

**FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 23, 2018
IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Missouri Synod**



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***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



**“Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb!”**

(Luke 1:42)

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 23, 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 Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your presence I may be defended from the attacks of Satan; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - This is He whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word. (LSB 384:3)

Micah is one such seer and prophet. He prophesies of the Savior's birthplace, Bethlehem, which means "house of bread." How fitting that the Bread of Life would be born in such a place. How fitting that He continues to feed us with His body and blood to this day. As we come to the Lord's Supper, we come to the house of bread. We come to Bethlehem or, rather, Bethlehem comes to us.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

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

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

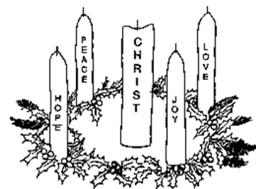
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HYMN FOR LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We Light the Advent Candles
(German folk tune) by Gracia Grindal

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 Four candles burning brightly
announce that Christ has come,
prepare, my heart, believe it,
and give the Christ child room,
prepare, my heart, believe it,
and give the Christ child room.



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.

P Jesus Christ is the source of all joy.

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

P Jesus Christ is the Lord of love.

C We wait for the Lord, and in His Word His love finds us.

OPENING HYMN

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

LSB 336

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.

INTROIT *1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b-7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b-47*

P "My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

C "My heart rejoices in the Lord; My horn is exalted in the Lord. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation.

P "No one is holy like the Lord, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God.

C Even the barren has borne seven, And she who has many children has become feeble.

P "The Lord kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up.
C **The Lord makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up.**
P "My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

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 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

Micah 5:2-5a

(The ruler of Israel shall come from Bethlehem.)

2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting." 3 Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; Then the remnant of His brethren Shall return to the children of Israel. 4 And He shall stand and feed His flock In the strength of the Lord, In the majesty of the name of the Lord His God; And they shall abide, For now He shall be great To the ends of the earth; 5 And this One shall be peace.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God**

PSALM

Psalm 80:1-7; antiphon: v. 7

P Restore us, O God of hosts; 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 Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, Stir up Your strength, And come and save us!

C **Restore us, O God; Cause Your face to shine, And we shall be saved!**

P O Lord God of hosts, How long will You be angry Against the prayer of Your people?

C **You have fed them with the bread of tears, And given them tears to drink in great measure.**

P You have made us a strife to our neighbors, And our enemies laugh among themselves.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

EPISTLE *Hebrews 10:5-10*

(“We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”)

5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said:

“Sacrifice and offering You did not desire,
But a body You have prepared for Me.

6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin
You had no pleasure.

7 Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come—
In the volume of the book it is written of Me—
To do Your will, O God.’ ”

8 Previously saying, “Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them” (which are offered according to the law), 9 then He said, “Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.” He takes away the first that He may establish the second. 10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 1:39-56* (Mary visits Elizabeth.)

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

39 Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, 40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. 45 Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.” 46 And Mary said:

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

48 For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant;
For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me,
And holy is His name.

50 And His mercy is on those who fear Him

From generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with His arm;

He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones,

And exalted the lowly.

53 He has filled the hungry with good things,

And the rich He has sent away empty.

54 He has helped His servant Israel,

In remembrance of His mercy,

55 As He spoke to our fathers,

To Abraham and to his seed forever.”

56 And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.

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

Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices

LSB 811

SERMON

“Leaping for Joy at the Visit of Your Lord”

(Luke 1:44)

RESPONSE HYMN

My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

LSB 934

OFFERTORY*Once He Came in Blessing***LSB 333, v. 4**

4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -
lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,
That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -
fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

OFFERING**SHARING OF THE PEACE****PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

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

Lord Jesus Christ, come to all those who are in bondage to sin and Satan. Break their chains and release them from their enslavement, that they serve You in peace and quietness. O come, O come, Emmanuel,

C **and ransom captive Israel.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, we live in a world where everyone does what is right in their own minds. Come to us with Your perfect wisdom, that we follow You and not our own selfish ways. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,

C **who orders all things mightily.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, come to those whose life is in chaos and provide order, structure, and discipline, that they live in peace and unity with their neighbors. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,

C **who gave the Law on Sinai's height.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, Satan remains an active voice in the world. Silence him by Your mighty power, and proclaim liberty to those who are under his influence. O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,

C free us from Satan's tyranny.

P Lord Jesus Christ, there are many who do not know You and Your salvation. Send missionaries, pastors, teachers, and anyone willing to share Your grace around the world, that more might believe in You and be saved by Your death and resurrection. O come, Thou Key of David, come,

C and open wide our heav'nly home.

P Lord Jesus Christ, so many in this world are lonely and longing for friendship and a place to belong. Send us to those people, that we befriend them and bring them to You. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,

C and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh.

P Lord Jesus Christ, come to Your broken Church with the gifts of reconciliation and restoration. Unite Your people once again, that we enjoy fellowship rather than fractured division. O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;

C bid Thou our sad divisions cease, and be Thyself our King of Peace.

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.

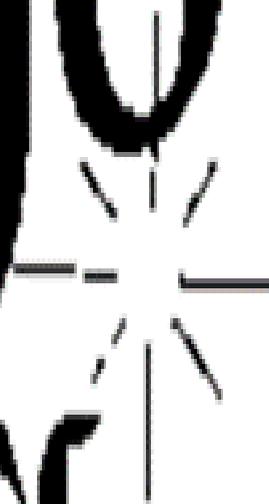
SENDING HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors*

LSB 339

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The
Joy of
Christmas



From Pastor's Desk

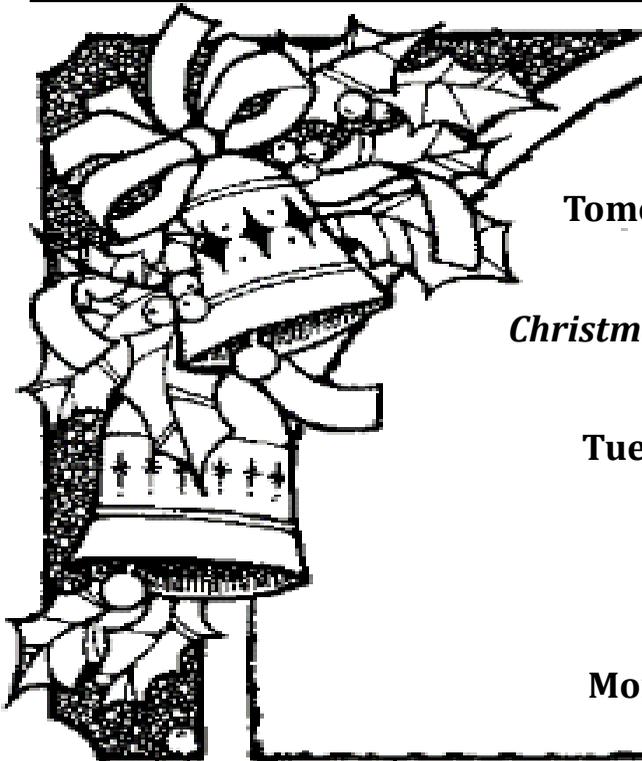
Portals of Prayer are available for January to March in the Narthex.

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

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the Narthex.



Christmas Eve Service

6:00 p.m.

Tomorrow, December 24th, 2018

Christmas Day Holy Communion Service

9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 25th, 2018

New Year's Eve Service

6:00 p.m.

Monday, December 31st, 2018

Backwards and a Bit Crazy

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

It was backwards and a bit crazy, but we did it. When folks get older and near retirement, most downsize and move into a more efficient home with less maintenance. But, last November, RoxAnne and I moved into a one hundred-year-old house with a lot more room for grandkids—and lots of steps! However, when RoxAnne said, “Honey, this is my dream home!” my “reason and all my senses” became null and void.

It was backwards and a bit crazy, but God did it. When most “gods” would welcome someone like David to build a house for them, God told David, “the Lord will make you a house” (2 Samuel 7:11). I imagine that David’s reason and senses did a double take when God added, “And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me” (v 16).

We know that God eventually allowed David’s son, Solomon, to build Him a house, and we have a good biblical picture of its splendor and glory. But the house that God promised to build for David, what did that look like? Well, not so splendid, not so glorious; more like a baby in a manger.

“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the HOUSE and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn” (Luke 2:4-7) (Emphasis added).

The house that God built for David, the house that would last forever, has as its cornerstone, Jesus (Ephesians 2:20). Like Hiel of Bethel who laid the foundation to rebuild the walls of Jericho at the cost of his firstborn (1 Kings 16:34), God’s only begotten Son shed His blood and died to become that cornerstone of the house that God built. Jesus’ resurrection from the dead assures the living and eternal nature of this house. Our baptism into Christ’s death and resurrection assures that we belong to this house. “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” (Ephesians 2:19).

At Christmas, RoxAnne and I thank God for a house built one hundred years ago. But it consists only of wood and brick and stucco. It will one day crumble. That is why we thank God even more for the house He built two thousand years ago and for the birth of its cornerstone, Jesus. This house will never crumble and those who live there will never die. And just as our house has plenty of room for grandchildren visits, God’s house has unlimited room for all, and God desires all to live there (1 Timothy 2:4). He asks us to invite and welcome all (Matthew 28:19-20). Those who live in the house that God built not only have eternal life, but a house of refuge for this life. God asks that we make this refuge available especially to the weak and vulnerable (Matthew 25:34-40).

(From: www.lutheransforlife.org)

The Lord Comes to Visit Us in Peace

The Fourth Sunday in Advent turns our attention toward the nativity of our Lord. With Mary, we await the coming of the Christ, her Son, conceived in her womb by the Spirit of God. As the Lord dealt graciously with her and did great things for her (Luke 1:48-49), so also He manifests Himself and His glory to us in mercy and gentleness. He comes to rule His people in peace, to “shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord.” He comes forth not from the great capital city of Rome or Jerusalem, but from lowly little Bethlehem (Micah 5:2, 4). He comes to sacrifice Himself, in fulfillment of His Father’s will, for the salvation and sanctification of His people (Heb. 10:10). He who once visited Elizabeth while hidden in the womb of Mary (Luke 1:39-45) now comes to visit us today, hidden in the lowliness of simple water, bread and wine.

12/16/2018		
Sunday Worship	51	
Plate:		\$ 627.00
Envelopes:		\$2,282.06
Donation:		
	Total:	\$ 2,909.06
Mid-Week Advent 3 12/12 33		
Plate:		\$ 369.53
Envelopes:		\$ 140.00
	Total	\$509.53
Bible Class:	22	\$ 26.005

*First Sunday
after Christmas
Readings:*

*Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15
Psalm 111
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:22-40*

Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule		
	December Sunday Servants:	January Servants
Elder:	Ken Eilers	Joe Winston
Altar Guild:	Donna Jackson & Lorri Marchant	B.J. Neuhaus & M. Perez
Music:	Bonny Winston	
This Week	Fourth Sunday of 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