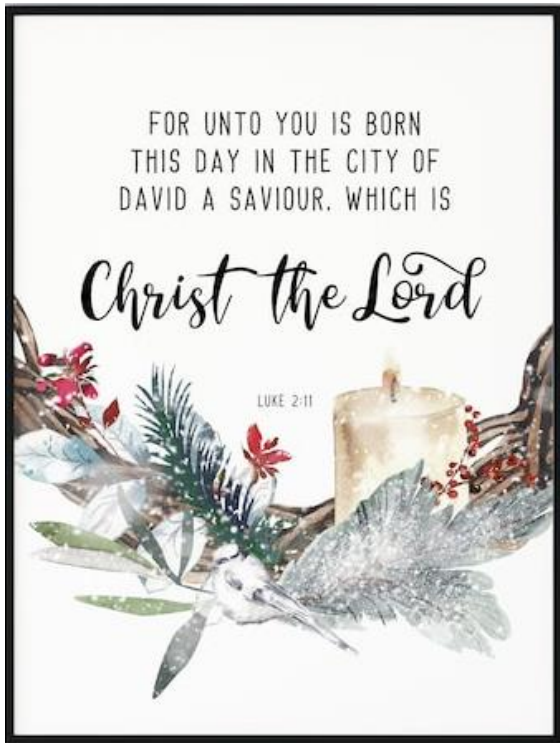




IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Christmas Eve



Sunday, December 24, 2023
4:00 p.m. & 7:30 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 guests' 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. If you are communing, please check in the appropriate place. Thank you for filling out an Attendance-Communion card every time you attend Church—it helps us keep good records.

We celebrate Holy Communion today! In this Supper of our Lord we receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the earthly forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Since this Holy Communion is also a sign of our common confession of the Christian faith, we welcome to the Lord's Table those who are confirmed members of our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask the pastor before or after the service.

If for health or personal reasons you cannot drink wine, the lighter colored glasses in the center of the tray of individual cups contain water with a drop of wine. These special glasses allow communicants to celebrate the Lord's Supper according to Christ's institution, but have a very small amount of alcohol.

Worship at Immanuel is...

Christ Centered. We believe that at the heart of worship is the Good News that God has rescued us from our sins through Jesus' death on the cross and rising to life again.

Trinitarian. We believe that the object of worship is the only true God-The Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Multigenerational. We believe that it is a great blessing for family members to worship together. Taking seriously Jesus' words, "Let the little children come to me and so not forbid them" (Mark 10:14), we encourage children to worship with their parents and grandparents and provide resources such as children's bulletins and children's sermons.

Eclectic. Eclectic means, "selecting what seems best of various sources." We believe that we should strive to use the best hymns and practices that the church has to offer. Our worship may include hymns written 500 years ago as well as pieces written 5 months ago.

In preparation for worship, we ask that you silence your cell phones and/or paging devices. Thank you. The time before service begins can be a good time to pray and prepare your heart and mind for worship. You will find helpful prayers on the inside cover of the hymnal located in the pew in front of you.

PRESERVICE MUSIC [4:00 p.m. – Flute/Keyboard Selections, “Greensleeves” and “Sussex Carol” (setting P. Crisafulli) (Karen Hodapp) and Saxophone Duet, “O Come, All Ye Faithful,” arr. L. Larson (Elden & Daniel Niemeyer); 7:30 p.m. – Saxophone Duets, “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” and “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (both arr. L. Larson) (Elden & Daniel Niemeyer)]

BELLS / WELCOME

Please stand and face the processional cross

PROCESSIONAL HYMN, LSB 379, “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.** (Matthew 28:19b; [18:20])

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (Psalm 124:8; 130:3-4)

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.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

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. (John 20:19-23)

C: Amen.

INTROIT OF THE DAY

(Psalm 24:1, 3-5; antiphon: Psalm 2:7)

I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.”

The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof,

the world and those who dwell therein,

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

And who shall stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

He will receive blessing from the LORD

and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

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.

I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

KYRIE

(Mark 10:47)



Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

HYMN OF PRAISE



- 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
 2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
 3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
 O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
 Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
 In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

All: O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

(4:00 p.m.) **FLUTE/KEYBOARD SELECTION**, "Cradle Song" (J. Nishimura) (Karen Hodapp, flautist)

(7:30 p.m.) **CHOIR ANTHEM**, “Before the Marvel of the Night”
(Vajda & Schalk)

OLD TESTAMENT READING, Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(7:30 p.m.) **CHOIR ANTHEM**, “Night of Wonder” (Hoffman & Black)

EPISTLE, Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

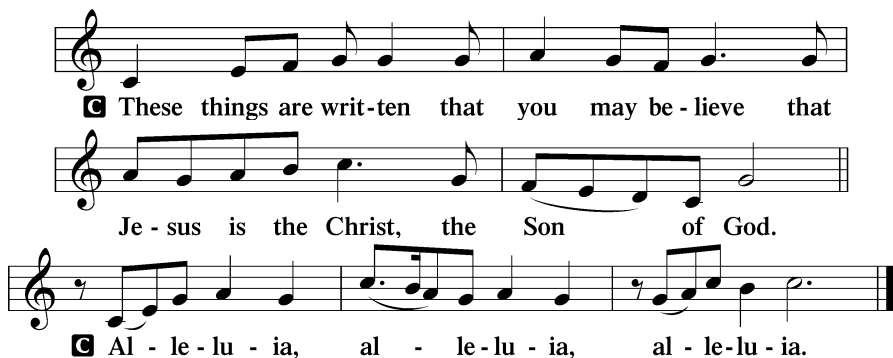
C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

(John 20:31)





HOLY GOSPEL, Luke 2:1-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

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

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 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. 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. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY, *LSB* 359, “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

SERMON

Please stand

APOSTLES’ CREED

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(1 Timothy 2:1-4)

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P (*Special petitions...*) Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into Your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Please be seated

OFFERING [4:00 p.m. – Flute/Keyboard Selection, “Still, Still, Still” (Austrian Carol arr. C. Davis) (Karen Hodapp, flautist); 7:30 p.m. – Saxophone Duet, “Away in a Manger,” arr. L. Larson (Elden & Daniel Niemeyer)]

OFFERTORY, LSB 806, “Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”

Text: Henry Smith, 1952. Text: © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001526

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son. (Repeat once)**

**And now let the weak say “I am strong,”
Let the poor say “I am rich,”
Because of what the Lord has done for us. (Repeat once)**

Give thanks, give thanks.

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

In this Supper of our Lord we receive the true body and blood of Jesus Christ under the earthly forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Since this Holy Communion is also a sign of how we commonly confess the Christian faith, we welcome to the Lord's Table those who are confirmed members of congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Please stand

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you. (2 Timothy 4:22)

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. (Colossians 3:1)

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

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. (Psalm 136)

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

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have

given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. 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

(Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9)



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!
 (*Hosanna* is a Hebrew word of praise meaning "save us now.")

LORD'S PRAYER

(Matthew 6:9-13)

All: 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 (Matt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25)

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always. (John 20:19)
C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

(John 1:29)

C 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.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB 364, "Away in a Manger"

LSB 366, "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

LSB 374, "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

LSB 367, "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

(Please remain seated until the Benediction.)

DISMISSAL

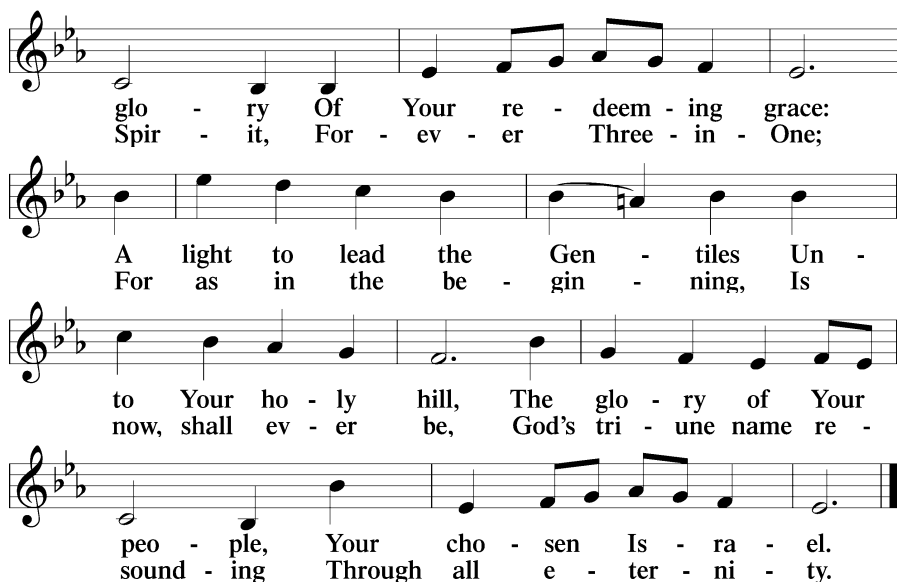
P: The body and blood...Go in peace.

C: Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS

(Luke 2:29-32)

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 lead 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

P: Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING

The Light of Christ has come to His people.

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
Isaiah 9: 2

C: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.** *John 1:5*

P: Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined. *Isaiah 9:2b*

C: We have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. John 1:14b

P: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given. Isaiah 9:6

C: In him was life, and that life was the light of men. John 1:4

(The Pastor will give light from his candle to the ushers. They will in turn give light to the worshiper nearest the aisle, who will pass it on to the others in that pew. Please keep the lighted candle upright to avoid dripping wax.)

(The lights are dimmed.)

HYMN, LSB 363, “Silent Night, Holy Night” (4:00 p.m. – accompanied by flute & organ; 7:30 p.m. – accompanied by the Agape Ringers) *[The words will be on the screens.]*

(Please extinguish your candles as the lights are turned on.)

Please stand

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

P: Let us bless the Lord. (Psalm 103:1)

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. (Numbers 6:24-26)

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN, LSB 387, “Joy to the World”

BELLS

POSTLUDE [Saxophone Duet, “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing,” arr. L. Larson (Elden & Daniel Niemeyer)]

(Please be seated while the ushers dismiss by pews.)

We invite you to take the service folder and announcements home with you as you leave today so you can see what's happening this week as well as meditate on the Scriptures, prayers, and hymns from today's service as you go through the week. You can also find helpful information on our church website: immanuelwaterloo.org.

Worship Helpers

Worship Helpers – Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.

Pastor - Rev. Merritt Demski	Music Director - Ann Frank
Server - Rodney Clamors	Media - Lisa Clamors
Acolytes - Myla & Henry Eggemeyer	Crucifer - Ayda Eggemeyer
Ushers - Allen Jacobs, Don & Gina Birrittier	
Altar Guild - Debbie Olsson	

Worship Helpers – Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24, 2023 – 7:30 p.m.

Pastor - Rev. Merritt Demski	Music Director - Ann Frank
Server - Warren Frank	Media - Lorelei Griffin
Acolytes - Jacob Dethrow & Nash Bradley	Crucifer - Keaton Roberts
Ushers - Alan Jacobs, Tom McDaniel, Paul Broske Sr., Collin Dethrow	
Altar Guild - Carol Kassel	

Ushers - Sunday, December 31, 2023

7:45 a.m. - Jason Valerius, Jeriah Fink, Trinity Drewes, Brielle Fink
 10:15 a.m. - Rodney Clamors, Jenna & Nicholas Hoeffken, Masson Fink

Acolytes - Sunday, December 31, 2023

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Audrey Braun
 Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Liam Garner & Brady Drewes
 Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Brielle Fink & Jeriah Fink

Servers - Sunday, December 31, 2023

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Cal Neeman
 Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Bob Polansky
 Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Doug Simms

Media - Sunday, December 31, 2023

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Gwen Wiegand
 Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Ayda Eggemeyer
 Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Carson Filipiak

Lectors - Sunday, December 31, 2023

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - n/a
 Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Don Birrittier
 Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Daniel Niemeyer

Altar Guild - Sunday, December 31, 2023

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Diana Heins
 Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Barbara Altes
 Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Linda Gutknecht

*Special thanks to our Christmas instrumentalists...
 Karen Hodapp, flute; Jenna Hoeffken, trumpet; Elden & Daniel
 Niemeyer, saxophones; and Joyce Rossel, French horn.*

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL – WATERLOO, ILLINOIS LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

immanuelwaterloo.org

e-mail: immanuelwaterloo@gmail.com

Rev. Merritt Demski, Pastor
 Mr. Ben Biegler, First Year Field Worker
 Mrs. Lisa Clamors, Secretary
 Mrs. Ann Frank, Music Director
 Mrs. Linda Polansky, Preschool Director

939-6480 or 847-254-9666

 939-6480 or 618-719-4954
 939-6480 or 618-282-6597
 939-6480 or 618-980-3475

HOW CAN I HELP?

Join us in the
WCP 'PARK IT'
campaign!

WCP is collecting plastic caps, lids, and small bottles to be recycled into several tables and benches so you can 'park it' at the Splash Pad.

Scan the QR code for drop-off locations & a list of acceptable lids, caps, & bottles.



Save the Date

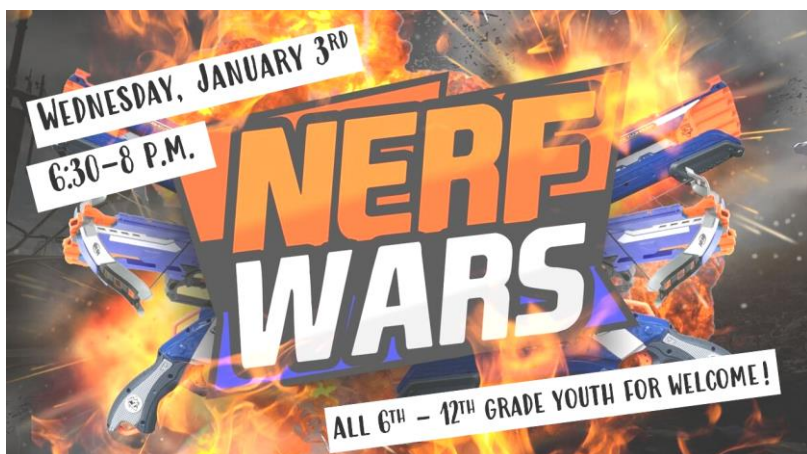
Immanuel Lutheran Preschool

**2nd Annual "I Am The Vine"
Dinner Auction
November 8, 2024**



Christmas Office Hours

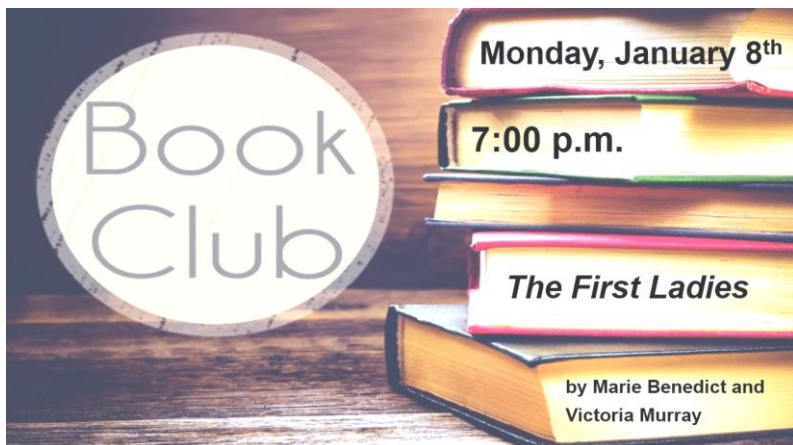
Closed Dec. 22-26 and Dec. 29–Jan. 1
Open 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Dec. 27-28



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3RD
6:30–8 P.M.

NERF WARS

ALL 6TH – 12TH GRADE YOUTH FOR WELCOME!



Book Club

Monday, January 8th
7:00 p.m.

The First Ladies
by Marie Benedict and Victoria Murray