

**Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church
630 Adams St Wausau, WI 54403 | ​​Phone: (715) 842-3644**

[**http://www.immanuelwausau.org/**](http://www.immanuelwausau.org/)

**Sunday, December 31, 2023**

***1 Christmas, Year B***

**Please welcome Kathy Robinson and thank her for doing the worship service for us today.**

**Prelude**

Announcements

Introduction

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon’s song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God’s salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

*Please stand if able.*

Gathering Hymn  “Good Christian Friends Rejoice” # 288

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

the Word made flesh,

our life and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,

let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people,**

**and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,**

**our resources, and our security.**

**We nurture conflict and build barriers.**

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors**

**and ignore the groaning of creation.**

**Have mercy on us.**

**Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.**

**Where we are reluctant, give us courage.**

**Where we are cynical, restore our trust.**

**Renew us with your grace**

**and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God’s promises

through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In ☩ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth

shall know the salvation of God.

**Amen.**

Greeting

P: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also, with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**First Lesson Isaiah 61:10—62:3**

R: A reading from Isaiah.

R: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148

R: *Let us read responsively.*

 1Hallelujah! Praise the Lord | from the heavens;
  praise God | in the heights.
 2**Praise the Lord, | all you angels;**
  **sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**
 3Praise the Lord, | sun and moon;
  sing praise, all you | shining stars.
 4**Praise the Lord, heav- | en of heavens,**
  **and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**
 5Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
  who commanded, and they | were created,
 6**who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,**
  **giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**
 7Praise the Lord | from the earth,
  you sea monsters | and all deeps;
 8**fire and hail, | snow and fog,**
  **tempestuous wind, do- | ing God’s will;**
 9mountains | and all hills,
  fruit trees | and all cedars;
 10**wild beasts | and all cattle,**
  **creeping things and | flying birds;**
 11sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
  princes and all rulers | of the world;
 12**young | men and maidens,**
  **old and | young together.**
 13Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
  whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.
 14**The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful servants,**
  **the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. | Hallelujah!**

Solo Hymn “Let There Be Peace On Earth” Jane Reilly-Smith

Second Lesson: Galatians 4:4-7

R: A reading from Galatians.

R: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

P: *Let us stand* for the Gospel Acclamation

P: **Alleluia! pg. 142**

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Pulpit Hymn “Cold December Flies Away” # 299**

*Please be seated.*

**Meditation Kathy Robinson**

*Silence for reflection*

**Hymn of the day** **“Your Little Ones, Dear Lord” # 286**

*Please stand if able.*

**Nicene Creed** *See the yellow sheet in the back of your hymnal*.

*Please be seated.*

**Offertory Hymn “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” # 631 vs. 1**

*The usher will bring up the offering plate.*

*Please stand if able.*

Offering Prayer

**P:** God of abundance,

receive and bless these gifts we have offered.

Join our hearts with the song of the angels,

and gather us at your table of celebration.

Strengthen us to share with all the world

the abundance of your grace upon grace,

poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

**Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

R: Trusting in God’s good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.. After “**Hear us O God**”, please respond with “**Your mercy is great**”.

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

**Amen.**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

*Please stand if able.*

**Benediction**

P: The God of glory, ☩ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you,

bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Closing Hymn “****Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand” # 441 vss. 1, 3, 4**

**Dismissal**

P: Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

Prayer Concerns: Joan Bonstead’s daughter Tracy (Contact ILC office to update.)

January 7, 2024. New Year, new time. Church Service at Immanuel will start at 10:30 a.m.! Mark your calendars.

January 21, 2024. The Wisconsin River Valley Conference of the ELCA annual meeting. Our Savior Lutheran Church in Merrill will host the meeting from 2:30 pm until 4:00 pm. A zoom link is available to announce delegate choice.

February 16 - 18, 2024. ELCA Journey with Jesus. This synod youth gathering grades 6 – 12 is being held at Imago Dei Village @ 6:00 pm. (registration is January 12th – 26th with an early bird special).

*Congratulations on Judy’s retirement coming at the beginning of the year!*  As we move forward, we will need a new Worship Chairperson to assist with the organization of all future worship services.

The Men’s Discussion Group meets Thursdays at 7:30 am, in the Koinonia room. New participants are always welcome.

Strong Bones Senior Exercise Group meets every Tuesday and Thursday in the old Nursery at 10:30 am. The class is open to anyone wishing to improve balance and maintain strength to prevent falls. New faces are happily welcome.

Volunteers needed to Host Coffee Hours. The sign-up sheet is in the kitchen.

Attendance on 12/24/23: 65

Our Sister Church is the Lobatla Parish. Address is: c/o Moruti (Pastor) Rev. G.M. Nkale, P.O. Box 160, Motswedi 2870, Republic of South Africa. Email for Pastor: nkalesto@gmail.com

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| **December 2023 Worship Servers**  |
| **Worship Leader: Kathy Robinson** |
| **DATE** | **PIANIST / ORGANIST** | **READER**  | **USHER / GREETERS** | **VIDEO TAPER** | **COMMUNION** |
| 12/31/2023 | Judy Kort | Holly Westaby  | Dan Westaby  | V |   |
| Altar Guild: Holly Westaby & Kathy Knox |

**\* Next Week Service**

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| **January 2024 Worship Servers**  |
| **Worship Leader: Bob Henning** |
| **DATE** | **PIANIST / ORGANIST** | **READER**  | **USHER / GREETERS** | **VIDEO TAPER** | **COMMUNION** |
| 1/7/2024 | Karen Zuidema | Al Solomonson | Bruce Knox | V | Mary McDonell |
| **Altar Guild: Holly Westaby & Kathy Knox** |