

THE IMMANUEL HERALD

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

Visit Immanuel's website www.immanuelutheran.org

DECEMBER 2017

DIVINE SERVICE AT IMMANUEL

December 3

Isaiah 64:1-9

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 or

Mark 11:1-10

Mark 13:24-37

First Sunday in Advent (Holy Communion)

"Oh, that You would rend the heavens and come down."

"He will keep you strong to the end."

Jesus entry into Jerusalem

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away."

The Lord Jesus Comes in Meekness and Humility to Save Us

Although we pray that God "would rend the heavens and come down" (Is. 64:1), that He would take vengeance against our enemies, we ourselves "have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment" (Is. 64:6). We have continued in our sins for "a long time, and shall we be saved?" (Is. 64:5). Yet the Lord does not punish us in anger. He comes in voluntary meekness and humility to save us by His grace. Just as He once came into Jerusalem to sacrifice Himself for us upon the cross (Mark 11:4-8), He still comes to His Church with the fruits of His Passion. By His ministry of the Gospel, we are "enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge," and so He will "sustain you to the end" (1 Cor. 1:5, 8). Although "heaven and earth will pass away," His words "will not pass away" (Mark 13:31). As He sends disciples to call us to Himself in the fellowship of His Church, so will He "send out the angels" to gather us and all of His elect "from the ends of the earth" to Himself in heaven forever (Mark 13:27).

December 6

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

First Wednesday in Advent

12:10 p.m. followed by lunch

6 p.m. supper followed by worship

All Advent services & meals will be in the Fellowship Hall

December 10

Isaiah 40:1-11

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

Second Sunday in Advent – Choral Lessons and Carols Service (No Holy Communion)

"Comfort, comfort My people."

"The day of the Lord will come like a thief."

John begins baptizing and preaching.

You Are Prepared through Repentance for the Coming of the Lord

"The Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mark 1:1) begins when John the Baptist appears and comes "proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Mark 1:4). As the Prophet Isaiah had written, John is the messenger of the Lord, sent before His face to prepare His way. To this day, the ministry of the Forerunner continues in the preaching of the Law and the Gospel, and in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. By these ways and means "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together" (Is. 40:5), and the Good Shepherd "will gather the lambs in His arms" (Is. 40:11). He speaks "tenderly to Jerusalem," and He comforts His people by pardoning their iniquity (Is. 40:1-2). What is more, He promises "new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" (2 Pet. 3:13). Repent, therefore, and humble yourself as you wait for His coming in peace (2 Pet. 3:14), because He "is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9).

December 13

Isaiah 1:1–11
 Romans 15:4–7 (8–13)
 Matthew 3:1–12

Second Wednesday in Advent

12:10 p.m. followed by lunch
 6 p.m. supper followed by worship
 All Advent services & meals will be in the Fellowship Hall

December 17

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
 John 1:6-8, 19-28

Third Sunday in Advent – Sunday School Children’s Service (No Holy Communion)

“The Lord has anointed me to bring good news.”
“Rejoice always ... Do not quench the Spirit.”
“Make straight the way for the Lord.”

The Coming of the Christ Brings True Rejoicing in His Forgiveness

When he preaches repentance, John the Baptist points us to Christ Jesus. John was sent by God *“as a witness, to bear witness about the Light, that all might believe through him”* (John 1:7). He baptizes with water in order to *“make straight the way of the Lord,”* who shall redeem His people from their sins (John 1:23). That Lord Jesus *“who comes after”* John now stands among us and makes Himself known to us (John 1:26–27). He has been anointed by the Holy Spirit *“to bring good news to the poor”* and *“to bind up the brokenhearted”* (Is. 61:1). By the washing of the water with His Word and Spirit, He clothes His Church with *“the garments of salvation”* and adorns her with His own righteousness *“as a bride adorns herself with her jewels”* (Is. 61:10). Therefore, we *“rejoice always”* in the Lord, *“pray without ceasing,”* and *“give thanks in all circumstances”* (1 Thess. 5:16–18). For *“the God of peace,”* who has called you by the Gospel, will surely *“sanctify you completely,”* so that *“your whole spirit and soul and body”* will *“be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (1 Thess. 5:23–24).

December 20

Isaiah 7:10–17
 Romans 1:1-7
 Matthew 1:18-25

Third Wednesday in Advent

12:10 p.m. followed by lunch
 6 p.m. supper followed by worship
 All Advent services & meals will be in the Fellowship Hall

December 24

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
 Romans 16:25-27
 Luke 1:26-38

Fourth Sunday in Advent**10 a.m. (No Holy Communion)**

“Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever.”
“To the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ!”
The angel appears to Mary.

The Lord Builds a House for David: Jesus Christ Who Comes in the Flesh

When King David *“lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies,”* he piously supposed that he would build a house for God (2 Sam. 7:1–2). But the Lord would turn it around: He would establish a house for David, and an everlasting throne. This He has done, not only for David, but also for all His people, in the Son of David, Jesus Christ, *“conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary”* (Apostles’ Creed). That holy Child, the incarnate *“Son of the Most High,”* receives *“the throne of His father David”* and begins to reign *“over the house of Jacob forever”* (Luke 1:32–33). Having given Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, His Body is the true and eternal Temple of God in which His people have their own place of peace and rest. That is *“the Mystery that was kept secret for long ages”* but is now *“made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God”* in order that we may have faith and life in Christ (Rom. 16:25–26).

December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7
 Titus 2:11-14
 Luke 2:1-20

Christmas Eve**9 p.m. Candlelight Service (Holy Communion)**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
We await our blessed hope, the glory of our great God.
The birth of Jesus

The Light of Christ Shines Forth in the Darkness

Heaven and earth rejoice this night because the glory of the Holy Triune God is manifested in the human birth of *“our great God and Savior Jesus Christ”* (Titus 2:13). In Him, the Father’s grace, mercy and peace rest upon the world. The silence of death is broken by this *“good news of great joy that will be for all the people”* (Luke 2:10). And all we who have gone astray

like lost and wandering sheep, who have “walked in the darkness” of doubt and fear and sinful unbelief, behold “a great light” in the nativity of Christ (Is. 9:2). In Him “the grace of God has appeared” (Titus 2:11). For this Child of Mary who is born for us, this dear Son of God who is given to us, bears the burden of our sin and death in His own body to the Cross. He thereby establishes a government of peace, “with justice and with righteousness,” which shall have no end; not by any work of man, but “the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this” (Is. 9:7).

December 25

Isaiah 52:7-10
 Hebrews 1:1-6 (7-12)
 John 1:1-14 (15-18)

The Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Day

“All the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.”
“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory.”
“The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.”

10 a.m. (Holy Communion)

The Living and Life-Giving Word of God Dwells among Us in the Flesh

The Lord sends out His ministers of the Gospel to make disciples “of all the nations,” so that “all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.” For the Lord has “bared His holy arm” in the incarnate Christ (Is. 52:7, 10). The Child in the manger, born of the Virgin Mary, is the very Word of God, the only-begotten Son of the Father, “whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom He also created the world” (Heb. 1:2). As “all things were made through Him” (John 1:3), so are all things redeemed and made new in Him. In His body of flesh and blood, we behold “the radiance of the glory of God” (Heb. 1:3), “glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). He dwells among us in peace, that we might have life and light and salvation in Him. For by His Word of the Gospel, we are born again as the children of God, bearing His name and sharing His eternal Life.

December 31

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
 Galatians 4:4-7
 Luke 2:22-40

First Sunday after Christmas (Holy Communion)

“The nations shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory.”
“When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son.”
Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the temple.

The Time Has Fully Come for Redemption and Purification through Jesus Christ, Our Lord

“When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son,” born of the Woman, “to redeem those who were under the law” (Gal. 4:4–5). Therefore, “according to the Law of Moses,” Mary and Joseph “brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord” (Luke 2:22). There He was received and taken up into the arms of Simeon, who was righteous and devout, “waiting for the consolation of Israel” (Luke 2:25). Simeon praised God and blessed the parents by confessing the Cross for which this Child was appointed. “At that very hour,” old and faithful Anna, who had watched, prayed and worshiped in the Temple for so long, came up and “began to give thanks to God and to speak of Him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem” (Luke 2:38). The Lord causes “righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations” (Is. 61:11). We also “greatly rejoice in the Lord,” because this Child Jesus has clothed us “with the garments of salvation,” covered us “with the robe of righteousness,” and called us “by a new name” (Is. 61:10; 62:2).

Ministry Notes

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

New Advent devotions for 2016 from LCMS Indian Ministries are available in the narthex. Take advantage of these daily devotions to add spiritual depth to your Christmas celebration.

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.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
invites you to a

Free Christmas Concert featuring
The Baltimore Choral Arts Society



Saturday, December 9, 2017
at 3:00pm

Revel in the sounds of the season as one of Baltimore's most beautiful and acoustically perfect sanctuaries is filled with the incredible voices of the Baltimore Choral Arts Society.

This is a free concert and is open to the public.
A free-will offering will be collected.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
5701 Loch Raven Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21239
www.immanuelutheran.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Rehearsals for the Children's Christmas Service are during Sunday School. We must have all students here at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday to rehearse for the songs and parts. This includes the Youth Class.

On Saturday, December 16th at 10 a.m., we will meet in the Library across from the Fellowship Hall for a special

practice up in Church. We will rehearse and then have lunch. We expect to be done by 12:30 p.m.. Parents, you are welcome to attend and participate if you can. Students who come to this practice are the ones who are most actively involved in the Service. The weekly practices on Sundays until then also determine who has which part in the service.

On Sunday, December 17th, we will present the Christmas story in church at 10 a.m. So we can be ready, please, please come at 9 a.m. to have your costume in place by 10 a.m. Please see Emalee Smith or Elaine Schwab for more information. In Christ, Emalee Smith

COMPASSION CENTER NEWS

The Compassion Center will be open on Saturdays the 2nd, 9th, and 16th from 10 AM to 2 PM. Stop in and take a look at some of the clothing and unique items we have in stock!

On Saturday, December 16th, we will be having our annual Miracle of Christmas celebration. This begins with our chapel at 10 AM, and continues with the distribution of food and clothing to clients of our center. **Volunteers are absolutely vital** to ensure that our distribution runs smoothly. Please see Vicar Matthew if you are interested in helping out, call him at the church office, or send him an e-mail at vicar@immanuelutheran.org for more information.

"For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'" *Deuteronomy 15:11*

DATES TO KEEP IN MIND:

December 6th, 13th, 20th Wednesday Advent Service in the Fellowship Hall **12:10pm and 7pm**

December 9th Baltimore Choral Arts Society Christmas Concert **3 pm**

December 10th Choir Christmas Hymn Service

December 17th Children's Christmas Program

December 24th Candle Light Service **9pm**

DECORATING IMMANUEL FOR CHRISTMAS: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9th AT 9:00AM

Please join us on Saturday, December 9th at 9:00am as we decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. We need help erecting the Christmas trees, putting lights on the trees, hanging the greens and wreaths, and putting candles in the windows. It's a fun morning that only takes a couple hours to complete. There's a job for everyone of all ages

and many hands make light work. If you're planning on helping that day, please inform Gerhard Ehlerding (443-794-3797 - gerhardvpi@comcast.net) or Nickel Lietzau (978-505-5869 - alietzau5@gmail.com). Thank you!

ADOPTING A FAMILY IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY

Earlier this year, a family was torn apart when a mother was killed due to senseless street crime. Her three minor children were left behind to be cared for by family. This will be the first year they have to experience Christmas without their mother. Please join us in making their Christmas a little brighter by making a donation for toys and clothing. A free will offering will be gathered on Sunday, December 3rd and 10th if you would like to help this family. Thank you.

CARING CARDS ARE COMING!

Our "new" member care committee will be expanding sending out cards not only to shut-ins and those absent, but also for birthdays and special occasions. Would you like to support this love project? Donations are appreciated for postage to mail the cards to members. Please place either Forever Stamps or money earmarked for "Caring Cards" in the offering. We have several members who are mailing these out and even creating special cards. We appreciate every penny that will brighten someone's day with a caring card. Thank you so much for your help!

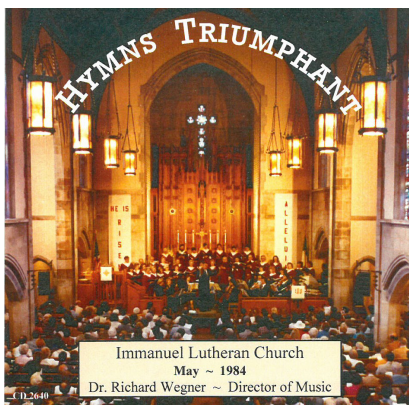
SHARING IS CARING - A new way to connect with our Immanuel family. Would you make a casserole or soup to share with someone who is sick or homebound? Make item, put in freezable container, label with ingredients and date. Bring to church and put in freezer, log on clipboard with name and date. Thank You!!

The Caring Committee

CHRISTMAS GIFTS – CD's and DVD's OF IMMANUEL'S MUSICAL HERITAGE

Very limited quantities -

1. "Organ Music at Immanuel" – CD, contains 10 organ compositions and two works for orchestra and Immanuel's Senior Choir of 1990. Cost: \$10.00
2. DVD – "Organ of Immanuel." Hear



and see it on your TV screen. As the eleven compositions of organ music are being played, the photographer takes close-up pictures of our magnificent stained glass windows and wood carvings, and the organ console. Cost: \$12.00. A limited number of the DVD are still available.

3. In addition, one of our best recordings: "Sixty Years of Sacred Music" has been re-ordered, after being sold out. These are available now. Cost of this Double CD is \$20.00
4. and 5. Two CD's from the 125th anniversary of Immanuel – now re-issued:
 4. "Christmas at Immanuel"
 5. "Praise God in His Sanctuary"

(Both of these feature Immanuel School Choir, Immanuel Senior Choir, our superb soloists, string, brass, and flautists, professional players from our Immanuel's music history. Each of these CD's costs \$10.00.

6. A Symphonic Choral Suite based on forty-two Traditional Hymns, arranged by Lee Holdridge. The hymns are presented here in unifying medleys, relating each to a thought perfectly expressed in the nine sections of "The Lord's Prayer."

This musical worship service was recorded, live, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Baltimore, Maryland, on May 6, 1984. Participating in this Service were the Senior Choir (50 members) and the Immanuel Lutheran School Choir (60 members), a congregation of 725 people, orchestra and organ, Dr. Richard Wegner, Conductor, Barbara Sommer, Organist, and Rev. Hubert Temme, Pastor.

The cost of this CD is \$12.00.

All funds from the purchase of CD's and DVD's go into our Organ and Piano Maintenance Fund. See me after services or phone me (410-296-1957) Richard Wegner, Minister of Music, Emeritus

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Franklin and Coreathia Davis
- Jerry Ruble, who is recovering at home
- Lola Barnes
- Daphne Klautky, who is recovering from a stroke
- Danielle Blanke, niece of Michelle Lam, who is in ICU struggling with respiratory issues and lung infection
- Dick Goeller, who is being treated for Lyme Disease
- Rosemarie Wilson, daughter of Phyllis James, who is ill
- Emmanuel Lewis, grandson of June Dennis, who is recovering from surgery
- Ruth Waicker
- Virginia Metzger
- Henrietta Solanka
- Dr. Kent Glindemann, who is being treated for cancer

- Bradley Will, who is being treated for cancer
- Jane Derry, who is recovering from a fractured ankle
- Dorothy Friant, who is recovering from a heart attack
- Michael Dunston, a friend of June Dennis, who is hospitalized

INTRODUCING MORE WAYS TO CONNECT WITH IMMANUEL! Immanuel Lutheran Church is on your favorite social media sites, so you can stay in touch with us on more than just Sundays. Link up with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to discover the latest news, see pictures, and learn about upcoming events.

To find us on Facebook, simply search “Immanuel Lutheran Church Baltimore” and ‘Like’ our page. To follow us on Twitter and Instagram here are the links to those pages:

- twitter.com/BmoreImmanuel
- instagram.com/BmoreImmanuel

Don’t have a social media account? All these pages are open to anyone, so we invite you to take a peek.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Birthdays: | Anniversaries: |
| 2 Manixa Paye | 15 John & Phyllis Rebstock |
| 3 JB Cadorette | 18 Tony & Sheila Gordon |
| | 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 | |
| | Richard Wegner |
| 27 Lynn Wegner | |

Community Notes

CHRISTMAS BASKET PROJECT *Lutheran Mission Society*
 Make a difference in a family's life this Christmas!
 Many ways to help. Info: LutheranMissionSociety.org
 or call 410.636.0123

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR *Calvary Lutheran Church, Baltimore*
 Sat., Dec. 2, Noon–4p, Vendors, food, crafts, holiday
 decor, stuff for kids, cookie walk, more! Info:
 410.426.4301 or calvarydifference.com

MARYLAND STATE BOY CHOIR *Calvary Lutheran Church, Baltimore*,
 Wed., Dec. 13, 7p. Free concert. Light
 refreshments will be served after the concert. Ample
 parking. Info: 410.426.4301 or calvarydifference.com.

CHURCH VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE				
	Altar Guild	Lay Reader	Liturgist	Communion Assistant
December 3	Nina Ward/ Carolyn Henn	Mark Smith	Ted Henn	Rick McDonnell
December 10	Nina Ward/ Denise Waicker	<i>No Communion – Choral Lessons and Carols Service</i>		
December 17	Fay Husted/ Mary Ruble	<i>No Communion – Sunday School Children’s Service</i>		
December 24 10 am			Rick McDonnell	Dave Pfitzinger
December 24 9 pm			Mark Smith	Sylvanus Ibenana
December 25				
December 31			Ted Henn	Albert Lietzau IV

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	3 10 am-2 pm Compassion Center
3 First Sunday in Advent 9 am Bible Study & Sunday School 10 am Worship, Holy Communion 11 am Ministry Teams 11:45 am New Zion Ministries	4 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal Agape Group (Ray Spitznas)	5 Trip to Sight & Sound	6 12:10 pm Advent Service followed by lunch 6 pm Supper followed by Advent Service	7 7 pm LRIA Meeting	8	9 9 am Decorating for Christmas 10 am-2 pm Compassion Center 10 am The Real Wings (Fellowship Hall) 3 pm Baltimore Choral Arts Society Christmas Concert 6 pm Santa and the Fire Truck
10 Second Sunday in Advent 9 am Bible Study & Sunday School 10 am Choral Lessons & Carols Service 11:45 am New Zion Ministries	11 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal Agape Group (Ray Spitznas)	12 6 pm Finance Committee Meeting	13 9:30 am - Women's Bible Study 12:10 pm Advent Service followed by lunch 6 pm Supper followed by Advent Service 8 pm - Church Council	14	15	16 10 am Sunday School Rehearsal 10 am-2 pm Miracle of Christmas 1:30 pm Memorial Service for Marie McDonnell
17 Third Sunday in Advent 9 am Bible Study & Sunday School 10 am Sunday School Children's Service 11:45 am New Zion Ministries	18 IMMANUEL HERALD ARTICLES DUE 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal Agape Group (Ray Spitznas)	19	20 12:10 pm Advent Service followed by lunch 6 pm Supper followed by Advent Service	21	22	23
24 Fourth Sunday in Advent/Christmas Eve 9 am Bible Study & Sunday School 10 am Worship 11:45 am New Zion Ministries 9 pm Candlelight Worship & Communion	25 The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Day OFFICE CLOSED 10 am Worship & Communion	26	27	28	29	30
31 First Sunday after Christmas 9 am Bible Study & Sunday School 10 am Worship, Holy Communion 11:45 am New Zion Ministries						