

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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Third Sunday in Advent

December 14, 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, “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)*



## **\*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.**

*The first three 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** Lord, hear our prayers and come to us,  
bringing light into the darkness of our hearts;  
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Gregorian Sacramentary (10th Century)*

### **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 35:1-10**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God’s people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*(NRSV)*

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 146

📖 Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

🙏 **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

📖 Do not put your trust in princes,  
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

🙏 **When their breath departs, they return to the earth;  
on that very day their plans perish.**

📖 Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

🙏 **Whose hope is in the LORD their God,  
who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;**

📖 Who keeps faith forever;

🙏 **Who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.**

📖 The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

🙏 **The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.**

📖 The LORD watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

🙏 **The LORD will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Praise the LORD!**

*(NRSV)*

## SECOND READING, James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. (NRSV)

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 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 11:2-11

📖 The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.

👉 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

📖 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” (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.

## SERMON

**Pastor David James Baer**





**\*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)*



**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**

*As the offerings are received, Toby Rath makes a musical offering to God on trombone: “Gesù Bambino” (“Baby Jesus”), an Italian Christmas carol composed by Pietro Yon in 1917. The melody and lyrics of the chorus are derived from the refrain of “Adeste Fideles” (“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”).*

**\*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.**

☐ 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 45, “*Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful*”

LBW Hymn 71, “*Angels We Have Heard on High*”

LBW Hymn 60, “*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*”



**HYMN, “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”**

**LBW Hymn 45**

*Green Book*

1. Oh, come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the king of angels:

*Refrain:* Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

2. The highest, most holy,  
Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain.*

3. Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest: *Refrain.*

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing: *Refrain.*

*John F. Wade (1711-1786)*



## HYMN, “*Angels We Have Heard on High*”

LBW Hymn 71

*Green Book*

1. Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain:* Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav’nly song? *Refrain.*

3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the new-born King. *Refrain.*

*French Carol (18th Century)*



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# 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!”

*Refrain:* 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! *Refrain.*

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. *Refrain.*

*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;

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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, “Joy to the World”**

**LBW Hymn 39**

*Green Book*

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

Let ev’ry heart prepare him room

And heav’n and nature sing,

And heav’n and nature sing,

And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Let all their songs employ,

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sin and sorrow grow

Nor thorns infest the ground;

He comes to make his blessings flow

Far as the curse is found,

Far as the curse is found,

Far as, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace

And makes the nations prove

The glories of his righteousness

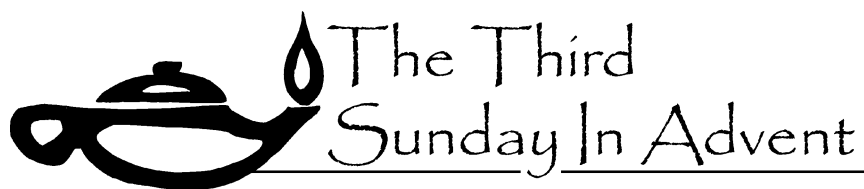
And wonders of his love,

And wonders of his love,

And wonders, wonders of his love.

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

**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)  
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)  
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)

# 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>	6:00 p.m. — Confirmation class
<b>Next Sunday</b>	9:00 a.m. — Worship
	10:15 a.m. — Coffee Fellowship
	10:25 a.m. — Church Council

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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.

**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).

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

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to the family of Paul Swisher. Flowers on the altar and piano are from his funeral service. May God comfort all who mourn with the hope of the Resurrection.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP** is at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24. Please make this worship service a central part of your Christmas celebrations.

**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.

**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.