

**SECOND SUNDAY
IN ADVENT**

DECEMBER 10, 2023

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Missouri Synod



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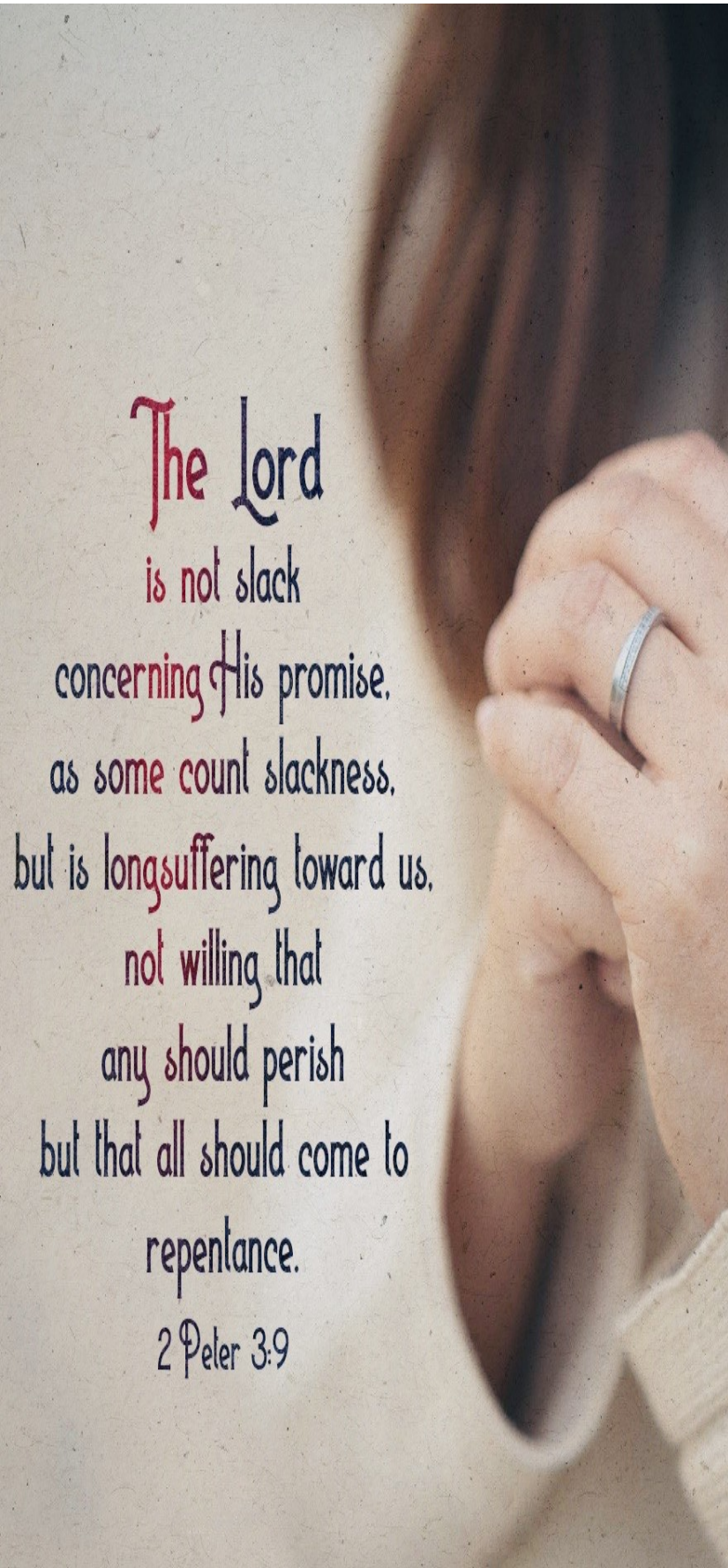
***Sunday*
9:00 A.M.
Worship Service**

**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**



The Lord
is not slack
concerning His promise,
as some count slackness,
but is longsuffering toward us,
not willing that
any should perish
but that all should come to
repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 10, 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 - Stir up my heart, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming I may rejoice in my eternal home; through the same Jesus Christ, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - Advent is the season of waiting! As we await Christ's coming again in power and glory, we know that the time we are given before that great Day is due to the Lord's patience. "The Lord . . . is patient toward you," says Peter (2 Peter 3:9). Why? More time before Christ's return as King and Judge means more opportunities for us to share the life-giving Gospel with all the world. As people hear the message of Christ, repenting of their sin and turning to Him in faith, more souls will be brought into God's eternal kingdom. And because He is working His wonders of salvation, we rejoice in Him and receive from Him all He seeks to give!

WELCOME

PRELUDE

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

OPENING HYMN

The Advent of Our King

LSB 331



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

△6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

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 80:1, 8a, 9b, 7; antiphon: v. 3*

P Restore us, O God; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!

C **Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who dwell between the cherubim, shine forth!**

P You have brought a vine out of Egypt;

C **And caused it to take deep root,**

P Restore us, O God of hosts; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P Restore us, O God; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!

KYRIE



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

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be found in Him, fully redeemed and at peace; through the same 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 *Isaiah 40:1-11*

(The Lord comes to comfort and pardon His people.)

1 "Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God. 2 "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins." 3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; 5 The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." 6 The voice said, "Cry out!" and he said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades, because the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever." 9 O Zion, You who bring good tidings, get up

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into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, lift up your voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" 10 Behold, the Lord God shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. 11 He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 85; antiphon: v. 9*

(The Lord's salvation is near.)

P Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

C Lord, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.

P You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people; You have covered all their sin.

C You have taken away all Your wrath; You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger.

P Restore us, O God of our salvation, and cause Your anger toward us to cease.

C Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?

P Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?

C Show us Your mercy, Lord, and grant us Your salvation.

P I will hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

C Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

P Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed.

C Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

P Yes, the Lord will give what is good; and our land will yield its

increase.

C Righteousness will go before Him, and shall make His footsteps our pathway.

P Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

EPISTLE *2 Peter 3:1-14*

(The Lord is patient toward you.)

1 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, 3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to

Continue on next page ⁷

His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 1:1–8*

(The messenger prepares the way of the Lord.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

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

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in the Prophets:

“Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.”

3 “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.’ ”

4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. 5 Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And he preached, saying, “There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. 8 I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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 the Eternal Lord

LSB 829



1 Christ the e - ter - nal Lord, Whose prom - ise here we claim,
2 Christ the un - chang - ing Word To ev - 'ry pass - ing age,
3 Christ the re - deem - ing Son, Who shares our hu - man birth,



Whose gifts of grace are free - ly poured On all who name Your name;
Whose time - less teach - ings still are heard Set forth on Scrip - ture's page;
And by His death sal - va - tion won For ev - 'ry child of earth;



With thank - ful - ness and praise We stand be - fore Your throne,
Trans - form our thought and mind, En - light - en all who read,
In - spire our hearts, we pray, To tell Your love a - broad,



In - tent to serve You all our days And make Your glo - ry known.
With - in Your Word by faith to find The bread of life in - deed.
That all may hon - or Christ to - day And fol - low Him as Lord.

Continue on next page



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
 Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will
 And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful
 That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
 nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.
 shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.
 fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

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SHARING OF THE PEACE *"Peace be with you"* (John 20:21)
[using American Sign Language]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P As we wait in love for the coming of our Lord, let us together, as His advent people, bring our prayers before Him.
 Father in heaven, You prepare a heavenly home for all who trust in You and come into Your presence through faith in Your Son. By His coming into this world to save us from the devastation of our sins, dying and rising again to make us eternally Yours, we have been reconciled to You. We praise You, Father, for this amazing gift of love and ask that Your Holy Spirit keep Your steadfast love secure in our hearts throughout our days of waiting. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

C To You alone our prayers we bring!

P Knowing that You have come once into this world, Lord Jesus, we are confident that You will come again. On that glorious Day when we are all gathered before You, when every knee will bow to You and every tongue confess Your holy name, we will receive the restoration of all things in heaven and on earth that Your Word has promised. Until Your final coming, O Lord, keep us secure in our salvation. Remind us that our waiting is because of Your patience, and that You call us to use this time we have been given

to share Your precious Gospel with the world You died and rose again to save. Stir up the hearts of all who hear Your Word this day, that many will come to saving faith and experience the comfort of Your presence in their lives. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

C To You alone our prayers we bring!

P As wanderers in this land, O Lord, we experience various types of brokenness and pain, suffering and grief. We lift before You in prayer those we love, who are also loved by You. For those longing for food and shelter, grant Your mercy. For those needing protection and peace, grant Your Spirit. We pray for those in our families and connected to our family of faith who have special concerns of body and spirit, [especially . . .]. Grant that all who wander find their home in You alone, O Lord. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

C To You alone our prayers we bring!

P Comforting Spirit, fill our land, our homes, our workplaces, our schools, and all our interactions with others with Your blessings. Allow this season of waiting and preparation to refocus our hearts and minds upon Your mission for our congregation and for us as individual members of this household of faith. Stir up our hearts to make known to all the wonders You have done, so that more souls may be brought to saving faith and many would join with us in saying, “Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!”

C To You alone our prayers we bring!

P Confident in our coming King and Savior, we entrust our prayers into the good and gracious hands of our sovereign God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who lives and reigns, both now and forever.

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 king-**

dom 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

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

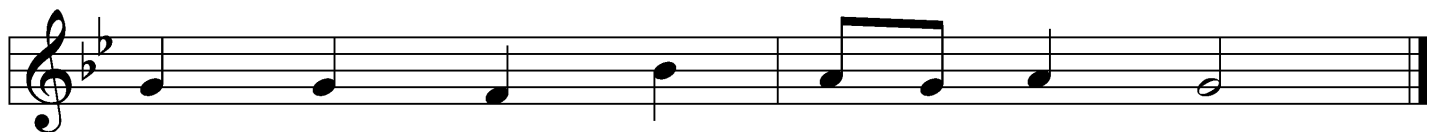
LSB 352



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,

Continue on next page

Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

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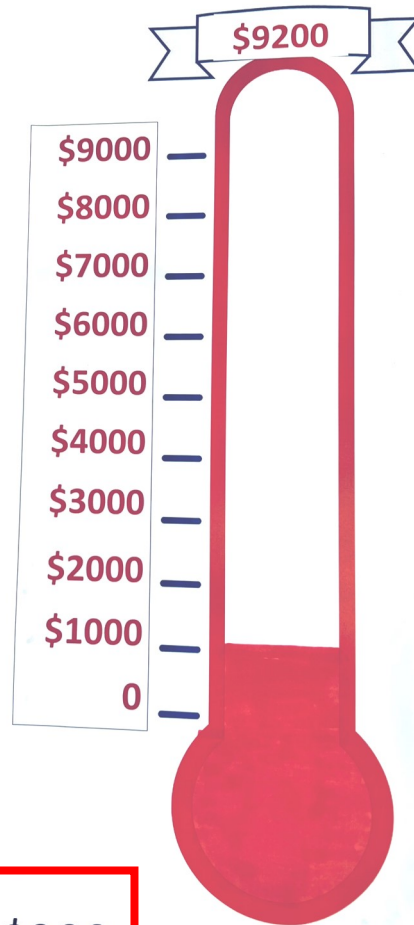
DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Bunk Bed Fundraiser



1 Bunk bed - \$200
2 Twin Mattresses \$190
2 Mattress protectors - \$70
Total- \$460

20 bunk beds x \$460 = \$9200

Please consider a donation to help outfit our new dorm rooms with bunkbeds for coming servant groups. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Portals of Prayer: January to March 2024 are available in the Narthex or office.

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

(Up-coming Event)


LWML Women's Retreat

January 26-27, 2024

Harlingen Convention Center

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

(Forms available in the Narthex, Office, and Social Hall)



**Righteousness will go before Him,
And shall make His footsteps
our pathway.
Psalms 85:13**



Advent and Christmas Events

**Mid-week Theme: MIRACLE BABIES OF THE BIBLE
and How They Tell of Christmas**

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: *Revelation 22:20*

*He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!*



11/22/2023	
Sunday Worship	35
Plate:	\$ 160.00
Envelopes:	\$ 465.00
On-line	
Donation:	
Total:	\$ 625.00
Bible Class	

11/26/2023	
Sunday Worship	53
Plate:	\$ 195.00
Envelopes:	\$ 781.00
On-line	\$ 500.00
Donation:	
Total:	\$ 1,476.00
Bible Class:	18 \$ 12.00

12/3/2023	
Sunday Worship	58
Plate:	\$ 531.00
Envelopes:	\$ 1,353.00
On-line	
Donation:	\$ 500.00
Total:	\$ 2,384.00
Bible Class:	23 \$ 21.00

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Readings:

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

You Are Prepared through Repentance for the Coming of the Lord

“The gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (Mark 1:1) begins when John the Baptist appears and comes “proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Mark 1:4). As the prophet Isaiah had written, John is the messenger of the Lord, sent before His face to prepare His way. To this day, the ministry of the forerunner continues in the preaching of the Law and the Gospel and in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. By these ways and means, “the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together” (Is. 40:5), and the Good Shepherd “will gather the lambs in his arms” (Is. 40:11). He speaks “tenderly to Jerusalem,” and He comforts His people by pardoning their iniquity (Is. 40:1–2). What is more, He promises “new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:13). Repent, therefore, and humble yourself as you wait for His coming in peace (2 Peter 3:14), because He “is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule		
December Sunday Servants		
Elder:	Ken Eilers	
Altar Guild:	Donna Jackson/Lorri Marchant	
Music:	Doris Pickering	
This Week	Second Sunday in Advent	
Usher:	Ken Eilers	
Sunday:	Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am
Next Week	Third Sunday in Advent	
Usher:	Don Vogel	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am