



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.

Immanuel Informer

December 2025

Volume 21, Issue 6

His Ways Are Not Our Ways

Here we are, ready to celebrate the birth of Christ – a major event, even for those who don't believe in Him. Today this celebration is heralded back in October, or at least November, by merchants filling their shelves with enticing gifts, decorations, cards, and all the trappings of Christmas.

How different from the first Christmas! Mary and Joseph settled down in an inn. There were no photographers waiting outside to snap the first picture of the new king. No one knew what was happening! No one, that is, except for the parents and the host of Heaven who made the announcement. But to whom was this announcement made? To the powerful who would speed through the towns and villages, spreading the news? No, to shepherds who were outcasts, hired hands who were so low on the social scale that they weren't even allowed to give testimony in a court of law. They weren't even allowed to come into the Temple.

Yet these were the ones chosen by God to tell the good news. These wretched creatures saw the angels with “. . . *the glory of the Lord [shining] around them . . .*” They heard the message the angels brought: “*Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord . . . You will find a baby . . . lying in a manger*” (Luke 2:9,10). They saw, they listened, and then they went to see for themselves. After receiving the Good News, they spread it. “*When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them*” (Luke 2:17-18).

If lowly shepherds could tell the story, can't we as well? “*All who heard it were amazed,*” Luke writes, but he doesn't say all believed. All we're asked to do is tell the story. How could fear, uncertainty, or apathy hold us back? This is the biggest news mankind has ever received! As stewards of the Gospel, we have no choice but to follow the example of the shepherds and “*spread the word concerning what has been told [us] about this child.*”

God wants all believers to be willing to tell others what He is doing in their lives. He exhorts us to proclaim the Gospel in our homes, neighborhoods, communities, and throughout the world.

In the fellowship and love of Christ,

Pastor Steve Deombeleg



 **IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY** 
CHRISTMAS FAMILY FUN NIGHT!
Karaoke, Kahoot & Coco
Thursday, December 11, 2025 • 6:00 PM

Karaoke
 Warm up your vocals and sing your favorite songs! Solos, duets, and family performances welcome.

Kahoot Trivia
 Join the fun with a fast-paced trivia challenge! Kids and adults can play together.

 **A Night Filled with Joy, Laughter & Holiday Cheer!** 

Celebrate the Christmas season with music, games, and family fun as we gather together as our wonderful ICA community!

Location: Immanuel Christian Academy Gym

Suggested: Wear your favorite Christmas sweater!

Refreshments will be served!



Shop with Raise Right Scrip fundraising is a no - selling program that enables families to raise money for their church or school. Scrip is just another way to pay for everyday purchases using gift cards in place of cash, checks, and credit cards. You purchase gift cards from your organization at face value, and your coordinator orders those cards from Raise Right Scrip at a reduced price. The difference is an instant rebate for Immanuel. *Order Forms are in the church hallway or enroll and order online: www.raiseright.com/enroll/*

Enrollment Code: 9D337C6F55761

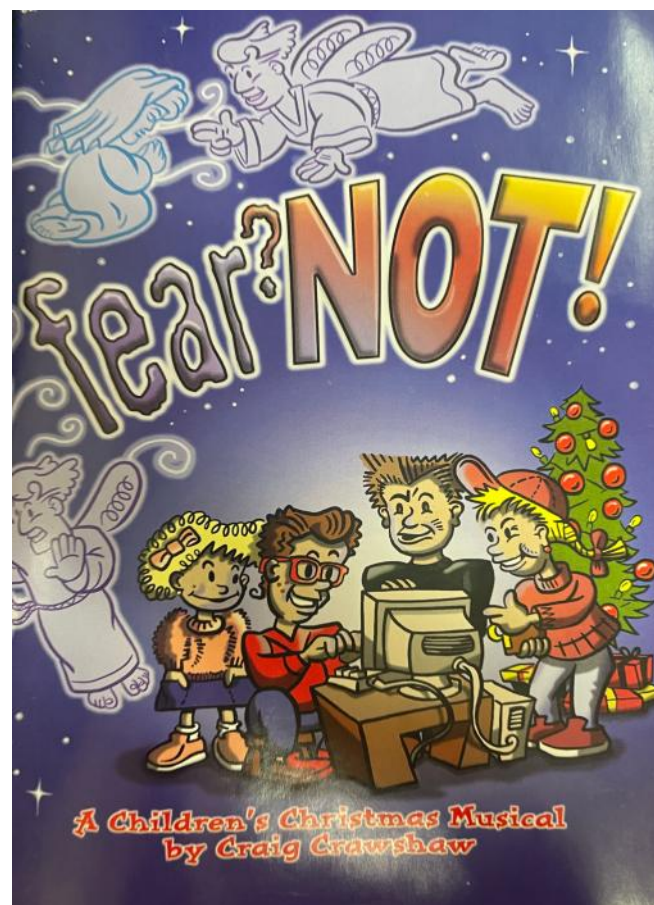
Orders Due December 7, 2025

Immanuel Christian Academy's 2025 Christmas Program **fear? NOT!**

Everyone knows that angels are a part of the Christmas story. But can you name the four different people who received a specific visit by an angel? And what same thing did the angel say to start every visit? And what four different lessons do we learn from the angels' visits?

Meet Ned, Kim, Eric, and Emily who learn these answers and more as they study about angels for a school project. As they spend an evening together, they end up also discovering a lot about themselves, and more importantly, about God and His Son, Jesus.

In this delightful, energetic Christmas musical for children, discover anew the wonder of the Christmas story and the message of hope and transformation offered through the birth of Jesus.



Jesus, the Light

Are you waiting for something that seems to be too long in coming? Maybe it's a job promotion or a raise. Maybe it's just employment of any kind! Perhaps you've been praying for someone's salvation, and you don't see any sign of God's working in that person. It's difficult to wait. People in Jesus' day were waiting for a Messiah. It seemed to many that His coming was long overdue. Our waiting is over! The Light has come into the world!

Simeon was one who knew that the time had fully come, and, in the temple, he saw the Christ Child Whose parents brought him there to fulfill what the Law required of them (Luke 2:27). Simeon knew Jesus was the light. He proclaimed, *"For my eyes have seen Your salvation...a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel"* (Luke 2:30, 32).

Unfortunately, not all who were waiting for the Messiah recognized Him when He came. In John 1:4-5 we read, *"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it."* Still today the darkness misunderstands the Light. Yet He continues to shine, and, as He shines, He dispels darkness.

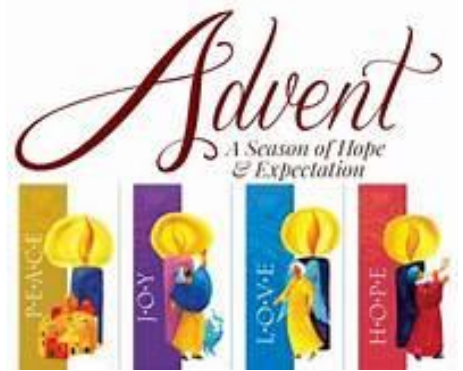
And He calls upon us to shine also. Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, described a lamp that is put on a stand so that it lights up the whole house. Then He said, *"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in Heaven"* (Matthew 5:16).

The only way to dispel darkness is to fill it with light. As stewards, it is our joyous task to be reflections of Christ's light. We are always to be prepared *"to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect"* (1 Peter 3:15). In this way we proclaim that the waiting is over! Jesus, the Light, has come into the world!

**DURING ADVENT, WE PREPARE
TO CELEBRATE OUR SAVIOR'S
BIRTH AND HIS COMING AGAIN.**

“‘I am the Alpha and the Omega,’ says the
Lord God, ‘Who is and Who was and
Who is to come, the Almighty’”

(Revelation 1:8).



**WE ALL ENJOY OPENING THE GIFTS
PLACED BENEATH THE CHRISTMAS
TREE, BUT NONE CAN COMPARE TO
THE GIFT GOD GAVE US IN CHRIST.**

“Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!”
(2 Corinthians 9:15)

Stewardship Corner

The four Sundays prior to Christmas are the four Sundays of Advent, which begin the Church year. The purpose of Advent is not only to prepare us to celebrate the birth of Jesus which occurred over two thousand years ago but also to prepare us for His second coming. Jesus, Who came to us in a stable, will come again when the trumpet sounds in glory on the Last Day. The New Testament stresses that Christians must be ready at all times for the second coming. We are to live with joyful expectation. Whether by Jesus' return or our own deaths, we should always be prepared to meet Him. Peter wrote, *"The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers"* (1 Peter 4:7).

ADVENT

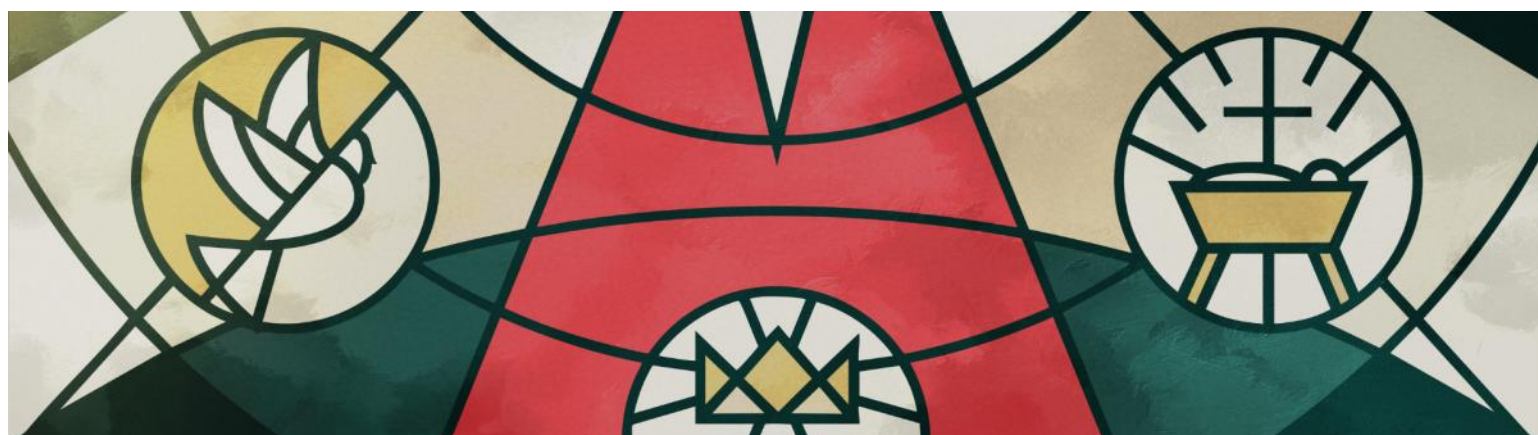
Mid Week Services
December 3, 10 & 17
@ 7:00p.m.

Supper served at 6:00 p.m. in the church
fellowship hall. Please bring dish to share.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK

After Worship December 14



CHRISTMAS

Service of
Lessons and Carols

DEC 21 @ 9:30 A.M



Christmas Eve

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Candlelight Service with Holy Communion
DEC 24 @ 9:00 P.M.



Christmas

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Worship with Holy Communion
DEC 25 @ 10:00 A.M.



Poinsettia Plants will be part of the chancel decorations for Christmas at Immanuel. If you would like to make a plant purchase, special order forms are available. Orders and payments must be made before December 7th. The plants are \$17.00 each. Checks should be made payable to Immanuel Altar Guild. The plants can be picked up immediately after the Christmas Day service. If you have any questions, contact Barb Arndt at 1-630-655-0797.

Put Your Hands Together

A ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church

Put Your Hands Together- December 2025 News Report

PYHT Food Pantry Distributions & Activity

Grants Written: 0

In-Kind Food Donations/Food Rescue Recovery: 54,218lbs!

Food Ministry Service Events: 6

Direct Families Served: Families & Food Ministry Partners 208 Families /17 Agencies

PYHT Food Relief Agencies & Ministries Served: Westchester FP, Berwyn FP, St. Paul Oak Lawn, St. Lukes, Downers Grove Comm Kitchen, Pilsen Pantry, Elmwood Park FP, Chicago Heights FP, Rev. Nicks, Village of Hillside, St. Domitilla, Youth Crossroads, Abundant Children & Family Services, Leyden Township FP, Immanuel Des Plaines

NEWS

Holiday Fundraiser has been a success, thank you for your donations of food & funds that enabled us to purchase \$3000 in Jewel-Osco Gift Cards for Holiday Turkeys/Hams.

With government programs terminated and employee layoffs, we anticipate an increase in number of families in need this Winter. We are grateful for all that God provides; there will be plenty of opportunity to serve others well into the new year. Please keep us in your prayers.

HELP NEEDED

Please consider making a recurring donation to our food pantry online, through REALM. A small monthly donation of \$10 or \$25 or more can make a remarkable difference in our pantry sustainability and help cover the many expenses we incur each month like electricity, truck fuel, insurance and food and supply purchases.

God Bless our Volunteers! You are so appreciated! Thank you for your time and food donations! Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

HELP NEEDED

Mondy, Dec 8 th : Food Bank Unloading @4:45pm

Saturday, Dec 13th Pantry Day @9:30am

Friday, Dec 19 th Holiday Food Distribution @11am

If you wish to have your yearly 2025 contributions counted towards this calendar year, they must be in no later than Sunday, December 31st. Anything given after that date will count toward 2026 contributions.

Everything written in the Scriptures was written to teach us, in order that we might have hope through the patience and encouragement which the Scriptures gives. Romans 15:4

Getting the Most Out of Your Daily Bible Reading

As you read the Bible each day, allow the Scriptures to speak to you. This daily "dialogue" between you and the biblical text will reveal new understandings about God, and about yourself.

December - Singing for Joy

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Psalm 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 Ezekiel 36:1-15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Matthew 24:1-28 | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 Ezekiel 36:16-38 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Matthew 24:29-51 | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 Ezekiel 39:21-29 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Matthew 25:1-30 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Zephaniah 3:1-20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Matthew 25:31-46 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Jeremiah 31:1-14 | |

Second Sunday of Advent

- | |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Jeremiah 33:1-11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Jeremiah 33:12-26 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9 Isaiah 2:1-5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Isaiah 9:1b-7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Isaiah 11:1-9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Isaiah 11:10-16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Isaiah 12:1-6 |

Third Sunday of Advent

- | |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Isaiah 25:1-9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Isaiah 26:1-19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 Isaiah 35:1-10 |

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- | |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 21 Luke 1:1-25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 22 Luke 1:26-56 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 23 Luke 1:57-80 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Luke 2:1-21 |

Christmas Day

- | |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25 John 1:1-18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26 John 1:19-34 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27 John 2:1-12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 28 Zechariah 9:9-17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 29 Zechariah 10:1-12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 30 Revelation 19:1-10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 31 Psalm 30 |

Set aside time to read the bible on a daily basis.

Find a quiet place to read and reflect on each day's reading.

For the Record *Nothing to report*



A Month of Prayer - The fellowship of prayer consists of caring people who pray daily for members in the church and God's people throughout the world.

1. Pray for the lonely
2. Pray for people in financial trouble
3. Pray for those addicted to alcohol or drugs
4. Pray for the tired and weary
5. Pray for the sick, the chronically ill.
6. Pray for the faculty & staff, at Immanuel
7. Pray for those struggling with past hurt, abuse, trauma
8. Pray for people who lack clean water
9. Pray for people who are hungry
10. Pray for people who do not think they need God
11. Pray for people taking care of elderly parents or family
12. Pray for those who grieve, who are missing loved ones this holiday season
13. Pray for the persecuted church, believers and new - believers
14. Pray for those who wish to work but cannot find employment
15. Pray for God to break the spirit of greed and selfishness
16. Pray for those who do not have a relationship with Jesus
17. Pray for prisoners who feel abandoned & unworthy
18. Pray for those in war torn countries, for peace
19. Pray for those whose dreams have died, who feel stuck, defeated and unsure
20. Pray for the sons and daughters trapped in sex-slavery. Pray for freedom.
21. Pray for governmental leaders, for wisdom, integrity, for God's will to be done
22. Pray for those who are workaholics, for right priorities
23. Pray for joy, generosity and grace for all people
24. Pray for ministries that celebrate and protect life
25. Celebrate our Savior! Give thanks for this Joyous holiday!
26. Pray for Pastor and his family
27. Pray for Immanuel's students and their families
28. Pray for those in seminary and Christian education that they will fulfill their callings
29. Pray for Immanuel's food ministries
30. Pray for broken families, for reconciliation
31. Pray for peace and prosperity in the New Year

December Birthdays

03 - Lizette Pena

03 - Solomon Bishop

07 - Sarah Blair

08 - Susan Mazanek

09 - Zachary Blair

10 - Karen Bimler

11 - Lance Turner

13 - Rita Stallings

14 - Brooklyn Gerard

14 - Cameron Kelley

16 - Jayne Siou

18 - Maxine Mannella

20 - Miciab Hiner

21 - Mia Railing

24 - Zachary Redis

26 - Corinne Hein

26 - Evin Thurman



DECEMBER 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>December 7th at 4pm Service of Leasons and Carols at Concordia University Chicago in River Forst</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:30pm Day School Commission Meeting</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6pm Advent Pot Luck Supper 7pm Advent Worship 7:30pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>4</p> <p>3pm Basketball Practice</p>	<p>5 7:30a.m Coffee Talk with Principal Nash 3pm Basketball Practice</p> <p>6pm Fellowship Hall in use 7pm Adult Volleyball</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 - Scrip Orders Due 9:30am, Worship HC 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Confirmation 11:15am Bible Study</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>4pm Basketball HOME Game</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6pm Advent Pot Luck Supper 7pm Advent Worship 7:30pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>11</p> <p>3pm Basketball Practice 6pm Family Christmas Night</p>	<p>12</p> <p>4pm Basketball HOME Game</p>	<p>13</p> <p>PTL Wrapping Party 11am Food Pantry</p>
<p>14 - 9:30am, Worship 10:30am Fellowship, Cookie Walk / 11:00am Confirmation / 11:15am Bible Study / 4:00pm ICA Christmas Program</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Christmas Spirit Week</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Christmas Spirit Week 4pm Basketball HOME Game PTL Wrapping Party</p>	<p>17 - Christmas Spirit Week / PTL Wrapping 6pm Advent Pot Luck Supper 7pm Advent Worship 7:30pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>18</p> <p>3pm Basketball Practice Christmas Spirit Week PTL Wrapping Party</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Christmas Spirit Week 7pm Adult Volleyball</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 - 9:30 am Service of Lessons and Carols 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Confirmation 11:15am Bible Study</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Christmas Break Begins No School</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Christmas Break</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Break 9pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Break 10am Christmas Day Worship Service</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Christmas Break</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9:30am, Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Confirmation 11:15am Bible Study</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Christmas Break</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Christmas Break</p>	<p>31 - New Year's Eve Christmas Break</p>			

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RETURN REQUESTED

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10*