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HAPPENINGS FOR THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL (January 3 - 10)

Today~ 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Community Meal
7:00 p.m. A.A meeting in conference room
Tuesday ~ 7:00 p.m. N.A. meeting in conference room
Wednesday ~ 6:30 p.m. Confirmation
Sunday ~ 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
7:00 p.m. A.A. meeting in conference room

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SUNDAY (January 3)

Acolyte: Cadence Rosendahl
PowerPoint: Breanna Dirksen
Lay Reader: Laurie Dieken
Ushers: John Kruger, Wyatt Miller,
Emma Rand, Kennedy Tatge

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NEXT SUNDAY (January 10)

Mia Shubert
Maggie Jaenisch
Annette Rosen
Duane & Tania Jaenisch family

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Reminder: If you'd like Pastor Joel to visit you or your family member, you just need to let him or the church office know. We are always available for you in bad times, good times, anxious times. Please call...

The January, February, and March Noisy Offering will be going to the Green Lake Bible Camp.

Generous Reflections: As members of our church who want the privilege of church membership, we also need to accept the obligations. It is expensive to pay for staffing, utilities, mortgage, and programs. Paul wrote to the church in Corinth that they would be expected to support the workers of the church. *“If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you?”* *If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more?”* (1 Corinthians 9:11-12). In order for us to move forward, our church has a right to expect much from us. It's going to cost us our time. It's going to cost us our abilities. It's going to cost us our money. As we in Christ serve and give generously, we give praise and honor to the Lord.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CLARA CITY



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Pr. Joel's email: jgueningsman001@luthersem.edu
Custodian Tim Sabe (320) 212-5773
Secretary Michelle Jaenisch @ Office (320) 847-2138

Immanuel's WEBSITE: www.ilc-ClaraCity.org

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Closed on Fridays!

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This morning's **Radio Broadcast** has been sponsored in memory of Kathy Niemeyer given by Daryl and family.

Many dates are open for 2021. \$80 to sponsor, call the office at 320-847-2138

Worship services are now broadcast over Cable Channel 8 and 117.2, FM radio 93.9, and AM 1460 or view the livestream of the service at Immanuel Lutheran's facebook page.

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Tri-Community AA **Meetings** will be held every Sunday evening at 7 p.m. in our Upper Parish Hall Conference Room. Contact Todd Osthus (320) 212-8676 for more information.

JANUARY 3, 2021

2ND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

(SPOKEN BY PASTOR)

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, who was in the beginning, who has come to dwell among us, and who covers us with justice and mercy. Amen.

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

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

God of goodness and lovingkindness, we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sin, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives all our sin, not through our own work, but through + Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace. Amen.

HYMN: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH (SONG LEADERS)

1. Angels, we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.
2. Shepherd's, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.
3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

HYMN OF PRAISE: THE FIRST NOEL (SONG LEADERS)

1. The first Noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel!
2. They looked up and saw a star shinning in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel!
3. And by the light, of that same star, three wisemen came from country far; to seek for a king, was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel!

4. This star drew near to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest; and there it did, both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel!
5. Then entered in those wisemen three, full reverently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence, their gold and myrrh, and frankincense. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel!

PRAYER OF THE DAY (SPOKEN BY PASTOR)

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDRENS' SERMON

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 31:7-14

For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.'⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labour, together; a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.'

¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD. The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:12-20

Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! ¹³ For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you. ¹⁴ He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat. ¹⁵ He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly. ¹⁶ He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes. ¹⁷ He hurls down hail like crumbs—who can stand before his cold?

¹⁸ He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow. ¹⁹ He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel. ²⁰ He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances. Praise the LORD! The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us.

With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.

¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: LET ALL TOGETHER PRAISE OUR GOD (SONG LEADERS)

1. Let all together praise our God before the highest throne; today God opens heaven again and sends the only Son, and sends the only Son.
2. From God's right hand the Son descends, is born an infant small; and lies in poverty his bed a manger in a stall, a manger in a stall.
3. O tender Child you veil in flesh the splendor of your might; a servant's garb now wraps the one who clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.
4. Your mother feed you tenderly sings you a lullaby, while angels haling David's heir your glory magnify, your glory magnify.
5. A wonderful exchange you make you take our flesh and blood; and in return give us to share the shining realm of God, the shining realm of God.
6. Unlock the door again today that leads to paradise; the angel bars the way no more to God let praises rise, to God let praises rise!

GOSPEL: JOHN 1:[1-9] 10-18

In 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 came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: LET OUR GLADNESS HAVE NO END (SONG LEADERS)

1. Let our gladness have no end, Hallelujah! For to earth did Christ descend. Hallelujah! On this day God gave us, Christ, the Son, to save us; Christ, the Son, to save us.
2. Prophesied in days of old, Hallelujah! God has sent the one foretold. Hallelujah! On this day God gave us, Christ, the Son, to save us; Christ, the Son, to save us.
3. See the loveliest blooming rose, Hallelujah! From the branch of Jesse grows. Hallelujah! On this day God gave us, Christ, the Son, to save us; Christ, the Son, to save us.
4. Into flesh is made the Word, Hallelujah! Our true refuge and our Lord. Hallelujah! On this day God gave us, Christ, the Son, to save us; Christ, the Son, to save us.

APOSTLES CREED (SPOKEN BY PASTOR)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (SPOKEN BY PASTOR)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN BY PASTOR)

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.

COMMUNION & POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BLESSING

Dear friends, may Christ who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. The hand of God protect, the holy angels accompany you, and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you this night and forevermore. Amen.

SENDING HYMN: LOVE HAS COME (SONG LEADERS)

1. Love has come a light in the darkness! Love shine forth in the Bethlehem skies. See all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

2. Love is born come share in the wonder! Love is God now asleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers; Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel!

3. Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Praise to you, God on high!

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest! Peace to God's people on earth! Dear friends, our worship service has now ended. Let us go forth in peace and share the gift of Jesus.

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Thanks for thinking of Immanuel this past year with your monetary donations, your gifts of time and talent, and in any way you have helped us out! We really appreciate ALL your gifts...we are so blessed! Thank you SO much!

Offering envelopes for 2021 are in your mail box along with the 2021 Volunteer handbook. If you could help deliver to family and friends, we would appreciate it!

The Church Office will be closed January 11 – 18, 2021. Please call Pastor Joel on his cell phone if anything should arise or you may leave a message at church. **Contribution statements will be mailed out before I leave,** if any changes need to be made, please notify me when I return from vacation on January 19th.



TODAY! Community meal serving from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. On the menu: Meatballs. We will be serving to go orders in the church alley way. Please comment on the Church's Facebook page or call the office at 320-847-2138 with the number of meals you are wanting.

Attention Committees!!! End of the year reports are due in the office by January 19, 2021.

It hardly seems possible but it is once again the end of another year and with that ending comes our Annual Congregational Meeting in January which needs an annual report of each committee, each groups finances for the past year. Please turn them into my office by **January 19, 2021**, so that I can get them into a report and ready for distribution at the meeting.



Immanuel's Annual Congregational Meeting is set for Sunday, January 31st, 2021 following our 9:00 a.m. service.

Feeling Lonely? If you are feeling isolated and need to connect with somebody, volunteers are available to have a friendly chat! The Conversational Phone Line for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities is open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. 1-866-777-0250. CarrisHealth CentraCare with support from the Willmar Area Community Foundation.

The Parkinson's Support and Education group continues to meet the first and third Monday of every month from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Because of COVID and social distancing, we have been meeting virtually every Monday via ZOOM platform. Anyone who is affected by Parkinson's Disease, is encouraged to attend our virtual meetings! To learn more about this group and/or obtain log in information, please contact Lori Petersen at 320-321-8241 or 320-226-2343. This support group is free and is sponsored by CCM Health in Montevideo.