

Immanuel Lutheran News

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Visit our web site at www.immanuelaltamont.org

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From Pastor Wright

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

Certainty is at a low point today. We cannot be certain that our favorite candidate will win the election. We cannot be certain that we will not contract the Coronavirus and pass it on to other people. We can't be certain we will have a job next month. We can't be certain that civil unrest won't break out in cities. We can't be certain that the stock market won't go through another sharp fall. There are so few things we can be sure of.

One thing is sure--that God loves us dearly. This is the message of the church throughout the ages. God loves all people. Jesus is the proof. "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." We worship a God who is interested in us, what we are doing and thinking. He sees our needs better than we can. He answers our fears before we know them. He is truly for us.

Certainty comes when we listen to God. We have many enemies. The devil. The world. Our own flesh, or sinful nature. They fight against us and build their traps for us. The Word of God is our guide. To avoid temptation. To resist Satan. To solidify our trust that God has us. The Word of God. Holy Scripture. The Law and the Prophets. The Gospels. The Epistles. The Revelation. It's all one big love story of God for his people. It warns us of our demise in sin through the Law. It heals us with the mercy of God in the Gospel.

When we fear death, as many do right now, we can be confident. "For I am sure..." Jesus is the perfect sacrifice for us, to cleanse us, to give us his righteousness. What can our enemies do about that? "Neither death nor life, angels nor rulers, things present or things to come...nothing can separate us from the love of God through Christ Jesus our Lord."

Let's not become separated from our certainty. If you are not coming to church services right

now, be sure to watch our service on TV or internet at immanuelaltamont.org. Listen to the scriptures being read. Hear the sermon. Join in the prayers, hymns, and praises. Read the Bible and pray each day. Pray for yourself, your family, your leaders, your fellow church members. Teach your children using the resources we provide on our website.

If you are coming to church, pay close attention to what we are praying, preaching, and singing. It's all about Jesus and how he loves us. This is where our certainty comes from. No matter what, God loves us, and by faith in him we will overcome all adversities.

With love, Pastor Wright

EDUCATION UPDATE

New Member Classes begin Tuesday, September 8 from 6:30-8:00 PM and continues weekly through mid-November. Come to the conference room by the church office. Bring a friend.

Wednesday Catechism Classes for public school children in grades 5-8 begin Wednesday, September 9, from 2:45-4:00PM in the Parish Hall lower level.

Sunday Bible Class with Pastor Wright continues the study of the Book of Revelation from 9:45-10:45 in the Parish Hall upper level.

High School Bible Class meets in the Parish Hall lower level youth room on Sundays at 9:45-10:45.

Sunday School for Age 3 through Grade 8 will be online only at Immanuelaltamont.org for the fall semester.

Sunday School this Fall The Board of Christian Education has made the difficult decision to suspend PreK-8th grade Sunday School for the time being. We will reevaluate as we see fit. However, because our zest for God should be continuous, we want to work together with families so they can continue in their faithfulness and grow in their understanding and love for God.

Parents are the primary influence for their child, both in life and faith. A child's understanding of God and what it means to be faithful to Him is impacted most when learned from a person they admire. Immanuel thanks God for all our parents and caregivers. To support parents in teaching God's word to their child(ren), Immanuel will provide parents with a *weekly devotion* (via the bulletin and website) to use with their child(ren) to help them learn more about what God has done and is doing for them through Jesus. Parents will have the opportunity to present the information to their children in a way that they will understand and are encouraged to make the lessons relatable to their lives.

It is of the utmost importance to continue to teach your children God's word and help them stay faithful throughout this time of irregularity. This resource will be available on September 6th.

Additionally, children can watch a *video lesson* every Sunday! This is a great way to teach your child about Christ during the summer. The weekly devotions and videos can be found on the church website under Ministry → Children. It is an encouragement to know that God is faithful, and even through uncertain times, He is still in control. As faithful believers, we know it is God's will for all to know Him and have eternal life. Please find comfort in knowing that Jesus Christ has already conquered sin, death, and the devil through His death on the cross!

Ladies Aid Pie Making Thursday, August 27, 6 p.m. All supplies and fruit purchased with Thrivent Action Grant. We will be making approx. 30 pies for the Pork Burger Fundraiser on Sat, Sept 12. *Thanking all you wonderful ladies in advance for your willingness to always help out!*

On Saturday, September 12th, members of Immanuel Lutheran Church will be hosting a fundraiser on the north parking lot of the church at 203 E Division St. in Altamont. Fresh baked homemade pies, porkburgers, hot dogs, chips, drinks and homemade Ice-cream will be served by Immanuel's youth fellowship club. Serving will be from 10:30 – 1:00 pm..

Proceeds going to benefit the Church worker scholarship fund, members in need projects and Immanuel's 150th anniversary.

Both walk-up and drive thru service will be available. Please follow the signs. All active social guidelines will be followed.

Music Corner

Music at Immanuel For the 6:00 and 8:30 services, contact Sheryl Marble at 217-343-6432 if you can help beautify the service with your voice.

Sunday Praise Team invites singers and instrumentalists to join them. Contact Bill Simmons at bsmns@altamont.net or speak to the group after service.

MERCY CARE and WITNESS

Altamont Ministerial Association operates a food bank at First United Methodist Church. We are still in need of volunteers to help with the food pantry on any of the days/hours participants come in. Please contact the church if you have questions or know of someone who would be interested in helping. Food Pantry Hours: Tuesday: 1-2 pm and 5-6 pm and Thursday: 1-3 pm. Susan Winters, Secretary, 308 N. 2nd St., Altamont. Phone 618-483-6036.

Lutherans for Life has formed a chapter with members from Bethlehem, Zion, and St. Paul—Blue Point congregations. We are having a fundraiser **porkburger and bake sale** as a drive-through in our parking lot Saturday, **October 17**, 10 AM to 1 PM (**Changed again to Oct 17**) **Grill was not available on 1st Sat; Fireman Breakfast is on 2nd Sat.) Let's try again for 3rd Saturday!** Come out and enjoy a good meal and support life as God created it.

Scholarship Sunday Due to the coronavirus, Central Illinois District Scholarship Sunday was postponed this year from May until September 13th. Donations in special envelopes gathered this Sunday will support our district scholarships to students preparing for full-time church work. Currently our church has three students enrolled: Claire Busby at Concordia Nebraska, Austin Wendling at Concordia Chicago, and Daniel Langewisch (married to Kali Weishaar) at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Lutheran Hour Join the CID Lutheran Laymen's League on September 12 for a lively workshop that presents timely, practical tools that can equip you to become an effective witness for Jesus. You can either attend the retreat in person at Camp CILCA or you can join us via Zoom on your computer. We encourage congregations to sponsor a virtual session at their church for those who have no zoom capability. Register today by calling Deloris Blessman at 309-361-1461 or email her at delorisblessman@yahoo.com. A registration fee

of \$15 in person or \$5 via zoom to cover lunch and materials (all students are free). Zoom connection instructions and lesson materials will be provided via email to all who register. In case group attendance is cancelled by the authorities, the meeting will proceed by zoom only. Saturday, Sep 12, 2020 at Camp CILCA (4124 Cp CILCA Rd, Cantrall, IL 62625)

Camp CILCA Auction Fundraiser Due to COVID, the annual Camp CILCA Auction Fundraiser, usually held on the same day as the Chicken Fry, will be conducted a little differently this year. It will be online on FACEBOOK ONLY! You do not need to be a Facebook user to participate in the Auction. The list of items available at the Auction will be posted by August 17. Along with that list will be instructions as to how to bid, etc. The ending date for bidding will be announced soon. Visit Camp CILCA (www.cilca.org), Events/Retreats, Auction Items. Keep checking the list of Auction items (new gifts will continue being added) and keep bidding! **Camp CILCA's Chicken Dinner, Sun Sept 6, 2020, 11:30am - 2:00pm.** Meals are \$10 each and include a 1/2 roasted chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes, rolls, desserts, and drinks. **Meals must be ordered in advance by September 1.** You can call the camp office (217-487-7497) or order online at <https://nelsonscatering.com/camp-cilca/> In Christ, Joshua W Theilen, Director, Camp CILCA

Rainforest Explorers VBS- Thanks to all who participated in this year's online VBS program. 75 VBS Packets. 41 families participated. Children joined us from 4 different churches!

Lutherans for Life Donations – If you use Lutherans for Life offering envelope, donation will go to *National* Lutherans for Life. If you want a donation to go to *local chapter*, use a Designated envelope and mark "Immanuel Lutherans for Life".

The Baby Bottle Project is the Family Life Center's greatest fundraiser. Please turn in baby bottles by September 1.

Another way to donate: make check payable to FLC and drop it off at church or mail to: Family Life Center, 605 Eden Ave, PO Box 154, Effingham, IL 62401. Please be sure in the "note" section of your check to put: Immanuel, Altamont. Thank you so much for your help.

To Our Church Family – *Thank you to all who brought food to our home, to all who gave memorials for Judy, to all who sent cards and for all your prayers.*

Thank you to Pastor Wright for your prayers and visits. May God continue to bless, Kenny, Lori and Brian Mercier

Thank you everyone for cards, gifts, love, prayers and concern during my hospitalization and recuperation. With God's help and many prayers, I will make it through this.

Linda Smith

CEFS Meal deliveries for Immanuel are September 8-18. Schedules have been emailed and are available on the small table in the PH lobby.

Prayer Corner

- For healing of Heath Beccue, Claudia Berg, Claudie Burgess, Delphene Duckwitz, Tiffany Dunaway, Abbey Franzen, Stephen Heimgartner, Carol Kassel, Pam Kepley, Cathy Marble, Brian Mueller, JR Newby, Deb Pagel, Pam Paszotta, Gary Pryor, Walter Ruding, Evelyn Shumaker, Norma Siebert, Barb Smith, Doris Strullmyer, Elverna Tappendorf, Phil Walk, Craig Wolff, Gina Wolff and others.
- Comfort to the family and friends of Sue Riley, mother of Susan Wright; comfort to the family and friends of Richard Ishmael, grandfather of Keifer Camp.
- For our pastor, church staff, ALIS school staff
- For Lutheran missionaries Ted Krey and Britt Odemba and for their families.
- For our government for protection of unborn children and elderly.
- For peace in the world, an end to violence in the name of God, and for harmony among nations.
- For those persecuted for their faith in Jesus.
- For police, fire fighters, emergency medical personnel, and those who serve in our military and their families.