



# IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS DECEMBER 2023



## Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17th

*During 9 am worship service*



## Caroling

December 17th

10:30 after church

*Followed by Dutch Treat lunch at Pizza Ranch*



## Christmas Eve Services December 24th 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

**Battery Candles** will be available for children at the Christmas Eve candlelight service. These have been provided so that parents, if they choose, can give their young children a safe alternative to the open flame candle. We are trying to make things easier for parents with young children and also to prevent wax spills which are hard to clean up.

## Worship in December 2023

December 2-3 Advent 1	Route 66: 2 Samuel "The Son of David"	Communion
December 9-10 Advent 2	Route 66: 1 Kings "Prophets and Kings"	
December 16-17 Advent 3	Children's Christmas Program	Choir
December 23-24 Advent 4	Route 66: 2 Kings "Washing in the Jordan"	
December 24, 4:00 and 6:00 pm Christmas Eve	"The Gifts of Christmas"	Communion, Candlelight Bells and Choir at 4:00 p.m.
December 30-31 7 <sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas	The Greatest Sermon: "Love Your Enemies" (Matt 5:38-48)	



# IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS



**GRATITUDE SUNDAY** was held on Sunday, November 25th. We go with thankful hearts in our life often wanting to say thanks to someone, but the moment passes for lack of the right opportunity or perhaps we can't reach them at the moment and the opportunity escapes our grasp. Members were asked to fill out a note of thanks that they have been carrying with them in their heart and mind. They could deliver the note themselves or place it in the basket after worship for delivery by Immanuel Church. Please read those following, that go out to other members of the congregation.

**Thanks** to my parents and to so many since I moved here in Harlan also, the minister of our church and Lorene. I love God so much, he's given me so much and done so much! *Mary Beaman*

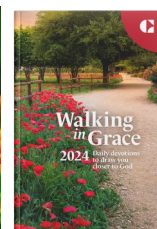
**Thanks** to talented musicians that provide music during worship, it is appreciated! Choir members, accompanists and directors, you do a great service in sharing your talents. *Unknown....*

**Thanks** to my friends and neighbors who have supported me the last 6 months. *Galan*

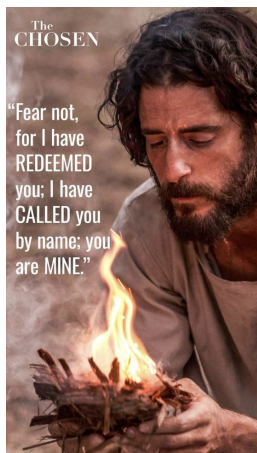
**Thanks** to all our new members, Welcome & Thankyou for joining our family. *Unknown....*

**Thanks** to all the people of the parish for making all those pies yesterday. Their gifts of time & talent do not go un-noticed!! *Unknown.....*

**Thanks** to family in church to open a door for coming to worship with them. May God bless church family with more open doors in Christ. Keep praying for our families. *Kelly....*



**2024 DEVOTIONALS** from Guideposts magazine are available for free on the table near the statue of Jesus.



**THE CHOSEN** is the most successful crowdfunded film or TV project ever. As of 2021 viewers have contributed \$40 million toward its production. "The Chosen" is about those first followers of Jesus. If you have seen it and would like to contribute toward future episodes, you may contribute to the production through Immanuel Church. Gifts labeled for The Chosen may be left in the church office in the next few weeks. (through Dec. 10).



### Happy Birthday to the following:

Marlene Sondergaard will be 93 on December 1.  
 Jonne Carlsen will be 84 on December 5.  
 Harold Peters will be 97 on December 8.  
 Doraine Wigg who will be 94 on December 9.  
 Patti Kumm will be 89 on December 16.  
 Christine Jones who will be 85 on December 25.  
 Judith Chickering will be 84 on December 28.  
 Joan Lauritsen who will be 87 on December 29.  
 Ken Hursey will be 86 on December 30.



**OUR SYMPATHY** to Duane Larsen and family at the death of his wife, Jackie. Jackie passed away on Tuesday, November 14. The funeral was here at Immanuel on Friday, November 17. Jackie would have celebrated her 86th birthday on December 2nd.



**Fifteen years ago**, when we started collecting recyclable cans and bottles for projects with Kidugala, Tanzania, we collected 18,000 in a year. This year we are just 12,000 short of reaching 200,000 recyclable cans and bottles for 2023. That would be \$10,000 for our projects with Kidugala. Can you help us reach this new plateau? Bring in your cans and bottles before December 19. If we reach this goal, we will have created \$48,000 over the past 15 years for Christian mission in Tanzania. We are on pace to reach this goal with your help.

**Operation Christmas Child.** Thanks all who participated in packing a gift box for a child in poverty. This year we sent 43 boxes filled with toys, shoes, school supplies, hygiene items, clothing, and more. Thank you to all who donated and helped. We sent our boxes to Trinity Lutheran Church in Avoca as part of the 1,126 boxes they sent on to Samaritan's Purse. We pray that many children will be introduced to the greatest gift of all through our gift boxes.

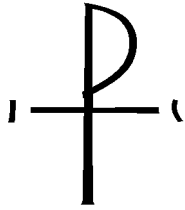


**WORSHIP SERVICES** at Immanuel are streamed on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/ilcharlan](http://www.facebook.com/ilcharlan)) Sunday mornings. They are also recorded for viewing on HMU channel 15 (9:30 a.m. Sunday and 5:00 p.m. Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday) and on FMCTC channel 48 (4:00 p.m. Wednesday). Our worship is also posted on [www.harlanimmanuel.org/sermons.html](http://www.harlanimmanuel.org/sermons.html).





**Confirmation Faith Essays 2023**



Confirmation is the act of publicly confessing faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord. This year 2 young people stood up on Reformation Sunday, October 29, to confirm their faith in Jesus. We celebrated God's gift and God's call in the lives of Jolie Nielsen and Caden Herbst.

**Jolie Nielsen**

To me being a Christian means believing in Jesus <and that he> died on the cross to free us from evil. It means helping others in need, whether that be giving someone money or food, offering someone shelter, donating things, and being a good neighbor overall.

I don't think about my faith because it's been a part of me for my whole life and I don't know life without it. I've grown up being told to be a good neighbor to others and to follow God's word, so when it comes to helping others and being a good person, it just comes naturally to me. I haven't had any low points in my faith yet where I question what I believe in because I haven't had any reason to question it yet. When people ask me if being Christian has had any significant change in my life, I never know how to answer because, in all honesty, being Christian is a part of my life. It always has been. If I hadn't grown up in such a faithful family, I wouldn't be the same person I am today because I wouldn't know how to help others or how to be a good person because I wouldn't have the support from my family to be a good neighbor and to always help those in need.

**Caden Herbst**

I think a Christian is someone who lives by the Word of God and speaks the Word of God. I believe in God because he sacrificed his only Son to die on a cross just to save us sinners from evil. I think we can still have hope by trusting God at our lowest points in life and believing that God truly does have a plan for us even if people don't want to believe it.

The Bible is a good book because it promises people the truth about the world. I've never questioned if God was real or not because I haven't had a reason to question him. I am sure there will be a day in my life where I'll feel like why is God doing this to me, but you just have to believe in him as much as you can and that he will get you through the low and tough times.



We are grateful to Connie Boysen for her service as our office administrator. Her welcoming spirit and her joyful dedication have been a gift to our congregation. She will be leaving next year to work with Greg in their farming operation. So Immanuel is looking for a new office manager.

The office manager coordinates administration duties and facilitates good communication in the congregation. The office manager duties and responsibilities include keeping the records of the congregation, publishing the weekly projection slides, the weekly worship programs, and the monthly newsletter, overseeing the congregational calendar, overseeing purchases of office supplies, greeting visitors and providing general administrative support to our staff and volunteers.

If you are interested in the position or know someone to recommend, please see Pastor Phil.



**ON OUR PRAYER LIST:** Ken Vorm, Phil Miller, Judy Pedersen, Pam Jacobsen, Lorene Thiede, Richard Daberkow, Julie Vorm, Kayla Weis, Sandra Haney, Connie Benson, Bill Broveak (son-in-law of Ed & Sheila Mills), Wade Mills (son of Ed & Sheila Mills), Curt Olson (son of Sue Olson), Julie Duval, Grace Pauley, Margie Schenck, Sandy Hopper (Joey Hansen's mother), Josh Pedersen (son of Dave & Judy Pedersen).



## NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The Immanuel Church Council met November 14 with all 13 members present.

Steve Allen led devotions with the “Ufdah sayings” of Jesus: Be perfect. Love everybody. Love your enemies. How do we love our enemies the way God loved his enemies (us)? December devotions will be led by Joey Hansen.

**Treasurer:** October income was \$22,919 and expenses were \$18,643. General Fund balance on November 1 was \$79,836. Capital Savings Account is at \$65,080. Organ Fund is at \$28,272. TZ Account is at \$32,209.

**Worship/Evangelism:** The organ is on schedule for completion by the beginning of December. An organ dedication is scheduled for February 11 with a guest organist from Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. We have recruited a couple of new sound and camera team members. Looking for a few more members for the Worship/Evangelism committee.

**Fellowship/Education:** Christmas Decorating party scheduled. Children’s Christmas Program and Caroling scheduled for December 17.

**Outreach/Stewardship:** Our December Mission Partners are Tartu Academy in Estonia, Spiritual Orphan Network in Eastern Europe, and the prison congregations in Rockwell City and Fort Dodge. Organized a Gratitude Sunday. Collected Winter Wear for West Central. Sharing Cupboard is being well used. Thanks to Hansen House for providing so many meals. An offering for “The Chosen” is being collected.

**Property:** Outdoor decorations will be put up again this year. Vicki lined up a lift.

**Executive:** Committee carried out employee reviews. Connie Boysen has announced that she will be resigning as our office administrator so that she can farm full time. We will begin seeking our next office administrator. Nominating Committee is working on nominations for next year’s Council and Trust Committee. Budget process is beginning. Annual meeting was set for Sunday, January 28.

**Pastor’s Report:** Recommended Ann Holt for membership at Immanuel.

### WORSHIP & GIVING

	<u>Attendance</u>				<u>General</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Total</u>	
<b>Oct. 28-29</b>	14	+	156	=	170	\$ 4,278.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 4,378.00
<b>Nov. 4-5</b>	15	+	117	=	132	\$ 5,936.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 5,976.00
<b>Nov. 11-12</b>	23	+	118	=	141	\$ 4,822.00	\$	\$ 4,822.00
<b>Nov. 18-29</b>	18	+	133	=	151	\$ 2,584.25	\$ 10.00	\$ 2,594.25
<b>Nov. 25-26</b>	20	+	104	=	124	\$ 2,588.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 2,638.00



# ILCW

## ILCW EXECUTIVE BOARD

November 8, 2023



The ILCW Executive Board met Wednesday, November 8 in the All-Purpose room with Sandy Nelsen, Kathy Block, Janet Johannsen, Sharon Daberkow and Jean Whitfield present. Sandy called meeting to order at 9 AM.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Motion by Jean and seconded by Kathy to approve the October minutes. Ayes all.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Kathy gave breakdown of Harvest Bazaar income and expenses. Net proceeds were \$4516.52 leaving the October balance of \$6183.07.

**COMMITTEES: Community:** Sharon reported 25 Super Senior bags were ready for delivery. She will ask for volunteers at the Gathering to get them delivered.

**Kitchen:** Jean reported a generous donation of new "sharp" knives etc. for the kitchen had been received. "Thank You" very much—they were greatly needed. And with proper care should last a long time.

**Mission Quilts:** There will not be a meeting in December. Starting Monday, January 29, 2024 the meeting time will change to 1:00 PM. Meetings are the last Monday of each month.

**OLD BUSINESS: Harvest Bazaar:** Once again—lots of great help!! The call for more baked goods was heard and appreciated. That area did very well in sales. "Thank You Everyone" that worked in any way or supported the bazaar with your donations.

**NEW BUSINESS: Poinsettias:** We will be selling the last two weekends in November. They will again be \$15 each. You may also order/pay in the office until Monday, December 4.

**ILCW Directory:** Jan Applegate will again be updating. If you know of any changes, please let her know.

There being no further business we adjourned to the Fellowship Hall.

### ILCW GATHERING

Seventeen were in attendance. Sandy opened the meeting at 9:30. Sharon asked for volunteers to deliver the Super Senior bags at conclusion of the meeting. Linda provided a few humorous readings. Kathy provided delicious treats. Peg Haas gave the program on her Santa collection and had asked anyone to bring their special Santa if they had one. Her collection is extensive! Some were her Mother's Santas. Others have been gifted to her and others found at auctions or good will shops. She showed many of her "special" ones, told how old and how she acquired them. Some were purchased on trips to Finland, Russia and China (where their daughter lived for a time). She was especially surprised to find a Santa for purchase in China. Although much of the Christmas decorations (and anything) are made in China—they do not sell that merchandise in the Chinese shops. She was delighted to find this Santa for her collection. Some brought Santas and told of their special meaning to them. Excellent program to get us into the holiday spirit. We closed with Sandy asking for extra prayers for those in our congregation suffering from illnesses. We then closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** CHRISTMAS TEA DECEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup> 10 AM

ILCW EXEC BOARD DECEMBER 18, 9 am @Sharon Daberkow's

Janet Johannsen, Secretary



## TANZANIA HAPPENINGS

Pies for the Holidays! The Tanzania Team and a tremendous group of helpers have been busy making pies. We have apple, cherry, or rhubarb at \$14 a pie. They are available after church or ask in the church office during the week. All proceeds go to fund the orphans in Kidugala to attend school. Immanuel is currently funding over 200 primary and secondary school orphans. Thank you for your support!

Christmas Gift Idea: Do you have a person on your Christmas list that you need an idea for a gift? How about helping an orphan in Kidugala with a uniform for school? For a donation of \$25, an orphan can have a uniform, or for a \$40 donation an orphan can have a uniform and school fees for a year. Christmas cards are available to inform the recipient of your gift in their name. This year we also have cards for gifts of donations of any amount, for helping to sponsor wells. These cards are available during the month of December in the church office. Checks can be made out to ILC Tanzania. Thank you.

During the November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> services I enjoyed announcing that our funding goal had been reached to drill Immanuel's 10<sup>th</sup> well in Tanzania and our second attempt at shipping maize seed to Iringa Hope was underway. As of this writing, a major portion of the funds for the well were sent a few days ago into the Kidugala HEAD bank account, but the drilling team has not arrived in the Masalwa area yet. The balance of the funds will be sent depending on the success of the drilling and the pump type chosen for the project.

Also spoken about during the service was the second attempt to get a test sample of our own Dr. Jerry Strissel's maize seed into Iringa Hope. Three high protein, high oil seed varieties left for Miami on its way to Iringa, Tanzania a couple weeks ago by way of the East African Seed Company in South Africa. It is interesting to me that Venance, the man in charge of the testing of seed at Iringa Hope, has designated 4 of the 5 plots to be in or near the Kidugala area and the fifth to be 4 hours north in the Iringa area. We will be watching this project since it has potential to boost agricultural production in the region. Certainly, there aren't any guarantees that these varieties will outperform the varieties that they are currently planting, but we won't know until tested in the region and quite possibly for more than one year. Even if these plots are successful, we won't get any results until June 2024 at the earliest. Stay tuned.

The Tanzanian team wishes to thank all the members of Immanuel for its continued support of this international mission. There is so much to talk about when considering what has and is happening with the relationship between Kidugala and Immanuel. The travel teams throughout the years have been eyewitnesses to what God has been doing through Immanuel in the Kidugala region. We hope to bring this witness back to Immanuel through the Ambassador visits, the "Insights" articles, congregational reports, and personal conversations. If you have questions for the Tanzanian Committee, please feel free to ask. The date of the next trip has not been set, but if you are interested and able to travel or wish to join the Tanzanian Team, please let one of the members know.

Mungu Akubariki (God Bless you all)

TZ Team





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Pastor Phil's Cell Number: 712-579-2098  
Home Number: 712-766-3178  
E-mail: [peacephillip@gmail.com](mailto:peacephillip@gmail.com)  
[www.harlanimmanuel.org](http://www.harlanimmanuel.org)

Staff:

Pastor Phil Nielsen  
Office Manager: Connie Boysen  
Custodian: Slava Aleev



# DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>26</b> 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	<b>27</b> 9:00 Mission Quilters	<b>28</b> 9:00 CF Quilters  <b>Assemble Newsletter</b>	<b>29</b> 3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's BS 5:15 Confirmation 6:30 LYO	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10:00 ILCW Christmas Program (Tea) 5:00 Communion
<b>3</b> 8:00 Choir 9:00 Communion/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:00 CF Quilters  6-9 Boy Scouts Dist.	<b>6</b> 3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's BS 5:15 Confirmation 6:30 LYO	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 5:00 Worship
<b>10</b> 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00 CF Quilters 2:00 Bunco 6:30 Executive Bd 7:00 Church Council	<b>13</b> Program Practice TBA 4:00 Women's BS 4:00 LYO	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 5:00 Worship
<b>17</b> 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:30 Carolling 5:00 Boy Scouts	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00 CF Quilters  6:30-8:30 Civil Air Patrol	<b>20</b> 3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's BS 5:15 Confirmation 6:30 LYO	<b>21</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 6:30 Ladies Homestead	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 5:00 Worship
<b>24</b> 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 4:00 Communion 6:00 Communion	<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00 CF Quilters	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Assemble Newsletter</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 5:00 Worship
<b>31</b> 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00 CF Quilters	<b>3</b> 3:30 GROW  5:15 Confirmation 6:30 LYO	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 5:00 Communion

# Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule

	December 24 4PM	December 24 6PM	December 30-31	January 6-7	January 13-14
Acolytes	Gavin Sisson Trevor Herbst		Abbey Brue Zoey Olson	Maggie Petersen Trinity Haas	Collin Burchett Grant Chipman
Saturday Greeter/Usher			Kurt & Janelle Musfeldt	Sally Nairn	Dory Nielsen
Saturday Altar Guild				Kayla Jacobs	
Sunday Greeters/Ushers	Todd & Angie Madsen Jon & Kara Meiners		Rhonda Mock Dave & Angie Monson	Cathy Murray Michelle Musich	Jeff & Penny Nelson
Sunday Altar Guild	Jan Applegate Janet Johannsen	Maggie Hatcher		Sharon Daberkow Mary Petersen	
Scripture Reader (Sunday)	Vicki Errett	Rich Furst	Sharon Daberkow	Rich Furst	Dave Greve
Communion Servers (Sunday)	Elaine Miller Scott Shannon	Rich Furst		Judi Olson Megan Shannon	
Coffee Hosts (Sunday)			Jill Miller Sandy Nelsen	Greg & Donna Nelson	Vern & Ilene Nelson
Sound	Christopher Chapman		DeAnn Nielsen		
Video	Darin Haake		Darin Haake		
Projection	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen(Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen(Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)
Council Person	Joey Hansen	Rich & Barb Furst	Steve Allen	Craig Olson	John Taggs