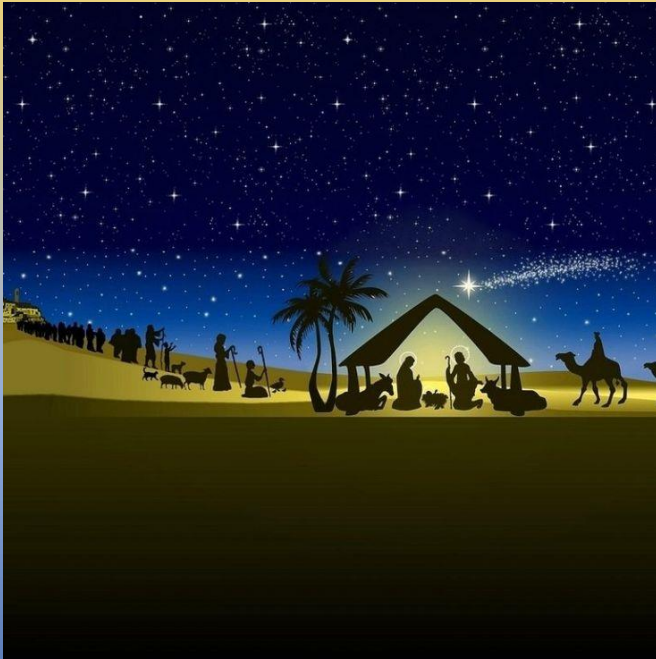


Immanuel Lutheran Church

Altamont, Illinois



Christmas Eve
December 24, 2023

Church	618-483-6395	www.immanuelaltamont.org
Office Hours	Monday-Friday	9AM-Noon & 1PM-4PM
Rev. Dr. James F. Wright, Pastor	217-994-1116	jimwright1961@gmail.com
Kendra Walker Dir of Youth/Fam	217-821-7249	kmwalker79@yahoo.com
Church Secretary	618-483-6395	immalt22@gmail.com
Missionary		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, Jennifer Wendling, Dave Wolf

Homebound Delphene Duckwitz, Lorene Frederking, Ge rt Heiden

Flowers are donated in loving memory of Louis & Mildred Hoffmeister and Ronald Hoffmeister." By the family of Mike Hoffmeister and Bruce Hoffmeister.

Thank You to everyone who donated flowers, wreaths, and gifts to the Renovation Fund (\$982.00). The list of donors is in this week's bulletin insert.

Fiscal

Offerings Advent Wednesday, December 13: \$1,017.00; Sunday, December 17: \$17,043.00 (Includes ASC \$40, Sanctuary \$50, CID Dollars for Missions \$70); Advent Wednesday, December 20: \$3,407 (includes IRA Gift in Kind \$2,000).

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 Envelopes 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 will resume January 7th 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.

<u>Sun Dec 24</u>	9:00 AM	Worship w/Holy Communion
	6:00 PM	Family/Childrens' Christmas Eve Program
	10:00 PM	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
<u>Mon. Dec 25</u>	9:00 AM	Christmas Day Service w/ HC
<u>Tues. Dec 26</u>	-----	-----
<u>Wed. Dec 27</u>	6:15 AM	Men's Bible Study
<u>Thur. Dec 28</u>	-----	-----
<u>Fri. Dec 29</u>	-----	-----
<u>Sat. Dec 30</u>	6:00 PM	Worship with Holy Communion
<u>Sun. Dec 31</u>	9:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
<u>Mon. Jan 1</u>	9:00 AM	New Year's Day Service

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*

Women's Bible Study in Parish Hall at 8:00 AM on Tuesdays with Ruth Spilker. New study began 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.

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.

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 30

- ❖ 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

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 pending delivery of a new order. We will announce their arrival. Cost is \$15 each.

Chili Soup Luncheon The Ladies Society of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Vandalia, will be hosting their annual Chili/Soup luncheon on Sunday, January 21st, 2024. Serving is ***drive thru only***. Starting at 11:30 AM to appx 1:00 PM. Enter the alley from Taylor Street.

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.

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.