

ITEMS



Volume 60 No. 12

December 2018

O' Come, Let Us Adore Him



O, come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O, come ye, o, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the king of angels:
O, come, let us adore him,
O, come, let us adore him,
O, come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

O, Come, All Ye Faithful by John F. Wade

ADVENT SERVICES

Wednesday evening services will be held at 7 pm during Advent on the following dates:

December 5th
December 12th
December 19th

A soup and sandwich supper will be held at 6 pm prior to each service.



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve - Monday, December 24th
4 pm Family Christmas Worship
10 pm Candlelight Christmas Worship

Christmas Day – Tuesday, December 25th
10 am Christmas Worship

NEW PASTOR ANNOUNCED!!

We are very happy to report that Pastor Aaron Schellhas has accepted our Call to be our next pastor at Immanuel. God has answered our prayers. Pastor Schellhas has Advent and Christmas commitments at his current church, St. John's Lutheran Church in Woodstock – he will begin his pastoral duties at Immanuel on January 1, 2019. We look forward to welcoming him along with his wife, Leann, and their children, Natalee, Jarred, and Gretta.

SERVING THE LIVING LORD AT IMMANUEL

Official Acts

Mission Statement: "Caring and sharing since 1850, the mission of the family of God at Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mokena is to effectively teach the Word of God, promote the spiritual growth of the Christian family, and continuously reach out with love and service."

Connecting people in loving relationship with God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, with each other in contagious Christian community, and with our calling of servanthood in the world.

Financial Summary

		2018	2017		
	Oct 2018	YTD	YTD	YOY Change	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	%
Offering	26,483	266,114	298,566	-32,452	-11%
Interest	142	1,798	938	860	92%
Expense	17,577	232,993	263,929	-30,936	-12%
Balance	9,048	34,919	35,575	-656	-2%

Mortgage balance \$225,451.42

Reduced expense YOY primarily attributed to not having a full-time pastor from March through October.

Weekly Attendance

9:00 am

November 4 116
 November 11 89
 November 18 106
 November 21 35 (Thanksgiving Eve)
 November 25 90

Baptized Membership: 739
Confirmed Membership: 593
Households: 363

New Member by Affirmation of Faith:
 Rich Belanski, 11/25/18

Elders

Immanuel has elders who assist the pastor during the worship service and outside of worship. Their job is to be of service to you in any cares/concerns you may have with the congregation and within your family. Here are your elders:

Elder 1: Marty Olsen 815-464-4373
Elder 2: Jim Bowlds 708-479-3757
Elder 3: Jim Bubeck 815-469-7573
Elder 4: Bruce Bechtel 815-485-5455
Elder 5: Nick Whittier 815-485-9269
Elder 6: Jerry Vrshek 815-469-5059 (Director)

Please contact these Elders should you have any needs/concerns/questions.

Bulletin & Items Publishing

Bulletin articles are due on Wednesdays by 12 p.m. Articles for the January *Items* are due **December 21st** and will be on our website, mailed, and in the narthex after **December 30th**. We post the *Items* Newsletter on the website!

www.immanuelmokena.org

If you plan to move or have already moved
PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL THE CHURCH
OFFICE with your new address!!

Church Office
708-479-5600
ielc1850@att.net



BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP COOKIE WALK

Date: Saturday, December 15th

Time: 9 am to 1 pm

Location: Heritage Hall (also known as our gym)



The Board of Fellowship is looking for bakers for this year's Cookie Walk. This is Fellowship's one fund raiser for the year and proceeds support all of the upcoming years fellowship events.

We appreciate all of your support as bakers and as buyers. Any questions, please contact Lyn Thorne 708-805-4456. To sign up as a baker, please send an email to lynthorne54@gmail.com.



CHRISTMAS CANTATA & GOD'S KIDS CLUB PROGRAM

Join us on Sunday, December 16th, as the choir and God's Kid Club present their annual Christmas program. This year's Cantata is "Tapestry of Light, A Celtic Christmas Celebration."

PASTORAL COVERAGE SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 2 Pastor Schmidtke
Sunday, December 9 Pastor Schmidtke
Sunday, December 16 Pastor Schmidtke (Cantata)
Sunday, December 23 Pastor Cwynar
Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve
4:00 pm Pastor Cwynar
10:00 pm Pastor Cwynar
Tuesday, December 25 Christmas Day
10:00 am Pastor Cwynar
Sunday, December 30 Pastor Cwynar
There will be **NO New Year's Eve Service**.

DECORATING THE SANCTUARY

Saturday, December 8th at 10 am

You are invited to join the Ruth Society as they decorate the Christmas tree in the sanctuary and put up other decorations as well. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated!



CALL COMMITTEE THANK YOU

We thank the Call Committee for their hard work and due diligence on each of the pastors in the Call process. The members of the Call Committee were: Bruce Bechtel, Sarah Bechtel, Tammi Carlson, Nasser Diab, Greg Flesch, Lynn Gilmore, Nancy Kaczmarczyk, Doreen Pomykala, Lyn Thorne, Jerry Vrshek, and Nick Whittier.

GREETERS PROGRAM

The Elders are re-instituting the Greeter program at Immanuel. We are looking for families, couples, or individuals to greet members and visitors as they come into church on Sundays.

The only requirements are that you arrive between 8:30 and 8:40 am before the 9 am service and bring your smile and a warm handshake. If you are interested and can help, please add your name to the Greeter Sign-Up sheet located on the bulletin board next to the flower chart. If you have any questions, please call Jerry Vrshek at 815-469-5059.

GIVING TREE

Please visit the small Christmas tree in the narthex if you would like to make a monetary donation this Christmas season. The Board of Stewardship has selected several organizations, most of which the congregation supports each year. This year, LCMS Disaster Relief was added due to the great need created by the hurricanes and fires experienced throughout the country. Please return any donations to the special box located near the tree by December 25th. Thank you!

NEW AND IMPROVED!

Thank you to the Board of Trustees (and others!) for all of their work on recent updates:

New monitors were installed in the sanctuary along with a new A/V system and sound board to replace the outdated projection system. The new system was used for the first time on November 18th.

The pastor's office has been refurbished/updated. The paneling has been removed, dry wall added and painted, and new trim work added. The office is now ready for Pastor Schellhas!

THANK YOU, QUILTERS!

Thank you to the women who come together each month to sew and tie quilts. They complete six to eight quilts at their meetings which are brought to St. Matthews Soup Kitchen and given to folks who are poor and homeless providing them some warmth and comfort. We thank these faithful women for their time and service. Currently, Delynn Flannery is coordinating their efforts. Women who are presently serving or have served in the past are: Edith Albers, Sharon Durkin, Dee Culbertson, Eleanor Golden, Helen Khron, Doris Moutrey, Arletta Mundt, Flo Record, Vi Tolsky, Jo Wilhelmsen, Lois Yunker and Kathy Temple.

The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'
Matthew 25:40



SAVE THE DATE – SATURDAY, 2/9/19 SPAGHETTI DINNER & ART FAIR

The Board of Fellowship is partnering with the preschool and planning a dinner along with an art fair featuring art from the preschool students as well as local artists. More information to come!



Thank you for your support of the LWML Northern Illinois mission grants with your mite offerings. If you don't have a mite box, help yourself to one from the LWML table in the narthex. As you fill your mite box, keep in mind the words of the following:

Amazing Mites (Tune: Amazing Grace)

*Amazing mites are sent with prayer
Here and abroad to share
With those in need, that is our aim,
And always praise His name.*

*Each coin is giv'n with loving heart.
In this we have a part.
What joy it is to do God' work,
From this we'll never shirk.*

*Amazing mites, those coins so small,
When in the box they fall,
Become a force for our dear lord
And spread His Word abroad.*

*Our mites help many in despair.
They show how much we care.
They tell the news of God's great love,
And point to heav'n above.*

**excerpted from Overflowing Love,
past LWML publication*

PRESCHOOL NEWS

December key dates:

Chapel – 12/11 and 12/12

Christmas Programs – 12/20 and 12/21

Christmas Break – 12/24 through 1/7

2019 Registration begins 1/14 for members



- 1 Adam Tustin
- 3 Kelly Baker
- 5 Brandon Hohl
- 9 James LaRocco
- 9 Beverly Whittier
- 10 Tyler Seputis
- 10 Logan Wojno
- 10 Jeremy Zagralis
- 13 Courtney Heath
- 14 Olivia Hutson
- 15 Pam Bakken
- 15 Tina Bowlds
- 17 Donald Compagnoni
- 17 Allison Costella
- 19 John Wojno
- 20 Edward Senn
- 22 John Lupe
- 23 Gavin Marnul
- 23 Lois Yunker
- 25 Nicole Maranto
- 25 John Mirocha
- 25 Sophie Pattenaude
- 27 Theresa Bubeck
- 27 Jeffrey Sneideraitis
- 27 Raymond Steinbrenner
- 28 Aaron Redweik
- 29 Mitchell DeVivo
- 30 David Bechtel

- 2 Jim & Tina Bowlds 29 yrs
- 3 Jerry & Karen Vrshek 41 yrs
- 19 John & Nancy Mirocha 48 yrs
- 22 Kevin & Maetha Smith 48 yrs

WE WISH GOD'S BLESSINGS ON ALL THESE PEOPLE CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY. IF WE HAVE FORGOTTEN ANYONE'S SPECIAL DAY OR IT IS IN ERROR, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.



Christian Symbol

Branch (Tree) of Jesse — Isaiah used the image of a new tree growing from what appears dead to foretell God's redemption of Israel: "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit" (Isaiah 11:1, NIV). During Advent, this prophecy assures us of the coming of the Messiah, descended from King David, and thus his father, Jesse.



Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc.
5 Martin Luther Drive,
Fort Wayne, IN 46825-4996
Chicago and Northwest Indiana

**Sunday morning at 8:00 AM on
Chicago's CW station WPWR channel 50
(Comcast 184)**

Tel: (260) 471-LOVE (5683)

Toll-Free: (888) 286-8002

www.worshipanew.org/sermon-summaries

Email: info@LMMinc.org

December 2, 2018

First Sunday in Advent

Psalm 89:6, 14-16, 18; Old Testament: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

"Watching. Waiting. Hoping." - Sermon Text: Luke 21:25-36 - Rev. James Elsner

As Christmas draws near, Advent provides a season of preparation for Christ's coming. Knowing that Jesus will reappear, are you fearful? Or, Hoping?

December 9, 2018

Second Sunday in Advent

Psalm 66:1-12; Old Testament: Malachi 3:1-7b; Gospel: Luke 3:1-20

"Prepare the Way" - Sermon Text: Luke 3:4b - Rev. Shayne Jonker

Repentance and forgiveness. This is the pattern of the Christian life. This is the daily death and resurrection of those baptized into Christ. And this is how we prepare to meet the Lord Jesus in His coming to us.

December 16, 2018

Third Sunday in Advent

Psalm 85; Old Testament: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Gospel: Luke 7:18-28

"Are You the One?" - Sermon Text: Luke 7:18-28 - Rev. William Mueller

Have you wondered what God was up to in your life? Don't fret if you have – so did John the Baptist. Feel frustrated in your faith? Don't worry – just ask the right person, like John the Baptist did. Ask Jesus in the moments of frustration and fear...and be encouraged by His answer!

December 23, 2018

The Nativity of Our Lord—Christmas Observed

Psalm 98; Old Testament: Titus 3:4-7; Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

"God Comes Near!" - Sermon Text: Luke 2:9 - Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

"The hopes and fears of all the years" came together over two thousand years ago in the "little town of Bethlehem." God came near. What are your hopes this Christmas? Your fears? God comes near! "O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!"

December 30, 2018

First Sunday after Christmas

Psalm 111; Epistle: Colossians 3:12-17; Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

"In the Name of Jesus" - Sermon Text: Colossians 3:12-17 - Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

As we face a new year, or at any time in the year, what is the best advice as to how we are to live? Do everything in the name of Jesus! We can live in such a manner, because of Jesus' name!