

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the North American Lutheran Church
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The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 5, 2025

— GATHERING —

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

☛ Amen.

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

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

☞ Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

☛ **Forgive our lack of faith and trust in your will.**

☞ Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

☛ **Forgive our neglect of the poor.**

☞ The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

☛ **Forgive our selfishness and complacency.**

☞ The Magi followed the star to find the Savior of the nations.

☛ **Forgive our reluctance to seek you with all our hearts.**

☞ The angel said, “You shall call his name Jesus for he will
save his people from their sins.” Because of Jesus and for his
sake, 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, “Brightest and Best of the Stars”**

LBW Hymn 84

1. Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, *Green Book*
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

2. Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

3. Shall we not yield him, in costly devotion,
Fragrance of Edom and off’rings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?

4. Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would his favor secure;
Richer by far is the heart’s adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

5. Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

***GREETING**

- ☐ Arise, shine, for your light has come.
- ☑ **The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**
- ☐ 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

☩ Lord God,

on this day you revealed your Son to the nations
by the leading of a star.

Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives,
and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory,
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHOIR, “Rejoice, With Exceeding Great Joy!”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN, “Bright and Glorious is the Sky”

LBW Hymn 75

Green Book

1. Bright and glorious is the sky,
Radiant are the heavens high
Where the golden stars are shining.
All their rays to earth inclining
Beckon us to heav’n above,
Beckon us to heav’n above.

2. On that holy Christmas night
Through the darkness beamed a light;
All the stars above were paling,
All their luster slowly failing
As the Christmas star drew nigh,
As the Christmas star drew nigh.

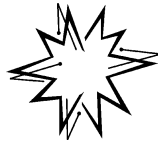
3. Sages from the East afar,
When they saw this wondrous star,
Went to find the king of nations
And to offer their oblations
Unto him as Lord and King,
Unto him as Lord and King.

4. Him they found in Bethlehem,
Yet he wore no diadem;
They but saw a maiden lowly
With an infant pure and holy
Resting in her loving arms,
Resting in her loving arms.

5. Guided by the star, they found
Him whose praise the ages sound.
We too have a star to guide us
Which forever will provide us
With the light to find our Lord.
With the light to find our Lord.

6. As a star, God's holy Word
Leads us to our King and Lord;
Brightly from its sacred pages
Shall this light throughout the ages
Shine upon our path of life.
Shine upon our path of life.

Nicolai F. S Grundtvig (1783-1872)



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— WORD —

FIRST READING, Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

(NRSV)

℣ The Word of the Lord.

✎ Thanks be to God.



PSALM 72:1-15

📖 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.**

📖 May his foes bow before him,
and his enemies lick the dust.

📌 **May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.**

📖 May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.

📌 **For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.**

📖 He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.

📌 **From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

📖 Long may he live! May gold of Sheba be given to him.

📌 **May prayer be made for him continually,
and blessings invoked for him all day long.**

(NRSV)



SECOND READING, Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

(*NRSV*)

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

*HYMN, “*Songs of Thankfulness*” (v. 1)

Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
Manifested by the star
To the sages from afar,
Branch of royal David’s stem
In thy birth at Bethlehem:
Anthems be to thee addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.

LBW Hymn 90

Green Book

Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885)

***GOSPEL READING, Matthew 2:1-12**

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

☐ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. *(NRSV)*

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**



The Epiphany
Of Our Lord

HYMN, “Songs of Thankfulness” (v. 4)

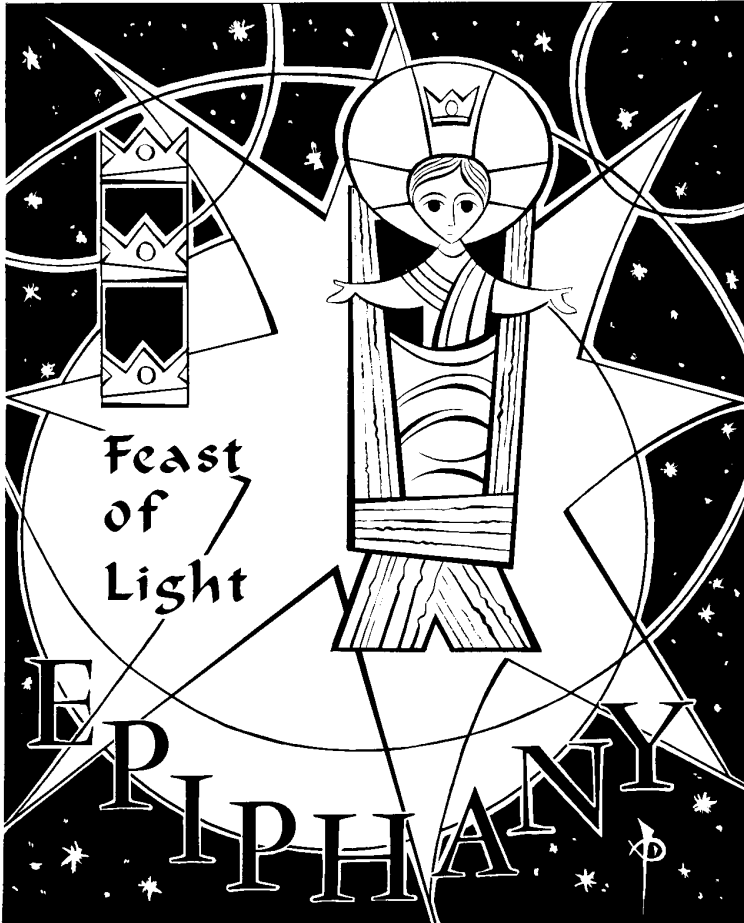
LBW Hymn 90

Green Book

Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
Present in thy holy Word;
Grace to imitate thee now
And be pure, as pure art thou;
That we might become like thee
At thy great epiphany,
And may praise thee, ever blest,
God in flesh made manifest.

SERMON

Pastor David James Baer



***HYMN, “As with Gladness Men of Old”**

LBW Hymn 82

Green Book

1. As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by thee.

2. As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee, whom heav’n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy seat.

3. As they offered gifts most rare
At thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin’s alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heav’nly king.

4. Holy Jesus, ev’ry day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds thy glory hide.

5. In the heav’nly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King.

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.

— SACRAMENT —

OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

“What Child is This” is sung as the offerings are received.

HYMN, “What Child Is This” (vv. 1, 3)

LBW Hymn 40

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!

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)

***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 EPIPHANY

☐ 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, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS

Tune: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

O holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of glory.
Hosanna in the heights.
How bless - éd is he who comes
in the great name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna in the heights.

54

(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)

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:



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)



THEY SAW HIS STAR AND FOLLOWED IT

1. The first Noel the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

3. And by the light of that same star
Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O’er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

5. Then entered in those Wise Men three,
Full rev’rently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

HYMN, “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”

Hymn 76

Green Book

1. O Morning Star, how fair and bright!
You shine with God’s own truth and light,
Aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob’s race, King David’s Son,
Our Lord and master, you have won
Our hearts to serve you only!
Lowly, holy!
Great and glorious,
All victorious,
Rich in blessing!
Rule and might o’er all possessing!

2. Come, heav’nly bridegroom, light divine,
And deep within our hearts now shine;
There light a flame undying!
In your one body let us be
As living branches of a tree,
Your life our lives supplying.
Now, though daily
Earth’s deep sadness
May perplex us
And distress us,
Yet with heav’nly joy you bless us.

3. Lord, when you look on us in love,
At once there falls from God above
A ray of purest pleasure.
Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood
Refresh our souls with heav’nly food.
You are our dearest treasure!
Let your mercy
Warm and cheer us!
Oh, draw near us!
For you teach us
God’s own love through you has reached us.

4. Almighty Father, in your Son
You loved us, when not yet begun
Was this old earth's foundation!
Your Son has ransomed us in love
To live in him here and above:
This is your great salvation.
Alleluia!
Christ the living,
To us giving
Life forever,
Keeps us yours and fails us never!

5. What joy to know, when life is past,
The Lord we love is first and last,
The end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
Transport us to that happy place
Beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus!
Crown of gladness!
We are yearning
For the day of your returning.

6. Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!
Our joy be all with music crowned,
Our voices gaily blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way —
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out!
Jubilation!
Exultation!
Tell the story!
Great is he, the King of glory!

Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)

***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.

***CANTICLE**

Tune: “*The Bells of Christmas*”

Lord, you have set your servant free 62
To go in peace as you declared;
These eyes of mine at last have seen
The Savior whom you have prepared;

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.

— **SENDING** —

***BLESSING**

(Numbers 6:24-26)

☐ The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father, and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

☑ Amen.

***DISMISSAL**

☞ Go in peace. Christ is your light.

☛ **Thanks be to God.**

***HYMN, “We Three Kings of Orient Are”**

WOV Hymn 646

1. We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Blue Book

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night!
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign. *Refrain*

3. Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, gladly raising,
Worshipping God Most High. *Refrain*

4. Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain*

5. Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and Sacrifice;
Heav'n sings alleluia:
Alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain*

John Henry Hopkins (1820-1891)

POSTLUDE

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK:

Alex and family	Bill Burleson
Don Dubbe	Lenae Ebel
Dick Horak	Felicity Kramer
Darrell Pulscher	Claire and Maxine Ripley
Violet Rost	Treonna Solbie
Guyla Baer Sturgeon	Paul Swisher
Carletta and Steve Vasknetz	Anne Vossler
Jack Wanstedt	
Guy and Dawn Balo (recently lost their home to a fire)	
David Arnio (brother of Chris Burleson)	
Elwood Beulke (brother of Arnie Beulke)	
Cherry Bieber (friend of Jon and Shelley Iverson)	
Jody Blevins (daughter of Claire and Maxine Ripley)	
Marla Ebel (sister of Rita Shewmake)	
Kris Eide (sister of Ardith Petersen and Lois Rath)	
Melanie Erickson (sister of Brenda Rath)	
Ellen Fiechtner (mother of Ardith Petersen and Lois Rath)	
Ronnie Fischer (brother of Judy Haiwick)	
The Fischer family (friends of Jon and Shelley Iverson)	
Dallas Fox (friend of Jordan Smith)	
Cheryl Fraijo (daughter of Jean Sneesby)	
Ernie Griner (11-year-old friend of Meta Halverson)	
Martina Ham (mother of Diane Kunz)	
Colleen and Dave Hudson (daughter and son-in-law of Cleo Miller)	
Ike Iverson (father of Jon Iverson)	
Coleen Iverson-Routh (sister of Jon Iverson)	
Steve Kampfe (son of Garland and Kathy Kampfe)	
Al Kones (brother-in-law of Ardith Petersen and Lois Rath)	
Callie Kvanvig (great niece of Ray Follum)	
Pastor Amy Little (NALC General Secretary, friend of Pastor David)	
Parker Loll (infant son of Branden and Alyssa Loll)	
Karen Miller (sister of Maxine Ripley)	
Mitch Palmer (friend of Paul Swisher)	
Nancy Porter (friend of Bill and Chris Burleson)	
Tim Ripley (friend of Paul Swisher)	
Melani Roewe (sister of Derek Besler)	
Pastor Amy Schiffrin (friend of Pastor David Baer)	
Carreen Smith (sister of Mimi Swisher)	
Jeremy Sundby (nephew of Claire and Maxine Ripley)	
Jess Teigen (friend of Amelia Knutson)	
Ryan Thomas (cousin of Mary Tracy)	
Xayne Vroman (great grandson of Cindy and Harold Davis)	
Chris Waythomas (friend of Rita Shewmake)	
Lisa Westberg (daughter-in-law of Tony and Alona Westberg)	
Robert Zuhr (brother-in-law of Chris Burleson)	

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2025 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 Rita Shewmake or Pastor David.

A MEN'S GROUP meets at 7 a.m. on Mondays at the church. They are currently studying the Gospel of Mark. All men are welcome. Talk to Mark Tracy or Jon Iverson for more information.

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.

ONLINE WORSHIP: We stream our Sunday worship service on the internet for those who are unable to join us in person. You can join the service live at 9 a.m. on Sunday or watch the recording of the service at a later time. Links to the service are on our website, www.immanuellutheranwhitewoodsd.com.

UPDATES TO OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY are available on the table in the library social room. Our directory is loose leaf so that we can update it at least once a year. Please pick up the updates and add them to your directory. New full directories are also available.

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. Kids Club will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 15, after a break for Christmas. For more information about Kids Club, talk to Brit Porterfield or Pastor David.

1517 is a Lutheran ministry that creates and distributes theological and apologetic resources anchored in the central message of the Bible: that Christ died for sinners and rose for their justification. 1517 exists to declare and defend the Good News that you are forgiven and free on account of Christ alone. You can find free articles, courses, and a variety of podcasts online at www.1517.org.

THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL:

Today	9:00 a.m. — Worship
	10:00 a.m. — Coffee Fellowship
	10:15 a.m. — Nominating Committee
	10:25 a.m. — Removal of decorations
Monday	7:00 a.m. — Men's Group
Wednesday	4:10 p.m. — Confirmation
Next Sunday	9:00 a.m. — Worship
	10:00 a.m. — Coffee Fellowship
	10:25 a.m. — Church Council

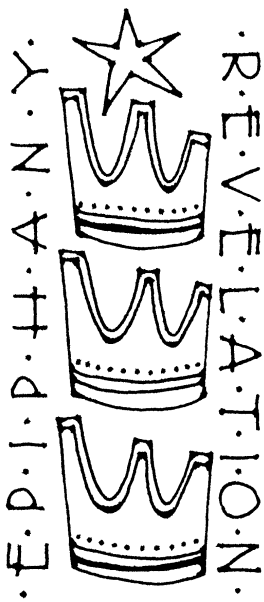
OUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE will meet after worship today. If you are interested in serving on Church Council or on next year's Nominating Committee, please talk to a Nominating Committee member or Pastor David.

2025 NALC CONVOCATION will be held Aug. 6-8 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. If you are interested in representing Immanuel at the Convocation, please talk to a Nominating Committee member or Pastor David.

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

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the congregation will be held at 10:25 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 2. Please plan to be a part of this important meeting to review our year and plan for 2025. Annual reports will be available by Sunday, Jan. 26.

WE WILL CONSIDER REMODELING THE CHANCEL at the annual meeting of the congregation on Sunday, Feb. 2. We would like to remove most of the steps in the chancel. There have been several falls related to the current configuration and the hope is to make it safer. Talk to a Church Council member or Pastor David for more information.



THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD is celebrated today. Epiphany commemorates the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus — Christ’s physical manifestation to the Gentiles. The traditional date of Epiphany is January 6. After Easter and Pentecost, Epiphany is the oldest festival in the Church Year. It began as a celebration called “The Holy Day of Lights” commemorating the manifestation of God in the birth and baptism of Jesus. The word *Epiphany* is a Greek word for manifestation or appearance. The earliest name of this festival is *Theophany* (a revelation of God). Separate Christmas celebrations of the birth of Christ on Dec. 25 began in the Western Church in the 300s.

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. Baked goods, donuts, coffee, and juice are available. An offering is received to cover expenses.

WE WILL BE REMOVING Christmas decorations following worship today. We especially need help removing the Christmas tree. Please plan to stay and help if you can.

POINSETTIAS may be taken after worship today if you would like them. We thank all those who donated poinsettias to beautify our worship during Advent and Christmas. Plastic covers to protect the plants from the weather are available in the fellowship hall closet.

SERVICE TEAM #1 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.