

**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 25, 2022
Nativity of Our Lord II: Christmas Day**, **Year A**

**Prelude**

**Announcements**

**Introduction**

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ’s birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of “the salvation of our God.” O come, let us adore!

**Call To Worship**

**P:** Alleluia! Christ is born! **C: Oh come, let us adore him! He is Christ the Lord!**

**Opening Hymn “Joy To The World” #267 vss. 1 & 4**

### Confession and Forgiveness

**P:** 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.**

**P:** 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.**

Prayer of the Day

P: All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Hymn “Once in David’s Royal City” #298 vss. 1 & 4 & 6**

### First Reading: Isaiah 62:6-12

**P:** Word of God. Word of Life **C: Thanks be to God**

**Hymn “Lo How A Rose E‘er Blooming” #272 vss. 1 & 4**

Psalm: Psalm 97

R: Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart. (Ps. 97:11)

 1The Lord reigns; let the | earth rejoice;
  let the multitude of the | isles be glad.
 2**Clouds and darkness sur- | round the Lord,**
  **righteousness and justice are the foundations | of God’s throne.**
 3Fire goes be- | fore the Lord,
  burning up enemies on | every side.
 4**Lightnings light | up the world;**
  **the earth | sees and trembles.**
 5The mountains | melt like wax
  before the Lord of | all the earth.
 6**The heavens declare your righteous- | ness, O Lord,**
  **and all the peoples | see your glory.**
 7Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight | in false gods!
  Bow down before the Lord, | all you gods.
 8**Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Ju- | dah rejoice,**
  **because of your judg- | ments, O Lord.**
 9For you are the Lord, most high over | all the earth;
  you are exalted far a- | bove all gods.
 10**You who love the | Lord, hate evil!**
  **God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand | of the wicked.**
 11Light dawns | for the righteous,
  and joy for the hon- | est of heart.
 12**Rejoice in the | Lord, you righteous,**
  **and give thanks to God’s | holy name.**

**Hymn “Angels from the Realms of Glory” #275 vss. 1, 2**

### Second Reading: Titus 3:4-7

**R:**Word of God. Word of Life **C: Thank be to God**

**Hymn “It Came Upon The Midnight Clear” #282 vss.1 & 4**

**Gospel Acclamation pg. 142**

**P:** Alleluia. A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and a- | dore the Lord.\* For today a great light has come up- | on the earth. Alleluia.

**Gospel: Luke 2: 1-20**

P: The Holy Gospel According to Luke

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

***P:*** *God’s greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the “good news of great joy” and proclaim God’s blessing of peace.*

1In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3All went to their own towns to be registered. 4Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
 14“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
  and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”
 15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord

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

### Hymn “Let Our Gladness Have No End” #291 vss. 1 & 4

### Meditation Kathy Robinson

### Hymn “Angels We Have Heard On High” #289 vss. 1 & 3

**The Apostles Creed** *See the yellow sheet in your pew rack*

**Prayers of Intercession**

***P: Let us pray as our Lord taught us.***

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn “What Child Is This?” #296**

**Sharing of Peace**

**P: The peace of Christ be with you always C: and also, with you.**

### Offering Hymn “The Bells Of Christmas” #298 vss. 1 & 4

Offering Prayer

P: *Let us Pray together*

**P:** God of abundance,

**All: 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.**

**Hymn “The First Noel” #300 vss. 1 & 2 & 5**

**Blessing**

**P:** God bless you and keep you,

☩ Jesus grant you grace and truth,

and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Closing Hymn “Good Christian Friends Rejoice” #288**

**Dismissal**

P: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

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|  **Worship Assistants – December 25, 2022** |
| **Worship Leader: Kathy Robinson** |
| **Pianist / Organist** | **Reader** | **Usher** |
| Judy Kort  | Al Solomonson | Dan Westaby |
| **Video Recorder:** Volunteer |
| **Alter Guild:** Holly Westaby |

 

**December 26, 2022,** Church Office is Closed

Monday, December 26, 2022, Deadline for January Monthly Newsletter.

Thursday, December 29, 2021. Year-End Giving Deadline. Members' contributions for the 2023 Tax Year must be submitted by this date.

**January 1, 2023.** *Happy New Year!*The Name of Jesus Service 9 am.

**January 15, 2023,** Community Dinner

**The Men’s Discussion Group** Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. in the Koinonia Room. New Participants are most welcome. Coffee and rolls are available.

**Volunteers Still Needed for Profile Committee**

As we begin our search for a new pastor, we must develop a Ministry Site Profile (MSP) Committee. This team of 6-9 persons compiles a document that describes the ministry of the congregation. Members of this team should be a cross-section of the congregation’s different demographics: young and old, new and long-time members, people involved with different aspects of ministry, etc. The MSP will be presented to potential candidates as they discern God’s calling for the next chapter in ministry. If you are interested and able to be part of this important committee, please contact Adam Doede or any member of the Church Council.

**Volunteers Needed to Visit Homebound  and the ill.** 

Anyone wanting to visit with our Immanuel friends who are not able attend services or anyone who would like to bring Communion to them. Notify Michelle in the office of your availability. Social Concerns will let you know who would like a visit. Thanks for considering the service to Homebound. Kathy Knox

**Volunteers Needed for Office Coverage**

As we do not have a full-time pastor, we are now also lacking in coverage for the church office if our Administrative Assistant, Michelle, requires time off. Office duties would be largely answering phone calls, taking messages, and greeting and receiving any visitors or guests. The church office is open 9-3 Monday-Thursday. If you can assist in providing coverage during any of these hours if needed, please contact Michelle or any member of the Church Council. *(Thank you to the volunteers)*

Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like one of the Poinsettias or to gift one to a friend, please take one after the service today. Altar Guild will help you with a cover for the flowers. If you would like to make a contribution, you may place it in the offering plate. Indicate it is for Altar Guild. Contributions are not necessary. We are looking to give these flowers a good home.

Christmas Decorations

We will be taking down the Christmas Trees and Christmas decorations after the church service on Sunday January 8th. If you are able, we would welcome your help.

Mitten Tree

The Mitten tree will be taken down January 8th with the Christmas decorations. Mittens will be given to Wausau children. Food and other donations will be delivered to the Neighbors Place and New Beginnings.

 

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you from the Immanuel Lutheran Staff! God Bless!