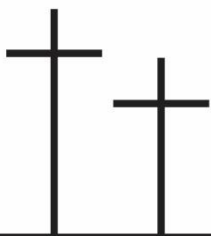




December 16-17, 2023

Vol. 86, No. 66



welcome to
IMMANUEL
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3rd Weekend in the Season of
Advent

VISITOR INFORMATION

RESTROOMS are located at the bottom of the stairs to the right when you exit the narthex into the school building.

THE MOTHER'S ROOM is next to the bookshelf in the corner of the narthex and is meant only for women and children. Fathers may use the bathroom in the upstairs school hallway.

AMPLIFYING HEADSETS are available in the Deacons room. Please see any usher if you would like assistance.

QUESTIONS? Please contact the Deacon on duty this weekend or any of the ushers or pastors. They would love to assist you!

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE? Take a picture of this QR code to learn more about what we believe or visit our website, ImmanuelMankato.org.



CHANTING ORDER OF SERVICE

The Invocation

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

Congregation (C): ♪ Amen.

Opening Hymn

WS 712 “What Child Is This?”

Pastor: What child is this who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?

*Ensemble: This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the Son of Mary!*

Pastor: Why lies He in such mean estate
Where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

*Ensemble: Nails, spear shall pierce Him through;
The cross He'll bear for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the Son of Mary!*

*Ensemble: So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.*

Congregation: Raise, raise the song on high;

The virgin sings her lullaby.

Joy, joy, for Christ is born,

The babe, the Son of Mary! (Repeat Last two lines)

Confession and Absolution of Sins

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!

The Salutation

P: ♪ The Lord be with you

C: ♪ And with your spirit.

The Gloria in Excelsis

Glory in the Highest

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.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1-3

1 "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; **2** To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, **3** To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Church Choir Anthem

'Go in Love'

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

C: ♪ Glory be to You, O LORD!

1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, **2** and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" **3** For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: `Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.'" **4** And John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. **5** Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region

around the Jordan went out to him **6** and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. **7** But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **8** "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, **9** "and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. **10** "And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **11** "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **12** "His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

C: ♪ Praise be to You, O Christ!

Confession of Faith

Apostles' 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 of the Day

TLH 63 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” **16** So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. **17** When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child.

18 And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. **19** But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. **20** And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

I Have Reason to Rejoice with the Shepherds!

1. As I hurry to see Jesus
2. As I treasure with Mary what was told her
3. As I return to the fields glorifying God

Preaching today: Pastor Neal Radichel

Offertory

TLH p12

♪ **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.**

Sermon Hymn

TLH 647 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Offering Meditation “A Christmas Hallelujah” *Bob Heller*

When Israel was seeking peace, their total freedom and release
They sought a conquering hero to appear
A soldier sent direct from God, to throw off their oppressor’s rod,
Would bring about tremendous Hallelujahs

Congregation: Hallelujah (x 4)

“May he be strong and full of might, to win for us our final fight
Restore to us our true and rightful throne
So send a military man, to win according to our plan
The victory is yours, oh Hallelujah”

Congregation: Hallelujah (x 4)

“My chosen ones, you are indeed, I’ll send exactly what you need
But not what you’re expecting, Hallelujah
Instead of armies for your win, I’ll conquer something else: your sin
For only that will bring true Hallelujahs”

Congregation: Hallelujah (x 4)

“To conquer evil is the goal, I don’t need swords, I need your soul
To bring you back to where you’re meant to be
To win according to My plan, I send no military man
Instead, I send a child, oh Hallelujah

Congregation: Hallelujah (x 4)

“My Son’s road will be filled with strife, He’ll give his all, He’ll give his
life
Please celebrate my Son, oh Hallelujah
Into this world so wrenched and torn,
This Holy night, a child is born
Accept this gift with joy, oh Hallelujah”

Congregation: Hallelujah (x 4 with accompaniment x 4 Acapella)

Offering Hymn

TLH 69:1,6 ‘Arise, Sons of the Kingdom’

The General Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P: The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: ♪ **Amen! Amen! Amen!**

Closing Hymn *TLH #436 "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"*

Congregation sing verses 1 and 5 to TLH#436

Ensemble sing verses 2-4 to the tune of "Amazing Grace" in the WS #777

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ONGOING IMMANUEL PRAYER LIST

Please keep these individuals in your personal prayers

- Pastor John Hein – from Grace, Fridley, MN with Thymic cancer
- Katie Sauers- Lymphoma
- Carrie Dahle's (Hilary Lien's sister) Family
- James Lien- Cancer Treatments
- CLC Missions India, Pakistan & Nepal- Details Below
- Marlene Hanel- Lung Cancer

LAST WEEK

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH <u>(DEC 6-10 REPORTED)</u> Budgetary <u>\$8,686.97</u> Current Expenses Non-Budgetary <u>\$3</u> Major Improvement <u>\$50</u> ILS Student Aid <u>\$60</u> Land Purchase <u>\$15</u> ILS Foundation <u>\$20</u> Benevolent <u>\$3,024.31</u> Advent Season <u>\$80</u> Preschool Fund <u>\$510</u> Christmas Day	CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION <u>\$444</u> CLC General Budget (CBP) <u>\$320</u> CLC MDF (Missions) <u>\$24</u> CLC Kinship Memorials: In Memory of Gayle Monson <u>\$50</u> Athletics
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Midweek Worship 12/13: **78**

Location	Active	Time	Day of the week	Type	# Souls
Blue Earth's Jail (Men's)	Yes	6:00 PM	1 st , 3 rd Sunday	Study	4
Old Main/ AZ Pioneer Home	Yes	11:00 AM	2 nd & 4 th Monday	Worship	17
New Perspective	Yes	10:15 AM	1 st , 3 rd , 5 th Tuesday	Study	4
Latitude Bible Study	Yes	10:00 AM	Every Tuesday	Study	18
Laurel's Edge	Yes	10:00 AM	Every Wednesday	Study	11
Laurel's Peak	Yes	10:45 AM	Every Wednesday	Study	6
Ladies Auxiliary	Yes	2:00 PM	4 th Wednesday	Study	8
Oak Terrace	Yes	9:00 AM	Every Thursday	Study	9
Walnut Towers	Yes	10:00 AM	Every Thursday	Study	9
Water's Edge	Yes	11:00 AM	Every Thursday	Study	14
Gus Johnson	Yes	11:00 AM	Every Thursday	Study	3
Men's Breakfast	Yes	6:30 AM	Every Friday	Study	27
Hillcrest	Yes	10:30 PM	Every Friday	Worship	14
Number of souls finding comfort in God's Word this week:					141
Thank you to our volunteer laymen who we've called to continue to help lead these services!					

THIS WEEK

Sat Dec 16 6:00p WORSHIP, 3rd Sunday Communion
 7:00p Adult Bible Class/ Sunday School

Sun Dec 17	9:00a	Adult Bible Class/Ambassadors
	9:00a	Christmas Eve Practice
	9:15a	Radio Sermon: KTOE 1420AM or 102.7FM
	10:00a	WORSHIP, 3 rd Sunday Communion Live Stream- www.ImmanuelMankato.org Watch - www.ImmanuelMankato.org/sermons/
	11:00a	Radichel Farewell Potluck
Mon Dec 18	7:00p	Recessed Voters Meeting
Tues Dec 19	3-5p	Pastors Office Hours (contact for a visit)
	6:30p	Women's Study Guild Meeting
Wed Dec 20	12:45p	Televised Worship Service, Charter #181; Cons Com #7
	2:00p	Midweek Advent Worship
	3:00p	Ladies Auxiliary Meeting
	5:30p	Catechism Class
	6:00p	Midweek Advent Service
Thur Dec 21	8-10a	Pastors Office Hours (let them know if you need a visit)
	5:45p	Televised Worship Service, Chart #181; Cons Comm #7
	6:15p	Church Choir Practice
Fri Dec 22	6:30a	Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
Sat Dec 23	3-5pm	Ladies Ugly Sweater Party
	6:00p	WORSHIP
	7:00p	Adult Bible Class / Sunday School
Sun Dec 24	9:00a	Adult Bible Class / Ambassadors
	9:00a	Christmas Eve
	9:15a	Radio Sermon: KTOE 1420AM or 102.7FM
	10:00a	WORSHIP
	6:00p	Christmas Eve Service

UPCOMING EVENTS

Voters Meeting- December 18th @ 7pm

Ladies Ugly Sweater Party- December 23rd 3-5pm

IMMANUEL ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNICATION AT IMMANUEL is very important to the ministry that God has entrusted to us all. To keep those lines of communication open, email groups have been created so that you can voice your thoughts and concerns to the appropriate leaders and boards at Immanuel. To communicate with any of the groups below, simply address an email to the corresponding email address and it will be sent to the entire group.

Board of Education: Board-of-Education@ImmanuelMankato.org

Board of Deacons: Board-of-Deacons@ImmanuelMankato.org
Board of Property: Board-of-Property@ImmanuelMankato.org
Board of Finance: Board-of-Finance@ImmanuelMankato.org
Church Council: Church-Council@ImmanuelMankato.org

STUDY GUILD MEETING Will be held Tuesday December 19th at 6:30pm.
We will be studying Psalm 119- please consider joining us!

NOTICE OF MEETING Notice is hereby given that at the Annual Congregation meeting to be held on January 22, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., a Resolution will be presented seeking approval of the sale of Arizona property which was gifted to the Church.

2024 WHITEWATER CAMP REGISTRATION Dates: January 26-28 Ages: High School to Sophomores in College Cost: \$78 per camper (\$83 from Eau Claire). Make checks out to Immanuel Ambassadors. Please give both your fee and registration form to the Mankato School secretary, Mrs. Harris by January 21st. Online Registration: tinyurl.com/whitewater202

LADIES UGLY SWEATER PARTY All ladies of Immanuel are invited to our Annual Ugly Sweater Party **on Saturday December 23rd from 3-5pm**. Wear an Ugly Sweater, bring a dish to pass, and join in for some fun games and activities! We will have prizes for the Ugliest Sweater and game winners! After the fun we will join efforts to fill the Christmas Eve treat bags for the Children's Program. Please come down for some fun fellowship time with your sisters in Christ! Any questions can be directed to Hilary Lien.

IMMANUEL FAMILY DEVOTIONS 2024 In the coming year, the Immanuel Board of Deacons is encouraging all our members to focus on family devotions. Whether it be in the morning or before bedtime, every family should take time every day to gather around God's Word. To help our families prioritize this important goal, the Deacons will be making a bulk purchase of the daily devotional book "Beside Quiet Waters" by Richard Lauersdorf for our congregation to use as we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. The books cost \$15.00 each. However, we would like every Immanuel family to take a book. If you would like to make a freewill offering to cover the purchase, you are welcome to do so, but not required. Any donations can be designated to the Deacon's Reserve Fund. This would be a great Christmas gift for friends or family as we encourage everyone to connect to God with their families this year. Please sign up in the narthex to give us an idea as to how many we should purchase. Thank you!

NEW YEAR'S WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES Normally, Immanuel offers unique worship opportunities on New Year's Eve and on New Year's Day. However, because New Year's Eve falls on a Sunday this year and because we only have one pastor currently, the Board of Deacons have decided to cancel the New Year's Eve service. Our regular worship that weekend will focus on New Year's themes. Our New Year's Day service will be a special song service as we have done in the past few years.

LADIES AUXILIARY The Ladies Auxiliary invite all women at Immanuel to the Ladies Auxiliary meeting on **Wednesday, December 20th** at 3PM in the church basement after the 2PM Advent service. Bring 2 dozen cookies for the annual cookie exchange.

SYNOD ANNOUNCEMENTS

SYNOD CALLS Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran of Saginaw, MI, has returned the calls from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI. <> Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Lutheran in West Columbia, SC has returned the call from Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN. <> Jennifer Wiese, teacher at Luther Memorial School in Fond du Lac, WI is resigning at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

CLC MISSION PRAYER REQUESTS India (Southeast Asia) – Cyclone Michaung recently hit South India, bringing with it severe flooding that has caused extensive damage to several BELC church buildings, member houses, and the homes of our BELC leaders. The BELC headquarters and Bible School buildings are being used for temporary shelter for a pastor/district leader forced to evacuate their homes. Thankfully, there have been no injuries reported to BELC members. **Thank the Lord** for his protection of His children. **Pray for the Lord's** ongoing protection and provision as our brothers and sisters in Christ begin the clean-up and recovery from this disaster. **Ask our Heavenly Father** to send His Holy Spirit to give comfort, courage, strength, and hope in His love and plans as they struggle during these trying times.

India (Southeast Asia) – The CLC-India has conducted Christmas outreach programs annually for several years. Due to increased persecution and violence by supporters of the majority Hindu nationalist political party (BJP), Pastor Jyothi is disappointed that the CLCI won't be doing as much outreach this year. **Pray that the Good News** of our Savior will continue to spread, even amid such persecution. **Ask the Lord to thwart the plans** of evil forces that seek to prevent the spread of the

Gospel in India and worldwide. **Ask our Savior to grant boldness** and courage in such difficult circumstances.

Pakistan – Pastor Tim Daub recently reported that ten individuals who have completed two years of online theological training and a thorough study of Luther's Small Catechism have recently begun weekly worship services. They are calling their group the Church of the Lutheran Confession of Pakistan. The Board of Missions has authorized Missionary Ohlmann to accompany Pastor Daub on a visit to Pakistan in 2024. With the upcoming elections in Pakistan and due to safety concerns surrounding it, there is some uncertainty about when this trip will occur. **Pray that the Lord will continue to bless** the teaching and learning of His word. **Thank our Savior** for this opportunity and the technology to proclaim the truth of His word in such a way.

Nepal (South Asia) – On December 6th, a graduation ceremony was held for the third class of Himalayan Bible Institute (HBI) students who have completed the two-year course of instruction. Before graduation, Missionary Ohlmann had the opportunity to teach classes at HBI for three days. He reviewed the basic teachings of the Christian faith using the Apostle's Creed as an outline. Pastor Raju has been suffering from partial voice loss for the past few months. Doctors found lesions or nodes on his vocal cords. This prevented him from translating while Missionary Ohlmann was in Nepal. Thankfully, Raju's brother, his father, and an HCLCN pastor were available to translate. Raju's doctor has advised him to rest his voice for at least two months and begin voice therapy to heal and strengthen his vocal cords. Due to this, the beginning of HBI classes is delayed until March or April. Applications for the next session of HBI are being received and reviewed. **Give thanks** to the Lord for the recent graduates of HBI and **ask for His blessings** on their service to Him. **Pray for the Lord's healing** of Raju's vocal cords so that he may continue the important work of proclaiming God's word and training more faithful workers for God's kingdom work in Nepal.

If you have an announcement or event for next weekend's bulletin, please send it to Bulletin@ImmanuelMankato.org or contact Hilary Lien by Friday at 10 am. Thank you!



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHURCH	Pastor Joe Naumann	920-266-5386
	Pastor Neal Radichel	920-268-8002
	Secretary Hilary Lien	507-345-3027
SCHOOL	Principal Brandan Heinze	507-519-0470
	Asst. Principal Matthew Kranz	507-345-3027
	Secretary Amanda Harris	507-345-3027

Serving Us Today

PASTOR Neal Radichel

DEACON (Sat) Brent Schreyer (Sun) Daniel Pfeiffer

ORGANIST Vickie Schreyer

SCREEN (Sat.) Joe Furst (Sun.) Russ Schmitt

GREETERS (Sat) (Sun) Joel & Deidre Macias

USHERS Fred Friedrichs, John Heinze, Aaron Busse, Austin Hanel, Hunter Hanel, Jay Hanel, Mason Hanel, Ty Hanel, Brett Kruse, Ross Libby, Austin Lien, William Lien, Wyatt Lien, Kevin Rykhus, Matthew Kranz

Serving Us Next Weekend

PASTOR Joe Naumann & Neal Radichel

DEACON Mark Matzke

ORGANIST Bonnie Cornish

SCREEN (Sat.) Joe Furst (Sun.) Russ Schmitt

GREETERS (Sat) Sue Jensen (Sun) Jen Schmitt

USHERS Ben Busse, Michael Wheaton, Peter Busse, Jason Dick, Mark Geiger, Sam Geschwind, Sam Hagen, Gavis Hensley, Cade Libby, Travis Miller, Kevin Moeri, Bernt Olmanson, Charles Olmanson, Andrew Olmanson, Nick Schmid, Noah Schmid, Ben Stratton, Jack Stratton, Tim Williams, Troy Williams