

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 GUIDELINES: One Sunday service at 9:00 a.m. only. Please note that there will be new instructions for dismissal. It is still very important to continue signing-up every week, especially for **Communion Sundays** so we can set-up an accurate number of wafers and wine. If you have any further recommendations for February, please contact a member of the Sanitation Committee or Pastor Seelman. The committee meets again on January 26.

Ladies' Guild Christmas Cookie Sale: If you ordered cookies, please pick them up and pay for them after the service.

Please keep in your prayers: Dorothy Pfaffenroth, who was admitted to the hospital, and all of our shut-ins who will not be able to spend time with their loved ones in person during the holidays this year.

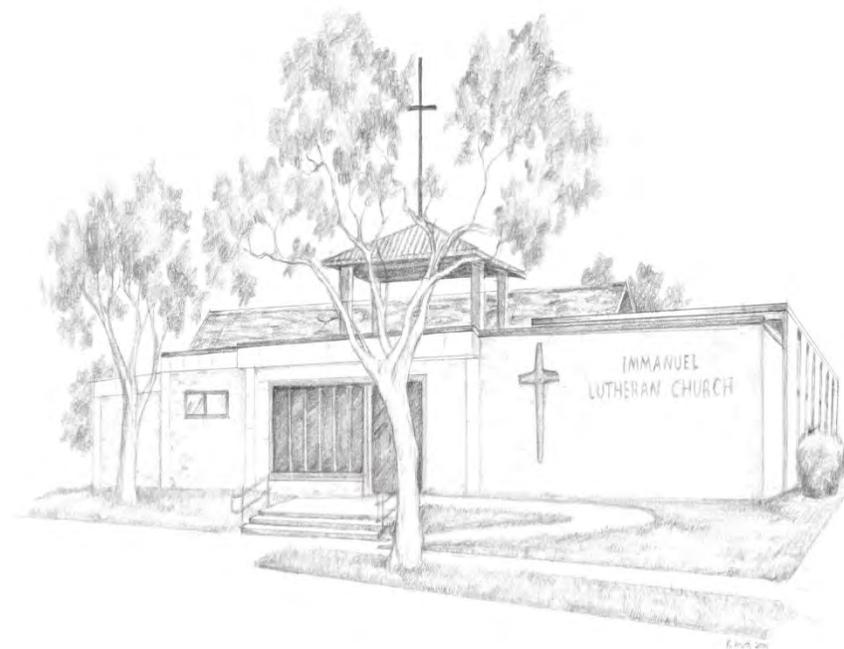
Mid-week Services: Please note the service times below for Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.

2021 offering envelopes: are available for you in the fellowship hall. Please discard any of your 2020 envelopes after December 27 and begin using your new ones. This is important, as you probably do not have the same offering number as last year.

Ladies Guild wants to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to the congregation for their generous donations to our Mission Fund. We received \$1,222.00. Because of you, we are now able to send \$500.00 to our Central African Medical Mission, \$100.00 each to our six WELS missions and the remaining \$22.00 will remain in our Mission Fund to be included in our next designated mission. A more detailed report will be in the next Lamplighter.

A Sincere Thank You to all the members who attended the annual congregational meeting last Sunday. A summary of the meeting will be in the January Lamplighter.

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GIFTS		Office Hours this week:	
Budgeted Need per week	\$3,120.00	Monday & Wednesday 8:00 a.m. - Noon	
Budgeted Received 12-13	\$2,683.00	This week at Immanuel:	
Budgeted Need to date	\$156,000.00	Monday	5:00 p.m. Catechism Class
Budgeted Received to date	\$140,292.58	Wednesday	6:00 p.m. Mid-week Advent
Worship Attendance 12-13	50	Thursday	4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve
Worship Attendance 12-16	25	Friday	9:00 a.m. Christmas Day
Bible Class	8	Sunday	9:00 a.m. Worship



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**The Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 20, 2020**

WORSHIP THEME: Jesus, the Son of David, came to set up an eternal kingdom.

OPENING HYMN: 26 “Jesus Came, the Heav’ns Adoring”

**1. Jesus came, the heav’ns adoring, Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came to win redemption, Lowly came on earth to die;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Came in deep humility.**

**2. Jesus comes again in mercy, When our hearts are worn with care;
Jesus comes again in answer, To an earnest, heartfelt prayer,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comes to save us from despair.**

**3. Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing, Bringing news of sins forgiv’n;
Jesus comes with words of gladness, Leading souls redeemed to heav’n.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Hope to all the world is giv’n.**

**4. Jesus comes on clouds triumphant, When the heav’ns shall pass away.
Jesus comes again in glory; Let us, then, our homage pay,
Alleluia! ever singing Till the dawn of endless day.**

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

Psalm 89

Refrain:

*At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song;
I sing for joy.*

I will sing of the LORD’S great love forever;*

I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

I will declare that your love stands firm forever,*

that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,*

your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

Refrain:

*At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song;
I sing for joy.*

O LORD God Almighty, who is like you?*

You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,*

who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.

They rejoice in your name all day long;*

they exult in your righteousness.

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.

Refrain:

*At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song;
I sing for joy.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: 2 *"Savior of the Nations, Come"*

1. Savior of the nations, come; Virgin's Son, make here your home.

Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.

2 . Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God

Was the Word of God made flesh, Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

3. Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child, Of the virgin undefiled,

Though by all the world disowned, Yet to be in heav'n enthroned!

4. From the Father's throne he came, And ascended to the same,

Captive leading death and hell—High the song of triumph swell!

5. Praise to God the Father sing, Praise to God the Son, our King,

Praise to God the Spirit be, Ever and eternally.

Announcements and Dismissal

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Romans 16:25-27 (EHV)

Paul praises God, who revealed Jesus Christ as the Savior that all might believe. The gospel message is "the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed".

16:25 Now to him who is able to strengthen you — according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was veiled in silence for long ages past, but now has been revealed through the prophetic Scriptures and made known to all the Gentiles, in keeping with the command of the eternal God, resulting in the obedience of faith — to God, who alone is wise, be glory forever through Jesus Christ. Amen.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 89 (Spoken / Sung in unison)

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38 (EHV) (Please Stand)

The angel Gabriel announces the birth of the Savior to the Virgin Mary. The angel tells Mary that God would give her Son the throne of his father David, and Mary humbly consents to the Lord's will.

1:26 In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women."

But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end."

Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Listen, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age even though she was called barren, and this is her sixth month. For nothing will be impossible for God.”

Then Mary said, “See, I am the Lord’s servant. May it happen to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

HYMN OF THE DAY: 4 *Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates*

1. Lift up your heads, you mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.

The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.

Life and salvation he will bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.

To God the Father raise, Your joyful songs of praise.

2. The King is born in poverty, His chariot is humility,

His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.

The end of all our woe he brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.

To Christ the Savior raise, Your grateful hymns of praise.

3. How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!

O peaceful hearts and happy homes, To whom this King in triumph comes!

The cloudless sun of joy is he, Who comes to set his people free.

To God the Spirit raise, Your happy shouts of praise.

4. Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart

From earthly use for heav’n’s employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

So shall your Sov’reign enter in, And new and nobler life begin.

To God alone be praise, For word and deed and grace!

5. Redeemer, come! I open wide My heart to you; here, Lord, abide!

Oh, enter with your saving grace; Show me your kind and friendly face.

Your Holy Spirit guide us on, Until our glorious goal is won.

Eternal praise and fame, We offer to your name.

SERMON TEXT: 2 Samuel 7:8-16

7:8 “Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. 9 I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. 10 And I will provide a place

for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning 11 and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: 12 When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. 15 But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

SERMON THEME: My Real Home for Christmas

1. Has been graciously prepared by our Heavenly Father
2. Was established by the sending of his Son
3. Is a home of eternal peace and rest

APOSTLES ’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there 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.