

THE IMMANUEL HERALD

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
5701 LOCH RAVEN BOULEVARD
BALTIMORE, MD 21239

Visit Immanuel's website www.immanuellutheran.org

DECEMBER 2024

DIVINE SERVICE AT IMMANUEL: In addition to the in-person services, all Services are live streamed also. The live stream is available at the following Youtube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqkp9bt5FmMFDmfW0QNplUw/videos>

DIVINE SERVICE AT IMMANUEL AT 10:00 a.m.

December 1

Jeremiah 33:14–16

Psalms 25:1–10

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

Luke 19:28–40

or Luke 21:25–36

First Sunday in Advent

I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line.

To You I lift up my soul.

May the Lord make your love increase.

The triumphant entry

Signs of the end of the age

Behold, the days are coming—judgment, justice, and righteousness are imminent with the incarnation of Jesus. We are seized with Advent anticipation as we wait, hopeful for Him—the righteousness of David, Judah, and Jerusalem—to split the heavens open and come down. We are bold to proclaim Christ, the King who comes in the name of the Lord, for He is the one who creates, nourishes, and sustains our faith that in turn, we may abound in love.

December 8

Malachi 3:1–7b

Psalms 66:1–12

Philippians 1:2–11

Luke 3:1–14 (15–20)

Second Sunday in Advent

"Who can endure the day of His coming?"

"You have tried us as silver is tried."

Discern what is best until the day of Christ.

John goes into the country preaching a Baptism of repentance.

Divine judgment is swift and decisive! In time, the Lord is sure to obliterate all opposition to what is good and right. In spite of this conflict, divine grace in Jesus fortifies the church in prayer, partnership, good works, affection, love, discernment, and excellence. God's Word and Sacraments continuously equip the forgiven and forgiving church to be vigilant about the coming wrath, but also to be generous in bearing fruits of repentance as we await the salvation of God.

December 15

Zephaniah 3:14–20

Psalms 85

Philippians 4:4–7

Luke 7:18–28 (29–35)

Third Sunday in Advent

Shout, O daughter of Zion.

"Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him."

Rejoice always! The Lord is near.

"I send My messenger before Your face."

Sing! Shout! Rejoice! Exult! A string of ecstatic commands infused with an incomparable promise—the Lord has taken away the judgments against you! The Gospel in the flesh of Jesus is at hand. Human anxiousness subsides as God's peace engulfs the hearts, minds, emotions, and wisdom of men. As the reign of Jesus is revealed, we are privileged to witness holy healing, cleansing, resurrecting, and preaching. Christ alone forgives and redeems us.

December 22**Micah 5:2–5a****Psalm 80:1–7****Hebrews 10:5–10****Luke 1:39–45 (46–56)****Fourth Sunday in Advent**

Out of you, Bethlehem, will come a ruler of Israel.

“Restore us, O God; let Your face shine.”

We have been made holy through Jesus.

Mary visits Elizabeth.

Upon the diminutive Bethlehem town enters the strength of the Lord, and His name is Jesus. Christ comes as a frail infant to accomplish the will of His Father in heaven—to mature and become the divine sacrificial offering for sinners. He is the innocent to be slain. We are the guilty to be acquitted by His mercy. There can be no greater confession for the whole church but to resonate with Mary, “My soul magnifies the Lord.”

December 24**Isaiah 7:10–14****Psalm 110:1–4****1 John 4:7–16****Matthew 1:18–25****The Nativity of Our Lord**

“The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

“Rule in the midst of Your enemies!”

God loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

The angel appears to Joseph.

Within a manger divine, Love infiltrates our languishing world steeped in sin. Without God’s pivotal action in this nativity, we could not know, experience, or express genuine love. God in Christ manifests love, grace, and mercy among us! Jesus’ total forgiveness is so comprehensive that it abolishes sin and keeps those who confess His name loved and loving. On this night, wrapped in His forgiveness we behold the love of God, Immanuel—God with us.

December 25**Isaiah 52:7–10****Psalm 2****Hebrews 1:1–6 (7–12)****John 1:1–14 (15–18)****Christmas Day**

“All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.”

“I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill.”

“[The Son] is the radiance of the glory of God.”

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

The Word of God publishes the good news of our beautiful Christ, whose radiant light disperses the darkness of sin and illuminates the life of men. No other published word conveys such cataclysmic change. The power of sin is disarmed. The reign of God is unleashed in the song of joy, the radiance of God, and the speaking of Jesus—for in Him the Word becomes flesh and dwells among us.

December 29**Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15****Psalm 111****Colossians 3:12–17****Luke 2:22–40****First Sunday after Christmas**

God commands the Israelites to consecrate every firstborn male.

“He sent redemption to His people.”

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.”

Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the temple.

The glory of the people of Israel and the revelation to the Gentile nations are continually unveiled in the redemption of God’s people. From Israel’s dramatic exodus from Egypt; their restoration through conflict and turmoil in the land of Canaan; and now in the definitive presence of Jesus Christ before the righteous and devout man Simeon—God’s redemptive intervention is unmistakable. Christlike compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience permeate the church, and we stand unmistakably forgiven and redeemed.

December 31**Isaiah 30:(8–14) 15–17****Psalm 90:1–12****Romans 8:31b–39****Luke 12:35–40****New Year’s Eve**

Woe to Israel.

“Teach us to number our days.”

Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning.”

Sin lures us into rebellion and deceit. Enmeshed in its consequences, we become deaf to the Lord's Word and His prophecies. Death consumes. Life is constrained. But Christ inaugurates change—He elects to bear our condemnation, die, and pass through death's portal. His contention with life and death abolishes our alienation from God. His acts of mercy restore peace, quietness, strength, and salvation. God's Word of love and sacrifice persistently prepares us for His imminent return.

Ministry Notes

Congregation Approves the Resolution to Accept LCEF Proposal

A special Voter's Assembly was held on Sunday, November 24 to consider a resolution coming from the *Building on Christ Equipping for the Future Finance Team* requesting that the congregation accept a proposal from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) that identifies LCEF Real Estate Solutions as Immanuel's ministry partner who will explore the possibilities of utilizing real estate assets to further ministry, meet community needs, and create an alternate source of revenue. The spirit of this resolution is that LCEF will affirm the ministry heart of our congregation and act as a consultant to explore campus concepts related to real estate while always representing our best interests. Specifically, LCEF is looking to identify and implement a strategy that would be based on "best uses" of the vacant land bordering Loch Raven Blvd and / or unused portions of our building.

The following resolution was approved with no dissenting votes:

Resolution to Engage the Lutheran Church Extension Fund to Explore "Best Uses" of Real Estate

Whereas Immanuel Lutheran Church in 2024 celebrates 160 years of ministry within the greater Baltimore area, and

Whereas offerings and traditional sources of income do not provide sufficient funds to sustain ministry as it has existed during these 160 years, and

Whereas Immanuel has operated with a deficit budget for the last ten years, and

Whereas Immanuel has been utilizing other Church funds to enable ministry to continue, and

Whereas it is anticipated that funds to continue to operate the church will be depleted within two to three years, and

Whereas there is a strong desire for the Church to continue as a ministry in the Baltimore area for many years into the future so that others will continue to hear of the good news of salvation through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and

Whereas, since 1978, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), as a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, has existed to provide services to LCMS congregation to establish and sustain ministry, and

Whereas LCEF seeks partnerships with congregations to develop real estate solutions and in the implementation of "best uses" of land and buildings, and

Whereas, after consultation with Church leaders, LCEF has submitted a proposal to work with Immanuel to identify and implement a "best uses" strategy, let it be

Resolved that Immanuel Lutheran Church accept the proposal from LCEF and engage LCEF as its ministry partner who will explore the possibilities of utilizing real estate assets to further ministry, meet community needs, and create an alternate source of revenue.

By accepting the proposal, Immanuel has invited LCEF to explore a partnership that is likely to include a for-profit real estate developer and involve industry experts as sub consultants who will be contracted and paid by LCEF. The initial phase of the work will focus on site and community needs and identify potential deal structures that would allow ministry to continue on the existing site while creating an alternate source of revenue for Immanuel.

We anticipate the work enabled by the resolution to begin by the end of the year. Please pray for these efforts that they might bring forth new sources of ministry funding to reach others for Christ.

The Advent Wreath

During Advent, many families light an advent wreath. The wreath has four candles around the edge and one in the center. The candles around the

edge are lit first. One is lit for each of the Sundays prior to Christmas Day. There are 3 purple and one pink candle. The first candle is purple and is the prophecy candle. It recalls all of the promises the Old Testament made concerning the coming of the messiah. The second candle is also purple. It is the Bethlehem candle. This recalls that the messiah was to be a descendent of King David and born in David's home town. The third candle is pink. It is the angels' candle. It recalls the heavenly host appearing in brilliant light to announce Jesus' birth. The fourth candle is purple and is the shepherds' candle. It recalls the first people to worship the Messiah were lowly shepherds. It reminds us that Jesus came to be our Good Shepherd. The center candle is white and is the Christ Candle. It is lit Christmas Day. It reminds us that this child is the holy Son of God and God Himself who has come to save us.

The Crèche

Many people also put up a manger scene in their homes. One tradition has the manger (or stable) set up nearest to the family altar on the first Sunday of Advent. The figures of Mary and Joseph are placed in the room furthest from the manger. Each week they are moved closer to the manger. On Christmas Eve they are placed in the manger. One Christmas Day the baby Jesus is placed in the manger. The shepherds are placed around the Crèche. The wise men are then placed in the room furthest from the manger and are moved closer each day until January 6th, Epiphany. Some Christians even wait to exchange gifts until January 6th, recalling the gifts of the wise men to Jesus.

Lay Readers:

December 1, Rick Kruelle
December 8, Special Service
December 15, Special Service
December 22, Sandy Collins
December 24, Christmas Eve
December 25, Christmas Day
December 29, Roland Obedekah

Altar Guild:

December 1, Mary Ruble
December 8, Sheila Gordon
December 15, Carolyn Henn/Joan Goeller
December 22, Carolyn Henn/Joan Goeller

December 24, Carolyn Henn/Joan Goeller

December 29, No communion

Marlyn Maufer, a former member of Immanuel, Died at her home in Eldersburg, Maryland on October 27th.

To all who have already turned in their 2025 pledge cards, we thank you. We encourage those who have not yet returned their pledge cards to please send them in so that the budget for 2025 can be completed. If you have misplaced your card, there will be blanks in the Narthex.

Saturday, December 7th, 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. Live Nativity at Calvary Lutheran Church, 2625 E. Northern Parkway. Free admission. Calvary and community members, live animals, hot chocolate and cookies, Christmas music, and gifts for children 12 and under.

Sunday, December 8th, 4 pm, 10th Annual Baltimore Choral Arts Society Concert.

Friendship Sunday - December 22, 2024, "Each One, Reach One"

As Pastor has been emphasizing Evangelism is one of the 5-fold functions of the church, we are being reminded to reach out to others and invite them to worship the Lord with us. Encourage a friend, family member, neighbor, co-worker, or any acquaintance to join you here at Immanuel for our first Friendship Sunday.

CHURCH FLOWERS

If you would like a special arrangement, the procedure is to call Denise Waicker at (443) 981-0019 or Denisewaicker@mac.com. Denise needs to know the date you select and the statement you want to include so that she can order the flowers for that Sunday. The cost depends on your selection. Pay by cash or check (make payable to *Denise Waicker*) and give to Denise Waicker in person or mail checks via the postal service.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

-For the family of Rick McDonnell, who passed away suddenly this weekend
-Alice, friend of Denise Waicker, who is in the hospital
-For complete recovery of Barbara Griffa, June Dennis' sister who is in rehab

- Sylvia Holland, a family relative of June Dennis, for her complete recovery from a stroke
- For peace in Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, and Russia
- Bonnie and Joe Castrilli as she cares for her husband who has dementia
- Ginger Glindemann for family members who are being treated for cancer
- Winnie Kruelle who has been diagnosed with cancer
- Naomi Kruelle for health reasons
- Rosemarie Wilson, the daughter of Filleseta James, for return of strength in her left leg
- Joseph Woah-tee missing, and whereabouts unknown

Birthdays:

- 2 Manix Paye
- 3 JB Cadorette
Jefferson Will
- 5 Russell Greensfelder
- 9 Kristine Wegner
- 10 Ava Risi
- 14 June Dennis
- 16 Catherine Cadorette
- 17 Sara Bardzik
Timothy Bland
- 19 Dorothy Croll
- 25 Kristin Hermann
- 27 Lynn Wegner

December anniversaries:

- 18 Tony & Sheila Gordon

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship & Holy Communion 11 am Adult Bible Study 12 pm Eritrean	2 7 pm Adult confirmation	3	4	5 7 pm Choir practice	6	7 10 am Santa at the Manger
8 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship & Holy Communion 11 am Adult Bible Study 4 pm <i>Baltimore Choral Arts Society concert</i> 12 pm Eritrean	9 7 pm Adult confirmation	10	11 Noon Bible study & lunch	12 7 pm Choir practice	13	14 10 am Wings 5 pm Garden Club meeting
15 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship & Holy Communion Choir service 11 am Adult Bible Study 12 pm Eritrean	16 7 pm Adult confirmation	17 6 pm Finance Comm.	18 6 pm Council meeting	19 7 pm Choir practice	20	21 10 am G Boys 2 pm Santa and the Firetruck
22 Fellowship Sunday 9 am Sunday School 10 am Children's Program 11 am Adult Bible Study 12 pm Eritrean	23	24 9 pm Xmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS Office closed	26 7 pm Choir practice	27	28
29 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship & Holy Communion 11 am Adult Bible Study 12 pm Eritrean	30 7 pm Adult confirmation	31				

The Baltimore Bulletin Insert

December 2024

*Events of area LCMS churches, entities, and Recognized Service Organizations
Deadline for December edition: December 20th*

WORSHIP SERVICES OF THE SEASON

Sometimes due to work, you need an evening service closer to you. Or, if your church isn't having a particular service, you may be looking for one. Here are area congregations who would like to welcome you.

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES, WEDNESDAYS, DEC. 4,11,18

7:00 (Supper 6p) Faith, Eldersburg
7:00 Martini, Baltimore

Christmas Day Holy Communion

9:00 Faith, Eldersburg
10:00 Berea, Baltimore

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

7:00 Faith, Eldersburg
7:30 Our Saviour, Ednor Gardens
8:00 Martini, Baltimore
9:00 Immanuel, Baltimore
10:00 Faith, Eldersburg

Pray for the churches and ministries in The Baltimore Bulletin Insert!

DECEMBER 31, NEW YEAR'S EVE, KWANZAA, WATCHNIGHT
7:00p (Kwanza) Berea, Baltimore

EPIPHANY EVE, JANUARY 6
7:00 Redeemer, Irvington
7:30 Our Saviour, Ednor Gardens

INSTALLATION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *Lutheran Mission Society*

Sat., Nov. 23, 11a. Rev. Lucas Witt will be installed. Immanuel Lutheran Church (5701 Loch Raven Blvd.). Meal served afterwards.
This insert only happens because your church submits items.

A service of The Wyneken Project, appreciating the fellowship we share.

Submit your event to Secretary@MartiniLutheran.org

Locations of churches see LCMS.org > Locators & Directories

The Baltimore Bulletin Insert

LIVE NATIVITY

Saturday, Dec. 14, 6:30p (rain date Dec. 15) *Faith, Eldersburg*

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN EVENTS

Santa at the Manger Sat., Dec. 7, 10a - 1p
Baltimore Choral Arts Society Concert (Free) Sun. Dec. 8, 4p
Santa and the Firetruck Sat., Dec. 21, 2p

MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS

LMS Compassion Place

Together we can provide food, gifts, and Jesus to those who can use some Good News. Follow this link (<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/9QI9NRJQFYX3>) and shop Amazon wish list and ship right to LMS.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Bethlehem, Baltimore

Sat., Dec. 7, 10a-noon. Free breakfast.. Hear about the real meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus our Savior! Music, songs, crafts, picture with Santa.

FESTIVAL OF NATIVITIES *First Lutheran, Bowie*

Dec. 7 - 8, 11a-4p. 200 Nativities, Advent/Christmas coloring space, craft for kids. Bethlehem market place, features homemade crafts for purchase. Proceeds: Lutheran Social Services- National Capital Area.

AN END OF YEAR THOUGHT AND APPEAL:

The Wyneken Project appreciates a place in your congregational budget, or a special end-of-year gift from readers who support their home church first. This year we expect to renew strong support for Iglesia Luterana Nazaret as they seek a new Pastor. Also for St Thomas as they begin a neighborhood after-school outreach once their building's structural issues are resolved. We expect to re-publish a bilingual version of Luther's Catechism in animated novel form, for interest-keeping reading. And various other outreach as well. Plus, we plan to host Seminary Students at Spring Break to see city ministry done in a good Lutheran way with Baltimore as the context!
Because our Directors underwrite all overhead, you can give confidentiality, knowing that 100 cents of every dollar will go directly to the ministries we champion this year.

We are supported solely through Baltimore area giving. Please see our website, WynekenProject.org, or mail your best gift to The Wyneken Project, 100 W Henrietta St, Baltimore, MD 21230.