



THE PEACE OF CHRISTMAS

December 2025

When Jesus was born in the manger everything appeared so peaceful. After all, “The Cattle are lowing the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no Crying He makes”. It was a silent night, and our hymnody marvels as the baby Jesus sleeps in heavenly peace. We view Christmas as a time of warm fuzzies, a time to put away the cold pricklies that we so often face here in this world. Our Christmas specials focus on the message of the Angels and point to good and uplifting things. Joseph is portrayed as a poor, but faithful and loving, husband and I am sure he was. Scripture tells us so when he has his dream and meets Gabriel (Luke 1:19-21). Even the conception of our Lord was a source of turmoil. Without the explicit word from God coming to Joseph through the angel Gabriel, Joseph would have followed his mind and left Mary (Matt 1:19), and this would have been within the law of God and Moses to do. Mary was a troubled single pregnant maiden, worried and confused. Shown in her one question to Gabriel, “How shall this be?” (Luke 1:34) she asks the angel. She received God’s message and sang a beautiful song of majestic praise from her joyful heart (Lk 1:45-55), even as her mind danced in circles trying to fully understand the meaning of Gabriel’s words. Mary ran to Elizabeth, herself pregnant with John, to find solace.

Then, on Christmas we see the tumult as Jesus is not born in a warm bedroom or in a normal sleeping quarters, but in a stable. Even if it was within the home as some now believe, it was not where you put the person of honor and it is not where to put a woman in labor. The dirty filthy manger is no place to lay an infant.

Then there were the shepherds the filthy grungy shepherd’s just in from the fields who welcomed Jesus’ birth. Not the nobles or the city council, not the military or other dignitaries in the city of David only the shepherds and the wisemen from the east who would come at Epiphany. The crisis and conflict of Christmas is all around in scripture if we read the text. Most of all there was King Herod the Great, a usurper of the throne of David, Who upon hearing of Jesus’ birth did not rejoice but rather lashed out with the slaughter of the innocence. The first Christmas was anything but silent, it was anything but peaceful. The warfare of Christmas is there in the text in the narrative. From the beginning Satan was out to get Jesus and prevent Him from going to the cross and to defeat him on Calvary’s holy mountain.

But the angel’s sang songs of Peace. The angels declared peace, to Mary, to Joseph, to the Shepherds and to the world. What a contradiction we see. How are we to understand this dichotomy.

Continued on the next page...



Christmas is the beginning of the demise of Satan, and the beginning of our salvation. That first Christmas, The King of Kings stepped down from His high and Kingly Hall. That first Christmas God of God became man. That first Christmas His heroic course began. This is why the angels sang and declared peace to all the world. The beginning of the end of Satan had come. It was like what eternal life is for us, a reality yet unseen. Here in the manger amongst the ox and the donkey, in with the sheep and the hen's lays the very one promised to the patriarchs of old. Here in the hay is the very fruit, the very offspring of Eve, who now will most certainly crush the serpent's head.

The peace of Christmas comes in the incarnation and birth of Jesus. His name, Immanuel, reminds us that God is with us, and knowing that God is with us, who can be against us. Nothing in this world can defeat us. Nothing in all of creation is greater than the very Word, Jesus, who created it. Jesus comes in peace. He comes in the manger, but like He will do when He is grown, Jesus comes in peace prepared for battle and riding a donkey as the kings of old did in peace. The battle, the war, is laid out. Jesus will overcome temptation and live a sinless and perfect life. Jesus will climb the Holy Mountain and vanquish Satan by His death on the Holy tree on that hill so far away. In dying on the cross Jesus will rain and unite us with Him once more. So, we rejoice that we have such a promise, and we cling to the cross of Christ where the victory, where the Peace has been won. Not for a time, but for an eternity. This Christmas we rest in the arms of our loving God and rejoice in Christ our savior, We join in with the heavenly host and celebrate the peace which the Christ Child has won for us and the victory over sin, death, and the devil which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Rev. James Yonkers

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Dear Lord,

You have brought us to Christmastime once more. Help us not to get lost in the glitter and the glow, but to see the true glory of the birth of Your only begotten Son. Keep our hearts from clinging too tightly to parties, presents and decorations, and turn our eyes instead to Christ — who bears Your very image and brings us Your message of love and hope. In the glorious name of Christ, we pray. Amen.



IMPORTANT DATES IN DECEMBER:

- Women's Guild Christmas Party, **Dec. 2**
- Christmas Decorating, **Dec. 6**
- Second Sunday in Advent, **Dec. 7**
- LWML Mite Collection Sunday, **Dec. 7**
- ILS Christmas Party, **Dec. 13**
- Third Sunday in Advent, **Dec. 14**
- Christmas Cookies for the Homebound, **Dec. 15**
- ILS Christmas Program, **Dec. 18**
- Children's Christmas Nativity Practice, **Dec. 20**
- Fourth Sunday in Advent, **Dec. 21**
- First Day of Winter, **Dec. 21**
- ILS Christmas Break, **Dec. 22 – Jan. 2**
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, **Dec. 24**
- Christmas Day, **Dec. 25**
- New Year's Eve, **Dec. 31**

HELP US CARE FOR YOU: *Your well-being is important to us, and we want to pray for you!* Unfortunately, we are no longer notified by the hospital; please call the church office during regular business hours (Monday through Friday from 7 am - 3:30 pm) when you have any medical procedure or in any time of spiritual need at 217-442-5675. In case of emergencies after hours, please feel free to contact Pastor Yonkers on his cell at 260-413-8375.

Prayer requests: we are certainly pleased to pray for your (non-member) family and friends alongside our Immanuel members. Please keep us informed of their needs.

COOKIES, COCOA, AND CHRISTMAS JOY:

This year, ILS is excited to host a special Christmas event on **Dec. 13**. Families are invited to enjoy an evening of sugar cookie decorating, a Christmas movie, hot chocolate, and the Christmas Shoppe. We're also looking for someone jolly enough to fill Santa's boots that day! If you or someone you know would make a great Santa, please let us know. We're collecting new or gently used items for the Christmas Shoppe. Gifts are needed for moms, dads, grandparents, and siblings. Thank you for helping us make this Christmas season a joyful one for our students and families!



LUTHERAN LEGACY:

Immanuel Lutheran has two endowment funds (one for general fund and one for building and grounds). To donate directly to Lutheran Legacy, go online to lutheranlegacyfoundation.org and click on the "funds" link on the top of the page, then on "churches" for Immanuel or "parochial schools" for ILS. The funds are listed in alphabetical order, scroll down until you find Immanuel in Danville and click on the "donate" button to the right. You can choose to donate by credit card or check. Thank you!



ADVENT SUPPER: 5:00 PM
ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICE: 6:30 PM

*Pick up a copy of the "Every Heart Prepare"
Devotional – available in the Narthex!*

EVERGREENS – DECEMBER 3

We decorate in preparation for Christmas. Our decoration preparation includes the use of evergreens—from Christmas trees to pine garland. The evergreen decorations also help us prepare for the advent (or coming) of Jesus during Advent—a season of preparation. Today we will consider how evergreens point us to the coming of Christ and the eternal life that He brings.



LIGHTS – DECEMBER 10

We decorate in preparation for Christmas. Our decoration preparation includes the use of lights—from candles to twinkling LEDs. These luminous decorations also help us prepare for the advent (or coming) of Jesus during Advent, a season of preparation. Today we will consider how lights point us to the coming of Christ and the glory He brings.



CRECHE – DECEMBER 17

We decorate in preparation for Christmas. Our decoration preparation includes the use of the crèche—the miniature model of the nativity scene. The crèche is a distinctively Christian decoration in that it depicts the characters involved in the nativity of Christ: Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the Wise Men, the angels, the stable animals, and—most important of all—the infant Jesus. As we view this manger scene, we recall the timeless story of God coming to earth as a baby to redeem us from our sins.



GIFTS – DECEMBER 24

We decorate for Christmas. Our decorations include wrapped presents — gifts in colorful boxes and bags that are placed under the Christmas tree. But these gifts all pale in comparison to the gift that started it all at Christmas—the gift of God’s Son, whose birth brings us regeneration, renewal, and eternal life. On Christmas Eve, we consider how the gifts under the tree point us to God’s indescribable gift in Jesus Christ.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ MEETING SUMMARY:

Date: Nov. 18, 2025 / Next Meeting: Jan. 20, 2026

New Business

The Board of Directors will not meet in December. A special meeting will be called should any items requiring action come up. Josh encouraged the board to contact Governor Pritzker’s office regarding the assisted suicide bill. Facility rental requests were discussed.

Old Business

None.

Christian Education

Current enrollment is 72. 19 families / 23 students are attending church through the church attendance discount. Rachel is conducting teacher reviews.

Finance

Reviewed reports. Butch reported that the church and school endowment funds at Lutheran Legacy are doing well. Since they began, the Building Fund is up \$50k, the General Fund is up \$16k, and the two for the school are up \$8k and \$21k.

Properties

School roof update: Bash Pepper is waiting for new skylights to come in. They need to contact Kim or Rachel prior to starting work so we can prepare the teachers and staff. The school boiler is up and running. Allen replaced some fuses on a pump. Four driveway lights are not working. The new garbage disposal is installed, but the plumbers will be back to install an adapter gasket to stop leaking. The asbestos is cleaned up and the breezeway is open. Allen is looking for a refrigerator to replace the broken one in the school kitchen. The exhaust fan in the kitchen has been repaired.

Stewardship

Sue shared her idea for a newsletter article for stewardship.

Evangelism

Julie will begin working on Christmas bags for ILS children.

Worship

Advent series is “Every Heart Prepare.”

Parish Education

Sunday School is working on the Christmas Program. Icebox Cookies fundraiser will likely take place in March.

Mission and Social Ministry

Need donations of breakfast cereal and canned fruit. Thanksgiving Food Offering is coming up.

Elders

Discussed November’s Elders meeting. A motion was approved to receive the McElhoe Family into Immanuel.

Vice President

Kurt shared his feedback regarding the survey results.

President

Josh discussed cemetery board updates.

Pastor

Discussed official acts, Advent theme, gave the board an update on his health and thanked everyone for their care and concern.

Decorate the Church



We will **deck the halls** of the church and sanctuary for Christmas on **Dec. 6**, at 9 am. *Many hands make light and joyful work* as we prepare for our Lord's birth this Advent and Christmas season. **Please join us!**



May you know the comfort and joy of God's presence this Christmas season and always!

Merry Christmas!

CAPITAL FUND: The current fund balance is \$157,738. We also have a grant \$ of \$50,000 that will be given to us when our current project has been completed. Another grant has been applied for, and we will know the results in December. Even if we received the entire amount we requested, there is still a large amount that has not been raised yet for this project. There is a Capital Fund Drive bulletin board in the hallway between the coat room and the parish mailboxes. There, you'll find special envelopes for ongoing donations throughout the year. There are also special donation envelopes by the "giving thermometer" in the narthex and on the ushers' desk. "...because of my devotion to the house of my God I give my treasure for the house of my God. 1 Chronicles 29:3b. All donations from large to small are equally appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Jo Van Hoveln or any of the committee members.

SAVE THE DATE! The Men's Club and the Capital Fund will cohost the 2026 *A Taste of Deutschland* German Dinner on **Saturday, February 21, 2026.**

"This is what is meant by 'Thy king cometh.' You do not seek him, but he seeks you. You do not find him, he finds you."

Martin Luther

WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS:

Our December **ingathering** continues for the VA. Some of the items to donate from their holiday wish list are listed below. Please place your donations in the tote in the coatroom.

- Gift Cards - \$5 - \$10 from DQ, Walmart, Meijer, Starbucks, and Applebee's
- Little Debbie Christmas cakes
- Paintable ceramics
- Belts in sizes 32 - 42
- Car or sport t-shirts in sizes XL - 2XL
- Sports hats
- Birthday decorations
- Holiday decorations
- 2 liters of soda

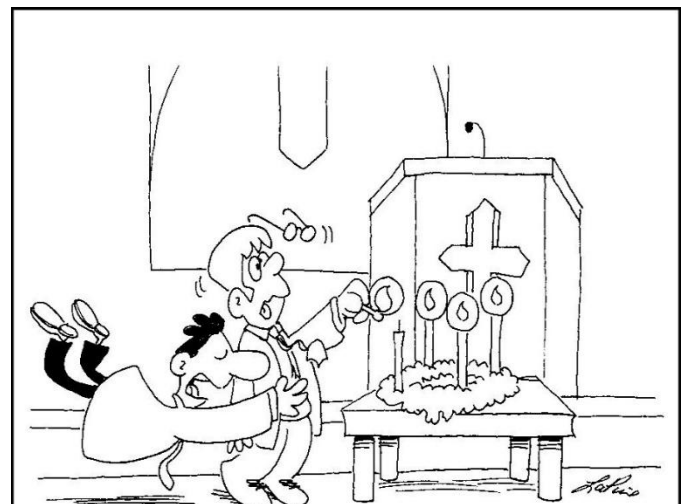


Our **Women's Guild Christmas Lunch** at Turtle Tun is coming up on **Dec. 2** at 11:30 am. We will order from the menu and pay individually. This Christmas celebration is open to all ladies of the congregation, and we look forward to seeing lots of you attend! There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway so that we can be sure we have plenty of seating.

Christmas Cookies: At Christmas, we remember our homebound members as well as those with current health concerns with the gift of Christmas cookies. If you can bake some cookies, help pack cookies, or help deliver, please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway. Cookies will be packed at **10 am on Dec. 15** with delivery afterwards. Baked cookies should be brought to the all-purpose room on Sunday, Dec. 14 or by 10 am on Dec. 15. For more information, contact Rosemary Hilton.

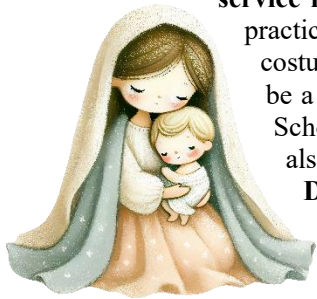


Next Meeting: January 13, 2026 at 11:30 am.



Pastor Howie saves the third Sunday of Advent.

PARISH EDUCATION NEWS: Thank you to all of our volunteers that participate in children's church, children's sermons, and nursery. We appreciate you! If you are interested in joining the team of volunteers, please contact the church office. **The Children's Christmas service is Sunday, Dec. 21.** We have begun practicing songs and bells and will be fitting costumes soon. If your child would like to be a part of this service, come to Sunday School each Sunday at 8:30 am. We will also have a special practice on Saturday, **Dec. 20** from 10 am – 12:00 pm with a pizza lunch included. We would love to have many children participating, so come join us!!



CAPITAL FUND CHRISTMAS TREE: There will be a Christmas tree in the narthex designated for special year-end gifts to the Capital Fund Drive. Beside the tree, you'll find special envelopes for your donation. Please place your gift inside an envelope and then place the completed envelope in the offering plate. If you would like to take an ornament from the tree as a keepsake to commemorate your gift, please feel free to do so. All donations will go directly toward our current project: re-roofing the flat roof on the school/gym wing of our building. The tree will remain up through Epiphany; you can also get a head start on your 2026 giving if you wish. Thank you for your faithful support!

DECEMBER SCHEDULE CHANGES: As we enter this joyful season, please note a few adjustments to our regular calendar throughout the month of December. Thank you for your understanding as we adapt our schedule during this special season of worship and celebration!

- **Communion:** While we typically celebrate Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, Communion will be held on the 1st and 4th Sundays in December to accommodate the Children's Nativity Program on December 21.
- **Church Office Closures:** The church office will be closed December 24–26, and again on January 1, in celebration of Christmas and New Year's Day.
- **Sunday School and Bible Class:** Please also note that there will be no Sunday School or Adult Bible Class on Sunday, December 28.
- **Wednesday Services:** During Advent, Wednesday Services are held at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. There is no Wednesday Evening Service on December 31.
- Several of our committees and groups, such as Women's Bible Study and the Food Pantry, will be adjusting their schedules as well. If you participate in any of these ministries, please check with the group leader for updates. Thank you for your understanding as we adapt our schedule during this special season of worship and celebration!

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Bible Quiz

Who told Mary that her child would be called "the Son of the Most High"?

A. Zechariah

B. Gabriel

C. Simeon

D. Joseph

Answer: B (See Luke 1:26–32.)

CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight

SERVICE

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service with Holy Communion is Dec. 24 at 6:30 pm. Please come 15 minutes early to enjoy extra Christmas music!





A Message from Pastor Patrick Gumz Central Illinois District Missions

As the days grow shorter and the air turns colder, November brings with it a natural pause. The calendar year is winding down and so is the church year, which ends with a final, resounding reminder: Christ still rules over all. Psalm 95 gives us this invitation: *"Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!"* God invites us to enter His presence with thanksgiving, not out of duty, but out of joy. Not because everything has gone right, but because God remains faithful. He is still the rock of your salvation. He still rules over all. So, whether with a full heart or a weary one, come into His presence. He welcomes your song. He receives your thanks. And His grace and mercy endures, now and forever.

Stay Connected!

Central Illinois District Contact Information:

CID's website: <http://www.cidlcms.org/>

Subscribe to the E-GatePost (digital newsletter) and monthly bulletin inserts: <http://www.cidlcms.org/>
Follow the CID on Facebook and Instagram

Prayer Request

Pray for Our CID Missions supported by your church's contributions to the district.

Please remember in your prayers all our CID campus ministries, especially Rev. William Jensen and Wittenberg Lutheran Center in Normal, serving students, faculty, and staff of Illinois State University and other institutions. And pray for the "Keeping Christ on Campus" campaign, building endowments to help CID support our campus ministries.

Current Dollar for Missions Project

Project: Replace original kitchen equipment in the sexton apartment at Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, Macomb. Immanuel Lutheran Student Center in Macomb was dedicated in 1969, but some kitchen equipment in the apartment for the live-in student who takes care of the student center (the sexton) has not been replaced since then. DFM funds would be used to replace the original kitchen equipment. **Amount to be funded:** \$11,000.00.

This month, we are blessed to share a message from Ashley Lehr, the missionary in Puerto Rico supported by our Women's Guild's monthly contributions. The bag of coffee she sent will be available on Sunday mornings until we run out of it – try it out!

Happy Fall Partners in Christ,

Fall is my favorite time of the year. The weather gets cooler and by cooler, I mean it is in the 80s instead of 90s or 100s with less humidity. Just slightly cooler, unlike those of you that experience significant changes in weather during the fall. I love that in the fall we get to enjoy all the pumpkin and apple crisp flavored goodies. I also love fall because of my birthday, and this year it's my golden birthday (I turn 29 on September 29th).

Most importantly, fall means more opportunities to share the Gospel with our neighbors in Puerto Rico. This school year we started an afterschool program on Tuesdays and Thursdays for children. We also started a new group for young adults to join in fellowship and service. All three congregations have also started catechism classes for new members. All these activities are ways that we are able to share the good news of Jesus Christ with Puerto Ricans. Thank you for your partnership that allows me to continue serving the Lord on this beautiful island.

I continue to identify with these sentiments that Paul wrote in the beginning of his letter to those in Philippi:

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace."

Philippians 1:3-7a

Thank you for your prayers for me with joy and your continued partnership in the Gospel! I greatly appreciate you, your prayers, encouragement, and support on my behalf. Additionally, I want to express that you are an important part of my journey as a missionary, and I would not be able to serve without you! I am truly blessed. As a small token of my appreciation, I have enclosed a bag of my favorite Puerto Rican Coffee with you. I hope you enjoy it and are reminded every time you drink it how you are helping spread the Gospel in Puerto Rico.

I am thankful for your support in the Lord's work happening in Latin America, especially in Puerto Rico. Thanks be to God! ¡Gracias a Dios! May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. A very blessed fall to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

Ashley Lehr



ILS Connections

A place to keep families, staff, and the church congregation connected!

December 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR: Mrs. Rachel Schmidgall

Teaching children during their preschool age about the birth of Jesus should be simple, joyful and meaningful—even in a culture that often dismisses Christ. At this age, kids learn through warmth, repetition, and hands-on experiences. You don't need to defend your faith to the little ones but instead introduce them to this story with confidence and love. One way you can do this as a parent is sharing the story of the Nativity with your child(ren). Show pictures, name each character, and remind your child that Jesus was God's gift to the world. Little ones understand Christ's love long before they understand theology. Some children might enjoy setting up a nativity decoration or scene they can touch in the home as you prepare for Christmas decorations. There are also loads of art projects online for creating your own nativity scene with your child(ren). Your confidence and ease in mentioning Christ during the holidays is what matters most. We all enjoy the other holiday festivities such as Santa and his elves, the Grinch, or Elf on the Shelf, but please don't neglect to teach your child about the most important theme of all: the birth of our Savior. Give them a foundation into their faith that will not abandon them as they become adults. Plant those seeds now while they are open to Christ's love and interested in your teachings.

YOUNG TWO'S ROOM: Mrs. Kirsten Brown

In the Young 2s room this month, we learned about Veterans Day, turkeys, and Thanksgiving. We also learned the color brown and the number 3. In December, we will be learning all about Christmas—candy canes, gingerbread, and more! We will also move on to the color green and the number 4. In Jesus Time, we will be learning about the Christmas story and the birth of Jesus. We hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving!

TWO'S ROOM: Miss Nicole Martin

November was a wonderful month in our two-year-old classroom! We loved learning all about community helpers and how they make our neighborhoods safe and happy. Our favorite shape this month was the star — we found stars in our artwork, songs, and even during playtime! One of the biggest highlights of the month was singing our Veterans Day songs during circle time. The children sang with so much joy and pride, and it was heartwarming to see their excitement each day. We are now anxiously awaiting the Christmas fun beginning in our room, at the Christmas family night, and the Christmas Program! Hope to see you all there!

THREE'S ROOM: Mrs. Katie Rouse

December is here, and our classroom is filled with excitement and Christmas cheer. This month's learning focus: Letters: M, N, and O--We'll explore these letters through songs and crafts — M is for mitten, N is for nest, and O is for ornament! Color: Green--Just like Christmas trees and holly leaves, we'll see lots of green this month! Number: 5 --We'll count to 5, look for sets of 5, and other fun counting projects. Shape: Triangle-- triangles are everywhere during the holidays! From Christmas trees to Santa's hat, we'll explore this shape through art and play. We'll be visiting Liberty Estates to share some Christmas cheer with the residents with songs and a craft. This is an opportunity for our children to experience the joy of giving and spreading happiness to others. A few friendly reminders: continue to check folders for important dates about Christmas spirit week and our Christmas party sign-ups! Please dress your child warmly-- provide coats, hats and gloves as we go outside to play whenever weather allows. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in making your child's education a success!

FOUR'S ROOM: Mrs. Tabatha Hammer

It's hard to believe another month has flown by—this year is going so fast! This month brings all our favorite Christmas themes like gingerbread men, candy canes, and, most importantly, the birth of baby Jesus. Our class is so excited to perform for our families at the Christmas program and to celebrate together at our Christmas party to close out the month. Our learning focus for December: Letters: G and O, Numbers: 0 and 20, Color: Green, Shape: Triangle, Sight Words: to and the. During Jesus Time, we will learn about the First Christmas—focusing on the angels, shepherds, and Wise Men who celebrated the birth of our Savior.

FOUR'S ROOM: Ms. Michelle Wiese

November is off to a great start even though the temperatures are getting colder. I think our first Veterans Day concert was an example of just how wonderful our ILS students & families really are. Another part of November we also enjoyed was having all our community helpers visit and talk about their jobs. In Ms. Wiese's class we are already looking forward to our Christmas activities including our Christmas concert which is Dec. 18th at 6:30 p.m. For the month of December, we will focus on: Color: Green, Number: 0 and 20, Shape: Rectangle, Letters: Gg, Oo, and Review the letters: Ss-Oo. Another holiday activity we have coming up is our Christmas Party which is on Saturday Dec. 13th from 4 to 7 p.m. We hope to see you there!





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WEEKLY BROADCAST SCHEDULE:

Sundays at 7:00 am – WTWO – TV2 (NBC)

Sundays at 7:30 am – WCIX Channel 3

Sundays at 10:30 am – TCT Network – Direct TV Channel 377

Nationwide Sundays: Direct TV Channel 377 (11:30 am Eastern / 10:30 am Central / 9:30 am Mountain / 8:30 am Pacific)

Tune in anytime online: www.worshipforshutins.org

December 2025

December 7, 2025

***“Stirring Things Up”* by Rev. Scott Zeckzer**

Sermon Text: Matthew 3:3

It is time for decorations and baking. There will be a lot of stirring up. God stirs things up to get us ready for His coming.

December 14, 2025

***“Lord, Give Us Patience”* by Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III**

Sermon Text: Matthew 11:2-10

John the Baptist asked Jesus if He was the Messiah because earlier John had preached that the Messiah would come in judgment. John did not see this happening in Jesus’ ministry. In response, Jesus indicates that He is indeed the Messiah and that John should be patient. In this account, God also teaches us about patience.

December 21, 2025

***“The Word Became Flesh”* by Rev. Shayne Jonker**

Sermon Text: John 1:14

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14a ESV). The Son of God came in humility that we might be glorified. He came in poverty that we might be rich. He came to die that we might live. He came to dwell with us that we might dwell with Him, His Father, and the Spirit.

December 24, 2025

***“Christmas Can’t Be Stolen”* by Rev. Paul Shoemaker**

Sermon Text: Luke 2:1-14

The Grinch Who Stole Christmas was not successful because he did not realize the true meaning of Christmas was not in things. We know the true meaning of Christmas is to be found in Jesus. This world’s Grinch, Satan, still tries to steal Christmas joy from us. Let’s focus on Jesus, the Reason for the season.

December 28, 2025

***“Save the Child!”* by Rev. William Mueller**

Sermon Text: Matthew 2:13-23

Aside from the fact that the text tells us about the not-any-older than 2-year-old Jesus, this Gospel reading seems so out of place in the Christmas season. Yet, there is an important truth to be discovered and a searching question to be asked.



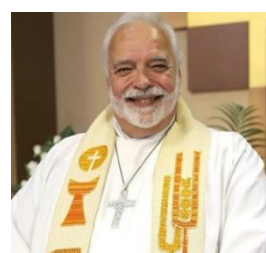
Rev. Maier



Rev. Zeckzer



Rev. Jonker



Rev. Shoemaker



Rev. Mueller

Serving Schedules

December 2025

Note: All special services, the Advent Midweek Services and the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, are at 6:30 pm.

Communion Assistants

- 7 Josh Christensen, Dean Hull
- 24 Don DeMoss, Josh Christensen
- 28 Kurt Thornsborough, Allen Julian

Ushers – Team “F”

Capt. Ray Wittmann, Scott Huckstadt, Larry Fredericks, and Jim Osterbur.

Special Services

- 3 Team “A” Capt. Don DeMoss
- 10 Team “B” Youth Team
- 17 Team “C” Capt. Kurt Thornsborough
- 24 Team “D” Capt. Jerry Kennett

Lay Readers

- 7 Sue Heidle
- 14 Allen Julian
- 21 TBD
- 28 Josh Christensen

Gospel Reader

Kurt Thornsborough
Allen Julian
Children’s Program
Josh Christensen

Special Services

- 3 Diana Pratt
- 10 Nancy Purviance
- 17 Janet Terry
- 24 Kurt & Debbie T.

Gail Garner
Dwain Dixon
Allen Julian
Kurt Thornsborough

Acolytes

- 7 Jamie Yonkers
- 14 Carley Wright
- 21 Owen Price
- 28 Brooklynn Hunt

Special Services

- 3 Kinley Pratt
- 10 Eli Mann
- 17 Jamie Yonkers
- 24 Kendall Wright

Videographer

- 7 Dwain Dixon
- 14 Josh Christensen
- 21 Dwain Dixon
- 28 Kim Davis

Sound/Screens

Butch Buesing
Jan Mann
Jamie Yonkers
RJ Davis

Special Services

- 3 *Service not streamed*
- 10 *Service not streamed*
- 17 *Service not streamed*
- 24 Dwain Dixon

Josh Christensen
Jan Mann
RJ Davis
Jamie Yonkers

Children’s Church

- 7 Kathy Christensen
- 21 *Children’s Program*

Children’s Sermon

- 14 Jo Robinson
- 28 Mary Ellen Fricke

Altar Guild

Rosemary Hilton, Debbie Ferris, and Carrie Farrell

Money Counters

Team “C” Mary Powell and Holly Clem

Check Signers

Mike Ferris and Mary Powell

January 2026

Communion Assistants

- 4 Dwain Dixon, Dean Hull
- 18 Kurt Thornsborough, Allen Julian

Ushers – Team “A”

Capt. Don DeMoss, Pete Rudolph, Charlie Crow, RJ Davis, Sue DeMoss, and Zachary Davis

Lay Readers

- 4 Diana Pratt
- 11 Nancy Purviance
- 18 Janet Terry
- 25 Gail and Barb Garner

Gospel Reader

Dwain Dixon
Butch Buesing
Josh Christensen
Gail Garner

Acolytes

- 4 Carley Wright
- 11 Owen Price
- 18 Kinley Pratt
- 25 Eli Mann

Videographer

- 4 Josh Christensen
- 11 Kim Davis
- 18 Dwain Dixon
- 25 Butch Buesing

Sound/Screens

Jamie Yonkers
Dwain Dixon
Josh Christensen
Jan Mann

Children’s Church

- 4 Jan Mann
- 18 Jan Mann

Children’s Sermon

- 11 Sue Heidle
- 25 Marah Showers

Altar Guild

Sue DeMoss and Kimberly Davis

Money Counters

Jerry and Charlotte Kennett

Check Signers

Jo Van Hoveln and Mary Powell



Christmas Card treasures



Turn old Christmas cards into beautiful keepsake ornaments! It's a fun, simple way to give new life to cards you've received and add a handmade touch to your tree.

What you need:

- Christmas cards
- Scissors
- Glue
- Circle pattern (cut from cardboard or trace around object)
- Hole punch
- Yarn or ribbon
- Glitter (optional)



What you do:

1. Trace a circle onto two Christmas cards.
2. Cut out the circles and glue the backs together.
3. Decorate the edges with glitter or ribbon for extra sparkle.
4. Punch a hole at the top and thread yarn or ribbon through to hang.



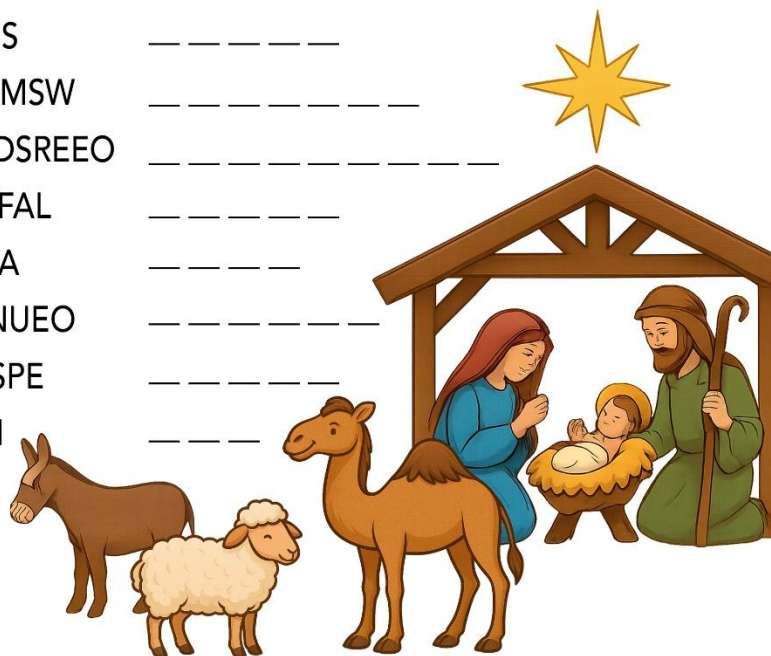
Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.
— James 1:17 (NIV)

Puzzle!

The Christmas Story

Unscramble each set of letters to form a word from the Christmas story. One letter in each set doesn't belong. Write each extra letter below, on the line above the correct number. Then answer the question: What did we all receive at Christmas?

- (1) TGLBEHHEME _____
- (2) NEAGLO _____
- (3) NRMEDAG _____
- (4) ODEKSNY _____
- (5) AMGYZ _____
- (6) OHESJIP _____
- (7) EFJSUS _____
- (8) ITEENMSW _____
- (9) SPHDSREEO _____
- (10) EMCFAL _____
- (11) TLSRA _____
- (12) CSSNUEO _____
- (13) HEVSPE _____
- (14) ENIN _____



- | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | | |

Answers: Bethlehem (G), Angel (O), Manger (D), Donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F), Wise men (T), Shepherds (O), Camel (F), Star (L), Census (O), Sheep (V), Inn (E), God's gift of love

Place
Stamp
Here

Our December 2025 newsletter
prepared prayerfully for:

This newsletter also available on our
website: www.ilcdanville.com

Immanuel Lutheran Church and School
1930 N. Bowman Avenue
Danville, IL 61832

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

GOD WITH US



DECEMBER 2025

Immanuel Lutheran Church

1930 N. Bowman
Danville, IL 61832
www.ilcdanville.com
217-442-5675

**Immanuel
Lutheran School**
217-442-5036

Worship Schedule

Sundays

Dec. 7, 14, 21 & 28
at 9:30 am

Wednesdays

Dec. 3, 10, 17 & 24
at 6:30 pm

Dec. 28 at 5:00 pm

Communion Schedule

Sundays

Dec. 7 & 28
at 9:30 am

Wednesday

Dec. 24 at 6:30 pm
Dec. 28 at 5:00 pm