



# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Immanuel Lutheran Church ~ LCMS  
Lakefield, MN  
December 14, 2025

## Hymn: 338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo-ple to de - liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
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,  
By Thine own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
By 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

*Stand*

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

**P** 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.**

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** **But 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*

**C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**P** 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 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

Rejoice in the Lord always;

**again I will say, Rejoice.**

I will hope continually

**and will praise you yet more and more.**

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day,

**for their number is past my knowledge.**  
 With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come;  
**I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.**  
 O God, from my youth you have taught me,  
**and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.**  
 So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,  
**until I proclaim your might to another generation, your**  
**power to all those to come.**  
**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.**  
 Rejoice in the Lord always;  
**again I will say, Rejoice.**

**Kyrie**

*LSB 204*



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

## **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## **Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 35:1–10*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
 the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;  
 it shall blossom abundantly  
 and rejoice with joy and singing.  
 The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
 the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
 They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
 the majesty of our God.  
 Strengthen the weak hands,

and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
“Be strong; fear not!  
Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you.”  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.  
For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
And a highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
the unclean shall not pass over it.  
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Immanuel Ringers**

*The King Shall Come*

*The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light triumphant breaks,  
When beauty gilds the eastern hills  
And life to joy awakes.*

*Not as of old a little child,  
To bear and fight and die,  
But crowned with glory like the sun  
That lights the morning sky.*

*The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light and beauty brings.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:  
Come quickly, King of kings!*

## Epistle

*James 5:7–11*

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



**C** These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 11:2–15*

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

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.”

Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Apostles’ Creed

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

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
 From thence 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.

*Sit*

## Children's Message

### Hymn: 349 Hark the Glad Sound



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51  
 Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

*Stand*

## Prayer of the Church

*Sit*

## Offering

*Stand*

### Lord's Prayer

**C** 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.

*Stand*

### Benedicamus

*LSB 212*

**A** Let us bless the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

### Benediction

**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.  
**C** Amen.



Hymn: 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *sts. 1, ref, 3, 5-7*



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen  
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us  
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the

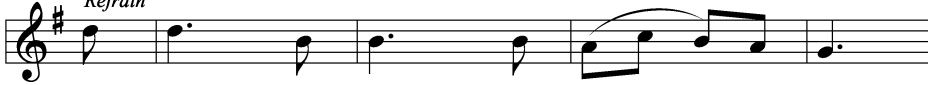


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that  
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y  
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.  
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.

*Refrain*



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.

Tune: French, 15th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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## **Assisting with the Service**

*Preacher     Rev. Eric Obermann*  
*Elder         Luke Henning*  
*Organist     Brenda Matasovsky*  
*Acolyte      Nora Freking & Gander Grein*  
*Usher         Dory & Mary Poppe*

## **We Remember in our Prayers**

*Jeff Lillquist, friend of Bruce and Jan Bakalar, recovering from surgery*  
*Mary Durst, friend of Jeanine Ackermann, in Hospice*  
*Dory Poppe undergoing knee surgery 12/15*  
*Anitra Carlson, daughter-in-law of Roger and Beth Carlson, undergoing surgery 12/17*  
*Silas Liepold undergoing surgery 12/19*  
*Bruce & Jan Bakalyar and Lisa John on the death of their uncle, Gerald “Chink” Meade*  
*Toni Grein 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*

**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.

**OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS** are with the families of Bruce & Jan Bakalyar and Lisa John on the death of their uncle, Gerald “Chink” Meade. Chink passed away on December 7th. We pray that God would comfort the family at this difficult time.

**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 begins today. Sunday, November 30th.

**VOTERS MEETING** is today, Sunday, December 14th right after church around 10:15 a.m. in the church basement. On the agenda is the election of officers. If interested in running for any office, please contact one of the elders or Amy in the church office.

**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.



**Sunday School Christmas Service**

**"Do Not Be Afraid"**

**I Bring You Good News"**

**Wednesday, December 24 ~ 4:00 p.m.**

The angel ornament contains the following text:  
Have I told you the good news?  
A KING IS BORN THIS DAY.  
A KING IS BORN TO SAVE.  
Sing Herald, Hark, SING!  
Sing, Herald, Hark, Sing!  
Wings fly with joy!



## ILS Christmas Service

"Joyfully, Ring Out the Good News!"

Wednesday  
December 17

12:30 p.m.  
6:30 p.m.

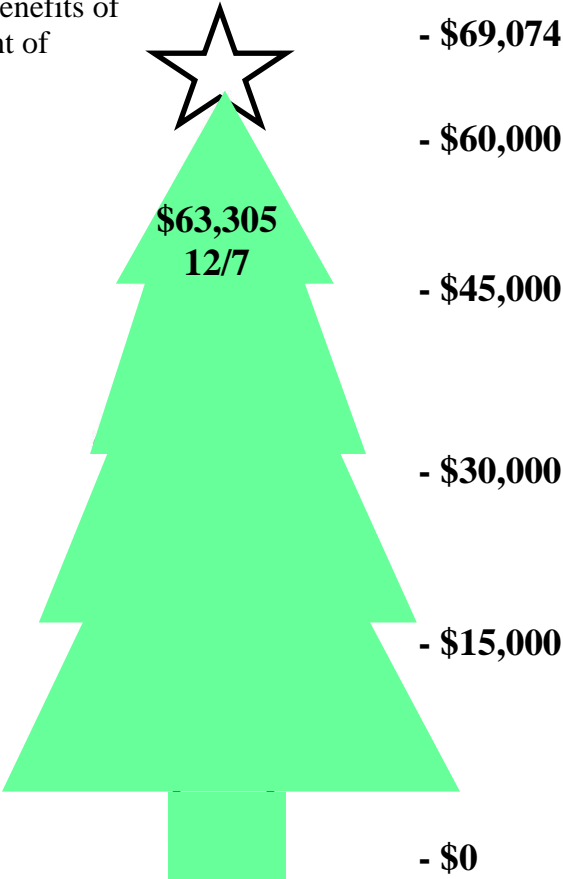
**FOOD DRIVE** for the Lakefield Food Shelf is going on right now. You are invited to bring items to the church and place them around the tree in the narthex. Your items may also be taken to Maynard's. Monetary gifts are also appreciated and can be dropped off here at the church (give to Amy), at City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

**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.

**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!*

**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 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.



**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS**

- PTL Christmas Caroling is Sunday 12/14 at 2:00.
- ILS Christmas Service is Wednesday 12/17 at 12:30 and 6:30.
- 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

## **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AT THE PARSONAGE...**

Pastor and Emily want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. You are invited to come and enjoy some Christmas goodies with them on Saturday, December 20th from 10:30-12:30 at the parsonage.

**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.

**SCRIP ORDERS** are taken weekly. Please turn in your orders to Amy in the church office by 8:00 a.m. on Monday and it will be ready for you to pick it up the following Monday. Order forms can be found on the welcome center in the narthex (they're blue). Any questions ask Amy in the office (507-662-5718 or [immanuel@immanuellakefield.com](mailto:immanuel@immanuellakefield.com)).

This is a great way to support Immanuel!

**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.

## **ANYONE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING GIFTS FOR THE LAKEFIELD**

**SHARING TREE** may find tags on the tree in the narthex, the tree at City Hall, or on the tree at the Lakefield Library. All you need to do is pick a tag, buy the gift, tape the tag to the gift, and place it under the tree in the narthex or under the tree at City Hall. Gifts need to be under the trees by December 12th. You do not need to wrap the presents.

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.

**POINTS OF INFORMATION December 7, 2025**

*Current Fund received this past week.....\$6,680*

*Needed each week.....\$10,112*

*Non-Budget Giving*

*Teacher Salary Fund.....\$25*

*Immanuel School.....\$25*

*Building.....\$4*

*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 7: 132*

*Worshipping on Midweek Advent, December 10: 48*

**THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL...**

*Sunday, December 14*

*Third Sunday in Advent*

*9:00 AM Worship*

*10:15 AM Voters Meeting in Church Basement*

*10:15 AM Sunday School*

*10:15 AM Youth Group Bible Study*

*10:15 AM Bible Class*

*2:00 PM PTL Christmas Caroling*

*Monday, December 15*

*4:15 PM B BB at home vs. St. Paul's Fairmont*

*6:10 PM Immanuel Ringers*

*7:10 PM Choir*

*Wednesday, December 17*

*12:30 PM ILS Christmas Service*

*2:10 PM Confirmation*

*6:30 PM ILS Christmas Service*

*Thursday, December 18*

*5:30 PM Board of Trustees Meeting*

*Saturday, December 20*

*10:30-12:30 Pastor and Emily's Open House at the Parsonage*

*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*

## **Christmas Worship Services**

**ILS Christmas Service**

**Wednesday, December 17**

**12:30 PM & 6:30 PM**

**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](http://www.immanuellakefield.com)**  
**[immanuel@immanuellakefield.com](mailto:immanuel@immanuellakefield.com)**