



Immanuel Lutheran Church

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## **+ LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR +**

### **Service of Prayer and Preaching**

**November 21, 2021**

#### **As We Gather ~ By Faith We Are Prepared for Christ's Return**

*"The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" (1 Thess. 5:1–11). The arrival of the bridegroom will be sudden and unexpected. Therefore you are to be watchful and ready like the five wise virgins. "For you know neither the day nor the hour" when the Son of Man is to return. (Matt. 25:1–13). The lamps are the Word of Christ. The oil in the lamps is the Holy Spirit, who works through the Word to create and sustain the flame of faith in Christ. The foolish are those who do not give proper attention to the working of the Holy Spirit in baptism, preaching, and the supper, and so their faith does not endure. The wise, however, are those who diligently attend to these gifts of the Spirit, and who therefore have an abundance of oil. The flame of faith endures to the end. By God's grace they are received into the eternal wedding feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, the new heavens and the new earth created by the Lord for the joy of His people (Is. 65:17–25).*

## 772 In Holy Conversation

1 In ho-ly con-ver-sa-tion We speak to God in prayer,  
 2 These ho-ly con-ver-sa-tions Be-gin in child-like ways;  
 3 As ho-ly con-ver-sa-tion, In si-lence or by word,  
 And at His in-vi-ta-tion Our deep-est thoughts we share.  
 We bring our sup-pli-ca-tions And words of thanks and praise.  
 In ev-'ry sit-u-a-tion Through Je-sus, we are heard.  
 We come, His will o-bey-ing, As chil-dren bring-ing needs;  
 With care our Fa-ther lis-tens To ev-'ry thought ex-pressed,  
 So let us pray se-cure-ly, Ex-press-ing hopes and fears  
 And to sup-port our pray-ing, His Spir-it in-ter-cedes.  
 Then an-swers our pe-ti-tions In ways He knows are best.  
 With con-fi-dence that sure-ly Our Fa-ther ev-er hears.

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*Stand*

### Opening Versicles: Common

*LSB 260*

- L This is the day which the Lord has made;  
 C let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
 L From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
 C the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- L Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;  
 C I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.  
 L Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.  
 C Teach me Your paths.  
 L Sanctify us in Your truth.  
 C Your Word is truth.
- L From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
 C the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- C 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.

*Refrain*

☐ The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
 He has be - come my sal - va - tion.  
 With joy will you draw wa - ter from the  
 wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that  
 day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,  
 make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -  
 claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."

*Refrain*

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
 He has be - come my sal - va - tion.  
 Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done  
 glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the  
 earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -

hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the

Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

*Refrain*

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son

and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will

be for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

*Sit*

## Reading

*Isaiah 65:17-25*

- <sup>17c</sup>Behold, I create new heavens  
and a new earth,  
and the former things shall not be remembered  
or come into mind.
- <sup>18</sup>But be glad and rejoice forever  
in that which I create;  
for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy,

and her people to be a gladness.  
<sup>19</sup>I will rejoice in Jerusalem  
 and be glad in my people;  
 no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping  
 and the cry of distress.  
<sup>20</sup>No more shall there be in it  
 an infant who lives but a few days,  
 or an old man who does not fill out his days,  
 for the young man shall die a hundred years old,  
 and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.  
<sup>21</sup>They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
 they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.  
<sup>22</sup>They shall not build and another inhabit;  
 they shall not plant and another eat;  
 for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,  
 and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.  
<sup>23</sup>They shall not labor in vain  
 or bear children for calamity,  
 for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD,  
 and their descendants with them.  
<sup>24</sup>Before they call I will answer;  
 while they are yet speaking I will hear.  
<sup>25</sup>The wolf and the lamb shall graze together;  
 the lion shall eat straw like the ox,  
 and dust shall be the serpent's food.  
 They shall not hurt or destroy  
 in all my holy mountain,"  
 says the LORD.

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

# Introit

*Psalm 39:4–5, 7–8; antiphon: Isaiah 35:10*



The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with | singing;\*  
 everlasting joy shall be up- | on their heads.  
 They shall obtain glad- | ness and joy,\*  
 and sorrow and sighing shall | flee away.  
 O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure | of my days;\*  
 let me know how fleeting | I am!  
 Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing be- |  
 fore you.\*  
 Surely all mankind stands as a | mere breath!  
 And now, O Lord, for what | do I wait?\*



My hope | is in you.  
 Deliver me from all my trans- | gressions.\*  
 Do not make me the scorn | of the fool!  
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
 as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
 is now, and will be forever. | **Amen.**  
 The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with | singing;\*  
 everlasting joy shall be up- | on their heads.  
 They shall obtain glad- | ness and joy,\*  
 and sorrow and sighing shall | flee away.

## Reading

*1 Thessalonians 5:1–11*

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup>But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup>For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. <sup>7</sup>For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

## Reading

*Matthew 25:1–13*

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

**Responsory: Common**

*LSB 263*

- L Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.  
C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.  
L Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.  
C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.  
L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

*Stand*

**Ten Commandments**

- C You shall have no other gods.  
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.  
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.  
Honor your father and your mother.  
You shall not murder.  
You shall not commit adultery.  
You shall not steal.  
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.  
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.  
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

**Apostles' Creed**

- C 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 T everlasting. Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

C 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.

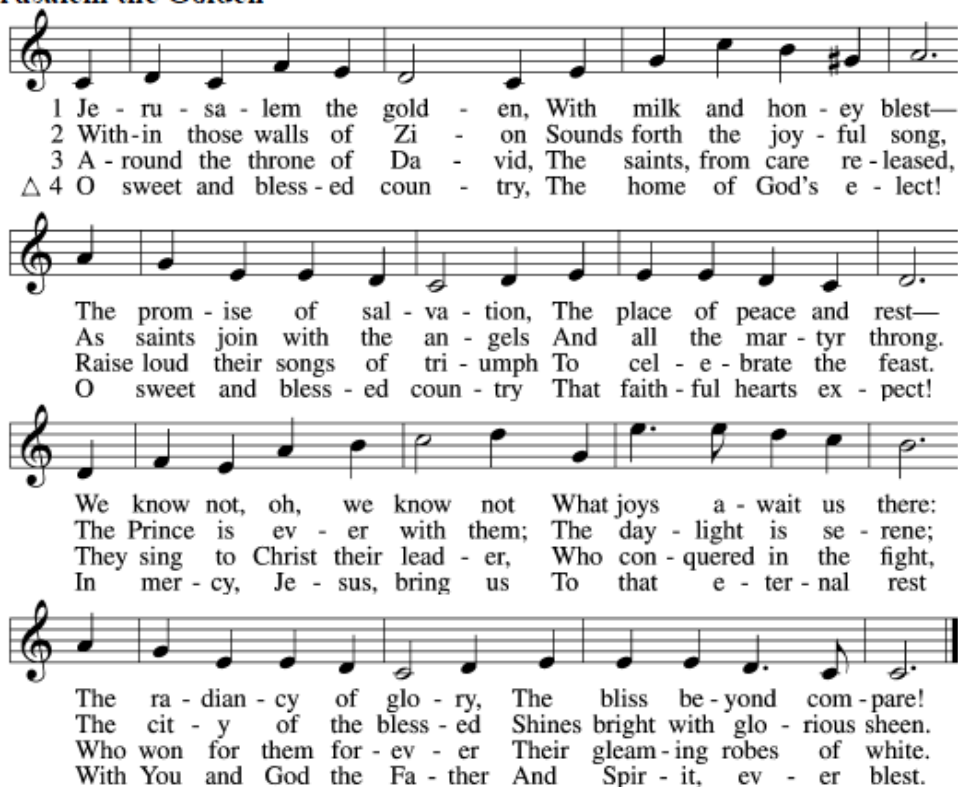
*Sit*

Sermon

‘Failing Folly of Foolishly Fooling Fools’

*Matthew 25:1-13*

## 672 Jerusalem the Golden



1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With milk and hon - ey blest—  
2 With-in those walls of Zi - on Sounds forth the joy - ful song,  
3 A - round the throne of Da - vid, The saints, from care re - leased,  
△ 4 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The home of God's e - lect!

The prom - ise of sal - va - tion, The place of peace and rest—  
As saints join with the an - gels And all the mar - tyr throng.  
Raise loud their songs of tri - umph To cel - e - brate the feast.  
O sweet and bless - ed coun - try That faith - ful hearts ex - pect!

We know not, oh, we know not What joys a - wait us there:  
The Prince is ev - er with them; The day - light is se - rene;  
They sing to Christ their lead - er, Who con - quered in the fight,  
In mer - cy, Je - sus, bring us To that e - ter - nal rest

The ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, The bliss be - yond com - pare!  
The cit - y of the bless - ed Shines bright with glo - rious sheen.  
Who won for them for - ev - er Their gleam - ing robes of white.  
With You and God the Fa - ther And Spir - it, ev - er blest.

*Text and tune: Public domain*



## Offering

### Stand

### Prayer

- L In peace let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**  
L For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**  
L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**  
L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**  
L For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**  
L For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**  
L For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**  
L For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**  
L For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**  
L Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

### Collect of the Day

- L Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son, we pray, to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
C **Amen.**

### Collect for the Word

- L Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
C **Amen.**

## Morning Prayer

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## 582 God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

God's Word is our great her - i - tage And shall be ours for -  
ev - er; To spread its light from age to age Shall be our  
chief en - deav - or. Through life it guides our way, In death it  
is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, We keep its  
teach - ings pure Through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Benedicamus

LSB 267

**L** Let us bless the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

LSB 267

**L** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.  
**C** Amen.

## 516 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 "Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing," The watch - men on the  
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, And all her heart with  
 3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore Thee, Let saints and an - gels

heights are cry - ing; "A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"  
 joy is spring - ing; She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
 sing be - fore Thee With harp and cym-bals' clear - est tone.

Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es And at the thrill - ing  
 For her Lord comes down all - glo - rious, The strong in grace, in  
 Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, Where, join - ing with the

cry re - joic - es: "Oh, where are ye, ye vir - gins wise?  
 truth vic - to - rious; Her star is ris'n, her light is come.  
 choir im - mor - tal, We gath - er round Thy ra - diant throne.

The Bride - groom comes, a - wake! Your lamps with glad - ness take!  
 Now come, Thou Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son,  
 No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might

Al - le - lu - ia! With brid - al care Your - selves pre - pare  
 Hail! Ho - san - na! We en - ter all The wed - ding hall  
 Of Thy glo - ry; There - fore will we E - ter - nal - ly

To meet the Bride - groom, who is near."  
 To eat the Sup - per at Thy call.  
 Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

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### Acknowledgments

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book

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## IMMANUEL SPIRIT

**Scripture Lessons for next Sunday:** Jeremiah 23:5–8, Romans 13:8–14 and Matthew 21:1–9.

**Stewardship:** 1 Thessalonians 5:8 – “But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.” Our salvation is secure in Christ. He has done it all to save us. Therefore, our hope is secure, and our faith in Him is certain. And what goes with faith and hope? Love. Our good works of love flow forth from the certainty of our faith. Our giving back to the Lord’s work comes from what He has first given us.

**Board of Education:** Calendars are for sale for \$7.00.

If anyone is willing to spearhead/organize the treat bags for the Christmas program, please let Markie, Sherry or Danielle know.

An offering plate will be set out for a few weeks for anyone who desires to donate towards the treat bags for the Christmas program.

**Building Healthy Families for Nov. 21st:** Over the coming holidays we will spend more time together than usual with our families. As you gather, keep a watchful eye out for excessive negative talk including complaining, fault-finding, and passing on gossip. Sharing gossip and negative messages of gloom and doom is not only sinful and dishonoring to our Father, but it also fosters a depressing atmosphere in the home (...and in the church). Instead, look hard for the positive and talk about it often! “Whatever is pure, whatever is lovely...think on these things.” Philippians 4:8 ~ **Lutheran Family Service of Iowa: Des Moines (515) 251-4900. [www.LutheranFamilyService.org](http://www.LutheranFamilyService.org)**

**Life Quote for Nov. 21st:** “God says you are vital. You are crucial. His Body is incomplete without you. He says that to each of us, and I believe God wants us to see and say that about each other— despite our perceptions of one another.” Mona Fuerstenau ~ **A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)**

**Lutheran Hour Ministries for Nov. 28th:** Hear “A Response to the Problem of Evil” based on Luke 1:1-4 by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Why does God let evil happen? Will that question take us down the path of doubt or lead us to trust God more deeply? ~ **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.**

**Life Thoughts in the Church Year:** Last Sunday of the Church Year – Our Savior considers human bodies so precious that He has already begun making a new earth for them to enjoy eternally (Isaiah 65:17-25). He has not designed humankind’s bodily existence as disposable but as indispensable to our identity and abundant life. How shall this affect our approach to illness, disability, conception, and age? *Prayer: King of creation, increase our respect and protection for the bodies of others with the esteem You bestow upon our own. Amen.*

**EQUIPPING THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS...** 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 teachings include: A Lutheran Response to 21st Century Culture, The Hymn “We Praise You, O God,” The Advent Season, Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ and more. You can listen on-demand at [issuesetc.org](http://issuesetc.org), the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

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**Pastor will be in Minnesota** November 24 through November 27. If a need arises, please contact an Elder or Pastor's cell 507-829-3901.

**CHURCH DIRECTORY:** Please review your information for the 2022 member directory and make any changes by **December 12**.

**Cleaning:** Household(s) responsible for the week of 11/21--11/27 is **Sittig**. Household(s) responsible for the week of 11/28--12/4 is **Smith/Thorpe**. If you cannot clean the week you have been assigned, it is your responsibility to trade with others on the list. If it is your week to clean church and you have other obligations or you prefer to write a check rather than cleaning, a substitute is available for \$50. Please contact Amber Carnine ASAP or at least by the Thursday before the week you are scheduled to clean. Make payment to Amber Carnine and leave in a sealed envelope under her office door, or mail payment to the church.

**Confirmation Memory Work for: Wednesday, November 24th**

No class

**Celebrating Baptismal Birthdays This Week**

Pastor Koepp...Wednesday  
Emily Loudon...Wednesday

**Celebrating Birthdays This Week**

Chezlie Johnson...Monday  
Tyler Routier...Wednesday

*We pray God's blessings upon you in the coming year.*

## **ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS**

For the week of November 14, 2021

Attendance	42
Communion	32
General Fund	\$4665.00
Missions	\$100.00

## **WEEK AHEAD**

Today	9:00am	Last Sunday of the Church Year
	10:30am	Christmas Program Practice; Adult Bible Study Greeter: Mergen Usher: Dale Gilman Servers: Robin Marcinik/Laurie Harms Acolyte/Crucifier: Finn/Lauren Elder: Joel McDonough
Tues.	10:00am	Greek Study, Pastor in Newton
Wed.		No Confirmation
Thurs.		No Bible Study
Next Sun.	9:00am	1st Sunday in Advent
	10:30am	Christmas Program Practice; Adult Bible Study Greeter: Mintle Usher: Keith Thorpe Servers: Cheryl & Cayli Christinson Acolyte/Crucifier: Sloane/Elizabeth Elder: Darlo Kelting Food Pantry Sunday

# **2021 Christmas Share**

***From the Board of Evangelism & Missions***

***Immanuel Lutheran will be supporting the Grinnell Christmas Share for December 2021.***

***We will be supporting a family of five; two adults and three children.***

***Pick out one of the colored tags on the tree in the entrance...wrap the gift and return to Immanuel with the colored tag and the gift will be put under the tree. Gifts need to be the size indicated but colors can vary. Some gifts may require more than one family purchasing.***

***Your gift needs to be at church by December 5th by noon. Someone from the Board of Evangelism will deliver all the packages to the Grinnell Christmas Share.***

***No gift cards will be accepted.***

***If you have any questions, please see June Routier, Pam Haase or Dianna Kelting. Also, let them know that you have brought your gift for tracking purposes.***

**THANK YOU!**



## **ADVENT MID-WEEK EVENING PRAYER SERVICE SCHEDULE**

*Wednesday, December 1 — 6:30pm*  
*Stir Up the Power of Hope*

*Wednesday, December 8 — 6:30pm*  
*Stir Up the Power of Preparation*

*Wednesday, December 15 — 6:30pm*  
*Stir Up the Power of Love*

*Wednesday, December 22 — 6:30pm*  
*Stir Up the Power of Joy*

A meal will be served before each service from 5:15pm—6:15pm

**There is a sign-up for the meals on the table in the entryway**

## Advent Write-up 2021

### *Stir Up the Power*

As I get older, I find myself doing this more and more – prayer. In the services of the church, one comes across the word *collect*. But what is a collect? When asked, some may think, “Well, I guess it’s the collection. You know, when they take up the money.” This sounds like a reasonable answer, but if the collect is the collection, what’s the offering?

So, what is a collect? The short answer is a prayer. Each Sunday of the Church Year has at least one special collect that somehow relates to the season. But there are also collects to be said after Holy Communion. And there are collects for worship orders other than the Divine Service. There are collects for celebrations and special needs. The origin of this class of church prayers we can trace back to the apostolic age. They are mentioned by both Tertullian (155 – 240 AD) and Justin Martyr (b. 100 AD). We are not exactly sure from where the name itself comes, but there are several theories. One argues the collect is a prayer of the gathered assembly. Another argues the collect is a summary or collecting together of the petitions of those assembled. Another theory posits it is a collection of the various themes that will be found in the readings, thus tying the readings together and preparing the hearers for what they should be listening for the readings that will follow. This is the theory that is practiced in the Lutheran Church. The Collect of the Day collects the themes of the readings, while the Prayer of the Church collects the petitions of the church (and those assembled).

Collects are an important function in the gathering of God’s saints. As you may have noticed, the Collect of the Day is surrounded by two important features. First, the Pastor singing/speaking, “Let us Pray.” In this single act, the pastor is acting in his role as intercessor for the congregation. He stands in the Office of Christ, bringing the petitions of the people, on their behalf, to God’s gracious throne. Second, the people respond with, “Amen.” This word, which means, “Yes, let it be so,” is the acknowledgement by the people, and a confirmation that this indeed is their prayer.



The structure of The Collect of the Day is also important. It follows a general pattern that can instruct us in our own prayers. Typically it includes five parts: Address (O God...); Rationale (because...); Petition (grant that/help us/may we...); Benefit (so that...); and Doxology (through Jesus Christ... (If the Son is mentioned in the collect, it ends with “through the same...” If we are making a petition to Jesus, the collect would end with “in Your name...”

When The Collect of the Day is chanted, the various parts are marked by different tones. The address and rationale, praise and thanksgiving, are given on the same tone, then a lower tone is used for the petition and benefit. In this way, a musical contrast of joy/humility helps the hearer to demarcate the various parts of the prayer. Another practice is to have a moving sets of notes at the end of each section, marking when one ends and the other begins. In either case, it is simply meant to be a guide in helping us proclaim, teach, and commit the words to memory.

Why sing? Why all the chanting? Chanting is recitative singing, which occupies a point halfway between genuine speech and genuine singing, and is and should be nothing other than a loftier, solemn elevation of the tone and way of speaking by giving the important word greater resonance. Luther said, “next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in this world.” What does the Bible have to say? The word “sing” occurs more than 150 times in the Bible.

The posture taken in the Collect is also important. Take notice of when the pastor is facing which direction. When he faces the altar, he is speaking on the people’s behalf to God. When he faces the people, he is speaking on behalf of God to the people. As the pastor prays the Collect of the Day on behalf of the people, it is most proper for the pastor to be facing the altar. In a beautiful confessional act, the pastor brings before God the requests of His people, then will turn and speak the Word of God (His response) back to His people through the reading of His Holy Word.

The Collects of the Day for the Sundays in Advent take on a particular theme – Stir Up. These Stir-Up prayers will be the focus of our Advent meditations this year. We will be strengthened through these collects as we meditate on the Stirring Up of Hope, Preparation, Love, and Joy.