

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 1, 2019

HYMN - 4 “Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates”*We follow the Common Service beginning on page 15.**In place of the “Glory Be to God” we will sing hymn 6 “Come, O Long-Expected Jesus”***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST LESSON - Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: ² In the last days the mountain of the LORD’S temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

³ Many peoples will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.” The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. ⁵ Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

PSALM 100 on page 104**SECOND LESSON - Romans 13:11-14**

¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather,

clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

VERSE OF THE DAY - Revelation 22:20

Alleluia. He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia.

GOSPEL - Matthew 24:37-44

³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴² “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

APOSTLES’ CREED**HYMN - 2 “Savior of the Nations, Come”****SERMON - Matthew 24:37-44****“Come, O Un-expected Jesus”****OFFERING****PRAYER OF THE CHURCH****LORD’S PRAYER****HYMN - 19 “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”****BLESSING****Tree Decorating**

During the singing of the hymns, you will be ushered up to place your ornament on the Christmas tree. **We will sing one verse of each Christmas hymn beginning at hymn #68 and work backward in the hymnal as noted on the screen. The organist will play the last line of each new hymn to introduce it.**



Serving today at Immanuel:

Organist: Jane Vacek

Altar Guild: Betty Henke & Donna Telecky **Elder:** Kori Leske

Ushers: Bruce Trick, Kyler Adams, Tessa Adams, Don Dettman, Andy Weber,
Brad Weber, Dylan Weber, Travis Gauer, John Hoff, Nolan Hoff

Contacts

Pastor Eugene DeVries 320-587-6138 pastor@immanuelhutch.com

Principal Brian Gephart 320-587-8945

ilschool@hutchtel.net School office 320-587-4858

Broadcasting Mondays at 10:00 am & Sundays at 9 pm
on Nuvera channel 10 or Mediacom channel 107.3

Please note on our web site you will find the following: www.immanuelhutch.com

Monthly Calendar (under calendar) Weekly Bulletins (under service)

“Like” us on Facebook



Living in God’s Grace this Week

Today, Sunday:	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
		<i>Free Will Offering for Candy Bags</i>
	11:30 a.m.	Ladies Aid Lunch
	2:00 p.m.	Caroling at the Pines
Monday:	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study at ILC
	7:00 p.m.	Choir
Tuesday:	2:00 p.m.	Bible Study at Grace
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study at Grace
Wednesday:	4:15 p.m.	Confirmation
	7:00 p.m.	Ladies Aid
	8:00 p.m.	School Board
Saturday:	9:00 a.m.	Children’s Christmas Practice
Sunday:	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	9:45 a.m.	Hymn Sing
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service w/Communion
		<i>Free Will Offering for Candy Bags</i>
	11:00 a.m.	Elders Meeting
	11:00 a.m.	Advent Pot-Luck in Basement
	6:30 p.m.	G.I.L.L.

~~~Calendar of Events & Announcements~~~

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First Sunday in Advent: The Advent Wreath

Advent, which begins the Church's liturgical year encompasses the four Sundays and weekdays leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of preparation for our hearts and minds for the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas.

The use of the wreath and candles during Advent are a longstanding Catholic tradition that was originally adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas.

The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ.

Even the individual evergreens that make up the wreath have their own meanings that can be adapted to our faith. The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering. The pine, holly, and yew signify immortality and the cedar signifies strength and healing. The pine cones that decorate the wreath symbolize life and resurrection. The wreath as a whole is meant to remind us of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life to us through Christ.

The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the color violet is a liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice.

The first **candle**, which is purple, **symbolizes** hope. It is sometimes called the "**Prophecy Candle**" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ.

Christmas Services Schedule

Christmas Eve
Zion at 3:00 p.m.
Immanuel at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day
Zion at 8:45 a.m.
Immanuel at 10 a.m.

New Year's Eve at Immanuel at 7:00 p.m.
New Year's Day at Zion at 9 a.m.

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Say *Merry Christmas* with a small gift to **Emily Ash**, **Martin Luther College student**. Insert your gift into the box. Donations will be added together to purchase a larger gift card. **Accepting donations until December 8.**



Poinsettias

If you would like to help beautify our church with poinsettias in celebration of Jesus' birth, please sign up on the sheet in the entry way **by December 1st**. Colors are red, pink and white at a cost of \$10.50 each. If you have any questions, please contact Betty Henke.



A Door Offering – Will be held on Sundays, December 1st and December 8th for the children's candy bags that will be handed out on Christmas Eve.



Church Decorating

Thank you to all who helped!!

Use Scrip as Christmas gifts. Place orders by **December 15** and the cards will be delivered before Christmas. As always, local cards are on hand after that date for last minute gifts. Contact **Karen Kohls**.



Advent Pot-Luck

NEXT Sunday, December 8th after church
In the church basement

Everyone Welcome, please bring a dish to pass.
(Plates, silverware, beverages and dessert will be provided)



We are almost there....71% (\$3,100) has been given as additional gifts towards the propane gas expense of \$4,371. The remainder of the bill is \$1,271. Let's see if we can pay this off by Christmas.

Thank you to all who have given an extra gift towards this expense.

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Belle Plaine Lutheran Home Christmas Party

Once again we will be collecting Christmas gifts for the residents at Belle Plaine Hope Center. These gifts assure that every resident will receive a Christmas gift. You can get ideas for gifts from the “Needs Gift List” available in the entry. A collection box will be available throughout November with a deadline of **December 1st**. Contact Sharon Smith, Belle Plaine Coordinator, with any questions. *Thank you.*

Children’s Christmas Practice

Saturday, December 7, 14 and 21st from 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Choir will join the children on Saturday, December 21 at 10:30 a.m.

The children will have a **Christmas Party** on December 14 following practice from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be served with activities for the children. Please pick up your child(ren) at 1:00 p.m.

Our Congregation Mission Offering:

Each year, at our Annual Meeting, Immanuel decides the amount for our Congregation Mission Offering. This offering allows our synod to operate worker training schools for teachers and pastors. And it allows us to send missionaries to proclaim the gospel around the world. At the beginning of 2019 we set our CMO at \$20,000. As of October 31st, we have sent in \$11,746. Please help fulfill our mission commitment by designating an offering for missions in your offering envelope. Thank you.



Christmas Cards

The Ladies’ Aid has Christmas cards available for sale. They are sold by the box and are in the church library. They also have an assortment of birthday and many other general greeting cards.



Joy to the World!

Christmas Caroling!

Anyone interested in Christmas Caroling is welcome to come along with the Choir on Sunday, December 1st at 2:00 p.m. We will meet at the Pines in Hutchinson. *Everyone welcome!!*

~~~Calendar of Events & Announcements~~~

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The scale model of our church building that was built by Joe Vostinar has been in storage for multiple years in multiple places. The model has been used in parades over the years. If anyone is interested in this, please contact Harold Plath by January 1, 2020. It was decided at the October Voter’s meeting, that if there was no interest in the scale model it will be dismantled and disposed accordingly.



Weather Closings

Winter weather will soon be with us again. On Sundays with questionable weather, worship cancellations will be announced on KDUZ -1260 AM radio. During the week, Pastor’s policy is this: if Hutchinson Public Schools are closed for the day, evening events at both Immanuel and Zion will also be postponed on that day.



2020 Directory

The Church Directory will be updated for 2020, if you have a change in address and/or phone, please let Julie Thompson know. Also, if you would like your email address included. Either place the information in box #75 or send it to her via email at juliethompson@mchsi.com. Thank you!



Kindergarten through 8th Grade
Children of Grace Pre-School

ilschool@hutchtel.net

<https://www.facebook.com/immanuelchurchschoolhutchinson>



School Calendar of Events:

Sunday, December 1 – Singing at Grace
Tuesday, December 3 – 3:15 p.m. Basketball Practice
Wednesday, December 4 – 10 a.m. school day start
Thursday, December 5 – 3:15 Basketball Practice
Friday, December 6 – Hot Lunch – Served by Henschke’s

THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

For everyone’s support with Immanuel Lutheran School’s silent auction that was held on Sunday, November 24 prior to the school play.

We raised **\$3,414** from the auction.

Thank you to all who donated and those that purchased!

The school has a variety of fundraising options to help the school with various activities....won't you help?



SCRIP A current list of the gift cards available thru the school is posted on the bulletin board. You pay the face value of the card and the school receives the % listed. We also carry Cash wise/Coborns (\$25, \$50, \$100) which does not show on this list. The money earned provides your children with their field trips throughout the year. Remember the cards are available all year long. Thank you for your support of our School and Pre School. *Karen Kohls*

- **General Mills - BoxTops - Thru October 2019**



- **NEW: cocacola.com/give – for Coke products, enter the code**

- **Country Hearth - Loaves4Learning**

- **Ink Cartridges** – There is a collection box in the entryway.

- **School Mall Fundraiser** - www.SchoolMall.com

- **Amazon Fundraiser** - www.smile.amazon.com



- **Cash Wise Points**– enroll at www.cashwise.com

A complete listing with details is on the table in the entry way by the school display. Thank you for your help.



The school is looking for Latchkey **sub** caregivers for before and after school. We do have caregivers that stepped forward to help full time. If anyone can help out as a sub, they can contact Barbara DeVries home 320-587-6138 or email devriesfamilyinbox@gmail.com

**Immanuel Lutheran School and Children of Grace Preschool
Financial Development Plan**

Rationale

The school has been the focus of Immanuel's ministry for 100 years. It's not the only thing we do. But it has been the main focus of our time, talents, and treasure. We have received significant blessings from this effort. Our children have received a strong foundation in Christian teaching. Many have gone on to excel in high school and college. Many have become spiritual leaders in our congregation. New families joining our congregation in the

past few years have mentioned the school as their main reason for joining Immanuel.

In order for the school to continue its ministry, it needs a functional facility. The current building has served us well but falls short in several areas: having enough space for current and future class sizes, restroom facilities, storage space, recreation and physical education space, office space, and access control. In addition, though the current building is maintained, it has the appearance of age. This puts off families who are comparing us to the public school system.

Challenges

The tuition model makes it difficult for some families to choose Christian education.

Continued growth in class size may require adding staff, which puts additional stress on the budget.

New facilities require significant capital expenditure. A significantly larger building would cost more to operate, offsetting potential maintenance savings.

Advantages

Our sister church Grace joined us supporting the school directly. We have potential partners in St. Paul, Litchfield and St. John's, Glencoe. Several families from St. Paul are already sending students.

Both Immanuel and Grace own our property and buildings outright. We have no significant debt.

We have time to plan and set goals and milestones. Beginning now will make a new building possible down the road.

We have a significant number of non-WELS students. We are the only Lutheran elementary school in the area.

Cost: \$2,000,000

Actions

- Immanuel and Grace incorporate stewardship emphasis into their yearly worship plans. Look at the blessings God has given through this ministry.
- School hosts a planning giving seminar to talk about designated gifts. Invite Immanuel, Grace, Zion, St. Peter, St. Paul. This seminar helps people understand the options for planned giving through their estate. Attendance does not obligate anyone to support the school. But that option is available.
- Engage Jeff Davis from Cornerstone Consulting Ministry for a free initial consultation.

- Submit Antioch grant application. (Deadlines in July and October.)
- Establish an Endowment Fund to support the ongoing needs of the school.

Goals

- 1) Support community needs - (preschool, daycare, gym space)
- 2) Increase community awareness with a new building and available gym space - (sports camps, tournaments, open gyms)
- 3) Become a better-fitted outreach arm of Immanuel and Grace (look attractive, look like a school)
- 4) Update and have a modernized building to better support students learning and have adequate workspace.
- 5) Have enough room to grow and support growth
- 6) Eliminate renting sports facilities

The big question is how can we do all this? How can we take on such a big project when we're already struggling? In 1 Samuel 14, God's people faced a similar situation. Their enemies were camped all around them. And every night their army got smaller as soldiers deserted and ran away. In other words, they were stuck. They didn't dare attack. And they couldn't just walk away. One day, Jonathan decided to try something. He and his armor bearer decided to go over to the enemy outpost. And Jonathan said, "Perhaps the Lord will act on our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few." He didn't have a command from God or a promise of success. But his faith moved him to try something a little risky and see what God would provide.

Our school ministry feels stuck. We feel afraid to take on such a big project as building a new school. But we can't just walk away. Yet God is still able to do great things, whether by many or by few. Let's step forward in faith and see if the Lord will act on our behalf. He has richly blessed our efforts up to now. Those who have attended our school in the past continue to reap a harvest of righteousness and peace, the blessings that come from faith. Our school gives us the chance to share God's Word every day. It lets us equip our children for a bright future in this life and the life to come. Previous generations had less than we do. But they stepped forward in faith so that our church steeple could be seen for miles around. Perhaps God will let us be the generation that does the same thing for the school. Lift up your eyes to the hills; where does our help come from? Our help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.



Choice Dollars®

Do you have Choice Dollars® available? Have you directed

them? You can direct to thousands of organizations enrolled in the program - **including Immanuel Lutheran Church and School!**

I encourage you to consider directing your Choice Dollars® to Immanuel Lutheran Church or School. Doing so helps us continue our important ministry of strengthening communities and changing lives! Otherwise your Choice Dollars® will be directed by Thrivent. You can do this by logging into your account on line at <https://www.thrivent.com/>

Or you can also call a Customer Care Professional at 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say, "Thrivent Choice." Be sure to have your nine-digit Member Identification number available.

The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The **four candles represent the four weeks of Advent**, and one **candle** is lit each Sunday. ... The first **candle**, which is purple, **symbolizes** hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy **Candle**" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ.

The second candle, also purple, represents faith. It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the "Shepard's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."