

**IMMANUEL SPEAKS  
DECEMBER 2024**



In St. Luke's telling of the Christmas story, we hear these words spoken by an angel to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause you great joy for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born for you; he is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:10). Fear, I think, is one of the constants of life. In fact, fear is so common that we hear the phrase "Do not be afraid" or one of its variants 119 times in Scripture. To put it simply, our world is filled with fear.

Now one of my favorite presidents FDR in his first inaugural address would share these words, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." I have to admit that while I understand what FDR was talking about, I find it very difficult to do. When we look at the world around us and see everything that happens there is a lot that we are or can be afraid of. There is sickness and death. There is violence, bloodshed, poverty, injustice, and war. There are broken relationships and broken families. There is the fear of being alone, or being unloved by others and by God. And the list of things we fear can go on and on.

In the end no matter how brave a front we put on, I think we all have fears, and it is hard to overcome them. It is easy to let them dominate and control our lives. However, as we gather here during this advent and Christmas season, we hear these joyous words from the angelic host, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause you great joy for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born for you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

The message from the angel is that fear will not dominate our lives. Fear will not have the final say or control over our lives, for a Savior has been born for you. As our reading from the gospel of John will say on Christmas day, our savior, the Word of God, Jesus Christ became flesh and dwells among us. He comes to calm our fears and to wipe away our tears. Like a parent he comes to comfort us in his arms and reassure us of his everlasting love which is stronger than any fear the world can throw at us.

Amidst the fears of life, do not be afraid is the angel's message, for Christ has come to save you from sin, from death, and from all those things that seek to separate you from life with him both now and forever. My friends, this is the good news of the Christmas story. Our God is not a God who is far off. Rather our God is a God who loves us so much, that Jesus leaves the glory and splendor of heaven and enters our world as a one of us with a grace that is filled with the cosmic energy of God. Christ comes to us with a grace that is filled with the cosmic energy of God that seeks to reach into every corner of our lives and heal that which we find hardest to believe can be healed...to comfort that which we believe cannot be comforted...and to bring hope to those places within our soul that we imagine to be hopeless.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, as we enter into the joys and wonders of the Advent & Christmas season may the words of the angel give you great joy and quell your fears. "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born for you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." He is Immanuel, God with you, now and always!

Blessed Advent & Merry Christmas!

Pastor Joel

**November 10, 2024**

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**1. Pastoral Acts**

- 28 pastoral visits
- 1 funeral: Dwight Mulder
- 2 baptisms: Allie Jo Hilbrands, Kaylani Jade Kruger

**2. Worship**

- Clara City Care center
  - Led worship on Oct. 23 & Nov. 6
- Confirmation Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> @ 9am
- Thanksgiving Eve Worship, Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm with pie to follow
- Hanging of the greens, November 30<sup>th</sup> TBD
- Sunday School Christmas program, Sunday, December 22 @ 9am
- Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24 @ TBD
- Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25 @ 9am

**3. Education/Youth**

- Sunday School
  - November 3<sup>rd</sup>, SS singing & assisting with worship
  - SS Christmas program, Sunday, December 22 @ 9am
- Confirmation/Youth
  - Confirmation continues its journey through the NT
  - Jr. High Youth Gathering Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> in Willmar
    - 22 youth registered
  - Youth Group Bake Sale & Luncheon, Nov. 2.
    - Another successful day! Thank you to everyone who helped support the youth!

**4. Mission & Outreach**

- Community meal Nov. 3.
- gently used coats and winter gear for project turnabout
  - Bring items to Sunday school room opposite pastor's office or contact LuAnn

**5. Continuing Education/Pastoral Self-Care**

- Faith+lead (Luther Seminary) courses

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2024 10:00 AM.**

Present: Katherine Schwitters (Treasurer), Randy Grussing, Andrea Prekker, Derek Rand, Terry Noble, Gabby Rognlie, Laurie Dieken,

Absent: Addisyn Pederson, Cheryl Colby

Meeting was called to order by President Andrea Prekker. M/S/P to accept agenda.

Reports: Secretary's Report: M/S/P to accept report.

Treasurer's Report:      October 2024 General Fund Income - \$17,363.33  
                                         October General Fund Expenses:      \$16,414.75  
M/S/P to accept report.

Pastor's Report:              Reviewed.

Committee Reports:      Cemetery shed is completed.

Old Business:      Discussion on offering envelopes.

New Business:      Snow removal. Will talk to Butch Hasbrook.

Next Church Council Meeting will be on December 8, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

M/S/P to adjourn meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Niemeyer  
Church Council Secretary



## **CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES AT IMMANUEL**

**Sunday School Christmas Program** – Sunday, December 22, at the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service. A **Christmas Program practice** is scheduled for December 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30 p.m. with a light supper being served.

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service with Communion** – Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day Worship Service with Communion** – Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

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### **COMMUNITY MEAL**

The Community meal will be on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:00-6:00 p.m. The menu is: beef stew, fruit, a roll and dessert. We will be serving in the Fellowship Hall and also to go meals in the 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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**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR DECEMBER 2024**

Sunday, December 1	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Karly Bratsch
	Lay Reader:	Annette Rosen
	Altar Guild:	LuAnn Kruger
Sunday, December 8:	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Addison McNeil
	Lay Reader:	Duane Dieken
	Altar Guild:	Nancy Gosseling
Sunday, December 15	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Gavin Gueningsman
	Lay Reader:	Judi Boike
	Altar Guild:	Ken & Jan Beyerl
Sunday, December 22:	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Kresson Bratsch
	Lay Reader:	Ken Beyerl
	Altar Guild:	Sara Sabe
Tuesday, December 24:	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Alivia Strommer (5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve)
	Altar Guild:	Michele Shubert
Wednesday, December 25:	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Andy Rand (9:00 a.m. Christmas Day)
	Altar Guild:	Carissa Pederson
Sunday, December 29:	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Ali Neville
	Lay Reader:	Daryl Niemeyer
	Altar Guild:	Judy Gosseling

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**2024 CONTRIBUTIONS**

All 2024 Contributions need to be into the church office by December 27<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for all your support this year!

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**COFFEE FOR GALS**

Coffee for Gals will not meet the month of December. We will gather again in January! Hope to see you all there!

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## Sharing Your Poinsettias

It is that time of year again! If you have a poinsettia plant or other Christmas plants that you would like to share with us throughout the Christmas holidays, please fill out the form below. You can put the form in the offering plate, give to Kathy Speiser or Pastor Joel, bring to the church office, or mail it to Immanuel. Please have the information to the church office by December 19<sup>th</sup>.

Please fill out the following information:

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In loving memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for sharing your beautiful poinsettias with Immanuel.



\_\_\_\_\_

**TRIBE MEMBERSHIP FOR JANUARY 2025**

Below we have printed the Tribe Membership for January 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!

**Ephraim Tribe**

- Josh Schmaedeka
- Brenda Kabisch
- Jim Fischer
- Dave Johnson
- Robert and Patsy Rand
- Trudi Friedl
- Aaron and Amanda Strommer – Tribe Leaders
- Loren and Nancy Gosseling
- Derek Rand
- Brian and Ronda Kimpling

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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. Thank you to everyone that has supported this outreach of Immanuel.

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|----------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| January 12, 19 | February 2, 9, 16, 23  | March 2, 9, 16      |
| April 13, 27   | May 25                 | June 8, 15, 22, 29  |
| July 6, 13, 27 | August 3, 10, 17, 31   | September 14, 21    |
| October 12, 19 | November 2, 16, 23, 30 | December 14, 21, 28 |

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# December

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Fellowship Hour/No SS 5:00 Community Meal	2	3	4 6:00 Confirmation Meal 6:30 Confirmation	5	6	7
8 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 SS/Fellowship Hour 10:00 Church Council Meeting	9	10 1:00 Quilting	11 6:00 Confirmation Meal 6:30 Confirmation	12	13	14
15 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 SS/Fellowship Hour	16 1:30 Joy Bible Study	17	18 6:00 Confirmation Meal 6:00 – 7:30 Sunday School Program Practice 6:30 Confirmation	19	20	21
22 9:00 Sunday School Christmas Program No Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship Hour	23	24 5:00 Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship/Communion	25 9:00 Christmas Day Worship/Communion  Merry Christmas!	26 Office closed	27 Office Closed	28
29 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Fellowship Hour/No Sunday School	30	31				

### 3 Ways to Give Online-NEW to Immanuel!

**Safe, Secure, and Convenient!**

**1. Download the FREE Vanco app to your phone.**

- Search **Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement** on your app store.
- Search for **Immanuel Lutheran Church of Clara City**. (Make sure you choose **CLARA CITY**-there are many different ILC's)
- You will need to sign up to create a login. Then, you can give from the app anywhere...anytime!



\*\*\*\*\*OR\*\*\*\*\*

**2. Scan the QR code below** with your phone camera to give to General Fund, Building Fund, Sunday School kids, or Youth (7th-12<sup>th</sup>) Fund.

- Scroll to choose your desired fund.



-You can give once or set up recurring gifts. You may use credit/debit card (3% charge that you can choose to pay or take off of your offering) or via your bank account at 1% charge.

\*\*\*\*\*OR\*\*\*\*\*

**3. Church Website.** (NOT FACEBOOK). Visit us at: <https://www.ilc-claracity.org/>

- Click '**Online Giving**' at the top of the page and choose your desired fund. Follow the instructions online.

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**We want to make church giving convenient for you. If you have any questions, please contact Kat Schwitters at (320)-894-2658. Please consider giving to Immanuel in order to continue the work we do here.**