

Immanuel Lutheran Church ~ LCMS Lakefield, MN December 21, 2025

Hymn: 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for giv'n; of with His mer - cy And with words love draw near. liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter nal ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th-10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt.

Tune: William H. Monk, 1823-89 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- In the name of the Father and of the
 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **B**ut with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel/Stand

- Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 130:5-8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,

that the mountains might quake at your presence.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast

love.

and with him is plentiful redemption.

And he will redeem Israel

from all his iniquities.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,

that the mountains might quake at your presence.



Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- The Lord be with you. $[\mathbf{P}]$
- \mathbf{C} And also with you.
- P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

 \mathbf{C} Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 66:18-23

"For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the LORD.

"For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain. From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD."

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Epistle Romans 1:1–7

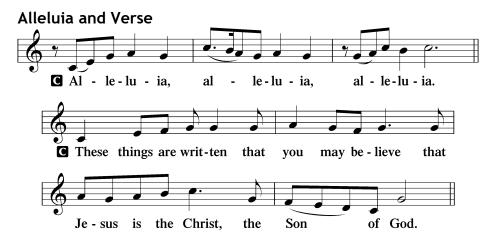
Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand





Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

Immanuel Ringers

Savior of the Nations, Come

Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here your home. Marvel now, O Heav'n and Earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God Was the Word of God made flesh: Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

Praise to God the Father sing, Praise to God the Son, our King, Praise to God the Spirit be Ever and eternally.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,

begotten, not made,

being of one substance with the Father,

by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Marv

and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures

and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is

worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life

→ of the world to come. Amen.



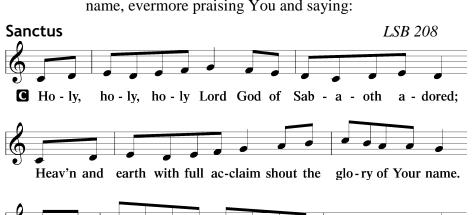
Preface LSB 208

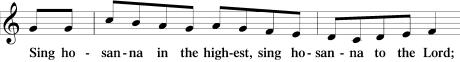
The Lord be with you.And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

Stand

- **C** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:







Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.

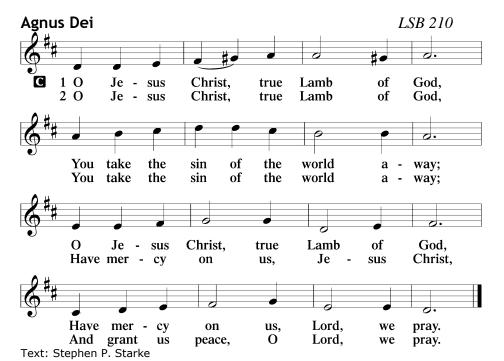
The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.



Sit

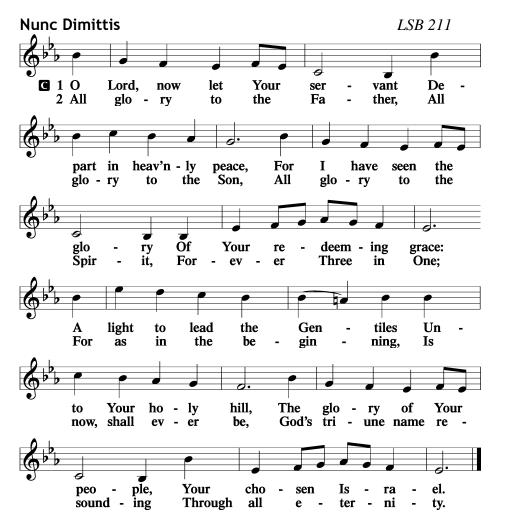
Distribution

Hymn: 341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Hymn: 331 The Advent of Our King

Hymn: 348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

Stand



Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.

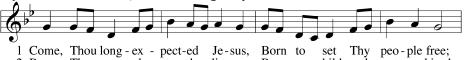
C Thanks be to God.

 $|\mathbf{P}|$ The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn: 338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



2 Born child and Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a yet



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art, e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone; By Thine own



Dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.

Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Assisting with the Service

Preacher Rev. Eric Obermann

Elder Joel Poppe & Steve Matasovsky

Organist Jayson Matasovsky

Acolyte Simeon Peterson & Izzy Larsen

Usher Albert & Leann Henning

We Remember in our Prayers

Jeff Lillquist, friend of Bruce and Jan Bakalar, recovering from surgery The family of Mary Durst, friend of Jeanine Ackermann, on her passing away

Dory Poppe recovering from knee surgery

Anitra Carlson, daughter-in-law of Roger and Beth Carlson, recovering from surgery

Silas Liepold recovering from surgery

Rod Voss, friend of Roger and Beth Carlson, dealing with health issues Clyde Daberkow in Hospice

Those who have lost loved ones over the past year

Our residents at Colonial Manor, Valley View, Golden Horizons in Worthington, Accura HealthCare in Milford, Koronis in Paynesville, Good Sam in Estherville

Lila Voehl, Jan Bakalyar, Merlyn Rossow, Keith Kolander, dealing with health issues

Marla Holcomb, sister of Wade and Alan Salzwedel; Mary Beth Baumann, sister-in-law of Myleen Swanson & LaNell Rossow; Mackenzie Erickson, friend of Amber Liepold; Diane Hansen, wife of Pastor David McDonald (Trinity Brewster), Miles Ramsey, toddler cousin of Amy Altman; Pastor Dennis Brech; Joyce Urmie, sister-in-law of Vickie Baumann; Pastor Ben Rucker; Mitch Voehl, son of Lila Voehl; Denny Daberkow; dealing with cancer

Chad Kolander, brother of Keith and Corey Kolande; David Morrison, brother of Jan Bakalyar; Curt Gates, brother-in-law of Miles Voehl (Lila's son), dealing with health issues

Our Missionaries in the Field Our Country and Our Military

WE WELCOME all of our guests and visitors today. We invite you to visit us again. If you have no church home and would like to make Immanuel your church home, please speak to Pastor Obermann or one of the Elders

at the end of the service.

COMMUNION: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is being offered to our confirmed communicants today and is administered in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we truly receive, under the bread and wine, the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, through which we further truly receive the forgiveness of sins. Besides individually receiving Christ's gift of forgiveness in this Sacrament, all those who commune here make a confession of their unity in the faith as it is believed and taught in our Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod and in this congregation. Therefore, if you are not a confirmed communicant member, in good standing, of a Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod congregation, we kindly ask that you respect our beliefs and refrain from coming to the altar to receive the Sacrament until you have had an opportunity to speak with Pastor.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS from Lutheran Hour Ministries are available in both regular and large print on the welcome center in the narthex. This year's devotions are called "Born to You... a Savior". Please help yourself to a copy.

There are also Advent Devotions available from Martin Luther High School, Northrop. This one is called "There's More To It" and the devotions are written by Martin Luther High School staff and students. Please help yourself. Advent started on Sunday, November 30th.



IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE you may call the church office at 507-662-5718, Pastor Obermann at 563-321-0032, or speak to one of the elders.

FOOD DRIVE for the Lakefield Food Shelf is going on right now. You are invited to bring items to the church and place them around the tree in the narthex. Your items may also be taken to Maynard's. Monetary gifts are also appreciated and can be dropped off here at the church (give to Amy), at City Hall, or mailed to the Lakefield Food Shelf, PO Box 115, Lakefield, MN 56150.

2026 CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Board of Elders: Jim Berkevich, Shane Rossow, Luke Henning, Steve Matasovsky, Joel Poppe

Board of Education: Jonah Dagel, Brandon Laabs. Justin Scholten, Leann Henning, Deb Jons, Lori Henning

Board of Finance: Ron Gettler, Debbi Gettler, Joel Burmeister, Tara Boogerd, Cheryl Ulferts, Josh Swanson

Board of Trustees: Jeff Frantsen, Mark Freking, Austin Rossow, Andrew T. Rossow, Clay Salzwedel, Albert Henning

Board of Congregational Services: Monette Berkevich, Lola Gunther, Dellynne Monson, Danielle Rossow, Beth Carlson, Dory Poppe Congregational Chairman: Kurt Swanson Congregational Secretary: Kerry Sydnes

THANK YOU to our outgoing Officers for their many hours of dedicated work during their term of office. Your support and help are very much

appreciated, especially by the staff of Immanuel. Thank you to:

Travis Dennis Rossow: Trustee Jesse Ackermann: Finance

Sarah Laabs: Congregational Services Tim Timko: Congregational Services

LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH: Please keep the men and women you have entrusted to lead our congregation in your prayers as they serve in the ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church in their official capacity as an officer or board member.

ANNUAL REPORTS: December is here and January is right around the corner. Amy would appreciate having the reports in the church office by January 10th. Thank you!

CHALLENGE FROM THE FINANCE BOARD: The Christmas in July Service is always a special service for our congregation. We sing some of our favorite Christmas hymns, worship outside in our Lord's creation, and gather together afterwards for a meal. At this service we also get the opportunity to show support for our school with gifts toward the Teacher Salary Fund. The gifts towards this crucial mission go towards providing payroll to our outstanding faculty who teach the young students of Immanuel to grow in Christ. The end of this school year marked our 126th anniversary. As a gift to ensure that the mission of the school in Immanuel is as eternal as God's love, let us challenge ourselves to give 12.6% of our salaries and benefits of school faculty in the amount of \$69,074 as a special giving project. There has been an anonymous donor who has gifted \$25,000 to

giving project. There has been an anonymous donor who has gifted \$25,000 to this fund leaving a remaining balance of \$44,074. Please consider making a gift above and beyond your normal offering. There will be a tracking thermometer in the Narthex to follow along with as we work towards this goal along plus this Christmas tree in the bulletin. Don't forget to mark your

offering envelopes "TSF or Teacher Salary Fund" when giving.

\$63,525 12/14 - \$45,000 - \$30,000 - \$15,000 - \$0

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

- B BB at home vs. St. Paul's Fairmont on Monday 12/18 at 4:15.
- NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK 12/22 through 1/2

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER need to be turned in to Amy in the office by December 25th

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS will take place on Sunday, January 14th. All incoming and continuing officers are asked to take part. A name tag may be found in the narthex for you. You may sit with your family until asked to come forward.

CHRISTMAS CARDS are now available at the bookstore. Come check out the wonderful selection. You can either pay Amy in the church office or leave your money in the empty box by the cards. *There is also a variety of Christmas gift bags with a religious theme available. Stop and take a look!*

FESTIVAL OF TREES at the Jackson County Historical Society is December 1st-30th. Throughout the month, the public is welcome to visit the museum, see the trees, and vote for their favorite tree by donating \$1; the highest vote getter at the end of the month will receive half of the total proceeds, with the other half going to the historical society. Immanuel Lutheran School and our LWML both have decorated themed trees for the Festival of Trees. The museum is located at 307 North Highway 86 in Lakefield.

OUR PRAYERS are with those who have lost loved ones over the past year as they spend their first Christmas without their loved ones.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE PRACTICE has started. They will practice during Sunday School every Sunday until the service, which is on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th at 4:00 p.m.

PORTALS OF PRAYER for January through March are now available on the welcome center in the narthex in both regular and large print. Please help yourself to a copy. Did you know that Portals of Prayer are also available in digital format through an app? Cost is \$9.99 for the year. Not only can you read the daily devotion in whatever size print you like, but an audio option is also available. You also have access to over 10 years Portals of Prayer archives. Meaningful daily and special occasion prayers can also be found on the app. If you're interested go to the app store and search for Portals of Prayer.

WE NEED YOUR HELP: We are looking for members to help with ushering. Please check out the sign-up sheet on the window in the narthex and write yourself in for a service if you are able to. Questions on ushering? Please ask one of our elders.

POINTS OF INFORMATION December 14, 2025
Current Fund received this past week
Needed each week\$10,112
Non-Budget Giving
Immanuel School\$300
Teacher Salary Fund\$220
Debt Reduction\$100
Poinsettias\$36
Building\$2
Memorials given in memory of
Doris Rossow to Tuition Assistance Program\$2,120
Doris Rossow to Immanuel School Music & Art\$2,120
Gerald "Chink" Meade to Immanuel School\$100
Current Fund received in November\$36,016
Needed in November\$41,914
If you have any questions, please call Jesse Ackermann
Worshipping on Sunday, December 14: 156
Worshipping on ILS Christmas, December 21:

Wondering where you can watch this service?

- 1. Facebook: "Immanuel Lutheran Church" at the time of the service or any time after up to a month.
- 2. YouTube: "Immanuel Lutheran Church and School Lakefield" at the time of the service or any time after.

THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL... Sunday, December 21 Fourth Sunday in Advent 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:15 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Youth Group Bible Study 10:15 AM Bible Class Monday, December 22 NO SCHOOL 6:10 PM Immanuel Ringers 7:10 PM Choir

Tuesday, December 23

NO SCHOOL

6:00 PM Board of Elders Meeting 6:00 PM Board of Finance Meeting

7:00 PM Joint Boards and Church Council

Wednesday, December 24 Christmas Eve NO SCHOOL

OFFICES CLOSED

4:00 PM Sunday School Christmas Service

8:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Thursday, December 25 Christmas Day

NO SCHOOL

OFFICES CLOSED

9:00 AM Worship with Communion

Friday, December 26

NO SCHOOL

OFFICES CLOSED

Sunday, December 28

9:00 AM Worship

Monday, December 29 NO SCHOOL

NO SCHOOL Tuesday, December 30

NO SCHOOL

Wednesday, December 31 New Year's Eve

NO SCHOOL

OFFICES CLOSED

Christmas Worship Services

Sunday School Christmas Service Wednesday, December 24 4:00 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Wednesday, December 24 8:00 PM

Christmas Day Service
Thursday, December 25
9:00 AM



Immanuel Lutheran Church and School 604 Bush Street, PO Box 750, Lakefield, MN 56150 507-662-5718

> www.immanuellakefield.com immanuel@immanuellakefield.com