

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the North American Lutheran Church  
920 Fillmore Street – Whitewood, SD 57793 – 605-269-2104

[www.immanuellutheranwhitewoodsd.com](http://www.immanuellutheranwhitewoodsd.com)

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*Immanuel means “God With Us”*

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First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2025

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## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

☞ In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

☛ Amen.

☞ Amid the darkness of this world, let us confess our sin  
and welcome the light of God’s forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

☞ God of grace and truth,

☛ In Christ Jesus you come among us  
as light shining in the darkness.

**We confess that we have not welcomed the light,  
and have not trusted the good news of great joy.**

**Forgive us and renew our hope,  
so that we may live in the fullness of your love,  
trusting in the grace of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

☞ The angel said, “You shall call his name Jesus for he will  
save his people from their sins.” With great joy, I announce to  
you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the  
Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☛ Amen.

**\*HYMN, “Let All Together Praise Our God” (vv. 1-4) Hymn 47**

*Green Book*

1. Let all together praise our God  
Before his glorious throne;  
Today he opens heav’n again  
To give us his own Son,  
To give us his own Son.

2. The Father sends him from his throne  
To be an infant small  
And lie here poorly manged now  
In this cold, dismal stall,  
In this cold, dismal stall.

3. Within an earth-born form he hides  
His all creating light;  
To serve us all he humbly cloaks  
The splendor of his might,  
The splendor of his might.

4. He undertakes a great exchange,  
Puts on our human frame,  
And in return gives us his realm,  
His glory, and his name,  
His glory, and his name.

**\*CHRISTMAS DIALOG**

**P** The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light.

*Isaiah 9:2*

**C** The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.

*John 1:5*

**P** Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness,  
on them light has shined.

*Isaiah 9:2*

**C** We have beheld Christ’s glory,  
glory as of the only Son from the Father.

*John 1:14*

**P** For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

*Isaiah 9:6*

**C** In him was life,  
and the life was the light of all people.

*John 1:4*

**\*HYMN, “Let All Together Praise Our God” (vv. 5-7) Hymn 47**

5. He is a servant, I a lord:

*Green Book*

How great a mystery!

How strong the tender Christchild’s love!

No truer friend than he,

No truer friend than he.

6. He is the key, and he the door

To blessed Paradise;

The angel bars the way no more.

To God our praises rise.

To God our praises rise.

7. Your grace in lowliness revealed,

Lord Jesus, we adore,

And praise to God the Father yield

And Spirit evermore;

We praise you evermore.

*Nikolaus Herman (1480-1561)*

**\*GREETING**

**☐** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**☑ And also with you.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**☐** Let us pray together . . .

**☑ Almighty God,  
you wonderfully created  
and yet more wondrously restored  
the dignity of human nature.**

**In your mercy,  
let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ  
who came to share our humanity,  
and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

### HYMN, “*Away in a Manger*” (vv. 1 & 3)

**LBW Hymn 67**

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

*Green Book*

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.

*American (1885)*

## — WORD —

### FIRST READING, **Isaiah 63:7-9**

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,  
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,  
because of all that the LORD has done for us,  
and the great favor to the house of Israel  
that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

For he said, “Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely;”  
and he became their savior  
in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel  
but his presence that saved them;  
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

*(NRSV)*

**G** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 111

**L** Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**C** Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who delight in them.

**L** Full of honor and majesty is his work,  
and his righteousness endures forever.

**C** He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;  
the LORD is gracious and merciful.

**L** He provides food for those who fear him;  
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

**C** He has shown his people the power of his works,  
in giving them the heritage of the nations.

**L** The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy.

**C** They are established forever and ever,  
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

**L** He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant forever.  
Holy and awesome is his name.

**C** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good understanding.  
His praise endures forever.

*(NRSV)*

## SECOND READING, Galatians 4:4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

*(NRSV)*

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION, “He Came Down”**

He came down that we may have love.  
He came down that we may have love.  
He came down that we may have love,  
Hallelujah for evermore.

*Cameroon*

**\*GOSPEL, Matthew 2:13-23**

☐ The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the second chapter.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

☐ Now after the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

“A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

*(NRSV)*

☐ The Gospel of the Lord. ☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION, “*He Came Down*”**

He came down that we may have hope.  
He came down that we may have hope.  
He came down that we may have hope,  
Hallelujah for evermore.

*Cameroon*

## **SERMON**

**Pastor David James Baer**

## **HYMN, “*What Child Is This*”**

**LBW Hymn 40**

*Green Book*

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

2. Why lies he in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

*William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made;  
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven;**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,**

**and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory**

**to judge the living and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son**

**he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**



*Response:*    **P** Lord, in your mercy,  
                     **C** Hear our prayer.

## OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

## — SACRAMENT —

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**\*PROPER PREFACE FOR CHRISTMAS**

**P** It is indeed right and salutary . . . And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Sanctus

(To the tune of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel")

arr. Toby Rath

O Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord, The one true God of Pow-er and might, Your  
 glo-ry fills the hea-vens and earth, Ho-san-na in the hig - est! Oh blessed, is  
 he, who comes\_ to us who comes in the name of the Lord.

☐ Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.  
In mercy for all fallen world you gave your only Son,  
that all those who believe in him  
should not perish, but have eternal life.

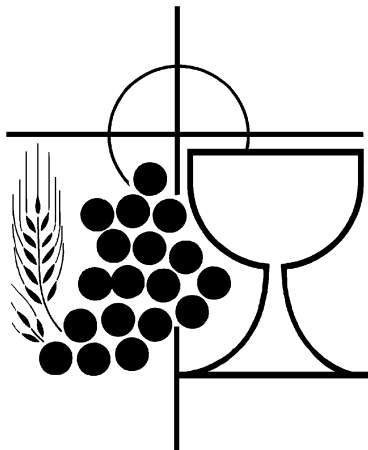
We give thanks to you for the salvation  
you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.  
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,  
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith  
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

☑ **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

☐ In the night in which he was betrayed  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,  
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new testament in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24  
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*



**☩ 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*

**LAMB OF GOD**

Tune: "The First Noel"

Lamb of God, you take away  
the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away  
the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away  
the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

56

*John 1:29*

*Seventh Century Hymn*

**COMMUNION**

*All baptized Christians who trust that Jesus is true to his promise — giving his body and blood with the bread and wine for you for the forgiveness of your sins — are welcome to receive the Lord's Supper with us. White grape juice is available in the center of each tray for those who are unable to receive wine for health reasons. During the distribution of Holy Communion, the congregation sings:*

LBW Hymn 52, "Your Little Ones, Dear Lord"

LBW Hymn 55, "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

LBW Hymn 60, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

# HYMN, “*Your Little Ones, Dear Lord*”

# LBW Hymn 52

*Green Book*

1. Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,  
And come your lowly bed to see;  
Enlighten ev’ry soul and mind,  
That we the way to you may find.

2. With songs we hasten you to greet,  
And kiss the ground before your feet.  
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night  
That gave you birth, our soul’s delight.

3. Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,  
And to us all your grace accord;  
True faith and love to us impart,  
That we may hold you in our heart.

4. Until at last we too proclaim,  
With all your saints, your glorious name;  
In paradise our songs renew,  
And praise you as the angels do.

*Hans A. Brorson (1694-1764)*



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**HYMN, “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”**

**LBW Hymn 55**

*Green Book*

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before him bow,  
And he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

2. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven’s door,  
And we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave;  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
To gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

*Latin Carol (14th Century)*



**HYMN, “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

**LBW Hymn 60**

*Green Book*

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the new-born king;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.”  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic hosts proclaim  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the new-born king!”

2. Christ, by highest heav’n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the new-born king!”

3. Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris’n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise each child of earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the new-born king!”

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*



## **\*COMMUNION BLESSING**

☞ The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his holy and precious blood strengthen and keep you in true faith unto life everlasting.

☞ **Amen.**

*Eighth Century Blessing*

## **\*CANTICLE**

Tune: “*The Bells of Christmas*”

Lord, you have set your servant free  
To go in peace as you declared;  
These eyes of mine at last have seen  
The Savior whom you have prepared;

62

A light which will enlighten all,  
And Israel’s glory equally;  
All glory to the Father, Son,  
And Spirit evermore shall be.

*Luke 2:29-32*

## **\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

☞ Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☞ **Amen.**

## **\*BLESSING**

☞ May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,  
the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the determination of the magi,  
and the peace of the Christ child.

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you, now and forever.

☞ **Amen.**

## \*DISMISSAL

☞ Go in peace. Your Savior has come.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

## \*HYMN, “*The Bells of Christmas*”

**LBW Hymn 62**

*Green Book*

1. The bells of Christmas chime once more;  
The heav’nly guest is at the door.  
He comes to earthly dwellings still  
With new year gifts of peace, good will.

2. This world, though wide and far outspread,  
Could scarcely find for you a bed.  
Your cradle was a manger stall,  
No pearl nor silk nor kingly hall.

3. Now let us go with quiet mind,  
The swaddled babe with shepherds find,  
To gaze on him who gladdens them,  
The loveliest flow’r of Jesse’s stem.

4. Oh, join with me, in gladness sing,  
To keep our Christmas with our king,  
Until our song, from loving souls,  
Like rushing mighty water rolls!

5. O patriarchs’ Joy, O prophets’ Song,  
O Dayspring bright, awaited long,  
O Son of Man, incarnate Word,  
Great David’s Son, great David’s Lord:

6. Come, Jesus, glorious heav’nly guest,  
And keep your Christmas in our breast;  
Then David’s harpstrings, hushed so long,  
Shall swell our jubilee of song.

*Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig (1783-1872)*

## POSTLUDE



**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK:**

Alex and family	Jon Aldren
Don Dubbe	Lenae Ebel
Kirsten Flagstad	Shelley Iverson
Felicity Kramer	Les Nies
Connie Ross	Lois Rudd
Guyla Baer Sturgeon	Carletta and Steve Vasknetz
Anne Vossler	David Wanhannen

Kaleb (great grandson of Jean Sneesby)  
Cheryl Anderson (sister of Corey Halverson)  
Cherry Bieber (friend of Jon and Shelley Iverson)  
Jody Blevins (daughter of Claire and Maxine Ripley)  
Curtis Clark (friend of Patricia Bridgeman)  
Larry Conklin (brother of Claudia Christensen)  
Marla Ebel (sister of Rita Shewmake)  
Doug Karns (friend of Midge and Gail Hemeyer)  
Kris Eide (sister of Ardith Petersen and Lois Rath)  
Melanie Erickson (sister of Brenda Rath)  
Ellen Fiechtner (mother of Ardith Petersen and Lois Rath)  
Wayne Fiechtner (brother of Ardith Petersen and Lois Rath)  
Ronnie Fischer (brother of Judy Haiwick)  
Addie Graves (sister-in-law of Brandon and Alyssa Loll)  
Ernie Griner (11-year-old friend of Meta Halverson)  
Martina Ham (mother of Diane Kunz)  
Doug Hewitt (brother-in-law of Diane Kunz)  
Ike Iverson (father of Jon Iverson)  
Grace Iverson Johnson (daughter of Jon and Shelley Iverson)  
Coleen Iverson-Routh (sister of Jon Iverson)  
Steve Kampfe (son of Garland and Kathy Kampfe)  
Callie Kvanvig (great niece of Ray Follum)  
Lois Meyer (sister-in-law of Midge Hemeyer)  
Michael & Jan Meyer (brother & sister-in-law of Midge Hemeyer)  
Caren Miller (sister of Maxine Ripley)  
Mitch Palmer (friend of Paul Swisher)  
Roy Riley (grandson of Carol Vercoe)  
Tim Ripley (friend of Paul Swisher)  
Faye Ann Ruffcorn (sister of Maxine Ripley)  
Carreen Smith (sister of Mimi Swisher)  
Jeremy Sundby (nephew of Claire and Maxine Ripley)  
Jess Teigen (friend of Amelia Knutson)  
Xayne Vroman (great grandson of Cindy and Harold Davis)  
Traci Westberg (daughter-in-law of Tony and Alona Westberg)  
Melissa Williams (friend of Mark and Mary Tracy)  
Robert Zuhr (brother-in-law of Chris Burleson)  
Zhuang People (unreached people group in China)

## THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL:

<b>Today</b>	9:00 a.m. — Worship
	10:15 a.m. — Coffee Fellowship
	10:25 a.m. — Adult Sunday School
<b>Monday</b>	7:00 a.m. — Men's Group
<b>Next Sunday</b>	9:00 a.m. — Worship
	10:15 a.m. — Coffee Fellowship
	10:15 a.m. — Nominating Committee

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**CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES** for 2025 are available on the table in the library social room. These updates include new addresses and phone numbers submitted since our last update. Our directory is loose leaf so that we can update it regularly. Add these pages to your directory at home and remove any that are outdated. New complete directories are also available.

**A MEN'S GROUP** meets at 7 a.m. on Mondays at the church. They are currently studying the book of 1 Peter. All men are welcome.

**DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON** from the North American Lutheran Church are available online. You can request daily emails or text messages, watch the devotions online, or download a printed copy at [thenalc.org/advent](http://thenalc.org/advent). The devotion for December 26 is by Pastor David.

**OUR MISSION OF THE MONTH** is Churches Care for Whitewood. Churches Care for Whitewood is a cooperative effort of the three churches of Whitewood to care for those in need in the Whitewood area. We provide emergency assistance to individuals and families and hope to provide ongoing support and education to help them make good decisions for their future. Churches Care oversees the Whitewood Food Pantry. Churches Care provides grocery gift certificates for Thanksgiving and Christmas for families in need that are selected by the social worker at Whitewood Elementary School. Mission of the Month highlights one of the ministries supported through your regular giving to Immanuel.

**WELCOME TO ALL** who are worshiping with us today. We especially welcome our visitors. If you are unfamiliar with our worship, one of our members will gladly assist you. Visitors, please be sure to sign the guest register in the narthex. We hope that you will worship with us again soon.

**ALL ARE INVITED** to stay for a time of fellowship following worship. Donuts, coffee, and juice are available. A free-will offering is received to cover expenses.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** meets at 10:25 a.m. on Sundays in the library social room. We are watching an interview series from 1517 featuring Kelsi Klembara. She interviews scholars and authors about various topics. The topics will change regularly, so you can join us for a few weeks or come regularly. This week we will watch an interview with Dr. Dan van Voorhis on the History of Christmas.

**SERVICE TEAM #2** is looking for volunteers to help with serving during January. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the library social room.

**ANNUAL MEETING** of the congregation will be held at 10:25 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 1. Please plan to attend our annual meeting and help us review the past year and plan for the year ahead. Annual reports will be available prior to the meeting.

**WE WILL BE VOTING** at our annual meeting on whether to ratify amendments to the constitution of the North American Lutheran Church. The NALC gives all local congregations a voice in major decisions through this ratification process. Information on the amendments is available on the table in the library social room.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2026** are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Please take your envelopes and use them as you give to God's work through our congregation. Offering envelopes help us to meet our legal obligation to provide tax receipts for giving to Immanuel and serve as a reminder to give regularly. If you did not receive offering envelopes and would like them, please talk to Ray Follum or Pastor David.