



IMMANUEL ECHO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



AT A GLANCE THOUGHTS & MORE

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

Without faith it is impossible to please God. Faith isn't optional, it's the essential way to connect with God.

Anyone who comes to God must believe that He is who He says He is. And that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. God Actively blesses persistent, wholehearted pursuit of Him!

Be deliberate in your pursuit, earnestly seeking Him! Trust the unseen and believe in God's promises even when you can't see or control the outcome. Let your faith transform your actions, showing up in how you live. Anticipate God's favor and blessings as you walk in faith and obedience. Practice ways to live out your faith. Dedicate time daily to connect with God through His Word and prayer.

Put God first in all your decisions, and seek His righteousness before worldly things. Continue seeking even through trials, knowing God rewards perseverance.

Sunday

9 am - Fellowship
9:15 am - Sun. School
10:30 am - Worship

Wednesday

11:30 am - Soup Kitchen
5:45 pm - Wed. Meal
6:15 pm - K-5 & Middle School Start
6:30 pm - HS & Adult Start

HELPFUL INFO

ibcminot.org
1615 2nd St SE
Minot, ND 58701
701-839-3694



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SCAN ME

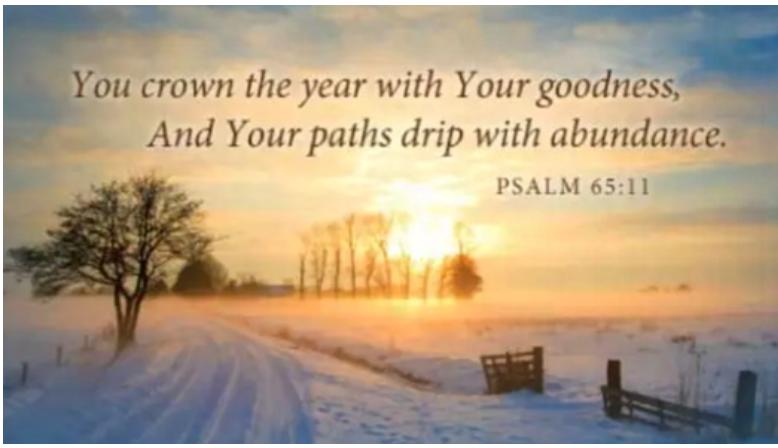
January Highlights

- 1/3 - Craft Day/Potluck Lunch
- 1/11 - Annual Reports Due to office
- 1/15 - Senior Sts to Christmas Museum
- 1/18 - Advisory Board Meet
- 1/23 - Bible Study & Senior Sts Food/Funday
- 1/25 - Annual Business Meeting

IBC Youth Meal to follow Business Meeting

*You crown the year with Your goodness,
And Your paths drip with abundance.*

PSALM 65:11



MINISTRY TEAM

Pastor
Brian Keithline

Pianist
Dawn Bergeron

Youth Director
Brittany Lohan

Office Manager
Lori Stauffer

Visitation Minister
Karen Anderson

Nursery
Emily Stauffer/Alice Galeas

Technology
Position Open

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Karen's Corner

Well, it's *Christmas Eve*, Eve as I write this. By the time you read the newsletter, it'll all be over! Christmas will have come and will have gone and the new year, 2026, will be upon us. But Jesus will still be King! Whew!!

We'll start off the new year with Craft Day, Sat., Jan. 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a potluck lunch enjoyed by all. You can bring a craft project to work on, help someone with theirs, play cards or play a game, or just sit and visit. The opportunities are endless!

I'd like you to join me for an adventure to Max on Jan. 15, we are going to a wonderful hidden gem I've heard about, a Christmas Museum. I know, I know it's after Christmas, but we'll enjoy it just the same. We'll leave the church at 1 p.m.

We will start a new Friday morning Bible study on Jan. 23 at 10 a.m. We'll be studying the book, "Angels", finding hope in God who reigns over Heaven and Earth, by Melissa Spoelstra. Let me know so I can order a book for you.

We'll also be having our January Senior Fun Day and lunch on Friday, the 23rd, starting at 12:30 p.m. Join us for lunch and fellowship time which usually involves conversation and games. We'd love to have you join us!

Also, please reach out if I can help you, pray for you, or you'd like to visit.

I pray that 2026 is filled with God's presence and peace for you!!

Grace to you,
- Karen

"I lift my eyes toward the mountains. Where will my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of Heaven and Earth!" Psalm 121:1-2

IBCY

Our IBC Youth had a lot to do this past month!

- We hosted a Kids Market and Movie Night Dec. 12 that warmed some hearts with a Christmas movie ... and some popcorn! (The weather kept a lot of people from attending, but we did make some new community connections).
- Both our High School and Middle School groups had Christmas parties in December to help rock the Reason for the Season. The High Schoolers had Grinch Meals to fuel them for some Holiday Baking Competition-themed cookie decorating (that was judged by our Adult Wed. Night study group).
- Keep an eye out this month (and next month) for a special event to help with the doldrum of these winter months ... it might be cold outside, but God has a way to bring people indoors when we have open hearts and open minds. Here's to 2026!



Evening Women Fellowship

We will not be meeting again until possibly March. May 2026 be filled with joy & happiness! Stay safe & warm.

– Thanks, Wanda

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

AS OF DEC. 28 2025:

TOTAL BUDGETED TO DATE	\$366,859.48
TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE	\$323,284.13
BUDGETED WEEKLY NEED	\$7,054.99
WEEKLY YTD AVERAGE	\$6,027.51

CE News

We are excited to announce we have hired caregivers for the nursery!

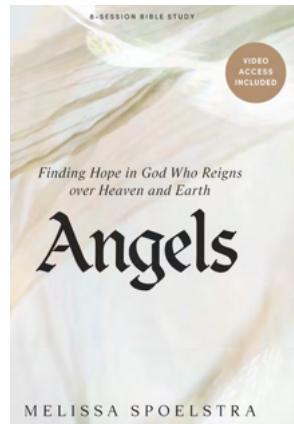
Emily Stauffer is a mom of two and works at Early Head Start, a preschool program. She has worked with children birth - five but, the last two years she has been in the Toddler room.

Alice Galeas is a student at North HS and works at The Learning Tree Childcare Center. Please don't hesitate to say "Hi!"



Upcoming Meetings

CE Meeting - Jan. 4 Following Worship
Trustee Board - Tue., Jan. 13 @ 5:30 pm
Diaconate Board - Tue., Jan. 13 @ 7 pm
Advisory Board - Jan. 11 Following Worship
Business Meeting - Jan. 25



The Bible speaks of angels often. They were present in the garden of Eden, and throughout the story of the Bible they appear to people with messages, encouragement, and tangible help. Angels ministered to Jesus after His temptation and before His crucifixion, and they shared the good news of His Resurrection.

Despite their frequent appearance in God's Word, our impression of angels is more often shaped by the myths and misconceptions that have developed over the centuries.

In this 8-session Bible study, join Melissa Spoelstra as she traverses the terrain of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation to learn about angels—who they are, what they do, and what they have to do with you. There's no reason to fear or ignore what's happening in the supernatural, unseen realm—we can live with confidence that God is in control of it all. Angels is a call to put your hope in the God of angel armies who reigns over heaven and earth.

Please join us starting Friday, January 23rd @ 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. If you have question or need a book please call Karen 578-4665

Did you Know?

The English word "angel" itself is derived from the Greek word angelos, which means "messenger".



TRUST GOD'S LIGHT IN 2026

Read Genesis 1:3.

How do you spend your New Year's Eve? Do you stay up late to watch Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve (which is now hosted by Ryan Seacrest)? This year, the ball will drop twice with the second time being a patriotic salute to America's 250th anniversary.

Or do you go to bed early — at your regular snooze time? And if so, do you put in ear plugs to drown out the neighborhood fireworks display (apparently lasting long enough to ring in the New Year in every time zone, including the Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time, which occurs at the crack of dawn in Minot!).

Or perhaps you like to focus more on the "new day" itself — i.e., New Year's Day morning. Here's what I mean: As I write this devotional, it's still Dec. 30, 2025, but I recently "snuck a look" at the first entry of my new 2026 Daily Devotional (*talk about being a rebel!*). The first devotion is written by a woman named Sabra Ciancanelli who shares a rather unique holiday tradition. Over the years, she has chosen to bypass the ball drop in order to wake up early and to watch the New Year's Day sunrise. She writes that by doing so, she "intentionally waits for the darkness of an old year to turn into the light" of a New Year.

As she sits outside and watches the hues of a night sky slowly warm into the bright colors of morning, she gives thanks to God. Her hands are wrapped around a coffee mug inherited from her late sister — and she remembers their time together. She also remembers the anniversary of her father's death — a day when she spotted a double rainbow in the sky. It was as if nature provided a clue to an invisible world.

Sabra then praises God for the gift of her husband, the gift of her sons, and the gift of her mother, who lives nearby. And her list of prayers goes on while the sun grows brighter and taller in the New Year sky that's as fresh and abundant as a blank canvas.



For me, her devotion is a reminder that LIFE itself is filled with LIGHT. All 365 days of a New Year are filled with light, even if its veiled by clouds, rain, or snow. On those days, we just have to look harder to see God's promises shining through.

Much like Sabra, I remember how nature revealed a "touch of God's promise" in a sentimental moment several years ago. When I received the dreaded phone call that my little brother Nick had passed away, I stepped outside so that my mother and brother wouldn't hear the conversation (plus, I needed to compose myself). It had been continually raining that morning and the clouds were like damp, gray rags being wrung out over Tennessee. But then — after the call had ended — I felt a warm glow against my closed, tear-filled eyelids. When I opened them, the clouds had started to part ... and the sun was beginning to reveal itself in a full and brilliant display.

Continued ...



TRUST GOD'S LIGHT IN 2026



I think that's how we should view a New Year — the sunlight of "time" bursts through the overcast clouds of an "old year." It parts a path through the Old Year's memories and heartaches.

And, as a church family, a New Year offers us some particular gifts. A New Year provides us with:

- The opportunity to forgive, where needed
- The chance to support and to encourage one another
- The opportunity to remember that God is in charge — in **EVERYTHING** — and it's a glorious thing
- The chance to know that no matter our loneliness, God is always near



Regardless of our New Year's Eve traditions, the transition between an Old Year and a New Year is always a moment that elicits certain emotions: whether it's a reflective, a celebratory, an antagonistic, or an optimistic mood. And those emotions will always result in some sort of action whether it's to deliberately go to bed early or to strategically herald in a New Year at the stroke of midnight. This year, let's make sure to look for God's **LIGHT** that's always shining through.

And if you're looking for a new tradition, might I suggest this one: Right before the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve, make sure to raise your left leg slightly. That way, you'll start the New Year off on the right foot!

And that's my cue to exit this old year ... see you next year!

Blessings,

Pastor Brian

Happy New Year!

Our regular Sunday School starts **Jan. 4** at **9:15 a.m.**

Wednesday Night activities resume **Jan. 7** with dinner at **5:45 p.m.** See you soon!



"The past year is another year of my Lord's faithfulness!"

— Charles Spurgeon

January



January Birthday's

3rd Ronnie Novak
4th Paul DeWaal Malefyt
5th Brittany Hansen
10th Cody Hansen
11th Scott Samuelson
12th Eugene Zaderaka
13th Wally Schlecht
14th Les Wiedrick
Maleaha Lohan



Happy Birthday

18th Beau Welty
19th Kathy Lund
20th Zoey Davis
23rd Megan Miller
24th Samantha Johnson
25th Cassie Felber
31st Val Weaver

next month

- 2/12 Giving Hearts Day
- 2/18 Ash Wednesday
- Chili/Soup Cook Off

Happy Anniversary

January 2nd

Cody & Brittany Hansen

January 21st

Mike & Alice Knoop

January Serving Committee

Holly Fegley, Kami Roberts,
Deme Schlecht, Jennifer Schlecht

The Immanuel Echo

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Minot, ND 58701-6314



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