

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

421 North Second Street
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

(507) 345-3027 www.immanuelmankato.org



Word of Truth

*"I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God;
for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks
himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels."*

Isaiah 61:10 NKJV™

The 3rd Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2012

Volume 75, No. 66

Deacon: Dave Busse; Organist: Grace Schreyer

Sound: Larry Hartman; Video: Kristen Friedrichs; Screen: Clifford Kuehne

Head Usher: Paul Bode; Asst. Usher: Fred Friedrichs

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WELCOME to all visitors! Please sign the guest register in the narthex.
Visitors and members: feel free to speak with the Pastor after the service, or call: 387-7035 for Pastor Nolting or 344-0898 for Pastor Eichstadt or 345-3027 for the church office.

Pre-Service Meditation: Psalm 90 (p. 529, pew Bible; p. 142, red hymnal)

[Pew Bibles are located on the book shelves in the narthex or on the counter by the back entrance.]

Pre-Service Prayer: O Lord God, as I celebrate the coming of Your Son this Advent Season, fill my heart with hope and joy. Remove all desire to sin from my heart and mind. Enable me to sing Your praises and to proclaim Your gospel as You give me opportunity. Send Your Spirit to bless my worship this day. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



CHANTING ORDER OF SERVICE



Pre-service ILHS Choir: Selected Carols

Bells

Hymn:

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and listen, for he brings
Good news about the King of kings.

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin
And furnished for a Guest within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

We hail You as our Savior, Lord,
Our Refuge, and our great Reward.
Without Your grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.

Stretch forth Your hand, our health restore,
And lift us up to fall no more.
Oh, make Your face on us to shine,
And fill the world with love divine.

All praise to You, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.

CW#16

Prayer

WELCOME in the name of Jesus who proclaims liberty to the captives!

Invocation:

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

Congregation: Amen.

All: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. I justly deserve Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for my sins and sincerely repent of them. I pray that You would of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy upon you and has given His only Son to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. To all who believe on His name He gives the privilege of being children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord be with you

C: And with your spirit.

P: Glory be to God on high

C: And on earth peace, good will toward men.

P: We praise You, we bless You, we worship You,

C: We glorify You, we give thanks to You, for Your great glory.

P: O Lord God, heav'nly King,

C: God the Father Almighty.

P: O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

C: O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

P: Who takes away the sin of the world,

C: Have mercy upon us.

P: You who takes away the sin of the world,

C: Receive our prayer.

P: You who sits at the right hand of God the Father,

C: Have mercy upon us.

P: For You only are holy;

C: You only are the Lord.

P: You only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

C: Are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 (p. 1018, pew Bible)

Paul was sent to preach the gospel—something he willingly did as he sought to serve a variety of people with a common message of God's love for sinners in connection with Jesus Christ!

Congregational Praise (sung): Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12 (p. 850, pew Bible)

Congregational Welcome (sung): Glory be to You, O Lord!

John the Baptizer came urging people to "*Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand!*" By so doing he prepared the way for Jesus to come as the Savior of all who believe and the Judge of all those who do not.

Congregational Response (sung): Praise be to You, O Christ!

Our Confession of Faith in the Apostolic Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

**and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty.**

**From there He will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn: 66 — "*Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes*"

The Sermon: Text - Isaiah 61 (p. 658, pew Bible)

Theme: JESUS CAME AND STILL COMES!

- I. To bring a message of joy!**
- II. To enable a ministry of joy!**
- III. To bestow a full measure of joy!**

Pastor Paul D. Nolting

Sermon Notes:

The Offertory: Congregation (sings):

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence; and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation; and uphold me with Your free Spirit. Amen.

Hymn: "Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give"

1. Dear Lord, to Your true servants give
The grace to You alone to live.
Set free from sin to serve You, Lord,
We go to share Your living Word,
The Gospel message to proclaim
That all may know Your saving name.
2. We gladly go at Your command
To spread Your Word o'er sea and land.
Be with us, Lord, and make us strong
To heal sin's ills, to right the wrong.
Your rule is over wind and wave,
And mighty is Your arm to save.
3. When all our labor seems in vain,
Revive our sinking hopes again;

Immanuel's WEEKLY Activities

Following the service:

- 3rd Sunday Communion is offered in the pastor's office (to attend come to the office and sign the communion sheet there; pastor will be with you shortly)
- Christmas Eve Children's Service rehearsal in the sanctuary.
- School PR Committee "Meet and Confer" in school lunchroom
- Voters' Meeting in the church basement (Agenda: Election of a Deacon for 2013, Presentation of the Gospel-work in Peru by Daniel Pfeiffer)
- ILHS Bake Sale in the MPF
- Sign up to volunteer for helping with the church picture directory or sign up for picture appointments in the upper school hallway

This evening:

- Sunday School Teachers' meeting @ Eichstadts

Mon. Dec. 17

- **3:30 PM** HOME ILS 5-6 Girls vs. Mt. Olive
- **4:30 PM** HOME ILS 7-8 Girls vs. Mt. Olive
- **5:45 PM** Immanuel Church Service CCTV Charter Ch. 13 or Hickory Tech Ch. 7

Tues. Dec. 18

- **9:00 AM** Immanuel's Thanksgiving Service on CCTV Charter Ch. 13 or Hickory Tech Ch. 7
- **1:00 PM** Seniors' Bible Study @ Orness Plaza (900 Hope St.)
- **3:00-5:00 PM** Pastor's Office Hours [PDN]
- **6:00 PM** HOME ILS Girls JV vs. Glenville/Emmons
- **7:00 PM** *Women's Study Guild* (R. Mueller; K. Olmanson)—Women of Immanuel are invited to attend!
- **7:30 PM** HOME ILS Girls V vs. Glenville/Emmons

Wed. Dec. 19

- **12:45 PM** Immanuel Church Service CCTV Charter Ch. 13 or HickoryTech Ch. 7
- **1:00 PM Mid-week Advent Worship** (Grades 3-4 sing)
Deacon: Richard Lueck; Screen: Russ Schmitt
- **2:00 PM** *Ladies Auxiliary* meeting (M. Timm)—please bring 3 dozen cookies—Women of Immanuel are invited to attend!
- **5:00—6:45 PM** Advent Chili supper (see below)

Wed. Dec. 19 cont'd

- **5:30 PM** Youth Instruction
- **6:00 PM** Wed. Bible Study in upper hallway Mr. Roehl's classroom (study of God's Word regarding church fellowship)
- **7:00 PM Mid-week Advent Worship** (Church Choir sings)
Deacon: Dave Busse; Screen: Clifford Kuehne

Thurs. Dec. 20

- **10:00 AM** Bible Study @ Walnut Towers (105 E. Walnut St.)
- **1:00 PM** Bible Study @ Old Main (301 S. 5th St.)
- **3:30 PM** Bible Study @ Keystone (100 Dublin Rd.)
- **7:15 PM** Church Choir Practice

Fri. Dec. 21

- **6:30 AM Men's Breakfast / Bible Study**
- **8:00-10:00 AM** Pastor's Office Hours [WCE]
- **10:15 AM** Pathstone Living Devotion [PDN]
- **11:00 AM** Autumn Grace Devotion [PDN]
-
- **6:00 PM** HOME ILS Girls V vs. Cleveland
- **7:30 PM** HOME ILS Boys V vs. Cleveland

Sat. Dec. 22

- **3:00 PM** Immanuel's Thanksgiving Service on CCTV Charter Ch. 13 or Hickory Tech Ch. 7
- **5:00 PM** Ambassadors' Christmas Event

Sun. Dec. 23

- **8:15-8:20 AM** Immanuel Meditations KTOE 1420 AM or 102.7 FM radio
- **8:15-9:15 AM** Sunday School, Youth Ambassadors, & Bible Study
- **9:30 AM 4th Sunday of Advent WORSHIP Service** [PDN]

Altar Flowers: G. Schreyer; S. Nolting; Deacon: Paul Bade; Sound: Craig Stelter
Video: Mike Schweim; Screen: Russ Schmitt

Ushers: Fourth Sunday of the Month; Head Usher: Mark Geiger (625.6405); Asst. Usher: Nathan Olmanson (351.3377); Ben Busse; Jacob Busse; Joe Friedrichs; Adam Geiger; Mark Geiger; Sam Geschwind; Sam Hagen; Zachary Hanel; Devon Libby; Kevin Moeri; Karl Mueller; Dan Nelson; Aaron Olmanson; Bernt Olmanson; Mick Rykus; Collin Schreyer; Jarrod Schreyer; Kyle Timm; Wayne Timm

- **10:30 AM** Christmas Eve Children's Service rehearsal in the sanctuary

2013 Offering Envelopes can be picked up in the church basement. In order to save money and to cut down on waste, only those who used envelopes in the past have been given an envelope pack. If you would like to make use of envelopes in 2013, please place your name on the sheet.

Advent Chili supper--Wed. Dec. 19th, 5:00-6:45. Donations go towards the Lego League. Also come check out the Lego display and demonstration for their competition.



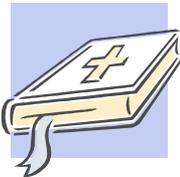
IN THE HOSPITAL:

2013 Mission Helper Trip to India: The deadline for applications is January 10, 2013. For more information take a bulletin insert from the narthex bulletin board.

Immanuel’s Thanksgiving Worship Service may be viewed on CCTV Charter Ch. 13 or Hickory Tech Ch. 7 on Tuesday, Dec. 18th, at 9:00 AM and/or on Saturday, Dec. 22 at 3:00 PM.

Immanuel’s Christmas Eve Worship Service may be viewed on CCTV Charter Ch. 13 or Hickory Tech Ch. 7—see times below. Parents of participants, remember to set your recorder.

| Thursdays 9:00 AM on: | Saturdays 6:00 PM on: |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Dec. 27 | Dec. 29 |
| Jan. 3 | Jan. 5 |



A Helpful Suggestion: A member recently mentioned that she has been bringing her Bible to the worship service recently to follow along during the sermon. She has found it very helpful and thought others might as well. There are Bibles available in the Narthex for use during the worship service. Your pastors would encourage you to use one of them or bring your own to enhance your worship experience!

Immanuel Lutheran College Christmas Concert – Immanuel is chartering a bus to the Immanuel Lutheran College (Eau Claire, WI) Christmas Concert on December 21st. No specific fee is being charged. Participants are encouraged to give a donation to the cost of the bus in the amount they choose and are able to contribute (the total cost averaged across all seats is \$22.50). Bring friends and family along for an enjoyable evening of Christian fellowship and edifying Christmas music in celebration! The bus leaves at 3:15 p.m., will stop for a 45 minute supper opportunity enroute, and will leave Eau Claire 30 minutes after the close of the concert (return around midnight). You may register for this trip on the **sign-up sheet in the narthex**, or by calling the church/school office.



Immanuel Ambassadors' Christmas

Saturday – December 22

5:00 – 9:30 p.m.

5:00 p.m. – Meet at Church

- Bring a food shelf donation (non-perishable food items) + \$2.00
- Come with proper attire to spend time outside
- Lights in Sibley Park, Supper, Christmas Project, Assembling Christmas Bags, Games by Kym

Sign-up Sheet is in the Narthex!

CLC News: The CLC Board of Missions has called Pastor Michael Wilke, Saginaw MI, as missionary to India and East Africa. <> Pastor Thomas Schuetze, Coloma MI, has returned the call to Rock of Ages Lutheran, Grand Rapids MI.

The Best Christmas!

Think back over the years. What have been your most memorable Christmases? All of us have been blessed with celebrations of the Savior's birth shared with loved ones around the family tree as packages are exchanged and opened. From hearts filled with awe and joy, we have announced the fullness of God's time and joined with fellow believers in singing "Silent Night" and "Away in a Manger."

However, one of my most memorable Christmases was not of the picture-perfect Hallmark variety, but rather more along the lines of a young pastor's nightmare. That particular year, besides all the typical extra services and activities, our little congregation had two funerals within two days of Christmas, one of which was held Christmas Eve morning.

According to society's expectations, it's not supposed to be that way. Death and Christmas don't go together. Made-for-TV movies program us into thinking that Christmas is all about the "good things"—Soldiers flying home to surprise wives and children, students returning from college, peace and goodwill among everyone, and a break from the troubles and heartaches which burden life.

Of course, that is not the reality. There is no moratorium on sin during the holidays. Its curse and consequences are still very much in evidence. People overspend, overindulge, and overextend themselves in a desperate attempt to find joy. Instead, they end up harried and frustrated.

Despite all the lights and glitter of the season, our world is not a spiritually pretty place. The Lord knows that, and yet He came to live here. In fact, that is why He came. The God-Man was born in a smelly stable and laid in a rough-hewn manger. Sin and death surrounded the holy Son of God. In a maniacal obsession to kill the new King of the Jews, Herod murdered the infants of Bethlehem. For Jesus, even as an infant, the cross loomed. Simeon prophesied to Mary of the "sword" which would pierce through her own soul when her Son would be crucified.

That one Christmas of mine was a powerful reminder of the connection between death and Christmas. Christmas came because all mankind was spiritually dead in sin without any spark of life or hope. Jesus was born to die, "so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death" (Heb. 2:14-15).

To hearts of family and congregation members still raw and hurting, the words of the angel were especially soothing and reassuring: "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk. 2:10-11).

Every Christmas we celebrate a Savior, a rescuer from sin and death, the One who came in great humility to live and die for all and who will come again with great power and glory to raise our bodies that we might fully enjoy all the blessings of His victory. Christ and death met, and Christ won!

The best Christmas memories are those which recall the Lord's covenant promises of grace and their fulfillment in the Christ Child.

May the Spirit give you stamina and zeal during this busy time, and bless you this Advent season as you unwrap God's gift of death-conquering light and life in His Son.

Pastor Michael Eichstadt - CLC President
December Pastoral Letter / Adapted

Painting Party! The goal is to do a great deal of painting—as much as time and funding will allow—and in so doing brighten up and instantly improve the appearance and upkeep of the facility with which God has blessed us. **Can you help? Painting volunteers are needed January 2-5.** Some prep work could be done earlier. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. You may also volunteer/gain more information via Pastor Eichstadt. Volunteers will be contacted to solidify timing, areas to paint, access to supplies, etc.



Immanuel's Pictorial Directory: As you hopefully read in the October Immanuel Home Messenger, 2013 is the year that we would typically publish an updated pictorial directory of Immanuel members and glimpses into our ministry. This pictorial directory has regularly proven to be a fun way to see and review fellow believers of Immanuel, but especially so for new members as they get to know the people of Immanuel, and even for members of longer standing when you see someone at church whom you don't know real well yet and you just can't remember who that is; so you go home, look it up, hit yourself on the head and say, "That's right!"

The dates for the photography are January 15-19 and January 22-24 (2:00 -9:00 PM). Currently we are looking for one or more **volunteers** to be the lead contact(s) with the company, arrange volunteers for helping with the actual photo-shoots, etc. Past coordinators of this effort have appreciated the opportunity for meeting many of our members and getting to know a few more along the way. If you can assist as a leader or as one of a group of volunteers in assisting to coordinate this helpful project, please sign up in the upper school hallway or speak with one of the pastors.

To set up an appointment for your Pictorial Directory church picture:

- go to Immanuel’s website (www.immanuelmankato.org) and sign up via the pictorial directory link
- Sign up in the upper school hallway following the church service

November Financial Report

| | Actual | Budget |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Total Contributions | \$ 471,163.95 | \$ 523,857.00 |
| Tuition | \$ 76,751.25 | \$ 105,417.00 |
| Other Income | \$ 6,757.41 | \$ 4,216.00 |
| Reserve Transfer | \$ 23,300.00 | \$ 23,300.00 |
|
 | | |
| Total Revenue | \$ 577,972.61 | \$ 656,790.00 |
|
 | | |
| YTD Expenses | \$ 665,744.41 | \$ 674,949.00 |
|
 | | |
| YTD Deficit | \$ (87,771.80) | \$ (18,159.00) |
| Carryover 2011 Deficit | \$ (23,073.43) | \$ (23,073.43) |
|
 | | |
| YTD 2012 Deficit | \$ (110,845.23) | \$ (41,232.43) |

From the Finance Committee:

As you can see from these numbers, our general fund continues to suffer a serious deficit and we have less than three weeks left in our fiscal year. Collectively, we at Immanuel are truly blessed. We would ask that you prayerfully consider what you can do to help reduce this shortfall.

Our Response of Faith

Mid-week Advent (December 5)

Attendance:

Wed. Bible Study = 16

Advent Worship = 22 (1 PM) & 147 (7 PM)

Offering:

Current: \$2,273 / **Missions:** \$5 / **Maj. Imp.:** \$25 / **Miss. Dev.:** \$20

Attendance:

12/7 Men's Breakfast = 25

12/9 Sunday School = 43 / Ambassadors = 11 / Bible Study = 48

12/9 Sunday Worship = 280

12/11 Seniors' Bible = 9

Offerings from Dec. 9

| <u>Immanuel</u>
(Sunday Current NEED = \$10,678) | <u>CLC</u>
(Weekly Missions NEED = \$1,273) |
|--|---|
| Sunday Current = \$7,834 | Missions = \$854 |
| Endowment = \$70 | ILC Building = \$40 |
| Expansion / Relocation = \$10 | ILC Student Aid = \$0 |
| Major Improvement = \$45 | MDF: Mission Develop. Fund = \$35 |
| Debt = \$15 | |
| OTHER: Benevolent = \$40
Food Shelf = \$25
Imm. Student Aid = \$295
Tuition Aid = \$150 | OTHER: |



*The following gift is received with thanks by
Immanuel...*

In Memory of Paul Stelter

Memorial Fund

\$100



QR code to Immanuel's website