

To the Congregation

From: Pastor Ian

Subject: Preparing Our Hearts: A Congregation-Wide Study for our Interim Process

Dear Members of Immanuel Church,

As we continue through this vital **interim period**, we have been working on two main priorities: an **administrative review** of our church's operations and an **educational program** to enrich our understanding of what it means to be the church of Christ and part of God's family.

Pastor Ian is excited to teach and to share the plan for our educational component, a program designed not only to strengthen us now but to prepare us for the day we welcome our new minister.

Our Interim Study: *Salvation is of the Lord*

We are asking every member to join us in attending our study ***Salvation is of the Lord: Why the Church Still Matters.***

This study was chosen for three key reasons:

1. **Teaching is Biblical and easily Accessible:** No matter how long you've been a Christian, you will find this class to be deeply insightful, thoughtful, encouraging and yet easy to discuss.
2. **Foundation of the Faith:** We will grow together in a **greater biblical understanding** of what the church was created to be—a unified, intergenerational, and holy family defined by God's presence. The body of Christ.
3. **Relating Worship and Life:** It will heighten our awareness as to how God uses **preaching, the right administration of the Sacraments** and **worship** on the Lord's Day to continually gather, shape, and sanctify us as His family.

Why This Matters for our Future

Engaging with *Salvation is of the Lord* as congregation is one of the most powerful things we can do to prepare for calling our next minister. When we have a **clear, collective understanding** of who *we* are as God's family, we become more **discerning and unified** in understanding the kind of pastoral leader God is calling to serve at ILC. Knowing our identity is the first step to knowing what we need in a new under shepherd.

what's happening

at Immanuel ???

Coming up:

Tonight	5-7:30 p.m.	Confirmation
	6:00 p.m.	High School Bible Study
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men's Den
	6:00 p.m.	Churchyard Practice
Saturday	9:30 a.m.	The Right Path Recovery Meeting
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship & Coffee
	10:45 a.m.	FINANCIAL MEETING
Monday	8am-3pm	Home School Community
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	1:30 p.m.	Ruth Circle
	3:30 p.m.	Bible Study
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	5-7:30 p.m.	Youth Night
	6:00 p.m.	High School Bible Study

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER CONCERNS:

Mike Bakal, Mike Beseres, Rob Callisto, Ron Christenson, Gary DeBoer, Erica Dwire, Justin Fort, Tim Hummel, Krista Jones, Ricky Kooy, Bill & Glenda Langton, Betsy Liedl, Mark Lindberg, Pat Loew, Ryan & Lyndsey Lund, Kim Maas, Susan Mirau, Ron Mogen, Bernie Nephew, Jen Nissen, Adrian Olson, Lori Ostrowski, Shirley Sanborn, Bill Thoms, Dave Webber, Tom & Audrey Webber, Jim Ysseldyke

REMINDER:

- **Financial Information Meeting, Feb 8 at 10:45 a.m.** – the 2026 budget will be available and this is the time to ask questions or voice concerns regarding the budget.
- **Annual Meeting of the Congregation, Feb 15, 10:45 a.m.** Installation of new Council members; Congregation will vote on simple 'housekeeping' changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. **This meeting will be livestreamed. If you are watching the meeting**

from home and would like to text a question to be addressed, you may text your question to 218-838-8203.

This Sunday, February 8th is **SOUP-er Bowl Sunday** at Immanuel. There will be kettles placed in the sanctuary and fellowship hall to accept your spare change, other cash or check donations for the Cuyuna Range Food Shelf.

Spirit of Christmas Bazaar 2026

November 7th

There is lots of time to prepare for the Spirit of 2026 Christmas Bazaar. For crafters, this is a reminder to start planning your projects. Along with craft projects for sale at the bazaar, we are hoping there will be 4 to 5 individuals volunteering to contribute their project for the raffle. We are also asking for someone to help with the raffle by being a Team Leader. Last year the raffle sales were \$1,645.00.

All proceeds from the Spirit of Christmas Bazaar go to help out our local community. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let us know. Thank you for everything you can do to make the Spirit of 2026 Christmas Bazaar a success!

Carol Pundt (218-678-3256 land line) and Patty Kahnert (612-385-2927)

A Book Study for the congregation will begin in March called, *Becoming God's Family – Why the Church Still Matters*. Sign-up sheets are available in the fellowship hall to be part of a group. There is also an option for individuals to study the book. Pastor Ian has study guides available. The books will arrive soon and the cost is \$19 each. Please sign up to be a part of this important congregational study! *If you would be willing to be the facilitator of a small group for this study, please contact the church office.*

Also Beginning **March 1**: Pastor Ian will launch, **“Preparing Our Hearts: A Congregation-Wide Study for our Interim Process”** (see the letter at the beginning of this message). The sessions will be held on **Sunday mornings at 11am** in the sanctuary. Your participation is needed!

The Immanuel office will be closed on Monday, February 16th in observance of President's Day.

Wednesday night services for Lent begin on **Ash Wednesday**, February 18th at 6:45 p.m.

Wednesday night **Soup Suppers** will be held at 6pm, prior to Lenten Worship (6:45) beginning Wednesday, February 25. Everyone is welcome!

