

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



4th 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 75 “Ye Sons of Men, Oh, Hearken”

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.

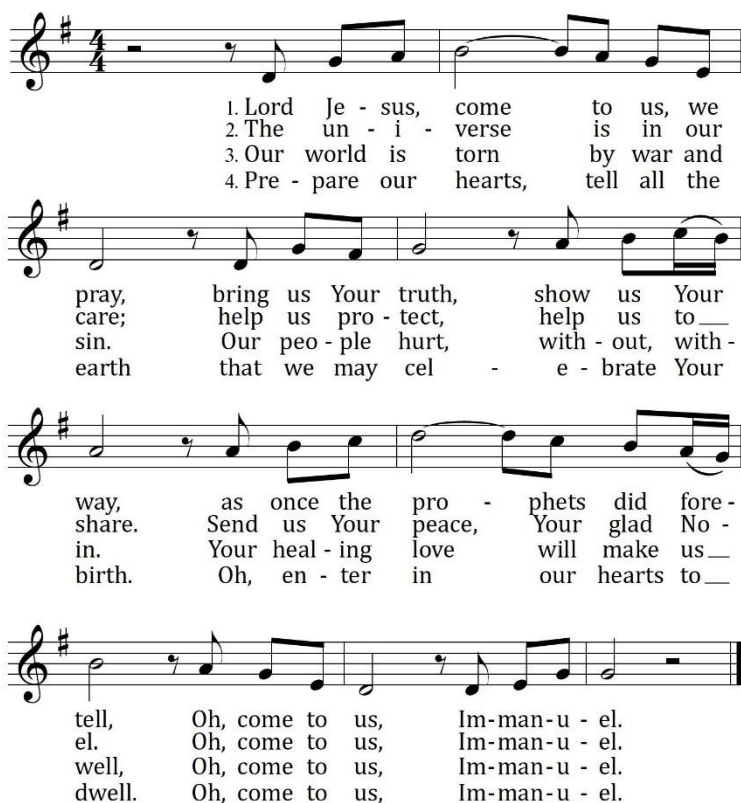
P: Hear the good news of Advent hope: Jesus, the Wisdom of God, teaches us the way of truth. Jesus, our Lord, delivers us from sin and death. Jesus, the Root of Jesse, deepens our trust. Jesus, the Key of David, opens to us the kingdom of grace. Jesus, the Dayspring, brings light

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...

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. Help us by Your great might, so that whatever is hindered by our sins may be accomplished by Your great mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: (spoken) Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

Moreover the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying, **11** “Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above.” **12** But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!” **13** Then he said, “Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? **14** Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

Gospel Reading

John 1:10-17

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. **11** He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. **12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: **13** who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. **14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. **15** John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’” **16** And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. **17** For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Epistle Reading

Romans 8:31-39

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? **33** Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. **34** Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. **35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **36** As it is written:

“For Your sake we are killed all day long;
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. **38** For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, **39** nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.

Hymn of the Day

TLH 352 “O Savior, Precious Savior”

Sermon

Matthew 1:22-23

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: **23** “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

O Come, O Immanuel

Preaching today: Pastor Nathanael Mayhew

Offertory

TLH 62

**C: ♪ 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 98 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

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 647:3-4 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

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LAST WEEK

<u>IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH</u>	<u>CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION</u>
<u>(DEC 13-17 REPORTED)</u>	<u>\$660</u> CLC General Budget (CBP)
<i>Budgetary</i>	<u>\$155</u> CLC MDF (Missions)
<u>\$11,344.80</u> Current Expenses	<u>\$29</u> CLC Kinship
	<u>\$30</u> ILC Student Aid
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>	
<u>\$110</u> ILS Student Aid	Scan this QR
<u>\$205</u> Land Purchase	code to
<u>\$120</u> Benevolent	contribute via
<u>\$1,501.84</u> Advent/Christmas	CashApp
<u>\$200</u> Thanksgiving	
<u>\$350</u> New Years Eve	



Saturday Worship 12/13: **58**

Saturday Bible Class: **5**

Advent Midweek 2pm: **134**

Advent Midweek 6pm: **63**

Sunday Worship 12/14: **202**

Sunday Bible Class: **60**

Sunday School: **29**

Location	Active	Time	Day of the week	Type	# Souls
Latitude	Yes	10:00 AM	Every Tuesday	Study	19
Oak Terrace	Yes	10:00 AM	Every Tuesday	Study	6
New Persepctive	Yes	10:15 AM	1, 3, 5 th Tuesday	Study	7
Laurel's Edge	Yes	10:00 AM	Every Wednesday	Study	7
Ladies Auxiliary	Yes	2:00 PM	4 th Wednesday	Study	9
Oak Terrace	Yes	9:00 AM	Every Thursday	Study	13
Walnut Tower	Yes	11:00 AM	Every Thursday	Study	9
Water's Edge	Yes	11:00 AM	Every Thursday	Study	8
Men's Breakfast	Yes	6:30 AM	Every Friday	Study	33
Ladies Bible Study	Yes	7:00 PM	Every Friday	Study	2
Mankato Lodge	Yes	9:00 AM	Every Friday	Study	5
Number of souls finding comfort in God's Word this week:					
Thank you to our volunteer laymen who we've called to continue to help lead these services!					

THIS WEEK

Sat Dec 20	6:00p	Divine Worship Service / Third Sunday Communion
	7:00p	Adult Bible Class
Sun Dec 21	9:00a	Adult Bible Class
	9:00a	Radio Sermon: KTOE 1420AM or 102.7FM
	9:00a	Christmas Eve Practice
	10:00a	Divine Worship Service / Third Sunday Communion
		Live Stream – CLICK HERE
Mon Dec 22	3:00p	Ladies Ugly Sweater Party
	6:00p	Sunday Night Basketball
		Blessings on your week!
Tues Dec 23	5:00p	Board of Deacons
	7:00p	Board of Education
Wed Dec 24	4:00p	Christmas Eve worship Pre-service
	5:00p	Christmas Eve worship service
Thur Dec 25	10:00a	Christmas Day worship service
	3:00p	MPF Reserved- Private Event
Fri Dec 26		No Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
	2:45p	Church Kitchen & Fellowship Hall & MPF Reserved
	7:00p	Ladies Bible Study-Finding Christ in the Old Testament
Sat Dec 27	6:00p	Divine Worship Service
		No Bible Class
Sun Dec 28		No Bible Class or Sunday School
	9:00a	Radio Sermon: KTOE 1420AM or 102.7FM
	10:00a	Divine Worship Service
	1-3pm	Outdoor Adventure Day- Sledding
	6:00p	Sunday Night Basketball

UPCOMING EVENTS

Outdoor Adventure Day- Sledding - December 28th 1-3pm

New Year's Eve worship - December 31st 6pm

New Year's Day worship - January 1st 10am

Special Voters' Meeting - January 12th 7pm

Annual Voters' Meeting - January 19th 7pm

IMMANUEL ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE PRE-SERVICE REMINDER As we gather for our Christmas Eve service, we invite those who arrive early to observe a spirit of quiet reverence during the pre-service music. This time is intended to provide a devotional atmosphere for prayer, reflection, and preparation of heart as we celebrate the birth of Christ. To help preserve this sacred time, we kindly ask that conversations be kept to a minimum and photographs be taken outside by the

outdoor Christmas tree or after the service. Your cooperation also supports our musicians as they offer music prepared to bless and focus our congregation. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and for helping create a meaningful and worshipful Christmas Eve experience for all.

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!

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!

JOHNSON PROPERTY PURCHASE UPDATE Last weekend after our worship service the ERC gave an update to the congregation about the purchase of the Johnson property in North Mankato. This was to give information so that the voters can make an informed and wise decision about the purchase of this property at the voters meeting on January 12th. The following is a part of the timeline that was shared by the ERC last weekend.

- **December** – Check on pledges for the property purchase and schedule a wetland delineation study.
- **January** – Voters' Meeting on January 12th at 7pm to decide on the purchase. If the voters approve the purchase, the purchase agreement should be signed by January 17th before our exclusive right to purchase expires.
- **February** – If the voters approve the purchase and the purchase agreement is completed, the ERC will work to collect pledges in preparation for the purchase of the property.

Please keep this in your prayers in the coming weeks. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please speak with an ERC member (erc@immanuelmankato.org), President Lien, or one of our pastors.

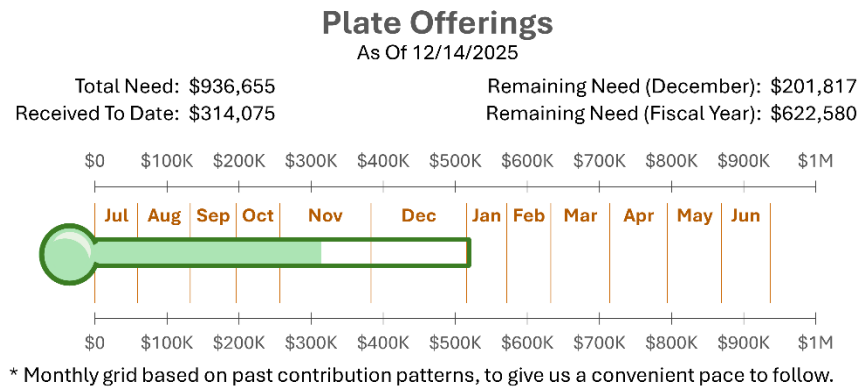
SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING Special Voter's Meeting on **January 12th** at 7pm. Agenda items are: **1.** Membership Matters; **2.** Motion to approve entering into the purchase agreement for the Johnson Property (Council recommends); **3.** Motion to authorize the ERC to handle the due diligence evaluation and contingency terms of the Johnson purchase agreement. If the terms are satisfied, the President and the Secretary of the Congregation are authorized to sign the final paperwork and close on the purchase (Council recommends).

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

WHITewater WEEKEND! Date: January 23-25, 2026 (Friday-Sunday)
Age: High School through 2nd year of college. Cost: \$75 per camper. Please make checks out to: Immanuel Youth Group. Please give the fee to our school secretary, Mrs. Harris. Or send check to: ILS Secretary, 421 N 2nd St. Mankato MN 56001. You can find the Online Registration form (required to attend) here: <https://forms.gle/5dgaDRyymS4UynMHA> Please submit your registration form by Friday, January 16th. Payment is DUE before departure. We hope you can attend this spiritual edifying trip where we can grow together in Christ!

ANNUAL REPORTS Please get your Annual Report submissions into our church secretary no later than **January 14th**.

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE



SYNOD ANNOUNCEMENTS

SYNOD CALLS Pastor Joe Naumann of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, has **received** the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> 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 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.

2026 CLC MISSION HELPER TRIP The CLC Mission Helper Program is preparing for another Mission Trip to Africa for the summer of 2026. The focus of this trip will be presenting the Gospel, through a series of child evangelism lessons, to member and non-member children in village congregations. Possible areas of evangelism include the CLC–Tanzania, CLC–Kenya,

CLC–Zambia, and CLC-Uganda. CLC members are welcome and encouraged to apply. For more information and to apply, visit www.mht.lutheranmissions.org.

CLC MISSIONS PRAYER REQUESTS Nigeria (West Africa) – With an MDF grant and local offerings, the Nigeria-CLC (NCLC) is close to completing its long-awaited [building project](#). The building will feature new classrooms, a library/computer room, and an office for faculty. Missionary Ohlmann is scheduled to visit the NCLC in November for the dedication and a pastoral conference in the new building. Ask the Lord to continue to bless this project and thank Him for providing the funding through the NCLC and MDF offerings. Thank the Lord for the privilege of working together in this effort to train faithful workers in His Nigerian harvest of souls! Ask the Lord to provide safe travel for everyone attending the conference and building dedication.

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

(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

Serving Us Next Weekend

(4th Weekend of the Month)

PASTOR Joe Naumann

DEACON Brent Schreyer

ORGANIST Grace Schreyer

SCREEN Schmitt

HEAD USHER Ben Busse

ASST USHER Michael Wheaton

USHERS Peter Busse, Jason Dick, Mark Geiger, Bernt Olmanson, Charles Olmanson, Andrew Olmanson, Ben Stratton, Tim Williams, Troy Williams

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?)
