

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Altamont, Illinois



***First Sunday after Christmas
December 31, 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 Owens, Ruth Ann Ragsdale, Patti Smith Sessions, Shirley Siddens, Evelyn Shumaker, Linda Strange, Jennifer Wendling, Dave Wolf

Homebound Judy Oldham, Don Ousley, Ruth Ann Owens

Poinsettias can be taken home after the New Year's Day Service.

Fiscal

Offerings:

Regular Giving,	\$12,590
Christmas Eve,	\$3,651
Christmas Day,	\$3,816
Renovation,,	\$300
Grain Check Gift,	\$500
After School Care,	\$176
Christmas Memorials,	\$990

Financial Update Current debt owed to operation loan is \$18,551.26.

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.

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.

Grief Group Meets once a month. This month is will be held on January 23rd at 10:00 AM at St John's in Effingham.

<u>Mon. Jan 1</u>	9:00 AM	New Year's Day Worship
<u>Tues. Jan 2</u>	8:00 AM	Women's Bible Study
<u>Wed. Jan 3</u>		ALIS School Starts
	6:15 AM	Men's Bible Study
	3:30 AM	Public School Confirmation Class
	6:15 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:15 AM	Andy's Bible Class
<u>Thur Jan 4</u>	1:00 PM	Sewing Seeds of Kindness
	2:00 PM	Worship Lutheran Care Center w/HC
	7:00 PM	Ladies Aid Meeting
<u>Fri. Jan 5</u>	-----	-----
<u>Sat. Jan 6</u>	6:00 PM	Worship – Epiphany & Installation
<u>Sun. Jan 7</u>	8:30 AM	Worship – Epiphany & Installation
	9:45 AM	Children's Sunday School
	9:45 AM	Pastor's Bible Study
	9:45 AM	Adult Sunday School with Kendra
	11:00 AM	Worship-Epiphany & Installation
	5:00 PM	Altar Guild Meeting
	5:00 PM	Jr High Together Time
	6:45 PM	Sr High Together Time
		Media DVD to Tower – TBD

"While it is true that we need to be good stewards of God's earthly gifts, it is sinful to think that we are in full control of preserving this world. It is sinful to fret about the destruction of this world before the Last Day. This world will not run out of natural resources. We will not be wiped out by climate change, a worldwide pandemic, or a meteor shower if and when those things happen. God says that as long as this earth endures—until Judgment Day—seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease. God is in control. God will protect, provide, and preserve this world. Trust in God and see His grace and mercy, especially when sin affects this world. Trust that He gives you what you don't deserve and more than you could imagine." *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – 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.

Bible Study at Vicki Robinson's will resume on Monday January 8th at 9:00 AM. This study is held weekly.

New Year's Weekend Worship Schedule

- ❖ **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

Advanced Dates

January 15th, ALIS Board Meeting at 7:00 PM

January 22nd Elder Trustee Meeting at 7:00 PM

January 22nd Church Council Meeting at 7:30 PM

January 28th Voters Meeting at 1:30 PM

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.

Community

Food Pantry: Tuesday, December 19th, we had a total of 37 participants for the food pantry.