

# Immanuel Lutheran News

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Visit our web site at [www.immanuelaltamont.org](http://www.immanuelaltamont.org)

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## From Pastor Wright

### 2021 A YEAR OF LIFE

On Christmas we celebrated the birth of a child and how salvation came to us and to all people. God is all about his gift of life! Death comes from someone else! All that we have endured from the Coronavirus pandemic in 2020 has been about saving lives. Facemasks, social distancing, school closings, quarantine, vaccinations, you name it. All the extra care and restrictions we have suffered was to protect human life.

Why should that protection not be extended to the unborn? Are they any less human than us? People sometimes ask why I preach and pray for the protection of the unborn. "Am I not sensitive to those who have experienced abortion and just want to forget it? Why make the church political? We come to church to get away from politics." People have questions like that.



The church is about the word of God. God spoke the world of life into existence, and he created the church of life with the words of

scripture. Jesus is the Word of God in the flesh (John 1:14). In Him is truth and life (John 14:6) His words give us life and salvation. He said that repentance and forgiveness should be preached to all nations. The following quotes are helpful:

"Failing to preach about abortion offends women more grievously than preaching about it.

"If the sin of abortion is never mentioned, then the Gospel—that Gospel pastors have been called to proclaim—is never applied to that sin nor to those caught up in the pain and guilt of abortion. Instead, Satan whispers through the silence, 'This sin is so awful, even Jesus can't forgive you.'"

--Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former executive director of Lutherans For Life



*The reason I preach about abortion as a sin we should all do something about is because it is not something that someone can ever "just forget." It leaves a permanent scar in people that only Jesus' love and forgiveness can heal. We do not deal with sins by covering them up and trying to forget them. We deal with them by bringing them to Jesus and allowing his mercy to heal and restore us.*

*The most powerful thing we can do to support God's gift of life is to simply do that, SUPPORT LIFE. We can do that in the voting booth. We can do that by helping care for women with children. The Family Life Center in Effingham is an excellent organization in need of your support. They need donations of money. They need your used clothing and household items to resell in "The Silk Purse" shop. They need your time to help in the center and to advise young men and women about how to care for the gift of life. Partnering with them we can make abortion unthinkable.*

*In a country as rich as ours there should be no reason to end any person's life before birth. American couples are going overseas for adoptions and being taken in by schemes to get their money. Our young women are told that they can't afford to birth a child, but our state government offers to provide an abortion. We should be offering loving adoption services to mothers who can't raise their child, not exterminating our own children. God's great love for you and for all people will lead you to act.*

*We are people of life, not death. God has given the life of His Son to save the lives of all people. Each person is indispensable. You are precious. The Bible teaches this. Coronavirus demonstrates this.*

**"From Invisible to Indispensable!"** is Lutherans For Life's theme for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, which is set for **January 24, 2021**. Our congregation will observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on that date. Our Life Sunday 2021 theme is based on 1 Corinthians 12:22: **"On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable ..."** (ESV).



**Calling All For Life Supporters!** Lutherans For Life (LFL) is excited to announce a brand new multi-generational online and in-person opportunity: **Life Week 2021: Invisible to Indispensable**. Plan to join them each day from **Saturday, January 23, through Saturday, January 30, 2021**, to learn about, share, and build excitement For Life in your home, church, school, and community! Each themed day will explore a distinct aspect of life ministry through local activities, online educational events, and interviews. Top off the week in person or online with mountaintop experiences like the March for Life and Y4Life in Washington, D.C. Watch for more news on the Lutherans For Life Facebook page and at [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)!

Each day, LFL will be hosting an online educational event for YOU that will focus on one area of invisibility in modern society. Even better, their guest speakers will highlight how God speaks directly to each life issue. Take a look at this amazing lineup:

- **Day 1: Rev. Michael Salemink**, Executive Director of Mission and Ministry, LFL
- **Day 2: Rev. Dr. Michael Eschelbach**, Professor of Theology at Concordia Irvine
- **Day 3: Erin Maggard**, Pro-life speaker and writer
- **Day 4: Mona Fuerstenau**, Disability Advocate and Ministry Consultant, and **Rev. Scott Licht**, Executive Director of Finance and Operations, LFL
- **Day 5: Deaconess Chrissie Gillet**, Word of Hope Director, LFL
- **Day 6: Deaconess Pam Nielson**, Associate Executive Director of LCMS Communications
- **Day 7: Panel Discussion** including: **Deaconess Pat Nuffer**, Disability Advocate, and her son, **Carl Nuffer**, who is a vibrant testament to the gift of life with Down syndrome; **Amy Skogerboe**, Jesus-loving Inspirational Christian Speaker;

and **Deaconess Chrissie Gillet**, Word of Hope Director, LFL

- **Day 8: Rev. Hans Fiene**, Pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Crestwood, Missouri, and creator of Lutheran Satire (Session 1); **Michelle Bauman**, Director of Y4Life (Session 2)



Join us for **Life Week 2021**. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more sneak peeks soon!

### **This Life Sunday, Consider an Offering for LFL**

On January 24, 2021, Lutheran churches across the country will observe Sanctity of Life Sunday. As part of this, dozens of congregations will collect an offering for Lutherans For Life (LFL). The number of churches and church auxiliaries participating continues to go up. In 2018, 8.5% of churches helped LFL. This support is also vital since 95% of their funding comes from individuals and churches. They receive no subsidies, tuition, insurance, or government reimbursement, etc. Offering envelopes are provided for this purpose.

**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”.

Or you can send gifts and offerings to: Lutherans For Life, 1101 5th Street, Nevada, IA 50201-1816

Questions regarding LFL or its programs can be directed to the national office at 888.364.LIFE (5433) or [info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org).

## Epiphany Service,

**January 6** at 6:30 PM.

On this day we celebrate the fact that Jesus was the savior of nations. As the wise men are welcomed at Bethlehem, God welcomes every person and nationality through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. Celebrate together with your congregation in word and sacrament.



**Worship** As the positivity rate for COVID-19 declines in our area, it is time to **come back to in-person worship** at Immanuel. We will continue to practice safe guidelines in our gatherings. We gather to feed our souls on the Bread of Life and to pray for all those afflicted in any way by this pandemic. Let us continue to pray for our school teachers and all servants of the church who have served faithfully during the past year of difficulties. We also gather to pray for those who are still recovering from illness, and for those who have lost loved ones to this disease and its related complications. Immanuel means "God is with us." If God is with us and for us in Christ, who and what can be against us?



## Upcoming Congregational Leadership Meetings:

Church Council, Tues. January 19, 7:30 PM  
Voters' Assembly, Sun. January 24, 1:30 PM

## Newly Elected and Returning Church

**Officers** will be installed at all services on January 2-3.

**Read through the Bible in a Year** in about four chapters per day. Chronological guides are available on the Parish Hall Shelf.

*Pastor James Wright*

**4:30pm New Years' Eve Worship** with HC.

**No** New Years Day Worship.

## Prayer Corner

- For healing of Tiffany Dunaway, Abbey Franzen, Stephen Heimgartner, Don Hiser, Pam Kepley, Cathy Marble, JR Newby, Deb Pagel, Pam Paszotta, Larry Quandt, Walter Ruding, Evelyn Shumaker, Norma Siebert, Cathy Swingler, Craig Wolff and others
- Comfort to the family and friends of Mildred Blake, Marlene Bushue, Greg Lankford, Lloyd Mueller and Gary Traub
- 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.

**Claim** your offering envelopes for 2021 from the narthex.

**Ladies Aid Meeting** Thursday, January 7, 7:00 pm. Devotion by Debby Frailey. Hostesses are Marilyn Burrow and Debby Frailey.

**Remember LCC residents** by placing thinking of you cards in the box in the narthex. LCC residents are Charlott Brauer, Lorene Frederking, Adela Goers, Carol Sheppard, Evelyn Shumaker. **Mail** thinking of you cards to Don Ousley, 221 E Cumberland Rd, St Elmo, IL 62458.

***The Lord is good to all and his tender mercies are over all His works. Psalm 145:9***

**LYF** collects offerings at Together Time and uses it to support causes that help share the good news of Christ and His love to others. This month 5 youth picked ornaments from the Family Life Center's Angel Tree and shopped for the items listed on the ornaments. We bought diapers, shoes, sheets, a safety kit, and a toy for parents needing these items. We donated them to the Family Life Center knowing that they will be used to nurture a precious life that God has created!



### **Donate to the LYF**

There are many things that we use on a regular basis for LYF. Here are some items that we feel would help us in our ministry. These items can be dropped off at the church office, be sure to say they are for LYF.

- Individually packaged chips
- Individually packaged cookies/snacks
- Canned soda
- Gift cards to local restaurants and grocery stores (of any amount)
- \$10 gift cards to Walmart, Amazon, Subway or McDonalds
- Ping pong balls and paddles

**Altamont Food Pantry** at the Methodist Church; Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-3pm. We have a refrigerator and freezer so we are able to accept cold foods, etc. Volunteers needed on Thursdays. If interested, call the Methodist church at 618-483-6036.

### **Food Pantry Needs:**

- Milk/Dairy products
- Eggs
- Canned Meats (tuna, chicken, spam, etc.)
- Breads/Buns
- Canned meals (spaghetti-Os, ravioli, etc.)
- Helpers (hamburger, tuna, chicken, etc.)
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Crackers
- Meats (hot dogs, hamburger, etc.)
- Vegetables & Fruits (fresh or canned)
- Potatoes or Instant Potatoes
- Cereals
- Oatmeal, Rice, etc.
- Peanut Butter & Jellies
- Ketchup, Mustard, Mayonnaise
- Boxed Pasta (spaghetti, noodles, etc.)
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Soups (all kinds)
- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Soap (face, detergents, etc.)
- Razors
- Toilet Paper and Paper Towels

Thank you and your congregation for the continuing support and donations!