

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

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Third Sunday in Advent

ORGAN PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING THREE – PAGE 184

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!**

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSİON AND ABSOLUTİON

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 71:14–18

P: Rejoice in the Lord always;

C: **again I will say, Rejoice.**

P: I will hope continually

C: **and will praise you yet more and more.**

P: My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day,

C: **for their number is past my knowledge.**

P: With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come;

C: **I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.**

P: O God, from my youth you have taught me,

C: **and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.**

P: So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,

C: **until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.**

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: Rejoice in the Lord always;

C: **again I will say, Rejoice.**

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: Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 35:1-10

¹*The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;*

the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

²*it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.*

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,

the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³*Strengthen the weak hands,*

and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴*Say to those who have an anxious heart,*

“Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God

will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you.”

⁵*Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,*

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶*then shall the lame man leap like a deer,*

and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;

⁷*the burning sand shall become a pool,*

and the thirsty ground springs of water;

in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,

the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸*And a highway shall be there,*

and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;

the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;

even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

⁹*No lion shall be there,*

nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there,

but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰*And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle – James 5:7-11

*⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord.
See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being
patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You
also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord
is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so
that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the
door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take
the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we
consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard
of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the
Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.*

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA



The musical notation consists of a single staff in common time. It begins with a treble clef, followed by a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth note patterns. There are three instances of the word "Alleluia" written below the staff, each preceded by a small square symbol containing a 'C' (indicating common time) and followed by a short dash.

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

Holy Gospel – Matthew 11:2-15

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

A musical score in common time with a treble clef. The notes are quarter notes and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes:

C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

The musical notation consists of a single line of music in common time, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It features a series of eighth and sixteenth note patterns. Below the staff, the lyrics are written in a bold, sans-serif font: "C Praise be to Thee, O Christ."

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. 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

SERMON

Text: Isaiah 35:3-4

Theme: Advent Courage

OFFERTORY

The musical notation consists of six staves of music in G clef, common time, and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below each staff. The lyrics are:

C 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.

Musical notation for the Preface. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The second staff continues with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics "C And with thy spir - it." are written below the notes.

P: Lift up your hearts.

Musical notation for "Lift up your hearts". It consists of two staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The second staff continues with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics "C We lift them up un - to the Lord." are written below the notes.

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

Musical notation for "Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God". It consists of two staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The second staff continues with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics "C It is meet and right so to do." are written below the notes.

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

SANCTUS

Musical notation for the Sanctus hymn. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The second staff continues with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The third staff continues with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics "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," are written below the notes.



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."

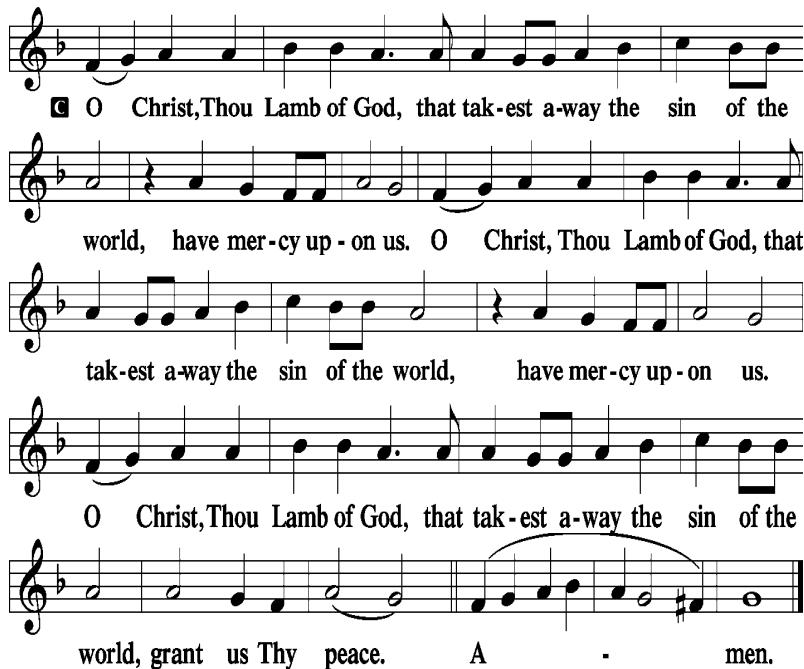
PAX DOMINI

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



A musical setting for the Pax Domini. It consists of a single melodic line in G clef, starting on a note below the staff. The line descends to a dotted half note, followed by a whole note, another dotted half note, and a final whole note. Below the staff, the text "C A - men." is written, where "C" is in a box.

AGNUS DEI



A musical setting for the Agnus Dei. It features a single melodic line in G clef, primarily using eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are repeated in three stanzas. The first stanza starts with "O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us." The second stanza continues with "O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us." The third stanza concludes with "world, grant us Thy peace. A - men." There are several fermatas and a dynamic change indicated by a piano symbol.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN No. 334 - O Lord, How Shall I Meet You (vs 1-4)

- 1 **O Lord, how shall I meet You,
How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You,
My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy,
Your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please You best.**

- 2 Your Zion strews before You**
Green boughs and fairest palms;
And I too will adore You
With joyous songs and psalms.
My heart shall bloom forever
For You with praises new
And from Your name shall never
Withhold the honor due.
- 3 I lay in fetters, groaning;**
You came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning;
You came to honor me.
A glorious crown You give me,
A treasure safe on high
That will not fail or leave me
As earthly riches fly.
- 4 Love caused Your incarnation;**
Love brought You down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation
Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling,
That led You to embrace
In love, all love excelling,
Our lost and fallen race.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Text: Public domain

HYMN No. 602 - The Gifts Christ Freely Gives

- 1 The gifts Christ freely gives**
He gives to you and me
To be His Church, His bride,
His chosen, saved and free!
Saints blest with these rich gifts
Are children who proclaim
That they were won by Christ
And cling to His strong name.

- 2 The gifts flow from the font
Where He calls us His own;
New life He gives that makes
Us His and His alone.
Here He forgives our sins
With water and His Word;
The triune God Himself
Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.**
- 3 The gifts of grace and peace
From absolution flow;
The pastor's words are Christ's
For us to trust and know.
Forgiveness that we need
Is granted to us there;
The Lord of mercy sends
Us forth in His blest care.**
- 4 The gifts are there each day
The holy Word is read;
God's children listen, hear,
Receive, and they are fed.
Christ fills them with Himself,
Blest words that give them life,
Restoring and refreshing
Them for this world's strife.**
- 5 The gifts are in the feast,
Gifts far more than we see;
Beneath the bread and wine
Is food from Calvary.
The body and the blood
Remove our ev'ry sin;
We leave His presence in
His peace, renewed again.**

**6 All glory to the One
Who lavishes such love;
The triune God in love
Assures our life above.
His means of grace for us
Are gifts He loves to give;
All thanks and praise for His
Great love by which we live!**

Text: Richard C. Resch, 1947

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HYMN No. 537 - Beautiful Savior

- 1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**
- 2 Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.**
- 3 Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.**
- 4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!**

HYMN No. 611 - Chief of Sinners Though I Be

- 1 Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.**
- 2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love,
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.**
- 3 Only Jesus can impart
Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.**
- 4 Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known,
All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life
Safe with Him from earthly strife.**
- 5 O my Savior, help afford
By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.**

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt.
Text: Public domain

NUNC DIMITTIS

C 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

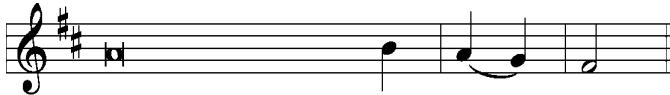
peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

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. 349 - Hark the Glad Sound

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.**
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.**
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.**
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy belovèd name.**

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51
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 wine 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 to the glory of God by Bev Grate in memory of mom.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK:

- **Wednesday** – 7 PM Advent Service

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: January newsletter deadline is Tuesday.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – will be held next Sunday, December 18th.

JESUS' BIRTHDAY PARTY – will be celebrated next Sunday, December 18th, in the fellowship hall with cake, cookies and punch following the church service.

NOBLE HOUSE: Since the congregation did not adopt a family for Christmas, we have decided to support the Noble House families. You can drop your donation at the special door plate or hand your gift to Elizabeth Pfafman. Thank you in advance for your support and donation! Merry Christmas!

ADVENT SERVICES: Wednesday Evenings at 7PM

Angels are heavenly messengers sent by God to reveal important messages from God to His people. They appear through the Christmas account. This Advent, we will spend time with the angel's messages of hope to Zechariah, Joseph, Mary, and the Shepherds.

- **December 14** – The Angel Gabriel Brings a Message of Hope in the Midst of the Seemingly Impossible
 - Luke 1:26-38
- **December 21** – A Multitude of the Heavenly Host Announces a Peace Which Brings Renewed Hope
 - Luke 2:13-14

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 your 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 TODAY.** 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.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS - Would you like to remember Pastor and Seminarian students David and Travis with a special gift at Christmas time? so, place your gift in a envelope, clearly marked with the their name, and place it in the offering plate.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - This year here at Immanuel there will be two Candlelight Christmas Eve services with Holy Communion on Thursday, December 24th. The first will begin at 4:00PM and the second will begin at 7:00PM. After each service, please take your bulletin and your candle home with you.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25th - There will be no Sunday School.

PASTOR KUHLMAN - will be on vacation from December 26th thru 31st. Pastor will be here for the Sunday Service on the January 1st. If you are in need of pastoral care during Pastor's absence, please contact an Elder.

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 January-March 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:

- Mid-Week Advent: 22 + Jesus
- Sunday Morning: 60 + Jesus

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY – Blessed are the eyes that see what Mary saw.

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.