



December 2021/January 2022

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Caring For Our Community Through Christ

Waiting for the Light of the World

Marie Greenway

November 23, 2021

CPH Blog



(Note: Pastor David and Desi are at home recovering from Covid-19. This CPH Blog is provided as a message for Advent in place of Pastor’s usual article.)

“Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.”

These words mark the opening of the service of Evening Prayer (*Lutheran Service Book*, p. 243). The language of light and darkness reminds us that Christ, our light, has overcome the darkness of sin, death, and the evil one. Christ as the light of the world is taken directly from Scripture and is a recurring theme throughout Advent. As a new Church Year begins in the season of Advent, we are surrounded by reminders in Scripture, in hymns and the liturgy, in traditions, and in nature, that light remains a crucial component both of our biology and our faith.

The Creation of Light

The opening words of Scripture tell us about the origins of light and its triumph over darkness in creation:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. (Genesis 1:1–5)

The first words recorded as spoken by God are “let there be light.” He speaks light into creation and calls it good. He does not call the darkness good but instead separates light and darkness as distinct entities. The light is called “Day,” but this light precedes the sun itself. In the very beginning, then, God shows us that light is from Him and that it is the first step in creating a world that is good.

The Light Foretold

During Advent, we hear several mentions of light, as the people of old were promised a light to overcome the darkness of death—prophecies ultimately fulfilled in Christ. Isaiah 9:2 says, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.” Matthew

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod

Caring For Our Community Through Christ

REV. DAVID CASEY-MOTLEY, PASTOR

PASTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Cell Phone.....253-241-1435
Email pastordavid.immanuel@gmail.com

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.; and by appointment

BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS

The office is normally open from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Please remember that the administrative assistant may be
away from the office running errands during this time.

Office Phone410-673-7107
Office Fax Number410-673-1426
Office Emailimmanuellutheranpreston@verizon.net

CHURCH OFFICERS — 2021

President..... Ruth Thomas
Secretary..... Lynn Short
Financial Secretary Dee Lambert
Treasurer..... Janice Isenberg
Evangelism Chair Darlena Butler
Trustee Chair Dale Kenton
Stewardship Chair Lynn Faulstick
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Elders Chair Richard Wheatley

4 tells us that these words are fulfilled in Christ. In case we had any doubts, Jesus tells us frankly, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12).

In the days leading up to our Christmas celebration, we join God’s people of old in waiting for the light to come. We are also the ones who dwell in the land of deep darkness, a land of death. The season of Advent begins in the darkest days of the year as we approach winter. The cold and the dark serve to remind us viscerally of our sinful state and our need for salvation. We await both the remembrance of a coming in Jesus’ birth at Bethlehem and the fulfillment of the promise of Christ’s second coming on the Last Day. We eagerly await the coming of the light both theologically and in nature and look forward to the life it brings.

As we wait, we look to humbler sources of light to remind us of who we are waiting for. We light the candles on our Advent wreath and notice how even the tiny flames hold the darkness at bay. We notice the stars in the night sky at earlier and earlier times each night. We put up our Christmas trees, decking them in tiny electric lights. Humans need the light, and as it disappears for increasingly longer stretches of time in late fall and winter, we seek as many sources of it as we can find. These small sources of light encourage us while we dwell in the darkness and point to our need for the day to dawn again. We eagerly await the sunrise with confident hope. So, too, we await Christ’s coming with confident hope.

Rejoicing in the Light That Overcomes the Darkness

One of the most well-known Advent hymns, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (*LSB* 357), takes its text from the ancient “O” Antiphons, which are based on scriptural names of Christ. The “O” Antiphon for December 21, the winter solstice and the longest night of the year, turns our focus from the darkness around us to Jesus, who is the light appearing as the day dawns: “O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting: Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.” Even in the darkest night, we look for the light of day to come. Jesus is the “Dayspring,” and so we sing:

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing night;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to
thee, O Israel! (stanza 6)

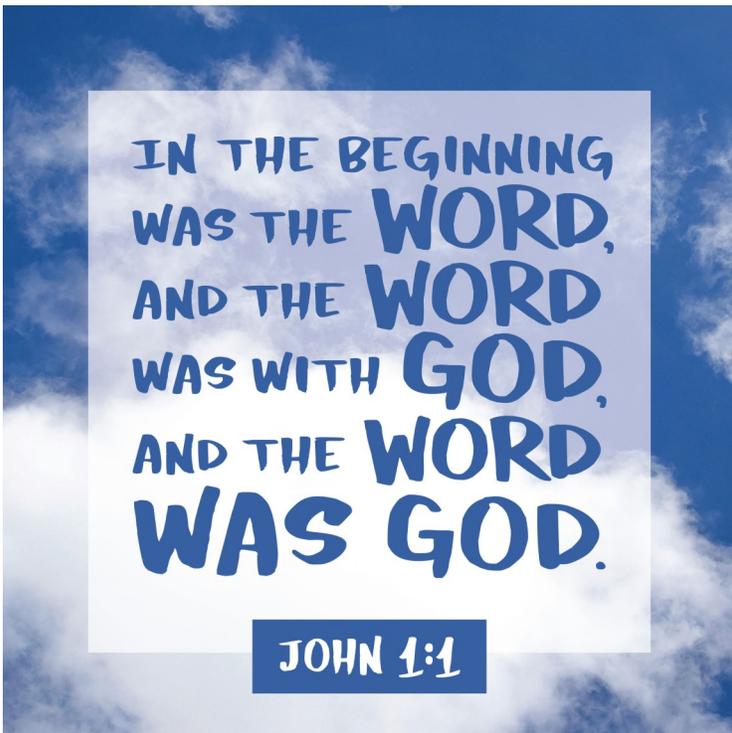
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Indeed, we do rejoice as the light overcomes the darkness in the days following the winter solstice. As the earth turns on its axis, we experience the light returning to push back the darkness of night. Furthermore, we rejoice that Christ, the light of the world, has come to push back the darkness of death. He is the great light that shines on us! We sing the liturgy of Evening Prayer and the Advent hymns celebrating the light and we hear Scripture's promise of the light shining on us in the land of great darkness with confident hope that Christ will come again. The light of the world has ultimately scattered the darkness, and we joyfully await His second coming to bring us to the land where light reigns eternally.

In the beginning, God created light. This light preceded candles, lamps, electric bulbs, and the sun itself. As the Scriptures open in Genesis with God creating light, so they close in the final chapter of Revelation with the promise of a new light:

And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. (Revelation 22:5)

On the final day, we will glory in that light forever.



From the
President's Pen



As this will be my final newsletter article as Council President, I wanted to thank everyone for your support over the past four years. It has been an honor to serve beside Pastor and the Elders and Council members, and especially to see what was accomplished together.

The pandemic has been challenging, but everyone has been a trooper with masks and protocols. I look forward to the day when it is a distant memory (God-willing).

Dale Kenton reports that the heating system contractor is waiting on a final part to arrive before they can finish up and test. Meanwhile, the smaller units are providing heat when needed.

As previously reported, the window repair/restoration project needs some additional funding. Many of you have already donated, but perhaps a special year-end gift will get us over the top on this project. Please direct your special gifts or memorials to the window fund as you are able.

We could use at least one additional person trained on running the Facebook live camera on Sundays. Let me know if you would like to volunteer. It is really very easy and any of the current volunteers can shadow you on a Sunday until you are comfortable.

Immanuel is still seeking to hire an Administrative Assistant. Contact the office if you are interested or refer a friend if you know someone seeking a part-time position. Carol has been more than gracious to stay on in the interim but is not planning to work past year-end.

Thanks again for all your support and prayers,

See you on Sunday!

Ruth

SPECIAL FUNDS

Church Beautification Fund

In Memory of Ron Nichols III

Dale & Marsha Kenton

Stained Glass Fund

In Memory of Ron Nichols III

Ed & Connie Overington

Paul & Jackie Nichols

Stained Glass Fund

In Memory of Victor Rieck

John Schmidt

Shelly Kapitan & Vera Worm

Lynn Short

Stained Glass Fund

In Memory of Vera Worm

Lynn Short

Ruth Worm

John & Gail Crampton

Arts & Sciences Dept. at Chesapeake
College

Leslie Karenbauer & Shawn Taylor

Raine & Jan Lewis

Ruth Thomas

Care & Compassion Fund

WINGS

Church Beautification Fund

WINGS

Memorial Fund

In Memory of Rev. Floyd P. Duff

Timothy Duff

Youth Group

In Memory of Vera Worm

Dicky & Irene Wheatley

Youth Group

In Memory of Tom Wilson

Dicky & Irene Wheatley

Youth Group

In Memory of Cindy Coverdale

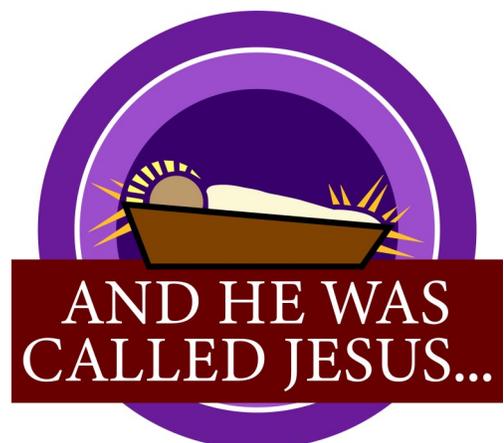
Dicky & Irene Wheatley



Pledge Sunday may have passed but we are still accepting Pledge Cards. Feel free to put your completed Pledge Card in the plate at church or mail to Immanuel Lutheran Church, PO Box 39, Preston MD 21655, Attention: Financial Secretary. A special thank you to those who have pledged already. We as a church family can truly count our blessings!

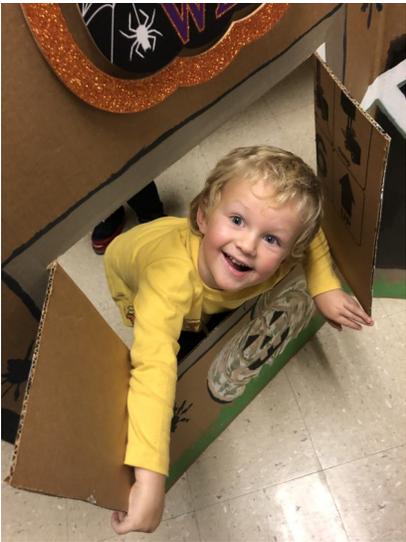
Care and Compassion 2021 Angel Tree

Thank you to all who are taking part in our Angel Tree Project. The angel tags "flew" off the tree in record time this year — thank you so much!! If you wanted to participate but did not get a tag, you could still make a donation of a gift card to either WalMart or Food Lion. Cash donations are also acceptable — cash will be turned into gift cards that the mother can use at a later date. Remember that we need all gifts — wrapped and tags attached — in by December 5th or sooner. If your gift will be delayed please contact Irene Wheatley — 410-310-2571. Thank you for helping Immanuel "Care for our community through Christ."



Immanuel Nursery School Fall Fun We're On The Go!

- Firehouse Visit
- Bartenfelder's Farm
- Harvest Party





Stephanie Fuchs	12/6
Michael Knorr	12/6
Craig Langwost	12/6
Drew Nabb	12/6
Noah Ferkler	12/9
Jaclyn Langwost	12/9
Coltyn Smith	12/11
Rex Rosebrock	12/13
Jeanette Schmick	12/14
Kalei Durando	12/20
Anthony Durando	12/22
Ed Schanken, Jr.	12/23
Marti Cheesman	12/24
Janelle Mellor	12/24
Arlene Stevens	12/27
Amanda Knorr	12/30
Lilliana Andrew	12/31
Shelly Kapitan	12/31



Joe Bartenfelder	1/3
John Fuchs	1/4
Landon Garcia	1/4
Cheryl Hochmuth	1/14
Grace Cannon	1/15
Phillip Fuchs	1/16
Doris Maser	1/16
Melissa Mulligan	1/21
Jordan Fuchs	1/23
Michael Jantz, Sr.	1/23
Mark Frase	1/24
Joey Durham	1/26
Warren Frase	1/27
Michelle Frase	1/28
Bailey Knorr	1/28



John & Sandy Monroe	12/6
Melissa & Michael Mulligan	12/6
Dan & Denise Mitchell	12/18
Anthony & Joanna Durando	12/27



Maureen & Phillip Garcia 1/16

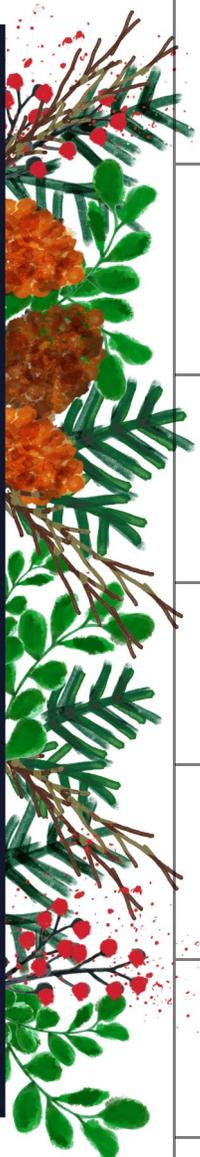


DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8:50-3:25 Nursery School 6:30 pm Bell Practice 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon 7:40 pm Choir Practice	2 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	3	4
5 Worship Service Cancelled 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	6 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	7 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	8 8:50-3:25 Nursery School 6:30 pm Bell Practice 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon 7:40 pm Choir Practice	9 8:50-3:25 Nursery School 7:00 p.m. WINGS	10	11
12 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	13 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	14 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	15 8:50-3:25 Nursery School 6:30 pm Bell Practice 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon 7:40 pm Choir Practice	16 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	17 7 pm Nursery School Christmas Program	18 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:00 a.m.
19 Sunday School Christmas Program 10:30 am Divine Service with Holy Communion 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	20 <----- NURSERY 7:00 pm Board of Elders & Council Mtg	21 -----SCH 	22 00L----- 6:30 pm Bell Practice 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon 7:40 pm Choir Practice	23 CLOSED----->	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service	25
26 10:30 am Divine Service with Holy Communion 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	27 <----- NURSERY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	28 -----SCH	29 00L----- 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon	30 CLOSED----->	31 	

THOSE SERVING IMMANUEL DECEMBER 2021

Date	Ushers	Assisting Elder	Lay Reader	Acolyte	Sound System	Camera Operator	Kids Worship	Greeter	Head Tellers
December 5		WORSHIP		SERVICE		CAN-CELLED			
December 12	Jack Collins Richard Wheatley		Earleen Lozen	Veronica Phillips	David Schmidt	Zack Kirwan	Rene Langwost		Karen Lyons Jennifer Phillips
December 19	Jack Collins Richard Wheatley	Mark Frase	Iris Rieck		Rex Rosebrock	John Crampton	Rene Langwost		Dee Lambert Glen Plutschak Linda Jefferson
December 24 Christmas Eve	Jack Collins Richard Wheatley			Kalei Durando	TBD	TBD			
December 26	Jack Collins Richard Wheatley		Chrissy Frase	Catie Casey-Motley	Jim Harris	Ruth Thomas	Rene Langwost		David & Kathy Schmidt Julie Schmidt

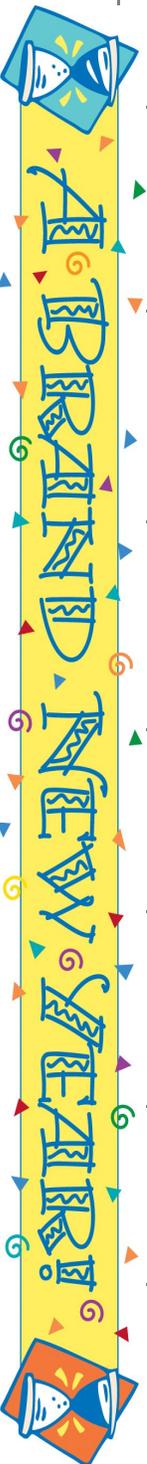


JANUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						 1
2 10:30 am Divine Service with Holy Communion 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	3 8:50-3:25 Nursery School 6:30 pm Board of Elders	4 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	5 8:50-3:25 Nursery School 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon	6 8:50-3:25 Nursery School EPIPHANY	7 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	8 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:00 a.m.
9 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	10 8:50-3:25 Nursery School 7:00 pm Church Council	11 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	12 8:50-3:25 Nursery School 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon	13 8:50-3:25 Nursery School 7:00 p.m. WINGS	14 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	15
16 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Divine Service with Holy Communion 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	17 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY NURSERY SCHOOL CLOSED	18 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	19 8:50-3:25 Nursery School 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon	20 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	21	22
23 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Voters Mtg After worship 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	24 8:50-3:25 Nursery School 6:30 pm Nursery School Board	25 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	26 NURSERY SCHOOL CLOSED 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon	27 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	28	29
30 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	31 8:50-3:25 Nursery School					

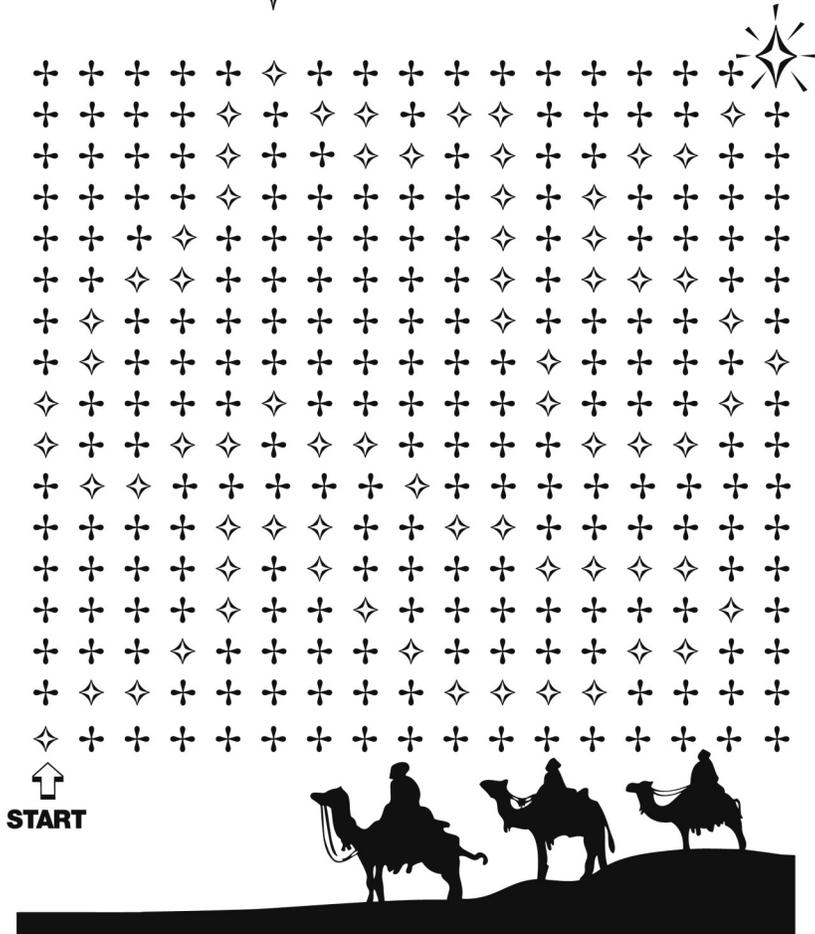
THOSE SERVING IMMANUEL JANUARY 2022

Date	Ushers	Assisting Elder	Lay Reader	Acolyte	Sound System	Camera Operator	Kids Worship	Greeter	Head Tellers
January 2	John Hochmuth Roland Limpert	Richard Wheatley	Arlene Stevens	Lukas Maloney	David Schmidt	Janice Isenberg	Rene Langwost		Janice Isenberg Shelly Kapitan John Crampton
January 9	John Hochmuth Roland Limpert		John Crampton	Open	David Schmidt	Zack Kirwan	Rene Langwost		Karen Lyons Jennifer Phillips
January 16	John Hochmuth Roland Limpert	Todd Butler	Janice Isenberg	Catie Casey-Motley	Rex Rosebrock	John Crampton	Rene Langwost		Dee Lambert Glen Plutschak Linda Jefferson
January 23	John Hochmuth Roland Limpert		Todd Butler	Open	Jim Harris	Ruth Thomas	Rene Langwost		David & Kathy Schmidt Julie Schmidt
January 30	John Hochmuth Roland Limpert		Hugh Smith	Open	Jim Harris	TBD	Rene Langwost		Carol Frase Paul Nichols



Puzzle!

Starting in the lower-left corner, help the wise men follow the ✦ path that leads to baby Jesus.



Now unscramble these words to discover what gifts the wise men brought Jesus.

L D O G N C A K N R I E N F S E R Y H M R

Answer: gold, frankincense, myrrh

Golden GIVING

Live out Jesus' golden rule by preparing gift bags for people in need.



What you need:

- Gallon-size zip bags
- New socks
- Hand warmers
- Bus fare or tokens
- Bottled water
- Nonperishable food
- Toiletries and first-aid items
- Paper and markers

What you do:

1. Gather supplies, using the ideas above. Fill bags to make care packages.
2. Write notes or draw pictures for recipients, placing one in each bag.
3. Zip bags and keep them in a vehicle to distribute. Or deliver them right away to people in need (or to sick or homebound people, nursing home residents, a homeless shelter and so on).
4. Pray that God will use your gifts to help and encourage each recipient.



Immanuel Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 39
Preston, Maryland 21655



The Grapevine
December 2021/January 2022

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