

Immanuel's News and Notes ~ December 20 & 21, 2025

Welcome! On this last Sunday of Advent we happily reach out to all who have come to approach the throne of Grace. Christmas will be truly Christmas when we center our minds on the Christ child who came to offer the world salvation and hope. "Through Scripture, John the Baptist still urges people to prepare for Jesus' coming. O God, make today's worship and Christian fellowship part of our hearts' preparation. Amen." We welcome our visitors and ask you to please sign our Guest Book in the Narthex and join us again!

Prayer Requests: Val Teut (knee replacement), Justin Johannsen (hip replacement), Travis Aldag, Roger Walde, Michelle (Kragel) Anderson. *If you have a concern for which you would like us to pray, please call the Church Office or send an email to: immansch@iowatelecom.net.*

Church mailboxes: Please take a moment to check your church mailbox for offering envelopes and any other correspondence that may be in it.

Record Updates: A current membership list will be printed soon for our Annual Report. If you or a family member has a change of address or phone number, or would like to receive the monthly *Immanuel Messenger* by e-mail rather than hard-copy USPS, please let the church office know. Year-end reports for your group or board should be turned in also.

Sunday School Christmas Program "To Us a Child is Born" will be Sunday, Dec. 21 at 9:00 a.m. during our regular Sunday morning worship time. A brunch will follow the service.

Please note: After this past Wednesday, we are short \$2,417.56 for 2025. Please remember our work together as you plan your final offerings for the year. Please also remember our 8 pm Christmas Eve and 9 am Christmas Day offerings go to our Home Mission Fund.

Our Angel Tree in the Narthex has suggestions for us to give in donation in support of the Sioux City Gospel Mission. Their primary needs this year are: gallon-sized cans of vegetables and fruits, soups of any kind, canned tuna or chicken, pastas, blankets and quilts. Any other items such as socks, underwear, sweatshirts, hats, gloves, scarves, boots, coats, coffee, and devotionals are also appreciated. Thank you!

There will be no Bible Study this week Wednesday morning or Thursday evening, no confirmation class on Wednesday or no quilters on Thursday. Merry Christmas!

Readings for Christmas Eve: Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 110:1-4; 1 John 4:7-16; Matt. 1:18-25.

Readings for Christmas Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 2; Heb. 1:1-6 (7-12); John 1:1-14 (15-18).

Readings for next Sunday: Isaiah 63:7-14; Psalm 111; Gal. 4:4-7; Matt. 2:13-23.

To be included in your giving statements for 2025, gifts must be received in the Church Office by Monday, December 29, 2025.

We will be collecting items for TAP in Denison during the month of December. At this time TAP is particularly in need of: sugar, flour, soups, crackers, cooking oil, tuna, ketchup, canned tomatoes, tomato juice, macaroni, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, hamburger helper, tuna helper, complete pancake mix and syrup, laundry soap, dish soap, toilet paper, diapers and personal hygiene products. Cash donations are also very helpful! Donations can be sent to: PO Box 121, Denison, IA 51442.

BASIC Fund, Inc. Tree of Lights. A contribution to the BASIC Fund Tree of Lights in memory of someone entitles the donor to be listed in the paper and around town. Funds from the Tree of Lights will be used to support worthwhile community projects. Forms can be found around town or contact Anne Abbe, Nancy Bielenberg, Lila Bubke, Dennis Gierstorf, Kathy Weiss, Larry Grill or Leisha Kragel for more information.

The Lutheran Hour: "Everybody Is Somebody" by Speaker Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. God sends His people—the Church—to be His letters to the world, delivering His Word of promise. (Romans 1:7) Listen to *The Lutheran Hour* every Sunday morning on Denison's KDSN 104.9 FM at 6:30 am and KDSN 1530 AM at 10:30 am, and anytime at www.lhm.org.

"Thy Strong Word" every weekday morning at 6:25 a.m. on KDSN radio, 104.9. This week, December 22-27, Pastor Torreson is scheduled for the daily message. Pastor Merrill will also lead worship today at Denison Care, Silveridge and Gracewell.

"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*

Talk Radio and Podcasts for Thinking Christians: SACRED MUSIC FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON... "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come," "O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is," "Once in Royal David's City," "Silent Night, Holy Night," "Joy to the World." Beginning Christmas Eve, you can listen to sacred music for the Christmas season 24/7 at lutheranpublicradio.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, Tuneln and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

Building Healthy Families: Here's a simple yet challenging Christmas week question for your contemplation: How has the fact that Jesus was born over 2,000 years ago impacted the life you're living today? Read aloud the Luke 2 Christmas story together, ponder this question, and encourage your family members to share their answers. From the funny responses of a preschooler, the shoulder shrug of a teenager, or the wise words shared by an older person, it will be interesting to see how each individual family member answers. Remember, even those who don't answer are still listening! *"She will give birth to a Son, and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."* Matthew 1:21 A Blessed Celebration of Jesus' Birth to you from your partners at **Lutheran Family Service**.

In case of inclement weather: please check our website www.immanuelshleswig.com, Facebook page or listen to KDSN 104.9 FM for any weather-related service updates. Announcements are also posted on kdsnradio.com.

A life goal for every Christian should be to read the entire Holy Bible. We are providing a reading plan to guide you through the entire Bible in two years. You can start at any time. The entire reading plan is available in the Church Office.

<input type="checkbox"/> MONDAY: Revelation 14:1-20	<input type="checkbox"/> THURSDAY: Revelation 17:1—18:8
<input type="checkbox"/> TUESDAY: Revelation 15:1-8	<input type="checkbox"/> FRIDAY: Revelation 18:9-24
<input type="checkbox"/> WEDNESDAY: Revelation 16:1-21	<input type="checkbox"/> SATURDAY: Revelation 19:1-21

Gifts:		Attendance:		
Church Plate:	\$ 7,265.00	Sat., Dec. 13	4 p.m.:	30
Sunday School:	\$ 11.03	Sun., Dec. 14	9 a.m.:	88
Adult Bible Class:	\$ 21.00			118
Midweek Advent 12-10:	\$ 948.00	Midweek Advent 12-10:		81
Acolytes Sunday:		Sunday School:	27	
Kyler Bruhn and Brenna Bubke		Adult Bible Class:	14	

~ The Week Ahead in Ministry ~

December 21-28, 2025

Sunday: <i>December 21</i>	9:00 a.m. Children's Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Brunch following Children's program 1:00 p.m. Denison Care Worship—Merrill 1:40 p.m. Silveridge Worship 2:15 p.m. Gracewell Worship
Monday:	8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Preschool
Tuesday:	8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Preschool
Wednesday: <i>Christmas Eve</i>	No Bible Study No Preschool No Confirmation 4:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship w/HC 8:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship w/HC
Thursday: <i>Christmas Day</i>	Merry Christmas! 9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship w/HC 9:15 a.m. Silveridge Christmas Worship—Mahnken 10:00 a.m. Gracewell Christmas Worship—Mahnken No Preschool No Bible Study
Friday: Saturday: Sunday: <i>December 28</i>	~ 4:00 p.m. Worship w/HC 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class



TO FULFILL WHAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET.

Matthew 1:22, ESV

**Immanuel
Lutheran
Church**

501 Glad Street
PO Box 27
Schleswig, IA 51461

Pastor

Rev. Merle F. Mahnken
Home Ph.: 712-676-2242
Cell: 712-269-6364
Assisting Pastor
Rev. Kurt Kaiser
Phone: 712-269-8452

Church Office:
Ph. 712-676-2235

Website:
immanuelschleswig.com

E-mail:
immansch@iowatelecom.net
markey@iowatelecom.net

Worship:

Saturday ~ 4 p.m.
Sunday ~ 9 a.m.

Communion:
Every Saturday and
First & Third Sundays
Sunday School &
Bible Classes~10:15 a.m.

Worship Services are
streamed live,
recorded, and can be
accessed at any time by
clicking on Facebook,
YouTube or our website.

*"Together in
Christ, we grow
through the Word
and Sacraments,
serving our Lord
and sharing
His saving grace
with all people."*

