

THE IMMANUEL HERALD

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

Visit Immanuel's website www.immanuellutheran.org

DECEMBER 2025

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 7

Isaiah 11:1–10

Psalm 72:1–7

Romans 15:4–13

Matthew 3:1–12

Second Sunday in Advent

“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse.”

“In His days may the righteous flourish.”

Abide in hope.

The ministry of John the Baptist

Wisdom, understanding, counsel, and might are unveiled in Jesus of Nazareth. In his letter to the Romans, Paul unwraps the complete truth—Jesus embraces even Gentile nations with divine hope, joy, and peace. John the Baptist, with his abrasive appearance and unexpected rhetoric, forcefully proclaims both judgment against arrogant Pharisees and the need for repentance. Ultimately, Jesus alone casts final judgment on the fate of unbelievers and eternally claims salvation for repentant sinners.

December 14

Isaiah 35:1–10

Psalm 146

James 5:7–11

Matthew 11:2–15

Third Sunday in Advent

The wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

“Praise the Lord, O my soul!”

“Be patient . . . until the coming of the Lord.”

Jesus speaks regarding John the Baptist.

People lament the arduous task of waiting in the midst of grief, illness, despair, and injury. To remain steadfast in faith like Job seems unattainable. Hearts are anxious, tongues muted, ears deafened, and bodies crippled. Anguish thrives in the hearts, minds, and bodies of men. Yet followers of Jesus confess and believe the truth—the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, and the maimed are healed. In Jesus, compassion and mercy prevail, as we wait!

December 21

Isaiah 7:10–17

Psalm 24

Romans 1:1–7

Matthew 1:18–25

Fourth Sunday in Advent

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

“The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory!”

We belong to Jesus Christ.

Jesus is born.

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14). A stunning truth, unthinkable circumstances for a child, expectant mother, and pensive father. All are faithful, yet all would be shunned. And yet no one well intentioned, unnerved, or suspect would redirect God’s plan of salvation. Mary bore Jesus, Joseph named Him Jesus, and Jesus is the very Son of God—in the flesh, for the salvation of sinners.

December 24

The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Eve)

Isaiah 7:10–14 “The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”
Psalm 110:1–4 “Rule in the midst of Your enemies!”
1 John 4:7–16 God loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
Matthew 1:18–25 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 **The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)**
Isaiah 52:7–10 “All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.”
Psalm 2 “I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill.”
Hebrews 1:1–6 (7–12) “[The Son] is the radiance of the glory of God.”
John 1:1–14 (15–18) “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 28 **First Sunday after Christmas**
Isaiah 63:7–14 In His love and mercy, He redeemed them.
Psalm 111 “He sent redemption to His people.”
Galatians 4:4–7 When the time had fully come, God sent His Son.
Matthew 2:13–23 The flight to Egypt

In the midst of rebellion, affliction, and even martyrdom, God’s plan of salvation in Jesus remains unshaken. By God’s decree, we are claimed as heirs, sons and daughters, enabled to cry out Abba, Father, Papa, Daddy! And so we do—eager to receive the Father’s intimate blessings, discipline, and forgiveness. In love, mercy, and grace, the Father grasps His beloved and snatches them away from the demise of the devil, persecution, and death, drawing us unto Himself.

December 31 **New Year’s Eve**
Isaiah 30:(8–14) 15–17 In repentance and rest is your salvation.
Psalm 90:1–12 Teach us to number our days.
Romans 8:31b–39 “If God is for us, who can be against us?”
Luke 12:35–40 Be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an unknown hour.

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

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 7	Carolyn Henn
December 14	Special service
December 21	Special service
December 24	
December 28	June Dennis?

Altar Guild:

December 7	Mary Ruble
December 14	Sheila Gordon
December 21	Carolyn Henn/Denise Waicker
December 24/25	Carolyn Henn/Denise Waicker
December 28	Carolyn Henn/Denise Waicker

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.

Christmas Gifts For Our Staff

Each Christmas, it has been our tradition to express our appreciation to our church staff through a gift that comes from members and friends of Immanuel. Currently, our church staff includes six workers: Pastor Minetree, Muriel Hopkins (organist), Teresa Dutton (administrative assistant), Laura Higgins (bookkeeper), Deborah Thomas (custodian), and Yvonne (assistant custodian).

If you would like to participate in providing gifts to the Immanuel staff, please make your check payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church, and note "Staff Christmas Gift". Your check can be placed in the offering plate on Sunday or dropped off at the church office. You may also use a credit card or safely transfer funds from your checking account through Immanuel's web site via PayPal. Access the site and make an electronic donation through: <http://immanuelutheran.org/staffgift.html>

The deadline for contributions toward staff Christmas gifts is Monday, December 22.

Thank you for remembering our dedicated staff members at this special time of year.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Lisa Chimento Rebstock, daughter-in-law of Phyllis Rebstock, who is battling kidney cancer
- Pamela Hasskamp, who has been diagnosed with cancer
- Gerhard Ehlerding, who is home recovering from his recent surgery
- June Dennis, recovering from a stroke
- Gwen Heemann, who is recovering at home
- Muriel Hopkins, who fractured her arm
- Rosemarie Wilson, the daughter of Filleseta James, for return of strength in her left leg
- For peace in Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, and Russia
- Bonnie and Joe Castrilli as she cares for her husband who has dementia
- 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
- 25 Kristin Hermann
- 27 Lynn Wegner

Anniversaries:

- 18 Tony and Sheila Gordon

December 2025/January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 7 pm Zoom Bible	5	6
7 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship & Holy Communion 12 Eritrean 4 pm Choral Arts Society Concert	8	8	10 Noon Bible Study and Lunch 2 pm In His Image	11	12	13 10 am Wings
14 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship & Holy Communion 12 Eritrean	15	16	17 6 pm Council	18 7 pm Zoom Bible	19	20 2 pm Santa & the Firetruck 10 am G Boys
21 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship & Holy Communion 12 Eritrean	22	23	24 9 pm Xmas Eve Service	25 Christmas	26	27
28 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship & Holy Communion 12 Eritrean	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2	3
4 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship & Holy Communion 12 Eritrean	5	6	7	8	9	10

Monday thru Friday, 6:30 am to 9:00 am and 3 pm to 6 pm Kierrakares Before and After School program in the Fellowship Hall

The Baltimore Bulletin Insert

December 2025

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

Celebrate the Christ of Christmas!

THREE LIVE NATIVITIES!

Sat., Dec. 6, 6-8p *St. Paul, Annapolis*
Sat., Dec. 13, 4:30-6:30p *Calvary, Baltimore*
Sat., Dec. 13, 6-8:30p (rain date Dec.14) *Faith, Eldersburg*



JOYFUL CHRISTMAS MUSIC!

Holiday Concert *St. Matthew, Belair*
Sat. Dec. 6, 3p, tickets: harfordchoralsociety.org
Baltimore Choral Arts Society *Immanuel, Baltimore*
Free, Sat., Dec. 7, 4p
Rejoice, A Community Musical Celebration *St. Matthew, Belair*
Sun., Dec. 21, 3p, Tickets 18+ \$10 in advance; \$15 door.
Students 17 and under free.



100,000+ LIGHTS!

Light Up The Season *St. Matthew, Belair*
Dec. 1-31 (closed Christmas eve and day) 6 – 9p.

Community Tree Lighting/Caroling *Bethlehem, Baltimore*
Dec. 16, 6-8p. Light dinner 5:30p.

PLUS...

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Dec. 7, 10a-noon.



BETHLEHEM, BALTIMORE

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN EVENTS

Santa and the Firetruck Sat., Dec. 20, 2p

MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS

LMS Compassion Place
Scan the QR code and start shopping. Visit our website or call 410.636.0123 for other ways to help.



WINTER COAT COLLECTION

Orphan Grain Train, Millersville
Collecting until December 15. New and gently used coats and jackets needed for men, women, and children. Bring to the Warehouse, 621 East-West Blvd.: Mon/Tues 9 - 12 noon, Tues.5-7 pm., Nov. 8 & Dec. 13, 9 - 12 noon.

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. 3, 10, 17

12:00 noon *St. Paul, Annapolis*
7:00 (supper 6p) *Faith, Eldersburg*
7:00 *Martini, Baltimore; St. Paul, Annapolis*
7:30 (supper 6:30) *Our Saviour, Ednor Gardens*

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:00 (family service) *Emmanuel, Catonsville*
7:00 *Bethlehem, Baltimore; Faith, Eldersburg;*
St. Paul Annapolis
7:30 *Our Saviour, Ednor Gardens*
8:00 *Emmanuel, Catonsville; Martini, Baltimore*
8:30 *Redeemer; Irvington*
9:00 *Immanuel, Baltimore*
10:00 *Faith, Eldersburg*

Christmas Day Holy Communion

9:00 *St. Paul, Annapolis*
10:00 *Berea, Baltimore; Martini, Baltimore;*
Our Saviour, Ednor Gardens
11:00 *Emmanuel, Catonsville*
12:00 noon *Redeemer, Irvington*

DECEMBER 31, NEW YEAR'S EVE, KWANZAA, WATCHNIGHT

Pray for the churches and ministries in The Baltimore Bulletin Insert!	7:00 (Kwanzaa)	<i>Berea, Baltimore</i>
	7:00	<i>Bethlehem, Baltimore</i>
	7:30	<i>Our Saviour, Ednor Gardens</i>
EPIPHANY EVE, JANUARY 6		
	7:00	<i>Redeemer, Irvington</i>
	7:30	<i>Our Saviour, Ednor Gardens</i>

COMING TO BALTIMORE 2026, as God provides: Please pray for location and volunteers for a new Lutheran Braille Workers' Blind Ministry Production Center, which will produce large print Bibles, presently high in demand for free distribution to legally blind readers. Interested? Call Rev. Elliott Robertson, The Wyneken Project, 410.752.5149 (10a-9p).

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
For locations of churches see LCMS.org > Locators & Directories