

# Immanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA  
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**Third Sunday after Epiphany**  
**9:30 a.m. Worship Service    January 25, 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.

**Third Sunday after Epiphany**  
**With One Voice      Holy Communion Setting 5**  
**January 25, 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: Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

**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     “Listen, God Is Calling”    WOV 712 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:     **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



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



**A** Ky - ri - e   e - le - i - son:     **C** 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 - migh - 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;



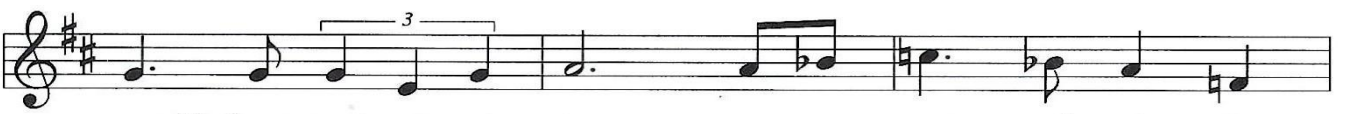
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



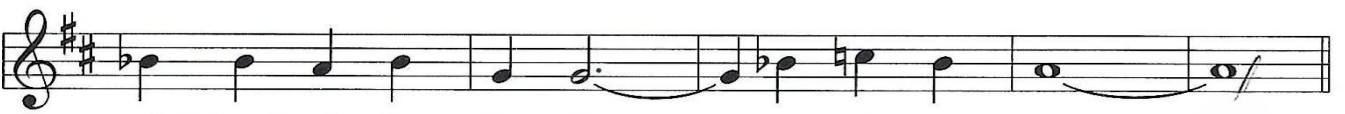
**II** Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



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: Lord God,

Your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

## First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

<sup>1</sup> There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

A: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

## Psalm: Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (We sing the Psalm)



<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?

**The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?**

<sup>4</sup> One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek;

**that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God | in the temple.**

<sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,

**hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- | on a rock.**

<sup>6</sup> Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who surround me.

**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music | to the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O LORD, | when I call;

**have mercy on me and | answer me.**

<sup>8</sup> My heart speaks your message— | “Seek my face.”

**Your face, O LORD, | I will seek.**

<sup>9</sup> Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger.

**Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of | my salvation.**

## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

<sup>10</sup> Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. <sup>11</sup> For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." <sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. <sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 4th chapter, vss. 12 through 23.

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

## P: Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: <sup>15</sup> "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—<sup>16</sup> the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the

region and shadow of death light has dawned.”<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”<sup>18</sup> As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers.<sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.”<sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him.<sup>21</sup> As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.<sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

**SERMON     Pastor Clay Bates**

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY : “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” LBW 456 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.

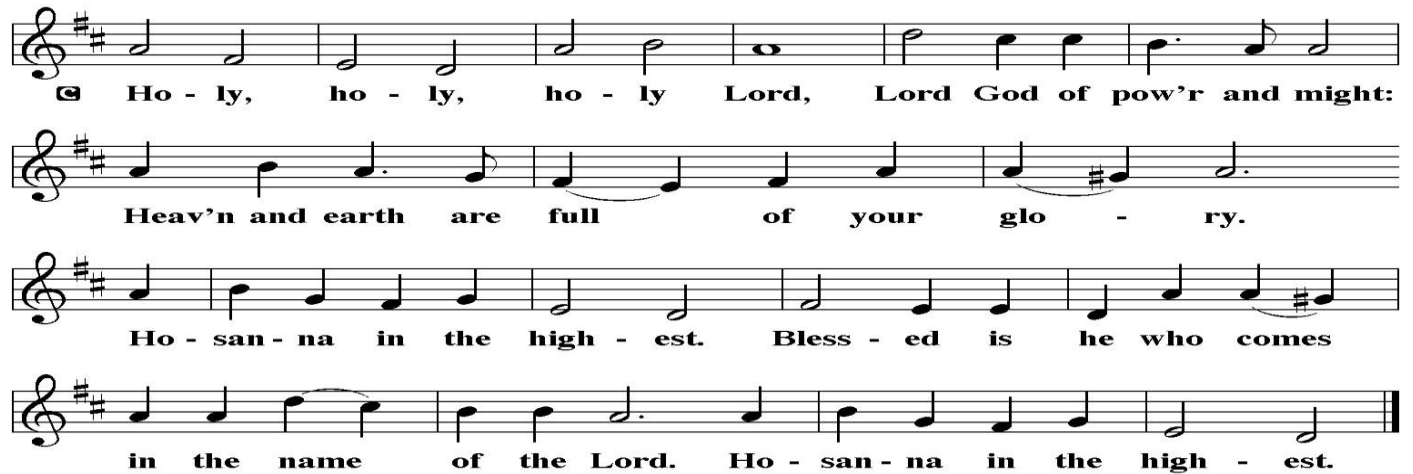
C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### 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 be 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: “For the Bread Which You Have Broken” LBW 200 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 voice - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - jice 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: “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” WOV 649 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**

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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 Clay Bates  
**Worship Assistant:** Linda Obermier  
**Cantor:** Vicky Scott  
**Greeter:** Phyllis Lindsey  
**Usher:** Phil Keating  
**Reader:** Steve Neumann  
**Sound Technician:** David Scott  
**A/V Projection Technicians:** David Scott



Birthdays this week – None to report

Anniversary this week Doug & Alexandra Barnes (1/29)

Altar Flowers by Dee & Cindi Neumann, for Hubby/Dad's Birthday

**Readings for February 1st:**

**Micah 6:1-8**  
**Psalms 15**

**1 Corinthians 1:18-31**  
**Matthew 5:1-12**

Upcoming In Person meetings

Tuba Bach **Sun. January 25th at 4:00 pm**  
Staff meeting **Tues. January 27th at 10:30 am**  
Hymn Planning **Tues. January 27th at 3:00 pm**  
FOTA Concert & Opening Ceremony **Fri. January 30th at 7:00 pm**



Helpful Hints from Parish Nurse Phyllis Lindsey –

**Jan 25:** January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Human trafficking is the trade of humans, usually for the purpose of sexual slavery, forced labor, or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others. This may involve providing a spouse, using force, or for the extraction of organs and/or tissues (e.g.ova). Human trafficking is a crime against a person—it is a violation of a person's rights. In 2020, 10,583 trafficking situations were reported.



**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. Feb. 17th at Noon.**

### Community Events

#### Manna Pantry:

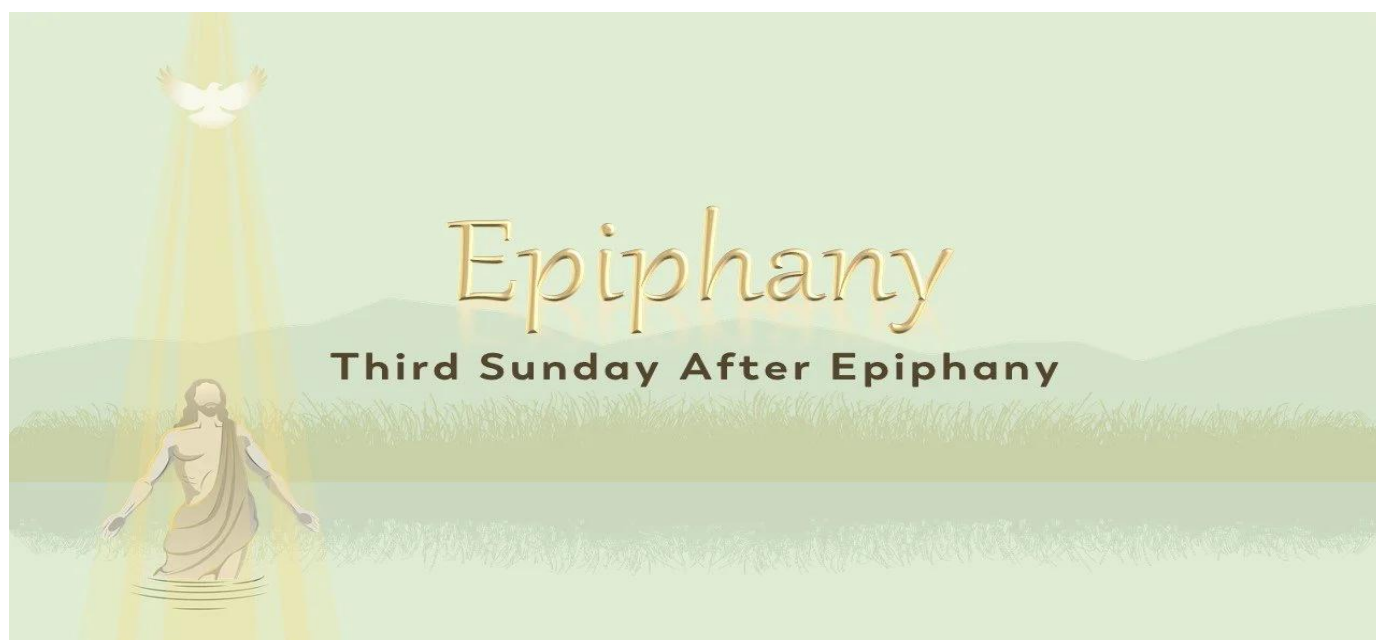
January:    canned luncheon (meat or chicken)  
February:   pancake mix and syrup

#### 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.



**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> 2026*