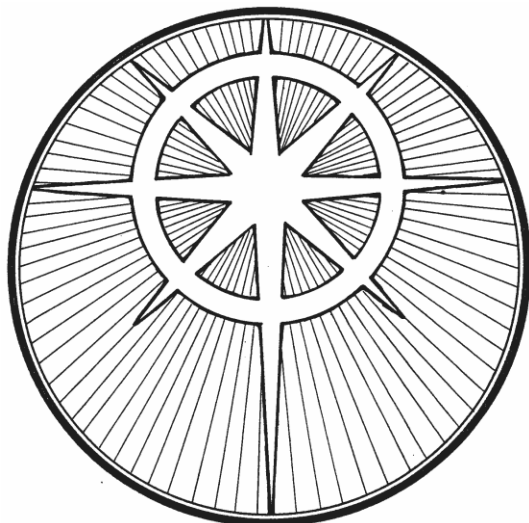


Welcome to
Immanuel Lutheran Church
A Congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

December 31, 2023
The Epiphany of Our Lord (observed)



“... Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him” (Matthew 2:2)

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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: Setting Three, page 184

Sermon: “The Gospel for People Who Don’t Belong” – Matthew 2:1-12

Hymns:

- 394 - Songs of Thankfulness and Praise
- 397 - As with Gladness Men of Old
- 395 (1–4) - O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright
- 389 - Let All Together Praise Our God
- 399 - The Star Proclaims the King Is Here
- 390 - Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

Elder & Ushers: 8:00 am: Alvin Lutringer, Jim Larson, Randy Irish
10:15 am: Don Luckstein, Bob Walkes, Jim Gensmer

Acolyte/Cross bearer: 8:00 am: Julia Barnes
10:15 am: Alicia Ajuntas

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

OUR OFFERING OF WORSHIP

- Wednesday, December 20: 56
- Sunday December 24: 81
- Sunday December 24 Eve: 235
- Monday, December 25: 89

OUR OFFERING OF MATERIAL GIFTS

- Wednesday, December 20: \$250.00
- Sunday, December 24: \$15,205.14
- Sunday December 24 Eve: \$4,685.00
- Monday, December 25: \$2,815.00

OUR OFFERING OF PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

Those known to be hospitalized: *Sharon Mankin (Olmsted)*. 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

God’s richest blessing on those celebrating birthdays this week

December 31: Brenda Bennett

January 1: Karen Haack

January 2: Lazarus Karpyak

January 5: Mazie Eversman, Steven Miller, Cole Schulz, Jed Stoltz

January 6: Neil Grummons, Jessica Krier, Henry Stelling, Ruby Zarling

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1–6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

Epistle

Ephesians 3:1–12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—
²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶“*And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.*”” ⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.