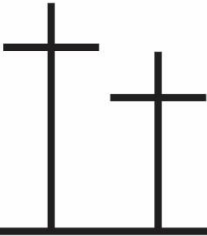




December 6-7, 2025

Vol. 88, No. 65



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



2nd 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

WS 703 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

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.

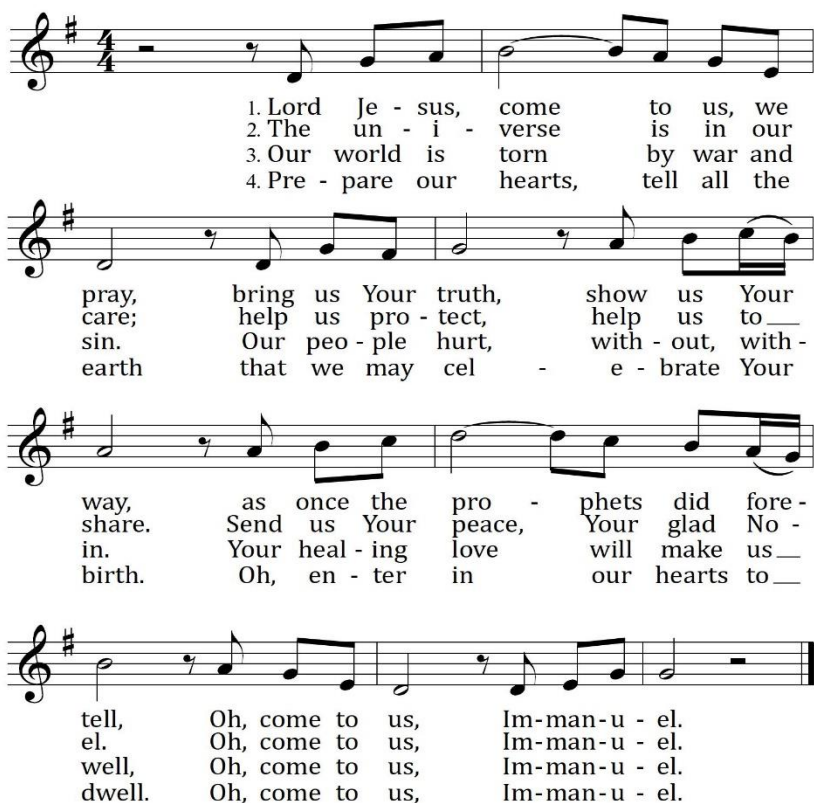
P: Hear the good news of Advent hope: Jesus, the Wisdom of God, teaches us the way of truth. Jesus, our Lord, delivers us from sin and death. Jesus, the Root of Jesse, deepens our trust. Jesus, the Key of David, opens to us the kingdom of grace. Jesus, the Dayspring, brings light

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 our hearts, O God, to prepare the way for Your one-and-only Son. Enable us to worship Him whose coming brings us life and salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C: (spoken) Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 23:1-8

“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!” says the LORD. **2** Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: “You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings,” says the LORD. **3** But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. **4** I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking,” says the LORD. **5** “Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. **6** In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. **7** Therefore, behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “that they shall no longer say, ‘As the LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,’ **8** but, ‘As the LORD lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.’ And they shall dwell in their own land.”

Epistle Reading

Romans 15:12-13

And again, Isaiah says: “There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope.” **13** Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Epistle Reading

Revelation 5:1-14

And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. **2** Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” **3** And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. **4** So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. **5** But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.” **6** And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. **7** Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. **8** Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. **9** And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, **10** And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” **11** Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, **12** saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive

power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" **13** And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!" **14** Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

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 645 "Behold, a Branch is Growing"

“And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse,
Who shall stand as a banner to the people;
For the Gentiles shall seek Him,
And His resting place shall be glorious.”

O Come, O Root of Jesse

Preaching today: Pastor Nathanael Mayhew

Offertory

TLH 62

C: ♪ O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

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

Sanctus † *Holy*

**C: ♪ Holy, holy, holy, LORD God of Heavenly hosts;
Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory;
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He,
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!**

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

The Lord's Prayer

P: 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;

**C: ♪ For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the
glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Matthew 6:9-13

The Words of Institution

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was
betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks,
He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take,
eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in
remembrance of me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave
thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of
you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, Do this,
whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

John 20:19

C: ♪ Amen.

Agnus Dei † *Lamb of God*

**C: ♪ O Christ, the Lamb of God,
Who takes away the sin of the world,**

Have mercy upon us.
O Christ, the Lamb of God,
Who takes away the sin of the world,
Have mercy upon us.
O Christ, the Lamb of God,
Who takes away the sin of the world,
Grant us Your peace. Amen.

John 1:29

Distribution

Distribution Hymns

WS 702 “As Angels Joyed with One Accord”

WS 704 “Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

Nunc Dimittis † Now Let Depart

C: ♪ Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace
according to Your word.

For my eyes have seen Your salvation,
which You have prepared before
the face of all people.

A Light to lighten the Gentiles,
and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen. *Luke 2:29-32*

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 339:1,2,7 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

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Our Practice of Close Communion	Communing
<p>A Holy Sacrament - Holy Communion is correctly called a ‘Sacrament’ because it is a “Sacred act;” not in what WE do for Christ, but in what CHRIST does for us.</p> <p>Spiritual Unity - God’s Word also presents the reception of this Sacrament as a most intimate expression of spiritual and confessional unity (1 Cor. 1:10; 10:16-17; Rom. 15:5,6).</p> <p>Close Communion - We ask only those who have publicly professed such oneness of faith and belief with us by membership here or another CLC church to come forward for Communion at this time. This is not a judgment of anyone’s faith, but rather an expression of ours (Rom. 16:17-18).</p> <p>Visitors - If there are visitors present who wish to commune with us in the future, you are invited to speak with the pastor about this at your convenience. We’d love to have you!</p>	<p>Kneeling rail - Members who have difficulty at the kneeling rail may sit in the front pews. The pastor will bring communion to you there.</p> <p>Balcony - Any communicants sitting in the balcony should please come down to the narthex for direction to the table.</p> <p>Direction - Communicants are ushered to the communion table. If you desire the bread in your hand, simply extend your hand to the pastor as he approaches you with the bread. Those desiring an individual cup, please take a cup when the tray is offered. The common cup will follow.</p> <p>Gluten Free Bread / Non-alcoholic Wine - Communicants can find these items on the way up to the Lord’s Table.</p> <p>Cup disposal - Please dispose of your individual cup in the baskets located on each side or in the center aisle.</p>



LAST WEEK

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH	CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION
<u>(NOV 30-DEC 3 REPORTED)</u>	<u>\$5,190</u> CLC General Budget (CBP)
<u>Budgetary</u>	<u>\$20</u> CLC MDF (Missions)
<u>\$21,188</u> Current Expenses	<u>\$29</u> CLC Kinship
<u>Non-Budgetary</u>	
\$ _ Major Improvement	
<u>\$382</u> ILS Student Aid	
<u>\$270</u> Land Purchase	
<u>\$40</u> Benevolent	
<u>\$177</u> Thanksgiving	
<u>\$30</u> ILS Foundation	
<u>\$1,987</u> Advent/Christmas	

Scan this QR
code to
contribute via
CashApp



Sunday Worship 11/30: **182**

Advent Midweek 2pm: **133**

Sunday School: **15**

Advent Midweek 6pm: **53**

Adult Bible Class: **53**

Location	Active	Time	Day of the week	Type	# Souls
Oak Terrace	Yes	10:00 AM	Every Tuesday	Study	6
Latitude	Yes	10:00 AM	Every Tuesday	Study	18
Laurel's Edge	Yes	10:00 AM	Every Wednesday	Study	6
Oak Terrace	Yes	9:00 AM	Every Thursday	Study	9
Cottagewood Senior Community	Yes	10:45 AM	1 st , 3 rd Thursday	Study/Worship	12
Walnut Tower Bible Study	Yes	10:00 AM	Every Thursday	Study	8
Water's Edge	Yes	11:00 AM	Every Thursday	Study	10
Old Main	Yes	1:30 PM	Every Thursday	Study	6
Men's Breakfast	Yes	6:30 AM	Every Friday	Study	36
Mankato Lodge	Yes	9:00 AM	Every Friday	Study	4
Autumn Grace	Yes	10:45 AM	Every Friday	Study	7
Number of souls finding comfort in God's Word this week:					122
Thank you to our volunteer laymen who we've called to continue to help lead these services!					

THIS WEEK

Sat Dec 6	6:00p	Divine Worship Service Communion Weekend
	7:00p	Adult Bible Class
Sun Dec 7	9:00a	Adult Bible Class/ Sunday School
	9:00a	Radio Sermon: KTOE 1420AM or 102.7FM
	10:00a	Divine Worship Service Communion Weekend
		Live Stream – CLICK HERE

	6:00p	Sunday Night Basketball
Mon Dec 8	6:00p	ERC Meeting
Tues Dec 9	7:00p	Board of Education Meeting
	7:00p	Board of Property Meeting
Wed Dec 10	2:00p	Advent Midweek Service
	5:00p	6-8 th Grade Doctrine Class
	6:00p	Advent Midweek Service
	7:00p	Youth Group Christmas Party
Thur Dec 11	6:15p	Church Choir Practice
	7:30p	Church Council Meeting
Fri Dec 12	6:30a	Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
	7:00p	Ladies Bible Study-Finding Christ in the Old Testament
Sat Dec 13	10:00a	Coffee & Creativity
		Christmas Caroling
	6:00p	Divine Worship Service
	7:00p	Adult Bible Class
Sun Dec 14	9:00a	Adult Bible Class / Sunday School
	9:00a	Radio Sermon: KTOE 1420AM or 102.7FM
	10:00a	Divine Worship Service
		Christmas Caroling
	6:00p	Sunday Night Basketball

UPCOMING EVENTS

Youth Group Christmas Party- December 10th 7pm

Coffee & Creativity- December 13th

Christmas Caroling Meeting- December 13&14th

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

Ladies Ugly Sweater Party- December 21st 3pm

IMMANUEL ANNOUNCEMENTS

HELP NEEDED ON SUNDAY The elders have purchased 50 children's Bible books and have prepared bookmarks, hymns, prayers, a devotional template, and a reading plan to encourage and support family devotions. Congregational help is requested after church this **Sunday, December 7th**. Help is needed to cut out bookmarks, paste inserts into the Bible books, and wrap the books for distribution. Stations will be prepared in the basement to be manned immediately following the service. With enough volunteers, it should take no longer than an hour. Anyone who can operate scissors is welcome to help. Please consider whether you can support this effort and plan to attend if so. Thank you!

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.

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. Please take the time to review and update your membership info using one or both options. Thank you for your assistance!

COZY CHRISTMAS PARTY 5-8th grade girls and boys are welcome to join in for a Cozy Christmas Party on **December 20th from 3-5pm** in the church fellowship hall. Preparing Phoebe is hosting this party, **and our boys 5-8th grade bible study group called Teaching Timothys will be launching!** There will be a devotion, fellowship games and activities and a potluck of treats to share! Bring a dish to pass if you'd like! Wear your Christmas pajamas or something cozy! Contact Rebecca Heinze or Wyatt Lien with questions. Register at this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Min3sBf9XMaT3E2QBXHRHDDRpT0eotmfUd4pFuwHSUY/edit?ts=6914bde5>

GIFT CARD PROGRAM Immanuel Lutheran School operates a gift card program that brings rebate money back to the school. The details for the program can be found in the attached About ILS RaiseRight program document, which you should read before signing up for and purchasing any gift cards. To purchase RaiseRight gift cards, you should sign up at www.raiseright.com/enroll. Use enrollment code: N36D5J7EQWFT. Please take special note that for you to receive a shared rebate towards your tuition/fee bill, you must first have a



RaiseRight Program Agreement form filled out in the school office before you make an order. We are working on updating some of the language around group orders and are planning to offer more opportunities to purchase physical cards throughout the year. The documents for this program can be found using the QR code above. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Heinze at brandan.heinze@immanuelmankato.org. Mr.

Heinze will be available after church on **Sunday, December 7** to take any orders on the paper forms. Orders for a group shipment to the Church and School will be placed on Monday, December 8. All online orders that are to be shipped to the school will be placed on December 8, 2025. Orders can be paid for online through RaiseRight, or by check or cash to the school office. Checks can be made out to ILS. Gift cards can be paid for at pick-up.

KIWANIS Shine the Light of Christ at Kiwanis Holiday Lights! We still have plenty of space to volunteer for Kiwanis!

- We need 4-6 more souls to help with concessions.
- ILS Night at the Park is **Dec. 14**.
- Bonus: Additional reward for volunteering January 1st for the tear down.

Let's come together in service and "let our light shine before others" (Matthew 5:16) this holiday season! Contact: Deidre Macias – 507-810-0879 | benedictdeidre@gmail.com

CAROLING Caroling for shut ins will be **December 13 and 14**: Saturday until 4pm and Sunday. I hope to have a casual meeting with refreshments after so we can discuss good things and improvements on our caroling schedule. Please let me know if you want to join us, either on Saturday or Sunday or both. Even if you don't sing, you can give a Christmas greeting or play an instrument. Sign up on sheet in Narthex or call Sharon Schaller at 507-388-3302 and leave a message and I will check back with you. Email Sharon at schaller@hickorytech.net

LAND PURCHASE UPDATE The ERC will be giving a presentation after our worship services on December 13 and 14 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 current 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 January 14th at 7pm, to make a decision on the purchase of this land. Please plan to stay after the service next weekend for the update on this potential step for Immanuel.

JANITORIAL POSITION OPEN The Board of Property is looking for someone to fill the janitorial position. This is a paid part-time position with some 30-35 hours weekly. If you are interested, please contact the Board of Property and/or Ben Busse. A good email for inquiries is: board-of-property@immanuelmankato.org

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY 9-12 graders are welcome to join us study and a Christmas Party on **December 10th from 7-9pm** at the Lien Residence. Bring a White Elephant gift to exchange, and your bible! We will be doing a study on the town of Bethlehem and then join in for some games and activities. Hope to see you there! If you need the address, contact the church office.

COFFEE & CREATIVITY EVERYONE is welcome to join us for Christmas Cookie Decorating, **December 13th from 10-11:30am**. We'll supply the baked cut-out cookies, frosting and sprinkles - you bring the creativity! Reserve your cookies and number of people by **RSVP'ing to jtheneman@live.com by Sun., December 7th**. There will also be a sign-up table that weekend. This is a fundraiser to help with the cost of supplies and refreshments for future sessions - therefore the suggested donation is \$5/half-dozen. There is no limit to the number of cookies you can reserve. We suggest you bring pans or boxes to take your cookies home. Join us for the fun, light refreshments and Christmas music!

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.

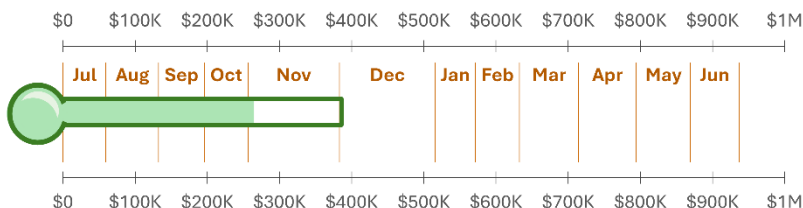
FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Plate Offerings

As Of 11/30/2025

Total Need: \$936,655
Received To Date: \$264,718

Remaining Need (November): \$118,283
Remaining Need (Fiscal Year): \$671,937



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

SYNOD ANNOUNCEMENTS

SYNOD CALLS Pastor Johnathan Schnose of Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church, Morris, MN, has **returned** the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Emeritus Michael Eichstadt has **accepted** the vacancy 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 **received** the call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA. <> Pastor Terrel Kesterson of Ascension Lutheran Church, Batavia, IL, has **received** the part-time call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Emeritus David Schierenbeck has **received** the call to serve as Assistant to the Pastor at Berea Ev. Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights, MN, after he has completed his work as vacancy pastor of Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has **received** the 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.

THE ADVENT WREATH AND CANDLES Last week we set up an Advent wreath with five candles at the front of the church. This is not just for decoration. The Advent wreath is a valuable teaching tool which is rich in symbolism, and intended to instruct us in our worship.

The wreath is covered with evergreen. Just as this species of tree is always green, so our hope for eternity is always alive because it rests upon the living Christ. The wreath is also in the form of a circle, which has no beginning and no end, reminding us that our life with God is everlasting.

The lighted candles are symbolic of the light of Christ and His Gospel, which alone can lift us out of our sin and spiritual darkness. The four advent candles remind us of the 4000 years of waiting for Christ by the Old Testament world. The three blue candles remind us that we are in a season of reflection and repentance over our sins. The pink candle is the color for joy. Each of the four candles has a special name with special significance.

The Prophecy Candle is lit the first week in Advent. It represents the long years of waiting during which the prophets, inspired by God, kept alive the hope that the Son of God was coming to redeem His people from their sins.

The Bethlehem Candle is the 2nd candle lit. It symbolizes the preparations being made for the coming of the Christ-child. The prophecy in Micah 5:2 that foretold Jesus' birthplace at Bethlehem may seem to be a minor revelation, but it shows how God prepared even the smallest detail for the coming of Christ.

The Shepherds' Candle is the 3rd candle. It reminds us the shepherds left their task and went with haste to see the Christ-child; then they returned to joyfully tell others about the good news of the Savior. This helps us reflect on our responsibility to share the Savior and His promises with others around us.

The Angels' Candle is lit the 4th week of Advent. It reminds us of the activity of the angels before and after Jesus' birth, bearing messages, ministering, protecting, and praising God. They will also be with Jesus at His final coming on Judgment Day, to gather the nations.

The Christ Candle is the white candle in the center. This candle is lit on Christmas Eve. It signals that He Who is the Light of the world has been born according to God promise. Our Savior has come!

The light these candles put forth seems small and so does the Gospel at times. But to those in lonely darkness, it is the powerful light which shows the way to Heaven.



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Secretary Hilary Lien	507-345-3027 Ext 104
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Secretary Amanda Harris	507-345-3027 Ext 103

We Thank Those Serving Us Today

(1st Weekend of the Month)

PASTOR Nathanael Mayhew	DEACON Brent Schreyer
ORGANIST Friedrichs/Schreyer	SCREEN Furst/W Lien
HEAD USHER Austin Lien	ASST USHER Karl Friedrichs
USHERS Mac Friedrichs, Matt Hagen, Alan Olmanson, Brent Schreyer, Philip Stelter, Ross Theneman, William Roettger	
COMMUNION SET UP Strattons, Hoffman & Hagen	
COMMUNION DISTIRUTION M Wheaton, W Roettger, B Heller, D Pfeiffer, B Stratton	

Serving Us Next Weekend

(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	

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?)
