

DECEMBER 28, 2025 || FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Welcome to Worship at



# the light of Christmas

*"The darkness can't put out God's Light.  
Christ's with us day by day,  
illuminating paths so we  
can follow in his way."*

*-excerpt from Peggy Ferrell's  
"Celebrate the Light"*

LISTEN ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE & ON OUR WEBSITE

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

---

12.28.25 || FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS || BANNER #4 "CHRISTMAS COLORS"

**PRELUDE & RINGING OF THE BELL** Milianna Carlson

**VIDEO** *Let Your Light Shine*

**WELCOME & PRAYER** Pastor Andrew

**CHRISTMAS CAROL** #259 *Angels from the Realms of Glory*  
(vs. 1, 2, 5)

**GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS** Grant Severson

**CHRISTMAS CAROL** #282 *O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** Patty Rathmacher

*Psalms 111; John 1:1-5, 9-14*

**CHRISTMAS CAROL** #256 *Love Has Come!*

**APOSTLES' CREED** Pastor Andrew

**OFFERTORY** #247 *Let's Worship and Adore Him*

**CHRISTMAS CAROL** #265 *The First Noel*

**MESSAGE** Pastor Andrew

**CHRISTMAS CAROL** #281 *What Child Is This?*

**CLOSING PRAYERS & LORD'S PRAYER** Grant Severson

**BENEDICTION & SENDING** Grant Severson

**CHRISTMAS CAROL** #270 *Joy to the World*

**POSTLUDE** Milianna Carlson



# Celebrate the Light

Bursting through December nights  
that could be long and cold,  
our Christmas lights bring warmth and joy  
with colors soft or bold.

Cascading from the rooftops,  
and from trees both small and tall,  
the lights cry out, "We have good news!  
We want to shout to all.

"You've seen the darkness earth can hold,  
the sorrow, war and fear;  
but God has sent his Son for all,  
to show his Love is here.

"The darkness can't put out God's Light.  
Christ's with us day by day,  
illuminating paths so we  
can follow in his way."

Light homes and streets and candles.  
Make your world shine clear and bright.  
God's love surrounds and blesses us.  
Come, celebrate God's Light!

—Peggy Ferrell



# MY SERMON notes



today's scriptures

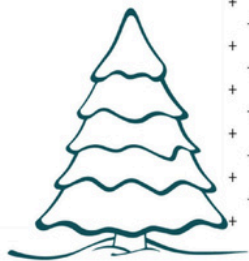
things to remember

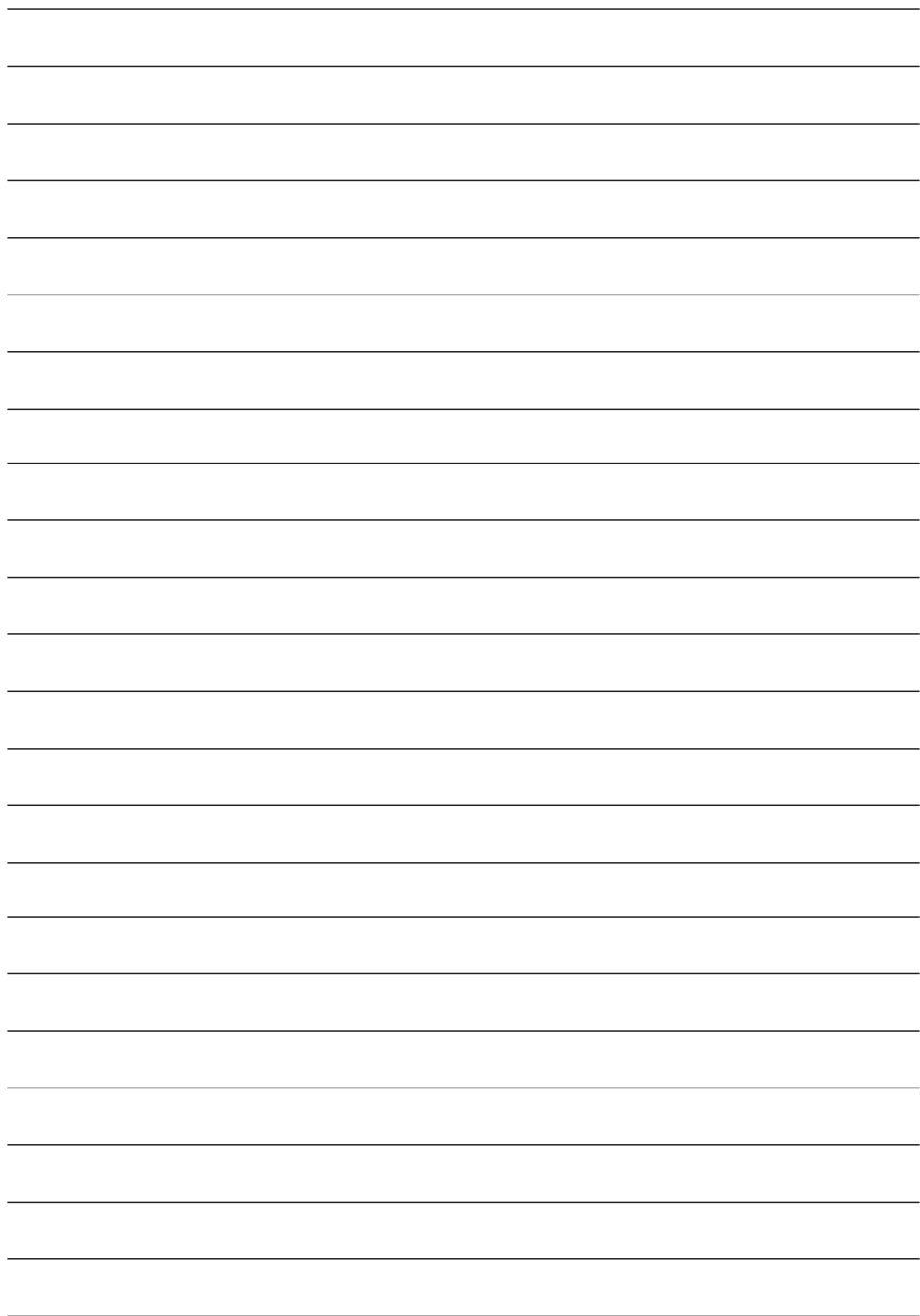


prayers



to study at home:





## CHURCH & COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

**Welcome to worship at Immanuel!** Our Christmas celebrations are now a memory, Lord, but help us know Christmas joy all year long.

**Join us in the lobby after worship for fellowship time!**

### **Important Dates:**

- January 11: Sunday School & Adult Bible Study Resumes
- January 14: EPIC resumes
- January 25: Family Sunday School

**Grab a copy of our 2025 Annual Report** from the lobby slatwall or view on our website.

The new faith-based animated release **David** will be shown at the historic Story Theater TODAY at 2:00 p.m. & 4:30 p.m. Admission is only \$5 (cash or check only). Film is not rated, but suitable for the whole family. For more info call 515-733-4551.

Bless our church & staff with gifts this Christmas season (or any season!), with our most-needed (& *most-wanted*) items on our **wish list**: postage stamps; Kleenex boxes; reams of white 8.5x11 paper; paper towels; bottled hand soap; coffee K-cups; sparkling water. Gifts do not need to be wrapped. Drop off to the church office anytime. ***We thank you for supporting our church & staff!***

**Riverside Bible Camp has opened registration for the summer 2026 season!** Get your camper registered early - Early Bird Registration ends after February 15th! Immanuel is also blessed to provide camperships to all Immanuel members. Contact the Church Office directly for this code. Are you sending a first-time camper or would like a campership for family camp? Contact the Church Office to submit your request to our Board of Trustees.

**All financial contributions for the 2025 tax year should be turned in to the church office by Wednesday, December 31.** Contact our financial secretary, Carol Lake, with questions regarding your giving for the year. Giving statements will be released in January.

**Church Office hours for the week of New Year's (Dec. 29 - Jan. 2):** We will be open Monday through Wednesday from 9 A.M. to noon and closed Thursday and Friday.

**Prayer for the New Year on Sunday, January 4, 2026:** Our first worship service in 2026 will emphasize the importance of prayer. As we begin a new year, join us in prayer for all that 2026 will bring. We know that God is still good in all circumstances.

**Have something to share with the Immanuel church community?** All bulletin, worship and/or weekly email announcements are due to the church office by 10 A.M. on Thursday mornings for inclusion in our church communications.

**Access and act on next steps** to get involved at Immanuel by checking out the kiosks in the lobby, browsing our website ([immanuelstorycity.org](http://immanuelstorycity.org)), or signing up for our weekly emails with the church office.

## THANK YOU TO TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

### **USHERS & GREETERS & ACOLYTES**

*Al Hermanson, Dion Whipple, Gary & Sue Uthe*

### **READER**

*Patty Rathmacher*

### **FELLOWSHIP**

*Christmas Treats in the lobby*

### **COFFEE CART**

*Steve & Miriam Skartvedt*

### **PRAYER PARTNERS**

*Immanuel Deacons*

### **TECH TEAM**

*Trent Whipple, Ben Carlson*

*Visit the Immanuel Kiosk in the lobby or contact Mary Mechaelsen to volunteer at church!*

get  CONNECTED



with



IMMANUEL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Church Staff

### Pastor Andrew Potratz

[andrew.potratz@immanuelstorycity.org](mailto:andrew.potratz@immanuelstorycity.org)

### Pastor Allison Potratz YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

[allison.potratz@immanuelstorycity.org](mailto:allison.potratz@immanuelstorycity.org)

### Conner Freerks

YOUTH MINISTRY LEADER

[conner.freerks@immanuelstorycity.org](mailto:conner.freerks@immanuelstorycity.org)

### Isaac Kubat

SEMINARY INTERN

[ikubat@miseminary.com](mailto:ikubat@miseminary.com)

### Chris Dahl

DEPLOYED PASTOR TO RIVERSIDE

[chris@riversidelbc.org](mailto:chris@riversidelbc.org)

### Church Council

[council@immanuelstorycity.org](mailto:council@immanuelstorycity.org)

### Carol Lake

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

[accounting@immanuelstorycity.org](mailto:accounting@immanuelstorycity.org)

### Milianna Carlson

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR & ACCOMPANIST

[office@immanuelstorycity.org](mailto:office@immanuelstorycity.org)

### Tyler Oberender

CUSTODIAN

### Ben Carlson

TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR

[tech@immanuelstorycity.org](mailto:tech@immanuelstorycity.org)

### Grant Severson

SEMINARY INTERN

[gseverson@miseminary.com](mailto:gseverson@miseminary.com)

### Amanda Tebben

NURSERY COORDINATOR

## Contact



604 Lafayette Avenue  
Story City, Iowa 50248



515.733.4972 or 515.357.6982



[office@immanuelstorycity.org](mailto:office@immanuelstorycity.org)



[www.immanuelstorycity.org](http://www.immanuelstorycity.org)



### Church Office Hours:

Mondays - Thursdays: 9 A.M. - Noon  
Fridays by appointment only

## Sunday Schedule

8:00 A.M. RADIO BROADCAST  
(KASI, 1430 A.M.)

8:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR  
(CONFIRMATION & ADULT BIBLE STUDY)

9:30 A.M. WORSHIP  
**LIVE STREAM**

10:30 A.M. COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



Facebook

[ImmanuelLutheranStoryCity](https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranStoryCity)



YouTube

[Immanuel Lutheran Story City](https://www.youtube.com/ImmanuelLutheranStoryCity)



Apple Podcasts

Immanuel Lutheran Church,  
Story City, IA