

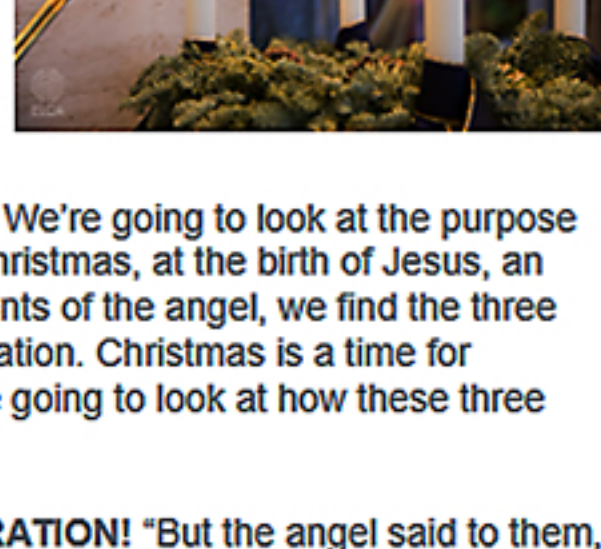


Immanuel-Trinity Lutheran Church

The Beacon December 2025

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

Christmas preparation is upon us. For me, getting into the Christmas spirit, (especially before Thanksgiving) is a challenge. So I began reread Rick Warrens *The Purpose of Christmas* (Howard Books, 2006) for inspiration. Warren writes, "The fact is – the birth of Jesus Christ is the most significant event in the history of mankind. It split history into A.D. and B.C., and every time you write a check, you're using Jesus Christ as the focus. We're going to look at the purpose of Christmas – why we celebrate it. At the very first Christmas, at the birth of Jesus, an angel announced three things. In those three statements of the angel, we find the three purposes of Christmas. Christmas is a time for celebration. Christmas is a time for salvation. Christmas is a time for reconciliation. We're going to look at how these three words can change your life forever."



THE FIRST PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS IS CELEBRATION! "But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.'" Luke 2:8-10 (NIV)

Why do we Celebrate? The bottom line is, Christmas is a party! We celebrate because "God Loves Us.... Because God is with us... and because God is here for us. The good news is this – God says, "I not only love you. I'm with you all the time, you just need to be aware of it." It means you don't have to face anything by yourself. Christmas is a time for celebration!

THE SECOND PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS IS SALVATION!

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born for you; He is Christ the Lord!" Luke 2:11

The Christ Child comes with God's purpose. He has been sent with a mission. Jesus saves us from our sins. He has come to save us for a purpose. He has come to save us by God's grace. Each of these salvific actions allows us a new relationship with God, our neighbors and with world. Because of the Christ child, we can be new and renewed people, confident in faith.

THE THIRD PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS IS RECONCILIATION!

"Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:13-14 (KJV)

Rick Warren reminds us that Christmas is a time for new beginnings. As God shows us his unfathomable love for us, it inspires us to look upon each other with the same loving forgiveness.

Because of Jesus, we can deepen in our peace with God (spiritual). We can experience the Peace of God (emotional). And we can then share that peace of God with each other (relational). As God reconciled the sin of the world with this Bethlehem babe, so to should we, his followers confess to, repent to and reconcile the hurts that bind us, in the blood of Jesus Christ.

As he concludes, Warren reminds us, "If I were to get a Christmas gift from you this Christmas, and I never opened it... One, you would be disappointed. You'd be hurt. And two, it would be a worthless gift because I received no benefit from it if I never opened it. Jesus Christ is God's Christmas gift to you. Yet, you have gone Christmas after Christmas and never opened the biggest gift under the tree – the gift of salvation. God's gift to you. Why even celebrate Christmas if you're not going to open the biggest gift? Just get on with it. It doesn't make sense to leave the gift of your past forgiven, a purpose for living, and a home in heaven. Who would ever leave that gift unwrapped?" My Prayer is that we prepare ourselves as Christ's followers to accept his gift to us this year. My Jesus truly be the reason for our Christmas season. Merry Christmas.

In Service to Christ,
Pastor Tom

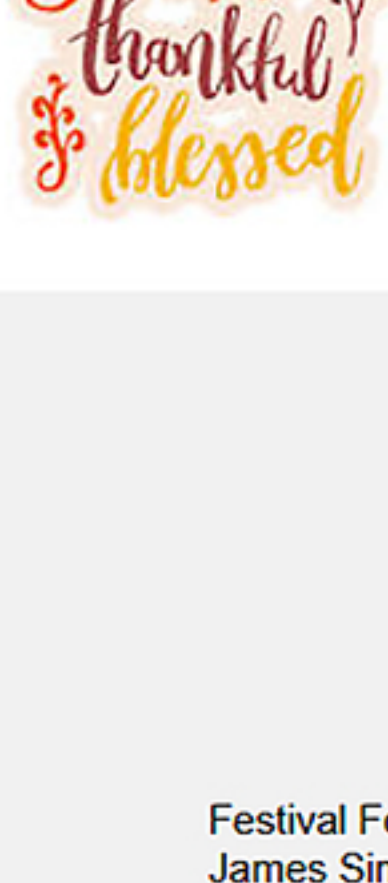


[Join us for These Special Advent Services](#)

**Wednesday mornings and evenings:
12/3; 12/10; 12/17**

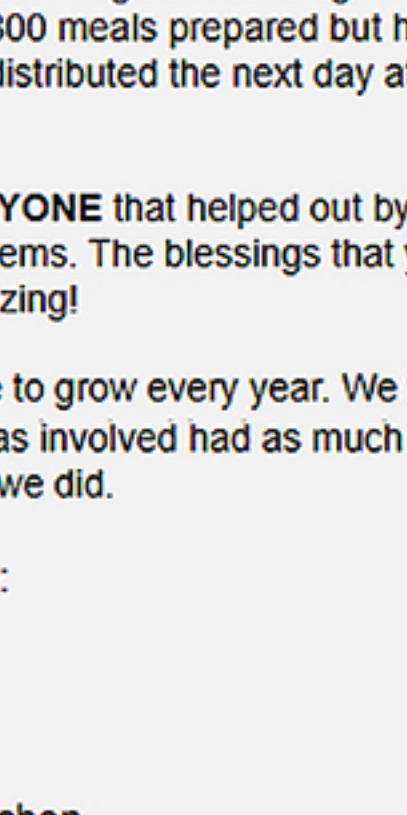
10:30a Advent Worship

6:00p Advent Worship.



**3:30pm and 5:30pm
Christmas Eve Service**

**9:30am Christmas Day
Service w/Communion**



Our Thanksgiving meal was a huge success again this year. We met our goal of 800 meals prepared but had some leftovers that were distributed the next day at Broken Bread.

Thank you again to **EVERYONE** that helped out by donating time, money or items. The blessings that you have given us is truly amazing!

We know this will continue to grow every year. We truly pray that everyone that was involved had as much enjoyment helping out as we did.

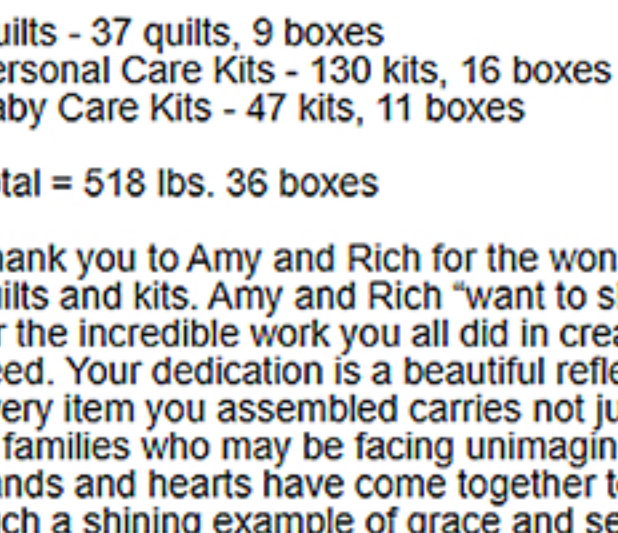
This year's donors were:

J. F. Lopez Roofing
Alsum Foods
Seneca Foods
Boda's Restaurant
Kay w/Taycheedah DOC Kitchen
Culver's Restaurant
Joe Klopp, Ctme Chair Trip 701
Festival Foods/Turkey Trot Runners/Boys and Girls Club
James Simmers, Consultant w/MPTC Culinary Arts Dept
Church of Peace Bakers for 450 Pumpkin Bars
Hoff's Meat Market
Loaves and Fishes
Kwik Trip

Also our partners/volunteers from other churches and the community:
Church of Peace, Pilgrim Church and Broken Bread

Absolutely blessed to be part of God's plan!!!

Becky Bast-Skorik and Tess Schwartz, FAITH In Action

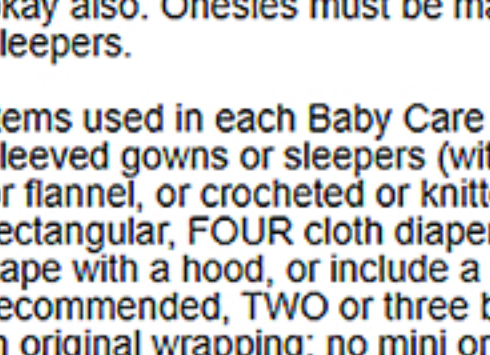


**Loaves & Fishes
2026 Schedule**

**I-T in conjunction with Our Saviors
Lutheran Church will be serving on
the following dates:**

**February 23
March 30
October 12
December 7**

Mark your calendars!!!



WELCA News December 2025

The donation tree for Baby Care Kits and (new this year) Dorcas Circle Quilling Supplies is available. Donations to Dorcas Circle will be used to purchase quilt batting, which is quite expensive. Please see the list below for baby care kit items, if you wish to shop, or donate to either cause. Your donations last year allowed WELCA to increase the number of kits we sent.

The boxes of quilts and kits were picked up Friday, October 3rd. The totals for this year:

Quilts - 37 quilts, 9 boxes
Personal Care Kits - 130 kits, 16 boxes
Baby Care Kits - 47 kits, 11 boxes

Total = 518 lbs. 36 boxes

Thank you to Amy and Rich for the wonderful job they are doing to pack and ship our quilts and kits. Amy and Rich "want to share these numbers along with their appreciation for the incredible work you all did in creating quilts and baby care kits for those in need. Your dedication is a beautiful reflection of Christ's love in action. Every stitch and every item you assembled carries not just warmth and comfort but also hope and dignity to families who may be facing unimaginable hardship. It's inspiring to see how so many hands and hearts have come together to serve others so selflessly." Thank you for being such a shining example of grace and service. Please pass this along to all the others who have contributed to this amazing mission.

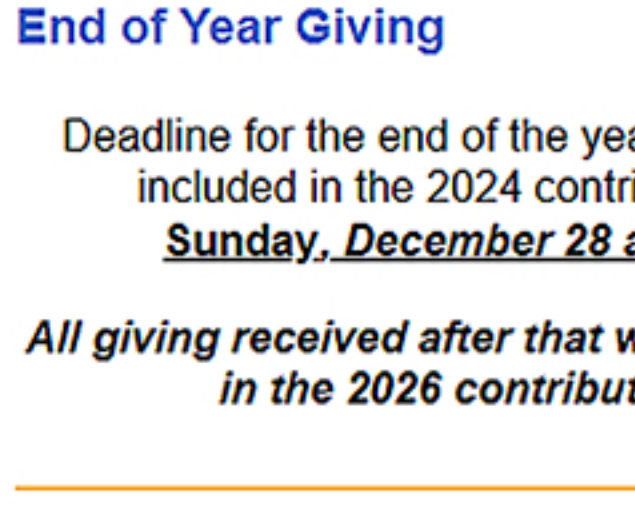
New from Lutheran World Relief: All items **MUST** be new starting Jan. 1, 2026, or in like-new pristine condition - except all towels and socks must be new. Homemade items are still acceptable - blankets and sweaters, even knitted socks are ok. The T-shirt diapers are okay also. Onesies must be made into t-shirts and feet must still be removed from sleepers.

Items used in each Baby Care Kit: TWO lightweight cotton t-shirts, TWO long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet), TWO receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 32" and 52" square or rectangular, FOUR cloth diapers, flat fold preferred, ONE jacket, sweater, sweatshirt or cape with a hood, or include a baby hat, TWO pairs of socks, ONE hand towel, dark color recommended, TWO or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars, TWO diaper pins or large safety pins.

Your 2026 Calendars are available for pick up by the Church Office or in the narthex. Thank you to Don Kurki for the calendars. They are beautiful! Make sure to pick one up.

Sunday, December 21

All reports need to be submitted to Pat by this date to be included in the 2025 Annual Report.

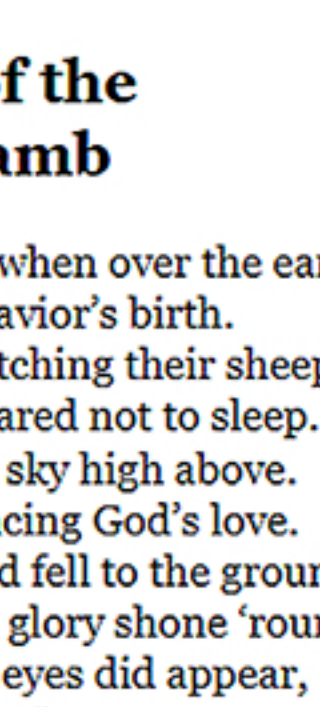


**Mark your Calendars
Annual Meeting is scheduled for
Sunday, January 25, 2026 after
the 9:30am worship service.**

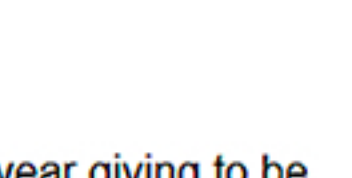
Faith in Action The Giving Tree

Pick an ornament from the tree to help support those in need locally this holiday season.

New Beginnings Pregnancy Center
St. Katharine Drexel Shelter
ADVOCAP Headstart Children in Need
The Giving Tree will be up thru January 4, 2026



Wednesday



Sunday

Wednesday, January 31



The 2026 offering envelopes have been distributed. Please do not use them until January 2026 as some numbers have changed.
All 2025 donations need to be at the church by Sun., December 28, 2025. If you would like to have envelopes, contact the church office and we will be happy to get you some.

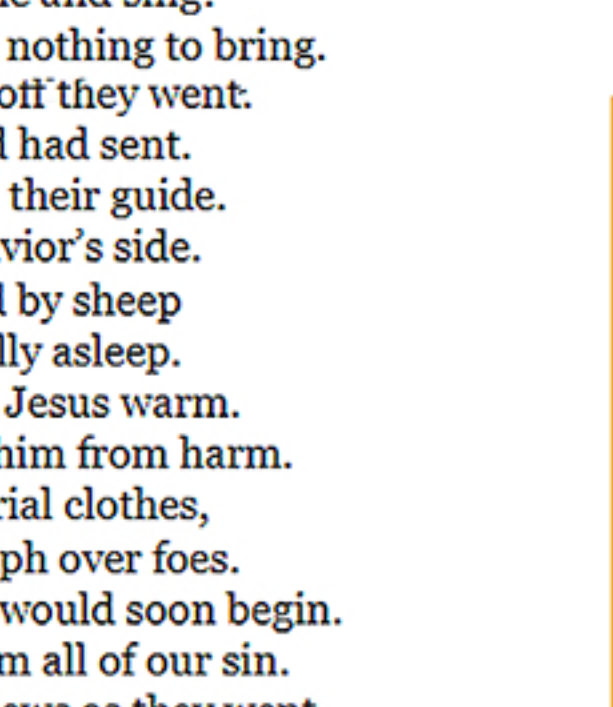
Please use our email address - immanuelfdl@gmail.com

End of Year Giving

Deadline for the end of the year giving to be included in the 2024 contributions is

Sunday, December 28 at 10am.

All giving received after that will be included in the 2026 contributions.



The Coming of the Christmas Lamb

"Twas the night before Christmas, when over the earth People were awaiting the Savior's birth.

Shepherds were resting while watching their sheep. Because of wild animals, they dared not to sleep.

Suddenly light shone from the sky high above. A bright star appeared announcing God's love.

The shepherds were frightened and fell to the ground. In the darkness of the night, God's glory shone 'round.

When what to their wondering eyes did appear, But a choir of angels who said, "Do not fear!"

"A Savior is born in a city close by."

"Jesus, the Lord, in a manger does lie."

Good tidings of great joy they did proclaim. The shepherds knew life would not be the same.

We're just ragged old shepherds with nothing to bring. They rounded up their sheep and off they went.

To find the Savior, the one God had sent. In the dark of night, the star was their guide.

And soon they arrived at the Savior's side. There in a manger surrounded by sheep The Lamb of God was peacefully asleep.

The sheep nestled closely to keep Jesus warm. The shepherds stood watch to keep him from harm.

Baby Jesus was swaddled in burial clothes, A symbol of His death, and triumph over foes.

Jesus was the promised one, His work would soon begin. The Christ child came to save us from all of our sin.

The shepherds they spread the good news as they went, To let others know that a Savior was sent.

When you seek Him and ask Him to make your sins clean White as wool they'll become—not a spot to be seen.

When His gift of salvation you accept and claim, In the Lamb's Book of Life will be written your name.

Yes, the Lamb of God, brought salvation and light. So Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.

Copyright December 2014

December Birthdays



12/2: Emily Rozell

12/15: Julie Dey

12/24: Beth Krause

12/4: Alek Giese, Samuel Wright

12/16: Daniel Fox, Ruby Baumann

12/26: Ruth Auchtung, Carla Brown, Joyce Drennan, Susan Ringer

12/5: Deanna Jacobs

12/17: Melody Masteller, Samuel Skorik, Missy Seider

12/27: Samson Hamburg, Lauren Kellar, Michael Nanna

12/7: Rachel Schroeder, Jeffrey Wolff

12/18: Kathy Brost

12/28: Jackson Waldschmidt

12/11: Roger Belling

12/19: Greg Belling, Nicholas Dilling, Luna Biessman

12/29: JoAnn Roehl

12/12: Dan Brosi, Mitchell Triatik

12/22: Colbie Dalton, Jacob Dilling, Ashley Hall, Magdalena (Peg) Rentmeister

12/30: Gail Gosdeck, Stephanie Fox

DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 9am Yoga on the mat 10:15 am chair yoga	2 1pm Pickleball 6pm Boy Scouts	3 6pm Spark connect & Confirmation	4 8:45am, 10am, 11:15am Stay Strong	5 8:15am Pickleball	6 5:30pm worship communion
7 9:30am worship communion 10:30am adult education	8 9am Yoga on the mat 10:15 am chair yoga	9 1pm Pickleball 7pm Boy Scouts	10 6pm Spark connect & Confirmation	11 8:45am, 10am, 11:15am Stay Strong	12 8:15am Pickleball	13 5:30pm worship
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21 9:30am worship communion 10:30am adult education	22	23 1pm Pickleball 7pm Boy Scouts	24 3:30pm, 5:50pm Christmas Eve worship	25 9:30am Christmas Day worship	26 8:15am Pickleball	27 5:30pm worship
28 9:30am worship communion 10:30am adult education	29	30 1pm Pickleball 7pm Boy Scouts	31 Christmas Eve worship	Day worship		
28 9:30am worship communion 10:30am adult education	29	30 1pm Pickleball	31			

