

THE IMMANUEL HERALD

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
5701 LOCH RAVEN BOULEVARD
BALTIMORE, MD 21239

Visit Immanuel's website www.immanuellutheran.org

DECEMBER 2019

DIVINE SERVICE AT IMMANUEL

December 1st

Isaiah 2:1–5
Romans 13:8–14
Matthew 21:1–11 or
Matthew 24:36–44

First Sunday in Advent

*"They shall beat their swords into plowshares."
The hour has come to wake from slumber. The night is nearly over.
Jesus entry into Jerusalem
Watch, therefore, because you do not know the day.*

The Lord Comes in Meekness and Humility to Save Us Now

The Lord Jesus enters Jerusalem "humble, and mounted on a donkey," riding on "a beast of burden" (Matt. 21:5), as He Himself bears the sins of the world in His body. Now He comes by the Ministry of the Gospel to save us from sin, death, the devil, and hell. Therefore, we sing, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Matt. 21:9). For we are called "to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob," His holy Church, "that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths" (Is. 2:3). By His Word, we "walk in the light of the Lord" (Is. 2:5). That is to live in love, which "does no wrong to a neighbor" (Rom. 13:10). We "cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light," for "salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed" (Rom. 13:11, 12). Hence, the entire Christian life is a time to wake and watch, "for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming" (Matt. 24:42).

December 8th

Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

Second Sunday in Advent – Concordia Preparatory School Sunday

Brent Johnson, Headmaster – Guest Preacher
*"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse."
Abide in hope.
The ministry of John the Baptist*

By the Preaching of Repentance, We Are Prepared for the Coming of the Lord

"John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent'" (Matt. 3:1–2). His preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins prepared people for the coming of Christ into the world. St. John's work was historically complete with the incarnate Advent of Jesus; but his vital ministry continues in preaching Law and Gospel. The Son of God has come in the flesh, "a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots" (Is. 11:1), and continues to bear the fruits of righteousness. His good tree of the cross is "a signal for the peoples" (Is. 11:10), by which He calls the nations to repentance. "With the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips" (Is. 11:4), He slays the wicked and brings the dead to life, making sons of Abraham out of lifeless stones. So also the "root of Jesse" comes to us, "even he who arises to rule the Gentiles" (Rom. 15:12), that "we might have hope" and be filled "with all joy and peace in believing" (Rom. 15:4, 13).

December 15th

APPOINTED READINGS:

Isaiah 35:1–10
James 5:7–11
Matthew 11:2–15

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

*The wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
"Be patient ... until the coming of the Lord."
Jesus speaks regarding John the Baptist.*

The Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ Brings True Rejoicing, Even under the Cross

Sometimes life requires the astonishing patience of Job. Like him, we are to rejoice in the midst of affliction, be grounded in repentance under the cross of Christ, hope relentlessly in His resurrection, that we might see *“the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful”* (James 5:11). In the promise of the Gospel, therefore, *“be patient”* and *“establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand”* (James 5:7, 8). Like St. John, the Baptist, whatever your own kind of prison or suffering may be, call upon Jesus and receive the strength of His Word from those He sends to you. For as *“the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up,”* so is the good news of Jesus preached to you, also (Matt. 11:5). He comes and restores the fortunes of Zion, His holy Church, so that *“sorrow and sighing shall flee away”* (Is. 35:10).

December 15th

Installation of Rev. Lucas Witt, Missionary and Associate Pastor (4 pm)

Isaiah 6:1-8

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-19

December 22th

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

APPOINTED READINGS:

Isaiah 7:10–17

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

Romans 1:1–7

We belong to Jesus Christ.

Matthew 1:18–25

Jesus is born.

God’s Word Is Fulfilled for Us in the Flesh and Blood of Christ Jesus, the Son of Mary

The Fourth Sunday in Advent turns our attention toward the Nativity of Our Lord. With the Blessed Virgin Mary we await the coming of the Christ, her Son, conceived in her womb by the Word and Spirit of God. This fulfillment of the sign once given to the House of David, that *“the virgin shall conceive and bear a son”* (Is. 7:14), is now given to us in the Gospel. It declares that salvation is by His grace alone, entirely His work and a free gift. It is also the way and means by which the Lord our God is *“Immanuel,”* God-with-us. The almighty and eternal Son of God is conceived and born of St. Mary, and is thus *“descended from David according to the flesh”* (Rom. 1:3–4). He comes in this way to save us with His own flesh and blood; wherefore He is called *“Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins”* (Matt. 1:21). As St. Joseph received this sign in faith and immediately *“did as the angel of the Lord commanded him”* (Matt. 1:24), we also live by faith in this Holy Gospel.

December 24th

Christmas Eve – 4 p.m. Family Service (No Holy Communion)

Isaiah 7:10–14

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

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.

The Word of the Lord Is Fulfilled in the Flesh of Jesus

Though Ahaz would not ask, the Lord gives a sign to the House of David, that *“the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel”* (Is. 7:14). With this promise He signifies that salvation is by His grace alone; it is no work or achievement of man, but the Lord’s own work and His free gift. The promise is fulfilled as the Son of God is conceived and born of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the sign is received in faith by the House of David in the person of Joseph (Matt. 1:20–24). *“Incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary”* (Nicene Creed), God is with us (Immanuel) in the flesh of Jesus, Mary’s Son. Joseph believes that Word of God and so demonstrates a marvelous example in his immediate and quiet obedience, taking Mary to be his wife and caring for her in faith and love. He loves her because the love of God is manifest in this, that *“the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world,”* *“to be the propitiation for our sins”* (1 John 4:9–12).

December 24th

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

Isaiah 9:2–7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

Titus 2:11–14

We await our blessed hope, the glory of our great God.

Luke 2:1–14 (15–20)

The birth of Jesus

The Light of Christ Shines Forth in the Darkness

Heaven and earth rejoice on this night, because the glory of the Holy Trinity is manifested in the human birth of *“our great God and Savior Jesus Christ”* (Titus 2:13), through whom the Father’s grace and mercy permeate the world. Death’s silence is nullified 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, fear, and sinful unbelief, behold *“a great light”* in the nativity of Jesus 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 on the cross. By initiating and fulfilling His earthly journey from nativity to crucifixion, Christ 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 29th

Isaiah 63:7–14

Galatians 4:4–7

Matthew 2:13–23

First Sunday after Christmas

In his love and mercy He redeemed them.

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

The flight to Egypt

The Lord Jesus Undergoes a New Exodus in Order to Save His People from Their Sins

Herod’s efforts to destroy the little Lord Jesus anticipate the cross for which He was born. In response to Herod’s edict, Joseph must *“take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt”* (Matt. 2:13). But the Lord does not abandon the Holy Family there. He brings about salvation for all people, just as He *“had spoken by the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I called my son’”* (Matt. 2:15). With might and strength, God accompanies His people, causing *“his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses”* (Is. 63:12). Now through Jesus, even our afflictions are borne by Christ on the cross. *“He redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them”* (Is. 63:9). All of this is accomplished by God’s might so that we, too, are claimed as members of His family. For we *“receive adoption as sons”* in the only begotten Son, Christ Jesus, even as He became like us by His conception and birth of the woman. Thus redeemed by Christ, no longer slaves of sin and death but beloved children and heirs of God, we pray in Jesus’ name: *“Abba! Father!”* (Gal. 4:4–6).

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.

ADVENT MISSION FUNDING OFFERING

As we anticipate the arrival of Pastor Witt and the beginning of the new ministry that he will bring to Immanuel and to Baltimore, there will be a Mission Funding Offering that will take place during the Advent season. This offering was highlighted at our Voter’s Assembly during which Pastor Witt was called to be Missionary and Associate Pastor. Offerings collected will help with the cost of moving Pastor Witt and his family to Baltimore and with some of other initial expenses associated with this new ministry. Please give generously to this opportunity to provide support to the exciting new

ministry that lies ahead. Shortly, you will receive a special mailing with a further description of this Advent Mission Funding Offering and how the funds raised will be used.

A special envelope that can be used to forward this offering to the church office will also be enclosed.. You can also place an Advent Mission Funding Offering in the offering plate on Sunday. Just make sure that it is marked "Advent Mission Funding Offering." Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to enable new ministry and give generously.

BALTIMORE CHORAL ARTS SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CONCERT – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 AT 3 PM

The Baltimore Choral Arts Society will return to Immanuel and present their 2019 Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 7 at 3 PM. You will not want to miss this wonderful concert as the sounds of the Christmas season fill our sanctuary. A free will .door offering will be collected to help to defray our costs. Please join us!

PASTOR LUCAS WITT INSTALLATION SET FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 4 PM

As Pastor Witt has our Call to become Missionary to Baltimore and Immanuel's Associate Pastor, his installation has been set for Sunday, December 15 at 4 PM with a pot luck dinner to follow in the Fellowship Hall. The Rev. Don Schaefer, Mission and Ministry Facilitator for the Southeastern District, will perform the installation. It is customary that other pastors from the surrounding area will attend and will robe and will participate in the service. Please join us as we celebrate the beginning of this new ministry!

UPCOMING SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENTS

Saturday, December 21 – 10 a.m. – Practice in church for the Christmas Children's Service. Readers must attend this service to read in the Service. Costumes are assigned.

Sunday, December 22 – 9 a.m. – Prompt attendance to Sunday School to prepare in costume and practice carols for the service at 10 a.m.

COMPASSION CENTER "MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS" – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 AT 10 AM

The Immanuel Compassion Center will provide the Miracle of Christmas to 20 families on Saturday, December 21. We rejoice and thank God for the opportunity to provide a turkey and all the "fixins" for a Christmas meal to many of those who have benefitted from the assistance provided by our Compassion Center this past year. We also will provide Christmas gifts for each member of the family based on their age and

expressed preferences. This all takes place on Saturday, December 21 beginning at 10 AM. Those receiving the food and gifts will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a continental breakfast followed by a special Christmas Chapel Service. Following this service, the food and gifts will be distributed to each family by our volunteers. What can you do? Please come for the Chapel service and then help with the distribution. You will be blessed by this experience and observing the friendships that have been formed over the 12 years of the ministry of the Immanuel Compassion Center. We have been richly blessed through the opportunity to provide food, clothing, and spiritual support, as well as to share Christ with others through the Compassion Center ministry.

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 is \$20.00 for a Special Arrangement and \$40.00 for Altar Flowers. Pay by cash or check (made payable to the "Altar Guild") and give to Denise Waicker in person or mail checks via the postal service.

Birthdays:

- 2 Manixa 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
Richard Wegner
- 27 Lynn Wegner

Anniversaries:

- 15 John & Phyllis Rebstock
- 18 Tony & Sheila Gordon

Immanuel Lutheran Church
invites you to a

**Free Christmas Concert featuring
The Baltimore Choral Arts Society**



**Saturday, December 7, 2019
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 to offset the costs of hosting this concert.

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



You Are Cordially Invited
to a
SERVICE OF INSTALLATION
for
Rev. Lucas D. Witt
Associate Pastor and Missionary
Immanuel Lutheran Church

**Sunday,
December 15, 2019
4 p.m.**

Immanuel Lutheran Church
5701 Loch Raven Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21239

*Reception immediately following
in the Fellowship Hall.*

Lutheran Mission Society / Immanuel
COMPASSION CENTER
OPEN SATURDAYS
10 AM - 2 PM

CHURCH VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE				
	Altar Guild	Lay Reader	Liturgist	Communion Assistant
December 1	Fay Husted/	Steve Heemann	Rick McDonnell	Sylvanus Ibenana
December 8	Veronica Hylton	Mark Smith	Ted Henn	Albert Lietzau IV
December 15	Denise Waicker/ Sheila Gordon	<i>No Communion – Choral Lessons and Carols Service</i>		
December 22		<i>No Communion – Sunday School Children's Service</i>		
December 24 (Christmas Eve)			Mark Smith	Albert Lietzau V
December 29		Mary Ruble	Steve Heemann	Sylvanus Ibenana

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 First Sunday in Advent 9 am Bible Study & Sunday School 10 am Worship, Holy Communion 11:45 am New Zion Ministries	2	3 12 pm Ecumenical Ministers Lunch	4 12 pm Altar Guild Luncheon (<i>Sally Hermann's house</i>) 12:10 pm Advent Service followed by lunch 6 pm Supper followed by Advent Service	5	6	7 10 am-12 pm Compassion Center 3 pm Baltimore Choral Arts Society Christmas Concert
8 Second Sunday in Advent – Concordia Prep Sunday 9 am Bible Study & Sunday School 10 am Worship, Holy Communion 11:45 am New Zion Ministries	9 7:15 pm Choir rehearsal Agape Group (<i>Ray Spitznas</i>)	10	11 12:10 pm Advent Service followed by lunch 6 pm Supper followed by Advent Service	12	13	14 10 am-12 pm Compassion Center 10 am The Real Wings
15 Third Sunday in Advent 9 am Bible Study & Sunday School 10 am Choral Lessons & Carols Service 11:45 am New Zion Ministries 4 pm Installation Service of Rev. Lucas Witt	16 7:15 pm Choir rehearsal Agape Group (<i>Ray Spitznas</i>)	17 6 pm Finance Committee Meeting	18 12:10 pm Advent Service followed by lunch 6 pm Supper followed by Advent Service 8 pm Church Council	19	20	21 10 am-12 pm Compassion Center Miracle of Christmas
22 Fourth Sunday in Advent 9 am Bible Study & Sunday School 10 am Sunday School Children's Service 11:45 am New Zion Ministries	23 7:15 pm Choir rehearsal Agape Group (<i>Ray Spitznas</i>)	24 Christmas Eve OFFICE CLOSED 4 pm Family Service 9 pm Candlelight Worship & Communion	25 The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Day OFFICE CLOSED	26	27	28 Compassion Center Closed
29 First Sunday after Christmas 9 am Bible Study & Sunday School 10 am Worship, Holy Communion 11:45 am New Zion Ministries	30 IMMANUEL HERALD ARTICLES DUE Agape Group (<i>Ray Spitznas</i>) <i>Secretary vacation</i>	31 <i>Secretary vacation</i>		<i>Secretary vacation</i>	<i>Secretary vacation</i>	