

Welcome to
Immanuel Lutheran Church
A Congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

December 18, 2022
Fourth Sunday in Advent



Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.” (Matt 1:20).

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Rev. J. Philipp Augustine, Pastor

Welcome to Immanuel! We ask everyone to please fill out a white postcard-sized Communication/Communion Card, which has been placed at the entrances. Offerings can be put in the marked grey baskets.

>> **Guests**, please fill out the card with your name and address. Place in the offering basket, hand to an usher or elder, or drop in the basket as you come forward for Holy Communion. If desiring to commune, please visit with the pastor (see Communion statement below) and note your home congregation. We hope you have enjoyed our worship service, and we invite you to join us again soon.

>> **Members**, please fill out the Communion Card to inform the church office of your attendance today and any needed prayers and visits.

Holy Communion Statement

The Lord's Supper is celebrated in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive this sacrament, are asked to first speak with the pastor.

For our communicants: gluten-free host is available along with grape juice in the center of the individual cups for those who have allergies or sensitivities to those respective elements. Please request it as you approach the pastor or the elder.

Our Mission

Immanuel Lutheran Church exists to spread the Gospel in its truth and purity through Word and Sacraments in accordance with the Confession of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. Immanuel Lutheran School exists to share the Gospel, so children become disciples of Jesus.

Busy Bags: Available at the entrance are 'Busy Bags' = activity bags of color crayons/books, for any child. Borrow and use them for the service and return them to their hook for the next time!

Liturgy: Setting Four, page 203

Sermon: "Preparing for Immanuel" – Matthew 1:18-25

Hymns:

350 - Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

357 (1-5) - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

628 - Your Table I Approach

340 - Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

332 - Savior of the Nations, Come

Organist: Barb Lutringer

Elders/Ushers 8:00 am: Mark Bartsh, Alvin Lutringer
10:15 am: Robert Lamprecht, Brent Wohlers

Acolyte/cross bearer 8:00 am: Rily Irish
10:15 am: *none – Sunday School program*

Altar Duty December: Don & Becky Luckstein, Tom & Lisa Hoekstra

OUR OFFERING OF WORSHIP

Wednesday, December 7th: 80
Sunday, December 11th: 173
ILS Christmas Program: 375

OUR OFFERING OF MATERIAL GIFTS

Wednesday, December 7: \$905.00
Sunday, December 11: Unified: \$33,749.20

OUR OFFERING OF PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

Those known to be hospitalized *No one at this time.* For any prayer requests wanted on the Congregational Prayer Chain, or in public worship services, call the church office (534-3700) or Barb Larson (251-2138) or E-mail office@immanuelplainview.org

God's richest blessing on those celebrating birthdays this week:

December 19: Julie Stoning
December 20: Tyler Miller
December 21: Thomas Neumann, Duane Schulz, Katlin Bauer
December 24: Jean Schreiber

A Life Thought in the Church Year for December 18 – Advent IV: Surprise pregnancy once redeemed the whole world. Joseph would have aborted the undertaking, but the Lord explicitly forbid it (Matthew 1:19-21). Even human limitations could not prevent the Heavenly Father from keeping His promises (Romans 1:2-3). So, every surprise pregnancy we encounter—along with our lives and everyone else's (Psalm 24:1)—belongs to Almighty God, and we may rejoice to say so.

Sacred music for the season - Got an Amazon Alexa or Google Home device? Want some sacred music for the Advent and Christmas seasons? Simply state, "Alexa, play Lutheran Public Radio" or "Hey Google, play Lutheran Public Radio." Also available online at lutheranpublicradio.org.



STEPHEN
MINISTRY

As Christmas and New Year's approach, many people are hurting due to the loss of a loved one, a cancer diagnosis, divorce, job loss, or some other significant life challenge. These experiences can make an ordinarily joyous season difficult, lonely, and perhaps even painful. If you or someone you know are hurting, consider a Stephen Minister to come along side you and walk with you. Contact one of our Stephen Leaders: Becky Luckstein (534-2236 or 951-1716) or Val Aarsvold (259-3586)