

# Immanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA  
726 Fuller Avenue  
Big Rapids, MI 49307  
[immanuelbigrapids726@gmail.com](mailto:immanuelbigrapids726@gmail.com)  
231-796-8273

[www.immanuelbr.com](http://www.immanuelbr.com)  
Instagram: ILCbigrapids  
Facebook: @immanuelbr

## Second Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 a.m. Worship Service    January 18, 2026

Welcome! We're glad that you are here, and we hope this service of worship will be a blessing to you. Welcome Packets are available in the entryway

*In the ELCA we welcome all believers to receive the Holy Communion. Communion elements for our service include: Pre-packaged wafers (they are also gluten free), individual cup of wine or grape juice.*

Restrooms are located through the entryway and to the left (signs are posted).



Assisted Listening: The Hearing Loop system in place for the hearing impaired will allow hearing aids equipped with a telecoil to serve as wireless loudspeakers, delivering sound right inside the ear. By activating a switch on your hearing aid, the sound is transmitted directly to your ears.

**MISSION:** To inspire members to grow in loving devotion to Jesus Christ, caring concern for one another, welcoming outreach, and loving service to our neighbors.

**VISION STATEMENT:** Immanuel Lutheran Church will be known for welcoming hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity.

**Second Sunday after Epiphany**  
**With One Voice      Holy Communion Setting 5**  
**January 18, 2026**

**GATHERING**

**Prelude**

**Bells**

**Sharing Time**

**Passing the Peace**

**Candle Lighting**

**Transition Song: “Praise The Lord”**

Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord, Praise God’s holy name, Alleluia!

Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord; Praise God’s holy name, Alleluia!

Praise God’s holy name, Alleluia; Praise God’s holy name, Alleluia!

Praise God’s holy name, Alleluia; Praise God’s holy name, Alleluia!

*\*(Please stand as you are able)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

A: Today’s gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus’ baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

**C: You call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us**

the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: Amen.


GATHERING HYMN “Arise, Your Light Has Come!” WOV 652 Blue Hymnal

GREETING


P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **B** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son:      **B** Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **B** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

\*(Please be seated)

# HYMN OF PRAISE



**C** Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



**I** Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



**C** Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



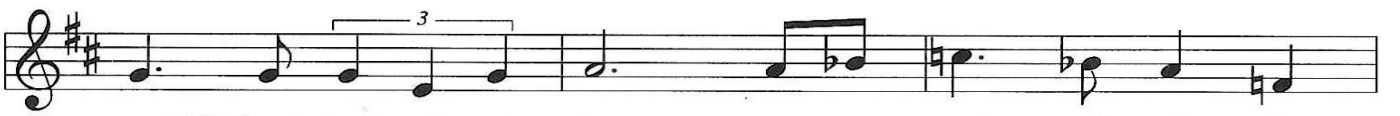
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



**II** Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



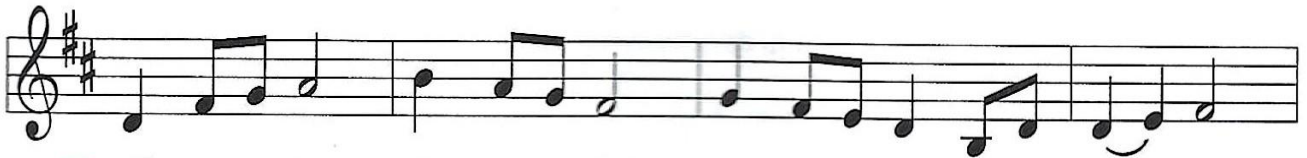
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



**C** Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



**I**  
**II** For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



**C** Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## Prayer of Day

P: Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

## First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me.<sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away.<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."<sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD and my reward with my God."<sup>5</sup> And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—<sup>6</sup> he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

A: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

## Psalm: Psalm 40:1-11 (We sing the Psalm)



<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently up- | on the LORD,

**who stooped to me and | heard my cry.**

<sup>2</sup> The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the | miry clay,  
**and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my | footing sure.**

<sup>3</sup> The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise | to our God;  
**many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust | in the LORD.**

<sup>4</sup> Happy are they who trust | in the LORD!

**They do not turn to enemies or to those who | follow lies.**

<sup>5</sup> Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your plans for us, none can be com- | pared with you!

**Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than | I can count.**

<sup>6</sup> Sacrifice and offering you do | not desire;

**you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have | not required.**

<sup>7</sup> And so I said, "Here I | am; I come.

**In the scroll of the book it is writ- | ten of me:**

<sup>8</sup> 'I love to do your will, | O my God;  
**your law is | deep within me.'**"

<sup>9</sup> I proclaimed righteousness in the | great assembly;  
**I have not restrained my lips, O | LORD, you know.**

<sup>10</sup> I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness  
and | your deliverance;

**I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the | great assembly.**

<sup>11</sup> You are the LORD; do not withhold your compas- | sion from me;  
**may your steadfast love and your truth continually | keep me safe.**

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, <sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: <sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind <sup>6</sup> just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*\*(Please Stand if you are able)*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 1st chapter, vss. 29 through 42.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**P: Gospel: John 1:29-42**

<sup>29</sup> [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”<sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’<sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.”<sup>32</sup> And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.”<sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’<sup>34</sup> And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”<sup>35</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,<sup>36</sup> and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”<sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.<sup>38</sup> When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?”<sup>39</sup> He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.<sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.<sup>41</sup> He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).<sup>42</sup> He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

**SERMON: Pastor Scott Torkko ‘Testimony’**

*\*(Please stand as you are able)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY : “Jesus Calls Us; O’er the Tumult” LBW 494 Green Hymnal**

**A:** Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle’s Creed.

**C: APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**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. Amen.**

*\*(Please be seated)*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Response following each petition:*

**A:** Merciful God,  
**C:** Receive our prayer.

*\*(Please stand if you are able)*

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving for Offerings**

### **LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL**



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**A:** Let us pray.

**A:** God of majesty,

**C:** 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.**

## MEAL

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### PREFACE

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life he lived among us, to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### CONSECRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

**P:** Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take this and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

## COMMUNION

*In the ELCA we welcome all believers to receive the Holy Communion. Communion elements include this morning: Pre packaged wafers (they are also gluten free), individual cup of wine or grape juice.*

## LAMB OF GOD



♩ 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.

## COMMUNION HYMN: “Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning” LBW 84 Green Hymnal

*\*(Pease stand if you are able)*

## COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



♩ Thank - ful hearts and voi - ces raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name,  
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and  
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

A: Radiant God, 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.

C: Amen.

## BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: “We Are Marching in the Light of God” WOV 650 Blue Hymnal

## PRAYER

A: Let us pray together Immanuel's Opening Doors prayer.

**C: Dear Lord, we thank and praise you for your everlasting love and enduring mercy. Continue to send your holy spirit: to bless us, to watch over us and to guide us in all that we do so that we grow in: our love for you, our love for each other and our love for those in our community.**

**Grant us the courage to be bold in opening doors by inviting and welcoming others in our community to God's church. Give us strength: to trust in you and to have faith and hope in your plans for God's church. In Jesus name we pray. Amen**

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2018 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #42463. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by Permission. All rights reserved.

The congregation and ministries of this church rely on your weekly offerings and gifts. We encourage you to continue your tithing to Immanuel. If you have a key, you may stop by & leave them in Cindi's mailbox or slip them under her door. You may also mail them to Immanuel at 726 Fuller Ave. Big Rapids, MI. Thank you to everyone who has been sending in your offerings.

*~Stewardship Committee*

**Please join us for fellowship in the Fellowship Hall following Worship today! (on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month, cake will be served for all birthdays celebrated in the month.)**

### Serving in Sunday Worship Service

**Musician: Janet Mallett**

**Altar Duty: Carol Zimmerman, Phyllis Cousineau**

**Presiding Minister: Pastor Scott Torkko**

**Worship Assistant: Linda Obermier**

**Cantor: Vicky Scott**

**Greeter: Phyllis Lindsey**

**Usher: Steve Neumann**

**Reader: Linda Greene**

**Sound Technician: David Scott**

**A/V Projection Technicians: David Scott**



**Birthdays this week** – Phyllis Lindsey (1/19)

**Belated Anniversary** – Barb Pillsbury & Darrell Corrie (1/17)

**Altar Flowers** For the Honor and Glory of God.

**Readings for January 25th:**

**Isaiah 9:1-4**

**Psalms 27:1,4-9**

**1Corinthians 1:10-18**

**Matthew 4:12-23**

## Upcoming In Person meetings

Leadership Team Meeting **January 18th at 10:45am**

Tuba Bach **Sun. January 18th at 4:00 pm**

Staff meeting **Tues. January 20th at 10:30 am**

Knitting Group **Tues. January 20th at Noon**



### Helpful Hints from Parish Nurse Phyllis Lindsey –

**Jan 18: January is National Stalking Awareness Month. Stalking is a criminal activity consisting of repeated following and harassing of another person. It is unwanted or obsessive attention by one or more people toward another person and is illegal in many states. In the U.S. approximately 13.5 million cases are reported annually.**



**Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Next month's Movie Matinee is 'Random Harvest' starring Greer Garson & Ronald Coleman (1942)



Shepherd's Hooks & Needles now meet on the third Tuesday of the month. The next session is **Tues. Jan. 20th at Noon.**



**Chili Cook Off, 2026** --- It's time to start thinking "hot" thoughts--chili thoughts, that is. This year's Chili Cook Off will be held on ***Saturday, January 24, 2026, with set up at 5 p.m. and chili served starting at 5:30 p.m.*** Everyone is welcome to participate--whether you join the cooking contest or are a taster! Those attending will each receive one red ticket to use to vote for the Chili Cook Off "Grand Champion." First, second and third place winners will be voted on by the dollar amount their entry collects. The grand prize winner will be selected by the number of "red tickets" collected in their can. The Grand Champion Prize winner receives a gift and their name on the Chili plaque.

Games and fellowship will continue after the awarding of the prizes. Donations received will be split between Manna Pantry and World Hunger Relief. Watch for the sign-up sheet, salads, dessert and chili fixin's will be needed, as well as set up and cleanup crews. Please plan to join us, it is always a great time and a wonderful way to fellowship with family and friends. Everyone is welcome!

## Community Events

### Manna Pantry:

January:   canned luncheon (meat or chicken)  
February:  pancake mix and syrup

### Project Starburst:

Soups - any kind  
Cereal

### Grade School

Kleenex, shampoo, toothpaste/brushes, soap, underwear, sweatpants (neutral colors), socks.  
Sizes for children to fifth grade. Also hats, mittens, scarves, sweatshirts.



Second Sunday after  
*Epiphany*

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026*