

# THE IMMANUEL HERALD

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

Visit Immanuel's website [www.immanuelutheran.org](http://www.immanuelutheran.org)

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## DECEMBER 2021

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**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

#### December 5

**Malachi 3:1–7b**

**Psalm 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 12

**Zephaniah 3:14–20**

**Psalm 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 19

**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 26****First Sunday after Christmas****Isaiah 61:10–62:3****Psalm 111****Galatians 4:4–7****Luke 2:22–40**

“The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory.”

“He has provided redemption for His people.”

“When the time had fully come, God sent His Son.”

Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the temple.

*As people who bear the name of Christ, we are clothed with garments of salvation and covered with righteousness. This lavish wardrobe is given to the children of God, Jews and Gentiles alike, who, in utter joy, cry out “Abba! Father!” In Jesus, we see the salvation and righteousness of God, just like Simeon. What a wonderful inheritance—to know and to be known by and claimed by the Son sent from God!*

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## Ministry Notes

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**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 6<sup>th</sup>, Epiphany. Some Christians even wait to exchange gifts until January 6<sup>th</sup>, recalling the gifts of the wise men to Jesus.

**BOLM meeting**, December 5 following church service.

**HOME COMMUNION**

If you wish to receive the Holy Communion elements (the bread and wine) for use with the streamed Sunday Divine Service and cannot get to the church to pick them up, please email pastor ([cminetree@verizon.net](mailto:cminetree@verizon.net)) or call the church office (410-435-6861.) Pastor will make a no contact drop of the elements at your house.

## Missionary Musings

Relationship precedes ministry.

It was one of those phrases. You know one of those phrases that hits you like a brick wall. One of those phrases that is not new, in fact you knew very well but it was just put so quickly and clearly that it will never leave the tip of your tongue.

Real Relationship precedes ministry.

It's the difference between a sales pitch and a friendship. You know the difference. The sales pitch is clearly a person who has just met you and clearly only needs to devote enough attention for you to sign the agreement or get in the door. If you are interested in the product it doesn't matter who is across the table, you go along and get the goods. That is commerce, but it is not a relationship. Well it is, but nothing but a "you-scratch-my-back-and-I'll-scratch-yours" relationship. That is the difference between mission and commerce.

Real Relationship precedes real ministry.

In ministry, what really matters is the relationship first and the product second. I used to get frustrated by the stories who tolerated being a part of congregations that were less faithful to scripture; I still do at some point. But there is always a valid value in every belief, even an inaccurate one.

Building relationships does not fit a solid business plan. Building relationships focused on human persons. It is slow, messy, time-efficient, and complicated. But like a solid-bonding agent, a group, a club, a congregation, a neighborhood, or a community that is based on relationship will not crack, but only seek to be bonded more closely and solidify together as time goes on.

Real Relationship precedes real ministry, especially in real mission.

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### Lucas Witt

Missionary and Associate Pastor  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Baltimore, MD

**CALLING ALL YOUTH – 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE AND UP.** Acolytes and crucifers needed Sundays, 9:45 a.m. Will train. Your opportunity to share your shining faces and your spirit to

your Immanuel family. See Emalee Smith or Pastors for more information.

**FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT AND LIFE OF SAINT PAUL.** For Kids ages 3-13. Sundays (excused after the Gospel). Crafts, songs, snacks, Spirit! Come on Back. See you all Sundays about 10:20 a.m. See Emalee for details.

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

-Heavenly Father, we pray that You be glorified through the effort of our *'Til All Have Heard* Ministry. Guide us and Pastor Witt as we seek and pursue avenues to declare that Your Kingdom is coming clearly and powerfully. Give us the opportunity to plant, water, and harvest for Your Kingdom according to Your will, and grant patience to wait on Your timing and purposes. Lord, in Your mercy/Let us pray to the Lord .....

-Pastor Minetree as he considers a divine call to Trinity St. James in Michigan

-Carl Rach, who is undergoing medical tests

-Bill Staton, nephew of Lola Barnes, who had heart transplant surgery, is out of intensive care and now home

-Wendie Wegner, wife of Jay Wegner, who is battling cancer

-Rosemarie, daughter of Filleseta James, for healing of her left leg

-Jean Heeman, who is recovering

-Bill Hermann, who is battling Parkinson's

-Joseph Woah-tee, missing and whereabouts unknown

-John Rebstock, suffering from sciatica and kidney disease

-Bradley Will, who is being treated for cancer

-Ray Will, who is having back problems

### 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

### Anniversaries:

15 John and Phyllis Rebstock

18 Tony & Sheila Gordon

**CHURCH VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**

|                    | <b>Altar Guild</b> | <b>Lay Reader</b> | <b>Liturgist</b> | <b>Communion Assistant</b> |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>December 5</b>  | Elaine Schwab      | Gerhard Ehlerding |                  | Denise Waicker             |
| <b>December 12</b> | Phyllis Rebstock   |                   |                  |                            |
| <b>December 19</b> | Denise Waicker     |                   |                  |                            |
| <b>December 26</b> | Mary Ruble         | Sandy Collins     |                  | Sylvanus Ibenana           |

## December 2021

| Sunday   | Monday                                      | Tuesday | Wednesday   | Thursday | Friday  | Saturday                                    |
|--|---|---------|---|----------|---|---|
|  |   |         | 1   | 2        | 3   | 4   |
| <b>5</b><br>9 am <b>Adult Bible Study</b><br>10 am <b>Worship and Holy Communion</b><br><b>BOLM</b>                    | <b>6</b><br>7:15 pm <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>  | 7       | <b>8</b><br>Streaming only<br><b>Midweek Advent Service</b>                                 | 9        | 10  | <b>11</b><br>10 am <b>Compassion Center</b> |
| <b>12</b><br>9 am <b>Adult Bible Study</b><br>10 am <b>Worship and Holy Communion</b><br>3 pm <b>Christmas Concert</b> | <b>13</b><br>7:15 pm <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> | 14      | <b>15</b><br>Streaming only<br><b>Midweek Advent Service</b>                                | 16       | <b>17</b><br>10 am <b>Miracle of Christmas</b><br><b>Children's Program</b><br><b>Rehearsal</b> | 18  |
| <b>19</b><br>9 am <b>Adult Bible Study</b><br>10 am <b>Children's Program</b>  | <b>20</b><br>7:15 pm <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> | 21      | <b>22</b><br>Streaming only<br><b>Midweek Advent Service</b><br>7 pm <b>Council Meeting</b> | 23       | <b>24</b><br><b>Christmas Eve service</b>   | 25  |
| <b>26</b><br>9 am <b>Adult Bible Study</b><br>10 am <b>Worship and Holy Communion</b>                                  | <b>27</b><br>7:15 pm <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> | 28      | 29  | 30       | 31  |   |
|  |   |         |   |          |   |   |

# The Baltimore Bulletin Insert

December 2021

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

**LIVE NATIVITY** Dec. 4, 6:00-8:00 p.m. St. Paul Lutheran, Annapolis

**MARCH FOR LIFE** LCMS Life Ministry  
January 21, 2022, Washington, DC. Join thousands of your brothers and sisters in Christ as we publicly confess the God-given value of human life. To learn more visit: [lcms.org/life-ministry/march-for-life](http://lcms.org/life-ministry/march-for-life) or email [lifeministry@lcms.org](mailto:lifeministry@lcms.org).

Help Wanted...

**ENRICHMENT PROGRAM ASSISTANT** St. Paul, Catonsville  
This person supports the enrichment program leader in afterschool activities for students from Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The activities include homework assistance and social skill building time with students. This is a part-time position. Working time would be 3 PM to 6 PM Monday through Friday. Pay rate would be \$15 per hour. We are also interested in speaking with candidates that would be willing to work on an on-call basis. Please contact Mr. Stigdon at [principal@stpaulcatonsville.org](mailto:principal@stpaulcatonsville.org) if you are interested in learning more about this opportunity.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSISTANT TEACHER** St. Paul, Catonsville  
We are looking for staff that enjoy working with infants through children 5 years of age. Maryland Early Childhood certificates are required. This a full time position Monday through Friday. Pay rates are \$13-\$17 per hour with benefits. Contact Miss Ama by email at [ama.owusu@splscatonsville.org](mailto:ama.owusu@splscatonsville.org) if you are interested in learning more about this opportunity.

**AT BEREAL...** Berea Lutheran, Belair Edison  
Temple Rock: Dancercise every Monday, 2:30p, Zoom or in person

**Pain Clinic:** Wednesdays, 12:30-1:30p via Zoom. Certified pain therapist helps get rid of pain with simple movements while sitting in a chair.  
[BereaLutheran2999@gmail.com](mailto:BereaLutheran2999@gmail.com) for zoom or in-person info

# The Baltimore Bulletin Insert

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**

**WED :** (DEC. 1,8,15) 6:00 St. Paul, Annapolis  
6:45 Martini Lutheran, South Baltimore  
7:00 Redeemer, Irvington

**CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY COMMUNION**

9:00 St. Thomas, Carrollton Ridge  
9:30 St. Paul, Annapolis  
10:00 Berea, Belair-Edison Our Saviour, Ednor Gardens  
12:00 Redeemer, Irvington

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

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

12:00 Redeemer, Irvington  
7:30 Berea, Belair Edison Kwanzaa 'til 10pm African culture, cuisine  
7:30 Our Saviour, Ednor Gardens  
10:30 Berea, Belair-Edison Watchnight til Midnight rings in New Year in God's house

**EPIPHANY, JANUARY 6**

7:30 Our Saviour, Ednor Gardens

**END OF YEAR THOUGHT...**

Please consider The Wyneken Project in your year-end giving. First, consider your own church. Then, as God leads, give a gift which will serve and support Lutheran Blind Outreach; the Hispanic outreach in Highlandtown (Iglesia Luterana Nazaret with Pastor Boone); St. Thomas in Carrollton Ridge (Pastoral Supply, significant community outreach); and more! Mail to 100 W. Henrietta St., Balto., 21230 or use the "Donate" button at [WynekenProject.org](http://WynekenProject.org)

*We know Baltimore – We love Baltimore*

We also publish this little insert, which only happens because your church submits items for others to read. Thank you!