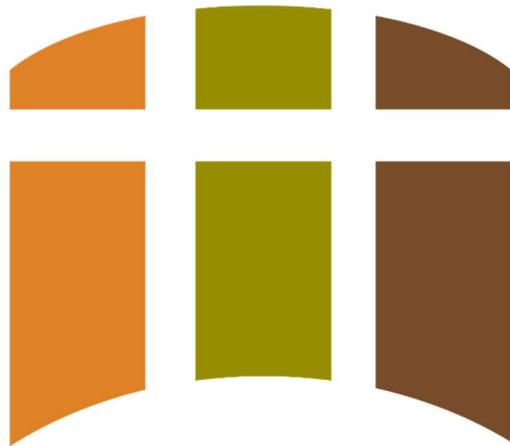


The Messenger

December 2021



immanuel

lutheran church

know. follow. share.

Immanuel Lutheran Church and Preschool
4820 Oster Pkwy, Cedar Falls, IA 50613
Rev. Dr. Gerald Kapanka, Rev. Kevin Richter, Pastors
Church: 260-2000 ilcv.org
Preschool: 260-2005 immanuelpreschool.org

Information from the Office

Official Business

- New Members
Ron Schmadeke

In Our Prayers

Prayers from November

- Rhonda Barnes, hospitalized
- Linda Gomez, recovering from illness
- Dale Kisling, recovering at New Aldaya
- Joe Christensen, Cancer
- Bob Mahncke, broken leg
- Jackie Illian at loss of father



Ongoing Prayers

- Vicki McDonald, Kathy Camarata's sister, cancer
- Robin Morelock, in Papua New Guinea
- Missionaries Scott & Ivy Wiens in Peru
- Pastor Justin Kane from Grace, serious health issue

Please call the church office if you will be in the hospital or if you know of a member that is ill.



Gathering for Worship

Regular Worship

- **Sundays 8:00am* & 10:30am**
*Live streamed on Facebook and available later at www.ilcv.org
- **Advent Services 6:30pm***
*Live streamed on Facebook and available later at www.ilcv.org

'21-'22 Theme

● Ministry Across the Ages

One generation shall commend your works to another and shall declare your mighty act. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. Psalm 145: 4 & 13



Serving This Month

SignUpGenius: We encourage our members to utilize *SignUpGenius* to get involved in service to the church. Members and attendees of Immanuel can register with *SignUpGenius* and “sign up” for our various volunteer needs.

Follow the link at <https://ilcv.360unite.com/volunteer-sign-up>
If you need assistance, speak to Jon Illian, Tech Director.

December Altar Duties

- Aspen Sparks and Lydia Dawson

Deacons

Check SignUpGenius for your assigned days and times.

Tech Assistants

- Follow the *SignUpGenius* link on page 2 to schedule
Jon Illian, Tech Director

Readers & Greeters

- Follow the *SignUpGenius* link on page 2 to schedule

Acolytes

- Follow the *SignUpGenius* link on page 2 to schedule

Ushers

- Follow the *SignUpGenius* link on page on page 2 to schedule

Caring Ministry

Love, INC

- Gas Card Gap Ministry
 - Fulfillment by mail only at this time



NE IA Food Bank

- Check their website <https://www.northeastiowafoodbank.org/> for opportunities to serve.

Christmas Baskets

- Caring Committee will meet the week of December 19 to put food baskets together. Items needed: boxed potatoes, canned vegetables, boxed stuffing, canned or gravy mixes, canned sweet potatoes, refrigerator rolls, and no bake dessert mixes. Please have any items you may wish to donate to the church by Sunday, December 19. (Use the container in the entry.) If you are aware of an Immanuel or community member in need, please give the name to the office. It will be passed along to the committee for consideration.

Adult Education

Bible Study Opportunities

- Small Group Bible Study
 - As a conclusion to the Love Does small group bible study. We will have a small group celebration on November 30th at 6:00 p.m. at church. Watch for details.



● Sunday Adult Study

- 9:15am in the sanctuary with Pastor Kapanka

● Women's Bible Study

- Tuesdays at 9:15am
Current Study: *No Other Gods*
Deb Staack, leader

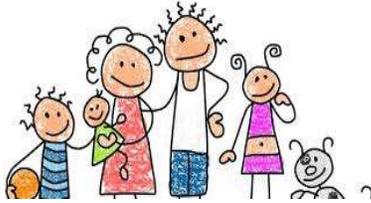
All women invited to participate.

● **At the Village Co-op**

- Kathe Kisling, leader

Family Life Ministry

- For parents of children pre-kindergarten age and younger
 - Family Life Ministry - Mom's Night November 8th. This is just for moms to get together (no kids please). Meet at Immanuel at 6:00 p.m. No supper provided.
 - Family Life Ministry - Dad's Night November 15th. This is just for dads to get together (no kids please). Meet at Immanuel at 6:00 p.m. No supper provided.



Fellowship Together

Glowing Embers

- Thursday, December 2 at 11:30am at Waterloo Perkins
Contact Jay & Karen Weber or Warren & Joanne Hartman for more info.

Advent By Candle

- December 4, 2021 Tis the Season

Music Ministry

Kids Praise Choir

- Practice Wednesdays at 5:30pm
Sharon Limback, leader

Praise Band

- Practice select Thursdays at 6:30pm

We lead the worship music singing at both services on the 2nd Sunday of the month. We are seeking a piano accompanist and drummer. Please speak to or contact Dave Koehler at 563.340.5233 if you are interested in singing or playing with the Praise Band as a regular member or substitute.

Staff Opening

- **Part-time Music Director**
Direct our choirs, bells, and chimes among other duties related to music. Experience preferred. This is a paid position. If you have an interest, check with the office for more information.



Mission Ministry

Mission Committee Meeting

- Tuesday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m.
Leader- Bob White



Bakers Needed

- The Mission Committee will be making up Christmas cookie trays for a fund raiser for Robin Morelock. If you would like to help bake cookies for this project, please contact Laverne Kelderman, (319-266-3428) to get the recipe for the kids of cookies that are needed. Thank you in advance for your help.

Missionary Workers Immanuel Helps Support

- Robin Morelock in Papua, New Guinea
- Scott & Ivy Wiens in Peru storeup@securenym.net

Women's Ministry

Dorcas

- Thursday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m.



Chick Flick

- Monday, November 29 6:00pm at Laverne Kelderman's home 5415 Lemongrass Dr, CF
Flick: *Play the Flute*
Look for a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Desk next month.



Children & Youth Ministry

Sunday School

- 9:15-10:15am for PK-8th grade
Jill Stubberud, Coordinator

Faith Alive!

- Resumes in January

SPARC - Lanterns

- December 10th get together.
Emily Woodahl, leader

High School Youth Group

- Coby Reinking, leader

From Pastor Kapanka

When is Enough truly Enough!

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the great physician of both body and soul, healed a man with dropsy by His Word on the Sabbath (Luke 14:1–6). Dropsy is a paradoxical ailment, with an unquenchable craving for drink even though the body is over inflated with fluid, a craving that, when indulged, served not to ease but to feed the disease. And so, if a man drinks a great deal but is never filled, he sees a doctor to inquire about what ails him, what is wrong with his body, and how to remedy it. For that is not thirst but a disease (Seneca, Consolation to His Mother Helvia, 11.3).

But if the owner of five couches goes looking for 10, or the owner of 10 tables buys up as many again, and even though he has plenty of land and money, he remains unsatisfied and desires yet more, losing sleep and always in discontent, does he not also require a physician to diagnose the cause of this distress?

For this is not want or lack, it's a disease (Aristippus, quoted in Plutarch, Love of Wealth, 524b). As St. Augustine of Hippo wrote, "we may rightly compare the dropsical man to a covetous rich man: For the more the one is swollen with excess of water, the more he thirsts; so also the other: The more he abounds in riches ... the more eagerly he desires them" (The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers, 4:135). Both require physicians. Both require diagnosis and medicine applied from the outside to the inward being. For these are not desires to be fulfilled but diseases to be cured.

This is why our Lord instructs us to not to be consumed by money. "No one can serve two mas- ters ... You cannot serve God and money" (Matt. 6:24; Luke 16:13). Our desire for money, like the disease dropsy, is never satisfied. We always desire more. We think, "If I just had this much then I would be happy."

But even when that much comes, which God gladly gives, happiness evades us. The desire for more is never satisfied. It demands our constant energy, either in procuring more or protecting what we already have. When this happens, God, in His mercy, shows us that the money that He has given is no longer serving us, but we it. We have another master.

To overcome this, we need a physician's diagnosis and a physician's remedy. And our Lord Je- sus Christ, our great physician of both body and soul, applies His Word to us as He did to the man healed of dropsy. He shows us how we have put our fear, love, and trust in our money and not feared, loved, and trusted in Him above all things.

In essence, He says, "Stop chasing after these fleeting things. They are vanity. They are the things that moths, and rust destroy. You cannot have two masters. Repent!" And in seeing our great error, we are sorry that we have not fully feared, loved, and trusted in God above all things. And, in the mercy and grace that He earned for us on the cross, He takes away this sin, restores us to health, and bids us to live.

But then what? What do we do with this healing balm and care that our great physician has given? Do we simply go back to our old ways? “By no means!” St. Paul says (Rom. 3:31; 6:2). We do not just go back to the old ways, the ways that lead us to death. No, we live a new life, a life filled with the grace, mercy and love of God toward us. And God’s great mercy, grace, and love toward is so abundant that it overflows and pours out onto those around us.

So we no longer hoard money and possessions. We no longer scrape and crawl our way to amass more. We give to those around us, as God in Christ has given to us. We press our money and possessions into service for those who need it: our family, our society and our church. For money is God’s gift to us to serve us and others. Not the other way around. It serves us because it is a gift from our Father in heaven.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry
lcms.org/stewardship



Immanuel Preschool News

It is hard to believe that Christmas is not too far away. Advent and Christmas have become far too busy for most of us – far too cluttered with activities, decorations, gifts, and more. If it is too busy for us, then think about how it is for our children! All the coming and going around Christmas must be confusing to them. Think about how you can make this Advent season meaningful for the whole family.

The PS4 class was busy this past month preparing for the Family Feast of Finger Foods event, which we host at our school for the families of our preschool children, right before Thanksgiving. The children put on a small skit and sing several songs before we begin our feast with food and socialization.

Bible stories have included Moses, the Ten Commandments, Naomi and Ruth along with Gideon and David. We will be changing our focus to lead up to the birth of Jesus. It seems rather early to begin the nativity story, but to make it understandable, we break it down into small sections so that the children can understand the whole story. All

the Bible stories that the children learn are so beneficial and they take them to heart. One student shared “I am knowing about God,” and this comes from a child that does not attend church.



Preschool children are working hard to get ready for Christmas and the Christmas Program on December 12 at 2:00 p.m. We would like to invite everyone to stop by to see the program. The children in our PS4 class will be doing some caroling to share the message of Christmas. Thank you for all your support and prayers!

Please contact Jackie if you have any questions.
jillian@immanuelcf.com or 319-260-2005.



Valley Lutheran School News

Valley Lutheran would like to invite you to our Christmas Concerts.

- Middle/High School will be on Thursday, December 9th at 7 p.m. They will sing at Immanuel Lutheran.
- Elementary will be on Tuesday, December 14th at 7 p.m. They will sing at Valley.

This is the perfect way to bring in the Christmas Season!

Our Tithes and Offerings

Note: Our general offerings have been slowly declining over the past several months. We are not bringing in enough to cover expenses. The Board of Directors asks you to prayerfully review your giving.

Electronic Giving

- Immanuel offers electronic giving for those who wish to have their contributions transferred electronically to the church’s account. Automatic deposits are tracked the same as with an envelope. Contact the church office for more details.

SCRIP Gift Cards

- Purchase gift cards from the office or contact Deb Newton. Immanuel keeps a percentage of each card purchased, which then goes toward the building payment.



Change Challenge

- Drop your pocket change in the 5-gallon bucket in the back of the sanctuary. All monies go towards the building payment.

Reminder to Thrivent Members

- Check your account often. Thrivent awards "Choice Dollars" to your accounts, which you can direct to Immanuel.

Other News of Interest

Phone Directory

- Work will soon begin on the 2021 phone directory. If you would like to advertise your business in Immanuel's Phone Directory, please let the office know. Prior advertisers will be contacted directly by Guidebook Publishing. Advertising allows the directory to be printed and sent out to members at no cost to the church.

LERT

- Looking for short-term accessible garage space for the trailer
Contact Dylan Woodall

Bus Trip to Creation Museum & Ark Encounter

- December 6-10 Bus leaves from Waverly
For additional information and pricing check out the flyer on the Welcome Desk.

thank you!

- Thank you to Marlene Auringer, Warren and Joanne Hartman for preparing communion in November.

- These advertisers helped provide our 2021 phone directory at no cost to our congregation. Black Hawk Memorial, Lance & Christy Banwart; Blue Line Moving and Storage, Bob & Linda Mahncke; Coldwell Banker, Celia Simmer & Elke (Simmer) Gerdes; Kobliska Chiropractic, Rod Kobliska; Polk's Lock Service, Myron & Joyce Piehl. We encourage you to think of them in the future as your needs arise!

Advertisers are needed for the 2022 edition. Contact the church office and we will pass your info on to Guidebook Publishing!

- 1 Cyrus Leyda, Eva Glasrud
- 2 Kevin Culpepper, Bri Netty, Isabelle Simmer
- 3 Dustin Knight
- 4 Jared Piehl, Nora Reinking
- 5 Luke Duff, Dave Koehler, Trudy Shepard
- 6 Joseph Christiansen, Jennifer Daniels, Amanda Dart, Sharon Loftus, Ashleigh Panning, John Schrum
- 7 Josh Byers, Ehren Simmer, Jaclyn Stoakes
- 8 Magnus Stiner
- 9 Mary Smith
- 10 Lexi Kapanka, Tera Pries,
- 11 Cecil Sieglaff, Aspen Sparks
- 12 Lydia Dawson, Lori Rule, Stacey Simmer
- 13 Dawn Stone
- 14 Kyler Dunbar, Hogan Simmer
- 15 Nancy Culpepper, Erich McHone, Trevor Schneider, Lori Schoepske
- 16 Zoe Vollaro
- 18 Doris Meyer, Isaac Natvig
- 20 Ashley Kroblin
- 22 Merle Bush, Kathy Diehl, Melissa Petersen, John Swartzendruber
- 23 Jake Kobliska, Kayla Winders
- 24 Joyce Piehl
- 25 MJ Meeks
- 26 Nita Matthias, Betty Tyler
- 27 Alex Galloway, AdAson Hovey, Amanda Scheel, Ben Timmer, Ashley Trost
- 28 David Dawson, Lindsey Ernst, Teri Mason, Jesse Piehl
- 29 Mysti Beasley

30 Ally Mae Dawson

December Anniversaries

- 3 Joe and Brenda Edgerton
- 6 David and Tonia Stamm
- 10 Laurence and Phyllis Pauling
- 18 Donald and Marcia Harrison
- 19 Daniel and Nita Matthias
- 20 Chad and Marnie Holtzman
- 21 Jamie and Allison Stein
- 26 Charlie and Jaclyn Stoakes



Serving in the Military

Members

- **Cale Buck** serving as Drill Sergeant at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO
- **Reece Buck** serving with the National Guard
- **Blake Determan** Air Force Staff Sergeant, deployed to the Middle East
- **Camryn Meyer** serving with the Army National Guard Reserve 209th Medical Company
- **SFC Jamie Stien** Military Instructor for ROTC at UNI

Friends of the Congregation

- Jessica McCarthy, family of Doug & Mary Schmidt (Army)
- Dylan Meyer, Doris Meyer's grandson (Navy)
- Colonel Kevin Minor, son-in-law of Deb Staack, working for NATO in Belgium (Air Force)