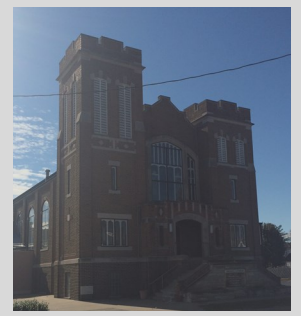


# The Thread



Third Sunday in Advent (*Gaudete*) ~ December 15th, 2024

## Lectionary Summary:

### Third Sunday in Advent (*Gaudete*)

Isaiah 40:1-11

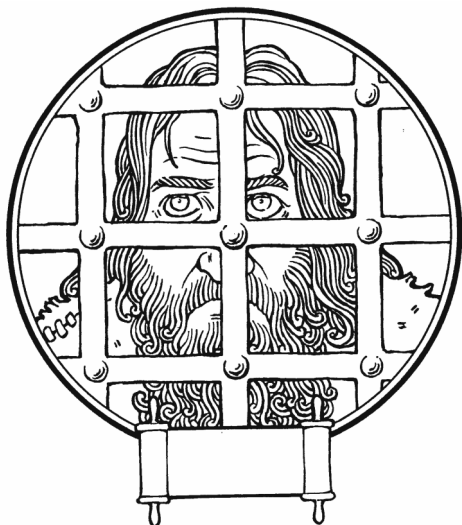
1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Matthew 11:2-11

### *John the Baptizer*

#### *Prepares the Way for the Lord*

The voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: “*Prepare the way of the Lord...*” (Isa. 40:1). John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah’s coming through repentance, for “*all flesh is grass*” (Isa. 40:6). Now He asks from prison, “*Are you the one who is to come...?*” (Matt. 11:2). Jesus’ works bear witness that He is. The sick are made well; the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. Their iniquity is pardoned; they have received from the Lord’s hand double forgiveness for all their sins. The “*stewards of the mysteries of God*” (1 Cor. 4:1) still deliver Christ’s overflowing forgiveness to the poor in spirit, comforting God’s people with the word of the Gospel which stands forever. This Gospel produces rejoicing among all those who believe.



**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



**in the Lord ALWAYS;**  
**again I will say, REJOICE.**  
**Let your reasonableness**  
**be known to everyone.**  
**THE LORD IS AT HAND.**

**PHILIPPIANS 4:4-5**



### **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 repairs on Sunday evenings at 9:00 p.m. You can also view the livestream or recording on our YouTube channel.

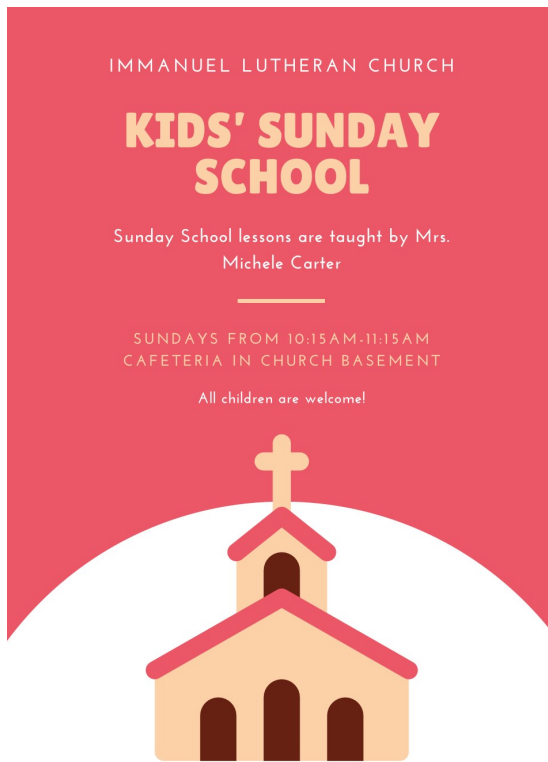
## Church Announcements:

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

12/15 – Bryce Cramer

**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.

**Directories:** The photo directories are in! If your portrait is included in the directory, you can find a copy of the directory in your mailbox in the back of the church. We were able to receive some additional copies of the directory as well for those who were unable to include a photograph. These are available in the church office, one copy per household, until they run out.



## Important Dates in the Church:

**17 December — Daniel the Prophet and the Three Young Men**

**19 December — Adam and Eve**

**20 December — Katharina von Bora Luther**

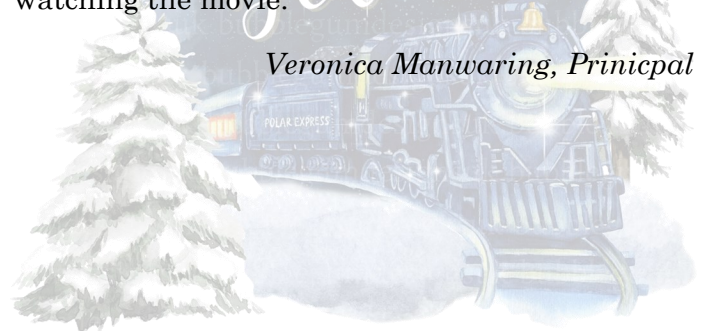
**21 December — St. Thomas, Apostle**



## School Announcements:

**THANK YOU** to all those who donated and/or shopped at the Christmas Attic. The 5th-8th graders raised over \$1,700 for their field trip to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum.

This past week was Polar Express week in PreK. The students celebrated the end of the week by wearing their pajamas to school and watching the movie. Popcorn and hot chocolate were enjoyed while watching the movie.



*Veronica Manwaring, Principal*



## Mark your calendar:

**Advent Dinners & Services:** Our final Advent Dinner will be held on Wednesday, December 18th in the church basement/cafeteria at 5:30 p.m. with Advent service following at 6:30 p.m. We hope you will join us!

### 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.

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

## Daily Lectionary Readings:

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

Date	Old Testament Reading	New Testament Reading
12/15	Isaiah 30:27—31:9	Revelation 3:1—22
12/16	Isaiah 32:1—20	Revelation 4:1—11
12/17	Isaiah 33:1—24	Revelation 5:1—14
12/18	Isaiah 34:1—2; 34:8—35:10 <i>Micah 1:1—7:20</i>	Revelation 6:1—17
12/19	Isaiah 40:1—17	Revelation 7:1—17
12/20	Isaiah 40:18—41:10	Revelation 8:1—13
12/21	Isaiah 42:1—25	Revelation 9:1—12

## Stewardship Thoughts:

**Luke 3:4** — As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

God makes long-range plans: Isaiah lived more than seven hundred years before St. John the Baptist preached by the Jordan River. Obviously, God sees farther into the future than we do! That's yet another reason to trust Him when it comes to how He tells us to live our lives: He knows what's coming and we don't.

## Prepare for Worship Next Week:

**15 December**

**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

Hymn of the Day:

LSB 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

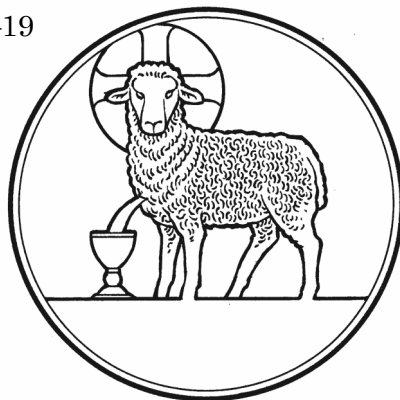
Readings:

Deuteronomy 18:15—19

Philippians 4:4—7

John 1:19—28

or Luke 1:39—56



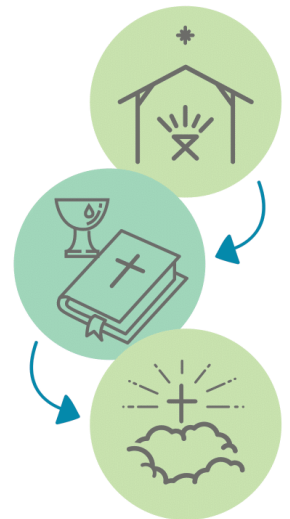
## KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

### The Advent of Christ

As you may remember, the word Advent means “coming.” During the season of Advent, we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. But that is not the only coming of Jesus that we hear about in the Advent story.

### What is the rest of the Advent story?

The Advent of Christ has three parts. God's Word tells us that Jesus not only came to earth as a man at Christmas, but that He comes to be with His church through His Word and Sacraments. Finally, God's Word reminds us that He will return in judgement on the Last Day. If you think about it, there sure are a lot of great things to remember and look forward to during the season of Advent!



#### Parents:

When Holy Communion is offered, allow your children to attend the altar with you. Remind them that Jesus is truly present here in the Sacrament, and that we will see Him face to face on the Last Day!





Service Participants - This and Next Week

**Sunday, December 15th, 2024**

**Organist:** Landon Hicks

**Elder:** Michael Clough

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

**Altar Guild:** Judy Baird & Paula Wheeler

**Acolyte:** Eli Pittman

**Greeters:** Loraine Cramer

**Sunday, December 22nd, 2024**

**Organist:** Landon Hicks

**Elder:** Charlie Homan

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

**Altar Guild:** Judy Baird & Paula Wheeler

**Acolyte:** Emily Beckman

**Greeters:** Kevin & Rhonda Ice & Alberta Reiman

Offering Income from last week:

December 8th, 2024:

Regular Offerings \$ 3,505.00

Loose Plate \$ 87.00

**Total Offerings** \$ 3,914.00

Attendance:

**December 8th** 78

**December 11th (Advent Midweek)** 35



**Anniversaries:**

† 12-17 Michael & Jodi Boese

† 12-18 Gary & Judy Baird

**Immanuel Families:**

† David, Haley, and Brayden Hollmann

† Garrett and Graham Hollmann

† Laura Holmes

**Birthdays:**

† 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

**Baptismal Anniversaries:**

† 12-17 Alyssa Mueller

† 12-17 Bryar Mueller

† 12-17 Xiomara Flores

† 12-19 Laura Lynn Mueller

† 12-19 Abigail Christian

† 12-21 Jay Heiple

† 12-21 Mykell Presutti

† 12-21 Maebry Presutti

† 12-21 Ashlynn Presutti

† 12-21 Jayclynn Presutti

† 12-21 Laycee Presutti



**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 Doaen

† 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

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 10:30 Bible Study 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 10:30 Bible Study 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 <b>Christmas Day!</b> 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