

The Starlett Weekly Newsletter | November 29, 2026

Thank you to all who donated cold weather needs for LUMA: blankets, snowboots, sweatshirts, warm coats, hats, gloves, socks, scarves, and long underwear. A total of 288 items were taken to the last LUMA auxiliary meeting and together with area church donations, will be distributed to those in need.

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God this morning by Ruth Spurgeon in celebration and thanksgiving of daughter Rachelle's birthday on November 23, and in loving memory of husband Michael's birthday on November 27.

The Church Year

The Season of Advent

Midweek services will be held on each of the three Wednesdays: Dec 2, 9, and 16 at 4:00 and 7:00 pm. A meal will be served from 5-6:00 pm *(please note the change in serving times).*

Regular and large print Advent devotional booklets are available on the information wall by the mailboxes for your personal/family devotions, or to share with a friend or neighbor! Devotions may also be received by podcast or email. Visit **lhm.org/advent** to sign up and for more information.

Christmas Services *(*communion; +live stream)*

Christmas Eve: +4:00 pm, 7:00 pm, ∗11:00 pm **Christmas Day:** ∗+9:00 am



Hanging of the Greens is a special program that explains the meaning of the decorations on our Christmas tree and will be held **Sunday, December 6** during the Sunday School hour (9:30). **Youth (3rd grade and up) are invited to participate!** Contact Alicia Russell if you'd like a reading part, are willing to share your musical talent (instrumental or vocal), or both! Younger children are encouraged to help place the ornaments on the tree (youth and adults will be available to help). *Point of contact: Alicia, 660-890-4772 or* ***aruss.rd22@yahoo.com***

Poinsettias: Order envelopes are available by the flower chart to purchase a blooming poinsettia plant for the altar this Christmas. You may also pay/order online at **bethlehem-raymore.org/give-online.** Payment of $12 per plant is requested at the time of your order; indicate *"poinsettias"* with your payment. If you would like to mark a special occasion or remember a loved one, please indicate that with your payment or on the flower chart. Plants may be taken home after worship on Christmas morning.

✦ Special Voter's Meeting: December 13 ✦

A Special Voter's Meeting will be held at 9:30 am on Sunday, December 13. The Call Committee will present two candidates for consideration as Associate Pastor: Rev. Keith Emshoff, currently serving Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Grandview; and Rev. Caleb P. Weight, currently serving Peace in Christ Lutheran Church, Hermantown, MN. *The congregation is strongly counseled not to contact either pastor or anyone in his circle.* May the Lord bless and direct His church throughout this process!

Serving Opportunities

Christmas is coming to Beautiful Savior Nursing Home! LWML will be collecting donations for the Christmas "store" to be held at the Home on December 8. Residents will shop for free gifts for family members, friends, or themselves. Suggested items: body wash and lotion, blankets and throws, comfortable clothing (warm, pull-on, medium through XXL), socks, large candy bars, kids' items, large print word search books, gadgets. Please drop off the items in the box under the LWML bulletin board by *Sunday, December* 6 or call Betsy Sanders 816-724-2397 for pick up.

The next Blood Drive at Bethlehem is Tuesday, December 8. Use sponsor code 9H and schedule at **donate.savealifenow.org/donor/schedules/sponsor_code**. Walk-ins are welcome!

Immanuel Lutheran Church Food Pantry, 4205 Tracy, Kansas City, MO

High-Priority Staples Needed

- Dry Pasta & Sauce: Spaghetti, pasta sauce, and tomato products (paste, sauce, diced)
- Canned Goods: Canned Spinach and canned mixed greens are in especially high demand, along with canned fruit, pork and beans, canned soup, and canned meats (chicken, beef, Vienna sausage, sardines etc.).
- Pantry Essentials: Instant dry milk
- Hygiene & Cleaning: Laundry detergent, hand soap, dish soap, shampoo, and Clorox wipes

Please double-check expiration dates before donating, as we cannot distribute outdated food.

Financial Support

Monetary gifts allow us to stretch your dollar further by purchasing food at discounted rates directly from Harvesters. Make checks payable to *Immanuel Community Solutions* and mail to PO Box 5326, KC, MO 64131. *Please note the new address for the food pantry.*

Bethlehem Christmas Cookie Sale: December 13



Do you love to bake? We need volunteers to bake cookies-doesn't matter what kind or how many. Bake a dozen (or two or three!) of your favorite Christmas cookies and deliver them to Bethlehem on Friday, December 11 between the hours of Noon-2pm; or Saturday morning, December 12 between 8:00 and 9:30 am. Volunteers will gladly package your cookies with others to create a fabulous assortment. Please indicate whether your cookies include nuts or are gluten-free and we will carefully package nut-free and gluten-free cookie plates as options. **Buyers:** Need a last minute Christmas gift for your neighbors, co-workers or service providers? Or would you like to have some cookies on hand to share with family and friends? Festive plates of Christmas cookies will be on sale in the Narthex on **Sunday, December 13**. *Point of contact: Dee-Dee Stokes, 816-809-0340, **stokesdbld@gmail.com**; or Linda Bolton, 816-585-4218, **boltonlinda@hotmail.com***. All proceeds will benefit Immanuel's Food Pantry, *Immanuel Community Solutions.*

Sunday School, Midweek, and Small Group Studies

Sunday School 9:30-10:30 am for ages 2 and up.

- Downstairs: Parents & 2s, Preschool/Kind, 1st/2nd Grade, 3rd/4th Grade, 7th Grade, 8th Grade
- Upstairs: 5th/6th Grade, 9th Grade/High School; Adult Bible Class led by **Pastor Priem**

FAITH (Friends All In Together for Him) Youth Group for students 4th grade and up. *Point of contact: Alicia, 660-890-4772 or **aruss.rd22@yahoo.com***

Midweek Adult Bible Study (MABS): Led by Pastor Priem and open to all, this group meets Wednesday evenings at 6:00 for topical study.

Youth Catechism Club: Led by Pastor Priem and open to all youth, this group meets each Wednesday evening at 7:00. *This group will not be meeting during Advent.*

Men's Bible Study meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 6:30 pm, led by Pastor Emshoff, hosted by Tabb Renzelman at Serendipity Farms, 4674 W 183rd St, Stilwell, KS. *Point of contact: Tabb, 816-716-5845*

Our Response: November 16—22

Sunday, 11/22: In-person: **77/81** | Guests: **17** | Virtual: **31**	Sunday School, 11/22: Students/Teachers: **15/7** | Adult: **40**
Adult Midweek, 11/18: **13** (2-remote) Youth Catechism Club, 11/18: **7**	Month-to-Date: 10/26—11/22 Regular Offering: **$42,332.86** Capital Fund: **$1375** | Renovate Our House: **$1,110**

This Week at Bethlehem

November 29—December 6, 2026

Sunday, November 29: First Sunday in Advent
- 8:00 am Worship/Holy Communion *(and Live Stream to **Facebook**)*
- 9:30 am Adult Bible Class *(Fellowship Hall/Google Meet)* and Children's Sunday School
- 10:45 am Worship/Holy Communion

Monday, November 30
- 9:15 am Staff Meeting *(Conf Rm)*
- 7:00 pm Scout Troops 1032/7032 *(Conf Rm, Conf Rm2, Library, FH, Narthex)*

Tuesday, December 1
- 1:00 pm Bunco *(Fellowship Hall)*

Wednesday, December 2: Advent 1
- 4:00 pm Worship*(and Live Stream to **Facebook**)*
- 5:00 pm Advent Meal (Chicken Pot Pie/LWML) to 6:00 pm *(Fellowship Hall)*
- 6:00 pm Midweek Adult Bible Class *(Fellowship Hall)*
- 7:00 pm Worship

Thursday, December 3
- 1:00 pm Quilting Small Group *(Fellowship Hall)*
- 6:30 pm Girl Scout Troop 2256 *(Fellowship Hall)*

Friday, December 4: Pastor Priem-Day Off

Saturday, December 5
- 9:00 am Worship Committee *(Conf Rm)*

Sunday, December 6
- 8:00 am Worship/Holy Communion *(and Live Stream to **Facebook**)*
- 9:30 am Program: "Hanging of the Greens" *(Sanctuary)*
- 10:45 am Worship

Serving This Morning

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew D. Priem | **Musician:** Jordan Fox
Elders: (Communion) Steve Gfeller/Darren Hall/Scott Kastman/Carl Sellmeyer
Acolyte: (8:00) Aaron Hoemann (10:45) Moses Priem
Greeters: (8:00) Steve Gfeller (10:45) James & Michelle Neugebauer
Altar Guild: Tina Atkins | **Children's Message:** (10:45) Amy Sellmeyer
Stream: (8:00) Aaron Steinke | **Video:** (8:00) Isaiah Hoemann (10:45) Megan Kuhns
Ushers: (8:00) Paul Zainea/Paul Matney (10:45) Timothy Knippa/Steven Coleman