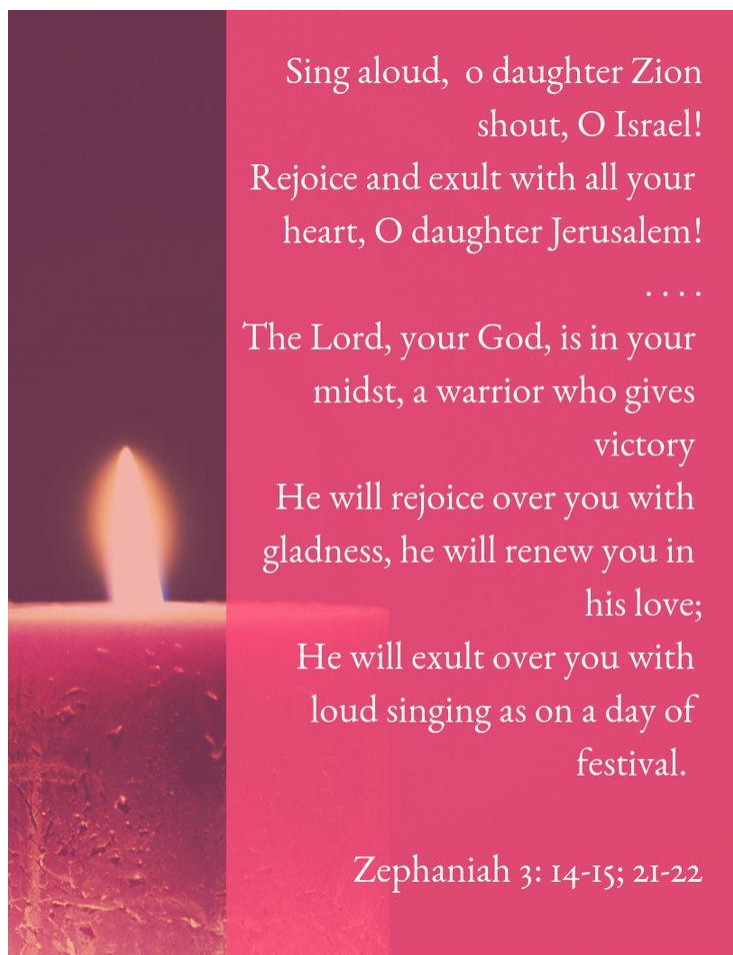


Welcome to Worship at Immanuel Lutheran Church



Joy

Gaudete / Rose Sunday
December 14, 2025
9 a.m. Service Bulletin
Advent III, Year A

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO WORSHIP WITH US!



WE BELIEVE THAT GUESTS ARE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, and we seek to make your visit positive! Please scan the QR code to the left or sign the Pew Register located in the red notebook.

WE BELIEVE THAT SERVING CHRIST MEANS SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS. Our name, Immanuel, means “God with us.” Everything we do is to welcome and serve the Lord who is here among us, in you, and in our neighbors. Our ministries, from our Worship to our Soup Kitchen and Food Bank, from our Jail Ministry to our Women’s Drug Recovery house, from our Homeless Children’s Ministry to our Campus Ministry at Lander University, are all designed and carried out to share “God with us” with our surrounding neighborhood and city. God’s Love is inexhaustible! People from all around town work alongside us to share this Love with our neighbors. You can too!

WE BELIEVE THAT CHURCH is where disagreements may occur, and the love of Christ draws us together to worship and work together. We do not all agree on everything, but we do love God and each other, and that is enough!

WE BELIEVE THAT GOD LOVES EVERYONE, so we do too! ALL are welcome here!

HOSPITALITY

RESTROOMS - Our Handicap Accessible Restroom is located just outside the door by the pulpit. We also have nearby restrooms downstairs.

THE CHILD CARE ROOM IS OPEN! - We have a room for parents that offers a private, quick, and convenient space for caring for children. The room is located just outside of the sanctuary through the door beside the pulpit.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The Third Sunday in Advent is known as Gaudete / Rose Sunday. “Gaudete” means “Rejoice” in Latin. During the first two weeks of Advent, the mood is somber and full of anticipation. On Gaudete / Rose Sunday, however, the pink candle symbolizing JOY is lit, and the atmosphere shifts to an upbeat tone reflecting that the birth of Immanuel is near.

Order of Worship

As the prelude begins, please prepare your heart and mind for Worship in SILENT meditation.

✚ THE PRELUDE

Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring

Johann Sebastian Bach

Dr. Will Cleveland, Organist

✚ THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

✚ THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn ELW # 242

Please stand, as you are able.



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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✝ THE WELCOME

The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor

✝ THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

ALL And also with you.

✝ THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Let us pray: Holy God of Joy,
ALL we rejoice in your love. Help us to be your witnesses, reflecting your light to the world. Fill us with the lasting joy that comes from knowing you, so that we may spread hope, love, and your presence to all, as we draw closer to welcoming the Christ child. AMEN.

Please be seated

✝ THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Kyrie Andrea Klouse

Viking Singers from Emerald High School

Vivian Ewart, Conductor

✝ THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE JOY

Please be seated

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

✙ THE LESSON Isaiah 35:1-10

Summary

Lector *In today's lesson, the prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save. Now, the lesson from the Old Testament prophet, Isaiah.*

Lector ¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. ³ Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Lector Here ends the lesson. For the word given to us,
ALL Thanks be to God.

✙ THE ANTHEM

Dona Nobis Pacem
Grant Us Peace

Jay Althouse

✠ THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION AND READING

Matthew 11:2-11

Please stand as you are able.

Pastor I am sending my messenger before you,
ALL **who will prepare your way before you.**

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew the 11th chapter.
ALL **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Pastor ² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.
ALL **Praise to you, O Christ.**

✠ THE SERMON

Please be seated.

Are You the One?

The Rev. Chris Christopher

✝ THE HYMN OF THE DAY *How Great Our Joy*

Please stand, as you are able.

1. While by the sheep we watched at night, Glad tid - ings brought an an - gel bright.
 2. There shall be born, so He did say, In Beth - le - hem a Child to - day.
 3. There shall the Child lie in a stall, This Child who shall re - deem us all.
 4. This gift of God we'll cher - ish well, That ev - er joy our hearts shall fill.

Refrain

How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!

Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

WORDS: Traditional German carol; v. 1-2 tr. by Theodore Baker. MUSIC: "Jungst"; German melody; arr. by Hugo R. Jungst, ca. 1890. Public Domain.

✝ THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AM = Assisting Minister

Please be seated or kneel.

AM In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

Silence for preparation

AM God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the Good News from generation to generation, that ALL may place their hope in you. God of grace,
ALL **hear our prayer.**

AM When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,
ALL **hear our prayer.**

AM When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace,
ALL **hear our prayer.**

AM When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,
ALL **hear our prayer.**

AM When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant.
ALL **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

AM As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. God of grace,
ALL **hear our prayer.**

AM Draw near to us, O God, as we commend ALL for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Immanuel.
ALL **AMEN.**

✝ THE CONFESSION

Pastor Let us pray: Long-expected God,
ALL we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

✝ THE ABSOLUTION (Declaration of Forgiveness)

Pastor God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ✝ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.
ALL AMEN.

✝ THE PEACE

Please stand, as you are able.

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.
ALL And also with you.
Pastor Let us turn to our AV Team and those worshipping with us on-line and on the radio and say together,
ALL the peace of the Lord be with you.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Holy Communion

Please be seated.



*During this time the ushers will pass the offering plates. If you prefer, you may give remotely by scanning the QR code to the left or visiting our website www.ilcgreenwood.com and selecting GIVE from the menu. THANK YOU for your generosity.

✙ THE OFFERTORY

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Gerald Near

✙ THE DOXOLOGY

Please stand, as you are able.

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

VENI EMMANUEL

Em G C D⁷ G D G C G

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

5 Am Bm⁷ Em Am Em B⁷ Em A⁷ D Em

here — be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

10 D Bm G C Am D⁷ G D Em Bm G

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -

15 C D⁷ Em D G C G Am Em Bm Em

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674
Music: 15th Century French

VENI EMMANUEL
LM with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address: music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain.

✝ THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor Let us pray: Nourishing God,
ALL you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal,
satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your
kingdom come. AMEN.

✝ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor The Lord be with you.
ALL And also with you.
Pastor Lift up your hearts.
ALL We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
ALL It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor continues with the Words of Institution.

✝ THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
ALL 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.

✝ THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Please be seated.

ALL are invited regardless of your understanding, your faith background, or sense of worth. Christ invites you. Jesus gives himself for you; Yes, for YOU. So come, come to the Table of the Lord. Communion is distributed by intinction, the dipping of the bread into the cup. The metal cups hold wine. The stoneware cups hold grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request; please ask for gluten free as you approach the server. Prepackaged elements are available inside a bowl at the head of the aisle. ALL are welcome to use the chancel rail for private prayer during the distribution.

✝ THE BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand, as you are able.

Pastor The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in
 God's Grace!
ALL AMEN!

✝ THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager
 to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
ALL AMEN.

✝ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see page 15 and insert .

✝ THE BENEDICTION

Pastor May God who comes among us, Creator, ✝ Redeemer, and Holy Spirit, grant you
 patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and Good News to share today and
 always.
ALL AMEN.

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✝ THE CLOSING HYMN

He Came Down

ELW # 253

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have peace; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have joy;

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp). It consists of two systems. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the final lines. The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. There are several triplet markings in the Soprano and Alto parts. The lyrics are printed below the corresponding staves.

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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✝ THE PROCLAMATION OF OUR MISSION AND DISMISSAL

- AM We proclaim together:
- ALL By the grace of God, we are disciples growing in faith, serving our communities,
and connecting others to Christ.
- AM Go in joy. Gaudete! Immanuel is near.
- ALL Thanks be to God.

*There is no postlude today. Dr. Will and members of ILC's Chancel Choir are preparing to sing at First Baptist Church for their 11 a.m. service. the Howard Goodall Cantata movements that were sung at the Hanging of the Greens service last Sunday.

*After Worship, please join us downstairs in the Old Fellowship Hall for refreshments and Adult Christian Education.

✝ THE PRAYER LIST

*Please email Dr. Will to add or remove names.

If anyone needs visitation, please contact Pastor Chris.

Those in need of healing: Maddy Bell, Linda Beveridge, Stephanie Branch, Wayne Cannon, Tom Carter, Vicky Crawford, Patricia Carteron, Steve Crooks, Nancy Crooks, Oliver Conaty, Laquana Davis, the family of Spencer Franks, Michael Gagné, Traver Gowan, Pop Pop Gowan, Chelsea Hall, Muriel Houde-Stickney, Tracy Koester, David Krumwiede, Juan Luna, Judith Mutter, Chandler Patterson, Steve Presley, and Betty Weeks.

Those with long term needs: Gail Bouknight, Rick Coker, Richard Coker, Brenda Donahue, Latrosha Fuller, Willie Fred Kennedy, Lois Kuntz, Rodine Russell, Sara Russell, Jeanne Shealy, and Deanna Whitt.

Those in the military: Daniel Darling and Devin Rosenbaum.

Expectant and new again parents and siblings, the women of Kinard Manor and ALL in recovery, the people fed through our Soup Kitchen Ministry and Food Pantry Ministry, the people participating in our Jail Ministry, the people of our Matthew 25:40 Ministry, along with the people they continue to help in Guatemala, and

The families of Saints who have been received into their eternal rest: Spencer Franks and Lorraine Moeller

THANK YOU to those serving in Worship today!

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Chris Christopher
Lector / Assisting Minister	Bo Bowman
Crucifer	Parker Kinard
Communion Assistants	Sue Kaufman, Elaine Rosenbaum, and Daniel Kinard
Organist and Pianist	Dr. Will Cleveland
Sound and Video Technician(s)	George Beveridge
Ushers	Daniel Kinard and Elaine Rosenbaum
Altar Guild	Sue Kaufman
Counter(s)	Steve Presley
Officer on Duty	Will Stroup

*Altar flowers are given today by Leisa Hotchkiss. The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory her grandmother, Dot Wise, as well as in honor of Immanuel's Handbell Choir and ALL musicians.

The roses on the altar are given by Will Cleveland to the glory of God and in honor of ALL the participants in the music ministries of Immanuel and First Baptist Church.

✝ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS (Week of 12/14/2025)

- **Pickleball** - Monday, December 15, 6 p.m. ALL are invited. If interested, please contact Larry Hammond at (landkhamm@gmail.com) or just show up.
- **Choir Practices** – Wednesday, December 17, Chancel Choir 4:15 p.m.
Handbell Choir, 5 p.m.
- **Christmas Bags** - Christmas bags for the Homebound are in the Welcome Center. Please bring a card for our shut-in congregational members.
- **Poinsettias** - \$15 each, order forms are available in the Narthex and in weekly newsletter. **Deadline for submissions is December 17.**
- **Festive Music Donations** - the collection will help with the cost of guest musicians for our late service on Christmas Eve.
- **Offerings** - For tax purposes and closing out the end of year records, please have all offerings to the church by **noon on New Year's Eve, December 31.** As a reminder, we do have a locked mailbox for security. THANK YOU for your generosity!
- **Weekly Bible Study** - Beginning Tuesday, January 6, at 1 p.m. Pastor Chris and Daniel Kinard will be leading a Bible study. You may bring your own lunch. Please register in the Narthex or e-mail Pastor Chris.



Please make sure you are registered to receive Immanuel's electronic communications and weekly newsletter by scanning the QR code. **Announcements for the Sunday bulletin and the weekly newsletter are due to Dr. Will by Wednesday at 10 a.m.**



CONTACT INFORMATION

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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864-223-0590, Church Web Site: www.ilcgreenwood.com

office@ilcgreenwood.com

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

*** Closed on Mondays**

***Closed 12/24/25-1/05/26**

CHURCH STAFF

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John Kinard, Congregation President

jkinard29@yahoo.com

Dr. Will Cleveland, Parish Administrator / Director of Music

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George Beveridge, Parish Sexton

gblbsb@outlook.com

Trey Morris, Campus Ministry Coordinator

treyorville@icloud.com

Sammy Hurley and Kristen Metts, Parish Custodians

SERVING THE CHURCH IN GREATER CAPACITIES

The Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop, ELCA

The Rev. Ginny Aebischer, Bishop, South Carolina Synod