



IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS FEBRUARY 2024



15th Annual Danish Dolls Aebleskiver/Frikadeller Dinner

Mark your calendars, folks! You won't want to miss the Danish Dolls' 15th Annual Aebleskiver/Frikadeller Dinner that will take place on Saturday, February 3, 2024 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. The bake sale will feature lots of Danish goodies – not necessarily good for your waistline, but sure good for your taste buds! All freewill donations for the dinner and bake sale will go into the travel scholarship fund. These funds will help those that want to be part of a mission trip either going to, or coming from, Tanzania. Dine-in and carry-out will be available. Hope to see you on February 3rd!

Lent Begins

Lent is celebrated as a 40-day period of spiritual discipline to prepare our hearts for the great celebration of Easter. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent and this year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day. Ash Wednesday gets its name from the traditional marking of our foreheads with ashes in the shape of a cross as a reminder, a meditative action, and a teaching moment reflecting on our mortality and Jesus' sacrifice for us.



During the rest of Lent, we traditionally focus on Jesus' journey toward the cross. This year we will again focus on events leading up to the cross from John's gospel in chapters 11-14. The worship service will be a simple service of song, prayer, and sermon from 7 to 7:45 p.m.

There will be no meal served at church on Ash Wednesday which is a traditional day of fasting. But on the following 5 Wednesdays of Lent there will be a simple meal served from 6:00 to 6:45. We are again asking members to sign up to contribute a gallon of soup for one of the weeks. We hope to have a variety of tasty soups to share.

Dedication of our Pipe Organ



On Sunday, February 11, Immanuel Lutheran Church will celebrate the rebuild of our pipe organ and dedicate it to the glory of God at the Sunday morning worship service. We have invited



Stephen Bartelt to be our guest organist for the day. Also present will be David Cool, our organ builder. The rebuilt organ is expanded from 22 ranks (1349 pipes) to 25 ranks (1525 pipes).

A congregational fellowship meal will be held in the Immanuel Fellowship Hall from 11:30 to 12:30. The meat and drinks are being provided and congregation members are invited to supply salads or sides and desserts.

At 1:00 p.m. Immanuel will host a public recital with Mr. Bartelt at the pipe organ. The program will run about 45 minutes including several organ classics, variations by well-known composers on some favorite hymns, Reformation and Danish heritage music, and a trip through the seasons of the church year with J. S. Bach.

Stephen Bartelt earned a Master of Music in organ performance from Emporia State College. He has served in parish ministry in Kansas, Illinois, and Wisconsin, along with 31 years as a U.S. Army Reserve Chaplain. He has most recently served as organist and choral director in Omaha area churches and is currently serving as the dean of the Omaha chapter of the American Guild of Organists.



February 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

Everyone is a theologian. We all have thoughts about what God is like and how God works in the world. As Lutherans we share a theological identity. We expect our pastors to lead us in defending and deepening that identity. Part of my calling as a pastor is to train church members in the basics of solid Biblical and evangelical (Lutheran) theology.

One of the great distinctives of our Lutheran theology is the distinction between Law and Gospel. I never quite understood what that meant when I was growing up. In Seminary I came to understand the distinction, but I still didn't quite understand its importance. But the more I work at it, the more I see its vital importance to the health of the Church.

The Word of God comes to us as both demands and promises. The demands we call the Law. The Law is the Word of God that destroys our illusions of righteousness, exposes the cancer of sin within us, and puts to death the old sinner within us. The Law cannot save us. The Law can only restrain and convict and kill us. But the Law is necessary to prepare us to hear and welcome the promises of God.

The promises of God are what we call the Gospel. It is first and foremost the good news of what God has done for us in Christ Jesus. The Gospel is the Word of God that frees, forgives and gives faith. We need this Gospel proclaimed to us again and again because we are always doing battle against our bondage to sin. Like an alcoholic, we need our weekly if not daily dose of the Gospel to maintain our sobriety.

The temptation among sinners is to try to use the Law to save ourselves. And so we hear preachers on radio, television, and internet who are always suggesting that we can use the Law to make ourselves better Christians. The result is that we think that our relationship with God and our salvation depend upon our faithfulness, our dedication, and our progress in the Law. But the Law cannot save us. It can make us self-righteous sinners. Or it can drive us into depression because we know deep down that if our salvation depends on our efforts, we are doomed.

Another danger is that preachers can turn the Gospel into another demand, a good deal that we must accept in order to be saved. Lutherans call this "decision theology." But seeing the Gospel as a "good deal" that we must be smart enough or spiritual enough to accept robs the Gospel of its power to save us.

It is true that we must make decisions in the daily discipleship of following Jesus. However, these decisions are not the basis of our salvation or of our relationship with God. Our daily decisions are the ways that the Law continues to put the old sinner in us to death so that we can hear the Gospel and be saved by the faith that the Gospel creates.

So Lutherans listen to the Word of God in the Bible and in sermons for those two notes: the Law that kills and the Gospel that saves. Often, they are just two sides of the same Word of God. And it is the job of the preacher to highlight how the Word of God is functioning for us as both demand and promise, Law and Gospel. A sermon should both make us uncomfortable and grateful. A sermon should both humble us and uplift us. As a preacher, I don't always get it right. But I am grateful for a Lutheran community that helps me remember the beauty of the Law and the Gospel working together in God's Word.

Yours in Christ,

Phil Nielsen





Happy Birthday to the following:

Derald Kumm will be 89 on February 3.
 Dave Koos who will be 86 on February 3.
 Doris Towne will be 100 on February 4.
 Myrna Havick who will be 83 on February 4.
 Diane Kastens will be 81 on February 4.
 Irma Pedersen who will be 86 on February 21.
 Arlynn Gittens will be 81 on February 24.
 Ed Mills who will be 87 on February 28.

Happy Anniversary to the following:

Rich & Sharon Daberkow who will be celebrating their 58th anniversary on February 12.

Philip & Elaine Miller will be celebrating their 60th anniversary on February 14.

Al & Bonnie Ickes who will be celebrating their 55th anniversary on February 15.

Dick & Suzann Olson will be celebrating their 55th anniversary on February 15.

John & Hertha who will be celebrating their 69th anniversary on February 27.



OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Jeanette Kroger who died Saturday, January 6. Her funeral was at Immanuel January 11. Her children included Randy Kroger and Angela Kroger-Thies.

Thank you to everyone for the prayers, cards, hugs, words of comfort and encouragement upon the death of our Mom, Mother-in-Law, Grandma and Great Grandma, Jeanett Kroger. The Kroger family heard and felt them all. God bless each and every one of you. Randy, Craig and Angela Kroger families.



OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Harold Peters who died Saturday, January 20. His funeral was at Immanuel January 25. His children included Bonnie Utter of Bondurant, David (Bonnie) Peters of Shelby, Connie (Dale) Schroder of Avoca, and Ernest (Lori) Peters of Portsmouth .

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Irene Hansen who died Saturday, January 27. Her funeral will be at Immanuel Lutheran on Friday, February 2.

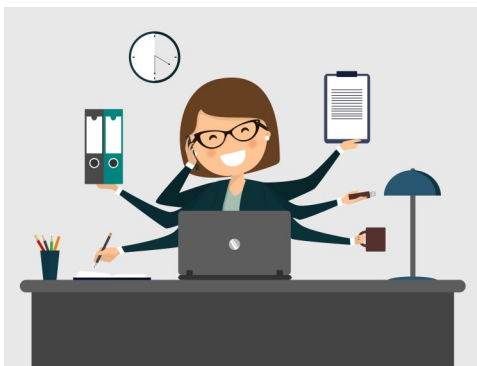


WORSHIP SERVICES at Immanuel are streamed on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ilcharlan) Sunday mornings. They are also recorded for viewing on HMU channel 15 (9:30 a.m. Sunday and 5:00 p.m. Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday) and on FMCTC channel 48 (4:00 p.m. Wednesday). Our worship is also posted on www.harlanimmanuel.org/sermons.html.



Worship in February 2024

February 3-4 Epiphany 5	Matthew 7:1-6 Logs and Sawdust	Communion
February 10-11 Epiphany 6	Matthew 7:7-12 Ask, Seek, Knock	Choir Pipe Organ Dedication
February 14 (7:00 p.m.) Ash Wednesday	Matthew 7:13-23 The Narrow Path	Imposition of Ashes
February 17-18 Lent 1	John 11:45-57 Why Did Jesus Die?	Communion
February 21 (7:00 p.m.) Midweek 1	John 12:1-11 Smells Like Worship	
February 24-25 Lent 2	John 12:12-19 Palms and Praise	
February 28 (7:00 p.m.) Midweek 2	John 12:20-33 "The Hour Has Come"	



A BIG THANK YOU to Connie Boysen who has served as our office administrator for the past 2 1/2 years. She made so many feel welcomed and appreciated at Immanuel.

WE WELCOME Rachel Block to Immanuel to serve as our new office administrator. Rachel lives in Avoca with her mother and 12 year old son, Colton. She is a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and sings in the choir. She is excited to serve here at Immanuel.

WE WELCOMED LENI ANN HANSEN into the family of Jesus on January 7, 2024 through the promise of Baptism. Leni is the daughter of Tony and Taylor Hansen. She was born May 17, 2023 in Harlan. Her sponsors are Natalie Hansen and Ben Hansen.



ON OUR PRAYER LIST: Jean Whitfield, Mary Beaman, Patti Kumm, Vicki Strissel, Allan Andersen, Arlynn Gittens, Ken Vorm, Lorene Thiede, Julie Vorm, Kayla Weis, Sandra Haney, Connie Benson, Bill Broveak (son-in-law of Ed & Sheila Mills), Wade Mills (son of Ed & Sheila Mills), Julie Duval, Grace Pauley, Margie Schenck, Sandy Hopper (Joey Hansen's mother), Melvin and Helen Allen (Steve Allen's parents), Megan Leslie (Steve Allen's niece), Ken and Audrey Johannsen (Seth Johannsen's parents).



JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The Immanuel Church Council met January 9 with 10 of 12 members present.

Craig Olson led devotions reflecting on motivational posters that could be re-written to tell the “whole story”. February devotions will be led by John Taggs.

Treasurer: December income was \$34,059 and expenses were \$24,547 plus a final organ payment of \$25,500. General Fund balance on January 1 was 88,181. Capital Savings Account is at \$67,154. Organ Fund still has \$2,452 remaining. TZ Account is at \$36,418.

Worship/Evangelism: Approved the purchase of new candlesticks and candles from the Jackie Larsen memorial gift. Approved 7 p.m. worship times for the midweek services in Lent along with a congregational meal served from 6 to 6:45 p.m. Choir intends to continue as a self-directed choir until we can find another choir director.

Outreach/Stewardship: Our February Mission Partner is Salem Lutheran Homes. We finished 2023 with 1070 lbs. of food plus 8 bags of winter wear and 1 bag of blankets donated to the Shelby County Food Pantry and West Central Community Action.

Property: The quilting room will be used for the time being as a collection spot for items that the church no longer needs. Anyone is welcomed to take anything in that room. Things that are not take out after a few months will be disposed of.

Executive: Approved a contract for the new office administrator, Rachel Block. Connie will continue to train Rachel through the end of January. Approved the agenda and the ballot for the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 28. Asked John Taggs to appoint an audit committee to go over the books with Melanie.

Pastor’s Report: Photo directory still needs work. Unfortunately we didn’t get as many photos taken as we would have liked. It will be a far smaller directory than we had hoped. We didn’t get access to the photos from our last directory, but if anyone would like to submit a photo, it can still be added. Time is needed to figure out how to put it together with our database software.

WORSHIP & GIVING

	<u>Attendance</u>				<u>General</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dec. 30-31	13	+	83	=	96	\$ 3,241.00	\$ 3,241.00
Jan. 6-7	18	+	132	=	150	\$ 6,952.05	\$ 7,132.05
Jan. 13-14	Snow—No Services						
Jan. 20-21	22	+	94	=	116	\$ 6,547.00	\$ 6,547.00
Jan. 27-28	24	+	110	=	134	\$ 4,355.00	\$ 4,450.00



ILCW



ILCW (Immanuel Lutheran Church Women) will be gathering February 14 at 9:30 AM in the fellowship hall. Join us for an hour of connecting with other women and of course good Lutheran coffee/tea and treats. Hope to see you there. Invite a friend. Everyone is welcome.

MISSION QUILTERS: The Mission Quilters group will be going back to their original time of 1:00 beginning in January. We continue to meet on the last Monday of each month. We thank all of you donate material and sheets for our efforts. Anyone is welcome to join this group to cut, pin or tie, and have a good laugh or two! Last Monday of each month at 1:00.

2024 ILC ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

56 voting members attended the 2024 Annual Meeting of Immanuel on Sunday, January 28. Pastor Nielsen led devotions from Mark 1 about how Jesus calls us to be fishers of people – not with a rod and reel but as the net that Jesus uses to draw people into his grace.

The treasurer reported 2023 income of \$345,383 and expenses of \$335,292 for a net income of \$10,090. The congregation approved a 2024 budget of \$303,450.

Elected to church council were Eric Chipman, Todd Madsen, Amy Kaster, and Trent Svendsen. We thank Steve Allen, Greg Nelson, and Ivy Nielsen for their service.

Elected to the Trust and Memorial Committee were Jean Whitfield and Kate Schechinger. We thank Darin Haake and Ken Vorm for their service.

Elected to the 2024 Nominating Committee were John Taggs, Joey Hansen, and Verne Nelson.

Elected as delegates to the 2024 LCMC Gathering were Craig Olson and Rich Furst. Elected as Salem Lutheran Homes delegates were Maggie Hatcher, Sandy Nelsen, and Judi Olson. Elected as our camp delegate was Hope Chipman. Other volunteers are welcome.

Thanks was given to Seth Johannsen and Ken Nielsen for their dedicated work on the pipe organ project and to the congregation for their generosity and commitment to the project.

Pastor discussed his work on the membership database and the photo directory. A directory of active members was presented. The directory from our database says that we have 550 active members at the beginning of this year compared to 631 in our annual report. Numbers will be adjusted for next year's report. Pastor asked for any corrections to the active membership directory. The photo directory should be completed sometime soon.

Pastor also discussed his idea for a Maundy Thursday experiment this year. He is seeking host homes to host in home small group worship gatherings to explore the "Upper Room" feel of the Last Supper and of the original house churches of Acts. People will be invited to sign up to attend one of these home worship groups.



TANZANIA SOUP SUPPER AND AUCTION

The competition is on, who will be the winner this year of the best soup at Immanuel.

When: Saturday, March 23, 2023

Where: Immanuel Fellowship Hall

Time: Doors open at 5:45 for supper and auction immediately follows All the soup you can eat, Beverage, Desserts and
Homemade Ice cream
Free-will donation Fun and Fellowship for the whole family

The Auction

Lots of wonderful items, find some special item you can't live without.

All Proceeds Go To Immanuel's Tanzania Mission

Sponsoring over 161 primary school orphans Plus 151 secondary school orphans
200 confirmation students with bibles Micro loans for the people of Kidugala
Demonstration plots of corn and beans
Evangelists' bikes, bibles and hymn books to help with their ministry



How can you help?

Make your favorite soup, decorate your table and compete for the honor of The Judge's Choice Best tasting Soup, People's Choice Best tasting Soup or Crowing Rooster Award (Best Decorated Table)

We are also looking for Auction items. This can be as simple as a pie, baked item. Month, gift certificates, services/labor, tickets to an event, homemade treasures. The sky is the limit.



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LCMC
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Staff:

Pastor Phil Nielsen
Office Manager: Rachel Block
Custodian: Slava Aleev

FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	30 9:00 CF Quilters	31 3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible S 5:15 Confirmation 6:30 LYO	1	2 Danish Dolls 4pm-8pm Prep.	3 5:00-7:00 Danish Dolls Abelskiver Supper 5:00 Communion
4 8:00 Choir 9:00 Communion/JAM 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Boy S Leaders	5 5:00 Shelby Co. Univ. Women	6 6-9:00 Boy Scouts Dist. 6:00 Worship & Ev. Comm.	7 3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible S 5:15 Confirmation 6:30 LYO	8	9	10 10-4:30 E. Pitts 5:00 Worship
11 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Adult Bible Class 11:30 Dinner 1:00 Organ Recital 5:00 Boy Scouts	12	13 9:00 CF Quilters 2:00 Bunco 6:30 Executive Bd 7:00 Church Council	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 9 ILCW Bd Mtg. & 9:30 ILCW Gathering 3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible S 5:15 Confirmation 7:00 Worship	15 Newsletter Deadline 3:00 Clover 4H Homestead 6:30 Ladies Homestead	16	17 5:00 Communion
18 8:00 Choir 9:00 Communion/JAM 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	19	20 9:00 CF Quilters	21 3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible S 5:15 Confirmation 6:00 Supper 7:00 Worship	22 Assemble Newsletter	23	24 5:00 Worship
25 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	26 1:00 Mission Quilters	27 9:00 CF Quilters 2:00 Bunco	28 3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible S 5:15 Confirmation 6:00 Supper 7:00 Worship	29	1	2 5:00 Communion

Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule

	February 17-18	February 21	February 24-25	February 28	March 2-3
Acolytes	Grant Chipman Rex Swanson		Jace Palmer Cade Neve		Collin Burchett Abbey Brue
Saturday Greeter/Usher	Deb Stendrup		Art & Linda Andersen		Emmert Andersen
Saturday Altar Guild	Kayla Jacobs				Maggie Hatcher
Sunday Greeters/Ushers	Erik Nielsen Ken & Shirley Olson		Sue Olson Kevin & Jahde Osborn		Jake & Kari Palmer Andrew & Mary Petersen
Sunday Altar Guild	Mary Taggs Peg Haas				Kate Petersen Erin Hastert
Scripture Reader (Sunday)	Tim Herbst		Elaine Miller		Linda Mosher
Communion Servers (Sunday)	Dave Greve Larry Haas		Ann Holt Janet Johannsen		Matt Hoch Jennifer Malone
Coffee Hosts (Sunday)	Terry & Stacy Torneten		Calvin Twenhafel Jason Weis		Ken & Julie Vorm
Sound	Seth Johannsen	Seth Johannsen	Seth Johannsen	Seth Johannsen	DeAnn Nielsen
Video	Grant Chipman	Grant Chipman	Grant Chipman	Grant Chipman	Rick Chipman
Projection	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Donna Nelson	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)		Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)
Council Person	Joey Hansen	Dave Greve	John Taggs	Rich & Barb Furst	Scott Shannon