Immanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA
726 Fuller Avenue
Big Rapids, MI 49307
immanuelbigrapids726@gmail.com
231-796-8273

www.immanuelbr.com
Instagram: ILCbigrapids
Facebook: @immanuelbr

Epiphany Sunday
9:30 a.m. Worship Service January 4, 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.

Epiphany Sunday
With One Voice Holy Communion Setting 5
January 4, 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: The feast of Epiphany ("manifestation") concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love to all people.

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, Wonderful Councilor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.
C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love and Faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Reconciling God,
C: We yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always

recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

P: God's grace upon grace flows over you. ✝ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

C: Amen.

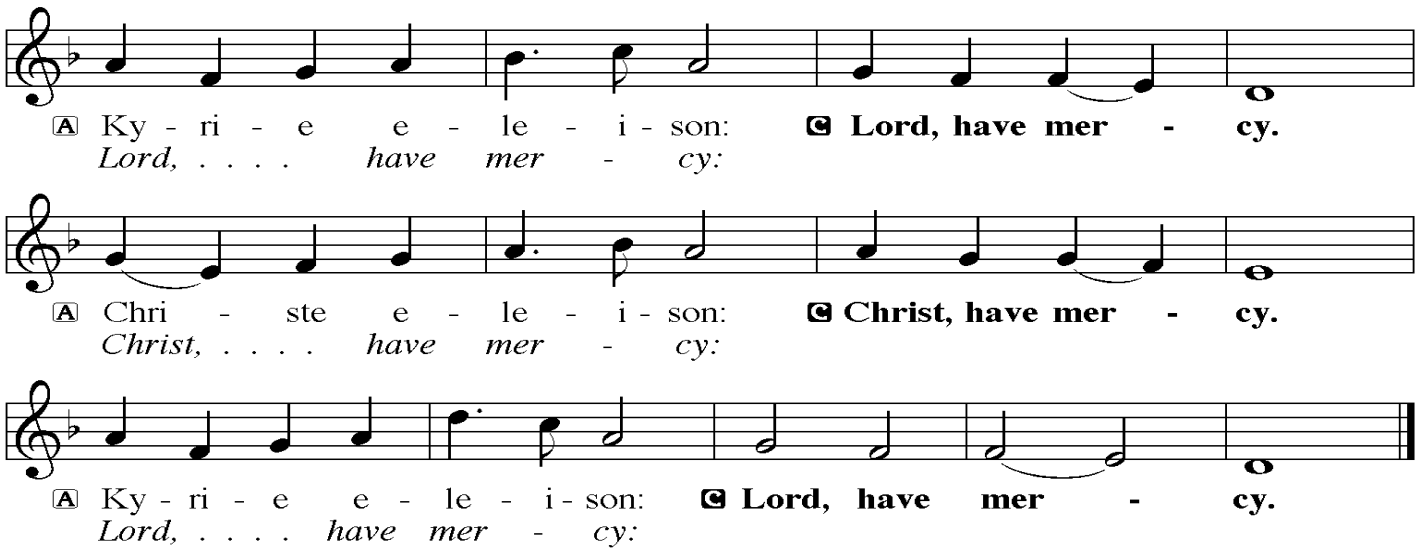
GATHERING HYMN **<u>"O Word of God Incarnate"</u> LBW 231 Green Hymnal**

GREETING

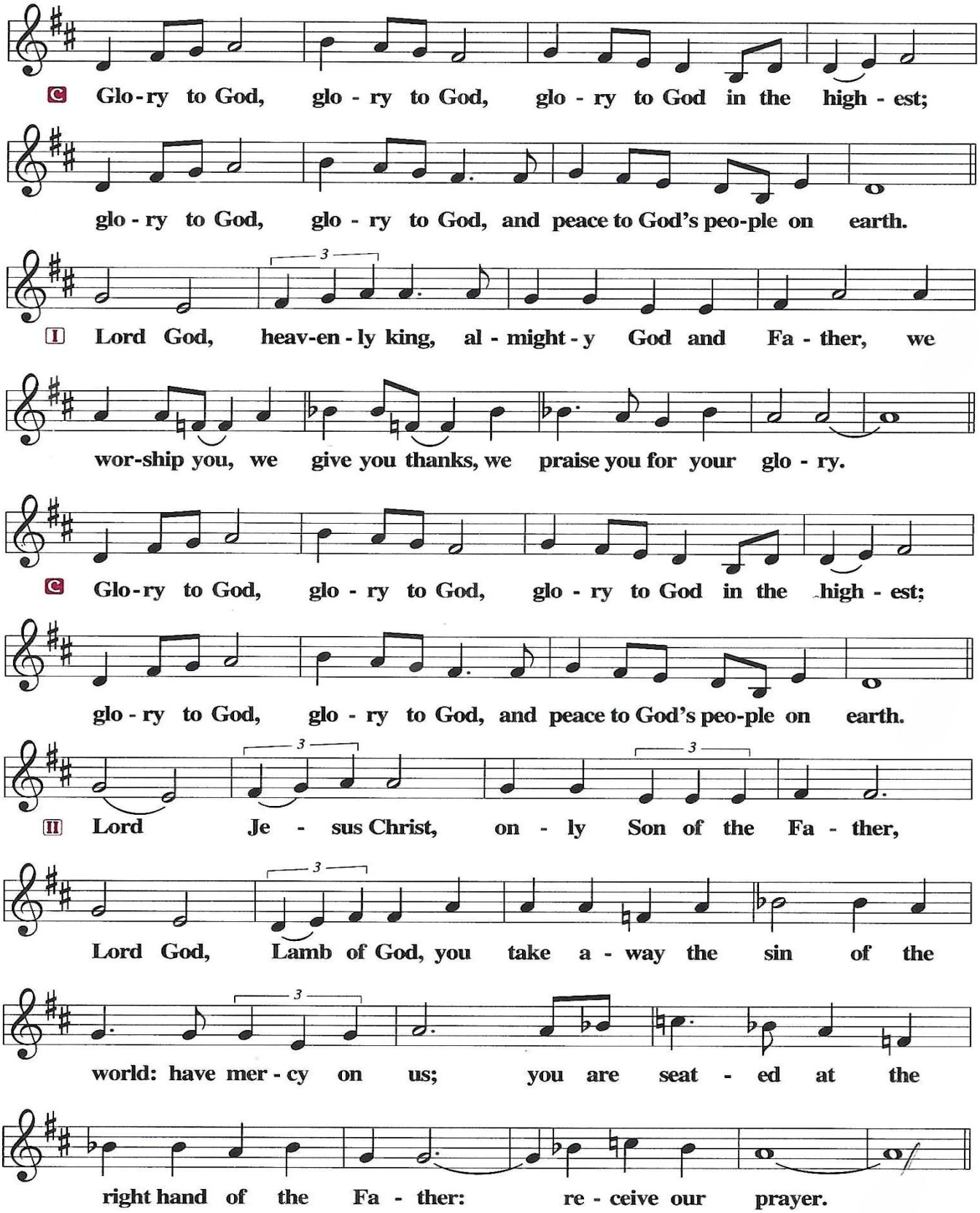
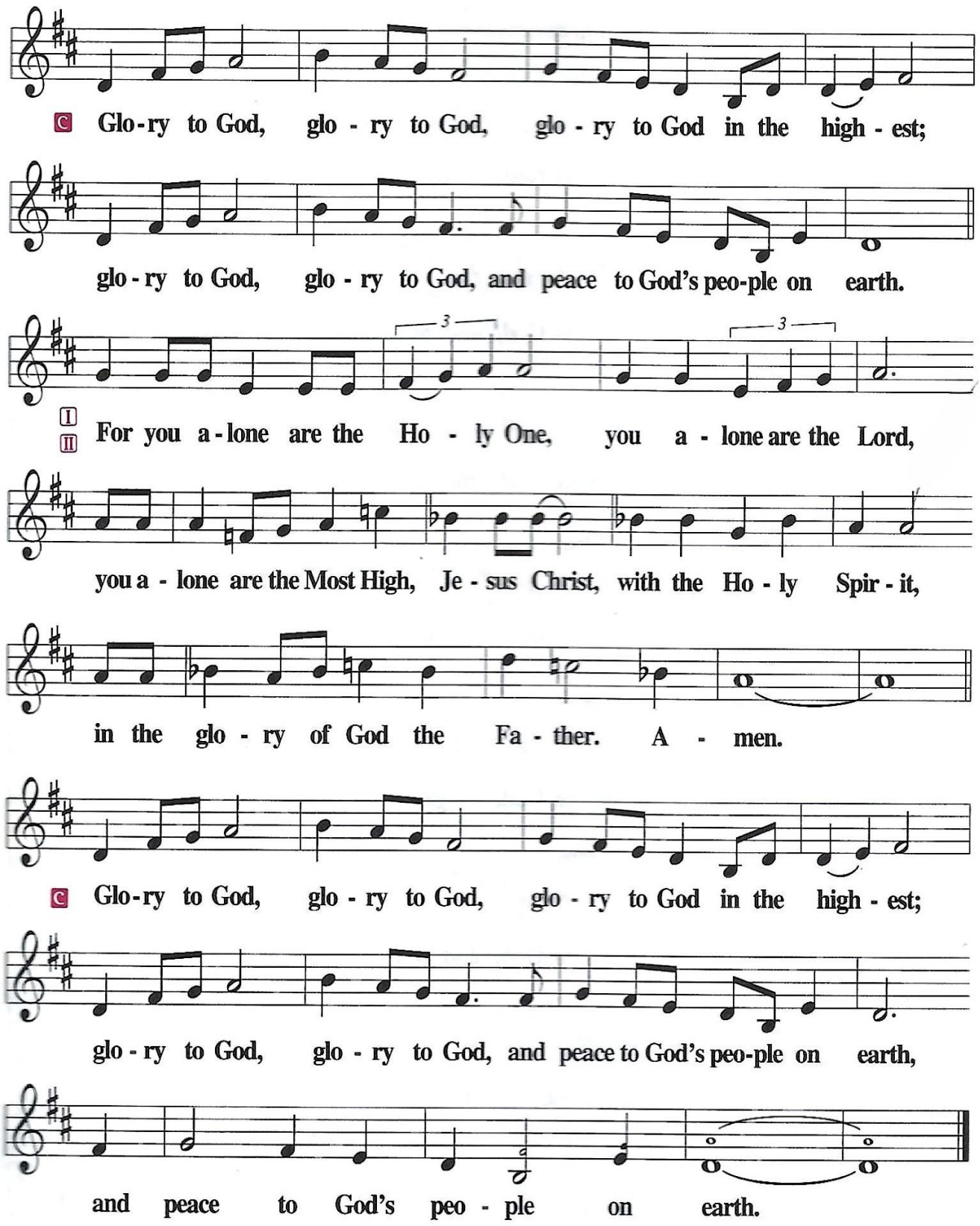
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE



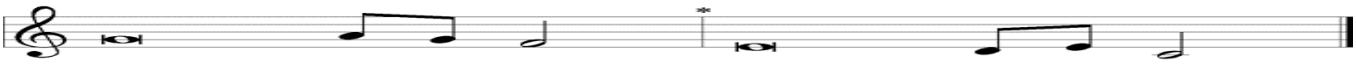
**(Please be seated)*

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 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: O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

1 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.2 For
darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.3 Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness
of your dawn.4 Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.
5 Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of
the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you.6 A multitude of
camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall
come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.
The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

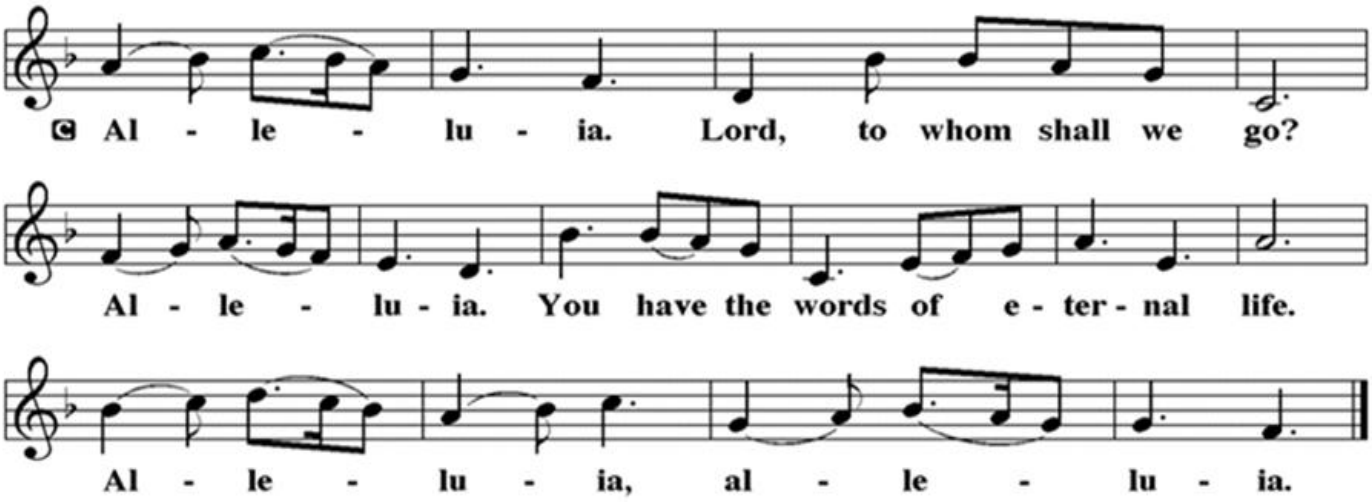
Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (We sing the Psalm)

1 Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
2 that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;
3 that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.
4 Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.
5 May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.
6 Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.
7 In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts.
11 May all kings bow | down before him,
and all the nations | do him service.
12 For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.

13 He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,
and preserves the lives | of the needy.
14 From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,
and precious is their blood | in his sight.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

1 This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, 2 for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you 3 and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, 4 a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 5 In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: 6 that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 7 Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. 8 Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ 9 and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, 10 so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

**(Please Stand if you are able)*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 2nd chapter, vss. 1 through 12.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

[1] In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east
came to Jerusalem, [2] asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we
observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." [3] When King Herod heard this,
he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, [4] and calling together all the chief priests and
scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. [5] They told him,
"In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:[6] 'And you, Bethlehem, in the
land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "[7] Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned
from them the exact time when the star had appeared. [8] Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying,
"Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I
may also go and pay him homage." [9] When they had heard the king, they set out, and there,
ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where
the child was. [10] When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with
joy. [11] On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and
paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold,
frankincense, and myrrh. [12] And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left
for their own country by another road.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON Pastor John Brown

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

HYMN OF THE DAY "<u>We Three Kings of Orient Are</u>" WOV 646 Blu Hymnal

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

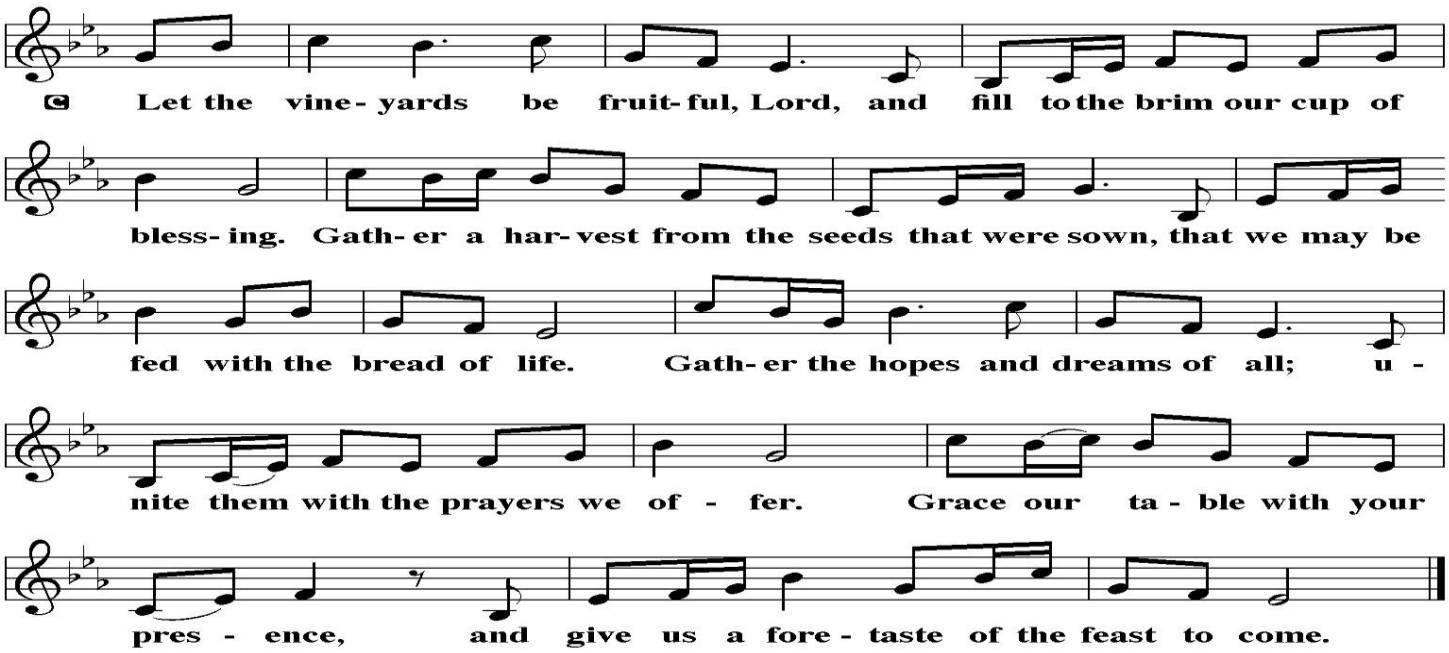
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response following each petition:

A: Hear us, O God,
C: Your mercy is great.

**(Please stand if you are able)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Offerings



A: Let us pray.
A: God of glory,

C: Great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.
Amen.

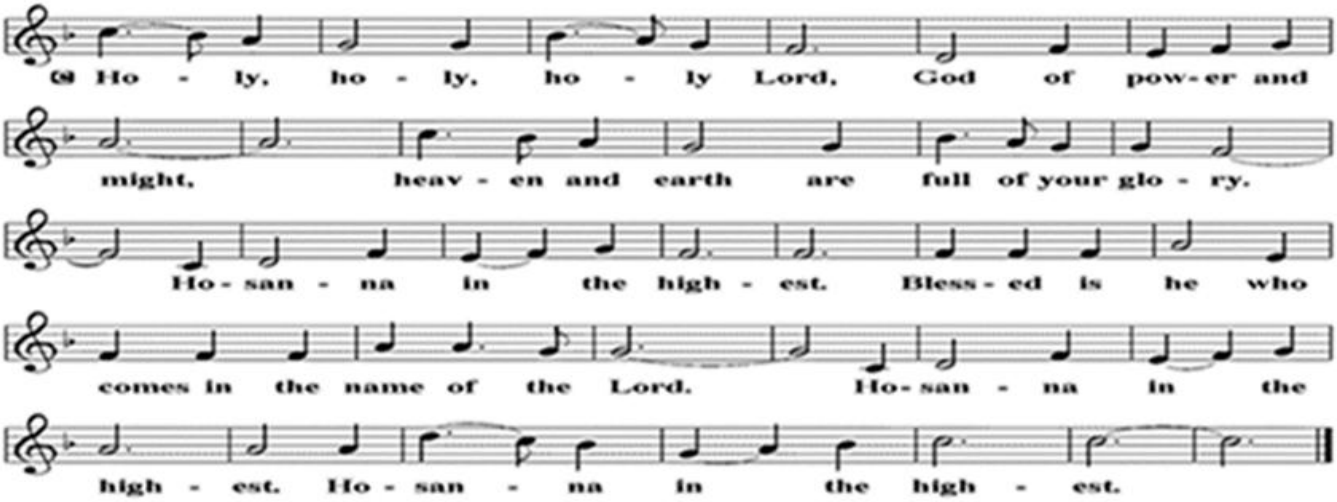
MEAL

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

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

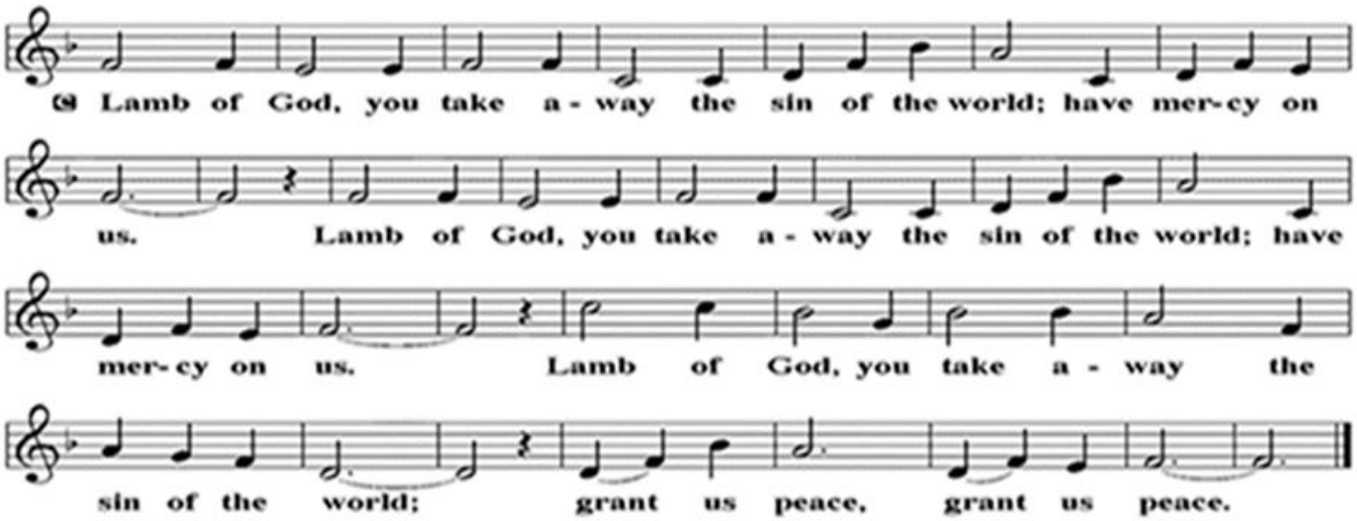
P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

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.

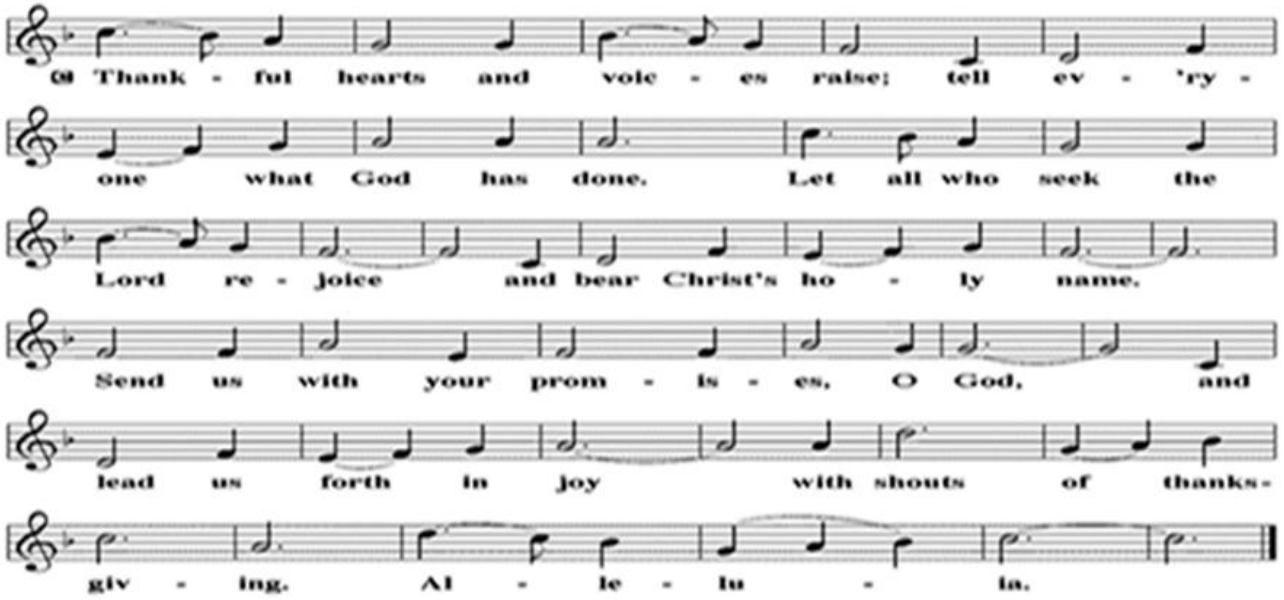
LAMB OF GOD

COMMUNION HYMN: <u>"What Child Is This"</u> LBW 40 Green Hymnal

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

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ☩ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN **<u>"Holy Child within the Manger"</u> WOV 638 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: Glory to God in the highest!
C: And peace to God's people on earth!
A: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
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 3rd 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 John Brown**
Worship Assistant:	**Nedra Neumann**
Cantor:	**Vicky Scott**
Greeter:	**Phyllis Lindsey**
Usher:	
Reader:	**Linda Obermier**
Sound Technician:	**David Scott**
A/V Projection Technicians:	**David Scott**

Birthdays this week – None to report.

Anniversary this week – None reported this week.

Altar Flowers For the Honor and Glory of God.

Readings for January 11th: Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9	**Acts 10:34-43**
Psalm 29	**Matthew 3:13-17**

Upcoming In Person meetings

MSU concert **Sun. January 4th at 4:00 pm**
Staff meeting **Tues. January 6th at 10:30 am**

Helpful Hints from Parish Nurse Phyllis Lindsey –
Jan 4: January 1 is National Healthy Living Awareness Day. Include plenty of fruits and vegetables, dairy products, lean meats, whole grains in your diet and get exercise, avoid tobacco, alcohol and street drugs. Get plenty of sleep and stay positive—and don't let stressful things get out of control, if possible. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Saturday, January 10th, 2026

This month's Movie Matinee is 'Boys Town' (1938) starring Spencer Tracy and Mickey Rooney.

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:

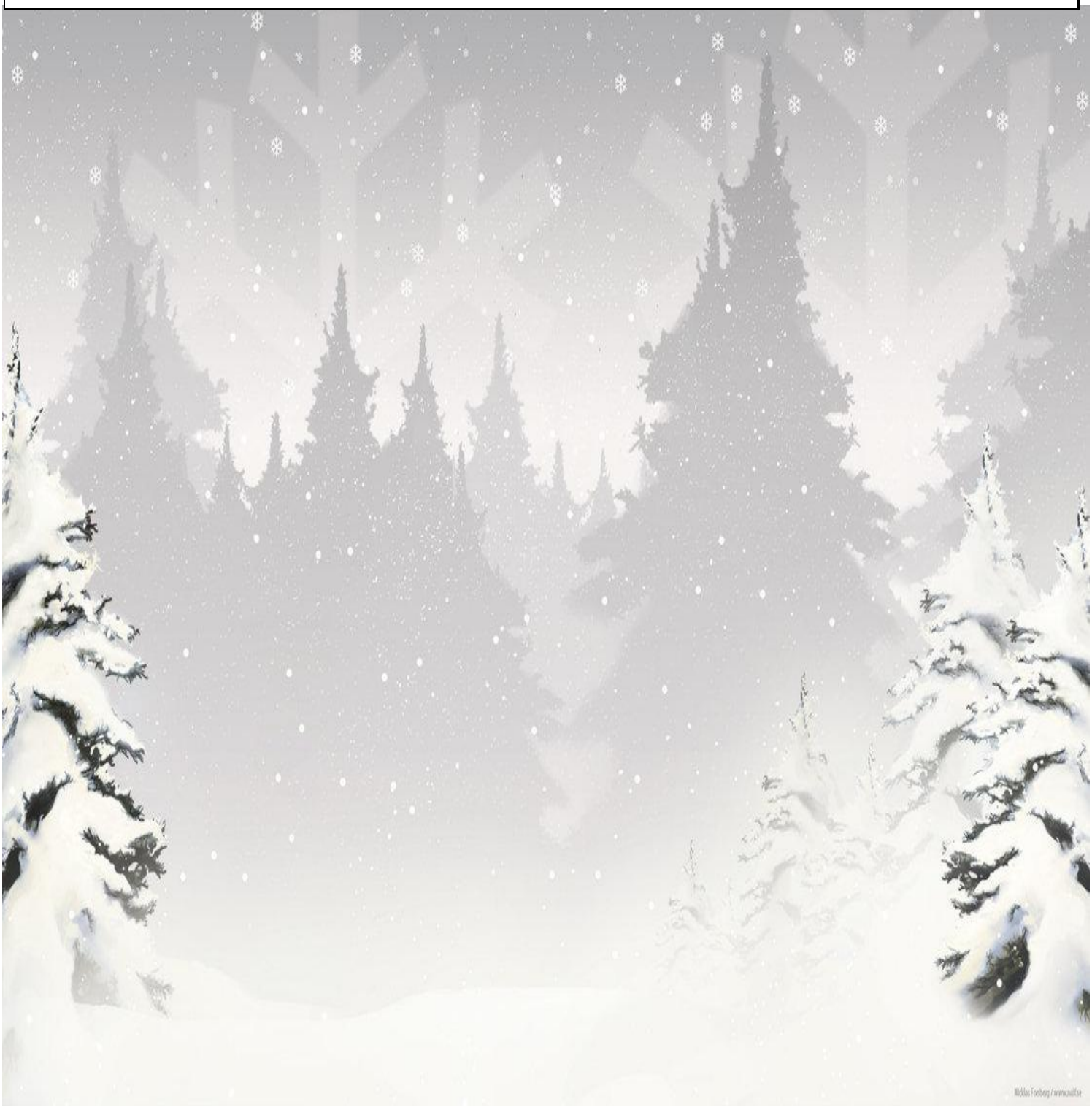
January: canned luncheon (meat or chicken)
February: pancake mix and syrup

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.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 4th, 2026