



IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS JANUARY 2022



Immanuel's Got Talent

Join us at **IMMANUEL'S GOT TALENT** on Sunday, January 23th at 2:00 PM in the fellowship hall at Immanuel.

If you have a "talent" (and everybody does) come and share it. You might sing, dance, do a skit, recite or read a poem, play an instrument, whistle, mime, have a pet that can do tricks (you will be responsible for clean up on this one) or some other talent we haven't thought of. This is for all ages from 3 to 103. Please think about it. It can be serious or silly. So come one and all to cheer on the brave, or not so brave, ones that will share what they can do.

If you have a talent you would like to share, please contact the church office at 712-755-5207 and leave a message and telephone #. We want to get you on the program.

It will be a FUN-FILLED, STAR-STUDED afternoon. You won't want to miss it. See you there.

ILC Annual Congregational Meeting – January 23

All confirmed members and interested guests are invited to attend the Immanuel Congregational Annual meeting. It is an opportunity to learn about what goes on behind the scenes at Immanuel and to talk together about the future of Immanuel. The meeting will take place in the fellowship hall at 10:15 AM on Sunday, January 23. Annual reports are due to the church office by Sunday, January 8.

13th Annual Danish Dolls Aebelskiver/Frikadeller Dinner

Join us for aebelskiver and frikadeller from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, January 22nd. The freewill donation for dinner and a bake sale with many Danish goodies will benefit the Tanzania Travel Fund which helps pay the way for people to make their first mission trip to Tanzania.



January 2022



Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year. God has given us the gift of cyclical time. Each rotation of the earth is an invitation to reboot our lives and begin anew. Each orbit of the earth around the sun is an invitation to pause to evaluate the past and gain perspective on the future. We can make resolutions of change any time, but a new year or a birthday seems to invite us to consider making changes in our course.

When we come to a new year, we might pause to wonder about the purpose of our years on earth. We recognize that we only have so many trips around the sun and each year is a precious gift. We may ask ourselves if we are truly fulfilling our purpose here. Will I get to the end of my years and have a sense of fulfillment of my purpose? Or will I wonder how I could have wasted so much time?

The same can be true of a church congregation. It would seem that congregations have a life span. Congregations may not live forever. Or at least our generation of the church doesn't have forever. Will future generations look back and find us faithful to our purpose? Or will they wonder what we thought we were doing during our time on earth?

What is it that drives us as a church? Some churches are institution-driven, just trying to make the organization survive financially. Some churches are tradition-driven, just trying to keep the church the way it has always been. Some churches are theology-driven, just trying to maintain the language and purity of certain theological propositions. Some churches are member-driven, just trying to keep the members happy. Mission-driven churches gear everything they do to reach people (members and outsiders) with the life-giving, life-changing gospel of Jesus. Most churches are a combination of all those purposes depending on who you talk to. And those mixture of purposes sometimes lead to conflict.

A new year is a time to ask ourselves what kind of church we want to be. What drives us as a church will determine how we worship, how we teach young people and adults, how we connect to one another, how we spend our resources, and what we do in the community.

Our association of congregations in LCMC encourages all congregations to take 3 days in January for prayer focused on renewal for ourselves and our congregation. This year I would like to encourage everyone to take a little time each day for prayer focused on renewal. You can structure the prayer anyway you like. January 4 on the past. January 5 on the present. January 6 on the future. Or January 4 for yourself. January 5 for your family and friends. January 6 for Immanuel. Don't forget to include thanksgiving and praise in your praying.

Please do take time to pray for Immanuel as a congregation. Without prayer we are just a country club with a cross on top. With prayer, we are the Body of Christ living God's truth and grace into the world. Prayer will make 2022 a truly new year.

Yours in Christ,

Phil Nielsen

Worship in January 2022

January 8-9 Epiphany 1	Getting Ready for Jesus Luke 3	
January 15-16 Epiphany 2	From Garden to Desert Luke 4:1-13	Communion
January 22-23 Epiphany 3	Mission of the Messiah Luke 4:14-21	
January 29-30 Epiphany 4	Trouble in Church Luke 4:22-30	



THANKS to all who added to our celebration of Christmas.

Thanks to Sandy Sisson, Richard Daberkow, Slava Aleev, Dave Pedersen, Donna & Greg Nelson, Sally Nairn, Sandy Nelson, and Janet Johannsen for helping with Christmas decorations.

Thanks to everyone who made cookies or cooked or served the Christmas feast at the Iowa Community Kitchen. We served about 140 people.

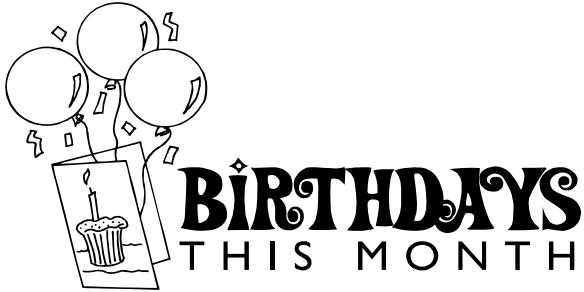
Thanks to the GROW kids for sharing the Christmas program with us December 19.

Thanks to the carolers who brought Christmas cheer to 12 of our member households.

Thanks to the bell choir, the bell trio, the Immanuel choir, and Abby Brue for sharing music with us on Christmas Eve.

Thrivent Financial is a fraternal organization begun by Lutherans to offer insurance and investment opportunities for Lutherans and other Christians and to encourage service to our communities. As a fraternal organization it allows members to direct its profits toward charitable causes and Christian congregations. If you have an insurance product with Thrivent, then you can make annual donations of Thrivent Choice dollars to Immanuel or any other cause you want to support. Immanuel receives some \$2000 annually from Thrivent thanks to members who have chosen to direct those dollars to our congregation. We used to receive much more. Perhaps there are less members who are connected to Thrivent. Or perhaps members are unaware that they can direct Thrivent funds to Immanuel.

If you have a Thrivent insurance product, please check to make sure that you have donated all your 2021 Thrivent Choice dollars to a cause you believe in. The deadline to direct those funds is in March. And thank you to all who have donated their 2021 Thrivent Choice dollars to Immanuel.



Happy Birthday to the following:

Joanne Christensen will be 90 on January 3.

Lowell Howe who will be 93 on January 15.

Loretta Baughman will be 97 on January 25.

Jerald Wigness who will be 82 on January 26.

Austa Phelps will be 102 on January 30.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Lester Hass at his death on December 10th, to Calvin Twenhafel at the death of his father, Calvin Twenhafel, Sr., and to Karen Brasch at the death of her husband, Minehart Brasch on December 16th.



Thanks to all who have continued to support our Sharing Cupboard in the front entryway and the Shelby County Food Pantry with donations in the grocery store carts in the front hallway. The Sharing Cupboard is emergency food, winter clothing, diapers, and toiletries for anyone to access 24/7.

Excess items will be put in the grocery carts for the Shelby County Food Pantry. We encourage donations especially for the Food Pantry on "First Fruits Sunday" on the first Sunday of the month.

2022 Offering Envelopes should arrive at Immanuel some time this month. The boxed sets for February 2022 through January 2023 will be available for pick up on the conference table next to the library.



Please Pray for:

ON OUR PRAYER LIST: Lorene Thiede, Jean Whitfield, Joanne Christensen, Connie Schwieso, Judi Pedersen, Twyla & Charles Grabill, Jeanette Kroger, Steve Allen, Harry Priest, Bev Burmeister, Sandra Haney, Nancy Christensen, Connie Benson, Sandra Farr (mother of Cora Chapman), Bonnie Mitchell (friend of Roger and Joann Christensen), Becky Bartels (niece of Cheryl Nielsen), and Catherine Glenn (mother of Sharon Kroger) and Camden King, Kailey Trailer and Tonya Hipnar (grand daughter & cousin of Gaige & Sheryl Lytle).

COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY December 7, 2021—7 pm

The Immanuel Church Council met December 7 with 8 of 12 members present. Cheryl Chipman shared devotions. Steve Allen will have devotions in January.

Peg Haas, Cheryl Chipman, Derek Chapman, John Taggs, Ivy Nielsen, and Eric Chipman volunteered for schedule of council persons on duty.

Treasurer: November income was very good at almost \$35,000. November expenses were only \$19,634. General Fund ended November at \$72,929 which includes \$25,994 in bequests from Ted Williams' estate and about \$6000 set aside for youth ministry. Capital Savings are at \$50,264.

Worship/Evangelism: Council approved upgrading the sanctuary computer. Working on getting our live streaming back online. Discussed a recommendation from the committee regarding our pipe organ to replace our pipe organ with a digital organ. Reasoning was that the organ provides worship music when no musicians are available and digital organs are easier and less expensive to build and maintain than pipe organs. Pipe organs require tuning which may be difficult to find in a few years. Some suggested we should move away from organ music altogether. Others suggested that we ought to rebuild our current pipe organ. The recommendation was tabled.

Fellowship/Education: Committee is tentatively planning fellowship events for 2022 including a Talent Show in January and a young adult event in February. Lenten meals will be held in March. Meals will be hosted by volunteers. A sign-up sheet will be made available.

Outreach/Stewardship: 864 pounds have been donated to the food pantry. Foster Closet continues to be used by families. Immanuel will serve the Community Kitchen Dec. 14.

Property: Working on repair work of exhaust fan in kitchen.

Executive: The 2022 budget was modified and approved for recommendation to the congregation at the annual meeting. Budget recommendation is \$290,292 which is a 1 % increase over 2021.

New Business: Council wants to thank Bert Hillers for his many years of service to Immanuel, especially all his years serving on the church council and property committee and his snow removal on many cold and dark mornings. Council also discussed ideas about renovating the front of the sanctuary to update the look and to allow more space at the front of the sanctuary for handbells, worship band, among other things.

WORSHIP & GIVING

	<u>Attendance</u>				<u>General</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Total</u>	
December 4-5	18	+	135	=	153	\$ 4,754.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 4,879.00
December 11-12	17	+	117	=	134	\$ 5,803.00	\$	\$ 5,803.00
December 18-19	16	+	169	=	111	\$ 5,551.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 5,576.00
December 24	272	+	65	=	337	\$ (ADDED TO BELOW TOTALS)		
December 25-26	15	+	85	=	95	\$ 5,930.00	\$1,150.00	\$ 7,080.00

WORSHIP SERVICES at Immanuel continue to be live streamed on Facebook

(www.facebook.com/ilcharlan) Sunday mornings and can be viewed anytime afterwards. They are also 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 website (www.harlanimmanuel.org/sermons.html).



WOMEN OF THE WORD EXEC BOARD

December 5, 2021

The WOW Executive Board met in the All-Purpose Room December 5, 2021 after church services with Sandy Nelsen, Kathy Block, Janet Johannsen, Sharon Daberkow, Myrna Havick, Sally Nairn and Julie Vorm present. Sandy opened the meeting at 10:15.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kathy reported November income of \$610 to Thank Offering and \$40 donation to the bazaar. Expenses were \$20 for new checks. A bill from Linda Mosher for \$59.23 was received for the upcoming Christmas Tea expense. Sharon made motion and Sally seconded to pay the bill. Ending November balance is \$6033.45. A deposit of \$280 from sale of poinsettias was made Dec 1. To date our balance is \$6313.45.

2021 MONIES DISTRIBUTION: From monies available this year it was decided to give to the following: West Central (meat certificates) \$1500, Salem Home Activities \$500, Riverside Bible Camp \$500, Ingham Okoboji Bible Camp \$500, Foster Care program \$500 and Feed the Starving Children program \$500. Julie made motion to approve these donations. Myrna seconded. Ayes all.

2021 Thank Offering: Kathy made motion and Sharon seconded that \$610 go to Kris Olson-Harmon for her Kids At Risk program. Ayes all. Any remaining donations that might come in for Thank Offering would also be given to the program.

SALEM HOME: A request was received from Salem Home if our WOW would be willing to adopt 4 residents who have no family to provide them with Christmas gifts. Gift suggestions were included. We decided to adopt 2 men and 2 women. Sandy and Sharon will shop for gifts and have them to Salem Home before Dec 17.

The meeting adjourned at 11 AM. The next WOW Executive Board will meet January 12 at 9 AM with WOW Gathering to follow at 9:30.

Janet Johannsen, Secretary

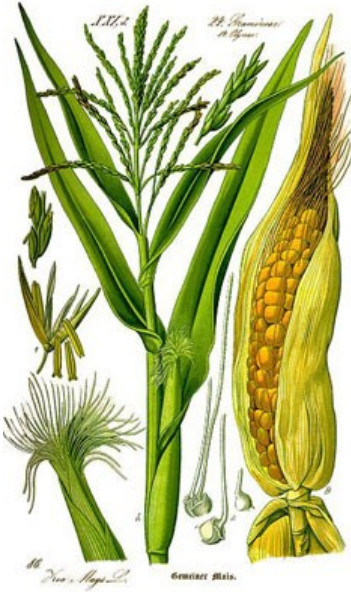
Mission Quilters

An abundance of quilts were created this past year. We thank Julie Vorm and her mother and others for their generosity of heart and talent to keep us supplied in quilt tops. We were able to distribute over 30 full sized, lap and baby quilts to those in need and to our own members. Quilts were sent to Elmcrest in Harlan, Salem Lutheran Homes in Elk Horn, Care Initiatives in Avoca, West Central in Harlan, and baby blankets to Blank Hospital in Des Moines in conjunction with the Elk Horn Lutheran Church. Several members of our congregation have received our Care and Concern quilts as they go through health issues. We also sold a large selection of them at the church Bazaar in October. This is a great outreach mission for our church and we appreciate all the support and supplies that are given in that regard. We continue to meet the last Monday of the month at 9:00 A.M. in the fellowship hall. ALL are welcome to come pin, cut, tie, straighten, pick out colors, enjoy each others company!



Immanuel Tanzania Committee

Iringa Hope Seed Test Plot



Immanuel is off on another adventure in Africa with a swing at being involved in maize (white corn) test plots in the southern highlands of Tanzania! Immanuel has had a strong interest in our sister congregation's agriculture in Kidugala, since 2007. Now we have an opportunity to compete in a yield test plot with a variety of high protein, non-GMO white corn from the company JFS. This project has been quite a bit easier for the Tanzanian Committee to move forward with due to the fact that JFS is headquartered in Harlan and the plant breeder/owner of the company is Immanuel's own Dr. Jerry Strissel. Dr. Strissel, who has worked for 35 years in corn breeding, had a plot in Harlan that we visited to get an idea of their products and they looked very promising. After visiting the plot, we reached out to Iringa Hope to see if they would compare the varieties with the ones that they are currently using. They were very open to the opportunity to trial new genetics, which were selected for the southern highlands. Iringa

Hope then set up 8 test sites throughout the Iringa and Kidugala areas to have plots. Four of the plots are being located in Kidugala. In 2010 Immanuel started collaborating with Iringa Hope with the goal of improving agricultural production in the Kidugala region. Kidugala is a four-hour drive southwest of Iringa. Since then, we have been involved with agronomic education, micro loans, and cooperative purchasing and marketing with Iringa Hope.

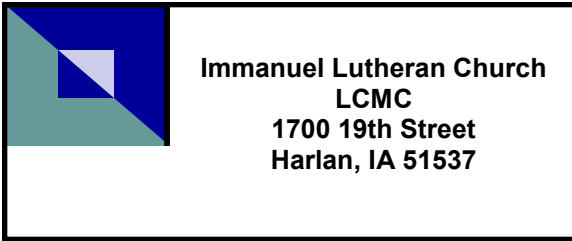
The seed shipment had been held up by the USDA sampling paperwork and after that delay the export certificate expired, but these road blocks have cleared and the seed left December 17th. We are fully hopeful that the seed will arrive before their planting is finished. Kidugala's normal planting window for maize is early December through early January. This seed needs to travel to South Africa then be delivered to Iringa through a distributor of JFS products.

Unlike in the USA, maize is primarily used for human consumption. Our hope is that this variety will yield very well in the southern highlands and provide a higher protein intake in their diets. A portion of the Immanuel Tanzania Committee funds are being used to support the seed, fumigation, and shipping expense. Also, the committee is funding the plot expenses of fertilizer and full supervision of the trial. As in other agricultural projects in the region, Immanuel's Tanzania Committee has had a goal to assist in raising the production level. This has in turn strengthened our bonds with the people in Kidugala and has been a part of exhibiting our love for our friends. It is so much about our relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Kidugala. The committee would like to thank Jerry for all his assistance in this effort to bring better genetics to the Kidugala region. Stay tuned.

Rick



PIES ARE STILL AVAILABLE: The Tanzania Team still has apple and rhubarb pies for \$12 each. They are available at the church during office hours or after church on Saturday and Sunday. All proceeds go to fund the orphans in Kidugala to attend school. Immanuel is currently funding 170 primary school orphans and over 80 secondary school orphans. Thanks for your support.



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

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HARLAN, IOWA 51537
PERMIT NO. 97

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Pastor Phil's Cell Number: 712-579-2098
Home Number: 712-766-3178
E-mail: peacephillip@gmail.com
www.harlanimmanuel.org

Staff:

Pastor Phil Nielsen
Music Director: Heidi Thies
Office Manager: Connie Boysen
Custodian: Slava Aleev

JANUARY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 9:00 Worship/No JAM	27 9:00 Mission Quilters	28 9:00 CF Quilters 10:00 Elm Crest Communion	29	30 Assemble Newsletter	31 11:00 Eagle Bd. Review	1 5:00 Communion
2 9:00 Communion/JAM	3 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	4 <i>LCMC Days of Prayer</i> 9:00 CF Quilters 6:00 Boy Scout Leaders	5 <i>LCMC Days of Prayer</i> 3:30 Grow 5:15 Confirmation 5:30 Bells 6:30 LYO	6 <i>LCMC Days of Prayer</i>	7	8 5:00 Worship
9 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:15 Adult Bible Class 4:00 Boy Scouts	10 3:15 Girl Scouts	11 9:00 CF Quilters 6:30 Executive Board 7:00 Church Council	12 9WOWExec 9:30Gathering 3:30 Grow 4:00 Women's Bible Study 5:15 Confirmation 5:30 Bells 6:30 LYO	13	14 Newsletter Deadline	15 5:00 Communion
16 9:00 Communion/JAM 10:15 Adult Bible Class 4:00 Boy Scouts	17	18 9:00 CF Quilters	19 3:30 Grow 4:00 Women's Bible Study 5:15 Confirmation 5:30 Bells 6:30 LYO	20 3:00 4-H 7:00 Ladies Homestead	21 Assemble Newsletter	22 5:00 Worship 5-7 Danish Dolls Albeskiver Supper
23 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:15 Annual Meeting 2:00 Talent Show 4:00 Boy Scouts	24 4:00 4-H	25 9:00 CF Quilters	26 3:30 Grow 4:00 Women's Bible Study 5:15 Confirmation 5:30 Bells 6:30 LYO	27	28	29 5:00 Worship
30 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:15 Adult Bible Class 4:00 Boy Scouts	31 9:00 Mission Quilters 3:15 Girl Scouts	1 9:00 CF Quilters	2 3:30 Grow 4:00 Women's Bible Study 5:15 Confirmation 5:30 Bells 6:30 LYO	3	4	5 5:00 Communion

Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule

	January 8-9	January 15-16	January 22-23	January 29-30	February 5-6
Acolytes	Kobe Klaassen Aubrey Petsche	Hayden Miller Jonas Reynolds	Baleigh Sette Gavin Sisson	Donovan Smith Emeri Smith	Kori Smith Angel Stern
Saturday Greeter/Usher	Larry Klein	Betty Larsen	Sally Nairn	Dory Nielsen	Terry & Shelly Saunders
Sunday Greeters/Ushers	Katie Burchett Kira Griffin Brynn Klaassen	Ania Kaster Makenzie Livingston Nick Livingston	Alex Monson Shelby Sisson Jared Walters	Vanessa Schechinger Emma Smith Victoria Chapman	Scott/Jeanine Larsen Janelle Leinen
Sunday Reader	Nancy Ludwig	Craig Olson	Judi Olson	Dave Pedersen	Terry Torneten
Saturday Altar Guild		DeAnn Nielsen			Maggie Hatcher
Sunday Altar Guild		Becky Brelje Tammy Haake			Peg Haas Mary Petersen
Sun. Communion Servers		Craig & Judi Olson			Sandy Nelsen Scott Shannon
Sunday Coffee Fellowship Hosts	Nancy Gessman Kris Olson-Harmon	Karma Petersen Karen Plewes	Lavera Stern Angel & Katie Stern	Staci & Terry Torneten	Ken & Julie Vorm
Sound	Christopher Chapman	Christopher Chapman	Christopher Chapman	Christopher Chapman	Seth Johannsen
Video	Mark Schechinger	Mark Schechinger	Mark Schechinger	Alan Ahrenholtz	Alan Ahrenholtz
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	Cheryl Chipman	Eric Chipman			