



THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 15, 2019

HYMN - 13 “There’s a Voice in the Wilderness Crying”

We will follow the Common Service beginning on page 15.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST LESSON - Isaiah 35:1-10

¹ The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.

³ Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; ⁴ say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.”

⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. ⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

⁷ The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. ⁸ And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it.

⁹ No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, ¹⁰ and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

PSALM 146 on page 120

SECOND LESSON - James 5:7-11

⁷ Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. ⁹ Don’t grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰ Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

VERSE OF THE DAY - Matthew 11:10

Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.

GOSPEL - Matthew 11:2-11

² When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, “Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?”

⁴ Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.”

⁷ As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸ If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. ⁹ Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you,

and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written: “ ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

NICENE CREED

HYMN - 14 “Arise, O Christian People”

SERMON - James 5:7-11

“Stand Firm to the End”

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD’S PRAYER

THE SACRAMENT - *We invite those who agree with the teachings of this church and of the WELS to partake of the true body and blood of Jesus Christ.*

DISTRIBUTION

415 “Be Still, My Soul”

315 “Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face”

BLESSING

HYMN - 449 “Children of the Heavenly Father”

Serving today at Immanuel:

Organist: Jane Vacek **Video Taping:** Nolan Hoff **Power Point:** Mike Heine

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, Jon Hoff, Nolan Hoff

~~~Calendar of Events & Announcements~~~

(Page 1 – December 15, 2019)

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 w/Communion
	6:30	p.m.	GILL at Grace
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
Saturday:	9:00	a.m.	Children’s Christmas Practice
	10:30	a.m.	Choir joins Christmas Practice
Sunday:	9:00	a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00	a.m.	Worship Service

Use Scrip as Christmas gifts. Place orders by TODAY - 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.



G.I.L.L.

TODAY: Sunday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Grace.

~~~Calendar of Events & Announcements~~~

(Page 5 – December 15, 2019)

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.

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.



We are almost there....87.3% (\$3,820) has been given as additional gifts towards the propane gas expense of \$4,371. The remainder of the bill is \$551. Let’s see if we can pay this off by Christmas.

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

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.

Children's Christmas Practice

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

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



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.

The Nominating Committee will be meeting soon to begin the process to fill the ballots for the following positions at the next Congregational/Voter's meeting scheduled for **January 21st**. Please consider giving of your time and talents when called upon.

- Vice-Chairman
- Delegate
- Treasurer
- Trustee (3 year term)
- Elder (3 year term)
- Finance (3 year term)
- Cemetery Board (3 year term)

The Holy Scriptures have defined God pleasing ways in which women may serve their Lord. The Immanuel Ladies' Auxiliary is made up of all women in our congregation. The Ladies Executive Board is asking for volunteers to be on the ballot at the **January 15th meeting** for the following:

- Vice President
- Director (3 year term)
- Secretary/Treasurer

Please contact Janel Radunz if you have questions or would like to volunteer to serve as Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer or Director.

The Vice President serves as vice president in assisting the President for one year and then moves into the office of President for one year. The President directs 2 meetings per year and consults with the Executive Committee to ensure that the condition and cleanliness of the kitchen and basement are adequate for use.

The 3 Directors oversee church improvements when contacted by the church council. They also rotate duties communicating with members hosting a catered event and initiate the annual cleaning of the church kitchen and basement. **Thank you.**

~~~Calendar of Events & Announcements~~~

(Page 4 – December 15, 2019)



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/immanuelutheranschoolhutchinson>



School Calendar of Events:

Monday, December 16 - Photo Club

Thursday, December 19 – Basketball Scrimmage

Friday, December 20 – ILS Pot-Luck and Hodgepodge Show

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.

~~~Calendar of Events & Announcements~~~

(Page 6 – December 15, 2019)



Christmas Gift Bags – After the holidays, if you have extra Christmas Gift Bags (new and/or **used**) that you don't know what to do with...please save for Belle Plaine. This make gift wrapping so much easier for all of the gifts that are given to the residents. Thank you! Please connect with Sharon Smith regarding this.

Upcoming Annual Meetings

January 21st – Annual Voter's Meeting/Congregational Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Everyone invited to attend.

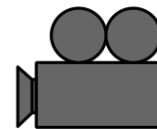
January 15th – Ladies Annual Meeting at 7:00 p.m.



Immanuel is currently conducting an opinion poll to help the voters make a big decision at our annual meeting in January. Sunday, January 4, 2020 will be the last day to make your voice heard. The poll has just one question, "Should the voters authorize the school board to conduct a fundraising campaign for building a new school?" To make this decision the voters need to hear your voice. So far 72 members have responded. Ballots are available from pastor either on paper or by email.

As we think about the future, it's useful to remember how hard the people before us had to work to start and run a school. They gave their best efforts to build a place where children could learn and grow. Over the years, our church as a whole and each of our families have received great blessings from having a school. Now we have a new generation coming up. If each of our 92 "giving units" could manage an extra \$100 per month, we could raise well over \$300 thousand in three years. Our sister church Grace is considering this same question. They have been willing to walk with us in this ministry. But we need to take the lead in making this decision. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Also, please note if you wish to sign up for bulletins and/or flowers, the 2020 listing is located in the Church office on the bulletin board. Also, on the bulletin board is the Church Calendar for reserving the basement.



Looking for volunteers (not just students) – if you would be willing to help video tape the church service, please contact Julie Thompson. This recording is then taken down to Hutchinson Community Video Network, so that it can be Broadcasted on Mondays at 10:00 am & Sundays at 9 pm on Nuvera channel 10 or Mediacom channel 107.3. Thank you for your consideration.



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."