



Immanuel

Lutheran Church

Love. Serve. Repeat.

1116 E. Devon Avenue
Bartlett. IL 60103

630-837-1166
immanuelbartlett@sbcglobal.net
www.ImmanuelLutheranBartlett.com

January 2026



*Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king,
behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is
he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east,
and are come to worship him.*

Matthew 2:1-2

Some Thoughts about “New”

Some thoughts about “New”- as we enter a New Year of Grace, the time which our patient God has been giving us to prepare for the return of His beloved Son as Judge of the living and the dead.



Much is attractive about what is new.

For examples,

- a brand new shiny car with no dents or scratches and even a new smell,
- or a newly built home without the marks and wear that living brings.

The very first Sunday of the year points us to the Baptism of Our Lord

- and since we are baptized “into Christ”
- it points to us too.

And our Baptism is about our being made new every day!

Lutherans sometimes are intimidated by people, usually of an evangelical persuasion, who tell us that our Baptism doesn't count. They call it a “water Baptism” and claim it has nothing to do with true Baptism, which they equate with their experience of being born again at a very specific time. Making this a valid experience involves such things as being of a certain age-- old enough to make a personal decision to follow Christ and being able to express that decision with a profession of faith.

But infant Baptism is what we, along with the majority of Christians around the world and through the centuries, understand as one of the means of grace -- available also for babies when things like sermons cannot be comprehended due to their developmental limits. In other words, HOLY BAPTISM IS NOT EFFECTIVE BECAUSE OF WHAT WE CAN DO, but as a means of **grace** (undeserved love) it is effective purely because of what God does.

The verbs that refer to Holy Baptism in the New Testament are all PASSIVE-- that is, we are **baptized**, we are given the new birth of water and the Spirit. IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF DOING. Otherwise, we might also presume that if we become extremely ill and lose consciousness, our Baptism could no longer be of any real effect or provide any comfort and strength.

There is much to study here-- but nothing for Lutherans to be apprehensive about at all as the NEW Testament is studied....

But back to the point. Just because grace is NOT about what we can do, we can actually be brand shiny new each day of our lives. Baptism establishes a wonderfully welcoming home for us, like that of the Prodigal Son, complete with a waiting Heavenly Father running to greet us. We sin daily, and daily in the power of our Baptism, we go home to be forgiven and renewed.

“If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come.”
- 2 Corinthians 5:17

That is baptismal talk...

Many of our readers may remember once memorizing the following words from the Catechism on The Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

“What does such baptizing with water indicate?”

“It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, AND THAT A NEW MAN SHOULD DAILY EMERGE AND ARISE TO LIVE BEFORE GOD IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PURITY FOREVER.

“Where is this written?”

“St. Paul writes in Romans, chapter 6. We were therefore buried (NOTICE THE PASSIVE!) with Him through Baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

So have more than a wish for a Happy New Year. Receive it with the gift of God’s grace to you in Holy Baptism. Confidently expect it-- just because it **does not depend on what you have been able, or will be able, to do on your own.**

Pastor Bauman

Celebrating the simple depths of
baptism



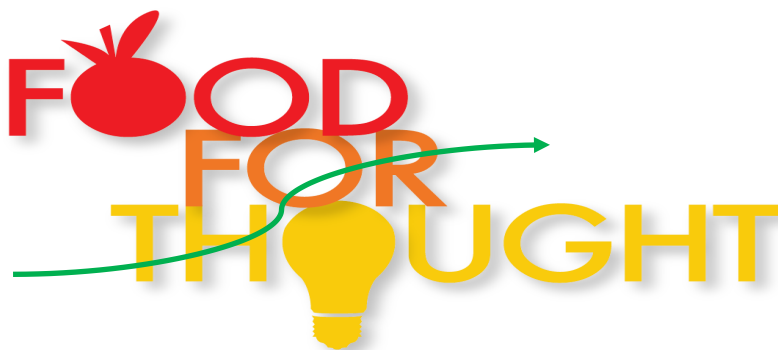


THANK YOU

Immanuel thanks everyone that decorated the church for Christmas - The Church looked beautiful again this year! We could not have done it without your help.

Thanks again!

Ber Bayes



In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.

Prov. 16:9

MEOW, WOOF AND THANK YOU!

PET ITEMS for our animal friends to benefit local shelters were collected this past month. This year the donations went to the West Suburban Humane Society and St. Sophia's Forgotten Felines. A box was placed in the narthex for people to place donations of food and toys and cleaning supplies for the animals at the shelters. Our congregation was very generous. Many items were collected!

Thank you again to all who made this years drive a success!

Adele Pikora
Pet Donation Organizer



OUR MONTHLY MAGAZINE,

The Lutheran Witness, is a very helpful way to keep us connected to the larger Church and to provide support for personal faith in challenging times. You can subscribe by calling 800-325-3040 or by sending a note to this email address:
lwsubscriptions@cph.org.

A sample copy is in the wall rack in the narthex.



January Birthdays

| | | | |
|------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| Matt Waxler | 01/01 | Denise Luper | 01/09 |
| Maryam Shahbaz | 01/03 | John Moninger | 01/22 |
| Beverly Bayes | 01/04 | Al Thilk | 01/22 |
| Colleen Anderson | 01/05 | Lawrence Pikora | 01/23 |
| | | Rebecca Waxler | 01/31 |

THE GIFT OF GIVING AT IMMANUEL

From mid November to mid December we participated in the Hanover Park Township Sponsor-A-Family program for people who can't afford to get Christmas presents for their children. This year we were given a family with 4 children. Aaron (age 3 years), Moises (age 3 mo.), Dalary (age 8) and Daniela (age 10). We were able to provide 30 gifts for this family. From coats and gloves to fun things like toys and games.

Thank you to all who participated in this very worthwhile project, making Christmas for these folks much more joyous than it would have been for them otherwise. We found out that over 2800 children were provided for.

It is a wonderful program and we look forward to continue to partner with them to provide for our needy families in the future.

Immanuel can certainly feel very proud of the magnitude of their contribution.

Lynn Zillmer
Sponsor-A-Family Coordinator



January 2026 Schedules



Lay Minister Schedule

January 4 - Gary Luper & Marty Sterrett
January 11 - Gary Luper
January 18 - David Schroeder & Marty Sterrett
January 25 - David Schroeder



Reader Schedule

January 4 - Adele Pikora
January 11 - Sally Hover
January 18 - David Schroeder
January 25 - David Schroeder

If you would like to volunteer to serve, please call the office.

If unable to serve when scheduled, please try to find a substitute. Also notify the church office as soon as possible (630 837-1166 or immanuelbartlett@sbcglobal.net) Thank you!



January 2026

Hispanic Ministry Church

Sunday - 1:00 p.m. - 5:00:p.m.

Tuesday - 6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Friday - 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight

The last Sunday of every month

1:00 p.m. - 6:30:p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Monday - 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Meeting - 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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|---|----|--|----|--|----|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 8:00-10:00 a.m. Church Properties |
| 4 Epiphany Sunday 9:30 a.m. Worship Service (HC) 10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class, Surge 5:00 p.m., | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 8:00-10:00 a.m. Church Properties |
| 11 The Baptism of Our Lord 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class, | 12 | 13 Board of Lay ministry 7:00 p.m. | 14 | 15 Hearthwood Senior Living Service 1:30 p.m. Board of Directors 7:00 p.m. | 16 | 17 8:00-10:00 a.m. Church Properties |
| 18 Second Sunday after the Epiphany 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice 9:30 a.m. Worship Service (HC) 10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class, | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 8:00-10:00 a.m. Church Properties |
| 25 Third Sunday after the Epiphany 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Voters Assembly | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 8:00-10:00 a.m. Church Properties |