**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 17, 2023**

***3rd Advent Sunday, Year B***

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

**Prelude**

**Announcement**

**Introduction**

“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

*Please stand if able*

**Gathering Hymn**  **“****Awake, Awake, And Great The New Morn**” # 242

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who opens the heavens

and draws near to us with salvation.

**Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.

Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,

**you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.**

**We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness**

**that make us reluctant to work against oppression.**

**We are complicit in systems of exploitation.**

**We choose comfort over courage.**

**We are careless with creation’s bounty.**

**Look upon us with mercy.**

**Turn our hearts again to you.**

**Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways**

**for the sake of our waiting world.**

**Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance:

God clothes you with garments of salvation

and covers you with robes of righteousness.

In the tender compassion of ☩ Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.

God’s covenant is eternal,

and God’s blessing rests upon us all.

**Amen.**

**Greeting**

### Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Hymn “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” # 240 vs. 3**

**Lighting of the candle (s).**

**First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

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

**With a smile, how good it is to welcome back the Bell Choir for this time of year!**

**“Silent Night”**

**Psalm: Psalm** **126**

R: Let us pray responsively.

  1When the Lord restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
  then were we like | those who dream.
 2**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.**
  **Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great | things for them.”**
 3The Lord has done great | things for us,
  and we are | glad indeed.
 4**Restore our for- | tunes, O Lord,**
  **like the watercourses | of the Negeb.**
 5Those who | sowed with tears
  will reap with | songs of joy.
 6**Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,**
  **will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.**

**Amen.**

**Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

P: *Let us stand* for the Gospel.

C: Alleluia! Lord and Savior pg. 142

**Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

P:The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated*.

**Sermon Kathy Robinson**

*Silence for reflection*

**Hymn of the Day “****Hark, The Glad Sound!”  # 239**

*Please stand if able.*

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

**Prayers of Intercession**

**R:** With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God’s day of restoration. After **“Merciful God”** please respond with **“receive our prayer”.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy**. Amen.**

P: With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray…

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Sharing of Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And, also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

**Offertory Hymn “****O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #** **257 vss. 1 - 4**

*The usher will bring up the offering plate.*

*Please stand if able.*

**Offering Prayer**

P: God our provider,

by your merciful hand

abundance springs up from the earth.

Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.

Let them be a sign of your steadfast love

and faithfulness for all people,

through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**Blessing**

**Closing Hymn**  **“****Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” #** **244 vss. 1 & 4**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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

**The 4th and last Advent Study** class will be this coming Wednesday at 11:30 in the Koinonia room, bring your lunch, coffee provided.

December 24, 2023. *Christmas Eve* C*andlelight Servic*e *and Holy* *Communion* will be held at Immanuel at 4:00 p.m.

December 25, 2023. *Christmas Day* service will be held at Immanuel at 10:00 a.m.

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

**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.**

**HARDWARE FOUND!!!**

For several weeks there has been a tote bag containing hardware for installing hooks on a pegboard in the church kitchen. If this is yours, please claim.  *If not claimed, it will be donated to a thrift store.*

**MISSING KEY FOB!**

During the Larson Funeral there was a car key fob misplaced! If anyone has seen it please let Michelle know!

**Attendance on 12/10/23: 33**

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** |
| 12/17/20233rd Advent | Karen Zuidema | Al Solomonson | Mike Schwede | V |   |
| **Altar Guild: Holly Westaby & Kathy Knox** |

**Next Week Service\***

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| **December 2023 Worship Servers**  |
| **Worship Leader** |
| **DATE** | **PIANIST / ORGANIST** | **READER**  | **USHER / GREETERS** | **VIDEO TAPER** | **COMMUNION** |
| 12/24/2023 | Judy Kort | Vern Diestelhorst | Dan Westaby  | V | Joanne Diestelhorst |
| 12/25/2023 | Judy Kort | Adam Doede | Bob Doede | V |   |
| **Altar Guild: Holly Westaby & Kathy Knox** |

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