

Immanuel Lutheran News

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Visit our web site at www.immanuelaltamont.org

May 2021

From the Pastor:

How the world has changed during the past twelve months! We have gone through a world-wide pandemic. Remember when we were hoping for a vaccine, waiting and waiting? Finally about fifty percent of Americans have been vaccinated. I hope you will consider receiving the vaccine. Some may not want to risk any side effects, but I have personally known people who have died from the Coronavirus, even here in Altamont. One of my extended family members was hospitalized, and two of my friends almost died, but then recovered from it. I have been vaccinated for months and had no severe side effects, thanks be to God. In fact, 2020 was the healthiest year I can remember in my life.

We are now getting back to large gatherings and fearless church attendance. If you have gotten out of the habit of going to church, I urge you to start coming again. The Bible says that our enemy, the devil, "prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Don't become one of his easy victims. Read the Scriptures for yourself, and come to the worship services of the church, that we may grow together in faith and strengthen one another by our presence. You have definitely been missed! We are resuming the children's talk and we will be moving back to communion at the altar eventually, so be patient. Every weekend God provides a banquet meal of love, encouragement, and the gentle correction that we sinners need to keep us from drifting away from Jesus. We also hear him grant us forgiveness, the precious gift we need so greatly. And don't forget that the King of Kings invites you to His table, where he is both the meal and the waiter.

If you are hungry for something more than politics, that can really change people, come to church! If you are burdened with the weight of sin, come to church! If you are thankful for God's protection and providence in your life, come to church! If you want to be around people who have hope for the world, and look forward to the life of the world to come, come to church! There's really no reason to stay at home, unless you are ill. Nowhere else can you get the good and vital things God provides to us every time we gather around His word and sacraments.

I hope you will support the Ladies Aid society as they gather rummage sale items for the Silk Purse store, supporting the local Family Life Center. Donations taken to Silk Purse are credited to Immanuel if you tell them, and we will receive as much as \$3,000 if we donate and volunteer to work behind the scenes. Be sure to tell them your donation is for Immanuel! You are also supporting children and mothers as you give and work.

May 2 is Concordia University Sunday. We are seeking donations to support our church worker students from congregations in the LCMS-Central Illinois District. You can also help students from our area through the ALIS Church Worker Scholarship Fund, our Ladies Aid Society, and the Immanuel Church Worker Scholarship Fund. Right now Claire Busby is preparing to graduate and receive a call to serve as a Lutheran teacher in Kentucky, Austin Wendling is studying through Concordia Chicago to be a high school language arts teacher, and Andy Wendling is pursuing her certification as a Director of Christian Education through Concordia California online.

Daniel Langwisch (married to Kali Weishaar) will be going on his vicarage year of internship somewhere to serve a congregation. We will need many more professional church workers, pastors, teachers, youth workers, deaconesses, and musicians to serve the younger generations. Thanks for your help.

Many of you may remember my daughter, Lilly, who attended high school here in Altamont. She has brain cancer and has undergone an operation to remove the tumor in March. She has fully recovered from the surgery with no disabilities, and she will be taking chemotherapy and radiation beginning this month to prevent a reoccurrence. Thanks be to God for her healing, and to all of you for your prayers for her and encouragement.

If money is in short supply in your family, or you would like to learn some discipline in how you spend it, consider taking our Dave Ramsey money management class which will be offered this summer. If you have questions about it, talk to Jeff Mayhaus or another member of the Board of Stewardship. A year's membership in Ramsey+ program is available to you *free of charge*. More information will be coming in June.

Have you ever wondered what the embroidery spelling NIKA means on the pulpit? It is a stylized rendering of NIKE, which adorns much athletic wear. Nike is Greek for "victory." It is a fitting theme for the Easter season, where the church proclaims Jesus' victory over death for us and all that threatens us. Currently there is a butterfly adorning the pulpit. It is a symbol of life out of death, as the cocoon symbolizes Jesus' tomb and the butterfly symbolizes beauty and life.

God bless each and every one of you. Let's take the good news to everyone of God's forgiveness for sinners, the gift of a life that never ends, and being saved out of the coming destruction that is planned for earth.

Long live King Jesus! Pastor Wright

Information from Andy and the LYF



VBS- Immanuel will hold God's Wonder Lab VBS June 1-4 from 9-11:50 AM. Sign up for Children & Volunteers is now open, forms are at each of the church doors and on our website under Ministries --> Vacation Bible School. Please let Andy Wendling know if you have any questions.

Car Wash Fundraiser- LYF will be having a carwash fundraiser in the North Parking Lot Sunday, May 2nd from Noon- 3 PM. Free-will donations.

Youth Servant Trip- Andy and Pastor will be taking seven youth to Henning, MN, for a servant trip this July. They will assist Lutheran Island Camp with improving and refreshing its facilities. Softball, soccer, archery, and disc golf areas on the Island will be the primary focus of service through repair, painting, and cleaning. Lutheran Island Camp pursues the Glory of God through worship, ministry, giving, and education. They strive to connect with Jesus Christ and to each other to magnify His name.

The youth of Immanuel share in the mission to love God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind, and to treat our neighbors as we wish to be treated ourselves. Through this servant trip, the youth will be able to share God's love with all the children, volunteers, and staff that are connected to the camp. Our youth are excited about spending a week working to serve the Lord in this way.

Our group has done a great job of fundraising to serve in this way, but we still

have a ways to go until they are fully funded. If you would like to help, you can donate to the youth servant trip or look for fundraisers to take part in throughout the summer. We would also appreciate your prayers as we prepare for our trip!

Fleece Blankets- This semester youth made fleece tie blankets that will be donated to Phil's Friends. Phil's Friends provides Christ-centered support and hope through the distribution of care packages to those affected by cancer. We were able to do this from the offering gathered at Together Time in January & February. It was great to not only be able to raise the funds but also be actively involved in our donation.



Prayer Corner

- For healing: Debi Bernahl, Mike Bowman, Tiffany Dunaway, Abbey Franzen, Stephen Heimgartner, Sonia Hyde, Bruce Kessler, Pam Kepley, JR Newby, Judy Oldham, Deb Pagel, Samuel Shelton, Evelyn Shumaker, Shirley Siddens, Norma Siebert, Irene Spilker, Craig Wolff, Lilly Wright and others.
- Comfort to the families and friends of Bob Budde and Cathy Swingler

- Church staff, ALIS school staff and their families.
- 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.

Dear Members of Immanuel: Today I want to take a moment to say Thank You! Thank you for your wonderful generosity throughout the years you have partnered with Rev Ted & Rebecca Krey.

What a blessing each of you are in the Lord's work. Thank You! Julie Loehring

Ladies Aid Meeting Thursday, May 6, 7pm. Devotion by Diana Wendling. Hostesses are Claudia Berg, Karen Richter, Ruth Spilker.

Large Print Workers needed for Tuesday, May 4. Call Eloise at 483-6439 to volunteer.

Ascension Service Thursday, May 13, 6:30PM with the Lord's Supper.

Baby Bottles for Family Life Center will be ready for Mothers' Day and then should be turned back in by Fathers' Day with contribution. Make checks payable to Family Life Center.

CEFS Meal Delivery Schedules May 17-28 for Immanuel were emailed or mailed. There are extra schedules on the small table in the parish hall lobby.

Pastor Fred Lams is going to retire the end of May. Pastor Lams was a teacher and coached baseball here from 1970-1973.

Email Hannah Greener hannahgreener@e-mail.com or call Martha Glover 219-588-4056.

Altamont Food Pantry hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-3PM. For April 20 and 22, we had a total of 26 people served.

Donations can be dropped off from 9 -12, Monday through Thursday at the Methodist Church North Entrance. Non-perishable donations may be left here at Immanuel in the basket under the Parish Hall shelf.

Donations to Silk Purse and Volunteers Needed

The Ladies Aid members are participating in the Family Life Center/ Silk Purse Community Give Back Program. In this program, there will be no sale at ALIS. Instead, Immanuel members donate items directly to Silk Purse, Ladies Aid members and others volunteer at the Silk Purse Thrift Shop, and the Silk Purse contributes as much as \$3000 to the Ladies Aid.

The Ladies Aid is asking Immanuel members to deliver items to the Silk Purse in Effingham during May and June. Deliver items to the purple door on the east side of the building. **Please tell the person at the door that the items are from Immanuel Lutheran Church so our group will get credit for the drop-off.**

For anyone not able or desiring to take items to Silk Purse, the Ladies Aid will hold a "Drop Off Day" at the Immanuel Parish Hall on Monday, June 7, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Items will be delivered to Silk Purse for you. If anyone has large items, call Ruth Spilker (618-267-7478) or the church office, and arrangements will be made for pick up and delivery to Silk Purse.

Ladies Aid members have committed to volunteer 100 hours during June, and many have already signed up. Others from Immanuel are welcome to volunteer during June to help the ladies reach the goal of 100 hours. **Volunteer workers should sign up in the purple binder on the counter by the Parish Hall.** Volunteers would work between the hours of 8:00 and 4:00 Monday through Friday, would sort donated items in the back area of the store, and would report to Shari at the Silk Purse upon arrival. The ladies of the Immanuel Ladies Aid appreciate your help in this project.

Recruiting Pastors and Other Church Workers

Me? In Church Work?

A convocation on church worker recruitment, particularly that of pastors, will be sponsored by the Shelby, Effingham, and Altamont Circuits at St. John Lutheran Church, Effingham on Pentecost, May 23rd, 3 to 6 p.m.

Dr. Dale Meyer, President Emeritus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will be the featured guest speaker. Representatives of the seminaries, Concordia-Chicago, and Concordia-Wisconsin will be there, also folks from LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces and Camp CILCA.

Register for this convocation by May 7, at www.stjohnsLCMS.net See the video at <https://youtu.be/gpHT0EcWpAU>

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) info@lutheransforlife.org.

The 27th annual ALIS PTL Dinner auction is being planned for May 8th at the Carriage House Event Center. Social hour and pulled-pork meal provided by Janet Ramsey and the auction committee, 4:30-6:00 pm.

Live Auction begins at 6:30 and the evening will conclude with a full live band performance featuring Jake Hault and Mikayla Joy! The cost is \$25 per person or you may reserve preferred (near the front) seating on a first come, first served basis for \$300 (table of 8).

For more information or to RSVP contact Jennifer Milleville 217-821-1898, Robin Elam 618-204-0397 or Kristen Savage 636-209-2118. You may also request an RSVP form from the ALIS office.