



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 22, 2019

HYMN - 17 “God’s Own Son Most Holy”

We follow Service of the Word on page 38.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST LESSON - Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ “Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also?”

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

PSALM 24 on page 73

SECOND LESSON - Romans 1:1-7

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ Through him and for his name’s sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith. ⁶ And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷ To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

VERSE OF THE DAY - Matthew 1:23

Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia.

GOSPEL - Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.”

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

HYMN - 23 “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

SERMON - Romans 1:1-7

“Called to Belong”

APOSTLES’ CREED

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN - 11 “Comfort, Comfort All My People”

PRAYER

HYMN - 24 “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”



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Serving today at Immanuel:

Organist: Jane Vacek **Elder:** Steve Plamann **Video Taping:** Nolan Hoff

Power Point: Mike Heine **Altar Guild:** Betty Henke & Donna Telecky

Ushers: Bruce Trick, Kyler Adams, Tessa Adams, Don Dettman, Andy Weber, Brad Weber, Dylan Weber, Travis Gauer, Jon 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
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
	3:00 p.m.	Worship at Zion
	7:00 p.m.	Children's Service at Immanuel
Wednesday:	4:15 p.m.	Confirmation
	8:45 a.m.	Worship at Zion
	10:00 a.m.	Worship at Immanuel
Sunday:	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Tuesday:	7:00 p.m.	Worship at Immanuel
Wednesday:	9:00 a.m.	Worship at Zion
		Happy New Year!

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 "Shepherd'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."

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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.

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.



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.

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!

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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)

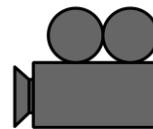
The Holy Scriptures have defined God pleasing ways in which women may serve their Lord. The Immanuel Ladies' Auxiliary is made up of all women in our congregation. The Ladies Executive Board is asking for volunteers to be on the ballot at the **January 15th meeting** for the following:

- 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.***



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.

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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.



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.



Kindergarten through 8th Grade
Children of Grace Pre-School

ilschool@hutchtel.net

<https://www.facebook.com/immanuel.lutheran.school.hutchinson>



School Calendar of Events:

ILS No School - December 22 to January 1, 2020

School Resumes January 2, 2020

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.

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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.