

Messiah Lutheran

Church and School
Church of the Lutheran Confession

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December 20, 2015

Advent 4

Welcome to our visitors! We appreciate your joining our worship family this morning, and we invite you to sign our guest book. If you would like more information about our church, please contact the pastor at 414-427-9337.

Sunday family worship: 8:00 and 10:45 A.M.

Choir: 9:10. Sunday School: 9:30. Bible class 9:45 A.M.

Today's Worship

*"Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation" (Ps. 85:7).*

Preparation: Read Ps. 85,
p. 140.

The Liturgy: Page 12ff. in
the Worship Supplement.

Hymns: 95, 98, (647:1), 712,
94.

Readings:

Micah 5:2-5a...Just as God foretold, Bethlehem became the birthplace of our salvation.

Psalm: page 26 in the Worship Supplement.

Luke 1:39-55...In the coming of Jesus we see God's faithfulness, mercy, and strength at work.

Advent Candle Verse

*Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord,
Lost Paradise restore;
Lead past the angel's flaming sword—
Come, open heaven's door. (LSB 342:4)*

Sermon: Hebrews 10:5-10

GOD IN PERSON

- I. Born into time.
- II. Sacrificed for the world.
- III. Made our Head.



Today

The children will meet at 9:30 for Christmas Eve rehearsal. After second service, lunch will be provided for those involved in Thursday's service, followed by another practice session and the gift exchange.

Special services this week

Our celebration of the Savior's birth begins at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, Christmas Eve. Come early and enjoy preservice music. The Christmas Day Song Service is at 10:30 Friday morning.

Resignation

Our halftime 4-K/Kindergarten teacher, Aprill Lillo, has announced her resignation effective at the end of the current school year. We thank her for the wonderful blessing she has been to her classes over the years and to the congregation as a whole. We ask for the Lord's guidance and blessing upon her future endeavors.

Still looking for gift ideas?

● **Lutheran novel:** "Steeple in the Distance" by Deborah Ude is available at deborahude.com.

● **Tour Choir CD:** A new two-CD recording by the ILC Tour Choir is now available. The cost is \$16. CDs may be ordered from the CLC Bookhouse (clcbookhouse@ilc.edu).

Good news for a new year

What better way to close out one year and enter 2016 than by gathering around the Word to praise our eternal Lord and Savior. Our New Year's Eve service with Holy Communion begins at 7:00 p.m.

Directory update

Please check the membership directory sheets on the bulletin board and make any needed corrections/additions to your entry. The 2016 edition will be printed soon!

CLC news

● **Call updates:** Gethsemane, Spokane, WA, has called Pastor Wayne Eichstadt of Mankato, MN. Pastor Mark Weis of North Port, FL, has returned the call to Mt. Zion, Detroit.

● **2016 MHT:** Applications are currently being accepted until January 8th for next summer's Mission Helper Trip to India. More information and an online application can be found at: www.mht.lutheranmissions.org/2016-india.

● **Call for nominations:** The Board of Regents for Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary invites "all pastors, professors, male teachers, and voting members of member congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession" (CLC Constitution) to nominate an individual or individuals to fill the vacancy which will be created on the Immanuel faculty by the retirement of Professor John Pfeiffer at the end of the 2015-16 academic year. The individual would teach at the high school (potentially), college, and seminary levels with an

Looking Ahead...

♣ **Tuesday:**
7:15 A.M.: School staff.

♣ **Thursday:**
6:00 P.M.: Christmas Eve service.

♣ **Friday:**
10:30 A.M.: Christmas Day Song Service.

♣ **December 31st:**
7:00 P.M.: New Year's Eve service with Holy Communion.



emphasis on courses in Hebrew (college) and Old Testament theology (seminary) and also in other theological disciplines. With the duties including teaching God's Word to adult males, the person is to be a male (1 Tim. 2:12). The position would, God-willing, commence with the 2016-17 academic year. Those submitting nominations are encouraged to include information regarding their nominee's educational background and teaching and/or professional experience, also indicating how the person might help our school in supervising extracurricular activities or serving in administrative positions. Please send your nominations postmarked or e-mailed no later than January 20, 2016, to: Mr. Craig Ryan, Secretary; ILC Board of Regents; 499 Country Ln.; Fulda, MN 56131 (email: cryan@page1printers.com).

● **Home with the Lord:** Retired pastor, Arvid Gullerud, was called home to the Lord on December 18th.

FINANCES:

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>To Date</u>
Offerings:	\$5,804.00	\$145,643.00
Sunday School:	\$2.00	
Budgetary Needs:	\$6,403.00	\$140,866.00
Over/(Under) Budget:	(\$599.00)	(\$8,002.00)
Missions:	\$0.00	\$1,420.00
(In addition to budgeted amount)		
MDF:	\$30.00	\$918.00
ILC Building Fund(\$20 Lau Mem.):	\$55.00	\$1,900.00
MSAF:	\$30.00	

Attendance last Sunday: 79, 63. 12/16: 59.

Church cleaning: Dec. 27:

Church: *Saal, T. Koch, R. Koch.*

School: *Mielke, J. Gerbitz, Davis, C. Gerbitz.*

Dec. ushers: 1st: *M. Plockelman, E. Nelson.*

2nd: *J. Arndt, T. Fletcher.*

Christmas Eve: *S. Mielke.*

Christmas Day: *T. Blue, C. Blue.*

New Years Eve: *J. Lisak, S. Lisak.*



Daily Bible Readings: Su: Jer. 31-32; Titus 2. M: Jer. 33-35; Titus 3.

Tu: Jer. 36-37; Philemon. W: Jer. 38-39; Heb. 1 Th: Jer. 40-42; Heb. 2. F: Jer. 43-45; Heb. 3. Sa: Jer. 46-48; Heb. 4.

Born to Save!

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SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR TODAY

Micah 5:2-5a NKJV

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.”

Therefore He shall give them up, until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; then the remnant of His brethren shall return to the children of Israel.

And 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 abide, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth; and this One shall be peace.

Hebrews 10:5-10 NKJV

Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: “*Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come—in the volume of the book it is written of Me—to do Your will, O God.’*” Previously saying, “*Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them*” (which are offered according to the law), then He said, “*Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.*” He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Luke 1:39-55 NKJV

Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zecharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.”

And Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.”

Prayer of the Church

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

(Minute of silence for individual prayer and meditation)

P: For the Church on earth, built upon our Savior, that it may faithfully and joyfully proclaim the good news; for all public servants, that You, Lord, would move them to promote justice and the common good; for nations everywhere, that they may receive the saving Word; Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For businesses and their staffs, that they may work not only for profit, but for the good of all people; for the hungry and homeless, the unemployed and underemployed, that You would provide food and clothing, shelter and companionship to them; Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For our congregation, that the Holy Spirit would move us toward greater zeal in hearing the Word and receiving the Sacraments and responding in loving service to You and our neighbors; Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For our children, that they may look forward to proclaiming the Christ-Child’s birth in word and song on Christmas Eve, and that they may trust in Him their entire lives; Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For our brothers and sisters in India who have lost homes, businesses, and churches to massive flooding, that You would provide Your help for their temporal and spiritual needs; Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For those who cry out in sickness and distress, weakness and sorrow, that You would grant them healing, safety, care, and the peace of forgiveness; Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

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

C: Amen.