

**THIRD SUNDAY  
IN ADVENT  
DECEMBER 12, 2021  
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
Missouri Synod**



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**Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor  
956.463.1305  
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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:  
1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

**Website:  
Misionemanuel.com**

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



**Rejoice  
in the  
Lord  
Always**

Philippians 4:4

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**  
**DECEMBER 12, 2021**

**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** - You, Lord Jesus, caused the blind to see, the lame to walk, the deaf to hear, the possessed to be free, the dead to be raised. By Your death and resurrection, You promise to raise me to new life. You are the One who alone can answer all my wonderings. You alone are the Way to abundant life. Fill me with the joy that comes from You alone that my life may radiate Your joy in this broken world; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**AS WE GATHER** - Some Advent wreaths have a pink candle for this Third Sunday in Advent. The festive, joyful pink candle reflects today's Readings, which begin to anticipate the unbridled joy that Jesus' birth brings. We do many

joyful things during Advent. We sing Christmas carols, bake cookies, decorate our homes inside and out, and travel far and wide to visit those we love. Yet all these joyful things point to an even greater joy—the joy that comes by the Creator of the universe, the Lord almighty, who loves you, forgives you in Jesus, and cares about you beyond human measure! “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!”

## DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

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### WELCOME

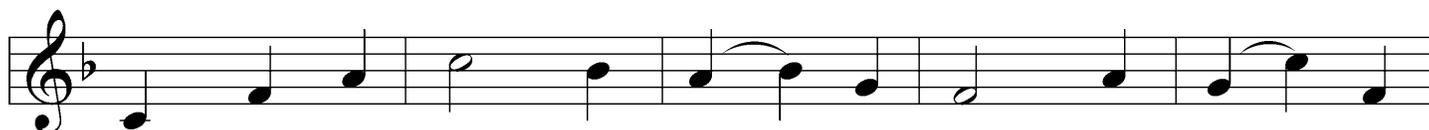
### PRELUDE

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

### OPENING HYMN

*Hark the Glad Sound*

LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

*Please stand*

## **INVOCATION**

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

**C** **Amen.**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

*Three Advent candles are lit.*

**P** Let us pray. O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**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** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and**

**walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.**

**Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (John 20:19-23)

**C** **Amen.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**INTROIT** *Psalm 146:5-8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

**P** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

**C** **Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

**P** who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;

**C** **who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.**

**P** The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

**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** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

**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. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Please sit*

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**      *Zephaniah 3:14–20*

(God will gather His scattered people and restore them to Him.)

14 Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

15 The Lord has taken away your judgments, He has cast out your enemy. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; You shall see disaster no more. 16 In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak.

17 The Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.” 18 “I will gather those who sorrow over the appointed assembly, who are among you, to whom its reproach is a burden. 19 Behold, at that time I will deal with all who afflict you; I will save the lame, and gather those who were driven out; I will appoint them for praise and fame in every land where they were put to shame. 20 At that time I will bring you back, even at the time I gather you; for I will give you fame and praise among all the peoples of the earth, When I return your captives before your eyes,” says the Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**        *Psalm 85; antiphon: v.2*

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

**C LORD, You were favorable to Your land; You restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

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

**C You withdrew all Your wrath; You turned from Your hot anger.**

P Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away Your indignation toward us!

**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 steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation.**

P Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people, 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 Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

**C Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.**

P Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

**C Righteousness will go before Him and make His footsteps a way.**

**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** You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered all their sin.

**EPISTLE** *Philippians 4:4–7*

(The Lord invites us to bring our worries to Him in prayer.)

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 7:18–28 (29–35)*

(The lame walk, the blind see, and the poor have good news spoken to them.)

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.

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

18 Then the disciples of John reported to him concerning all these things. 19 And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?” 20 When the men had come to Him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, ‘Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?’ ” 21 And that very

hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight. 22 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. 23 And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me." 24 When the messengers of John had departed, He began to speak to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 25 But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings' courts. 26 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. 27 This is he of whom it is written:

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

28 For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **APOSTLES CREED**

**All 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**      *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*      **LSB 803**



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.  
Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.  
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di-vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.  
Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy - ful, we by grace are Thine!

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**SERMON**

***"Rejoice...in the Lord always!"***

**(Philippians 4:4)**

**OFFERING**

*Please stand*

**OFFERTORY**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

**LSB 700**



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of  
4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy  
spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy



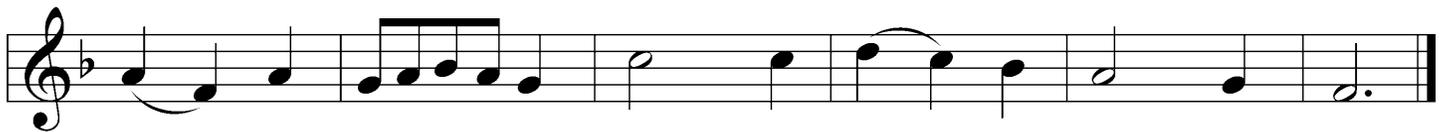
hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.  
great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -  
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in



bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with  
heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our



Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

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**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

*"Peace be with you"*

*(John 20:21)*

*[using ASL (American Sign Language)]*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P** As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

*A brief time of silence may be observed.*

**P** O Wisdom from on high, lead us by Your Spirit to rejoice in all that You have done to demonstrate Your love for us. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to rejoice in the Lord always. We pray,

**C** **hear us, coming Lord.**

**P** O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray,

**C** **hear us, coming Lord.**

**P** O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us humbly to enter the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, [especially . . .]. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,

**C** **hear us, coming Lord.**

P O Key of David, let Your joy, forgiveness, and peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,

**C hear us, coming Lord.**

P O Lord of might, help us to see in the miracles of Jesus a sign pointing forward to that Day when He will come again in great glory to restore all creation. Help us to be instruments by which our wandering world may come to see Jesus as the one who alone brings true joy into our lives. We pray,

**C Hear us, coming Lord.**

P O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,

**C hear us, coming Lord.**

P You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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**

*[CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE]* 13

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**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**LSB 357**



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest all things



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - jice! Re - jice!  
And teach us in her ways to go. Re - jice! Re - jice!

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!  
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

**ref** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 Shall come to thee, O Israel!

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 And death's dark shadows put to flight. **Refrain**

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
 In one the hearts of all mankind;  
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
 And be Thyself our King of Peace. **Refrain**

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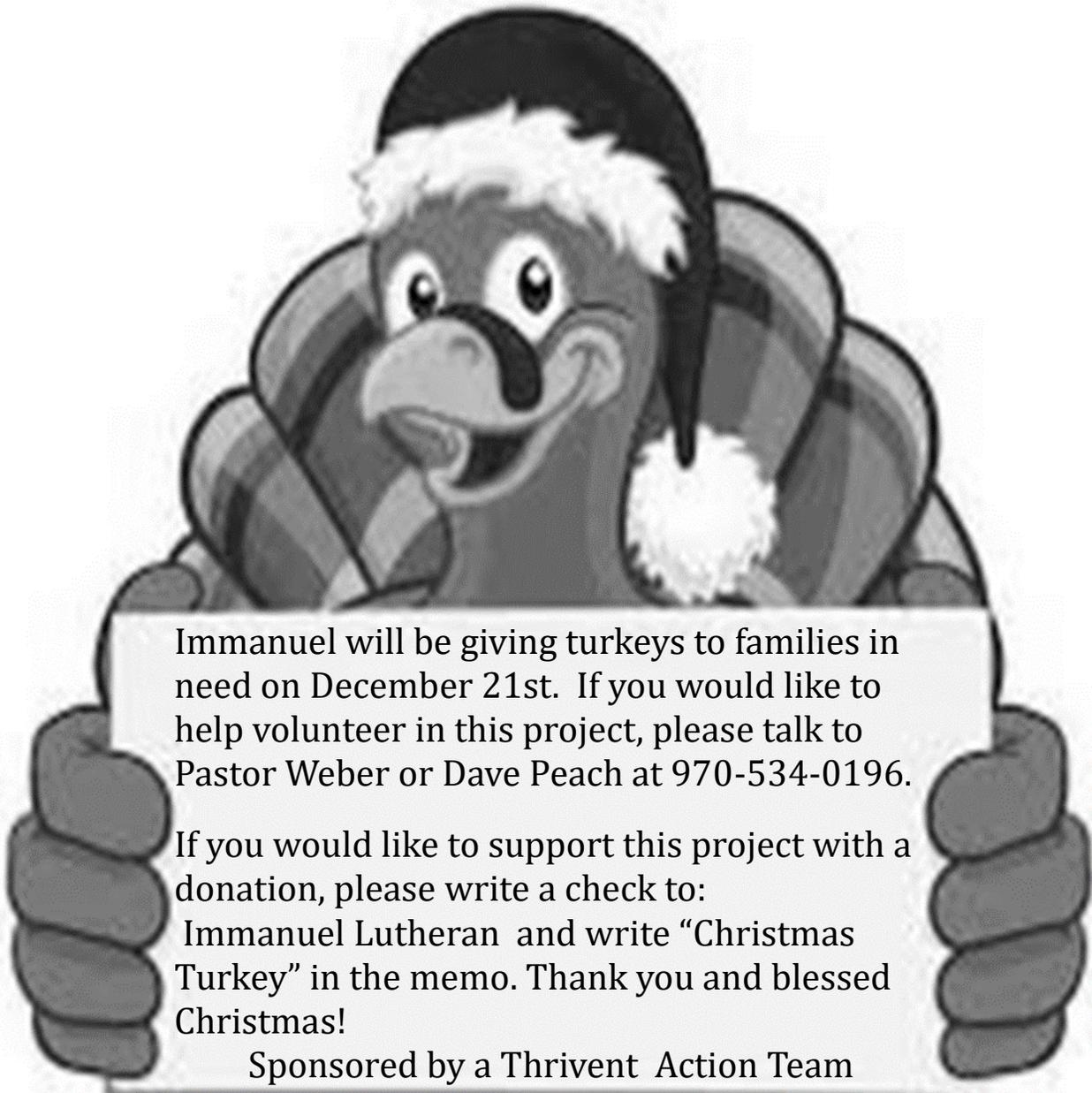
## **DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace, and serve the Lord!

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**

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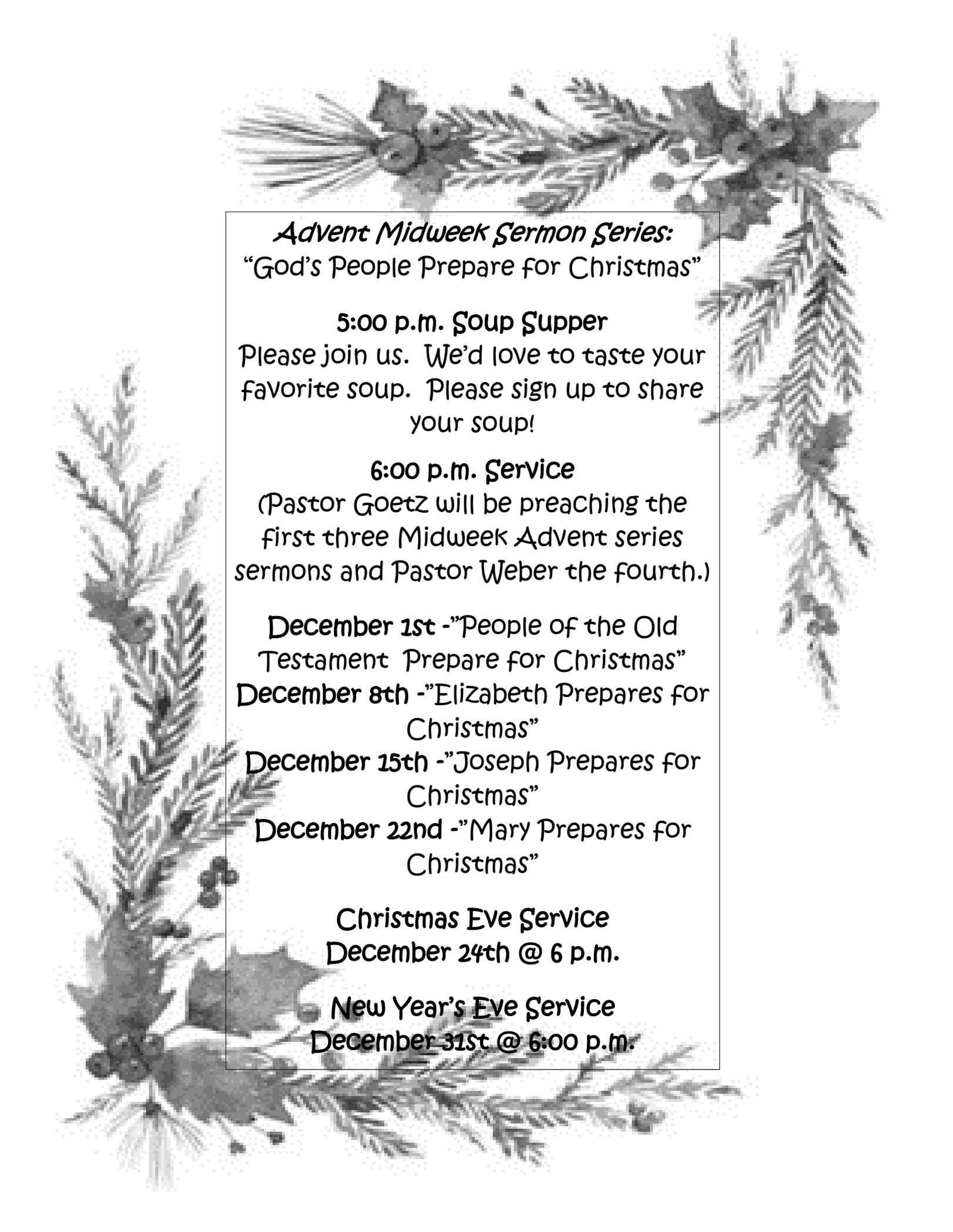


Immanuel will be giving turkeys to families in need on December 21st. If you would like to help volunteer in this project, please talk to Pastor Weber or Dave Peach at 970-534-0196.

If you would like to support this project with a donation, please write a check to:

Immanuel Lutheran and write "Christmas Turkey" in the memo. Thank you and blessed Christmas!

Sponsored by a Thrivent Action Team



***Advent Midweek Sermon Series:***  
**“God’s People Prepare for Christmas”**

**5:00 p.m. Soup Supper**

Please join us. We’d love to taste your favorite soup. Please sign up to share your soup!

**6:00 p.m. Service**

(Pastor Goetz will be preaching the first three Midweek Advent series sermons and Pastor Weber the fourth.)

**December 1st -“People of the Old Testament Prepare for Christmas”**

**December 8th -“Elizabeth Prepares for Christmas”**

**December 15th -“Joseph Prepares for Christmas”**

**December 22nd -“Mary Prepares for Christmas”**

**Christmas Eve Service**

**December 24th @ 6 p.m.**

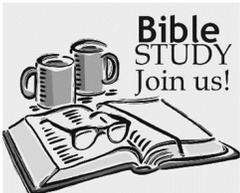
**New Year’s Eve Service**

**December 31st @ 6:00 p.m.**

*From Pastor's Desk*

*Portals of Prayer*

*October to December 2021 are available in the Narthrex or office.*



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

*Rev. Goetz is leading the class.*

The LCMS invites everyone to join together in memorizing a verse each week.

**This week's memory verse:**      *Ephesians 5:1-2*

*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*



*Winter Texans*

**Reminder!!!**

*December 21, 2021  
Voters' Meeting  
Election of Officers  
and Budget  
7:30 p.m.*

12/1/2021

**Mid-Week 1 Advent  
Service                    24**

Plate:                    \$ 160.00

Envelopes:            \$ 535.00

**Total:                    \$ 695.00**



## The Coming of Jesus Enables Us to Rejoice

The Third Sunday in Advent has traditionally been called by the Latin word Gaudete, meaning “Rejoice!” For as you are called to repentance, so also are you urged to rejoice in the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. By His own cross, He has accomplished salvation for you; “he has cleared away your enemies,” “taken away the judgments against you” and come to reign in your midst. Indeed, He rejoices over you with gladness and song (Zeph. 3:15–17)! Therefore, even from prison St. Paul encourages us to “rejoice in the Lord always,” knowing that the peace of God will guard and keep us in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:4, 7). We find an example and encouragement in the case of John the Baptist. As he languishes in prison, he calls upon Jesus and is strengthened by the Word of the Gospel that he receives. The same good news is preached to you, by which all things are made new and even “the dead are raised up” (Luke 7:22). Do not be offended by the cross, therefore, but let your life be one of prayer and thanksgiving (Luke 7:23; Phil. 4:6).

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