

Sunday, November 22nd 2026
Christ the King Sunday Year A
9:00 a.m.

St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church

Reverend Maggie Westaby
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Office Hours:
Monday 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Thursday 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
or by appointment

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

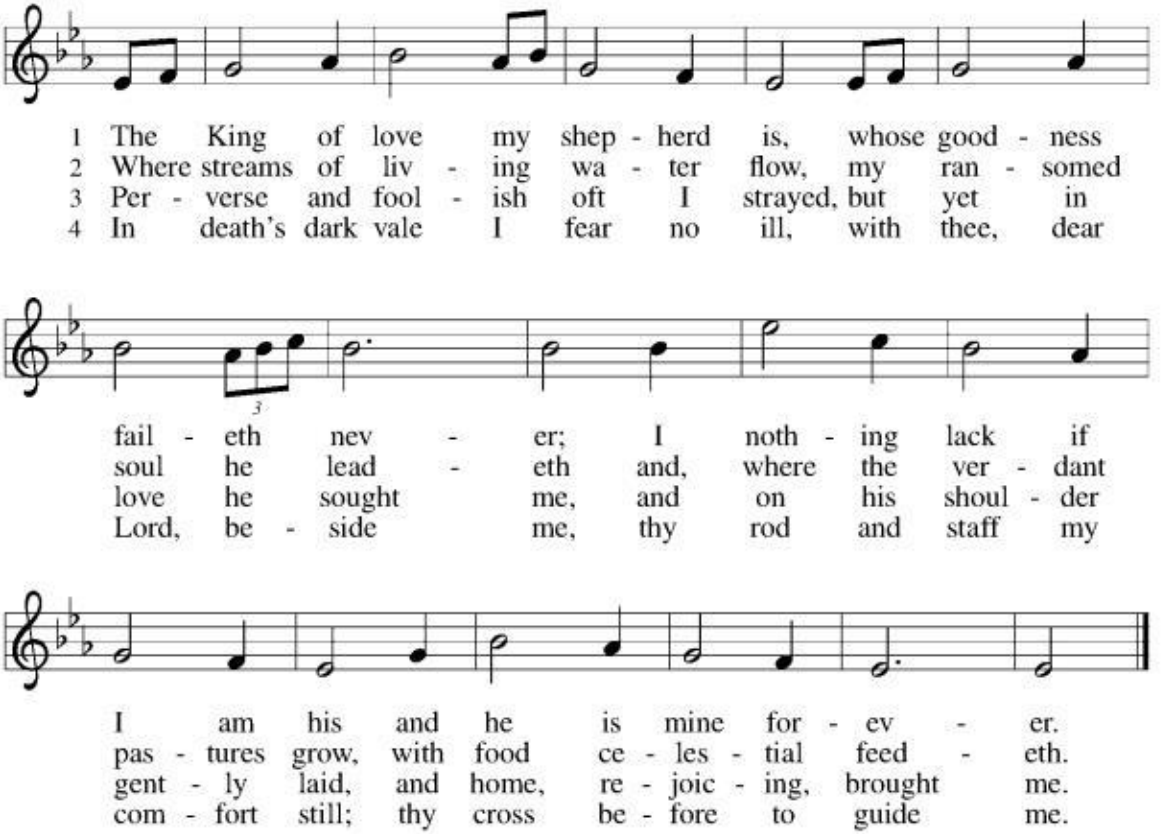
We gather before Christ, our Shepherd and King, who knows us completely and loves us without condition. Yet too often, we fail to recognize Christ in the faces of those around us. Trusting in the mercy of the One who never stops seeking us, let us confess our sins.

Merciful and loving God, you have called us to follow in the ways of your kingdom, but too often we have chosen the ways of the world. We have turned away from those who hunger, overlooked those who suffer, and closed our hearts to those who are different from us. We have sought comfort instead of compassion and security instead of generosity. Forgive us for the times we have failed to see you in the faces of others. Open our eyes to recognize your presence, soften our hearts to respond with love, and give us courage to serve as you have served us. Amen.

Hear the good news: Our God is the Good Shepherd who seeks the lost, binds up the injured, strengthens the weak, and gathers the scattered. By the grace of God, your sins are forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ. You are claimed by love, restored by grace, and freed to serve your neighbors with compassion and joy. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

The King of Love My Shepherd Is



5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877
Music: St. Columba, Irish tune

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, you reign over all creation, yet your heart is always turned toward the least, the lost, and the forgotten. Open our eyes to see Christ in the other. Give us hearts that seek justice, hands that offer kindness, and lives that reflect your mercy. As we celebrate Christ's reign over all things, guide us to live as people of your kingdom, until the day when all creation is gathered into your everlasting peace. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and King, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

11 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them
out. 12 As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered
sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which
they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them
out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into
their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the
watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them with
good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they
shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the
mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make
them lie down, says the Lord GOD. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the
strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat
and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

20 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the
fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and
butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and
wide, 22 I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge
between sheep and sheep.

23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed
them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I, the LORD, will be their
God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Psalm 95:1-7a
Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.
For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.
In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.
The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.
For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God

READING: Ephesians 1:15-23
15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints,
and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my
prayers. 17 I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may
give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18 so that,
with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which
he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the
saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe,
according to the working of his great power. 20 God put this power to work in
Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the
heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and
above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to
come. 22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over
all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in
all. Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (page 205)
Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.' 41Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; 42for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' 45Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The gospel of the Lord.

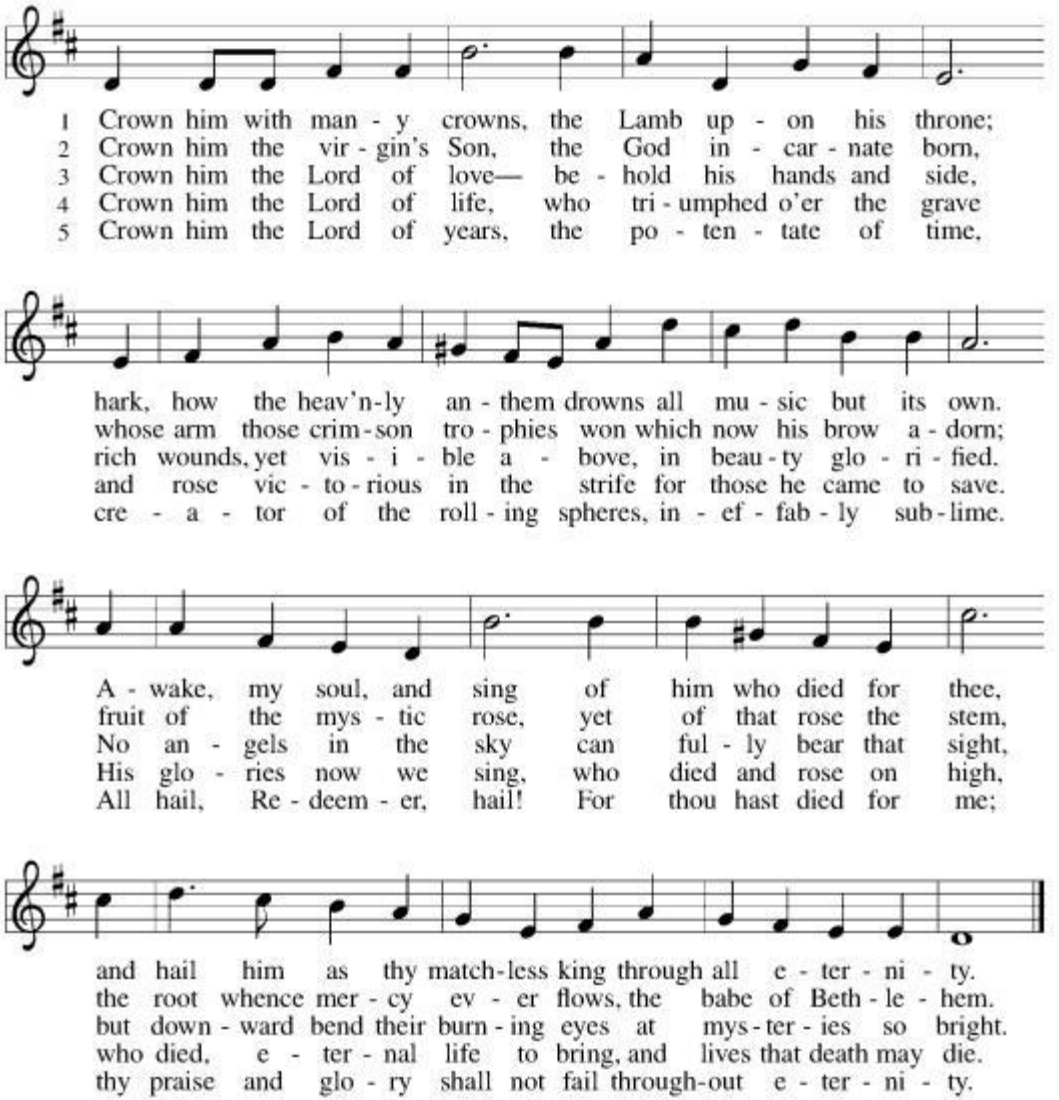
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Crown Him with Many Crowns



Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4
Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
Responding to "Hear us, O God," with **"Your mercy is great."**

PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING
How can we withhold our gifts of gratitude in the face of such wondrous love? With glad and generous hearts, let us bring our offerings to God. https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZEVQ/home

Scan to Donate to St. John's

GIVE THANKS
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

OFFERING PRAYER
God of all goodness,
Generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ we pray.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

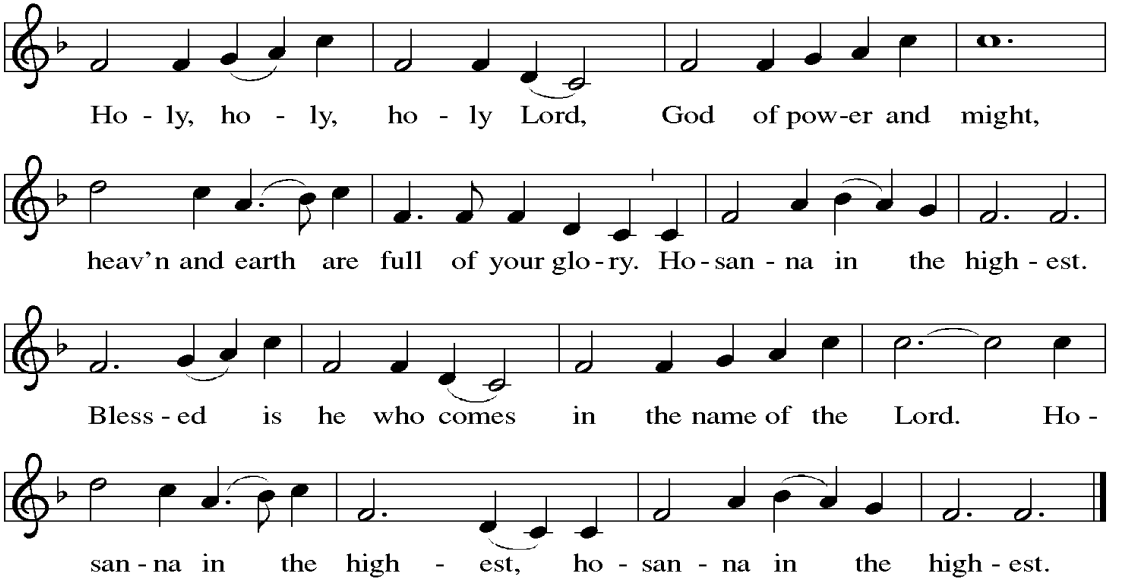
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever & ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to this table, where the King of all creation welcomes us not with displays of power, but with the simple gifts of bread and wine. Here, our Good Shepherd feeds us with grace, restores our souls, and reminds us that we belong to God. At this table, there are no strangers, no forgotten ones, and no one beyond the reach of Christ's love. As we are fed, we are reminded that the Christ who meets us here is the same Christ who waits to be recognized in the hungry, the hurting, and the stranger. Come, be nourished by the love of Christ, so that you may carry that love into a world longing for mercy, justice, and peace.

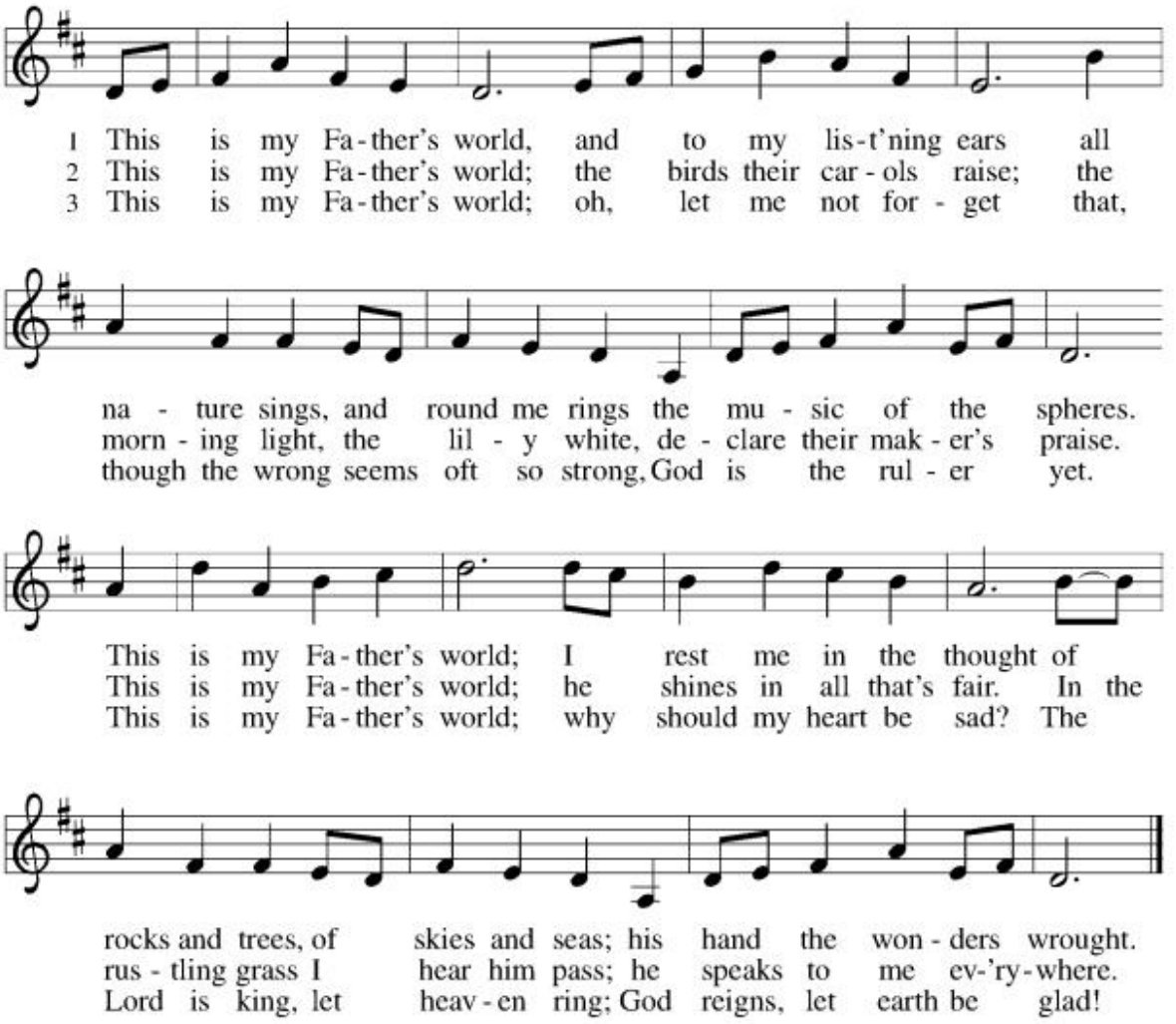
LAMB OF GOD (page 154)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Here Is Bread ELW (ELW 483) No download available

This Is My Father's World



Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858–1901
Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930, adapt.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God,
We give you thanks for this meal of grace, where you have nourished us with your love and reminded us that we do not walk this journey alone. Strengthen us to bear one another's burdens, to share hope when another's light grows dim, and to recognize your presence in the world around us. Send us forth to make the most of the time we have been given. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May Christ, our Shepherd and King, guide you in the ways of compassion and peace. May the God who seeks the lost, heals the wounded, and strengthens the weary give you eyes to see the needs of others and hearts willing to respond. May the Holy Spirit fill you with courage to stand alongside the forgotten, welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, and love without hesitation.

And may the blessing of the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose kingdom is love and whose reign is everlasting, be with you now and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Soon And Very Soon (ELW 439) – No Download available

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Encourage one another.

Thanks be to God.

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Welcome to all! *Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones.*

To those who are visiting: Welcome to St. John Immanuel and thank you for joining us! You are welcome to sign our registry in the narthex.
Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to Christ's Table.

Reminder! **If you are in need of Pastoral care, or if you or a loved one is in the hospital and would like a visit from Pastor Maggie, please contact St. John Immanuel (715) 675-6950**
Food Basket. Each week you are invited to bring **non-perishable grocery** items to be given to a local food pantry. Place your gift in the *Shopping Cart.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, November 24th Thanksgiving Evening Worship at 6:30 p.m. Join us for a service of gratitude and Holy Communion.

Saturday, November 28th at 10 am – We will be decorating the Narthex and sanctuary for Christmas. All are welcome to come join and help out decorate our beautiful church. We will also be decorating the tree **Sunday the 29th** after worship.

Sunday, November 29th after worship – The Christmas Choir will be practicing after worship. Next practice will be December 6th after worship. If you haven't already signed up you are still welcome to join us. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Monday, November 30th at 6:30 p.m. the Book Club will discuss *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife by Anna Johnston*

Tuesday, December 8th at 5:45 p.m. Calling all ladies! The Sisterhood Gathering is right around the corner. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex with additional details.

Sunday, December 13th Noisy offering! Bring your coins (bills also accepted 😊). This noisy offering will go to: "**Youth Gathering** – *We're raising money to support our youth programs, events, and activities. Thank you for helping our youth grow in faith!*" Noisy offering will be the 2nd Sunday of the month. Money will be donated quarterly.

Sunday, December 13th 1:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High Bowling At Days Bowl-A-Dome. Pizza and soda provided!

Monday, December 14th at 6:30 p.m. the Adult Study will discuss Acts 10 & 11

Thursday, December 17th Candlelit Shepherds Meal Doors open at 5:00 p.m. ***Dinner starts at 5:30***. Join us in a simple Shepherds Meal of soup, bread, dried fruit, nuts and cheeses by candlelight. You are invited to bring wine to share with your brothers and sisters in Christ. After our meal, we will move into the sanctuary where we will watch "Journey to Bethlehem," a 2023 "live-action Christmas musical adventure... that weaves classic Christmas melodies with humor, faith and new pop songs in a retelling of the greatest story ever told." $10/participant paid that evening. Sign-up in the narthex. *This is intended for adults and older/mature children.*

Sunday, December 20th Worship is at 10:00 a.m. Join us for our Children's Christmas Program! Following worship, enjoy our Winter Market Bake Sale, complete with a Hot Chocolate Bar and a Mimosa Bar! Want to help make this festive event a success? Stop by the narthex for more information and to sign up to donate baked goods or ingredients. We look forward to celebrating the season with you!

Monday, December 21st at 6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas Service A prayerfully cultivated service for those who have lost loved ones, and for those who find the holidays to be a lonely time.

Tuesday, December 22nd at 5:30 p.m. Pizza & Movie Night - Pizza and movie night is BACK! Join us December 22nd for *The Grinch*. Pizza will be at 5:30pm, movie from 6-8pm. Bring your favorite blanket, pillow and stuffy! Bring a friend! Please sign up in the Narthex! Any questions please reach out to Maddie Grueneberg 715-574-9095

Thursday, December 24th Christmas Eve Worship! Worship services will be held at 2:30 p.m., 4:00 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.

2nd Year Confirmation Food Drive! The 2nd year confirmation students want to help the people in need by starting a food drive. They are looking for non-perishable items, and no expired food please. Items can be placed into the shopping cart in the Fellowship Hall. Food will be distributed to local food banks.

Parking Lot Update: Please see the minutes located in the Narthex.

Do you like Texas Roadhouse? Enjoy a meal on a Sunday and earn money back to St. John Immanuel! Bring our church bulletin, turn it into your server, and St. John Immanuel will receive 10% back from your food sales!

Kwik Trip Gift Cards Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall or on our website!
Help support St. John Immanuel with Kwik Trip gift cards!

Live Streaming and Photography Notice. When you enter St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording or live streaming may occur. If you prefer not to be recognized on camera, the back row inside the church is not within viewing distance of a camera and communion will typically be only on a wide shot where it may be difficult to recognize congregants. Parents, please note our children's sermons are being recorded and live streamed. If you do not want your child to be recognized on camera, please refrain from having them participate.

Coming This Week @ St. John Immanuel November 22nd – November 29th

Today – Sunday, November 22nd

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

10:15 a.m. **Coffee Hour – Pie Auction - No Sunday School

Tuesday, November 24th

6:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Worship

Wednesday, November 25th

No Confirmation Class

Thursday, November 26th & Friday, November 27th

Church Closed – Happy Thanksgiving

Saturday, November 28th

10:00 am Christmas Decorating – Narthex & Sanctuary

Sunday, November 29th

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

10:15 a.m. **Coffee Hour / No Sunday School – Christmas Tree Decorating in Sanctuary

10:15 a.m. Endowment Meeting / Christmas Choir practice

****Donations from Coffee hour will go towards a new refrigerator in our Fellowship Hall Kitchen.**