



ImmanuelNews

The newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greeley, Colorado

January 2026

The Twelve Days of Christmas

The liturgical church is just beginning to celebrate Christmas on Christmas Day!

The Twelve Days of Christmas begin with Christmas Eve. Epiphany is observed on January 6th and celebrates the visit by the Magi. The season of Christmas ends with the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord, which is the Sunday after Epiphany. In between are various dates to remember saints:

St. Stephen (the first Christian martyr) on December 26,
St. John (the Apostle and Evangelist) on December 27,
and we remember the Holy Innocents on December 28.

In today's world of busy days, it may seem strange and out of step to continue to celebrate Christmas after Christmas Day. But the four weeks of Advent were preparing us for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The twelve days following give us a chance to savor, enjoy and celebrate the wondrous and happy miracle that is Jesus – “Emmanuel – God with us!”

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:1-5, 14 (NRSV)

WORSHIP

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January 4—Second Sunday of Christmas

January 11—Baptism of Our Lord

January 18—Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 25—Third Sunday after Epiphany—Annual Meeting

Time of Transition and the Call process

Pastor William “Bill” Embree continues to serve as a Bridge Pastor.

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 will meet with a potential TEEM candidate on January 18. The Call Committee and Council still need 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



YOUTH & FAITH FORMATION

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



Youth Ministry
Youth Ministry

FIRST SUNDAY YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, January 4th

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!

LUTHERAN EPISCOPAL CAMPUS MINISTRY

Support Campus Ministry: Bring a Meal to Sunday Dinner Church

Support campus ministry and students in Greeley for the spring 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.

PAVILION FORUM

Join us for information on the proposed pavilion at Immanuel.
Meetings will be January 4th and January 11th at 9:30 am downstairs.

CHURCH COUNCIL



Name	Committee
Budde, Cindy	Secretary
Clausen, Cheryl	Worship & Music
Elmquist, Julie	President
Johnson, John	Stewardship
Larson, John	Vice President

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

- The proposed 2026 budget will be available for review at the back of the church on January 11th.
- Council will sponsor coffee hour on January 18th to answer questions on the 2026 proposed budget.
- Our Christmas missions to Serve 6:8 and the Weld Food Bank were a success. The Immanuel Council thanks everyone for their continued support and generosity.

Please join us for our next meeting on
Tuesday, January 13th @ 6:30 p.m.

Tied in Faith...
Will meet on Tuesday, January 6,
Thursday, January 15 &
Saturday, January 31st



Women of the ELCA

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).

Wise Men 
Seek Him Still



2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 9:00 am-Youth Group 9:30 am-Forum-Pavilion 10:30 am- Holy Communion	5 Common Sense Kleaning—Annex 9:00 am—Tied in Faith	6 7	8	9	10	
11 9:30 am-Forum-Pavilion 10:30 am- Holy Communion 11:30 am-Prayer Team	12 Common Sense Kleaning—Church 9:30 am—2:00 pm—ILC at GIA Clothing Bank	13 14 6:30 pm—Council Meeting	15 9:00 am—Tied in Faith	16 17		
18 9:30 am-Forum-Budget 10:30 am- Holy Communion	19 20 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY Church Offices Closed Common Sense Kleaning—Annex	21 22	23 24			
25 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am-Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am- Holy Communion 11:30 am- ANNUAL MEETING	26 Common Sense Kleaning—Church 9:30 am—2:00 pm—ILC at GIA Clothing Bank	27 28	29 30	31 9:00 am—Tied in Faith		

Thanks to our Volunteers!

January 2026

January 4:

Greeter: Julie Elmquist
Ushers: Ron & Cindy Thompson
Assisting Minister: Cindy Budde
Lector: Pete Budde
Communion Setup: Cindy Thompson
Communion Ass't: Julie Elmquist
Tellers: Marvin & Connie Deines

January 11:

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

January 18:

Greeter: Vera Sylvester
Ushers: John Johnson & Sally Stewart
Assisting Minister: Cindy Budde
Lector: Luke Larson, Jack Larson
Communion Setup: Sue Morse
Tellers: Linda Sample, Janet Johnson

January 25:

Greeter: Julie Elmquist
Ushers: Katy Sickles, Juan Cruz
Assisting Minister: Janet Willis
Lector: Janessa Padilla
Communion Setup: Linda Cruz
Tellers: Janet Crespin

CONTACT INFORMATION

Bridge Pastor:	Pastor Bill Embree	
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	