



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

37515 Park Trail, Almelund, MN 55012

Pastor Justin Fenger

Baptism of The Lord

January 11, 2026

A welcoming community rooted in Christ, growing in faith and serving with joy!



SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 1/11/2026

GATHERING

TODAY'S SERVICE IS USING **ELW: RED BOOK**

PRELUDE:

Spirit of The Living God/Sweet Sweet Spirit Momoh Freeman and Amy Peterson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: Your promises have never wavered, and yet we are not always willing to believe them. We descend into our own despair, unable to see past our immediate concerns. We drag others down with us and live to complain and commiserate. We ignore the miracles in front of our face. Forgive us for living such small lives, O God, and restore in us the wonder of what it is to be your people. Amen.

P: God is faithful; God is merciful; God does not hold our sins against us! Receive the assurance of your deliverance by the one who promised from of old to set us free, and who seeks and finds us to this very day. Alleluia! Amen.

**Welcome to
Immanuel!**

Thank you for joining us for our worship service. Whoever you are, whatever you've done, or wherever you are in life. You are loved by God which means, You are welcome here at Immanuel., God's grace is given freely, not earned. So whatever journey you are on, God led you here today. We thank you for coming and hope you see you again soon.

Visitors, welcome to worship! If you are interested in knowing more about our congregation please speak to Pastor Justin or call the church office! Contact info is on the back of this bulletin.

We encourage all children who can read, to follow along

We invite you to follow the service and take part in a way that feels right to you.

Hearing devices are available from an usher.

P = Pastor

L = Leader

C = Congregation

R = Reader

Sections in **bold** are to be read by the congregation

Today's Scripture

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms 29

Matthew 3:13-17

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: God has called us in righteousness.

C: We worship the son, the beloved!

L: God has taken us by the hand.

C: We worship the son, the beloved!

L: God has made us a light to the nations.

C: We worship the son, the beloved!

OPENING HYMN: Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

ELW 800 Red

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Heavenly God, **Your son found favor in the Holy Spirit's blessing at his baptism. May we also live to please you and to dedicate our lives to serving you, for the sake of Jesus our savior. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC: Wings of a Dove Momoh Freeman and Amy Peterson

CHILDREN'S SERMON:

SCRIPTURE READING:

Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them."

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM:

Psalms 29

R: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

C: Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.

R: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over mighty waters.

C: The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

R: The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

C: He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

R: The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

C: The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

R: The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

C: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

R: May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Christ Be Our Light (v.1)

ELW 715 Red

Glory to you, O Lord

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ**SERMON:****HYMN OF THE DAY:**

Jesu, Jesu Fill us With Your Love

ELW 708 Red

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**THE LORD’S PRAYER:**

ELW Pg. 112 Red

**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, the power and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY:

Pass It On

Momoh Freeman and Amy Peterson

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS:

Create In Me

ELW 186 Red

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

Dear God, by your constant presence with us are we able to follow your command to love. Bless these gifts which we offer to you and to your children in need around the world, and keep us ever mindful of the blessings we continue to receive from your mercy. Amen.

SENDING:

L: We have come to the river.

C: We know we need to change.

L: We have gone our own way.

C: We have done our own thing.

L: We have felt entitled to God’s abundance.

C: We have not shared what we have.

L: By all rights you should reject us,

C: Condemn us for our wrongdoing.

L: But instead you call us into the water.

C: You wash us clean by the Holy Spirit.

L: We go under the water and die to our sin,

C: Then rise up, a new creation in Christ.

L: You declare us your beloved children,

C: And we are filled with joy.**CLOSING HYMN:**

Will You Come and Follow Me (v.v.1,2,3)

ELW 798 Red

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

Thanks be to God.**POSTLUDE:**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Church Office: I appreciate your understanding. Cindy will be in the hospital for at least two weeks after her surgery for the brain aneurysm. I will be working between the hospital and church for a time. Please keep your messages coming as normal and I will continue to keep up the regular duties expected. Thank you for your prayers, they really help us at this time. Mark

Committee/Financial Reports are due January 23 for the annual report. Auditor's Report is due January 30. Annual report will be published for pick up on Sunday, February 15, 2026. For the Annual Meeting on February 22, 2026.

Holy Smokes Is Back!

Mark, your calendars - Holy Smokes is coming back to Jake's on the Lakes on Thursday, January 22 at 6:30 PM. Holy Smokes is a relaxed, come-as-you-are gathering for good conversation, faith questions, and community. Grab a bite or a drink if you'd like, pull up a chair, and join us for an evening of laughter, thoughtful discussion, and connection. All are welcome—bring a friend!

Lamp Post Sunday — Explore Our Ministries

On Sunday, January 11, we're bringing back Lamp Post Sunday—a simple way to help you get to know the ministries that make Immanuel *Immanuel*. After worship, head downstairs to the Fellowship Hall and look for the lamp post. You'll find a ministry team ready to share what they do, why it matters, and how you can jump in—whether you're looking to serve weekly, occasionally, or just want to learn what's happening behind the scenes. Come for coffee, conversation, and connection. If you've ever wondered, "*Where could I fit in?*"—this is a great place to start.

Sarah Circle retreat at Luther Point Bible Camp, January 15-18, 2026. Sarah Circle will meet on February 17 at 9:30 at church.

Our new women's circle is collecting magazines for our winter craft. If you would like to donate, please place them in the box in the fellowship hall.

New! Sermon Note Art

This fall we're trying a new way to listen to the sermon together. As you come into the sanctuary, pick up a blank index card from the back of the narthex (or ask an usher). During the sermon:

- Confirmation students: write your name on the back of the card.
- Write the sermon theme or main point somewhere on the card.
- Then respond:
 - draw a picture of something that spoke to you, or
 - write a short poem, phrase, or little story.

When you're finished, you can:

- hand your card to Pastor Justin after worship, or
- place it in his box.

If you're especially proud of your artwork or words, feel free to sign your name on the front as well.

This is for everyone, not just confirmation students!

Each week a selection of "Sermon Note Art" will be displayed in the Sunday School hallway as a way to share what God is stirring in our hearts.

The Women of the ELCA:

Our planned meeting for 2026 will be held on January 12, 2026, at 10:00am with Sarah circle to lead. All Women are welcome come join us!

The Immanuel Quilters. Our next sewing day will be Tuesday, January 13th, 2026. If you know of anyone who could use a cozy quilt as the cold weather approaches, please let any quilter know... our bins are full to share. We donated a quilt to the person who got rid of our church mice... Pastor Justin will deliver it. Thank you to everyone who supports our ministry. We wish everyone a very blessed and happy holiday! Martha Strecker. 651-341-3885

Youth Group News will meet
Jan 21st and Feb 4th & 18th
Youth Group retreat Feb 20th - 22nd at Luther Point

Coming to Immanuel!

Friday, February 6th. A no cost Semi-Progressive dinner from 5-9pm.

We start at church with appetizers, break into groups to head out to the Host homes for dinner. Afterwards, the groups return to church for dessert, conversation and music.

Confirmation Classes: 14th, Yahweh sends Prophets
 28th, By the waters of Babylon

THANK YOUS



Naomi circle would like to thank everyone
for the generous donations of pajamas.
87 pajamas were collected
and dropped off for the refuge.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Women's Retreat

February 13th - 15th

Luther Point Bible Camp

Enjoy a beautiful weekend while working on your favorite craft projects. Whether you are a quilter, scrapbooker, card maker, make diamond art, embroiderer, jewelry maker, or another kind of crafter and enjoy good conversation, laughter and new and existing friends, this weekend is for you! Crafting not your thing? Puzzles, cozy reading areas, snow tubing and outdoor grounds to walk around are available!!

When: Friday, February 13, 2026 5:30pm to Sunday, February 15, 2026 10:30am

Where: Luther Point Bible Camp, Grantsburg, WI

Cost: \$50 - Friday through Sunday Includes table, two nights of lodging, 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners, snacks, coffee and hot cocoa \$35 - Saturday only Includes table, 1 breakfast, 1 lunch, 1 dinner, snacks, coffee and hot cocoa. No Lodging

****Saturday bonus craft:** Create your own Bible/Church Bag. Additional \$20 for supplies (High quality zipper bag & goodies) For more information or for questions, please email Angie Linngren at felctf@gmail.com. Registration deadline: January 29th



Thursday, January 15th 4:30pm - 6:30pm

Come enjoy a delicious supper and have some fun playing games out of the cold winter!!

Bring your favorite or play what is available at the church!

There will be coloring pages for children as well!!

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Taylors Falls

Taylors Falls

Farmers & Crafters Indoor Market

Saturday, January 17th 11am - 3pm

Taylors Falls Community Center

Variety of vendors, food and music from your local vendors!

More First Lutheran Events, TF

Quilting 9:30am - 11:00am First and Third Wednesdays of the month. No experience needed! New quilters welcome!

Crafting on Saturdays January 13th | 9 am - 2 pm Bring your craft to work on, a dish to share & come for the great company!

New Book Study at The Lodge Wednesdays at 10am January 14th and 28th Ten Women of the Bible by Max Lucado

Luther Point BIBLE CAMP Winter Camp

February 6 – 8, 2026
6th – 12th Grade
\$95/camper

Theme

Building Community
How very good and pleasant
it is when kindred live
together in unity!
–Psalm 133:1



<p>Thank you for helping lead worship today!</p> <p>Pastor: Justin Fenger</p> <p>Organist: Momoh Freeman</p> <p>Special Music: Momoh Freeman and Amy Peterson</p> <p>Reader: Marco Sherve</p> <p>Ushers: Zach Rivard</p> <p>Sound Tech: Loraine Rue</p> <p>Camera Tech: Dave Rue</p> <p>Children's Sermon: Sharon Thiel</p> <p>Altar Guild: White Julie Weller Loraine Rue</p> <p>Teachers: Dana Johnson Teresa Carlson Amanda Cook or Cami Peltier</p> <p>Coffee Servers: Connie Linder Dana Johnson Loraine Rue</p>	<p align="center">Immanuel Church Calendar This Week</p> <p>Sunday January 11 9:00 Worship Service Live and Online. Sunday School after Children's Sermon. Lamp Post Sunday 10:00 Coffee Served 11:00 Service at First Ev. Lutheran Church TF</p> <p>Monday January 12 9-3 Office hours 10:00 WOW Practice 10:00 WELCA Meeting lead by Sarah Circle 5:00 Property Meeting 6:00 Council Meeting</p> <p>Tuesday January 13 9-3 Office hours 9:00 Worship Team Meets 10:30 Parish Care Meeting 10-2 Quilters meet W/potluck at noon 5:00 Choir Practice @ FELC</p> <p>Wednesday January 14 9-3 Office hours 5:30-7 Confirmation</p> <p>Thursday January 15 Deadline for Bulletin Info 9:00am Wisdom Seekers bible study @ First Lutheran TF Sarah Circle Retreat @ Luther Point Bible Camp</p> <p>Friday January 16 9-3 Office hours Bulletins Printed Sarah Circle Retreat @ Luther Point Bible Camp</p> <p>Saturday January 17 Sarah Circle Retreat @ Luther Point Bible Camp</p> <p>Sunday January 18 9:00 WOW Communion Worship Service Live and Online. Sunday School after Children's Sermon 10:00 Coffee Served 11:00 Service at First Ev. Lutheran Church TF Sarah Circle Retreat @ Luther Point Bible Camp</p>	<p align="center">IMMANUEL STAFF</p> <p align="center">Justin Fenger, Pastor Momoh Freeman, Organist Pat Remer, Accompanist Mark Weslander, Administrative Assistant & Financial Recorder Kyle Hendrickson, Financial Secretary Kim's Kleaning, Church Custodial Work Daryl Abrahamson, Cemetery Groundskeeper Jason & DeeDee Fredlund, Youth Directors Teresa Carlson, Sunday School Leader Office Hours: M,T,W,F 9:00am-3:00pm Unless otherwise noted. Cell phone (651)431-8941</p>																				
		<p align="center">CONTACT INFORMATION</p> <p align="center">Immanuel Lutheran Church 37515 Park Trail, Center City, MN 55012 Email: office@immanuelalmelund.com Phone: (651)583-2340 Website: www.immanuelalmelund.com Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchOfAlmelund Justin Fenger, Pastor pastor@immanuelalmelund.com (651)308-7717 Mark Weslander, Administrative Assistant office@immanuelalmelund.com (651)431-8941 Kyle Hendrickson, Financial Secretary finance@immanuelalmelund.com (651)717-8804 Momoh Freeman, Organist/Director momohfreeman@yahoo.com (763)415-0330 Teresa Carlson, Sunday School Leader (651)214-9531 Jason & DeeDee Fredlund, Youth Directors jfredlund@frontiernet.net</p>																				
<p align="center">January 4, 2026 Attendance: 81</p> <p align="center">Weekly Giving Update: January 4, 2026</p> <table><tr><td>General</td><td>\$3,980.00</td></tr><tr><td>Benevolence:</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>-Undesignated</td><td>\$ 140.00</td></tr><tr><td>Building Fund</td><td>\$ 90.00</td></tr><tr><td>Loose</td><td>\$ 60.00</td></tr><tr><td>Christmas</td><td>\$ 30.00</td></tr><tr><td>Endowment</td><td>\$1,000.00</td></tr><tr><td>Online Service Fee</td><td>\$ 2.00</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>\$5,302.00</td></tr><tr><td>Noisy Offering</td><td>\$101.79</td></tr></table>	General	\$3,980.00	Benevolence:		-Undesignated	\$ 140.00	Building Fund	\$ 90.00	Loose	\$ 60.00	Christmas	\$ 30.00	Endowment	\$1,000.00	Online Service Fee	\$ 2.00	TOTAL	\$5,302.00	Noisy Offering	\$101.79	<p align="center">Happy birthday this week!</p> <p align="center">11 Roberta Tauer Norman Johnson 12 Shanna Geslin 13 Rebecca Haag 14 Samantha Burnside 15 Kirstin Haag Diane Johnson Brandon Carlson Joseph Rambow 16 Spencer Newman 17 Regina Sapp</p>	
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