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Lord,  
Hear Our  
Prayer

Immanuel's Story  
told in....

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# Immanuel's Story

.... in Prayer Ministry

WAITING EXPECTANTLY IN GOD'S PRESENCE.



I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace.  
[I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace.]

In the world you will have [trouble] tribulation and distress and suffering,  
[In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties.]

but be courageous [be confident, undaunted, filled with joy]  
But take heart [take hope...take courage]

For I have overcome the world.  
[My conquest is accomplished, My victory abiding.]  
[I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.]  
[Yes,} I have overcome the world. John 16:33.... Several Translations

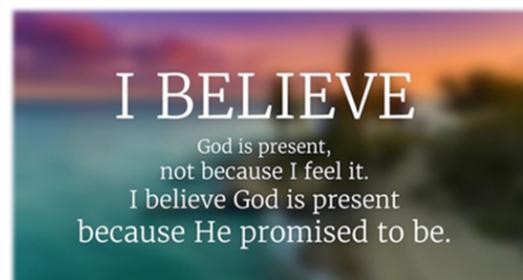
This has definitely been a "year to write home about". And what greater home to go to than our home with God. When we can remember that verse from the Psalms... "**Be STILL**, and **KNOW** that **I AM God!**" we can experience more and more of God's amazing **PEACE** that "knows no understanding". Today and in the days ahead, we so desperately need to continue spending time in prayer and in God's presence, trusting Him to lead us, guide us, renew us and empower us. We all have stories to share about the power of prayer. During these times of "togetherness", take the time to share your stories with each other. That is one way to tell and teach each other about our powerful and loving God.

As we continue to seek God's promises for each one of us, the **PEACE and JOY** God offers continues to grow in our lives. From one of my devotions, "Unexpected circumstances **can-not separate us from the unspeakable peace that Christ brings.**" Author Dr David Jeremiah went on to say, "...we have to **embrace God's exceeding JOY** amid all of life's unexpected jolts....**expect God to keep His promises** to you and impart His grace every day." Expect to keep growing in and through all of God's promises.



It is my prayer that we will all come to know the exceeding joy of God's expected blessings. It is pure JOY to know that we have a God who loves us so much (**John 3:16-17**) and keeps His promises to His children, no matter what!

Together, always, in God's love and work,  
Judi Burson



## .... in Worship

*Sunday, January 3, 2021*  
*Psalm 147:12-20*  
*John 1:1-18*

*Sunday, January 24, 2021*  
*Psalm 62:5-12*  
*Mark 1:14-20*

*Sunday, January 10, 2021*  
*Psalm 29*  
*Mark 1:4-11*

*Sunday, January 31, 2021*  
*Psalm 111*  
*Mark 1:21-28*

*Sunday, January 17, 2021*  
*Psalm 139:1-6,13-18*  
*John 1:46-51*

### In the Bleak Midwinter

It is in the depths of our despair, when we feel that there will be no light, no tomorrow, no hope that we cry out to God for his strength. David did it, Christ did it, I have done it.

For most of the year I have had a laissez faire attitude towards the pandemic. I believed, and still believe that it was, and is, all in God's hands, and while willing to comply to the "Caesar's" of the world, I just went about my business.  
 Then Covid came into my home.  
 First it came to my Karin.

I could only remember the hopelessness, as when my children were little with ear infections and there wasn't a thing that I could do, but watch, wait and pray.  
 I would listen at her bedroom door, staying "socially distanced," listening to her labored breathing, knowing that I was useless except to take her to the hospital if conditions took a turn for the worse.  
 While feeling for her, I was also irritated that I, who was "healthy and showing no signs," was forced to quarantine.  
 But she got better, Praise God!  
 Then, I got a fever.

For ten days I peaked and valleyed between fevers as high as 103 and chills that I couldn't get rid of. Each night was constant prayer to God to just help me rest for an hour or two.  
 But, for the duration there was little rest.  
 Then the fevers broke, but the trials did not end.  
 Still unable to sleep, fatigue and balance issues took over.  
 Simple things, that we all take for granted, became struggles of will.  
 But through it all, God never changed. He brought us through the storm and showed us that only in these depths could his Strength be truly seen.

I am sure that once I have recovered, I will return to some of my less than humble ways.  
 But I will never be able to forget that God saved me, body and soul.  
 I pray it keeps me more humble and allows me to show more grace to my fellow man.

*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: 11/30/2020                      \$1,515.43**

**Major Capital Improvement/Maintenance Balance: 11/30/2020                      \$107,620.28**



### General Operating Budget Report

	NOVEMBER 2020	NOVEMBER 2019	YTD thru 11/30/2020	YTD thru 11/30/2019
Budget*	31,017	30,073	341,633	330,803
General Fund Giving	38,067	27,665	397,570	398,999
General Fund Expense	39,530	41,099	375,741	382,344
Net Income	-1,463	-13,434	21,829	16,655

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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pauljm@immanuelcrosby.org

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd."

A man called 911 and spoke frantically into the phone, "My wife is pregnant, and her contractions are only two minutes apart!" "Is this her first child?" the dispatcher asked. "No, you idiot!" the man shouted. "This is her husband!"

Sometimes our faith relationship with God can take on a 911 model – we call only in emergencies. We call when things are out of control. We ask for His quick help when there's trouble and turmoil. But there are other stretches of time in between our calling out to God, that can more accurately tell the truth about us.

I know a good number of people at Immanuel who are in the habit of regularly (daily!) using "The Daily Text" or "Jesus Calling" or other seasonal daily devotion books we make available at church. Through these outlets, God speaks in His loving and eternal voice, and we are given the opportunity to reply. The Daily Text book, also has a daily Bible reading plan which will guide you in reading through the Bible in a year. If you have never read through the Bible, maybe this is the year to try! I plan to do it again this year, using a different translation of the Bible.

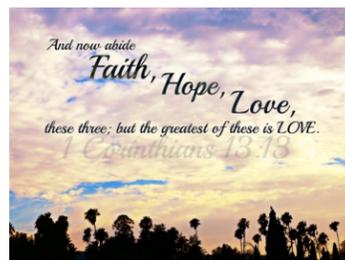
The purpose of such daily time with God, is to have a closer walk with the Lord. One of the hymns we like to sing at church is "Just a Closer Walk with Thee." And may the words of that hymn be more than just a favorite hymn we like to sing, but words we sincerely try to live by.

Just a closer walk with Thee,  
Grant it, Jesus if you please.  
Daily walking close to Thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be!

As we enter the new year, we will trust the Good Shepherd to keep calling, and bringing us closer to Him – and he will.

Blessings! Pastor Paul

prayer



... in Children's Ministry

Happy New Year! December brought a "Pause" to all of our Children's activities, including Sunday School. I am excited and eager to look forward to a new year, filled with hope, joy, and new opportunities. It is our HOPE that Sunday School resumes mid-January. OPPORTUNITY awaits, as we plan dates for our yearly Third Grade bible sessions, and so let it be filled with JOY as we look to be together again! It is also my HOPE to host a parent book study in the coming months, so we may become educated and renewed in the holy spirit as parents both at home, and at church. We learned very much through these times apart from each other that we are the church. Maybe your family began a new worship practice at home, such as a mealtime prayer, or maybe a bible story before bed. All these things may seem so small, but truly make all the difference in a child's faith journey-so THANK YOU for being so wonderful!



Jill Decent, Children's Ministry Coordinator

... in Youth Ministry

Greetings Kingdom Families!!!

I pray that you are all having a peaceful holiday season.

By now all of our families should have started their "science project" of water consciousness. We are observing how words, spoken and written, affect things physically. By taking 3 jars with rice, water and "hate" written & spoke to etc., "love" prayed over & loved on and the last one totally ignored.

By the time the new year comes around we should be able to see obvious signs of what happens when we are intentionally or unintentionally affecting things around us.

Visit: Masaru Emoto online to understand the bigger picture of this experiment!

Based on the information I have learned from this scientist, I loved to see the snowfall!! It shows me that the lovely snowflake even has gratitude and sings the praises of our Heavenly Father!!

So, in this time of separation we are learning together.

We very much look forward to getting together, when we are given the "go ahead!" Praying that it won't be long.

Take care and God Bless.

Faithfully, Tammy Freeburg, Youth Ministry Coordinator

## .... 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](mailto:mmmlarson49@gmail.com).

Marsha Larson



## .... Handbell Ministry

The Chapel Chimers had a great performance on Nov. 22 chiming to the song, "All Things Bright and Beautiful." We were only able to get in 3 weeks of practice, but they did an awesome job. Thank you to Bella Oren and Lily Thompson who read the scripture lessons at the 9:00am service.

With the increase in the virus numbers, we Minnesotans were asked to put a pause on group activities. That included both the Chapel Chimers and the Hallelujah Bell Choir. This has been a year of disappointment, some melancholy, and lots of flexibility and patience. We have been thankful that we were able to practice and perform in church, even for a shortened period of time.

Next spring the Personnel Committee will be posting my position as the Handbell Director. This has been a ministry that has involved many children and adults at Immanuel these past 11 years. Please pray that God will open the heart of someone to continue this directorship. The young Chapel Chimers are an enthusiastic group of children who are sharing their talent for the chimes and bells and are showing confidence and importance in actively reading the Scripture lessons when it is their assigned Sunday to perform. The adults in the handbell choir are experienced and dedicated to this ministry. We would all like to continue to ring praise to God in the 2021 year.

May your heart overflow with joy as you reflect on what God gave us in one single gift. Merry Christmas.



Judy Kirchoff, Director

## .... in Special Milestones!



- 1 Jean Sachs, Lisa Miller, Rita Beard, James Ysseldyke
- 3 Carl Kurtz, Shanessa Ceplecha
- 4 Anita Burns, Paul Rinde, Candy Turner, Dextor Abear, Nathan Horner
- 5 Linnea Laffin
- 6 David Peterson, Dennis Peterson, Kaitlin Sharp, Kiennavi Payne
- 7 Kyja Lindahl, Sharon Kleinschmidt, Whitney Laborde,
- 9 Marcy Bordwell, Mark Bornstad, Gabriel Gibson, Barb Moe, Kaeli Salzwedel, Cadence Wigen, Jacob Bourgeois
- 10 Tim Bongs, Denise Kalevik, Kole Nixon, Erica Jones
- 11 Hailey Howlin, James Hanes
- 12 Brad Holmwig, Darlene Peterson
- 13 Maxwell Erickson, Don Nyvold, Maurice Oman
- 14 Cory Kovatovich
- 15 Christina Nelson, Karen Rosecrans
- 16 Gabriel Bandel
- 17 Tammy Freeburg
- 18 Kevin Martini, John Rosecrans, Jack Kovatovich
- 19 Gracesen Klein
- 20 Adrian Olson, Mitchell Reagan, Diane Van Krevelen, Svea Johnson
- 21 Shyanne Lubovich
- 22 Jeff Klein, Aribell Radinovich
- 24 Peter Nordell
- 25 Hannah Bushard, Lynn Harker, Lois Laughton, Sean Larson
- 27 Hannah Bliss, John Klopfleisch
- 28 Kimberly Kayfes
- 29 Ken Chamberlin, Jon Ustipak
- 30 Leroy Bohlin, Carole Bris, Heather Nixon
- 31 Lochlann Booth, Jacob Frahm



### January Wedding Anniversaries

Jon & Shasta Souhrada	01/06/2007
Brian & Iris Miller	01/12/2013
Kevin & Angela Reinhart	01/21/2006
Steve & Marian Freese	01/27/1973



... in Annual Reports

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL MEETING:** We will be having a formal presentation of the Financial Reports covering 2020 and the 2021 Budgets following each service on Sunday, February 7, 2021 one week prior to our annual meeting. Please come with any questions and concerns to be addressed before the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 14, 2021. Thank you!

**ANNUAL MEETING:** The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 14, 2021 following the 10:30am worship service in the sanctuary.

Please plan to attend to add your voice and vote. All are welcome!



... in Attendance

<u>Wednesday, November 22, 2020</u>		<u>Sunday, December 13, 2020</u>	
9:00am	55	9:00am	38
10:30am	54	10:30am	47
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>109</u></b>	<b>Total</b>	<b><u>85</u></b>
<u>Sunday, November 25, 2020</u>		<u>Sunday, December 20, 2020</u>	
6:45pm	31	9:00am	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	10:30am	63
		<b>Total</b>	<b><u>105</u></b>
<u>Sunday, November 29, 2020</u>		<u>December Total-to-Date</u>	
10:30am	56		<b><u>305</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>		
<u>November Total</u>			
	<b><u>598</u></b>		
<u>Sunday, December 6, 2020</u>			
9:00am	63		
10:30am	52		
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>115</u></b>		

The Joy of Church Attendance

... Manna for Malawi Event 2021

Immanuel's Manna for Malawi event will be on August 15th this year. Johnny Holm is booked! We plan to have a raffle and silent auction again. It is time to start thinking about silent auction items now during winter's slower pace of life. If you fill your days working on crafts, perhaps you could make an extra to donate to this event. We also need volunteers to solicit businesses. If you can help with this, please call me: Terri Wisniak (218)546-2863.



Just a reminder that you can support MOCP (Malawi Orphan Care Project) every time you order from Amazon. Go to smile.amazon.com and login as usual. At the top of the page is a box labeled "supporting". Enter Malawi Orphan Care Project and each time you order (keep using smile.amazon.com) .05% will be donated. A running total for your charity will be kept up for you to see.



## ... in Memorials & Honorariums Given in November & December:

### For the General Fund

In memory of Dan Harrison by Roxanne Reynolds  
In memory of Lester Rono Jr. from Linda Rono  
In memory of Dan Harrison by Gordon & Audrey Jacobson  
In memory of Steve Barber by Marian Segersten  
In memory of Dan Harrison by Phyllis Collignon  
In memory of Ken Snook by Phyllis Collignon  
In memory of Dan Harrison by Bob & Pat Neros  
In memory of Stacey Nelson by Nick & Darlene Nelson  
In memory of Dan Harrison by David & Claudia Peterson  
In memory of June Wayne Leopold by Stan & Mary Najorski

### For the Malawi General Fund

In memory of Jack Krause by Ade & Jean Olson  
In memory of Dan Harrison by Dennis & LuAnn Henrichs  
In memory of Dan Harrison from Mark & Nikki Bjornstad  
In memory of Kathy Awe by Bruce & Mary Oliphant  
In memory of Steve Evans by Dennis & LuAnn Henrichs

### For the Malawi Christmas Meal

In memory of Ed Oathout by Paul & Jill Mattson  
In memory of Dan Harrison by Marian Segersten  
In memory of Don Wittnebel by Lynn & Shelly Harker  
In memory of Dan Harrison by Ade & Jean Olson

### For the Sunshine Fund

In memory of Dan Ustipak by Ade & Jean Olson  
In memory of Dan Ustipak by Gary & Karen DeBoer  
In memory of Dan Ustipak by John & Beverly Hart  
In memory of Dan Harrison by Virgil & Melva Panitzke  
In memory of Dan Ustipak by Gordon & Audrey Jacobson

### For the Good Sam Fund

In memory of Donn Wittnebel by Stan & Mary Nagorski  
In memory of Jennifer Lind-Lee by Al & Jan Doonan

### For Milestone Ministry Fund

In memory of Don Wittnebel by Dennis & LuAnn Henrichs  
In memory of Don Wittnebel by Hal & Judy Kirchoff  
In memory of Dan Harrison by Hal & Judy Kirchoff  
In memory of George Peck by Hal & Judy Kirchoff  
In memory of Dan Harrison bt Greg Waffensmith

### For the Quilters Fund

In memory of Don Wittnebel by Don & Nancy Nyvold

### For the Poinsettia Fund

In memory of Loved Ones by Gary & Karen DeBoer  
In honor of Children & Grandchildren by Joe & Sharon Simons  
In memory of Jeff Oliphant by Bruce & Mary Oliphant  
In memory of Avis, Tom & Sylvia Nelson by Orville Nelson  
In memory of Grandparents, Gerry Klopfleisch and Maki Pauls by John & Robyn Klopfleisch  
In honor of Family by Dennis & LuAnn Henrichs  
In memory of Josie Walsh by Tim & Brenda Bongs  
In memory of George Peck by Tim & Brenda Bongs

### For the Sunday School Fund

In memory of Phyllis Martin by Greg Waffensmith

### For the Youth Ministry Fund

In memory of Ken Snook by Greg Waffensmith

### Undesignated

In memory of Phyllis Martin by Jane Pribyl

TOTAL: \$1,443

