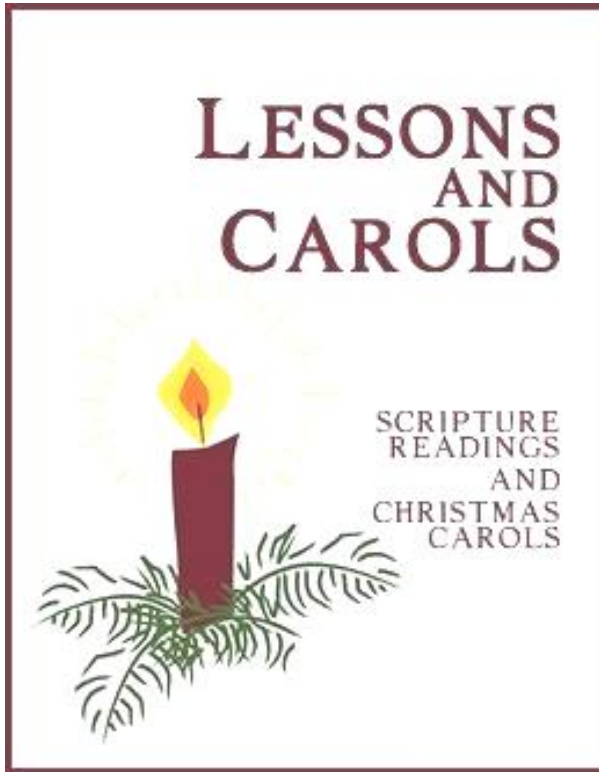




IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
WATERLOO, ILLINOIS



Wednesday, December 20, 2023
6:30 p.m.

"Making more and stronger disciples of Jesus Christ
through the power of the Holy Spirit."

Welcome to Immanuel!

Please turn off your cell phones and/or paging devices. Thank you!

If you are a guest, please fill out a visitor's card located in the cardholder on the back of each pew. During the offering, place this card in the offering plate. As you leave, please introduce yourself to the pastors.

Members, please help us love and care for one another by filling out one of our attendance cards. Remember to include all the members of your family who are present in worship today. Thank you for filling out an Attendance card every time you attend Church—it helps us keep good records.

PRESERVICE *(Please use this time to quietly reflect and pray as you prepare your hearts and minds for this service.)*

PRESERVICE MUSIC [Agape Ringers, “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” and “O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is” and “See in Yonder Manger Low” (all arr. by J. A. Behnke)]

BELLS / WELCOME

OPENING HYMN, LSB 393, “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”
(accompanied by the Agape Ringers)

+ FIRST LESSON +

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

READING, Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹²The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” ¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her

offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” ¹⁷And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

HYMN, LSB 338, “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

+ SECOND LESSON +

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

READING, Genesis 22:15-18

¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

HYMN, LSB 357 v. 1-5, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

+ THIRD LESSON +

Christ’s birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

READING, Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

HYMN, LSB 359, “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

+ **FOURTH LESSON** +

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

READING, Micah 5:2-4

²But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler 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 given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

HYMN, LSB 361, “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

(accompanied by the Agape Ringers)

+ **FIFTH LESSON** +

The angel Gabriel salutes the virgin Mary.

READING, Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

HYMN, LSB 356, “The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came”

+ SIXTH LESSON +
Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

READING, Luke 2:1, 3-7

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN, LSB 384, “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”
(accompanied by the Agape Ringers)

+ SEVENTH LESSON +
The shepherds go to the manger.

READING, Luke 2:8-16

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” ¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

HYMN, LSB 380, “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
(accompanied by the Agape Ringers)

+ EIGHTH LESSON +
The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

READING, Matthew 2:1-12

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who

has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.” ⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

HYMN, LSB 397, “As with Gladness Men of Old”

+ NINTH LESSON +

John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

READING, John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

CHOIR ANTHEM, “Before the Marvel of this Night”

(Vajda & Schalk)

SERMON

OFFERING [Choir Anthem, “Night of Wonder” (Hoffman & Black)]

Please stand

LITANY



L In peace let us pray to the Lord:



C Lord, have mer - cy.

L For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For Matthew, Timothy, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For President Biden, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all

the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

The prayers then continue (spoken):

L For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C Alleluia.

L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer

L Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C To You, O Lord.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

(Matthew 6:9-13)

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.

BENEDICAMUS

(Psalm 103:1)

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN, *LSB* 379, “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

(accompanied by the Agape Ringers)

BELLS / POSTLUDE

Acknowledgments

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MEDIA/FACEBOOK LIVE – Lisa Clamors

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Mrs. Linda Polansky, Preschool Director

939-6480 or 618-980-3475

Christmas Cards of Love

The Board of Social Ministry invites the congregation to join them in brightening the Christmas season for our shut-in and homebound members. They delivered goody bags to each shut-in and homebound member on Sunday, December 3rd. In addition to this gift, we are asking the members of Immanuel to remember them as well.

Please consider sending a Christmas card during this Christmas season. Your help will brighten their Christmas and extend the love of Immanuel to them.

NAME	ADDRESS	CITY, STATE, ZIP
Altes, Gary	419 Sycamore Dr	Waterloo, IL 62298
Binder, Nina	406 Avington Dr	Waterloo, IL 62298
Chitty, Donna	5326 Konarcik Road	Waterloo, IL 62298
Clamors, Helen	6703 Susewind Lane	Waterloo, IL 62298
Dietzel, Marie	832 Cheshire Dr	Waterloo, IL 62298
Henry, Marvin & Carolyn	411 Janice Drive	Waterloo, IL 62298
Hitzemann, Judy	611 Morrison Ave.	Waterloo, IL 62298
Jarvis, Beverly	Magnolia Terrace, 623 Hamacher St.	Waterloo, IL 62298
Jones, Pat	246A Hamacher St.	Waterloo, IL 62298
Knoke, Gloria	1038 Gall Road	Waterloo, IL 62298
Lloyd, Charlie & Phyllis	2658 State Route 156	Waterloo, IL 62298
Menke, Millie	1052 Country Club Lane	Waterloo, IL 62298
Mesnarich, Iva	Cedar Trails, 490 Urbanna Dr	Freeburg, IL 62243
Moore, Sandy	1602 Berkley Lane	Belleville, IL 62226
Netzeband, Jack & Kathy	624 Hartman Lane	Waterloo, IL 62298
Orsech, Edith	623 Hamacher St.	Waterloo, IL 62298
Rabbermann, Lois	1020 Turtle Dove Trail	Waterloo, IL 62298
Bush, Rosemary	526 Legacy Dr.	Waterloo, IL 62298
Ruff, Gladys	735 Columbia Ave, Apt 32	Waterloo, IL 62298
Prigge, Arnold	835 Circle Drive	Red Bud, IL 62278
Prigge, Jackie	623 Hamacher St.	Waterloo, IL 62298

Join us! All are welcome!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sat., Dec. 23 at 5:30 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 24 at 9:00 a.m.



Christmas Eve & Christmas Services

SUNDAY, DEC. 24
4:00 P.M. & 7:30 P.M.
MONDAY, DEC. 25
9:00 A.M.

