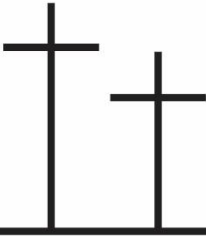




December 13-14, 2025

Vol. 88, No. 67



welcome to
IMMANUEL
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior!

Thank you for joining our church family for worship this morning. Immanuel is a Bible based Christian congregation and so our worship reflects deep devotion to God and to His Holy Word. We especially welcome any guests or visitors and invite you to sign our guest book in the entryway of the church and invite you to join us again.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE is printed in this bulletin and will be projected on the screen in the front of the sanctuary.

RESTROOMS are located at the bottom of the stairs to the right when you exit the narthex into the school building.

AMPLIFYING HEADSETS are available in the Deacons room. Please see any usher if you would like assistance.

THE MOTHER'S ROOM is next to the bookshelf and stained glass window in the corner of the entryway and is meant only for women and children. Fathers may use the bathroom in the upstairs school hallway. Kid's bulletins and quiet bags can also be found in the entryway.

QUESTIONS? Please contact the Deacon on duty or any of the ushers. They would love to assist you!

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE? Scan this QR code to learn more about what we believe at ImmanuelMankato.org



3rd Weekend in the Season of

Advent

SERVICE OF THE WORD

The Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19*

Congregation (C): *(spoken)* **Amen.**

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn

TLH 343:1-3 "How Lovely Shines"

Confession and Absolution of Sins

P: As we wait for the second coming of Christ, the Wisdom of God and Key who opens heaven's gates, let us prepare our hearts for His arrival by confessing our sins.

C: Almighty and merciful Father, we confess that we have sought knowledge apart from You, that we have heard Your commandments but disobeyed them, that our faith has been easily shaken, that we have closed our hearts to Your mercy, that we have walked in shadows of doubt and despair, that we have followed the lead of the devil, and that we have forgotten about Your presence in our lives. Come to us, O LORD, forgive us for Jesus' sake and restore us according to Your mercy.

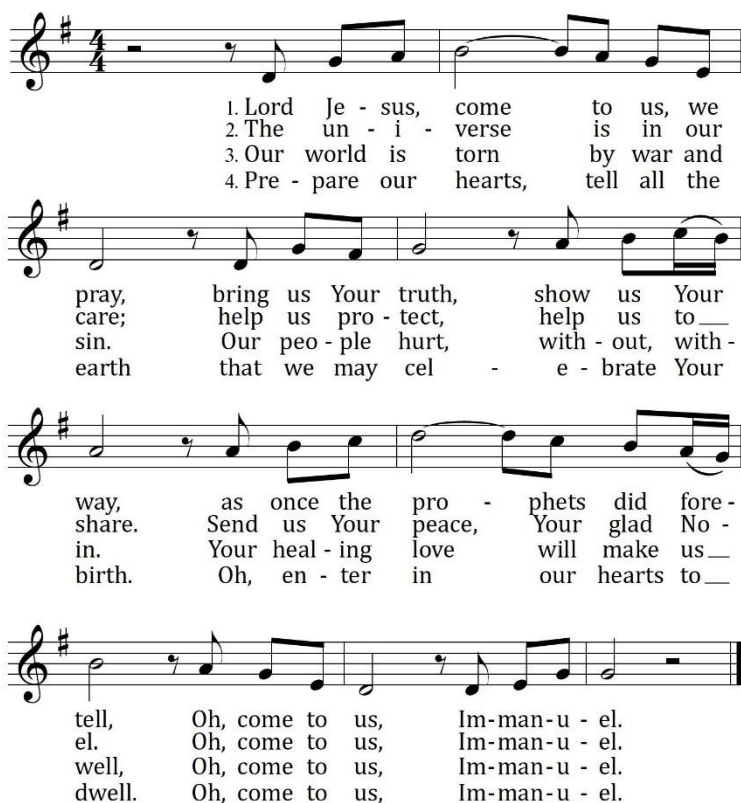
P: Hear the good news of Advent hope: Jesus, the Wisdom of God, teaches us the way of truth. Jesus, our Lord, delivers us from sin and death. Jesus, the Root of Jesse, deepens our trust. Jesus, the Key of David, opens to us the kingdom of grace. Jesus, the Dayspring, brings light

to our darkness. Jesus, the King of the Nations, unites us in His peace. Jesus, Immanuel – God with us – forgives, renews, and restores.

P: Therefore, as a called servant of the Word, I proclaim to you: In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

A Litany for Advent



1. Lord Je - sus, come to us, we
 2. The un - i - verse is in our
 3. Our world is torn by war and
 4. Pre - pare our hearts, tell all the

pray, bring us Your truth, show us Your
 care; help us pro - tect, help us to—
 sin. Our peo - ple hurt, with - out, with -
 earth that we may cel - e - brate Your

way, as once the pro - phets did fore -
 share. Send us Your peace, Your glad No -
 in. Your heal - ing love will make us—
 birth. Oh, en - ter in our hearts to—

tell, Oh, come to us, Im-man-u - el.
 el. Oh, come to us, Im-man-u - el.
 well, Oh, come to us, Im-man-u - el.
 dwell. Oh, come to us, Im-man-u - el.

TEXT: Shirley W. McRae

TUNE: *O Waly Waly* arranged by Shirley W. McRae

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray...

Lord Jesus Christ, hear our prayers, and by Your mercy bring light to our darkened hearts; You who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (spoken) **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-3

The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. **3** You have multiplied the nation And increased its joy; They rejoice before You According to the joy of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

Gospel Reading

John 1:4-9

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. **6** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. **8** He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. **9** That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

ILHS Choir

“What Child is This?”

Epistle Reading

Revelation 22:16-21

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.” **17** And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. **18** For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to

these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; **19** and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. **20** He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! **21** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Response to the Word

TLH 70:1-2

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

C: ♪ **Hosanna to the living Lord!**

Hosanna to the Incarnate Word!

**To Christ, Creator, Savior, King,
let earth, let heaven, hosanna sing.**

**O Savior, with protecting care
abide in this Your house of prayer,
where we Your parting promise claim,
assembled in Your sacred name.**

Confession of Faith

Explanation to the 2nd 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 with 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.

Sermon*Luke 1:76-79*

“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, **77** To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins, **78** Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; **79** To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.”

O Come, O Dayspring

Preaching today: Pastor Nathanael Mayhew

Offertory*TLH 62*

**C: ♪ O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Sermon Hymn *TLH 359 “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”*

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Offering Hymn TLH 55:3

**C: ♪ My hosannas and my palms
graciously receive, I pray You;
evermore, as best I can,
Savior, I will homage pay You,
and in faith I will embrace,
Lord, Your merit through Your grace.**

The General Prayer / The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Matthew 6:9-13

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. *Numbers 6:24-26*

C: ♪ Amen! Amen! Amen!

Closing Hymn *TLH 343:5-6 “How Lovely Shines”*

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LAST WEEK

<u>IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH</u>	<u>CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION</u>
<u>(DEC 6-10 REPORTED)</u>	<u>\$806</u> CLC General Budget (CBP)
<u>Budgetary</u>	<u>\$380</u> CLC MDF (Missions)
<u>\$17,400.16</u> Current Expenses	<u>\$454</u> CLC Kinship
	<u>\$125</u> ILC Student Aid
<u>Non-Budgetary</u>	
<u>\$104</u> Major Improvement	Scan this QR
<u>\$152</u> ILS Student Aid	code to
<u>\$890</u> Land Purchase	contribute via
<u>\$50</u> Benevolent	CashApp
<u>\$15</u> ILS Foundation	
<u>\$1,232</u> Advent/Christmas	
<u>\$2,400</u> Land Purchase Commitments	



Saturday Worship 12/6: **55**

Saturday Bible Class: **5**

Advent Midweek 2pm: **50**

Advent Midweek 6pm: **55**

Sunday Worship 12/7: **182**

Sunday Bible Class: **55**

Sunday School: **25**

Location	Active	Time	Day of the week	Type	# Souls
Old Main/AZ Pioneer Home	Yes	10:00 AM	2 nd , 4 th Monday	Worship	10
Latitude	Yes	10:00 AM	Every Tuesday	Study	16
Oak Terrace	Yes	10:00 AM	Every Tuesday	Study	6
Laurel's Edge	Yes	10:00 AM	Every Wednesday	Study	6
New Perspective	Yes	10:00 AM	2 nd Thursday	Worship	10
Oak Terrace	Yes	9:00 AM	Every Thursday	Study	12
Walnut Tower	Yes	11:00 AM	Every Thursday	Study	8
Water's Edge	Yes	11:00 AM	Every Thursday	Study	11
Old Main	Yes	1:30 PM	Every Thursday	Study	6
Men's Breakfast	Yes	6:30 AM	Every Friday	Study	36
Pathstone	Yes	10:00 AM	1 st , 3 rd Friday	Worship	15
Mankato Lodge	Yes	9:00 AM	Every Friday	Study	5
Autumn Grace	Yes	10:45 AM	2 nd , 4 th Friday	Study	10
Number of souls finding comfort in God's Word this week:					151
Thank you to our volunteer laymen who we've called to continue to help lead these services!					

THIS WEEK

Sat Dec 13	6:00p	Divine Worship Service
	7:00p	Adult Bible Class
Sun Dec 14	9:00a	Adult Bible Class
	9:00a	Radio Sermon: KTOE 1420AM or 102.7FM
	10:00a	Divine Worship Service
		Live Stream – CLICK HERE
Mon Dec 15	6:00p	Sunday Night Basketball
		Blessings on your week!
Tues Dec 16	6:30p	Women's Study Guild
Wed Dec 17	2:00p	Advent Midweek Service
	3:00p	Ladies' Auxiliary
	6:00p	Advent Midweek Service
Thur Dec 18	5:00p	Board of Deacons
	6:15p	Board of Elders
	6:15p	Church Choir Practice
Fri Dec 19	6:30a	Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
	7:00p	Ladies Bible Study-Finding Christ in the Old Testament
Sat Dec 20	3:00p	Preparing Phoebe's & Teaching Timothy's Cozy Christmas
	6:00p	Divine Worship Service
	7:00p	Adult Bible Class
Sun Dec 21	9:00a	Adult Bible Class / Christmas Eve Practice
	9:00a	Radio Sermon: KTOE 1420AM or 102.7FM
	10:00a	Divine Worship Service
	3:00p	Ladies Ugly Sweater Party
	6:00p	Sunday Night Basketball

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cozy Christmas Party Preparing Phoebe's & Teaching Timothy's-
December 20th 3pm

Ladies Ugly Sweater Party- December 21st 3pm

IMMANUEL ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET A special Advent devotional booklet has been prepared for our use during this Advent season. The booklet includes a summary of each of the titles for Jesus which we will be studying and the thoughts that will surround our worship in each service. You are invited to pick up one of these booklets in the narthex this weekend. The prayer is that the thoughts, reflections and prayers in the booklet will help you prepare for each service and contemplate the mystery of God's salvation in the promised Savior.

LAND PURCHASE UPDATE The ERC will be giving a presentation after our worship services this weekend with details about the potential of purchasing the Johnson property in North Mankato. A Letter of Intent to Purchase has been signed by both parties, giving Immanuel exclusive purchase rights until January 17, 2026. The meeting will review the details of the land, the cost to purchase this property, the status of financial commitments, and what is being done to determine the suitability of the land for our purposes prior to purchasing. The congregation will need to give approval to agree to the final Purchase Agreement to buy the land through the voters. A voters' meeting has been set for Monday, January 12th at 7pm, to make a decision on the purchase of this land.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE As a new year approaches we are preparing for the publication of an updated Immanuel Membership Directory. We need the help of our members to make sure that our new directory is as accurate as possible. A copy of the current directory is available in the church narthex. Please review your address and other contact information printed there and note any changes or corrections. Please do this by December 21st, in time it to be published in the new year. We also ask that you look at the contact information for relatives and friends to see if information is incorrect or missing. If you have updated information for other members in our directory,



please share this as well. You can also update your information by filling out the Member Information Form on our website under resources or using the QR code to the left. This form provides the church with many other pieces of information that are valuable for our church records, like date of baptism, confirmation, marriage, children, and more. This additional information will be

kept confidential but is extremely helpful to have on file. With this form we are also asking for a photo of you to be shared, which can be helpful with a large congregation like Immanuel. You don't need to include all the information requested in the form. If you already have certain information on file, you can skip over those and use the form to update information that has changed, like a new address, email or phone number. Please take the time to review and update your membership info using one or both options. Thank you for your assistance!

LADIES UGLY SWEATER PARTY Save the date for our Annual Ugly Sweater Party **Sunday, December 21st from 3-5pm!** We will have a potluck, games and prizes! Then we will fill the Christmas Eve Bags for the kids at the end of the night.

LADIES AUXILIARY will meet after the Advent service on Wednesday **December 17th at 3 PM** in the church basement. We will have our cookie exchange with light refreshments and fellowship.

COZY CHRISTMAS PARTY 5-8th grade girls and boys are welcome to join in for a Christmas Party on **December 20th from 3-6pm** in the church fellowship hall. Preparing Phobes is hosting this party, **and our boys 5-8th grade Bible study group called Teaching Timothys will be launching!** More details to come!

STUDY GUILD CARD DISPLAY has been updated with Christmas cards, graduation, sympathy, anniversary, birthday and get well. They are located in the back entry. The cost is \$1.00 per card.

WOMEN'S STUDY GUILD meets on **Tuesday, Dec. 16, from 6:30** to about 8:30. We will open with a devotional Bible study and have a short business meeting followed by refreshments. Please bring a Christmas treat to share. All women are welcome.

ILS & ILHS CHRISTMAS CONCERT **Wednesday, December 17th at 7:30 pm.** The Immanuel Bands, Handbells, and Choir will present their Christmas Concert on Wednesday, December 17th at 7:30 p.m. in the church following the Advent Service. Families, members, and fellow students are all invited to attend and hear the multiple talents of our students!

WOMENS BOOK CLUB Our Women's Encouragement Committee has a monthly book club at 10am on the second Thursday of the month. We will be meeting again January 22nd in the church office. New members are always welcome! We are currently reading Junk Drawer Jesus and are on chapter 5 for next time! If you have any questions, contact Katie Dick.

IMMANUEL FAMILY DEVOTIONS 2026 The Board of Elders wants to continue supporting family devotions among our church family in the coming year. They have purchased and prepared two resources for 2026. The first is a Children's Bible for families with children ages 3-10. If you have a child in your family in that age range, you can pick this book up in the church office. They have also made a bulk purchase of a family devotion book and are making these available to Immanuel families. The devotion book is titled "To Live with Christ" by Bo Giertz and is intended for confirmation age and up. The elders would like every Immanuel family to take a book and participate in this Bible study journey in the coming year. These devotion books can be picked up on the table in the narthex along with a reading schedule. Whether you utilize time in the morning or before bedtime, take time each day to gather around God's Word, trusting that the LORD will bless our study of His truth!

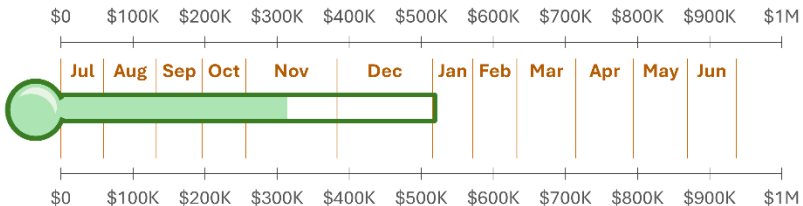
FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Plate Offerings

As Of 12/7/2025

Total Need: \$936,655
Received To Date: \$314,075

Remaining Need (December): \$201,817
Remaining Need (Fiscal Year): \$622,580



* Monthly grid based on past contribution patterns, to give us a convenient pace to follow.

SYNOD ANNOUNCEMENTS

SYNOD CALLS Pastor Emeritus David Schierenbeck has **accepted** the call to serve as Assistant to the Pastor at Berea Ev. Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights, MN, after he concludes serving as vacancy pastor of Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN, at the end of January. <> Pastor Cory Drehle of Berea Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD, has **received** the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has **returned** the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Dave Naumann of St. John's Lutheran Church, Clarkston, WA, and Peace Lutheran Church, Orofino, ID, has **returned** the call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA. <> Pastor Terrel Kesterson of Ascension Lutheran Church, Batavia, IL, has **returned** the part-time call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Emeritus Michael Eichstadt has **accepted** the vacancy call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has **received** the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI.

INSTALLATION Pastor Michael Gurath will be installed at Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church, Middleton, WI, on December 21, 2025.

CLC MISSIONS PRAYER REQUESTS Liberia (West Africa) – A regular schedule of Bible training seminars continues for pastors and church leaders across several areas of Liberia. Missionary Ohlmann is scheduled to visit Liberia Nov. 12-26. He and Pastor Kwiwalazu will travel to several areas of Liberia and conduct a Pastor Training Seminar with 18 pastors and church leaders in Bopolu. Thank the Lord and ask for His continued blessings for the ongoing Biblical training and outreach. Ask the Lord to bless the training seminar and conference in Bopolu.

CLC Financial Report - November 2025

Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2025	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 5 Months	Balance 11/30/2025
General Fund	0	512,908	513,520	527,125	(612)
ILC Operations (incl. CLC subsidy)	0	776,540	683,796	739,600	92,744
Auxiliary Funds					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	99,143	15,737	30,499		84,381
ILC Building Projects	2,066,713	320,493	340		2,386,866
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	148,402	109,952	125,132		133,222
Kinship	169,472	67,821	94,661		142,632
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	2,503,796	255,935	518,129		2,241,602
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	101,689	107,744	102,652		106,781
EduK8 Fund	70,311	44,666	20,000		94,977
Reserve Fund	103,629	1,678	0		105,307
Auxiliary Funds Totals	\$5,263,155	\$924,026	\$891,413		\$5,295,768

General Fund – With a large dollar amount of contributions received in November, the deficit in the fund has almost been eliminated! Praise be to our Lord for moving the hearts of His people.

ILC Operations –Although revenues were less than disbursements in the month of November, we are still ahead of last year at this time with a balance of about \$92,000.

Church Extension Fund – Year to date revenue consists of payments received of about \$132,000 from congregations on the loans they owe the CLC, and almost \$124,000 from increases in the market value of the investments. Disbursements include just over \$485,000 loaned to a member congregation for their building project.

Other Auxiliary Funds – The activity in the other funds in the table above is similar to the activity in the same period a year ago.

Stephen R. Lentz, CLC Treasurer

Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees



Pastor Joe Naumann
Pastor Nathanael Mayhew
Secretary Hilary Lien

920-266-5386
404-729-4602
507-345-3027 Ext 104

Principal Rick Mariner
Secretary Amanda Harris

507-317-0805
507-345-3027 Ext 103

We Thank Those Serving Us Today

(2nd Weekend of the Month)

PASTOR Nathanael Mayhew

DEACON Paul Bade

ORGANIST Laura Heinze

SCREEN Furst/ A Lien

HEAD USHER Paul Bade

ASST USHER Mike Schweim

USHERS Justin Mueller, Jeremy Hanel, Scott Kruse, Kaden Kruse, Todd Kruse, Alex Matzke

Serving Us Next Weekend

(3rd Weekend of the Month)

PASTOR Nathanael Mayhew

DEACON Joe Friedrichs

ORGANIST Friedrichs/Cornish

SCREEN Carstenesen

HEAD USHER Fred Friedrichs

ASST USHER John Heinze

USHERS Aaron Busse, Austin Hanel, Hunter Hanel, Jay Hanel, Mason Hanel, Ty Hanel, Brett Kruse, William Lien, Wyatt Lien, Kevin Rykhus

Sermon Notes

Text _____

Theme _____

Notes _____

Specific Law (How does this text point out my sin?)

Specific Gospel (How does this text point to Jesus?)

Specific Application (How does this text teach me to live?)
