



# IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS JANUARY 2025



## 2025 Annual Congregational Meeting

All confirmed members and interested guests are invited to attend the Immanuel Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 19. It is an opportunity to learn about what goes on behind the scenes at Immanuel and to talk about where Immanuel is headed. The meeting will take place in the Fellowship Hall at 10:15 a.m. Our agenda includes elections and approval of the 2025 Spending Plan.

## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Danish Dolls Aebelskiver/Frikadeller Dinner

Clear your calendars, folks! You won't want to miss the Danish Dolls' 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Aebelskiver/Frikadeller Dinner and bake sale on Saturday,

January 25, 2025 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Immanuel (carry-out will be available). 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 from the dinner and bake sale will go into the travel scholarship fund. These funds will help those who want to be part of a mission trip either going to, or coming from, Tanzania.



## Worship in January

|                             |  |           |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------|
| January 4-5<br>Christmas 2  | Jesus: Friend of Sinners<br>Luke 5:27-32 | Communion |
| January 11-12<br>Epiphany 1 | Jesus: New Wine<br>Luke 5:33-39          |           |
| January 18-19<br>Epiphany 2 | Jesus the Rebel<br>Luke 6:1-11           | Communion |
| January 25-26<br>Epiphany 3 | Disciples to Apostles<br>Luke 6:12-16    | Choir     |



Dear Friends in Christ,

The most common question I am asked is what translation of the Bible should I buy. (I lean toward the New Revised Standard Version.) The second most common question I am asked is how do Lutherans compare to \_\_\_\_? Maybe a child is marrying someone from another faith tradition. Maybe someone has moved to a place where there is no nearby LCMC congregation.

Our Sunday morning Bible class is finishing up an 18-month-long study of the Gospel of John. In January I would like to begin an 8-week study conversation on how Lutherans compare to other faith traditions. What are the points of agreement and disagreement? The series will cover what it means to be Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Presbyterian and Reformed, Methodist and Holiness, Baptist, Restorationist, Pentecostal, and a few others.

Personally, I didn't really appreciate what it means to be Lutheran until I stepped out of my Lutheran ghetto and experienced life in other traditions. I have found 3 key elements of Lutheran identity that I treasure

Our problem = bondage of the will

Our salvation = the Gospel that creates faith

Our life = saints and sinners at the same time

Our worship = God's work on us

Yours in Christ, *Phil Nielsen*

**THANK YOU** to those who participated in the Christmas Eve mime (Aubrey Petsche, Angel Stern, Reece Nielsen, Kelli Mura, Amy Kaster, Katie Stern). Thanks also to those who decorated the church building. And thanks to the musicians who shared their talents in our Christmas celebrations.



**Happy Birthday to the following:**

Kay Havick will be 82 on January 4.

Elaine Miller will be 82 on January 13.

Bruce Havick will be 83 on January 13.

Jerald Wigness will be 85 on January 26.



**OUR SYMPATHY** to the family of Marilyn Anderson who passed away December 19.

**2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available outside the sanctuary in alphabetical order. Please come and pick yours up either after worship or during the week. If you need envelopes or if you don't want envelopes, contact the church office. Thank you.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTAS** if you have not already picked up your poinsettia that you ordered for the Holidays, please stop in and pick yours up.

**DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

**January 8**—ILCW Gathering all about Dolls at 9:30 a.m.

**January 19**—2025 Annual Congregational Meeting at 10:15 a.m.

**January 25**—Aebelskiver/Frikadeller Dinner from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**March 15**—Tanzania Soup Supper and Auction





## Church News

# NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The Immanuel Council met November 12 with 10 of 13 members present. Craig Olson led devotion from a book by C.S. Lewis.

**Treasurer:** October income was \$19,920 and expenses were \$21,313 leaving a deficit of \$1,392 for the month and \$5,883 for the year. General Fund is at \$86,319 and Capital Reserve is at \$77,397.

**Worship/Evangelism:** We are going to look for an architectural consultant who can redesign the lighting and space in the front of the sanctuary.

**Fellowship/Education:** LYO high school group has grown and we are now feeding them each week. We need to see an increase in our youth fellowship budget. Spark Story Bibles have been purchased for children to use during worship.

**Stewardship/Outreach:** November Mission Partners are West Central Community Action and Shelby County Community Outreach.

**Executive:** Annual Congregational meeting was scheduled for January 19, 2025. Discussed employee reviews and increases in salaries and hours. Annual financial review will be scheduled.



## DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The Immanuel Council met December 10 with 12 of 13 members present. Dave Greve led devotions with a testimony about God's voice calling us to not give up. January devotions will be led by John Taggs. Eric, Rich and Barb, Joey, Vicki, John, Craig, Scott, Todd, Dave, and Trent volunteered for deacon duties.

**Treasurer:** November income was \$19,443 and expenses were \$23,306 leaving a monthly deficit of \$3,863 and a YTD deficit of \$9,747. General Fund is at \$82,810.75 and Capital Reserve is at \$78,397.86.

**Outreach/Stewardship:** December mission grants are Lutheran Bible Translators, LC Clinic, and Open Door Mission for \$1000 each.

**Property:** Furnace motor was fixed.

**Executive:** Ballot from the Nominating Committee was approved. For Council – Vicki Strissel, Scott Shannon, Ken Nielsen, and Kirk Jacobsen. For Trust Committee – Dave Voge. For 2025 Nominating Committee – Darin Haake, Lonnie Pitts, Mitch Petersen. 2025 Budget of \$288,491 was approved.

**Pastor:** Jared Walters needs to have an internship with a church as part of his B.A. in ministry at Institute of Lutheran Theology Christ College.

**Old Business:** Council had a review of the AED.

**Correspondence:** Thank you for donations of \$500 from Shelby County ISU extension for letting them use our building around fair time.

### WORSHIP & GIVING

|                      | <u>Attendance</u> |   |     |       | <u>General</u> | <u>Building</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------|---|-----|-------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Nov. 23-24           | 18                | + | 134 | = 152 | \$ 2,865.00    | \$ 50.00        | \$ 2,915.00  |
| Nov. 30-Dec 1        | 16                | + | 108 | = 124 | \$ 5,958.00    | \$              | \$ 5,958.00  |
| Dec. 7-8             | 16                | + | 160 | = 176 | \$ 5,575.00    | \$ 35.00        | \$ 5,610.00  |
| Dec. 14-15 cancelled |                   | + | 83  | = 83  | \$ 4,385.00    | \$              | \$ 4,385.00  |
| Dec. 21-22           | 23                | + | 215 | = 238 | \$ 8,514.25    | \$              | \$ 8,514.25  |
| Dec. 24              | 60                | + | 365 | = 425 | \$ 5,025.00    | \$              | \$ 5,025.00  |
| Dec. 28-29           |                   | + | 77  | = 77  | \$ 3,254.00    | \$              | \$3,254.00   |



ILCW (Immanuel Lutheran Church Women) will be gathering on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 9:30 AM in the fellowship hall. The gathering topic is all about Dolls presented by Julie Vorm. If you have any dolls that you would like to bring in and share with the group that are special to you, please bring them in. We would love to see them. We hope that you will join us for great fellowship. Everyone is welcome.



**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, 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), and Dave Burmeister (Sue Olson's son-in-law).



**WORSHIP SERVICES** at Immanuel are streamed on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/ilcharlan](https://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](http://www.harlanimmanuel.org/sermons.html).



## TANZANIA HAPPENINGS

Immanuel currently is in the midst of working on well #12 in Tanzania. The soil testing and the well drilling has been completed. We are thankful that they hit lots of quality water. We are now receiving the bids for the water tower and the solar pump and connections, although this part normally takes some time. The TZ committee received personal donations over the last several months to push us over the \$14,000 mark. So, we called Wallace the Pastor that manages the well drilling on that end and the well was drilled within the week! This well is a bit unique because it services two schools, one secondary school and one primary school besides the villagers around Masilu preaching point of Kidugala. There are more than 800 students in those two schools. When we told Wallace about the desire to drill well #12, he jumped right on it. The students at these two schools are currently getting their drinking water out of the river and this is the time of the year when the river water quality is the worst. Thank you, Immanuel, for supporting good drinking water in the Kidugala area of Tanzania.

The annual **TZ Soup Supper and Auction** is coming up sooner than we think. Please save the date of **March 15, 2025**, for a great time at the supper/ auction! Hope to see you there.

The TZ committee hasn't heard back from Kidugala on the exact dates that ambassadors will be visiting to help celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> year of our partnership in Christ. We gave them a range of dates to pick from so stay tuned for this late summer event.

Mungu Akubariki (God Bless you all)

TZ Team

**THE TANZANIA GROUP** is selling rhubarb pies for \$14. Pies will be available anytime during the week at the church, check with the church office. Proceeds will support orphans and other projects with Kidugala.





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Lutheran Church  
LCMC  
1700 19th Street  
Harlan, IA 51537

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PERMIT NO. 97

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Office Hours: 9-1(M-F)

Office Email: [ilc@fmctc.com](mailto:ilc@fmctc.com)

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

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[www.harlanimmanuel.org](http://www.harlanimmanuel.org)

Staff:

Pastor Phil Nielsen

Office Manager: Connie Boysen

Custodian: Slava Aleev



# JANUARY 2025

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY                        | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY | SATURDAY   |
|---|-------------------------------|---|---|---|--------|--|
|   |                               |   | 1<br>OFFICE CLOSED<br>NEW YEARS DAY   | 2   | 3      | 4<br>5:00 Communion                                      |
| 5<br>8:00 Choir<br>9:00 Communion/JAM<br><br>10:00 Coffee Fellowship<br>10:15 Adult Bible Class<br><br>5:00 Boy Scouts<br><br>7:00 Boy S. Leaders | 6<br>5-8 Shelby C. Univ Women | 7<br>9:00 CF Quilters<br><br>6:00 Worship Comm.<br><br>7:30 Fellowship Ed.<br>Comm. | 8<br>9 ILCW Bd Mtg &<br>9:30 ILCW Gathering<br><br>3:30 GROW<br>4:00 Women's Bible<br>5:30 Confirmation<br><br>6:30 LYO | 9   | 10     | 11<br>5:00 Worship                                       |
| 12<br>9:00 Worship/JAM<br>10:00 Coffee Fellowship<br>10:15 Adult Bible Class<br>5:00 Boy Scouts   | 13                            | 14<br>9:00 CF Quilters<br>6:30 Executive Board<br>7:00 Church Council               | 15<br>3:30 GROW<br>4:00 Women's Bible<br>5:30 Confirmation<br><br>6:30 LYO  | 16<br>NEWSLETTER<br>DEADLINE<br><br>6-9 Ladles Homestead<br>Gathering | 17     | 18<br>5:00 Communion                                     |
| 19<br>8:00 Choir<br>9:00 Communion/JAM<br>10:00 Coffee Fellowship<br>10:15 Annual Meeting<br><br>5:00 Boy Scouts                                  | 20                            | 21<br>9:00 CF Quilters<br><br>2:00 Bunco  | 22<br>3:30 GROW<br>4:00 Women's Bible<br>5:30 Confirmation<br><br>6:30 LYO  | 23  | 24     | 25<br>5:00 Worship<br>5:00-7:00 Aebelskiver & Frikdeller |
| 26<br>9:00 Worship/JAM<br>10:00 Coffee Fellowship<br>10:15 Adult Bible Class<br>5:00 Boy Scouts   | 27<br>1:00 Mission Quilters   | 28<br>9:00 CF Quilters  | 29<br>3:30 GROW<br>4:00 Women's Bible<br>5:30 Confirmation<br>6:30 LYO  | 30  | 31     |  |
|   |                               |   |   |   |        |  |

# Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule

|                            | January 4-5                                 | January 11-12                               | January 18-19                               | January 25-26                               | February 1-2                                    |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acolytes                   | Will Chipman<br>Cora Clay                   | Trinity Haas<br>Gavin Herbst                | Kolton Jensen<br>Truman Kjergaard           | Pyper Montgomery<br>Cade Neve               | Zoey Olson<br>Jace Palmer                       |
| Saturday Greeter/Usher     | Sally Nairn                                 | Dory Nielsen                                | Linda Peterson                              | Orvetta Priest                              | Terry/Shelly Saunders                           |
| Saturday Altar Guild       | Sandy Nelsen                                | x   | Maggie Hatcher                              | x   | Cheryl Nielsen                                  |
| Sunday Greeters/Ushers     | Jay & Susie Nielsen<br>Neil & Melanie Ohms  | Julie Olson<br>Jeff & Penny Nelson          | Ken & Shirley Olson<br>Kevin & Jahde Osborn | Kari Palmer<br>Dylan & Katie Petersen       | John & Gaylen Petsche<br>Bruce & Rita Pfannkuch |
| Sunday Altar Guild         | Donna Nelson<br>Kate Petersen               | x   | Stacey Torneten<br>Vicki Strissel           | X   | Mary Taggs<br>Cora Chapman                      |
| Scripture Reader (Sunday)  | Elaine Miller                               | Sandy Nelsen                                | Craig Olson                                 | Mitch Petersen                              | Pam Rust  |
| Communion Servers (Sunday) | Judi Olson<br>Megan Shannon                 | x   | Lindsey & Julie Vorm<br>Kathy & Ron Block   | X   | Peg Haas<br>Janet Johannsen                     |
| Coffee Hosts (Sunday)      | LaVera Angel & Katie Stern                  | Terry & Stacy Torneten                      | Calven Twenhafel<br>Jason Weis              | George/Jan Applegate                        | Vicki/Ken Carsten:                              |
| Sound                      | Alan Ahrenholtz                             | Alan Ahrenholtz                             | Alan Ahrenholtz                             | Alan Ahrenholtz                             | Seth Johannsen                                  |
| Video                      | Dave Greve                                  | Dave Greve                                  | Dave Greve                                  | Dave Greve                                  | Grant Chipman                                   |
| Projection                 | Cheryl Nielsen(Sat.)<br>Teri Johnson (Sun.) | Cheryl Nielsen(Sat.)<br>Teri Johnson (Sun.) | Cheryl Nielsen(Sat.)<br>Teri Johnson (Sun.) | Cheryl Nielsen(Sat.)<br>Teri Johnson (Sun.) | Cheryl Nielsen(Sa<br>Teri Johnson (Sun.         |
| Council Person             | John Taggs                                  | Craig Olson                                 | Scott Shannon                               | Todd Madsen                                 | Dave Greve                                      |