The family of Immanuel Lutheran Church welcomes you. We hope that you will Worship with us often.



IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH "A Stephen Ministry Congregation" The Rev. Charles P. Marshall

Our mission as disciples of Jesus, is to commit ourselves to making Christ known through worship, service, outreach, learning, and loving one another

Saturday, December 22, 2018 Sunday, December 23, 2018 Fourth Sunday of Advent

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

Welcome! We invite you to become a part of the ministry at Immanuel.

For more information about the church and how to get involved, speak with the pastor following the service.

Please sign the Red Pad found at each center row pew. The Head Usher can assist you at any time during the service.

Sunday School classes are after the Sunday service for children 2 years old through adult. Please stop by while you are here!

INDIVIDUAL PRAYER AND HEALING:

Pastor Charlie offers individual prayer at the communion rail, with anointing and laying of hands for healing for those who desire it, 20 minutes before each service.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION:

Our hope is that you feel welcome at the Lord's Table. We welcome all baptized Christians who proclaim with us the crucified and risen Christ's real presence as he gives us his body and blood as food and drink. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are also available, please let the Communion assistants know of this dietary preference. The pastor also offers a pastoral blessing at the Communion Rail for those who do not wish to receive Communion.

FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN: We are glad you are here!

- Activity bags are in back to help little ones keep themselves occupied.
- The Oak Tree Room and the Pre-School Room are available for nursing mothers and others with small children and allow you to listen to the service.
- Baby Sunday School is offered for little ones accompanied by an adult most Sundays during worship (after children's sermon and return before Communion).

Worship Assistants

| Sat Dec 22 |
|----------------|
| Jeanne Swain |
| Rodgers Hagert |
| Linda Black |
| Sharon Bohli |
| Rodgers Hagert |
| Jeanne Swain |
| |

| | Sun Dec 23 |
|----------------|------------------|
| Head Usher | Tim Rill |
| Altar Guild | Frank Burnette |
| Altal Gullu | Susan Burnette |
| Greeters | Linda Gregg |
| Greelers | Bart Walder |
| Lector | John Gregg |
| | Jennifer Edwards |
| Offering | Jeremy Edwards |
| Ushers | Barb Skelley |
| | Bill Skelley |
| | Susan Burnette |
| Communion | Norman Downes |
| Stewards | Bart Walder |
| | Barb Yingling |
| Acolytes | Austin Gregg |
| Acolyles | Zoe Gregg |
| Pray w/ Pastor | Christine Crouch |
| Bell Ringer | Ernest Weiss |

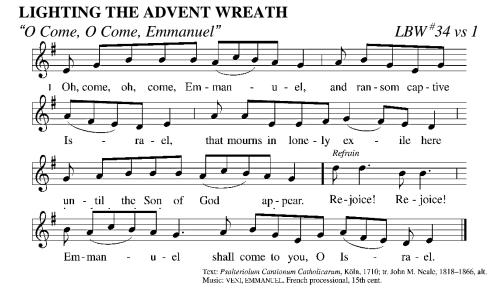
Cell Phone / Electronics Announcement

Kindly, turn off or silence ALL devices during our services. Thank you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. A brief silence is kept before the prayer. A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, 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. **Amen.**



At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming. O Emmanuel, **Surprise us by your coming.**

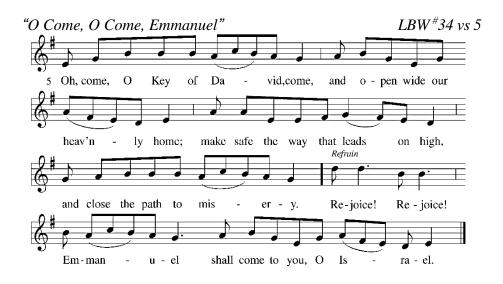
We gather together to let God's good news reorient our lives. O Emmanuel, **Surprise us by your coming.**

We wait for the day when all the world will see the sign that God is with us. O Emmanuel, **Surprise us by your coming.**

We are shocked by how God comes close, even at this very moment. O Emmanuel, **Surprise us by your coming.**

Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of these candles, whose flames bring warmth to winter and fill this place with the glow of hope. **Amen.**

Light all four candles.



FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return

to the people of Israel.

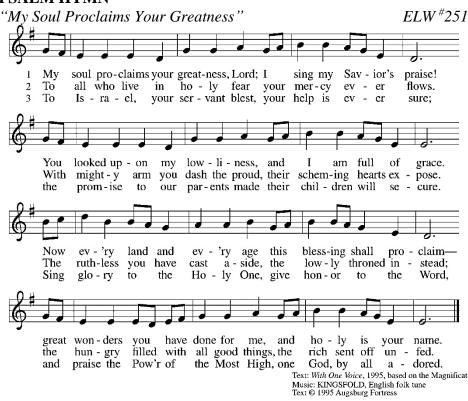
⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great

to the ends of the earth; $^{\rm 5a} {\rm and}$ he shall be the one of peace. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM HYMN



SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people. ⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

We are presented with Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

++ Upcoming Week ++

| <u>Sun Dec 23</u> | <i>Worship Service w Communion</i> Sunday School | 9:00am 10:15am |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Adult Sunday School | 10:15am |
| | Confirmation Class | 7:00pm |
| <u>Mon Dec 24</u> | Christmas Eve | |
| | Afternoon Service | 3:00pm |
| | Family Service | 7:00pm |
| | Candlelight Service | 9:00pm |
| | AA and Al-Anon | 8:00pm |
| Tues Dec 25 | Merry Christmas! | |
| Wed Dec 26 | AA | 7:15pm |
| Thur Dec 27 | Choir Practice | 7:00pm |
| Fri Dec 28 | Pastor Day Off | |
| | AA and Al-Anon | 8:00pm |
| Sat Dec 29 | Worship Service w Communion | 5:00pm |
| | AA | 6:30pm |
| Sun Dec 30 | Worship Service w Communion | 9:00am |
| | Sunday School | 10:15am |
| | Adult Sunday School | 10:15am |

Altar flowers are sponsored in memory of Richard and Marge Hebrank by Norm and Deb

Center flower arrangement is sponsored in honor of Lindsay's birthday today, December 23rd by Mom and Dad Burnette

Lessons and Prayers are sponsored in memory of our daughter, Dawn Bishop By Norm and Deb

Donation to the kitchen fund received in memory of Ginny Sellers by Larry & Patt Hentz **WELCOME to the Fourth and final Weekend of Advent.** Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the Fourth Weekend of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us, in no certain terms, that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all". It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion – with high delight – "we proclaim the Lord's death".

Finish your shopping at Amazon.com

amazonsmile

Link your Amazon account to our Church ID. You shop. Amazon gives. Immanuel receives 0.5% proceeds from your purchases. Start with this link: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-0729004 then confirm Immanuel as the Charitable Organization to receive the proceeds, you will then be directed to the 'regular' Amazon webpage. Happy Shopping!

ARE YOU RECEIVING PASTOR CHARLIE'S WEEKLY EMAIL?

If you want a weekly message from Pastor Charlie with reminders about what's happening at Immanuel, send your email to pastorc@ielcmd.org.

| Donna Kreseski |
|----------------|
| Brett Bohli |
| Lindsey Bohli |
| Sandy Fisher |
| Ken Kiler |
| Johnny Day |
| Ricky Hoffman |
| Patty LaMotte |
| Todd Robinson |
| Alice Warehime |

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Amanda Yingling Madelyn Edwards Ernie Martin Jane Taylor Zoe Gregg Colby Trent Eugene Black Susan Burnette Thomas Hagert Michael Yingling Lindsay Lopata Donald Diseroad Janet Patterson Debbie Miller Rachel Graf John Popp Kevin Day Barbara Skelley Pam Mullins

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

| Rodgers and Janis Hagert | December 11, 1992 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Aaron and Lauren Lesser | December 11, 2010 |
| Gregory and Donna Patterson | December 18, 2010 |
| Harry and Jean Arbaugh | December 24, 1968 |
| Ron and Gloria Bryant | December 25, 1964 |

Local Pantry Collection for December: Tree of Friends need Instant Potatoes. Narthex for your donations. Thank you!

nber: Food pantries at NESAP and **toes**. Labeled baskets are in the pul

Outside of the church office is a stand that holds a Book Exchange and Painted Rocks. Feel free to take one or leave one. We hope to spread kindness through painted rocks! Most of these rocks were painted this summer during our 'Kids Feeding Kids' program.

Take a Rock. Hide the rock. When people find it, they can keep it to be inspired every time they see it or they can hide it again for someone else to find. Spread Kindness. ©

ALTAR FLOWERS SPONSORSHIPS ~ LESSONS & PRAYERS

Thank you to everyone who sponsored flowers during 2018.

Last Weekend Still Available for your sponsorship. > December 29-30 Lessons & Pravers

Lessons & Carols

*** The 2019 Flower Sponsorship Calendar is NOW POSTED. JANUARY, 2019 Prices will increase:

\$60 for both altar vases

\$30 for only one sponsored vase

\$30 for a center arrangement

\$20 for Lessons & Prayers

Co-Sponsoring is encouraged. Sign-up early and often to get the dates of your choice during 2019!

Looking Ahead ... Save these Dates

TODAY, December 22-23

Advent 4

TOMORROW, Monday, Dec 24 Poinsettia delivery @ 9am

Christmas Eve Services:

Afternoon Service @ 3pm Family Service @ 7pm

Candlelight Service @ 9pm

December 29-30

Lessons & Carols Services @ 5pm and 9am

January 5-6

Epiphany Services @ 5pm and 9am Monthly Special Offering collected for '*Little Free Pantry*' Sunday Coffee Hour in social hall following morning worship

January 12-13

The Baptism of Our Lord Services @ 5pm and 9am

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND GROW AT IMMANUEL

No previous knowledge of the Bible is required for any Bible study

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:

Year-round Sunday morning Bible study is in the Martin Luther Room after the worship service, apprx 10:15 to 11:15am. (Coffee Hours, 10:45–11:30) Each week we explore the Gospel reading for the following Sunday.

Everyone is welcome, and no previous knowledge of the Bible is needed.

MIDWEEK PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY GROUPS: All About Angels Having completed our study on the Bible and the Afterlife, we have begun a new study on another popular topic of interest: "All About Angels". We will explore what the Bible tells us about what angels are, what they do, and what they have to do with us. Everyone is welcome, and no previous knowledge of the Bible is needed.

Tuesday Morning Group meets in the Oak Tree Room at 11am. Resumes after the holidays on Jan 8.

Evening Group meets at the Pastor's home at 7pm.

Resumes on January 2.



(840 Hughes Shop Rd, Westminster MD 21158)

CONFIRMATION CLASS: The Ten Commandments

Confirmation Class meets Sundays, Dec 23 & 30 at 7-8pm in the Oak Tree Room. This year we are exploring the Small Catechism. In December we will finish up the Ten Commandments and study the Apostles Creed. New students are welcome any time!

PASTOR CHARLIE'S

DECEMBER BIBLE CHALLENGE: Promise and Fulfillment

Promise and Fulfillment is the central theme of Advent, reminding us that Jesus' birth didn't come out of nowhere but was a part of God's promised plan to save his lost creation. Join us as we explore the words of the prophets and relive the wonder of the Savior's birth! The online Bible Study will continue with daily comments from Pastor Charlie on Facebook. Email him at pastorc@ielcmd.org if you would like to join this private group, or if you would like to receive copies via email of the comments he posts there for each day.

| 12/21 | Isaiah 7:10-16 | 12/25 | Luke 2:8-14 | 12/29 | John 1:6-9 |
|-------|-----------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|
| 12/22 | Isaiah 9:2-7 | 12/26 | Luke 2:15-20 | 12/30 | John 1:10-13 |
| 12/23 | Matthew 1:18-25 | 12/27 | Luke 2:22-32 | 12/31 | John 1:14-18 |
| 12/24 | Luke 2:1-7 | 12/28 | John 1:1-5 | | |

Consider becoming a part of the *Music Ministry of Immanuel*!

We currently support *five* various groups: ~ The Sunday Adult Choir

- ~ The Chime Choir
- ~ The Luther Men
- ~ The Children's Choir

~ The Woman's Harmony Choir

If you are not able to commit to regular practices at this time, but can participate during the year, please contact:

~ Jerry Hoffman (Organist/Choir Director) ~ Wayne Thomas (Luther Men Choir)

~ Sandy Voight (Chime Choir contact) ~ Amanda Yingling (Children's Choir)

~ Susan Burnette (Woman's Harmony Choir)

NO EXPERIENCE IS NEEDED,

just your willingness to 'make a joyful noise'!

Sunday Adult Choir – practice on Thursdays @ 7pm

Chime Choir – Stay tuned for Updates



> Children's Choir sing quarterly, practices scheduled as needed

> Women's Harmony Choir <u>sing quarterly</u>, practices scheduled as needed More information on *Music Ministry Bulletin Board* in the office hallway.

| | Monday, Dec. 24 Afternoon Service | Monday, Dec. 24 Family Service | Monday, Dec. 24 Candlelight Service | |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| _ | @ 3 pm | @ 7 pm | @ 9 pm | |
| Head Usher | Brenda Wulforst | Sharon Slivecky | Tim Rill | |
| Altar Guild | Ellen Linsenbardt | Steve Burris | Susan Burnette | |
| Greeters | Linda Gregg Pete Wulforst | Dawn Burris Steve Burris | Jeanne Swain Jane Taylor | |
| Lectors | John Gregg | Barbara Guthrie | Joe Fleck | |
| Offering Ushers | Andy Kiler Matthew Rooney Ernest Weiss Brenda Wulforst | Chris Miller Debbie Miller Tyler Mullins John Popp | Connie Dattilio Jennifer Edwards Madelyn Edwards Jennifer Robinson | |
| Communion Stewards (Intinction -3) | Christine Crouch John Gregg Rhonda Kiler | Norman Downes Debbie Hebrank Bart Walder | Frank Burnette Susan Burnette Barb Yingling | |
| Acolytes ~ Torchbearers | Austin Gregg Zoe Gregg | Ashton Eckhardt Tanner Eckhardt | Ryan Edwards Kyle Robinson | |
| Crucifer | John Gregg | Bart Walder | Jeremy Edwards | |
| Pray w/ Pastor | Christine Crouch | Bob Nicoll | Connie Dattilio | |
| Bell Ringer | Ernest Weiss | Bart Walder | Gene Yingling | |

Christmas Eve Worship Assistants

***3pm Christmas Eve service:** After the children's sermon, children can join us in the PreSchool Sunday School Room to make a craft. We will return to the service before communion. Children under the age of 4 should be accompanied by an adult.

New Cooperative Joint Ministry!

Immanuel is one of at least three churches taking part in a new joint youth ministry group! Here are some upcoming activities. **Everyone in the congregation is invited to attend!** *Please take advantage of these great events so we continue to plan more!*



<u>2019: Sunday, January 6</u>th (weather date 1/13), from 2-4pm is our **Snow Tubing** adventure at Liberty! Contact Angie Eckhardt for more information and to RSVP. Email to Angie_Eckhardt@verizon.net or call/text 410-215-8894.

Mar-Lu-Ridge Summer Camp Registration opens on January 1st and Early Bird savings of ^{\$}35 off each camp are in effect until February 18th (does not apply to Day Camps). *www.mar-lu-ridge.org*

At Mar-Lu-Ridge, campers of all ages experience and engage in cooperative learning while participating in new activities, all in a safe, nonthreatening, non-competitive, and hands-on environment that builds campers' confidence along with an understanding of what it means to live as a community in Christ.

Want to know more? We have two open house dates in **2019: March 17th and May 19th** from 2–4:30pm. You will meet some of the staff, tour the grounds and facilities, and ask questions. Tours will start from Agape Hall. No appointment is necessary, just come and check us out! If those dates do not work, please call us at 1.800.238.9974 to set up a personal tour.

Weather Cancellation Policy @ Immanuel

In order to care for the safety of each member of the congregation, weather conditions and circumstances <u>may</u> establish the need to cancel worship services and/or activities at Immanuel. The decision to cancel activities will be made by a review of the NOAA.gov website, in consultation with the Council President and Pastor and (optionally) the executive committee.

Every attempt will be made to announce any decision to cancel services and/or activities **at least 2 hours** prior to such activities through the following official means:

- Pastor Charlie's weekly email list
- Immanuel's Office Phone Recorded Message (410-374-4463)
- Immanuel's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/immanuellutheranccmd)
- Immanuel's Web site (www.immanuellutheranccmd.org)
- WBAL Ch. 11 television closure site

When possible, an alternative time will be scheduled and announced.

Taken from Pastor Charlie's message in the December newsletter:

We demonstrate our caring heart by reaching out to our neighbors in many ways with gifts of food, warm clothing, and other necessities. Perhaps the most important gift we can offer during this season of the year is the gift of God's perfect love all wrapped up in Jesus, the babe of Bethlehem.

Of course, God wants us to be sharing our faith with others and inviting others to worship throughout the year. But this is the time when non-churchgoers are most likely to accept an invitation. As you think about whom you might invite, I encourage you to cast a wide net that includes friends and family, neighbors and co-workers, and people you interact with where you buy your groceries, get your hair cut, stop for lunch or coffee.

Every invitation to come to church is more likely to succeed when you are not just inviting people but praying for them as well. Try writing a list of people you want to invite (you don't have to know their names– God already does!) and take a few minutes each day to pray for them before you invite them. Ask God to bless them, to open their hearts to receive your invitation, and to provide an opportunity for you to extend the invitation. Once you have invited them, continue to pray each day for the Holy Spirit to work through your invitation to draw them closer to God and to the church.

Expect God to answer your prayers and bring them to church on Christmas Eve. Be prepared to welcome them warmly, as well as other newcomers whom God may send, and follow up with them as you are able.



Please remember in your prayers:

Jeff Dell *Walter Ruby *Ardice Holbrook Ann Trent Cary Myers Gail Brown Fred Davies **Reid Ronayne** Dorinda Smith Dolly Ruby Jan Rhoten Robert Rhoten Joe Morris Deborah Moose Elissa Snedeker John Leitner *Romaine Harper *Paulyne Hartlaub Joe Miller Esther Miller Ann Harden John Marshall *Don Diseroad *Thelma Blizzard Donna Mummert Pam Miller Jim Moose **Dhruv Dhingra** Nancy Hoffman Janice Farley *Bonnie Sterner **Bryan Ridgely**

Bobby Patterson Barbara Patterson Steven Garv Gary Southard Paul Moffitt Gaiser Family Angela Locke Janis Hagert *Dot Matthews Carolyn Kittelberger **Bill Skelley** Gary Eppley Kelly McNeal Carter Murphy Maria Barczak Jodi Grossman *Dan Riley *Kathryn Riley David MacArthur *Jan Engman Bill Whitehead III Ryan Whitehead Norma & Joe Rawlings Pat Morris Linda Price Jean Honevcutt *Gladys Riley Martha Hyson Linda Slate David Barnhart Bonnie Hull Nick Campbell

Daniel Woo Kerry Flanagan Justin Tawney Jackie Losiewski Brenda Kiler Perry Janet Gross June Hale Mary Ayers **Jim Menges** Cyndi Seibel Janet Brady Marianne Lieberman Susie Zepp Arnold Speert **Diana Thompson** Angie Jess (Biondo) Redifer Don Sites Nathan and Jackson Sharon Hevet Delores Whitehead Jeff Petrusky Heather Petrusky John Petrusky

*Pastoral Care list

Our Missionary in South Sudan refugee camps: Rev. Wal Reat

Those serving in the military:

Brett Richardson, Jenelle Espinoza, Kyle Pasta, David Mace, Cassy Sanders, Gavin Bussard, Austin Maloney, Christian Evans



IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 3184 Church Street PO Box 739 Manchester, MD 21102 "A Stephen Ministry Congregation"

> Church Office Phone: 410-374-4463 Church Office Fax: 410-775-5793 Email: info@ielcmd.org www.immanuellutheranccmd.org

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Charles Marshall Pastor

Jerry Hoffman Organist Steve Burris Sexton

Rachel Murphy Office Administrator Sharon Slivecky Treasurer

Rev. Wal Reat South Sudan Refugee Camp Missionary