

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the North American Lutheran Church  
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*Immanuel means “God With Us”*

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Second Sunday in Advent

December 7, 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, “*Prepare the Royal Highway*”**

**LBW Hymn 26**

*Green Book*

1. Prepare the royal highway;  
The King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
A level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory,  
Foretold in sacred story:  
Hosanna to the Lord,  
For he fulfills God's Word!

2. God's people, see him coming:  
Your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you!  
Hosanna to the Lord,  
For he fulfills God's Word!

3. Then fling the gates wide open  
To greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet every nation  
Its tribute too may bring.  
All lands will bow before him;  
Their voices join your singing:  
Hosanna to the Lord,  
For he fulfills God's Word!

4. His is no earthly kingdom;  
It comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
And justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
For kindness so abounding:  
Hosanna to the Lord,  
For he fulfills God's Word!

*Frans Michael Franzén (1772-1847)*

## **\*GREETING AND LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE**

**P** Grace to you and peace from him who is  
and who was and who is to come.

*Revelation 1:4*

**C And also with you.**

**P** The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end.

**C It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.**

**P** In Advent, we remember the waiting of God's people  
for the coming of the Messiah.

**C We remember Christ's coming to earth to save us.**

**P** In Advent, we remember that God comes to his people  
through the Holy Spirit in Word and Sacrament.

**C We celebrate Christ's coming to us today.**

**P** In Advent, we remember that Jesus will come again  
and we long for that blessed hope.

**C We look forward to Christ's coming again.**

**P** We light this candle mindful of Christ's coming  
and his coming again. We join the hopeful prayer  
of Christians throughout the world:

**C Come, Lord Jesus.**

*The first two candles of the Advent wreath are lit.*



## **\*HYMN, "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"**

*Tune: LBW 108*

1. O Lord, how shall I meet you,  
How welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you,  
My hope, my heart's delight!  
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy,  
Your lamp within my breast  
To do in spirit lowly  
All that may please you best.

4. Love caused your incarnation;  
Love brought you down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation  
Procured my liberty.  
Oh, love beyond all telling,  
That led you to embrace  
In love, all love excelling,  
Our lost and fallen race.

*Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676)*

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**☞ Stir up our hearts, O Lord,  
to prepare the way for your only Son.  
By his coming give us strength in our conflicts  
and shed light on our path  
through the darkness of this world;  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**CHOIR, “*Prepare Ye the Way*”**

### **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 (19th Century)*

# — WORD —

## FIRST READING, Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;

but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

*(NRSV)*

🔊 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 72:1-8, 18-19

📖 Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to a king's son.

👉 **May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice.**

📖 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

👉 **May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the needy,  
and crush the oppressor.**

📖 May he live while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

👉 **May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth.**

📖 In his days may righteousness flourish  
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

👉 **May he have dominion from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.**

📖 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.

👉 **Blessed be his glorious name forever;  
may his glory fill the whole earth.**

**Amen and Amen.**

(*NRSV*)

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## SECOND READING, Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name”;

and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;

and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

℟ The Word of the Lord.

(NRSV)

☩ **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.

*From Cameroon*

**\*GOSPEL, Matthew 3:1-12**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**P** In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” (NRSV)

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **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.



**\*HYMN, “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry” LBW Hymn 36**

1. On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

*Green Book*

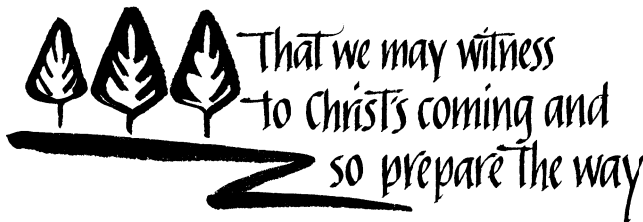
2. Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.

3. We hail you as our Savior, Lord,  
Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without your grace we waste away  
Like flow’rs that wither and decay.

4. Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
And make us rise to fall no more;  
Oh, let your face upon us shine  
And fill the world with love divine.

5. All praise to you, eternal Son,  
Whose advent has our freedom won,  
Whom with the Father we adore,  
And Holy Spirit, evermore.

*Charles Coffin (1676-1749)*



**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

**\*HYMN, “*Let All Together Praise Our God*”**                      **LBW Hymn 47**

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

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.

*Nikolaus Herman (1480-1561)*

— 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.

*Third Century Liturgies*



## \*PROPER PREFACE FOR ADVENT

☞ It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. 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.

LBW 34

Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9

## \*PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION **LBW Page 90**

☞ 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*

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**LBW Page 91**

☑ **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"

56

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.

John 1:29

Seventh Century Hymn

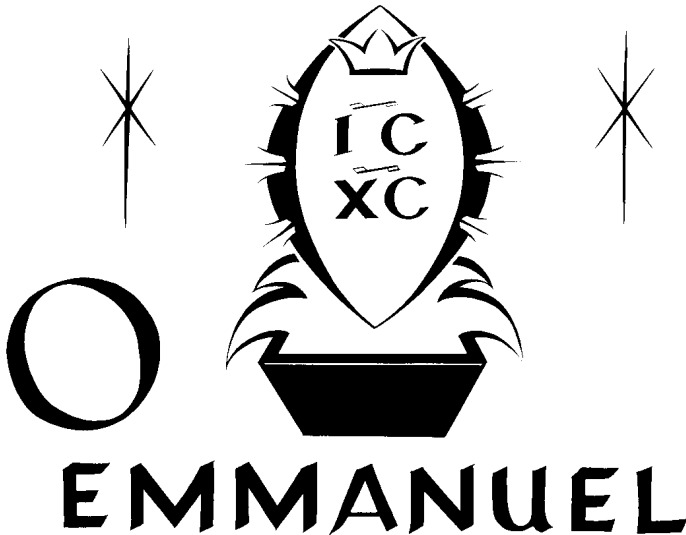
## COMMUNION

*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 35, "Hark! The Glad Sound"

LBW Hymn 58, "Lo, How a Rose is Growing"

LBW Hymn 34, "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"



## HYMN, “*Hark! The Glad Sound*”

## LBW Hymn 35

*Green Book*

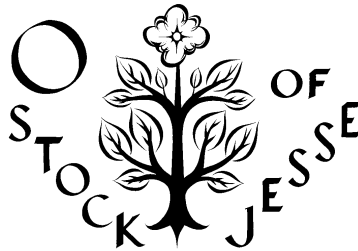
1. Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne  
And ev’ry voice a song.

2. He comes the pris’ners to release,  
In Satan’s bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.

3. He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of his grace  
To enrich the humble poor.

4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Your welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav’n’s eternal arches ring  
With your beloved name.

*Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)*



## HYMN, “*Lo, How a Rose is Growing*”

## LBW Hymn 58

*Green Book*

1. Lo, how a rose is growing.  
A bloom of finest grace;  
The prophets had foretold it:  
A branch of Jesse’s race  
Would bear one perfect flow’r  
Here in the cold of winter  
And darkest midnight hour.

*Continued on next page*

2. The rose of which I'm singing,  
Isaiah had foretold.  
He came to us through Mary  
Who sheltered him from cold.  
Through God's eternal will  
This child to us was given  
At midnight calm and still.

3. The shepherds heard the story  
The angels sang that night:  
How Christ was born of Mary;  
He was the Son of light.  
To Bethlehem they ran  
To find him in the manger  
As angel heralds sang.

4. This flow'r, so small and tender,  
With fragrance fills the air;  
His brightness ends the darkness  
That kept the earth in fear.  
True God and yet true man,  
He came to save his people  
From earth's dark night of sin.

5. O Savior, child of Mary,  
Who felt all human woe;  
O Savior, king of glory,  
Who triumphed o'er our foe;  
Bring us at length, we pray,  
To the bright courts of heaven,  
And into endless day.

*German (15th Century)*

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*Canticle, "Song of Simeon,"* Text is from Luke 2:29-32, versification is from *A New Metrical Psalter* © 1986 by Christopher L. Webber. Reprinted with permission.



1. Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!

2. Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might,  
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times once gave the law  
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!

3. Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free  
Your own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell your people save  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!

4. Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by your advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!

5. Oh, come, O Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!

## **\*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**

☞ Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation,  
and in this meal we have feasted on your grace.  
May your Word take flesh in us,  
that we may be your holy people,  
revealing your glory made known to us  
in Jesus Christ our Savior.

☞ **Amen.**

## **\*BLESSING**

☞ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Romans 15:13*

☞ **Amen.**

## **\*DISMISSAL**

☞ Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

**\*HYMN, “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”**

**LBW Hymn 29**

*Green Book*

1. “Comfort, comfort now my people;  
Tell of peace!” So says our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness  
Mourning under sorrow’s load.  
To God’s people now proclaim  
That God’s pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over;  
God will reign in peace forever!

2. For the herald’s voice is crying  
In the desert far and near,  
Calling us to true repentance,  
Since the Kingdom now is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way!  
Let the valleys rise to meet him,  
And the hills bow to greet him!

3. Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
And the rougher places plain!  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
As befits his holy reign!  
For the glory of the Lord  
Now on earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token  
That God’s word is never broken.

*Johann Olearius (1611-1684)*

**POSTLUDE**



**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK:**

Alex and family	Don Dubbe
Lenae Ebel	Kirsten Flagstad
Shelley Iverson	Felicity Kramer
Claire and Maxine Ripley	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)  
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)  
Steve Fiechtner (brother of Ardith Petersen and Lois Rath)  
Ronnie Fischer (brother of Judy Haiwick)  
Addie Follum (granddaughter of Ray and Lynelle Follum)  
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)  
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 and Jan Meyer (brother and 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)  
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)

**PANS OF BARS** are needed for the funeral of Paul Swisher on Tuesday at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Spearfish. Please sign up on the sheet in the library social room or let Joanne Baer know if you can help. Please take the bars to the church in Spearfish.

**DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS** 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).

**BOOKS AND CULTURE DISCUSSION GROUP** will not meet in December and will be taking a break for the winter. For more information talk to Doug Wessel who leads the group.

**SERVICE TEAM #1** is looking for volunteers to help with serving during December. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the library social room.

**GREETING CARDS, NAPKINS AND COOKBOOKS** are for sale by the Immanuel Church Women. They are available on the bookshelf in the fellowship hall near the kitchen.

**THOSE OVER AGE 70½** have the opportunity to take tax-free distributions from their IRAs for direct gifts to churches and other non-profit organizations. This is a significant tax benefit. Talk to your tax advisor, IRA custodian, or Pastor David for more information about Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD).

**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.

# 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>Wednesday</b>	10:00 a.m. — Women’s Group 4:30 p.m. — Kids Club 6:00 p.m. — Confirmation class
<b>Thursday</b>	5:30 p.m. — Choir rehearsal 6:30 p.m. — Light Supper 6:45 p.m. — Adult class on “Solas”
<b>Next Sunday</b>	9:00 a.m. — Worship 10:15 a.m. — Coffee Fellowship 10:25 a.m. — Adult Sunday School

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**CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES** for 2025 are available on a 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.

**OUR WOMEN’S GROUP** will meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesday to put together goodie baskets and wrap gifts for the children in our Kids Club program.

**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.

**GIVE A POINSETTIA** to add beautify to our sanctuary for our celebration of Advent and Christmas. You may provide your own poinsettia or give a gift of money and the congregation will purchase poinsettias for you. Please return a blue poinsettia gift form (available on the table in the social room) so that we can acknowledge your gift in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

**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 podcast series from 1517 featuring Kelsi Klembara. She interviews scholars and authors about various topics. We will watch each episode over two weeks to allow time for discussion. 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. Phillip Cary on the Nicene Creed. Dr. Cary is an expert on Augustine and Martin Luther. 2025 is the 1,700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council of Nicaea which formulated the creed.

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to the family of Paul Swisher. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Spearfish. May God comfort all who mourn with the hope of the Resurrection.

**WHITEWOOD KIDS CLUB** — our Wednesday night children's ministry — meets from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. each week. Kids Club is designed for children Age 4 through Grade 5. For more information about Kids Club or to volunteer to help with Kids Club, talk to Brit Porterfield or Pastor David. There is no Kids Club this Wednesday because of a school conflict.

**A CHRISTMAS CONCERT** by the choirs of Sturgis-area churches is scheduled for 2 p.m. next Sunday at the Sturgis Community Center. Immanuel's choir is one of the participating choirs.

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS** at Whitewood Elementary School are on Friday. The program for pre-K through second grade is at 6 p.m. The program for Grades 3-5 is at 7 pm.