

JOY

IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS DECEMBER 2024



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:

Thank you to all who packed gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child. We sent over 30 boxes to Trinity Lutheran Church in Avoca where they received a total of 1686 boxes to be sent all over the world.



Worship in December 2024

Nov. 30 – Dec. 1 Advent 1	"A Word from Amos"	Communion
December 7-8 Advent 2	Advent/Christmas Cantata	Choir Cantata
December 14-15 Advent 3	"A Word from Micah"	Communion
December 21-22 Advent 4	"3 Wisemen and a Baby"	Children's Christmas Pageant
December 24 (4:00 and 6:00) Christmas Eve	"Silent Night" mime drama at 4:00 "The Reason for Christmas" at 6:00	Communion Choir and Bells at 4:00
December 28-29 5 th Day of Christmas	"The Mystery of Christmas"	Hymn sing of requested songs



FROM THE PASTOR

December 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

We celebrate the four weeks before Christmas as the season of Advent. The main theme of Advent is hope. We Christians talk a lot about hope, but for a long time, I didn't really have a good understanding of what hope is.

Hope is a longing for something that we don't yet have. I hope it will rain. I hope my team will win. I hope my children will be happy. These are all longings for things that I know will bring me joy.

Advent is a season to focus on our hopes. The problem with us humans is not that we have too much hope. The problem is that our hopes often focus on superficial and short-term things. Advent is about awakening our hopes for the ultimate joys of God's Kingdom.

Jesus came to awaken hope. Israel was hoping for a political and military victory over their oppressors. Jesus came to awaken hope for something much deeper and greater -- hope for a new creation, a healing of the nations, a world of peace and justice for all.

Our world puts hope in political victories or in a stronger economy or in new technology or in all kinds of new stuff. But none of those things will truly satisfy the deepest longings of our hearts. As C.S. Lewis famously wrote in his great essay, "The Weight of Glory": "It would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

Biblical hope is homesickness for the home we have not yet seen. Biblical hope is longing for the justice and joy and the grace and truth of the Kingdom of God. Biblical hope is a hope that only God can truly satisfy.

Psalms 103:5 says, "God satisfies your desires with good things." We keep trying to satisfy our desires with lesser things. God wants us to be happy, but God knows that much of what we think will make us happy will disappoint us in the end.

Romans 5:5 says, "Hope does not disappoint us because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." God wants to deepen our hopes. So this Advent, as we prepare for Christmas, may our hopes not be fulfilled by the stuff of Christmas. May our hopes be so deep that only the gift of Jesus will satisfy us.

Yours in Christ, *Phil Nielsen*

**Happy Birthday to the following:**

Marlene Sondergaard will be 94 on December 1.

Jonne Carlsen will be 85 December 5.

Christine Jones will be 86 on December 25.

Joan Lauritsen will be 88 on December 29.

Christine Jones will be 86 on December 25.

*With Deepest
Sympathy*

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Kenneth Vorm who passed away on November 9.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Geraldine Swisher who passed away November 3.

THANK YOU! To my dear friends at Immanuel: My heart is warmed as well as my body, with the prayers and blanket that you have given me. The blanket is going with me to my cancer treatments. Thank you to those who have lovingly stitched this quilt. Thank you to those who have prayed over this quilt. Thank you all for your continued prayer support.

Sincerely,

Wade and Hollie Mills

Brenham, Texas

Dates for your calendar:

November 27—No women's bible study & Potluck Pie Fellowship

December 4—Deck the Halls Potluck Soup Supper. Join us at 6:30 as we decorate the church building for Advent and Christmas Potluck soup will be shared.

December 7—Christmas Tea 10:00—12:30 am

December 8—Choir Cantata During 9:00 am Service and "Caroling":

December 8—Christmas Caroling after 9:00 am Service. We will get together at 11:15 in the fellowship hall to go caroling for an hour to some of the homes of people on our prayer list or who have lost loved ones recently.



*Grow
in Christ*



Prayer Requests

ON OUR PRAYER LIST: Bob and Lavera Stern, Art Andersen, Mary Beaman, Linda Christensen, Larry Haas, Ruthe and Pat Pattison, Christine Jones, Dave Pedersen, Ellie Nelson, Phil Smith, Arlynn Gittens, Lorene Thiede, Kayla Weis, Sandra Haney, Kay Koos, Connie Benson, Bill Broveak (son-in-law of Ed & Sheila Mills), Wade Mills (son of Ed & Sheila Mills), Megan Leslie (Steve Allen's niece), Ken Johannsen (Seth Johannsen's father), Dan Abendroth (Sandy Sisson's brother), Jim Halagarda (friend of Kirk Jacobsen), Denny Porter (friend of Kirk Jacobsen) Jacquelyn Teter (Lois Hansen's Grand-daughter), and Curt Olson (Sue Olson's son).



WORSHIP SERVICES at Immanuel are streamed on Facebook (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.



Immanuel's Mission Quilters 2024

One again, the Mission Quilters ladies were busy creating quilts for various mission needs. We thank Julie Vorm and her cousin, Lori McManigal for putting together many beautiful tops for us. We could not do this mission without their ongoing generosity. Also, to Joanne Christensen's family for the many sheets that were donated and even still new in packages! Quilts were given to Immanuel members (15), tornado victims (10), flood and hurricane victims, and additionally, 40 baby blankets given to Mercy Hospital. Thank you Diane and Mert Kastens and to their daughter Angie Van Heukelum. Angie is an RN at Mercy in Des Moines. She has been there for 37 years. Huge thanks to the late Joanne Christensen and to Judi Olson for all the beautifully made baby quilts! As we come to the close of another year, any quilts that did not sell at the fall bazaar, will be distributed to Salem Lutheran, Avoca Nursing Home, and Elm Crest. A final HUGE AND GRATEFUL THANKYOU TO OUR MISSION QUILTERS! They faithfully come each Monday of every month and give their time, effort, knowledge, and their fellowship. Immanuel's Mission quilters will continue to create quilts for those in need to show care and share concern. Thanks to our church family for supporting us.

WORSHIP & GIVING

	<u>Attendance</u>				<u>General</u>	<u>Building</u>
Nov. 2-3	19	+	131	= 150	\$ 4,549.00	\$ 160.00
Nov. 9-10	29	+	131	= 160	\$ 4,087..25	
Nov. 16-17	28	+	113	= 141	\$ 4,116.00	



**ILCW EXECUTIVE BOARD- November 13, 2024**

The ILCW Executive Board met Wednesday Nov 13 in the narthex with Sandy Nelsen, Kathy Block, Janet Johannsen, Sharon Daberkow and Jean Whitfield present. Sandy called the meeting to order at 9 AM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: No board meeting in October.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kathy reported bazaar receipts were \$4395.00. Expenses were \$233.36. A donation of \$50 brought the ending October balance to \$5352.80.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: **Community:** Sharon prepared 21 Fall goodie bags to be delivered after the Gathering.

OLD BUSINESS: **Harvest Bazaar:** Lots of great help! **Thank You Everyone** that worked in any way or supported the bazaar with donations of food for the meal, items for the Country Store or money.

NEW BUSINESS: **Poinsettias:** Nov 16/17 and Nov 23/24 orders will be taken. Price is \$15. Sally N will take orders on Saturday night services. Betty Larsen will take orders on Sundays. You can also order/pay in the office.

Thank Offering Weekend: **Nov 23/24** offering will go to Kids At Risk. Linda will display quilts.

Christmas Tea: Committee members, Kris Olson-Harmon, Jonelle Conrad, Michelle Anderson, Jean Whitfield, Kayla Jacobs and Stacy Torneten, from Group C will host on Saturday, Dec 7 from 10-12 featuring Nativity Scenes. All are welcome to display a Nativity. These may be brought in/set up on Friday, Dec 6. Refreshments will be served.

ILCW Directory: Corrections or additions should be directed to Jan Applegate.

2024 MONEY DISTRIBUTION: Discussion on distribution with Sharon making the motion and Jean seconding to disburse monies to: West Central \$1500, Salem Home/Activities \$500, Riverside Bible Camp \$300, Ingham Okoboji Bible Camp \$300, Feed The Children \$500, New Hope Foundation \$500 and Life Change Clinic \$400 for a total of \$4000. Kathy will issue checks at year end. Also approved Thank Offering of Nov 23/24 go to the Kids At Risk program.

There being no further business we adjourned to the Fellowship Hall for ILCW Gathering at 9:30.

ILCW GATHERING

Fifteen were in attendance. Sandy expressed thanks for helping with the bazaar. She also passed a sign-up sheet to volunteer for programs and refreshments for 2025 Gatherings. Linda Peterson served delicious refreshments. Linda M reported on the Community Christmas Concert Dec 7. Sharon asked for volunteers to deliver Goodie Bags. Peg reminded of the pie making on Saturday Nov 16. Maggie had the program. She began with fun facts of Thanksgiving- the first was in 1621. In 1863 Pres Lincoln declared it a holiday. Green Bean Casserole--originally called Green Bean Bake, was created in 1955 by a test kitchen employee of Campbell Soup Co. Today 70 years later recipe is still on the Cream/Mushroom can. The program, "Old Meaning of Christmas," consists of 11 symbols. Maggie presented these symbols from her Christmas collection, some coming from her Mother and Grandmother. A green fir tree--remains green all year depicting everlasting hope. A star--heavenly signs of promises. A Candle--Christ is light of the world. A Wreath--continuous round of affection. St Nick--symbolizing good will. A Holly leaf w/red berries--represents immortality, crown of thorns worn by Christ & red berries represents blood shed by him. An unspeakable gift--a picture of Jesus at age 12 was given to Maggie as a child. It hangs in our church's library. The 3 wisemen--gave gifts which we should give with same spirit. A Candy Cane--represents a shepherd's crook-to bring back strayed sheep. An angel--brought news of Savior's birth. A bell--symbolizing guidance and return. May we all put Jesus at the center of our Christmas. Thank You Maggie. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.



TANZANIA HAPPENINGS

THE TANZANIA GROUP are selling cherry, apple and rhubarb pies for \$14. Pies will be available after church services or anytime during the week in the church office. The proceeds will go to Kidugala for the orphans and other projects.



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 Kidugla, Tanzania with a uniform for school? For a donation of \$25, an orphan can have a uniform or for \$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. These cards are available during the month of December after church or in the office during the week. Checks can be made out to ILC Tanzania. Thank you for your support.



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

NON-PROFIT ORG

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

HARLAN, IOWA 51537

PERMIT NO. 97

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Office Email: ilc@fmctc.com

Pastor Phil's Cell Number: 712-579-2098

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E-mail: peacephillip@gmail.com

www.harlanimmanuel.org

Staff:

Pastor Phil Nielsen

Office Manager: Rachel Block

Custodian: Slava Aleev

DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>1</div> <div>8:00 Choir</div> <div>9:00 Communion/Jam</div> <div>10:00 Coffee Fellowship</div> <div>10:15 Adult Bible Class</div> <div>5:00 Boy Scouts</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div> <div>9:00 CF Quilters</div> <div>6-9 Boy Scout Dist.</div>	<div>4</div> <div>3:30 GROW</div> <div>4:00 Women's Bible S</div> <div>5:15 Confirmation</div> <div>6:30 LYO</div> <div>Deck the Halls & Soup Supper</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div> <div>5-7 pm Set up Nativity Scenes</div>	<div>7</div> <div>10-12:30 Christmas Tea</div> <div>5:00 Communion</div>
<div>8</div> <div>8:00 Choir</div> <div>9:00 Worship/Jam/Christmas Cantata</div> <div>10:00 Coffee Fellowship</div> <div>10:30 Christmas Caroling</div> <div>5:00 Boy Scouts</div>	<div>9</div>	<div>10</div> <div>9:00 CF Quilters</div> <div>6:30 Executive Bd</div> <div>7:00 Church Council</div>	<div>11</div> <div>9:00 No ILCW</div> <div>3:30 GROW</div> <div>4:00 Women's Bible S</div> <div>5:30 Confirmation</div> <div>6:30 LYO</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div>	<div>14</div> <div>5:00 Worship</div>
<div>15</div> <div>8:00 Choir</div> <div>9:00 Communion/Jam</div> <div>10:00 Coffee Fellowship</div> <div>10:15 Adult Bible Class</div> <div>5:00 Boy Scouts</div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div> <div>9:00 CF Quilters</div>	<div>18</div> <div>3:30 GROW</div> <div>4:00 Women's Bible S</div> <div>5:30 Confirmation</div> <div>6:30 LYO</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Newsletter Deadline</div> <div>6:30 Ladies</div> <div>Homestead</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div> <div>5:00 Communion</div>
<div>22</div> <div>8:00 Choir</div> <div>9:00 Worship/Children's Program</div> <div>10:00 Coffee Fellowship</div> <div>10:15 Adult Bible Class</div> <div>5:00 Boy Scouts</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div> <div>2:00 Bunco</div> <div>4:00 Communion</div> <div>6:00 Communion</div>	<div>25</div> <div>CHRISTMAS DAY</div> <div>OFFICE CLOSED</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Assemble</div> <div>Newsletter</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div> <div>5:00 Worship</div>
<div>29</div> <div>9:00 Worship</div> <div>10:00 Coffee Fellowship</div> <div>10:15 Adult Bible Class</div> <div>5:00 Boy Scouts</div>	<div>30</div> <div>1:00 Mission Quilters</div>	<div>31</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div> <div>5:00 Worship</div>

Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule

	December 24 4PM	December 24 6PM	December 28-29	January 4-5	January 11-12
Acolytes	Zoey Olson Maggie Petersen		Kolton Jensen Truman Kjergaard	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	Volunteers	Volunteers	Rhonda Mock Dave & Angie Monson	Cathy Murray Michelle Musich	Preston & Shelby Nelson
Sunday Altar Guild	Cora Chapman Janet Johannsen	Maggie Hatcher		Sandy Nelsen Mary Petersen	
Scripture Reader (Sunday)	Jennifer Malone	Kayla Jacobs	Mary Johnson	Linda Mosher	Dave Greve
Communion Servers (Sunday)	Jim & Becky Chipman	Elaine Miller		Judi Olson Megan Shannon	
Coffee Hosts (Sunday)			Jill Miller Sandy Nelsen	Greg & Donna Nelson	Vern & Ilene Nelson
Sound	Kayla Weis		Kayla Weis	Kayla Weis	Kayla Weis
Video	Rick Chipman		Rick Chipman		
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	Vicki Strissel	Craig Olson	John Taggs