



ADVENT FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

DECEMBER 8, 2019

HYMN - 702 “Prepare the Royal Highway”

We follow the Service of Word and Sacrament on page 26.

In place of “Lord our Lord” we will sing Hymn 6 is “Come, O Long-Expected Jesus.”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST LESSON - Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD—³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; ⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ⁷ The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper’s nest. ⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.

CHOIR - “I Saw the Light”

PSALM 130 (page 114)

SECOND LESSON - Romans 15:4-13

⁴ For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

⁵ May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God’s truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs ⁹ so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written: “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name.”

¹⁰ Again, it says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.” ¹¹ And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and sing praises to him, all you peoples.”

¹² And again, Isaiah says, “The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

CHOIR - “Sing Joy”

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God’s salvation. Alleluia.

GOSPEL - Matthew 3:1-12

¹ In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea ² and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” ³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

⁴ John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for

Abraham. ¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

CHILDREN’S SERMON

HYMN - 16 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

SERMON - Matthew 3:1-12

“Produce Good Fruit”

CREED (tune of “O Little Town of Bethlehem”)

In God the Father we believe, the Lord of hosts His name.
All things from him their form receive, By His strong Word they came.
By Him was all created in earth and heav’n above
He made them all, things great and small, By His great pow’r and love

In God’s Son Jesus we believe, Who came at God’s own hour.
Who virgin Mary did conceive By Holy Spirit’s pow’r.
He suffered and was buried, Was raised at God’s own call
To reign on high, and draw nigh Al last as Judge of all.

In Holy Spirit we believe And in Christ’s Church on earth.
The saints, united, faith receive, A gift of precious worth.
He sanctifies and keeps us By His empow’ring love.
Forgiven, we the grave shall flee To live with God above.

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

8 - “Come, O Precious Ransom, Come”

312 - “Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared”

BLESSING

Hymn 12 “Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”

~~~Calendar of Events & Announcements~~~

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Serving today at Immanuel:

Organist: Jane Vacek

Altar Guild: Betty Henke & Donna Telecky **Elder:** Kurt 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
	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.	Elder’s Meeting
	11:00 a.m.	Advent Pot-Luck – Everyone Welcome!
Monday:	6:30 p.m.	GILL at Grace
	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study at ILC
	6:30 p.m.	PTF
Tuesday:	7:00 p.m.	Choir
	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.	Council
Friday:	7:00 p.m.	Dartball at Grace
Saturday:	9:00 a.m.	Children’s Christmas Practice
	11:00 to 1:00	Children’s Christmas Party
Sunday:	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service w/Communion
	6:30 p.m.	G.I.L.L. at Grace

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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.

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.

~~~Calendar of Events & Announcements~~~

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Immanuel will have a hymn sing TODAY before worship starting about 15 minutes before the service begins, the elder for that Sunday will ask for people to suggest hymns for the congregation to sing.



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.**



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

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
TODAY - 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.



Belle Plaine Lutheran Home Christmas Party

Thank you to all who made donations towards the Belle Plaine Christmas gifts. And thank you to all that went along to help. It is greatly appreciated. *Sharon Smith*

~~~Calendar of Events & Announcements~~~

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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.**



G.I.L.L.

TODAY: Sunday, December 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Grace.

Children's Christmas Practice

Saturday, December 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.



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/immanuelutheranschoolhutchinson>



School Calendar of Events:

Monday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. – PTF

Friday, December 13 – Hot Lunch – Served by Preschool and Kindergarten

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."