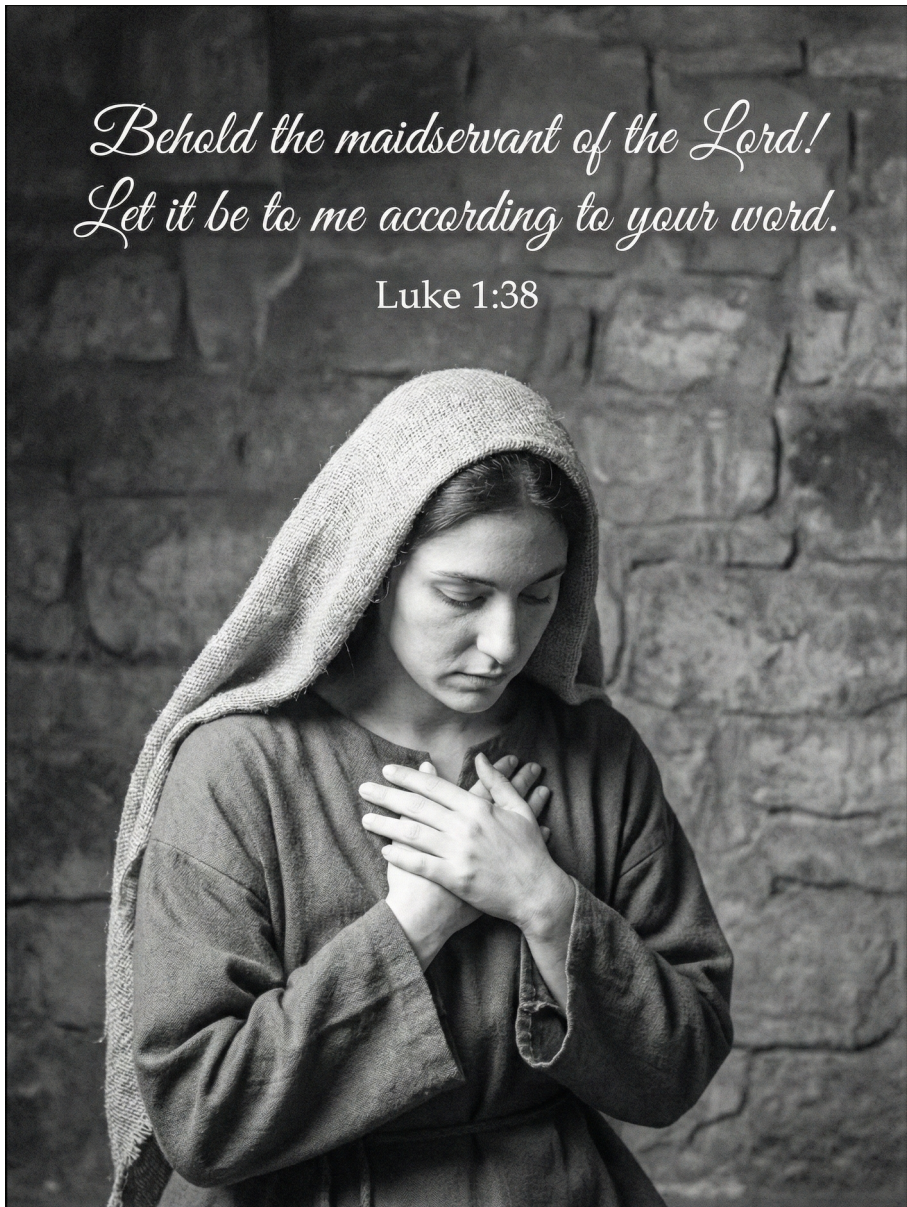


*Behold the maidservant of the Lord!
Let it be to me according to your word.*

Luke 1:38



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

Nothing prepares the soul for worship quite like the silence of submission before the Word of God. Today, amidst the bustling anticipation of the Advent season, we pause in a quiet corner of Nazareth to witness an encounter that shattered earthly logic to bring forth heavenly peace. As the angel speaks, we see a response that defines true discipleship—not a demand for proof, but a humble surrender to the divine promise. In our service today, we are invited to look beyond the miraculous event to the posture of faith that received it. May the Holy Spirit grant us the grace to set aside our doubts and pride, that we too might bow before the Lord and "Behold the Servant's Heart."

✝ Preparation for Worship ✝

Hymn

95 – Savior of the Nations, Come

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 25:4-5; 143:10

P Show me Your ways, O LORD;

C teach me Your paths.

P Lead me in Your truth and teach me.

C For You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day.

P Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God;

C Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord, Advent calls us to prepare the way of the Lord in the deepest places of our hearts. Our Lord approaches, not as a conqueror to destroy, but as the Chosen Servant in whom God delights. He calls us to a like spirit of service. Yet, we often demand to be served rather than to serve. We struggle to say, "Let it be to me according to Your word," preferring our own will. Therefore, let us confess our sins to God our Father, seeking His mercy for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ.

- P** O Almighty God, merciful Father,
- C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am truly sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray...
- ... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:1-9

¹ “Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. ² He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. ³ A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth. ⁴ He will not fail nor be discouraged, Till He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands shall wait for His law.” ⁵ Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it: ⁶ “I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles, ⁷ To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the

prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house. ⁸ I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images. ⁹ Behold, the former things have come to pass, And new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 123

- P** Unto You I lift up my eyes,
C **O You who dwell in the heavens.**
P Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
C **So our eyes look to the LORD our God, Until He has mercy on us.**
P Have mercy on us, O LORD, have mercy on us!
C **For we are exceedingly filled with contempt.**
P Our soul is exceedingly filled With the scorn of those who are at ease,
C **With the contempt of the proud.**

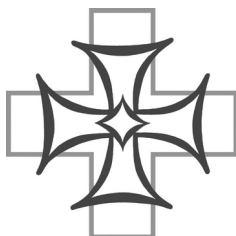
Epistle Reading

Romans 16:25-27

²⁵ Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began ²⁶ but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—²⁷ to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

Alleluia

- P** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



Confession of Faith

Luther's Explanation of the Second Article

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.

He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.

This is most certainly true.

Hymn

274 – Praise We the Lord This Day

Sermon Text

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" ²⁹ But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. ³⁰ Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" ³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.



Sermon

Behold the Servant's Heart

Offertory

702 (1, 4) – As Angels Joyed with One Accord

1 As an - gels joyed with one ac - cord Up -
2 In ev - 'ry age let praise a - bound. He
on comes; the ad - vent of our Lord, So
His we hear His voice re - sound. His
laud we all and bless the name Of
glo - rious gos - pel does not cease To
Him who from the Fa - ther came.
bring us com - fort, joy, and peace.

General Prayer

The 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.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Hymn

98 – Of the Father's Love Begotten

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule

| | | |
|-------------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| December 17 | 2:00 pm | Midweek Advent Worship |
| December 19 | 7:00 pm | Children's Christmas Worship Service |
| December 21 | 9:15 am | Bible Class |
| | 10:15 am | Worship Service |
| December 24 | 7:00 pm | Christmas Eve Worship |
| December 25 | 10:15 am | Christmas Day Worship |
| December 28 | 8:00 am | Worship Service (Orlando) |
| | 10:15 am | Worship Service (Winter Haven) |

Upcoming Meetings: Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- **January 4** – Annual Voters' Meeting
- **February 1** – Education/Elders
- **March 1** – Trustees/Church Council

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Johanna Jaehnigen, David & Elsie Kleinschmidt, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield.

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: "Do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife." With these words, Joseph's quiet heartbreak was turned into the world's loud salvation. Next Sunday, we turn our hearts to Matthew 1:18-25. We will stand beside Joseph to witness the moment the Incarnate God received His earthly name. The angel commanded, "You shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." This is not merely a title; it is the guarantee of our redemption. Because He took this name, we are given a new name: children of God. Join us as we explore how the Christ Child's identity transforms our own eternity under the theme: "The Name that Changes Ours."

Southeastern Women's Retreat: Registration is now open for the Southeastern Women's Retreat, to be held in Sherrills Ford, NC, February 13-15, 2026. The theme this year is "Sisters in Christ". To register, please head over to women'sretreat.clclutheran.net, click on SOUTHEAST, and scroll down to the link for the online form. If you would like to register over email or you have any questions, reach out to southeasternwomensretreat@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

National Women's Retreat Coming in January!: Before your 2026 calendar begins to fill up, we want you to mark your calendars and get ready to Press Pause with women across the country!

- **What:** Press Pause for the National Women's (Virtual) Retreat 2026
- **When:** Saturday, January 31, 2026 // 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
- **How:** Join us virtually via Zoom
- **Cost:** Free event – all are welcome!
- **Register now:** <https://tinyurl.com/PressPause26>

Nominations for ILC Professor and ILC President: The Board of Regents announces the following nominations to fill the professorship vacated by the resignation of Professor David Schaller prior to the 2025-26 academic year: Paul Krause, David Reim, Dan Sullivan, and David Ude. In addition, the following and only person has been nominated for the office of President of Immanuel Lutheran College: Daniel Schierenbeck. The term of the ILC President's call is for two years, extending to the end of Academic Year 2028. All comments from members of CLC congregations regarding these candidates are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight January 17, 2026 (letters postmarked January 7, 2025) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: jeb6217@yahoo.com.

ILC Christmas Concert: The choirs of Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary will be presenting Light Born From Light (O Nata Lux de Lumine) on Friday, December 19, 2025 at Messiah Lutheran Church, 2015 N Hastings Way, Eau Claire, WI 54703. The evening will begin at 7:00 p.m., with the strings, band, and flute choir presenting several songs prior to the choral service. It is open to the public and admission is free. The service will also be streaming live at youtube.com/ilc.videos.

