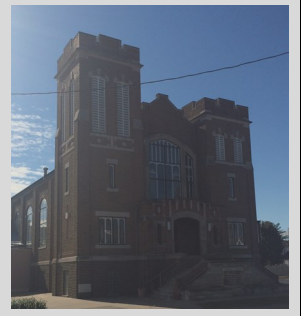


The Thread



Second Sunday after Christmas ~ January 5th, 2025

Lectionary Summary:

Second Sunday after Christmas

Genesis 46:1-7
1 Peter 4:12-19
Matthew 2:13-23

Jesus Is the Perfect Israel

Israel and all his family went and dwelt in Egypt (Gen. 46:1-7). God made a great nation of him there, but that nation would prove unfaithful to the Lord. Therefore, the New Israel came. In fleeing the murderous Herod, our young Lord goes to Egypt (Matt. 2:13-23), that the prophecy might be fulfilled, “*Out of Egypt I called my Son*” (Hos. 11:1). Jesus brings to perfection what old Israel could not. He is the faithful Israel, the embodiment of the people of God. He offers His perfect and holy life in place of our own. He submits Himself to persecution and suffering in order to save us. Therefore, we should not think it strange when we who are in Christ experience trials because of the faith (1 Pet. 4:12-19). Rather, we rejoice to share in Christ’s sufferings, knowing that we will also share in His glory.



Sunday Divine Service - 9:00 am
Sunday Bible Study - 10:15 am

Contact Us:

Church & School Office

Office Hours: M-F: 7:30 am-3:30 pm
(618) 684-3012
secretary@immanuelmurphy.com

Pastor Matthew J. Christian

Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 10 am-12 pm
Other Meetings / Private Confession by Appointment
(618) 684-3012 ext. 103
pastor@immanuelmurphy.com

MEMORY VERSE

And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

JOEL 2:32



Live Broadcast

If you are unable to join us for church today, don't miss the opportunity to listen to our service live this morning at 9:00 a.m. on 103.9 FM WXAN. The radio broadcast re-airs on Sunday evenings at 9:00 p.m. You can also view the livestream or recording on our YouTube channel.

Church Announcements:

Bible Study Snacks:

1-5 Lloyd & Ruth Mueller

You can sign up to provide snacks on a future Sunday on the bulletin board downstairs.

Epiphany Service: On January 6, the Church celebrates the Epiphany of Our Lord. Immanuel will celebrate with the Divine Service on January 6 at 6:30 p.m. This service will conclude with a medley of Christmas hymns as we complete the Twelve Days of Christmas and move into the season of Epiphany.



Blessing of a Home: Epiphany is the traditional time for an annual blessing of a home. This rite involves the reading of God's Word and prayer within your home, blessing the space God has provided for you. It can take place with just immediate family, extended family, or family and friends gathered together for the rite. Please contact Pastor to arrange a time during this Epiphany season, or any other time, for the blessing of your home.

LWML Meeting: Our next LWML meeting is going to be on Tuesday, January 7 at 5 p.m.

2025 Offering Envelopes: The 2025 offering envelopes are in each members mailbox located in the back of the church. Please pick these up before or after the service.

Stewardship Newsletter:

Repenting of "Feasts that Know No Fast"

Fresh off the Christmas season and the retail frenzy that accompanies it, January brings a shot of frigid air into the lives of the people we know and love. This is not a meteorological statement either. While it is true that January is one of the colder months for those in North America, the cold front blast that hits us is the full force of credit card spending that fueled the retail frenzy. The bills for the gifts, the parties, the food and the travel have now come due. The credit card makes things convenient, but it also requires more discipline than many can muster. When the bills come in January for December's celebration, it really puts a damper on things.

Congregations often make the same mistake in stewardship. We often charge forward in doing what we always do or starting new endeavors without counting the cost. But at the end of the month, or the end of year, when the bill comes due, the red ink on the congregational balance sheet smacks the people in the face like a stiff north wind in January. We hunkered down. We circle the wagons. We start to panic. The work of the Gospel suffers.

The fifth verse of "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788) addresses this January situation. The words penned by William Watkins Reid are very needful for us to hear as we start a new year, while dealing with the bills of past efforts and expense.

"Forgive us, Lord for feast that knows not fast ..." This hits us hard, doesn't it? We love when the money is flowing, the parties are going, and things are getting bigger and better. But there is a time in life, and most especially in our spiritual disciplines, that we need to fast. The purpose of a fast is to step back, lay something aside for a time, and replace it with meditation on Scripture and prayer. This is designed to keep us from turning something that may well be good into an idol that separates us from the God who loves us in Christ.

"For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul ..." In "The Parable of the Sower," we hear Jesus talk about how the worries and cares of life choke out the growth of the seed of the Word that was planted. We know how this happens in our lives. Professional and youth sports do this. Materialism does this. Travel and leisure do this. There is a list of things that we enjoy that starve the soul.

But it also happens in our congregations. When corporate stewardship is not managed in a responsible way, it can and does destroy individual stewardship. Is it good individual stewardship to support a ministry that doesn't take its corporate responsibility seriously?

"For walls and wars that hide your mercies vast and blur our vision of the Kingdom goal." This is the ultimate end of the idolatry of failed stewardship. We build walls between believers within the church and hamper those who are outside from coming to the Light of Life that is Jesus. The wars we fight over money and its impact on ministry do the same. It eventually blurs our vision of what we are here to do: share the Good News of Jesus. When the wintry blast of January hits us in this fashion, we are called to repent.

When the Holy Spirit uses the cold front of the call to repentance, we meet the God who forgives and restores. That is what He does for individual and corporate stewards. When the bills hit, they call us back to Jesus. He is the One who indeed forgives us our shallow thankfulness and leads us into the bounty of His mercy yet again.

✠ LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter Article — January 2025

Service Participants - This and Next Week

Sunday, January 5th, 2024

Organist: Corey Williams

Elder: Bryan Hollmann

Ushers: Scott Imhoff, Mike Clough, Steve Williams Bryan Hollmann & Anthony Batson

Altar Guild: Angie Imhoff

Acolyte: Parker Closson

Greeters: Rick & Cindy Fager

Sunday, January 12th, 2024

Organist: Landon Hicks

Elder: Bryan Hollmann

Ushers: Scott Imhoff, Mike Clough, Steve Williams Bryan Hollmann & Anthony Batson

Altar Guild: Angie Imhoff

Acolyte: Parker Closson

Greeters: Rick & Cindy Fager



Offering Income from last week:

December 29th, 2024:

Regular Offerings \$ 8,965.00

Loose Plate \$ 32.00

Advent \$ 295.00

Christmas Eve \$ 896.00

Christmas Day \$ 544.75

New Years Eve \$ 50.00

Total Offerings \$ 10,782.75

Restricted Funds:

School Donation \$ 500.00

Church Memorials \$ 50.00

Kroger \$ 191.48

Attendance:

December 24th 109

December 25th 40

December 29th 66



Anniversaries:

† No Anniversaries this week

Birthdays:

† 1-10 Staci Middendorf

† 1-10 Braden Spradling

Baptismal Anniversaries:

† 1-5 Lori Graff

† 1-7 Ruth Boese

† 1-8 Jacob Baird

† 1-8 Jessica Heiple

† 1-8 Haley Hollmann

† 1-9 David Arbeiter

† 1-10 Nathaniel Vaughn

Expectant Mothers:

† Bethany Campbell

† Michelle Cramer

Immanuel Families:

† Kent, Kimberly, Charles & Zachary James

† Corey, Tina, Caylee & Cullen Jarrett

† Jason Jarrett



Let us pray at all times in the Spirit with boldness and confidence — making supplication for all the saints (Ephesians 6:18).
✠ Pastor Christian

Comfort, health, recovery:

† Those in the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement, Fire, Emergency Medical Services, & Healthcare

† David Arbeiter

† Ron Manwaring

† Norman Beckman

† Nelda Miesner

† Leah Carter

† Rev. Ted Mayes

† Ben Dallas

† Wilma Nelson

† Valerie Draves

† Jeff Presutti

† Tina Doanen

† Don Porter

† Paul Estel

† Amanda Reinhardt

† Terry Estel

† Sarah Reitzel

† Annette Etherton

† Becky Streuter

† Jane Gilbert

† Alice Svanda

† Cindy Gregory

† Brenda Todd

† David Gregory

† Evie Todd

† Marilyn Imhoff

† Richard Weber

† Scott Koch

† Sue Williams

† Dan Kuenker

† Beth Zobel

† Faye Lee

† Carol Zobel

† Virginia Lewis

Important Dates in the Church:

January 6 — The Epiphany of Our Lord

The feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord commemorates no event but presents an idea that assumes concrete form only through the facts of our Lord's life. The idea of Epiphany is that the Christ who was born in Bethlehem is recognized by the world as God. At Christmas, God appears as man, and at Epiphany, this man appears before the world as God. That Christ became man needed no proof. But that this man, this helpless child, is God needed proof. The manifestations of the Trinity, the signs and wonders performed by this man, and all His miracles have the purpose of proving to men that Jesus is God. Lately, especially in the Western Church, the story of the Magi has been associated with this feast day. As Gentiles who were brought to faith in Jesus Christ, the Magi represent all believers from the Gentile world.*

January 10 — Basil the Great of Caesarea, Gregory of Nazianzus, and Gregory of Nyssa, Pastors and Confessors

Basil and the two Gregorays, collectively known as the Cappadocian Fathers, were leaders of Christian orthodoxy in Asia Minor (modern Turkey) in the later fourth century. Basil and Gregory of Nyssa were brothers; Gregory of Nazianzus was their friend. All three were influential in shaping the theology ratified by the Council of Constantinople in AD 381, which is expressed in the Nicene Creed. Their defense of the doctrines of the Holy Spirit and Holy Trinity, together with their contributions to the liturgy of the Eastern Church make them among the most influential Christian teachers and theologians of their time,*

* From *Treasury of Daily Prayer*

Prepare for Worship Next Week:

January 12

The Baptism of Our Lord

Hymn of the Day:

LSB 406 To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord

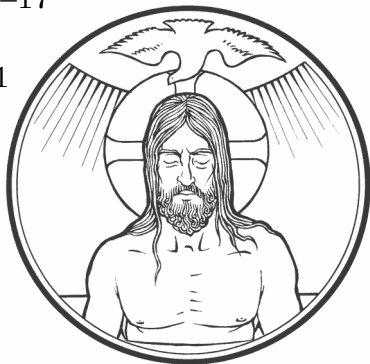
Readings:

Joshua 3:1–3, 7–8, 13–17

or Isaiah 42:1–7

1 Corinthians 1:26–31

Matthew 3:13–17



Daily Lectionary Readings:

Join in the congregation's daily devotional life with this week's readings.

Date	Old Testament Reading	New Testament Reading
1/5	Isaiah 65:8–25	Luke 3:1–20
1/6	Isaiah 66:1–20	Luke 3:21–38
1/7	Ezekiel 1:1–14, 22–28 <i>Habakkuk 1:1–3:19</i>	Romans 1:1–17
1/8	Ezekiel 2:1–3:11	Romans 1:18–32
1/9	Ezekiel 3:12–27 <i>Ezekiel 4:1–11:25</i>	Romans 2:1–16
1/10	Ezekiel 18:1–4, 19–32 <i>Ezekiel 19:1–24:27</i>	Romans 2:17–29
1/11	Ezekiel 33:1–20	Romans 3:1–18

+ + +
KIDS IN THE
DIVINE SERVICE
+ + +



What is The Festival of the Holy Innocents?

The Festival of the Holy Innocents is the day that we remember the children that were murdered at Bethlehem. These children are considered by some to be the first Christian martyrs. The word martyr (pronounced MAR-ter) comes from a Greek word which means "witness."



What is the whole story of the Holy Innocents?

We learn in Matt. 2:1–18 that King Herod didn't like the idea that a new King was born. He thought that if he killed baby Jesus, his worries would be gone. So he gave orders to have all of the boys in Bethlehem two years and under killed. Herod's soldiers marched into Bethlehem and did just that! But Herod and his soldiers didn't know that an angel had told Joseph in a dream to take Jesus and Mary and escape. When the soldiers stormed Bethlehem, baby Jesus was safe and sound on his way to Egypt. If you think about it, Jesus was saved from death as a baby so that He could die for us a man. What a great and glorious God we have! He keeps His promises!



Parents: Before or after the Divine Service, discuss the meaning of the word martyr. At home, read the story of the Holy Innocents. Be sure to give them examples of other martyrs by reading their stories in Scripture. For example, read the story of Stephen in Acts 6 and 7.



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January BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1-2 Nancy Craig | 1-21 Megan Codgill |
| 1-4 Pat Conrad | 1-21 Ashlynn Presutti |
| 1-10 Staci Middendorf | 1-23 Faye Lee |
| 1-10 Braden Spradling | 1-24 Allison Svanda |
| 1-12 Bruce Fager | 1-25 Rick Varner |
| 1-13 Zachary James | 1-26 Jean Winters |
| 1-13 Piper Closson | 1-26 Samuel Herring |
| 1-13 Zoey Comingore | 1-26 Aleaha Tucker |
| 1-13 Ryker Gregory | 1-27 Steve Draves |
| 1-14 Leonard Tweedy | 1-29 Gary Baird |
| 1-14 Carol Zobel | 1-29 Jessica Svanda |
| 1-15 Bruce Mueller | 1-31 Lea Ann Fager |
| 1-16 Evan Marik | |
| 1-19 Brandy Foster | |
| 1-19 Abigail Walker | |
| 1-19 Jeff Mulvany | |

Altar Guild

Angie Imhoff

Ushers

Scott Imhoff
Mike Clough
Steve Williams
Bryan Hollman
Anthony Batson

Acolytes

1-5 Parker Closson
1-12 Gage Pittman
1-19 Jackson Fager
1-26 Ryker Gregory

Organists

1-5 Corey Williams
1-6 Landon Hicks
1-12 Landon Hicks
1-19 Corey Williams
1-26 Landon Hicks

Elders

1-5 Bryan Hollmann
1-6 *TBD*
1-12 Mike Clough
1-19 Bryce Mueller
1-26 Chuck Closson




January ANNIVERSARIES

- 1-4 Pastor & Moriah Christian
1-16 Don & Patti Proctor



JANUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Happy New Year! No School/ Winter Break Pastor on vacation	2 No School/ Winter Break Pastor on vacation	3 No School/ Winter Break Pastor's Day Off	4
5 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Bible Study/ Sunday School	6 First Day back to school! 6:30 pm Epiphany Divine Service	7 Pastor at Winkel 5:00 pm LWML 6:30 pm School Board Mtg	8 8:30 am Chapel 10:30 Bible Study	9	10 Pastor's Day Off	11
12 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Bible Study/ Sunday School	13 6 pm PTL Mtg	14	15 8:30 am Chapel 10:30 Bible Study	16	17 Pastor's Day Off	18
19 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Bible Study/ Sunday School	20 Martin Luther King Day No School/Office Closed 6:30 pm Board of Di- rectors mtg.	21	22 8:30 am Chapel 10:30 Bible Study	23	24 Pastor's Day Off 100th Day of School!	25
26 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Bible Study	27 National Lutheran Schools Week Begins Muffins w/Mom	28	29 8:30 am Chapel w/ Grandparents 10:30 Bible Study	30	31 Pastor's Day Off Doughnuts w/ Dad Noon Dismissal	