

GENERAL INFORMATION

Immanuel Welcomes You!

We give thanks to God that you're here with us today as we receive the gifts that our Lord gives in mercy and grace. Whether this is your first time as our guest or you are regularly worshipping among us, God is here for you and welcomes you in as His own. If you are in need of a church home or have questions about our congregation, please stop by the Connection Center (Belvidere Campus) or speak with one of the pastors or any of our ushers.

Celebrating the Lord's Supper

More than just bread and wine, Holy Communion is the very body and blood of Christ. Those who partake should do so spiritually prepared (1 Corinthians 11:28): Am I sorry for my sin? Do I believe Jesus is my only Savior truly present in this meal? Will I, with the help of God, live a life that pleases Him?

Participation in this meal is also an expression of unity with this church as a congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. If you are not communing but still desire to receive a blessing, please fold your arms across your chest when you come forward. The Lord Jesus has something for us all. The center ring of individual cups contains non-alcoholic wine, and gluten-free wafers are available for those in need. Please indicate this to those distributing the sacrament as you come forward.

Restrooms

Located just behind the Sanctuary, follow the long hallway and turn left at your first opportunity. An usher would be happy to direct you.

Campus Guidelines for Face Coverings

In order to care for the people who come to our campus here at Immanuel, including our guests, members, church and school staff, students, and ILS families, we're asking that everyone wear a face covering inside the building. This policy covers all events on our campus, including worship services and small group meetings. Please cover coughs, use social distancing, and stay home if you are feeling unwell.

For the time being, this is one of the best ways that we can help to reduce the risk of our congregation and school becoming a point of infection for our community. Thank you for your assistance!

For Families with Young Children

Worship is for people of all ages, and we are so glad to have you and your children (with all their wiggles, noises, and questions) joining us! Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them." Encourage your children to follow along with the icons on the screens (they'll match up with the "Order of Service" in their children's bulletins) and shake their egg shakers when they see the egg icon. Help them find the sanctuary star and read together the description on the back of their insert.

We aren't worried about a little noise or activity, but if your child does need to leave worship, feel free to step out into the Narthex or hallway (we can't open our Nursery or Quiet Room right now under current public health restrictions). But please, hurry back - we don't want you or your little ones to miss out on all God is doing in worship!

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO CHRIST FOR LIFE

CONNECTOR

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 19-20, 2020

THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL

SAT	6 PM	Worship — <i>Heritage</i> (Hymns + Pipe Organ)
SUN	8 AM	Worship — <i>Heritage</i> (Hymns + Pipe Organ)
	9:15	Worship — <i>Bridge</i> (Teaching + Musical variety)
	9:30	Worship at North (30 person max)
	10:15	Bible Study (Sanctuary)
	11:15	Worship — <i>Horizon</i> (Praise Team + Less formal)
WED	11 AM	Mini Service (50 person max)

*Christ for Kids is currently **NOT** meeting in-person but take-home resources are available as you leave church.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 24th—Christmas Eve live-stream at 8 pm

Dec. 25th—Christmas Day live-stream at 9 am

Dec. 27th—Worship Services at 9 am and 10:30 am

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

ISAIAH 25:5B-9, 26:19 | ROMANS 16:25-27 | LUKE 1:26-38



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UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE AND DAY WORSHIP

With all of the Christmas Eve worship services full to capacity, you can still live-stream the 8 pm service. If you have already made your reservation for a Christmas Eve service and need to cancel, you will need to call the Church Office at (815) 544-8058.

There is still availability for the Christmas morning worship services at 9 and 10:30 am. A link to register for either service is found on ccb or the Church website. The 9 am worship will be live-streamed.



WEEKEND AFTER CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

There will be worship on Sunday, December 27th at 9 am and 10:30 am only. Holy Communion will be celebrated at each service. The 9 am service will be live-streamed. A link will be made available to register for these services on our website.

NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP

Join us for the Service at the Turning of the Year on Thursday, December 31st at 5:30 pm. Holy Communion will be celebrated at this service. A link will be made available to register for this worship service. This service will also be live-streamed.

JANUARY 2ND/3RD WORSHIP

With the start of the New Year, we will return to our regular worship schedule: Saturday at 6 pm and Sunday at 8, 9:15 and 11:15 am. A link will be made available to register for these services on our website.

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The Church Office will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and also on New Year's Eve and New Years Day.

PRAYER TEAM MINISTRY

The Prayer Team is available for prayer each Sunday. You can find a member near Door #2 after the 8 and 9:15 am worship services and before the 11:15 am worship service.

Isaiah 25:5b-9, 26:19

You subdue the noise of the foreigners; as heat by the shade of a cloud, so the song of the ruthless is put down. On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation." [...]

Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.

Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

**CONNECT
ONLINE**



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MUSIC

December Hymn of the Month

"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" highlights the essence of the Advent season: Christ came as a child to save us from our sin, and someday He will return. Advent is a time in the church year when we not only look to the past to celebrate Christ's first coming, but also look to the future in anticipation of His second coming; indeed, the "morning" referenced in the first line of the hymn is not Christmas morning, but rather it is that coming day when Christ will return and finally bring all His beloved to Himself. May God be with us as we celebrate his first coming and await His second!

John Brownlie (1857-1925) wrote the text for this hymn. He was a minister in the Scottish Free Church and was prolific not only as an author of hymns but also as a translator, primarily translating hymn texts from Greek and Latin into English. The author of the tune is unknown but authorship is attributed to Elkanah Kelsey Dare (1782-1826), a Methodist minister. This tune has been matched with many other texts, including "What Hope! An Eden Prophesied" in our own Lutheran Service Book.

IMMANUEL NORTH

North Worship

There will be **NO** worship on December 27th at Immanuel North. Please join in worship at 9 am and 10:30 am at the Main Campus.

Thank You to All

Thank you to those who helped at Oaklawn Mobile Home Park distributing holiday meal kits. Also thank you to those who helped prepare and ride on the Live Nativity Float on Saturday.

Blanket Project

North is gathering new or gently used blankets for those in need. With the help of Empower Boone to distribute these blankets, this project will be on-going. We have received a Thrivent grant of \$250 to purchase new blankets. If you would like to help writing short notes to be included with the blankets, please contact Pastor Wagner.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Rockford Lutheran High School Tuition Assistance

Applications for member assistance for the 2nd semester at RLHS can be picked up in the Church Office. Deadline for applying is January 8th, 2021.

WOMEN'S LIFELIGHT

Romans Part 1

Women's Lifelight will start up again in January. This is a 9-session study that covers the first 7 chapters of Romans. Reserve a workbook now and register for one of the meeting time slots by calling Elissa Sullivan at 815-761-6534 before Christmas!

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Last Weekend's Attendance: 298 On-Line Attendance: 670

IN OUR PRAYERS

For God's Gracious Care

Linda Dixon, Buck Hodge, Bob Schwarzkopf, Gloria Mowers, Kathy Gaupp, Anne Wetzel, Marian Lambert, Ed & Ellen Anderson, Julia Markworth, Phoebe Ladewig, Gary Anderson, Oscar Johnson, Janice Ebel, Nancy Schultz, Matthew Harling, Paul & Desi ZuHone, Maria Madrigal, Michael Bruha, Rebecca Flores, Jim Meyer, George Meyer, Emily, all residents & staff at community care centers

Baptisms

Gianna Sophia and Vincenzo "Vinny" Michael Ramos will be baptized during the 9:15 worship service today. Their parents are Jesse and Kelli Ramos.

Death

Joyce Russell (mother of Cheryl Russell-Smith)

Birth

Emily Dawn born on December 17th to Aaron and Sarah Kortze.

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers are given by Mike Robertson "thanking God for 19 years of marriage to My Beautiful Libby". Philippians 1:3

CONNECTION CARD

DECEMBER 19-20, 2020

I would like more information about:

- Becoming a part of the community here at Immanuel
- Immanuel Lutheran School
- Sponsoring the bulletin / altar flowers
- _____
- My offering was given electronically
- Other (Please Specify)

Name

Email

Phone