



IMMANUEL SPEAKS
JANUARY 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

An author by the name of Robert Gallagher once said, “Change is inevitable — except from a vending machine.” Change is one of the constants of life. As we close one year and begin another we have all experienced change in one way or another. We ourselves, our kids or grandkids have gotten a year older. You may have started a new job or retired. Maybe there was a sickness, or you experienced the death of a friend or a loved one. And the list of things that have changed this past year for all of us could go on and on. For good or for ill all of us have been affected by change this past year. We can also be sure that as 2025 begins, the new year will bring more change to our lives in one way or another.

My friends, what will the new year bring for the world, for you, and for me? Time will only tell. However, as a people of faith I believe there is one thing we can know for certain about the new year. We can be certain of God’s love for us. We hear these words from the prophet Isaiah, “Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you” (Isaiah 54:10).

These were words spoken to the people of Israel as they began their return from exile. And believe me these people knew change. These words were spoken to a people who had been taken from all that they had known. They had been torn from family members, their homeland, the temple, and forced to live in a foreign country. Sitting by the rivers of Babylon the people would weep at what was lost. Sitting by the rivers of Babylon the people of Israel looked towards an uncertain future. Talk about change!!!

And yet even though their world was thrown upside down by change; God reminded them that God was with them. God reminded the people that God’s love and covenant with them could not be broken. The people of Israel who had been taken into exile would return to the Promised Land and rebuild the city, temple, and their lives. God would remain faithful to the promises that God had made!

In the same way my friends God continues to speak this message to us. As the years roll by and change occurs, the promise we have is this, “God’s steadfast love will endure forever”. We turn to the cross and see God’s great love for us as Christ took upon himself our sin and our death. We turn to the empty tomb and see that God has conquered death, assuring us that as Jesus lives so shall we.

When we gather to worship we turn to the baptismal font where through water and God’s word we are sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. We are claimed as one of God’s beloved children! We come to the table and are strengthened and nourished as we receive Christ’s own body and blood given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sin. We see the face of Jesus in our fellow sisters and brothers in Christ who are there to laugh and cry with us. We see the face of Jesus in our fellow sisters and brothers in Christ who are there to help bear our burdens. No matter what change occurs as Christians we have a sure and certain hope that our God is Emmanuel, God with us now, always, and forever!

My friends, what will 2025 bring to your lives and mine? We cannot say for certain. However, one thing we can be sure of and it is this, “Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you.”

Happy New Year, Pastor Joel

December 8, 2024

1. Pastoral Acts

- 45 pastoral visits
- 1 burial: Marlene Tabit

2. Worship

- Clara City Care center
 - Led worship on Nov. 20th & Dec. 4th
- Thanksgiving Eve Worship, Wednesday, November 27th @ 7pm with pie to follow
- Hanging of the greens, November 30th @ 9am
- Sunday School Christmas program, Sunday, December 22 @ 9am
- Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24 @ 5pm
- Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25 @ 9am

3. Education/Youth

- Sunday School
 - No Sunday school on Dec. 1st
 - SS Christmas program, Sunday, December 22 @ 9am
- Confirmation/Youth
 - Confirmation continues its journey through the NT
 - Jr. High Youth Gathering Nov. 22nd-23rd in Willmar
 - 21 youth attended, check out facebook page for photos

4. Mission & Outreach

- Community meal Dec 1st: beef stew, well attend once again .
- Items for veterans homes in Monte
- Mercy trailer (cookware and dinner ware...no silverware please)
- Mitten gifts for local maccray families due to office by Dec. 10th
- God's global barnyard tree through Christmas season

5. Continuing Education/Pastoral Self-Care

- Faith+lead (Luther Seminary) courses

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
Church Council Minutes
Sunday, December 8, 2024**

Present: Derek Rand, Laurie Dieken, Cheryl Colby, Andrea Prekker, Gabby Rognlie, Jane Niemeyer, Katherine Schwitters (Treasurer), Pastor Joel Gueningsman

Absent: Addisyn Pederson, Terry Noble, Randy Grussing

Meeting was called to order by President Andrea Prekker.

Agenda: New Business: Budget and mail added.

Reports: Secretary's Report: M/S/P to accept report.
Treasurer's Report: November – General Fund Income: \$32,002.20
General Fund Expenses: \$17,750.29
M/S/P to accept report.

Pastor's Report: Reviewed.

Committee Reports: Endowment Committee – Funds were distributed to Sunday School, Community Meal, and Ridgewater Campus Ministries.

Old Business: 1. Snow Removal – Butch Hasbrook will do sidewalks. Mike Schmidt will do parking Lot.

New Business: 1. Annual Meeting will be on January 20th, 2025. Reports must be in by January 6th.

2. Money Counters for January: Cheryl Colby, Laurie Dieken, Derek Rand (backup).

3. Noisy Offering for next quarter will go to Ridgewater Campus Ministries.

Next Church Council Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 12, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

M/S/P to adjourn meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Niemeyer, Church Council Secretary

INFORMATION ON IMMANUEL'S YEAR END 2024 FINANCES

General Fund Budget: \$242,309
2024 General Fund Income as 11-30-24: \$187,002
2024 General Fund Income Needed: \$55,307

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JANUARY 2025

Sunday, January 5:	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Andrew Gueningsman
	Lay Reader:	Carissa Pederson
	Altar Guild:	LuAnn Kruger
Sunday, January 12:	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Kayden Prekker
	Lay Reader:	Gary Meyer
	Altar Guild:	Nancy Gosseling
Sunday, January 19:	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Hudsen Hanson
	Lay Reader:	Laine Rieger
	Altar Guild:	Sara Sabe
Sunday, January 26:	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Hayden Emkes
	Lay Reader:	Cindy Meyer
	Altar Guild:	Michele Shubert

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OPEN RADIO BROADCASTS FOR 2025

Listed below are the open radio broadcasts for the year of 2025. If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast, please contact the church office at 847-2138, stop in the church office, or talk to Kathy Speiser or Pastor Joel. The cost for each broadcast is \$100.00. Thank you to everyone who supported this outreach of Immanuel.

January 19	February 2, 16, 23	March 2, 9, 16
April 27	June 15, 22, 29	July 6, 13, 27
August 3, 10, 17, 31	September 14, 21	October 12, 19
November 2, 16, 23	December 14 21, 28	

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QUILTING

Quilting will meet every Tuesday, in the winter months, weather permitting,.

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JANUARY COMMUNITY MEAL
SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 5:00-6:00 P.M.

The Community Meal will be on Sunday, January 5th from 5:00-6:00 p.m. The menu is: Chicken Alfredo, broccoli, breadstick, and dessert. We will be serving in the Fellowship Hall and also down the church alleyway. The meal is free and everyone is welcome! Please let us know how many meals you need by calling the church office at 847-2138 or signing up on Immanuel's Facebook page.

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TRIBE MEMBERSHIP FOR FEBRUARY 2025

Below we have printed the Tribe Membership for February 2025. The chairperson will be calling or texting you in the near future, asking you to serve Immanuel in some small way. Start thinking today what you can volunteer to help with...oh, and please say yes. If everyone takes a job, the needs list will be filled. Thank you so much!

Naphtali Tribe

- Cody and Trista Rand Family
- Dan and Traci Miller
- Mavin and Judi Boike – Tribe Leaders
- Jim and Lori Schmaedeka
- Steve and Tammy Tammen
- Janice Mittag
- Bryce Orwick
- Jerry Bond
- Norman and Linda Andresen
- Josh and Cindy VanDerPol

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THANK YOU!!

Thank you for thinking of Immanuel this past year with your monetary donations, gifts of time and talent, and in any way you have helped us out! We really appreciate ALL YOUR GIFTS! We are so blessed to be a part of this wonderful church family!

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ATTENTION COMMITTEES!!
END OF YEAR REPORTS ARE DUE IN OFFICE, JANUARY 6TH, 2025

It hardly seems possible, but it is once again the end of another year! Our Annual Congregational Meeting in January needs an annual report from each committee, and an annual financial report. Please turn them into the church office by **January 6, 2025**, this gives us time to put them together into a report and ready for distribution at the meeting. Thank you in advance.

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025, 10:00 A.M.

Immanuel Lutheran Church will have their annual meeting on Sunday, January 26, after the 9:00 a.m. worship service. We will gather in the sanctuary.

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2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2024 Offering Envelopes are out and in the cry room. Please pick yours up, and if you can deliver to friends or family it would be greatly appreciated.

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LENTEN SUPPERS

Lent is right around the corner, and we will again be having Lenter Suppers. If you, or a group or committee would like to put on a meal, these are the Wednesday or Thursday nights that are available.

- Ash Wednesday, March 5 – Pastor Joel and friends
- Wednesday, March 12
- Wednesday, March 19
- Wednesday, March 26
- Wednesday, April 2
- Wednesday, April 9
- Maundy Thursday, April 17

You can call the church office at 847-2138, talk to Pastor Joel or Kathy Speiser, to let us know what Lenten supper night you would be willing to prepare and serve the supper. Also, when the date gets closer, please let us know the menu.

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COFFEE FOR GALS

The women of Immanuel will gather on Wednesday, January 22nd from 2:00-3:30 p.m. Come for laughter, fellowship and of course, coffee and treats. All women are welcome!

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January

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Happy New Year! Office Closed	2	3	4
5 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Fellowship/No SS 5:00 Community Meal	6 Deadline for Annual Meeting Reports	7 1:00 Quilting	8 6:00 Confirmation Meal 6:30 Confirmation	9	10	11
12 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 SS/Fellowship 10:00 Church Council Meeting	13 1:30 Joy Bible Study	14 1:00 Quilting	15 6:00 Confirmation Meal 6:30 Confirmation	16	17	18
19 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 SS/Fellowship	20	21 1:00 Quilting	22 2:00 Coffee for Gals 6:00 Confirmation Meal 6:30 Confirmation	23	24	25
26 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Annual Meeting 10:00 Sunday School	27	28 1:00 Quilting	29 6:00 Confirmation Meal 6:30 Confirmation	30	31	