

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

630 Adams St Wausau, WI 54403

Phone: (715) 842-3644

<http://www.immanuelwausau.org>

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent, Year C



Please welcome Deacon Everett Schmidt as he leads us in Worship today.

Prelude

Announcements

Introduction

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

Please stand if able.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of mercy,

**C: we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

P: God of might,

**C: we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.**

P: God in our midst,

**C: we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

**P: A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through ✠ Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.
Amen.**

Lighting the 2nd Candle. The second purple candle represents Faith and the Journey to Bethlehem.

Hymn “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” #240 vs. 2

Gathering Hymn “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” #254

Greeting: “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Corinthians 13:14).

C: And also, with you.

Canticle of Praise “This is the Feast” #140

Prayer of the Day

P: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

R: Word of God. Word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Luke 1:68-79

R: Please read responsively to Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸ Blessed are you, Lord, the [|] God of Israel,
you have come to your people and [|] set them free.

⁶⁹ **You have raised up for us a [|] mighty Savior,
born of the house of your [|] servant David. R**

⁷⁰ Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us [|] from our enemies,

⁷¹ from the hands of [|] all who hate us,

⁷² **to show mercy [|] to our forebears,**

and to remember your | holy covenant.

⁷³ This was the oath you swore to our | father Abraham:

⁷⁴ to set us free from the hands of our | enemies,

free to worship you | without fear,

⁷⁵ **holy and righteous before you, all the days | of our life. R**

⁷⁶ And you, child, shall be called the prophet of | the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to pre- | pare the way,

⁷⁷ **to give God's knowledge | of salvation**

by the forgiveness | of their sins.

⁷⁸ In the tender compassion | of our God

the dawn from on high shall | break upon us,

⁷⁹ **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- | ow of death,**

and to guide our feet into the | way of peace. R

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

R: Word of God. Word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”

pg. 142

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Deacon Everett Schmidt

Silence for reflection.

Hymn of the Day

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

#264

Please stand if able.

Apostles’ Creed

See the yellow sheet in the back of your hymnal.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also, with you.

P: I invite you to share the Peace however you feel comfortable.

Please be seated for the Prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

Read by our Lector today:

Holly Westaby

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

After "Lord, in your mercy," please respond with "receive our prayer."

A brief silence.

Offertory Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

#257 v1,2

The usher will bring up the offering plate, bread and wine.

Please stand if able.

Offering Prayer

P: Creator God,

you made the whole world,

even the farthest stars,

and you draw near to feed us.

We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.

Strengthen us with this food

that we may live in expectation

for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Deacon Everett Schmidt

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 our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

pg. 144B

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

The Lord's Prayer

Please be seated.

All are welcome at the Lord's table. We believe Christ is truly present in the bread and the wine, that is his body and blood are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. If you do not wish to receive communion but wish to receive a blessing, please come forward during the distribution of communion. If you are unable to come forward during distribution and wish to receive communion, please let the usher know and the pastor will come to your seat.

Invitation to Communion

God feeds us with tender mercy.

Come to the table.

Lamb of God

pg. 146

Communion Hymn

“People, Look East”

#248

Blessing after Communion

P: The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.

Prayer after Communion

Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name.
Amen.

Blessing

As you leave this place, may you have the wisdom to lean on one another.
May you have the courage to hold onto hope,
The compassion to do the good that is yours to do,
And the confidence to trust that God sees you as a blessing.
For in a world full of dead ends, Advent invites us to begin again.
So start here. Start now. Start with love and begin again.
In the name of Christ ✠ our new beginning, go in peace.
Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Hark, the Glad Sound!”

#239

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Attendance on 12/1/2024: 31

Prayer Concerns: Judi McGill and Bob Henning for medical challenges. (For updates, please contact the ILC Office)

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Our Sister Church is the Lobatla Parish. Pastor Elijah Lekwate. Email for Justice Pule: pulejustice74@gmail.com

Volunteers needed to Host Coffee Hours. The sign-up sheet is in the kitchen.

Serving us Today

Leader: Deacon Everett Schmidt

Organist/Pianist: Karen Z

Reader/Communion Assistant: Holly Westaby

Usher: Bob Doede

Altar Guild: Kathy Knox, Joanne Distelhorst, Pattie Bricko and Holly Westaby

Welcome to Immanuel! We've been waiting for you! If you are interested in becoming a member here, please stop and pick up one of our Welcome packets on the table in the Narthex. We are eager to know you and we're excited to share with you the marvelous ways God is working in our church.

The mitten tree is set up in the Narthex. You may bring donations of mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and sweaters to put on or under the tree.

Immanuel: Open for Business...(God's Business)



If you haven't returned your stewardship "estimate of giving 2025" card, it's time to get down to business, your stewardship business, and turn it in. There is still time. Your cooperation is appreciated! It is a great help to the church council in planning the 2025 budget. Thank you to all of you who have turned their cards in. Your stewardship committee: *Rick Lohr, Jim Stolen, Neil Minson, Doug Helling, and Bruce Knox*

Mark Your Calendar!

*The Appleton Conference is hosting a special viewing of Bonhoeffer (PG-13, 2hrs, 12m). **Sunday, December 8, 2024.** Doors Open at 12:30pm | Movie at 1pm. Hollywood Marcus Theater | 513 N Westhill Blvd, Appleton, WI 54914. \$10 includes popcorn and drink.*

Registration: <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/9332611>

Wausau Lyric Choir and Wausau Pro Musica proudly presents **Tidings of Comfort and Joy**. Our own **Karen Zuidema** is the Director/Wausau Pro Musica. This event will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 406 Grand Street, Wausau, WI on **Friday December 13, 2024, at 7:30pm and Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 3:00pm**. In lieu of tickets, a free will donation would be greatly appreciated.

The next **Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting** will be held, Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 9am.

December 15, 2024, 9am: Christmas Cantata, Love at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 709 Weston Ave, Wausau, WI 54403. Our own Joanne Diestelhorst will be participating.



Blue Christmas Service, Monday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m. A prayerfully cultivated service for those who have lost loved ones, for those who find the holidays to be a lonely time and for those who would like to spend more time in prayer. This service will have candle lighting, music, prayers, and a sermon. All are welcome. Here is the address: St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, 5304 N 44th Ave, Wausau, WI 54401.

Blue Christmas Service, Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 6:30p.m. This worship service will be held at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church at 503 Schmidt Ave, Rothschild, WI 54474. A place to support each other in grief and loss, but also to move toward the hope that comes with the birth of Jesus Christ. There will be a reception after.

Join us at Immanuel Lutheran Church on December 24, 2024, at 4:00 PM for a special Christmas Eve Service! Celebrate the birth of our Savior with a beautiful worship experience featuring the Hand Bell Choir Ensemble. There will be cookies and coffee afterwards. All are welcome – bring family and friends to share in the joy and peace of this holy night.

We have been invited to the following Christmas Services:

- **December 25, 2024**, Combined Christmas Day Service (10am) at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 930 Edgewood Rd, Wausau, WI 54403
- **December 25, 2024**, Christmas Day Service (9am) at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 709 Weston Ave, Wausau, WI 54403

Food Pantry Donations

The Neighbors' Place welcomes donations for their food pantry. They are especially in need of toilet paper, shampoo, lotion, laundry soap, dish soap, juice, beef stew, mayo, cookies, canned fruit, and sugar. If you would like to donate non-perishable foods or basic supplies, you may place

them on the black cart next to the pew near the Gathering Room and they will be delivered to the Neighbors' Place.

The Men's Discussion Group meets Thursdays at 7:30 am, in the Koinonia room. New participants are always welcome.

Strong Bones Senior Exercise Group meets every Tuesday and Thursday in the old Nursery at 10:30 am. The class is open to anyone wishing to improve balance and maintain strength to prevent falls. New faces are happily welcome.