

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and work for peace on earth until the coming of Jesus Christ our redeemer.

- Book of Common Worship Presbyterian Church (USA)

Peace is not the product of a victory or a command. It has no finishing line, no final deadline, no fixed definition of achievement. Peace is a never-ending process; the work of many decisions.

- Oscar Arias (Costa Rica) 1987 Nobel Peace Prize

We can promote peace by promoting sustainable management of our resources, equitable distribution of these resources, and having a political, economic system that facilitates this.

- Wangari Maanthai (Kenya) 2004 Nobel Peace Prize

It takes a few to make war, but it takes a village and a nation to build peace. - Abiy Ahmed Ali (Ethiopia) 2019 Nobel Peace Prize

When I didn't know which direction to turn, it was simple: Treat others the way you would want to be treated. Why would you treat them any differently? Be fair. Listen.

- Maria Ressa (Philippines) 2021 Nobel Peace Prize

MORNING WORSHIP SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 7, 2025 Ten O' Clock

PRELUDE

Partita on "Veni Emmanuel"

Callahan

Please enjoy the prelude as a time of silent preparation for worship.

CHORAL INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

CALL TO WORSHIP Deacon Moderator Kathleen Burchby

Leader: Today we light the candle of peace.

People: As the Lord has promised and the prophet foretold,

nations shall beat their swords into plowshares and their

spears into pruning hooks.

Leader: Let us enter this season of preparation as people of peace.

People: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

* HYMN 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1,2,5,6) Veni Emmanuel

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Teresa Larson

Leader: To our God of night and day, there is no shadow that can conceal our sins and no secret that will not be brought in time to light. As part of the Advent discipline of reflection and repentance, let us offer now our prayer of confession.

All: Gracious and peace-loving God, have mercy on all your people. We do not heed your word each day in the things we say and do. We do not see our neighbors, families, and friends as beloved children whom you have made and redeemed. In your mercy, forgive us as we look to your power to heal us and raise us up anew, so that at the last, we may receive your eternal peace. Amen.

* DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Larson

* THE PEACE

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. All: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.

^{*} Stand as you are able.

* RESPONSE (the congregation sings)

O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind; Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;

Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Robert Ater

THE SCRIPTURES Isaiah 11:1-10

(OT 640)

Leader: The Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Thou Shalt Know Him

Sirett

Thou shalt know him when he comes, Not by any din of drums, Nor his manners, nor his airs, Nor by anything he wears. Thou shalt know him when he come, Not by his crown or by his gown, But his coming known shall be, by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee. Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen, amen.

SILENT PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Larson

* HYMN 96 On Jordan's Bank the Baptists' Cry

Winchester New

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. Randall Bush
MINUTE FOR MISSION: Alternative Christmas Market

Connie Goggin & Susan Teerink, co-coordinators

THE WORSHIP OF GOD WITH OFFERINGS

Please sign the red Friendship Folder and greet one another following the service. Online worshipers please indicate your presence using the link on the website.

OFFERTORY Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Peeters

Children, youth, and teachers gather at the font for prayer before proceeding to Church School in The Peaceable Kingdom on the lower level.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

* DOXOLOGY (the congregation sings)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen

THE SCRIPTURES Matthew 3:1-12

(NT 2)

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "The Unsettling Peace of John the Baptist" Dr. Bush

* HYMN 100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Star of the County Down

* BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE Toccata on "Savior of the Nations, Come" Man7

The flowers are given to the glory of God by Gary Balcerzak in loving memory of Susan Woodward.

After the postlude, an elder will be at the font to hear prayer requests.

Welcome! If you are visiting Immanuel Church today, we welcome you to Milwaukee's first church, marking its 188th anniversary this year. Today's congregation of over 500 members comes from next door, neighborhoods throughout the city, and as far north as Fond du Lac, as far south as Kenosha, and as far west as Summit. Our livestream worship extends our community across the country.

Coffee Hour is part of the Alternative Christmas Market in the Upper Room. Please join us upstairs!

Welcome Team members this morning are Ray and Claire Moulis, and Leslie Davis. They are wearing nametags and are available to answer questions about the church and to give tours of the building.

"DOING GOD'S WORK TOGETHER" Stewardship for 2026 + UPDATE +

The theme for this year's Stewardship Campaign is "Doing God's Work Together." With a current total of 212 pledges, we are over two-

thirds of the way to our goal of 300 congregational pledges this fall to support next year's education, mission, worship, and hospitality ministries. If you need a new paper form, they are available on the Great Hall tables. To complete the pledge form online, go to https://bit.ly/IPC_2026Pledge or scan the QR code above. An pledges ongoing list of all received is available at: https://bit.ly/IPC_2026PledgesReceived. (Note: the list is updated weekly.)

Join us today for the ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET

in the Upper Room + 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



The Alternative Christmas Market has become one of Immanuel Church's favorite annual events. For over thirty years, it has offered an **alternative to the consumer culture that invades the Christmas season** – and has raised nearly a million dollars to support the work of partner organizations in Milwaukee and around the world.

Representatives from **fourteen organizations and agencies will be on hand** to talk with "shoppers" about the work of their organizations, how a gift to the Alternative Christmas Market can make a difference, and how Immanuel friends can volunteer to serve.

Cards are available for \$1.00 for the presentation of your gift, and each gift comes with a brief explanation of the project or organization it supports. Pre-printed cards are available in the room at the top of the stairs.

Come to the market and get to know our community in a new and deeper way. Enjoy holiday refreshments while you shop among friends. **New to the market? Event hosts will help you find your way.** Think about how the gifts you purchase will benefit people in Milwaukee and around the world.

More market details at: https://www.immanuelwi.org/acm2025

Enjoy a different way to do Christmas!

CELEBRATING OUR NAME AND OUR SPACE: "Immanuel" at 155 Years (1870) at Its Home at 150 (1875)

On December 7, 1870 members of First and North Presbyterian met to finalize the terms of their reunion after a 21-year separation. The Presbytery of Milwaukee had given its approval, pending "a name to be agreed upon." The name adopted that evening was "Immanuel Presbyterian Church," a reflection of the season and a prayer for its reconciled future, that "God (be) with us." The reunited congregation of 297 people quickly moved to elect elders, deacons, and trustees and plan for a church home. A site on "Yankee Hill" was chosen and after almost two years of construction this building was dedicated in 1875, 150 years ago, with a sermon on Ephesians 2:20-22, "... built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone."

ARE YOU NEW TO IMMANUEL?

Join us for one (or both!) of these upcoming events https://forms.gle/PUizNyWZm2H9TEqh8

"IPC 101: An Introduction to Immanuel" following worship NEXT Sunday, December 14 at 11:15 a.m.

Tour the church building, hear about Immanuel's ministries, and learn about what it means to be Presbyterian. The session will last approximately 45-60 minutes.

A Welcome and Orientation Event

following worship on Sunday, January 11 + 11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Designed for new friends interested in nurturing a deeper Immanuel connection and/or considering membership, participants will have an opportunity to hear Immanuel's story and learn about our shared mission and ministry. For more information or to indicate an interest in attending either of these events click here: https://forms.gle/PUizNyWZm2H9TEqh8, speak with one of the ministers today or contact Rev. Ater in the church office (robertater@immanuelwi.org).

NEW ADVENT RESOURCES Available in the Johnstone Library

All are invited to visit the Johnstone Library (adjacent to the Sanctuary, in the northwest corner near the livestream desk) to explore our collection of Advent devotionals, Bible studies, and poetry. Check out a resource or two to enjoy at home throughout the season!

PREVIEW CONVERSATION

Amahl and the Night Visitors

THIS Wednesday, December 10 + 7:00-8:00 on Zoom

On Christmas Eve 1951, the first opera written for television was premiered. Gian Carlo Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* tells the tale of a peasant boy's encounter with the Magi. Rev. David Perkins has been involved in over 10 productions and will lead an introduction to this work. During this special "preview" conversation to the choir's concert performance on December 14, we will also look at the biblical, historical, artistic, and folklore aspects of the mysterious Magi. The Zoom link will be sent out in an email prior to the session.

In Memoriam

Our **prayers and sympathy** are with F. Tessa Bartels and family after the death of her husband, Richard, on Saturday, November 29. A private committal service is planned at Fort Sam Houston in Texas.



ADVENT and CHRISTMAS at Immanuel

A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

Amahl and the Night Visitors by Gian Carlo Menotti Lighting of the Parlor Tree, Holiday Buffet NEXT Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 p.m.

Like and share on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/share/1AF9GfgvvZ/
The event begins with a performance of Amahl and the Night Visitors by choral soloists; moves to the Parlor for the lighting of the tree and a story for children; and then ascends to the Upper Room for a holiday hors d'oeuvres and dessert buffet. Your "ticket" is the holiday specialty of your kitchen for the Hors d'oeuvres and Dessert Buffet. Sign-up in the Parlor or online at (https://bit.ly/IPC_HolidayBuffet2025).

CHANT CLAIRE CHOIR ENSEMBLE HOLIDAY CONCERTS: Come Down, Ye Heavens Saturday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, December 21 at 3:00 p.m.

This winter season, embrace the mystery and majesty of "Drop Down, Ye Heavens," a stirring program centered around Judith Weir's evocative setting of the ancient Advent texts. This concert offers a contemplative journey through sound and spirit featuring music that calls forth reflection, anticipation, and hope. Join us in this sacred space as we welcome the season with music that opens the heavens and stirs the soul! A reception will follow each performance. **This is a ticketed event.** In gratitude for hosting the concerts, the choir is offering free tickets for Immanuel members and friends that must be purchased in advance online. Visit https://www.chantclaire.org/tickets/drop-down-ye-heavens and use code **IMMANUEL25** at checkout.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS Student Lunch/Brunch

As Christmas approaches, the Immanuel ministers and deacons invite the congregation to keep our Immanuel students and young adults in your prayers as they take exams and finish end-of-term projects and plan to travel home for a holiday break. Once again this year, the ministers and deacons will host a luncheon for Immanuel students and young adults who are home for break.

An email invitation will be sent to students and parents with the dates being considered. If you are a college student or have one in your household, please respond here: https://forms.gle/zVyQChknLcgnGDhJ7. We hope to finalize the date soon!

"CIRCLE OF CARING" GATHERING

Sunday, December 28 from 11:20 - noon

The holiday season can be a difficult time for those who have experienced a significant loss. In addition to the death of a loved one, people also experience grief around the loss of a job or retirement, a significant change in health, the end of a marriage or important relationship, or moving to a different home. If you would be encouraged by the mutual support of others, please plan to join one of the ministers for a "Circle of Caring" conversation on the final Sunday of the year: December 28 from 11:20 until noon. You'll find a safe space for sharing, listening, reflecting, praying, and being present to each other.



NOON YEAR'S EVE PARTY in the Peaceable Kingdom Wednesday, December 31 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Join the children and families of the Immanuel Church School for a Noon Year's Eve party. Crafts and games are planned. Come party like it's midnight. There will be a balloon drop and a cookies and milk toast at 11:59! Reply to Cassie Olson (programsupport@immanuelwi.org) or sign up in the Peaceable Kingdom.

+ CHRISTMAS WORSHIP CALENDAR +

Third Sunday of Advent - December 14

10:00 - worship service; IPC 101

5:00 - Choir Concert, carols, tree lighting, hors d'oeuvres & desserts

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 21

10:00 - worship service featuring: Gloria by John Rutter

Christmas Eve Worship Services - December 24

4:00 - worship - Meditative service with piano, soloists, candle lighting

7:00 – worship – Celebratory service with choir, organ, communion, and candle lighting

First Sunday of Christmas - December 28

10:00 - worship service

11:20 - Circle of Caring Gathering

PUTTING FAITH TO WORK

Opportunities for Mission and Service

INTERCHANGE FOOD PANTRY FOOD & FUND DRIVE

As tariffs take effect, grocery prices rise, and federal food assistance programs are slashed, Interchange Food Pantry is launching a drive for donations to help feed Milwaukee families. There are two ways to help:



- 1) **Donate food**: canned fruits, vegetables, soups, baked beans, and pasta sauce are most needed. A food collection bin is in the Astor Street Coat Room. Food donations will be collected through January 4.
- 2) **Donate funds**: A tax-deductible direct financial contribution makes dollars stretch up to 10 times farther the pantry can buy food in bulk at wholesale prices. Donate online at www.interchangefoodpantry.org/donate or put a check in the offering plate made out to Interchange with "2025 drive" in the memo line. Checks may also be mailed directly to the Interchange Food Pantry, 130 E. Juneau Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

An Immanuel mission partner for over fifty years, Immanuel helped start Interchange in 1971. Committed to providing guests with nutritious food and compassion, the pantry expanded in 2018 to serve all Milwaukee zip codes. Immanuel members Allyson Nemec and Scott Silet serve on the Interchange board.

TIPPECANOE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Divine Intervention Ministry is Open!

"Tippe" hosts their "Divine Intervention" ministry every year from Dec 1 through Mar 31. This program provides emergency overnight shelter for those experiencing homelessness. Also provided is a nightly dinner. Volunteers are needed to bring in a dinner for 25-30 guests, serve it and clean up, and share hospitality with the folks there. Volunteers are also needed to be hosts to oversee the shelter during the overnight hours. Overnight volunteers have a private space to sleep for 5 hours and be an "awake presence" for 5 hours. Please consider these opportunities. You can sign up today in the Upper Room and are invited to shadow any of the experienced volunteers before you actually commit if that would be helpful, especially for the overnight responsibilities. You can sign up online to volunteer (or to shadow), using the links below.

https://bit.ly/Tippe_DI_Overnight or https://bit.ly/Tippe_DI_MealProvider

If you have questions, talk to IPC members Victor Plantinga, Audra Brennan, or Steve Jacobs, or call Laura at Tippecanoe (414-481-4680) to set up a shadowing date. Thank you to the participants in last Sunday's Advent Workshop for putting together 60 hygiene kits that were dropped off at the Divine Intervention shelter on Tuesday morning by Rev. Larson!

MILWAUKEE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Presbyterian Coalition House Drywall, Painting & Flooring volunteers needed this Winter

Work on the Presbyterian Coalition home at 2020 N. 23rd Street continues this winter on Saturdays (from 8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.): January 10 - drywalling, January 31 - painting, February 14 - flooring. People with all levels of experience are welcome! Would you like to help? Register at: https://vhub.at/Presbytery. Volunteers will receive an email confirmation when registration is completed. Questions? Contact Immanuel Habitat leaders Scott Silet (sasilet@gmail.com) or Richard Rodgers (rrodgers157@gmail.com).

CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TOY STORE Gift collection ends TODAY

Supporting the Christmas Toy Store at Christ Presbyterian Church (20th and Walnut Streets) is a holiday tradition at Immanuel. This year's annual Toy Store event will be held on Saturday, December 13. Over 500 children from the neighboring community (12 & under) will visit the store and receive an age-appropriate reading/coloring book, toy, board game and a hat/glove set. Contributions may be dropped off TODAY December 7 in the Astor Street Coat Room or under the tree in the Upper Room. Immanuel will deliver the gifts to Christ Church on the morning of Monday, December 8.

NEW STAFFING MODEL PROPOSED

Co-Pastor Model recommended

The worship service on November 23 included a report from the Session and Human Resources Committee on a new pastoral staffing model for Immanuel Presbyterian Church. A summary of the process and the subsequent Session recommendation to the congregation that Rev. Robert Ater and Rev. Teresa Larson be called as co-pastors in 2026 were shared with the church family in a Town Hall format that included time for questions and answers. If the way be clear, the congregation will vote on the proposal at the Annual Financial Meeting of the Congregation on January 25 following worship. A written summary of the proposal is available in the sermon rack on the Great Hall tables or members and friends may also watch the video recording Immanuel service and Town Hall on the https://www.immanuelwi.org/recordings

STAFFING CONVERSATION on ZOOM Wednesday evening, December 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Bush and members of the Human Resources Committee and Session will host a conversation on Zoom for members and friends who have questions or would like to discuss the proposal further.

WEEKLY CALENDAR AND UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY		SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 7	8:55	Choir rehearsal
9:30-noon		Nursery care ~ Lower level
10:00		Morning Worship; Dr. Bush preaching
10:10-10:50		Church School for children and youth
		~ The Peaceable Kingdom, lower level
11:15-1:00		Alternative Christmas Market ~ Upper Room
December 8	6:00	Choir rehearsal ~ <i>Choir Room, lower level</i>
December 10	4:00	Mission Committee meeting ~ Block Conference Room
	7:00	Adult Ed "Preview Converation about Amahl and the Night
		Visitors" ~ virtual
December 11	4:00	Adult Education Committee meeting ~ virtual
NIEVT CLINIDAY		Trupp Crain av of Apvine
NEXT SUNDAY		THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 14	8:55	Choir rehearsal
9:30-noon		Nursery care ~ Lower level
10:00		Morning Worship; Rev. Ater preaching
10:10-10:50		Church School for children and youth
		~ The Peaceable Kingdom, lower level
	11:15	IPC 101 ~ gather at Welcome Table in Great Hall
	5:00	A Celebration of Christmas: Performance of Amahl and
		the Night Visitors followed by Tree Lighting and
		Holiday Buffet
December 15	noon	Building Maintenance Committee meeting ~ virtual
	6:00	Choir rehearsal ~ Choir Room, lower level
December 16	4:00	Meeting of the Session ~ virtual
December 17	7:00	Staffing Conversation ~ <i>virtual</i>

The Immanuel Columbarium is open today and every Sunday until noon.

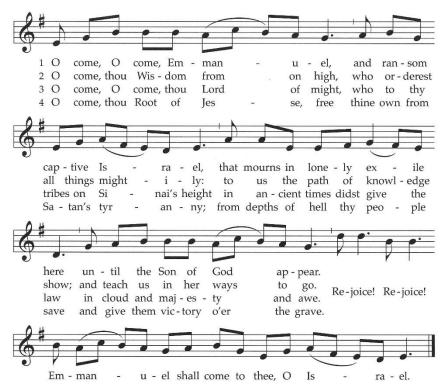
Available dates for Chancel flowers: If you would like to sponsor the flowers for **NEXT Sunday, December 14,** (\$150 for the two arrangements), please contact the church office

Thank you to this morning's worship volunteers: Ushers – Dick Myers, Mark Connelly, Steve Jacobs, and Dave Salisbury; Camera operator – David Ravie.

If you would be interested in serving as a worship liturgist, please contact the church office (<u>ipc@immanuelwi.org</u>).

SUNDAY MORNING PARKING: Worshipers may park behind another car in the Waverly or Telluris/Brico (north) lots. PLEASE place a Sunday bulletin on your dashboard with your name and cell phone number and move your car immediately after worship.

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



- 5 O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
 - Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

 Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)
 Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)
 Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)

 Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)
 Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)

 Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)
 Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

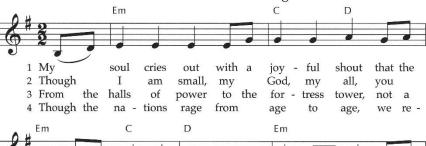
96 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



This hymn shows how once-unconnected parts can work together. The text about John the Baptist was written in Latin in the 18th century and translated into English in the 19th century. Similarly, the 17th-century melody was adapted to its present form in the 19th century.

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning





God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings work great things me. and your mer - cy will last from the stone will be left Let the king be ware for your on stone. mem - ber who holds God's mer - cy de us fast: must



things that you bring won - drous the who wait. to ones depths of the past the end of the be. to age to ius - tice tears ev - erv ty - rant from his throne. liv er us from the con - quer-or's crush - ing grasp.

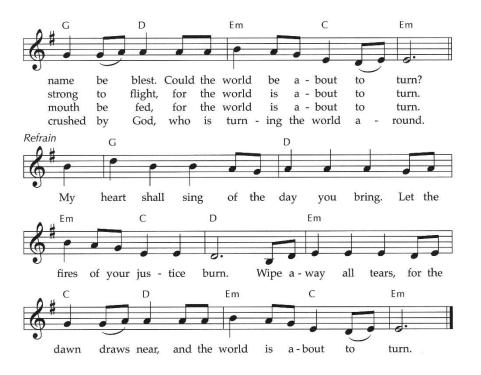


You sight fixed vour on your ser - vant's plight, my Your y name puts the proud to shame. and to The hun - gry shall for the poor weep no more, This that the say - ing word our fore - bears heard is



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46–55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.



PORTABLE HEARING DEVICES AND LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE. PLEASE ASK AN USHER FOR ASSISTANCE





Bulletins returned to the tables in the Narthex will be recycled.





IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1100 North Astor Street Offices: 1105 North Waverly Place Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202 414.276.4757 www.immanuelwi.org

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Randall K. Bush Robert W. Ater Teresa A. Larson

Steven J. Jensen John S. Komasa

Crystal Stinemates Sarah Campbell Nathan Wesselowski Cassie Olson

Deborah A. Block William H. Johnstone Jean Dow

James C. Fisher Susan J. Stoll Sister Karlyn Cauley Interim Pastor Associate Pastor Associate Pastor

> Organist Choir Director

Program and Office Administrator Part-time Financial Administrator Sexton Part-time Program Coordinator

> Pastor Emerita Pastor Emeritus Associate Pastor Emerita

> > Parish Associate Parish Associate Ecumenical Associate

> > > December 7, 2025