



Immanuel Lutheran Church

221 Brierton Lane
Festus, MO 63028
636-937-5525

www.ilcfestus.org

December 2022

“Gaze We On Those Glorious Scars”

The title of this article is the last six words of stanza three of the Advent hymn “Lo! He comes with Clouds Descending.” As we enter into a new church year pay attention that the imagery we see in church is not “Christmas” imagery but triumphal entry imagery, Hosanna imagery, cross imagery, and “second Christmas” imagery when Jesus comes again.

It’s a little different in the world around us, though. Take a walk in any store or Main Street or shopping mall corridor, and you will see bows and ribbons, bells and garland, and trees decorated to the tee. Amongst all of the adornments with which we like to cover this season, could someone please tell me the last time in all of the decorations you saw a scarred Jesus? Amongst all the singing of “Silver Bells” and “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year,” and “Have Holly Jolly Christmas,” when was the last time you heard someone on the street corner yelling out, “Hosanna?”

It’s the perfect (and most wonderful) time of the year to shout your Hosannas and see your scarred Jesus upon the cross-FOR YOU. Here you have the most wonderful time of the year. Your lives are wrapped up in the truth that Jesus heard and answered your cried for hosanna (help). He made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem to be escorted out with a cross. Advent performs a stunning task in both taking us to Christmas and to the second Christmas made possible only because the first Christmas leads to the cross. That victory lives in your everyday life into eternity.

The Christ child does not stop at the cradle, but He grows to complete His mission of the cross. This cross is already a reality as shepherds and angel

approach. This cross is already a reality when wisemen comes and bear gifts. Each moment that passes in this baby’s life brings Him closer to the cross. “For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son (John 3:16). He gave Him to be born of Mary. He gave Him to be born under the law. He gave Him to die on the cross.

Christmas is all about the cross! So, it is the most wonderful time of the year to sing about gazing upon His glorious scars. Notice, though, the scars upon which you gaze. These are the scars that you will see with your own eyes. These are the scars that Jesus’ body still bears. These are the scars that will be visible when Jesus comes again. These are the scars that are for you the” cause of endless exultation.”

Friends, this is why we sing songs of praise at Advent, Christmas, and all times- the scars. We are ransomed. We are saved. We live in joyful adoration that Jesus has come, Jesus has died, Jesus has risen, and Jesus will come again.

Pastor Castens



December Celebrations

Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1: Madilyn Vogelsang | 21: Bernice Meyer |
| 2: Elise Reineck
Justin Robart | Jamie Meyer |
| 4: Claudia Gordon | 22: Haley Gartner |
| 8: Nicole Sansoucie | 23: Clayton Swofford |
| 9: Andrea Patterson | Jace Pinkston |
| 10: Tom Pilliard | Jim Metziner |
| 13: Jan Sallis | Kim Acton |
| 14: Rose Rueve | 24: Joyce Budt |
| 15: Bethany Strom
Stephanie Lowe | Luke Bradley |
| 16: Alvin Harmon | 25: Allen Welker |
| Emmanuel Portugal | 27: Amanda Kastner |
| Meghan Dawson | 28: Lee Wyatt III |
| Pat Faerber | Michael Berkbuegler |
| 18: Ruth Westpfahl | Shirley Wright |
| 19: Jeff Palmier | 31: Eva (Lucy) Wagner |
| Virginia Lintner | Gerald Kastner |
| | Sarah Stroer |

Anniversaries

- 1st: Jason & Denise Oberkfell
 11th: Anthony & Kathryn Roylance
 16th: Ben & Teresa Wehner
 22nd: Steve & Katie Shemwell
 29th: Adam & Katie Eatherton
 30th: Larry & Cindy Bishop



ADVENT SERVICES

Worship on Wednesdays
during Advent

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| November 30 th : | 10 am and 7 pm |
| December 7 th : | 10 am and 7 pm |
| December 14 th : | 10 am and 7 pm |
| December 21 st : | 10 am and 7 pm |

A soup supper will be hosted by our ministry teams and served at 6:15 pm. Our hosts:

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| November 30th | Youth |
| December 7th | MILC |
| December 14th | Stewardship/Elders |
| December 21st | WOI/Board of Ed |

CHRISTMAS DECORATING



We will be decorating the church on Thursday, Dec. 1st at 1:30 pm. If you are available, we would love your help in beautifying our church for the holiday season.

VOTERS MEETING

Sunday December 4th after the 2nd service!

A potluck lunch will be served before the business meeting. Election of officers for 2023 and discussion on the budget for 2023 are on the agenda. All members are strongly encouraged to attend as your input is needed for these important decisions.

YAH!

YAH will not be meeting this month. During this busy season, the YAH group will take the month of December off. Merry Christmas and we will see you in the New Year.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our children will be presenting their Christmas Program on Sunday, December 18th at 4 pm with a cookie reception afterward. Rehearsals are underway and are held after the 2nd service in the FLC. If you have questions, please contact Andrea Patterson.

MITTEN TREE

Please help the Women of Immanuel in remembering those who might need a little extra warmth and comfort this year by bringing mittens, gloves, scarves, or hats to place on our mitten tree that will be in the narthex throughout the Advent Season. May God bless you as you are a blessing to others!



OFFERING ENVELOPES

We are getting the offering envelopes prepared for 2023. Consistent envelope users will have a box in the Narthex later this month. If you have not been using envelopes, but would like to, please let the office know as soon as possible so that we can prepare a box for you.

REASON FOR THE SEASON

Ladies of Immanuel: you are invited to an evening of celebration! Reason for the Season is an annual dinner event where the ladies of our congregation host tables for other ladies who are family or friends. The hostess provides decoration for their table, dessert for their guests and fellowship. Don't want to host, but want to attend? We will have a space for you. Sign up sheets for hostesses and attendees are in the Narthex Welcome Room. The invitation is pictured below.



Please join us on December 10th

Menu

Green Salad with Apples & Cranberries
 Pork Chops in Creamy Mushroom Sauce
 Mashed Potatoes
 Lemp Mansion Green Beans
 French Bread/Butter

Dessert provided by your hostess

Doors open at 4:45

Fellowship & voting on best table décor 5:00 – 5:15

Dinner served 5:30 – 6:30

Entertainment 6:30

Joyful Noise – Jazz Gloria
 Dramatic Portrayal – New Mother
 Group Christmas Carols



Babysitting provided

SOME THOUGHTS ON EVANGELISM

The Evangelism Board reviewed past efforts and new possibilities for Immanuel's outreach to the community. Probably the best information we can provide is what we want to do in 2023 with the estimated costs involved.

- Grace Day – We are providing hoodies and underwear for all sizes. We plan for 1000 kids of all sizes. We will ask for Thrivent Action cards but would like to request additional funds for unforeseen expenses. \$1,000.00
- Twin City Days – We will check around for donations of foodstuffs and water, book giveaways and bracelets for children. \$200.00
- Grief Share – will begin again in January on Thursdays and continue for 13 weeks. Immanuel will provide workbooks for all attendees. \$200.00
- Operation Christmas Child (Shoebboxes) at Christmas time. \$0.00
- First Responder Meals for Fire, Police and EMS and dispatchers. \$200.00
- American Red Cross Blood Drive – We will host a Drive every 3 months. \$0.00
- Sponsor Honduras Mission trip for Mike and Darlene Wehner. \$1,200.00
- Birthday postcards to each Immanuel Daycare child each year. Donated

New

- Little Free Pantry construction \$400.00
- Start "Pray in the Park" an effort for those who regularly walk in Larry Crites Memorial Park to start a time when they meet and pray for known needs. \$0.00
- "Blessing Bag" - Perhaps start a program to run throughout the year, where we collect items for personal hygiene and snacks in gallon Ziplock bags for our members to take and hand out to people on the street who are asking for help. \$100.00

- Households of Faith - We will host a full day witnessing program on Saturday, February 25th, open to neighboring Lutheran churches.

\$200.00

TOTAL REQUEST \$3,500.00

These activities may not require budget expenditures, depending on donations and Thrivent Cards used for purchases. There are so many other things we could be doing and will hopefully have a total church involved fundraiser for another Lutheran Church more in need than we are. Look for notices later this month or next month. God Bless Immanuel as we practice loving our neighbors as ourselves!

Respectfully submitted, Karen DeClue, Chair

MUSIC MINISTRY

Immanuel offers many opportunities to praise God through music.

Youth Choir: directed by Kadie Tauser, for children 2nd grade to 8th grade. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 5 pm. The choir sings at the 8 am service on the 2nd Sunday and the 10:30 am service for the 4th Sunday each month.

Joyful Noise: directed by Rachel Bierly, for high school aged and adult singers. Rehearsal time has changed!! We will meet on Thursdays at 5:45 pm in the church balcony.

If you would like to add your musical ability in other instruments or special music to help beautify our worship, please contact Rhonda Johnson.



MIDWEEK

Midweek classes will dismiss 15 minutes earlier at 6:45pm during Advent beginning on November 30th through December 14th. This is so the teachers, parents and students can attend the Advent services at 7pm. There is **NO midweek** on November 23rd and December 21st.

Want to help? Want to teach? Have questions? Reach out to 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.





From the Finance Board.....
 In November to date, \$12,864.32 has been received for the Budget. Our current budget position is shown in the table below. This information is also provided bi-weekly in the bulletin.

	2022
Budget Requirement	\$ 286,004.18
Budget Received	260,405.03
Difference over or (under)	(\$ 25,699.15)

The amount received for the budget in 2022 (year to date) is approximately 12% higher than the amount received at the same time in 2021. Immanuel members continue to support the Daycare, Daycare Playground, Local Missions (InAsMuch), Youth and Sanctuary Renovations. The recent Pie Auction made approximately \$2,000. These monies will support the 2023 FunFest.

Thank you for including your name or envelope number with your gifts. If you would like to contribute electronically, there are cards in the pew pockets with a QRC code which can be scanned to make your gift. The ILC website also has a link to e-giving.

Please keep Immanuel in your prayers....we are truly blessed!

Respectfully submitted,
 Joyce Budt, Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME YTD to 11-15-22	\$265,569.21
EXPENSES YTD	\$270,943.41
Difference:	\$ -5,374.20

Commerce Bank – Balance \$38,907.31
 (general account)

Total all Bank Accounts:	\$168,559.24
Total Restricted Accounts: (restricted spending)	\$169,3528
Difference:	\$ -793.61

This is my last Newsletter Report as Treasurer. I am not running for the position for 2023. I have served as Immanuel's Treasurer for three years and feel that I need to hand the reigns to someone else.

As I was thinking about not having this position any longer, my thoughts were --- what am I going to do now? How else can I be of service to Immanuel? What talents do I have? Where am I needed? Am I needed? What does God have in mind for me?

I have decided to run for the Recording Secretary position. I have held this position previously, once many, many years ago when I was young(er) and am comfortable with the duties. But I feel this pull and desire to also use my talents elsewhere.

As we come to the end of 2022, I ask all of you to think about the new year and what is in store for you regarding serving at Immanuel. If you are not currently active on a Board or Committee, think about where you may be needed. If you haven't been to a Bible Study recently, think about joining either the Wednesday morning or Wednesday evening class. Or start a new one. If you like to sing, think about joining the Joyful Noise, Adult Choir. Our Sunday School and Midweek are always looking for teachers. Read once a week to one of the Daycare classrooms. There are numerous ongoing projects and activities at Immanuel.

I am sure that God will lead me where I am needed, and I am sure that God will lead you also.

Respectfully submitted,
 Beverly House



Immanuel Lutheran Childcare



WINTER WONDERLAND NEWS

Christmas Program

Christmas Program
December 6th
9:30am and 6:30 pm
Two's - Pre-K



We are having two showings this year, one at 9:30am (this would be great for grandparents) and one at 6:30pm. **Please bring your child to the Church basement by 6:15pm in their Christmas best.** Please stay until end of program for the whole group to sing a final song. They have been practicing and can't wait to show off. After the program we will have a cookie treat for the kids.

FREE Babysitting Night

Saturday, Dec 10th
(5:00pm-8:00pm)

Free Babysitting night is Back for Christmas!! We will be offering **FREE** babysitting services for ages 6 weeks - 10 years



Bring your child in their P.J.'s! Dinner and a snack will be provided along with a lot of Christmas themed fun!! Go Shop! Go Wrap! Enjoy!!

Church Families please call daycare at 937-0043 to sign up.

Christmas Spirit Week

Monday 12th -
Silent Night PJ Day

Tuesday 13th -
Christmas Hat or
Headband Day

Wednesday 14th -
Ugly Sweater or
Christmas Sweater

Thursday 15th -
Holiday Socks or
Crazy socks

Friday 16th -
Flannel Friday



Class Donations

- Tissues
 - Wipes
 - Toys
 - Extra Bottoms 2T-5T
 - Nice Books & Puzzles
- As always, your donations are greatly appreciated.



Our Spotlight Teacher of the month is...

Miss Marli

We wanted to introduce to you one of our newest teacher at ILCC, Miss Marli. She will be one of our new afternoon teachers in our Three's Class. We have happy to have her!



Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 21st
9:00am - 10:00am

Santa and Mrs. Claus will mostly likely stop by for a visit! Parents/grandparents can join in on our fun day! If your child doesn't normally attend this day, you are more than welcome to bring them just for the party.



Weather Closings

In the event of inclement weather and the daycare needs to close, it will be announced on Facebook, email, and will also be on Fox 2 news. Our name will be posted as "Immanuel Lutheran Childcare in Festus". If we do open late it will be at 9AM.

Dates to Remember

December 6th
Christmas Program 9:30am & 6:30pm

December 10th
FREE Babysitting Night 5pm-8pm

December 12th -16th
Christmas Spirit Week

December 21st
Class Christmas Party
9am-10am

December 26th
Closed for Christmas

January 2nd
Closed for New Year's Eve

December 2022

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>8am Communion Service 9:15am Adult Sunday School 9:15am Children's Sunday School 10:30am Communion Service 11:30am Voters Meeting and Potluck 11:45am Rehearsal-Christmas Program</p> <p>4</p>	<p>6:30pm Elder's Meeting</p> <p>5</p>	<p>6:30pm Daycare Christmas Program</p> <p>6</p>	<p>10am Advent Worship 11am AM Adult Bible Study 5pm Youth Choir 5:30pm Confirmation Class 5:45pm Midweek 6:15pm Advent Soup Supper 7pm Advent Worship</p> <p>7</p>	<p>1:30pm Christmas Decorating 5:45pm Joyful Noise</p> <p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>5pm Reason for the Season</p> <p>10</p>
<p>8am Communion Service 9:15am Adult Sunday School 9:15am Children's Sunday School 10:30am Communion Service 11:45am Rehearsal-Christmas Program FLC Reserved</p> <p>11</p>	<p>9am Finance Board</p> <p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>10am Advent Worship 11am AM Adult Bible Study 5pm Youth Choir 5:30pm Confirmation Class 5:45pm Midweek 6:15pm Advent Soup Supper 7pm Advent Worship</p> <p>14</p>	<p>5:45pm Joyful Noise</p> <p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>8am Communion Service 9:15am Adult Sunday School 9:15am Children's Sunday School 10:30am Communion Service 11:45am Rehearsal-Christmas Program 4pm Children's Christmas Program</p> <p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>10am Advent Worship 11am AM Adult Bible Study 6:15pm Advent Soup Supper 6:30pm Daycare Board Mtg 7pm Advent Worship</p> <p>21</p>	<p>5:45pm Joyful Noise</p> <p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>6pm Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols Service 10pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</p> <p>24</p>
<p>Christmas Day 10:30am Communion Service</p> <p>25</p>	<p>9am Finance Board</p> <p>26</p>	<p>6pm Administrative Council Meeting</p> <p>27</p>	<p>10am AM Adult Bible Study 1pm Autumn Ridge Service 5pm Youth Choir</p> <p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

SERVING IN WORSHIP FOR December 2022



Date	Preach	Lead Worship	Adult Bible Study	Elders	Children's Message	Lectors	Ushers	Acolytes	Greeters	Altar Guild
12/04 DS3	Ethan Hart	Pastor Castens	Pastor Castens	<u>8am</u> Don Brandt <u>10:30am</u> Ed Malusky		<u>8am</u> Kerri Dawson <u>10:30am</u> Joe Bradley	<u>8am</u> Kent Steffens Cruz Ibaivosa <u>10:30am</u> Joe Bradley Luke Bradley	<u>8am</u> Rose Roylance <u>10:30am</u> Brylee Roth	<u>8am</u> Carol James <u>10:30am</u> Tanya Banderman	Karen DeClue Pat Lalumandier
12/11 DS1	Drew Oswald	Pastor Castens	Pastor Castens	<u>8am</u> Jason Schubert <u>10:30am</u> Ken Blins	Andrea Patterson	<u>8am</u> Nicole Sansoucie <u>10:30am</u> Steve Shemwell	<u>8am</u> Randy Wagner Dave Kulschier <u>10:30am</u> Matt Malusky Cole Malusky	<u>8am</u> Jack Patterson <u>10:30am</u> Kryslyn Poley	<u>8am</u> Jan Baumgartner <u>10:30am</u> Krisly Stuber	Karen DeClue Pat Lalumandier
12/18 DS3	Pastor Castens	Pastor Castens	Drew Oswald	<u>8am</u> Don Brandt <u>10:30am</u> Joe Bradley		<u>8am</u> Terry Mangan <u>10:30am</u> Joanne Waltman	<u>8am</u> Anne Torrence Kerri Dawson <u>10:30am</u> Matthew Waltman Alli Waltman	<u>8am</u> Lauren White- head <u>10:30am</u> Trenton Weber	<u>8am</u> Fern Bowder <u>10:30am</u> Ella Waltman Grace Waltman	Karen DeClue Pat Lalumandier
12/25 Christ- mas Service	Pastor Castens	Pastor Castens	Pastor Castens	<u>10:30am</u> John Sansoucie	Pastor Castens	<u>10:30am</u> Karen DeClue	<u>10:30am</u> Roy Stueve Dale Woodbridge	<u>10:30am</u> David Finch	<u>10:30</u> Anne Stueve	Karen DeClue Pat Lalumandier