

***“The MISSION of Immanuel is to glorify God,  
build the Christian Church, foster Christian  
fellowship and concern, and join in the  
worldwide work of winning souls for Christ.”***

**Immanuel Lutheran Church, LCMS  
Rock Island, IL**



***Announcements for the Week of  
December 28, 2025***

**~~ Take your bulletin home with you to refer to it during the week ~~**

## **SERVANTS IN THE LORD'S HOUSE – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025**

Elder	Alex Triece
Communion Assistant	Todd Hazen
Ushers	Kevin Millen Jim Boudro
Organist	Christine Roth

### **THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL**

#### **TODAY - Sunday, December 28**

9:00 am – Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 am – Bible Study / Sunday School

#### **Tuesday, December 30**

7:00 am – Matins

#### **Wednesday, December 31 – New Year's Eve**

6:30 pm – New Year's Eve Service

#### **Thursday, January 1 – New Year's Day**

Office Closed

#### **Sunday, January 4**

7:15 am – Board of Elders Meeting

9:00 am – Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 am – Bible Study / Sunday School

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### **Attendance for Sunday, December 21**

Attended – 70 Communed – 62

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**OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2026:** Envelopes for 2026 are available for pick up on the table in the Narthex. If you do not find your set, please contact the office at 309-786-3391.

REMEMBER, DO NOT USE 2026 ENVELOPES UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2026. If any envelopes are received before the end of 2025, they will be held until January 1. Thank you for your cooperation.

*- Board of Finance*

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**New church member directories are on the table in the Narthex.**

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**The 2026 Eternal Light Chart and 2026 Altar Flower Chart are posted in the Narthex.**

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This year we were able to help 13 families with gift cards to Hyvee to do their holiday shopping. We were able to distribute the cards on Friday, December 19th. This is a great mission that the Immanuel Social Ministry team has been carrying down through the years and the recipients of the gifts they received have been very appreciative! Thank you everyone for your continued support.

In addition to providing Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets, our Social Ministry continues to help with special needs throughout the year as needed when requested via the Elders or Pastor. Envelopes are provided in your envelope box or use a plain envelope, indicating for Social Ministry. If you have any questions, contact the church office or Mel Vogel.

Part of our Social Ministry includes helping support our two Seminary families. **If you wish to help support these Seminarians**, you can place your gift in an envelope with "Seminarians" and your envelope number written on it, and place it in the offering plate or bring to the church office. These gifts will be recorded on your financial statement and checks will be sent to them quarterly.

***Josh Bieri - Vicarage appointment - Faith Lutheran Church,  
LaCrosse, WI***

***Josh Camp – in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year at CTSFW***

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**The Lutheran Hour** can be heard each Sunday on: WKEI Kewanee 1450 AM 5 am / KCLN Clinton 1390 AM 9:30 am / WMT Cedar Rapids 600 AM 6:30 am

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## YOUTH GROUP UPCOMING EVENTS

### Regular Youth Meetings at Immanuel Rock Island

All Circuit youth are welcome to attend the regularly scheduled youth group meetings at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rock Island. Meeting schedule is First hour: Pastor leads a Bible Study, Second hour: games and snacks. Future meeting dates will be shared via email at the beginning of each month for your reference and monthly planning.

- Movie Night at Immanuel in January
- Higher Things in St. Louis June 23-26

*Please pray that our Circuit Youth Group will continue to be a source of fellowship, fun and sharing God's Word with our youth.*

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**KFUO Radio**, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUO.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at [kfu.org](http://kfu.org) and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: [@KFUOradio](#) on Facebook, X, and Instagram.

**CHRIST FOR YOU this week on AM850 & KFUO.org:** Here at KFUO, we celebrate Christmas for all 12 days of the season! From now through January 6th, tune in for special programming featuring sacred music, Scripture readings, and greetings from missionaries and chaplains across the LCMS! As always, you can find your favorite programs on demand at [kfu.org](http://kfu.org) or in the KFUO Radio app.

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**CHRISTIAN CARE NEEDS:** Canned fruit & vegetables, body wash, all-purpose cleaner, large shampoo & conditioner, napkins, toilet paper, deodorant (for men & women), shaving cream, razors, T-shirts, socks, toilet bowl cleaner, 12, 22, & 39 gallon trash bags. Items can be taken directly to Christian Care or placed in their basket in the Narthex and they will be taken to Christian Care.

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## A Joy-Filled Christmas

**“I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” Luke 2:10**

The song “We Wish You A Merry Christmas” expresses the merry sentiment we all want at Christmas time. Though we may not always feel merry with COVID continuing to impact our lives with losses, social distancing, and restrictions on gatherings. Yet, even if our Christmas isn’t merry, it can be joy-filled.

Consider the stress and difficulties Mary and Joseph endured. Her pregnancy undoubtedly evoked rumors and accusations from many people. They had to travel over 70 miles to Bethlehem where they had no place to stay except a stable. Yet, they had the joy of knowing God was with them and would take care of them and the baby.

God never promised us continual happiness and glee. But he does promise to give us joy in all circumstances. **“Rejoice in the Lord always...the Lord is at hand.”** Phil.4:4 I once knew a nursing home resident who defined joy in the Lord as being glad that God is close by. When we feel sad, we should not force ourselves to look happy for the sake of others. Instead, be honest about our feelings, and remind each other that God is near us during our sad times too.

Focus on the reason for the season: Jesus. It is not about food, gifts, candies and cookies. We celebrate that Immanuel has come to us and remains with us always. Verse three of the song “Silent Night” describes our Savior as **LOVE’S PURE LIGHT**. John 1:9 tells us **The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world**. The light of our Savior’s loving presence chases away darkness and fills us with joy in the Lord. We don’t have to stress about making Christmas merry. Instead, we can have a joy-filled Christmas as Jesus shines his love in us and through us!

**Chaplain Jeffrey Harter**

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### BUILDING UPKEEP



Thank you to those who have signed up to clean a room/area monthly. We really appreciate the help. If you are interested, there are several areas that haven’t been claimed yet. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex.



**Building Healthy Families:** It's not too late! Your partnership in LFS' life ministry of pregnancy counseling and adoption, grief support, marriage, family and mental health counseling for families and all pro-family, pro-marriage, pro-life, and pro-faith efforts provided without government funds (or strings) in your state is still needed - and still possible! Make a gift online TODAY through the Donate page on the LFS web site at [www.LutheranFamilyService.org](http://www.LutheranFamilyService.org), by VENMO to @LutheranFamilyService, or by mail to LFS/Admin Office, 409 Kenyon Road, Suite C, Fort Dodge, IA 50501. Thank you for your partnership all year, and especially today as we wrap up 2025 and look forward to what the New Year holds. From your brothers and sisters in Christ at LFS, a Blessed and Happy New Year! **Lutheran Family Service** [www.LutheranFamilyService.org](http://www.LutheranFamilyService.org)

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## **LCMSFoundation** TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

We can face competing priorities when we think about planning our estates someday. As we wrap up this year long consideration, we must ponder whether we see our estate plan as an expression of our Christian faith or just giving up on life. As we complete this year, we keep in mind that in Christ, we will never finish but simply transfer into the glorious life the Lord has prepared for us. We never let death have the final word, for Jesus has conquered it. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can assist you in putting your life-celebrating plan together. Contact Scott Radden @ 618-977-4049 or [scott.radden@lfnd.org](mailto:scott.radden@lfnd.org)

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### **Daily Readings from the Lutheran Service Book, pages 299-304**

Dec 28	Is. 52:13-54:10	Matt. 2:13-23
Dec 29	Is. 55:1-13	Luke 1:1-25
Dec 30	Is. 58:1-59:3, 14-21	Luke 1:26-38
Dec 31	Is. 60:1-22	Luke 1:39-56
Jan 1	Is. 61:1-11	Luke 1:57-80
Jan 2	Is. 62:1-12	Luke 2:1-20
Jan 3	Is. 63:1-14	Luke 2:21-40

## FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 28

### **LCMS MEMORY VERSE: Luke 2:10-11**

*And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”*

**LCMS STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT:** **Galatians 4:4** – “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law.” Jesus was born under the law so that He might fulfill the law in our place. His perfect righteousness is credited to us. And it is this free forgiveness of sins and this crediting of righteousness that sets us free to follow our Lord in godly living. Since we are freed from the law’s condemnation, we are freed from any mercenary attitudes. Now that the Lord has shown His love to us in saving us, we freely show our thanks to Him in generosity, humility and kindness.

**LIFE THOUGHT** from **Lutherans for Life** – The devil hates little children because he hates the Christ child, who was promised to crush his head (Genesis 3:15). Sadly, his influence can still be seen today in those who, like Herod, see little children as a threat to their authority and aim for their destruction (Matthew 2:16). As we weep with Rachel and her children (Jeremiah 31:15), we also rejoice that by sparing His only-begotten Son from Herod’s wrath, God has provided eternal salvation for all the holy innocents—past, present and future—that they too might join in the heavenly song around the throne of God (Revelation 14:3).

**LIFE QUOTE** – “Look back at how God changed you. Look ahead to what God promises for you. The future looks bright when you’re connected to the crucified and risen Lord Jesus. May the Lord continue to strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life.” *Rev. Peter Sulze, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



**Church Office Hours**

Monday—Thursday

9:00 AM—1:00 PM

**Office Phone**

309-786-3391

**Website**

Immanuelri.org

**Pastor Astrowski's Phone**

989-326-0199

**E-mail**

Church Office: [officeimmanuelri@gmail.com](mailto:officeimmanuelri@gmail.com)

Pastor: [pastrowski@gmail.com](mailto:pastrowski@gmail.com)