

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Altamont, Illinois



Church
Office Hours
Rev. Dr. James F. Wright, Pastor
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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, Patti Smith Sessions, Shirley Siddens, Evelyn Shumaker, Linda Strange, Dave Wolf

Prayers of Sympathy to the family of Jim Brackney who passed away this past week, which include Ruth Ann Hoffmeister and Mike & Sue Hoffmeister.

Homebound: Helen Brauer, Joyce Cameron, Karen Dall

Advent

Advent Services The last Advent service will be held on December 20th at 6:30 PM with a meal following the service. The Pre School-Sunday School Children will be singing. LYF families are hosting the meal.

Received by Baptism: Milanie Mae Muchow born on September 28th, 2023 was baptized on 12/16/2023. Parents are Mason and Jessie (Koester) Muchow and witness is Tyler Devall and sponsor is Lauren Hooks. Please keep all in your prayers

Fiscal

12/10/2023 \$16,011.19; Includes: IRA \$2,802.19; Christmas Fund 97.00; Thank offering \$20.00; Advent \$20.00; After School Care \$100.00; Sanctuary Renovation \$40.00

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 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.

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 will break for the next 3 weeks for the holidays and resume January 7th at 9:45 AM. 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.

<u>Mon. Dec 18</u>	7:00 PM	ALIS Board
<u>Tues. Dec 19</u>	8:00 AM	Women's Bible Study Parish Hall
<u>Wed. Dec 20</u>	6:15 AM	Men's Bible Study
	2:10 PM	ALIS Early Dismissal
	3:30 PM	Public School Confirmation Class
	6:30 PM	Advent Service with Meal After
<u>Thur. Dec 21</u>	8:20 AM	ALIS Christmas Sing
	2:10 PM	ALIS Early Dismissal
<u>Fri. Dec 22</u>	-----	-----
<u>Sat. Dec 23</u>	6:00 PM	Worship with Holy Communion
<u>Sun. Dec 24</u>	9:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	6:00 PM	Children's Service Christmas Eve
	10:00 PM	Candlelight Service
<u>Mon. Dec 25</u>	9:00 AM	Christmas Day Service - Holy Communion
		Media DVD to Tower – tbd

"This time of the year always fills us with cheer | But the reason we celebrate is not always clear | The cookies, the lights, the presents, the tree | The carols, the decorations, the family parties | But all of the delight and all of the fun | Does not mean a thing if we don't know God's Son | The tiny baby that was born to die | Can sometimes cause us to stop and ask why | Do we really deserve the sacrifice He made? | Are we worth the offering and the price that was paid? | In His eyes, we are, because He made us His own | And on the cross, the ultimate love was shown | So take joy in the season and spread His true love | But always remember the gift from above!" Jerrod Nelson – 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

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.

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

- Today, 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

Christmas Cookie Walk will be held today, December 17th, from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. See Insert.

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

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 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.

Service Opportunity

Altar Guild/Flower Committee Annual Meeting will be **Sunday, January 7, 2024, at Barn & Bottle Winery**, located at 10810 N 1st St, Altamont, at 5:00 PM. Please call/text Diana Wendling 618-335-0067 or email texasgal62411@yahoo.com if you would like to be **added or taken off** the 2024 Altar Guild or Flower Committee. We have openings. It is a one month commitment per year during Communion weekends. You will be working with others in a month. Men are also welcomed to join.