

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

**Celebrating the
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 24, 2017
9:00 a.m.**



Welcome to Our Guests - We are so glad to have YOU worship with us. Your presence here is very special to us. It is our hope that your faith will be strengthened and your life enriched as you join us in worship. You are always welcome at Immanuel! Please sign our Guest Book, and join us again soon.

Nursery Available - The location is through the gathering area towards the altar end of the sanctuary. Please talk with an usher if you need assistance.

Service of the Word

Prelude **“Let There Be Peace on Earth”** **Jill Jackson**
 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” **Richard Storrs Willis**

Handbells Choir **“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

Announcements

Greeting

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
who comes to wake us from sleep,
who leads us into the light of grace.

Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: We can no longer play dumb. We not only know the lives we are called to lead, we are well aware of how we fail - through our words as well as our silence, by our deeds and our unwillingness to act. Let us confess to the God who comes to us.

Silence is kept

You call us home to live with you, Comfort of the lost, but we are too busy right now to listen. We flock to the stores run by temptation and seduction, seeking the best prices. We rush to judge everyone around us, but ask you to be more patient with our repeated errors. We feast at the table piled high with broken promises and drink from the cup of fading dreams.

Yet you continue to cry out to us, Broken Heart, speaking to us of your love. Forgiveness is the gift for every moment, not just one day; hope is our constant companion as we journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who is your Messenger of mercy.

P: At the beginning, at the end, and in every time between, the good news speaks to us of God's tender mercy and love for us and assure us forgiveness.

God comes!

**Not to punish, but to gift us with peace,
not to judge, but to save us.**

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Lighting Advent Candles

Waiting, Preparation, Joy, Light

A.M.: At last! The fourth Sunday in Advent! The first candle gave us light to wait, and it was a long wait.

The first candle is lit.

The second candle gave us light to prepare, and we are almost ready.

The second candle is lit.

The third candle helped us to celebrate God's promise to come.

The third candle is lit.

Now we light the fourth candle to remind us that Jesus, the light of the world, is coming to us.

The fourth candle is lit.

Hymn “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” #240 vs. 4

From Isaiah 9: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined.”

P: Let us pray: God of love, you have sent your Son as the light of the world. Even now that light is breaking in upon us. May we reflect the light of your love, even as we wait for you to come again.

Amen.

Children Sermon

Handbell Choir “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Opening Hymn “Blessed Be the God of Israel” #250

First Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 (Bible in pew) pg. 245

Instead of David building a house (temple) for the Lord, the Lord promises to establish David’s house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, the Lord’s anointed.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Reading is taken from Luke 1:46b-55 (Bible in pew) pg. 832

Assisting Minister will non-bold lines and the congregation will be the bold lines.

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

⁵⁰**You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.**

⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵²**casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.**

⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,**

to remember the promise of mercy,

⁵⁵the promise made to our forbears, to Abraham and his children forever.

Second Reading Romans 16:25-27 (Bible in pew) pg. 926

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation “Alleluia!” **pg. 142**

Holy Gospel **Luke 1:26-38** *(Bible in the pew)* **pg. 831**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people (Mary) from little known places (Nazareth). This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in his gospel.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ. Amen.

Pulpit Hymn **“Canticle of the Turning”** **#723**

Sermon **Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras**

Hymn of the Day **“There’s a Voice in the Wilderness”** **#255**

The Apostles’ Creed **Back of Hymnal**

A.M.: Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

A.M.: Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

The Lord’s Prayer

Sharing of Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering **“The Holly and the Ivy”** **Traditional**

Offertory **“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”** **#207**

Offertory Prayer

A.M.: Let us pray together in unison.

Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.

Blessing

May Christ, the Son of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn **“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”** **#242**

Dismissal

A.M.: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

I will and I ask God to help me.

Postlude **“Ding Dong! Merrily On High”** **Traditional**

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Prayer Concerns: Thelma Bursik, Neil Coakley, Joella Corado (Maggie Westaby’s cousin), Arlene Dopkins, Jerrilynn Duxbury, Betty Jane Kettunen, Esther Osterby, Barb Peterson, Dolores Riege, Pam (Rodney Riese’s wife), Dina Sarras, Kathrine Sylvia Sarras, Dale Westaby, Norm Winterhoff, April Winters (Jamie Rice-Heckendorf’s niece), and Justin Nickolai.

Christmas Eve Service will be at 4:00 pm.

Christmas Day Service will be at 9:00 am with communion. Service will be in the Shalom Chapel.

Year end giving deadline. Member contributions for the 2017 tax year must be received in the church office by December 28th at noon or placed in the offering plate on December 31, 2017.

The January 2018 semi-annual ILC congregational meeting will be held January 28th following the 9:00 am worship service. Please plan on attending this important meeting.

Good Gifts - Looking for the perfect last minute gift this Christmas? Good Gifts are back! Please look over the ornaments on the tree in the Gathering Room. Pick out yours and leave your payment in the office. Make checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church and in the memo line put “Good Gifts”. All proceeds will support ELCA Global Mission efforts here and abroad. The ornaments may be purchased for the special person who has everything already, given to a grandchild whom you will help to learn about giving to others, gifted in recognition of a special event or birthday, presented in memory of a loved one or purchased just because you believe in doing the work of the church, providing help where it is needed – a gift that will keep on giving.

Endowment fund - Immanuel’s Endowment Committee is accepting grant requests through December 31, 2017. The Endowment Committee oversees the ILC Endowment Fund. The Endow-

ment Fund is a permanent invested fund, and a portion of the earnings on the Fund each year may be distributed “for religious purposes which enhance congregational life at Immanuel”. The Fund may not be used for normal operating expenses. Preliminary indications are that we may have a total of about \$4,200 available to distribute this year. Grant requests are evaluated and awarded at the discretion of the Endowment Committee. Grant request forms are available in the church office. For further information you may call Bob Reinertson at 715-551-6231.

Sharing God’s Light - It’s not too late to get your donations in for the GWCS bible fundraiser. The Life Recovery Bibles cost \$15.00 each. The Lord is My Light ribbons are set up in the Gathering Room to sponsor funding for the bibles. Contributions of any amount will be appreciated. Donations are tax deductible and the sponsorship ribbon is yours to take home as a special thank you for helping to share God’s Light. Make checks payable to Greater Wausau Christian Services. Please write “BIBLE FUND” on memo line. Your checks may be sent or turned into Immanuel Lutheran Church office. Contact Janci Treutel at 715-355-5719 with any questions.

Human Trafficking - Human trafficking is a form of modern slavery that occurs in every state, including Wisconsin. Trafficking often happens for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor. Almost everybody in Wisconsin loves to watch the Packers, but what lies beyond the public eye is the darker side of the Packers season. That season might be the occasion for the highest volume of sex trafficking of the whole year. The sporting event attracts more traffickers than any other in the U.S.

We are at war against human traffickers. For this reason, our Synod is encouraging us to pray for the victims of the human traffickers during the Packers season. Every day, our church is going to post on Facebook a special prayer for the victims till the Packers season is over. On Sunday service, we will intercede for the victims.

“Following Christ in this World” – ECSW Justice and Advocacy Event ECSW is offering a one-day workshop to share ideas of how we can help advocate for people in need including those affected by the immigration crisis and human trafficking. Speakers will be Bishop Gerald Mansholt and Pastor Cindy Crane of the Lutheran Office of Public Policy. The workshop costs \$15 and will be offered twice: Saturday, January 26th at Our Saviour's in Appleton and Saturday, February 3rd at Trinity in Waupaca. To register, go to www.ecsw.org. The deadline is January 19th. Brochures may be picked up at ILC office or contact the church office and one will be emailed to you.

The flower chart for 2018 is on the table in the Narthex. Please sign up to honor a loved one, an anniversary or a birthday.

The coffee host signup sheets for 2018 are in fellowship hall.

All Altar Guild members will be blessed during worship service on Sunday, January 7th.

Our Sister Church is the Lobatla Parish. Address is: c/o Moruti (Pastor) Rev. T. J. Ditibane, P.O. Box 160, Motswedi, 2870, Republic of South Africa

Attendance For 12/17/17: 106 **12/20/17:** 1:00 pm: 9 6:00 pm: 11

SERVING US TODAY:

Worship Leader	Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras
Assisting Minister	Holly Westaby
Ministers	All Members of Immanuel
Handbell Director	Joanne Diestelhorst
Pianist	Marino Taylor
Reader	Claudette Harring
Head Usher	Bruce Knox
Greeters	Jim and Pat Stolen
Nursery	Deb Case
Video Recorder	Doug Helling
Presentation Manager	Jerry Nickolai
Altar Guild	Dan & Holly Westaby
Contact Person	Jamie Rice-Heckendorf

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sun. Dec. 24	Fourth Sunday of Advent
	9:00a Worship Service with Handbell Choir
	10:15a Coffee Fellowship No Sunday School
	4:00p Christmas Eve Service
Mon. Dec. 25	9:00a Christmas Day Worship Service in Shalom Chapel
Tues. Dec. 26	5:30p Handbell Practice 5:45p TV Worship Service CH 980
Wed. Dec. 27	-----
Thurs. Dec. 28	9:15a TV Worship Service CH 980 Noon Deadline to turn in 2017 Offering Envelopes unless you are attending worship on Sunday, December 31
Fri. Dec. 29	9-noon Church Office Open
Sat. Dec. 30	-----
Sun. Dec. 31	9:00a Worship Service 10:15a Coffee Fellowship No Sunday School

630 Adams St, Wausau WI 54403 715-842-3644

Office email: Info@immanuelwausau.org Website - www.immanuelwausau.org

Like us on Facebook: Immanuel Lutheran Church Wausau

Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras - Pastor@immanuelwausau.org

Pastor Hours: Monday: 10:30-11am and 1:30-2pm, Tuesday: 10:30-11am,

Wednesday: Visiting homebound parishioners, Thursday: 1:30-2pm

Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 am to 3:00 pm, Friday 9 to noon

Worship Service at 9:00 am on Sunday