ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON

TOGETHER: God Is With Us is the theme for our Advent and CHRISTmas season. Immanuel means "God is with us." The prophet Isaiah foretold the Savior's coming when he said: "The Lord Himself will give you a sign. The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." *(Isaiah 7:14)* After Jesus rose and just before He ascended to heaven, He promised: "I am with you always." *(Matt. 28:20)* As we finish the year 2026, we celebrate this eternal truth: we are never alone, because **God Is With Us**!

Sundays in Advent/CHRISTmas
Nov. 29; Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27
8 & 10:45am Traditional | 10:45am Contemporary



CHRISTmas Eve Candlelight
Traditional: 3pm | 7pm, Sanctuary
Contemporary: 5pm, Gym
CHRISTmas Eve Vigil: 10pm (***new time!***), Sanctuary, with Lord's Supper

CHRISTmas Day 10am, Sanctuary, with Lord's Supper
Epiphany January 6, 2027 | 7pm, Sanctuary, with the Lord's Supper

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

Early Learning Center
"A Little Nativity"
Thursday, Dec. 10 | 6pm, Gym
Sweet Treat Reception following the program

Sunday School Students
"TOGETHER at the Manger"
Sunday, Dec. 20 | 10:45am, Gym

CONNECT CARDS Guests and members, please:
+ fill out a Connect card, or
+ scan the QR code to connect with us online

These methods include a space to share prayer requests with our pastors.
We look forward to praying for and connecting personally with YOU!

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SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
Lutheran Church & Early Learning Center
ShepherdHillsChurch.org
LUTHERAN CHURCH-Missouri Synod

Advent Wednesday 1 | December 2, 2026 | 6:30 PM

TOGETHER ~ Immanuel: God-With-Us

Elizabeth and Mary were family. Together, they shared the joy of an unexpected son to be born to each of them. Zechariah and Joseph had more questions and worries on their minds at these "surprise" upcoming births. Yet, even amidst the "scandal" of an unwed mother and a very old mother, all four of these family members together obeyed their Lord and prepared for the miraculous births.

God is also with our families as we experience joys and worries and surprises and difficulties. He is Immanuel, God-With-Us. We are never alone!

✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

INVOCATION *Pastor Brad Stoltenow* *Matthew 28:19b*
Pastor (P): In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation (C): Amen!

OPENING SENTENCES
P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
C: the light no darkness can overcome.
P: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
C: and the day is almost over.
P: Let your light scatter the darkness
C: and illumine Your Church.

PHOS HILARON ~ HYMN OF LIGHT *Duet: David and Angie Renner*
Joyous light of glory: of the immortal Father; heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ. We have come to the setting of the sun, and we look to the evening light. We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever. O Son of God, O Giver of life: the universe proclaims Your glory!

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT
P: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
C: Amen!

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER
ALL: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

HYMN # 362 "O Sing of Christ"

PROPHECY Isaiah 7:14

The Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel [which means "God is with us"].

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

HISTORY Luke 1:35-46, 56-58

The angel answered Mary, "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.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord."… And Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months and returned to her home.

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ!**

PSALM Psalm 34:1-8

I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!

I sought the LORD, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them.

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him!

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

CHILDREN'S CHAT

MESSAGE "TOGETHER: Immanuel and Family" *Pastor Ben Oesch*

OFFERING *for giving options: ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Give*

GUESTS AND MEMBERS CONNECT *Please fill out the Connect Card, either by hand or with the QR code. You may also add prayer requests to your information. The cards may be put in the offering plate. Thank you!*

PRAYER FOR PEACE

P: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen!

Please stand for the Lord's Prayer and Blessing.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4*

ALL: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen!

GOD'S WORD OF BLESSING *Numbers 6:24-26*

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen!

HYMN # 357:1 & 4 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

✠ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ✠

By the light of nature we see God as a God above us,
by the light of the law we see Him as a God against us,
but by the light of the gospel we see Him as Emmanuel, God with us.
~Matthew Henry

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery that You might share Your joy with me.
~Martin Luther

Wield God's Word, the weapon glorious;
against all foes be thus victorious, for God protects you from them all.
Fear not the hordes of hell, here is Emmanuel. Hail the Savior!
~W. E. Arends