

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

37515 Park Trail, Almelund, MN 55012

Pastor Justin Fenger

Second Sunday after Christmas

January 4, 2026

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



SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 1/4/2026

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE:

There's None Like You

Momoh Freeman

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

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

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Incarnate God,

C: You have given us the most precious gift of all: yourself. And yet we live as if there is nothing extraordinary about being your children. We forget, ignore, or devalue your blessings of grace and forgiveness. We undermine ourselves and others, and refuse to seek help when it is available. Show us your mercy and forgive our stubborn ways, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.

P: Immanuel is here. Fear has been banished. Hear the words of your redemption in the angels' chorus and see your salvation in the real person of Christ on earth. We are forgiven, and we are never alone. **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 in the bulletin during our worship service.

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

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalms 147:12-20

John 1:[1-9], 10-18

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: The light shines in the darkness,

C: And the darkness has not overcome it.

L: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C: And we have seen his glory.

L: The law was given through Moses;

C: Grace and truth come through Jesus Christ.

OPENING HYMN:

Of the Father's Love Begotten

ELW 295 Red

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Loving Parent, **You have given us the immeasurable gift of the Word made flesh. May his light abide within us as we strain with anticipation toward the fulfillment of your promise in this holy season. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC:

Taste And See

Norm Peterson

CHILDREN'S SERMON:

NOISY OFFERING:

SCRIPTURE READING:

Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." ⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." ¹¹For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM:

Psalms 147:12-20

P: Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

C: For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you.

P: He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat.

C: He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.

P: He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.

C: He hurls down hail like crumbs— who can stand before his cold?

P: He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

C: He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel.

P: He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances. Praise the Lord!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Christ Be Our Light

ELW 715 Red

GOSPEL:

John 1:[1-9], 10-18

Glory to you, O Lord

[In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.] ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

SERMON:

HYMN OF THE DAY:

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

ELW 510 Red

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

OFFERTORY:

Showers of Blessings

Momoh Freeman

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 184 Red

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

As John testified to the light,
so we bear witness to your grace through our worship, our service, and our giving. Accept these offerings of our hearts and lives; bless us and all those who receive them, for the sake of your dear son. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION:

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

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.

EUCCHARISTIC INVITATION:

From your fullness, we have all received, grace upon grace. Bless these gifts that we are about to share at the invitation of your only Son. Remind us always of his enduring love for us, and join us together as one holy family around this table.

DISTRIBUTION:

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

SENDING:

P: In the beginning was the Word. **C: Through the Word all things were created.**
P: Then the Word became flesh. **C: The Word walked among us.**
P: The Word created us anew. **C: Then Jesus, the Word, died and was buried, rose and ascended.**
P: the Word is not gone. **C: The Word lives, creates, and transforms daily.**
P: The Word lives in us. **C: When we reach out in love to others,**
P: We become God's Word to them. **C: Let us embody God's Word in the world.**

CLOSING HYMN:

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

ELW 288 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, 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.

Stewardship will meet on January 5 at 10am in the Fireside Room.

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. **The new women's circle** will be meeting Wednesday, January 7th at 6PM. We will be sharing a meal and working on a craft to start the new year. Please let Amanda Cook know if you are interested so we have a head count.

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 7th & 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

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



Fri., Jan 9, 4:30-6:30

Community Dinner

Free!

Everyone Welcome!

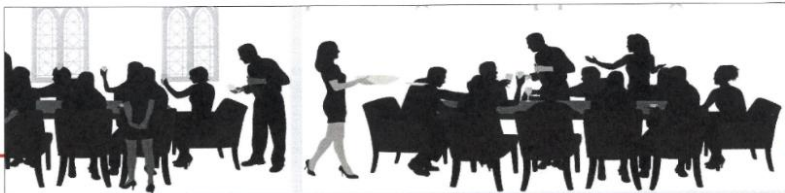
Great Fellowship!

Meet your friends & neighbors!

*Immanuel Lutheran Church
Almelund*

Come & Bring a Friend!

2nd Friday Each Month 4:30—6:30 pm



<p>Thank you for helping lead worship today!</p> <p>Pastor: Justin Fenger</p> <p>Organist: Momoh Freeman</p> <p>Special Music: Norm Peterson</p> <p>Reader: Lynn Schultz</p> <p>Ushers: Zach Rivard family</p> <p>Communion Servers: Clay Ryberg Julie Weller Amanda Cook</p> <p>Sound Tech: Dave Rue</p> <p>Camera Tech: Matt Oknich</p> <p>Children's Sermon: Jeske Noordergraaf</p> <p>Altar Guild: White Julie Weller Loraine Rue</p> <p>Coffee Servers:</p>	<p>Immanuel Church Calendar This Week</p> <p>Sunday January 4 9:00 Communion Worship Service Live and Online W/Noisy Offering after Children's Sermon 10:00 Coffee Served 11:00 Service at First Ev. Lutheran Church TF</p> <p>Monday January 5 9-3 Office hours 10:00 WOW Practice 10:00 Stewardship Meeting</p> <p>Tuesday January 6 EPIPHANY 9-3 Office hours 9:00 Worship Team Meets 5:00 Choir Practice @ILC</p> <p>Wednesday January 7 9-3 Office hours 1-3 Prayer Shawl Meets 6:00 New Women's Circle Meets 6-7 Youth Group Meets</p> <p>Thursday January 8 Deadline for Bulletin Info 9:00am Wisdom Seekers bible study @ First Lutheran TF</p> <p>Friday January 9 9-3 Office hours Bulletins Printed 4:30-6:30 Community Meal</p> <p>Saturday January 10</p> <p>Sunday January 11 9:00 Worship Service Live and Online. Sunday School after Children's Sermon 10:00 Coffee Served 11:00 Service at First Ev. Lutheran Church TF</p>	<p>IMMANUEL STAFF</p> <p>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>																																																				
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