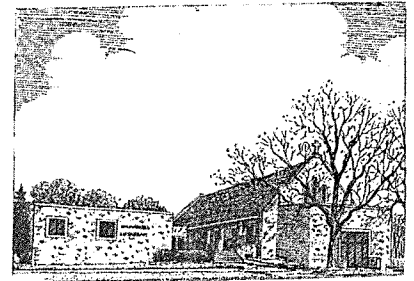


IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL
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January 2021

Newsletter Article

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Hebrews 13:8

Wow, what a year 2020 has been. The pandemic. Schools not meeting in classrooms going to virtual learning. Churches not holding services in the building, but live streaming (I never thought I would be a televangelist!) so members can watch at home. Not being able to make visits to family, at the nursing homes or in the hospitals. What a year we had. The question is, will 2021 be any different?

Many changes have happened. Many questions have been asked. When will this all come to an end? What will the new normal be? How is our lives going to be like after the pandemic? Vaccination?

Things in life change, but we do know one thing that will not change. We read in Hebrews 13:8 “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Our heavenly Father never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. His promises given to us

through His Word do not change, they are always sure and give what they promise.

We are sure that we have forgiveness because of the Baby born in Bethlehem. Jesus grew and went to the cross with our sins to pay the price that God demanded for them. Because Jesus has done this for us we have forgiveness, eternal life and salvation. We will live with Him forever. That will never change.

Things change, we have hardships that we face, the ups and downs of life. Things change but we need to remember that God’s Word stands forever.

But often we forget about that, we focus too much on what is going on around us. With so many changes and hardships that we face what do we do with the Baby born in Bethlehem? What do we do with Him, with Jesus? Do we let the things going on around us in this world affect our spiritual life?

So what about your spiritual life? With the ways

things are going, with the uncertainty of life, we worry about what is going on around us, that seems more important. Does it ever cross your mind if you are ready for the return of your Savior Jesus Christ? Many times our spiritual life is not on our minds, other things, the things of this world take our focus and we think the our spiritual welfare is something that can wait for later. When I am older, then I will get serious about my eternal future. Many do not take their eternal life very serious. What about you? Are you prepared for what is happening around you in this world. Are you prepared for the return of your Savior? (We do not know when Christ will return!)

Being prepared is not just saying “I believe in Jesus” and think just because I say it “I’m okay.” Being prepared is not just going through the motions. Our God is not fooled. He knows your heart. The Israelites just went through the motions and look what happened to them, exile and different calamities came to them because they rejected their God.

How do you know if you are prepared for Christ’s return? Being in God’s Word, both personally and in corporate worship is one way. Being in the Divine Service and His Word is where you receive God’s unchanging gifts that He promised to you through His Word and sacraments.

I know that you know that the baby born in Bethlehem was born and laid in a manger so that He could go to

Stewardship Corner

It’s a new year. It’s a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come. It’s a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Often, we find this difficult and daunting and even joyless, but it doesn’t have to be. In fact, it is really quite simple and full of joy. So, here are some tips to make that planning less stressful. You begin by answering these three questions:

- Who are you?
- To whom do I give?
- And how much?

the cross for you. That is the greatest gift that you can have. But guess what we do, we treat Jesus just like we do our New Year resolutions. How many of your resolutions have you kept? If you are like me, start out okay but then by day three we say, “what resolutions.”

Our spiritual life, the forgiveness of sins and eternal life that we have because of Jesus, His birth, life, death and resurrection, do not change. And in this changing world, that is what we need. Without faith in Jesus Christ all is lost. It is so important for us to be ready for Christ to return, and being ready is being in His Word and attending His Divine Service to receive the gifts of God.

With all the things happening around us, with the changes and uncertainties we face every day, I strongly encourage you to be in God’s Word daily and be in His Divine Service every week where God’s Word does not change. We receive much more than good feelings in the service. We receive forgiveness through God’s Word and Sacraments. We receive eternal life with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We receive what does not change in our changing lives.

May this new year, 2021, be filled with many blessings for you. I pray that you do not let the hardships and changes we face and the ways of the world lead you away from your salvation in Jesus Christ. May our Triune God bless and keep you this new year.

Pastor Mueller

So, who are you? The Table of Duties in the *Luther’s Small Catechism* informs us. Are you a hearer of God’s Word? Are you a citizen of society? Are you a member of a family? Stewardship covers these three estates: church, society, and family. We don’t particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties, and our questions arise in giving to the Church.

So, what is our duty as members of the Church with regard to giving? Again, the Table of Duties, gives us a guide. If you are a hearer – a member of the Church who receives instruction – St. Paul taught: “Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches” (Gal. 6:6). This means the local congregation is primary.

Your pastor is the one called to preach the Gospel to you and administer the Lord's blessed sacraments to you. Your congregation is the place where those things happen. Thus, when God calls us to give to the Church, He has the local congregation in mind. For "the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

How much do we give to the local congregation? Our only instructions are to give:

- Regularly (1 Cor. 6:1-2);
- Proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8:12);
- Generously (2 Cor. 8:20);
- Of our first fruits (Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30); and
- With a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

In other words, giving to the Church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give regularly – weekly, biweekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly – keeping in mind our own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set it aside beforehand – before anything else is spent.

From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. This was a command for the ancient Israelites. We can give as much as we want, but ask yourself: Do we really want to be less generous than was commanded of the Israelites? Is the job of the New Testament Church bigger or smaller than the job given to Israel?

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

It's that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the Gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom.

GREETING CARDS: If you plan to send greeting cards for any occasion, please consider purchasing them from LWML. Our nice selection includes birthday for both adults and children, anniversary, wedding, get well, thinking of you, encouragement, congratulations, thank you and other cards to let someone know you're thinking of them.

ONGOING MISSION PROJECTS: Used bedding is needed by the quilters. Canceled postage stamps are needed for mission projects. Old eye glasses and outdated hearing aids are useful to others. Bedding may be left in the quilting room. Other items can be left in the cupboard under the guest book.



Larry & Mary Ring
Kenton Dietrich
Don Banks
Maxine Fox
Patty Seidler
Ian Gomez
Ellen Christensen
Alexandra Clear

Lue Nerland
Willetta Dye
Pierce Sanchez
Merlin Ring
Dean Tucker
Richard Furley
Jack Evert
Loralee Young

Dr Tim & Kari Narjes 1/6/2007
 Paul & Brenda Schnell 1/6/1979
 James & Sharon Hansen 1/15/1961
 Ken & Tara Gibson 1/21/1994
 Larry & Deborah Galyen 1/24/2009



Altar flowers in December were in memory of Esther and Doyle Dyer from Dale and Betty Vaughn and poinsettias in memory of Elmer and Dorothy Eskam from Harv and Bev Schnell.

Thank you to those who shared poinsettias for the wooden cross on Christmas Eve.

There will be a new flower chart in the area by the mailboxes if anyone wants to share flowers celebrating a birthday or anything else or in memory of someone! Thank you

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES...

Adult Bible Study - Sundays, 9 am Fellowship Hall.
 Bible Break - Thursdays, 9:30 am, Fellowship Hall



Bible Studies

MONTHLY LWML BIBLE STUDIES:

Lydia – Wednesday January 13th at 1:30 pm. Hostess will be Sharon Hashman. Devotion will be lead by Sharon Hashman. Pastor Mueller will lead the Bible Study.

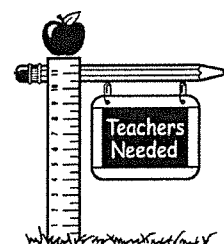
Martha – Monday, January 11th at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. Jocelyn Gerth will lead devotion. Pastor Mueller will lead the Bible study.

Tabitha – Monday January 25th at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. Pastor Mueller will lead the Bible Study.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: We are looking for someone to be the coordinator for VBS this following June. We are also starting to look for teachers for VBS. VBS week is so fun for the children! Please think about volunteering to help! Thank you. Any questions, please contact Samantha Steinman or Jennifer Foster.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: We are beginning to plan on the 2021-2022 Children's Sunday School year and we are in need of teachers. The Board of Parish Education is seeking help with the Sunday School program as one teacher is retiring and will be moving. We would also like to add an additional teacher to keep the groups smaller. Please contact Samantha Steinman or Jennifer Foster if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.





LWML MITE SUNDAY: January 31, 2021



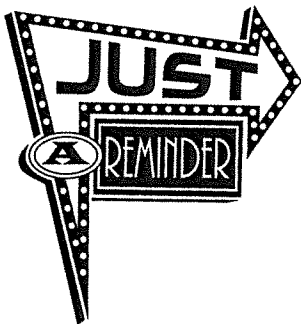
Education News

Glory to the newborn King! I pray this finds all have had a restful Christmas Break! It has been good to be apart for a bit, but it will be wonderful to be back together again! As we begin our second semester, we look forward to celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week during the week of January 24-30th. This year's theme is Matthew 20:28 which is "the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." We have many special activities planned for the week as well as several servant events. We will follow Jesus' example by being in service to our community as well as the members of the church families. In December, the students enjoyed singing at Highland Park for the staff and residents. We look forward to finding other ways to serve them. If you have a need that the school can help you with, please contact the school as soon as possible.

The school is currently mask mandated; however, this will be re-evaluated on the 15th after the lowering of the risk dial. We are so thankful that we've remained in school and we pray to remain there for the entire year. The entire staff of IELS is so thankful for the Day School Board and their gifts for the holiday season.

The artwork on display for January will be from the Preschool classes. It's been fun to see the different artwork from the different classes.

Miss Jill



The school still has posters for the Quilt of Valor fundraiser.

We are still collecting Grocery Kart Receipts. There is a box at both the school and in the narthex at the Church.

Scrip is available out at the school during school hours and also most Sunday mornings following church service.

January Duty Roster

Ushers:

Saturday: Mr. Tom Devoogd & Mr. Bob Mischnick

Sunday: Mr. Joel Hausmann & Mr. Ron Brown

Elders:

Saturday: Mr. Tom DeVoogd

Sunday: Mr. Joel Hausmann

Date	Acolytes	Coffee Duty	Counters
January 2 nd January 3 rd	Mr Zach Childers Ms. Avenell Soriano	Teresa Thies Sally Henderson	January 4 th Karen Kelly
January 9 th January 10 th	Ms. Keera Stanec Mr. Josh Aquallo	Kara Aquallo Vicki Henton	January 11 th Deb Grant
January 16 th January 17 th	Ms. Rozlyn Wills Mr. Logan Vogel	Lori Swedeen Andrea Luce	January 18 th Deb Moore
January 23 rd January 24 th	Ms. Paige Jensen Mr. Banyng Stark	Shirley DeVoogd Janene Odell	January 25 th Starla Endsley
January 30 th January 31 st	Ms. Keera Stanec Ms. Avenell Soriano	Samantha Steinman Robyn Jensen	February 1 st Deb Grant





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1-3 - Joe Neeley
1-4 - Ford Swanson
1-5 - John Thompson
1-6 - Maxine Fox
1-6 - George Koester
1-6 - Memphis Moore
1-6 - Starla Schmidt
1-7 - Virginia Dennison
1-8 - Elaine Leibbrandt
1-8 - Brad Stewart
1-8 - Ron Hass
1-9 - Megan Aguallo
1-9 - Shirley DeVoogd
1-9 - Merlin Drumheller

1-9 - Kory Kling
1-10 - Emma Freeze
1-12 - Aubree Mapes
1-12 - Brent Behm
1-13 - Craig Iossi
1-14 - Lois Iossi
1-14 - Courtney Turner
1-15 - Evan Palmer
1-16 - Whitney Hall
1-17 - Alexander Narjes
1-19 - Melinda Foster
1-19 - Stephany Hausmann
1-19 - Karen Kelly
1-19 - Larry Kuskie
1-20 - Kara Aguallo

1-20 - Joeie Kresl
1-20 - Alexa Minich
1-22 - Gerald Seidler
1-23 - Hunter Klinkerman
1-25 - Paige Jensen
1-25 - Cindy Stone
1-26 - Logan Vogel
1-26 - Karena Soriano
1-27 - Violet Colson
1-27 - Bev Schnell
1-28 - Jane Schledewitz
1-29 - Jayla Grant
1-30 - Autumn Davis

Baptisms

1-1 - Anistyn Green
1-1 - Joyce Borchert
1-1 - Everett Gerth
1-1 - Hannah Gerth
1-1 - Steven Gerth
1-1 - Scott Klinkerman
1-1 - Tanya Klinkerman
1-1 - Wanda Kruckenberg
1-1 - Andrea Luce
1-1 - Marlene Mischnick
1-1 - Janene Odell
1-1 - Jack Peterson
1-1 - Tara Stanec
1-1 - George Varvel
1-1 - Bridget Vaughn
1-1 - Lance Yearling
1-1 - Nicholas Hinman

1-3 - Sally Henderson
1-5 - Hunter Jensen
1-2 - Couric Bartek
1-4 - Halle Oestman
1-5 - Hunter Jensen
1-7 - Mercedes Maxey
1-7 - Casey McCarty
1-7 - Kallista Berg
1-7 - Hunter Peterson
1-8 - Katelynn Grant
1-11 - Roger Bauer
1-12 - Devin Garcia
1-13 - Isabel Aguallo
1-13 - Chase Dye
1-13 - Elaine Leibbrandt

1-15 - Joshua Kollé
1-16 - Hilda Leachman
1-17 - Caleb Nielson
1-20 - Jodell Conroy
1-20 - Anthony Wilcox, Jr.
1-21 - Aaron Fintel
1-23 - Josi Failor
1-25 - Alexander Ackerman
1-25 - Tallan Ackerman
1-25 - Riley Bixby
1-25 - Sierra Gibson
1-25 - Jacob Toedtli
1-26 - Maxine Fox
1-27 - Cameron Garcia
1-28 - Lezlie Hausmann
1-28 - Avenell Soriano
1-30 - Alexander Narjes