



Immanuel Lutheran Church, School
and Child Care Center
604 S Chestnut Ave., Marshfield, WI
Website: immanuelmarshfield.org



December 2024

Located on the front of the historic Trinity Church in Boston are the sculptures of six men. At the center are four Gospel writers who are flanked on the right by Paul and on the left by Isaiah. Isaiah's presence in this distinguished cloud of witnesses speaks volumes about his importance for the church.

Jerome (c. 342–420) wrote of Isaiah, “He should be called an evangelist rather than a prophet because he describes all the mysteries of Christ and the Church so clearly that you think he is composing a history of what has already happened rather than prophesying about what is to come.”

Likewise, when Augustine (c. 345–430) asked Ambrose (c.327–400) for his advice on what he should read, the latter suggested Isaiah, “Because, I believe, he is more plainly a foreteller of the Gospel and of the calling of the Gentiles than are the others.” Isaiah is one of the most significant books in the Bible.

That's all that is needed to decide on Isaiah as our Advent weekends and Christmas Eve guide. For its grandeur, majesty, and supreme artistry, we'll be reading, marking, learning and inwardly digesting Isaiah 40:1-11. These eleven verses with their soaring language and unforgettable imagery are tightly woven into the fabric of the season's hymns and liturgy.

With the theme of “Savior of the Nations Come,” here are the Advent weekends and Christmas Eve messages:

Nov 30/Dec 1 | Comfort, Comfort Ye My People (Isaiah 40:1–2)

Dec 7/8 | Prepare the Royal Highway (Isaiah 40:3–5)

Dec 14/15 | Hark the Glad Sound (Isaiah 40:6–8)

Dec 21/22 | O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Isaiah 40:9)

Christmas Eve 3pm Contemporary and 5pm Traditional | Joy to the World (Isaiah 40:10–11)

Midweek Advent Services will be held in the Chapel on Wednesdays at 5pm. With the theme of “When Heaven Met Earth: Advent Answers to Hard Questions Hardly Anybody Is Asking,” here are the Wednesday Advent messages:

Dec 4 | The Birth of God: How . . . and Why? (Luke 1:26–38)

Dec 11 | The Obedient Child: Did He Know? (Luke 2:41–52)

Dec 18 | The Man's Man: Why Would Jesus Ever Cry? (Luke 19:41–44; John 11:30–36)

Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion will be at 9am.

Pastor Chris Schwanz

SCHOOL NEWS

It's that time of year again. It's the time of year when I send my husband and son down to the basement to make numerous trips carrying up the ornaments, lights, Christmas decorations, and the TREE! Christmas trees are wonderful symbols of the season. There **IS** one part of the tree that is more important than any other.

It's not the lights, ornaments, or even the angel or star on the top. It's the Christmas tree base. We sometimes see it only when we are putting the tree up or taking it down. Most of the time it's hidden by the tree or the tree skirt. But without that base, the tree wouldn't stand. We'd have a big mess!

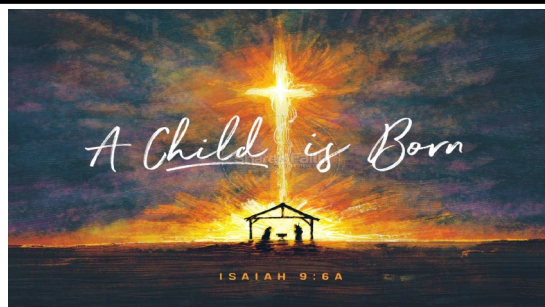
There are so many things that happen at Christmas. We can get so caught up in parties, decorating, baking, and shopping, it's easy to forget about the baby Jesus. Without Jesus there would be no Christmas. Without Jesus we would have a big mess too! His birth was so important, Isaiah wrote about it centuries before it occurred: *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* (Isaiah 9:6)

Let us always remember to look to the foundation of Christmas and our faith: Jesus. Let's remember what Christmas is really about and thank Him for the gift He gave us!

Pancake Breakfast Update:

I want to thank everyone who supported our Pancake Breakfast the end of September. Donations continue to trickle in! As of the printing of this newsletter, we have raised **\$3,520** to be used towards a new Social Studies curriculum. Thank you!

The 4K classes will be sharing a Christmas message and songs on Wednesday, Dec. 11th at 8:00. The following week (Wednesday, Dec. 18th) the students in grades K-8th will be leading worship. We hope you can join us!



Blessings to you this Christmas season and in the New Year!
Jill Helgerson



Funeral

Ursula "Ursi" Rhodes, 89 entered eternal life with her family by her side on October 31, 2024. Funeral Service and Celebration of Life at 11AM on Monday, November 25, 2024 at Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home in Marshfield.

Transfer Out

Andrew & Jayme Wyss and family transferred to St. Mark Lutheran Church in Rhinelander, WI

Chapel Communion

December 19 at 1:30pm will be our next Chapel Communion Service. This is open to anyone!

Free Little Pantry

Second Quarter Immanuel Lutheran School Chapel offerings are going to Little Free Pantries. There are four pantries in Marshfield that supply non-perishable food and personal care items to people in our community. Please consider and offering to help supplies be purchased or drop off supplies in the office.

Youth Ministry at Immanuel

Catechism Instruction for 7th & 8th Grade

Wednesdays: 6:30-7:30pm

Simple Truth Youth Praiseband, 5th Grade & up

Sundays: 10:15am.

High School Youth

Wednesdays: 7:30-9:00pm

3rd—6th grade Christian Education

Wednesdays: 6:30-7:30pm

MomCo— First and Third Friday each month

MomCo is for moms seeking Christ-centered support and encouragement. MomCo is seeking Immanuel members as volunteers to care for the moms' children as the moms meet to learn, discuss and grow further in MomCo's Scripture-based values and principles. Let the office know if you can help!

Thank you to everyone who donated for Soup or Socks Food Panty. Thank you to Festival Foods for donating the grocery bags!



Mark your calendars for "Reading, Learning, Marking and Inwardly Digesting God's Word"

aka Bible Study for this fall. Here's the weekly schedule...

Sundays: 7:45a-8:45a in the Conference Room

Mondays: 1p-2:15p in the Conference Room

Wednesdays: 1p-2:15p in the Conference Room

Wednesdays: 6:15p-7:15p in the Conference Room

The topic will be the same for all four weekly sessions. All are invited!

There will be No Bible Study the weeks of December 22nd and 29th. Bible Study will resume the week of January 5th!

Lutheran Witness/Renewal Subscriptions

If you would like to receive this subscription, you may view a sample of this publication of our Lutheran Church Missouri Synod at:

www.cph.org/witness. The cost for 2025, with the North Wisconsin District News Insert, is \$27.65/year, for 11 issues. You may also let the church office know you would like to subscribe and we can add you to the list.

Deadline for renewal is January 10, 2025.

Please make your check payable to "Immanuel Lutheran"

Lutheran Women In Mission:

In place of our December 10, 2024 meeting we will be having a Christmas Pot Luck beginning at 5:30PM. Ladies you are welcome to bring a guest!



Poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas

If you would like to sponsor a Poinsettia, please send your \$10 donation to the Immanuel Office. **Please note in whose memory the donation.**

Office Hours

The office will be closed December 24-27, 31 and January 1. The office will have limited hours on December 23 and 30 from 9-2. We will resume normal business hours on January 2. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone!

604 South Chestnut Avenue, Marshfield, WI
 Phone (715) 384-5121
 Website: Immanuelmarshfield.org
 Email: info@immanuelmarshfield.org

Office Hours: 7:30am-4pm

Rejoice is published by Immanuel Lutheran Church, Marshfield, WI to inform the congregation of upcoming events as well as to promote Christian love, fellowship and understanding.

PASTORAL STAFF:

Rev. Chris A. Schwanz—Pastor
 Rev. Donn Radde—Visitation Pastor

SCHOOL FACULTY:

Jill Helgerson, Principal
 Rev. Gary Albert—7/8 Catechism
 Jen Schifelbine—Grade 7—8; 5/6 Science
 Renee Hammond—Grades 5—6, 7/8 Math
 Brenda Kuhnau—Grade 4
 Heidi Foemmel—Grade 3
 Jill Helgerson—Grade 2 Morning
 Sara Vechinski—Grade 2 afternoon
 Beth Hollatz—Grade 1
 Emily Marino—Kindergarten
 Christina Berger—Elementary Aide
 Renee Griepentrog—4K
 Erica Borgo—4K PM/Art
 Jan Simonson—School Music
 Nicholas Olsen—Physical Education
 Jordyn Helgerson—Computer;Elementary Aide
 Jessica Bucheger—Athletic Director
 Dennis Wibben—Director, Nutrition Services
 Heidi Schwanz—Nutrition Services Accounting

CHILD CARE STAFF:

Brooke Draves, Child Care Supervisor
 Sheena Brunzo
 Destiny Brunzo
 Jenny Flugel
 Jeanine Kaszuba
 Caitlyn Muraski
 Miranda Ruiz

CUSTODIAL STAFF:

Terry Fischer
 Dan Langteau

OFFICE STAFF:

Cathy Muraski—Business Manager
 Danyelle Hasz—Administrative Assistant

Church Decorating Dates:

December 6 at 4pm to assemble trees for church!

December 7 at 9am with lunch served about 11:30am. Plan to join the fun!

“Lessons & Carols” and the “Cookie Walk December 7 & 8

The High School Youth will be hosting the Cookie Walk before & after worship services. **If you love to bake and would like to bring cookies, you are more than welcome to help out!**

Sunday, December 8th at 9am
 “Lessons & Carols,” a service of readings & music.

Immanuel Worship Services Broadcast Update

View via Roku, Amazon, Apple TV Live, and YouTube Live on-demand and at the times listed.

Sundays at 2:30 pm

Tuesday at 1:30 pm

Friday at 12:30 pm

Sunday 9am services are broadcast on Charter/Spectrum Cable Digital 989 at these times.

Elected Board Members:

JJ Jensen—President, Steve Koran —Vice President, Becca Ayer—Secretary

Board of Education: Jolene Albert, Kim Bernarde, Daniel Craft, Krista Henderson, Amanda Sessions

Board of Elders: Dave Henning, Corey Kuhnau, Eldore Messerschmidt, Dave Rogers, John Simonson

Board of Administration: Laura Abel, Kurt Hollatz, Al Merkel, Tom Schafer, Joe Vechinski

Immanuel Lutheran has two ways to set up recurring contributions.

- 1. Consider automatic contributions drawn on your bank account through “Simply Giving.”**
 You choose the amount and date of withdrawal. Forms are located by the church office door.
- 2. Giving online is fast, easy and secure.**



Mission Statement

“Immanuel Lutheran Church, School and Child Care Center:

Reaching out to all people, teaching and sharing God’s gift of Jesus Christ, with the values of empowering, equipping and encouraging all the saints.”

October 9, 2024– November 10, 2024:

(Please note on offering envelope which project you choose to sponsor)

Youth Group

Donna Yaun
JJ Jensen

Baptismal Fund/Cradle Roll

Doug & Renee Anding
Julie MacDonald

Building Maintenance/Heating

Robert & Beverly Chase
Earl & Darlene Giese
Vickie Dux
Violet Leonard

Operation Christmas Child Postage

Larry & Sue Pribbernow
John & Jan Simonson
Doug & Renee Anding
Susan Schar
Nell Schwantes
Harriet Brandt
Evelyn Melbringer
William Erickson

School Curriculum/Pancake Breakfast

Harriet Brant
Brad & Nancy Hafermann

Joy Praise Band

Anonymous

Memorial Funds for Ron Parks

Earl & Darlene Giese
Mark & Joy Messerschmitt

Portals of Prayer

Doreen Fuller

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES

Advent Midweek Services

December 4, 11, 18 at 5:00 PM in Chapel

Immanuel 4K Christmas Chapel

December 11 at 8:00 AM

“Lessons & Carols”

December 8 at 9:00 AM

Immanuel K-8 School Christmas Chapel

December 18, 8:00 AM

Chapel Communion

December 19 at 1:30 PM

Christmas Eve Communion

December 24 at 3:00 PM Contemporary
December 24 at 5:00 PM Traditional

Christmas Day Communion

December 25 at 9:00 AM

December 28—no evening worship

New Years Eve Communion

December 31 at 6:30 PM

PLEASE NOTE :

To check for cancellation of worship services during bad weather, view Wausau TV Channels 7 or 9 or the Immanuel Lutheran Website: immanuelmarshfield.org



In anticipation of a decision being made at the Annual Voters' Assembly in May 2025 regarding participation in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program, School Choice Wisconsin staff will again be invited to present and answer questions at an upcoming Town Hall Meeting. This meeting will occur at a date and time yet to be determined during the first quarter of 2025. If the measure passes, the soonest the Day School would become a participant would be the 2026-2027 school year.

Beginning with this month's Rejoice! and upcoming monthly newsletters we'll be featuring School Choice FAQ's. We welcome all questions. Questions can be submitted to Principal Jill Helgerson or to Pastor Chris. Here's this month's question:

Can parents opt their children out of religious instruction and activities?

Parents can choose to opt their children out of formal religious instruction and worship; however, most schools do not receive such requests. Religious schools should remain true to their mission and culture, and they may continue to inspire their curriculum with the teachings and values of their faith. Schools may display symbols of their faith in hallways and classrooms, pray together at the beginning of class or before meals, and all other actions that affirm their belief and traditions.

For more information on the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program, go to schoolchoicewi.org

Pastor Chris

Serving the Lord in Riga, Latvia News from the Bobby Family

Greetings in the Name of Jesus,

I was reading Deuteronomy 31 in my daily devotions the other day, and I was struck by this line of Scripture: “And the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, the days approach when you must die” (Deuteronomy 31:14). I know this statement unfolds within God’s commissioning of Joshua, the people of Israel’s transition into the Promised Land, and after Moses disobedience. Nevertheless, it’s just so matter of fact. I was amazed at how Moses didn’t complain, argue, beg, or plead. He knows he can trust in God even in the face of death. He knows he can trust God’s will even when that means suffering the inevitable consequences of sin as declared by God back in the Garden of Eden.

Earlier in the chapter, God encourages Joshua by saying, “Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed” (Deuteronomy 31:7-8). Like Moses and Joshua, God’s people can be courageous because God’s plans are the only plans that last for eternity, and those plans are ultimately plans of forgiveness, salvation, and restoration. These plans are fully revealed in Jesus, where we see God’s will for His people on full display through the death and resurrection of His Son.

I often say that the most difficult petition of the Lord’s Prayer to pray is the Third Petition because in it we ask that God’s will, not our will, be done. This means truly trusting in God even as we see our own plans diminishing, breaking, or dying. It means trusting God the way Moses does even when facing death. Like Moses, we know the mighty works of God, how He has brought life and light out of death and darkness through His Son. But we, unlike Moses, get to experience that here and now through our Baptisms and through the preaching of God’s Word and the Lord’s Supper.

On the mission field, it can be easy to forget that the only plans that persist through sin and death are those of our Savior’s. As people from all different races, nationalities, and tribes busy themselves with their plans, they need to hear of the One who calls them to trust in Him. They need to know that only Jesus can transform their life of sin and death into His mercy, goodness, and everlasting righteousness.

We continue to instruct and form future pastors here at Luther Academy, pastors who will bring that message of salvation to people all over the Eurasia region and beyond. With classes in full swing, we are already looking toward the spring semester and making plans for those classes. Never a dull moment! I have been thoroughly impressed this semester by our students’ faithfulness and practical acumen. In our classes and with their assignments, they are thoughtful, caring, and theologically solid. Praise be to God! Yet, we always pray that God’s will, not ours, be done in and through these future pastors and the people they will shepherd.

Thank you so much for your prayers and continued support! We are incredibly grateful and humbled by the zeal you as God’s people have for His kingdom!

In Christ,

Pastor Bobby