

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

Immanuel means "God with us" (Matthew 1:23)

**Proclaiming the Good News of
Jesus Christ since 1888**

December 10, 2023



5955 S Elm Ave.
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Pastor Taylor Stempniak: ptmarie96@gmail.com

Sunday Schedule:
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 10:30am

Welcome! Wherever you are; whether at home and on-line, or joining us in our beautiful sanctuary, we welcome you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We are united as a people of God in worship as a Body of Christ, the Church. May God grant you safety and protection during these unprecedented times. Immanuel follows the current Centers for Disease Control Guidelines during the pandemic and they recommend that wearing a mask at all indoor gatherings is optional. Please share our worship opportunities with your family and friends and those who don't know the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Immanuel is a member of the North American Lutheran Church whose Core Values are: Christ-Centered, Mission-Driven, Traditionally-Grounded, and Congregationally-Focused.

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday and other special occasions of the church year. If you have received instruction concerning the Lord's Supper, you are welcome to receive this sacrament here. If you would like to learn about either baptism or communion, please speak with the pastor following the service or check the box on the worship registration form to schedule an appointment. Only non-alcoholic wine is used in communion at Immanuel.

Moms and Dads, we love children and we welcome children to worship with you and the whole congregation. If you so desire, we do have a nursery – the room with the large window next to the Library at the back of the sanctuary. In there is a rocking chair, toys, as well as a speaker and large window so you can see and hear the service. Your kids may enjoy the activity bags on the rack at the back of the church.

To learn more about Immanuel please be sure to fill out the worship registration slip on the back page of your bulletin and place it in the offering bag as you exit the sanctuary or fill out the guest registry located in the church entry.

Restroom facilities are located in the church entry (the narthex). When walking out of the sanctuary take a left and they are at the end of the short hallway.

Join us outdoors immediately following our worship service where we can greet you more personally.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Laurel Jacobsen

Ring the Bell and Welcome

Pastor Taylor Stempniak

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness (*Matthew 28:19; 1 John 1:8-10*)

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

Pastor: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the

Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening Hymn “Prepare The Royal Highway”

Lutheran Book of Worship page 26

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!

Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!

Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!

Palm branches strew before him!

Spread garments! Shout and sing!

God's promise will not fail you!

No more shall doubt assail you!

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!

Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.

All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing:

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.

His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.

So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding:

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

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Please be seated

Apostolic Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:14)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light in our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel

Verse 2, Page 34, Lutheran Book of Worship

Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might,
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel

All: Amen.

Reading of the Word

The First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;

but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

The Responsive Readings

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Please read responsively the bold print verses.

¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look ^l down from heaven.

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.

The Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-15

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

The Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

Pastor: The Holy Gospel, according to Saint Mark the first chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

You may be seated.

The Children's Message

Pastor Taylor Stempniak

Children are invited up to the altar with Pastor Taylor.

Homily

Pastor Taylor Stempniak

Please stand for the hymn of the day.

Hymn of the Day

Messiah

Someone's shouting from the desert
Someone's shouting from the sea
Someone's shouting from the mountain
Someone's shouting from the valley

Chorus

Messiah

Come and be our King

Messiah

Come and be our King

Someone's shouting from the city I am young I am cold
Someone's shouting from the country
I am lonely I am old ***Chorus***

Someone's shouting I am broken
Someone's shouting, make me whole
Someone's shouting come and change me
Someone's shouting save my soul ***Chorus***

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Confession of Faith

Pastor: Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His Kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in One holy, Christian, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

Sharing of the Peace *(John 20:19-21)*

Pastor: Peace be with you

All: And also with you

Pastor: Let us share God's peace with one another.

Please be seated

Offering

Offerings may be placed in the plate as it is passes along with the worship registration slip from the back of the bulletin. There is a QR Code printed on the back of the bulletin for those wishing to donate online through our website.

Offertory Response

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

All: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Please repeat the names of those we pray for this week.

HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Pastor: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them to the Lord

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Communion Preface (2 Timothy 4:22, Colossians 3:1, Psalm 136)

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus (Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9)

Lutheran Book of Worship front section page 89

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might:
Heaven and Earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest**

Words of Institution

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20)

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciple, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: this cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The Lord's Prayer (*Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4*)

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Communion Distribution

Communion will be served this week by intinction. Please follow the direction of the ushers, as you come to the altar the host will be dipped in the non-alcoholic wine and served to you by Pastor or a Deacon. Immanuel welcomes you to communion this morning.

Communion Hymns

“Lamb of God” (John 1:29)

Page 92 in the front section of Lutheran Book of Worship.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Post Communion Blessing

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen

Post Communion Canticle—Song of Simeon (*Luke 2:29-32*)

Pastor: Lord, now you let your servant go in peace;

All: Your word has been fulfilled.

Pastor: My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people.

All: A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

Pastor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

All: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

Pastor: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Please stand as you are able.

Benediction (*Numbers 6:24-26*)

Pastor: 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. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen!

Closing Hymn

“Ancient Words”

Praise Band

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world
They resound with God's own heart O let the ancient words impart
Words of life words of hope give us strength help us cope
In this world where'er we roam ancient words will guide us home

Chorus

**Ancient words ever true
Changing me changing you
We have come with open hearts
O let the ancient words impart**

Holy words of our faith handed down to this age
Came to us through sacrifice O heed the faithful words of Christ

Chorus

Martyr's blood stains each page they have died for this faith
Hear them cry through the years heed these words and hold them dear

Chorus

We have come with open hearts O let the ancient words impart
O let the ancient words impart

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Dismissal (*Matthew 5:16, Philippians 2:4, Romans 12:1, John 12:26, Matthew 28:16-20*)

P. Go in peace and serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen, Amen, Amen

Postlude

Laurel Jacobsen

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Announcements

The Flowers on the altar this morning are presented by the Kahn Family for glory and honor to God and in celebration of Ally's birthday!

Prayer focus this week on Jesus coming to us. Jesus' salvation for us. Acts 4:12 NIV. Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

Immanuel is serving FCA lunches for one more Wednesday. Please see Ericka Gardner if you would like to help with this ministry by donating Chocolate Chip Cookies with no nuts or helping serve the kids, your help is appreciated.

There will be a meeting Children's Sunday School Meeting after Church in the library today for all volunteers. Please come to the meeting if you would like to help with Sunday School for kids.

The Church Council meeting is Tuesday, December 12th at the new time of 6:00PM. Please pick up your Packets today.

The January Chimes Deadline is this **Friday, December 15th** please submit your articles to the church office by that morning.

The next Fellowship Luncheon will be on Thursday, **December 28th** at noon in the Social Hall. Use this time to invite your friends to join us for nice meal.

Aprons fundraiser for the Social Hall! Margaret Fletcher has been busy sewing aprons to help us raise money for our Social Hall Renovation project! The adorable aprons are hanging in the church entryway on the coat rack. Spruce up your attire while cooking and baking this holiday season and choose a favorite. Please leave a donation for the hall in the box or in the offering plate if writing a check memo Aprons for the Hall.

Women's Bible Study will gather on Tuesday mornings but at 9:00AM. Join Pastor Taylor for a study about the Lord's Prayer & Christian Life.

Men's Bible Study gathers from 6:00-7:00AM on Thursday mornings in the Social Hall. All men are welcome and each first time attendee receives a new Bible. Invite your friends for breakfast and a quick hour of study.

Thank you to the Caglia family for washing communion cups last Sunday. Volunteers are needed for January 7th. **Please sign up on the Gold Bulletin board if you would like to have communion at the altar in January and help wash the communion cups after service on January 7th.**

Volunteers are needed to change the altar cloths on December 24th after the morning worship service. Please call the church office if you are willing and able to help with this project.

There will be a Christmas Eve Candlelight service on December 24th at 10:30AM and a second service at 9:00PM in the sanctuary.

Prayers for the Church:

For Christ's Church: Eternal God, we thank You for Your Church through which the gospel of Jesus Christ has been manifest in every age.

Members and their families serving in the military: Erica Botello, Canaan Campbell, Joey Brewer, Henry Clark, Ryan Freitas, Michael Hansen, Leah Linger, Connor Mannix, & Matthew Tigchelaar.

Those unable to travel about: Gail Hansen, Paul Pedersen, & Kenneth Selzer, Bonnie Terkelsen.

Those in need of pain relief & healing: Sandy Britter, Ed Bordin, Crystal Burns, Gaye Cissel, Steve Fletcher, Kristen Gibson, Ed Gomez, Pat Griffin, Josh Hammers, Jim Hansen, Jan Kersgaard, Paul Jones, Donna Kennedy, Marcus Miranda, Laura Nielsen, Joann Ortega, Gloria Payne, Larry Pickens, Patti Price, Bob Reynolds, Rebecca Stempniak, & Keitt Wilson.

For those mourning the loss of loved ones: The family of Janice Robinson, *Shirley Rasmussen's daughter.*

For people dealing with loneliness and depression. For those battling the illness and the health care providers tending to those in need.

Name _____ Date _____
Address _____ Phone _____
City / State / Zip _____ Email _____
Names / ages of Children living at home _____
 1st Time Guest 2nd Time or Regular Attender Member I came as a guest of _____
Home Congregation _____

This Week at Immanuel

Today:

- 9:30AM Christmas Craft Day in Grace Hall**
- 9:30AM Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30AM Worship & Communion
- 11:30AM Fellowship Time Outside
- 11:45AM Congregational Prayer Time**
- 11:55AM Children's Sunday School Meeting**

Monday:

- 7:00PM NA meet in Grace Hall

Tuesday

- 9:00AM Women's Bible Study this week.

Wednesday

- 12:25PM Immanuel serves FCA Lunch

Thursday

- 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall

Friday

- 11:00AM January Chimes Deadline

Next Sunday:

- 9:30AM Sunday School in Grace Hall
- 10:30AM Worship
- 11:30AM Fellowship Time Outside

Worship Assistants This Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Sound & Technology: Allys, Fred, & Gina

Scripture Reader: Fred Cogan

Fellowship Servers: Hartwig Family

Council Lock Up for December: Daniel Hartwig

Worship Assistants Next Week:

Ushers: Lee Terkelsen, Randy McFarland

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Sound & Technology: Allys, Fred, & Gina

Scripture Reader: Fred Cogan

Fellowship Servers: Bennetts & Reynolds



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giving!

Please check the appropriate box and write your message in the space below.

- I want to learn more about faith.
- I want to receive the monthly newsletter ("The Chimes")
- I am receiving communion today
- I want to speak with the parish nurse
- I have a message for (circle:) the office / the pastor
- I have a prayer request: _____
- I have hymn suggestions: _____
- I want to learn more about baptism
- I want to become a member of Immanuel
- I want a visit from the visitation pastor
- I want to speak with the pastor