



For it is God  
who commanded

**LIGHT**  
to shine out of  
**DARKNESS**

2 Cor. 4:6 2 Corinthians 4:6

January 10-11, 2026

Vol. 89, No. 3



*welcome to*  
**IMMANUEL**  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## 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](http://ImmanuelMankato.org)



1<sup>st</sup> Weekend in the Season of

# Epiphany

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

*based on The Lutheran Hymnal (p. 5)*

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### The Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation (C): ♪ Amen.**

*Matthew 28:19*

### Opening Prayer

### Opening Hymn

*WS 718 “O Jesus, King of Glory”*

### Confession and Absolution of Sins

P: Beloved in the LORD! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

*Hebrews 10:22*

P: Our help is in the name of the LORD.

**C: ♪ Who made heaven and earth.**

*Psalms 124:8*

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD.

**C: ♪ And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Psalms 32:5*

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on His name He gives the privilege of being children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. *John 1:12; Mark 16:16*

P: Grant this, LORD, unto us all.

**C: ♪ Amen!**

## **Responsive Psalm**

*Psalm 97*

P: The LORD reigns; Let the earth rejoice;

**C: Let the multitude of isles be glad!**

P: Clouds and darkness surround Him;

**C: Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.**

P: A fire goes before Him, And burns up His enemies round about.

**C: His lightnings light the world; The earth sees and trembles.**

P: The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD,

**C: At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.**

P: The heavens declare His righteousness,

**C: And all the peoples see His glory.**

P: Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous,

**C: And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.**

## **The Gloria Patri † *Glory to the Father***

♪ **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.**

## **The Kyrie † *O Lord***

♪ **Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

*Mark 10:47*

## **Gloria in Excelsis † *Glory in the Highest***

*Tune: TLH 34*

♪ **All glory, praise, and blessing  
to God the holy Trinity,  
For planting and sustaining  
our faith in Him who sets us free,  
On whom our trust is founded,  
our house built on a rock,  
Our life by grace surrounded,  
our Shepherd's precious flock,  
Dear children to Him clinging,  
who welcomed once again,  
Join saints and angels singing,  
'Amen, Amen, Amen!'**

## **The Salutation**

**P:** The LORD be with you.

**C:** (spoken) **And also with you.**

*2 Timothy 4:22*

## **Prayer of the Day**

**P:** Let us pray... O God by the leading of a star You manifested Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles; mercifully grant that we, who know You now by faith, may after this life enjoy the fullness of your glorious Godhead, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

**C:** ♪ **Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 2:2-5*

Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD'S house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. **3** Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. **4** He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore. **5** O house of Jacob, come and let us walk In the light of the LORD.

**C: ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## Gospel Reading

*Matthew 3:13-17*

**C: ♪ Glory be to You, O Lord!**

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. **14** And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" **15** But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. **16** When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. **17** And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

**C: ♪ Praise be to You, O Christ!**

## Confession of Faith

*Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

**Children's Sermon**

*Why was Jesus Baptized?*

**Hymn of the Day**      *TLH 134 "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"*

**Sermon**

*2 Corinthians 4:3-6*

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, **4** whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. **5** For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. **6** For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

## **The Glory of God Is Revealed**

**1. In the Face of Jesus Christ**

**2. In the Heart of the Believer**

*Preaching today: Pastor Joe Naumann*

## Offertory

♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me with Your free spirit. Amen. *Psalm 51:10-12*

## Sermon Hymn

*WS 775 “Thy Strong Word”*

## Offering and Offering Hymn

*127:3*

C: ♪ As they offered gifts most rare  
at Thy cradle, rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin’s alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King!

## The General Prayer and 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 #655 “I Pray Thee, Dear Lord Jesus”*

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## LAST WEEK

<u>IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH</u>	<u>CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION</u>
<u>( DEC 31-JAN 4 REPORTED)</u>	<u>\$441</u> CLC General Budget (CBP)
<b><u>Budgetary</u></b>	<b><u>\$325</u></b> CLC Mission Development (MDF)
<b><u>\$15,312.53</u></b> Current Expenses	<b><u>\$254</u></b> Kinship
 <b><u>Non-Budgetary</u></b>	
<b><u>\$250</u></b> Christmas/Advent	Scan this QR code to contribute via CashApp 
<b><u>\$270</u></b> New Year's Eve	
<b><u>\$864.08</u></b> New Years Day	
<b><u>\$200</u></b> ILS Student Aid	
<b><u>\$320</u></b> Land Purchase	
<b><u>\$601</u></b> Benevolent	
<b><u>\$30</u></b> ILS Foundation	
<b><u>\$2,500</u></b> Undesignated	
<b><u>\$1</u></b> Major Improvement	

New Year's Eve 12/31: **100**

Saturday Worship 1/3: **59**

New Year's Day: **101**

Sunday Worship 1/4: **190**

Sunday School: **18**

Adult Bible Class: **52**

Location	Active	Time	Day of the week	Type	# Souls
Laurel's Edge	Yes	10:00 AM	1st & 3rd Monday	Worship	11
Oak Terrace	Yes	10:00 AM	Every Tuesday	Study	8
New Perspective	Yes	10:15 AM	1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	Study	7
Oak Terrace	Yes	9:00 AM	Every Thursday	Study	12
Men's Breakfast	Yes	6:30 AM	Every Friday	Study	29
Autumn Grace	Yes	11:15 AM	2nd, 4th Friday	Worship	7
Number of souls finding comfort in God's Word this week:					74
Thank you to our volunteer laymen who we've called to continue to help lead these services!					

## THIS WEEK

Sat Jan 10	6:00p	Divine Worship Service
	7:00p	Adult Bible Class
Sun Jan 11	9:00a	Adult Bible Class/ Sunday School
	9:00a	Radio Sermon: KTOE 1420AM or 102.7FM
	10:00a	Divine Worship Service
		Live Stream – <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
	11:00a	Sunday School Teacher's Meeting
	6:00p	Sunday Night Basketball
Mon Jan 12	7:00p	Special Voters Meeting

Tues Jan 13	7:00p	Board of Education Meeting
	7:00p	Board of Property Meeting
Wed Jan 14	5:00p	6-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Doctrine Class
Thur Jan 15	5:00p	Board of Deacons Meeting
	6:15p	Church Choir Practice
	7:30p	Church Council Meeting
Fri Jan 16	6:30a	Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
Sat Jan 17	6:00p	Divine Worship Service 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Communion
	7:00p	Adult Bible Class
Sun Jan 18	9:00a	Adult Bible Class / Sunday School
	9:00a	Radio Sermon: KTOE 1420AM or 102.7FM
	10:00a	Divine Worship Service 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Communion
	6:00p	Sunday Night Basketball

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Special Voters Meeting- 7pm January 12<sup>th</sup>

Annual Voters Meeting- 7pm January 19<sup>th</sup>

Whitewater Trip- January 23-25<sup>th</sup>

## IMMANUEL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TWIN STEEPLES PODCAST** Our Pastors produce a weekly podcast containing a devotion, weekly updates, and more. [Listen here.](#)

**INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?** New classes are beginning all the time! Please contact our pastors at your convenience. We look forward to welcoming you into our family!

**COMMUNICATION AT IMMANUEL** is very important to the ministry that God has entrusted to us all. To keep those lines of communication open, email groups have been created so that you can voice your thoughts and concerns to the appropriate leaders and boards at Immanuel. To communicate with any of the groups below, simply address an email to the corresponding email address and it will be sent to the entire group.

**Board of Education:** [Board-of-Education@ImmanuelMankato.org](mailto:Board-of-Education@ImmanuelMankato.org)

**Board of Elders:** [Board-of-Elders@ImmanuelMankato.org](mailto:Board-of-Elders@ImmanuelMankato.org)

**Board of Deacons:** [Board-of-Deacons@ImmanuelMankato.org](mailto:Board-of-Deacons@ImmanuelMankato.org)

**Board of Property:** [Board-of-Property@ImmanuelMankato.org](mailto:Board-of-Property@ImmanuelMankato.org)

**Finance Committee:** [Finance-Committee@ImmanuelMankato.org](mailto:Finance-Committee@ImmanuelMankato.org)

**Church Council:** [Church-Council@ImmanuelMankato.org](mailto:Church-Council@ImmanuelMankato.org)

**SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING** Special Voter's Meeting on **January 12<sup>th</sup>** 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).**

**WHITEWATER WEEKEND!** Date: **January 23-25, 2026** (Friday-Sunday)  
Age: High School through 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup>. Payment is DUE before departure. We hope you can attend this spiritual edifying trip where we can grow together in Christ!

**ANNUAL REPORTS** If you serve on a board or committee, please submit your Annual Report to the church secretary no later than **January 14<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you!

**IMMANUEL WOMEN WHO HIKE** Our winter hike is scheduled for **Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> starting at 12:30pm**. We are planning Nerstrand State Park! We will meet at 12:30pm in the CHUCH parking lot to caravan or carpool to the park. Hope to see you there! Let Hilary Lien know if you have questions.

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

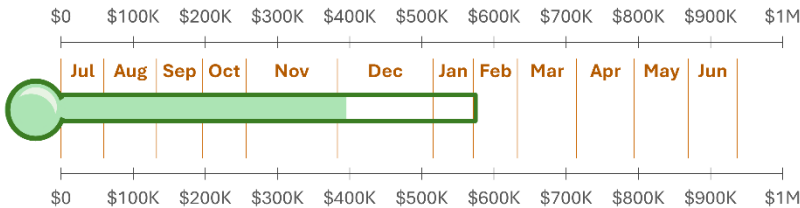
## FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

### Plate Offerings

As Of 1/4/2026

Total Need: \$936,655  
Received To Date: \$395,857

Remaining Need (January): \$175,706  
Remaining Need (Fiscal Year): \$540,798



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

## SYNOD ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SYNOD CALLS** Pastor Emeritus John Schierenbeck has received the vacancy call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA. <> Mr. Peter Reim has received the vacancy call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI, has received the part-time call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Joe Naumann of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, has received the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ.

**CLC MISSION HELPER TRIP 2026** 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](http://www.mht.lutheranmissions.org).

**CLC MISSION PRAYERS** The Philippines (Southeast Asia) – One of the two Lutheran Autonomous Mission in the Philippines (LAMP) congregations is experiencing significant growth with new members, increased attendance, and baptisms. Six more adults and children will be baptized on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Work continues a donated worship and classroom space in Pastor Jordan's home village. A small MDF grant was recently sent to help purchase chairs, tables, and other furnishings. Please pray for the LAMP outreach efforts so that more people may repent of their sins and rejoice in the forgiveness of Jesus Christ. Thank the Lord for recent growth and ask for His blessings on these new members. Pray that the Lord provides everything necessary to complete the new worship and training facility.

# Special Meeting: Johnson Property

Monday, January 12th at 7pm

## Agenda Items

- Membership Matters
- Council motions to enter into the purchase agreement for the Johnson Property.
- Council motions to authorize Expansion Relocation Committee (ERC) to handle the due diligence evaluation and contingency terms of the Johnson purchase agreement. If the terms are satisfied, the President and Secretary of the Congregation are authorized to sign the final paperwork and close on the purchase.

## Summary of Motions

The first motion "*Membership Matters*" is always included on the agenda. This allows for any new voters to be added so long as they meet eligibility requirements.

The second motion is entering into the purchase agreement. The ERC, including and especially Karl Friedrichs, drafted a purchase agreement that has been signed by the seller. The purchase agreement is not being published due to an agreement to keep the sale information confidential but *any* Immanuel member may email church@immanuelmankato.org to receive a digital copy, or pick one up in the church office.

The third motion is *very* important. This gives the ERC the authority to take the steps to verify all of the contingencies (see below) are satisfied, and if they are, the congregational President (Zachary Lien) and the Secretary of the Congregation (Alan Olmanson) will then complete the remaining paperwork and close on the property.

## Contingencies of the Purchase Agreement

- Financing
  - Qualify for financing
- Development Evaluation
  - Ensure zoning classifications are appropriate for our needs.
- Soil Conditions/Wetlands
  - Wetland delineation study for future building without requiring major soil preparation
- Setbacks/Impervious Surface
  - Determining that setbacks, ditches, and drainage will work with our needs
- Annexation/Subdivisions
  - Property is adjacent to City of North Mankato, but not yet annexed. ERC will evaluate the cost required for such an annexation as well as cost of subdivision plats.
- Environmental Evaluation
  - ERC may conduct a Phase I environmental assessment.
- Utilities
  - ERC may reach out to ensure utilities are accessible for any needs on the land as well as a high-voltage power line analysis.
- Assessments
  - ERC will make sure the amount of assessments on the property are accurate.
- Archeological/Historical Evaluation
  - ERC may arrange for some evaluations to verify that there's nothing preventing use of the land
- Public Access
  - ERC will reach out to local governments to guarantee sufficient walkways, roads, and highway access to the land.



*2026 CLC Mission Helper Trip*

# AFRICA

*Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia, Uganda*

**APPLY AT** [www.mht.lutheranmissions.org](http://www.mht.lutheranmissions.org)

**Application deadline: January 18, 2026**

**Contact: Pastor Tom Naumann**  
[tomnaumann.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:tomnaumann.pastor@gmail.com)





Pastor Joe Naumann	920-266-5386
Pastor Nathanael Mayhew	404-729-4602
Secretary Hilary Lien	507-345-3027 Ext 104
Principal Rick Mariner	507-317-0805
Secretary Amanda Harris	507-345-3027 Ext 103

## We Thank Those Serving Us Today

(2<sup>nd</sup> Weekend of the Month)

**PASTOR** Joe Naumann

**DEACON** Mac Friedrichs

**ORGANIST** Vickie Schreyer

**SCREEN** J Furst, G Harris

**HEAD USHER** Paul Bade

**ASST USHER** Mike Schweim

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

## Serving Us Next Weekend

(3<sup>rd</sup> Weekend of the Month)

**PASTOR** Nathanael Mayhew

**DEACON** Joe Friedrichs

**ORGANIST** Friedrichs/Mayhew

**SCREEN** Furst/ Carstensen

**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

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Theme

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Notes

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

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

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

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