



IMMANUEL Lutheran Church

DECEMBER 2009

UPCOMING MESSAGE SERIES

◆ DEC. 6

LUKE 3:1-6

◆ DEC. 13

LUKE 3:7-18

◆ DEC. 20

LUKE 1:39-55

◆ DEC. 27

LUKE 2:41-52

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ADVENT: CHRISTMAS EXPECTATION

The three to four weeks before Christmas Day can be a very busy time of putting a lot of energy into our Christmas activities. Many of us make or buy Christmas gifts, decorate our homes, make special foods, and attend and throw parties in this short span of time.

Sometimes it can be frustrating, especially if we feel that the multitude of things to do overwhelms the religious aspects of Christmas for ourselves or our children. The pre-Christmas weeks have been a time of preparation - and midwinter a time of celebration - for centuries, though without the strong emphasis on gift-giving that we have now.

The Christian liturgical season of Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day. This is a season, not of celebration, but of anticipation

Christ comes to us: long ago, as God incarnate in the newborn Jesus in Bethlehem; today, in our lives and our hearts, to awaken us to Life; and someday, as Christ triumphant, redeeming the entire world and bringing history to a close. You could say this is Christianity in a nutshell!

For its three weeks or so, Advent is a time to "clear the decks" of our homes and our hearts. As we put aside some of our normal activities in order to prepare special foods and gifts, clean and decorate our homes, and plan what Christmas church service to attend, we might also choose some ways to prepare spiritually for Christmas... to focus on what makes this such a special time of year.

Some people light Advent wreath candles with a prayer at dinnertime, others listen to Advent music, still others

Christmas preparation. We can savor our preparations and look ahead to the wonderful celebration on its way.

For no matter what our take on the season, during Advent and Christmas we tend to find ourselves wanting. We want to respond with gratitude to the incredible gift of God made flesh...Jesus in the manger, Jesus in our lives. We want to acknowledge the love, care, and nurturing in our lives... family, friends, and a host of others. We want to make a difference in the world. We want the presents we give and receive to be good gifts.

After Advent comes the traditional Christmas season - the festival celebration of Christ's coming - which begins at the stroke of midnight on Christmas Eve and winds to a close on the twelfth day of Christmas, January 5. Can you imagine 12 days of celebration rather than one? Now that's more than worthy of weeks of anticipation!

Excerpt from Barbara Laufersweiler



KIDS PROGRAMS

Luther League

The Luther Leaguers will be bell ringing at Wal-Mart. If you are interested in helping, please contact Laura Devick at 815-695-5432.

Confirmation

The confirmation class will meet on Sunday, **December 6th at 11:45 am.**

Greetings from Pastor Dorothy

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



Pastor Dorothy will be at Panera on **Thursday, December 10th** from 8:30 am to 10 am. Take the chill off of fall with a cup of coffee!

Tom Hanks owes me \$14 and an apology.

I love stories, so it is predictable that I also love books and movies, because they hold the stories. I am pre-disposed to like movies. I am willing to accept the premise, "suspend disbelief" they call it, to enter the story.

So I was excited to hear that one book that has meant a lot to me was being made into a movie. This book is one that I've read over and over, shared with my family; we know certain passages by heart, even use phrases from it within family conversations. This book is important to us.

Then I heard about the Hollywood people who would be involved – and Tom Hanks was featured prominently! I've seen and enjoyed so many of his movies – either with him in front of the camera or behind the scenes. This promised to be a great movie for me!

But it wasn't. In fact, I think it was miserable – a word I did not choose lightly. I think it focused on the misery of the characters without much redeeming relationship or love. I admit I was tired when we went, but I had real difficulty staying awake.

It was miserable. The promise of a great movie, based on a beloved book and brought to life by a trusted name in movie-dom, was broken. I had misplaced my trust and my hopes. I may joke that 'Tom' owes me \$14 (the cost of two matinee tickets at WOW7) and an apology, but really I was disappointed because I put my trust and expectation in the wrong one and the wrong thing.

God does not do that to us. God's promises are true and God keeps them all.

Advent is our preparation time for Christmas. We prepare our homes with decorations and lights. We prepare for dinners and parties and celebrations. We prepare to give gifts to one another.

But these things are not the Promise. They are echoes. We give gifts and light candles and lights to remind us of the Gift that God gave in sending His Son: the Light of the World. The joy and excitement as we get ready to celebrate is an echo of the joy and excitement we can feel at receiving the greatest gift: new life in Christ. You already know that the focus of Christmas is not

evergreens and dinners; they are the resulting response to the fulfilled Promise of a Savior.

Our hope lies not just with a tiny baby in a manger, but also with a risen King of all Creation; not just in an event – or series of events – that happened centuries ago, but with the living God who is present with us every day.

We sing Christmas carols in Advent because we know that the Promise is fulfilled. We don't have to pretend that we don't know what will happen on Christmas or that we don't know that the journey leads to Easter. We can sing those carols because we know the Promise is kept.

We can sing every day, knowing that the Promise is kept every day. We can put all our hope and trust in the God who lives and keeps us in His promise.

God's Blessing
Pastor Dorothy

Happenings at Immanuel



A L T A R G U I L D

Altar Guild's Annual Family Christmas Party is **Monday, December 7th at 6:30 pm** in Heritage Hall. Altar Guild members please bring 8 dozen cookies and 6 to 8 pieces of fruit to pack for the shut-ins. Remember your reading to share with the group and we will be singing our Christmas hymns also. Anyone interested in seeing what Altar Guild is all about, please join us for this fun family night. If you are not an Altar Guild member and would like to attend, please RSVP to Brenda Corrigan (630-553-

RUTH CIRCLE

Ruth Circle

RUTH CIRCLE

Ruth Circle will meet on **Saturday, November 21st at 1:30 pm**. With the frost on the pumpkin, stop in and enjoy an afternoon of Bible study and fellowship. For more information, contact Betty Hardecopf at 630-553-5336.



Worship Schedule

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to celebrate the birth of Jesus at one of the worship services with Immanuel this Christmas season.

December 24th

4:30 pm Candlelight Service
6:30 pm—Children's Program

December 25th

9 am Christmas Service

OUR GREETERS AND USHERS



Counters and Readers

GREETERS

Dec. 6—Beth Hage & Judy Hage
Dec. 13—Steve & Michelle Halbesma
Dec. 20—Lyle & Sharon Hosler
Dec. 27—Dave & Kathi

USHERS

Steve Halbesma (H), Michelle Halbesma, Kyle Corrigan, & Brenda Corrigan

COUNTERS

Craig Borneman, Sandy Collman, & Keith Collman

ACOLYTE

Clint Corrigan (9am)

READERS

Dec. 6—Sharon Hosler
Dec. 13—Nancy Curran
Dec. 20—Laura Devick
Dec. 27—Megan Devick



The next Council meeting is Tuesday, December 15th @ 6:30 pm.

Giving Tree for the Stoehr's

Servant Heart Circle has put up a gift card giving tree to help the Stoehr family. The tree will be set up until Dec. 20th.

Gift cards can be purchased in any amounts and from anywhere (gas cards, grocery, restaurants, etc.). If you have any questions, please contact any Servant Heart

Sing a joyful song! It's a joyous season to be singing songs of praise. If you are interested call Ed Guettler at 630-553-9511.





Celebrations!

- 12/1—Kay Collman
- 12/4—Mark Bretthauer
Jean Riemenschneider
- 12/6—Beverly Gauer
- 12/7—Jakob Johnson
- 12/9—Ardys Hughes
- 12/10—April Reichert
- 12/11—Joan Straughn

- 12/12—Lindsey Bergthold
Rose Sutherland
Kyle Zaricor
- 12/14—Joshua Halbesma
Timothy Halbesma
- 12/16—Steve Halbesma
- 12/18—Art Riemenschneider*
- 12/19—Jay Bell
Darryl Riemenschneider
- 12/21—Andrew Molitor
- 12/23—Dorothy Browning*
- 12/25—Jesus
- 12/26—Jacqueline Cotton
J. Stanford
- 12/27—Janet Bretthauer
Maryjo Mott
- 12/29—Lyle Hosler
- 12/30—Devin Ambrose

*over 80 years old



IMMANUEL COOKBOOKS

Try a Christmas cookie recipe and give the cookies away! What a wonderful and thoughtful gift for someone! There are a lot of great holiday recipes to try. If you need a quick gift, an Immanuel cookbook is just the thing! If you are interested in purchasing a cookbook, contact Maryjo Mott at 815-



- 12/2—Louis & Nilslee Kreppert
- 12/19—Craig & Jenny Borneman

Anniversaries

- 12/22—Bill and Carole Butts**
- 12/22—Bob and Sharon Robinson

**Celebrating 50 years or more

Irene Thanepohn needs prayer for the pain she experiences.

Pray for Jacob Kellen, who has been struggling with health issues concerning his liver.

Pray for Bill Stoehr and guidance for the doctors as they determine the course of action to take for his brain tumor. Keep Paula, Rachel, and John in prayer as they take care and support Bill.



Please pray God's presence for Carolyn Leifheit.

Pray for Katie, Rob Heiden's girlfriend as she recovers from many surgeries due to a work accident.

Pray for our Sister congregation in Iowa as they continue to rebuild.

Pray for those who struggle during the holidays. Let them feel a

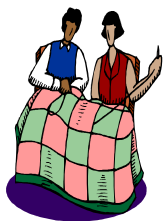
Pray for all those things that we may not be able to give words to but lay heavy on our hearts.

Pray for all the Sunday School classes and confirmation classes.

Pray for all your loved ones.

Pray for our congregation.





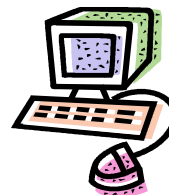
Reaching out to others...

Busy Hands

Busy Hands will meet on **December 9th at 9 am**. Due to the Christmas holiday we will only meet once in December. We will work in the morning on our projects and then share a Christmas lunch. Why not come for a little sewing, crocheting, knitting and good food? We would love to have more ladies join us. Several quilt blocks have been organized and are ready for sewing.



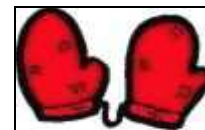
Know of someone who could use a hug and prayer during the holidays? There are prayer shawls on the bench across from the Welcome table. If you know of someone, please take one. We have plenty and would love to have them given to people.



To date \$39.64 is being donated to the church and 2763 searches have been done.

www.Goodsearch.com

Help warm the hands and hearts of local children



Have you noticed the bare Christmas tree set up in the church hallway? Please help decorate our tree with your donations of mittens, hats and other warm items for local children without these necessities. The mitten and hat tree will be on display and waiting for warm decorations until Christmas. Involve your children - what a great way to remind our kids how blessed they are! The items collected will be given to the Kendall County Pantry for distribution. We'll also collect cash donations and non-perishables for the Food Pantry.



Volunteer Bell-ringers Needed!

Immanuel has committed to **two Saturdays in December** to ring bells for the Salvation Army. The Red Kettle Campaign is a major source of revenue, helping the Salvation Army meet emergency needs for individuals and families - not only at Christmas, but throughout the year. It's a wonderful, fun, charitable opportunity for couples, families, grandparents and grandchildren and teen friends. Make bell-ringing a part of your family's Christmas tradition - grab a partner and sign up for a two-hour shift on **Saturday, December 5th or Saturday, December 12th**. We will be covering shifts from 8 am to 8pm at the Plano Wal-Mart. Sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Contact Gena Gerdin at 630-552-1954 if you



Green Christmas Cards

You'd like to give a card to everybody who worships at Immanuel, but
 so many pricey cards
 so much paper
 so many trees
 so much writing
 so many whose names you're not entirely sure you'd spell correctly!
 so many chances you'd accidentally miss someone

The best solution is to write one card to the entire congregation! We'll display the cards in the hallway so that everyone can see and read all the cards. Cards will be displayed until Epiphany.

Of course, there may be a special card you'd still want to send to someone who usually worships with us. Luther League will set a decorated box in which you may place them and deliver them on Sundays during Advent.



Tags are also on the tree for children. Please take a tag and return the gift, unwrapped during the first

Busy Hands Quilt Raffle

Thank you to everyone who supported Busy Hands with buying a ticket for the beautiful quilt that was raffled on November 8th. The lucky winner is Cindy Sansale. We have \$325 to put toward supplies for our quilts and prayer shawls. Thank you all!

LOOKING AHEAD



Advent Services

On December 2nd, 9th, 16th, Advent services will be in Heritage Hall. Come at 6:30 pm for pie and devotions will be at 7 pm.



Sister Church

Our Sister Church in Iowa is continuing with the rebuilding process. If you would like to help that ministry, there are blue envelopes on the Welcome table to make a donation.. Thanks for your support!!

Kendall-Grundy Community Action

The Kendall-Grundy Community Action is a unit of Kendall County Health Department. Applications are being accepted from income-eligible clients for LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program). In addition they have a weatherization program that is designed to help income eligible households by insulating the home to help save on heating costs. For more information, contact the Kendall County Community Action at 630-553-9100 x8051 or go to their website,



December 29th
2:30pm-4:30pm

Feed My Starving Children is a non-profit Christian organization committed to feeding God's starving children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: children and adults hand-pack meals formulated specially for starving children, and we ship the meals to more than 60 countries around the world. Twenty kids and twenty adults can go to work on the project. Let Paula Stoehr (630-554-0065) know if you are interested in helping with this project.

*Blessed are those who are generous,
because they feed the poor.
- Proverbs 22:9*

Tribute Arrangements

Forget-Me-Not Flowers and Gifts is offering a service for loved ones that have passed with seasonal arrangements such as wreaths, easels, silk hanging baskets, grave blankets, fresh evergreens and special orders. She will deliver to the cemetery. The church will get a 10% profit per order. Call Debbie at 630-553-2444 to order your tribute arrangements.



The holidays are coming, so why not check out a Christmas book from the library? We have several selections that will really get you in the Christmas spirit. You may want to browse through one or two of the cookbooks. Get some new recipes for the holidays or maybe you have a special diet that you need new ideas for. The library is there for you to enjoy! Please complete the book sign out sheet when taking out a book. When returning a book, please put it in the basket. If you have any questions, please call Janet Brethauer at 630-553-5941 or Julie Warner at 207-333-0808.



Next Dinner outing is Saturday, December 5th

Fireside Grille in Sugar Grove Rather than doing an ethnic theme this month, we are planning an outing to the Fireside Grille in Sugar Grove to get together for a Christmas outing. Call Kay Collman (630-553-7675) and let her know if you are interested in going by Wednesday, December 2nd. Hope to see you there!



a n d
expectation,
when we

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

630 553 5368

December 2009

www.ImmanuelYorkville.org

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
6 9 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Confirmation Class	7 6:30 pm Altar Guild Family Christmas Party	1	2 6:30 pm Pie 7 pm Devotions	3	4	5 Bell Ringing @ Walmart 6 pm Dinner @ Fireside Grill
13 9 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 2 pm Hillside	14	15 6:30 pm Council mtg.	16 6:30 pm Pie 7 pm Devotions	17	18	19
20 9 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 4:30 pm Candlelight Service 6:30 pm Children's Program	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 9 am Service	26
27 9 am Worship No Sunday School	28	29 2:30 pm Feed my Starving Children	30	31 New Year's Eve		

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Fax: 640-553-8839
Emergency: 630-551-6245
www.ImmanuelYorkville.org



Upcoming Events

ADVENT SERVICES

Dec. 2nd, 9th, and 16th

**Pie 6:30 pm
Devotions 7 pm**



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**December 24th
4:30 pm Candlelight Service**

6:30 pm—Children's Program

**December 25th
9 am Christmas Day Service**



**December 29th
2:30 pm-4:30 pm**

*Little children,
let us love,
not in word or speech,
but in truth
and action.*

1 John 3:18