



Immanuel Lutheran Church

IMMANUEL LIGHTS

Vol. LXVII No. 50 Immanuel Lutheran Church, Danville, Illinois

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GOD WITH US

December 14, 2025

Serving in Worship Today

Pastor: Rev. James Yonkers

Music Director / Organist: Tom Fricke

Elders: Don D., Dean H., Butch B., Josh S.

Ushers: Team F: Capt. Ray Wittmann

Lay Reader: Al Julian

Gospel Reader: Al Julian

Children's Message: Sue Heidle

Videographer: Josh Christensen

Screens/Audio: RJ Davis

Acolyte: Carley Wright

Altar Guild: Rosemary H., Debbie F., Carrie F.

Counters: Mary Powell and Holly Clem

SPIRITUAL CARE: *Your well-being is important to us, and we want to pray for you!* Please contact the church office during regular business hours (Monday – Friday from 7 am – 3:30 pm). In case of emergencies after hours, contact Pastor Yonkers on his cell: 260-413-8375.



ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Don Page in loving memory of Carol and Lori Page; and by all who gave poinsettias in honor of the Christ child or in memory of loved ones. *May all your remembrances be blessed!*

HOSPITALIZED: We pray for those hospitalized this week: **Mike Heidle.**

WITH SYMPATHY we pray for Jean Lackey and family at the death of her husband, Earl. *May the good Lord comfort all who mourn with the hope of the resurrection of all who believe in Christ Jesus!*

HOUBOUND / HEALTH CONCERNS: We pray for **Sandy Kochvar, Rev. Del Krueger, Bonnie Lazzell, Kitty Lee, Angie Lucas, Marsha Malivuk, Bev Page, Don Page, Linda Pasquale, and John Roderick.**

THE LUTHERAN HOUR next Sunday (12/21) "**Everybody Is Somebody**" by Rev. Michael Zeigler. God sends His people—the Church—to be His letters to the world, delivering His Word of promise. (Romans 1:7) Tune in to hear this and other great sermons any time at: www.lutheranhour.org.

WELCOME VISITORS! If you're new to Immanuel, we pray you feel the love of Christ and are blessed by our time of worship together. Please fill out the visitor information form located in the red folder at the end of your pew; we'd love to get to know you better! If you have any questions or need assistance, our friendly ushers (you'll find them just outside the sanctuary) are happy to help. *We're glad you're here!*

ADULT BIBLE CLASS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL meets on Sundays at 8:30 am – *with coffee and donuts!* Join us as we continue with the Bible Expedition series. In Sunday School, children (age 3+) are preparing for our Christmas Nativity program. Our youth Bible Study (Jr./Sr. high) is studying Paul's letter to the Romans.

ADVENT IS COMING! Today is the Third Sunday in Advent. Our next Advent Midweek Service is **Dec. 17** at 6:30 pm. Our Advent series is "*Every Heart Prepare.*" One way we prepare for Christmas is by decorating with evergreens, lights, crèches, and presents. We'll reflect upon these Christmas decorations and how they help us see Christ and prepare for His coming. Join us prior to Service for an Advent supper! This week's supper will benefit Parish Education. The menu includes lasagna, salad, garlic bread, and ice cream sundaes for dessert.



CHRISTMAS COOKIES: At Christmastime, we remember our homebound members as well as those with current health concerns with the gift of Christmas cookies. Cookies will be packed at 10 am on **Dec. 15** with delivery afterwards. Baked cookies should be brought to the all-purpose room by 10 am tomorrow. Thanks, cookie bakers!

ILS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Please join ILS as we celebrate Christmas on Thursday, **Dec. 18** at 6:30 pm by attending our Christmas program in our school gym! We thank our staff for preparing our children for this event and wish to thank our volunteers for their help in preparing refreshments and helping with setting up and tearing down of our event!

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY SERVICE: Our Children's Christmas Service is next Sunday, **Dec. 21**. The children have been doing a wonderful job practicing their songs and bells, and all costumes are ready to go! Please note that a special rehearsal is scheduled for Saturday, **Dec. 20** at 10:00 am, with a pizza lunch provided. It's important that all children attend this practice as we prepare for the service.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE: Join us for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on **Dec. 24**. On this holy night, we continue our midweek series as we focus on the greatest gift of all: our Savior. The service will begin with a special Christmas musical prelude from our organist, Tom Fricke, at 6:15 pm. Together we will hear the Christmas Gospel, sing beloved traditional carols, receive Holy Communion, enjoy special music from the choir, and close the evening by singing "Silent Night" together by candlelight. O come, let us adore Him!



CAPITAL FUND CHRISTMAS TREE: A Christmas tree is set up in the narthex for year-end gifts to our Capital Fund Drive. Please place your donation in one of the envelopes provided next to the tree, then drop the completed envelope in the offering plate. You are welcome to take an ornament home as a keepsake to commemorate your gift. Every donation, large or small, is gratefully appreciated!

INGATHERING: Our **ingathering** for November and December is for the VA. Items requested: gift cards (\$5 - \$10 ea.) 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 & holiday decorations, and 2 liters of soda.

CALL COMMITTEE: ILS is beginning the process of considering a call for a teacher. If you are interested in serving on the Call Committee, please speak with Kurt Thornsborough. Thank you for your willingness to support this important work.

2026 ENVELOPES are available now. Please do not use your new envelopes until 2026 as your envelope number may have changed; likewise, do not use leftover 2025 envelopes after Jan. 1. This will help us accurately acknowledge your contributions. If you currently do not have envelopes, but would like to begin using them, please call Kim in the church office. Thanks!

A MESSAGE FROM JAN MANN: *"I am so grateful to be a part of Immanuel Lutheran Church. Thank you for all the prayers, meals, cards, "Eli's taxi service", phone calls, and visits. I was so concerned because the doctors made it clear that I wouldn't be able to do much of anything for a few weeks. So many of you blessed me with your loving care and concern. I appreciate each of you... thank you!"*

SCHEDULE CHANGES: As we enter this joyful season, please take note of a few adjustments to our regular calendar. **Communion:** While we typically celebrate Communion on the 3rd Sunday, communion will be moved to the 4th Sunday to accommodate the Children's Nativity Program. **Church Office Closures:** The church office will be closed **Dec. 24 - 26**, and again on **Jan. 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 **Dec. 28**. **Wednesday Services:** There is no Wednesday Evening Service on **Dec. 31**.



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

Attendance Last Sunday (12/07)	105
Communion Attendance	86
Attendance Wednesday (12/10)	40

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE:

Giving Last Week	\$11,137.00
Needed Weekly	\$7,570.00
Checking Account Balance	\$2,309.00
Bills Due This Week	\$9,218.00

BIRTHDAYS:

Dec. 15	Pete Rudolph	18	Rome Fleming
17	Jody Culotti	19	Ruth Burress
17	Paul Pasquale	19	Nancy McCoy
		20	Selma Thompson

ANNIVERSARIES:

Dec. 16	Terry and Michelle Moore	37
Dec. 18	Richard and Kimberly Davis	21

CALENDAR EVENTS THIS WEEK ...

Sunday (14)	8:30 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	2 - 5 pm	ILS Christmas Fun Night
Monday (15)	10:00 am	Manor Bible Study
Tuesday (16)	9:30 am	Women's Bible Study
Wednesday (17)	8:45 am	ILS Chapel
	5:00 pm	Advent Supper
	5:30 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Advent Service
Thursday (18)	8:30 am	Food Pantry
	6:30 pm	ILS Christmas Program
Saturday (20)	10:00 am	Children's Program Practice
Next Sunday (21)	8:30 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
	9:30 am	Worship - Children's Nativity

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ILS Christmas Program, Dec. 18
- Fourth Sunday in Advent, Dec. 21
- First Day of Winter, Dec. 21
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Dec. 24
- Christmas Day, Dec. 25
- New Year's Eve, Dec. 31