

**LAST SUNDAY
OF THE CHURCH YEAR
NOVEMBER 26, 2023
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Missouri Synod**



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**Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor
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**Website:
lutheranmercedes.
com**

***Sunday*
9:00 A.M.
Worship Service**

**10:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Class &
Sunday School**

**Holy Communion:
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday**

**Website:
Misionemanuel.com**

**Office Hrs, M-F
8 am to 12 pm
CCLI # 2585510**

**“And He will set the sheep
on His right hand,
but the goats on the left.
Then the King will say to
those on His right hand,
‘Come, you blessed of
My Father, inherit
the kingdom
prepared for you from
the foundation of the world”
(Matthew 15:33-34)**



LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

NOVEMBER 26, 2023

WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this morning. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance. They are located in the pew racks in front of you.

Next week we celebrate Holy Communion. We teach that in the receiving of the Lord's Supper each person receives the real presence of the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. If you are not a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and desire to partake of Communion, please ask to speak with Pastor Weber or one of the elders prior to the service.

A Prayer Upon Entering Church - Gracious God, move me to reflect Your love for me in all that I say and do, so that Your light shines through me each day until Your Son returns to usher me into Your eternal kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - Too often we think about God's being up in His heaven, looking down on us. Today's Readings give us the correct perspective. Through Ezekiel, God announces that He is the One who will provide pasture for His people and that He will send them David to be their king. In the Psalm, we reflect that God is our maker. Christ is not only the first to rise from death, Paul explains in the Epistle; He is also the foremost, the One to subject all things under Him. And so His decisions when judging on the Last Day cannot be questioned. First and foremost, then, today is a day to let God's Word give us a correct perspective. This last Sunday of the Church Year is an opportunity to "make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise" (Psalm 95:2).

WELCOME

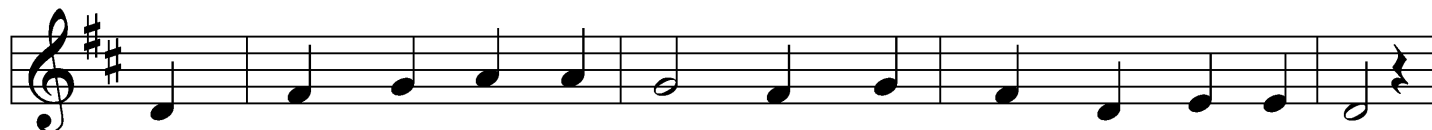
PRELUDE

(A quiet time for prayer and meditation in preparation for worship)

OPENING HYMN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

LSB 334



1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?
 2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;
 3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.
 4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!
 And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast
 My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new
 A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.
 And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.
 That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.
 In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.

5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,
 Cannot His love erase;
 Your guilt the Lord will pardon
 And cover by His grace.
 He comes, for you procuring

The peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing
Eternal life in heav'n.

6 He comes to judge the nations,
A terror to His foes,
A light of consolations
And blessèd hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing.
O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth Your beams so cheering,
And guide us safely home.

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(We take a moment of silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Savior.)

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord

Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 39:4–5a, 7–8, 12; antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13 NIV*

P But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

C “Lord, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days, that I may know how frail I am.

P Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, and my age is as nothing before You;

C “And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You.

P Deliver me from all my transgressions; do not make me the reproach of the foolish.

C “Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; do not be silent at my tears; for I am a stranger with You, a sojourner, as all my fathers were.

P But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!

Continue on next page 5



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.

2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy

Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24*

(God will shepherd His people Himself.)

11 ‘For thus says the Lord God: “Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. 12 As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day. 13 And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country. 14 I will feed them in good pasture, and their fold shall be on the high mountains of Israel. There they shall lie down in a good fold and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down,” says the Lord God. 16 “I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong, and feed them in judgment.”

20 ‘Therefore thus says the Lord God to them: “Behold, I Myself will judge between the fat and the lean sheep. 21 Because you have pushed with side and shoulder, butted all the weak ones with your horns, and scattered them abroad, 22 therefore I will save My flock, and they shall no longer be a prey; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. 23 I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them—My servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I, the Lord, will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 95:1–7a; antiphon: v. 7a*

P For He is our God,

C Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the
Continue on next page

Rock of our salvation.

P Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

C For the Lord is the great God, and the great King above all gods.

P In His hand are the deep places of the earth; the heights of the hills are His also.

C The sea is His, for He made it; and His hands formed the dry land.

P Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

C For He is our God,

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 15:20–28*

(Christ is the first to rise from death; death will be destroyed.)

20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. 27 For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. 28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

ALLELUIA and VERSE



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 25:31-46*

(The Christian life involves loving the people around us.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C **Glory to You , O Lord.**

31 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and

Continue on next page

take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40 And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

44 "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' 45 Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' 46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please sit

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ Sits at God's Right Hand

LSB 564



1 Christ sits at God's right hand, His sav - ing work com - plete,
2 Christ was that priest God swore, U - nique - ly First and Last,
3 Christ's al - tar was the tree, Where on the world's be - half
4 What cost - ly sac - ri - fice To cov - er hu - man sin!



To reign till ev - 'ry foe will lie Be - neath His feet—
Who would in righ - teous - ness and love Be un - sur - passed:
He shed a blood, un - like the blood Of goat or calf,
Who but Christ Je - sus had the right To en - ter in?



All that the Fa - ther planned, The Son sought to ful - fill,
"A priest for - ev - er - more," An oath God would not break,
To seal God's guar - an - tee Of grace that can - not fail;
His blood, that sprin - kled price, So we might be as - sured



When first He said, "Lord, here am I To do Your will."
"A priest with - in the or - der of Mel - chiz - e - dek."
With blood He en - tered for our good Be - hind the veil.
That our in - her - i - tance in light Has been se - cured.

5 Then let us now draw near,
Washed in that precious flood
And enter the Most Holy Place
By Jesus' blood.
From hearts that are sincere,
Let tongues our hope profess,
And trust anew God's faithful grace
That we confess.

Continue on next page

△6 All praise to Christ we bring,
 Our Lord who intercedes,
 Our great High Priest enthroned above
 Who knows our needs;
 And to the Father sing
 Our songs of thankful praise,
 Who with the Spirit reigns in love
 For endless days.

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SERMON *“The Final Separation”* (Matthew 25:33-35)

OFFERING

Please stand

OFFERTORY *I'm But a Stranger Here* **LSB 748**



1 I'm but a strang - er here, Heav'n is my home;
 2 What though the tem - pest rage, Heav'n is my home;
 3 There - fore I mur - mur not, Heav'n is my home;



Earth is a des - ert drear, Heav'n is my home.
 Short is my pil - grim - age, Heav'n is my home;
 What - e'er my earth - ly lot, Heav'n is my home;



Dan - ger and sor - row stand Round me on ev - 'ry hand;
 And time's wild win - try blast Soon shall be o - ver - past;
 And I shall sure - ly stand There at my Lord's right hand;



Heav'n is my fa - ther - land, Heav'n is my home.
 I shall reach home at last, Heav'n is my home.
 Heav'n is my fa - ther - land, Heav'n is my home.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

"Peace be with you"

(John 20:21)

[using American Sign Language]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P Let us pray for people here and around the world who are destitute, fearful of God's wrath, shunned by society, unjustly accused, or dealing with issues of health.
As You have promised, Lord our God, seek out, we pray, those who, devoid of basic necessities, face today without homes, with few possessions, and an uncertain future.
- C For the sake of our Good Shepherd, lead them to the food, shelter, and security they desperately need.**
- P With the Gospel in the hearts and on the lips of Christ's Church, heavenly Father, enable our brothers and sisters to answer the spiritual thirst of people here and around the world.
- C Grant them faith that they may join us in singing praise to You, the rock of our salvation.**
- P Many of the people we see each day are lonely strangers, gracious Lord; but their hopes and fears are known to You.
- C Increase our faith, Lord Jesus, that we may reach out to them with the news of Your resurrection and the Kingdom You so graciously offer to all. Guide the Church wherever people gather around Your Word for nourishment and strength.**
- P Shower Your blessings, O Holy Spirit, on all whose vocations work for the common good—those who till the soil and tend flocks; those who prepare and distribute food, clothing, and shelter; those who maintain peace at home and abroad; those who are first to respond in emergencies; and those who treat illnesses of all sorts.
- C Guide them, Lord of all, to use the gifts You have given them, so that praise may resound to You, the Lord, our Maker.**
- P Where people are forgotten, unjustly imprisoned, or oppressed in any way, O God, surround them with caring people intent on meeting their physical and spiritual needs.
- C Use us to serve You and love them according to Your gracious**

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plans for us all.

Additional bids may be added.

P Into Your hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

All Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

P The LORD bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Please sit

SENDING HYMN *We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God*

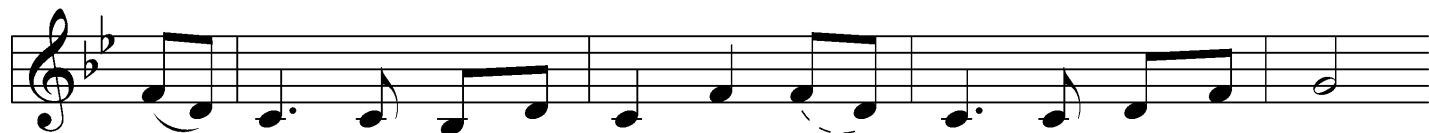
LSB 941



1 We praise You and ac - knowl - edge You, O God, to be the Lord,
2 The band of the a - pos - tles in glo - ry sing Your praise;
3 You, Christ, are King of glo - ry, the ev - er - last - ing Son,
4 You sit in splen - did glo - ry, en - throned at God's right hand,



The Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing, by all the earth a - dored.
The fel - low - ship of proph - ets their death-less voic - es raise.
Yet You, with bound-less love, sought to res - cue ev - 'ry - one:
Up - hold - ing earth and heav - en by forc - es You com - mand.



To You all an - gel pow - ers cry a - loud, the heav - ens sing,
The mar - tyrs of Your king - dom, a great and no - ble throng,
You laid a - side Your glo - ry, were born of vir - gin's womb,
We know that You will come as our Judge that fi - nal day,



The cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim their prais - es to You bring:
Sing with the ho - ly Church through - out all the world this song:
Were cru - ci - fied for us and were placed in - to a tomb;
So help Your ser - vants You have re - deemed by blood, we pray;



“O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
“O all - ma - jes - tic Fa - ther, Your true and on - ly Son,
Then by Your res - ur - rec - tion You won for us re - prieve—
May we with saints be num - bered where prais - es nev - er end,



Your maj - es - ty and glo - ry fill the heav - ens and the earth!”
And Ho - ly Spir - it, Com - fort - er— for - ev - er Three in One!”
You o - pened heav - en's king - dom to all who would be - lieve.
In glo - ry ev - er - last - ing. A - men, O Lord, a - men!

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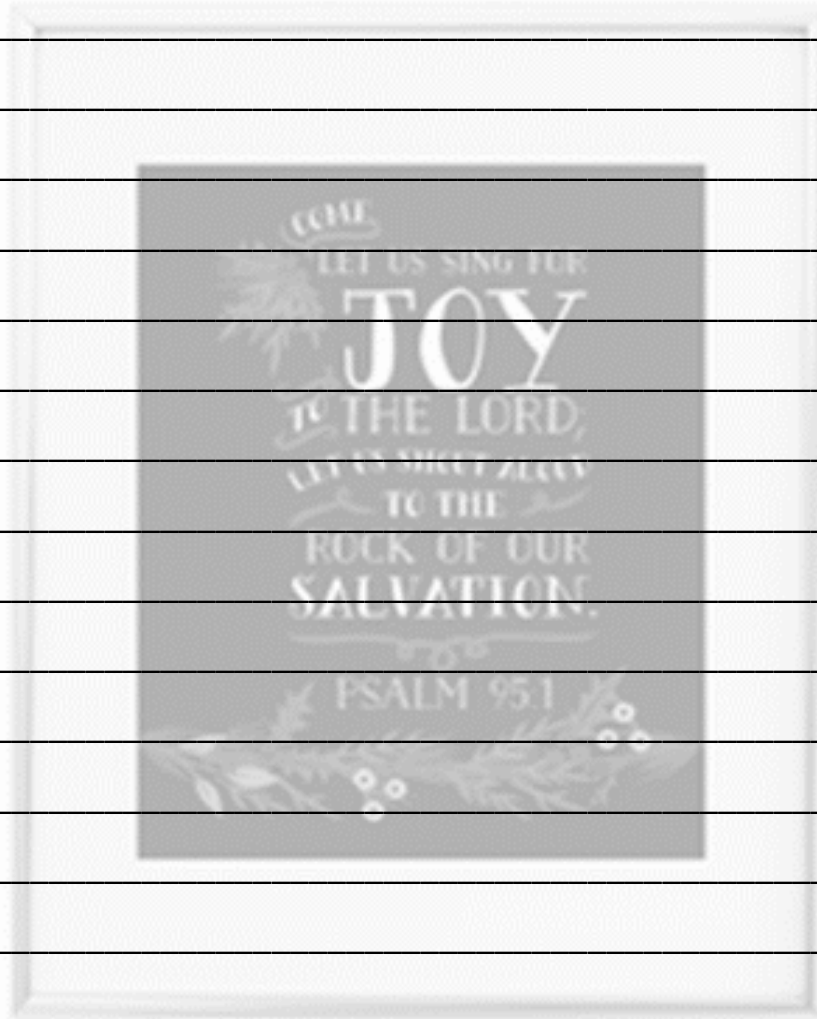
DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Sermon Notes:



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Portals of Prayer-October to December 2023 are available in the Narthex or office.

*Adult Bible Class/Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Weber will be leading the class.*

December Activities

Market Day

*Saturday, December 2, 2023 in the school playground
9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
(Vendors and BBQ Brisket Sandwiches and Fajita Tacos)*

Christmas Brunch

*Ladies of Immanuel are invited to a brunch
at St. John in San Benito
on Saturday, December 2nd from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.*

Bring your favorite dish.

Singing of Christmas hymns will be included.

See page 18 for Advent and Christmas/New Year's Services

Mercedes Christmas Parade

*with our school float (Super Heroes)
Friday, December 8th, 7:00 p.m., down town*

*Christmas Around the World (School Project)
Saturday, December 9th from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
followed by Chalupa games. (\$15 for 3 cards)*

LWML Women's Retreat

*January 26-27, 2024
Harlingen Convention Center*

See flyer (posted on church door) for complete information.



Advent and Christmas Events

Mid-Week 1 Advent

Wednesday, December 6th

5:00 p.m. - Soup Supper

6:00 p.m. - Service

Mid-Week 2 Advent

Wednesday, December 13th

5:00 p.m. - Soup Supper

6:00 p.m. - Service

Mid-Week 3 Advent

Wednesday, December 20th

5:00 p.m. - Soup Supper

6:00 p.m. - Service

Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 24th at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service

(Holy Communion)

Monday, December 25th at 9:00 a.m.

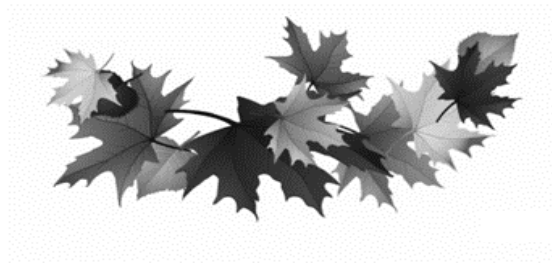
New Year's Eve Service

Sunday, December 31st at 9:00 a.m.

MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK

This week's memory verse: *Romans 8:38-39*

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



11/19/2023

Sunday Worship	80
Plate:	\$ 386.00
Envelopes:	\$ 1,830.00
On-line	
Donation:	
Total:	\$ 2,216.00

Bible Class:No class due to Potluck

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Readings:

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalms 80:1-7

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 11:1-10 or Mark 13:24-37

By the Cross of Christ, We Enter the Kingdom of Our God and Father

When the crucified and risen Lord Jesus comes to judge the living and the dead, “he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats” (Matt. 25:32). “To those on his right,” who have been crucified and raised with Him through repentance and faith in His Gospel, He will grant the blessed kingdom of His Father (Matt. 25:34). Having been justified by His grace, they live unto righteousness in Him (Matt. 25:35–40). But “those on his left,” who trust in themselves and despise their neighbor, will depart “into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt. 25:41). Until that day, the Lord searches for His sheep “as a shepherd seeks out his flock” (Ezek. 34:11–12). Through His preaching of repentance, He disciplines the proud sheep and goats, “the fat and the strong,” but through the preaching of forgiveness He rescues the lost, binds up the injured, strengthens the weak and feeds “the lean sheep” (Ezek. 34:16, 20). In this way, He destroys the power of death in the children of Adam by His cross, so that “in Christ shall all be made alive” by His resurrection (1 Cor. 15:20–26).

Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule		
	November Sunday Servants	December Sunday Servant
Elder:	Earl Neuhaus	Ken Eilers
Altar Guild:	S. Wehling/R. Cisneros	Donna Jackson/Lorri Marchant
Music:	Doris Pickering	
This Week	Last Sunday of the Church Year	
Usher:	Dan Wehling	
Sunday:	Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am
Next Week	First Sunday in Advent	
Usher:	Earl Neuhaus	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am