



IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS FEBRUARY 2025



Hymn Festival

Immanuel Lutheran Church is hosting a Hymn Festival on Sunday, February 23, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. The hymn festival will feature the top hymns of the Church as selected by a survey of residents of Shelby County. A link to the online version of the survey can be found at our website: harlanimmanuel.org. A paper version of the survey is available at the church. Please participate in our survey so that we can make sure that good Lutheran hymns are represented.

The Worship Committee is planning this hymn festival as a way to share the music of our renovated pipe organ with the community. Invitation posters have been sent to neighboring churches and can also be picked up at the church to share with friends.

Refreshments and fellowship will follow the hymn festival. We are looking for folks to share cookies and bars for the fellowship. A sign-up list is in the church office. Come join us on Sunday, February 23, at 2:00 to find out if your favorite hymns made the list of top hymns and to enjoy singing the songs that Christians love.

Camps

In western Iowa we are blessed with 2 Lutheran Bible camps that align with our faith and mission: Riverside and Ingham/Okoboji. Immanuel encourages families to participate in the camping programs of Riverside and Ingham/Okoboji either by attending family camp together or by sending children and youth to camp. We know that a week at camp gives young people a deeper connection to their faith and to their church. We encourage you to check out the programs at Ingham and Okoboji at okoboji.org or at Riverside at riversidelbc.org.

We believe in camp so much that we have teamed up to provide \$300 scholarships for any child or family that attends Riverside or Ingham/Okoboji for a full week of camp. Flyers with a scholarship form are available at the church. In addition, registering before March 1 saves you another \$30.

Worship in February 2025

February 1-2 Epiphany 4	Luke 6:17-26 Upside Down World	Communion
February 8-9 Epiphany 5	Luke 6:27-36 Love Your Enemies	Bells
February 15-16 Epiphany 6	Luke 6:37-49 Judging	Communion
February 22-23 Epiphany 7	Luke 7:1-10 Great Faith	Choir



February 2025

Dear friends in Christ,

One of the blessings of the past year has been relationships that have developed between the community of Immanuel and the South Sudanese (or Mabaan) community in Harlan. This new friendship has been a blessing to both Immanuel folks and to the Mabaan community. For the past year a group of Immanuel members have been meeting quarterly with a group of Mabaan friends for fellowship. We have shared both American and Sudanese food. We have shared information and resources with one another. Tutoring in English and school subjects has begun. Immanuel's reputation as a friend of the Mabaan community has spread to Omaha, Des Moines, and even to Ethiopia.

This is a God thing. Just as God used a seminary friendship to invite Immanuel into a partnership with Kidugala, God has invited us into this partnership with the Mabaan community in Harlan. The Church is always stronger when it is open to the world around us. God wants the Church around the world to be united as one body in Christ.

One of the things we have noticed about our Mabaan friends in Harlan is that most of them are sending every extra dollar they earn back to support family and friends who are still in the refugee camps in Ethiopia. They can't waste anything on themselves when they know family and friends are depending on them for food. The refugees in the camps receive only a bare minimum of corn each month from the United Nations. The result is malnutrition and hunger.

We asked how we could help. Together we came up with the idea of making people aware of the food insecurity of the Mabaan refugees. A group of Immanuel folk and Mabaan folk worked to organize a new partnership between Immanuel and a Church in Asosa, Ethiopia, near the refugee camps. The Asosa church formed a committee of trusted leaders to organize a food distribution for the refugee camps. From our experience in Tanzania, we know that Africans know how to stretch a little into a lot. We sent them \$1450 and they organized a food distribution.

Now I would like to invite members of Immanuel to join me in making a monthly contribution toward food assistance in these refugee camps. We can't feed everybody. But if we can help some children avoid malnutrition, that will change the world. I would love to see Immanuel sending at least \$1000 per month to Asosa for food. If you can help, would you consider making a monthly donation marked "refugees."

I believe this calling comes from God. Once again, God has trusted us with this opportunity to change the world for some children in Africa.

Yours in Christ, *Phil Nielsen*



Happy Birthday to the following:

Derald Kumm will be 90 on February 3.

Dave Koos will be 87 on February 3.

Doris Towne will be 101 on February 4.

Myrna Havick will be 84 on February 4.

Diane Kastens will be 84 on February 4.

Irma Pedersen will be 87 on February 21.

Arlynn Gittens will be 82 on February 24.

Ed Mills will be 88 on February 28.



Happy Anniversary to the following:

Richard & Sharon Daberkow who will be celebrating their 59th anniversary on February 12.

Philip & Elaine Miller who will be celebrating their 61st anniversary on February 14.

Al & Bonnie Ickes who will be celebrating their 56th anniversary on February 15.

Dick & Suzann Olson who will be celebrating their 56th anniversary on February 15.

John & Hertha Haas who will be celebrating their 70th anniversary on February 27.



OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Lorene Thiede who died January 11. Her funeral will be at a later date.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Donna Hansen who died January 5. Her funeral was at Immanuel on January 10.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Sandra Haney who died December 8. Her funeral will be held at a later date.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Jerry Wigness who died in Texas January 16.

THANKS to all who participated in the Danish Dolls Aebleskiver and Frikadiller dinner. About 200 people were served raising **\$2,669** for our Mission Trip Fund.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

February 18—LYO Lock-in

February 19—LYO trip to Omaha

February 23—Hymn Festival at 2:00 p.m.





JPG Preview

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ILCW will be gathering Wednesday, February 12th, in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30. Come and enjoy fellowship, delicious treats, and the program "Washboards, Wash paddles, Clothes pins, Lye soup, OH MY!!!". Sounds like a fun and interesting morning. Everyone is welcome.

OUR PRAYER LIST: Vicki Strissel, Bob and Lavera Stern, Mary Beaman, Linda Christensen, Larry Haas, Ruthe and Pat Pattison, Christine Jones, Dave Pedersen, Ellie Nelson, Phil Smith, Arlynn Gittens, Kayla Weis, 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 (brother-in-law of Sue Olson), Jacquelyn Teter (Lois Hansen's grand-daughter), Dave Burmeister (Sue Olson's son-in-law), Pastor Joseph Lali (Kelly Mure's Uncle in Ethiopia), Tasha Vorm (daughter-in-law of Julie) and Myrna Poldberg (Angie Madsen's mother).

WORSHIP & GIVING

	<u>Attendance</u>				<u>General</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Total</u>
Jan. 4-5	19	+	94	= 113	\$ 8,370.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 8,570.00
Jan. 11-12	21	+	112	= 133	\$ 7,115.00	\$ 105.00	\$ 7,220.00
Jan. 18-19	12	+	128	= 140	\$ 2,188.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 2,218.00
Jan. 25-26	32	+	111	= 143	\$ 4,610.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 4,630.00



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.



JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The Immanuel Council met January 14 with 11 members present. John Taggs led devotion with a passage from Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Treasurer: December income was \$42,277 and expenses were \$26,725. We ended 2024 with a positive net of \$5,804. General Fund is at \$98,754 and Capital Reserve is at \$79,486.

Worship/Evangelism: Immanuel will host a hymn festival for the community on Sunday, February 23. Grant money has been applied for and received for advertising. The program will be based on a local survey of top hymns.

Stewardship/Outreach: January Mission Partner will be LCMC. 810 pounds of food were donated in 2024 to the Shelby County Food Pantry.

Property: Clean out of junk room is set for Saturday, February 1.

Executive: A financial review was conducted. WIC has asked to use our facility for their semi-monthly clinic. Council approved.

Old Business: Jared Walters shared his proposal for Immanuel to serve as his B.A. in Ministry internship site. Council approved.

2025 ILC ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

58 voting members attended the 2025 Annual Meeting of Immanuel on Sunday, January 19. Pastor Nielsen led devotions from Luke 5 about the new wineskins needed for the new wine of faith in Jesus.

The treasurer reported 2024 income of \$284,872 and expenses of \$279,067 for a net income of \$5,804. The congregation approved a 2025 budget of \$288,491.

Elected to Church Council were Kirk Jacobsen, Ken Nielsen, Scott Shannon, and Vickie Strissel. We thank Rich and Barb Furst for their service.

Elected to the Trust and Memorial Committee was Dave Voge. We thank Rich Daberkow for his service.

Elected to the Nominating Committee were Darin Haake, Lonnie Pitts, and Mitch Petersen.

Elected as delegates to the 2025 LCMC Gathering were Becky Chipman and Craig Olson. Elected as Salem Lutheran Homes delegates were Maggie Hatcher, Sandy Nelsen, Judi Olson, Jared and Katelyn Walters. Elected as our camp delegates were Hope Chipman and Maggie Hatcher.

John Taggs reported that Jared Walters has been approved to serve an internship at Immanuel for his B.A. in Ministry.

Pastor Nielsen reported on Immanuel's partnership with immigrants from South Sudan. Some members of Immanuel have proposed that we invite people to provide monthly support for nutrition assistance to refugee camps in Ethiopia.

Pastor Nielsen noted that 2025 marks 20 years of our partnership with Kidugala, Tanzania. We have invited Kidugala to send two ambassadors to Harlan to help us celebrate this milestone.

Pastor Nielsen noted that LCMC has a congregation in the Palisades community where wildfires have destroyed many homes. We can reach out to people there through that congregation.

**ILCW EXECUTIVE BOARD****January 8, 2025**

The ILCW Executive Board met Wednesday Jan 8 in the Fellowship Hall with Sandy Nelsen, Kathy Block, Janet Johannsen, Sharon Daberkow, Jean Whitfield and Julie Vorm present. Sandy called meeting to order at 9 AM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Sharon moved—Jean seconded the Nov 13 minutes. Motion carried. No meeting in December.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kathy reported total Thank offering was \$1220. Receipts for poinsettias in Nov were \$435 and \$15 in Dec for total of \$450. Funeral donations totaling \$525 were received from funerals of Ken Vorm and Geri Swisher. Nov bazaar receipt of \$40 for total Nov and Dec receipts of \$2235. Expenses in Nov for Goodie Bags were \$50.77 and expenses in Dec were \$450 for poinsettias, Christmas Tea totaled \$75 and kitchen supplies were \$10.73. Nov and Dec expenses totaled \$586.50. December and end of year balance is \$7001.30.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank You's are posted on the bulletin board for Goodie Bags delivered in November.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: **Community:** 207 cards were sent by Jonelle Conrad in 2024. **Kitchen:** Cleaning of the kitchen will be after the February Gathering. All help would be appreciated. Many hands make light work!

OLD BUSINESS: **Christmas Tea:** Thank You to Group C for all your work that allowed 100 guests to enjoy the 100 nativities shared for viewing, for the opportunity of fellowship and to enjoy your delicious charcuterie cups. Group B will host the 2025 Christmas Tea on Saturday December 6.

Poinsettias: 30 Poinsettias were sold which made the chancel area beautiful. Thanks to all who purchased.

NEW BUSINESS: **Use of kitchen facilities:** Most people do an excellent job when using the kitchen, but if they haven't used the kitchen before, they may need guidelines on what is expected with its use. After discussion, a guidelines poster will be hung on the refrigerator. There has been no charge for the kitchen but it should be left the way you found it. Wash any dishes, silverware and etc. that are used and put back where you found them, empty the trash, wipe off all stove-tops, counter tops and tables that were used. Towels may be left on the island but please notify the church office that they are there--they will be picked up by an ILC board member.

Janet Johannsen, Secretary

ILCW GATHERING

Sixteen in attendance. Jean served delicious refreshments prior to Julie's program. Julie presented her extensive collection of dolls and told when/how she acquired them. She made one of the porcelain dolls as well as clothes for some of them. Julie also made many Cabbage Patch dolls when they were popular and sold them. Attendees could bring their childhood dolls and owners told of where or how they acquired them. Some were missing legs and there was discussion of where a "doll hospital" could be found. Fun program Julie. Sandy shared news on L Haas' surgery. Julie closed the Gathering leading us in the Lord's Prayer.

February 12 - ILCW Exec Board @ 9 AM; Gathering @ 9:30 AM

February 24 - Mission Quilters @ 1 PM

February 25 - BUNKO @ 2 PM



TANZANIA HAPPENINGS

TANZANIA SOUP SUPPER AND AUCTION

The competition: who will be the winner this year of the *best* soup at Immanuel?

When: Saturday, March 15, 2025

Where: Immanuel Fellowship Hall

Time: Doors open at 5:45 for supper and the 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 conf



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, gift certificates, services/labor, tickets to an event, homemade treasures. The sky is the limit!



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LCMC
1700 19th Street
Harlan, IA 51537

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Staff:

Pastor Phil Nielsen

Office Manager: Rachel Nelsen-Block

Custodian: Slava Aleev

FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Derald K. F.H 11:00-4:00 5:00 Communion
2 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	3 SCUW 5:00-8:00	4	5 3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible S 5:30 Confirmation 5:30 Bells 6:30 LYO	6	7	8 5:00 Worship
9 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	10	11 9:00 CF Quilters 6:30 Executive Bd 7:00 Church Council	12 9 ILCW Bd Mtg. & 9:30 ILCW Gathering 3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible S 5:30 Confirmation 5:30 Bells 6:30 LYO	13	14	15 5:00 Communion
16 8:00 Choir 9:00 Communion/JAM 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	17	18 9:00 CF Quilters 6:00 Worship Comm 7:00 LYO Lock-in 7:30 Fellowship/ED.	19 LYO to Omaha 4:00 Women's Bible S 5:30 Bells	20 Newsletter Deadline 6-9 Ladies Homestead 6	21	22 5:00 Worship
23 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 2:00 Hymn Festival 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	24 9:00 Mission Quilters	25 9:00 CF Quilters 2:00 Bunco	26 3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible S 5:15 Confirmation 6:30 LYO	27 ASSEMBLE Newsletter	28	1 5:00 Communion

Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule

	February 1-2	February 8-9	February 15-16	February 22-23	March 1-2	
Acolytes	Zoey Olson Jace Palmer	Maggie Petersen Harper Petsche	Leah Svendsen Rex Swanson	Collin Burchett Will Chipman	Cora Clay Trinity Haas	
Saturday Greeter/Usher	Terry/Shelly Saunders	Pat Schug	Deb Stendrup	Emmert Anderson	Alan Ahrenholtz	
Saturday Altar Guild	Cheryl Nielsen	x	Maggie Hatcher	x	Kayla Jacobs	
Sunday Greeters/Ushers	John & Gaylen Petsche Bruce & Rita Pfannkuch	Lonnie & Connie Pitts Shane & Liz Pitts	Jill & Ella Plagman Doug & Mary Renkly	Jesse & Jeanna Rudolph Kate Schechinger	Mark & Nancy Schmitz Lee & Brittany Schoof	
Sunday Altar Guild	Mary Taggs Cora Chapman	x	Janet Johannsen Donna Nelson	x	Kate Petersen Mary Petersen	
Scripture Reader (Sunday)	Pam Rust	Terry Torneten	Jared Walters	Lois Hansen	Steve Allen	
Communion Servers (Sunday)	Peg Haas Janet Johannsen	x	Jennifer Malone Elaine Miller	x	Sandy Nelsen Verne Nelson	
Coffee Hosts (Sunday)	Vicki/Ken Carstens	Cheryl & Rick Chipman	Duane & Vickie Errett	Jeff & Erin Hastert	Matt & Mary Hoch	
Sound	Seth Johannsen	Seth Johannsen	Seth Johannsen	Seth Johannsen	Kayla Weis	
Video	Grant Chipman	Grant Chipman	Grant Chipman	Grant 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	Dave Greve	John Taggs	Trent Svendsen	Amy Kaster	Dave Greve	