



# ImmanuelNews

*The newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greeley, Colorado*

## December 2025

### **Advent – a Season of Preparation**

During the time of Advent, we prepare for the season of Christmas.

During our Time of Transition at Immanuel Lutheran Church, we prepare to call a new pastor. In the meantime, the Rocky Mountain Synod found a Bridge Pastor to help us while we wait!

Pastor William “Bill” Embree has filled in as pulpit supply several times and will begin as our Bridge Pastor on December 7.

Pastor Bill was born in Pasadena, California and grew up near San Diego. He attended seminary at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California and completed an internship on Long Island, New York. He and his younger brother, John, were both ordained in 1974. His first call was split between Christ Lutheran Church in Downey, California and the Los Angeles Student Ministry Board. He has served at churches in rural northwestern New Jersey, metropolitan Orange County, San Francisco, suburban Vallejo and Salinas (all in California). He also served in Exira and Titonka, Iowa.

Pastor Bill’s wife, Carlene, is a retired nurse. Carlene was born and raised in Valley, Nebraska, near Omaha. Over several years, Carlene made many trips to Tanzania with church and private sector organizations to do medical work. Pastor Bill and Carlene have five children, 13 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren. Pastor Bill and Carlene initially retired to Vallejo, California. Their grandson, Wisdom, was born in Denver in 2018. Pastor Bill and Carlene adopted Wisdom when he was 14 months old. They moved to Aurora in February of 2024 to be near Wisdom’s Godparents who played a significant role in his beginning of life.

The Council met with Pastor Bill on November 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the possibility of having him be our Bridge Pastor. We met again with him at our November 11 meeting and approved hiring him for the position. We look forward to his assistance with our ministry over the next several months.

Please introduce yourself to Pastor Bill, Carlene and Wisdom!

# WORSHIP

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**December 7**—*Second Sunday of Advent*

**December 14**—*Third Sunday of Advent*

**December 21**—*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**December 24**—*Christmas Eve-4:00 PM*

**December 28** —*First Sunday of Christmas*

## Time of Transition and the Call process

The Council has approved hiring Pastor William “Bill” Embree to serve as a Bridge Pastor (see cover page article for more information).

The Call Committee has completed all the necessary paperwork and is waiting to receive names of potential candidates.

Our Rocky Mountain Synod liaison, Pastor Sara Wirth, presented the possibility of an alternative way to call a pastor. It is known as TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries). The Call Committee had a Zoom meeting with Pastor Sara on November 18 to learn more about TEEM and to discuss if this would be a viable option for our congregation. If so, we would meet with the congregation before deciding on this alternative.

Blessings, Immanuel Council



# CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION

## Christmas Poinsettia

Christmas is right around the corner and it is time to think about Christmas poinsettias!

The Poinsettias will again be used to decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve.

These plants will be available to order at **\$12.00** each.

**Ordering deadline was Sunday, November 30th: if you haven't ordered, do it now!**

You may take your plant after the Christmas Eve Worship Service.

Order forms can be found on the table at the rear of the sanctuary.



## 'Tis the Season!

Please consider donating to the Immanuel Lutheran Church Giving Tree this year, and help spread joy to those who are struggling. From **December 1st through December 21st**, we will be collecting warm clothes for families, and money for the Weld Food Bank!

This year we are asking for new or clean, gently used coats, gloves and good shoes. We are also looking for new socks and underwear. All sizes are welcome! Please leave your donations in the boxes next to the Giving Tree in the Narthex. Your donations will be delivered to Serve 6.8 the week of Christmas.

We are also collecting money for the Weld Food Bank! There will be special envelopes by the Giving Tree. Please make checks out to the Weld Food Bank and place them in the offering.

*If you have any questions, please call Molly Ward, 970-714-8774.  
Thank you so much for your generosity!*

# YOUTH & FAITH FORMATION

## Sunday School Christmas Program

*Please join us as we celebrate the Christmas Season!*

- ♦ Practice for the Sunday School Program will be on Sunday, December 7th at 9:00 am
- ♦ Program will be on Sunday, December 21st during the Worship Service with a Cookie Reception following



## Bible Study

Adult Sunday Bible Study group  
is using the Luther Seminary series "God Pause."  
We meet at 9:15 am in the Library (room next to kitchen).  
If you would like to receive the emailed study,  
please contact Paula Powell at [ppowell76@gmail.com](mailto:ppowell76@gmail.com)



## FIRST SUNDAY YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, December 7th

### SCHEDULE:

9:00am – Snacks Together in Annex Youth Room  
9:15am – 5th Grade & Younger (Youth Room)  
9:15am – Middle School & High School (Annex - Upstairs)  
10:00am – Back Together for Fun & Games in Youth Room

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! Sign up to help with Youth Group!**

We need two (2) volunteers each month to sign up to help with the young group for First Sundays Youth Group, October and November. If you are available or have questions, please contact the office (970) 352-3003 or Julie Elmquist (970) 371-2734. Resources are available for lessons!

# GIVING & SERVICE

## **Free Little Red Barn Pantry**

Please consider bringing shelf-stable, non-perishable food items to place in the barn each Sunday so our pantry will stay stocked and continue to be a blessing for our neighbors in need! Please just make sure your donations are not past their expiration date.

Travel-sized shampoo & conditioner, toothbrushes, and bars of soap are also appreciated.



**Let's work together to FILL THE BARN!**

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## **LUTHERAN EPISCOPAL CAMPUS MINISTRY**

### **Support Campus Ministry: Bring a Meal to Sunday Dinner Church**

Support campus ministry and students in Greeley for the fall semester by signing up to bring a meal for our Sunday evening Dinner Church gatherings. These meals are a weekly anchor in our community, and students look forward each week to eating together. Your help providing the food for these meals makes this time together possible. Thank you! Find more details and open dates on our Meal Train page:

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/ynk9ey/updates/lm0dw6>

If you are able, please plan to eat with us!



# PRAYER & CARE

## *Always Say A Prayer Team*



The Prayer Team is here for you. If you have a request, you can fill out a prayer card and leave it in the box at the back of the church or contact anyone on the prayer team or call the church office with your request. We are keeping you all in prayer, especially during this time of transition.

Roma Arithson    Connie Deines  
Sharrol Bernahl    Diane Filipe  
Janet Willis

## ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

2026-2027 Nominating Committee  
Juan Cruz, Janet Willis and Molly Ward

The 2026-2027 Nominating Committee's goal is to find servants for the following positions:

Council			
Candidate	Term Length	Term Expire	
	2-year-term	Jan. 2028	1
	1-year-term	Jan. 2027	2
With these shorter-term lengths we are hoping to fill positions which will be followed by 3-year-terms. The plan is to have people serving in staggered terms which will allow for normal rotation of council members.			
Nominating Committee			
	3-year-term	Jan. 2029	1
Audit Committee			
	3-year-term	Jan. 2029	1
Synod Representative – Male			
	2-year-term	Jan. 2027	1
EFTF			
	3-year-term	Jan. 2029	1

# **CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION**

## **Audio/Visual (AV) Committee**

An audio/visual (AV) committee was formed to determine how best to leverage the grant our congregation received. Committee members include: Pete Budde, Matt Denman, Stan Elmquist, John Larson, and Lelyn Larson.

To date, the committee has met twice to outline several goals of the project, including:

- Leverage the existing AV equipment we already have
- Improve sound quality of live stream and recorded services
- Display select visual content to the entire congregation in the sanctuary
- Explore range of solutions potentially including mounted cameras, mics, and TV monitors/screens in the sanctuary
- Eliminate waste in printing (hardcopy) materials, e.g., bulletins
- Potentially replace existing speakers (more aesthetic and subtle)
- Add presentation capabilities in the Fellowship Hall

There is progress on receiving bids from a number of vendors to meet the above requirements. All estimates will consider the recurring maintenance & staffing costs in final proposals. Next step, after the holiday season, is to summarize options and present them to the congregation for consideration.

Please reach out to Pete Budde if you have any questions in the interim.



# CHURCH COUNCIL



Name	Committee
Budde, Cindy	<b>Secretary</b>
Clausen, Cheryl	Worship & Music
Elmquist, Julie	<b><u>President</u></b>
Johnson, John	Stewardship
Larson, John	<b>Vice President</b>

## EFTF – Endowment Foundation Trust Fund

The Endowment Foundation Trust Fund (EFTF) uses interest earned on the donations in the trust fund to support special needs and work of the church that is not covered by the church budget. If you have a special need in mind, please submit a request for fund disbursement. The EFTF Committee considers requests quarterly. Please see an EFTF Committee member if you have questions or pick up a request form from the EFTF mailbox in the church office.

Committee members: Cindy Thompson, Jacqui Larson,  
Janet Crespin, Janet Johnson, Elaine Holbrook

## GIA Clothing Bank



Several Greeley-area churches sponsor and help operate the Greeley Interfaith Assn. Clothing Bank, located at 228 N. 9th Ave., Greeley.

**The hours open are 10:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m., Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.**

The Clothing Bank accepts gently used items of clothing and sells them to the public at a reasonable cost. Proceeds of the sales cover operating expenses and then go toward community scholarships and grants.

Volunteers are always needed. Volunteers sort clothing, price the clothes, place on the racks, and check out customers at the cash register. Volunteers also receive a discount for clothing purchases when they work.

See Julie Elmquist, Cindy Thompson, Brenda Turnwall or Katy Sickles for more information. Love to see you there.



## CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

### Council Highlights

- Pastor Bill Embree will be contracted as our Bridge Pastor during the Call Process beginning in December
- Annual Giving Tree donations will benefit the Weld County Food Bank and Serve 6.8
- The Sunday School Christmas Program will be December 21st with a cookie reception following

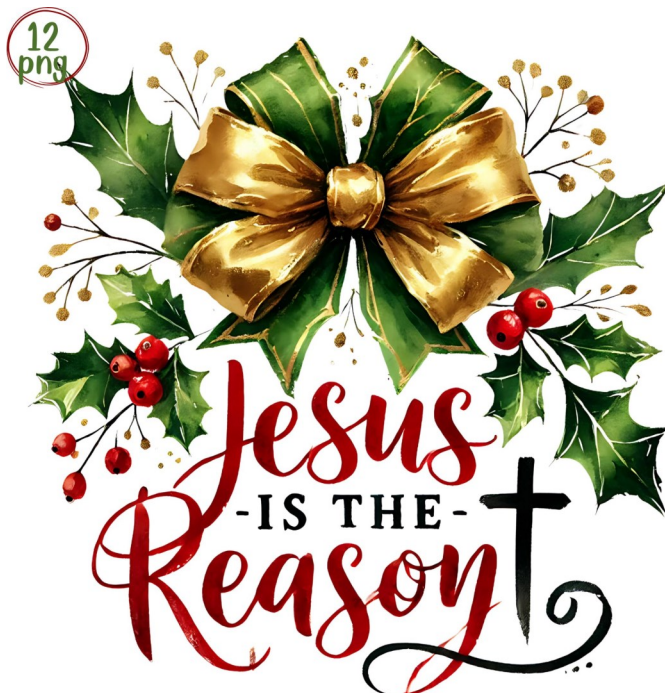
Please join us for our next meeting on  
Tuesday, December 9 @ 6:30 p.m.

### Tied in Faith...

Will meet on Tuesday, December 2  
& Thursday, December 18





Our logo—with the cross, water and a white lily—identifies women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as children of God; baptized, forgiven, adopted into God's family, full of grace and hope in eternal life. It is a reminder of the growth, beauty, and vitality that rises out of that life-giving baptismal water. It is also a reminder of the mission of the church to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).





# 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Common Sense Kleaining—Church	2 9:00 am—Tied in Faith	3	4	5	6
7 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 am-Youth Group -Christmas Program Practice 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am-Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am- Holy Communion	8 Common Sense Kleaining—Annex 9:30 am—2:00 pm—ILC at GIA Clothing Bank	9 6:30 pm—Council Meeting	10	11	12	13
14 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am-Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am- Holy Communion 11:30 am-Prayer Team	15 Common Sense Kleaining—Church	16	17	18 9:00 am—Tied in Faith	19	20
21 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am-Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am- Holy Communion Christmas Program with Cookie Reception Following	22 Common Sense Kleaining—Annex	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE  Worship with Communion 4:00 pm	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 	26	27
28 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 10:00 am-Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am- Holy Communion	29 Common Sense Kleaining—Church	30	31			

# Thanks to our Volunteers!

## December 2025

### December 7:

Greeter:	Vera Sylvester
Ushers:	Katy Sickles
Assisting Minister:	Cindy Budde
Lector:	Luke Larson, Jack Larson
Communion Setup:	Sue Morse
Communion Ass't:	Julie Elmquist
Tellers:	Marvin & Connie Deines

### December 14:

Greeter:	Julie Elmquist
Ushers:	Matt & Molly Ward
Assisting Minister:	Janet Willis
Lector:	Molly Ward
Communion Setup:	Molly Ward
Tellers:	Vera Sylvester, Brenda Turnwall

### December 21:

Greeter:	Julie Elmquist
Ushers:	John Johnson & Sally Stewart
Assisting Minister:	Cindy Budde
Lector:	Janessa Padilla
Communion Setup:	Sue Morse
Tellers:	Linda Sample, Janet Johnson

### December 24:

Greeter:	CHRISTMAS EVE
Ushers:	Herold Family
Assisting Minister:	Julie Elmquist
Lector:	Luke Larson, Jack /Larson
Communion Setup:	
Tellers:	

### December 28:

Greeter:	Katy Sickles
Ushers:	Katy Sickles, Pete Budde
Assisting Minister:	Julie Elmquist
Lector:	Janessa Padilla
Communion Setup:	Linda Cruz
Tellers:	Janet Crespín

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor:	Vacant	
Secretary:	Denise Pollard Stricker	970-352-3003
Office Hours:	M —Th 9:00 am to 12:00 pm	
	Offices closed on Fridays	
Executive Council:		
President:	Julie Elmquist	
Vice President:	John Larson	
Secretary:	Cindy Budde	
Treasurer:	Connie Deines	
Financial Secretary:	Bob Morse	(