



Sermon: "Man Proposes, God Disposes, Christ Transposes" Matthew 1:18-25  
Saturday, December 20 and Sunday, December 21, 2025  
Immanuel Lutheran Church & School  
Okawville, Illinois 62271  
*The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*

## WELCOME TO IMMANUEL

*We gather on the Lord's Day knowing that "Christ being raised from the dead will never die again" (Romans 6:9). Welcome, visitors who have joined us today. If we can help in any way, please call: Church 618-243-6216 or School 618-243-6142. .*

Pastor Eric Wood

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Immanuel Website: [Immanuelokawville.org](http://Immanuelokawville.org)

Saturday: 18 Sunday: 79 Advent: 14

Bible Class: 8 Sunday School: 25

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

*Prayer concerns to be included in our public prayers may be shared with Pastor Wood and/or the church office. Prayers may be for particular individuals or concerning wider issues. Let us pray!*

- All members of Immanuel including:
  - At home – Adeline Blumhorst, Bill Durham, Norbert Hasheider, Kellee Helbig, Janet Lange, Linda Schuetz, Jackie Schwankhaus, Stanley Schwankhaus, Crystal Strasburg, Mike Strasburg
  - At Brightly in Mascoutah – Leonard Hemminghaus
  - At Evercare of Breese – Lois Rabenort
  - At Bethesda Gardens in Loveland, Colorado – Carol Wennemann
- Non-members: Lisa Arbogast-Eilers, an ILS graduate; Crystal Hasheider, wife of Matt Hasheider; Deborah Hasheider, cousin-in-law of several of our members; ILS Kindergarten teacher, Jody Liszewski; Tim Schnitker, son-in-law of Sharon Storck.
- That the Lord would continue to provide for his work in this place through generous giving, willing workers, and wise stewardship.
- The staff, faculty, and students of Immanuel Lutheran School
- The educational mission of Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School
- All who work or study in West Washington County Schools
- John Trinklein, second-year student at Concordia Seminary
- Reverend Rafael & Deaconess Jamielynn Flores, serving in Chile
- The mission work of the Southern Illinois District, including...
  - ...all congregations, schools, and district leaders
  - ...rural and small-town congregational support
  - ...urban ministry (neighborhood renewal and Unity school) in East St. Louis
  - ...campus ministry and international student outreach at SIU-C and SIU-E
  - ...prison and jail ministry in many locations
  - ...partnership with seminary in Dominican Republic
  - ...disaster response ministry (LERT) ...Advocates for Life



## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

### Order of Service - Divine Service Setting Four

#### 900 Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love (Sunday)

- 1 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
Name all other names above,  
Unto which must ev'ry knee  
Bow in deep humility.
- 3 Jesus! Name of priceless worth  
To the fallen of the earth  
For the promise that it gave,  
"Jesus shall His people save."
- 5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n  
Under all the mighty heav'n  
Whereby those to sin enslaved  
Burst their fetters and are saved.
- 6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
Human name of God above;  
Pleading only this, we flee  
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823-97, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Confession and Absolution

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

*Kneel/Stand*

- G** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

- P** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- G** Amen.

*Stand*

## Service of the Word

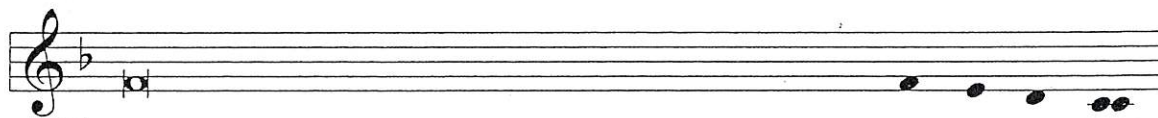
Introit

*Psalm 130:5–8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1*


Oh that you would rend the heavens | and come down,\*  
that the mountains might quake at your | presence.  
I wait for the LORD, my | soul waits,\*  
and in his | word I hope;  
my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the | morning,\*  
more than watchmen for the | morning.  
O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is | steadfast love,\*  
and with him is plentiful re- | demption.  
And he will redeem | Israel\*  
from all his in- | iquities.  
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Oh that you would rend the heavens | and come down,\*  
that the mountains might quake at your | presence.

## Kyrie




**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.




**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.




**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.




**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.



## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

**Isaiah 7:10–17**

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup>And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup>The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.\*

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;\*

righteous and having sal- | vation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.\*

From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

## Epistle

**Romans 1:1–7**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be

the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

### Alleluia and Verse



### Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear



to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

<sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Praise to You, O Christ.

### Nicene Creed

**G** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,



who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Sermon "Man Proposes, God Disposes, Christ Transposes"

Matthew 1:18-25

*Stand*

Prayer of the Church

*Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).*

*Sit*

Offering

## Service of the Sacrament

*Stand*

Preface

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

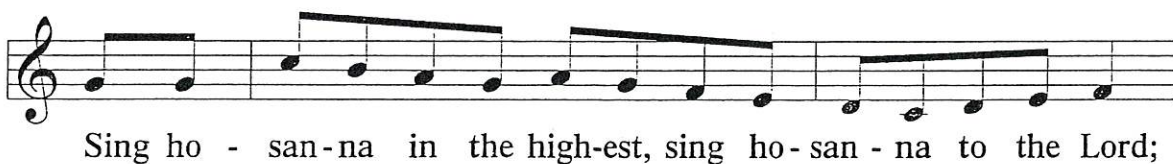
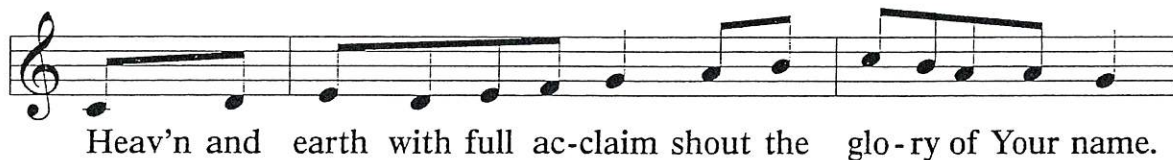
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless

blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus



Text: Stephen P. Starke

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:



## Lord's Prayer

**C** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✝}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✝}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

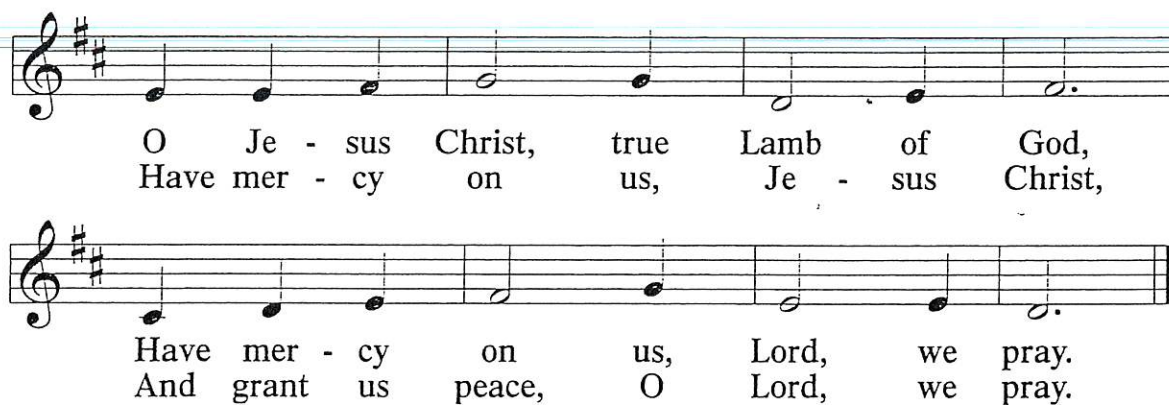
**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

*Sit*

## Distribution

*The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:*

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

**Amen.**

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

**Amen.**

## 362 O Sing of Christ

## 810 O God of God, O Light of Light

## 970 Jesus, Name above All Names (Notice repeat sign! Sing twice!)



Je - sus, name a - bove all names, Beau-ti-ful  
Sav - ior, glo-ri-ous Lord. Em -  
man - u - el, God is with us, Bless-ed Re -





deem - er, liv - ing Word.

Text and tune: Naida Hearn, 1931-2001

Text and tune: © 1974, 1978 Scripture in Song, admin. Music Services (ASCAP). Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001403

*Stand*

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

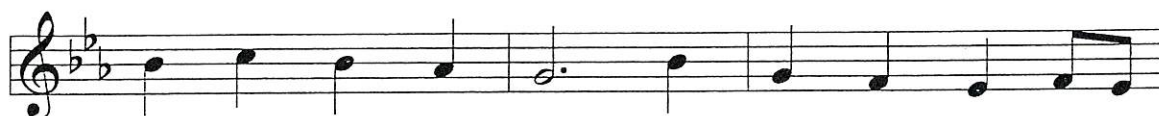
**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

**C** Amen.

## Nunc Dimittis



**C** 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



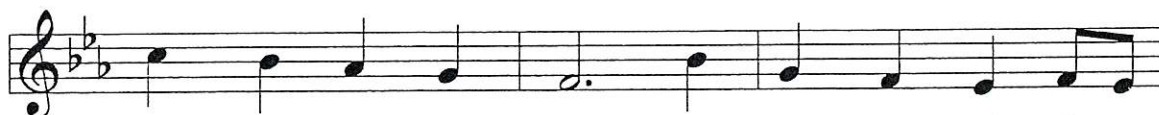
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



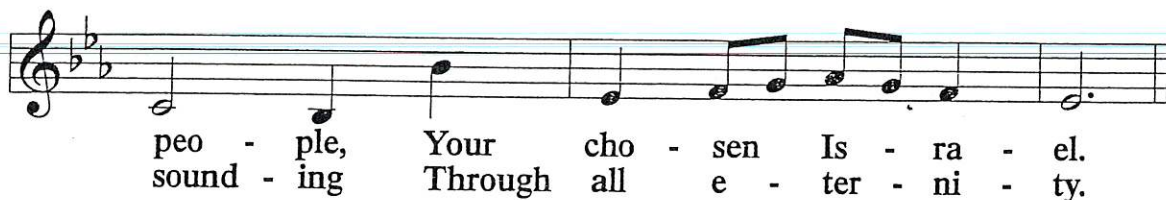
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



### Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

### Benedicamus

**A** Let us bless the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

### Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**G** Amen.

### 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem (Sunday)

#### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Pastor:

Pianist: (Saturday)

Organist: (Sunday)

Acolytes: (Saturday)

(Sunday)

Readers: (Saturday)

(Sunday)

Eric Wood

Sophia Wood

Sharon Krueger

Coleson Hasheider

Maylen Kramper

Jeff Jacobs



**Birthdays:** 21<sup>st</sup> Julie Weeke, 22<sup>nd</sup> Carolyn Rennegarbe, Malinda Weeke, 23<sup>rd</sup> Lois Rabenort, Pamela Strasburg, 24<sup>th</sup> Sophia Wood, 26<sup>th</sup> Alex Rossel

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**December Ushers – Saturday –**

Sunday – Mark Schneider and Dennis Pruehsner

**Saturday service** at 5:30 p.m.

**Sunday School & Bible Class** at 9:00 a.m. Bible class topic is “Every Heart Prepare”.

**Sunday Service** at 10:00 a.m.

**Public Catechesis** is this Monday at 6:45 a.m.

**Christmas Eve Pre-Service** is at 5:30 p.m. with Children’s Program to follow at 6:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day Service** at 10:00 a.m.

Extra copies of the December newsletter are available on the table in the narthex. Please feel free to take one for yourself or someone else.

January 2026 newsletter information is needed in the church office by Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **SCHOOL NEWS**

**Christmas Break** is Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> – Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Immanuel Wee Care** is looking for a daycare worker to help a few days or more per week. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Cheri Kurtz at 618-243-6161.

### **GENERAL NOTES**

**Life Thoughts in the Church Year:** The birth of the King of Glory (Psalm 24:7) is surrounded by the messiness of human sin and intrigue (Matthew 1:18-25). As we rejoice that our Lord has taken on our human likeness with all its sin and pain, being “descended from David according to the flesh” (Romans 1:3), we can also rejoice that Jesus has sanctified every human life, even those born in circumstances which are surrounded by sin and pain.

**Life Quotes:** “As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, let us pray for all mothers who find themselves pregnant and afraid. Abortion is never the answer. We pray daily that the Lord will strengthen all expectant mothers who find themselves alone and seemingly without hope and that He will help them choose life. Every human being’s life is a precious and beautiful miracle.” *Judie Brown, American Life League*  
– A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)



**Stewardship:** Matthew 1:21 – “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” What our good works could never do, Jesus has done: He has saved us from our sins, paid our debt, set us free. How can we not give thanks to Him with lives of generosity and godliness? What God’s Law could not do — truly motivate us to truly good works — Jesus’ love has done!

**Lutheran programs on Radio & TV on Sundays** – 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. 850 AM Radio KFUE Lutheran Worship from a Lutheran church; 9:00 a.m. 104.7 FM Rev. Mueller, New Minden Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. TV Station “TCT” “Lutheran Worship.” These are not a replacement for being in church and Bible class. These are for times when we are unable to attend in person.

## COMMUNITY NOTES

**Lay Leader Training:** send your lay leaders to gain skills and expertise at our Lay Leader Training! These workshops will cover areas that assist youth leaders, school boards, Sunday school teachers/superintendents, trustees, treasurers, evangelism committee members, and congregational presidents in carrying out their assigned duties. The day begins with Matins at 9am and wraps up at 2pm. Lunch is provided as part of registration. Find more information and registration at [sidloms.org/events](http://sidloms.org/events) Save the date today: Saturday, January 17th, 2026 (Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 1300 Beltline Rd. Collinsville, IL 62234) and Saturday, February 7th, 2026 (Trinity Lutheran Church 201 S. Pleasant Ave Centralia, IL 62801). *Immanuel lay leaders are encouraged to attend February 7<sup>th</sup> in Centralia, after new leaders are elected and installed.*

## FINANCIAL REPORT

The offerings for Wednesday, December 10, Saturday, December 13, Sunday, December 14, Wednesday, December 17 were not counted.

Expenses for the week: \$10,369.34

Loan Balance: \$45,000.00

### Thrivent Choice

Immanuel Lutheran Church received \$255.00 and Immanuel Lutheran School received \$42.00 from “Thrivent Choice Dollars” designations in December. Thank you to everyone who directed their “Thrivent Choice Dollars” to Immanuel. If you have not contacted Thrivent Choice Recently, please call 800-847-4836 to see if Thrivent has money set aside for you to designate to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Immanuel Lutheran School or another designation of your choice. Money is available through the Thrivent Choice Program. This is not a donation coming out of your investment.

**Reminder:** Bunker’s Restaurant (Golf Course) will give 10% to Immanuel Lutheran Church if you show your bulletin from church when eating on Sundays. Thank you for your support!! RBM Golf Course