

THE IMMANUEL HERALD

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
5701 LOCH RAVEN BOULEVARD
BALTIMORE, MD 21239

Visit Immanuel's website www.immanuelutheran.org

DECEMBER 2023

DIVINE SERVICE AT IMMANUEL: In addition to the in-person services, all Services are live streamed also. The live stream is available at the following Youtube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqkp9bt5FmMFDmfW0QNplUw/videos>

DIVINE SERVICE AT IMMANUEL

December 3

Isaiah 64:1–9

Psalm 80:1–7

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

Mark 11:1–10

Mark 13:24–37

First Sunday in Advent

"Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down."

"Restore us, O God of hosts."

"[He] will sustain you to the end."

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away."

The Advent season beckons the Lord to rend the heavens and come down, permeating humanity with His almighty incarnation, laying waste our sin and unrighteousness. As God's people, we can do no more than plead for mercy. Through the grace of Christ Jesus, we are declared guiltless. Therefore, we echo with the myriad of saints who eagerly anticipate the coming of Christ, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

December 10

Isaiah 40:1–11

Psalm 85

2 Peter 3:8–14

Mark 1:1–8

Second Sunday in Advent

"Comfort, comfort My people."

"Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us Your salvation."

"The day of the Lord will come like a thief."

John begins baptizing and preaching.

Behold, God comes, unleashing undeserved comfort and pardon to His people. This sure word of promise stands forever. Like a thief, the Lord returns unannounced, eager to grant salvation and peace to those who are repentant. As John the Baptist proclaimed a Baptism of repentance, so also the Church continues to baptize with water, that repentant faith may abound, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

December 17

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

Psalm 126

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

John 1:6–8, 19–28

Third Sunday in Advent

"The Lord has anointed me to bring good news."

"The Lord has done great things for us."

"Rejoice always. . . Do not quench the Spirit."

"Make straight the way of the Lord."

God alone balances Law and Gospel with strict justice and beautiful grace. His hatred for wrong is eclipsed by His everlasting covenant of love. In response to His judgment and righteousness, we rejoice in all circumstances, knowing that God alone is faithful, sanctifying us and keeping us blameless. John, the forerunner of Jesus, never claims to be more than he is—not a prophet, not Elijah, not the Christ, but the one who prepares His way.

December 24
Isaiah 7:10–14
Psalms 110:1–4
1 John 4:7–16
Matthew 1:18–25

Christmas Eve
“The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”
“Rule in the midst of Your enemies!”
“God . . . loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”
The angel appears to Joseph.

God is love. Into this world, the Father sends His only-begotten Son to be conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. The Church boldly confesses that this infant Jesus is the incarnate Immanuel—God with us for the forgiveness of our sins. God enters humanity in ways that defy human logic. Through Jesus, He unpacks grace eternal, life immortal, and love immutable. Therefore, we, too, are called to love one another.

December 25
Isaiah 52:7–10
Psalms 2
Hebrews 1:1–6 (7–12)
John 1:1–14 (15–18)

The Nativity of Our Lord
“All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.”
“I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill.”
[The Son] is the radiance of God’s glory.
“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

Holy Scripture reveals the mysteries of God in Christ, who made His dwelling in the flesh among men. Christ, who is without beginning and without end, immerses Himself in our human story. His Church is that beautiful place that declares His nativity, speaks of His salvation, and sings of His mercy. In all of these things, Jesus is the Light illuminating the world with absolute truth—truth intended for every people and nation to hear and believe.

Ministry Notes

Fall Stewardship Emphasis – “Being the Church”

During the month of November, we have been working through the stewardship emphasis “Being the Church”. During this time, we have heard how, through His Word and the Holy Spirit, God reaches out to us and daily gives us His love, grace, and mercy. Faithful stewardship is our response of gratitude for God’s love and generosity toward us.

In 2024, we will look at and begin to answer the question as to what the faithful at Immanuel are to do in the context of the five-fold function of every Christian Church: Worship, Education, Fellowship, Service, and Mission.

On Sunday, November 26, we observed Consecration Sunday. We give thanks that 25 families have responded by placing a pledge on God’s altar. If you have not yet had an opportunity to indicate the level of financial support that you might provide to Immanuel in 2024, please prayerfully consider your response, and as you are moved to do so, return your pledge card to the church office or place it in the offering plate on Sunday. Your gift will facilitate new ministry at Immanuel as we combine our efforts for greater reach and impact. May God continue to bless us as we faithfully steward our lives and all of the blessings that He has entrusted to us to “Be the Church”.

Discerning Where God Is Leading Us

In 2024, Immanuel will celebrate 160 years of ministry in Baltimore making a difference in many lives by telling people about Jesus. We also find ourselves at a transition point perhaps unlike no other over these 160 years. This has led the congregation to a time of discernment which began in September and is being facilitated by Pastor Elliott Robertson. This time of discernment began when a group of 29 gathered for several hours in small group conversations. In the context of scripture and prayer, participants were encouraged to share thoughts about different areas of ministry. Everything that was heard during these conversations was recorded, and the raw data was distributed. The Discernment Leadership Team continues preparation for the next step with plans to share the results of this session will be shared after Christmas. As we prepare our hearts and minds for the next 160 years, may we pray together:

Lord Jesus, we praise and thank you for the abundance of grace you have given to Immanuel over the past 160 years. We especially praise you for the grace given to us through your cross, death, and resurrection by which you have redeemed us. You have sent us into the world to share the gospel of grace to all who do not know it. You have empowered our witness through the gift of the Holy Spirit. We ask you to help us be ever faithful to the Gospel

and mission you have given us. We seek your will for the future direction of Immanuel. Illumine our minds to new ministry and mission opportunities you place before us. Fill our hearts with zeal for our neighbor that we embark on the path to which you lead us. Please continue to shine your saving light through the people of Immanuel. In your precious name we pray, Amen.

Donations to our Church in memory of Kay Lietzau were given by Dorothy Friant, Susan J. Lilly, Henry & Leigh Peck, Thomas Cullen, Darrel l Duggins, Nancy Metzger, and Mary Sommerfeldt, Joyce M. Marani, Paul and Lynn Wockenfass, Elizabeth Jones and Louise Lietzau, and Charles Libby

A Donation to our Church in memory of John Pickering was given by Joan and Richard Goeller

Donation to the Altar Guild in memory of John Pickering was given by Jeffrey Goeller

Donation to our Cemetery fund in memory of Kay Lietzau was given by William and Sally Hermann

Like to Sing? Sing with us!

Please join us **THURSDAY** evenings
starting September 7
from 7:00 pm to 8:00pm
in the Sanctuary.
You do not need to be able to read music,
just blend your voices with ours!
Please see Muriel Hopkins after Church or
call her anytime at 410-207-0831.



(Sept-Dec)

CHURCH FLOWERS

If you would like a special arrangement, the procedure is to call Denise Waicker at (443) 981-0019 or Denisewaicker@mac.com. Denise needs to know the date you select and the statement you want to include so that she can order the flowers for that Sunday. The cost depends on your selection. Pay by cash or check (make payable to *Denise Waicker*) and give to Denise Waicker in person or mail checks via the postal service.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

-Heavenly Father, we pray that You be glorified through the effort of our 'Til All Have Heard Ministry. Guide us

and Pastor Witt as we seek and pursue avenues to declare that Your Kingdom is coming clearly and powerfully. Give us the opportunity to plant, water, and harvest for Your Kingdom according to Your will, and grant patience to wait on Your timing and purposes. Lord, in Your mercy/Let us pray to the Lord

- For peace in Ukraine
- Denise Waicker who is ill with COVID
- Ted Henn, who is in the hospital recovering from a fall
- Gerhard Ehlerding who had minor surgery
- Kevin, brother of Sylvia Witt who is recovering from a seizure
- Robert Balassone, nephew of Lola Barnes, for proper diagnosis and decision of his medically difficult case
- William Staton, nephew of Lola Barnes, who had abdominal surgery October 19
- Dottie Friant who is recovering at home
- Robert Sigler, being treated for cancer
- Ryan Schwartz, who broke his neck in a diving accident
- April as she does her job search to get closer to home
- Harry Bortner who has cancer
- April's dad, for continued good health. The doctors found left over cancer cells.
- Bradley Will, son of Ray, who is losing his battle with cancer
- Naomi Kruelle for health issues
- John Kruelle battling cancer
- Diana, friend of Denise Waicker, who has been diagnosed with cancer
- Rosemarie Wilson, the daughter of Filleseta James, for return of strength in her left leg
- Joseph Woah-tee missing, and whereabouts unknown

Birthdays:

- | | |
|----|----------------------|
| 2 | Manix Paye |
| 3 | JB Cadorette |
| | Jefferson Will |
| 5 | Russell Greensfelder |
| 9 | Kristine Wegner |
| 10 | Ava Risi |
| 14 | June Dennis |
| 16 | Catherine Cadorette |
| 17 | Sara Bardzik |
| | Timothy Bland |
| 19 | Dorothy Croll |
| 25 | Kristin Hermann |
| 27 | Lynn Wegner |

Anniversaries:

- | | |
|----|----------------------|
| 18 | Tony & Sheila Gordon |
|----|----------------------|

CHURCH VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE				
	Altar Guild	Lay Reader	Liturgist	Communion Assistant
December 3 December 10	Sally Hermann/Margaret Mitchell	Rick Kruelle		
		Ray Spitznas		
December 17 December 24 December 25 December 31	Carolyn Henn/Joan Goeller	Mark Smith		
		Sandy Collins		
		Gerhard Ehlerding		
		Roland Obedekah		

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 10 am Christmas at the manger with Santa
3 9 am Adult Bible Study Sunday School 10 am Worship & Holy Comm. 12 pm Christ Eritrean 3 pm Balto Choral Arts Society concert	4	5	6	7 7 pm Choir practice	8	9 10 am Compassion Ctr 10 am Wings
10 9 am Adult Bible Study Sunday School 10 am Worship & Holy Comm. 12 pm Christ Eritrean	11	12 3 pm Concordia Prep Concert	13 5 pm Council (Zoom)	14 7 pm Choir practice	15	16 9:30 Kids practice for Christmas program 10 am Santa and the Fire truck 10 am G Boys
17 Children's Christmas Program 9 am Adult Bible Study Sunday School 10 am Worship & Holy Comm. 12 pm Christ Eritrean	18	19	20 9:30 Miracle of Christmas	21 7 pm Choir practice	22	23
24 10 am Christmas Eve service 12 pm Christ Eritrean 9 pm Christmas Eve candlelight service	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28 7 pm Choir practice	29	30
31						

The Baltimore Bulletin Insert

December 2023

*Events of area LCMS churches, entities, and Recognized Service Organizations
Deadline for December edition: December 20th*

WORSHIP SERVICES OF THE SEASON

*Sometimes due to work, you need an evening service closer to you.
Or, if your church isn't having a particular service, you may be looking
for one. Here are area congregations who would like to welcome you.*

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES, WEDNESDAYS, DEC. 6, 13, 20

7:00 Faith, Eldersburg, supper 6p; St. Paul Catonsville; Redeemer,
Irvington Supper 8p

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

6:30	Nazareth, Highlandtown
7:00	Faith, Eldersburg, St. Paul, Catonsville
7:30	Our Saviour, Ednor Gardens, St. Paul, Annapolis
8:00	Martini, Baltimore, Redeemer, Irvington
10:00	St. Paul, Catonsville
10:30	Faith, Eldersburg

Christmas Day Holy Communion

9:00	Faith Lutheran, Eldersburg
10:00	Berea, St. Paul, Catonsville, Our Saviour
12:00	Redeemer, Irvington

Pray for the
churches and
ministries in
The Baltimore
Bulletin
Insert!

DECEMBER 31, NEW YEAR'S EVE, KWANZAA, WATCHNIGHT

7:00p	(Kwanza, Watchnight) Berea, Baltimore
9:00a	Faith, Eldersburg
10:00a	Our Saviour, Ednor Gardens
12:00noon	Redeemer, Irvington

EPIPHANY EVE, JANUARY 5

7:30 Our Saviour, Ednor Gardens

WELCOME REV. PHILIP JOSEPH AND MRS. RACHEL JOSEPH

Installation Service, Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 10 a.m. Lunch to follow. Parking on premises. Martini Lutheran Church, Henrietta and Hanover Sts., Baltimore, Please Join Us.

FREE SOCKS FOR THE HOMELESS

Wyneken Project

The Wyneken Project has a few thousand pairs of socks to give to the homeless. If your church wishes to give socks to the homeless please contact Pastor Elliott at PastorElliottBalto@gmail.com.

The Baltimore Bulletin Insert

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

St Paul, Catonsville

Sat. Dec. 2, 9-11a, Create a simple Advent project with Scriptures for your journey through Advent. \$5, dana.stigdon@splscatonsville.org

BALTIMORE CHORAL ARTS SOCIETY CONCERT

Immanuel, Baltimore

3p Sunday, Dec.3. Freewill offering.

A CONCORDIA CHRISTMAS

Concordia Prep, Towson

Sun., Dec.3, 1-5p, Lutheran Activity Center (Gym)

LIVE NATIVITY

Faith Lutheran, Eldersburg

Sat., Dec. 9, 6:30p. Live animals, refreshments and activities to follow in the fellowship hall.

CONCORDIA PREP CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Immanuel, Baltimore

Tues, Dec. 12, 7 - 8:30p

WINTER COAT COLLECTION

Orphan Grain Train, Millersville

Until Dec. 15. New or gently used coats needed for adults and children. Bring to OGT, 621 East West Blvd. Tues. 9-noon, 5 - 7p or Sat., Dec. 9. info: Irene Giguere (410) 747-1619

MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS

LMS Compassion Place

Provide frozen turkeys or chickens; boxed stuffing, canned vegetables, NEW clothing, all sizes, especially boys 5-14. Or make a financial donation. Need food by Dec. 1 Clothing by Dec. 8 deliver to 601 Hammonds Lane, 21225. 410.636.0123.

A FREE MONTHLY RESPITE BREAK

Faith Elderburg

For Parents/Caregivers with children or teens with special needs/disabilities. Info: sharonihde@comcast.net

Help Wanted...

ST. PAUL CATONSVILLE is searching for a School Principal (ECC & K-5 Elementary) for the upcoming year. Contact: secretary@stpaulcatonsville.org

ST. PAUL CATONSVILLE is searching doe a part time administrative assistant to the Pastor. Contact Pastor Alms at PastorAlms@stpaulcatonsville.org

This insert only happens because your church submits items.

A service of The Wyneken Project, appreciating the fellowship we share.

Submit your event to Secretary@MartiniLutheran.org

For locations of churches see LCMS.org > Locators & Directories