

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

**December 24, 2023**  
**Christmas Eve Divine Service**  
**9:30 am**



*“...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.’” (Matthew 1:20)*

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Find us on Facebook and YouTube!  
@ImmanuelPlainview

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:** Divine Service Setting One, page 151

**Sermon:** "What Kind of Christmas Will You Have?" – Matthew 1:18-25

### **Hymns:**

357 - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

361 - O Little Town of Bethlehem

375 - Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

332 - Savior of the Nations, Come

386 - Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

**Organist:** Debra Eggenberger

**Elder & Ushers:** 9:30 am: Mark Bartsh, Jim Larson, Bob Walkes

5:00 pm: Eugene Schnell, Don Luckstein, Alvin Lutringer

**Acolyte/Cross bearer:** 9:30 am: Avery McCabe-Evans

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

#### OUR OFFERING OF WORSHIP

Sunday December 17: 226

Wednesday, December 20: 58

#### OUR OFFERING OF MATERIAL GIFTS

Wednesday, December 13: \$ 635.00

Sunday, December 17: \$ 17,460.00

#### OUR OFFERING OF PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

**Those known to be hospitalized:** *Sharon Mankin at Olmsted Hospital.* For any prayer requests wanted on the Congregational Prayer Chain, or in public worship services, call the church office (534-3700) or Kim Zabel (507) 272-6301 or E-mail [office@immanuelplainview.org](mailto:office@immanuelplainview.org)

#### **God's richest blessing on those celebrating birthdays this week**

*December 24: Jean Schreiber*

*December 25: Mary Lamprecht, Kim Zabel*

*December 26: Jax Mussell*

*December 27: Nancy Irish, David Smith*

*December 28: Luke Lamprecht, Kris Gernes, William Schultz*

*December 29: Kennedy Standinger, Lonni Kautz*

*December 30: Roger Irish, David Heddlesten*

#### **Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 7:10–14*

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup>And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

#### **Epistle**

*1 John 4:7–16*

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.  
<sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.  
<sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

## **Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 1:18–25*

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, 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. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.