IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
310 N. Seguin Rd. – P.O. Box 168 La Vernia, Texas 78121
Phone & Fax Number: (830) 253 – 8121

Rev. Eric Miletti **Interim Pastor**
Adrienne Stone **Organist**
1st Sunday in Advent **Hanging of the Greens Service** **November 28, 2021**

Welcome and Announcements

Hand Bell Choir
Cantata - "Morning Star"

Call to Worship

P: Today we come together to prepare for the birthday of a King.
All: Today we make ready our welcome for God's only Son, Jesus Christ.
P: We begin this special holy season of Advent, the season of preparation for the birth of the Christ Child.
All: Advent brings new hope and the promise of salvation.
P: Let us clear our minds and open our hearts to the coming of the Lord.
All: Let us honor his birth through our songs, our decorations and Christmas symbols.
P: Let our songs and symbols represent our personal re-dedication to the glory of God and the manifestation of His love through His son, Jesus Christ.
All: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him might not perish, but have everlasting life.

Greeting
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ for whom we wait, the love of the Father who will never let us go, and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
All: And also with you.

Opening Hymn "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" LBW # 34, v. 1, 2, 4

Advent Confession and Forgiveness
P: The days are coming, says the Lord, when God's promises to Israel and Judah will be fulfilled. Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship, in the name of the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. (Jeremiah 33:14)
All: Amen.
P: The Lord proclaimed, "Behold, I send my messenger, and He will prepare the way before me." Let us take this time to examine ourselves, asking for forgiveness for the things which we have done that are not pleasing to the Lord and the things which we have neglected. (Malachi 3:1)

(Silence for self-reflection and examination)

P: God of grace,
All: we confess that we have not been attentive to the urgent call to prepare for the coming of your Son. Prepare our hearts to follow Jesus in doing your holy will. Forgive us, we pray, and shape our lives according to the cross of Christ who has called us to walk in his ways. Restore us to a right relationship with you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.
P: In the name of Jesus, God's only Son who came to do the will of his Father, you are forgiven. By Christ's holy sacrifice your sins are wiped clean and you are made right with our heavenly Father. Rejoice in this free gift and take it to heart.
All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Declaration of the Good News

P: Hear the good news which we receive, in which we stand, and by which we are saved: Jesus Christ was born, He lived and died on a cross for the forgiveness of our sins. The reality of His resurrection declares that we are given new life, forgiveness, and the promise of eternal life. These gifts are given to all who believe in Him. Amen.

Introduction *(Reader 1)*

The Advent Wreath *(Reader 2)*

Lighting of the First Candle

Hymn "Prepare the Royal Highway" LBW # 26

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

The Paraments and Advent Colors *(Reader 3)*

Hymn "What Child is This" LBW # 40

The Sanctuary Evergreens *(Reader 4)*

Hymn "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" LBW # 55

The Christmas Tree *(Reader 5)*

The Christmas Poinsettia *(Reader 6)*

Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" LBW # 41

The Nativity *(Reader 7)*

Hymn "Hark, the Glad Sound!" LBW # 35

The Gifts of Christmas *(Reader 8)*

Christmas Caroling *(Reader 9)*

Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High" LBW # 71

The Christ of Christmas *(Reader 10)*

Offering Hymn "Of the Father's Love Begotten" LBW # 42 v. 1, 2, 5

The Prayers of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" LBW # 30

Sending

Greetings and welcome to all. Your presence in worshiping the Lord is our joy! Thank you for your faith which brings you here; please come again!

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Darryl & Rebe Penshorn in honor of their grand-daughter, Journi Helmke's birthday.

Flowers are needed for the altar for December 5th; please notify the office if you would like to do this for next Sunday.

Attendance & Prayer Card – Please complete any pertinent information and place it in the offering plate as it is passed, or, if you do have a **Prayer Request, the card will be picked up during the first hymn**.

Offering & Attendance on 11/21 were $3,978 and there were 96 members / 15 visitors who attended; FaceBook Live had 26 views.

Life Quote for Sunday, November 28: "Creation is preaching a message about its Creator. He is wise. Kind. Brilliant. Powerful. Limitless. Combine those qualities with His reckless love for us found on the cross, and you have a God who can strengthen trembling hearts and weak knees. You have a Creator worth worshiping." Rev. Mike Novotny, Time of Grace.

OUR WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sun	8:00 am	Worship - S
	9:15 am	NO Sunday School or Confirmation
	10:30 am	Worship – S
Tue	6:00 pm	Hand Bell Choir – S
	7:00 pm	Cantata Practice

The Christmas Market is next **Saturday, December 4th**. Bring any canned items, hand-sewn, crocheted or knitted items, and Christmas items for the ILC table **on Friday, December 3rd, between 9 and 12 noon**. Please label any baked goods (for allergy purposes). If you have questions, contact Darla Buccigrossi**.**

In honor of our Veterans, this is the final Sunday that we will be taking up a special offering to benefit Wounded Warriors. Please use the specially-marked envelopes or mark your offering *"Wounded Warriors."*

Senior Saints Luncheon – If you haven't already, please sign up in the Narthex or call the church office for this yearly event on **Saturday, December 11th from 11:30 to 1:00** at the Copper Door. The Children of God have been preparing for it and are looking forward to serving you a delicious meal, and the Youth of Immanuel are also planning to put on a special Christmas program for you.

Christmas at the LV Food Pantry – Instead of providing gifts, we have been asked to collect 40 - $25 gift cards for the children by Sunday, December 12th. Please find it in your heart to give to this ministry.

Poinsettias - It's time to order your poinsettias to decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas. Pick up a form in the narthex or annex, complete it and return it to the office by **Sunday, December 19th.**

OUR PRAYER LIST

Those in our congregation: Larry Bailey, Yvonne Beran, Willie-Jean Boeck, Kyle Ferguson, Mary Ann Mattke, Ronnie Moore, Dan Reeves, and Amy Wagner.

Those in our community (will remain on list for three weeks unless instructed otherwise): Mary Jean Abascal, Kathy Abbott, Janet Alderson – G. Teel's daughter, Ivy Baumann, Marjorie Bosanko, Jeremy Briner, John Briscoe, Rodney Brown, Susan Bruno, Jay Bullington, Cindy Burks, Charlie Clay, *Tripp Childress,* Danny Duckett, Donna Gabrysch, Diane Giddings, Bruce Heimbach, Adalee Lahodny, Larry Milton, Teresa Plesek, Silas Pope, Artis Pollard, Rosa Rainville, Carl (Kip) Richter, *Emily & Michael Rodriguez*, Larry Rose, Linda Rosinbaum, Gerald Schuster, Russell Smith, Anne Theiss – S. Myer's mother, Scott Thurman, Carol West, *Billy & Sharon Willeford, Gerald, Sherry, Brandon, Kenzie, Bill, Kelsie*, LeeMarie, and *Thomas.*

For those grieving: *The family of Pastor Jon Bielfeldt and the family of Rene Pickryl.*
For those affected by natural disasters
For our building project

For those serving in military service here and abroad: Brian Alderson, Thomas Elder, Stephen Ferry, Stephan Mattke, Nathan Pianfetti, Farrah Schluter, Michael Troy, Jr.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 4th	9:00 – 2:00 pm	Christmas Market
December 11th	11:30 – 1:00 pm	Senior Saints Luncheon at the Copper Door
December 24th	**6:00 pm**	Candlelight Christmas Svc. (Also live-streamed)
	11:00 pm	Candlelight Christmas Svc.

No Christmas Day Service

This week's NALC devotions: November 28 – December 4

Sunday

▪ Amos 1:1-5, 13-2:8 ▪ 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 ▪ Luke 21:5-19 ▪ Psalms 24 & 150 (AM) ▪ Psalms 25 & 110 (PM)

Monday

▪ Amos 2:6-16; 3:1-11 ▪ 2 Peter 1:1-21 ▪ Matthew 21:1-22 ▪ Psalms 122 & 145 (AM) ▪ Psalms 40 & 67 (PM)

Tuesday

▪ Deuteronomy 30:11-14 ▪ Romans 10:8b-18 ▪ Matthew 4:18-22 ▪ Psalms 19 & 146 (AM) ▪ Psalms 85 & 94 (PM)

Wednesday

▪ Amos 3:12-4:5 ▪ 2 Peter 3:1-10 ▪ Matthew 21:23-32 ▪ Psalms 50 & 147:1-12 (AM) ▪ Psalms 53 & 17 (PM)

Thursday

▪ Amos 4:6-13 ▪ 2 Peter 3:11-18 ▪ Matthew 21:33-46 ▪ Psalms 18:1-20 & 147:13-21 (AM) ▪ Psalms 126 & 62 (PM)

Friday

▪ Amos 5:1-17 ▪ Jude 1-16 ▪ Matthew 22:1-14 ▪ Psalms 102 & 148 (AM) ▪ Psalms 130 & 16 (PM)

Saturday

▪ Amos 5:18-27 ▪ Jude 17-25 ▪ Matthew 22:15-22 ▪ Psalms 90 & 149 (AM) ▪ Psalms 80 & 72 (PM)