



The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church

January
2026

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven...
Ecclesiastes 3:1

With the start of the New Year here at Immanuel, we embark on a new season in the life of our church. While our attendance is slowly increasing, we are still unable to balance our budget. For several years, we have found it necessary to borrow from our reserves in order to meet our expenditures. Just as in our personal lives we cannot continually spend more than we bring in, the same is true for our church. Simply put, our reserves will run out.

So, our council has authorized our Council President to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to explore the future possibilities for Immanuel. If you have an interest in serving on such a committee or if you have suggestions or ideas, please contact your president, the pastor, or your other council members. We have already come up with a number of opportunities to explore. We don't wish to scare you; the church is not in immediate danger of having to close its doors. But our financial situation is becoming a matter of urgency and we want to be able to control our future before our future controls us.

In the meantime, we ask that you pray for guidance for our leaders as we look to the future. As we accumulate our information to pay our taxes in the new year, we ask that you reexamine your tithing. And finally, let us all ask ourselves why our church exists. What is our purpose here at Immanuel? What is God doing here? What is God asking us to do? With God's help, may we discern how to continue to serve God's purpose here in our community and our world in this new season of our church. Amen.

Pastor Jacque

Sunday Volunteers Needed

Please consider sharing your gifts in our worship!

Greeter ~ Welcomes worshippers.

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

iPad ~ Starts and ends the Facebook live-stream.

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 treats following worship.

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



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

Year-End Giving

As we approach the end of the year, we prayerfully ask that you continue to consider Immanuel Lutheran Church in your year-end giving. Your ongoing commitment is deeply appreciated. All contributions dated December 31, 2025 or prior will be posted to the 2025 records.

Dear Friends at Immanuel,
Thank you so much for the flowers, ornament, and recognition of the 25th anniversary of my ordination as a Minister of Word and Service. My 29 years of ministry at Immanuel have been a joy. This congregation—YOU—have been blessing to me. Thank you.

Mindy Tillberg, Deacon

Please notify the church office when...

...You or a family member is hospitalized. Also, let the hospital chaplain know you would like a visit from Pastor Jacque.

...You have a change of address.

...Your phone number has changed.

...Your email address has changed.

...Members of your family are students attending school away from home or are living at a different address.

Congregation Council Action from November 2025:

Approved recommendations to purchase 3 new desktop computers compatible with Windows 11 and request up to \$4,000 from the Foundation to cover the costs.

Approved recommendation to request up to \$5,000 from the Foundation for the roof deductible.

Approved recommendation to request additional funding of \$13,700 from the Foundation for additional housing fund needs.

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:

255 S. 7th St.....Salina, KS 67401
Church office.....(785) 825-4750
Jacqueline Thornton, Pastor.....pastorjacque@immanuelsalina.org
Mindy Tillberg, Deacon.....office@immanuelsalina.org
Church office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-12:30 pm.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your gift of \$50 to ELCA World Hunger. Your gift to the ministry of the ELCA helps people around the world feel the power and hope that flow from God's full, boundless love.

Rev. Daniel Rift

Director, Congregational Giving

Thank you for your \$325 contribution to Project Salina. Your donation allows us to continue to support agencies in the Salina community.

Kristina Litchman, Treasurer

(May 2025 Project Salina donation)

We praise God for your support! Your church is a reflection of God's love in action, assisting women and families on their path to stability.

Darrell Burgoon, Ashby House

(\$527.50 from Hot Times)

Thank you for your congregation's gift. I am so grateful for your generous support of Lutheran World Relief! It is because of caring congregations like yours that LWR has been able to serve our hurting world for over 80 years, and it is because of your compassion that our ministry together will continue helping children and families who need it most.

Daniel Speckhard, President & CEO

(\$527.50 from Hot Times)

On behalf of the Emergency Aid Food Bank, I want to extend our sincere gratitude for your generosity. Your gift of \$128.40 helps our efforts to provide for the needs of those experiencing food insecurity in Saline County. Your gift makes a difference!

Karen Couch, Executive Director

(God's Work Our Hands Sunday offering)

Thank you so much for the lovely cards you always send us. They brighten the day when I see them on my wall where I tape them up so we can see them each day. You people at Immanuel are definitely God's angels and the minister is too. We really appreciated the bag of goodies you left.

Deanne Owsley

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!



Wired Word Adult Bible Study Sundays at 11:00 am

Join Pastor Jacque each Sunday morning for an adult education opportunity that relates current events to Scripture creating thought-provoking, stimulating discussions every week!

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 you can find Team meetings on the enclosed church calendar.



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.



Wednesday, January 7

5:30 pm Dinner

6:00 pm Messy Activities

All ages are invited to get messy together through games, crafts, singing, and Biblical storytelling.

Altar Guild

Wednesday, Jan 7 at 3:00 pm

Take down decorations

Wednesday, Jan 21 at 5:15 pm

Immanuel Altar Guild gathers in the upstairs conference room. January brings new Committee assignments and Elections. We welcome present members along with any interested new members!

Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 25 10:45 am

All are encouraged to attend this celebration of our 2025 ministries!

The meeting will immediately follow worship in the sanctuary. Please see the enclosed proposed 2026 budget.



2026 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2026 are available for pick-up. If you are visiting one of our homebound members, please feel free to deliver their envelopes!

Chili Cook-Off

February 15 following worship

Get your best chili recipe ready!!



Summer Camp Registration Open



All Immanuel students receive a scholarship for half of the Early Bird price at Camp Tomah Shinga. Visit camptomahshinga.com to see the camp schedule. For more info, contact Mindy Tillberg 785-825-4750.

February Worship Volunteers *(as of 12/16/25)*

	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
Greeter				
Usher				
iPad				
Acolyte				
Cantor				
Assisting Minister				
Lector				
Children's Sermon				
Communion Assistant				
Altar Guild Communion Care				
Fellowship Hosts				

JANUARY Worship Volunteers *(as of 12/16/25)*

	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25
Greeter				
Usher				
iPad				
Acolyte				
Cantor	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
Assisting Minister	Mindy Tillberg	Pam Michel		Pam Michel
Lector	Mindy Tillberg			
Children's Sermon				
Communion Assistant				
Altar Guild Communion Care	Kathy Herron	Corlene Lange & Kathy Herron	Connie Beisner	
Fellowship Hosts				