



The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church

February
2025

February and the season of Epiphany is normally a quiet time. A time of rest between the hectic season of Christmas and the beginning of Lent as we prepare for our journey to Jerusalem and Easter morn. On February 11th, Immanuel will host a synod boundary workshop for area clergy on racial justice. The Lutheran church remains one of the whitest denominations in America despite our efforts to become more diverse. The membership of our own church reflects that lack of diversity. It's not that we are unwelcoming to people of other races. We just don't seem to know how to attract a more diverse group of members.

Following is a description of the workshop we will be hosting: Along with many other synods across this church, the Central States Synod is committed to a three-year cycle of boundary education encompassing basic boundaries, gender justice, and racial justice. In February 2025, we are hosting racial justice education workshops across the synod. Based on a report from the churchwide boundary education task force, we expect our rostered and synod authorized ministers to engage in this work for the following reasons:

Theological Imperative: Our Lutheran theology teaches us that we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves and to work for justice in all aspects of life. As disciples of Christ, we are compelled to address ongoing racial injustice and work towards a more equitable society that reflects God's love for all people.

Denominational Commitment: The ELCA has made clear and strong commitments to racial justice. By engaging in racial justice work, we are fulfilling our church's proclamation to "speak with one voice against racism and white supremacy" and to "stand with those who are targets of racist ideologies and actions."

Witness to the World: In a world often divided by racial tensions, our engagement in racial justice work serves as a powerful witness to the reconciling power of the Holy Spirit. By actively working to dismantle racism within our church and communities, we are witness to the transformative love of Christ and offer hope for a more just and peaceful world.

Congregational and Community Vitality: Engaging in racial justice work strengthens our congregations, organizations, and communities by fostering deeper understanding, empathy, and authentic relationships across racial and cultural lines. This work helps create more inclusive and welcoming faith communities that better reflect the diversity of God's creation and the communities we serve.

Personal and Communal Growth: Racial justice education and action provide opportunities for profound personal and communal growth. By examining our own biases, learning about systemic racism, and working to create change, we grow in faith, expand our perspectives, and become more effective ministers of the Gospel.

Although our workshop is designed for the clergy, as Christians we are each called to do a personal inventory of our own attitudes towards those who seem "different" than us. Love thy neighbor means all our neighbors but that is not always easy. In these final days of Epiphany as we prepare for Lent my we each take the time to examine ourselves as we earnestly pray

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. (Psalm 19:14)*

Amen.

Welcoming All. Growing Together in Faith. Sharing Christ & Love

WAYS YOU CAN SERVE AT CHURCH:



Ministry Teams are the groups of volunteers that give life to our congregation! They are most effective when

many people participate in them. If you have an interest, passion, or simply want to help in any of these areas, please attend a meeting or contact a Council member serving on that team.

Evangelism: Explores and implements various ideas for sharing the Gospel.

Finance: Manages the finances of the church.

Memorials: Oversees the donations that have been given as a memorial.

Missions: Plans various mission events.

Property: Oversees the care of the building and property.

Stewardship: Lifts up ways of giving our whole self (time, talent & resources) as an offering to God.

Worship and Music: Selects hymns and plans worship services.

Youth & Education: Guides the youth & education opportunities.

Congregation Council Action December 2024:

Approved Housing Allowance for Pastor Jacque.

Approved the 2025 Budget to be recommended to the congregation.

Share Shed

Our Share Shed continues to be a source of relief and comfort for our neighbors in need. Clothing, blankets and personal care items are always in need. Donations may also be purchased from our Amazon Wish List <http://bit.ly/ImmanuelShareShed>. Thank you for your support of this ministry.



Worship is a vital part of our ministry! Please consider the ways you can share your gifts in worship.

Greeter ~ Welcomes worshippers.

Usher ~ Hands out bulletins, collects offering, directs worshippers to the communion rail.

iPad ~ Starts and ends the Facebook livestream.

Acolyte ~ Lights the candles.

Cantor ~ Song leader for the liturgy.

Assisting Minister ~ Reads all the prayers and the dismissal.

Lector ~ Reads the lessons.

Children's Sermon ~ Prepares and leads the children's sermon.

Communion Assistant ~ Serves the wine during communion.

Fellowship Hour Host ~ Prepares and serves coffee and treat following worship.

Altar Guild ~ is always looking for new members to help prepare the sanctuary for worship.

Worship volunteer sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board outside Pastor's office. For questions about Altar Guild, please contact Monica Davis.

Altar Flowers



Altar flowers may be placed in memory or honor of someone or occasion. Cost is \$20. A special bouquet may also be placed in memory or honor of someone or occasion. It is your responsibility to purchase and have the special bouquet delivered by noon on Friday. For more information, con-

tact the church office.

Dear Immanuel Friends, Just wanted to say thank you for all the beautiful cards (and goodies!) you have sent; each time I open one it's like a breath of fresh air! I/we are grateful for your kindness and remembrance...God Bless All!

Love, Cassie & John Deming

Thank you for remembering me. What a nice surprise to see Janet (Ireton), when she came for a visit at Presbyterian Manor and gave me a gift from the WELCA women—so very nice. I really miss being on the committees I was on. It is really great to be a part of our church family. I am doing OK, slow and slower, but OK. Have met a lot of nice people, but do miss all my friends at Immanuel. Again, thank you and God bless you all.

Dannie Tillberg



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Winter Weather

Please know that any cancellations of church activities will be posted on the congregational

Facebook group (private) and page (public), KSAL.com and local radio/TV stations that we are able to contact. If you feel the roads are not safe to travel on, please stay home!

Summer Camp at Tomah Shinga Registration is open!

<https://camptomahshinga.com/summer-camp>

Immanuel pays half of the Early Bird cost for our students to attend camp. Early Bird registration ends April 1, 2024.

PLEASE let Mindy know if you:

- register for camp (so the church can pay its share).
- need additional financial assistance.

March 1-8 we will be hosting an Alternative Spring Break group from Grand Valley State University. This group of college students and sponsors will be spending their days volunteering at Ashby House with serving as their home base. We welcome and thank them for serving our community!

Love Makes Us Worthy

Unlike God, who loves unconditionally, humans often make choices and set limits when doling out affection. But Thomas Merton reminds us, "Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy."

Mark Your Calendars

March 10	Daylight Savings begins
April 13	Palm Sunday
April 17	Maundy Thursday
April 18	Good Friday
April 20	Easter Sunday

Do you have an article for the Messenger?

Please send information to office@immanuelsalina.org

Deadline for the newsletter is the 15th of the month.

CONTACT US:

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Wednesday, February 5

5:30-7:00 pm

All ages are invited to get messy together through games, crafts and activities, music, and Biblical storytelling. Walking tacos will be served beginning at 5:30 pm, activities begin at 6:00 pm.

Sunday, February 9

Salina Souper Bowl of Hope

Project Salina invites us to join in their mission of gathering 59,000 cans of soup in conjunction with Super Bowl 59. A \$30 donation will purchase 50 cans of soup. We will collect donations until Super Bowl Sunday, February 9.



On **Tuesday, February 11 from 9:30 am-3:00 pm**, Immanuel will host a synodical Rostered Leaders Racial Justice Workshop. Pastor Jacque and Mindy will be participating in the workshop.

Flower Delivery Volunteers

Volunteers and vehicles are needed to deliver flowers for Valentine's Day on February 13 & 14 for the Dillon's store on Cloud. To volunteer, see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. Monies raised will be used for youth events.



WELCA

Monday, February 17 at 1:30 pm

All women are invited to join the monthly meeting and Bible study.

Altar Guild

Wednesday, February 19

Altar Guild gathers at 5:15 pm to plan for upcoming worship services.



Annual Chili Cook-Off Sunday, February 23

Bring your favorite chili recipe to the competition or just come to taste and vote. Come for worship at 9:30 am and stay for the fun!

February Worship Volunteers as of 01/16/2025

	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
Greeter				
Usher				
iPad				
Acolyte				
Cantor				
Assisting Minister				
Lector	Corlene Lange			
Children's Sermon				
Communion Assistant				
Altar Guild Communion Care	Connie Beisner	Corlene Lange	Janet Ireton	Monica Davis
Fellowship Hosts	Arpin's		Herron's	

March Worship Volunteers as of 01/16/2025

	March 2	March 9 <i>Daylight Savings</i>	March 16	March 23	March 30
Greeter					
Usher					
iPad					
Acolyte					
Cantor					
Assisting Minister					
Lector					
Children's Sermon					
Communion Assistant					
Altar Guild Communion Care	Beisner, Looney, & Hodge	Kathy Herron	Corlene Lange		
Fellowship Hosts					