

# Immanuel Lutheran Church

## Altamont, Illinois

For I was **HUNGRY**  
and you gave me food,

I was **THIRSTY**  
and you gave me something to drink,

I was **A STRANGER**  
and you welcomed me.

MATTHEW 25:35



***The Last Sunday of the Church Year***  
***November 26, 2023***

Church  
Office Hours  
Rev. Dr. James F. Wright, Pastor  
Kendra Walker Dir of Youth/Fam  
Church Secretary  
Missionary

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Monday-Friday  
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Rev. Ted Krey, Dominican Republic

**TO OUR GUESTS:** Welcome to Immanuel. We pray that you will be blessed worshipping the Lord with His people. Please sign a guest attendance card and place it at the end of your row. Please join us often.

### **In Our Prayers**

**Medical Care** Freda Beccue, Dale Berg, Tom Campbell, Heather Davis, Abbey Franzen, Sharon Hiser, Linda Holste, Edith Miller, Ruth Ann Ragsdale, Lorene Schroeder, Patti Smith Sessions, Shirley Siddens, Evelyn Shumaker, Dave Wolf

**Prayers of Sympathy** for the Matt, Ann, Henry, and Olivia and all family members of Roger Grasher who passed away this past week.

**Homebound:** Norma Siebert, Kay Traub, Linda Holste

### **Fiscal**

**11/19/2023 Offerings:** Total \$17,648.78 Includes: Memorials - Margaret Miller to Ladies Aid \$330; Margaret Miller to Sanctuary Reno \$220; Grain Check/Gift in Kind: Designated for Brick Work \$1,815.78; Sanctuary Renovation \$50; After School Care \$150; Thank offering \$1470; Thanksgiving \$150

**Financial Update** Current total borrowed over recent months to meet operating expenses is \$18,551.26. The trustees have made a payment of \$20,000 toward the \$38,000 loan from First Mid Bank.

**Stewardship** forms and envelopes are still available at the entrances to the Sanctuary.

**Christmas Fund Envelope** located in your annual box of offering envelopes is for contributions for children's treat sacks for Christmas Eve.

### **Current Bible Study & Learning Opportunities**

**Pastor's Bible Class** with Pastor Fortkamp today, at 9:45 AM in the lower level.

**Adult Sunday School** with DYF Kendra Walker today at 9:45am in the lower-level parish hall. Topic is based on the book, "*Intentional Parenting*". Please let Kendra know if you missed a class and want the material.

**Women's Bible Study** at Vicki Robinson's home at 9:00 AM on Mondays. "*Living Above Worry and Stress*" For more info, call 217.663-6333.

**Women's Bible Study** in Parish Hall at 8:00 AM on Tuesdays. "*Focus Lost...Focus Restored*" Ruth Spilker. New study begins on December 5<sup>th</sup> "*Mountain Top Journeys with Jesus*".

**Men's Bible Study** in Parish Hall at 6:15 AM on Wednesdays – Various topics with *Vern* Spilker.

**"Grieving Together"** will meet November 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM here at Immanuel.

**Women's Bible Study** on "*Galatians*" with Andy Dahnke will not meet in December. They will resume on Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:15 PM.

### **Fundraisers/Missions/Events**

**2024 "God's Creation" Calendars** with Bible verses and great pictures (as in past years) are now available in the church office or see Vern Spilker. Price is \$10. All proceeds will benefit the After School Care Program.

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Christmas Snowflake Ornaments** are now available in the church office for \$15 each.

<u>Mon. Nov 27</u>	9:00 AM	CEFS Meal Delivery Week 1
	7:00 PM	Women's Bible Study at Vicki Robinson's
<u>Tues. Nov 28</u>	8:00 AM	Elders Meeting
	10:00 AM	Women's Bible Study Parish Hall
	6:30 PM	Grief Support Group here at Immanuel
<u>Wed. Nov 29</u>	6:15 AM	Faith and Life Class
	3:30 PM	Men's Bible Study
	6:15 PM	Public School Confirmation Class
	7:15 PM	Handbells Practice
<u>Thur. Nov 30</u>	2:00 PM	Cantata Rehearsal
<u>Fri. Dec 1</u>	-----	Sewing Seeds of Kindness
<u>Sat. Dec 2</u>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Worship</b>
<u>Sun. Dec 3</u>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>Worship</b>
	9:45 AM	Pastor's Bible Class -Lower Level
	9:45 AM	Adult Sunday School – Lower Level
	9:45 AM	Children's Sunday School
	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship</b>
	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Advent by Candlelight</b>
		Media DVD to Tower – Bill Laatsch

***“Being For Life is right in line with God’s plan of creation! YOU are the missing element that is needed! Don’t be satisfied to sit back and wait because now is the time! Don’t stop praying as you ponder your next step. Ask God for His guidance and be ready for more than you asked for, as we have a loving and merciful God who loves life. Please consider being a part of a life-affirming ministry in your congregation. Help protect lives and serve God in this special calling.” Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)***

**Holiday Events and Worship**

**Decorating the Sanctuary:** All are invited to help decorate the Sanctuary on Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM for the Christmas Holiday.



**Poinsettia Orders** are now being taken to decorate the sanctuary. Poinsettia orders need to be placed by Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. 3-5 blooms - \$16 and 6-10 blooms - \$38. If paying by check it should be made out to Blossom Paradise. The price of the wreath is \$25 and memorials can also be made to the Sanctuary Renovation fund and if paying by check make those to Immanuel Lutheran Church. For more info contact Helen Zeigler – 618.335.0216 or Martha Shelton – 217-994-0075.



**Advent by Candlelight Event** “A Star Is Born” for families, will be held on Sunday Evening, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 PM. Join us for musical entertainment and fellowship; please bring your favorite appetizer and dessert! You can also decorate your own table and invite friends to sit at your table! You can sign up at any of the church entrances or on the church website. Contact Kendra Walker for more information.

**Immanuel Holiday Bazaar:** December 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM in the gym. LYF please sign up to work a shift.

**SURPRISE 70th Birthday Party** You are invited to a surprise party for Pastor Geoffrey Robinson! There will be an open house from 2-4pm, December 9th in the small room at the Carriage House.

**Children's Christmas Eve program practices** will be at the following times:

- ❖ December 3rd from 2-4pm
- ❖ December 10th from 2-4
- ❖ December 17th after the cantata til 12

These practices will be in the sanctuary. We are also practicing our music at Sunday School so please have your children attend. Thank you!

**Christmas Cookie Walk** will be held from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM on December 17<sup>th</sup>. LYF families, please sign up for what you will bring and to work a shift.

**Advent Services** will be held on the three Wednesdays prior to Christmas on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM with a meal following the service. LYF families, please sign up to host a meal.

**The Preschool Sunday School** children will be singing at the Advent Service on December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

**Advent Devotionals from LCMS:** for 2023 are entitled, "What Child is this?." They are designed to bring meaning and depth to your Christmas preparations, offering a daily journey of reflection, prayer, and hope. Some large print copies are available in the narthex and parish hall. They can be downloaded at: <https://tlcms.org/advent-devotionals-2023/>.

## **Music Opportunities**

**Praise Team** is always looking for additional help with singing and Instruments for the 11:00 AM Services. Rehearsals are at 9:45 AM before the service.

**Hand Bell Choir Rehearsals**– Meets Wednesdays at 6:15 PM.

**Christmas Cantata** – There's still time to join those singing in this year's Cantata, "The Seven Noels. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Cantata will be performed December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM and one service on the 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. Join us at practice! 🎵 🎶

## **Community**

**Lutheran Care Center 2023 Care Campaign** – Care Campaign Projects this year include a Tub Room Upgrade (\$35,000) and the Luther Terrace Kitchen Remodel (\$25,000). A contribution form was mailed in the Immanuel newsletter for November. Forms are also located at our church entrances.

**Food Pantry:** Tuesday, November 14th, we had a total of 38 participants for the food pantry. The food pantry is low on complete pancake mix, mustard, SpaghettiOs, canned meals and pudding for November.

**Large Print Workers** are needed at St John's in Effingham on December 5th from 9 AM – 11 AM to assemble devotional reading material for the visually impaired.