

# Immanuel’s News and Notes ~ January 3 & 4, 2026

**Welcome to worship**, we’re so glad you’re here! There are many good reasons to come to church, but the best one is to worship and thank God for His amazing love—shown through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That’s what our church is all about. “Light of the world, shine in our hearts today. As the Magi once followed Your star, lead us close to You and guide our steps in the year ahead. Amen.” We welcome our visitors and ask you to please sign our Guest Book in the Narthex and join us again!

**Prayer Requests:** Janet Beeck, Val Teut, Justin Johannsen, 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.

**Poinsettias** may be taken home following our services this weekend. We thank you for helping to add to the beauty of our Poinsettia Tree for our Christmas worship.

**Elders’ Planning Meeting** will be Sunday, January 4 at 11:30 a.m.

**Our Church Council and Voters’ Meetings** are coming up. Our Council will meet Monday evening, January 5 at 6:30 p.m. The Voters’ Meeting will be Sunday, Jan. 11 at 10:15 a.m.

**Board of Ed Planning Meeting** will be Tuesday, January 6 at 5:00 p.m.

**On Tuesday, January 6**, we’ll celebrate Epiphany, the day we remember that Jesus came to bring light and salvation to all people. Together, we’ll give thanks for the hope His light brings to a world in need and pray that His love shines through us this year.

**Board of Ed Planning Meeting** will be Tuesday, January 6 at 5:00 p.m.

**The Quilters** will meet on Thursday, January 8 at 9 a.m. Anyone is welcome to help.

**Readings for next Sunday:** Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Romans 6:1-11; Matt. 3:13-17.

**Installation of our Church officers and board members** will be at our 9:00 a.m. worship on Sunday, January 11.

**Thank You** to everyone who remembered us with cards and/or gifts as we celebrate our Savior’s birth! We are richly blessed to be a part of our Immanuel family. We praise God for the many kindnesses He showers upon us through you. We pray He will continue to guide us and bless us as we continue together in the service of Jesus our Savior in the coming year. Pastor and Chris Mahnken and Pastor Kaiser

**The Lutheran Hour:** “Knowing and Being Known in a New Year” by Speaker Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. God invites us to speak with Him in prayer and hear from Him in the Bible, to know Him and to love as we are loved. (John 17:3) 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](http://www.lhm.org).

**“Thy Strong Word”** every weekday morning at 6:25 a.m. on KDSN radio, 104.9. This week, January 5-10, Pastor Mahnken is scheduled for the daily message. Pastor Merrill will lead worship today at Denison Care, Silveridge and Gracewell.

**“Your story might not look** as extraordinary as Esther’s. It might not be as exciting as David’s or as tumultuous as Rahab’s or as terrifying as Mary’s. But you don’t have to be extraordinary for God to work through you. He can accomplish great things through something as unassuming as prayer or as simple as a meal for a new mother.” *Grace MacPherson—A Life Quote from Lutherans for Life*

**Talk Radio and Podcasts for Thinking Christians:** KIDS HAVE QUESTIONS SERIES... Will my dead pets be in heaven? Does everyone have a guardian angel? Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to an ongoing Kids Have Questions series with Pastor Jonathan Conner at [issuesetc.org/kidshavequestions](http://issuesetc.org/kidshavequestions).

**We live in a “I can do it myself” culture.** That has been cultivated by our access to technology. Yet the question is, “Do I need help to create my Christan estate plan?” This month we consider that your estate plan represents the biggest collection of decisions with far more impact than any others in life. To begin with, a good estate plan will include a good attorney, who can take your goals and put them down into carefully crafted, precise documents. Without an attorney, you risk allowing your will to be contested, or making mistakes that could leave something out you wished to do. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can get you ready to meet with your attorney. **LCMS Foundation**

**Building Healthy Families:** The beginning of a New Year can bring feelings of anticipation, excitement, and hope as we start with a clean slate, our resolutions to keep. Still looking for ideas that will bring new life to your New Year? How about one of these: read from Scripture 15 minutes every day; go to church every Sunday; set aside 20 minutes at the end of the day to pray; join a Bible Study group; memorize a new Bible verse each week. Don’t give up! It takes 6 weeks of doing something repeatedly to make it a habit. Happy & Blessed New Year to you and your family! **Lutheran Family Service.**

Can you believe we’ve been printing this guide for two years already?!

Guess what....we’re starting over!!

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: Genesis 1:1—2:25	<input type="checkbox"/> THURSDAY: Genesis 6:9—8:22
<input type="checkbox"/> TUESDAY: Genesis 3:1-24	<input type="checkbox"/> FRIDAY: Genesis 9:1—10:32
<input type="checkbox"/> WEDNESDAY: Genesis 4:1—6:8	<input type="checkbox"/> SATURDAY: Genesis 11:1—12:9

<u>Gifts:</u>		<u>Attendance:</u>		
Church Plate:	\$ 4,148.00	Sat., Dec. 27	4 p.m.:	18
Sunday School:	\$ 9.00	Sun., Dec. 28	9 a.m.:	<u>67</u>
Adult Bible Class:	\$ 5.00			85
Christmas Eve 4 p.m.:	\$ 6,411.00	Christmas Eve	4 p.m.:	188
Christmas Eve 8 p.m.:	\$ 824.00	Christmas Eve	8 p.m.:	81
Christmas Day 9 a.m.:	\$ 750.00	Christmas Day	9 a.m.:	67
<u>Acolytes Sunday:</u>		Sunday School:		12
Reed Meseck & Gavin Schneider		Adult Bible Class:		19

~ The Week Ahead in Ministry ~		
<u>January 4-11, 2026</u>		
<b>Sunday:</b> <i>January 4</i>	9:00 a.m.	Worship w/HC
	10:15 a.m.	Sunday School and Adult Bible Class
	11:30 a.m.	Elders' Planning Meeting
	1:00 p.m.	Denison Care Worship—Merrill
	1:40 p.m.	Silveridge Worship
	2:15 p.m.	Gracewell Worship
<b>Monday:</b>	8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.	Preschool
	6:30 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
<b>Tuesday:</b>	8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.	Preschool
	5:00 p.m.	Board of Ed Planning Meeting
<b>Wednesday:</b>	6:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	11:45 a.m.—3:00 p.m.	Preschool
	3:30—5:15 p.m.	5th/6th Grade Confirmation
	6:15—8:00 p.m.	7th/8th Grade Confirmation
<b>Thursday:</b>	8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.	Preschool
	9:00 a.m.	Quilting
<b>Friday:</b>	~	
<b>Saturday:</b>	4:00 p.m.	Worship w/HC
<b>Sunday:</b> <i>January 11</i>	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:15 a.m.	Sunday School and Voters' Meeting

**About the Cover:** By God’s gift, no mere man has arisen with wisdom like Solomon. However, Jesus is Himself Wisdom. He is not merely wise in a human way like Solomon; He is the very source of all wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:24). He showed this when He taught the teachers in Jerusalem as a boy. No one will ever arise like Him. For Jesus alone is the only Savior of the world. He makes us wise unto salvation by way of His work on the cross and resurrection.

**Immanuel  
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Church**  
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**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.”***

