

IMMANUEL

Lutheran Church

Our Mission:

God with us, touching lives through Christ!

JANUARY 2012

Upcoming Message Series

♦ JAN. 1

LUKE 2:15-21

♦ JAN. 8

MARK 1:4-11

♦ JAN. 15

JOHN 1:43-51

♦ JAN. 22

MARK 1:14-20

♦ JAN. 29

MARK 1:21-28

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2011 Christmas Message from Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.
(Titus 2:11)*

Yes In this world where God creates with deep beauty and profound mystery.
In this world where so many yearn for God's healing and peace.
In this world where some have thought God has forsaken us:

Yes Here, in this world, the grace of God has appeared.
Not just in this world but for you.

Yes For you, weary from trying to meet the expectations of others.
For you, worrying about an uncertain future.
For you, wondering if you are worthy.

Yes For you, the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation.
Not just for you but for all.

Yes For all, salvation has come in the wonder of God in mercy bending low to meet us in our humanity.
In the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection.
In the power and promise of the gospel's proclamation.
God's goodness and loving-kindness has appeared in the Savior Jesus.

So with angelic messengers and witnessing shepherds,
we raise our voices:

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven
and on earth peace among those
whom he favors."*

Mark S. Hanson
Presiding Bishop



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Immanuel - God With Us!

Living in Christ,
Loving God's
people.
Teaching the
Word,
Reaching the
world.

Immanuel! What a wonderful name! But Immanuel, which means "God is with Us," is more than a name. It is the *Good News promise* that God gives the world. Simply put, in good and bad times, God's gracious presence through Christ will always be with us.

The problem is, as we look around, we can probably find more evidence of God's absence than his presence. I am sure we have all heard this complaint, "*If God is truly good and gracious and that He is present, why do these terrible things happen to me, to us, and to the world?*" Implied in this genuine and profound question is the assumption that God's presence means that all our troubles will go away. But is that so? Let's look at the reference to Immanuel in the first two chapters of the book of Matthew.

Months before Jesus' birth, his mother Mary, a young village girl engaged to Joseph, had an impossible pregnancy. Given the cultural norm and the circumstances around the pregnancy, Joseph tried to do what any normal man would have done - he planned to sever his relationship with Mary quietly. But an angel came to him in a dream to tell him not to do so because the impossible pregnancy of his fiancée Mary, while profoundly troubling, was an act of God. Not only that, the child Mary bore was the anointed One from God who would save the world from sin. Finally, the angel claimed that the conception and the birth of Jesus

is the fulfillment of God's promise through the Prophet Isaiah. "*Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Immanuel*" (Matthew 1:23 based on Isaiah 7:14).

If we think that God's presence automatically means the overflowing of earthly blessings, such as the peace of mind and soul, healing from illnesses, decisive victory of goodness over evil, and/or the occurrence of remarkable miracles, etc. - think again. According to the book of Matthew, the presence of the infant and young Christ is accompanied by one troubling event after another. The pregnancy of Jesus to Mary did not bring obvious blessings to Mary and Joseph. Given the cultural norms at the time, both of them probably had to endure criticism and shame in their little village both before and after Jesus' birth. The visit by the wise men was glorious but also stirred up disasters. King Herod who learned about the birth of a new king from the wise men, He was jealous of a potential rival to his grip on power and ordered the killing of children around Bethlehem who were two years old or younger. As many parents were wailing and mourning for the death of their innocent children around Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph had to flee to Egypt with Jesus. They weren't able to return to Nazareth until years later. Immanuel - God's presence - turns people's lives upside down.

But that's precisely the power of the promise of Immanuel. Immanuel does not necessarily

associate with prosperity, peace, health, and other blessings in life. In fact, more often than not, God's gracious presence is asked behind human troubles, tragedies, and atrocities; we simply cannot always detect God's grace and blessings when it happens. Some 30 years after the first Christmas, Jesus was crucified on Good Friday. On that day, no one believed God was truly present when they saw Jesus withering on the cross. It is so because the cross symbolizes everything that is wrong about the world. But on the third day, He rose again...then everything becomes clear - God is most powerful and present precisely when we humans are in the depth of our miseries and tragedies.

Therefore, whenever we are struggling due to misfortunes, illnesses, tragedies, atrocities, human failings, and persecutions, etc., do not give up. Even when circumstances are very discouraging and there are no evidences of hope, act boldly in faith, trusting that God's gracious presence will lift us up and get us through.

May the promise of Immanuel - God with us - be with you and your family as we celebrate once again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ during this season!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Pastor Joe



Happenings at Immanuel

Altar Guild

The next Altar Guild meeting is **February 6th, at 6:30 p.m.** If anyone is interested in joining, come to the meeting or call Sandy Stone at 630-267-0843 for more information.

The Altar committee for January is Brenda Corrigan and Denise Stevenson.

Thank you and Happy New Year.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet on **Tuesday, January 10th at 1:30 p.m.** For more information, contact Betty Hardecopf at 630-553-5336.

Servant Hearts Circle

Servant Hearts Circle will be starting a new Bible study on **Thursday, January 19th at 6:30 p.m.** For more information, contact Brenda Corrigan at 630-553-1525.

GREETERS

9 a.m.

Glenn and Sally Bates	Jan. 1
Randy & Sue Boldt	Jan. 8
Bill & Diane Hardecopf	Jan. 15
Brian & Arlene Anderson	Jan. 22
Steve & Michelle Halbesma	Jan. 29

10:30 a.m.

No service
Kelvin & Pat Johnson
Roger & Joyce Olson
Cary & Denise Stevenson
Jenny Mulvey

READERS

9 a.m.

Gena Gerdin	Jan. 1
Janet Bretthauer	Jan. 8
Ed Guettler	Jan. 15
Kelli Leonetti	Jan. 22
May Heiden	Jan. 29

10:30 a.m.

No service
Glenn Borneman
Nancy Curran
Sharon Hosler
Laura Devick

USHERS

9 a.m.

Kyle & Brenda Corrigan

10:30 a.m.

Bill Lippold & Bruce Devick

COUNTERS

Cary & Denise Stevenson
& Roger Olson

ACOLYTES

9 a.m.

Devin Ambrose

10:30 a.m.

Emma Wallis

Luther League

Luther League will meet on **Sunday, January 8th, at 11:45 a.m.** Devotions will be given by Devin Ambrose and Katelyn Borneman.

Confirmation

Confirmation class will meet on **Wednesday, January 11th at 6 p.m. and Sunday, January 22nd at 11:45 a.m.** The class will be studying Article 3 of the Apostles' Creed and the Stewardship of Creation.

Sunday School

Sunday School had a great December, filled with lots of fun. The children practiced for the Christmas Eve Program every Sunday and enjoyed singing Christmas songs. On December 18th we had our first family Sunday School which is always fun. The children worked really hard on the program and thank you to all who supported the children and attended the Christmas Eve Program. Special thanks to Pastor Chu for assisting in writing the program, the High School students for being the directors, to all the willing participants in our special video, and lastly to the parents for all their continued support.

No Sunday School on January 1, 2012.

Starting on January 8th, the children will have a new curriculum of "Baby Moses".



The chili cook off is coming up in February, Why not try a recipe from the cookbook? If you are interested in buying one, please contact Maryjo Mott at 815-254-9117.



Celebrations!

January

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1/2 - Courtney Collman | 1/16 – Duane Gerdin | 1/25 – Diana Morganegg |
| 1/3 - Brian Anderson | 1/17 – Dione Riemenschneider | 1/26 – Anne Guettler |
| 1/4 - John Stoehr | 1/20 – Aaron Hartnett | 1/27 - Tom Schoot |
| 1/5 – Wayne Borneman* | 1/22—Matt Boldt | 1/28 – Sue Nelson |
| May Heiden | 1/24 – Scott Heiden | 1/29 – Jennifer Borneman |
| Robert Merkel | Joyce Olson | *over 80 years old |
| 1/10 – Bill Butts | | |

Anniversaries

- 1/3 – Gary & Sue Fruland
- 1/17 – Terry & Diana Morganegg
- 1/30—Earl & Connie Worley

**Celebrating 50 years or more



New Members

Please welcome Phyllis Corrigan and the Davis family - Scott, Rachel, Molly

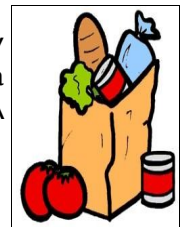


Annual Report

Items for the annual report need to be turned into to Cindy by **Sunday, January 8th.**

Kendall County Food Pantry

Food products will be collected for the Kendall County Food Pantry on Sunday, January 29th. For more information, contact Brenda Corrigan at 630-553-1525. Thanks for helping with this WELCA ministry.



Pray for Marie Thomas at Hillside.

Pray for Carolyn Leifheit and Millie Tripp at Bickford Cottage.

Pray for Frances and Ronnie Bretthauer at Jennings Terrace.

Pray for Arlene Reinboldt at Hillside.

Pray for Nathan Anders; Frances Bretthauer; Dorothy Browning;

Tom Coziahr; Allan Duvick – May Heiden’s brother; Gena Gerdin’s parents and family; Emily Halbesma; Scott Heiden; Brenda and Nicholas Karales’s niece, Nicole; Katie Krasinski; Louis Kreppert; Carolyn Leifheit; Fred Lorscheider; Tom Merkel; Lynn Molitor; Joyce Olson’s family on the passing of her mother; Arlene Reinboldt; Terry Seyller; Hank Sing; Rolf Snobeck; Lyle Stevenson; Harriet Theiner; Millie Tripp; and Ken Walker.

Pray for the safety of all those who serve their country.

Pray for the Outreach Committee.

Pray for the Call Committee as they continue the call process.

Pray for all those things that we may not be able to give words to but lay heavy on our hearts.

Pray for safe travels for people traveling over the holiday.

Reaching out to others...



Busy Hands

Busy Hands will meet on **Wednesday, January 11th and 25th at 9 a.m.** It's too cold to be outside so why not join us for a morning of fun and fellowship? All are welcome to come. If you can cut, iron, help pin or layout a quilt, we have a job for you! If you don't know how to quilt, knit, or crochet, we will be happy to teach you. We are busy working together on some great projects. Come and join us!



The Council meeting is Tuesday, January 10th @ 7 p.m.

Newsletter email

If you would like to receive your newsletter via email and currently are not, please call the office and you will be put on the email list.



Donate from your smart phone!

Immanuel Lutheran Church now offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader!

Prayer Chain



If you would like to put someone on prayer chain, please contact Brenda Corrigan at 630-553-1525.

Miracle Sunday – Financial Update

As of December 14th, we have been blessed with gathering \$47,926.94 from almost 90 giving units, which is truly exciting. And, even more exciting is that we might make it to another milestone. With just receiving some additional commitments, we could reach \$50,000 in the next month or two. This is truly a blessing from God. If you have not had a chance to be part of this wonderful event, there is still time. You can mail in your donation or drop it in with the weekly offering (mark it as "Miracle Sunday"). In order to preserve our future, we will be saving the Miracle Sunday funds by investing in the ELCA Mission Investment Fund (<http://www.elca.org/mif>) using a demand investment.

Congregational Meeting



Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting will be on **Sunday, January 15th following the 10:30 a.m. service.**

Immanuel Lutheran Church Weekly Bulletin - Year-To-Date Report January 1 - December 21, 2011

	Total
Income	
Operating Fund Income	\$133,243.42
Parsonage Income	7,550.00
Total Income	\$140,793.42
Expenses	
Benevolence Resolutions	3,460.00
Christian Education	1,051.18
Church Administration	34,579.24
Parsonage Expenses	2,038.78
Pastoral Services	52,265.56
Property Insurances & Taxes	4,459.02
Repairs & Maintenance	18,185.96
Utilities	17,040.69
Worship & Fellowship	10,437.41
Total Expenses	\$143,517.84
Net Income	\$ (2,724.42)

LOOKING AHEAD



Do you make an awesome pot of chili? We need several of Immanuel's cooks - male or female - experienced or not - to bring a pot of chili for our first ever chili cook-off. Breads, crackers, desserts and drinks will be provided. After a good natured judging of the chili, we will have a game night. Save the date - **Saturday, February 18th at 4:00 p.m.** and start looking for that great chili recipe!!



Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.
Proverbs 22:9



Helmar Lutheran Food Pantry

Matthew 25:35, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink."

Helmar Lutheran Church is having an All You Can Eat Kumla Dinner on **Saturday, January 21, 2011 from 4:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.** The proceeds will support the HLC Food Pantry which has grown from serving 10 to 120 people, twice a month, in our 3 years of operation. The dinner includes ham, Kumla (like a dumpling), applesauce, dessert and beverage. For those that would prefer, a baked potato will be substituted for Kumla. The church is located at 11935 Lisbon Road, Rural Newark, IL 815-695-5489. Carry-outs are available. It is a free-will donation dinner with a suggested donation of \$9 for adults and \$4 for kids. If you cannot make the dinner but would like to make a donation to help out this local pantry, please make the check to Helmar Lutheran Food Pantry and send it to the church address. For more information, contact Linda Mathre at 815-210-0985.

Book Nook



"No entertainment is so cheap as reading, nor any pleasure so lasting" Mary Wortley Montagu

How true that quote is! On these wintry days, there is nothing like a good book to settle in with. Please fill out the book sign out sheet when taking out a book. If you have any questions, please call Janet Bretthauer at 630-553-5941 or Kay Collman at 630-553-7675.

Cut, Print!

Mark your calendars for **January 9th**. OK, you might want to use a pencil, but we are expecting the new photo directory to be delivered to the church that day. We will label them and put them out for you to pick up in time for the Annual Meeting (one per household please). We will mail them out on Monday, January 23, for those not picked up by then.



Don't forget to visit Immanuel on Facebook!

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

630-553-5368

January 2012

ImmanuelYorkville.org

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 New Year's Day 9 a.m. Worship No Sunday School	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 9 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Sun Schl. 11:45 a.m. Luther League	9	10 1:30 p.m. Ruth Circle 7 p.m. Council Meeting	11 9 a.m. Busy Hands 6 p.m. Confirmation Class	12 6:30 p.m. PADS @ Trinity Methodist	13	14
15 9 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Sun. Schl. 11:45 a.m. Annual Meeting	16	17	18	19 6:30 p.m. Servant Hearts Circle	20	21 10 a.m. WELCA General Meeting With brunch
22 9 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Sun. Schl. 11:45 a.m. Confirmation Class	23	24	25 9 a.m. Busy Hands	26	27	28
29 9 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Sun. Schl KCFP Collection	30	31				

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting Notice *

The Annual Meeting will be held on January 15, 2012. Please note that during this meeting we will be conducting the following business as well as other matters:

- ◆ Voting to accept ELCA amendments to the Model Constitution to bring our constitution into compliance (see *C17.04 in our current constitution regarding this process, which is available on our website or at church).
- ◆ Voting to adopt amended bylaws to be presented by the Congregation Council.

Copies of these are available at church and online.

** This meeting notice is in compliance with Chapter 10, section 03, of our constitution.*