



**Welcome to
Immanuel Lutheran Church**

Celebrating the Nativity Of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Christmas Day

December 25, 2017

9:00 a.m.

Prelude

Announcements & Greetings

Call to Worship

P Alleluia! Christ is born!

C Oh come, let us adore him. He is Christ the Lord.

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

C Christ is born! Glorify him!

Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life.

C Amen.

P Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of peace,

C God of stable, stars and surprises, of light and hope and new life: open our eyes and hearts to your presence in our world; forgive our obsession with property and possessions; forgive our compromises and narrowness of vision. Open us to your grace, that we might hear again the song of the angels, and respond with a song in our hearts, and in our lives. Amen.

P Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: in the name of + Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come.

C Amen.

Opening Hymn “Joy to the World”

#267

Litany

P Jesus of Bethlehem and Nazareth and Calvary

**C We celebrate your birth
Come and be born in us**

P Jesus of the manger and the inn
Jesus of the workshop and the temple
Jesus of the lakeside and the city
Jesus of the fireside and the roadside

**C We celebrate your life
Come and be born in us**

P Jesus of Mary and Joseph
Jesus of shepherds and angels

Jesus of children and animals
Jesus of fishermen and priests
Jesus of women and men
Jesus of tax collectors and prostitutes
Jesus of all who will receive you

**C We celebrate your incarnation
Come and be born in us**

Hymn “Away in the Manger” #277

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illuminate the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” #270

First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10

A messenger races home to Jerusalem with the marvelous words: “Your God reigns!” In comforting the people, God proves to be the best brother or sister (redeemer) they have ever known. Everyone will witness the victory (salvation) of God.

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news, who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn “Go Tell It on the Mountain” #290

Holy Gospel John 1:1-14

The holy gospel according to John.

Thanks be to God.

The prologue to the Gospel of John describes Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, the one who reveals God to be “full of grace and truth.”

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ. Amen.

Hymn “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

#275

Sermon The Nativity of Jesus Christ St. John of Kronstadt

Saint John of Kronstadt was born in the village of Sura in Archangel province on October 19, 1829, and died on 20 December 1908 in Kronstadt. He was a Russian Orthodox Christian presbyter and a member of the synod of the Russian Orthodox Church. The Wonder-Working Father John Sergiev was one of the great elders and saints who participated in the spiritual revival started by St. Paisius Velichkovsky (1722-1794). Widely venerated as a saint even during his lifetime, Father John is known for his spiritual gifts of powerful prayer, healing, spiritual insight and great love for all people. He also reawakened the Russian Orthodox Church to the Apostolic tradition of receiving Holy Communion at every Divine Liturgy. For this reason he is most commonly portrayed holding a Communion chalice.

Hymn “The First Noel”

#300

A.M.: Prayer of intercession

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

P: Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world.

Amen.

Offering

Offertory

"What Child Is This"

#296, Vs. 1 & 3

A.M.: Offertory Prayer

Let us pray together in unison

God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name.

Amen.

Holy Communion

Great Thanksgiving

p. 144

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

p. 144

Words of Institution

O God most mighty....life in you, now and forever. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Lamb of God

p. 146

Distribution

All are welcome at the Lord's table. We believe Christ is truly present in the bread and the wine, that is his body and blood are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. If you do not wish to receive communion but wish to receive a blessing, please come forward during the distribution of communion. If you are unable to come forward during distribution and wish to receive communion, please let the usher know and the pastor will come to your seat. Wine and grape juice are available as well as gluten free wafers upon request.

Communion Hymn "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

#490

Blessing after Communion

A.M.: Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, shepherding God, that you have gathered your scattered flock again this day, feeding us richly with the food of Paradise. Accompany us as we serve you all the days of our lives, and gather us with the saints in the day of our death; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord.

Amen.

Post Communion Hymn “Angels We Have Heard on High”

#289

Blessing

P May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

C Amen.

P May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

C Amen.

P May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

C Amen.

P And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

#288

Dismissal

P Go in peace and share the love of Christ

C I will and I ask God to help me

Postlude

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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.

Offering Envelopes for 2017 - To be counted towards your 2017 givings, offerings must

be in the church office by noon on Thursday, December 28th or put in the offering plate on December 31, 2017.

The January 2018 Semi-Annual ILC Congregational Meeting will be held on January 28th following the 9:00 am worship service. Plan on attending this important meeting.

Mitten Tree Is In the Narthex. You can bring in mittens, scarves and hats for those who need them. They will be delivered as our tree fills up throughout our winter season. Thank you, Social Concerns.

2018 Calendars - If you have extra ones and would like to share with a nursing home resident, please bring them to the church office and the calendars will be distributed by the Golden Kiwanis Club to local nursing homes.

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.

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.

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

SERVING US TODAY:

Worship Leader	Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras
Assisting Minister	Joanne Diestelhorst
Ministers	All Members of Immanuel
Pianist	Jo Beckman
Communion Assistant	Joanne Diestelhorst
Reader	Al Solomonson
Head Usher	Mike Schwede
Greeters	Al & Vonnie Solomonson
Nursery	Judy Nickolai
Altar Guild	Dan & Holly Westaby
Contact Person	Jamie Rice-Heckendorf

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Mon. Dec. 25	9:00a	Christmas Day Worship Service w/Communion
Tues. Dec. 26	5:30p	Bell Choir Practice
	5:45p	TV Worship Service CH 980
Wed. Dec. 27		-----
Thurs. Dec. 28	9:15a	TV Worship Service CH 980
	Noon	2017 Offering Envelopes Due in Church Office if not Attending Worship on December 31, 2017
Fri. Dec. 29	9-noon	Church Office Open
Sat. Dec. 30		-----
Sun. Dec. 31		Deadline to Apply for Endowment Grant
	9:00a	Worship Service
		No Sunday School
Mon. Jan. 01		Happy New Year Church Office Closed

You may take your poinsettia plant home after worship service.

The coffee host signup sheets for 2018 are in fellowship hall. Please sign up for a Sunday.

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.

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

Merry Christmas & a Blessed New Year