

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 21, 2025

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.

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!

***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 these candles mindful of Christ's coming
and his coming again. We join the hopeful prayer
of Christians throughout the world:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

Four candles of the Advent wreath are lighted.



***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**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray together . . .

C Stir up your power, O Lord, and come.

**Take away the hindrance of our sins
and make us ready for the celebration of your birth,
that we may receive you in joy
and serve you always;
for you live and reign with the Father 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 7:10-17

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, “Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste. The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah — he will bring the king of Assyria.” (NIV)

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 24

📖 The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;

🙏 **For he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters.**

📖 Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?
Who may stand in his holy place?

🙏 **The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.**

📖 They will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from God their Savior.

🙏 **Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, God of Jacob.**

L Lift up your heads, you gates;
C Be lifted up, you ancient doors,
 that the King of glory may come in.
L Who is this King of glory?
C The LORD strong and mighty,
 the LORD mighty in battle.
L Lift up your heads, you gates;
C Lift them up, you ancient doors,
 that the King of glory may come in.
L Who is he, this King of glory?
C The LORD Almighty —
 he is the King of glory.

(NIV)

SECOND READING, Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God — the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

(NIV)

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 1:18-24**

📖 The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

🎵 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

📖 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. (NIV)

📖 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.

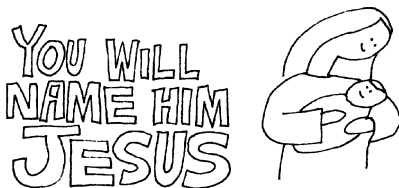
He came down that we may have hope,

Hallelujah for evermore.

Cameroon

SERMON

Pastor David James Baer



1. Of the Father’s love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.

2. Oh, that birth forever blessed,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world’s Redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore.

3. This is he whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word;
Now he shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

4. Let the heights of heav’n adore him;
Angel hosts, his praises sing;
Pow’rs, dominions, bow before him
And extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev’ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

5. Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore! Amen.

Marcus Prudentius (348-413)

**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
 Before his glorious throne;
 Today he opens heav’n again
 To give us his own Son,
 To give us his own Son.

Green Book

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.



*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.**

P 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

C 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*”

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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

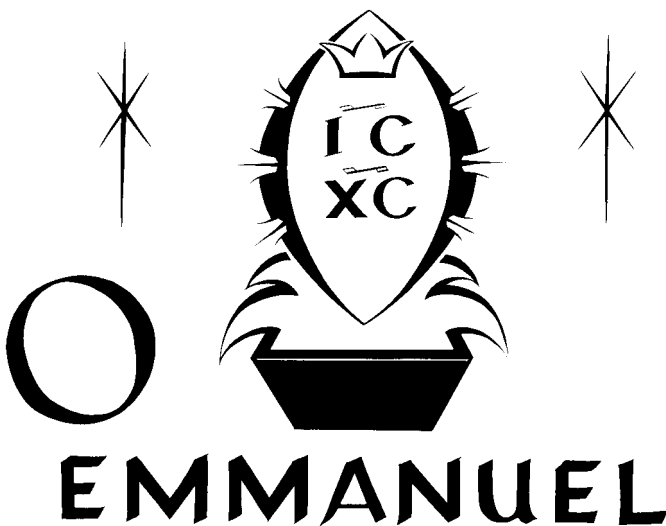
COMMUNION

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 41, “*O Little Town of Bethlehem*”

LBW Hymn 40, “*What Child Is This*”

LBW Hymn 50, “*Angels, From the Realms of Glory*”



HYMN, “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

LBW Hymn 41

Green Book

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king,
And peace to all the earth!

3. How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav’n.
No ear may hear his coming;
But, in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

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)

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“*Lamb of God*” from “*Christmas Carol Mass*” by Carroll Thomas Andrews © 1966 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted and podcast with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733558. All rights reserved.

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.

HYMN, “*Angels From the Realms of Glory*”

LBW Hymn 50

Green Book

1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Once you sang creation’s story;
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations,
You have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

4. All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

James Montgomery (1771-1854)



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*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;

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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, “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 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)

POSTLUDE

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK:

Alex and family	Jon Aldren
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)
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)
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)

Poinsettias are Given

- ✳ In celebration of Jesus Christ by a Child of God.
- ✳ In memory of their parents John Zwingelberg, Jim Aldren and June Jolley by Jon and Heidi Aldren and family.
- ✳ In memory of Clarence and Virginia Rath, Jim Baer, David Sturgeon and their grandparents by David and Joanne Baer.
- ✳ In memory of Dolly Rizzi, DeDe Ghere, Arnie Arnio, Deb Christensen, David Arnio, and Brian Burleson by Chris and Bill Burleson and sons.
- ✳ In memory of Norma Dubbe by Don Dubbe.
- ✳ In memory of Helen Douhan by Randee Barker.
- ✳ In memory of their parents, sisters, brother, and brothers-in-law by Bruce and Kathie Flagstad.
- ✳ To the glory of God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by Gail and Midge Hemeyer.
- ✳ In memory of Melanie Wicken by Tim and Valerie Meiners.
- ✳ In memory of Robert and Caroline Kennebeck and Iva O'Grady by Roger and Ellen O'Gradey.
- ✳ In memory of their daughter Mary Quail by Duane and Harriet Quail.
- ✳ In memory of Lois's father, Arlan Fiechtner, and Toby's parents, Virginia and Clarence Rath, and in honor of Lois's mother, Ellen Fiechtner, by Toby and Lois Rath.
- ✳ In memory of Bart and Joanne Beacom, Carolyn and Ernest Illian, and Don Beacom by Jim and Connie Ross.
- ✳ In memory of their daughter Laurie K. Hardin by LeRoy and Linda Sandidge.
- ✳ In memory of Paul Swisher by his family.
- ✳ In honor of their family by Doug and Ardean Wessel.
- ✳ In memory of Bryan Westberg, Anna Westberg, Joshua Ailts, John Zwingelberg, and Millie and Glen Westberg.

THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL:

Today	9:00 a.m. — Worship
	10:15 a.m. — Coffee Fellowship
	10:25 a.m. — Church Council
Monday	7:00 a.m. — Men's Group
Wednesday	4:00 p.m. — Christmas Eve Worship
Next Sunday	9:00 a.m. — Worship
	10:15 a.m. — Coffee Fellowship
	10:25 a.m. — Adult Sunday School

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.

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.

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.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP is at 4 p.m. on Wednesday. Please make this worship service a central part of your Christmas celebrations.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet after worship today. Copies of the agenda are available on the table in the library social room.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL will not be held today because of the Church Council meeting.

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.

GIVE A POINSETTIA to add beauty 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.

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.