

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

United in faith and empowered by the Spirit, Immanuel **embraces, educates, and engages** our community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Immanuel means "God with us." Knowing this, the possibilities for Immanuel's ministries are unlimited. Immanuel's ministries focus on three pillars supported by the foundation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The pillars of **embracing, educating, and engaging** our community serve as guideposts and reflect our unity of faith. The strength of these pillars is based on three faithful relationships originated and strengthened by the Holy Spirit: First, God with us; Next, our interactions with Each Other; and Third, our outward interactions with our neighbors.



### Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples (educate) of all nations (embrace), baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (engage), and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you (educate). And surely I am with you always (engage), to the very end of the age (embrace)."

### Immanuel Lutheran Church

400 N Aspen Ave  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
918-258-5506  
[www.immanuelba.org](http://www.immanuelba.org)

#### Sundays

9am Traditional Divine Worship  
10:30am Sunday School Classes  
for everyone  
11:30am Modern Divine Worship

#### Church Ministry Staff

Rev. Benjamin Braun  
*Pastor*  
  
Todd Stevens, DCE  
*Director of Children's Ministry*  
  
Carrie Ann Swaim  
*Director of Youth Ministry*  
  
Chris Winston  
*Director of Music & Organist*  
  
Rebecca Winston  
*Director of Vocal Music*  
  
Tammy Seeman  
*Church Office Manager*  
  
Garnita Kuhlmann  
*Church Office Receptionist*

#### Immanuel Lutheran Christian Academy

400 N. Aspen, BA 74012  
Phone: 918-251-5422  
Website: [ilcanews.org](http://ilcanews.org)

Twilla Berwaldt  
*Executive Director*

#### Immanuel Lutheran Christian Academy Preschool

400 N. Aspen, BA 74012  
Phone: 918-258-7622  
Website: [ilcanews.org](http://ilcanews.org)

Keisha Huggins  
*Preschool Director*  
  
Rachel McGrew  
*Assistant Preschool Director*



Praise be to his glorious name forever;  
may the whole earth be filled with his glory.

Psalm 72:19

**Pastor Ben's Corner****A Culture of Invitation****Hebrews 13:2**

**"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."**

As was discussed at our November Voter's Meeting, one of our immediate goals is to help us achieve our vision, which is develop a "culture of invitation", here at Immanuel. But what does that actually look like, and how does it fit into our vision? Well, to start off, let's look at our vision statement. Our vision statement states that, "United in faith and empowered by the Spirit, Immanuel **embraces, educates, and engages** our community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Now we can address how "developing a culture of invitation" here at Immanuel will help us fulfill this vision. The first thing to keep in mind is that this is just one goal that we can work on immediately as a congregation, to work towards the larger vision. Second, all of the three pillars of our vision statement (embrace, educate, and engage) require some sort of invitation. Both on a congregational level and an individual level.

Take for example engage, it is impossible to engage others without inviting them to likewise engage. Or educate, how can we express our beliefs and invite to our activities if we aren't willing to invite?

Finally, "Developing a culture of invitation", helps us to openly invite others to hear the Gospel Message of Jesus Christ at each of our events and in our interactions with each person we come into contact with.

But what does this look like? How can we develop a culture of invitation, and how do we know when we have achieved it? Well, we have utilized two events during this past Advent season to try some new things. The first was to provide ornaments for the Boar's Head festival, designed to make it easy for people to invite others to attend with them.

The second was to provide a card with the dates and times for our "Blue Christmas Service" and our "Christmas Eve Service" We also included a description of the Blue Christmas Service with the card to help people be able to explain the service to the person they are inviting. The final part of this trial was to provide a QR code, so that people can share their stories of invitation, to help us measure how we are doing.

What happens next? We continue to find ways for our ministries to enable each of us to invite. I encourage each of you to develop a culture of invitation in your own homes. Inviting to church is great, especially when it involves developing personal, Christ-centered relationships at home.

One more next step is to, as a congregation, prepare our hearts to receive the invited. To do what the author of Hebrews writes, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." A culture of invitation must involve hospitality, hospitality that embraces, educates, and engages those among us and most importantly showers them with the love of Christ.

Who knows, maybe in developing a culture of invitation, we too will welcome angels unawares. While I can't guarantee that one, I can guarantee this, when we invite people to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the only invitation we will regret, is the one we never sent.

Respectfully yours,

**Pastor Benjamin A. Braun**

>>>Pastor Ben Braun

**LCMS Stewardship Ministry****Newsletter Article – January 2026**

*"And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new. Also, He said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true'" (Revelation 21:5).*

In January there is a great deal of "new" talk. Parties are held to ring in the "new" year. "New" year's resolutions are made to set a "new" course of life in the "new" year. There is date forgetfulness as checks and other forms are filled out without using the "new" year on the dateline.

We use all this "new" talk because there is very often so much wrong with the old in us. We think back to the "new" resolutions from the previous year that only lasted a few weeks. That "new" person did not shed any pounds and instead, picked up a few. The "new" habits of going to the gym were soon replaced by even more time on the couch binging on Netflix. The "new" person who does not lose their temper, use sarcasm as a lethal weapon and spend more money than necessary, but who worships, prays and serves the Lord and the neighbor, never seemed to stick around. We need "new" talk because the Old Adam is alive and well within every one of us.

But this promise of "new" is a matter of stewardship. It is the Lord Himself who makes the promise of all things being new. These words recorded by St. John are not pious wishes or hopeless promises. They do what they say. YOU, that one baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection, are NEW! These words are indeed trustworthy and true. This "new" comes to you in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It comes free of charge, even without our prayer.

This stewardship of "new" is not a vague, someday kind of stewardship either. You are NEW now! Forgiven. Reborn from above. The old is gone, nailed to Calvary's cross and buried and rotting in a tomb that was only borrowed by Jesus for His resurrection rest. The Gospel is what makes us NEW every morning. Remembering your baptism, you are new. Confessing your sins and receiving absolution makes you new. Hearing the Gospel filling your ears makes you new. Feasting on Christ's body and blood in the Holy Supper makes you new.

These mercies, totally undeserved as they are, are entrusted to us to steward TODAY even as we long for the Last Day. But we know how often we fail in this stewardship. We hoard God's creation as if it belongs to us. We belittle and devalue our neighbor because they look or sound or act in a way that we do not like. We seek to make the Holy Word of God softer and more palatable for those, or even ourselves, who refuse to confess sin as sin and repent. We value our comfort over truth, our reputation over faithfulness and our treasure over making sure that people get to hear of the Jesus who has done so much for the world and us.

We, as stewards of the Gospel, need to be made new every day. This is exactly what the Lord does. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel last year, so He gives us a new year. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel yesterday, and He gives us a new day. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel in the last few minutes, and yet in mercy our newness comes with each tick of the clock! Because that is how the Lord works.

As we see this working of all new things in us, it then calls us to be stewards of this newness to the world. This starts right in our own homes. It radiates out to our neighbors. It beams out from our congregations. This newness is teamed at the circuit, district and Synod levels all to shine the newness of the Gospel to those who need it.

Your new talk starts in the newness of the Gospel. Steward this treasure in this new year and this new day. It starts with a new you in Jesus. This is indeed trustworthy and true.



January 25-31

National Lutheran Schools Week provides more than 1,800 preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work among us in schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

We thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children we serve. We are most grateful for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with children and their families.

National Lutheran Schools Week gives us an opportunity to proclaim these great blessings within the communities we serve.

Our schools are amazing incubators for faithful witness of God's love for us through Christ by teachers and students alike.



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN ACADEMY GIVING OPPORTUNITY

**ILCA Scholarship Fund:** This fund is used to support staff families, and families who may have additional needs or possibly do not qualify for the Parental Choice Tax Credit or OSF due to issues beyond their control. Donations may be made in the ILCA office.

If you have any additional questions? Please reach out to Mrs. Berwaldt for answers. Thank you for your consideration in giving to these much appreciated funding sources.



HEBREWS 13:2, NRSV

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

All classes begin at 10:30am

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Everyone His Witness – led by Pastor Ben; meet in the gym.

**NEW CLASS starting January 4<sup>th</sup>:** The study of the book of 1 John. Led by Pastor Spomer; meet in the Multipurpose Room.

### CHILDREN'S CLASSES:

3-5 year olds – Rm 110    2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – Rm 115  
K & 1<sup>st</sup> grade – Rm 111    4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/& 6<sup>th</sup> grade – 116

**YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES** meet in

### SUNDAY CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes for all 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders meet Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour, 10:30am.

If you would like to start Confirmation but are not in these grades, please let Todd Stevens know because we will be adding a class for those students.

You can email him at [tstevens@immanuelba.org](mailto:tstevens@immanuelba.org).

If you know of someone who could use this information, please forward it to them.

### YOUTH MINISTRY

#### JOIN US FOR WINGS (aka youth group)

We meet regularly on Wednesdays.  
All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to join us!

#### Wednesday WINGS schedule:

3:00-6:00pm: Fellowship and open gym  
5:30pm: Supper  
6:00-7:30pm: Bible studies (see what we are studying on page 3)



### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT KIDS CLUB 6:00-7:30pm

JOIN US FOR BIBLE ADVENTURES, CREATIVE CRAFTS, MUSIC MADNESS, & EPIC GAMES!

This is for all kids ages 3yrs to 5<sup>th</sup> grade!

Kids Club is a time to make new friends, have a blast, and grow closer to Jesus in a super fun way!

So bring your energy and your smile!

Parents: We've got a safe and welcoming space for your kids to shine!

Meet in the Gym & Multipurpose Room.

Questions? Contact Todd Stevens at [tstevens@immanuelba.org](mailto:tstevens@immanuelba.org).

### PLAY & PRAY GROUP January Schedule

Bring your little ones for fellowship, fun and support as Christian parents and caregivers.

This group is for children from infancy through Preschool and their Parents / Grandparents / or other Caregivers are invited to join us.

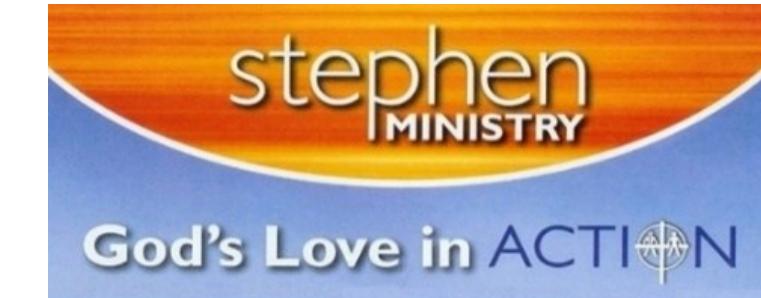
#### We meet at 10am – see location:

Saturday, Jan 10—Home (call church office for location)

Friday, Jan 16—Church nursery room

Saturday, Jan 24—Family Fun Day at church

Contact the church office for more information, 918-258-5506.



### WHAT IS STEPHEN MINISTRY?

Stephen Ministry offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members—called *Stephen Ministers*—to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation experiencing life difficulties.

Are you experiencing a crisis, facing a challenge, or going through a tough time? A Stephen Minister can help.

After being matched with a person experiencing a life crisis, the Stephen Minister meets with that person on a weekly basis to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. The caring relationship lasts as long as the need for care exists.

To inquire about Stephen Ministry, contact the church office, 918-258-5506 or check the box below the prayer request section of the attendance register to learn more about how Stephen Ministry can help you.

#### A Stephen Minister is...

A child of God who walks beside a person who is hurting

A congregation member with gifts for caregiving

A lay person who has received 50 hours of training in providing emotional and spiritual care

A caring, Christian friend who listens, cares, prays, supports, and encourages

Someone who will "be there" for his or her care receiver, for as long as there is a need

A extension of the Pastoral Office and Elders, to assist them in caring for those who are faced with a crisis.

**Stephen Ministers** are ready to provide the emotional and spiritual care we need when faced with a crisis or difficulty such as:

Loss of a loved one

Hospitalization, chronic/terminal illness

Divorce or separation

Loneliness or discouragement

Spiritual crisis

Unemployment or job crisis

Aging

Birth, adoption, miscarriage, or infertility

Relocation

Recovery after an accident or disaster

When life overwhelms you



#### Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry:

The identity of those receiving care and what takes place in each caring relationship remain private.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

**Ever thought of singing in choir?  
This is a great chance to join us for a limited time and see what you think!**

We need singers from now through Easter and would love to have YOU! Come join our fun, welcoming groups and make us better together as we sing some of the most wonderful literature of the church year!

**Schola Cantorum Children's Choir –**

Wednesdays at 5:30pm

**Handbells –** Wednesdays at 5:45pm

**Chancel Choir –** Wednesdays at 7:00pm

**Children's Chimes –** Wednesdays at 6:45pm

**Praise Band –** Thursdays at 6:00pm  
(see Chris Winston for scheduling details)

**Orchestra –** Thursdays at 7:00pm

**Men's Choir –** Sundays at 6:00pm (offsite)

For more information, please contact  
**Chris Winston** [cwinston@immanuelba.org](mailto:cwinston@immanuelba.org) or  
**Rebecca Winston** [rwinston@immanuelba.org](mailto:rwinston@immanuelba.org).

**Save the date ! Save the date! Save the date!**

## MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE

**The LCMS invites everyone to memorize a verse together each week.**

Here are the verses for each week in January:

Jan 4—Psalm 37:23-24

Jan 11—Ephesians 1:7

Jan 18—1 John 2:2

Jan 25—Leviticus 19:18

It is our great opportunity and joy to read and study God's Word. One beneficial practice is to memorize the Scriptures and, in so doing, to meditate on it.

There is a new verse each week.

Go to [www.lcms.org/worship/memory-verse-challenge](http://www.lcms.org/worship/memory-verse-challenge).



## BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

### TUESDAYS

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** is starting a new study on January 6<sup>th</sup>: "Living a Chocolate Life", by Deb Burma.

Fun, friendly, and engaging, *Living a Chocolate Life* invites women to savor God's rich and endless supply of grace in Christ. Whether they're sampling everything from bitter nuggets of pain to sweet morsels of joy, this study reminds readers that the Holy Spirit fills them with sweet faith in the Savior and it is only He who can truly satisfy. Each session focuses on one aspect of life as a Christian woman, encouraging readers toward introspection and personal reflection. **This study is on Tuesday mornings at 10:00am in the church office conference room; hosted by Lynn Beaird.**

### WEDNESDAYS

**MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST: "Deliver Us" - God's Rescue Story in Exodus.**

In "Deliver Us", Dr. Lessing offers an unique combination of Bible commentary and devotional reflection, applying biblical truth to our lives and inviting us to see how God uses His people's story for us in the book of Exodus. Book is available at Concordia Publishing House. **6:30am on Wednesdays at Chick-fil-A, 71<sup>st</sup> & Garnett; hosted by Joe Kuhlmann. For more information, call the church office, 918-258-5506.**

**YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY: *Gathered by Christ*.**

Author Christa Petzold empathizes and understands how Christians outside the physical church maybe be hesitant to return, yet she encourages them to come back and see the gifts Jesus gives through His Church. She brings light and emphasis to the ways Jesus sees His community of believers, founded securely on Him and His Word.

**We meet at the church, 6-7:30pm, in the church office conference room. Study led by Mark D'Arcy.**

*Wednesday Bible studies continued on the next column*

**WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP** will begin a new study on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. "Putting Jesus First", by Sarah Young. In this study, you will explore what it means to place Christ first in every part of your life—and rely on Him in the busy times, anxious times, uncertain times, and lonely times. **Join us Wednesdays from 6-7:30 pm, in the library. Hosted by Anna Braun.**

### YOUTH BIBLE STUDIES 6:00-7:30pm

**Middle School Boys & Girls** (in separate classes) -

**Fruits of the Spirit** - The fruits of the spirit describe the kind of character God wants us to embody. This study challenges our youth to not just learn about these traits, but to apply them to their everyday lives through the help of the Holy Spirit.

### High School Girls -

**Resilient Minds** - Concern for mental health has exponentially increased in recent years. In this study we approach topics through a biblical lens, promote wellness in a positive and constructive way, and keep Christ as the focus as we look at our identity.

**Fully Human - Flourishing Relationships** - The quality of our relationships has a huge impact on our quality of life, yet many struggle to connect and remain connected. All across society, relationships are breaking down: friendships faltering, congregations and community groups thinning, families dissolving. But our relational brokenness is never beyond the hope and help of God.

### High School Boys -

**Lesser Known Books of the Old Testament** - A deep dive study of the books we tend to gloss over; the minor prophets. This class is starting in Hosea and will move toward Malachi one book at a time.

**Follow Me** - Whether it's influencers, trends, or the constant pull of comparison and distraction, the world is discipling us often without our realizations. But Jesus offers a better invitation! Each lesson is rooted in Scripture and designed to guide students from cultural confusion to spiritual clarity.

### THURSDAYS

**BIBLE STUDY:** For men & women. **Thursdays at 10:00am in the church office conference room;** hosted by Dan Kois.



1 Dana deFreese	17 Vince Carr
2 Tonya Holladay	Irene Mathis
Mary Lelecas	18 Islay Barber
Jackie Oestreich	Joanna Holt
5 Deborah Wagner	20 Glen Brinton
6 John Blythe	Wyatt Martin
Breccan Hoehn	Nicholas Ratz
Angel Soto	21 Allison Fleming
7 Amy E. Cromer	22 Braden Sanzalone
9 Liz Engelman	23 Jerry Kindle
10 Justin Eisenhauer	25 David Lange
Miranda Smith	26 Sonya Grant
Stephen Thompson	Pam Lawson
11 Amy Bebout	Wes Rainwater
12 April Lemaster	28 Susan Finn
Michael Minnich	29 Addison Hoehn
13 Chuck Holladay	Claudia Karasek
14 Melissa James	Johnny Myers
Gabe Smith	Jay Stumbo
15 Adelaide Philippi	Rebecca Winston
16 Stacey Long	
Patty Palmer	



## Celebrating 90+ Years!

January 5  
Dolores Piepho, 97 years old

January 20  
Jim Dresher, 92 years old



2 Dan & Pam Kois, 10 years
5 Michael & Jennifer Stickney, 18 years
11 David & Kirstin Hood, 12 years
17 Michael & Heather Engelman, 22 years
Matthew & Michele Kinsey, 22 years
18 Scott & Danielle Hood, 6 years
19 Jerry & Lori Sparling, 36 years

## Celebrating 50+ Years!

January 23  
Don & Dawn Buss, 57 years

### ALTAR FLOWERS

#### Sign Up Now for any Sunday in 2026

You may now **pick a Sunday in advance** to sponsor altar flowers in honor or memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion such as a birthday, anniversary, or baptismal birthday.

Our hope is to have **fresh flowers every Sunday in 2026**, and the full-year sign-up is now available. Sign up on the table in the narthex or **online** for your convenience.

Each arrangement is **\$60**. If you have questions, please contact the church office at **918-258-5506**.

Online sign-up:  
<https://tinyurl.com/ILCflowers>



**Boar's Head Christmas Festival  
2025**

**Boar's Head Christmas Festival 2025**  
**Many thanks to the approximately 145 participants along with those who provided cookies, cider, water, and decorations, made it a great success!**  
**Enjoy some photo highlights from the evening.**



Today's altar flowers are in celebration of the 97<sup>th</sup> birthday of Dolores Piepho, lovingly given by her son, Orin Piepho. Dolores was born on January 5, 1929.

*Dear Lord, every year of life is a blessing received from Your hand. You are the Life and the source of life. Thank You for this birthday.*

**MANY, MANY THANKS** to those that gave toward the Staff Gift this past Christmas! Each church staff member was blessed beyond measure by your generosity! We also want to thank everyone for all the delicious treats you gifted to us during Christmas. Thank you for thinking of us!

Immanuel Church Staff

**MAY WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD as He granted 14 new births in Holy Baptism in 2025, here at Immanuel Lutheran Church:**

*Luke Daniels, Perseus Francetic, Violet Francetic, Lily Francetic, Nadja Rowan, Everest Clark, Walker Hood, Maryanne Miller, David Olinghouse, Elizabeth Olinghouse, Kathryn Raddatz, Sterling Draper, Millie Threadgill, and Logan Chastain.*

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19*



We give thanks to all who donated their time and talents to make this year's Boar's Head Festival possible. From those who worked on costumes, sets, décor, and logistics, to our cast, musicians, ushers, greeters, and stagehands, your dedication made this festival possible. It was truly a collaborative effort of our congregation. We also extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed cookies, apple cider, bottles of water and holly for the Boar's Head Festival. The cookies were delicious, the hot cider provided comfort on a cold evening, and the holly branches greatly enhanced the appearance of the refreshment tables. The water was greatly appreciated by all who needed a refreshing thirst quencher. Your generosity is truly valued. **THANK YOU!**

#### KEEP CONNECTED WITH CHURCH NEWS

The church website, [www.immanuelba.org](http://www.immanuelba.org), has up to date information: the announcement bulletin, calendar events, Youth Ministry events, etc. You can also download the church app: Immanuel Broken Arrow. Also, you can watch live on Facebook, YouTube, on our app, and on our website on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. for our worship service.

"United in faith and empowered by the Spirit, Immanuel **Embraces, Educates, and Engages** our community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

#### November 2025—Monthly Update

	2025 YTD	
Offerings Received (General Fund)	\$125,965	\$1,090,729
Total Income Received	\$145,533	\$1,393,229
Expenses	\$121,001	\$1,374,751
Surplus/Deficit	\$24,532	\$18,478

*In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:6*

#### "THE LUTHERAN WITNESS"

Each month a new issue is available for you.

It provides stories & information that complement congregational life, foster personal growth in faith, and help interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective.

The January 2026 issue should be arriving soon! (Located in the magazine holder on the wall in the main hallway.)

Immanuel,

Part of our privilege/duty as LCMS congregation, is to provide nominations for Synod President, Synod First Vice President and Vice President for the Central Region. Nominees must be on the ordained minister roster of the Synod and not a Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP). Nominees for the Central Vice President must reside in the Central Region.

If you know of someone that would like to nominate, please provide:

Name of nominee,  
Office for which you are nominating to,  
Brief explanation of why you are proposing nomination, and  
Your availability to possibly present information regarding nominee at the January Parish Planning Council (PPC) meeting on Saturday morning 1/24/26 (time TBD).

Nominations need to be emailed to Tammy Seeman ([tseeman@icaba.org](mailto:tseeman@icaba.org)) before 1/16/26. If you have questions, please email Paul Tobben ([congchair@immanuelba.org](mailto:congchair@immanuelba.org)). The PPC will determine nominations at the January PPC meeting. Our nominations will be submitted to the District and an announcement of our nominations will be provided in the newsletter and/or the bulletin.

#### HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Stop by the sound booth in the Sanctuary and pick up a device.

This is a state of the art system and we have several options available for our congregation. There are 20 available (which means we are fully ADA compliant) in Ear Piece version and Loop (Induction for Hearing Aids) version.

#### PORTALS OF PRAYER

##### Devotion Booklets

January-March 2026 issue available now, located in the magazine holder on the wall in the main hallway.

*Portals of Prayer* is a favorite of readers looking for ways to stay in God's Word with easy, daily devotions.

A great way to start each day, readings feature a Bible passage, meditation, & prayer in an easy-to-read format. *Portals of Prayer* is great for personal devotions and can be used to open church meetings or Bible studies.

*Portals of Prayer* has been a source of strength and comfort since 1937.

#### Part-Time Communications & Ministry Support Coordinator

As our ministries and worship services continue to grow, the Elder Board has identified the need to expand the responsibilities of our current Office Assistant position to include a stronger focus on communications, social media, and ministry alignment. This part-time role (approximately 20 hours per week) supports the Pastor and Office Manager and helps ensure clear, consistent communication throughout the congregation.

The primary focus of this expanded role is supporting church communications and social media, including assisting with daily, weekly and monthly communication efforts while maintaining consistency across platforms. The role also assists with church software and operational support, including Planning Center, and supports the development of weekly worship slides and churchwide communications.

This position works with tools such as Microsoft Office, Canva, Planning Center, and social media platforms including Facebook and other digital channels. The role collaborates with the Pastor, Office Manager, and ministry leaders to ensure communication is accurate, timely, and aligned with our mission.

This opportunity may be a great fit for someone who is organized, dependable, and brings prior experience with church or organizational communications, design tools, and social media platforms. Candidates should be comfortable working independently and applying these skills with minimal training. It is preferred that applicants be active members of our congregation.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Pastor directly. To apply, please submit a resume and brief letter of interest outlining relevant experience to the church office.



#### WE ARE HAVING A BLOOD DRIVE HERE AT IMMANUEL on SUNDAY, JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup>

Time: 9:00am—12:30pm  
Location: Gym

The Oklahoma Blood Institute will be set up in the gym (north-end), so please consider signing up to donate on January 18! A sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex.

#### Critical Need for Blood Donors

One person can help save hundreds of lives by hosting a blood drive. It's a rewarding experience.

#### Who Can You Help by Donating Blood?

Every day, blood donors help patients of all ages: accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those battling cancer. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.

