



Immanuel Lutheran Church

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February 2022

Jesus Driven Mission

What is the *mission* of Immanuel Lutheran Church? That seems like an easy and straightforward question, doesn't it? However, when you ask-go ahead some Sunday- you will receive a variety of answers. Let's pray that in all of the variety that one always sees Jesus.

Now take that question a step further. Ask the question, "What is the *mission statement* of Immanuel?" I have not been able to find a person yet who can answer this question. Did you know that the mission statement of Immanuel has been posted in strategic locations on Immanuel's walls for 29 years this month? However, with that being said, not only do our members not know what the statement reads, they also have struggled to locate the small placards.

So, what is wrong with the statement that after 29 years it seems to have slipped our awareness and memory? Nothing. It is clear and directive toward that which God has given us to be and to do. It reads:

The Mission of Immanuel Lutheran Church is to share the Good News that by God's Grace through faith in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, people are forgiven of their sins and empowered to live a life of hope.

However, what might be lacking is simplicity. What is God doing here at Immanuel? He gives, we receive, and we share. I think over the course of this year at Immanuel, we could take joy in constructing a simple statement that when asked, "What is Immanuel all about?" we could be quick to give a clear, simple answer. It would be one which draws from the above statement and communicates it in a summarized way. "That you may know Jesus" is only one example.

I am also encouraging our ministry action teams to be simple. To develop goals and support those goals with objectives throughout the year. Let me share with you one of mine.

Purpose: That you may know Jesus.

Goal: That each member of Immanuel would deepen their involvement with the Word of God, and truly enjoy the benefits of "reading, marking, learning, and inwardly digesting" God's Word with the result of spiritual growth.

Objectives:

1. Every member of Immanuel be engaged in a Bible study opportunity. *This includes Adult Bible study, Sunday morning and twice on Wednesday; youth Bible study, Sunday morning and Wednesday, children's Bible study, Sunday morning and Wednesday.*
2. Every member of Immanuel would be given the encouragement to attend church at least 75% of the time. *Why 75%? Current statistics show that Americans define "regular" worship attendance as 3 out of every 8 Sundays. That's 37.5%! We will help encourage this growth not out of harshness but out of love as a parent invites a child to come and eat at the table.*
3. Every member would embrace a devotional life that suits their interest and learning style. *I had grown stale in my devotional life, and discovered I needed more challenging devotional material. A couple of our members introduced me to something that absolutely clicks with me because it challenges me, and I grow. I want to do this for you.*

When we say "it is all about Jesus" we really mean it is all about Jesus. The Bible, the full counsel of God, points us to Jesus. The gifts He gives us are all

about Jesus. All the activities that we engage in here at church and in daily personal life are all about Jesus. We pray that our thoughts, actions, and words are all informed and impacted by being in Christ. It's really simple, isn't it? What Jesus has done, and continues to do for us, His Ministry, drives the mission that we receive and give and enjoy.

Pastor Castens

Mark Your Calendar February

3rd: Noon YAH! Meeting
13th: Special Speaker from Lutheran Hour
6 pm Youth Event FLC
19th: 4 pm Trivia Night
20th: March Newsletter Articles Due

UPCOMING:

*Mark your calendars for VBS on July 24th.
 Funfest will be on July 31st.*



January Celebrations

Anniversaries

12th : Frank and Linda Lewis 50th
 14th : Ryan and Lori Vangilder 4th
 17th : Mark and Annemarie Westmoreland 26th

Birthdays

1: Allan Brockmeier	15: Anton Wehlermann
EJ Bierly	Dale Wooldridge
2: Michael Wehner	16: David Finch
3: Carol James	19: Jack Patterson
Carter Krodinger	20: Donald Wagner
4: Harrison Finley	Marlene Roylance
Sue Petrovic	22: Frank Baumgartner
5: Brittany Brandt	Christine Walter
Jordan Enzmann	23: Robert Finch
7: Jared Cattoor	Jeannine Wehlermann
Rorie Meczowski	Michael Gordon
9: Charlotte Bourque	24: Stacy Brockmeier
Lindy French	Zac Bourque
10: Lisa Schnurr	Jeff Brown
11: Joseph Bowder	Olivia Ellis
Gracelynn Schmitz	Gordon Schultz
12: Melanie Khoury	25: Brendan Palmier
14: Scott Layton	26: Welker Vaughn
Taylor Wessel	28: Jeremy Malusky
Stephanie Heine	



On Sunday, February 13th, we welcome Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, the speaker of The Lutheran Hour at Lutheran Hour Ministries. As the world's longest-running Christian outreach radio program, The Lutheran Hour proclaims the salvation story of Jesus every week to a million listeners on more than 1,800 stations throughout North America. The broadcast is also available on the American Forces Network, online, and through a mobile app. Lutheran Hour Ministries now offers new online equipping resources to help you reach out with the love and Good News of Jesus Christ in your everyday life. These online courses and webinars cover five faith-strengthening categories and use an array of multimedia elements to help you gain an audience for the Gospel message. LHM offers many resources for you to study and share God's word. These tools are designed to equip you for outreach, enrich your own faith walk, and uplift you. More information can be found in the attachments enclosed with this newsletter.



Join us for a night of fellowship and fun!! Saturday, February 19th at 4pm we will have a Trivia Night in the Family Life Center. There will be prizes for the Best Table Decoration/Theme, Winner, Loser, and Most Fun. We will provide babysitting, if needed. A chili dinner will be provided, just bring a snack, chili topping or dessert. Water and tea will be provided.

Sign up your group of 6-8 in the back of church or contact Debbie Sevier.

SOME THOUGHTS ON EVANGELISM

We have a new year with new challenges, new hope and new opportunities.

Jesus' Great Commission says, "As you are going into all the world, preach the gospel to every creature". This doesn't mean to pack up your bags and move to Africa or the Far East. It means for every step you take in your life, you should spread the Good News of Jesus' love and salvation.

Evangelism is nothing more than that every person who claims to be a follower of the WAY becomes a channel of that good news. We don't need a Board of Evangelism to do all the work for us, we need a Board of Evangelism to help us do what Jesus commanded us to do.

We don't need programs to increase our membership, or to make us more appealing to the public. We need God to light a fire under us, so we can see where the Lord wants each of us to serve Him. We also need to see where we can serve our community, to spread His love to those who don't know Him, or who know Him, but need physical help in their lives.

Immanuel will repeat the very helpful Griefshare program this Spring. Anyone grieving a loved one, whether recent or years ago, is welcome to attend.

Day and time will be announced later. There will be a signup sheet so we can plan for our group.

We have adopted a Navy Chaplain, Lt. Ross Engle, who is aboard the USS Gridley, DDG. The money we collected for military bibles to this point will go toward supplying bibles and other needed items for the sailors in Lt. Engle's care. We didn't receive authorization to give Bibles to the 208th Eng. Co., so this seems an alternate way to support our military. There will be information on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

David Poley will work with the American Red Cross for a blood drive at Immanuel, if it hasn't already happened. There is a critical blood shortage, and David sees this as a good opportunity to serve our community. It has been about 4 years since we hosted a blood drive. We pray the Lord will bring people eager to help people to donate blood. There are other suggestions for becoming a vibrant family of God, and they will come later.

Have a God Blessed February. May the hope of Spring bring a renewed life in all of us at Immanuel!

Karen DeClue



BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

We welcome to our board this new year two new members. Myra Bins and Kristy Stuber and look forward to welcoming others to join us. This year we are focusing on the assimilation of new members into our congregation. In addition, further assimilation of current members.

As the saying goes, "it takes a village to raise a child." It also takes an active congregation to fulfill the needs of God's village here at Immanuel.

Blessings from the Board of Stewardship
Carol James – Chair



FINANCE BOARD

As of January 10, \$10,697.19 was received for the Budget.

Budget Requirement	\$ 12,434.96
Budget Received	10,697.19
Difference over or (under)	(\$ 1,737.77)

The 2022 budget amount needed for each opening is \$12,434.96. The Finance Board will continue to provide updates in the bulletin on Immanuel's current budget position.

Immanuel members continue to faithfully support Local Missions, NYG, the Daycare Playground and Sanctuary Renovations with their gifts.

Since pre-numbered envelopes were not provided for 2022, the Finance Board asks if you would put your name (or envelope number) on the outside of the envelope with your gift. This will help us record gifts correctly. Feel free to use the generic envelopes in the pews or a plain envelope for your gift.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Immanuel. We are truly blessed!

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Budt, Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ending 2021:

Immanuel ended 2021 in the **Red**. Our final payment to Synod was over \$17,000, this is because our quarterly payments to Synod were cut back because of cash flow. In 2022, I hope our cash flow will enable us to pay our full quarterly Synod commitment.

INCOME for December, 2021	\$30,487.03
EXPENSES for December, 2021	\$46,054.23
Difference:	\$-15,567.20

INCOME YTD	\$270,347.70
EXPENSES YTD	\$284,015.20

Difference: **\$-13,667.50**

Commerce Bank – Balance \$14,132.34 (general account)

Total all Bank Accounts: \$165,612.25

Total Dedicated Accounts: \$200,046.40

Difference: **\$- 34,434.15**

With the continued donations to our Dedicated Accounts and special fundraisers, we were able to continue to support:

*both of our Youth Groups,

*Local and Domestic Missions (this includes both the financial help with providing utility payments and gas cards, as well as our ongoing food donations to the UMC and Ozark Food Pantries.)

*Seminary Pantry

*VBS Funfest

*Grace Days

*Sanctuary Renovations – where a total of \$55,000 was raised to repair the stained-glass windows, between 2020 & 2021.

Beginning 2022:

INCOME thru Jan. 17, 2022: \$10,697.19

EXPENSES thru Jan. 17, 2022 \$11,829.99

Difference: **\$- 113.28**

Commerce Bank – Balance: \$31,176.79 (This includes transfer of money from Thrivent – Endowment Interest Account and LCEF Ministry Reserve Account per Voters Resolution to balance year-end deficit and close out 2021 and totals from January 10th Finance Board accounting.)

Total Bank Accounts: \$169,047.40

Total Dedicated Accounts: \$188,167.80

Difference: **\$ -19,120.40**

As mentioned in last month's Newsletter, at our Voters' Meeting on December 5th, the 2022 Budget was passed. It is not a balanced budget. The budget is \$323,309.00 based on anticipated expenses.

Income is anticipated at only \$250,000. This is based on the giving trend over the last five years. This leaves a deficit of \$73,309. My prayer for Immanuel is that we not only meet this deficit but exceed it.

Respectfully submitted, Beverly House

MIDWEEK EDUCATION

Midweek Perfect attendance for December:

Connor Wehner
Molly Wehlermann
GraceLynn Schmitz
Grace Waltman
Ali Waltman
Jewel Schubert
Kendall Cole

All children kindergarten to 5th grade are welcome to join us. We start with a dinner at 5:45, followed by class time and we end at 7:00.

We also offer a Youth Bible Study for our older children. It's a great way to get involved and meet some new church friends.

Any questions, please contact Debbie Sevier.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

EVERYONE is welcomed 9:15 to 10:15 each Sunday at the FLC for Sunday School.

We are continuing with the Enduring Faith series in both the children's classes and the adult study. Everyone is encouraged to come and learn about Jesus and His impact on our lives today and tomorrow.

A light breakfast is donated each week. Signup in the FLC.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Joyful Noise would like to invite all adult and high school aged singers to join us. We have moved our rehearsals to Mondays and are offering 2 options for rehearsal times: one at 3 pm and one at 6:30 pm. There had been a request from our group to have a daytime rehearsal for those who do not drive at night. The hope is to accommodate more singers by offering the two times. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Rachel Bierly at 773-443-2916 or the church office.

Anyone wishing to share musical talents, vocal...instrumental...teens....adults....soloists or groups, are always welcomed and appreciated. Please contact Rhonda Johnson if you are interested.



IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHILDCARE



Love one another as Jesus loves you. Try to show kindness in all that you do.

February 2022

Daycare Newsletter

Valentine Parties

Valentine Parties will be on:

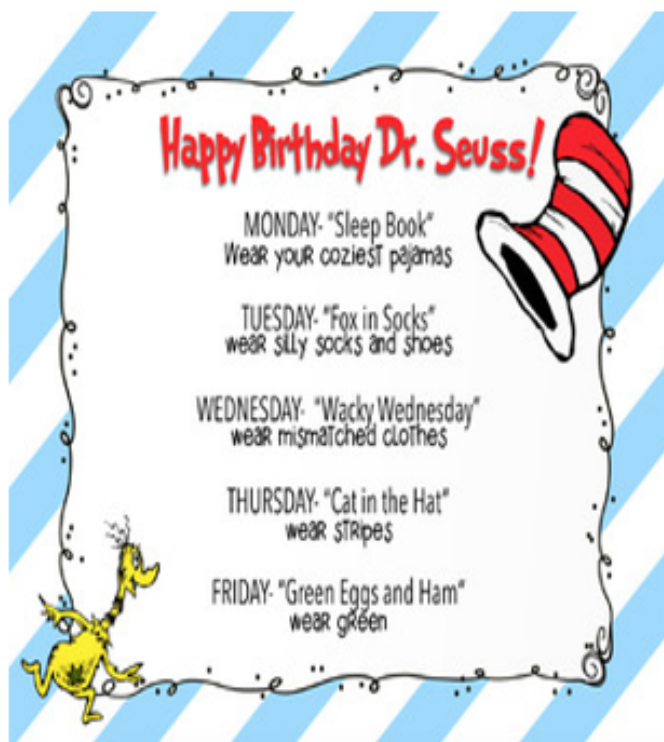


Friday, February 11th
All classroom parties will begin
@ 9 a.m.



1's Room – School Age Please send your child with \$2. Also please send Valentine Cards addressed from your child but keep the To: part blank.

Dr. Seuss Spirit Week February 28th – March 4th



Spring Picture Day

Spring Pictures have been set for:

Monday, March 14th
(Tuesday, March 15th for kids
don't attend on the 14th)



All the daycare kiddos will have their picture taken. You will receive a picture proof to order your pictures from so there will be no money due up front. Make sure you send your kiddos dressed to impress and ready to SMILE!

Graduation pictures will also be taken on this day so keep in mind those kids will be wearing a cap in the graduation pics.

Daycare Newsletter Page 2

Staff in the Spotlight

This month's Teacher in the spotlight is...

Mrs. Colleen

Mrs. Colleen has many hats here at Immanuel but her title is Curriculum Coach/family ministry! She also teaches "Jesus Time" to all the kiddos each day. She has worked here for about 4 years but prior to working at Immanuel she worked at Abiding Savior Lutheran School for 7 years. Mrs. Colleen graduated Concordia University with a Bachelors in Early Childhood and a Masters in Family Ministry. We are extremely blessed to have this fine lady on our team.

Mrs. Colleens favorite bible verse is *Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*



Stay Connected

Don't forget to like us on Facebook to stay connected to all the daycare happenings!!!

www.facebook.com/ILCC93

****WE NOW HAVE THE CLASS DOJO APP.** Let us know if you are not yet connected.

Dates to Remember

February 11th

Valentine Parties from 9am-10am

February 28th – March 4th

Dr. Seuss Week

March 14th – 15th

Picture day

April 15th

Closed for Good Friday

April 25th – 29th

Lutheran School's Week/SHINE



**SERVING IN WORSHIP FOR
February 2022**

[illegible]

February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Yohi Noon	4	5 FLC Reserved 1-6 pm
6 Communion 8 & 10:30 Sunday School 9:15	7 Finance Board 9 am Elders Meeting 6:30 pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 3 pm & 6:30 pm	8	9 Adult Bible Study 10 am Youth Choir 5 pm Midweek Class 5:45 pm Adult Bible Study 6 pm Youth Bible Study 6 pm	10	11	12 FLC Reserved 8a-4p
13 Worship 8 & 10:30 Sunday School 9:15	14 Joyful Noise Rehearsal 3 pm & 6:30 pm	15 Ministry Council 6:30 pm	16 Adult Bible Study 10 am Youth Choir 5 pm Midweek Class 5:45 pm Adult Bible Study 6 pm Youth Bible Study 6 pm	17	18	19 FLC Reserved 10a-2p Trivia Night 4 pm
20 Newsletter Articles Due Communion 8 & 10:30 Sunday School 9:15	21 Finance Board 9 am Daycare Board 6:30 pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 3 pm & 6:30 pm	22 Church Council 6 pm	23 Adult Bible Study 10 am Youth Choir 5 pm Midweek Class 5:45 pm Adult Bible Study 6 pm Youth Bible Study 6 pm	24 Piscilla Circle 9:30 am	25	26
27 Worship 8 & 10:30 Sunday School 9:15	28 Joyful Noise Rehearsal 3 pm & 6:30 pm					