



## Immanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH

### January 7 & 8, 2024

**Church:** 812-522-3118

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[www.immanuelseymour.com](http://www.immanuelseymour.com)

[www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLC](https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLC)

**Pastors:** Rev. Dr. Ralph Blumenberg

Rev. Philip E. Bloch

Rev. James A. Rodriguez, Jr.

Rev. Will Fredstrom

**Ministry Leaders:**

**Music:** Mr. Paul Scheiderer

**Youth:** Mr. Matt Nieman

**Deaconess Intern:** Mrs. Katlynn Schnitker

**Childcare:** Mrs. Heather Wolka

**School:** 812-522-1301

[www.immanuelschool.org](http://www.immanuelschool.org)

**Principal:** Dr. Todd Behmlander

**Faculty:** Mrs. Chris Behmlander

Mrs. Julia Bell

Mrs. Martha Bloch

Mrs. Melissa Brown

Mrs. Sarah Bumbleburg

Mrs. Emily Cremeans

Mrs. Heather Dyer

Mrs. Charlotte Elkins

Mrs. Sandy Franke

Mrs. Becky Goecker

Mrs. Mary Haugen

Mrs. Tamara Keilman

Mrs. Megan Keller

Mrs. Jennifer Pyle

Mrs. Sue Sims

Mr. B.J. Sinclair

Mr. Charles Smith

Mrs. Jordan Spieker

Mrs. Julie Tracey

Mrs. Kelley Whitson

Mrs. Alex Zaring



# THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

January 7 & 8, 2024

**Welcome to Worship!** The 12 days of Christmas are officially over, but not the good news Christ's birth. Today we see how Jesus was born not just to be the savior of the Shepherds and those living in Bethlehem and Jerusalem, but for people far away – including us! We can also look up to One who brightens our darkness!

**Please register your attendance and Communion in the Record of Fellowship.**

A “Wee Wiggle Room” is below the Narthex and a Comfort Room is in the Atrium.

**All Sunday School classes** meet UPSTAIRS. **Adult Bible Classes** are in the Fellowship Hall, **Adult Information Class** meets in Heritage Room. Everyone is welcome.

**Where do I put my offering?** You can place gifts in the offering plate near each entrance or the boxes on the west wall of the narthex or in the chapel. Thank you!

**Cell Phones:** *Please remember to silence cell phones and electronics during worship.*

**Holy Communion will be** offered at the 11:15 service. If you are not a confirmed member of the Lutheran Church, please contact an elder or pastor before communing. Gluten free wafers are in plastic sleeves. If you prefer an individual cup, please take one from the tray. Wine with alcohol removed is in the tray center.

+ DIVINE SERVICE I, Page 151 +
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**THE PRELUDE:** “Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring” -J.S. Bach

**+++ 11:15 & 7:00 THE HYMN:** “Brightest and Best” **Hymn 400**

- 1    Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
      Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
      Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.
- 2    Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;  
      Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;  
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,  
      Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.
- 3    Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion,  
      Fragrance of Edom and off'rings divine,  
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
      Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?
- 4    Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
      Vainly with gifts would His favor secure.

Richer by far is the heart's adoration;  
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

- 5 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

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**+++ 9:00 THE HYMN: "See This Wonder"**

**Hymn 593**

- 1 See this wonder in the making: God Himself this child is taking  
As a lamb safe in His keeping, His to be, awake or sleeping.
- 2 Miracle each time it happens As the door to heaven opens  
And the Father beams, "Belovèd, Heir of gifts a king would covet!"
- 3 Far more tender than a mother, Far more caring than a father,  
God, into Your arms we place them, With Your love and peace embrace them.
- 4 Here we bring a child of nature; Home we take a newborn creature,  
Now God's precious son or daughter, Born again by Word and water.

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**+++ 9:00 THE BAPTISM of *JOSIE LYNNE BECHELLI* ,Page 268**

**Parents:** Steven Bechelli & Aspen Cooper

**Sponsors:** Colton Cooper, Lucy Stuckwisch & Flossie Cooper

## **THE INVOCATION**

- P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. C **Amen.**
- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

## **THE CONFESSION**

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**



## THE ABSOLUTION

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. C **Amen.**

## THE KYRIE

P In peace let us pray to the Lord. C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord. C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. C **Amen.**

## THE HYMN OF PRAISE: "This is the Feast of Victory!"

C **This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation. Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## THE PRAYER FOR THE DAY: (we pray together)

**O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## THE WORD OF THE MONTH: (We speak together)

**For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. Isaiah 60:2**

## THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all

gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord. **C:** **Thanks be to God.**

**THE EPISTLE READING: Ephesians 3:1-12**

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles — assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord. **C:** **Thanks be to God.**

**THE ALLELUIA AND VERSE: C:** Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

**THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:1-12 C: (Sung) Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: “‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his

mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: (Sung) Praise to You, O Christ.

**+++ 7:00 THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**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.**

**+++ 11:15 THE NICENE CREED, page 158**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**THE HYMN: "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"**

**Hymn 395**

**1 O Morning Star, how fair and bright!**

**You shine with God's own truth and light, Aglow with grace and mercy!**

**Of Jacob's race, King David's son,**

**Our Lord and master, You have won Our hearts to serve You only!**

**Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, All victorious,**

**Rich in blessing! Rule and might o'er all possessing!**

**2 Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine,**

**And deep within our hearts now shine; There light a flame undying!**

**In Your one body let us be**

**As living branches of a tree, Your life our lives supplying.**

Now, though daily Earth's deep sadness May perplex us  
And distress us, Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.

3 Lord, when You look on us in love,  
At once there falls from God above A ray of purest pleasure.  
Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood  
Refresh our souls with heav'nly food. You are our dearest treasure!  
Let Your mercy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us!  
For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us.

4 Almighty Father, in Your Son  
You loved us when not yet begun Was this old earth's foundation!  
Your Son has ransomed us in love  
To live in Him here and above: This is Your great salvation.  
Alleluia! Christ the living, To us giving  
Life forever, Keeps us Yours and fails us never!

5 O let the harps break forth in sound!  
Our joy be all with music crowned, Our voices gladly blending!  
For Christ goes with us all the way —  
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day! His love is never ending!  
Sing out! Ring out! Jubilation! Exultation!  
Tell the story! Great is He, the King of Glory!

6 What joy to know, when life is past,  
The Lord we love is first and last, The end and the beginning!  
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,  
Transport us to that happy place Beyond all tears and sinning!  
Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness!  
We are yearning For the day of Your returning!

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## **THE SERMON: "Looking Up"**

### **THE OFFERTORY HYMN: Page 159**

**What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?  
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

**+++ 9:00 THE INSTALLATION OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS**

### **THE PRAYERS**

**+++ 11:15 THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT, page 160**

P The Lord be with you. C **And also with you.**

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 Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary... evermore praising You and saying:

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, LORD'S PRAYER AND WORD'S OF OUR LORD**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always. C **Amen.**

C **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

**Distribution Hymns: 628, 399, 411, 412**

**628 Your Table I Approach**

- 1 Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.  
Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.
- 2 Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;  
A contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.
- 3 Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,  
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.
- 4 Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;  
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.
- 5 O grant, most blessèd Lord, That earth and hell combined  
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.
- 6 Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night  
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

Text: Public domain

**399 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here**

- 1 The star proclaims the King is here; But, Herod, why this senseless fear?  
For He who offers heav'nly birth Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.



- 2 The eastern sages saw from far And followed on His guiding star;  
And, led by light, to light they trod And by their gifts confessed their God.
- 3 Within the Jordan's sacred flood The heav'nly Lamb in meekness stood  
That He, of whom no sin was known, Might cleanse His people from their own.
- 4 And oh, what miracle divine, When water reddened into wine!  
He spoke the word, and forth it flowed In streams that nature ne'er bestowed.
- 5 For this Thy glad epiphany All glory, Jesus, be to Thee,  
Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Spirit evermore.

Text: Public domain

### **411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light**

- 1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus. Refrain
- ref In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.
- 2 I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,  
And show me the way to the Father. Refrain
- 3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
We shall know the joy of Jesus. Refrain

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### **412 The People That in Darkness Sat**

- 1 The people that in darkness sat A glorious light have seen;  
The light has shined on them who long In shades of death have been,  
In shades of death have been.
- 2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness, The gath'ring nations come;  
They joy as when the reapers bear Their harvest treasures home,  
Their harvest treasures home.
- 3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is giv'n,  
And on His shoulder ever rests All pow'r in earth and heav'n,  
All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
- 4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Everlasting Lord,  
The Wonderful, the Counselor, The God by all adored,  
The God by all adored.

5 His righteous government and pow'r Shall over all extend;  
On judgment and on justice based, His reign shall have no end,  
His reign shall have no end.

6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, And make us Thine alone,  
Who with the Father ever art And Holy Spirit, one,  
And Holy Spirit, one.

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## THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

**C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.  
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## THE POST COMMUNION COLLECT

## THE BENEDICTION

### THE CLOSING HYMN: "As with Gladness Men of Old"

**Hymn 397**

- 1 As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.
- 4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day Keep us in the narrow way;  
And when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.
- 5 In the heav'nly country bright Need they no created light;  
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;  
There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King.

Text: Public domain

## THE POSTLUDE: "O Christ, Our True and Only Light" -Steve Wentz

**Preacher:** Pastor Blumenberg **Lector:** Pastor Fredstrom

**Liturgists:** Pastor Bloch & Pastor Rodriguez **Organist:** Mr. Paul Scheiderer

*Immanuel's mission is to connect people to the life, calling, and community of Christ. Founded in*

*1870, Immanuel is a member of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. We believe the Bible is God's inspired Word and that we are saved by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, who died for our sins. Please take a brochure from the Information Center, or visit us on-line at [www.immanuelseymour.com](http://www.immanuelseymour.com).*