

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Altamont, Illinois



***Second Sunday in Advent
December 10th
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

618-483-6395

www.immanuelaltamont.org

9AM-Noon & 1PM-4PM

jimwright1961@gmail.com

kmwalker79@yahoo.com

immalt22@gmail.com

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.

THE LORD'S SUPPER is celebrated today. Here Jesus gives us His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Scripture teaches that anyone who eats and drinks the body and blood of Christ without discerning the body and blood received a judgment rather than a blessing from God (1 Cor. 11:29). Therefore, out of Christian concern for souls, we require thorough instruction in the teaching of the Lutheran Church before coming to the sacrament. Communion is also a testimony of unity of faith with all others who partake (1 Cor. 10:27). Since unity at the altar means unity in doctrine and confession, we ask that only those who are in confessional fellowship with The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod attend the Lord's Supper. If you would like to come forward to receive a blessing, fold your hands across your chest before the pastor during the communion.

DEAR VISITORS We recognize this communion practice is a sensitive issue for many, therefore we have prepared a brochure to explain it more fully. These are available in the entry to the sanctuary. See Pastor for questions.

In Our Prayers

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

Homebound: Howard Voelker, Judy Voelker, Jenny Wendling

Advent

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.

Welcome New Members

Immanuel welcomes Jim and Linda Strange and Jim Pruemer to the congregation by Rite of Confirmation during Saturday's service. Corey Meier continues instruction and will be confirmed at a later date.

Fiscal

12/03/2023 Offerings \$17,261.75 includes AMA Food Bank \$100; Afterschool Care \$310; Christmas Fund \$230

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 each household prayerfully consider your giving to God through Immanuel in 2024.

Christmas Fund Envelops are in your annual box of offering envelopes is for contributions for children's treat sacks for Christmas Eve.

Thank You to Advent by Candlelight Participants

Many thanks to all who helped make our 1st Advent by Candlelight event a success. I look forward to making this an annual tradition. We collected many items, along with a monetary donation, which will be given to El Shaddai maternity home in Effingham.

<u>Mon. Dec 11</u>	-----	-----
<u>Tues. Dec 12</u>	8:00 AM	Women's Bible Study Parish Hall
<u>Wed. Dec 13</u>	6:15 AM	Men's Bible Study
	3:30 PM	Public School Confirmation Class
	6:15 PM	Handbells Practice
	6:30 PM	Advent Service with Meal After
	7:30 PM	Cantata Rehearsal
<u>Thur. Dec 14</u>	1:00 PM	Sewing Seeds of Kindness
	4:30 PM	CEFS Volunteer Banquet – Effingham
	6:30 PM	Cantata Rehearsal
<u>Fri. Dec 15</u>	6:30 PM	'Christmas without Cancer Trivia Night' P Hall
<u>Sat. Dec 16</u>	3:00 PM	Cantata @ Lutheran Care Center
	6:00 PM	Cantata
<u>Sun. Dec 17</u>	9:00 AM	Cantata
	10 AM – 11 AM	Pre-School Sunday School
	10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon	Childrens' Christmas Eve Program Practice
	10:00 AM	Cookie Walk
	5:00 - 6:00 PM	"Best Christmas Pageant Ever"

"You might not be impressive by the world's standards. You might be a third-shift worker, a nameless neighbor, or a sinner who messed up in very public ways. But the angel declared good news for all people, which logically must include you. So, rejoice today! A Savior was born to you!" *Pastor Mike Novotny, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Current Bible Study & Learning Opportunities

Pastor's Bible Class today on "*Heroes of 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 in Parish Hall at 8:00 AM on Tuesdays with Ruth Spilker. New study began on December 5th called "*Mountain Top Journeys with Jesus*."

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

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.

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

2024 "God's Creation" Calendars with Bible verses and great pictures and priced at \$10. All proceeds benefit the After School Care Program. **Additional calendars have arrived so check the office to purchase!**

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

Lutheran Care Center Care Campaign continues to seek donations. See insert.

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

- 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.

Christmas Week Worship Schedule

Saturday, December 23rd

- ❖ Regular Worship at 6:00 PM

Sunday, December 24th

- ❖ Regular Worship at 9:00 AM with Holy Communion
- ❖ Christmas Eve Childrens' Service 6:00PM
- ❖ Candlelight Service 10:00 PM

Monday, December 25th

- ❖ Christmas Day Service 9:00 AM with Holy Communion

Saturday, December 30th

- ❖ Regular Worship at 6:00 PM with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 31st

- ❖ One Service at 9:00 AM with Holy Communion – NO EVENING SERVICE

Monday, January 1st

- ❖ New Year's Day Service at 9:00 AM

Holiday Events

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.

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 Wednesday at 6:15 PM.

Christmas Cantata this week practice will be on Wednesday at 7:30 PM and Thursday at 6:30 PM First performance will be at the Lutheran Care Center on Saturday the 16th at 3 PM Cantata services include 6 PM on the 16th and 9:00 a.m. on the 17th.