

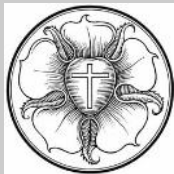
“Rise, take the child  
and his mother, and  
flee to Egypt,  
and remain there  
until I tell you.”

ST. MATTHEW 2: 13  
FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL  
FOR THE SECOND  
SUNDAY AFTER  
CHRISTMAS



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# Esprit

Volume 47, Issues 1-2

January/February 2020

## You Crown the Year with Your Bounty

by Pastor Sutton

THE new year of our Lord, anno Domini 2020, is upon us. It seems strange to put behind us 2019, as to this pastor the year seems to have come and gone quickly; and yet, as always, much has happened, and God has blessed us. I pray for your blessing and care from our benevolent and gracious Lord in the year ahead, and that you will know and realize just how much God has done for you in the year past, and for your entire life.

In Psalm 65 (vv. 9-13; ESV), the Lord is praised in this way:

You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it;  
the river of God is full of water;  
you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it.  
You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges,  
softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.  
You crown the year with your bounty;  
your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.  
The pastures of the wilderness overflow,  
the hills gird themselves with joy,  
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,  
the valleys deck themselves with grain,  
they shout and sing together for joy.

“You crown the year with your bounty...” In blessing and caring for us, God works through means. He can and has worked immediately without agency, as the Scriptures testify; but primarily, God works through means. In the Psalm we see mentioned: the rivers, the waters, the land, the pastures, the hills, etc. Even the very creation shouts and sings together for joy – God’s joy in giving all things to us, the objects of His love.


All this He does out of Fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. With the creation, it is our duty to respond in thanks and praise, with service and obedience to God’s Word for the sake of the neighbor.

As the first article of the Creed and fourth petition of the Our Father teach us, God provides for all our needs of this body and life through means of the things which He has created. So God gives us fathers and mothers to care for us when we are young. Through them, God provides house and home, food and clothing, education and training in the arts and work of this world.


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*Esprit* is the informational and educational newsletter of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church.

*Esprit de corps* indicates a sense of union and of common interests and responsibilities, as developed among a group. Our community of Immanuel is centered in the Lord Jesus Christ as He comes to us in the Holy Scriptures and the Sacraments.

**Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church** is an historic and centrally located parish—called, gathered, and strengthened by Christ's Word and Sacraments—confessional in doctrine, evangelical in orientation, orthodox in liturgy, cosmopolitan in membership; serving the Terre Haute community and the students of Indiana State University and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and reaching out to the nations since 1858 as a parish of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

## Sweet Flowerets of the Martyr Band

by Kantor Schultz

THIS year, the way the calendar falls, we have the opportunity to celebrate a Sunday that hasn't occurred in a number of years: the Second Sunday after Christmas, which will be Sunday, January 5.



The Holy Gospel for this Sunday is St. Matthew 2.13-23, the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt and Herod's murder of the infants of Bethlehem. This Gospel lesson is also the appointed Gospel for the Feast of the Holy Innocents on December 28, although on that day verses 19-23, the return of the Holy Family to Israel, is omitted.

The Hymn of the Day is "Sweet Flowerets of the Martyr Band," which is included in the electronic version of our hymnal, *Lutheran Service Builder* (969).

This hymn by Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-413) is from the twelfth poem of his collection called *Cathemerinon*, written for various hours throughout the day. The poem is called "Hymnus Epiphaniae." Our version is lines 125-136 and a doxological stanza, and tells the story of Herod's rage to attempt to murder the young Christ child, killing all boys two years old and younger. The church calls these the Holy Innocents, martyrs whose lives were given for Our Lord, that He might escape in God's will. The hymn depicts them rejoicing in heaven with palm and crown.

The tune, "Das walt Gott Vater" was originally written by Daniel Vetter (d. 1721), who was organist at St. Nicholas Church in Leipzig, where Johann Sebastian Bach would later serve.

Prudentius is perhaps better known for his other hymn that we've recently sung, and will sing again in the Epiphany season, "Of the Father's Love Begotten" (384). This hymn is also part of his series of poems *Cathemerinon*.

1 Sweet flow'rets of the martyr band,  
Plucked by the tyrant's ruthless hand  
Upon the threshold of the morn,  
Like rosebuds by a tempest torn;

2 First victims for the incarnate Lord,  
A tender flock to feel the sword;  
Beside the altar's ruddy ray,  
With palm and crown, you seemed to play.

3 Ah, what availed King Herod's wrath?  
He could not stop the Savior's path.  
Alone, while others murdered lay,  
In safety Christ is borne away.

4 O Lord, the virgin-born, we sing  
Eternal praise to You, our King,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore. Amen. ✠

*Continued from page 1* God further gives us good government to protect us from harm and danger. We are seeing some of our law enforcement acting as good government even on national television every weekend - which causes this pastor to pray more earnestly for our community and our neighbors.

God gives us faithful neighbors and good friends to help in times of need and lack. He gives us employers who trade our work for income so that we may acquire the needs of the body. He gives us brains and brawn so that we will have something to trade with those employers for that needed income. This work, which we are able to do only because of what God has provided to us, redounds to the benefit of others. And so, the cycle of God giving through means continues.

He provides for all our needs of our souls. He sent His Son into the flesh to be our Savior. We have just celebrated the Incarnation and Birth of our Lord. In that Body, born in Bethlehem's manger, our Lord Jesus Christ lived the life that God demands of us all - a life we have failed to live because of our sins - and, in that body, He made payment for those sins on the cross, once and for all.

God delivers this forgiveness through the means of His Word and Sacraments. He calls pastors to proclaim in His stead and by His command that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Through the pastor, at God's Word with water, God Himself claims us as His own in Holy Baptism, placing His own name on us in water and Word, igniting faith by the gift of the Holy Spirit. God gives us the life-giving Body and Blood of Jesus Christ to nourish us in this same faith until the end.

Our God is a God who works through means, throughout the years, to fit us for service to

Him and our neighbors in this world, and for eternally praising Him in the next.

St. Paul wrote to the Philippians concerning their Christian stewardship of the blessings they had been given by God:

"I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4.18-19)

The gift St. Paul received from the Philippian church is a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. They gave to God. God provided for St. Paul through the Philippians. And the God who loves both Paul and the Philippians will supply their every need according to the riches in Christ Jesus. Our God is a God who works through means.

"For all the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus Christ]," St. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 1.20. This is true also of you. Trust in the God who provides for all that we need in body and soul through means. And not only will you find His "yes" to you, but others will find it, too, through you. "But as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you - see that you excel in this act of grace also" (2 Corinthians 8.7).

Oh, may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us  
And keep us in His grace  
and guide us when perplexed  
And free us from all ills  
in this world and the next!  
(LSB 895, stanza 2) ✠

## A Hymn for New Year's Eve: To God the Anthem Raising

by Kantor Schultz

IN the church year, we are primarily concerned with the events in the life of Christ and His saints, as well as His work and His teaching. Therefore, January 1 is not so significant as the beginning of a new calendar, but that it is the "eighth day" of Christmas, the day upon which Christ was circumcised. So the Church observes January 1 as the Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord. The hymn of the day succinctly directs us to the point:

O blessed day when first was poured,  
The blood of our Redeeming Lord!  
O blessed day when Christ began  
His saving work for sinful man!

While from His mother's bosom fed,  
His precious blood He wills to shed;  
A foretaste of His death He feels,  
An earnest of His love reveals.

(*The Lutheran Hymnal* 115, stanzas 1 and 2)

While this Feast is our focus, it is also salutary to use the commemoration of a new calendar year to thank Our Lord for His blessings over the past twelve months and our entire lives.

Hymnist Paul Eber (1511-1569) wrote the acrostic hymn, "To God the Anthem Raising" (*The Lutheran Hymnal* 112) based on the name of his wife and daughter, both named Helena. Each stanza, in German, begins with the next letter in the name. Eber was professor of philosophy, physics, Latin, and Hebrew, and earned a Doctor of Divinity. He is considered next to Luther among the greatest poets of Wittenberg. This hymn is a beautiful meditation you might consider for your use in prayer at home on New Year's Eve:

1. To God the anthem raising,  
Sing, Christians, great and small;  
Sing out, His goodness praising,  
Oh, thank Him one and all!  
Behold how God this year,  
Which now is safely ended,  
Hath in His love befriended  
His children far and near.

2. Let us consider rightly  
His mercies manifold  
And let us not think lightly  
Of all His gifts untold.  
Let thankfulness recall  
How God this year hath led us,  
How He hath clothed and fed us,  
The great ones and the small.

3. To Church and State He granted  
His peace in every place,  
His vineyard He hath planted  
Among us by His grace.  
His ever bounteous hand  
Prosperity hath given  
And want and famine driven  
From this our native land.

4. His Father heart is yearning  
To take us for His own  
When, our transgressions mourning,  
We trust in Christ alone;  
When in His name we pray  
And humbly make confession,  
He pardons our transgression  
And is our faithful Stay.

5. Our God hath well defended,  
Hath kept us through His grace;  
But if He had contended  
With us our sins to trace  
And given us our meed,  
We all would then be lying  
In sin and sorrow dying,  
Each one for his misdeed.

6. O Father dear in heaven,  
For all Thy gifts of love  
Which Thou to us hast given  
We lift our thanks above.

In Jesus' name we here,  
To Thee our prayers addressing,  
Still ask Thee for Thy blessing:  
Grant us a joyful year. ✠

## Baptized into Christ by Vicar Keller

THIS month, our newborn son will be baptized into Christ. It can be hard to look at an infant and think they are anything but perfect. Yet he, as a slave to sin under the Old Adam, naturally rejects God. He, and all children, are part of all the nations that are to be baptized in Jesus' commission in Matthew 28.

The Feast of the Baptism of our Lord is observed each January. It is one thing for us to say that our son must be baptized, but why was Jesus, God's eternal Son in the flesh, baptized? He wasn't a sinner. In fact, John the Baptizer confessed that he himself ought to be baptized by Jesus. Yet, Jesus responded, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."

Martin Luther, in a baptismal sermon, interpreted Jesus' words, "The purpose of my baptism is to wash away and drown the sins of all the world, that through it all righteousness and salvation may be accomplished." Jesus sanctified baptism first through His own body, that afterwards it may be used for the washing away of sins for all who come to the blessed waters.

As Christ descended into the waters of the Jordan, His salvific work on the cross for us was also His purpose. Luther said, "He did this in according with the will of God, the heavenly Father, who cast all our sins upon Him that He might bear them and not only cleanse us from them through His baptism and make satisfaction for them on the Cross,

but also clothe us in His holiness and adorn us with His innocence."



Baptism and the Cross are linked, as St. Paul wrote in Romans 6, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized in Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." At your baptism, you were claimed by God and were made an heir of eternal life won for you by Christ's death and resurrection.

**God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It** (LSB 594), is a hymn which confesses simply but powerfully the gifts God has given us in our baptism:

God's own child, I gladly say it:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
He, because I could not pay it,  
gave my full redemption price.

Do I need earth's treasures many?  
I have one worth more than any  
that brought me salvation free  
lasting to eternity!

Death, you cannot end my gladness:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
When I die, I leave all sadness  
to inherit paradise!  
Though I lie in dust and ashes  
faith's assurance brightly flashes:  
Baptism has the strength divine  
to make life immortal mine.

I wish you all a blessed and happy New Year! ✠

## Sunday Adult Bible Study

JOIN us each Sunday at 9am for Adult Bible Study. We begin with the opening in the Nave, and continue with study in the Parish Center. ✱

## Coffee Break Bible Study

EACH Wednesday, we pray Matins in the church at 8:30am, followed by Bible study in the Parish Center. ✱

January 8:	1 Samuel 9.26-10.16	"Saul is Anointed King"
January 15:	1 Samuel 10.17-27	"Saul is Publicly Made King"
January 22:	No Class – Pastor and Vicar at Concordia Theological Seminary Symposia	
January 29:	1 Samuel 10.27-11.15	"Saul Saves Jabesh-gilead from the Ammonites"
February 5:	1 Samuel 12.1-25	"Samuel's Warning about the Monarchy"
February 12:	1 Samuel 13.1-23	"Saul Prepares to Fight the Philistines"
February 19:	1 Samuel 14.1-23	"Jonathan Routs the Philistines"
February 26:	1 Samuel 14.24-46	"Saul's Impetuous Vow"



## Upcoming YPI Events

**Bowling Party:** The Young People of Immanuel (YPI) will be bowling at the Terre Haute Bowling Center on Springhill Drive on Saturday, January 18, at 11am. Bring money for shoe rental and for lunch. Sign up by contacting Janet Crucitti or Karie Sutton. ✱

**Italian Dinner:** The YPI will host the Italian dinner fundraiser on Saturday, February 22. ✱

## Financial Summary by John Schulz

IN the beginning of November, a letter was sent to the congregation explaining the reality of our income compared to our expenses being on the negative side so far this year. The people of Immanuel have stepped up and there has been a significant increase in giving!

At our annual congregational meeting in the beginning of December, a \$278,879 budget was approved for 2020. This means that we need to receive just over \$5,000 a week to keep up with our budget. As the new year starts, let's continue our cheerful giving for the Lord's work that is done in this place. ✱

## Council of Deacons Report

by Richard Monday

THE December 7 meeting opened with meditation on the Word of God, in which Pastor led a prayer for the parish. The deacons continued their study of the Book of Concord, beginning Formula of Concord Article VIII, "The Person of Christ."

Pastor Sutton reported membership changes since the last meeting, and updated the board on other potential new members and the status of current adults in catechesis. Pastor reported that there are two weddings scheduled for 2020. Pastor and Stacy Gibbens will be working together to form a master calendar for consistently held board meetings and reporting in 2020. Pastor is planning a letter to go out to younger members to encourage biblical stewardship and to make them aware of the new "Give Plus" app available for convenient giving to the congregation. Pastor finished his report with reminders to the Council for ongoing decisions that need to be taken.

The Council, after hearing from one of the members of the parish on current budget considerations, proceeded to Board Reports:

- ✧ **Education:** No report.
- ✧ **Finance:** John Schulz is working to produce "Cheerfully Giving" cards to place in the pews for someone who gives electronically to drop into the offering plate.
- ✧ **Property and Grounds:** Discussed financing of the steeple bell repairs. Proposal was approved by the Council to present to the Congregational Assembly meeting on December 8.
- ✧ **Outreach/Fellowship:** Brad Cress reported on current OAF activities.
- ✧ **Worship:** No report.

The next regular meetings of the Council of Deacons are Saturdays, January 4 and February 1 at 7am in the Library Conference Room. Other communicant members who wish to meet with the Council of Deacons to discuss special concerns, needs, or requests should make arrangements with the Chairman of the Council of Deacons prior to a scheduled meeting. ✧

### Immanuel Parish Membership

Baptism: November 24 Brice Evan Ofsansky

June Elizabeth Ofsansky; Claire Juliet Ofsansky, daughters of Brice and Chelsea Ofsansky

### Electronic Giving—GivePlus Mobile App

GIVE+



No Checks? No Problem! Electronic giving is now available at Immanuel with the GivePlus mobile app. Simply download the app and set up a one time or recurring gift. Simple and secure giving electronically with your mobile device. Additional information is available on the table outside the Parish Office.

**DIVINE SERVICE** is celebrated every Sunday at 10:30am and on Feast Days as announced.

**DIVINE OFFICE: LAUDS** (MORNING PRAYER) and **VESPERS** (EVENING PRAYER) are prayed as announced in the weekly *Parish News*.

**PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** is offered the third Thursday of the month (January 16; February 20) from 5-6pm, or anytime by appointment.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE STUDY** are at 9am. The Bible Study is studying the book of Hebrews.

**UNIVERSITY STUDENT BIBLE STUDY** with dinner is Sunday at 5:30pm.

**ADULT CHOIR** rehearsals are Fridays from 6:30-8pm, and Sundays from 9:45-10:20am.

**"WORSHIP ANEW,"** produced by Lutheran Media Ministries of Fort Wayne and supported by Immanuel's special gift collection, airs every Sunday morning on WTWO at 8am.

**WESTMINSTER BIBLE STUDY** meets on the last Friday of the month at 1:30pm except when there is a holiday at the end of the month. The next meetings are January 24 and February 28. All members are invited to attend.

**ESPRIT DEADLINE** for March/April is Saturday, February 15. Volunteers are needed to help with the mailing. Watch the *Parish News* for the date.

### Serving in January and February at Divine Service

Altar Guild – *January:* Beth Gibbens; Rachel Gibbens | *February:* Gloria Hayne; Maddy Tate

Tellers – *January:* Kris & Leslie Bilyeu; Jodi Tate | *February:* Mike & Sara Latta; Rick & Kathy Todd

Ushers – *January:* Jack Casassa; Cam Casassa; Kris Bilyeu  
*February:* Larry Hayne; Matt Matthias; Terry Cummings

Acolytes – Jan 5: Kole Mullins; Austin Fitzgerald | Jan 6 (*Mon*): Tony Altvater; Connor Howard; Levi Altvater; Noah Schulz; Ian Crucitti | Jan 12: Ian Crucitti; Evan Pound  
 Jan 19: Austin Fitzgerald; Adam Sutton | Jan 26: Eli Gibbens; Kole Mullins  
 Feb 2: Connor Howard; Noah Schulz; Eli Gibbens; Kole Mullins  
 Feb 9: Noah Sutton; Connor Howard | Feb 16: Pearson Tate; Tony Altvater  
 Feb 23: Evan Pound; Noah Schulz | Feb 26 (*Wed*): Levi Altvater; Noah Schulz

### Schedule of Divine Liturgies for January and February

January 5	Second Sunday after Christmas, 10:30am	Divine Service
January 6	( <i>Mon</i> ) Epiphany of Our Lord, 7pm	Divine Service
January 12	First Sunday after Epiphany, 10:30am	Divine Service
January 19	Second Sunday after Epiphany, 10:30am	Divine Service
January 26	Third Sunday after Epiphany, 10:30am	Divine Service
February 2	Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord, 10:30am	Divine Service
February 9	Septuagesima, 10:30am	Divine Service
February 16	Sexagesima, 10:30am	Divine Service
February 23	Quinquagesima, 10:30am	Divine Service
February 26	Ash Wednesday, 7pm	Divine Service