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Immanuel's Story

... in Prayer Ministry



Psalm 27: "A Psalm of Fearless Trust in God"

v. 8: When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "I shall seek Your face, LORD."

v. 14: "Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord."

Although Psalm 27 is about trusting fearlessly in the LORD, the two verses I selected can most definitely also be applied to prayer.

We seek God's Face in prayer.

We live in what is referred to as a "microwave society", meaning that we want instant everything...including answers to our prayers. At times it might seem that God is more of a "slow cooker God" when it comes to answering them! It's not that He doesn't love us enough to answer them more quickly, it's because He DOES love us so much that He also knows what is best for us...and sometimes what appears to be a "delay" in answering our prayers is actually in our best interest!

Love plays such an important role in prayer. We all know that God is Love and that Jesus Loves us...but what about us? Read verse 8 again. Notice the Scripture does not say, "...I said to You," but rather it says, "my heart said to You,"

Love comes from the heart and our prayers must come from a place of love, adoration and thankfulness for Jesus. Just as He loves us, we must love Him back. Our Christian Faith is a relationship.

One way we can love Jesus when we pray is to THANK Him for the abundant blessings that He has bestowed upon us as well as THANK Him for being with us during the dark times in our life. Let's seek His face with a thankful heart. And let us wait patiently and courageously for Him to answer us!

Submitted by: Susan Bushard



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

(RSVP with the Church Office, 80 max. a service)

2pm, 4pm & 8pm

with Hallelujah Handbells at 4pm



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.... in Scripture for Worship

Sunday, December 6, 2020
 Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11
 Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, December 13, 2020
 Scripture: Psalm 126
 John 1:6-14

Sunday, December 20, 2020
 Scripture: Isaiah 9:6-8
 Luke 1:26-38



Thursday, December 24, 2020
 Christmas Eve
 Scripture: Psalm 96
 Luke 2:1-14

Sunday, December 27, 2020
 Scripture: Psalm 148
 Luke 2:22-40



Receiving

In the 1970's a majority of audiophiles, (a term for people who listen to music and think they understand it better than the average person) owned 40 watt receivers as the heart of their stereo systems.

This was a unit that combined a stereo radio and an amplifier in a single unit. I had no need for the radio. I only liked listening to my albums.

(For the youth, these were 12 in. black discs that went into a cardboard folder that your parents may have in the attic, basement or garage.)

So all I wanted was an amplifier. And the more power, the better. You see, I wanted control over my world.

The world, which Jesus was born into, was a world that two factions wanted to control.

In Judea, Herod, because he had received a warning that a child would come as Messiah to his people, feared that he would lose control as "King" of the Jews.

And Rome, they just wanted to *amplify* to the "world" they occupied, that they were in complete control and nothing and nobody was going to wrest that control from them.

But, God had a better and bigger amplifier, and He chose a specific audience to broadcast his "Glad Tidings" to. 3 wise men and a few shepherd. The richest of their time and the poorest. And as we know from scripture, they received the message and obeyed the instructions.

Herod didn't and Rome didn't, because they weren't receiving, they were attempting to "blow their own horns."

But from that original broadcast to so few, it was amplified into the "Greatest Story Ever Told" which billions upon billions have heard over 2000 plus years.

At this time of year we are used to hearing, "It is better to give than to receive."

But, shouldn't we focus on receiving?

Receiving the gift that God gave us.

Receiving Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior

Receiving the Joy that comes from being Children of God.

So, as I listen to Christmas Carols on my phone, (yes it's the 21st century) I will thank my God for the gift that he gave me and all to receive.

*Christmas Blessings,
 Karlin*

.... in Donations

When considering Memorial/Honorarium Donations, please prioritize these ministries and needs:

SUNDAY SCHOOL

MILESTONE MINISTRIES

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Milestone Ministries, Scholarship Fund is a sub account of the Memorial Savings Account. Milestone Ministries is used to support all Baptism and Confirmation expenses.

For a complete list of ministries, please contact the church office.

A huge thank you to all who support these important ministries!

BUILDING FUND

FINANCIAL REPORT

Building Fund Savings Balance: 9/30/2020 \$1,515.10

Major Capital Improvement/Maintenance Balance: 9/30/2020 \$106,574.29

General Operating Budget Report

	SEPTEMBER 2020	SEPTEMBER 2019	YTD thru 9/30/2020	YTD thru 9/30/2019
Budget*	29,057	30,073	280,610	270,657
General Fund Giving	29,057	34,249	364,117	336,151
General Fund Expense	30,862	27,982	282,691	296,182
Net Income	-1,805	6,267	81,426	39,969

Budget figures reflect approved annual budget divided by 12 months. Actual figures on a monthly basis will vary depending on giving patterns and seasonal expense variations.

... in Pastor's Perspective



Pastor Paul J. Mattson
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“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” John 1:5

We live in a dark time. Here in our part of the world, the daylight hours continue to shrink, with growing hours of winter darkness. It is a dark time.

Also, with the pandemic, these are dark days, as we hear and anticipate the reports of major spikes in COVID cases and deaths all around. Dark days indeed.

As we now enter the season of Advent (which means “the coming” or “the arrival”) we proclaim that God has sent us a light in the midst of our darkness. God has sent Jesus – the light of the world, the true light, to bring us hope, comfort and peace in dark times.

At a recent bonfire with the youth group at the parsonage, I told the story of pastor friend who was on a mission trip in a developing country, and during the night she needed to use the “restroom” (which was a hole in the ground) behind the camp in the woods. One problem: there are all kinds of critters and creepy things in the woods at night.

She was instructed to simply shine a light, and the critters will scatter. She shined her flashlight, lighting up the whole area, yet the critters didn't budge. The locals told her, “No, it has to be a candle or small torch – it needs to be a “living light.” She tried that, and sure enough it worked like a charm. It was a small flicker of a light, but it was a “living light” that did the trick.

The light God sends us in Jesus, is truly a “living light” that will dispel the critters and creepy things that lurk in the dark areas that we experience in life. And there are times when the light of Christ seems no more than a small flicker. And yet it is enough, through the illumination of the Holy Spirit, to provide a light of hope, comfort and peace, given to us by God to help us make our way in these dark times.

Make the living light of Christ enlighten and bring comfort to your life during these dark days of Advent – as we anticipate and wait for His coming once again.

Pastor Paul



... in Prayer Shawl Ministry

A Prayer Shawl is meant to be given to anyone (male or female, including children) who has had surgery, been diagnosed with an illness, lost a loved one or is dealing with a hardship.

Prayers are said while the shawl is being made, that recipients may feel comfort and love as they wrap themselves in it. Shawls are available in the Fellowship Hall in the far right hand corner on the cabinet shelves. Please be sure to check/sign the book saying to whom you are giving a shawl because we don't want to duplicate. Please let me know of anyone you believe should receive one of these Prayer Shawls.

Thank you, and if any questions, please feel free to call or contact me at 218-546-6065 or by email mmmlarson49@gmail.com.

Marsha Larson



... in Handbell Ministry

In November the Chapel Chimers returned to practicing after a long break from last December. It was wonderful to begin the program again and to see the enthusiasm and to hear the laughter. Returning Chimers are: Carson Freese, Braylon Kannel, Katie Freese, Ellyot Hoyt, Bella Oren and Lily Thompson. We welcome the new Chimers: Maycee DeCent, Kynsley DeCent and Aviyah Hoyt.

Their first performance was Nov. 22 and they played, "All Things Bright and Beautiful". Looking ahead, the Chimers will perform on Dec. 20. This is also the day that the Sunday School children will celebrate their Christmas program. Immanuel's Youngest Ringers will also play two songs on the colored metal bells.

The Hallelujah Bell Choir performed "Let All Things Now Living" together with flautist, Rachel Norwood. Thank you Rachel for making this song very special. A huge thank you also to Carson and Katie Freese for challenging themselves and doing an excellent job performing with us so we could ring 3 octaves instead of just 2. We hope that they will be able to join us again in the future. Awesome!

We will be performing on Dec. 13 and again at the 4:00 Christmas Eve service.

Judy Kirchoff, Director

Chapel Chimers:

Front row L to R: Braylon Kannel, Aviyah Hoyt, Maycee DeCent, Ellyot Hoyt, Carson Freese
Back row L to R: Bella Oren, Kynsley DeCent, Katie Freese, Lily Thompson



... Children's Ministry

November is a time to reflect on all the many things we are thankful for, and a time to embrace both being blessed, and also being a blessing to others. A wonderful exercise to engage in with the children in our lives, is to discuss something to be thankful for, and a way we can be a blessing to others. Allow and engage children in an activity and a service to others-deliver a box of food to your neighbors, make a card and hand deliver it to friends, family-or better yet, someone you haven't met yet! Our youth are being met with circumstances in these times beyond their control-let's be positive mentors of discipleship, kindness, and faith! The blessed holiday season is upon us, and we are excited for some fun Christmas plans in the works for our Children's Ministry and families. Look out for communications via Tuesday and Friday emails, Children's Ministry and ILC Facebook pages, and flyers. I am so very THANKFUL for our Sunday School teachers and volunteers, Judy Kirchoff and beautiful music, and my own incredible family who continues to grow in God's love each day.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6

Jill DeCent, Children's Ministry Coordinator



... BeFriender Team: Jim & Meredith Bloedel, Nancy Evans, LuAnn Henrichs and Carol Pundt (Elaine Karel and Kim Waffensmith not pictured).



For the General Fund

In memory of Ron Weber by Bob & Pat Neros

For the Milestone Ministry Fund

In memory of Joanne Zink by Hal & Judy Kirchoff

In memory of Betty Twigg by Hal & Judy Kirchoff

In memory of Ken Snook by Hal & Judy Kirchoff

For the Good Sam Fund

In memory of Betty Twigg by Lynn & Shelly Harker

For the Youth Fund

In memory of Debbie Marlton by Roger & Sandra Twigg

In memory of Betty Twigg by Mary Nakorski



Total: \$825.00

Our MISSION:

To welcome all people to **GATHER** in worship,
to **GROW** in God's Word and Grace,
and to **GO** forward in faith
And serve others in Jesus' name.

... in Attendance

Sunday, October 25, 2020

9:00am	55	
10:30am	<u>75</u>	
Total		130

Sunday, November 15, 2020

9:00am	54	
10:30am	<u>57</u>	
Total		111

October 2020 Total 627

November 2020 Total-to-Date 402

Sunday, November 1, 2020

9:00am	94	
10:30am	<u>76</u>	
Total		170

Sunday, November 8, 2020

9:00am	61	
10:30am	<u>60</u>	
Total		121



.. in Memorials & Honorariums Given In October & November:

For the Sunshine Fund

In memory of Dan Ustipak by Randy & Carol Domin
 In memory of Dan Ustipak by Lynn & Shelly Harker
 In memory of Dan Ustipak by Al & Jan Doonan
 In memory of Dan Ustipak by Bruce & Mary Oliphant
 In memory of Dan Ustipak by Greg Waffensmith
 In memory of Dan Ustipak by John Ustipak/Smead Mfg.
 In memory of Dan Ustipak (no name given)
 In memory of Dan Ustipak by Bob & Pat Neros
 In memory of Dan Ustipak by Roger & Sandra Twigg
 In memory of Dan Ustipak by Hal & Judy Kirchoff
 In memory of Dan Ustipak by Phyllis Colligon
 In memory of Dan Ustipak by Karen Kreuser
 In memory of Betty Twigg by Dennis & LuAnn Henrichs
 In memory of Pat Haldorson by Greg Waffensmith



For the MOCP Fund

In memory of Dan Ustipak by Mark & Nicki Bjornstad

For the Sunday School Fund

In honor of Ruth & Andrew Hook Wedding by Nancy Evans

For the Library Fund

In memory of Phyllis Martin by Pastor Paul & Jill Mattson

For the Building Fund

In memory of Dan Ustipak by Nancy Evans

.... Youth Ministry

Greetings Kingdom Families!

We have been so blessed to have a wonderful Wednesday Youth Gathering this Fall season. While currently suspended, we look forward to meeting again, soon.
 We are also blessed by the congregation members (church family), who have been consistent and generous with providing meals and hands to serve.
 Thank you ALL so much for being loving and dedicated!
 Here's a little activity to get you pondering your relationship with Heavenly Father:
 If God was the water in the pool, who would you be?



Personally, I am the person that is "head over heels" in the pool.
 To me that reflects my daily life and beliefs.
 The joy of the LORD IS MY strength and I hold true the promises made by our LORD.
 Being a blessing to others for the sake of our LORD is a wonderful way to be.
 I appreciate that so many of you "live out" the same values:)
 I pray for your health and well-being

Take care and God bless.

Faithfully, Tammy Freeburg, Youth Ministry Coordinator



**Attention
 Snowbirds!**
 Before you leave,
 remember to leave your
 winter address, etc.
 with Elaine Karel
 in the church office.



... MWAM for REC on November 15, \$997 was raised!



... PAM (Pastor & Jill Appreciation Month, October)



... in Special Milestones!

December Birthdays

- 12/01 Alexis Holmvg, Rustin Carlson
- 12/02 James Walth, Loretta Habighorst
- 12/03 Pamela Ballard, Henry Stawarski
- 12/04 Jessica Klopfleisch, Isabel McWilliams
- 12/06 Paul Strom
- 12/07 Austin Johnson
- 12.08 Grace Ward
- 12/09 Alyssa Maile, Kirsten Nixon, Charles Frahm
- 12/10 Sandy Johnson, Fred Fox
- 12/11 James Hoyt
- 12/12 Christine Rudek, Gene Lofquist, Benedict Wing, Saylor Wing,
- 12/13 Delmer J. Gunter
- 12/14 Marie Futhey, Sally Oren
- 12/15 Barbara Crooks, Tom Thiesfeld
- 12/16 Hannah Blood, Ethan Lofquist, Grace Leyk, Tom Nixon
- 12/17 Mary Aulie, Genevieve Souhrada
- 12/18 Christopher Klopfleisch, Eileen Patrick, Evan English
- 12/19 Chelsea Holmvg, Elliott Gehrke, Jeremy Houck
- 12/21 LeRoy Habighorst, Haley Lubovich, Tom Bedard
- 12/22 Sharon Bonsante, Juhl Kaydence
- 12/24 Constance Kliever
- 12/25 Jessica Dwyer
- 12/26 Holly Hunter, Paul Bushard, Kayleigh Taylor
- 12/27 Terry Wickman, Cassandra Klopfleisch, Suzanne Feierabend
- 12/28 Kaleb Shankle, Barbara Risnes, Shasta Souhrada, Paula Traylor, Donna Peppel
- 12/29 Joy Anderson, Eli McWilliams
- 12/31 Hunter Van Horn



December Wedding Anniversaries

Rich & Mary Aulie	12/11/2010
James & Erinn Hoyt	12/16/2012
Curt & Darlene Christopherson	12/19/1981
Adrian & Jean Olson	12/26/1964
Casey & Jenni Kannel	12/27/2008
Jim & Judy Christenson	12/27/1981
Bradley & Jane Holmvg	12/28/1996
David & Claudia Peterson	12/31/1987

Affirmation of Baptisms

November 8, 2020
Lauren Kae Miller
 Parents: Brandon Miller & Lisa Davis
 Sponsor: Diane Hummel

November 22, 2020
Odin Gregory Barber
 Parents: Garrett & Lacey Barber
 Sponsors: Derek & Jaimie Holtzleicer

