

# Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Day

10:30 A.M. Worship with Eucharist December 25, 2022

# Welcome

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

We welcome people of every age and size, color and culture, every sexual orientation and gender identity, socio-economic status and marital status, every ability and challenge.

We welcome believers and questioners, and questioning believers.

We're glad God has called you here today! If you're a guest, please feel free to introduce yourself to our pastor or assisting minister. If you would, sign the guest book in the Gathering Area or fill in a guest card, and we'll be happy to send information on how you can get involved at Immanuel.

**Masks are now optional during worship service.** Masks are optional when moving to and from your place in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour. Announcements, celebrations, and time to socialize with one another will take place after worship during coffee hour in the fellowship hall. You're welcome to attend the coffee hour in-person, or via Zoom. After worship Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to join the coffee hour via Zoom



#### **Facilities**

- Our parking lot is located on the south side of the church off Sherman Avenue. You may park in the lot at
  any time, whether for church events or for shopping or other errands in downtown Evanston; weekdays,
  see the church office at the Lake St. entrance to get a parking pass. Parking meters are free until 1:00 P.M.
  on Sunday.
- The parking lot entrance is an accessible entrance. An elevator is located just inside that door.
- Restrooms are downstairs near the meeting of the two hallways. Accessible restrooms are located near
  the elevator on both upper and lower levels. A gender-neutral restroom is located on the lower level by
  the elevator.
- We love having children in worship! Activity bags are available from the greeters. There is a nursery and changing/crying room for parents to use, if needed, located downstairs. There are also changing tables in both restrooms on this level, by the elevator. An usher will be happy to direct you.
- Hearing assistance is available. Ask an usher for equipment.
- Wi-Fi is available throughout most of the building. The network is "Immanuel," password "allarewelcome". Please use the Internet responsibly!

#### **About Our Worship**

Our Sunday worship is organized around the proclamation of the Word of God and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. It has a familiar form each week, but the content changes for each service according to a calendar shared with many other Christians. The liturgy is printed in this bulletin. If you're joining us via Zoom, please remain muted until you get to the part where you will be invited to unmute and participate in some parts of the liturgy, as marked by this symbol. 

■ = UNMUTE

#### **Receiving Holy Communion**

We invite you to share with us in the sacramental meal because Christ invites you! There is no specific age requirement for Communion. For safety we have individually packaged communion with either wine or grape juice that you can pick up at the entrance of the sanctuary. The pastor will say "The body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ shed for you" following the singing of the Communion Song. Please deposit the cups and wrappers in the trash receptacles as you leave the sanctuary.

The other option is to come forward to receive the bread from the Pastor and wine or grape juice from the Assisting Minister. The glasses will be pre-poured, with the grape juice in the inner circle and wine in the outer circle. Each person will take their own glass from the tray. The Assisting Minister and Pastor will remain masked during the distribution. Please keep in mind proper physical distance from other worshippers in coming forward to consume the elements. Empty glasses can be deposited in trays on the front pews. This will be a continuous communion, standing to receive the elements.

Gathering: The Holy Spirit assembles us as the People of God ...

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

**P:** Presiding Minister **L:** Leader/Assisting Minister **R:** Reader **A:** Assembly + All may make the sign of the cross.

**Prelude** "Away in a Manger," "The Friendly Beasts," and "Fum, Fum, Fum" arranged for trombone solo by Arthur Frackenpohl; "Lo, How a Rose" by Johannes Brahms and "In Dulci Jubilo" by Johann Michael Bach

The Assembly stands when directed.

## **Gathering**

P The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

# **Confession and Forgiveness**

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.
- A 🖣 Amen.
- P Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P God of life,
- A you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace.

  We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security.

  We nurture conflict and build barriers.

  We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation.

  Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.
Renew us with your grace
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.
Amen.

# P Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In  $\pm$  Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

#### A 🚇 Amen.





# Greeting.

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with
- And also with you!



# **Prayer of the Day**

- P The Lord be with you.
- A 👲 And also with you.
- P Let us pray...

Pause for a moment of silence...

P Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### A Amen.

The Assembly is seated.

**Word:** God speaks to us in scripture, preaching, and song...

# **Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures**

Isaiah 52:7-10

R A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." <sup>8</sup>Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. <sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

R Word of God, word of life.

#### A Thanks be to God!

Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]

The organ will play the tone. The right side of the Assembly sings the lightface verses to the tone; the left side of the Assembly sings boldface verses.

#### Tone:





= Please use your mask when singing.

<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done <sup>|</sup> marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have <sup>|</sup> won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>O LORD, you have made | known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the <sup>1</sup> house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory <sup>1</sup> of our God.

<sup>4</sup>Shout with joy to the LORD, <sup>1</sup> all you lands; lift up your voice, re- <sup>1</sup> joice, and sing.

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

<sup>6</sup>With trumpets and the sound | of the horn shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and <sup>1</sup> all that fills it, the world and those who <sup>1</sup> dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup>Let the rivers <sup>|</sup> clap their hands,

and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to | judge the earth.

<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the <sup>1</sup> world with righteousness and the peo- <sup>1</sup> ples with equity.

# **Reading from the New Testament**

R A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. [

<sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son;

today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? <sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

<sup>7</sup>Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds,

and his servants flames of fire."

<sup>8</sup>But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,

and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has anointed you

with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

<sup>10</sup>And,

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands;

<sup>11</sup>they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing;

<sup>12</sup>like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,

and your years will never end."

**R** Word of God, word of life.

A • Thanks be to God.

The Assembly stands to greet the Good News of Jesus.

# **Gospel Acclamation**





A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations,

and a-| dore the Lord.\* For today a great light

has come up- on the earth.

Gospel John 1:1-14

P The Holy Gospel according to John.

# A Glory to you, O Lord!

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

# A Praise to you, O Christ!

••• The Alleluia of the Gospel Acclamation is sung once again. The Assembly is then seated.

#### Sermon

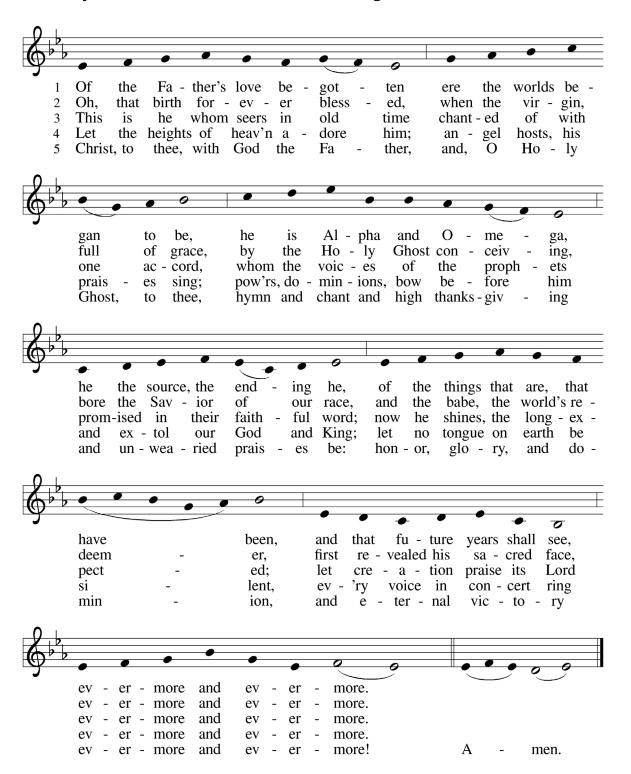
#### Time of Silence

A bell will sound to signal a time of silence for reflection.

During this time, you may want to meditate on one word from the scriptures or from the sermon that stands out to you, asking the Spirit to show you how it applies to your own life.

When the bell sounds a second time, the Assembly stands to respond to the Word with song.

# Hymn of the Day



## **The Nicene Creed**

L With the whole Church, let us profess our faith.

A We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

# **Prayers of the People** • the Responses

L With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

(brief pause)

- L The church in every land makes a joyful noise to herald your coming, O God. We give thanks for poets, musicians, and hymn writers who give voice to our praise, and for all who lead the church's worship. God of grace,
- A 👲 hear our prayer.

L Guide our church leaders as they move throughout our faith community. We pray for our bishops Elizabeth and Yehiel, our pastor Mark, our president Dana, our council, and our justice ministries who guide and instruct our communities. God, in your mercy,

# A hear our prayer.

L This day dawns with new hope for all living things, and from ocean depths to mountain peaks the earth rejoices. Inspire in us an urgent zeal to protect the planet and renew its resources. God of grace,

# A hear our prayer.

L Bring heavenly peace to this world and an end to armed conflict. Raise up leaders in every nation who will honor human rights and establish equal justice for all people. Give courage to all who speak out against oppression and advocate for the powerless. God of grace,

# A hear our prayer.

L Bless all who gather to worship on this holy day. Be present at our tables and celebrations, and watch over those who travel. Sustain charities, outreach ministries, and food pantries that give generously to people in need. God of grace,

# A hear our prayer.

L Guard the lives of any in danger, especially those who work to protect others. Lead any who are in desperate circumstances to sanctuary, help, and safety. Grant rest to the weary and soothe those who are troubled, especially Steve Andes, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Lucas Forzley, John Hancko, Marcie Heyl, Jim Jung, the family of Sue Ellen Knohl, Judith Kratochvil, John & Nancy Lang, the family of George McVey, Merle Shearer, Darryl Simchak, George Swierczynski, and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts [...].. God of grace,

# A hear our prayer.

L And now, sisters and brothers, for what else shall we pray?

The petitions and thanksgivings of the Assembly, silent or spoken aloud, are invited.

L God in your mercy,

# A hear our prayer.

L In Christ we have beheld your glory, full of grace and truth. We give thanks for those in every generation, especially Stephen, John, and the Holy Innocents, who reflect the light of Christ. May their witness shine forth in our time. God of grace,

## A hear our prayer.

P Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

#### A Amen.

#### Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

# A • And also with you.

Greet one another in the peace of the Risen Christ, saying "Peace be with you,"

"The peace of the Lord," or similar words.

**Offering** An offering for doing God's mission, including the care of those in need. You scan this code with your smartphone camera to make your financial offering online.



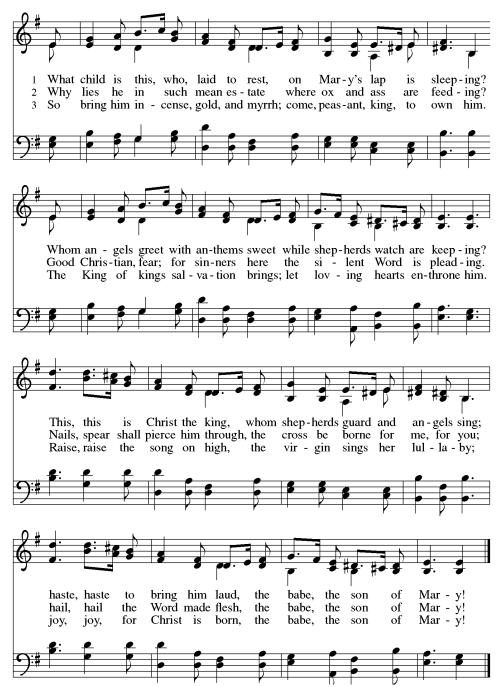
## **Offertory Music**

"Haste, Ye Shepherds" from the *Christmas Oratorio*By J. S. Bach

# Presentation of the Gifts 😁



The Assembly stands and sings **Verse 1** as the gifts are brought forward.



# **Offering Prayer**

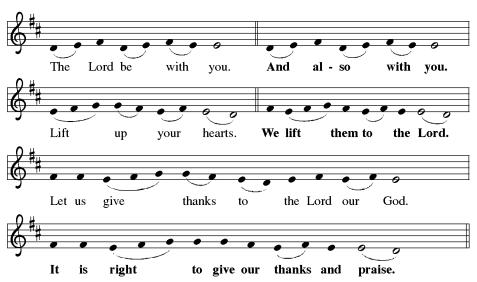
- L Let us pray.
- L receive and bless these gifts we have offered.
  Join our hearts with the song of the angels,
  and gather us at your table of celebration.
  Strengthen us to share with all the world
  the abundance of your grace upon grace,
  poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

#### A Amen.

# The Great Thanksgiving

**Dialogue** The Assembly sings the boldfaced responses.



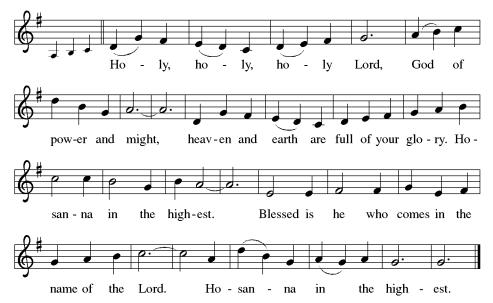


**Preface** The Presiding Minister begins the prayer:

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





# Thanksgiving at the Table

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,

full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

## Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

# Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

#### A # Amen

# The Lord's Prayer 😷

- P Together as one body, we prayer the prayer that Jesus taught us:
- A Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

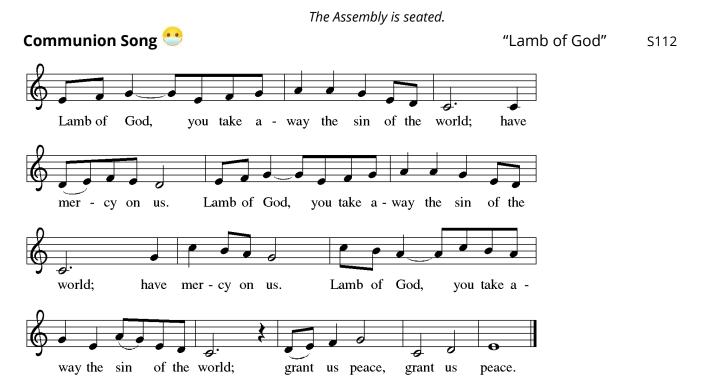
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

## The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation

- P Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.
- A Thanks be to God.



# **Distribution of Holy Communion**

For those who are communing with the packets or online, the pastor will say "The body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ shed for you".

Those who wish, please come forward as the ushers direct, to receive the bread from the Pastor and wine or grape juice from the Assisting Minister. The glasses will be pre-poured, with the grape juice in the inner circle and wine in the outer circle. Each person will take their own glass from the tray. The Assisting Minister and Pastor will remain masked during the distribution. Please keep in mind proper physical distance from other worshippers in coming forward to consume the elements. Empty glasses can be deposited in trays on the front pews. This will be a continuous communion, standing to receive the elements.

- P This is the body of Christ, given for you.

  All communing remotely or with individual packets may partake of the bread.
- P This is the blood of Christ, shed for you. *All communing remotely or with individual packets may drink of their cup.*





The Assembly stands as directed.

# **Blessing after Communion**

P May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you in his grace.

#### A Amen.

# **Prayer after Communion**

L Let us pray. God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life.
As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace.
Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A Amen.

**Sending:** God blesses us, and sends us in mission to the world ...

# **Blessing**

- P God bless you and keep you,

  + Jesus grant you grace and truth,
  and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
  now and forever.
- A 🚇 Amen.





# **Dismissal**

- L Christ the Savior is born!
  Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
- A Thanks be to God.

#### **Postlude**

"Go Tell It on the Mountain" Arr. By Arthur Frackenpohl

# Serving in worship today...

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Mark Sloss
Assisting Minister	
Lector	
Organist	
Music Director	
Table Preparation	
Zoom Host	
Audio-Visual Technicians	Tom Couch, Kevin McDaniel
Ushers	Nicolai Schousboe

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**Upcoming Events** – for details see the weekly e-blast, *Immanuel Newsfeeds*, or the website Calendar at <a href="https://www.immanuelevanston.org">www.immanuelevanston.org</a>. Worship services can be attended either in person or online.

Sunday, December 25	New Community Church	1:00 pm
Monday, December 26	FA Meeting	6:30 pm
Tuesday, December 27	Midweek Adult Bible Study	7:00 pm
Sunday, January 1	Sunday Worship	10:30 am
Happy New Year 2023!		

## This Week's Commemorations

# Stephen, Deacon and Martyr Monday, December 26, 2022

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

# John, Apostle and Evangelist Tuesday, December 27, 2022

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

# The Holy Innocents, Martyrs Wednesday, December 28, 2022

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation..

From sundaysandseasons.com.

# Immanuel's Staff and Leadership

The Rev. Mark Sloss	Pastor
Dana Barron	Congregation President
Bert Mount	
Steve Warner	Congregation Secretary
Susan Ross	Congregation Treasurer
Diane Keely, Michael Kloster, Lisa Larson, Jim Skelton, Grace Yarnoff	Congregation Council Members
Mary Ann Kearns	Financial Secretary
Elizabeth Stegner	Assistant Financial Secretary
James Morehead	Music Director
Christine Kraemer	
Laurie Stivers	Associate Organist
Jane Kaihatsu	Parish Administrator

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Metropolitan Chicago Synod. We've been worshiping God and serving the Evanston community since 1888!