

**SECOND SUNDAY
IN ADVENT**

DECEMBER 9, 2018
IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Missouri Synod



**703 W 3RD Street
Mercedes
Texas 78570
956.565.1518**

**Immanuelmercedes
@gmail.com**

**[https://
www.facebook.com/
LutheranMercedes/](https://www.facebook.com/LutheranMercedes/)**

**Rev. Ed Weber,
Pastor
956.463.1305
eweber10@aol.com
Website
[lutheranmercedes.
com](http://lutheranmercedes.com)**

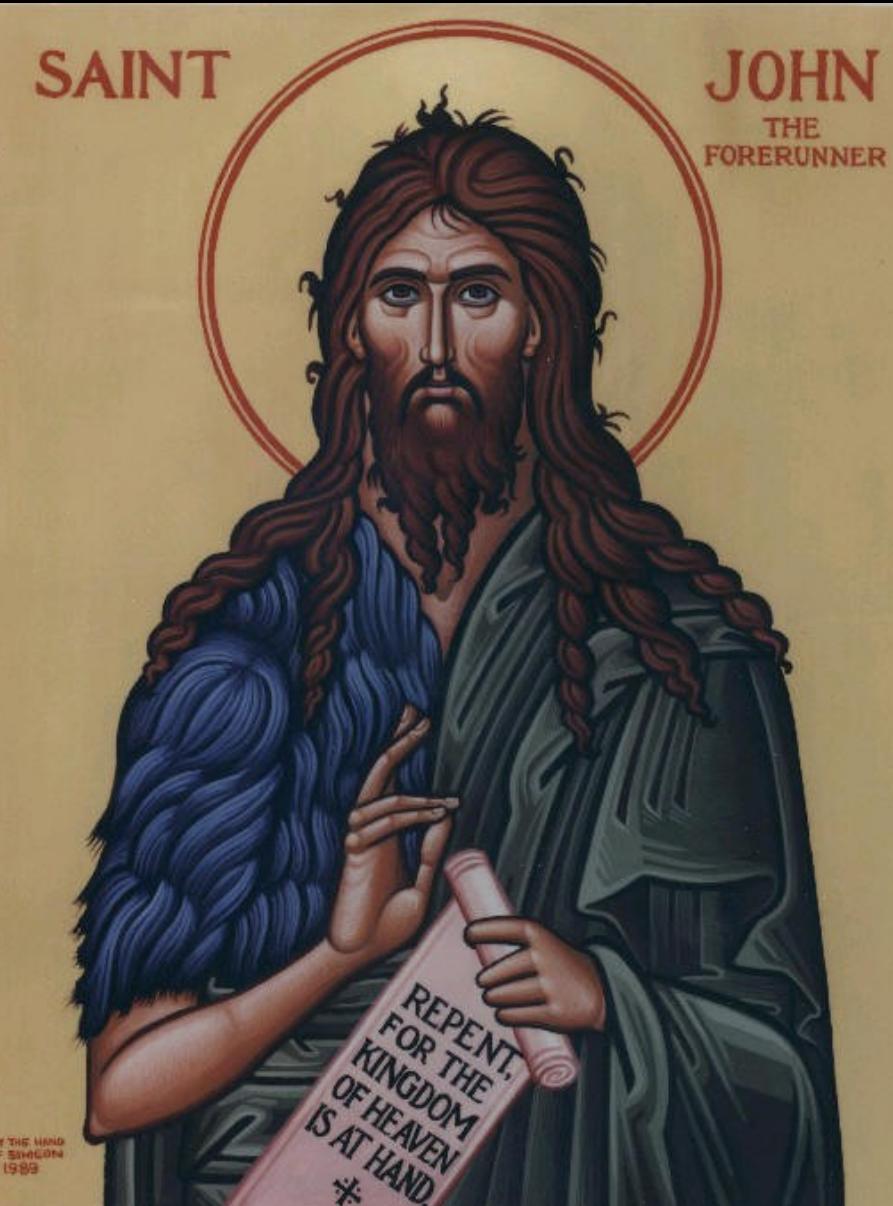
**Sunday
9:00 AM
Worship Service
Adult Bible Class
Sunday School
10:00 a.m.**

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

**Website:
Misionemanuel.com**

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

CCLI # 2585510



**"ALL FLESH SHALL SEE THE
SALVATION OF GOD"**

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 9, 2018**

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 the 3x5 white cards 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 prepare the way for Christ, that by His presence I may return to You and love my neighbors in righteousness, innocence, and blessedness; 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 - Preparation is probably on your mind. Christmas is only weeks away. There are presents to buy, visits to plan, decorations to put up, lights to see, food to cook, and so much more! As we prepare for Jesus to come, we reflect on John the Baptist's words to people who asked what they should do to prepare for the Messiah's coming. John says we are to "make His paths straight" by sharing food and clothing, by not taking advantage of people, and by being content with what the Lord has given us. In the midst of your busy preparations, consider these words.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

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

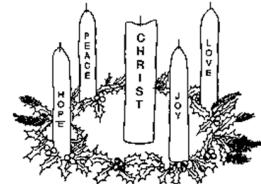
DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

PAGE 203

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH HYMN *We Light the Advent Candles* by Gracia Grindal
(German folk tune)

1 We light the Advent candles
against the winter night,
to welcome our Lord Jesus
who is the world's True Light,
to welcome our Lord Jesus
who is the world's True Light.

2 We light the second candle,
and hear God's holy Word,
it tells us, cling to Jesus,
prepare to meet your Lord,
it tells us, cling to Jesus,
prepare to meet your Lord!



LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

P On the four Sundays in Advent, we light a new candle each week. We mark the four candles with these four words: hope, peace, joy, and love. Jesus Christ is the hope of the nations.

C **We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we hope.**

P Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace.

C **We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we rest.**

OPENING HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB 343

INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

CONFESSİON 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.**

INTROIT *Psalm 81:8, 10–11, 13; antiphon: Luke 3:4b*

P "The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;

Make His paths straight.

C **"Hear, O My people, and I will admonish you! O Israel, if you will listen to Me!"**

P I am the Lord your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

C **"But My people would not heed My voice, And Israel would have none of Me."**

P "Oh, that My people would listen to Me, That Israel would walk in My ways!

P "The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;

Make His paths straight.

KYRIE



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

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

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 enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Malachi 3:1-7b

(God's messenger prepares the way for the day of the Lord.)

1 "Behold, I send My messenger,
And he will prepare the way before Me.
And the Lord, whom you seek,
Will suddenly come to His temple,
Even the Messenger of the covenant,
In whom you delight.
Behold, He is coming"
Says the Lord of hosts.

2 "But who can endure the day of His coming?
And who can stand when He appears?
For He is like a refiner's fire
And like launderers' soap.

3 He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver;
He will purify the sons of Levi,
And purge them as gold and silver,
That they may offer to the Lord
An offering in righteousness.

4 "Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem
Will be pleasant to the Lord,
As in the days of old,
As in former years.

5 And I will come near you for judgment;

I will be a swift witness
Against sorcerers,
Against adulterers,
Against perjurors,
Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans,
And against those who turn away an alien—
Because they do not fear Me,”
Says the Lord of hosts.

- 6 “For I am the Lord, I do not change;
Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.
- 7 Yet from the days of your fathers
You have gone away from My ordinances
And have not kept them.
Return to Me, and I will return to you,”
Says the Lord of hosts.
“But you said,
'In what way shall we return?'

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

PSALM *Psalm 66:1-12; antiphon: v. 12b*

- P We went through fire and through water; But You brought us out to rich fulfillment.
- C Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth!**
- P Sing out the honor of His name; Make His praise glorious.
- C Say to God, “How awesome are Your works! Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You.**
- P All the earth shall worship You And sing praises to You; They shall sing praises to Your name.” Selah
- C Come and see the works of God; He is awesome in His doing toward the sons of men.**
- P He turned the sea into dry land; They went through the river on foot. There we will rejoice in Him.
- C He rules by His power forever; His eyes observe the nations; Do not let the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah**
- P Oh, bless our God, you peoples! And make the voice of His praise to be heard,
- C Who keeps our soul among the living, And does not allow our feet to be moved.**
- P For You, O God, have tested us; You have refined us as silver is refined.
- C You brought us into the net; You laid affliction on our backs.**
- P You have caused men to ride over our heads; We went through fire and through water; But You brought us out to rich fulfillment.
- P We went through fire and through water; But You brought us out to rich fulfillment.

CCHILDREN'S MESSAGE

EPISTLE *Philippians 1:2–11* *(We are all partakers of grace.)*
2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; 7 just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. 8 For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. 9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 3:1–20* *(John the Baptist prepares the way.)*

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

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

Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, 2 while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. 3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying:

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
Make His paths straight.
5 Every valley shall be filled
And every mountain and hill brought low;
The crooked places shall be made straight
And the rough ways smooth;
6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

7 Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 9 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” 10 So the people asked him, saying, “What shall we do then?” 11 He answered and said to them, “He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise.” 12 Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” 13 And he said to them, “Collect no more than what is appointed for you.” 14 Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, “And what shall we do?” So he said to

them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages." 15 Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ or not, 16 John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire." 18 And with many other exhortations he preached to the people. 19 But Herod the tetrarch, being rebuked by him concerning Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done, 20 also added this, above all, that he shut John up in prison.

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

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

LSB 344

SERMON

"Caution! Soul Road Construction Ahead!"

(Luke 3:5)



OFFERTORY*Once He Came in Blessing*

LSB 333, v. 2

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G clef, common time, and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with each word aligned with its corresponding note. The melody is mostly quarter notes, with some eighth and sixteenth note patterns.

2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He
feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,
Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will
nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.

OFFERING**SHARING OF THE PEACE****PRAYER OF THE CHURCH***Luke 19:38*

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Dear heavenly Father, as we prepare the way for Christ to come, we proclaim:
“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!”

C **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!**

P Lord, we have kept our distance from You. Our repentance and return has been halfhearted and imperfect. Forgive us, and return to us despite our failures, for
“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!”

C **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!**

P Lord, we have kept our distance from our neighbors, from the suffering and forsaken, from the widow and the orphan, from the foreigner and refugee.
Strengthen us to serve our neighbors, and strengthen them in their trials. “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!”

C **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!**

P Lord, heal the sick, injured, and recovering among us, [especially . . .]. Strengthen

them with Your gracious hand and with Your unwavering presence. "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!"

C Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

P Lord, console the grieving with Your presence. [Today we remember the families and friends of . . .] Comfort them with the hope of resurrection life that is ours in Christ Jesus. "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!"

C Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

P Lord, gladden the hearts of those who rejoice and direct their praise and thanks giving to You. [Today we rejoice with . . .] Grant that their rejoicing lead us all to say: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!"

C Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

P Lord, help us to live under Your perfect care. Prevent us from turning aside to idols and distractions. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus that we evermore proclaim: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!"

C Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

P Into Your hands, Lord Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your ever present mercy.

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

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

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

LSB 347

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

Lovingly and prayerfully, you and your family are invited to
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.

Confirmation Class
on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Pastor's Office

Voters' Meeting
Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.
(*Election of Officers and Budget*)

Youth Christmas Movie Night
Sunday, December 16, 2018
at DCE Brenda's house from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Bring your favorite cookies to share.

Welcome Back!
Winter Texans
Praise be to God! - for your safe journey to the RGV

Christmas Eve Service
6:00 p.m.
Monday, December 24th, 2018

Christmas Day Holy Communion Service
9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, December 25th, 2018

Special Remembrance Program
honoring our church veterans
today, beginning of Bible Study at 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Caroling with Fishers of Men at 1:00 p.m., today.

Christmas Around the World

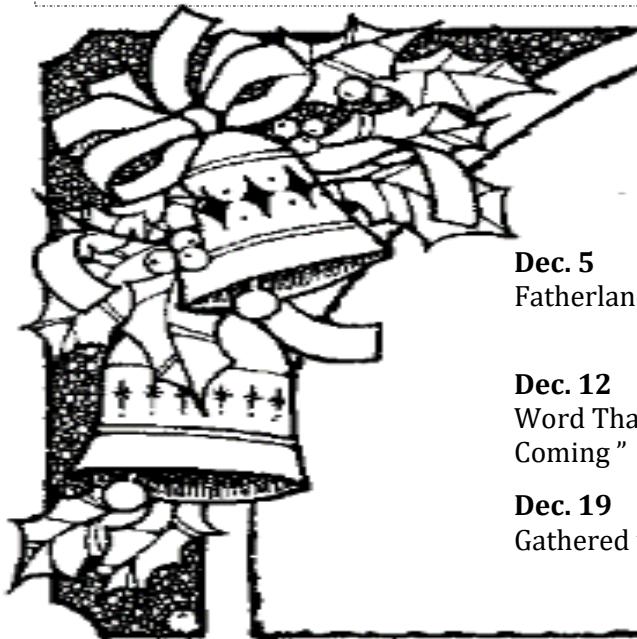


Immanuel Lutheran School
Invites you to attend
Christmas Around the World

- Kinder thru 5th grade projects
- Learn about different countries
 - Parade of countries
 - Foods from each country
- Christmas Caroling with the children

December 21, 2018 starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
We will be playing Chalupa (Mexican Bingo) during the event. Gift cards will be given as prizes.

Cost: \$1.00 per card per game.



Midweek Advent Services

5:00 p.m. Soup Supper
6:00 p.m. Service

Dec. 5 "Pausing to Reflect on Our True Fatherland with Our Coming Savior"
(Philippians 3:18-20)

Dec. 12 "Look to the Testimony of God's Word That You May Look Forward to Jesus' Final Coming"
(Matthew 26:64)

Dec. 19 "Listen to His Word That You May be Gathered with the Elect at the Great Trumpet Sound"
(Matthew 24:30-31)

The Preaching of Repentance Prepares Us for the Coming of the Lord

The preaching and Baptism “of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 3:3) prepare us for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. The historic work of John the Baptist was completed with the first advent of our Lord Jesus in the flesh, but the ministry of the forerunner continues in the preaching of Law and Gospel and in Holy Baptism. Through His messengers, the Lord calls people of all nations to “see the salvation of God” (Luke 3:6). Our haughtiness is removed and our mountains of pride are brought low, but the Lord humbles us in order to exalt us in His mercy. As the Lord has begun this good work of repentance in us, so also does He perfect it by His Word and Holy Spirit, and He “will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1:6). He purifies us to be His priestly people, precious in His sight and abounding in faith and love, so that we offer our very lives in righteousness to the Lord (Mal. 3:3-4).

12/2/2018	
Sunday Worship	58
Plate:	\$ 357.00
Envelopes:	\$ 1,537.00
Cemetery	\$ 300.00
Donation: Genesis	\$ 500.00
Total:	\$ 2,694.00

Third Sunday in Advent Readings:

*Zephaniah 3:14-20
Psalm 85
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 7:18-28 (29-35)*

Bible Class:	26	\$ 16.25
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Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule

	December Sunday Servants:
Elder:	Ken Eilers
Altar Guild:	Donna Jackson & Lorri Marchant
Music:	Bonny Winston
This Week	Second Sunday of Advent
Usher:	Ken & Bob 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