

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
AVILLA, INDIANA
GOD WITH US**

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9:30 AM

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Pastor: Rev. Patrick Kuhlman

Seminarians: David Grasch, Travis Hartman

Chancel Society: Jennifer Kuhlman

Website: www.immanuellutheranavilla.com

Email: imavilla@embarqmail.com

For counseling needs contact Pastor Kuhlman for referral to Cross
Connections www.crossconnections counseling.com

First Sunday in Advent

ORGAN PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING THREE – PAGE 184

HYMN No. 331 - The Advent of Our King

- 1 The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.**
- 2 The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set His servants free.**
- 3 O Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.**

**4 As judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And His true members all unite
With Him in heav'n to reign.**

**5 Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.**

△ **6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.**

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.
Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

INTROIT – Psalm 118:25-28

P: Behold, your king is coming to you;

C: righteous and having salvation.

P: Save us, we pray, O LORD!

C: O LORD, we pray, give us success!

P: Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

C: We bless you from the house of the LORD.

P: The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us.

C: Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!

P: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;

C: you are my God; I will extol you.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

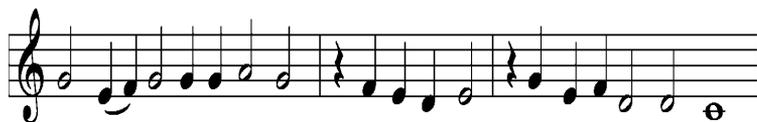
C: and to the Holy Spirit;

P: as it was in the beginning,

C: is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: Behold, your king is coming to you;

C: righteous and having salvation.



C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P: Let us pray.

C: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 2:1-5

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

*²It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,*

*³and many peoples shall come, and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”
For out of Zion shall go the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

*⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.*

*⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD.*

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle – Romans 13:11–14

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

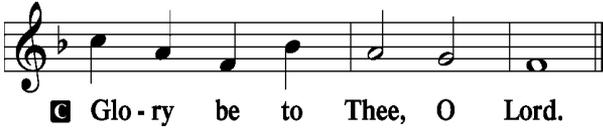
ALLELUIA



Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel – Matthew 21:1-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.



¹Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵“Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” ¹⁰And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” ¹¹And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



NICENE CREED

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN No. 345 - Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

- 1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!
“Christ is near,” we hear it say.
“Cast away the works of darkness,
All you children of the day!”**

- 2 Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.**

3 See, the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all, to be forgiv'n;

4 So, when next He comes in glory
And the world is wrapped in fear,
He will shield us with His mercy
And with words of love draw near.

△ 5 Honor, glory, might, dominion
To the Father and the Son
With the ever-living Spirit
While eternal ages run!

SERMON

Text: Isaiah 2:1-5

Theme: The Focus of Advent Attention Is Jesus

OFFERTORY



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.
(there is a time for silent prayer)

After each petition:

P: Lord, in Your mercy

C: hear our prayer

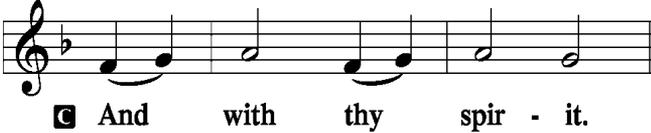
At the conclusion of the prayer:

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

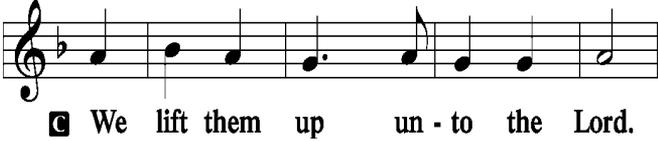
PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.



☐ And with thy spir - it.

P: Lift up your hearts.



☐ We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



☐ It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: 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.



C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



☐ A - men.

AGNUS DEI



☐ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN No. 862 - Oh, Blest the House

- 1 Oh, blest the house, whate'er befall,
Where Jesus Christ is all in all!
A home that is not wholly His—
How sad and poor and dark it is!**

- 2 Oh, blest that house where faith is found
And all in hope and love abound;
They trust their God and serve Him still
And do in all His holy will!**

- 3 Oh, blest the parents who give heed
Unto their children's foremost need
And weary not of care or cost.
May none to them and heav'n be lost!**

- 4 Oh, blest that house; it prospers well.
In peace and joy the parents dwell,
And in their children's lives is shown
How richly God can bless His own.**

- 5 Then here will I and mine today
A solemn promise make and say:
Though all the world forsake His Word,
I and my house will serve the Lord!**

Text: Christoph Carl Ludwig von Pfeil, 1712–84; (sts. 1–2, 4–5): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (st. 3): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal, 1880, Columbus
Text: Public domain

HYMN – Father of Body, Mind, and Spirit

- 1 Father of body, mind and spirit
When troubles thunder through my life,
Speak your clear Word that I may hear it;
Muffle the din, destroy all strife.
Make ev'ry anxious worry flee;
Bring now your promised peace to me.**

- 2 Savoir, my Shepherd, strong and caring
Nothing can pluck me from your hand.
Spare me from hopelessly despairing;
Raise up my faith, help me to stand.
Through you shed blood on Calvary.
Bring now Your promised peace to me.**

- 3 Comforter Spirit, Intercessor
Praying for me with groaning sighs.
Molding me as a bold confessor;
Holding the cross before my eyes.
Calm my emotions, hear my plea;
Bring now Your promised peace to me.**

- 4 O Father, Son and Holy Spirit
You hold my future days in view.
By grace, through faith I will inherit
Perfect, untroubled life with You.
Trusting in this blest certainty.
Bring then Your promised peace to me.**

HYMN No. 851 - Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

- 1 Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To the_unthankful and the evil
With Your own unsparing hand.**

- 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You
Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessèd
'Tis to give than to receive.**

- 3 Wondrous honor You have given
To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence,
“You have done it all to Me.”
Can it be, O gracious Master,
That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy,
“Give as I have giv’n to you”?**

- 4 Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly,
Hope, to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces,
With Your love our love renew.**

HYMN No. 849 - Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness
With a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the Gospel,
Healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms, and feeding thousands
With the very Bread of peace.**

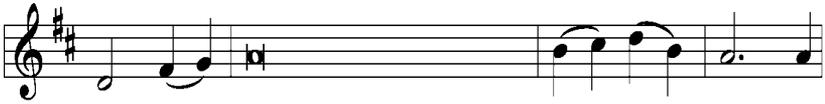
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children
With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the One who drove out demons
With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
To the desert's burning sand;
From this Well comes living water,
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

- 3 Let us praise the Word Incarnate,
Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose victorious
That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer,
Praise the One who makes us one.**

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955

Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001553

NUNC DIMITTIS



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A-men.

THANKSGIVING

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P: Let us pray... We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

P: The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P: Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

HYMN No. 341 - Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

- 1 **Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise.**

- 2 **A righteous Helper comes to thee;
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings;
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise
Your grateful hymns of praise.**

- 3 **How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise.**

**4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!**

**5 Redeemer, come and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;
Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to Thy name.**

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book
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WELCOME - We welcome all worshippers to our services at Immanuel this week. As God comes to us in Word and in Sacrament may we experience His love and His power in the singing of praise and the living of our lives to His glory.

VISITORS - Welcome all visitors this week. Be sure to pick up a visitor packet from an usher or from our Information Rack in the east entrance.

RECORD OF FELLOWSHIP PADS - ALL members and visitors are asked to record their attendance at church and communion. Please return the record to the center aisle.

SERVICE ENLARGEMENTS, LARGE PRINT HYMNS & ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES - are now available for the service each week. It will include the service, hymns, and the insert of readings. They will be available at both entrances next to the bulletins. Please return them after the service.

COMMUNION – If you are not a member of Immanuel and have not previously taken Communion here, or if you are unable to come to the Communion rail, please speak with Pastor Kuhlman before the service. Grape juice is available in the center of each win tray.

CHILDREN’S ACTIVITY TOTES - are available at both entrances for children age kindergarten and younger. Please return them after the service.

NURSERY - Exit the southeast door, the nursery is the third door at the bottom of the stairs. The first door is the lounge where you may listen to the service on the speaker.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL is at 8:30AM in the west Sunday school room. They are looking deeper into the Lessons of the Day for that Sunday Service. All are invited to attend.

CHURCH OFFICE - If you need to meet, speak, or make an appointment with the Church Secretary the office is open on Tuesday and Wednesday. If you need to meet or speak to Pastor Kuhlman you can always reach him on his cell and at his home. **Please note that the church will be locked at all times unless two people are present.**

AVILLA FOOD PANTRY - Please do not forget the needy people in our community. You may place your food donations in the box in the east entrance.

BULLETIN BOARD - Cross Connection; Worship for Shut-Ins

FLOWERS – The flowers on the altar today are given by Jeff and Connie Kaiser in honor of Wills’ birthday.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK:

- **Wednesday** – 10 AM Midweek Bible Study We will be studying the Bible readings for the following Sunday morning.

PRAYER LIST- Prayer for the sick & recovering: Amos DeLong, LaVon Graft, Ed Becker, young relative of a church member who is suffering mentally and parents who need wisdom and comfort.

NEWSLETTERS: December newsletters are in your mailboxes. January newsletter deadline is December 13th.

POINSETTA SIGN UP – As we have done in past years, we will be placing poinsettias around the altar for our Christmas service. This year you may order a single red poinsettia for \$14.00 each or bring you own plant to the church no later than Monday, Dec. 19th. If you are interested in ordering a plant, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the east entrance. **The last day to place your order is Sunday, December 11th.** Make checks payable to the Immanuel Chancel Society and place it in an envelope marked with your name and note it is for poinsettia flowers. Place it in the drawer in the east entrance. If you order a poinsettia, we will place a slip of paper inside the plant with your name on it. If you bring your own plant be sure to write your name on a slip of paper and place it in the flower pot. Plants may be taken home following the Christmas Eve Candlelight service or at your earliest convenience.

CHURCH CLEANING – Saturday, December 3rd we will be cleaning the church. We will start at 9 AM. Please bring cleaning supplies.

CHURCH DECORATING – On Sunday, December 4th after worship service, we will be decorating the sanctuary for Christmas. All members are welcome and encouraged to come and help prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth.

2023 ALTAR FLOWERS CHART - The 2023 Altar Flower Chart is up!! The price for 2023 will remain at \$30 for 2 vases. If the flowers are donated in memory of someone or in honor of a special occasion, please make a note of that. Make checks payable to Immanuel Chancel Society and place it in their drawer in the east entrance.

CHANCEL SOCIETY - The signup sheet for 2023 is up in the Chancel Room on the inside of the 2nd upper cupboard door. Anyone interested in joining us please contact one of the Chancel members.

PORTALS OF PRAYER: Portals of Prayer devotional books for October-December are available at the back of the church and at the side entrance.

LOOK UP - Looking Up is your first step to seeing past your struggles. Mental and behavioral health issues can be a silent battle. But there's always hope on the horizon. You can start by looking here for resources, information, and providers.

- <https://lookupindiana.org>
- Call 877-257-0208 - Available 24 hours every day
- Text LookUp to 494949 - Available 24 hours every day

INFORMATION RACK- last week's bulletin; extra newsletters; Visitors Packet; Portals of Prayer; Lutheran Witness; Cross Connection; Thrivent Dollars information; Lutherans for Life.

WEEKLY SERVICE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS are now on our website. The service can be found under Family Altar. The announcements in the bulletin each week can be seen on our website **under Blog and then correct month.**

LAST WEEK'S STATISTICS:

Worship Attendance:

- Sunday Morning: 58 + Jesus

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY – You are stronger still when you help the weak.

Please see next page for a list of Anxiety/Depression Support Groups

ANXIETY / DEPRESSION SUPPORT GROUPS

- Mental Health America of Northeast Indiana
<https://mhanortheastindiana.org>
260-422-6441; info@mhanortheastindiana.org

Mental Health America of Northeast Indiana offers a free anxiety and depression support group on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. No formal diagnosis is required. The group is currently meeting via Zoom. Email Lacey Holt to sign up at: lholt@mhanortheastindiana.org

- Mental Health Grace Alliance
<https://mentalhealthgracealliance.org/your-personal-journey>

Mental Health Grace Alliance offers Bible study books that combine relevant Bible studies, neuroscience, and practical tools to help those experiencing a mental health difficulty to manage stressors, increase calm through rest and joy, reframe negative thoughts and nurture healthy relationships. These books are best used in small groups. *Living Grace* is a 16-week study for adults, and *Redefine Grace* is a 10-week study for high school and college age students. Materials are available online.

- NAMI Fort Wayne
<https://www.namifortwayne.org>
260-447-8990; faithnet@namifortwayne.org

NAMI Ft. Wayne provides free support groups for those living with mental illness and also for adult family and friends of people living with mental illness. Call the NAMI Ft. Wayne office to find out their current meeting schedule.

