

A big 'thank you!' to our weekly worship service volunteers!

Servers for December 8: Advent Two

Lector: 9:00 Kathy Hemsath
Acolyte: 9:00 Jackson O'Loughlin
Communion: 9:00 Linda K, Jen S, Betty G
Altar Care: Betty Giddings & Pat Gates
Ushers: 9:00 Hemsaths & O'Loughlins
AV/Tech: 9:00 Ron Giddings
Adv. Wreath: 9:00 Bearden family

Wednesday, December 11: Advent Three

Acolyte: 6:15 Andi Burlage
Readers: 6:15 Janny Budzine, _____

Servers for December 15: Advent Three

Lector: 10:00 Sheri Foster
Acolyte: 10:00 Natalie Nichols
Communion: 10:00 Linda K, Sheri F, Brooke E
Altar Care: Ron & Susan Oline
Ushers: 10:00 Hemsaths & O'Loughlins
AV/Tech: 10:00 _____
Adv. Wreath: 10:00 _____

Wednesday, December 18: Advent Four

Acolyte: 6:15 Bo Smith
Readers: 6:15 Janny Budzine, _____

Note: Worship is at 10 AM on Sunday, December 15!

Fellowship & SS will be beforehand at 9 am so the SS kids can practice for their program.

Special Congregational Meeting TODAY!

There is a special congregational meeting **TODAY, Sunday, December 8, at 10:30 am**, in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to approve the interim contract for Rev. Kristi V.H. Grieder and to amend the 2024-2025 budget. No other business can be discussed. The quorum for a congregational meeting is 75 voting (this includes those in high school and college who are confirmed!) members. **Please make every effort to attend.**

Prayers for: Connie Engler, Marie Bushkofsky, Nancy Elliott, David McCollough, Klint Knutson, Cyndi Webb, Harold & Sandy Schneider, Kay Bisinger, Luann Gates, Louie Tudor, & Carrie Erickson.

Sympathies to: Mike & Dorene Hulseberg on the death of his mother, Elaine Hulseberg, 86 years old, who passed away on Saturday, November 30, 2024. Services took place on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at the Cedar Memorial Chapel of Memories in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Sympathies to: Leanne Harrison on the death of her son, Trevor Harrison, 61 years old, who passed away on Saturday, November 23, 2024. A Celebration of Life Visitation took place at White Funeral Home in Independence, Iowa on Saturday, November 30.

Sympathies to: Lynn & Bill Isham on the death of her brother-in-law, Lon Arfsten, 81 years old, who passed away on Saturday, November 23, 2024. Per his wishes, no services will be held.

Military: SSG Ashley Clark & SFC David Clark (daughter and son-in-law of John & Kathy Tegler), 3071 Mondavi Crest, Schertz, TX 78154.

MID-WEEK ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

This year's remaining mid-week Advent services will be **Dec 11 & 18 at 6:15 pm**. These are *Holden Evening Prayer* services. **Our Christmas Eve Services will be at 5 pm & 11 pm this year.** There are signups on the office door for Worship Service Volunteers.

Youth Schedules

SWAG (5th/6th Grade)

- ◆ Wed, Dec 11, NO SWAG
- ◆ Wed, Dec 18, 3:30-5 pm, Christmas Party

BLAST (7th/8th Grade)

- ◆ Wed, Dec 11, NO BLAST
- ◆ Wed, Dec 18, 7-8:30 pm, Christmas Party

CONFIRMATION (8th Gr. & older)

- ◆ Wed, Dec 11, 7-8:30 pm, Pr. 4 – Class 6
- ◆ Wed, Dec 18, 7-8:30 pm, Christmas Party

FORCE (High School)

- ◆ Sun, Dec 8, 7-9 pm, at church
- ◆ Sun, Dec 15, 7-9 pm, Christmas Party

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS BREAK

All youth groups will take a break from December 19 until January 7. SWAG & BLAST resume on Wednesday, January 8. FORCE will resume on Sunday, January 12. Confirmation classes resume on Wednesday, January 15.

QUAKE 2025

Immanuel has 29 students going to QUAKE on February 14-16, 2025 in Wisconsin Dells! The students going will be doing a free will donation bake sale fundraiser on Sunday, December 8, after church and before the Special Congregation Meeting. All proceeds will go toward those attending QUAKE. Keep an eye out for additional fundraisers!

If you would like to make a financial donation toward the QUAKE trip, you can do so through your regular offering envelope (note on the envelope it is for QUAKE) or online. Thank you all for your support of this ministry!

Christmas Program Time is Here!

To allow time for the Sunday school kids to get ready for their program, on **Sunday, December 15**, we will have Fellowship & Sunday School beginning at 9:00 am, followed by **worship at 10:00 am**. The Sunday School Christmas program will be during worship. Rehearsals will be held on Sunday, December 8 at 10:15 am. And at 9 am on Sunday, December 15.

Praise the Lord with Music

We are starting to plan our prelude music for the **5 pm & 11 pm services on Christmas Eve**. Preludes start about 15 minutes before each service. We fill this time with special music of all kinds: singing, playing instruments, duets, piano solos, etc. Please let the office or Jody DeBoer know if you wish to participate in one or more of the prelude times. Thank you!

Advent Devotionals & Coloring Calendars

There are Advent devotionals and coloring calendars available for you to have on the counter in the fellowship hall. These go along with our Advent theme materials from "A Sanctified Art", *Words for the Beginning: Advent Reminders for New Seasons*. More devotionals and calendars can be printed if needed. Please let the office know if the copies are gone & you would like one.

Advent and Christmas Eve Volunteer Sign-up

We are looking for families to sign up to light the Advent Wreath each week during Advent and at the first Christmas Eve Service. We are also looking for readers for our mid-week advent services and many other additional Christmas Eve Service worship volunteers. Please sign up for these, and other worship service volunteer opportunities, on the office door. Thank you!

Poinsettias

The Worship & Music Committee will be selling poinsettias for \$15 each from **now - December 22** after Sunday worship. They can be purchased in honor or in memory of a loved one.

SCRIP CARD PROGRAM

If you would like Scrip Cards prior to Christmas, place your order by December 8 to ensure they are here in time. Orders can still be placed on Dec 15, but we cannot guarantee they will be here in time for Christmas. There will be NO SCRIP SALES on Sun, Dec 22 or Sun, Dec 29. The Scrip program is a great way to purchase & use gift cards for places you already shop. And the best part: Immanuel earns a percentage back for every Scrip card purchased! If you have any questions or if you would like to place an order, see Brittni Gipper, Sue Gipper, Nikki Schroeder, or BJ Wilcox who sell Scrip during Fellowship on Sundays.

Winter Weather Service Cancellation Policy

Please find weather related church cancellations on the Immanuel Facebook page, KWWL, or sign up for Remind text messages. Text the message “@immw” to the number 81010. If you need help signing up for these, please ask Cara Johnson or another Worship & Music Committee member, or ask the office. Church cancellation messages are separate from Youth activity messages. Cancellation of Sunday service will be announced by 6 PM the evening prior. *If Indee School District cancels school for the day, or there is an early out, there will be no Wednesday evening service.* If Indee School District has a late start, there will be a Wednesday evening service. Please do what is right for you! If there is church, and you do not feel safe, have a great Sunday, and we will see you the following week!

ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Immanuel’s Endowment Committee is now accepting applications for 2025 Educational Grants. Students are eligible for a maximum of 4 years. Forms are salmon in color and available in the Narthex display rack, on the board in the fellowship hall, or in the office. **Please turn forms into the church office by January 10, 2025, to be reviewed by the Endowment Committee.**

Stewardship Statement

Yearly Offering Needed (7/24-6/25): \$337,079

YTD Needed (7/1/24-12/4/24): \$146,314.54

YTD Received (7/1/24-12/4/24): \$130,283.15

Raise the Roof Fund

Total Needed: \$75,723.91

Total Raised (as of 12/4/24): \$45,767.20

Loan Balance Due: \$10,000

Week of December 8, 2024

- Sun 8:** 9:00 am Worship
10:00 am Fellowship
10:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Special Congregational Meeting
7:00 pm FORCE
- Mon 9:** 11:30 am Shalom Circle at Pizza Ranch
6:00 pm Property
- Tues 10:** 10:00 am Ladies Bible Study
1:00 pm Faith Circle at church
- Wed 11:** 7:00 am Coffee & Conversation at Em's (Men)
9:00 am Coffee & Conversation at Em's (Women)
1:00 pm IWELCA
NO SWAG
6:15 pm Midweek Advent Worship
NO BLAST
7:00 pm Confirmation
- Thurs 12:**
- Fri 13:** 9:00 am Bible Study
- Sat 14:** 9:30 am Fellowship Hall in Use
- Sun 15:** 9:00 am Fellowship
9:00 am SS Christmas Program Practice
10:00 am Worship & Sunday School Christmas Program
7:00 pm FORCE Christmas Party

Giving Options

In Person: Place cash/check in the offering plate

Online: www.immanuelindee.com/giving or scan the QR code

Vanco Mobile App: get the free app & search for ILC of Independence

By Text: Text your donation amount to 844-201-8060, then follow the link

By Mail: 512 5th Street NE, Independence, IA 50644



Ways for YOU to Love, Live, & Give:

- ◆ Purchase gift cards through the SCRIP program
- ◆ Donate toward the youth QUAKE 2025 trip
- ◆ Contribute to the "Raise the Roof" Fund
- ◆ Sign-up as a Worship Service volunteer