



4th Sunday
of Advent

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Sunday & Monday, December 19th & 20th, 2021

GATHERING

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

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,

in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, + your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow he way of peace.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (st.1-4) #257

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: ADVENT 4

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.

Light all four candles.

GATHERING SONG *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (st. 5-7) #257

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. **With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**
Amen.

WORD

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

FIRST READING: MICAH 5: 2-5a

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

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

**PSALMODY: (Sunday) *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Choir Anthem
(Monday) *Lo, How a Rose E'er blooming (st. 1-2)* #272**

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 10: 5-10

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." ⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Word of God.

Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Unexpected and Mysterious* #258
(Tune: #561)**

1 Un - ex - pect - ed and mys - te - rious is the gen - tle word of
 3 We are called to pon - der mys - t'ry and a - wait the com - ing
 grace. Ev - er - lov - ing and sus - tain - ing is the
 Christ, to em - bod - y God's com - pas - sion for each
 peace of God's em - brace. If we fal - ter in our
 frag - ile hu - man life. God is with us in our
 joy con - sole us as a moth - er tends her own.
 and won - der for the prom - ised Sav - ior's birth.
 cour - age and we doubt what we have known, God is faith - ful
 long - ing to bring heal - ing to the earth, while we watch with

GOSPEL: Luke 1: 39-55

The holy gospel according to...

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you O Lord.

SERMON

Pastor Steve Solberg

SONG

All Earth is Hopeful

#266

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

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.

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. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Use the church's gifts and ministries for your service, bringing your word to all who seek your transforming grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

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

*All baptized
Christians who
believe this
true presence
are welcome
and encour-
aged to
receive Holy
Communion
today.
Parents, please
assist your
child(ren) if you
wish them
communed.*

*We believe that
the true body
and blood of
Jesus Christ is
in/with/under
the bread*

Creator God, you proclaim your boundless love for all that you have made. Renew barren lands, polluted waters, and melting ice caps. Make us servants of your creation that brings forth abundant life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. Strengthen those who seek justice. Bless the work of politicians, community organizers, activists, journalists, and all who call our attention to imbalances of power. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy. Show your lovingkindness to teen parents and those who are pregnant. Comfort any struggling with infertility and those who await test results, are in treatment and hospice care, and others in need. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you fill the hungry with good things. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Guide us to share your bounty with those who hunger or live in poverty. Shelter the homeless, blessing the ministries of Room at the Inn and more. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Faithful God, you stir up the hearts of those who love you. We thank you for the life and holy death of Arlene Felt and all we name in our hearts. We give you thanks for those who, like Mary, were courageous in their witness. Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS - AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM p. 236

(Those individuals being recognized today are: **Randy Borghi & Peggy Jackson, Joette Holman, Dave & Kris Keranen, Bobbi & Terry Minzey.** We welcome our newest members to Immanuel Lutheran Church!)

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of our waiting and watching, **we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.**

Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus + for whom we wait. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEKS OF December 19 - December 26, 2021

***SYMPATHY & GOD'S PEACE TO:** Bobbi (Terry) Minzey on the loss of her mother, *Arlene Frances Felt*, Monday, December 13. Also, condolences to all of the Felt Family.

***BIRTHDAYS:** Happy 94th Birthday to *Betty Lukkarinen* on December 31st.

***SUPPORT FOR ARIANNA PAANANEN** A GoFundMe page (<https://gofund.me/9db84b12>) is assisting the Paananen family with expenses related to Arianna's cancer treatment. Ari is 10 years old, and on August 9, 2021, was diagnosed with a brain tumor and has been doing treatments at Mayo in Rochester, MN. Ari just completed radiation treatment. THE TUMOR IS GONE! PRAISE GOD! Her ongoing care will continue to include trips to Mayo. Thank you for your prayers and other support.

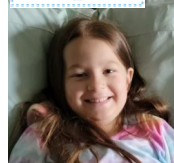
***CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** Remember to order your Christmas Poinsettia as soon as you can. Forms are available at each entrance to the sanctuary. Fill yours out and turn it into the office or put it into the offering tray. A suggested donation is \$10.00, but any amount can be given. The last day to order will be Wednesday, December 22nd. Thank you for your donation to our Poinsettias for this Christmas.

***CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP** The Christmas Eve Worship Services will be at: **4:00 pm**, a Children's focused Christmas worship service; **6:00 pm and 11:00 pm**, regular Christmas worship service. ALL services will have Communion. The 4 pm and 6 pm services will be live streamed. WE NEED USHERS AND GREETERS FOR THE 11PM SERVICE. PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU CAN HELP. <— <— <— <— <— <— <— <— <— <—

***PHOTO DIRECTORY PICTURES**—If you haven't had your picture taken for the new church photo directory and would like to be included in its printout, please call the office. You can still email or send in a picture of yourself. This is for sharing name/face recognition, not a studio portrait. The Directory will be released in 2022. Thank you for participating.

***GIVING YOUR OFFERINGS:** Thank you for continuing to financially support our ongoing congregational mission. Electronic giving is available on our website or through the GivePlus app. (Note: Immanuel absorbs the following processing fees on electronic gifts: giving via debit/credit card 2.75% + \$0.45 per transaction and giving via ACH 1.00% + \$0.45 per transaction.)

With Sympathy





*** SUNDAY SCHOOL IS UNDERWAY!** If you are interested in Sunday School for your child (ren), there is open enrollment for toddlers through Grade 5. Come to the church Sunday morning for 9:15 am where class meets in the Fellowship Hall. Sunday School has a Facebook page to share up-to-date information. Go to 'Immanuel Lutheran Church Negaunee' on Facebook and click on the Sunday School group. For in-person classes, we follow Immanuel's Church Council policies which recommend wearing masks. Masks must be worn by unvaccinated persons. Sunday School Schedule: 9:15-9:25am – DROP-OFF, OPENING; 9:30am – INSTRUCTION; 10:15am – JOIN FAMILIES FOR HOLY COMMUNION, 10:30am – DISMISSAL. (Although worship attendance is encouraged, if you are unable to attend, you can make arrangements to have your child(ren) picked up at 10:15am.



*** WE'RE HIRING: We are in need of a part-time custodian.** If you are interested, you can pick up an application from the office or go to: <https://immanuelnegaunee.weebly.com/apply-for-job.html>. Please pray that God sends the right person.



*** PROJECT KEEP KIDS WARM** - Thank you to all of you who contributed to *Project Keep Kids Warm*. There were over 200 persons that were helped because of your generosity. Because of you, the recipients will be much warmer this winter. Thank you so much!

*** 2022 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES CAN BE PICKED UP. THEY ARE AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.** If you haven't already done so, please pick up your envelopes. They will be moved to the office where you can pick them up from after December.



*** PAINTING FUND RAISER** - The Painting Project in the sanctuary is complete. Consider making a donation to this *Sanctuary Painting Fund Raiser* that was voted on after worship, November 1st. We will be raising \$15,000 to help with some of the cost involved with this Project. Thank you for any donation you can make. It will all help with the cost. Right now the total in donations is \$7,514.00. Thank you to all of you who have donated.



*** CARE CLINIC** A baby's play-pen can be found in the Stewardship area of the church where any Care Clinic items can be placed. Needed items include: Onesies, Bibs, Socks, Newborn Hats, Sweater & Hat Set or a Hooded Sweatshirt or a Little Jacket, Sleepers, A New Outfit, Receiving Blankets, A Rattle, A Small Toy, A Hooded Towel, Washcloths, Shampoo, Lotion, Bath Bar, Diaper Rash Cream, Nail clipper, Wipes, Diapers, or Financial Support (checks made out to 'Immanuel', and in the memo line write 'Care Clinic').

Thank you for any donations you may be able to make. Pastor Tom & Luanne Skrenes are handling this Project.



*** HARD-COPY PHONE DIRECTORY** Did you indicate on your *Name, Address, Phone, Email Update Sheet* that was mailed to you that you would like a hard-copy phone directory? The 1st draft editions are available on the table in the hallway, approximately across from the office. There's a limited number printed at this time.

WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Randy Borghi & Peggy Jackson, Joette Holman, Dave & Kris Kenanen, Bobbi & Terry Minzey. Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church! We are happy to have you all!

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Pray For: Nancy Burton, Jonelle Collins, Gerry Davidson, Billy Jo Kaufman, Peggy Jackson, Betty Kinnunen, Anna Laurila, John Meier, Wendy Niemi, Arianna Paananen, Don & Vera Palomaki, Joyce Peterson, Linda Sjolund, Bob Sylvester, Richard Toyra, and all COVID patients. Our Shut-ins: Bettie Ahola, Rudy Gagnon, Charlene Kivisto, Timothy Kjellman, Betty Lukkarinen, Leo Nirva, Mary Parkkonen, Janet Penhale, Butch Pynnonen, Lillian Rivers, Paul Smith, Lynne Tossava. Members in the Armed Service: Luke DeWitt, Adrianna Gustafson, Michael Gustafson, Hunter (Jessica) Hetrick, Dennis Koski, Jacque Kurian, Tanner Romback, Trevor Romback, Michael Sedlock, Ethan Wallner, Jason Wallner, and all Armed Services Families.



VOLUNTEERS ASSISTING IN SERVICE

SERVING IN WORSHIP: *Pastor Steve Solberg*

ORGANIST/PIANIST/MUSICIAN: *Connie Scanlon*

Worship Services: Sun. @ 9:30 am / Mon. @ 6 pm

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

ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE:

9:30 am USHERS/GREETERS – *Reuven Romback & Walter Scanlon*

6 pm USHERS/GREETERS – *Ron & Cheryl Ulvila*

9:30 am LECTOR – *Reuven Romback*

6 pm LECTOR – *Jill Sladek*

9:30 am COMM. ASST.'S – *Walter Scanlon*

6 pm COMM. ASST.'S – *Jill Sladek*

9:30 am Tech Team – *Tyler Moore, Luanne Skrenes*

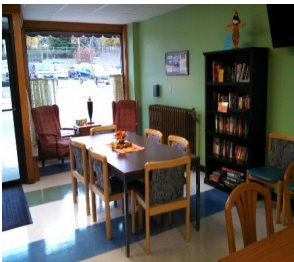
6 pm Tech Team – *Rory Smith, Kerri Puckett*



DECEMBER'S MONTHLY MISSION

DECEMBER'S MONTHLY 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 \$ 870.20 in November to Lutheran World Relief.
The recipients will be richly blessed with your generosity! Thank you!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 19 - December 26, 2021

YOU CAN FIND ALL ONLINE INFORMATION REFERENCED BELOW AT...

www.ImmanuelNegaunee.org

- Sunday** ***4th Sunday of Advent***
- 9:30 am - Sunday School
- 9:30 am - Worship Service (also live streamed & recorded)
- 10:30 am - Coffee & Fellowship
- 7:30 pm - AA Group Meets (men & women)
- Monday** ***BEACON DEADLINE WEEK FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY INFO***
- 6:00 pm - Worship Service
- 7:00 pm - Confirmation Class
- Tuesday** - 9:30 am - Miriam Circle meets (pot-luck)
- 2:15 pm - Eastwood Worship Service
- 6:00 pm - Executive Committee meets
- 6:30 pm - Church Council (pick up your packet)
- Wednesday** - 10:00 am - Bible Study (in-person and on Zoom)
- 6:00 pm - Choir Practice
DEADLINE FOR ORDERING POINSETTIAS
- Thursday** - 10:00 am - Quilting
- Friday** **OFFICE CLOSED**
- 10:00 am - Women's AA Group Meets
- 4:00 pm - Christmas Worship Service - Child Oriented
- 6:00 pm - Christmas Eve Worship Service
- 11:00 pm - Christmas Eve Worship Service (NEED GREETERS/USHERS)
- Sunday** - 9:30 am - Sunday School
- 9:30 am - Worship Service (also live streamed & recorded)
- 10:30 am - Coffee & Fellowship
- 7:30 pm - AA Group Meets (men & women)
- Monday** **OFFICE CLOSED - NO 6PM WORSHIP SERVICE, NO CONFIRMATION CLASS**