



# Immanuel Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Rev. Eric Swyres, Pastor

801 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street

Rolla, Missouri 65401 ~ (573) 364-4525

[www.ilcrolla.org](http://www.ilcrolla.org) email: [ilc@ilcrolla.org](mailto:ilc@ilcrolla.org)

[www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranRolla](https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranRolla)

The mission of Immanuel Lutheran Church is to preach Christ crucified and risen from the dead for the salvation of the world. We reflect God's love by spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ through a caring ministry of reaching, teaching, and serving our congregation and the community.

*A Warm and Sincere Welcome!* We are excited that you have chosen to join us. We invite you to join us often. If you do not have a church home, we hope you will consider making Immanuel Lutheran your church home. Please contact the church office for more information.

## + The Sacrament of Holy Communion+

As we partake of this blessed sacrament, our Lord has promised to give us His true body and blood in, with and under the bread and wine for us Christians to eat and drink for the forgiveness of our sins and strengthening of our faith. Those who partake, firmly believing in Christ's real presence, receive these blessings. If you are a member of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and have not communed at Immanuel before, please speak with the pastor or an elder before participating. If you are not a member of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod please speak with pastor before the service.  
*Thank you.*

Advent 3  
December 17, 2023  
Divine Service 4

## Confession and Absolution

338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

**P** In the name of the Father and of the † Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O  
Lord, who could stand?

**C** **But with You there is forgiveness;  
therefore You are feared.**

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word,  
call upon Him in prayer and praise, and  
receive the body and blood of our Lord  
Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar,  
let us first consider our unworthiness and  
confess before God and one another that we  
have sinned in thought, word, and deed,  
and that we cannot free ourselves from our  
sinful condition. Together as His people let  
us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God,  
our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for  
the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be  
merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Service of the Word

Introit

*Psalm 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: v. 7*

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,  
and grant us your salvation.

**Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**

Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

**Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.**

Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11*

**The Year of the LORD's Favor**

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the  
brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those  
who are bound;  
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint  
spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of  
righteousness,

the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins;  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations. . . .

For I the LORD love justice;  
I hate robbery and wrong;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their offspring shall be known among the nations,  
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge them,  
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my soul shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness

and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Epistle

*1 Thessalonians 5:16–24*

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Alleluia and Verse



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a 7/8 time signature. The melody consists of three phrases: 'Al - le - lu - ia,' (quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, eighth, eighth), 'al - le - lu - ia,' (quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, eighth, eighth), and 'al - le - lu - ia.' (quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, eighth, eighth). The staff ends with a double bar line.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**



Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and  
invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all  
worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the  
Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our  
salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy  
Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under  
Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again  
according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the  
Father.  
And He will come again with glory  
to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and  
the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian  
and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the  
remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of  
the dead  
and the life † of the world to come.  
Amen.**

Children's Sermon

345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Sermon

Offering

## Prayer of the Church

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the Church, preparing to celebrate the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, that remembering John the Forerunner's preaching of the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, we, too, may die to sin and rise to new life, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the Church, that the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world would richly and daily forgive our sins and the sins of all believers; and for our Synod president; our district president; our circuit visitor; and all pastors in Christ, that they would remain faithful to not deny but confess Him, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the children of our families, that every darkness would be lightened by Christ's gracious visitation; and that God would preserve them from dangers to body and soul, guide them by His Word in wise paths, and keep them firm in the faith until life's end, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all in authority, that they would be given wisdom and insight until the day when Christ comes again in glory to usher in His kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those afflicted with pain, sickness, trials and difficulties, [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_,] that they may be granted health and the certainty that our bodies will be incorruptible and immortal when Christ returns to make all things new, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the Church, as she eagerly awaits the return of her Bridegroom, that we would not grow weary, but be strengthened through the Word and Sacraments to ever hold fast to Christ's promise of salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

# Service of the Sacrament

## Preface

LSB 208

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

LSB 208



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

**C** **Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

# **C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

LSB 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Distribution

621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

634 The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord

347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



# Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

**C** 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

- A** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Benediction**

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and  
be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and †  
give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

**331 The Advent of Our King**

**Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran  
Service Book

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## **This Week at Immanuel**

### **Sunday:**

Divine Service: 9:00 a.m.

Bible Class: 10:15am – Genesis

Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

### **Monday:**

### **Tuesday:**

### **Wednesday:**

Advent 3, Service 12:00 & 6:00 p.m.

### **Thursday:**

Bible Class: 12:00- Ephesians

Leisure Lutherans 1:00 p.m.

### **Friday:**

### **Saturday:**

## **Up Coming Announcements**

### **Advent Midweek:**

**December, 20<sup>th</sup>** Noon and 6:00 p.m.

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent 9:00 a.m.

**Christmas Eve:** Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day:** Monday December 25<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m.

## **LSF**

The Lutheran Student Fellowship are selling t-shirts. To order a shirt please fill out the LSF t-shirt order form found in the Narthex. Please turn in your order along with payment to the church office. Payments may be cash or check made out to Immanuel shirts. Order forms are due **today** Shirts will be delivered in January.

## **Lutherans For Life**

Those who believe cannot help but speak. God's love for every human life has filled our mouths with shouts of joy (Psalm 126:2). We have His permission to give voice to this Gospel in all circumstances and without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18). Our time has come to bear witness to the Light (John 1:6-7). Confess and do not deny (John 1:20) the sanctity of life!

## **LWML/Dorcas**

Mites collected in December totaled \$97.91. The total amount of mites for 2023 comes to \$728.58. These donations support national and Missouri district LWML mission projects. A complete list of Missouri District mission projects can be found at [www.missourilwml.org](http://www.missourilwml.org)

Our member, Albert Malone will be observing his 100th birthday on December 29. Please join this observation by participating in a birthday card shower for Albert. A collection basket is located in the narthex and Leisure Lutherans will deliver the cards to Albert.

**Sunday School** "Promised Messengers-Waiting for God's Messenger". God sends His messengers to prepare the way for the Messiah. The Lord will send His promised Savior, who will bring healing to his people.

Peace Lutheran is having Christmas day Service at 8:30 a.m.

## **Members serving in the Armed Forces**

Jacob Banholzer  
Matt Battley  
Joe Duehning

Amber Dean  
Marshall Dean

## **Those Serving Today**

**Elder:** Ethan Swyres

**Communion Attendant:** David Roedemeier

**Organist:** Phil Thiem

**Ushers:** Team 3

**Greeters Today:** Carla Roedemeier & Jana Wassilak

**Altar Guild:** Martha Cox, & Sue Perry

**Money Counters:** Don Langhoff & Terry Theiss

**Refreshments Today:** Janis Wassilak

**Altar Flowers Today:** Given to the Glory of God by Christa McElroy in memory of her mother Toni Donndorf.

## **The Fruits of Our Faith**

**Attendance Sunday 12/10/2023:** 165 Communion 122

**Attendance Sunday 12/10/2023:** Bible Class 48

**Attendance Thursday 12/7/2023:** Bible Class 21

**Offering for 12/10/2023** \$ 4,946

**Refreshments College Students:** No Class

# **The Family Altar**

For Families Gathered Around God's Word  
**The week of December 17<sup>th</sup> - December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Sunday:** Reflect upon the sermon

**Monday:** Isaiah 61:1-11

**Tuesday:** Psalm: 126

**Wednesday:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

**Thursday:** John 1: 6-28

**Friday: Small Catechism** – 6<sup>th</sup> Petition/Meaning

**Saturday:** Personal prayers for family and church

## **Prayers**

Ethan, Lyndsey, Sophie, & Emma Fite

Jordan, Randy Krauss

Dotty Wolf

Brandon Lowe

Bob Chretien

Sandy Ray

Tracy Krauss

**Prayer before Communion:** Dear Savior, a Your gracious invitation I come to your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament:** Almighty and Everlasting God, I thank and praise you for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the Holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

**Luther's Morning Prayer:** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

**Luther's Evening Prayer:** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen