

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Altamont, Illinois



First Sunday in Advent
December 3, 2023

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

618-483-6395
Monday-Friday
217-994-1116
217-821-7249
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9AM-Noon & 1PM-4PM
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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

Homebound: Norma Siebert, Kay Traub, Linda Holste

Thank You Thank you to everyone for your prayers and good wishes during my surgery.

Bless you all,

Mary Berg

Fiscal

11/23&26/2023 Offerings: Thanksgiving Day Offering \$18,370.00; Last Sundays Offering \$13,713.96; Includes: Sanctuary Renovation donation \$250.00; Christmas Fund \$93.00, Parish Hall Rental 150.00, Memorial - Margaret Miller \$25.00 Margaret Miller (Sanctuary Reno Fund) \$50.00

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 Pledge forms and envelopes are available at the entrances to the Sanctuary. We ask that you prayerfully consider your giving to God through Immanuel in 2024.

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 today on "*Heroes of the The Old Testament,*" 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 5th "*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 next meet on January 23rd at 10:00 AM at St. Johns in Effingham.

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

<u>Mon. Dec 4</u>	9:00 AM	CEFS Meal Delivery Week 2
<u>Tues. Dec 5</u>	8:00 AM	Women's Bible Study at Vicki Robinson's
<u>Wed. Dec 6</u>	6:15 AM	Women's Bible Study Parish Hall
	3:30 PM	Men's Bible Study
	6:15 PM	Public School Confirmation Class
	6:30 PM	Handbells Practice
	7:15 PM	Advent Service with Meal After
<u>Thur. Dec 7</u>	1:00 PM	Cantata Rehearsal
	2:00 PM	Sewing Seeds of Kindness
	6:00 PM	Lutheran Care Center Service with HC
		Ladies Aid Meeting
<u>Fri. Dec 8</u>		-----
<u>Sat. Dec 9</u>	9:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Immanuel Holiday Bazaar in ALIS Gym
	6:00 PM	Worship with Holy Communion
<u>Sun. Dec 10</u>	8:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:45 AM	Pastor's Bible Class -Lower Level
	9:45 AM	Adult Sunday School – Lower Level
	9:45 AM	Children's Sunday School
	11:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Childrens' Christmas Eve Practice
	4:00 PM	Sr LYF Christmas Party
		Media DVD to Tower – Bob Mayhaus

"In view of God's display of love in Advent and Christmas, we gladly unite to praise Him. Christmas brings out that unity as we join with Mary and Joseph and shepherds and angels to glorify our Savior as one united family. For this reason, we pray as Paul did, 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.'" *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

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/>.

Fundraisers/Missions/Volunteer Opportunities

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.

150th Anniversary Christmas Snowflake Ornaments are now available in the church office for \$15 each.

Retreat – Volunteers needed. Looking for a way to serve your neighbor? Camp CILCA is holding a **Joyful Hearts Retreat** (one day retreat for adults with disabilities) on December 8-9. Volunteers are needed to help campers participate in activities, get ready for bed, eat meals, and learn about the birth of our Savior. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Lauren at program@cilca.org or call 217-487-7497.

Holiday Events and Worship

Advent by Candlelight Event "A Star Is Born" for families, will be held this evening (Sunday) at 6 PM. Join us for musical entertainment and fellowship; please bring your favorite appetizer or dessert!

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

- ❖ December 3rd from 2 – 4 PM
- ❖ December 10th from 2 – 4 PM
- ❖ December 17th after the cantata until 12 PM

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

Ladies Aid meet on December 7th and will begin with a Christmas meal at 6 PM. Please bring your "Sock Money" of \$7.80 and yearly dues of \$2. There will also be a collection for After School Care snacks. **No gift exchange this year. Regrets only to Marilyn Burrow at 618-322-0054.**

Immanuel Holiday Bazaar: See Insert! December 9th from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM in the ALIS gym. LYF please sign up to work a shift.

Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on December 14th for CEFS Meals on Wheels volunteers. Doors open at 4:30 PM and meal will be served at 5:30 PM at the Effingham Events Center, 1501 W Fayette Ave., Effingham, IL RSVP to Kim Shelmadine at 217-994-0104.

Christmas Cookie Walk will be held from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM on December 17th. LYF families, please sign up for what you will bring and to work a shift. Cookies will be boxed and sold at church on Sunday, December 19th.

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.

Advent Services will be held on the three Wednesdays prior to Christmas on December 6th, 13th, and 20th 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 20th at 6:30 PM.

Poinsettia Orders have been placed but Sanctuary Renovation donations can still be made in memory of loved ones or in honor of an occasion. Deadline for these donations is December 14th. Please contact Helen Zeigler – 618.335.0216 or Martha Shelton – 217-994-0075.

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 on Wednesdays at 6:15 PM.

Christmas Cantata rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Cantata will be performed December 16th at 6:00 PM and one service on the 17th at 9:00 AM.

Community

Food Pantry We served a total of 51 that benefited from the Food Pantry on Tuesday, November 21, 2023. 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.