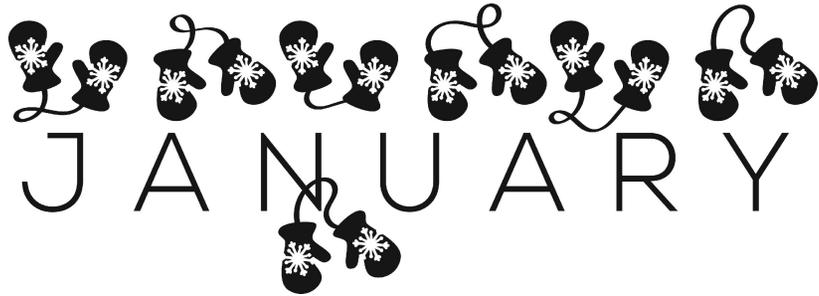
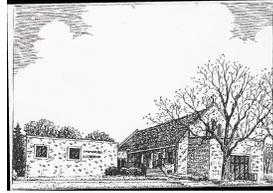


**IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

1024 Box Butte Avenue
Alliance, Nebraska
762-4663



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES...

Adult Bible Study - Sundays, 9:00 am, Fellowship Hall
Bible Break - Thursdays, 9:30 am, Fellowship Hall



MONTHLY LWML BIBLE STUDIES:

- Lydia will meet Wednesday, January 11th at 1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall
- Martha will meet on Monday, January 9th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall
- Tabitha will meet on Tuesday, January 24th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall



- Panhandle Family Gathering Jan 1st - 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall
- Epiphany Service at St. Paul - Rushville at 7:00 p.m. Friday, January 6th
- Voter's Assembly on Sunday, January 22nd at 1:30pm

Reading thru God's Word in one year:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Genesis 1-3 | 12. Genesis 35-37 | 22. Exodus 13-15 |
| 2. Genesis 4-7 | 13. Genesis 38-40 | 23. Exodus 16-18 |
| 3. Genesis 8-11 | 14. Genesis 41-42 | 24. Exodus 19-21 |
| 4. Genesis 12-15 | 15. Genesis 43-45 | 25. Exodus 22-24 |
| 5. Genesis 16-18 | 16. Genesis 46-47 | 26. Exodus 25-27 |
| 6. Genesis 19-21 | 17. Genesis 48-50 | 27. Exodus 28-29 |
| 7. Genesis 22-24 | 18. Exodus 1-3 | 28. Exodus 30-32 |
| 8. Genesis 25-26 | 19. Exodus 4-6 | 29. Exodus 33-35 |
| 9. Genesis 27-29 | 20. Exodus 7-9 | 30. Exodus 36-38 |
| 10. Genesis 30-31 | 21. Exodus 10-12 | 31. Exodus 39-40 |
| 11. Genesis 32-34 | | |

Duty Roster

Elders - Saturday: Mr. Tom DeVoogd
Sunday: Mr Joel Hausmann

Ushers - Saturday: Mr. Tom DeVoogd
Sunday: Mr. Ron Brown & Mr. Silas Daugherty

Acolytes:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 (Sun.) -Jonas Daugherty | 21 - Zach Childers |
| 7 - Railey Wills | 22 - Xander Narjes |
| 8 - Zeke Terrell | 28 - Avery Gomez |
| 14 - Jady Aguallo | 29 - Lucas Weber |
| 15 - Ayla Foster | |

Coffee Duty:

- 8 - Teresa Thies, Sally Henderson
- 15 - Kara Aguallo, Vicki Henton
- 22 - Lori Swedeen, Andrea Luce
- 29 - Shirley DeVoogd, Morgan Weber

Counters:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 2 - Karen Kelly | 23 - Starla Endsley |
| 9 - Deb Grant | 30 - Starla Endsley |
| 16 - Deb Moore | |

From the Pastors:

A blessed New Year to you. Wow, another year has come and gone. Here we are in the year 2023. We may be wondering what this year will be like. Will it be better than last year or worse? What will the economy do this new year. Will I be able to retire or do I have to keep working so that we can live? What will happen in our nation, with our leaders? Many questions we have about the new year. Wondering if things will change or will they stay the same. What will happen in my life? What will my health be like this coming year? Yes there are many questions about our life on this earth.

But we do not one thing that will not change no matter what is going on around us. That is the promise that God has made to us through His Son Jesus Christ whose coming we just celebrated. We remember God fulfilling His promise of salvation by sending His only-begotten Son to be born in a manger as a little baby. We remember God fulfilling His promise of salvation by being here among us in His Word and Sacraments. We remember God fulfilling His promise of salvation as we await Jesus' return in glory on the Last Day. We have God's promise that He is with us and will bless us and keep us to be with Him forever in His Kingdom. God does not change, He keeps His Word and we have salvation, we have forgiveness of sins and life with Him forever. What a great blessing to keep before us as we enter the year 2023.

Speaking of God's blessings that He has given us through His Son, Jesus Christ. One of those blessings is the Lord's Supper. Remember your Small Catechism written by Martin Luther, what he wrote about the Lord's Supper. We remember that it goes by different names: The Lord's Supper, the Lord's Table, Holy Communion, the Breaking of Bread, the Sacrament of the Altar and the Eucharist.

What is the Sacrament of the Altar? It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

Where is this written? The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke and St. Paul write: "Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: 'Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.' In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, 'Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.'"

Christ gave us this great gift of His body and blood for our forgiveness.

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking? These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things? Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: "forgiveness of sins."

Who receives this sacrament worthily? Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe. (These questions are from Luther's Small Catechism copywrite © 1986, CPH, pp30-31).

What a great blessing that God has given us through His Son Jesus Christ. We receive Christ's body and blood for our forgiveness, for

life and for salvation. It is a great gift that we do not want to ignore, despise, but a great gift from God that we would like to have every time it is offered. This is a sacrament, it is not just something nice to do. God is giving us His body and blood forgiveness of sins. We need this forgiveness everyday before we are sinners and we sin everyday.

It has been request if we can have Holy Communion every week at Immanuel so the Board of Elders discussed this and visited with the Altar Guild and we are going to offer Holy Communion every weekend. We will have Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sunday (the way it is now) but then offer it the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month. When there is a fifth Sunday Holy Communion will be offered on both Saturday and Sunday that weekend. By doing this a person will have an opportunity to receive Holy Communion every week if they desire, Sunday one week and then Saturday the next week. If you have any questions about this, please contact one of us pastors.

I pray that you all have a happy and blessed 2023. Remembering that God does not change, that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, that we have forgiveness, life, and salvation with Him. I encourage you to come to Bible Study and the Divine Service to receive all the our Lord gives to us through His Word and Sacraments.

Pastor Mueller

Burdens and Joys

In my experience, the end of one year and the beginning of the next is a time of mixed emotions. There is a tension between sadness and hope, burdens and joys. This is especially true for my family as we've spent the last few weeks mourning the death of my father. On December 23 my family and I laid him to rest at the old Norwegian Lutheran cemetery near Hemingford. There's sadness. There's a burden of grief. Then on December 24, we celebrated the Nativity and sang "Joy to the World!" There is hope and joy for Christ has come. He has come to bear the burdens of sadness and loss; sin and death. And He has come to deliver to us the joys of forgiveness, life, hope and a future.

The apostle Paul summarizes this tension in Romans 6:4, where he writes, "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." In Baptism, Paul says, there is a reckoning with the burdens and sadness of this life. There is an acknowledgement of sin and its lethal effects. There is death, for Christ, and for us. And then there is the hope and joy of new life in Christ. For on the third day, He rose. And we also will rise and live and walk in newness of life with Him.

This tension is a place of faith. Luther describes this, using three Latin words: oratio, meditatio, and tentatio. These may translated as prayer, meditation on God's Word, and agonizing struggle. (see Rev. Stephen Preus, <https://lutheranreformation.org/theology/tentatio/>). And these, Luther says, are what build our faith as we study God's Word. These are what makes us true theologians. We face the real struggle, the real burdens, the real sadness of life in this sinful and broken world. We struggle ourselves, with sin and temptation, acknowledging with great sorrow, our own failures and sins. All this is an agonizing struggle. For as Christ we see the curse of sin and death at work all around, and it greatly afflicts us.

Yet we are not left without hope. We have a God who has drawn near to us in Christ. We have a God who promises to hear our prayers and answer them. And we have the Word of God upon which to meditate. And that Word proclaims to us that Christ has come to forgive us and give us life. That Word comes to declare His victory on the cross over sin, death and the devil. And so we cry out in prayer to God and we meditate upon His Word so that we can face the struggles and burdens of this life with joy and hope.

And there is so much to hope for in this new year. For God has made us His own children in the waters of Baptism. And He has called each of us to love and serve our neighbors. For me, that means another year of loving and serving my wife and raising up my children according to God's Word. It means more opportunities to honor and serve my mother and brother and sister and their families. And it means another

year of serving as your pastor and proclaiming the Gospel to you. And it means more opportunities to serve the students and staff at IELS. In each of these vocations, there is great joy prepared for me.

How about you? What joys lie ahead in the year to come? What opportunities has God prepared for you to fulfill your calling as spouse, parent, teacher, friend, and more?

There will, indeed, be struggles. While we remain in this cursed and broken world, we will face suffering in many and various ways. But these struggles are overshadowed by the Word and Work of God in Christ the crucified. For in Him our sins are forgiven, and we have the promise of life forever. And so with God's help in this new year, we love and serve our neighbor with hope and joy. Amen.

Pastor Shaun Daugherty

Stewardship Corner – Your Past Does Not Define Your Future

New Year's is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it's over), and we look to the future in hope and anticipation, and perhaps with some worry, for what it holds.

The point is that New Year's celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be, what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we've lost. Who we've lost.

New Year's is our own version of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*. And we all play Scrooge. We are visited by the ghosts of our pasts, presents and futures.

St. Paul writes: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all

sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor. 9:6–15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord will both supply and increase what we need to give to the church for its work in the world. He tells us that this work God does in us will enrich and bless us in every way, and through this, will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving in years past and change what needs to be adjusted, improved, or done away with altogether.

First, attend the Divine Service to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. If you've not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God's Word, to receive forgiveness and feast on the rich food of our Lord's body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn't want your money. He wants you — all of you (Matt. 22:20–22).

Second, pray for the Lord's help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1–16).

Third, consider what the church is and what the church does. The church is a place of mercy. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward neighbors. You are a member of the church, of God's family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God's mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy through the generous giving of your income to support the work of the church in the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Lev. 27:1–34).

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament's teaching on supporting the work of the church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, or ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church's work. Are you relying on God's promise to provide and increase what you need to do His work? If your answer is no to any of these, repent. If God gave you His only Son, will He not provide for you all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it.

So, don't let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of your income, which is God's gift to you for this body and life.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://www.lcms.org/stewardship)

Shane Dye Jodi Conroy Vicki Henton
 Joyce Borchert Frank Dye Katie Huston
 Ida Mae Drabbels DebMoore
 Sharon Tiensvold



The Families of Judy Swesey (Peggy Schnell's sister) and Stanley Daugherty (Pastor Daugherty's father).

Panhandle Family Gathering: You are invited to the Panhandle Lutheran Family Gathering on Sunday, January 1st, A.D. 2023 beginning at 3:00 p.m. at Immanuel - Alliance. This will be our Christmas / New Year Party! We will have a Bible study, games, and a carry-in supper. Please bring your favorite games and party/snack food to share.

Epiphany Service: Come and conclude your Christmas season celebration with the Divine Service on the Epiphany of our Lord. It will be at St. Paul - Rushville at 7:00 p.m. Friday, January 6th. It will be preceded by a carry-in supper at 6:00 p.m.

Flowers on the Altar this past month were Pink Poinsettias in memory of Esther and Doyle Dyer, Betty Vaughn's parents, and White Poinsettias in memory of Elmer and Dorthy Eskem, Bev Schnell's parents.

Sunday School: Just a reminder that there will be no children's Sunday School January 1st.

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.



Thank you to all those who shared poinsettias with us for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Service.

LWML Mission Grant Highlights for Jan 28-29 Mite Sunday: Redeeming Life Maternity Home, Illinois Expansion

This grant for \$100,000 will help support a deaconess in the Chicago area who will work with single pregnant women who are homeless, abused, and/ or at risk of abortion. Funds will also help offset costs of operating a safe and stable home and provide program services for the women to learn to live independently.

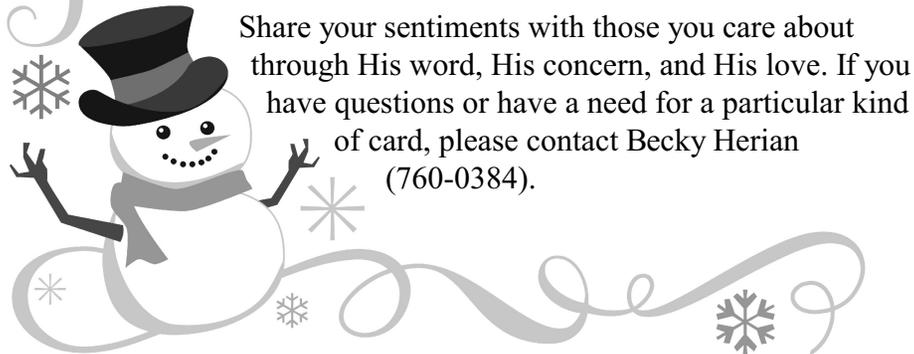
Mercy Medical Care for Tanzania

This grant will purchase medical equipment, medical supplies and medicine for a clinic at Mwadui Lutheran School which is a leading school educating new pastors, teachers and professionals from all over western Tanzania. Malaria and other vexing health problems will be treated at the clinic.

Sunday School Christmas Service: Thank you to all of the children that participated in this year's Sunday School Christmas service. Beautiful job done by all of the children!

LWML January 2023 Cards:

Brrr, it's cold! January, is a good month, while you're more likely to be house bound, to reach out to those you care about. Our LWML cards are an excellent way to do just that. Cards for every occasions are located in the church basement fellowship hall.



Offering Envelopes: Envelopes for 2023 have been assigned and are located in the lower narthex to be picked up. If you would like a set of envelopes and do not see your name, please let the office know and we will get a set assigned to you.

2023 Church Handbook: The office is currently updating the handbook. If there are any changes or updates that need to be made, please let Samantha know.

LWML Cookie Walk: The members of Immanuel LWML would like to express their heartfelt thanks and deepest gratitude for the support received for the 2022 Cookie Walk. This year we raised \$3197.00 which will be distributed to various local charities, Synod organizations, and a seminary food bank. We appreciate the cookies donated and help received for setting up, working the event, and cleaning up. *1 Thessalonians 1:2* "We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers"



Vacation Bible School: The Board of Parish Education is looking for a director for VBS this coming June. VBS is held the first full week of June. If you are interested in being the director or co-director, please contact one of the members of the Board of Parish Education: Jennifer Foster, Jill Mueller, Kayla Bishop or Beth Daugherty.



- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1-1 - Josi Failor | 1-14 - Lois Iossi |
| 1-1 - Toni Ring | 1-14 - Courtney Turner |
| 1-4- Ford Swanson | 1-15 - Evan Palmer |
| 1-5 - John Thompson | 1-17 - Alexander Narjes |
| 1-6 - Maxine Fox | 1-19 - Stephany Hausmann |
| 1-6 - George Koester | 1-19 - Karen Kelly |
| 1-6 - Memphis Moore | 1-20 - Kara Aguallo |
| 1-6 - Starla Schmidt | 1-20 - Alexa Lucas |
| 1-7 - Virginia Dennison | 1-21 - Cody Moore |
| 1-8 - Elaine Leibbrandt | 1-22 - Gerald Seidler |
| 1-8 - Brad Stewart | 1-25 - Paige Jensen |
| 1-8 - Ron Hass | 1-26 - Logan Vogel |
| 1-9 - Megan Aguallo | 1-26 - Karena Soriano |
| 1-9 - Shirley DeVoogd | 1-27 - Violet Colson |
| 1-9 - Shane Dye | 1-27 - Bev Schnell |
| 1-9 - Merlin Drumheller | 1-28 - Jane Schledewitz |
| 1-9 - Kory Kling | 1-29 - Jayla Grant |
| 1-10 - Emma Freeze | 1-30 - Autumn Davis |
| 1-12 - Aubree Mapes | 1-31 - Roy Leibbrandt |
| 1-12 - Lukas Terrell | |

Baptisms



- 1-1 - Joyce Borcher
- 1-1 - Everett Gerth
- 1-1 - Hannah Gerth
- 1-1 - Steven Gerth
- 1-1 - Andrea Luce
- 1-1 - Marlene Mischnick
- 1-1 - Jack Peterson
- 1-1 - Tara Stanec
- 1-1 - George Varvel
- 1-1 - Bridget Vaughn
- 1-2 - Couric Bartek
- 1-3 - Sally Henderson
- 1-5 - Hunter Jensen
- 1-2 - Couric Bartek
- 1-5 - Hunter Jensen
- 1-7 - Mercedes Maxey
- 1-7 - Casey McCarty
- 1-7 - Kallista Berg
- 1-8 - Katelynn Grant
- 1-9 - Shane Dye
- 1-11 - Roger Bauer
- 1-13 - Isabel Aguallo
- 1-13 - Chase Dye
- 1-13 - Elaine Leibbrandt
- 1-15 - Joshua Kolle
- 1-16 - Hilda Leachman
- 1-20 - Jodell Conroy
- 1-20 - Anthony Wilcox, Jr.
- 1-21 - Aaron Fintel
- 1-23 - Josi Failor
- 1-24 - Jonas Daugherty
- 1-25 - Alexander Ackerman
- 1-25 - Tallan Ackerman
- 1-25 - Sierra Gibson
- 1-25 - Lukas Terrell
- 1-26 - Maxine Fox
- 1-28 - Lezlie Taylor
- 1-28 - Avenell Soriano
- 1-29 - Silas Daugherty
- 1-30 - Alexander Narjes

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! It is hard to believe another quarter has come and gone. The time between Thanksgiving and Christmas always flies by because there is so much to do and lots of fun activities happening. The kindergarten class was busy during the last few weeks of school preparing for the Christmas program, making ornaments, cards, and a nativity scene painting. Unfortunately due to the snow and cold weather the IELS Christmas program was postponed. However, we will continue working hard when the students return after break! The kindergarten class is especially excited to share the birth of Jesus with their family and friends by acting out the nativity scene during the program. All the students have worked hard and I hope you can make it to our program when it is rescheduled!

Before Christmas break the students enjoyed watching "The Polar Express" and drinking hot chocolate with a candy cane. Special thanks to Mrs. Walters, Miss Jamie, Miss Robyn, and Miss Stephany for preparing the treats! During our classroom Christmas party the students enjoyed playing Pictionary (they are really good at this game), a book exchange, special snacks, and listening to "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

I am excited for the students to return and continue working on their reading and spelling skills. One thing we will start doing in January is each student will have their own spelling notebook! This is a notebook that will showcase their handwriting and spelling words. When I told the students about this they said they couldn't wait. Students will also begin to practice how to navigate their hymnal. So far, the kindergarteners have shared their chapel and devotion buddies hymnals. It is a big deal that they will have their own.



- 1-6 - Dr. Tim and Kari Narjes
- 1-21 - Ken and Tara Gibson
- 1-24 - Larry and Deborah Galyen

