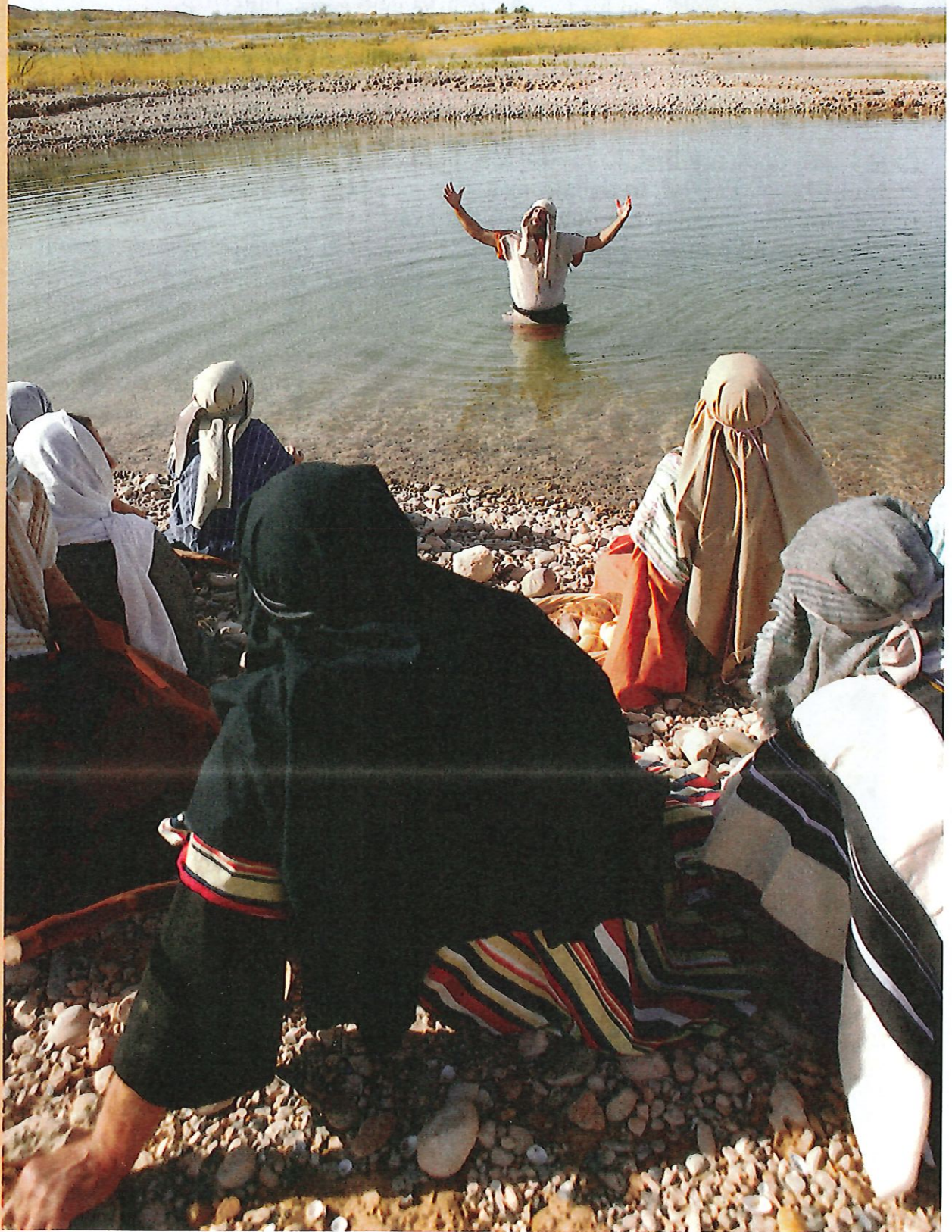
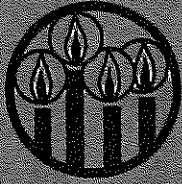


*Pure and blameless for the day of Christ*

PHILIPPIANS 1:10





### About the Cover

The cries of John in the wilderness for a Baptism of repentance prepared the way of the Lord's first coming. For His second coming, Paul's deep desire is that we will be "pure and blameless for the day of Christ" (Philippians 1:10).

The Lord has accomplished this for us by His abounding love that went all the way to the cross. So, it is by faith today that we are counted as pure and blameless because He is the pure, blameless, and spotless Lamb of God who has taken away our sin (see John 1:29).

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

### Old Testament Reading: Malachi 3:1-7b

<sup>1</sup>"Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. <sup>3</sup>He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

<sup>5</sup>"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>6</sup>"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. <sup>7</sup>From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them."

### Epistle: Philippians 1:2-11

<sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup>always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup>so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,

<sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

### Holy Gospel: Luke 3:1-14

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall become straight,  
and the rough places shall become level ways,

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

<sup>7</sup>He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" <sup>11</sup>And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" <sup>13</sup>And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

*Behold, the Lord shall come and all His saints with Him;  
and in that day the Light shall be great. Hallelujah!*

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in Advent  
Church Phone: 867-5088 --- December 7, 2024 --- 5:30 pm

**Opening Prayer** /// **Opening Hymn:** *"From All That Dwell Below the Skies"* 816

**Invocation:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C:** *Amen.*

P: O Lord, open my lips.	<b>C:</b> <i>And my mouth will declare Your praise.</i>
P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;	<b>C:</b> <i>Make haste to help me, O Lord.</i>
P: Behold, the days are coming, saith the Lord	<b>C:</b> <i>I will raise to David a righteous Branch</i>
P: A King shall reign and prosper	<b>C:</b> <i>He shall execute justice on the earth</i>
P: This is His name whereby He shall be called	<b>C:</b> <i>The Lord our Righteousness</i>
P: Prepare Ye the way of the Lord	<b>C:</b> <i>Make His paths straight</i>
P: This is the day the Lord has made	<b>C:</b> <i>Let us rejoice and be glad in it</i>

**Psalmody:** *Psalm 66:1-12*

P: Shout with joy to God, all the earth! **C:** *Sing the glory of His name; make His praise glorious!*

P: Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds! So great is Your power that Your enemies cringe before You. **C:** *All the earth bows down to You; they sing praise to You, they sing praise to Your name.*"

P: Come and see what God has done, how awesome His works in man's behalf! **C:** *He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the waters on foot – come, let us rejoice in Him.*

P: He rules forever by His power, His eyes watch the nations—let not the rebellious rise up against Him. **C:** *Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of His praise be heard;*

P: He has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping. **C:** *For You, O God, tested us; You refined us like silver.*

P: You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. **C:** *You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but You brought us to a place of abundance.*

**All:** *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

**Collect:** Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C:** *Amen.*

**Hymn:** *"Hark the Glad Sound"* 349

**O. T. Lesson:** *Malachi 3: 1-7b* /// **Epistle Lesson:** *Philippians 1: 2-11*

**(Please stand) Holy Gospel:** *Luke 3: 1-14*

**Hymn:** *"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"* 344

**Children's Sermon /// Sermon /// Confession of Faith: *Nicene Creed (back of Hymnal)***

**Offering brought to the Altar**

**Prayers:** The families of Korff, Russel, Logan, Larry and Charlie; Korff, Warren, Mary, Aaron and Kim; and Krietemeyer, Helen.

**Lord's Prayer** (back of hymnal)

**Confession of Sins** C: *Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.*

**Absolution:** Upon this your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Admonition to Communicants:** I exhort you in Christ, that you give attention to the Testament of Christ in true faith, and above all take to heart the Words with which Christ presents His body and blood to us for forgiveness. That you take note of, and give thanks for, the boundless love that He showed us when He saved us from the wrath of God, sin, death, and hell by His blood; and that you then externally receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a guarantee and pledge. Let us then in His name, according to His command, and with His own Words administer and receive His Sacrament.

**Blessing of Elements /// Distribution /// Hymn:** *"On What Has Now Been Sown" 921*

**Closing Collect:** *Heavenly Father, You grant us Your Spirit to open our eyes and enlighten our minds to serve You and fellow believers; lead us by Your Spirit to enable us to witness of Your love, live according to Your will, bring Your Word of life to others, rejoice in the goodness You have showered upon us, and reflect Your love in how we reach out to others; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**Benediction**

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**Kirk Horstmeyer, Pastor**  
**Karen Whitehead, Organist**

## WHAT THE SCRIPTURES TEACH CONCERNING THE LORD'S SUPPER

In I Corinthians 11 the Holy Spirit led Paul to write, "This is my body" and "This cup is the new covenant in my blood" to explain the spiritual truth of the Supper: Christ is truly present in His body and blood in the bread and wine. This is a mystery, a Heavenly gift; one we can only understand in faith. Paul further says, "Therefore whoever eats the bread and drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord" and, "let a man examine himself...for he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly." There is no doubt from our Lord's Word, we are receiving His body and blood. The Father offers us forgiveness, unity of faith, strengthening of faith, etc.; it is never our right, we approach His altar only by His invitation. If you are visiting we ask that you please speak with the Pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper. We strive to lovingly carry out our responsibility to ensure the supper remains a blessing for all, never a curse. May His richest blessing be upon you all.

### THIS WEEK

**TONIGHT:** Worship with H/C at 5:30 pm  
**SUNDAY:** Worship 8 HC, SS 9:10 am, Worship-Children's Christmas Service 10:15 am, Pastor's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration 12:30 pm  
**TUESDAY:** Confirmation 6:00 pm  
**WEDNESDAY:** Choir Practice 6 pm, Advent Meal 6 pm, Advent Service 7 pm  
**THURSDAY:** Bible Class at 9:30 (Revelation), Bible Study at 6:00 (Hebrews)  
**Next SATURDAY:** Confirmation 9:30 am, Worship w/HC 5:30  
**Next SUNDAY:** Worship w/HC 8 am, SS 9:10 am, Confirmation Christmas Service w/HC 10:15 am

**WEEKLY ATTENDANCE:** Thanksgiving Worship: 34 LS: 30; Sat, Nov 30: 44 LS: 34; Sun, Dec 1: 8 am: 73 LS: 51; 10:15 am: 63 LS: 40

**MEMBER PRAYER LIST:** Next week we will be praying for the families of Krietemeyer, Karen; Krietemeyer, Zachary, Ashlie, Aaron, Ryder and Ava; and LaMar, Scott and Jerrilee.

**Evans Elementary School Gathering:** You can place your items on the table in the Lounge or Storage Room. Thanks for blessing the students and families.

**THANKS:** to all those who made it possible for me to deliver 8 families Thanksgiving Meals. The families were thrilled and thankful.

**CRAFT SUPPLIES:** have been donated and are available to take. They are on a table in the gym and are free. If you are interested, please help yourself.

## **DECEMBER CALENDAR EVENTS**

**Mid-Week Advent Meals:** December 11 & 18 begin at 6 pm

**Mid-Week Advent Services:** December 11<sup>th</sup> "*Mighty God*" & 18<sup>th</sup> "*Prince of Peace*" at 7 pm

**Children's Sunday School Christmas Program:** December 8 during the 10:15 am service

**Confirmation Christmas Service:** December 15<sup>th</sup> 10:15 am— *Isaiah 9: 6-7 Promised Messiah*

**Christmas Eve Service:** Monday, December 24 at 6 pm w/HC with Choir Participation

**Christmas Candle- Light Service:** Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 pm w/HC - "*His Light Came to Earth*"

**Christmas Day Service:** Tuesday, December 25 at 9 am w/HC - *Celebration of His Birth*

### **"Sweet Needs for Kids"**

A Thrivent Action Team has been created to host a Bake Sale to help a local family. This family has 5 children of their own. They are in the process of opening their home to 3 additional children in order to avoid their placement into the local Foster Care System.

They need our help! Providing for 3 additional children isn't an easy task when you already have 5. Beds, bedding, clothing, shoes, coats and hygiene items are just some of the current expenses they have incurred!

The purpose of this bake sale is to help purchase these items and maybe even put a little something under the Christmas tree.

Please support our Act of Kindness and come out and enjoy fresh baked sweet treats on:

Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> after church service

And

Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> after the early service as well as the late service.

Thank you,

Teresa Korff & our Thrivent Action Team