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Sunday, January 11, 2026
The Baptism of the Lord
9 a.m. Service Bulletin
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 faithful and positive! Please scan the QR code to left or sign the Pew Register (red notebook) as it is passed down your pew.

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 restrooms downstairs nearby.

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

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism, we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God’s beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to ALL who are oppressed or in need of God’s healing.

Order of Worship

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

✚ THE PRELUDE

Spirit of the Living God Malcolm Archer
Dr. Will Cleveland, Organist

✚ THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

✚ THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise ELW # 310

Please stand, as you are able.



- 1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
- 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;
- 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint - ing soul;
- 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.
Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702

✝ 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: O God our creator, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed Christ your beloved child and anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit.

ALL **Make ALL who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your children and empower ALL with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN**

Please be seated.

The children may come forward for a short message, then go downstairs to Children's Church and return during Communion.



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

✙ THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 42:1-9

Summary

Lector *Today's first lesson reveals that God's servant is endowed with God's spirit to bring justice to nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations. Now, the first lesson from the Old Testament Prophet, Isaiah.*

Lector ¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ² He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; ³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice on the Earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵ Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the Earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶ I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸ I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹ See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

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

✝ THE SECOND LESSON Romans 6:1-14

Summary

Lector *Today's second lesson emphasizes that because Christians are united by Christ's death and resurrection, they are spiritually dead to sin's power and alive to God, in a new transformed life. Now, the second lesson from the book of Romans in the New Testament.*

Lector ¹⁻³ So what do we do? Keep on sinning so God can keep on forgiving? I should hope not! If we have left the country where sin is sovereign, how can we still live in our old house there? Or did you not realize we packed up and left there for good? That is what happened in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered the new country of grace—a new life in a new land! ³⁻⁵ That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. Each of us is raised into a light-filled world by our Father so that we can see where we are going in our new grace-sovereign country. ⁶⁻¹¹ Could it be any clearer? Our old way of life was nailed to the cross with Christ, a decisive end to that sin-miserable life—no longer captive to sin's demands! What we believe is this: If we get included in Christ's sin-conquering death, we also get included in his life-saving resurrection. We know that when Jesus was raised from the dead it was a signal of the end of death-as-the-end. Never again will death have the last word. When Jesus died, he took sin down with him, but alive he brings God down to us. From now on, think of it this way: Sin speaks a dead language that means nothing to you; God speaks your mother tongue, and you hang on every word. You are dead to sin and alive to God. That is what Jesus did. ¹²⁻¹⁴ That means you must not give sin a vote in the way you conduct your lives. Do not give it the time of day. Do not even run little errands that relate to that old way of life. Throw yourselves wholeheartedly and full-time—remember, you have been raised from the dead!—into God's way of doing things. Sin cannot tell you how to live. After all, you are not living under that old tyranny any longer. You are living in the freedom of God.

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

✠ THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION AND GOSPEL READING Matthew 3:13-17

Please stand, as you are able.

Pastor Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

ALL Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew the 3rd chapter.

ALL We are listening Lord. Shape us in Your Word.

Pastor ¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL Praise to you, O Christ.

✠ THE SERMON

Please be seated.

The Rev. Chris Christopher

✝ THE AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Please stand, as you are able.

- Pastor Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith.
- ALL Uphold us and ALL your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of ALL whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. AMEN**
- Pastor I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
- ALL I renounce them.**
- Pastor Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
- ALL I renounce them.**
- Pastor Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
- ALL I renounce them.**
- Pastor Do you believe in God the Father?
- ALL I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of Heaven and Earth.**
- Pastor Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- ALL I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
- Pastor Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- ALL I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Pastor You have made a public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve ALL people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in ALL the Earth?

ALL I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Pastor People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

ALL We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Pastor Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God,

ALL that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever. AMEN.



✝ THE HYMN OF THE DAY

Remember and Rejoice

ELW# 454

1 Re - mem - ber and re - joice, re - newed by floods of grace.
2 In life, in death, we trust in God's most ho - ly name,
3 We pledge our - selves a - new to flee the lures of hell,
4 God, bless us by your grace; re - mind us of your care.
5 Re - mem - ber and re - joice, re - newed by floods of grace.

We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - rase.
for - ev - er traced by wa - ter sign, and sealed by Spir - it flame.
to cling to Christ's com - mu - ni - ty, in jus - tice, peace to dwell.
Re - new - ing Spir - it, fill us now, in - spire our work, our prayer.
We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - rase.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731-1776

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✝ THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please be seated or kneel.

AM = Assisting Minister

AM As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the Earth, our home.

Silence for preparation

AM Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and ALL who proclaim hope in a broken world. Merciful God,

ALL receive our prayer.

AM Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation.
Merciful God,

ALL **receive our prayer.**

AM Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and ALL who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers.
Merciful God,

ALL **receive our prayer.**

AM Compassionate God, you care for ALL in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort ALL who are grieving or ill. Merciful God,

ALL **receive our prayer.**

AM Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound. Merciful God,

ALL **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

AM Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God,

ALL **receive our prayer.**

AM Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend ALL for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

ALL **AMEN.**

✙ THE PEACE

Please stand, as you are able.

AM The peace of the Lord be with you always.

ALL **And also with you.**

AM 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.

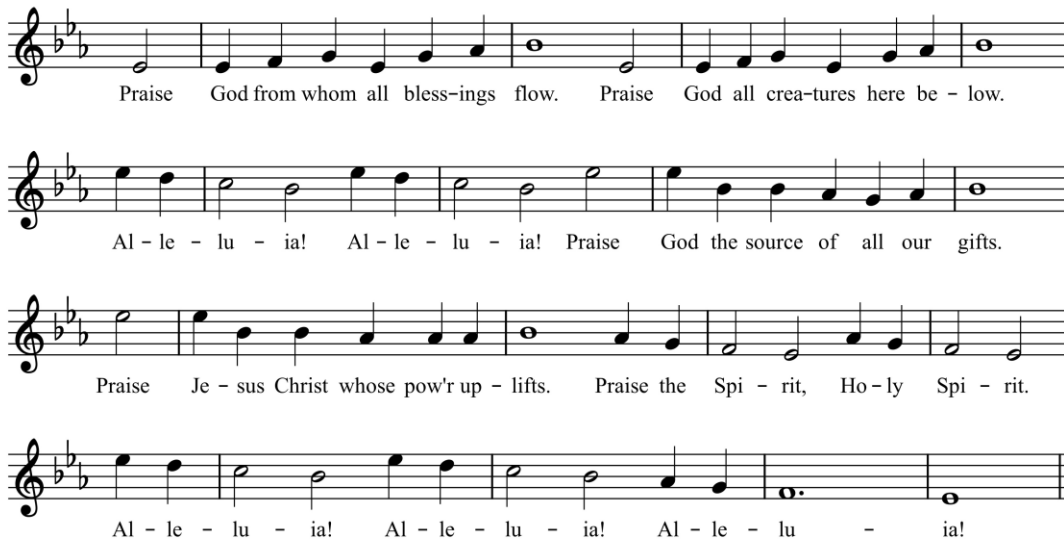
✠ THE OFFERTORY

This Is the Spirit's Entry Now Pamela Decker
LAND OF REST

✠ THE DOXOLOGY

Please stand, as you are able.

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
LASST UNS ERFREUEN



✠ THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor Let us pray: God of majesty,
ALL no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
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 silver 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.

✠ THE AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God

ELW Setting 1

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

✠ THE COMMUNION ANTHEM *Down Galilee's Slow Roadways* Michael Burkhardt The Chancel Choir

*Down Galilee's slow roadways a stranger traveled on
from Nazareth to Jordan to be baptized by John.
He went down to the waters like soldier, scribe, and slave,
But there within the river the sign was birth and grave.*

*Arising from the river he saw the heavens torn,
It seemed the sky so open revealed the Spirit's form.
The holy dove descended amid a glorious voice,
"You are my own beloved, my child, my heart, my choice."*

*We too have found a roadway, it led us to this place.
We all have had to travel in search of hope and grace.
But now beside the water again a voice is heard,
"You are my own, my chosen, beloved of you Lord."*

✝ 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 Let us pray: Radiant God,
ALL we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body
 and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight,
 that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have
 seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN.

✝ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see page 19.

✝ THE BENEDICTION

Pastor May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart
 for praise ✝ bless you now and forever.

ALL AMEN.



✚ THE CLOSING HYMN

We Are People Created

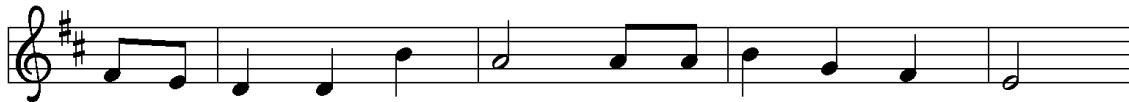
ELW# 453



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
 2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
 3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
 4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
 Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
 and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
 All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
 For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
 As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
 Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
 end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
 pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
 one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956
 Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner
 Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

✚ 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. Share Christ's light with each person you meet!
 ALL We will. Thanks be to God.

✚ THE POSTLUDE

Veni, Sancte Spiritus

Malcolm Archer

Please join us downstairs in the Old Fellowship Hall for refreshments and adult Christian Education.
 Today's topic is Baptism.

✝ 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, 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, Tracy Koester, David Krumwiede, Juan Luna, Judith Mutter, Chandler Patterson, and Betty Weeks.

Those with long term needs: Gail Bouknight, Rick Coker, Richard Coker, Brenda Donahue, Latrosha Fuller, Willie Fred Kennedy, Lois Kuntz, Rodine Russell, 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, and Steve Presley

.

THANK YOU to those serving in Worship today!

Lector and Assisting Minister	Chandler Darling
Communion Assistants	Carl Monson, Kat Finkbeiner, and Kim Leemhuis
Sound and Video Technicians	Larry Hammond
Altar Guild	Kim Leemhuis
Ushers	Stacy Volpone & Howard Bouknight
Officer on Duty	Will Stroup

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✚ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS (week of 1/11/2025)

- **Church Council Retreat** - TODAY at 11 a.m. (McCombs Meeting Room)
- **2nd Service** - TODAY at 4:30 p.m.
- **Pickleball** - Monday, January 12, 6:30 p.m. ALL are invited. If interested, please contact Larry Hammond at (landkhamm@gmail.com) or just show up.
- **Mutual Ministry** - meeting Tuesday, January 13, 11 a.m.
- **Weekly Bible Study** - Tuesday, January 13, at 1 p.m. Pastor Chris and Daniel Kinard will be leading a Bible study. You may bring your own lunch. Please register in the Narthex or e-mail Pastor Chris.
- **Chancel Choir Practice** - Wednesday, January 14, 4:15 p.m.
- **Steve Presley** - Celebration of Life Service at ILC Saturday, January 31, 2 p.m.
- **Christmas Card fronts and Outdated Devotion Books** - Once again Ann Coker will collect Christmas card fronts and outdated devotion books. Please leave them in her mail cubby in the Welcome Center.
- **Welcome Center Cubbies** - PLEASE check YOUR cubby. There are Christmas cards that need to be picked up.
- **Warm Winter Wear** - for ILC's Sunday Soup Kitchen clients ILC will be collecting gently used and clean winter clothing that will be distributed at the end of January to our Soup Kitchen participants. Winter jackets, coats, sweaters, gloves, socks, stocking hats are welcomed. Please note: this is not a Spring Cleaning so do not bring summer items. We provided this Ministry last year and it was a huge success. Clothing may be left in the Welcome Center. (boxes provided).



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. Information for the February Messenger is due by Tuesday, January 27, at 10 a.m.**



CONTACT INFORMATION

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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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
jlkinard29@yahoo.com

Dr. Will Cleveland, Parish Administrator / Director of Music
will@ilcgreenwood.com

George Beveridge, Parish Sexton
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