

THE IMMANUEL INFORMER

A publication of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

IN THIS ISSUE

"LET THERE BE LIGHT" ADVENT SERMON SERIES

FALL REVIEW WITH PICTURES

HOLIDAY COMMUNITY & CHURCH EVENTS



*Building strong relationships in Christ
and making Him known to all.*



2025/2026 IMMANUEL COUNCIL & BOARD MEMBERS

CHURCH OFFICERS

President: Doug Mechaelsen

Vice President: John Nordeen

Secretary: Lori Whipple

Treasurer: Chuck Carlson

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Ben Haberl

Steve McMenamin

Jim Oberender

Steve Skartvedt



get  CONNECTED

with 

 **IMMANUEL**
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Staff

Pastor Andrew Potratz

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Pastor Allison Potratz

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

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Tyler Oberender

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Ben Carlson

TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR

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SEMINARY INTERN

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Amanda Tebben

NURSERY COORDINATOR

Contact



604 Lafayette Avenue
Story City, Iowa 50248



515.733.4972 or 515.357.6982



office@immanuelstorycity.org



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



*As the leaves fall and the days grow shorter,
this time of the year invites us to pause, give thanks,
and prepare our hearts for the Advent season ahead.*

*Join us in worship as we prepare our hearts
for the coming of Christ with hope, peace, joy and love.*



LET THERE BE

Light

2025 ADVENT SERMON SERIES

THE PEOPLE WALKING IN DARKNESS
HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT;
ON THOSE LIVING IN THE LAND
OF DEEP DARKNESS
A LIGHT HAS DAWNED.

ISAIAH 9:2

LET THERE BE LIGHT

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

by Pastor Andrew Potratz

How much impact does one small light have on the darkness? I remember learning about something called “absolute threshold” back in high school. It’s a psychological term, and we learned it in the context of how our senses respond to stimuli. What stuck with me most was how that works with our sight.

The absolute threshold is the minimum intensity that a stimulus can be detected 50% of the time. So, your absolute threshold with vision would be something like a single candle from a mile away, or a distant star that you can barely make out on a clear summer night. You can tell that it’s there, but that light isn’t close enough to have a great impact on your ability to see in the darkness.

But what if you and the light are closer together? In terms of the stars, only one star is close enough to radically change our lives: the sun. Because of it, we have bright days, warmth, and growing things. The light is necessary for life. In terms of candles, that one candle at a mile away cannot help you find your keys, but if you move that candle into the same room as you, now you have a whole new experience of what that light is capable of.

How close are you? How close are you to the flame of the Gospel that we speak of carrying this year? How close are you to the “Light of the World” - Jesus? In our daily lives, we often observe matters of God and Faith at a distance. The missionaries are “over there” somewhere else and we hear stories about them. The pastor is “up front” while dozens of others sit away (sometimes at great distances!) as close to the back of the pews as possible. The youth come and fill the church on Wednesday nights, but only a few adults ever come into that space to experience what God is doing.

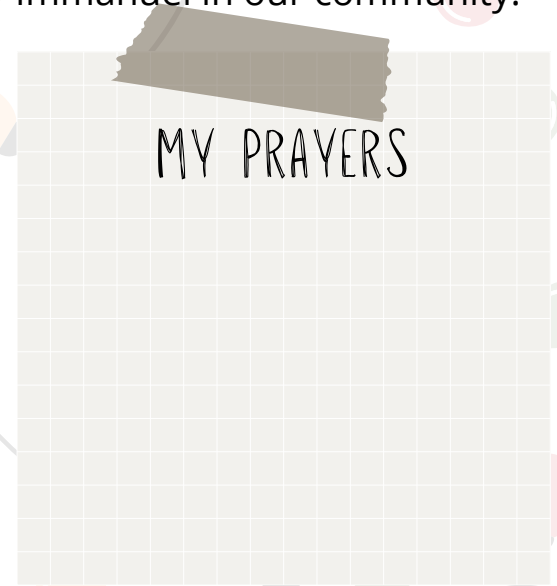
So, I ask again. How close are you to the light? Our world is full of great darkness. But God’s Light is brighter, better, purer, and more enduring than any darkness that exists. Our proximity to the light matters. And as God relentlessly pursues you and me, how might our awareness and experience of the light grow if we do the same? The Light of Christ is your only ticket to abundant life. Without His light, you will never Thrive as God intended you to thrive. Think and pray about these things and see how the Holy Spirit might be speaking to you!

This Advent, our theme will be *“Let There Be Light.”* The miracle of Christmas is one where God’s great Light becomes flesh and moves into the same room as us. As we develop this metaphor (and impactful spiritual truth) through Advent and into the new year, may it help us to better understand and know the flame that we are called to carry as followers of Jesus!

I encourage you to get into the same room as that light. Let the “light of mankind” illuminate your hearts and minds. Let it give you warmth. Let it drive out the darkness in your life, so that you are better prepared to drive out the darkness in the world around us. Let there be light! ☀

What Can I Pray About?

- We pray that God would empower and sustain the ministry of Immanuel, it's members, it's leaders, and those that are blessed by Immanuel in our community.
- We pray for God's hand to move in our community, and to lead people to hear, receive, and know the Good News through Immanuel and other local churches.
- We pray for the Lord to provide all that Immanuel needs from the time, talents, and support of our church family. May the LORD teach us to be faithful stewards of what He has blessed us with.
- We pray for our Advent and Christmas season: that God would shine His Light into the dark places of this world and our lives.
- We pray for the war-torn areas of our world, and ask for God's Peace to prevail in these places and in our lives.
- We pray for clear direction and helpful discernment for Immanuel as we finish 2025 and move into 2026.
- If you have prayer requests that you would like to share, please reach out to one of our pastors or Milianna in our office.



PRAY MORE
worry less



prayer journal

[Philippians 4:6]

verse
for
today:

today i am grateful for

prayer requests:

praise reports

my mood
for the day:

my personal prayer requests:

today is...

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30 31

month

year

answered
prayers:

Puzzle!

The Christmas Story

Unscramble each set of letters to form a word from the Christmas story. One letter in each set doesn't belong. Write each extra letter below, on the line above the correct number. Then answer the question: What did we all receive at Christmas?

- (1) TGLBEHHEME _____
- (2) NEAGLO _____
- (3) NRMEDAG _____
- (4) ODEKSNY _____
- (5) AMGYZ _____
- (6) OHESJIP _____
- (7) EFJSUS _____
- (8) ITEENMSW _____
- (9) SPHHDSREEO _____
- (10) EMCFAL _____
- (11) TLSRA _____
- (12) CSSNUEO _____
- (13) HEVSPE _____
- (14) ENIN _____



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12 13 14

Answers: Bethlehem (G), Angel (O), Manger (D), Donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F), Wise men (T), Shepherds (O), Camel (F), Star (L), Census (O), Sheep (V), Inn (E), God's gift of love



Celebrate the season of gratitude by creating a colorful Thankful decoration.

What you need:

- Construction paper in a variety of fall colors
- Pencil, marker, or crayons
- Yarn, ribbon, or raffia
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Spray bottle filled with water
- Real leaves (Optional)
- Wooden or plastic beads, cereal with holes (Cheerios, Froot Loops, etc.), or any dried pasta with a hole (Optional)



What you do:

1. Draw or trace leaf shapes onto construction paper.
2. Lay the paper flat and spray with water until the paper is completely wet.
3. Crumple the wet paper into balls.
4. Open the paper and let the sheets dry flat.
5. When dry, cut out each leaf.
6. On each leaf, write the name of one person or thing you're thankful for.
7. Punch a hole in each leaf.
8. Lace the leaves, beads, cereal, and pasta onto the yarn, ribbon, or raffia.
9. Tie the ends and hang your garland.





attendance

SUNDAY IN- PERSON

August Average: 113

September Average: 185

October Average: 194

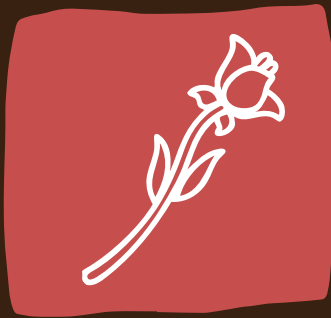
**SUNDAY IN-PERSON
AVERAGE: 164**

***SUNDAY ONLINE
(FACEBOOK) AVERAGE: 30**

**THIS ACCOUNTS FOR THOSE WATCHING
LIVE - NOT THOSE WHO VIEW THE SERVICE
AFTER THE LIVESTREAM HAS ENDED.*



To see the church's current financial report, check the lobby slatwall for paper copies. Questions regarding the church's financial status can be directed to financial secretary, Carol Lake, or church treasurer, Chuck Carlson.



deaths & memorials

Willard Oppedal passed away September 26. His funeral was on September 30.

Emily Anderson passed away on October 4. Her funeral was on October 9.

Other Pastoral Acts

Baptism of MacKenzie Chick, daughter of Brandon & Melissa Chick; sponsors: James & Erin Martin, Alex & Linsey Riesberg

Baptism of Lucas Messerly; sponsors: Diane Messerly, Bill Bertran

Baptism of Weston Messerly, son of Lucas Messerly and Kenadi Lowe; sponsors: Hayden Messerly, Richard Lowe, Sydney Carver

Baptism of Lucy Ostrem, daughter of Jacob & Jenny Ostrem; sponsors: Josh Ostrem, Jamie Glasgow



in our prayers

- our President and administration
- the families of Willard Oppedal and Emily Anderson
- those impacted by natural disasters
- those fighting or recovering from illness, chronic illness and diseases and cancer
- our congregation as we navigate new expansions to our ministry
- our government and our military leaders
- law enforcement, healthcare workers, teachers and students

Please call or email our church office to share your prayer requests and praises. If you would like to talk to a pastor about your concerns, please ask! You may remain anonymous if you'd like. You can also join our email prayer chain to receive a notice when someone requests prayer.

*How can we
pray for you?*

November 2025



weekly events

month at a glance

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

DAY	TIME	EVENT
MONDAYS	8:30 A.M.	Women's Bible Study
TUESDAYS	9:30 A.M.	Staff Meeting
WEDNESDAYS	6 - 8 P.M.	EPIC Youth Program
SATURDAYS	8 A.M.	Men of Immanuel
SUNDAYS	8:00 A.M. 8:30 A.M. 9:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	Radio Broadcast Education Hour Worship Coffee Fellowship

Church activities are subject to change. Check out our fully updated calendar on our website: immanuelstorycity.org

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun., Nov. 2	-- 11:15 A.M.	Communion Sunday // Daylight Saving Time Ends Lunch & Learn with Trevor Rubenstein (Social Hall)
Wed., Nov. 5	5:45//7:45 P.M.	Myrtle's Closet Open//Senior Choir Rehearsal
Thurs., Nov. 6	9 A.M. - noon	Quilting (Social Hall)
Mon., Nov. 10	10 - 11:30 A.M.	Myrtle's Closet Open
Tues., Nov. 11	6 - 9 P.M.	Social Hall Reserved
Thurs., Nov. 13	6:30//7:45 P.M.	Deacons & Trustees Meetings//Church Council Meeting
Sun., Nov. 16	-- 10:30 A.M.	Kingdom Kids & Young Disciples sing in worship Service of Holy Communion after worship
Wed., Nov. 19	5:45//7:45 P.M.	Myrtle's Closet Open//Senior Choir Rehearsal
Thurs., Nov. 20	--	Poinsettia Orders Due to Church Office
Sun., Nov. 23	7 P.M.	Community Thanksgiving Service at Salem (Roland)
Mon., Nov. 24	3 - 8 P.M.	Sanctuary and Lobby Reserved
Wed., Nov. 26	--	NO EPIC
Nov. 27 & 28	--	Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving
Sat., Nov. 29	11 A.M. - 1 P.M.	Christmas Luncheon & Bake Sale (Social Hall)
Sun., Nov. 30	11 A.M.	First Sunday of Advent//Senior Choir Rehearsal



birthdays

11/1: Kathy Thompson

11/3: Linda Cooper
Jenessa Haskin
Steve Olson
Kendall Wakefield

11/4: Cassie Edwards

11/5: Mike Mullenbach
Don Olson

11/6: Tyler Whipple

11/7: Theresa Haskin

11/8: Wyatt Royer

11/10: Patricia Matheason

11/11: Ruby Olson

11/12: Wendy Whitaker
Lydia Witthuhn

11/13: Matt Sporleder

11/16: Sue Braland
Paula Voga

11/19: Cindy Blomberg
Terry Greenfield
Lee Rickerl

11/21: Margaret Thompson
(Margaret will turn 105!)

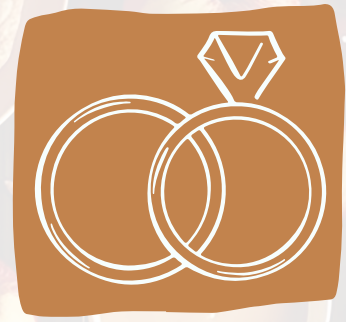
11/22: John Johnson

11/24: Linda Graber
Jaden Reinert
Dennis Soderstrum

11/25: Shelli Hassebrock

11/27: Hallie Shill

11/28: Kim Sporleder
Marilyn Whipple



anniversaries

11/7: Brandon & Laurel Leeman

11/10: Jim & Kathy Hovick

11/15: Peter & Janet Hermanson

11/23: Ben & Rachel Winecoff

11/24: Chris & Nicole Engelhardt
Steve & Miriam Skartvedt

11/28: Terry & Jerry Greenfield



***Are we missing your
birthday or anniversary
on our calendar?***

*Contact the church office
to update your records so
we can celebrate with you!*

december 2025



weekly events

month at a glance

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

DAY	TIME	EVENT
MONDAYS	8:30 A.M.	Women's Bible Study
TUESDAYS	9:30 A.M.	Staff Meeting
WEDNESDAYS	6 - 8 P.M.	EPIC Youth Program
SATURDAYS	8 A.M.	Men of Immanuel
SUNDAYS	8:00 A.M. 8:30 A.M. 9:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	Radio Broadcast Education Hour Worship Coffee Fellowship

Church activities are subject to change. Check out our fully updated calendar on our website: immanuelstorycity.org

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Mon., Dec. 1	10 - 11:30 A.M.	Myrtle's Closet Open
Tues., Dec. 2	6 - 9 P.M.	Social Hall Reserved
Wed., Dec. 3	5:45//7:45 P.M.	Myrtle's Closet Open//Senior Choir Rehearsal
Thurs., Dec. 4	9 A.M. - Noon	Quilters (Social Hall)
Sun., Dec. 7	--	Second Sunday of Advent//Communion Sunday
Tues., Dec. 9	6 - 9 P.M.	Social Hall Reserved
Wed., Dec. 10	5:45 P.M.	Senior Choir Rehearsal
Thurs., Dec. 11	6:30//7:45 P.M.	Deacons & Trustees Meetings//Church Council Meeting
Sat., Dec. 13	1 - 7 P.M.	Sanctuary & Social Hall Reserved
Sun., Dec. 14	9:30 A.M. 3:30 P.M.	Third Sunday of Advent//Christmas Program Life School Musical Auditions and Watch Party
Wed., Dec. 17	6 - 8 P.M.	EPIC Caroling & Christmas Party <i>(last EPIC until January)</i>
Sun., Dec. 21	-- 10:30 A.M.	Fourth Sunday of Advent//No Sunday School Holy Communion after worship
Wed., Dec. 24	4:30//7 P.M.	Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion
Dec. 25 & 26	--	Church Office Closed for Christmas
Sun., Dec. 28	--	No Sunday School
week of December 29		No church activities scheduled



birthdays

- 12/1:** Carol Altena
12/2: Melissa Chick
12/3: Grayson Nordeen
Paityn Reifschneider
12/5: Nadine Beck
Fran Christian
12/6: Katie Brouwer
Hunter Hill
Paul Voga
12/7: LaVerne Pierce
Laurie Thompson
12/8: Chuck Carlson
Tessa Leeman
Sierra Witthuhn
12/9: May Loots
12/10: Larry Fuhrman

12/12: Mike Billings
Dale Edwards
Janet Stock
Kyla Wright

12/13: Diane Christian
Tim Marienau
Leah Oppedal

12/14: Steve Skartvedt

12/16: Duane Hassebrock

12/17: Janet Oppedal

12/19: Gayle Tate
Jason Thompson

12/21: Ashlee Mullenbach
Braden Richardson
Solvay Twedt
Sue Twedt

12/23: Brooke Lynn Mader

12/27: Chuck Anderson
Nicole Engelhardt
John Nordeen

12/28: Jace Mensen

12/30: Brent Johnson

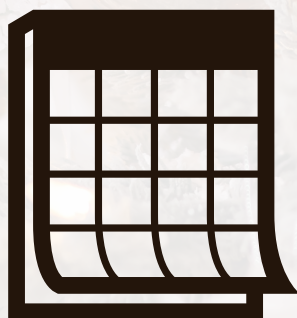
12/31: Janet Hermanson



anniversaries

12/22: Al & Karen Hermanson

12/30: Treyton & Sierra Witthuhn



***Are we missing your
birthday or anniversary
on our calendar?***

*Contact the church office
to update your records so
we can celebrate with you!*

January 2026



month at a glance

weekly events

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

DAY	TIME	EVENT
MONDAYS	8:30 A.M.	Women's Bible Study
TUESDAYS	9:30 A.M.	Staff Meeting
WEDNESDAYS	6 - 8 P.M.	EPIC Youth Program
SUNDAYS	8:00 A.M. 8:30 A.M. 9:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	Radio Broadcast Education Hour Worship Coffee Fellowship
SATURDAYS	8 A.M.	Men of Immanuel

Church activities are subject to change. Check out our fully updated calendar on our website: immanuelstorycity.org

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Jan. 1 & 2	--	Happy New Year!//Church Office Closed
Sun., Jan. 4	--	Communion Sunday//No Sunday School
Mon., Jan. 5	10 - 11:30 A.M.	Myrtle's Closet Open
Thurs., Jan. 8	9 A.M. - noon 6:30//7:45 P.M.	Quilting (Social Hall) Deacons & Trustees Meetings//Council Meeting
Sun., Jan. 11	10:30 A.M.	Myrtle's Closet Hosts Fellowship to celebrate 3 years of serving families!
Thurs., Jan. 15	--	Spring Quarterly Newsletter Submissions Due
Sun., Jan. 18	10:30 A.M.	Service of Holy Communion
Wed., Jan. 21	5:45 - 7 P.M.	Myrtle's Closet Open
Sun., Jan. 25	8:30 - 9:15 A.M.	Family Sunday School



birthdays

1/3: Laurel Leeman
Braylen Loots

1/5: Ken Frette

1/7: Cooper Leeman
Michael Mader

1/9: Patricia Kray
Jakoby Tarnow

1/10: Lisa Elm

1/11: Ben Martindale

1/13: Lois Stevenson

1/14: Parker Watson

1/15: Marjorie Michaelson

1/17: Marian Olive

1/18: Robert Johnson
Dean Kohlmeyer

1/20: Nate Watson

1/23: Andrew Potratz

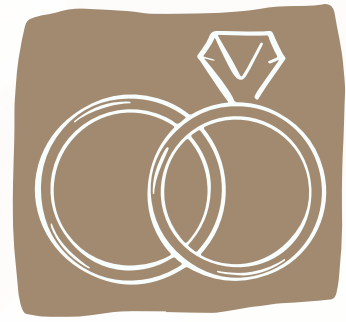
1/24: Steve McMenamin
Kendra Watson

1/26: Kayla Haberl
Rhonda Ostrem

1/27: Mary Ness

1/29: Jerry Greenfield

1/30: Becca Whipple
Arlene Willis



anniversaries

1/10: Ken & Sue Frette

Edward & Rita Frette



***Are we missing your
birthday or anniversary
on our calendar?***

*Contact the church office
to update your records so
we can celebrate with you!*

CARRY THE FLAME

2025 - 2026 SERMON SERIES

DEEPER *faith*
DEEPER *hope*
DEEPER *love*

1 CORINTHIANS 13

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
ENDS NOVEMBER 2



Fall back, not behind!
CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS and
join us on time for worship.

All Saints' Sunday

NOVEMBER 2

We remember and give thanks for those who have gone before us in faith since last All Saints' Sunday—family, friends and fellow believers who have touched our lives and pointed us to Christ:

**Curtiss Ostrem, Marilyn Holdredge,
Lori Ostrem, Willard Oppedal,
& Emily Anderson**



For all the saints who've lived and died in Christian faith and set us an example to follow, we give you thanks, O God.

Sign Up ✓
TO SERVE
this year
@ IMMANUEL

**ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO VOLUNTEER
FOR WORSHIP & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES!**
SIGN UP IN THE LOBBY, ONLINE, OR WITH THE CHURCH OFFICE.

We celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion on the **first Sunday of the month during worship**, and the **third Sunday of the month after worship** (in a more intimate setting).

Watching worship online?

Gather bread, crackers, wine or juice, or whatever you have on hand.

Holy Communion at Immanuel



Immanuel Senior Choir

FALL 2025 REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

REHEARSALS

Wednesday, November 5 (7:45 - 8:30 P.M.)
Wednesday, November 19 (7:45 - 8:30 P.M.)
Sunday, November 30 (11 - 11:30 A.M.)
Wednesday, December 3 (7:45 - 8:30 P.M.)

OPENING HYMN LEAD & PERFORMANCE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

REHEARSAL

Wednesday, December 10 (7:45 - 8:30 P.M.)

PERFORMANCE DURING 9:30 A.M. WORSHIP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Christmas Song - "In the Bleak Midwinter"

**We will announce our
rehearsal and performance
schedule closer to the
new year. Stay tuned!**

STUDENTS (6TH GRADE AND UP) AND ADULTS
OF ALL AGES (AND SINGING EXPERIENCE!)
ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE IMMANUEL SENIOR CHOIR!



Myrtle's Closet

FALL '25/WINTER '26 SHOPPING DATES

(10:00 TO 11:30 A.M.)
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1
MONDAY, JANUARY 5

(5:45 - 7:00 P.M.)
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

VOLUNTEER WITH MYRTLE'S CLOSET!
Help parents shop for baby clothes & diapers!
Training available for new volunteers.



Quilt Tying Work Days

NOV. 6 // DEC. 4 // JAN. 8
9 A.M. - 12 P.M.
IMMANUEL SOCIAL HALL

No quilting experience needed. Bring a snack to share during coffee hour! Donations of bed sheets (fitted & bottom sheets, 80 - 100% cotton) and fabric can be dropped off to the church office.



NOVEMBER 11

VETERANS

Lay HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

SATURDAYS || 8:00 A.M. || SOCIAL HALL

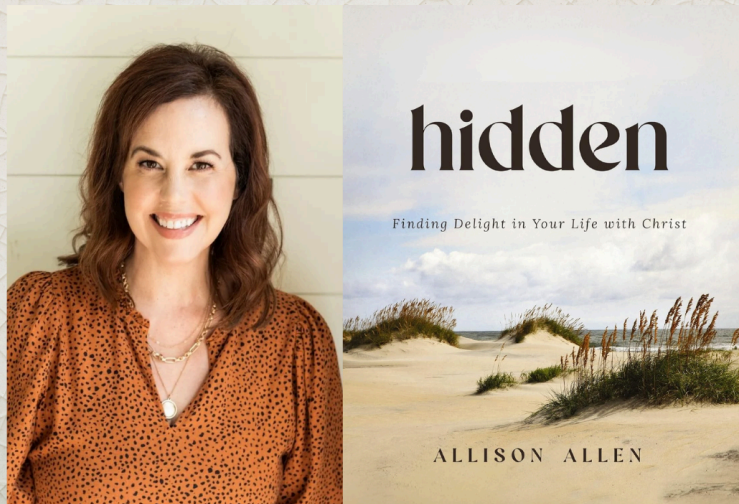
Men of Immanuel

BIBLE STUDY || COFFEE || DONUTS || FELLOWSHIP



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

LED BY PASTOR ALLISON
MONDAYS @ 8:30 A.M. IN THE CORNERSTONE ROOM
FALL/WINTER STUDY



Angel Gift Tree

Help support local Roland-Story children and their families in need this Christmas by taking a tag from our **Angel Gift Tree**! Tags will be on display in the lobby mid-November.

Don't want to shop? Bring in a monetary donation to the church (*checks out to Immanuel*) and we'll do the shopping for you!

Wrapped & labeled gifts are to be dropped off at Grace United Methodist Church on December 7th between 1 - 3 P.M. & December 8th between 4 - 6 P.M.

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Community Worship Service

Sunday, November 23 @ 7 P.M.
Salem Lutheran Church (Roland)

organized by the RS Ministerial Association

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Week of Thanksgiving (Nov. 24 - 28)

WE WILL BE OPEN MONDAY - WEDNESDAY
FROM 9 A.M. TO NOON
& CLOSED THURSDAY & FRIDAY

call or leave us a message

515-733-4972 OR TEXT 515-357-6982

email us anytime

OFFICE@IMMANUELSTORYCITY.ORG

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAYS @ 8:30 A.M.

Join us on Sundays during the Sunday School hour as our adult Sunday School class digs into each Sunday's theme and Bible texts. No preparation is needed for you to join! Just bring your Bible and a desire to dig deeper into God's Word.



Marilyn Whipple

turns **90** on November 28!

We are helping her celebrate
with a card shower!

Happy Birthday, Marilyn!

Send your cards to
1123 Twenty Oaks Drive
Story City, Iowa 50248



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Any weather-related early dismissals or cancellations at Roland-Story schools result in the cancellation of church activities.

Worship services will *typically* not be cancelled in the case of inclement weather.

*Please use your own discretion,
especially during "no travel" advisories.*

We will post information on our Immanuel Facebook page, website, and/or send an email out to alert you of any cancelled worship service or other activities.

CONGREGATIONAL

»»» reminder «««

Any concerns regarding church-related business or operations *(including elements of worship, ministries, leadership or staff)* are to be directed to church council president, Doug Mechaelsen, or vice president, John Nordeen.

These concerns can then be addressed by the members of the Immanuel church council.



Church Nursery

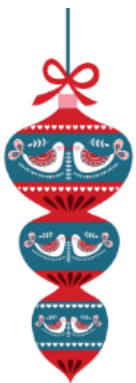
The Immanuel Nursery is available for children aged 4 and under, located across from the bathrooms, next to the pastors' offices.

When the nursery is staffed, parents must sign in when they bring their children to the nursery and then sign out when they return to pick them up.



We have ordered a limited number of **poinsettias** (red, pink and white) to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. If you would like to **sponsor a poinsettia** in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill out the bulletin insert and return **\$10** to the church office by **Thursday, November 20**.

You may pick up your plant following worship on Christmas Eve. Contact the church office with questions!



 **IMMANUEL**
LUTHERAN CHURCH
604 Lafayette Ave || Story City, IA || 50248



Christmas Luncheon

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29 ❄️ 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH STORY CITY'S YULEFEST

\$12 LUNCH

homemade soups + bread + veggies + fruit

Christmas cookies + potato cakes + rice pudding

Christmas punch + apple cider + coffee + kringla



BAKE SALE

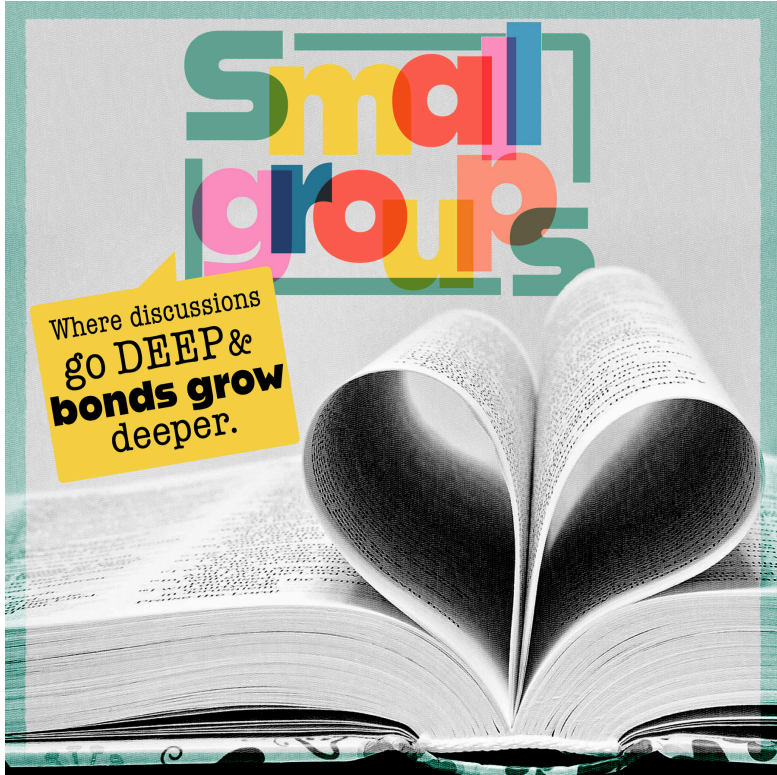
featuring Scandinavian goodies

Dine - In & Carry - Out meals available - order in the Social Hall. Cash, Check & Venmo Accepted.

There are volunteer opportunities for everyone!

Check out the display in the lobby or
contact Jaynee Christian or
Karen Hermanson to get signed up!





Small Groups at Immanuel

JOIN ONE OR START YOUR OWN!

Small groups are an important part of Immanuel's community. Sunday mornings alone do not give us the time and space to "Grow deep relationships in Christ" as our Mission Statement calls us to do, so many of Immanuel's people find that in the small group setting. We have a handful of active small groups, and we are always open to training point people and assembling new groups (as well as adding to existing ones). Please contact the office at any time if you are interested in being part of a small group at Immanuel or starting a new one.

CARE & VISITATION MINISTRY TEAM



We continue to experience the blessing of having many people helping with our care & visitation ministry - thank you for answering God's call to "be the church" to each other!

We are always open to adding *more* people to our care and visitation ministry team! If you have questions or would like training, please contact Pastor Andrew for more information.

steady hands MINISTRY

with mentor *Kim Combes*



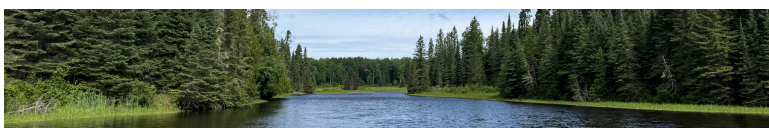
Sessions will be scheduled at the church on select Thursdays between 3 - 7 P.M.

Contact Kim to set up your free mentoring session at 515.291.4014

SUMMER 2025 *SABBATICAL REPORT*

Pastor Andrew's Reflections on Travel and Growth

Check out the link on our website.



Paper copies are on the slatwall.

Immanuel offers a mission outreach (*funded entirely by the Tom & Myrtle Johnson Funds*) named "Steady Hands Ministry", based on Exodus 17:12.

This mentoring service with Kim Combes is offered to anyone in our congregation and community completely free of charge (*you may gift a thank you gift to Kim directly*).

Attention, children!

AUDITION FOR OUR SPRING 2026 MUSICAL!

All Immanuel and EPIC students (3rd grade through high school) are invited to audition. There are big and small roles, and non-speaking roles in this production.

There is a \$10 per family participation fee to help cover costs of this production, including licensing and t-shirts.



Life School Musical is a production
by Little Big Stuff Music

AUDITIONS & WATCH PARTY

(with games and pizza!)

Sunday, December 14th (3:30 - 5:30 P.M.)

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Rehearsals begin Sunday, January 11

Sundays 12:30 - 2 P.M. (no meal)

Wednesdays 2 - 2:30 P.M. (snack)

PERFORMANCES

Saturday, April 11 @ 1:30 P.M.

and Sunday, April 12 @ 4 P.M.

Contact Pastor Allison or Milianna Carlson
with questions about auditions or helping
with this production.

Sunday, December 14
9:30 A.M. worship service

*The Immanuel Sunday School
Christmas Program
(3-year-olds through 5th grade)*

&

*The Immanuel Senior Choir's
performance of Brad Waline's
arrangement of
"In the Bleak Midwinter"*

CHURCH & STAFF *Christmas Wish List*

You can bless our church & staff with gifts this Christmas season (or any season!), with our most-needed (& *most-wanted*) items on our wish list. Gifts do not need to be wrapped. Drop off to the church office anytime. **We thank you for supporting our church & staff!**

POSTAGE STAMPS || KLEENEX BOXES
REAMS OF WHITE 8.5 X 11 PAPER
PAPER TOWELS || BOTTLED HAND SOAP
COFFEE K-CUPS || SPARKLING WATER

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Week of Christmas (Dec. 22 - 26)

WE WILL BE OPEN MONDAY - WEDNESDAY
FROM 9 A.M. TO NOON
& CLOSED THURSDAY & FRIDAY

call or leave us a message

515-733-4972 OR TEXT 515-357-6982

email us anytime

OFFICE@IMMANUELSTORYCITY.ORG



IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

YOU'RE INVITED TO IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH'S

2025 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:30 P.M.

7:00 P.M.

Each service features readings, congregational hymns, special music, service of Holy Communion & candlelight singing of Silent Night.

604 LAFAYETTE AVE || STORY CITY, IOWA || 515.733.4972 || IMMANUELSTORYCITY.ORG

Christmas Hymn Sing

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

Let's fill the sanctuary with music on the Sunday after Christmas - we'll sing our classic Christmas hymns as we worship Jesus, the newborn King!

You're also invited to bring your leftover holiday goodies and snacks to share for coffee fellowship time after worship.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Week of New Year's (Dec. 29 - Jan 2)

WE WILL BE OPEN MONDAY - WEDNESDAY
FROM 9 A.M. TO NOON
& CLOSED THURSDAY & FRIDAY

call or leave us a message

515-733-4972 OR TEXT 515-357-6982

email us anytime

OFFICE@IMMANUELSTORYCITY.ORG

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 Newsletter SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Any articles, pictures, or other newsletter submissions for our **SPRING Quarterly Newsletter** (February - March - April) are due to the church office by **January 15th**.

Contact Milianna with questions.

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.

Contact Milianna in the church office with questions.



Life on this side of heaven is difficult. Daily there are many decisions and choices to be made. Sometimes the surrounding factors make choosing easy, but frequently the decisions are tough, often involving some trial and error or trade-offs in order to succeed. When it comes to choosing good reading material, we hope to make your life easier! Whether you are reading to stretch your mind, strengthen your faith, find the answer to a question or just get lost in a good story, you will find something here to enhance the quality of your life. Stop in and see what we have to offer!

Here are some of our latest additions:

The Canary Girls by Jennifer Chiaverini. Set in WWI, the story of the young women who stepped up to “be the girl behind the man behind the gun” putting their own lives in jeopardy as they worked in the munitions factories.

Amazing Grace by Bruce Hindmarsh and Craig Borlase. Read the unexpected story of John Newton’s life and how his universally beloved hymn came to be and why it meant so much to him.

The Forgotten Names by Mario Escobar. The amazing story of the Jewish parents who signed away their parental rights so that their children would have a chance to survive the tyranny of Hitler’s regime during WWII in France, and, years later, the young woman who sought to reconnect the now elderly survivors with their true identities.

How Did I Get Here? by Christine Caine. “Finding Your Way Bac to God When Everything Is Pulling You Away.”

The Sacrament of Happy by Lisa Harper. “What a Smiling God Brings to a Wounded World.”

Star of Wonder by Angela Hunt. “An Advent Devotional to Illuminate the People, Places, and Purpose of the First Christmas.”

For young readers:

The Story of Thanksgiving by Nancy J. Skarmeeas. The story of the first Thanksgiving simply told for toddlers in board book format.

Hearts Full of Thanksgiving by Bonnie Johnson Fite. For readers of all ages, introduces twelve people who helped the Plymouth Colony succeed and eventually, our nation.

Touch-and-Feel Nativity by Allia Zobel-Nolan. A surprise on every page as little ones are introduced to the story of the first Christmas.

Twas the Evening of Christmas by Glenys Nellist. Using the rhythm and cadence of Clement C. Moore’s “Twas the Night Before Christmas”, this version shares the real Christmas story of Jesus’ birth.





On Wednesday, September 3rd we welcomed 60 kids to EPIC at Immanuel! We are having a great year learning about how much Jesus loves us, how we can love others like Jesus, and digging into the Bible to grow more in our faith. This year we launched our new High School EPIC program with Conner Freerks. It has been great seeing these kids grow and mature in their faith as they manage the busyness of school, work, home life, and activities.



On Wednesday October 8th EPIC students attended Fields of Faith at Ballard High School along with several other youth groups around Iowa. It was a chance to hear from various high school students about their own faith, including Cody Long from Roland-Story who shared his faith testimony. We were also able to hear faith testimonies from Iowa State Athletes, along with worship, food, games, and prayer. This night is always a blessing for our students and it's especially sweet to see them all circle together around the football field for prayer.



Immanuel Youth Mission Trip

>>> JULY 5 - 10, 2026 >>>



Please be in prayer for us as we make plans and raise funds to attend this great trip! Be on the lookout for a fundraiser in the near future!

Students and Adults attending the Mission Trip next Summer to Lake Traverse, SD:

Adults

Allison Potratz
Grant Severson
Kim Petersen

Students

Josiah Potratz
Annabelle Potratz
Connor Hermanson
Leo Hermanson
Elliana Vermeer
Harper Vermeer
Kiera Wright
Joshua Dahl
May Loots
Jerry Severson
Koert Petersen
Myles McIlrath
Zayne Leeman
Clay Rickerl



UPCOMING EPIC CALENDAR:

November 5th - MOVIE NIGHT

November 25th - No EPIC - Happy Thanksgiving!

December 17th - Caroling and Christmas Party



The Juggler with the Yellow Shoes

On Rally Sunday, both youth and adults were entertained by Dan Kirk, The Juggler with the Yellow Shoes. He provided a friendly comedy routine while juggling, balloon twisting, and unicycle riding. He encourages audience participation during his program. He loves sharing the Gospel and he weaves uplifting Christian messages into his programs.





Back to school blessing on August 24

Walk in kindness, shine with courage,
go with God. *Ephesians 4:32*

Women's Gathering

On September 14, sixteen women gathered at the Christian "She Shed". Everyone provided delicious snacks and the table was overflowing. Allison shared a devotion about the seasons of life. The afternoon was filled with good fellowship, games and a cute pumpkin craft. We will meet again in January!



THANK YOU TEACHERS!

Installation of Teachers & Volunteer Leaders

It takes many volunteer hours of dedication to keep our Sunday School and Youth programs growing. Thank you to all our volunteers.



Pastor Allison led a children's sermon on the Holy Spirit. Even though we can't see him, he is always with us. The Holy Spirit heals us, comforts us, helps us to pray, is like a best friend and gives us God's love.



EPIC has been having a great turn-out of youth on Wednesday nights. The high school students are also meeting for a worship time together. They are led by Conner and Maggie, an intern from Riverside. The students are enjoying some pizza and fellowship in the youth room before they begin.



Tuckpointing on the church roof this fall.



Kingdom Kids

On October 12, the congregation was treated to some great singing by our Kingdom Kids. Shown are the kids warming up, getting ready to go in and performing. Thanks to Nicole and her grandson, Karson, for directing the Kingdom Kids.



5th graders receive first communion

During a recent Epic gathering, the 5th grade students and their parents attended a lesson on Communion. On Sunday, October 5, they received their first communion during the worship service. Those receiving communion were: Gilbert Christian, Bristol Whipple, Masen Wright, Sabrina Schaufenbuel, Lane Rickerl, Thomas Halverson, Henry Severson, Laura McIlrath, and Reagan Harriman.





The Board of Education and pastoral staff recognize the importance of including our youth in church activities and to make them feel part of our Immanuel family. Thank you to our fourth grade greeters. You did a great job!



Distribution of Prayer Books to the 3 and 4 year olds, and Bibles to the 2nd graders.



Pastor Appreciation Sunday

The Sunday School department presented Pastor Andrew, Pastor Allison, Pastor Chris and interns Conner, Isaac, and Grant with gift certificates to show our appreciation for all they do for us.

Fall Mission Project

The Sunday School collected items for nursing homes and senior care facilities in the surrounding communities. Items will be distributed between Hubbard, Story City and Zearing. They will be given to the residents as gifts, game prizes, etc.



The Young Disciples sang during worship on October 19. The congregation was invited to sing with them on their second song.



On Sunday, October 26, 90 people gathered with Em Quang and three of her adult children to celebrate 50 years in the Immanuel community. Un & Em escaped communist persecution in October 1975 from North Vietnam. They raised four children in Story City, all baptized and confirmed at Immanuel. The kids graduated from Story City High School. Friends and family joined us for a delicious luncheon including homemade egg rolls & crab rangoons. Dr. Sam & Becki Senti, and Clayton Gabrielson were special guests of the Quang family as original sponsors in the refugee program. Em thanked the congregation and community members for friendship and support over the past 50 years.



Sunday School Curriculum

This year we are using a new curriculum program called Grow Kids. We have lessons for both younger and older youth. Here are the lessons we will be studying from September through December:

Blast-Off

The gospels on spiritual habits.
Jesus visits Mary and Martha
Jesus heals a paralyzed man.
Jesus washes the disciples' feet.
Paul and Silas in prison.

Miraculous

Jesus's Miracles
Jesus turns water into wine.
Miraculous catch of fish.
Healing at the pool.
Jesus feeds 4000.

Joy Story

Birth of Jesus
Angel appears to Mary.
Zechariah and Elizabeth.
Mary visits Elizabeth.
Shepherds visit.
Magi visit.

IMPORTANT Sunday School Dates

DECEMBER 21 & 28

No Sunday School

JANUARY 4

No Sunday School

JANUARY 25

Family Sunday School

YOUNG DISCIPLES Singing Schedule

October 19
November 16
December 14
February 8
March 29
May 17
(2nd through 5th Graders)

KINGDOM KIDS Singing Schedule

October 12
November 16
December 14
February 15
March 29
May 17
(3&4 year olds through 1st Graders)

MERRY
Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM THE IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

**Minutes of the Joint Council Meeting: Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
August 14, 2025 7:45 PM In Person in the Social Hall**

Present: Pastor Allison, Lori Whipple, Dion Whipple, Julie Skaar, Grant Severson, Steve Skartvedt, Steve Olson, Chuck Carlson, Sean Edens, Patty Rathmacher, Joel Danielson, Jim Oberender

President Joel Danielson called the meeting to order at 7:55 PM. We do not have a quorum as no representative is present from the Board of Education.

Devotions and opening prayer were given by Pastor Allison.

Approval of previous meeting minutes. Minutes were accepted but due to no quorum they will be approved at the September meeting.

Treasurer's Report was given by Chuck Carlson using the documents submitted to council. The Treasurer's report was accepted but due to no quorum they will be approved at the September meeting. Chuck did state that he has formatted the report that will be available for the congregation on the slat wall.

Report of Boards (see below for full reports)

- Deacons: Patty Rathmacher; Board of Ed: Pastor Allison; Youth Board: Pastor Allison; Trustees: Sean Edens

Old Business

- Nominating Committee. Initial meeting was held August 13th. Plan to have something in the bulletin this Sunday.
- Choir Director. A job description was submitted to the council. A meeting of previous and current members will be held August 19th to discuss the future of the choir. It was decided that the approval of the job description be voted on after the August 19th meeting.
- Church Calendar. Just a reminder to keep the calendar present in board conversations since we now have a quarterly newsletter.

New Business

- We Heart Roland-Story. Deacons did report in their minutes on our responsibilities. Still need volunteers. Please sign up.
- Internship Program Budgets. Three internships will begin this fall so this is just a heads up that a decision will need to be made from where each will be paid from.

Joel adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM. Julie moved that the meeting be adjourned and Steve S. seconded. Next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2025. Devotions will be given by the Pastor Allison and lunch by the Trustees.

Those present prayed the Lord's Prayer together.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Whipple, Secretary

**Youth Board Meeting August 3, 2025
Kayla, Conner, Grant, Allison**

- Went over EPIC calendars for the first semester. Registration night is Aug. 27th and kick off is Sept. 3rd
- We discussed who our EPIC leaders will be for the fall. We also discussed what we wanted EPIC to look like this year as far as classrooms and use of the sanctuary for MS worship so we don't disturb the HS group in the chapel.
- New Board Members: We have some spots to fill on our board. We reached out to 2 more adults who are considering it. We also decided to ask 2 youth from the church to be on the board. One has said yes, the other is considering it.
- Mission Trip: Allison has a mission trip planned with Youth Works for 6th-12th grade students going to Lake Traverse, South Dakota. We have 14 spots reserved for students and 4 spots reserved for leaders. So far we have Allison, Kayla Cook and Conner being leaders. We'd like another if we fill up the 14 spots with youth. It will be around \$500/person. We will do fundraising throughout the year, but ask families to pay the \$50 deposit to reserve their child's spot. Registration opens August 27th and closes October 8th.

Trustees Meeting August 14, 2025

- Previous minutes approved.
- Treasures report - new format; front page of report is shared on slat wall now. Office expense was higher due to lift being expensed to that line. Going to move the improvement fund in August. Report approved.
- Bills approved.

Projects

- Garage door is complete
- Surge protectors - will be installed soon, maybe in the next week
- Tuck pointing - going to contact them one more time for a date and then look for another mason
- Flat rook leak - Sean to fly drone and inspect/get pictures
- Website management training - approved for 5 hrs (\$750)
- Room under the basement - Sean looking for asbestos testing company (tiles are likely to be asbestos and will require abatement) for quote on testing and abatement

Board of Education - August 13, 2025

- PRESENT: Allison, Rachel, Lily, Jana, Jaynee, Brandi
- OPENING PRAYER
- PREVIOUS MINUTES - Minutes from the previous meeting approved.
- TREASURER'S REPORT
 - Current balance – \$8,292.18
 - Day Camp expenses, Riverside payment, Juggler
- RECAP OF LAST MONTH
 - Summer!
- UPCOMING EVENTS / REMINDERS FOR MILIANNA
- Back to School Blessing August 24th—getting water bottle stickers
- Sept 7th—Rally Sunday
- Sept 7th—2nd graders receive Bibles and 3 year old that don't have one yet on 9/7/25
- Sept 14th—installation of teachers and Bible Class
- Brainstorming--fall mission projects ideas, returning to Bethany for singing, having Sunday school classes be volunteers/greeters
- OTHER
 - Rally Sunday Plans
 - Juggler booked! 45 minutes, free will offering at church
 - Sanctuary
 - Families invited
 - Kids come to pews and meet the teacher
 - Fellowship after on patio. Put out benches.
 - Cookies, juice boxes, water bottles
 - Pictures of classes the following week
 - Registration table
- Classes (updated 8/13/25)
 - 3 and 4 year olds—OPEN
 - PreK and Kindergarten-Rachel and Lois
 - 1st Grade-Carly Palmer
 - 2nd Grade-Keely Oberender
 - 3rd Grade-OPEN
 - 4th Grade-Lauren Crawford and Megan Thomas
 - 5th Grade-Conner
 - Confirmation-Allison
 - Kingdom Kids Music-Nicole??
 - Young Disciples Music-Kelly Dahl
- Teachers
 - Teacher meeting—plan for 8/24/25.
 - Curriculum
 - Jaynee putting together
 - Reviewed lessons on calendar
 - Children safety
 - Discuss routine with each teacher, primarily Kingdom Kids
- CLOSING

Immanuel Deacon Minutes 8 14 25

- Present: Patty Rathmacher, Julie Skaar, Dion Whipple, Grant Severson
- Called to Order by Grant who also led opening prayer time.
- Previous minutes approved.
- Ministry updates: Kim Combes will be having a follow-up time for discussion on Thursday September 18th, in the social hall.
- Myrtles Closet had 7 clients at last open time and has had many donations over the last 2 weeks.
- Old Business:
 - Ministry Fund Balance and Johnson Fund balance reviewed.
 - Allison preaching August 24th
 - Sign ups for communion assistants and readers filled for September, October and November.
- New Business:
 - Grant gave updates to our Intern program and gave recommendations to help Deacons give oversight in the future.
 - Grant will be leaving the Deacon Board beginning September 1st due to his position as a new intern. Dion will also be ending his term on the Deacon Board at the end of this church year.
 - Reviewed our duties for the We Heart RS Day August 23rd .
 - Discussed having offering boxes in 2 different locations as ways for in-person giving on Sundays and only passing offering plates on special giving occasions. Tabled for September meeting.
 - Began discussion the new Welcome Team proposal. Ushers, greeters, and anyone who volunteers to help make our visitors and members feel welcome and get connected on Sundays and other needs they may have. Tabled for September meeting.
 - Discussed a proposal from our church secretary to implement having a digital platform available using iPads located as “kiosks” to register members and visitors for programs we offer (Sunday school, Epic, Daycamp). These would be utilized on Sunday mornings, and other times when new programming has registration events.

**Minutes of the Joint Council Meeting: Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
September 11, 2025 7:45 PM In Person in the Social Hall**

Present: Pastor Allison, Pastor Andrew, Lori Whipple, Dion Whipple, Julie Skaar, Steve Skartvedt, Steve Olson, Sean Edens, Patty Rathmacher, Joel Danielson (zoom), Brian Wakefield, Kelly Dahl, Lily Rathmacher, Jana Larson, Jaynee Christian, Rachel Winecoff, Brandi Hill, Jim Oberender

President Joel Danielson called the meeting to order at 7:53PM.

Devotions and opening prayer were given by Pastor Allison.

Approval of previous meeting minutes. Steve O. moved that the July minutes be approved and Julie seconded. Brian moved and Steve S. seconded that August minutes be approved.

The Treasurer's Report document for August was submitted to council. Jaynee moved and Steve O. seconded that the July Treasurer's report be approved. Steve S. moved and Jaynee seconded to approve the Treasurer's report for August.

Report of Boards (see below for full reports)

- Deacons: Kelly Dahl; Board of Ed: Pastor Allison; Youth Board: Pastor Allison. Started EPIC with great numbers (approx 60). Maggie (Riverside) leading a girls' group. Still looking for some male leaders. Mission trip for summer is shaping up.; Trustees: Brian Wakefield. Steve O. made a request for the Trustees to purchase a two-wheel cart.

Old Business

- Nominating Committee. Still need a Vice President for the ballot. Andrew is still working on the delegates for some committees.
- Choir Director. It was decided that the approval of the job description submitted in August be voted on after the August 19th meeting of choir members. It was the consensus of the choir members that we hold off on hiring a choir director at this time.
- Church Calendar. Just a reminder to keep the calendar present in board conversations since we now have a quarterly newsletter.

New Business

- Intern Contract. The Deacons presented the terms of the intern contract for Conner Freerks. The term will run from October 1, 2025 to June 15, 2026 at 23 hours per week for \$1,300 per month. We are committing some scholarship funds available through Immanuel to assist as well. Julie moved a that the terms be approved and Jana seconded. Motion carried.
- New Membership. Deacons moved to approve Carly Palmer and her three daughters for membership and Steve O seconded.
- Annual Report. Miliana will need the reports from boards and committee for the annual report as of October 3rd. Andrew will follow-up with Miliana regarding how to remind committees.
- Safety Discussion. Deacons discussed a Welcome Team and perhaps we could use members who have safety background be a part of this. Perhaps the east door could be locked remotely at 9:40 AM on Sundays. Also discussed the north door being locked. Also discussed that a reminder needs to be reiterated that kids attending the nursery should be signed in and out with Amanda.

Joel adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM. Kelly moved that the meeting be adjourned and Lily seconded. Next meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2025. Devotions will be given by the Officers and lunch by the Board of Education.

Allison closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Whipple, Secretary

Board of Education - September 9th, 2025

PRESENT: Allison, Rachel, Lily, Jana, Jaynee, Brandi

OPENING PRAYER

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes from the previous meeting approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Current balance – \$8,491.47

RECAP OF LAST MONTH

- *Back to school blessing
- *Rally Sunday—Dan Kirk, "the juggler" was a great success! Really great turnout and everyone seemed to enjoy! Geared to all ages!
- *Fellowship afterward on patio...not many families stuck around.
- *2nd graders received their Bibles and new 3 year old received their prayerbooks—next year remind parents they can come up with kids and have a list of names prepared so Allison can read.

UPCOMING EVENTS / REMINDERS FOR MILIANNA

- Sunday school begins!
- Sept 14th—installation of teachers and Bible Class
- Fall mission projects ideas
 - Items for nursing homes for activity departments i.e. money or new/gently used items for prizes following games (candy bars, lotions, hairbrushes, travel size kleenex, etc).
 - Dates: Sept-October 12th

OTHER

- a. Pictures of classes 9/14/25
- b. Having Sunday school classes be volunteers/greeters–have a class be greeters on the 21st
- c. Returning to Bethany for singing
- d. Determine Kingdom Kids singing dates

CLOSING PRAYER

Immanuel Deacons Meeting Minutes (9/11/25)

Present: Dion Whipple, Kelly Dahl, Patty Rathmacher, Julie Skaar, Andrew Potratz

Call to order and Opening Prayer: Patty opened the meeting in prayer. Prayer requests from congregation and communion cards were reviewed.

Previous minutes were approved.

Ministry Updates

- Myrtle's Updates: Myrtle's closet is a thriving ministry that can always use more volunteers; we will reach out to Milianna to add an announcement slide promoting the ministry and need for volunteers.
- Ministry Fund Balance 9/1/25: 26,599.07 Johnson fund balance 9/1/25: \$212,326.79

Old Business and Discussion (**bold indicates "must do")

- Music before Worship: We'd like to consistently have background music playing prior to the Sunday morning worship service (9:15-9:30); this will be part of technology/sound training.
- October Lunch after Annual Meeting: Deacons will host lunch following the annual meeting. It will be financed using ministry funds. The menu will include Hickory Park meat, baked beans, coleslaw, chips, dessert
- Choir Schedule / Update: The choir is planning to sing anthems on communion Sundays, as well as an arrangement of In the Bleak Mid Winter for Christmas.
- Mission Committee Update - The mission committee will be meeting to finalize the mission budget on Sept. 14th
- Emergency Fund and non-monetary requests: We would like to have a relational component to giving; we will discuss this more in the future.

New Business

- **Conner Contract:** Deacons approve Conner's new Internship contract and recommend the council's approval for Conner's contract.
- **Mission Trip Funding:** Julie moves to offer \$300 per person attending the mission trip to be paid from the ministry fund. Patty seconds the motion. Motion approved by the deacons. Additional funds will come from fundraising, the youth mission fund, and possibly the missions fund.
- **New Members:** Carly (mom), Mya, Lyla, and Ilsa Palmer: Julie moved to recommend Carly Palmer and her children for Immanuel membership, Patty seconds the motion, approved by deacons. The deacons recommend Carly and her children for Immanuel membership.
- The deacons approved financing the lobby iPad kiosks with ministry funds (\$502.84), including 2 i-pads, screen protectors, and 2 kiosks.

Trustees Meeting Minutes

Andrew, Sean, Jim, Steve and Brian were in attendance.

We approved last month's minutes.

Chuck was not here to go over the treasurer's report, but we approved the report as is in his email.

We reviewed and approved the bills.

Old Business: Garage door has been painted. Website training has been approved for Miliana and Carol.

New Business: We approved a campership for Lilly Rathmacher we will pay her registration for approximately \$160. Carpet cleaning for the social hall is set for Sept. 22nd. We would like an announcement at service for volunteers to move tables and chairs. Storm door on north side of parsonage needs some work. We will look into it. We will be looking to get some quotes on duct cleaning for the sanctuary.

Meeting was adjourned.

**Minutes of the Joint Council Meeting: Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
October 9, 2025 7:45 PM In Person in the Social Hall**

Present: Pastor Allison, Pastor Andrew, Lori Whipple, Dion Whipple, Chuck Carlson, Julie Skaar, Steve Skartvedt, Ben Haberl, Patty Rathmacher, Joel Danielson, Lily Rathmacher, Jana Larson, Jaynee Christian, Rachel Winecoff, Brandi Hill, Jim Oberender, Steve Olson

President Joel Danielson called the meeting to order at 7:58 PM.

Devotions and opening prayer were given by Joel. He also thanked council members for their service who are going off.

Approval of previous meeting minutes. Jaynee moved that the September minutes be approved and Jim seconded. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report was given by Chuck Carlson using the documents submitted to council. Lily moved that the Treasurer's report be approved and Steve S. seconded. Approved unanimously.

Report of Boards (see below for full reports)

- Deacons: Patty Rathmacher; Board of Ed: Pastor Allison; Youth Board: Pastor Allison. EPIC leaders met to discuss the start of the year earlier this week. Joe Thomas has joined as an EPIC leader. Mission trip will have 14 youth and 3 leaders attending. Youth Board will meet on Sunday.; Trustees: Ben Haberl

Old Business

- Nominating Committee. Joel reviewed the proposed ballot with council.
- Sabbatical wrap up. Andrew plans to provide this at the annual meeting.
- LCMC wrap up. Andrew gave a summary of the convention. Number of the LCMC churches has risen by 34 over the past eight months. This is the 25th anniversary of the LCMC.

New Business

- Missions Budget. Andrew submitted the mission budget and only highlighted the funds that changed. They reapplied the Tim Tjernagel funds to some of the existing funds. The Deacons moved that the mission budget submitted be approved and Lily seconded. Motion carried unanimously by hand vote.
- Compensation Staff. Joel handed out a proposed compensation for both Andrew and Allison for 2026. This was recommended by the Executive Committee. Jaynee moved to approve the proposal and Julie seconded. Approved unanimously by hand vote.
 - If the congregation approves the budget, then it is not required to have a detail of the compensation package. Joel asked for the opinion of the council of whether the detail should be given at the annual meeting. It was the general consensus that there should be a summary but not such detail.
- Annual Church Budget. Chuck presented a proposed budget for October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026. Patty moved that the budget presented be approved and Ben seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
- A discussion was held on what should be in the annual meeting packet. Comments were made that there really isn't anything else that could be pared down.

Joel adjourned the meeting at 9:42 PM. Rachel moved that the meeting be adjourned and Dion seconded. Next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2025. Devotions will be given by the Deacons and lunch by the Officers.

Those present prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Whipple, Secretary

Board of Education - October 9th, 2025

PRESENT - Allison, Rachel, Lily, Jana, Jaynee, Brandi

OPENING PRAYER

PREVIOUS MINUTES - Minutes from the previous meeting approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Current balance - \$7,578.76

RECAP OF LAST MONTH

- Rally Sunday—Sept 7
- Sept 14th—installation of teachers and Bible Class
- Fall Mission Project—ending 10/12/25
- 4th graders greeted at church on September 21st

UPCOMING EVENTS / REMINDERS FOR MILIANNA

Kingdom Kids Sing—Oct 12
Young Disciples Sing—Oct 19th
Pastor Appreciation Sunday—Oct 19

OTHER

- a. Finalize pictures of classes and Brandi will post
- b. Classes continue greeting before church
- c. Sunday School offering discussion
- d. Curriculum videos, continue or stop?
- e. Finding time to make candles for Christmas program
- f. Supply closet re-organization

CLOSING PRAYER

Oct 9, 2025 | Trustee meeting

Attendees: Ben, Jim, Sean, Brian, Steve, Chuck

Notes

- Approved previous meetings - Brian and Jim 2nd
- Approved treasure report - Jim moved and Ben 2nd
- Carol Lake looking to retire
 - Looking for replacement
- Approved the bills - Brian moved and Jim 2nd
- Duct work cleaning - Moved to accept bid for cleaning Brian and Sean 2nd
- Snow removal - Tyler for the parking; Volunteers for sidewalks

Action items

- Steve to contact Tyler about parking lot snow removal
- Sean to contact vendor about leveling the concrete on the west side entry

Immanuel Deacons Minutes 10 9 2025

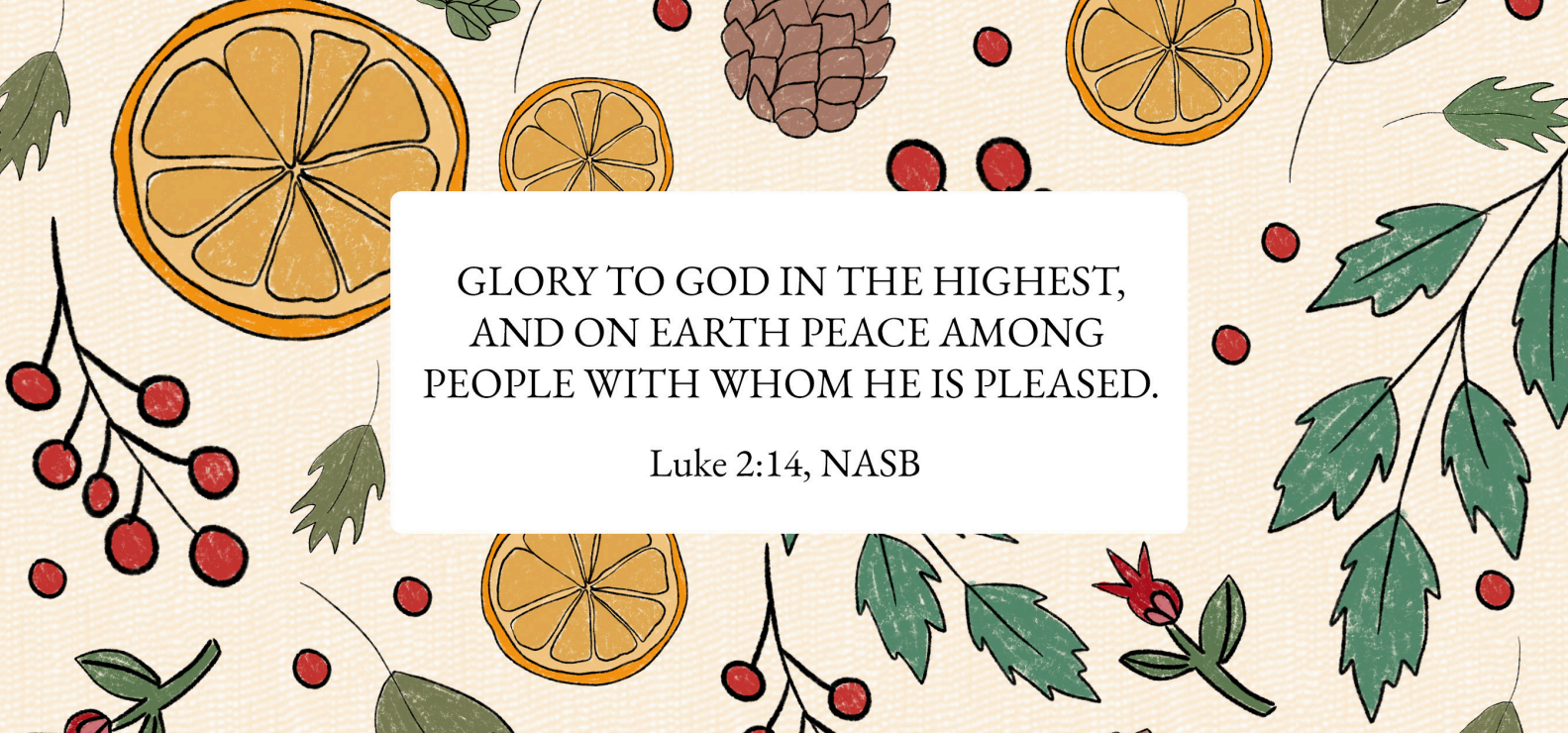
Present: Patty Rathmacher, Julie Skaar, Dion Whipple

1. Call to order and opening prayer by Patty.
 - a. Pastor Andrew updated us on prayer requests and members with health challenges.
2. Approved minutes from September meeting.
3. Ministry Updates:
 - a. Patty gave a Myrtles Closet update as well as update on Kim Combes community offered talk on spiritual warfare.
 - b. Pastor Andrew updated us on how the interns are doing with the Fall schedules of classes and other responsibilities and goals they are working towards.
4. Old Business and Discussion:
 - a. Annual Meeting meal plans finalized.
 - b. Pastor Andrew highlighted increases to some missions. Approved the 2026 Mission Budget for Joint Council Vote.
 - c. Pastor Andrew updated us on some non-monetary requests from community members and how current interns are engaging with and encouraging them.
 - d. Trevor Rubenstein will be at Immanuel November 2nd for an in depth look at Israel and current events in the Mid East as well as historical insight. A RSVP will be available for members wanting to attend with a meal served at the event.

Ministry Fund Balance: \$27,780.82

Tom Johnson Fund: \$206,876.79

Submitted by Patty Rathmacher
Deacon Board Chair



GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST,
AND ON EARTH PEACE AMONG
PEOPLE WITH WHOM HE IS PLEASED.

Luke 2:14, NASB



Neighborhood News

**Have something to share?
Contact the church office!**

Loaves & Fishes

Food Pantry

Despensa de alimentos

Saturdays

10 am- Noon

Serving Gilbert, Roland and Story City

204 West Broad St. (Mailing address-PO Box 23), Story City, IA 50248
loavesnfishescc@gmail.com



NORSEMEN FOOD PANTRY

Located at the RS Middle School; Open Every Sunday 4 -5 P.M.; Call (515) 388-4348 to donate or with questions.

LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Located at 510 Pennsylvania in Story City & open 24/7! Take food or give food (non-perishable!)

All area churches take turns serving the pantry on Saturdays. If you would like to know more about donating or helping Immanuel serve, contact Brad & Karen Waline or the church office.



Community Winter Gear Swap

Brought to you by RScityserve!

COLLECTION DAY: Saturday, Nov 15, 10-NOON

Collection bins also available at Story City Rec Center, Library, Immanuel Lutheran, and Harvest E-Free.

Accepted Winter Gear Donations:
Gently used, clean, any size (Infant-Adult)

***gloves/mittens *boots *hats
*snow pants *coats + jackets *Roland-Story gear**
Donations are not required to take items!

***Open Dates for 2025-2026 Winter Season:**
NOV. 22, 29; DEC. 6, 13, 20

***10-Noon on Saturdays, 403 Broad St. in Story City.**

RScityserve.org || facebook.com/RScityserve





**Badger
Lutheran
Church**

NORWEGIAN SUPPER

Badger Lutheran Church

127 2nd Avenue SE, Badger, IA 50516

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025

*Serving: Lutefisk, Lefse, Potatoes, Meatballs, Green Beans, Cranberries,
Fløtbrød, Gumme, Fruit Soup, Spritz, Kringla, Krumkæ*

DINE IN - RESERVED SEATING TIMES:

4:00-5:00 pm

5:00-6:00 pm

6:00-7:00 pm

TICKETS:

Adults \$25

Children (6-12) \$15

(5 and under) FREE

Take Out/Local Delivery Available

Schedule when you purchase
your tickets!

**Limited Tickets! ON SALE Starting:
October 6th, 2025**

***Payment must be received in
advance to reserve your ticket!**

Purchase at:

Badger Lutheran Church, 127 2nd Ave SE, Badger
or (515) 545-3350.

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 am – 12 pm

Reserve yours before we're sold out!



Badger Lutheran Church celebrating norwegian heritage for 118 years



Rooted in the Past, Growing Toward the Future!

LCMC IOWA
DISTRICT GATHERING

Join us for a day set aside for worship, learning, and connection with others who share your heart for ministry.

We'll hear from Mark VanderTuig, reflecting on the faithful foundation of the LCMC and where we've come from, and Danny Householder, pointing us toward where God is leading the church in the years ahead.

The day will include worship, communion, lunch, and plenty of time to connect with fellow pastors and leaders across Iowa. Whether your congregation is large or small, urban or rural, you'll find encouragement and camaraderie here.

Come be refreshed, inspired, and reminded that we're in this together.

WHEN

- **Saturday, November 15**
8:30am-3pm

WHERE

- **Immanuel Lutheran in Waukee**
(900 S Warrior Ln, Waukee, IA)

REGISTRATION

- lccaltoona.breezechms.com/form/iowalcmcnov2025



Riverside & SANCTUS REAL CHRISTMAS PARTY & CONCERT

CHRISTMAS DINNER AT 5:00
CONCERT AT 6:30

DEC **6 SAT** **RIVERSIDE CHAPEL**
5:00PM
6:30PM

ADMISSION = FREE!

This event is sponsored by Atlas Thrivent of Story City

RESERVE YOUR SPOT AT RIVERSIDELBC.ORG/CHRISTMAS-PARTY



ST. PETRI LUTHERAN CHURCH
804 GRAND AVE
STORY CITY, IA 50248

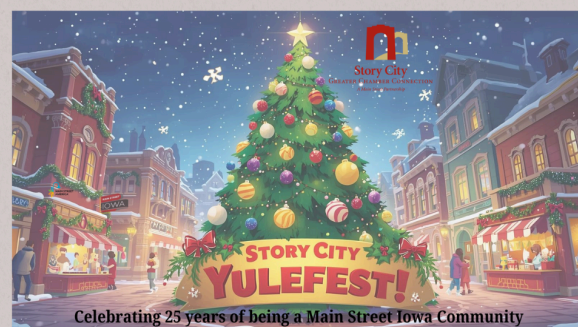
A TASTE OF NORWAY

FOOD - QUILTS - COOKIES

**DECEMBER 6, 2025
9-11AM**

Join us for a unique taste of Norway Christmas Market where you'll sample traditional Norwegian food while admiring beautiful quilts. Delicious Christmas cookies will also be available for purchase!

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL



Save the Date

NOVEMBER 2025

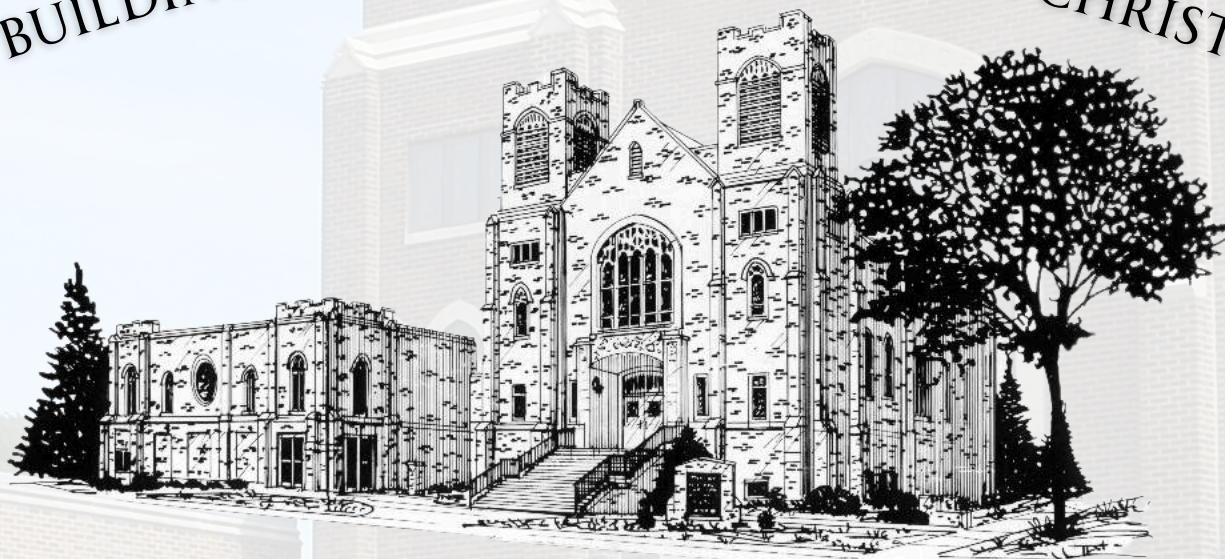
FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
28	29	30





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STORY CITY, IOWA 50248

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AND MAKING HIM KNOWN TO ALL.

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IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICES 8:30 & 10:45 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM