

Immanuel Lutheran Church and School

The Thread



Fourth Sunday in Advent (*Rorate Coeli*) ~ December 22nd, 2024

Lectionary Summary:

Fourth Sunday in Advent (*Rorate Coeli*)

Deuteronomy 18:15–19

Philippians 4:4–7

John 1:19–28

or Luke 1:39–56

John the Baptizer Points Everyone to the Messiah

The coming of God in all His unveiled power at Mount Sinai was terrifying to the people of Israel. The thundering voice of the Lord puts sinners in fear of death (Deut. 18:15–19). God, therefore, raised up a prophet like Moses—the Messiah, the Christ. God came to His people veiled in human flesh. The skies poured down the Righteous One from heaven; the earth opened her womb and brought forth Salvation (Introit) through the blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of the Lord (Luke 1:39–56). The fruit of her womb is the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the One whose sandal strap John was not worthy to loose (John 1:19–28). In Jesus we are delivered from fear and anxiety. In Him alone we have the peace of God which surpasses all understanding (Phil. 4:4–7).



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 BEGINNING
WAS THE WORD,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God. He was
in the beginning with God. All
things were made through him,
and without him was not any
thing made that was made.**

JOHN 1:1–3



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: We have no one signed up for snacks for the remainder of December or any of January. If you are willing, you can sign up to provide snacks on a future Sunday on the bulletin board downstairs.

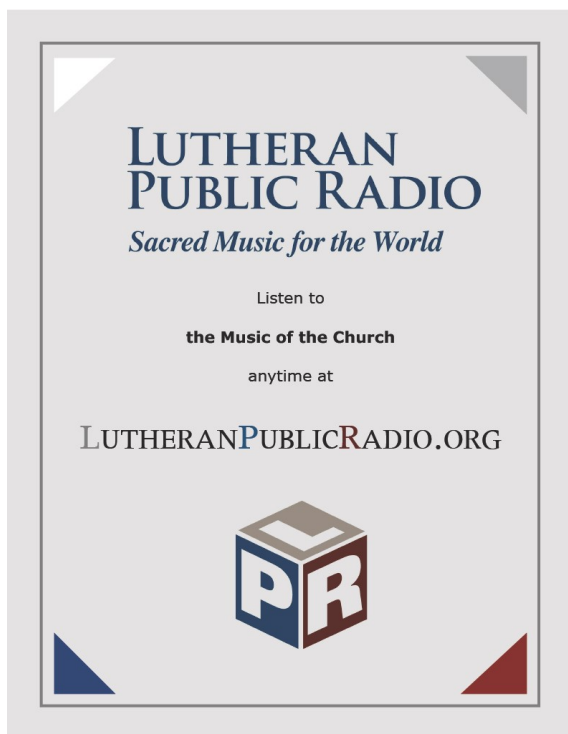
Directories: The photo directories are in! If your portrait is included in the directory, you can find a copy of the directory in your mailbox in the back of the church. We were able to receive some additional copies of the directory as well for those who were unable to include a photograph. These are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

Christmas Eve and Christmas Services: On December 24 we will have our Christmas Eve Divine Service at 6:30 p.m. and our Christmas Day Divine Service will be on December 25 at 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Cookie Walk: LWML would like to thank everyone that helped and participated in the cookie walk. It was a great success!

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

Thank You: We want to express our thankfulness to the anonymous giver of the gifts given to Pastor and Alyssa. We are overwhelmed each year by the generosity and love shown during this joyful season. Thank you to all, both named and unnamed, who have shown their appreciation.



School Announcements:

Congratulations to the following students for receiving the Excellent Eagle Award in December for self-control: Kobie Reiman, Bjornn Cheu, Ivy McLaughlin, Leia Palmer, Parker Funk, Leni Hines, Emma Baker, Ryan Baker, Haven Teller, Lane Noble, Greyson Roberg, Lyle Stanley, Emily Beckman, and Jillian Tanner. ILS is very proud of you!

This past week, PreK celebrated Grinch Day. Mrs. Manwaring dressed up as the Grinch to greet students as they arrived at school. The PreK students watched the movie and enjoyed eating and drinking green snacks and beverages.

The K-1 class celebrated the last week of school before break with a variety of activities: Grinch Day, Polar Express Day, and Gingerbread House Day. Please see our Facebook page for photos of all of these events.

I would like to wish everyone a blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Veronica Manwaring, Principal

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.

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

Daily Lectionary Readings:

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

Date	Old Testament Reading	New Testament Reading
12/22	Isaiah 43:1–24	Revelation 9:13—10:11
12/23	Isaiah 43:25—44:20	Revelation 11:1–19
12/24	Isaiah 44:21—45:13, 20–25 <i>Daniel 10:1—12:13</i> <i>Isaiah 48:1–22</i>	Revelation 12:1–17
12/25	Isaiah 49:1–18	Matthew 1:1–17
12/26	Isaiah 49:22–26; 50:4—51:8, 12–16	Matthew 1:18–25
12/27	Isaiah 51:17—52:12	Matthew 2:1–12
12/28	Isaiah 52:13—54:10	Matthew 2:13–23

Stewardship Thoughts:

Philippians 4:5–6 — “The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

Wouldn't you like to be free from worry and anxiety? Isn't it worry and anxiety that often keep us from living the generous life God has called us to? St. Paul contrasts anxiety with prayer, supplication and thanksgiving in making our requests known to God. In other words, when you are tempted to anxiety and worry, pray to the Lord with a thankful heart and pour out your supplications before Him.

Prepare for Worship Next Week:

29 December

First Sunday after Christmas

Hymn of the Day:

LSB 389 Let All Together Praise Our God

Readings:

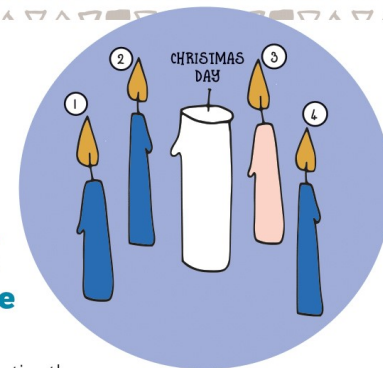
Isaiah 11:1–5

Galatians 4:1–7

Luke 2:22–40



+ + +
KIDS IN THE
DIVINE SERVICE
+ + +



What does it mean when four candles have been lit on the Advent wreath?

You've been preparing and patiently waiting for that wonderful day of celebration. When four of the candles on the Advent wreath have been lit, it means that Christmas is almost here! That's right! The day on which we remember the birth of our Savior is right around the corner!

What does this mean to me?

Today is the Fourth Sunday in Advent. Today is the last Sunday of preparation for the birth of Jesus. Next week the Church will celebrate Christmas Day, one of the most important days of the whole year. As you can see, Advent has prepared us for the coming of Jesus, our wonderful Savior from sin!

Parents:

Remind your children of the important part that Advent plays in the lives of all Christians. This is the time in the Church Year that prepares us for the coming of our Savior. Be sure to bring your children to both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.



Important Dates in the Church:

December 24

The Nativity of Our Lord—Christmas Eve

The exact date of the birth of Jesus is not known, and during the earliest centuries of the Church it seemed to have little significance. This followed the Early Church's tradition of honoring and celebrating a Christian's death as his or her birth day into eternity and the ongoing presence of Jesus. Likewise the life, work, death, and resurrection of Christ was of much greater importance to early Christians than the earthly details of His life. The earliest nativity feast, Epiphany (January 6), celebrated both the birth and Baptism of Christ. However, in the fourth century great Christological controversies that questioned Christ's divinity and humanity raged throughout Christianity. By AD 336, December 25 had been established in Rome as the celebration of Christ's birth, a festival welcomed particularly by orthodox Christians in the West. From Rome, Christ's natal festival spread throughout the Western Church. In Eastern traditions of the Church, Epiphany remains the principal celebration of the birth of Jesus.*

December 25

The Nativity of Our Lord—Christmas Day

Advent prepared us for the coming of the Savior, the fulfillment of the promise first made in the Garden of Eden in response to the sin of Adam and Eve. Christmas is the day we celebrate that hope fulfilled. Jesus is the only hope of the world, because Jesus is the only one who could set us free from our sins. The commemoration of the Nativity of Our Lord puts before us once again the story of the long-awaited King who left His heavenly throne to enter time and become human like one of us. When God wanted to save you from your sins, He did not send a prophet or even an angel: He sent His own Son into human flesh just like ours.*

December 26

St. Stephen, Martyr

St. Stephen, "a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6:5), was one of the Church's first seven deacons. He was appointed by the leaders of the Church to distribute food and other necessities to the poor in the growing Christian community in Jerusalem, thereby giving the apostles more time for their public ministry of proclamation (Acts 6:2–5). He and the other deacons apparently were expected not only to wait on tables but also to teach and preach. When some of his colleagues became jealous of him, they brought Stephen to the Sanhedrin and falsely charged him with blaspheming against Moses (Acts 6:9–14). Stephen's confession of faith, along with his rebuke of the

members of the Sanhedrin for rejecting their Messiah and being responsible for His death, so infuriated them that they dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death. Stephen is honored as the Church's first martyr and for his words of commendation and forgiveness as he lay dying: "Lord, Jesus, receive my spirit" and "Lord, do not hold this sin against them" (Acts 7:59–60).*

December 27

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

St. John was a son of Zebedee and brother of James the Elder (whose festival day is July 25). John was among the first disciples to be called by Jesus (Matthew 4:18–22) and became known as "the disciple whom Jesus loved," as he refers to himself in the Gospel that bears his name (e.g., John 21:20). Of the Twelve, John alone did not forsake Jesus in the hours of His suffering and death. With the faithful women, he stood at the cross, where our Lord made him the guardian of His mother. After Pentecost, John spent his ministry in Jerusalem and at Ephesus, where tradition says he was bishop. He wrote the fourth Gospel, the three Epistles that bear his name, and the Book of Revelation. Especially memorable in his Gospel are the account of the wedding at Cana (John 2:1–12), the "Gospel in a nutshell" (John 3:16), Jesus' saying about the Good Shepherd (John 10:11–16), the raising of Lazarus from the dead (John 11). And Jesus' encounter with Mary Magdalene on Easter morning (John 20:11–18). According to tradition, John was banished to the island of Patmos (off the coast of Asia Minor) by the Roman emperor Domitian. John lived to a very old age, surviving all the apostles, and died at Ephesus around AD 100.*

28 December

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Matthew's Gospel tells of King Herod's vicious plot against the infant Jesus after being "tricked" by the Wise Men. Threatened by the one "born King of the Jews," Herod murdered all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or younger (Matthew 2:16–18). These "innocents," commemorated just three days after the celebration of Jesus' birth, remind us not only of the terrible brutality of which human beings are capable but more significantly of the persecution Jesus endured from the beginning of His earthly life. Although Jesus' life was providentially spared at this time, many years later, another ruler, Pontius Pilate, would sentence the innocent Jesus to death.*

* From *Treasury of Daily Prayer*

Service Participants - This and Next Week

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

Sunday, December 29th, 2024

Organist: Landon Hicks

Elder: Jeff Streuter

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

Altar Guild: Judy Baird & Paula Wheeler

Acolyte: Gage Pittman

Greeters: Chuck & Susan Closson

Offering Income from last week:

December 15th, 2024:

Regular Offerings \$ 2,825.00

Loose Plate \$ 22.00

Total Offerings \$ 2,847.00

Restricted Funds:

Willard Fick Fund \$6,000.00

Disaster Relief \$2,000.00

Attendance:

December 15th 80

December 18th (Advent Midweek) 29



Anniversaries:

† No Anniversaries

Birthdays:

- † 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

Baptismal Anniversaries:

- † 12-22 Rick Varner
- † 12-22 Gage Pittman
- † 12-23 Eli Pittman
- † 12-24 Norman Beckman
- † 12-25 Kim Cramer
- † 12-28 Caylee Jarrett

Expectant Mothers:

- † Bethany Campbell
- † Michelle Cramer

Immanuel Families:

- † Charles & Lynda Homan
- † Amy, Olivia & Samuel Hoppenstedt
- † Kevin & Rhonda Ice



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
- † Jane Gilbert
- † Cindy Gregory
- † David Gregory
- † Marilyn Imhoff
- † Scott Koch
- † Dan Kuenker
- † Faye Lee
- † Virginia Lewis
- † Ron Manwaring
- † Nelda Miesner
- † Rev. Ted Mayes
- † Wilma Nelson
- † Jeff Presutti
- † Don Porter
- † 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



Poinsettia Memorials

In Loving Memory of my parents

Freddie & Viola Koch

From: Dorothy Manwaring & Family

In Loving Memory of

Ryan Foley

From: Pam Foley

In Loving Memory of my loving husband

Richard Bisaga

From: Helen Bisaga

In Loving Memory of

Our Family

From: Tom & Emma Morgan

In Loving Memory of my loving brother

Wayne Collmeyer

From: Helen Bisaga

In Loving Memory of our daughter-in-law

Jill Mueller

From: Lloyd & Ruth Mueller

In Loving Memory of our loving Grand-daughter

Ashley Closson-McNemara

From: Lloyd & Ruth Mueller

In Loving Memory of loving parents

Wilber & Elvira Scott

From: Jeff & Nancy Wright

In Loving Memory of our loving daughter

Ashley Closson-McNemara

From: Chuck & Susan Closson

In Loving Memory of

Arthur Buchanan

From: David, Cindy & Ryker Gregory

In Loving Memory of

Doris Williams

From: Pam Foley and Steve & Sue Williams
and Corey Williams

In Loving Memory of

Charles "Chuck" Dean

From: David, Cindy & Ryker Gregory

In Loving Memory of

Parm Williams

From: Pam Foley and Steve & Sue Williams
and Corey Williams

In Loving Memory of my dear husband

Lester Cramer

From: Loraine Cramer

In Loving Memory of

Jaunita Hickmann

From: Corey Williams

In Loving Memory of


Our Parents

From: Rick & MaryBeth Varner

In Loving Memory of

Bill, Clara & Ferne Rowold

From: Corey Williams





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

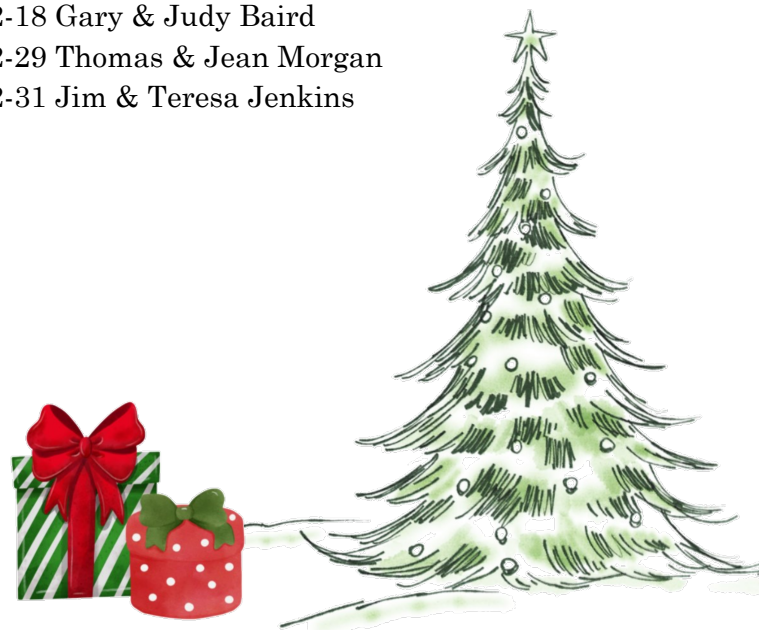
Acolytes
 12-1 Jackson Fager
 12-8 Ryker Gregory
 12-15 Eli Pittman
 12-22 Emily Beckman
 12-24 Parker Closson
 12-25 Ryker Gregory
 12-29 Gage Pittman



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.	4 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 Christmas Day! 9:00 am Christmas Day Service Christmas Break - No School/Office Closed	26 Christmas Break - No School/ Office Closed Pastor on Vacation	27 Pastor's Day Off Christmas Break - No School Pastor on Vacation	28 Pastor on Vaca- tion
29 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Bible Study Pastor on Vacation	30 Christmas Break - No School Pastor on Vacation	31 No School/ Office Closed Pastor on Vacation				