



The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church

December
2025



*I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
Isaiah 43:19*



The old church year ended on Christ the King Sunday, November 23rd. Our new year, Year A, began on the first Sunday of Advent, November 30th. What new things might God be preparing to do here at Immanuel with this new beginning? What new things might God be preparing to do in your life?

December starts with the Advent season and a new worship setting, Setting Ten. Advent is traditionally a four-week season of preparation leading up to Christmas. It is also a time to prepare while we wait for the Second Coming of our Lord. During Advent, we light a candle in the Advent wreath each week – candles for hope, peace, joy, and love. In addition to our Sunday services, we have midweek Advent services on December 3rd, 10th, and 17th at 12:15. Our midweek theme this year is Preparing in Christ's Presence.

As we prepare and wait for our Lord, now is an excellent time to review the past year and contemplate the year to come. Are there things we can do to lighten our schedule in order to spend more time with God? What traditions remain important enough to keep and which have stopped having meaning for us? What new ideas can we try to rebuild our enthusiasm and participation in the body of Christ, the church?

The month ends with our Christmas Eve service and our Service of Lessons and Carols on the last Sunday of the month. In the busyness of the season, the shopping and gift wrapping, the decorating and celebrating, may we remember the real meaning of this final month of the calendar year, the greatest gift the world has ever received, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Your church is here waiting for you, calling you home as we prepare for the coming of our Lord and our Lord prepares to do a new thing here at Immanuel.

Pastor Jacque



Dear Lord,

*You have brought us to Christmastime once more.
Help us not to get lost in the glitter and the glow,
but to see the true glory of the birth of Your only be-
gotten Son. Keep our hearts from clinging too tight-
ly to parties, presents and decorations, and turn our
eyes instead to Christ — who bears Your very image
and brings us Your message of love and hope.
In the glorious name of Christ, we pray. Amen.*

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



2026 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for next year are available for pick-up in the narthex. If you are visiting one of our homebound members, please feel free to deliver their envelopes!

Greetings from Montana!

My internship has been full of meaningful learning and hands-on ministry experiences. This fall, I participated in my regional internship retreat—being the only intern in Montana made it especially valuable to connect with others in similar roles. At St. John's United, the nursing facility where I serve, I wrote and led a devotional for their "delegate day," when sponsor congregations come to learn more about the ministry. I've also had the opportunity to help plan and lead a funeral service, which was a profound learning experience, and I'm now preparing for a potential baptism, another milestone I'm excited to be part of.

Both of my internship sites include pre-kindergarten programs, and leading weekday chapel with the children has become a highlight. Most recently, I taught them about David and Goliath and how God helps us do hard things, even when we're scared.

Outside of my ministry work, I've enjoyed a few creative outlets—finishing both a welding class and a calligraphy class, and now learning to crochet from one of my residents between spirited (and often unsuccessful!) rounds of Wii bowling.

Thank you for continued support of my journey through seminary and internship. I am grateful for you!

Peace, *Megan Mong*
Word & Sacrament Ministry candidate

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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Church office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-12:30 pm.



End of Year Giving

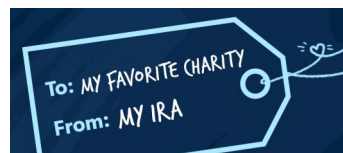
Thank you for financially partnering with us this year as we have sought to be the hands and feet of God in our community and beyond! We are so grateful for your support in what God is doing in and through Immanuel. Although the year is quickly drawing to a close, our financial needs continue. As of October 31 we are \$40,000 short of funds. We ask that you prayerfully consider the ministry of Immanuel in your end of the year giving decisions. With your generosity, we can eliminate our debt and begin 2026 with a solid foundation for our continued ministry of sharing God's love with others.

If you have any questions about the finance reports, please contact Gary Arpin, Treasurer; any Church Council member; or Corlene Lange, Finance Committee Chair.



Winter Weather

As we enter the season of winter weather advisories, 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 it is unsafe to travel, please stay home!



Immanuel Lutheran Church accepts qualified charitable distributions (QCD) from an IRA. This provision of the Internal Revenue code allows an individual, age 70 1/2 or over, who owns an IRA to get tax relief from a distribution from the IRA that is paid directly from the IRA to a qualified charity. Consult with your tax advisor for details.

Congregation Council Action from October 2025:

Elizabeth Group officially disbanded and monies forwarded to Altar Guild.



Midweek Worship December 3, 10 & 17 12:15 pm

Join us each Wednesday in Advent as we reflect on scripture and prepare for Christ's presence.

Week 1 ~ Do Less.

What can you let go of or erase from your to-do list in order to be more present with Christ this Advent?

Week 2 ~ Experience Wonder

How can we experience wonder for God's works and be fed by wonder in the midst of this busy season?

Week 3 ~ Hold on to Hope

How can we hold on to hope in the midst of the world's troubles?

Midweek Advent Offering

Midweek Advent offering is designated for Sunflower Adult Day Services. Sunflower's mission is to enhance and promote the independence and quality of life for older or disabled adults and their caregivers, enabling them to stay in their own home as long as possible.

Sunflower practices client centered care. Their friendly atmosphere and compassionate, highly skilled staff, ensure a safe and secure environment and peace of mind for caregivers while providing nursing care, activities, and promote social interaction.

Donations, marked "Midweek Offering" may be placed in the offering plate during midweek or Sunday worship.

Altar Guild

Wednesday, Dec 3 at 1:00 pm
Decorate for Christmas.

Wednesday, Jan 7 at 3:00 pm
Take down Christmas decorations.

Wednesday, Jan 21 at 5:15 pm
Monthly meeting. Come join us!
New members are welcome.



Wednesday, December 3 5:30-7:00 pm

5:30 pm Gathering & Dinner
6:00 pm Messy Activities

Come, begin preparations for Christ's birth! All ages are invited to get messy together through games, crafts, singing, and Biblical storytelling.

Youth Group Angel Shopping & Christmas Party

Sat, Dec 6 * 9:00-11:30am

We will gather at Walmart (south doors) to shop for our Salvation Army Angel. Once we are done shopping, we will go to brunch.

Christmas Candles

Altar Guild is selling candles to decorate the sanctuary for the holiday season. Cost is \$10 per candle. Contact the church office by Monday, December 8 to place your order.



Candlelight Worship
Tuesday, December 24
7:00 pm

Lessons & Carols
Sunday, December 28
9:30 am



Year End Reports Due December 31

As 2025 comes to an end, Ministry Team chairs and organizational leaders need to submit year-end written reports to church office by December 31. Financial reports are due to the church office after December bank statements have been received.



The church office will be closed Dec 22-Jan 2.

DECEMBER Worship Volunteers *(as of 11/20/25)*

	Dec 7	Dec 14	Dec 21	Dec 24 Christmas Eve	Dec 28
Greeter					
Usher					
iPad				XXXX	
Acolyte					
Cantor	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
Assisting Minister				Sydney Bacon	
Lector	Janet Ireton			Sydney Bacon	
Children's Sermon					
Communion Assistant					
Altar Guild Communion Care	Carol Ann Sloo	Connie Beisner	Monica Davis	Corlene Lange, Diana Looney	Kathy Herron
Fellowship Hosts				XXXX	

JANUARY Worship Volunteers *(as of 11/20/25)*

	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25
Greeter				
Usher				
iPad				
Acolyte				
Cantor	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
Assisting Minister				
Lector				
Children's Sermon				
Communion Assistant				
Altar Guild Communion Care	Kathy Herron	Corlene Lange, Kathy Herron	Connie Beisner	
Fellowship Hosts				