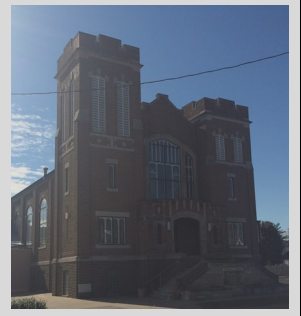


Immanuel Lutheran Church and School

The Thread



First Sunday in Advent (*Ad Te Levavi*) ~ December 1st, 2024

Lectionary Summary:

First Sunday in Advent (*Ad Te Levavi*)

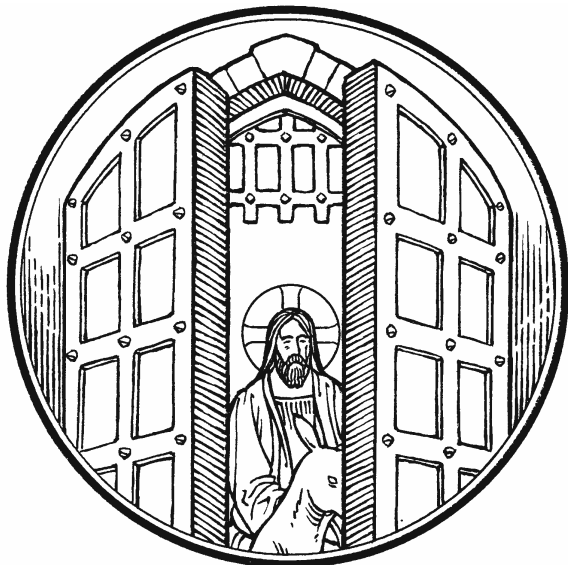
Jeremiah 23:5–8

Romans 13:8–14

Matthew 21:1–9

The Lord Jesus Comes in Humility to Redeem Us

The new Church Year begins by focusing on the humble coming of our Lord. “Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey” (Matt. 21:5). Even as He was born in a lowly manger, so Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a beast of burden. For He bears the sin of the world. He is the Son of David riding to His enthronement on the cross, where He shows Himself to be “*The LORD is our Righteousness*” (Jer. 23:5–6). Our Lord still comes in great humility to deliver His righteousness to us in the Word and Sacraments. Before receiving Christ’s body and blood, we also sing, “*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!*” (Matt. 21:9) And as we receive the Sacrament, we set our hearts on His return in glory, for “*our salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed*” (Rom. 13:11).



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

BEHOLD, HE IS COMING

WITH THE CLOUDS, AND EVERY EYE
WILL SEE HIM, EVEN THOSE WHO PIERCED
HIM, AND ALL TRIBES OF THE EARTH WILL
WAIL ON ACCOUNT OF HIM. EVEN SO.
AMEN. “I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA,”
SAYS THE LORD GOD, “WHO IS AND
WHO WAS AND WHO IS TO COME,
THE ALMIGHTY.”

REVELATION 1:7–8



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

12/1 – Bonnie Stoffel

Poinsettia Memorial Donations: Memorial Donations for Poinsettias will be collected in the church office in the amount of \$15.00 or more. Please have your donation turned in by December 18th to the church office. Thank you.

Angel Tree: The Angel Tree is located in the back of church. If you are able, please choose a tag and purchase a gift. You can purchase either for a male or a female. The gifts may be wrapped or unwrapped this year. Gifts can be left under the tree in the church or in the church office. They will pick the gifts up on December 11th. If you have any questions please reach out to Theresa Karg at 618-534-8175.

LWML Christmas Party: The ladies of the LWML would like to invite all of the ladies of the congregation to join us after the Cookie Walk on December 14 at Pat's Barbecue at 12:00 pm for our annual Christmas Party. Our Cookie Walk and Coffee Cake Sales wouldn't be possible without everyone's support and help so we wanted to share the opportunity for fun and fellowship. Everyone is responsible for her own meal and we will also have a \$10 gift exchange if you want to participate. Please RSVP to Bonnie 618-318-6268 by December 10 so we can give Pat's a tentative head count.



Christmas Cookie Walk

8 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

[or until completely sold out]

Saturday, December 14th

Immanuel Lutheran Church

1915 Pine Street, Murphysboro/cafeteria
cookies, candies, breads, holiday treats



benefit sponsored by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League



School Announcements:

Our November character trait of the month was gratitude: I show appreciation and thankfulness to others. Congratulations to the following students for receiving this Excellent Eagle Award: Cadence Brooks, Sofi Fagerland, Teagan Stewart, Aria White, Hadleigh Anders, Mason Duong, Piper Morrison, Jameson Thompson, Ryan Baker, Bronson Heins, Leni Hines, Aurelia Flores, Braden Gobin, Reese Stewart, Lane Noble, Colton Roberg, Leah Mobbs, Abigail Beckman, Makayla Harrison, and Jillian Tanner. ILS is very proud of you!

ILS is selling Stonie's snack sticks and summer sausages. All proceeds will go towards the scholarship program. If you'd like to order any of these items, please let me know or call our office.

As you begin decorating for Christmas, if you find items you no longer want or need, please consider donating them to the Christmas Attic. Our 5th-8th grade class will be having a Christmas Attic sale on Saturday, December 7, along with a bake sale. Everything will be a freewill offering. All proceeds will go towards their Spring field trip to the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter. Please donate and save the date to come shop the sale.

Veronica Manwaring, Principal

A red poster with a green and white striped border. The text on the poster reads: 'Immanuel Lutheran School CHRISTMAS ATTIC SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 8AM-12PM Come shop gently used Christmas items, along with a Bake Sale FREE WILL OFFERING Donations of gently used Christmas decorations will take place from November 25-December 5 NO CHRISTMAS TREES'.

Stewardship Newsletter:

Repenting of “Yours” and “Mine”

Retailers have had their Christmas displays up since before Reformation Sunday. The kids have made their list and checked it twice, or three times or more. It won't be long before the tree will start shedding its needles, the stockings emptied, the gifts unwrapped, toys broken, and the too small or out of style clothes returned. Before we know it, the annual celebration of Christmas will be over.

But for the children of God, we know that the gift of Christmas doesn't ever end. Week in and week out, the Lord continues to shower His gifts on us. Every time the Lord gathers us to His house, and we are led to kneel at His table, the gift of forgiveness is repeatedly granted to us. It is nothing we deserve. It comes to us freely!

The fourth stanza of the stewardship hymn, “Forgive Us Lord for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) highlights both this gift and our response.

*Teach us, O Lord, true thankfulness divine,
that gives as Christ gave, never counting cost*

To learn thankfulness is necessary. The parents of young children are well-versed in the fact that they must teach their children thankfulness. It does not come naturally. The spiritual genetics inherited from our parents allow us to think that the world revolves around us. When we receive something, there is an inward desire to think that we in some way deserve it.

But there is no way that we deserve anything we get from our Lord. We need that ongoing lesson from God Himself. Thankfulness toward God is worked in us by the Holy Spirit. God's Word works this thanksgiving in us. We need this weekly reminder that Jesus didn't consider “equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself” for us, to the point of death on a cross (Phil. 2:6). He didn't bat an eye. He paid the price! Our life of stewardship is one of daily and weekly thanksgiving inspired by the Lord Himself.

*That knows no barrier of “yours” and “mine,”
assured that only what's withheld is lost.*

Because Jesus gave us everything and more, there can be no ownership. The child at Christmas is quick to claim that the newly gifted toy is “mine!” But as Psalm 24:1 asserts, “The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.” There isn't anything in creation that is ours. When we cling to and claim ownership of anything in creation, we are losing out on the continual gifts with which the Lord desires to shower upon us. Closed hands cannot receive anything new. We cling to the old and dead and miss the new thing that the Lord desires to do in and for us.

We are led to repent of the “yours” and “mine” and remove the lie that we have any ownership. In this we have the promise that God will continue to give to us. Not just at Christmas, but every Sunday at the altar in the Lord's house.

✚ LCMS Stewardship Ministry;

December Newsletter



Lutheran Radio:

KFUO Radio is the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Christ for you anytime, anywhere. Find programs on demand at kfuo.org and the KFUO Radio app.



Talk Radio for the
Thinking Christian

www.issuesetc.org

Issues, Etc. is a ten-hour weekly syndicated radio talk show and podcast. The program features expert guests, expansive topics, while extolling Christ. The program is hosted by Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Pastor Todd Wilken.

You can listen 24/7 on demand at issuesetc.org and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

Important Dates in the Church:

4 December

John of Damascus, Theologian and Hymnwriter

John (ca. AD 675-749) is known as the great compiler and summarizer of the orthodox faith and the last great Greek theologian. Born in Damascus, John gave up an influential position in the Islamic court to devote himself to the Christian faith. Around AD 716, he entered a monastery outside of Jerusalem and was ordained a priest. When the Byzantine emperor Leo the Isaurian in AD 726 issued a decree forbidding images (icons), John forcefully resisted. In his *Apostolic Discourses*, he argued for the legitimacy of the veneration of images, which earned him the condemnation of the Iconoclast Council in AD 754. John also wrote defenses of the orthodox faith against contemporary heresies. In addition, he was a gifted hymnwriter (“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”) and contributed to the liturgy of the Byzantine churches. His greatest work was the *Fount of Wisdom*, which was a massive compendium of truth from previous Christian theologians, covering practically every conceivable doctrinal topic. John’s summary of the orthodox faith left a lasting stamp on both the Eastern and Western Churches.*

* From *Treasury of Daily Prayer*

6 December

Nicholas of Myra, Pastor

Of the many saints commemorated by the Christian Church, Nicholas (d. AD 342) is one of the best known. Very little is known historically of him, though there was a church of Saint Nicholas in Constantinople as early as the sixth century. Research has affirmed that there was a bishop by the name of Nicholas in the city of Myra in Lycia (part of modern Turkey) in the fourth century. From that coastal location, legends about Nicholas have traveled throughout time and space. He is associated with charitable giving in many countries around the world and is portrayed as the rescuer of sailors, the protector of children, and the friend of people in distress or need. In commemoration of *Sinte Klaas* (Dutch for “Saint Nicholas,” in English “Santa Claus”), December 6 is a day for giving and receiving gifts in many parts of Europe.*

7 December

Ambrose of Milan, Pastor and Hymnwriter

Born in Trier in AD 340, Ambrose was one of the four great Latin Doctors of the Church (with Augustine, Jerome, and Gregory the Great). He was a prolific author of hymns, the most common of which is *Veni, Redemptor Gentium* (“Savior of the Nations, Come”). His

name is also associated with Ambrosian Chant, a style of chanting the ancient liturgy that took hold in the province of Milan. While serving as a civil governor, Ambrose sought to bring peace among Christians in Milan who were divided into quarreling factions. When a new bishop was to be elected in AD 374, Ambrose addressed the crowd, and someone cried out, “Ambrose, bishop!” The entire gathering gave their support. This acclaim of Ambrose, a thirty-four-year-old catechumen, led to his Baptism on December 7, after which he was consecrated bishop of Milan. A strong defender of the faith, Ambrose convinced the Roman emperor Gratian in AD 379 to forbid the Arian heresy in the West. At Ambrose’s urging, Gratian’s successor, Theodosius, also publicly opposed Arianism. Ambrose died on Good Friday, April 4, 397. As a courageous doctor and musician, he upheld the truth of God’s Word.*

Mark your calendar:

Advent Dinners & Services: Advent Dinners will begin on Wednesday, December 4th in the church basement/cafeteria at 5:30 p.m. with Advent services following at 6:30 p.m. We hope you will join us!

December 4th Meal:

Hawaiian Roll Ham & Cheese Sliders
Chips
ColeSlaw
Relish Tray

December 11th Meal:

Fried Chicken
Mashed Potatoes
Chicken Gravy
Corn
Roll w/ butter

December 18th Meal:

Beef Taco Soup or Chicken Noodle Soup
Salad
Bread

School Christmas Program: Immanuel Lutheran School will be presenting a Christmas Program “A Shepherds Christmas” on December 19th and will begin at 6:00 pm in the church.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Services: On December 24th we will have our Christmas Eve service at 6:30 pm and our Christmas Day service will be on December 25th at 9:00 am.

Weekly Small Catechism Readings:

The following chart may be used to pray through the entire Small Catechism weekly.

Sunday <i>Before Divine Service</i>	Christian Q & A
Sunday <i>After Divine Service</i>	Table of Duties
Monday	The Ten Commandments
Tuesday	The Creed
Wednesday	The Lord's Prayer
Thursday	The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
Friday	Confession
Saturday	The Sacrament of the Altar

Stewardship Thoughts:

Matthew 21:3 — “If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.”

Consider the faithfulness of that man who owned the donkey and colt. All he needed to hear was, “The Lord has need of it,” and he willingly gave. The Lord has given each of us various callings in life (in our homes, in the church and in the communities we live in). In each calling we have good work to do which comes from the Lord's hand. The Lord has need of us in each calling. How is He calling you to generous giving in each of your vocations?

Prepare for Worship Next Week:

8 December

Second Sunday in Advent

Hymn of the Day:

LSB 336 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

Readings:

Malachi 4:1–6

Romans 15:4–13

Luke 21:25–36



Daily Lectionary Readings:

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

Date	Old Testament Reading	New Testament Reading
12/1	Isaiah 7:10—8:8	1 Peter 3:1–22
12/2	Isaiah 8:9—9:7	1 Peter 4:1–19
12/3	Isaiah 9:8—10:11	1 Peter 5:1–14
12/4	Isaiah 10:12–27a, 33–34	1 Peter 1:1–21
12/5	Isaiah 11:1—12:6	1 Peter 2:1–22
12/6	Isaiah 14:1–23	1 Peter 3:1–18
12/7	Isaiah 24:1–13	1 John 1:1—2:14

+ + +
KIDS IN THE
DIVINE SERVICE
+ + +



What is Advent?

Advent marks the beginning of the Church Year. Advent is made up of the four Sundays that come right before Christmas. In other words, the deeper into Advent you go, the closer you get to Christmas Day. For Christians, the First Sunday in Advent is kind of like the “New Year's Day” of the Church Year calendar.

Why do we celebrate Advent?

The word Advent means “coming.” During Advent, we prepare for the coming of the One who was born that first Christmas in a stable. We prepare for the One who saved us from sin, death and the power of the devil: our Lord Jesus Christ! What a wonderful and exciting time of preparation!



Parents:

At home, in order to help your children better prepare for the birth of Jesus, try using an Advent devotional booklet provided by the church for family devotions.



Service Participants - This and Next Week

Sunday, December 1st, 2024

Organist: Landon Hicks

Elder: Bryce Mueller

Ushers: Forrest Miesner, Bruce Mueller, Craig Mueller, Kent James, Brad Jarrett & Steve Draves

Altar Guild: Judy Baird & Paula Wheeler

Acolyte: Jackson Fager

Greeters: Terry & Jan Estel

Sunday, December 8th, 2024

Organist: Corey Williams

Elder: Bryan Hollmann

Ushers: Forrest Miesner, Bruce Mueller, Craig Mueller, Kent James, Brad Jarrett & Steve Draves

Altar Guild: Judy Baird & Paula Wheeler

Acolyte: Ryker Gregory

Greeters: Susan, Emily, and Abigail Beckman

Offering Income from last week:

November 24th, 2024:

Regular Offerings \$ 4,404.00

Loose Plate \$ 137.00

Total Offerings \$ 4,541.00

Attendance:

November 24th: 74



Anniversaries:

† No Anniversaries this week

Birthdays:

- † 12-1 Susan Beckman
- † 12-1 Michele Carter
- † 12-3 Abigail Vaughn
- † 12-4 Reece Mileur
- † 12-5 Jana Barnett
- † 12-5 Tina Jarrett
- † 12-6 Susan Closson
- † 12-6 Brian Marik
- † 12-7 Carol Stewart
- † 12-7 Mykell Presutti



Baptismal Anniversaries:

- † 12-4 Carl J. Karg
- † 12-4 Tyerrance Estel
- † 12-5 Staci Rowe

Expectant Mothers:

- † Bethany Campbell
- † Michelle Cramer

Immanuel Families:

- † Jane Gilbert
- † Jay & Lisa Gilbert
- † David, Cindy & Ryker Gregory

Comfort, health, recovery:

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

- † David Arbeiter
- † Norman Beckman
- † Leah Carter
- † Ben Dallas
- † Valerie Draves
- † Tina Doan
- † Paul Estel
- † Terry Estel
- † Annette Etherton
- † Breyton Forby
- † Jane Gilbert
- † Cindy Gregory
- † David Gregory
- † Marilyn Imhoff
- † Dan Kuenker
- † Virginia Lewis
- † Ron Manwaring
- † Rev. Ted Mayes
- † Nelda Miesner
- † Wilma Nelson
- † Don Porter
- † Jeff Presutti
- † Amanda Reinhardt
- † Sarah Reitzel
- † Becky Streuter
- † Alice Svanda
- † Brenda Todd
- † Evie Todd
- † Richard Weber
- † Sue Williams
- † Beth Zobel
- † Carol Zobel

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



December BIRTHDAYS

- 12-1 Susan Beckman
- 12-1 Michele Carter
- 12-3 Abigail Vaughn
- 12-4 Reece Mileur
- 12-5 Jana Barnett
- 12-5 Tina Jarrett
- 12-6 Susan Closson
- 12-6 Brian Marik
- 12-7 Carol Stewart
- 12-7 Mykell Presutti
- 12-8 Jeri Phillips
- 12-9 Aurelia Flores
- 12-10 Abigail Christian
- 12-13 Alyssa Mueller
- 12-14 Charles Homan
- 12-14 Theresa Karg
- 12-16 Thomas Morgan
- 12-16 Peter Christian
- 12-18 Michele Carter
- 12-18 Kim Cramer
- 12-20 Lynda Homan
- 12-20 Sandra Wills
- 12-20 David Gregory
- 12-21 David Arbeiter
- 12-21 Cole Lattan
- 12-22 Ruth Boese
- 12-24 Lindsey Closson
- 12-26 Jessica Heiple
- 12-28 Becky Streuter
- 12-28 Ruth Vestal
- 12-28 Molly Batson
- 12-28 Alicia Flores
- 12-30 Irv Cartwright
- 12-30 Sadie Middendorf
- 12-31 Ashley Alvey

Altar Guild
 Judy Baird &
 Paula Wheeler

Ushers
 Forrest Miesner
 Bruce Mueller
 Craig Mueller
 Kent James
 Brad Jarrett
 Steve Draves

Organists
 12-1 Landon Hicks
 12-8 Corey Williams
 12-15 Corey Williams
 12-22 Landon Hicks
 12-24 Landon Hicks
 12-25 Corey Williams
 12-29 Landon Hicks

Elders
 12-1 Bryce Mueller
 12-8 Bryan Hollmann
 12-15 Michael Clough
 12-22 Charlie Homan
 12-24 Jeff Streuter
 12-25 Chuck Closson
 12-29 Jeff Streuter

Acolytes
 12-1 Jackson Fager
 12-8 Ryker Gregory
 12-15 Eli Pittman
 12-22 Emily Beckman
 12-24 Parker Closson
 12-25 Ryker Gregory
 12-29 Gage Pittman



NOW THE GOD OF
 HOPE FILL YOU WITH
 ALL
joy & peace
 IN BELIEVING, THAT
 YE MAY ABOUND IN
 HOPE, THROUGH THE
 POWER OF THE HOLY
 GHOST.
 ROMANS 15:13

December ANNIVERSARIES

- 12-17 Michael & Jodi Boese
- 12-18 Gary & Judy Baird
- 12-29 Thomas & Jean Morgan
- 12-31 Jim & Teresa Jenkins



DECEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Bible Study/ Sunday School	2 6:30 pm Elders Mtg.	3 Pastor at Winkel 6:30 pm School Board Mtg.	20 8:30 am Chapel 5:30 pm Advent Dinner 6:30 pm Advent Service	5	6 Pastor's Day Off	7 8 am - 12 pm Christmas Attic Sale
8 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Bible Study/ Sunday School	9 6 pm PTL Mtg	10	11 Angel Tree deadline 8:30 am Chapel 5:30 pm Advent Dinner 6:30 pm Advent Service	12	13 Pastor's Day Off	14 8-11 am Cook- ie Walk 12 pm LWML Christmas Party
15 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Bible Study/ Sunday School	16 6:30 pm Board of Di- rectors mtg.	17	18 Poinsettia deadline 8:30 am Chapel 5:30 pm Advent Dinner 6:30 pm Advent Service	19 Student Christmas Program 6 pm PreK 7 pm K-8	20 Pastor's Day Off School Christmas parties & Noon Dismissal	21
22 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Bible Study/ Sunday School	23 Christmas Break - No School	24 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service Christmas Break - No School/ Office Closed	25 Christmas Day! 9:00 am Christmas Day Service Christmas Break - No School/Office Closed	26 Christmas Break - No School/ Office Closed	27 Pastor's Day Off Christmas Break - No School	28
29 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Bible Study	30 Christmas Break - No School	31 No School/ Office Closed				30