

What is the Season of Advent?

Advent means “coming” or “arrival.” The Advent season begins four weeks before Christmas. Its purpose is to prepare people for Jesus Christ’s birth, while also pointing ahead to his promised return. Each Sunday focuses on a key theme—like hope, peace, joy, or love—to invite reflection, prayer, and expectant celebration. Advent practices share a heightened anticipation for God’s arrival. More than a countdown to Christmas, Advent embraces the way of Jesus and encourages hopeful waiting, courageous peace-making, resilient joy, and self-giving love in our still-suffering world.

Advent One: Hope

Hope may feel wishful, like crossing our fingers while each day seems to bring more troubling news than the previous one. Advent invites us to imagine a different kind of hope, rooted in God’s promise to restore every part of creation. It does not minimize pain or difficulty, nor does it assume things will get better soon. Instead, it faces the darkness with courage and chooses to trust that God’s promises will come to pass, guaranteed by God’s long-proven, faithful character.

As we hope and wait, we lean forward, anticipating the day when Jesus will return to make all things new. Such hope empowers us to persevere, to act justly, and to serve others as a sign of the restoration that will arrive through Jesus. In this daily hope, we discover that Christ is always coming to us, entering a troubled world, a ruined relationship, a broken body, a wounded heart.



Advent & Christmas at Immanuel

- Take Home Devotions
Hope, Peace, Joy, Love
11/30 Copies at church & e-mail
- Advent Theme Study
Hope Peace, Joy, Love
In Person at 11:15 a.m.
Sundays, 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21
- Advent Fair
Creating Resources for the Season
November 30 at 11:15 a.m.
All ages & families welcome
- Young Adult Bible Study
Jesus: King, Prophet, Priest
Tuesdays 12/2, 12/9, 12/16 6:30 p.m.
Gild Brewery, Childcare provided
Contact Pastor Rebekah

- Worship: Prayers Around the Cross
Wednesday, December 3 at 6:30 p.m.
- Worship: Blue Christmas
Wednesday, December 10: at 6:30 p.m.
- Youth Christmas Program
Sunday, December 14 at 10:00 a.m.
- Sharing of Gifts
Wednesday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Worship, December 24
3:00 p.m. Family & Children Worship
5:00 p.m. with Holy Communion
8:00 p.m. with Holy Communion

Immanuel Events
December

November 30- December 6

- 11/30 10 am Worship
 - 11:15 am Advent Theme Study
 - 11:15 am Advent Fair
- 12/2 12:00 pm Men’s Bible Study
 - 6:30 pm Young Adult Bible Study
- 12/3. 6:30 Advent Worship- Prayers around the Cross
- 12/4 9:30 am Quilting

December 14 - December 20

- 12/14 10 am Worship - Christmas Program
 - 12/14 1-3 pm Giving Tree Party
- 12/16 12:00 pm Men’s Bible Study
 - 6:30 pm Young Adult Bible Study
- 12/17 6:30 pm Sharing of Gifts

December 7 - December 13

- 12/7 10 am Worship; Giving Tree Gifts Due
 - 11:15 am Advent Theme Study
- 12/9 10 am Giving Tree shopping- Walmart
 - 12:00 pm Men’s Bible Study
 - 6:30 pm Young Adult Bible Study
- 12/10 6:30 Advent Worship: Blue Christmas
- 12/4 9:30 am Quilting
- 12/12 12 noon Giving Tree cookies due
- 12/13 10 am Giving Tree Work Day

December 21 - December 27

- 12/21 10 am Worship
- 12/24 3:00 pm Family & Children Worship
 - 5:00 pm with Holy Communion
 - 8:00 pm with Holy Communion
- 12/25 Christmas Day
- 12/26 Office Closed

December 28 - January 3

- 12/28 10 am Worship
- 12/30 12:00 pm Men’s Bible Study
- 12/1 Office Closed

Worship Assistants

- November 30
Usher: Dorothy and Mike Borge
Reader: Ray Smith
Communion Prep and Serve: Tudi Smith / Audrey Thornton
Baskets: Freddie and Joe Marks
Acolyte: Bethany Marks
Projection: Sumer Pellett
Sound: Ike Marks

Welcome to Immanuel!

Are you visiting? Please fill out a yellow card from the pew racks and place it in the offering plate so we can reach out to you. The purple pew cards are for electronic givers to place in the offering to show that giving is an act of worship.

Communion

While the meal of the baptized, Christ is the host and welcomes all. The promise “given and shed for you” requires a simple trusting heart. Those not receiving may come up for a blessing. White grape juice and gluten/dairy free bread is available. Please contact the pastors for further conversation about Baptism and Communion.

Worship Assistance

Assisted listening devices, earphones, and reading glasses are available. Ask an usher for assistance.

Children

We welcome children of all ages to our services. Busy Bags for are available from the ushers. Toys are in the family area by the Luther Wall. Children may bring their offering forward to place in the little white church by the altar.

Welcome Statement

Immanuel Lutheran Church is committed to seeing Christ in everyone. We are rooted and united in Christ. We grow by acknowledging and embracing our differences. We celebrate our human family’s diversity of sexuality, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, race, ethnicity, age, faith story, economic status, physical and mental ability, education, and the many other identities that make our community beautiful. We commit ourselves to embracing the work of anti-racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care. We commit ourselves to embracing the work of anit-racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care.

Immanuel is a Reconciling Works Congregation We advocate for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual/aromantic (LGBTQIA+) Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church, congregations, and community.

Announcements

more inside bulletin

Advent Schedule—see inside bulletin

Advent Schedule—Stick around after worship on the First Sunday of Advent (Nov 30th) for an Advent Fair in the Fellowship Hall! Make an Advent Wreath for your home, take home an advent calendar, add to an Advent community art project, and check out the many ministry opportunities that are available at Immanuel and around Missoula this Advent season.. This Advent Fair is for everyone... families, individuals, young people, and elders!

Quilting December 4 we will display the quilts in the Sanctuary. All are welcome, many hands make light work.

Giving Tree Every year Immanuel provides gifts, groceries and quilts for families in need. Stop by the Giving Tree after worship and pick up a tag. Purchase gifts to wrap, attach the tag and place under the tree. Return by December 7th. Check your name off in the notebook when you return. Thanks for your generosity.

Young Adult Bible Study Pastor Rebekah invites people ages 18-35 (ish, we won't ID!) to an Advent Bible study for



ImmanuelLutheran CHURCH

young adults. Pastor Baird (from Our Savior's in Bonner) and I will host this study and focus on the three biblical roles that Jesus fulfills: king, prophet, and priest. It will also be a fun time to connect with other folks our age that share the progressive Christian values of our congregations. We'll meet at 630pm on Tuesdays in Advent (Dec 2,9,16) at Gild on the hip strip.

Youth Christmas Program on December 14th during worship. Rehearsal Sunday, November 23rd during FFG. See the email from Pastor for more information and the sign up link.

Sharing Our Gifts December 17 5:30 pm share your talents!, Contact Alan if you need accompaniment. Sign up available this week.

Please join us for refreshments in the Hemgren Room after worship.

Share the love of Christ with all!

Pastor Molly Sasser-Goehner
Pastor Rebekah Cochrane

Welcome to Worship at Immanuel
Advent 1
November 30, 2025 10:00 am

Welcome
Invocation

Litany

Lighting of the Advent Wreath—Hope

Song of Mercy “Awake, Awake” (Hermanson)

Song of Praise “Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn” (#242)

Greeting

Prayer of the Day

Readings:

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalms 122

Romans 13:11-14

Gospel Acclamation: “Emmanuel”

Matthew 24:36-44

Children’s Message

Sermon Pastor Molly Sasser-Goehner

Song of the Day: “All Earth is Hopeful” (#266)

Apostles’ Creed

Prayers of the People “Come Now O Prince of Peace” (v.1, #247)

Sharing of the Peace

Offering / Song “Glory, Let There be Peace” (Stevens, Maher, Popadic)

Offering Prayer

Great Thanksgiving

Preface

Holy Holy Holy “Heaven Opened to Isaiah” (AC 1090)

Eucharist Prayer / Words of Institution

Response of Faith

The Lord’s Prayer

Communion Songs: “Into the Darkness of the World” (Maggi Dawn)

Post-Communion Blessing

Prayer After Communion

Announcements

Benediction

Sending Song “Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning” (ACS 949)

Dismissal