless and sustaining love. Keep us attentive to the rhythms of the cosmos and inspire us to live in harmony with all the earth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Give hope and stamina to leaders who work tirelessly for the sake of the most vulnerable. We pray especially for organizations working on behalf of children to provide basic needs, to protect from abuse and neglect, to address trauma, and to rescue from trafficking. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sustain all people who, like Simeon and Anna, have been waiting for salvation and wholeness (*especially*). We pray especially for anyone living with cancer or chronic illness, all people who are in physical rehabilitation or addiction recovery, and those experiencing complications from long COVID. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let this community of faith be a joyful and welcome place for all ages and generations. Teach us to honor the wisdom of children, the inquisitiveness of youth, the thoughtfulness of adults, and the knowledge of elders. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for all the beloved who lived with expectation and departed this life in peace (*especially*). Sustain us in joy until we join them around your throne. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace. **Amen.**

## SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

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

*(Please be seated.)*

## MEAL

### OFFERING

*(Please stand as you are comfortable.)*

### OFFERING SONG

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

272 v1

### OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, **receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. 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.

*Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.*





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## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF December 31, 2023—January 7, 2024

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\***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 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 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.

\***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.

\***ANGEL TREE** Thank you to all who assisted with the Angel Tree program.

\***CHRISTMAS PLAY** Thank you to all who participated in the Christmas Play!

**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, Elliot Nelson, 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.**

**ASSISTING IN SERVICE**

**SERVING IN WORSHIP: Pastor Bre Kinnunen**

**ORGANIST/PIANIST/MUSICIAN:**

**Sunday & Monday - Connie Scanlon**

**Worship Services: Sunday @ 9:30 am / 6:00 pm**

**Office Hours are 8:00 am-2:00 pm, Monday-Thursday (or by appt.)**

**VOLUNTEERS ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE:**

<b>9:30am GREETERS</b>	<b><i>Alice Mutkala NEED VOLUNTEER</i></b>
<b>9:30am USHERS</b>	<b><i>Alice Mutkala NEED VOLUNTEER</i></b>
<b>9:30am LECTOR</b>	<b><i>Jim Hayward</i></b>
<b>9:30am COMM ASSTS</b>	<b><i>Mike Lempinen Vicki Lempinen Andy Crow-Roberts</i></b>
<b>9:30am Tech Team</b>	<b><i>Tyler Moore</i></b>

## 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 31, 2023—January 7, 2024

**YOU CAN FIND ALL ONLINE INFORMATION REFERENCED BELOW AT...  
[www.ImmanuelNegaunee.org](http://www.ImmanuelNegaunee.org)**

	<b><i>First Sunday of Christmas</i></b>	
<b>Sunday</b>	9:30am	Worship Service
	9:30am	<b>NO</b> Sunday School
	10:30am	Coffee & Fellowship
	7:30pm	AA Group Meets (men & women)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED/NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00am	Bible Study
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:00pm	Choir Practice
<b>Thursday</b>	10:00am	Quilting
<b>Friday</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	
	10:00am	AA
<b>Saturday</b>	8:00-10:00am	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast
<b>Sunday</b>	<b><i>Baptism of our Lord</i></b>	
	9:30am	Worship Service
	9:30am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Coffee & Fellowship
	5:00-7:00pm	UPLIFT
	5:30pm	Community Meal at Immanuel
	6:00pm	Worship Service
	7:00pm	Coffee & Fellowship
	7:30pm	AA Group Meets (men & women)

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









