

FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 22, 2019

IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Missouri Synod



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Rev. Ed Weber,
Pastor
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Website
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Sunday
9:00 AM
Worship Service
Adult Bible Class
Sunday School
10:30 a.m.

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

Website:
Misionemanuel.com

Office Hrs, M-F
8:00 am to 12:00 pm

CCLI # 2585510

Behold,

the virgin shall
conceive
and bear a *Son,*
and shall call

His name
Immanuel

Isaiah 7:14

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 22, 2019**

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 - Open my eyes to see Your presence among us, O Immanuel, that I look forward in faith to follow where You have led the way; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - Some videos go viral as our friends tell us, "Look at that!" Centuries ago, people would join a parade through city gates so they all could be part of some great event. As we share the news of Jesus entering human history, we bring our friends to that once-for-all yet eternal event. God kept His promise, Joseph named Mary's son Jesus, and we are called saints by the grace of God. It's news that can't be kept to ourselves; we have to tell our friends, "Look at that! Look at what God has done!"

WELCOME

PRELUDE

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

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

PAGE 203

OPENING HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors

LSB 339

OPENING SENTENCES

Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21; Psalm 24: 3-4; Romans 1:3

P Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

C **and shall call His name Immanuel.**

P She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus,

C **for He will save His people from their sins.**

P Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

C **He who has clean hands and a pure heart.**

P Christ Jesus was descended from David according to the flesh

C **and declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead.**

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 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 *Psalms 19:1, 4c, 5-6; Antiphon, Isaiah 45:8a & b*

P You heavens above, rain down righteousness; let the clouds shower it down.
Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up.

C **The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.**

P In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,

C **which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course.**

P It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other;

C **nothing is hidden from its heat.**

All 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 heavens above, rain down righteousness; let the clouds shower it down.
Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up.

KYRIE



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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *Romans 1:5; Psalm 24:1*

P Paul wrote, "We have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of His name among all the nations."

HYMN *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* **[St. 2: LSB 357]**

P David wrote, "The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein."

Let us pray.

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things:

C Come and teach us the way of prudence.

[Light four candles on the Advent wreath during the singing of the following stanza.]

HYMN *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* **[St. 1: LSB 357]**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 7:10–17*

(Although a newborn will be called Immanuel, yet the King of Assyria shall destroy Judah.)

10 Moreover the Lord spoke again to Ahaz, saying, 11 "Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above."

12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I test the Lord!"

13 Then he said, "Hear now, O house of David! *Is it* a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. 15 Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16 For before the Child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings. 17 The Lord will bring the king of Assyria upon you and your people and your father's house—days that have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

PSALM *Psalm 24; antiphon: v. 7*

P Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,
C the world and those who dwell therein,
P for He has founded it upon the seas
C and established it upon the rivers.
P Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in His holy place?
C He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.
P He will receive blessing from the LORD
C And righteousness from the God of his salvation.
P Such is the generation of those who seek Him,
C who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
P Who is this King of glory?
C The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!
P Lift up your heads, O gates!
C And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
P Who is this King of glory?
C The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!
P Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

EPISTLE

Romans 1:1-7

(Paul writes that his readers are loved by God and called to be saints.)

1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called **to be** an apostle, separated to the gospel of God 2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. 5 Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, 6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;

7 To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

(Joseph is instructed to name Mary's son Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.)

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

C Glory to You , O Lord.

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to

Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

LSB 352

SERMON

"No Fear, for Immanuel has Come!"

(Matthew 1:23)

OFFERTORY

At the Name of Jesus

LSB 512

OFFERING

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Matthew 1:19, 21; Romans 1:5; Psalm 24:1, 5-6; James 5:7

[Responses may be sung as phrases of "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (LSB 338).]

P As the time of Advent comes to an end, let us go to our heavenly Father on behalf of the Church around the world and all people in their various needs.

"Call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." For people who have

not heard a word of forgiveness from their society or circle of friends, that God would use the Church to bring them news of God's mercy and grace, available from His Son, born in a stable, killed on a cross, and risen from the grave, let us pray to the Lord.

C Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;

P Paul's apostleship was to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of Christ's name among all the nations. For our communities and country and for all the nations of the world, that God would put into positions of authority and influence capable and faithful people who would work for order at home and peace with neighboring states, let us pray to the Lord.

C From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.

P "The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof." For those who tend God's good earth, those who distribute and sell the fruits of the harvest, and those who manage wildlife preserves and wilderness expanses, that they be successful in their oversight of creation and give praise to the Creator, let us pray to the Lord.

C Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,

P For people who are weighed down by illness, strife, or oppression, our friends and neighbors "who seek the face of the God of Jacob," that God would bring healing, peace of body and mind, and freedom from discrimination, [including . . .], let us pray to the Lord.

C Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

P For the forgotten in prison and unseen among us, all whose treatment by society has given them cause to stop waiting for answers to prayer, that God would surround them with caring, devout family and friends, so that they in patient joy look forward as "the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth," let us pray to the Lord.

C Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!

P Joseph was a just man and unwilling to put Mary to shame. For those who have succumbed to the criticisms of their circle of acquaintances, the fallen morality of their society, and the consequences of their own mistakes, that God would open their eyes to the forgiveness He offers through Christ so that they lift up their heads to the gates through which our Savior walks, let us pray to the Lord.

C Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

P For the Church around the world, wherever it experiences active persecution or increasing indifference, that God would strengthen, guide, and protect laity and clergy alike and that it receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;

P These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

C By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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

P The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

LSB 336

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**



*CHRISTMAS
AND
NEW YEAR SERVICES*

Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday, December 24th @ 6:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve Service
Tuesday, December 31st @ 6:00 p.m.

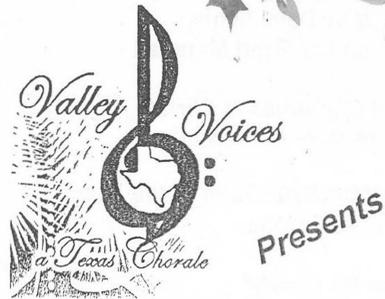


Winter Texan Family, we've missed you!

12/11/2019	
Thanksgiving Worship	26
Plate:	\$ 70.00
Envelopes:	\$ 155.00
Donation:	
Total:	\$ 225.00

Valley Voices Members

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Soprano
 Dixie Bergsma
 Freda Bredemeyer
 Lee Carlson
 Mary Duncan
 Darlene Flatoff
 Terry Garza
 Fran Hopcus
 Lana Hunter
 Susan McCollum
 Pamela Novak
 Carolyn Porter
 Ellen Snyder</p> <p>Bass
 Tom Bergsma
 John Lee
 Gary Snyder</p> <p><i>Door Offering to help support music scholarships at Port Isabel H.S.</i></p> | <p>Alto
 Linda Ballou
 Sue Ellen Campbell
 Vicki Carroll
 Vivian Contos
 Sally Jo Gembala
 Claudia Nalven
 Suzan Schock
 Cindy Sturlin
 Anita Vissers</p> <p>Tenor
 Rick Alf
 Paul Cardile
 Felix Garza
 Paul Lammers
 Jay Russell
 Bonnie Woods</p> <p>Director
 Dale Ziegler</p> <p>Pianist
 Brett Marshall</p> |
|--|---|



*The Eighth Annual
Christmas Concert
Encores Performance*

*Saturday, January 11 2020, 2pm
Reception Following
Immanuel Lutheran Church
703 W. 3rd St. Mercedes, Texas*



*Portals of Prayer for January to March are available
in the Narthrex.*

*Join us for Sunday School and Bible Study at 10:30 a.m.
in the Fellowship Hall.*

*You have fellowship with one another and also enrich your
spiritual life with the Word.*

Rev. Weber is leading the Bible Study.

*Youth Confirmation Classes
@ 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Pastor's Office
CANCELLED FOR DECEMBER 24TH & 31ST*

Bridge of Hope Children's Concert
Thursday, January 16th, 2020 @ 10 a.m. in the Social Hall



God's Word Is Fulfilled for Us in the Flesh and Blood of Christ Jesus, the Son of Mary

The Fourth Sunday in Advent turns our attention toward the Nativity of Our Lord. With the blessed Virgin Mary, we await the coming of the Christ, her Son, conceived in her womb by the Word and Spirit of God. This fulfillment of the sign once given to the house of David, that “the virgin shall conceive and bear a son” (Is. 7:14), is now given to us in the Gospel. It declares that salvation is by His grace alone, entirely His work and a free gift. It also is the way and means by which the Lord our God is Immanuel, “God with us.” The almighty and eternal Son of God is conceived and born of Mary, and is thus “descended from David according to the flesh” (Rom. 1:3-4). He comes in this way to save us with His own flesh and blood; wherefore, He is called “Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21). As Joseph received this sign in faith and immediately “did as the angel of the Lord commanded him” (Matt. 1:24), we also live by faith in this Holy Gospel.

12/15/2019	
Sunday Worship	57
Plate:	\$ 179.00
Envelopes:	\$ 2,648.00
Donation:	
Genesis PC	\$ 500.00
Memorial:	
Total:	\$3,327.00
Bible Class:	29 \$ 24.00

First Sunday after Christmas Readings:

Isaiah 63:7-14

Psalm 111

Galatians 4:4-7

Matthew 2:13-23

Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule		
	December Sunday Servants:	January Servants:
Elder:	Ken Eilers	Joe Winston
Altar Guild:	Donna Jackson & Lori Marchant	BJ Neuhaus & M. Perez
Music:	Bonny Winston	
This Week	Fourth Sunday in Advent	
Usher:	Dan Wehling	
Sunday:	Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am
Next Week	First Sunday after Christmas	
Usher:	Don Vogel	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am