



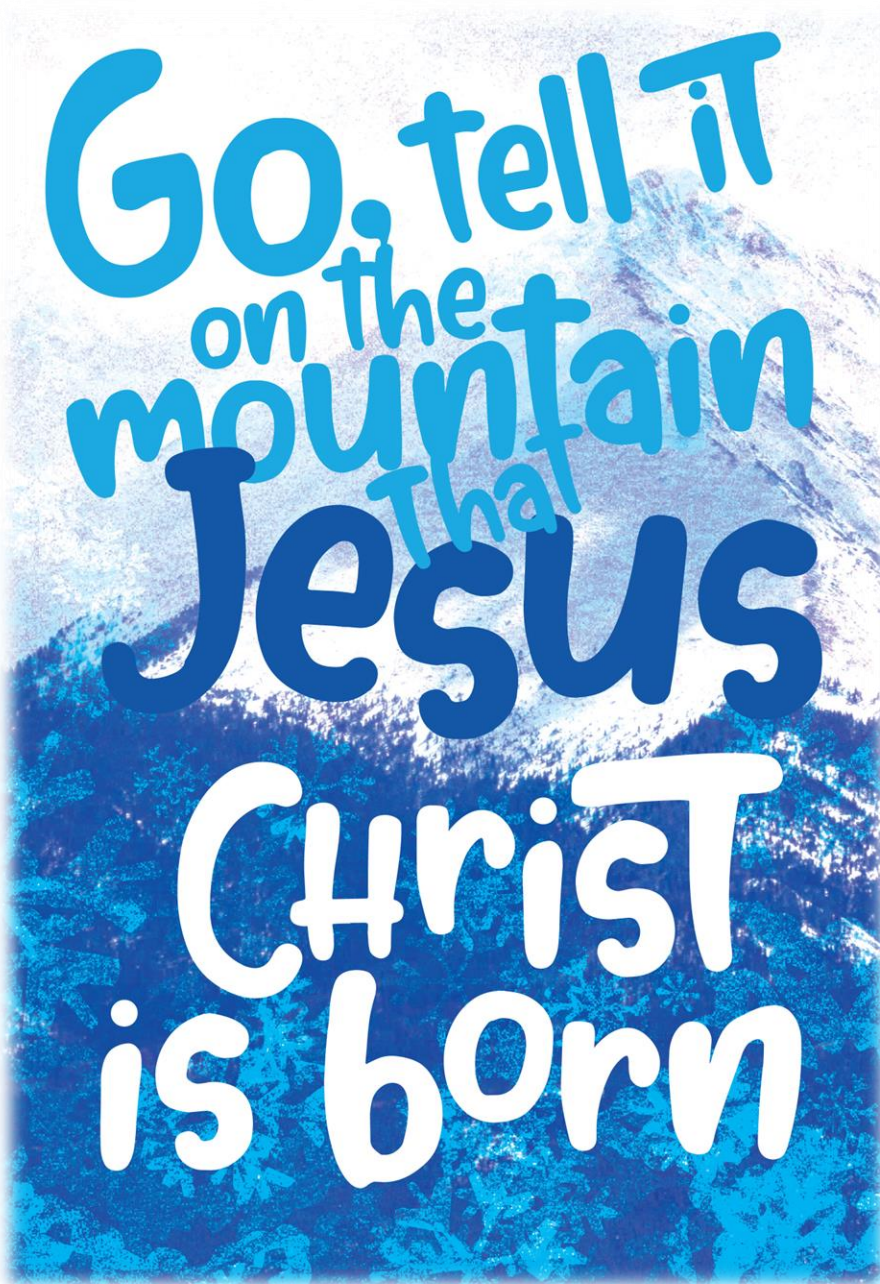
# Immanuel's Story

**December 2023**

Gather & Grow & Go

Volume 37

Issue 12



**Christmas  
Eve**

**Worship  
Services**

**2:00 p.m.**

**4:00 p.m.**

**8:00 p.m.**



# Pastor's Perspective

December 2023

"In Appreciation"

Ap.pre.ci.a.tion *noun*

1. The recognition and enjoyment of the good qualities of someone or something. (synonyms: admiration, respect, regard, esteem)
2. A full understanding of a situation. (synonyms: acknowledgment, comprehension, understanding, awareness, recognition, realization)

The apostle Paul writes in Romans 1:8, "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world."

If October is/was "Pastor Appreciation" month, then the rest of the year is the "Body of Christ" appreciation time! Thank you for your generous and kind gifts, thoughts and prayers for me and my family. We truly feel your love, support and encouragement.

I am so thankful that God continues to bless and guide the mission and ministry of Christ at Immanuel in abundant ways. Time, after time, we see God on the move in us, among us, and through us. The Apostle Paul is speaking about you when he said – your faith IS proclaimed throughout the world. Every time you make a donation to the Food Shelf, or Soup Kitchen, or Bazaar, or to the Malawi Orphan Care Project, or some other benevolence, you are proclaiming your faith in Jesus Christ. Anything you are doing (big or small) to build up the life and mission of this faith community, you are proclaiming your faith in Jesus Christ. Every act of caring, compassion, generosity, kindness, and hospitality proclaims your faith in Jesus Christ.

So today, Paul's words are also my words, from the heart from me to you: I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world! It is my privilege and honor to be in partnership with you in the mission God has given us here at Immanuel.

In appreciation, and sending to you and yours, Christmas blessings – Pastor Paul





# Happy ANNIVERSARY

## December

- 3 Jace & Kayla Christenson (2020)
- 11 Rich & Mary Aulie (2010)
- 16 James & Erinn Hoyt (2012)
- 26 Ade & Jean Olson (1964)
- 27 Jim & Judy Christenson (1981)
- 28 Brad & Jane Holmwig (1996)
- 31 Dave & Claudia Peterson (1987)

## BAPTISMS

Amiya Marlys Jane Hanson  
 Draven Carrol Allen Hanson  
 Lanet Marlys Wynn  
 Laurie Lee Hallin  
 Gary Scott Wynn

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Nov 5	9:00 a.m.	94
	10:30 a.m.	<u>57</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>
Nov 12	9:00 a.m.	106
	10:30 a.m.	<u>75</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>181</b>
Nov 19	9:00 a.m.	118
	10:30 a.m.	<u>64</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>182</b>
Nov 26	9:00 a.m.	111
	10:30 a.m.	<u>39</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>

- 1 Lisa Davis
- 2 Jim Walth
- 3 Pam Ballard
- 4 Jessica Klopfleisch, Isabel McWilliams
- 6 Paul Strom
- 9 Charlie Frahm, Chase Laffin, Kirsten Nixon
- 10 Fred Fox, Sandy Johnson
- 11 James Hoyt
- 12 Gene Lofquist
- 14 Marie Futhey, Blaine Kreller, Bill Langton, Sally Oren
- 15 Barb Crooks, Tom Thiesfeld
- 16 Tom Nixon
- 17 Mary Aulie, Glenda Langton, Genevieve Souhrada
- 18 Christopher Klopfleisch, Eileen Patrick, Andrew Tuthill
- 19 Jeremy Houck
- 21 LeRoy Habighorst, Haley Lubovich
- 22 Sharon Bonsante
- 26 Holly Hunter
- 27 Cassie Klopfleisch, Terry Wickman
- 28 Donna Peppel, Barb Risnes, Shasta Souhrada, Paula Traylor
- 29 Joy Anderson, Amanda Ballard, Kathy Johnson, Eli McWilliams, Dale Westhoff
- 31 Barb Habighorst, Hunter VanHorn





## December Sunday Scripture Readings

### **December 3**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Mark 13:24-37

### **December 10**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
Mark 1:1-8

### **December 17**

Psalm 126  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

### **December 24**

Psalm 96  
Luke 2:1-14

Greetings from Family Ministry!

### **In Sunday School...**



Children have taken a pause from learning through the book of Genesis, to now prepare for our annual Christmas program. During Sunday School, kids will practice singing the songs that are part of the program, as well as practice with the small colored bells learning a song that will be played during the program. All roles with speaking parts are up for grabs, and students who volunteer for a speaking part will be sent home with a copy of their lines. Children of all ages are invited to be part of the program, as there are never enough animals, angels, and shepherds! Our program will be held on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, during the 10:30 service.

### **In Confirmation...**

Students are studying in their new books and have now recently learned through the 10 Commandments. Each lesson includes a short intro video, ice breaker activities, large and small group time, and activities. We are enjoying learning with our new material and are excited for future sessions! By the way, this special time of learning would not be as productive and interactive without the help of our youth mentors-thank you! You're planting many seeds!

## In Youth Group...

Students are continuing to study the books of Luke and Acts via "Life Revealed" brought to us by Alpha and The Bible Project. We have heard feedback from students recently, that they want to be in the word of God more, that they're yearning to dive in and understand the power and hope that it brings. Ask, and you shall receive! Watch for an upcoming bible study opportunity geared towards youth of multiple age groups. With that, is God calling you to minister to young people? While we look to strengthen our small group ministry, there's a strong need for Leaders. Please pray and consider this if you notice a "Shoulder Tap".

Youth participated in a grocery bagging fundraiser on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, from 12pm-4pm at Super One, raising money to add to our "Campership" fund. A total of \$817.27 was raised, way to go! Thank you for your generous support! Students in 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade will be invited to attend "Winter Wipeout" youth retreat weekend in January at Camp Shamineau. Last year was a BLAST, and we hope many more will join this year. The hope and prayer is that all youth with a desire to attend will be able to do so without out of pocket expense.

Watch for upcoming bible study opportunities for married couples, as well as youth in January!

**Jillian DeCent**  
**Family Ministry Coordinator**  
**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
[jilld@immanuelcrosby.org](mailto:jilld@immanuelcrosby.org)  
**(218) 851-2998**



**Confirmation Class 2023**

L to R: Tucker Pederson, Eli Olson, Charlie Frahm, Isaiah Aulie, Brody Kovatovich



*Advent Luncheon*  
*Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>*  
*12:00 p.m.*



There will be a meeting regarding the donation of funds received at the Spirit of Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

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Manna for Malawi



Meet Shadreck, Uhuru, Thabiso, Yami, and Shamiso Chikoti. The Chikoti's will be coming to our Manna for Malawi event this year.

Our event is scheduled for August 18, 2024 at the Bridge Tavern. The band is still being decided. We have reserved February MWAM to raise funds for the Chikoti's travel.

Watch for pictures of the Christmas meal at the MOCP project. They are always delightful!

## Change coming in 2024

Starting in 2024 your offering envelope number will be the same as your church mailbox number.

For this first year, everyone will receive weekly envelopes. These envelopes can be used however you choose to give -weekly, monthly, annually, etc.

2024 envelopes will be available for pick up in the Fellowship Hall by Sunday December 10th. Please --Do not use them **until** 2024. If anyone is unable to pick up, please contact me by email at: [debe@immanuelcrosby.org](mailto:debe@immanuelcrosby.org) with your name and address you would like them mailed to or by calling the office.

The staff thanks you for your patience with this process!

Your Financial Treasurer, Deb Eatros

### General Operating Budget Report

	<u>Oct-23</u>	<u>Oct-22</u>	<u>YTD 2023</u>	<u>YTD 2022</u>
Budget	38,309	35,074	383,090	350,740
General Fund Giving	30,956	41,511	340,256	344,066
General Fund Expense	33,985	31,164	355,714	308,907
Net Income	-3,029	10,347	-15,458	35,159

### Major Capital Improvement Fund

10/31/2023

October 1, 2023	<b>Balance:</b>		\$47,382.38
	<b>Deposits:</b>	\$1,256.42	
	<b>Reserve:</b>	\$250.00	<b>\$1,506.42</b>
	<b>Withdrawals:</b>		
October 31, 2023	<b>Ending Balance:</b>		<b>\$48,888.80</b>



# Christmas Eve Worship

2:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m.

8:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 31, 2023  
ONE Worship Service ~~ 9:00 a.m.



# Praise & Pie

## November 22, 2023








ILC Youth & Chaperones move food from the Cuyuna Range Food Shelf to CRES



What a TEAM!  
The Spirit of Christmas Bazaar 2023



## December 2023 Worship Service Schedule

Altar Guild for December: Sara Moe	
Churchyard Worship Scripture:	
Sunday, Dec 3rd - 9:00am	Sunday, Dec 3rd - 10:30am
Greeters: Mark & Nicki Bjornstad Ushers: Lynn & Shelly Harker Lector: Communion Servers: Kevin Martini Offering Counters: Deb Koop & Sue Schubert	Greeters: Ushers: Lector: Communion Servers: Bonnie LaPierre Nursery: Kirsten Nixon
Traditional Worship w/ Children's Christmas Program at 10:30am Scripture:	
Sunday, Dec 10th - 9:00am	Sunday, Dec 10th - 10:30am
Greeters: Marian Freese Ushers: Lector: Communion Servers: Peter Nordell Offering Counters: Pam Ballard & Marian Freese	<b>Sunday School Christmas Program</b>  Nursery: Kallie Nixon
Contemporary Worship with Wing and a Prayer Scripture:	
Sunday, Dec 17th - 9:00am	Sunday, Dec 17th - 10:30am
Greeters: Ushers: Archie Sabyan & Nick Zillmer Lector: Communion Servers: Bonnie Goshey Offering Counters: Jody Bunio & Paula Traylor	Greeters: Ushers: Lector: Communion Servers: Tom Nixon Nursery: Korinna Nixon
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship / 2pm, 4pm, & 8pm Scripture:	
Sunday, Dec 24th - 2:00pm	Sunday, Dec 24th - 4:00pm



Greeters:  
Ushers:  
Lector:  
Communion Servers: Deb Koop  
Offering Counters: Erinn Hoyt & Darlene McNally

Greeters:  
Ushers:  
Lector:  
Communion Servers: Jerry DeCent  
Nursery: **Closed**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship / 2pm, 4pm, & 8pm**  
**Scripture:**

**Sunday, Dec 24th - 8:00pm**

Greeters: Archie Sabyan & Moe Family  
Ushers: Archie Sabyan & Moe Family  
Lector:  
Communion Servers: Pastor Paul  
Nursery: **Closed**

**New Year's Eve Worship**  
**Sunday, Dec 31st - 9:00am ONE SERVICE ONLY**

Greeters:  
Ushers:  
Lector:  
Communion Servers: Nancy Evans  
Offering Counters: Rachel Aulie & George Erickson  
Nursery: **Closed**

**No Meal with a Mission**  
**This Month**

Fellowship Time Coffee Service For December  
SRT Group #2  
Captain LuAnn Henrichs

**Ushers and Greeters:** Please arrive 30 minutes before the worship service.

**Nursery Volunteers:** Please arrive at 10:15am on Sundays.

**Communion Servers:** Please see Pastor Paul 10 minutes prior to worship service if you have questions.

~ Please note ~

If you cannot serve on the date you are scheduled,  
be sure to find a replacement for yourself and let your Captain know of your replacement.  
Thank You!



*Have A Blessed Day!*

*Sally Oren*

*Members Ministry Coordinator*  
[members.immanuel23@gmail.com](mailto:members.immanuel23@gmail.com)

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

6:30 p.m.

### ATTENDEES:

( x ) Jerry Decent, Box 50	( x ) Kevin Martini, Box 213
( x ) Nancy Evans, Box 61	( ) Pastor Paul Mattson
( x ) Bonnie Goshey, Box 36	( x ) Tom Nixon, Box 07
( x ) Deb Koop, Box 114	( ) Peter Nordell, Box 222
( x ) Bonnie LaPierre , Box 119	( x ) David Pundt, Box 295

### CALL TO ORDER

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA: Motion to accept the agenda with addition of NB 4 made by Bonnie G and seconded by Jerry. Motion carried unanimously.

### READING OF THE VISION STATEMENT & MISSION STATEMENT

CELEBRATING THE JOYS OF IMMANUEL: Successful bazaar, great to see so many community members. Great progress with the call process research committee. Don Imberi for stepping up once again, he is a real blessing.

DEVOTIONS: BOOK- RESILIENT BY JOHN ELDREDGE; CHAPTER 7

This month: Bonnie Goshey

Next month: Deb Koop

### PRAYERS

### COUNCIL BUSINESS

DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS ON THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 2023- Approved by email.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND DISCUSSION: Motion to accept the financial statement made by Nancy and seconded by Deb. Motion carried unanimously.

### OLD BUSINESS

1. **COMMITTEE REPORTS: Personnel-** We will be looking for a new cleaning service. The one recently hired did not work out. We will need to advertise again. Don Imberi will fill in until a new person is hired. The handbook is being revised and should be ready for review next month. **Malawi-** Tentative date set for August 18<sup>th</sup>. Date depends on ability of securing the Johnny Holm band.

2. **BUDGET COMMITTEE:** A motion to approve two new members to the committee, Darlene McNally and Harry Kahnert, was made by Nancy and seconded by Bonnie G, Motion carried unanimously. A motion to designate a \$5000 furniture allowance for the parsonage was made by Nancy and seconded by Jerry. Motion carried unanimously. Wages were discussed.

3. **VISION TO ACTION** -26<sup>th</sup> meeting- Recap: There was a very small turn out. There will be no action on this for the time being.

4. **PASTOR PURSUIT- UPDATE DAVID:** The Call Process Research Committee has met twice and will be meeting again in November. They are reviewing the NALC Guidebook to learn what is needed to move forward. The budget team needs to know if there will be any expenses that should be budgeted for in 2024 related to the call process. David will bring this up at the next research committee meeting.

5. **PATH OF HOPE:** Last pile of dirt should be spread out and grass seed planted this week. If not, it will be done in the spring.

6. **INSURANCE QUOTE:** MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WILL MEET WITH CHURCH MUTUAL IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS TO REVIEW THEIR QUOTE AND ASK ANY QUESTIONS THAT MAY COME UP.

#### NEW BUSINESS....

1. **ENTRY DOOR:** The automatic opener is not working properly and needs a new part. A motion was made by Jerry and seconded by Bonnie G to have the door fixed for a cost of no more than \$700.00 from line item 6130 (Maintenance and Repair). Motion carried unanimously.

2. **RESOLUTION OF PASTOR PURSUIT:** Resolution 2023.02- It is resolved that the Call Process Research Committee is to rely on the NALC manual to guide the process. The committee will review the manual to see how it applies to us and this information will be handed off to the Call committee that will be convened in the spring.

3. **LAWN SERVICE QUOTE-** No action taken

4. **COLUMBARIUM:** There has been interest in adding a columbarium on church property. The council asks that those interested bring forward a plan that includes specifics such as costs and a location study.

#### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS FOR JANUARY 2024

COPY ASSIGNMENTS AND PLACE IN THE MINISTRY COORDINATOR OFFICE MAILBOX.

2024		9:00 a.m.		10:30 a.m.	<i>(notes/special occasion)</i>
January 7		Kevin		Tom	
January 14		Bonnie L		David	
January 21		Nancy		Jerry	
January 28		Peter		Deb	

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting set for December 19<sup>th</sup> , 2023, 6:30 p.m.





Immanuel Lutheran Church  
600 4<sup>th</sup> St SW  
PO Box 98  
Crosby MN 56441