





Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp  
229 11th Ave. West  
Grinnell, IA  
Office: 641-236-6691  
Cell: 507-829-3901  
Home: 641-260-8394

Pastor Email: koeppj@hotmail.com

Church Email: ImmanuelLutheran@iowatelecom.net

Website: <http://www.immanuelgrinnell.org>

**FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**  
**December 2, 2018**  
**Divine Setting Three ~ Page 184**

**As We Gather ~ *The Lord Jesus Comes in Humility to Redeem Us***

The new Church Year begins by focusing on the humble coming of our Lord. "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey" (Matt. 21:5). Even as He was born in a lowly manger, so Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a beast of burden. For He bears the sin of the world. He is the Son of David riding to His enthronement on the cross, where He shows Himself to be "The LORD is our Righteousness" (Jer. 23:5-6). Our Lord still comes in great humility to deliver His righteousness to us in the Word and Sacraments. Before receiving Christ's body and blood, we also sing, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" (Matt. 21:9) And as we receive the Sacrament, we set our hearts on His return in glory, for "our salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed" (Rom. 13:11).

**Announcements**

***(As the Cross, a symbol of our redemption, enters the sanctuary, God's people stand and fix our eyes upon it)***

**Processional Hymn**

**p 350**

***"Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come"***

**Confession & Absolution**

**p 184**

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

### **Introit**

*Ps. 25:4–5, 21–22; antiphon: Ps. 25:1–3a*

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame.

**Let not my enemies exult over me.**

**Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame.**

Make me to know your ways, O LORD;

teach me your paths.

**Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all the day long.**

May integrity and uprightness preserve me,

for I wait for you.

**Redeem Israel, O God,**

**out of all his troubles.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame.

**Let not my enemies exult over me.**

**Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame.**

### **Kyrie**

**p 186**

### **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**p 189**

**P** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### **Old Testament Reading**

*Jeremiah 23:5–8*

5“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 6In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’ 7“Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they shall no longer say, ‘As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’

8but 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.' Then they shall dwell in their own land."

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gradual**

None who wait for you shall be put to shame;  
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.**

### **Epistle**

*Romans 13:8–14*

8Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 10Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. 11Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. 12The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 21:1–9*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

**C** **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

1Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." 4This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

5“Say to the daughter of Zion,  
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

6The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. 7They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. 8Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

**Nicene Creed** p 191

**Hymn of the Day** p 332

*“Savior of the Nations, Come”*

**Sermon** “You Beast of Burden” *Matthew 21:1–9*

**Offertory** p 192

**Offering**

**Prayer of the Church**

## **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

**Preface** p 194

**Sanctus** p 195

**Lord’s Prayer** p 196

**The Words of Our Lord** p 197

**Pax Domini** p 197

**Agnus Dei** p 198

**Distribution**    *(You may kneel or stand to receive communion)*

**Distribution Hymns**    **p 334, 938**

*“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”*

*“In Peace and Joy I Now Depart”*

**Nunc Dimittis**    **p 199**

**Thanksgiving**    **p 200**

**Salutation and Benedicamus**    **p 201**

**Benediction**    **p 202**

**Recessional Hymn**    **p 343**

*“Prepare the Royal Highway”*

*Acknowledgments*

*Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book*

*Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.*

# The Immanuel Spirit

**Welcome to Immanuel!** On this first Sunday of Advent we come together as the people of God to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. All are welcome! Join hearts and voices in love and worship. Join hands in fellowship with those about you. We are the family of God. Please join us for fellowship after the service.

**Guests:** Please sign our guest book, or a guest card in the pew and place in the offering plate before leaving.

**Scripture Lessons for next Sunday:** Malachi 4:1–6, Romans 15:4–13 and Luke 21:25–36.

**Stewardship:** Matt. 21:3 – “If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” Consider the faithfulness of that man who owned the donkey and colt. All he needed to hear was, “The Lord has need of it,” and he willingly gave. The Lord has given each of us various callings in life – in our homes, in the Church, and in our communities. In each calling we have good work to do, and that comes from the Lord’s hand. The Lord has need of us in each calling. How is He calling you to generous giving in each of your vocations?

**Communion Statement:** As we learn from 1 Corinthians, when we commune together we make a confession of our oneness in doctrine and understanding of God’s Word. Since those who show publicly that they agree with the teachings believed, taught, and confessed by the Pastor and congregation at which the Sacrament is distributed, we ask that those who are not members in good standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, or one of our sister churches to please refrain from partaking of the Sacrament. Instead, if you would like to receive a blessing, you are more than welcome to come to the altar rail and please indicate you would like to receive a blessing by crossing your arms in front of your chest. A list of church bodies with whom we share Altar and Pulpit fellowship is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. If you would like to visit about this doctrine and practice, please talk to Pastor or an Elder. For further study on this matter see Matthew 5:23ff, 18:15-35, 26:26-39; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20 and 1 Cor. 11:17-34. Thank you.

**Today’s Missions Recipient is MICA.** A collection plate is on the stand as you enter the sanctuary.

**Building Healthy Families for Dec. 2nd:** Life can be hard, and relationships can cause pain. When someone hurts you, you may find that it is difficult to trust again. God does not abandon you in the pain but promises to stay with you. Through all of life's challenges, God never breaks His promise: "I will never leave you, I will never forsake you." (Hebrews 13) He also puts people in place to be there, including LFS counselors who are available to help with troubled relationships and the pain they leave behind. ~ **Lutheran Family Service of Iowa: Des Moines (515) 251-4900.**

**Life Quote for Dec. 2nd:** "Advent is about Return—the Lord's Second Coming, our return to Him, which is another way of saying 'repentance.' Repentance requires memory, for return requires memory. The Prodigal did some mental research and remembered the facts about his father's house from his personal history. Informed by a paternal history, he struck a new course, which was to return. And the Homecoming was sweet, like the marriage supper in paradise, when all history will be fulfilled, and the guests live happily ever after. Advent reminds us, based on history that we know, that He is coming, which should remind us, Repent!" James M. Kushiner, The Fellowship of St. James ~ **A "Life Quote" from Lutherans For Life [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)**

**Life Thought in the Church Year for Dec. 2nd:** Advent brings the gift of anticipating: "none who wait for ... [the Lord] shall be put to shame" (Psalm 25:3). A surprise pregnancy likewise invites patient faith instead of using death as a solution to difficulty. So does struggling with infertility or enduring permanent disability. Our Father's salvation comes, not sluggish but steadfast (Psalm 25:10). Life is His promise, and He will move heaven and earth to fulfill it (Jeremiah 33:14). Son of David, our coming King, establish us in hope. Amen.

**Lutheran Hour for Dec. 9th:** Hear "Redeemer with a Capital R" based on Ruth 3-4 by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. When people use the word "redeem" outside of religious context, they tend to use it in a commercial sense—redeeming points from purchases or casino tokens for cash. In the Bible, the word "redeem" is used in a family setting. In the story of Ruth, Boaz is a "kinsman redeemer," who points to Jesus, our capital-R-Redeemer. Jesus has done more than pay our points. He redeems by bringing us into his clan, his people, his household, that we might be with him forever. ~ **Listen next Sunday on 600 WMT at 6:30 a.m., 1190 KFJB at 8:30 a.m., WHO-1040 at 7:30 a.m., & 1410 KGRN at 7:30 a.m.**



**A MOBILE LUTHERAN BIBLE STUDY...Issues, Etc.** is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: 4th Century Pastor Saint Nicholas of Myra, The Movie "Fantastic Beasts 2," 16th Century Ruler Philipp of Hesse, The Book of Amos, 8th Century Hymnwriter John of Damascus, The Birth of Jesus Foretold and more. You can listen at your convenience at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org) and on the LPR mobile app.

**Cleaning:** Household(s) responsible for the week of **Dec. 2 through Dec. 8 is Mintle**. Household(s) responsible for the week of **Dec. 9 through Dec. 15 is Roberts/Schutt**. If it is your week to clean church & you have other obligations or prefer to write a check rather than cleaning, the cost is \$50. Please contact Amber Carnine (641-990-5985) ASAP & no later than the Thursday of the week before it is your week to clean.

**Please check your boxes!** 2019 Offering Envelopes and prayer portals are in your boxes.

**Calendars:** The Board of Education is selling calendars again. If interested, please see Sherry Baker.

**Caroling at Windsor Manor NEXT SUNDAY** after Sunday School/Bible Study.

**Council meeting** next Sunday, Dec. 9th at 8:00 a.m.

**CONFIRMATION MEMORY WORK**  
FOR  
NEXT SUNDAY, DEC 9th

**5th & 6th Grade**  
Christmas Program Piece

**7th & 8th Grade**  
Close of Commandments

**Soloists/Instruments:** If anyone is interested in singing or playing an instrument in the Christmas Program on December 16th, please speak with Pastor.

**It's that time of year again!** Every year we adorn our altar area with poinsettias for Christmas. A poinsettia may be given in memory or in honor of a loved one. The poinsettias will be displayed for the Christmas Eve Service. You may take the plant(s) you ordered home after the Christmas Eve Service. Place your order by filling out the order form and returning to the church secretary by **Dec. 9th**. Order forms are available on the entryway table. Poinsettias are \$15 each. Checks should be made payable to 'Immanuel Lutheran Church' with 'Poinsettia' in the memo line.

## FESTIVAL OF TREES

Immanuel will again this year have a tree at the Drake Library.

***Our theme will be "Bound Together-Hand in Hand."***

We are needing new, brightly colored gloves or mittens (all sizes). These need to be here at church by December 5th to decorate the tree at the library by December 6th. The gloves and mittens later on will be donated.

*Colossians 3:14 "Put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."*



# Upcoming Services

## Midweek Advent

### Evening Prayer Services

Wednesday, December 5th 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 12th 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 19th 6:30 p.m.

**A meal will be served before  
each service at 5:30 p.m.**

A sign-up sheet is on the entryway  
table for any individuals or group who would  
like to volunteer to coordinate the meals  
(meal preparations, donations, serving and clean-up)

***The Nativity of Our Lord:  
Christmas Eve Prayer Service  
Monday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m.***

***The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day Service  
Tuesday, December 25th at 9:00 a.m.***

# **UPDATED SCHEDULE FOR THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16TH  
AT 10:30 A.M.**

*A cookie reception will follow*

## **PRACTICE DATES**

**Sunday, December 2 at 10:30 a.m.**

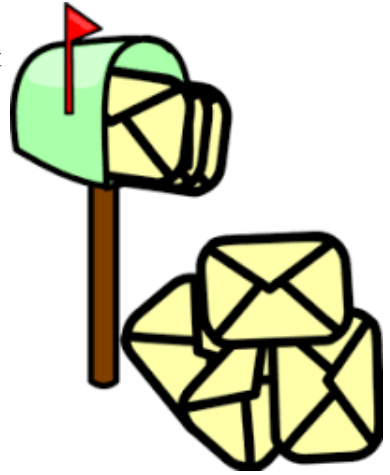
**Sunday, December 9 at 10:30 a.m.**

**Saturday, December 15 9:00–10:30 a.m.**

# HOLIDAY MAIL FOR HEROES PROGRAM

Sending Christmas cards to soldiers is the perfect holiday activity for classrooms or families. One easy way to ensure that your cards end up in the hands of an active duty or recovering soldier is by sending it through an program called “Holiday Mail for Heroes” which is operated by the American Red Cross. The Red Cross began the program in 2007 and works in conjunction with Pitney Bowes to collect cards from all across the United States and distribute them to soldiers, veterans and their families.

Entitle your card with a generic term such as “Dear Soldier” or “Dear Service Member, Family or Veteran.” Consider including a short message of gratitude to the soldier for his or her service. Express your appreciation for his sacrifice. If you like, you can purchase a Christmas card through the American Red Cross for \$25. The \$25 is a donation that goes to support the U.S. military.



Address your envelope as follows:  
Holiday Mail for Heroes  
P.O. Box 5456  
Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456

**Postmark your card no later than Dec. 10.**  
**Cards postmarked after Dec. 10 will be returned to the sender.**

Ensure that your card meets all “Holiday Mail for Heroes” guidelines. Don’t send letters, care packages or monetary gifts. Don’t include your personal contact information. Keep your card free of glitter and additional inserts of any kind.

Serve  
one another  
Humbly  
In **Love**  
*Galatians 5:13*

**TODAY**

Organist.....Esther Huedepohl  
Elder.....Keith Thorpe  
Greeter.....D. Schultz  
Ushers.....Terry Stanek & Arnie Heimsoth  
Servers.....Marrina Kaloupek & Sue Ford  
Acolyte/Crucifier.....Lauren & Oliver Loudon

**NEXT SUNDAY**

Organist.....Esther Huedepohl  
Elder.....Verne Cadwell  
Greeter.....K. Schultz  
Ushers.....Caden & Chris Christinson  
Servers.....Robin Marcinik & Emily Loudon  
Acolyte/Crucifier.....Ellie & Jenna Mintle

**Our Gifts to God (given at Immanuel)**  
**November 14, 2018**

Attendance	36
Holy Communion	N/A

**Our Gifts to God (given at Immanuel)**  
**November 18, 2018**

Attendance	74
Holy Communion	45

# Week Ahead

## TODAY

1st Sunday in Advent.....9:00 a.m.  
Missions: MICA  
Christmas Program Practice.....10:30 a.m.  
7th/8th Confirmation.....1:00-2:30 p.m.  
5th/6th Pre-Confirmation.....2:30-4:00 p.m.

## TUESDAY

Greek Study.....8:30 a.m.  
Board of Education Meeting.....4:00 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY

Pre-service meal.....5:30 p.m.  
Mid-Week Advent Evening Prayer Service.....6:30 p.m.

## THURSDAY

Bible Study.....11:00 a.m.  
Elders' Meeting.....Noon

## NEXT SUNDAY

Council Meeting.....8:00 a.m.  
2nd Sunday in Advent.....9:00 a.m.  
Christmas Program Practice.....10:30 a.m.  
\*Caroling at Windsor Manor after practice & Bible Study\*  
7th/8th Confirmation.....1:00-2:30 p.m.  
5th/6th Pre-Confirmation.....2:30-4:00 p.m.

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Friday...Gabe & Gavin Gilman

May God bless you today and each day that follows. May you hear His voice, follow His footsteps, be comforted by His care, and live in His grace now and forever.





Our church website has the info. you need right at your fingertips! Get access to weekly bulletins, sermons, calendars, upcoming events, pictures and more!

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

Follow us on Facebook!

Immanuel Lutheran Church LC-MS

Subscribe to Pastor's YouTube channel to listen to sermons!  
Rev Dr. Joel Koepp or Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grinnell, IA

## **Prayer Chain/Prayer Requests.... Who do I contact?**

**Prayer Chain Email/Bulletin** -->> Church Secretary

Please email Amber at [immanuellutheran@iowatelecom.net](mailto:immanuellutheran@iowatelecom.net) for requests to be sent out on the church prayer email chain and/or included in the bulletin.

**Special Prayer request during Church Service** -->> Rev. Koepp

If you would like a special prayer during the prayers of the church on Sunday, please contact Rev. Koepp: Email: [koeppj@hotmail.com](mailto:koeppj@hotmail.com)  
Cell: 507-829-3901 Home: 641-260-8394 Office: 641-236-6691  
Office Hours: Monday--Thursday 8am--3pm

**Deadline for any bulletin announcements** (prayer requests, meetings, calendar items, ect.) are Thursdays by 5:00 p.m.



# **2019 Immanuel Officers & Board Members**

## **President**

Joel McDonough

## **Vice President**

Steve Haase

## **Secretary**

Kathy Stanek

## **Treasurer**

Chris Christinson

## **Elders**

Steve Haase

Darlo Kelting

Joel McDonough

Ken Mergen

## **Trustees**

Doug Kruse

Ben Loudon

Kevin Schultz

## **Board of Education**

Sherry Baker

Megan Schutt

Markie Koepp

## **Board of Stewardship**

Sharon Krumm

Pamela Sittig

Cindy Cloyed

## **Board of Evangelism & Missions**

June Routier

Dianna Kelting

Sandy Koch

## **Organist**

Esther Huedepohl/Pam Haase

## **Church Secretary**

Amber Carnine

## **Sunday School Opening**

Pastor Koepp

## **Youth Board Chairman**

Emily Loudon

## **LWML President**

Maralee Kruse

## **LWML Treasurer**

Susan Schoen

## **LWML Secretary**

Pam Haase

## **LWML Christian Life**

Denise Cadwell

## **Altar Guild**

Helen Thorpe

Susan Schoen

June Routier

Carol Stone

Danielle McDonough

Pam Haase

Pam Sittig

Esther Huedepohl (Backup)

**The Divine Service Introduction**  
**Our Lutheran Heritage of Worship**

*Pastor David Miller*

Trinity Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

**Sanctus**

The Sanctus, or the Holy, Holy, Holy, is the conversation of heaven that the prophet Isaiah heard when he had an encounter with the Lord. Isaiah tells us, "I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim.... And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!'" (6:1-3). As he mentions, it was in the very temple of Jerusalem that he saw into the heavenly throne room that is usually hidden from human eyes. We know that God was indeed physically present on earth in the temple for it says that "the train of his robe filled the temple" and the seraphim's song also says so: "the whole earth is full of his glory!"

We, ourselves, sing this song during the Service of the Sacrament because we are about to receive Christ Jesus our King as He sits before us on the altar in His body and blood, As He visits us in the Sacrament, heaven and earth meet and the last line of the Proper Preface is fulfilled: "with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:" and we join in with that wonderful heavenly chorus, "Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might: heaven and earth are full of Your glory." The second part of the Sanctus is the song of Palm Sunday, when Jesus was met with loud hosannas riding into Jerusalem as a lowly King to go to His passion. We also receive our King as He rides into the New Jerusalem, the Church, on lowly bread and wine. We join in with His people singing, "Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest" (Matthew 21:9). Though He doesn't go to suffer and die for us again like He did following His Triumphal Entry, He does deliver the benefits of that cross to us as we receive peace and pardon in the Sacrament.

# **The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

## **Stewardship Ministry**

### **December 2018 Newsletter Article**

Throughout his epistles and his preaching recorded in the Book of Acts, St. Paul refers, in one way or another, to thanksgiving and thankfulness nearly 50 times. Whether vertically toward God, or horizontally toward the neighbor, thanksgiving is a major theme within St. Paul's body of work.

What does this mean? It means thankfulness is intrinsic to the life of those baptized into Christ. In other words, giving thanks is what Christians do as they live out their lives in this world.

The problem is that we often forget this. Consider your average, run-of-the-mill, normal day. When you get home, and your parents, your spouse or your children ask about your day, what first comes to your mind? After 99 percent of things went right, went exactly as planned, were enjoyable and blessings, we tend to focus on and remember the 1 percent of things that went poorly, that didn't go as planned, and that were nuisances.

We remember the bad things. We focus on discontent. And we fail to give thanks in all circumstances for everything (*Eph. 5:20*) and to rejoice in the Lord always (*Phil. 4:4*).

Thankfulness and contentment go together. We are content with things for which we are thankful. St. Paul could be content with having plenty or when in need because He gave thanks to the Lord for all things. He thanked the Lord for those who had prayed for him and listened to his proclamation of the Gospel. He gave thanks for their good works in and for the Church of Christ. He gave thanks for the grace of God in Christ Jesus and found that God's grace was sufficient for him.

So, give thanks for all things and in all circumstances dear brothers and sisters in Christ. For you have been saved from sin, death, and hell by the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. You have been added to the very family of God in an adoption of grace through Holy Baptism. God is your Father. Our Lord, Jesus Christ is your brother.

But He not only provides for your spiritual well-being, He cares also for this body and life. Your Father in heaven provides food and clothes, house and home, husband, wife, and children. He gives you reason and all your senses. He has given you the raw talents that you have developed into careers. Everything you are and everything that you have is a gift from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in you.

Give thanks for these things. Make a list – every morning if you must. Say them out loud. Sing about them within the congregation of the saints. And remember this: God has given you these things so that you may be of service to those around you – your family, your neighbors, your brothers and sisters in Christ. For to whom much is given; much shall be required (*Luke 12:48*).

thankful  
grateful  
blessed

**QUESTION:** Why does the church year begin at Advent, what is the history of Advent, and what is the history behind the Advent candles and wreath?

**ANSWER:** The word “advent” is from the Latin word for “coming,” and as such, describes the “coming” of our Lord Jesus Christ into the flesh.

Advent begins the church year because the church year begins where Jesus' earthly life began — in the Old Testament prophecies of his incarnation. After Advent comes Christmas, which is about his birth; then Epiphany, about his miracles and ministry; then Lent, about his Calvary-bound mission; then Easter, about his resurrection and the sending of the apostles; and then Ascension (40 days after Easter) and Pentecost, with the sending of the Holy Spirit.

The first half of the church year (approximately December through June) highlights the life of Christ. The second half (approximately June through November) highlights the teachings of Christ. The parables and miracles play a big part here. That's “the church year in a nutshell,” and it should help reveal how Advent fits into “the big picture.”

Advent specifically focuses on Christ's “coming,” but Christ's coming manifests itself among us in three ways — past, present, and future.

The readings which highlight Christ's coming in the past focus on the Old Testament prophecies of his incarnation at Bethlehem. The readings, which highlight Christ's coming in the future, focus on his “second coming” on the Last Day at the end of time. And the readings that highlight Christ's coming in the present focus on his ministry among us through Word and Sacrament today.

The traditional use of Advent candles (sometimes held in a wreath) originated in eastern Germany even prior to the Reformation. As this tradition came down to us by the beginning of this century, it involved three purple candles and one pink candle.



The purple candles matched the purple paraments on the altar (purple for the royalty of the coming King). The pink candle was the third candle to be lit (not the fourth) on Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent. "Gaudete" means "Rejoice!" in Latin, which is taken from Phil. 4:4.

("Rejoice! ... the Lord is near"). Hence a "pink" candle was used to signify "rejoicing." Some also included a white "Christ candle" in the middle to be lit during the 12 days of Christmas (Dec. 25 to Jan. 5).

# **Important Dates!**

**January 11, 2019**

**Summer Camp Registration Opens**

**January 25-26, 2019**

**IDE Middle School Retreat  
& Snow-lympics!**

**June 12, 2019**

**Summer Camp Begins**



*Leave your  
checkbook at home!*

*Give electronically instead!*



**Electronic Giving is  
a convenient and  
secure way to  
provide consistent  
financial support  
to our church.**

**Ask for an authorization form from  
the Board of Stewardship today!**

## **GIVING 2019**

**Those currently giving electronically,  
if you wish to make any changes to  
your offering for next year,  
please inform the church secretary.**