



IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS DECEMBER 2021

Immanuel Serves at the Community Kitchen

Immanuel will serve the Iowa Community Kitchen Christmas Feast for our 7th year. We are looking for volunteers to help with cooking, serving, and cleaning up on Tuesday, December 14. We also need donations of Christmas cookies. Sign up lists will be available in the church office.



Please join us!

A Christmas Tree Stroll



Immanuel Lutheran Church

Harlan, IA

Saturday, December 11th

10:00am - noon



December Worship Schedule

Dec. 4-5 Advent 2	That You May Know (Luke 1:1-4)	Bells Communion
Dec. 11-12 Advent 3	Let It Be (Luke 1:26-38)	Choir
Dec. 18-19 Advent 4	Sunday School Christmas Pageant	
Dec. 24 (4 & 6 p.m.) Christmas Eve	D-Day (Luke 2:1-20)	4 p.m. Bells & Choir Communion
Dec. 25-26 Christmas 1	Finding Jesus (Luke 2:21-40)	



Advent 2021
Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year! November 28 marked the beginning of a new liturgical year in the Church. We begin a new year of worship with the season of Advent. While the calendar year has 4 seasons, the Church year has 6 seasons.

Advent includes the 4 Sundays before Christmas. While the world is rushing to celebrate its own commercial version of Christmas, Advent reminds us that faith involves waiting and living in hope. In Advent we recall how God prepared his people for the coming of the Messiah. We also recall how we continue to live in hope for the fulfillment of all that Jesus began. The mood of Advent is expectation. I look forward to singing "Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying."

Christmas is the 12 days from December 25 to January 5. In Biblical thinking, each day begins with sunset. Therefore, Christmas begins on Christmas Eve as we recall that the birth of Jesus was announced to shepherds who were watching their flocks by night. For 12 days we celebrate the humanity and the humility of God's coming among us. The mystery of the Incarnation (God become human) and Immanuel (God with us) are the core of our faith. The mood of Christmas is wonder. I look forward to singing all those glorious Christmas carols.

Epiphany always begins January 6. Epiphany means shining forth or revealing. During the weeks of Epiphany we focus on the glory of God shining forth in the words and works of Jesus. Epiphany begins with the baptism of Jesus marking the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Epiphany ends with the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain marking the beginning of his journey to the cross. The mood of Epiphany is surprise. I look forward to singing "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright."

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which this year will be March 2. Lent focuses on Jesus' journey to the cross and our call to follow Jesus in dying to self. During the 40 days plus Sundays we focus on the passion and the cross of Jesus. We remember our sin and our need for repentance. Lent ends with the high drama of Holy Week. The mood of Lent is somber. I look forward to singing "Were You There?" in the darkened sanctuary on Good Friday.

Easter will be April 17 this year. During the 50 days of rejoicing we celebrate the resurrection as our sneak peek into the future of Christ's total victory over sin and death. As the world greens up around us, we celebrate the ways that we experience the promise of Easter in our daily lives. The mood of Easter is joy. I look forward to singing all the "alleluia" songs.

Pentecost will be June 5 this year. Pentecost focuses on the Holy Spirit's work calling, gathering, enlightening, sanctifying, and keeping us through the gifts of Word and Church. During this long green season we focus on our growth in faith and love.

Pastor's Notes Continued...

A few years ago I wrote a Sunday School song to teach the seasons of the Church year. The verses of the song were as follows:

Advent brings God's promise near. Celebrate! Celebrate!
Christmas means God's gift is here. Emmanuel!

Healing, teaching, surprising all, celebrate! Celebrate!
Epiphany shows Jesus' call. Glory to God!

Jesus came to find the lost. Celebrate! Celebrate!
Lent leads us to the cross. Hosanna!

On the third day Christ did rise. Celebrate! Celebrate!
Easter is the hope of life! Hallelujah!

The Spirit's power makes us grow! Celebrate! Celebrate!
Pentecost give power to go! Thanks be to God!

Each season focuses us on an important element of the life of faith. Each season has a distinct message and mood. Together the seasons help us maintain a balance and a fullness in our Christian experience. So don't miss out on any of the seasons of the new year.

Yours in Christ, Phil Nielsen



Wanted: Musicians of All Ages

God has blessed us at Immanuel Church with lots of musicians in our congregation. We want to encourage them, especially our younger musicians, to offer their talents in worship. We are looking for musicians who would be willing to share their music with the congregation in worship. Percussion, guitars, brass, winds, and vocalists who can help us fill out the band and add depth to the sound of our worship. If you are interested or curious about joining the musical team at Immanuel, please contact Heidi Thies or Derek Chapman.

Greeters + Ushers = Worship Hosts

Immanuel Church asks all of our able-bodied members to serve in some way to support our ministry of worship. Members are commonly asked to serve as greeters or ushers. Greeters provide a positive and welcoming first impression for everyone entering the building. Ushers see that worshipers have everything they need to participate in worship. Ushers also bring the offering forward for the presentation of the offering. Ushers also count and record the number of people worshipping.

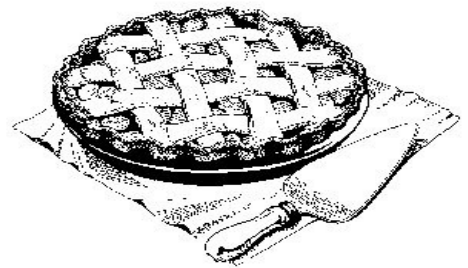
Presently we don't recommend that greeters shake hands and we don't have ushers passing the offering plates around. So we are going to try combining the roles of greeters and ushers into one role called "worship hosts". These greeter/ushers can stand where greeters have always stood and welcome people with greetings and smiles and handing out a program rather than shaking hands. Other ushers can provide a second greeting at the main door to the sanctuary. We can never have too much greeting, especially for guests and new comers.



Happy Birthday to the following:

Marlene Sondergaard will be 91 on December 1.
 Jackie Larsen who will be 84 on December 2.
 Jonne Carlsen will be 82 on December 5.
 Harold Peters who will be 95 on December 8.
 Doraine Wigg will be 92 on December 9.
 Patti Kumm who will be 87 on December 16.
 Vernon Holdsworth will be 98 on December 17.
 Christine Jones will be 83 on December 25.
 Judith Chickering who will be 82 on December 28.
 Joan Lauritsen will be 85 on December 29.
 Ken Hursey who will be 84 on

PIES FOR THE HOLIDAYS: The Tanzania Team has been busy making pies again this year with the help of many others. We have Cherry, apple and rhubarb for \$12 each. They are available at the church during office hours or after church on Saturday and Sunday. All proceeds go to fund the orphans in Kidugala to attend school. Immanuel is currently funding 170 primary school orphans and over 80 secondary school orphans. Thanks for your support.



CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA: Do you have a person that you have no idea what to give them for Christmas? How about supporting an orphan in Tanzania with a uniform or school fees. For a donation of \$25 an orphan can receive a uniform or for \$40 an orphan can have a uniform and school fees for a year. The Tanzania Team has Christmas cards you can give to tell the recipient that a gift was given in their name. These cards are available in the church office. Checks for the cards can be made out to ILC Tanzania. Thank you for your support.

OUR SYMPATHY to John Boata and family at the death of his cousin's son, Titus Deng, and to Janet Johannsen and family at the death of Janet's brother, Richard Bonnesen, and to Shirley Olson and family at the death of Shirley's mother, Janelle Evans.



Please Pray for:

ON OUR PRAYER LIST: Connie Schwieso, Judi Pedersen, Twyla & Charles Grabill, Jeanette Kroger, Steve Allen, Harry Priest, Bev Burmeister, Sandra Haney, Nancy Christensen, Connie Benson, Sandra Farr (mother of Cora Chapman), Bonnie Mitchell (friend of Roger and Joann Christensen), Becky Bartels (niece of Cheryl Nielsen), and Catherine Glenn (mother of Sharon Kroger) and Camden King.

COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY November 9, 2021—7 pm

The Immanuel Church Council met November 9 with 9 of 12 members present. Ivy Nielsen led devotions from Isaiah 41:10. God calls us to live without fear. Cheryl Chipman will lead devotions in December.

Eric Chipman, Derek Chapman, John Taggs, George Applegate, Peg Haas, and Cheryl Chipman volunteered for Sunday morning Council duties.

Treasurer: October income was only \$13,461. We missed a weekend offering. October expenses were \$21,510. General Fund ended October at \$30,496. Ted Williams funds are at \$25,994. Capital Savings are at \$49,159.

Worship/Evangelism: Seth Johannsen gave a brief presentation on the pipe organ situation. He is in contact with the company that built our organ. He is also researching digital replacements for our organ. The council will have to make a recommendation to the congregation about how to proceed.

Outreach/Stewardship: 824 pounds have been donated to the food pantry. Tanzania Committee is working to get seed corn from Dr. Jerry Strissel to Tanzania. Immanuel will serve at the Iowa Community Kitchen again this December.

Property: We have contracted for snow removal this winter at \$350 per storm.

Executive: The 2022 budget is in process. Staff salaries increases were discussed. Pastor requested an extra week of vacation instead of a salary increase for 2022. Nominating committee has begun its work. Set the Annual Congregational meeting for Sunday, January 23, at 11:15 a.m. Moved December meeting to December 7.

Pastor: Recommended Jeff & Erin Hastert and Roger & Betty Andersen as new members. Approved.

WORSHIP & GIVING

	<u>Attendance</u>					<u>General</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Total</u>
October 30/31	21	+	86	=	107	\$ 11,705.00	\$ 25.00	\$11,730.00
November 7		+	117	=	117	\$ 4,118.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 4,143.00
November 13/14	20	+	91	=	111	\$ 5,328.60	\$ 25.00	\$ 5,353.60
November 20/21	17	+	87	=	104	\$ 4,098.00	\$	\$ 4,098.00
November 27/28	19	+	107	=	126	\$ 7,303.00	\$	\$ 7,303.00

WORSHIP SERVICES at Immanuel continue to be live streamed on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ilcharlan) Sunday mornings and can be viewed anytime afterwards. They are also recorded for viewing on HMU channel 15 (9:00 a.m. Sunday and 6:00 p.m. Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday) and on FMCTC channel 48 (4:00 p.m. Wednesday). Our worship services are also posted on our website (www.harlanimmanuel.org/sermons.html).



WOMEN OF THE WORD EXEC BOARD

November 10, 2021

The WOW Executive Board met November 10, 2021 in the All-Purpose room with Sandy Nelsen, Kathy Block, Janet Johannsen and Sally Nairn present. Chair Sandy called meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The September 8 minutes were reviewed. There was no meeting in October due to Harvest Bazaar. There being no corrections, Sandy moved to accept the minutes and Kathy seconded. Ayes all.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kathy reported one bill paid to Julie Vorm of \$107.40 for quilt batting. Donations received were for Riessen funeral and bazaar donations, together totaling \$423. The Harvest Bazaar income was \$4265. Expenses were food \$387.54 and \$36 to Harlan Newspapers for banner ad for net proceeds of \$3841.46. Ending October balance is \$5462.68.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank You notes were received from Grant & Will Chipman, Kris Harmon and Marian Riessen family, all of which have been posted on the narthex bulletin board.

HOSPITALITY: Jonelle has mailed 184 cards to date.

COMMUNITY: Sharon filled 22 Thanksgiving bags which were decorated by Linda. These were delivered after WOW Gathering.

KITCHEN & MISSION QUILTERS: No reports

OLD BUSINESS: Bazaar: All felt the bazaar went very well with the changes made due to the pandemic. Two take-out stations for getting meals went well. The Country Store did very well with many quilts being sold. The bake sale did fairly well. Will encourage more baked items next year. Sandy Thanks Everyone for helping make it a success!!

NEW BUSINESS: Poinsettias: Orders will be taken weekends of Nov. 20-21 and Nov. 27/28. Orders due first week of December. Sally will sell on Saturday nights. Janet will sell on Sun. Nov 28. A person is needed for Sunday Nov 21. Cost will be \$10 each. After they arrive Sally will decorate the Sanctuary--needing a couple helpers also.

Christmas Tea: December 11 at 10 AM with Group C in charge. Linda will present an idea at WOW Gathering.

There will be **NO WOW GATHERING IN DECEMBER**, however the WOW Board will meet at 3:30 Wednesday Dec 8.

Heartland District LCMC WOW Retreat was attended by Sandy, Sharon & Maggie Oct. 23 and were among the 43 registered. Discussion if Immanuel could host as we have a nice facility to do so. All agreed that Sandy should volunteer Immanuel to host in September 2022. We'll pick a theme, locate speakers and plan for food.

*WOW continued....***WOW GATHERING**

Women of the Word met with 15 attending. Linda shared Ole and Lena humor. Sally S requested help delivering "Thanksgiving bags" after meeting. Peg requested help making pies Saturday. Marj A presented the program reading The American Creed and about many patriotic and Thanksgiving songs on who wrote them and their inspiration to do so. We sang a verse or two from each song as Marj accompanied. America the Beautiful was written in 1893 by Kathryn Bates. This Is My Country was written in World War II. Special guest today was Betsy Ross! In 1776 she was asked by 3 people to construct a flag for the US. She did just that! She's still looking good as does our "Old Glory" still flying today! Linda presented an idea of a Christmas Tree Walk for the Christmas Tea. The idea was approved and trees were volunteered from many, each tree having a theme.

Marj also served a delicious coffee cake. We closed the meeting with The Lord's Prayer.

Upcoming Events: Nov 22 – Mission Quilters 9 AM

Christmas Tea – Dec 11 from 10 until noon.

Janet Johannsen, Secretary

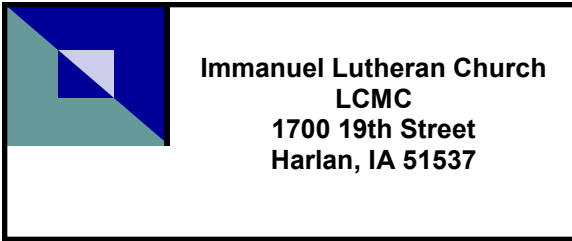
WOW Calling all Christmas tree **"collectors"**! If you have ornaments that are themed-based, we could use you! WOW will be putting on a **"Christmas Tree Stroll"**, Saturday, **December 11th**, from **10:00 till noon** in the fellowship hall for the community. We are asking you to bring in a tree with a "collection" you may have. Ideas: lights only tree (blue, green, red white, etc.), snowman tree, snowflake tree, angel tree, sports themed tree, Nativity themed tree, gingerbread tree, an old-fashioned popcorn/cranberry tree, (get the kids involved). Anything goes!! You may have a friend or relative that has a unique tree to share. If you are willing to share yours, we will be decorating Friday, December 10th, beginning at 9:30 A.M. in the fellowship hall. If you need to drop off your tree before the 10th, you may place it in the room off the kitchen, or in the quilt closet near the choir robes. (Please put your name on the tree). A tree skirt or material would be needed to cover the base. Old baskets or wooden boxes could be used as bases for your tree. ANY size tree is welcome. If

we have several small trees, they will be put together on a card table to be displayed. Christmas "treats" will be served, as well as hot chocolate, cider or coffee. So come take the **"Christmas Tree Stroll"** and bring a friend or two! (if you have tv trays and/or extension cords, they would be most helpful-labeled!) (Any questions, call Linda Mosher at 812-890-8494).



Poinsettias can be ordered until December 6th, to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas.

JOIN US on Saturday, December 4th to decorate the Church building for Christmas, 10-11:30 a.m.



**Immanuel Lutheran Church
LCMC
1700 19th Street
Harlan, IA 51537**

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HARLAN, IOWA 51537
PERMIT NO. 97

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Office Hours: 9-1(M-F)
Office Email: ilc@fmctc.com
Pastor Phil's Cell Number: 712-579-2098
Home Number: 712-766-3178
E-mail: peacephillip@gmail.com
www.harlanimmanuel.org

Staff:

Pastor Phil Nielsen
Music Director: Heidi Thies
Office Manager: Connie Boysen
Custodian: Slava Aleev

DECEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
		9:00 CF Quilters	3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible Study 5:15 Confirmation 5:30 Bells 6:30 LYO	10:30 Westridge 6:30 Ladies Homestead		8:00-12 4-H M Taags 8-4:30 Boy Scouts 10 Christmas Decorating 5:00 Communion
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:00 Choir 9:00 Communion/JAM 10:15 Adult Bible Class 4:00 Boy Scouts	3:15 Girl Scouts 5:00 Jonelle Conrad	9:00 CF Quilters 6:00 Boy Scout Leaders 6:30 Executive Board 7:00 Church Council	3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible Study 5:15 Confirmation 5:30 Bells 6:30 LYO			9-12 Boy Scouts 10-12 Christmas Tea 5:00 Worship 6:00 LYO Escape Room Lock In
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:15 Adult Bible Class 4:00 Boy Scouts		9:00 CF Quilters 4:00-7:00 Community Kitchen	3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible Study 5:15 Confirmation 5:30 Bells 6:30 LYO	9:30 Salem Chapel 3:00 4-H (P. Madsen) 7:00 Ladies Homestead	7:00 Kaster Rehearsal & Meal	3:00 Kaster Wedding 5:00 Communion
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:00 Choir 9:00 Communion/JAM 10:15 Adult Bible Class 4:00 Boy Scouts	3:15 Girl Scouts	9:00 CF Quilters	5:30 Bells	Newsletter Deadline	9:30 Elm Crest 3:15 Choir 4:00 Christmas Eve 6:00 Christmas Eve	5:00 Worship
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9:00 Worship/No JAM 10:15 Adult Bible Class	9:00 Mission Quilters	9:00 CF Quilters 10:00 Elm Crest Communion		Assemble Newsletter		5:00 Worship

Worship Schedule Servants

	December 18-19	December 24 at 4:00	December 24 at 6:00	December 25-26	January 1-2, 2022
Saturday Greeter/Usher	Kathy Dirks	N/A	N/A	Darlene Hess	Al & Bonnie Ickes
Saturday Altar Guild	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Cheryl Nielsen
Sunday Greeters/Ushers	Jerry/Robin Hoffman Gary Hopp	Kirk/Pam Jacobson Jon/Kara Meiners	Terry/Karlene Jacobson Dan Jensen	Carmen Hosack Terri Johnson Amy Kaster	Brian/Paul Kjergaard Zach/Kelli Klaassen
Sunday Altar Guild	N/A	Jan Applegate Cora/Victoria Chapman	Kathy Block Vicki Strissel	N/A	Richard/Sharon Daberkow
Acolytes (Sunday)	Angel Stern Katie Stern	Carly Torneten Gabe Arkfeld	N/A	Grant Chipman Brody Jacobson	Mikayla Jensen Harrison Kjergaard
Lector (Sunday)	Elain Miller	Linda Mosher	Sandy Nelsen	Verne Nelson	Donna Nelson
Communion Servers (Sunday)	N/A	Phil/Elaine Miller Janet Johannsen	Verne Nelson DeAnn Nielsen	N/A	Linda Mosher Donna Nelson
Coffee Hosts (Sunday)	Derald/Patti Kumm	N/A	N/A	Jill/Elaine Miller	Craig/Judi Olson
Sound	Kayla Weis	Kayla Weis	N/A	Kayla Weis	Christopher Chapman
Video	Rick Chipman	Rick Chipman	N/A	Rick Chipman	Alan Ahrenholtz
Projection	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Teri Johnson	Teri Johnson	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)
Council Person	Cheryl Chipman				