

IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS JANUARY 2021

LCMC Three Days of Prayer - January 5-7, 2021

Our attitude toward prayer has often been characterized by saying, “well, all we can do now is pray!” Prayer is not the hopeless act of desperation. Prayer is a gift that God has given to us as a means to approach the throne of grace with confidence—like that of a child coming to her parents sharing concerns, victories, defeats, and every part of life. It is an opportunity to express the deepest heartache and the greatest joy. Prayer is a conversation between the Creator and the created... and the conversation began with God, for us, in Christ Jesus.

At Immanuel we will join with our brothers and sisters in LCMC on those 3 days. We invite everyone to pray at their own time and place on those 3 days. If you would like to join with other members of Immanuel to pray on those days, there will be a Zoom meeting on the internet. We will send out the link for you to join us at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87812549941?pwd=YURzQm1uSEdBTK5DTS9xWlg0REpJQT09>

Congregational 2021 Annual Meeting – Jan. 24

Our annual congregational meeting has been called for Sunday, January 24, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary immediately following the morning worship service. The agenda includes elections, approving a 2021 budget, and a vote on the revised constitution for Immanuel. The main change in the constitution is reducing the church council from 14 to 12 members. This year’s Nominating Committee achieved a first: every person they asked to serve agreed to serve. Best Nominating Committee ever!

Worship in January 2021

10 th Day of Christmas January 2-3	John 1:10-18 Becoming a Child	Communion
Epiphany 1 January 9-10	John 6:1-21 Bread for a Hungry World	
Epiphany 2 January 16-17	John 6:22-40 The Bread of Life	Communion
Epiphany 3 January 23-24	John 6:41-59 A Matter of Death and Life	
Epiphany 4 January 30-31	John 6:60-71 The Mystery of Faith	



Dear Friends in Christ,

How many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb?

- A.) One to change the bulb and two to talk about how much they will miss the old bulb.
- B.) Two-thirds of fifteen percent of the confirmed membership at a regularly called congregational meeting.
- C.) You can't change the bulb because it was a memorial gift.
- D.) CHANGE?!? WHAT DO YOU MEAN CHANGE??



I can confidently predict that 2021 will bring more change to our lives. Change is the one constant of our lives. We are attracted to both familiar things and also to new things.

The Bible calls us to both hold on to the past and get ready for the future. Isaiah 46:9 says, "Remember the former things, those of long ago." But Isaiah 43:18 says, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing!"

The apostle Paul calls us to learn from the past in 1 Corinthians 10, but in Philippians 3 he writes: "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal."

We know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8) That means that Jesus is faithful to his promises. But we are far from what God created us to be. We shouldn't be content with where we are today. The Holy Spirit is always calling us to grow into the image of Jesus. So while we learn from the past, followers of Jesus are always seeking new ways to grow in Christlikeness. They say that if it ain't broke, don't fix it. Well, we are all broken in some way. So change is good.

God loves us just the way we are, but God loves us too much to leave us the way we are. And so life is designed to push us to change. 2021 will be a year of both blessings and challenges. May the blessings point us to faith in the goodness and grace of God. And may the challenges move us to a deeper hunger for the grace and glory of God.

Yours in Christ, *Phil Nielsen*

New Video Camera at Immanuel

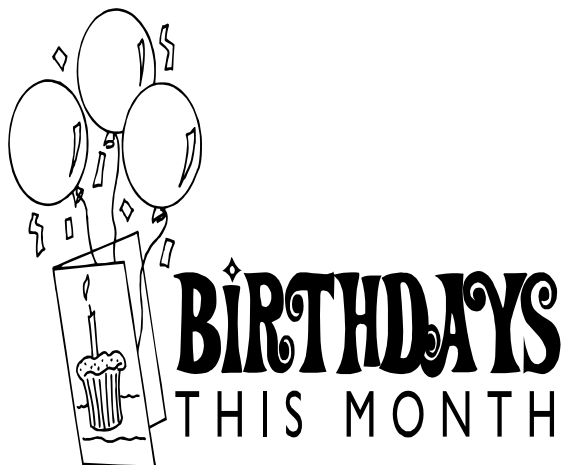
We have been talking about upgrading our sanctuary camera and recording system for at least 6 years. It only took 9 months of a pandemic to get it done. Thanks to generous memorial donations from the families of Nancy Klein and Diane Andersen and others, we have a new \$3000 camera and a recording system that has improved both visual and audio on our recordings. We also have the ability to easily live stream our worship services on our Immanuel Facebook page. So if you haven't watched our broadcasts for a while because the sound quality was poor, give us another look. We are still learning how to best balance the audio, but it is already much improved.

WORSHIP SERVICES at Immanuel are 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 Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ilcharlan) and on our website (www.harlanimmanuel.org/sermons.html). The service can now be viewed Sunday morning live on our Facebook page.

Volunteers needed:

In ordinary times, Immanuel assigns members to help with the various tasks of worship and fellowship. However, 2020 and 2021 are not ordinary times. So we are asking for volunteers to sign up to help with setting up Communion, reading Scripture, and hosting coffee and donut fellowship. If you are able and willing to help, please contact Joan in the church office to let her know what dates you are available to serve.





Happy Birthday to the following:

Joanne Christensen who will be 89 on January 3.

Lowell Howe who will be 92 on January 15.

Ted Williams who will be 92 on January 17.

Loretta Baughman who will be 96 on January 25.

Jerald Wigness who will be 81 on January 26.

Austa Phelps who will be 101 on January 30.

Austa Phelps is recovering from a fall and her temporary address is: Aspen Rehabilitation & Health-Care, 1403 9th Avenue, Silvis, IL 61282.

OUR SYMPATHY to LaDonna Havick, Myrna Havick and their family at the death of Shawn Havick. Shawn passed away Sunday, December 13 and the funeral was Thursday, December 17 here at Immanuel.

*With Deepest
Sympathy*

MISSION QUILTERS: As with all groups at Immanuel, Mission Quilters met, with distancing, the months of September and October. As numbers went up, we cancelled for the present time. We hope to begin at some point in the new year. However, as faithful servants, the quilters put together over 22 quilts in those two meetings with just a backing and ties left to complete. Also, quilts were delivered to Elm Crest, Salem and Avoca nursing home residents; two to Elm Crest, four to Salem and two to Avoca. We hope they bring a smile and comfort to those residents.



ON OUR PRAYER LIST: Louie Troll, Ken Olsen, Bryan Kaster, Nancy Christensen, Jon Burmeister, Marlys Moore, Connie Benson, Kaylee Havick and Sandra Farr (mother of Cora Chapman).

Please Pray for:

COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY December 8, 2020—7 pm

The Immanuel Church Council met December 8 with 11 of 14 members present by video conferencing. Ivy Nielsen shared devotions from Ephesians 3:16 about God's supply of strength. Steve Allen will share devotions in January.

Kayla Jacobs, George Applegate, Steve Allen, Derek Chapman, Cheryl Chipman, Ivy Nielsen, and John Taggs will cover council duties at our worship services. Coffee fellowship is on hold until our county Covid numbers go down.

Treasurer reported November income of \$23,299 and November expenses of \$19,505. Year to date income is \$243,725 (slightly ahead of 2019). Year to date expenses are \$217,887 (\$35,658 less than 2019). Our general fund account ended November at about \$52,618. Our capital project savings are at \$27,202. Tanzania Projects Fund is at \$13,202. Thanks to all who have continued to support the ministry of Immanuel.

George Applegate presented a budget for 2021 of \$287,004 which is an increase of \$3864 over 2020. Council voted to recommend the budget to the congregation at the annual meeting.

Outreach – Immanuel has given 1,138 pounds to the County Food Pantry which is 300 pounds over last year. December mission partner is the Community Kitchen for \$1000. Council voted to give \$750 to both Salem Lutheran Homes and Elm Crest for Christmas gifts.

Worship – New camera system will be installed Dec. 9. Responses to the congregational survey indicate that the expected attendance for Christmas Eve may be pretty evenly spread out between the 3 service times. Most common reason for not attending worship is "not feeling safe".

Education – There has been an average of 6 to 12 students attending Sunday School. Adult Class has moved back to Zoom. There will be no Sunday School Christmas program this year because of the low participation numbers.

Property – We have ordered LED replacement bulbs for our current tube fixtures.

Executive – Congregational meeting on November 22 approved constitutional changes. Ratifying vote will be at the annual meeting January 24, 2021. Nominating Committee has 5 candidates for church council. We have had some interest in the office manager position, but no applications yet, but the deadline for applications probably isn't needed until March.

WORSHIP & GIVING

	<u>Attendance</u>					<u>General</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Total</u>
Nov. 28/29	18	+	43	=	61	\$ 3,148.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 3,198.00
Dec. 5/6	18	+	72	=	90	\$ 7,121.00	\$ 95.00	\$ 7,216.00
Dec. 12/13	25	+	70	=	95	\$ 9,936.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 9,966.00
Dec. 19/20	20	+	74	=	94	\$ 3,434.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 3,559.00
Dec. 24 3, 5 & 7	105	,	68		37	=	210	
Dec. 26/27	13	+	56	=	89	\$ 9,340.79	\$1,040.00	\$10,410.79

JANUARY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1 Church Office Closed	2 5:00 Communion
3 9:00 Communion 10:30 Zoom Adult Bible Class	4	5	6 4:30 Women's Bible Study	7	8	9 5:00 Worship
10 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Zoom Adult Bible Class	11 3:30 Girl Scouts	12 6:30 Executive Board 7:00 Church Council	13 4:30 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Confirmation	14 6:00 MOPS	15	16 7:30-6 4-H 5:00 Communion
17 9:00 Communion 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Zoom Adult Bible Class	18 3:30 4-H	19	20 4:30 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Confirmation	21 3:30 4-H Newsletter Deadline 7:00 Ladies Homestead	22	23 5:00 Worship
24 9:00 Worship 10:00 Congregational Meeting	25 3:30 Girl Scouts	26	27 4:30 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Confirmation	28 Assemble Newsletter	29	30 5:00 Worship
31 9:00 Worship	1	2	3	4	5	6

WOMEN OF THE WORD EXEC BOARD**December 16, 2020**

The WOW Executive Board met Wed, December 16 with Sandy Nelsen, Kathy Block, Janet Johannsen, Sharon Daberkow and Sally Nairn present. Chairperson Sandy called the meeting to order at 1pm.

Minutes from our last meeting on Sept. 9 were reviewed and Kathy moved to accept the minutes with all in agreement.

Treasurer's Report was given by Kathy. Receipts since Sept. were donations from Don & Clarice Andersen and Randi McEvoy \$1,100, Thankoffering \$750 and poinsettias sold \$400. Disbursements of \$54.50 for goodie bags, \$29.43 for Christmas candy and \$400 to Floral Elegance leaving an ending balance of \$5,660.03.

Thank you's from people receiving the fall goodie bags have been received and are posted on the WOW bulletin board. Jonelle has sent out 10 get well, 18 birthday, 5 sympathy, 30 Valentine, 27 Halloween & 27 Christmas cards. Thank you, Jonelle! Sharon moved to purchase two rolls of stamps for Jonelle and Janet seconded with all in agreement.

The kitchen's rubber mats have been cleaned by Jeff Nelson. Thank you, Jeff!

Sharon received a request from Salem Lutheran Home to adopt 9 residents who have no family nearby. Candy for the men and stationery for the women was suggested. Sharon made a motion to adopt these residents and Sally seconded with all in agreement.

Mission Quilters have 5 lap quilts and 5 bigger quilts to donate to Salem Lutheran Home. Mission Quilters will meet January 25th at 1:30pm.

Forty poinsettias will decorate the sanctuary and anyone interested may help decorate on Tues. Dec 22 at 10 am. Thanks to those who purchased the poinsettias.

Sally reported that Sandy Sisson will decorate the Fellowship Hall tables and Sally will continue to decorate for special events such as Fall Bazaar and Christmas Tea.

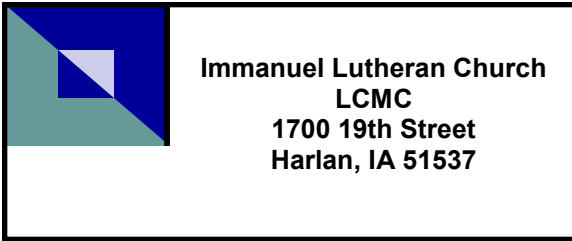
Budget changes for 2021 are Hospitality/Cards \$110 and Miscellaneous \$190. Remaining the same as 2020 are Church Youth Assistance \$1200, Mission Quilting \$300, Birthdays/Bingo \$100, Kitchen Supplies/Equipment \$400, Christmas Tea \$300 for a total budget of \$2600. Sally made a motion to approve those budget items with Kathy seconding and all in agreement.

Disbursement of WOW funds will remain the same as last year. Recipients will be West Central \$1000, Capital Improvement Fund \$1000, Salem Home \$500, Riverside Bible Camp \$300 & Ingham Okoboji Bible Camp \$300 for total disbursement of \$3100. Sharon made a motion to approve with Sally seconding and all in agreement.

Thankoffering funds of \$750 were down from last year's \$975. Sharon made a motion for the funds to go to Kris Olson Harmon for the Kids at Risk program, Sally seconded and all were in agreement.

The WOW membership list is being done again by Jan Applegate. Any changes should be directed to her for the 2021 list. Sharon made a motion for adjournment with Janet seconding and all were in agreement.

Janet Johannsen, Secretary



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Home Number: 712-766-3178
E-mail: peacephillip@gmail.com
www.harlanimmanuel.org

Staff:

Pastor Phil Nielsen
Music Director: Heidi Thies
Office Manager: Joan Wehr
Custodian: Slava Aleev