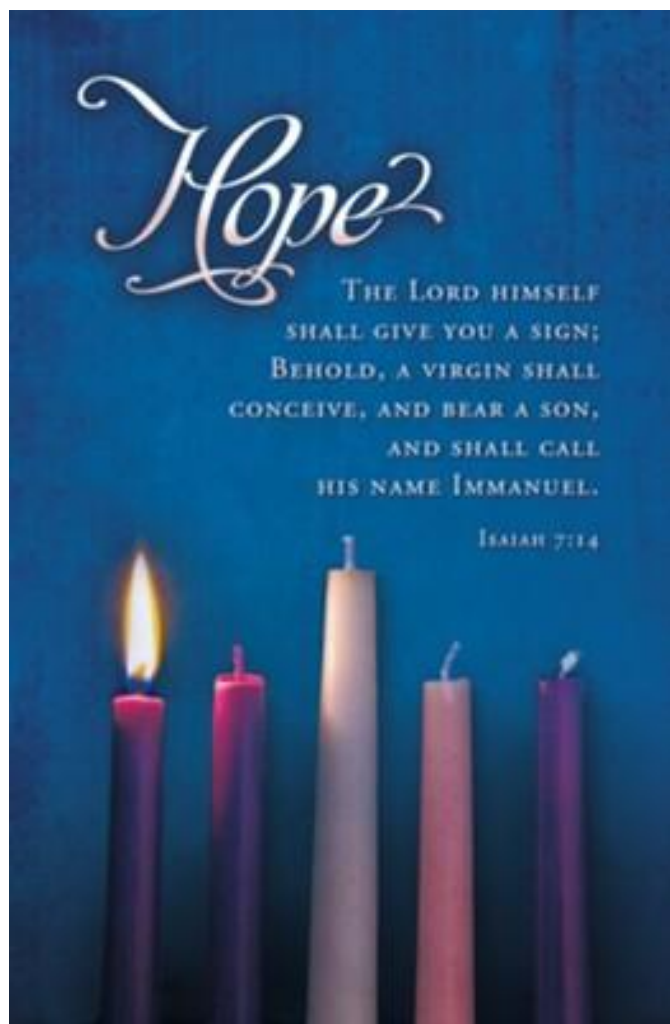


Welcome to Worship at Immanuel Lutheran Church



Who Built the Ark?

November 30, 2025
9 a.m. Service Bulletin
Advent I, Year A

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO WORSHIP WITH US!



WE BELIEVE THAT GUESTS ARE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, and we seek to make your visit positive! Please scan the QR code to the left or sign the Pew Register located in the red notebook.

WE BELIEVE THAT SERVING CHRIST MEANS SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS. Our name, Immanuel, means “God with us.” Everything we do is to welcome and serve the Lord who is here among us, in you, and in our neighbors. Our ministries, from our Worship to our Soup Kitchen and Food Bank, from our Jail Ministry to our Women’s Drug Recovery house, from our Homeless Children’s Ministry to our Campus Ministry at Lander University, are all designed and carried out to share “God with us” with our surrounding neighborhood and city. God’s Love is inexhaustible! People from all around town work alongside us to share this Love with our neighbors. You can too!

WE BELIEVE THAT CHURCH is where disagreements may occur, and the love of Christ draws us together to worship and work together. We do not all agree on everything, but we do love God and each other, and that is enough!

WE BELIEVE THAT GOD LOVES EVERYONE, so we do too! ALL are welcome here!

HOSPITALITY

RESTROOMS - Our Handicap Accessible Restroom is located just outside the door by the pulpit. We also have nearby restrooms downstairs.

THE CHILD CARE ROOM IS OPEN! - We have a room for parents that offers a private, quick, and convenient space for caring for children. The room is located just outside of the sanctuary through the door beside the pulpit.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today’s readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord’s coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

Order of Worship

As the prelude begins, please prepare your heart and mind for Worship in SILENT meditation.

✝ **THE PRELUDE** *Savior of the Nations, Come, BuxWV 211* Dieterich Buxtehude
Dr. Will Cleveland, Organist

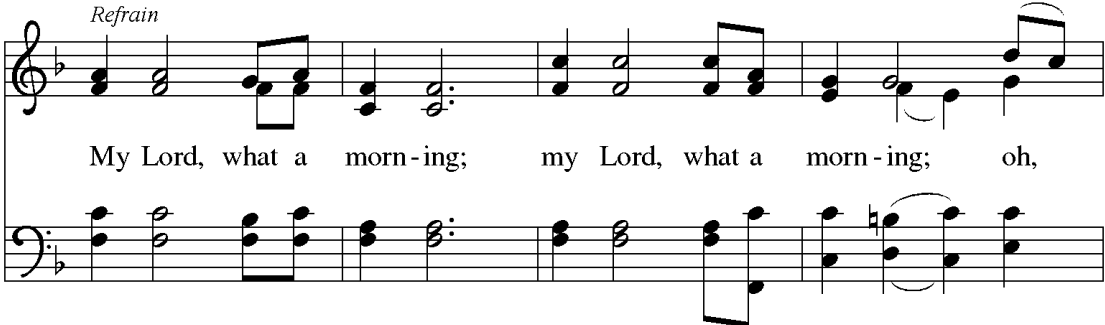
✝ **THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR** *During the chiming of the hour, please stand for the Processional Hymn.*

✚ THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

My Lord, What a Morning ELW #438

Please stand, as you are able.

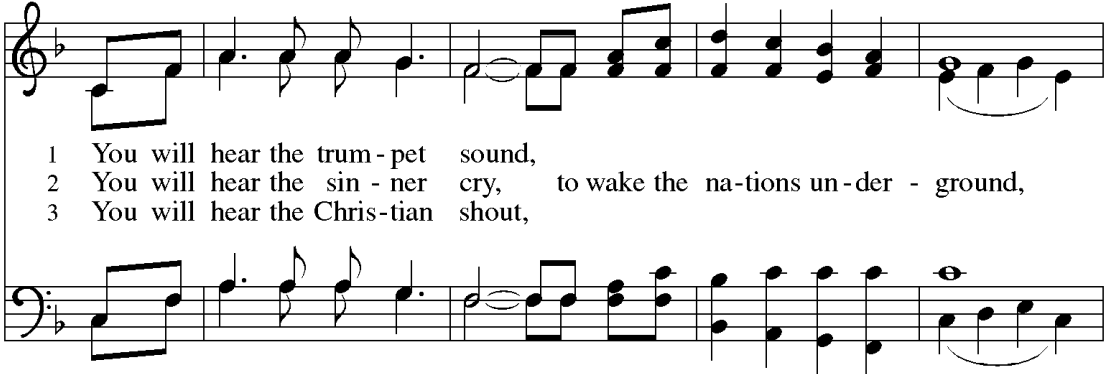
Refrain



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

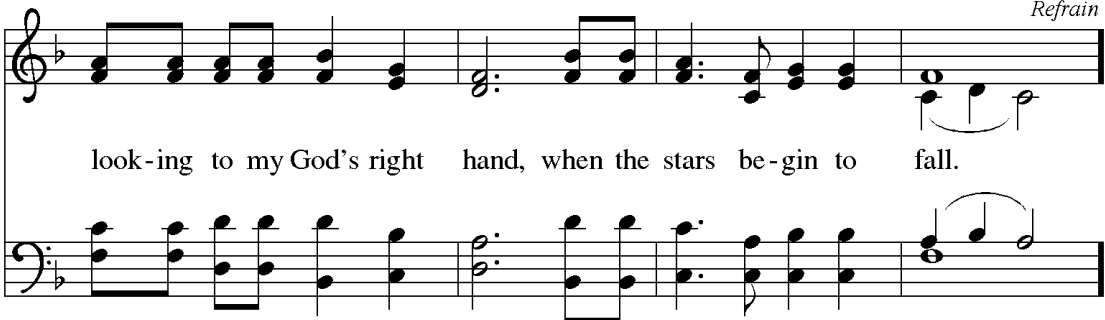


my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.



1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,
2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

Refrain



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

✝ THE WELCOME

The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor

✝ THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you ALL.

ALL And also with you.

✝ THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Let us pray: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

ALL By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN..

✝ THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDEL HOPE

Please be seated

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

✝ THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 2:1-5

Summary

Lector *The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!" Now, the first lesson from the Old Testament Prophet Isaiah.*

Lector ¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³ Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Lector Here ends the first lesson. For the word given to us,

ALL Thanks be to God.

✝ THE PSALM 122

Lector ¹ I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

ALL ² Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Lector ³ Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

ALL ⁴ to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.

Lector ⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

ALL ⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

Lector ⁷ Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

ALL ⁸ For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.

Lector ⁹ Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do you good."

✝ THE SECOND LESSON Romans 13:11-14

Summary

Lector *In today's second lesson, Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.*

Lector ¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Lector Here ends the second lesson. For the word given to us,
ALL Thanks be to God.

✙ THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION AND READING

Matthew 24:36-44

Please stand as you are able.

Pastor Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,

ALL and grant us your salvation.

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew the 24th chapter.

ALL Glory to You, O Lord.

Pastor Jesus said to the disciples, ³⁶ “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL Praise to you, O Christ.

✙ THE SERMON

The Rev. Chris Christopher

Please be seated.

✚ THE HYMN OF THE DAY *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying* ELW # 436

Please stand, as you are able.



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
bliss be - yond all dream-ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. composite
Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

✙ THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AM = Assisting Minister

Please be seated or kneel.

AM In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

Silence for preparation

AM God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace,

ALL **hear our prayer.**

AM God of the Earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace,

ALL **hear our prayer.**

AM God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace,

ALL **hear our prayer.**

AM God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing. Surround ALL with care and consolation. God of grace,

ALL **hear our prayer.**

AM God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace,

ALL **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

AM God of ALL time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last,
bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home.
God of grace,
ALL **hear our prayer.**

AM Draw near to us, O God, as we commend ALL for whom we pray, trusting in your
mercy through Jesus Christ, Immanuel.
ALL **AMEN.**

✝ THE CONFESSION

Pastor Let us pray: Long-expected God,
ALL **we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can
provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways
of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

✝ THE ABSOLUTION (Declaration of Forgiveness)

Pastor God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ✝ You
are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.
ALL **AMEN.**

✝ THE PEACE

Please stand, as you are able.

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.
ALL **And also with you.**

Pastor Let us turn to our AV Team and those worshiping with us on-line and on the radio
and say together,
ALL **the peace of the Lord be with you.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Holy Communion

Please be seated.



*During this time the ushers will pass the offering plates. If you prefer, you may give remotely by scanning the QR code to the left or visiting our website www.ilcgreenwood.com and selecting GIVE from the menu. THANK YOU for your generosity.

✙ THE OFFERTORY

The Advent of Our God Richard Shephard

The Chancel Choir

✙ THE DOXOLOGY

Please stand, as you are able.

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

VENI EMMANUEL

Em G C D⁷ G D G C G

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

5 Am Bm⁷ Em Am Em B⁷ Em A⁷ D Em

here — be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

10 D Bm G C Am D⁷ G D Em Bm G

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -

15 C D⁷ Em D G C G Am Em Bm Em

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674

Music: 15th Century French

VENI EMMANUEL

LM with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address: music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain.

✝ THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor Let us pray: Nourishing God,
ALL you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal,
satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your
kingdom come. AMEN.

✝ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor The Lord be with you.
ALL And also with you.
Pastor Lift up your hearts.
ALL We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
ALL It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor continues with the Words of Institution.

✝ THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
ALL 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 INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Please be seated.

ALL are invited regardless of your understanding, your faith background, or sense of worth. Christ invites you. Jesus gives himself for you; Yes, for YOU. So come, come to the Table of the Lord. Communion is distributed by intinction, the dipping of the bread into the cup. The metal cups hold wine. The stoneware cups hold grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request; please ask for gluten free as you approach the server. Prepackaged elements are available inside a bowl at the head of the aisle. ALL are welcome to use the chancel rail for private prayer during the distribution.

Em G D Am C Bm7 C Am G D7
All: Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on

G F# Em G D Am Bm7
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the

C Am C G D7 G D Em
world, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Am C G D7 Em C Bm C C D E
take a - way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

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✝ THE COMMUNION MUSIC

Rise up, Shepherd, and Follow! Mark Hayes
Nat Chandler, Soloist

✝ THE BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand, as you are able.

Pastor The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in
 God's Grace!

ALL AMEN!

✝ THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager
 to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

ALL AMEN.

✝ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see page 16.

✝ THE BENEDICTION

Pastor May God who comes among us, Creator, ✝ Redeemer, and Holy Spirit, grant you
 patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and Good News to share today and
 always.

ALL AMEN.



1 Soon and ver - y soon
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 3 No more dy - in' there,
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

✝ THE PROCLAMATION OF OUR MISSION AND DISMISSAL

AM We proclaim together:
ALL By the grace of God, we are disciples growing in faith, serving our communities,
 and connecting others to Christ.
AM Go in peace. Keep awake.
ALL Thanks be to God.

✝ THE POSTLUDE *Lift up Your Heads* J. Wayne Kerr

*After Worship, please join us downstairs in the Old Fellowship Hall for refreshments and Adult Christian Education.

THANK YOU to those serving in Worship today!

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Chris Christopher
Lector / Assisting Minister	John Kinard
Communion Assistants	Kim Leemhuis, Irene Price, and Stacy Volpone
Organist and Pianist	Dr. Will Cleveland
Sound and Video Technician(s)	Larry Hammond and Steve Presley
Ushers	Wayne Boozer and Jim Wolfer
Altar Guild	Kim Leemhuis
Counter(s)	Steve Presley
Officer on Duty	Will Stroup

*Altar Flowers are given by Stacy Volpone to the glory of God and in gratitude to everyone who has recently donated to Kinard Manor.

✝ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS (Week of 11/30/2025)

- **Church Council** - meeting TODAY at 11 a.m. (McCombs meeting room)
- **Advent Devotionals** - available in the Narthex.
- **Lorraine Moeller** - memorial service at ILC Saturday, December 6, 2 p.m.
- **2nd Worship Service** - TODAY at 4:30 p.m.
- **WELCA** - meeting Monday, December 1, 1 p.m. (McCombs Meeting Room)
- **Choir Practice** - Wednesday December 3, Handbell Choir, 5 p.m.
Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m. at First Baptist
- **Pickleball** - Wednesday, December 3, at 6 p.m. ALL are invited. If interested, please contact Larry Hammond at (landkhamm@gmail.com) or just show up.
- **Celebration of the Greens** - **NEXT Sunday, December 7, 4:30 p.m.**
Please plan to attend this special service. The music will include choral works by Howard Goodall and John Rutter sung by the Chancel Choirs of Immanuel and First Baptist with a full string ensemble. A reception will follow the service in the Fellowship Center.
- **Christmas Bags** - Christmas bags for the Homebound are in the Welcome Center. Please bring a card for our shut-in congregational members.
- **Poinsettias** - \$15 each, order forms are available in the Narthex and in weekly newsletter.
deadline for submissions is December 17.
- **Festive Music Donations** - the collection will help with the cost of guest musicians for our late service on Christmas Eve.
- **Bible Study** - Beginning Tuesday, January 6, at 1 p.m. Pastor Chris and Daniel Kinard will be leading a Bible study. You may bring your own lunch. Please sign-up in the Narthex or e-mail Pastor Chris.
- **Immanuel's Children** - We are assisting Greenwood School District 50 with providing Christmas for students and families that need our support this year. We have a Christmas tree in the Welcome Center with gift tags attached. Each tag is numbered and has the student's gender, age, clothing size, shoe size, and a wish list on it. If you choose a tag, please sign your name by the tag number on the sign-up sheet. We are asking that all gifts be brought unwrapped in a bag with the tag attached to the church no later than **December 10**. The gifts will be delivered to the schools on December 15. The students' winter break will start shortly after that. If you have questions, contact Mary Ann Stroup at 864-377-1421. Thank you so much for your generosity and willingness to help with those less fortunate.
- **Christmas Eve Services** - Wednesday, December 24, 4 p.m. and 11 p.m.
Music starts at 10:30 p.m. for the late service.



Please make sure you are registered to receive Immanuel's electronic communications and weekly newsletter by scanning the QR code. **Announcements for the Sunday bulletin and the weekly newsletter are due to Dr. Will by Wednesday at 10 a.m.**

✝ THE PRAYER LIST

*Please email Dr. Will to add or remove names.

If anyone needs visitation, please contact Pastor Chris.

Those in need of healing: Maddy Bell, Linda Beveridge, Peggy Bowman, Stephanie Branch, Wayne Cannon, Tom Carter, Vicky Crawford, Patricia Carteron, Steve Crooks, Nancy Crooks, Oliver Conaty, Laquana Davis, the family of Spencer Franks, Michael Gagné, Traver Gowan, Pop Pop Gowan, Chelsea Hall, Muriel Houde-Stickney, Denise Kerth, Tracy Koester, David Krumwiede, Juan Luna, Judith Mutter, Chandler Patterson, Steve Presley, and Betty Weeks.

Those with long term needs: Gail Bouknight, Rick Coker, Richard Coker, Brenda Donahue, Latrosha Fuller, Willie Fred Kennedy, Lois Kuntz, Sara Russell, Jeanne Shealy, and Deanna Whitt.

Those in the military: Daniel Darling and Devin Rosenbaum.

Expectant and new again parents and siblings, the women of Kinard Manor and ALL in recovery, the people fed through our Soup Kitchen Ministry and Food Pantry Ministry, the people participating in our Jail Ministry, the people of our Matthew 25:40 Ministry, along with the people they continue to help in Guatemala, and

The families of Saints who have been received into their eternal rest: Spencer Franks, Lorraine Moeller



CONTACT INFORMATION

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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864-223-0590, Church Web Site: www.ilcgreenwood.com
office@ilcgreenwood.com

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

*** Closed on Mondays**

CHURCH STAFF

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John Kinard, Congregation President
jkinard29@yahoo.com

Dr. Will Cleveland, Parish Administrator / Director of Music
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glblsb@outlook.com

Trey Morris, Campus Ministry Coordinator
treyorville@icloud.com

Sammy Hurley and Kristen Metts, Parish Custodians

SERVING THE CHURCH IN GREATER CAPACITIES

The Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Ginny Aebischer, Bishop, South Carolina Synod