

The VISITOR

Monthly Newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church

Volume 8 Issue 12 December 2017

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MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission, as disciples of Jesus, is to commit ourselves to making Christ known through worship, service, outreach, learning and loving one another.

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From The Pastor's Desk....

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to one of the buried treasures of our faith: the season of Advent. This quiet season of the year, which begins the fourth Sunday before Christmas (Dec 3), is overshadowed by its neighbor, Christmas. In fact, Christmas has become such a huge economic engine in our society that the average American plans to spend over \$900 on holiday gifts and goodies this year (Gallup Poll). Total holiday retail sales will likely surpass \$680 billion (statista.com). The Christmas shopping season officially begins on Black Friday, although now it has crept into Thanksgiving Day as well. Christmas markets and Santa Claus are everywhere. Christmas trees and decorations are up, and Christmas music is playing in shopping malls and on radio stations.

Yet in the midst of our cultural celebration of Christmas during these noisy and hectic weeks, Christians here and there still dare to say to anyone who may be listening: "Not yet!" There is something to be said for carving a time of silence out of all the noise, a time of slowing down out of all the rushing around, a time to listen to the voice of John in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

Advent doesn't compete with Christmas or take away from its importance. Quite the opposite is true! It is precisely *because* Christ's coming into the world as the Word Made Flesh is so important, that we take these days before Christmas to open our hearts and our lives to the One who is coming. Now is the time for us to repent: to turn away from the thousands of distractions all around us and realign ourselves with God's purposes – peace on earth, justice and reconciliation, comfort and joy.

While you are busy shopping for Christmas presents for others, give yourself an early Christmas present this year: the gift of Advent! Join your brothers and sisters at Immanuel in Advent worship, prayer, and bible study. You'll be glad you did!

Wishing you and yours a blessed Advent,
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

~Pastor Charlie

3184 Church Street, PO Box 739, Manchester, MD 21102
P410-374-4463 F410-775-5796 Einfo@ielcmd.org WImmanuelLutheranCCMD.org

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND GROW AT IMMANUEL

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Meets weekly throughout the year in the Martin Luther Room following the worship service, approximately 10:15–11:15am. On coffee hour Sundays, we meet 10:45–11:30am. Our study of **Luther's 95 Theses** continues through Dec 17.



MIDWEEK PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Morning Group meets in the Oak Tree Room at 11am on **Tuesday Dec 5, 12, & 19** for “**See Through the Scripture**” which provides a bird’s eye view of the entire Bible that will help you see how it all fits together. No previous knowledge of the Bible is required for this or any other of our Bible studies.

Evening Group topic is **Message of the Prophets** and meets at the Pastor’s home, 840 Hughes Shop Rd, Westminster MD 21158, at 7pm on **Wednesday Dec 6 & 13 and Tuesday Dec 19.**

CONFIRMATION CLASS schedule for December has changed. Sessions will be held **at 7pm** in the **Oak Tree Room** on

Monday Dec 4, Sunday Dec 10, and Monday Dec 18.

PASTOR CHARLIE’S

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS BIBLE CHALLENGE – GET READY!

In December, we journey through the season of Advent and into Christmas, preparing for the coming of the Lord with readings primarily from the Old Testament Prophets.

The online Bible Study will continue with daily comments from Pastor Charlie on Facebook. Email him at pastorc@ielcmd.org if you would like to join this private group, or if you would like to receive copies via email of the comments he posts there each day.

| | |
|------------|------------------|
| 12/1/2017 | Zechariah 14:1-9 |
| 12/2/2017 | Micah 2:1-13 |
| 12/3/2017 | Isaiah 64:1-9 |
| 12/4/2017 | Micah 4:1-5 |
| 12/5/2017 | Micah 4:6-13 |
| 12/6/2017 | Micah 5:1-5a |
| 12/7/2017 | Hosea 6:1-6 |
| 12/8/2017 | Jeremiah 1:4-10 |
| 12/9/2017 | Ezekiel 36:24-28 |
| 12/10/2017 | Isaiah 40:1-11 |
| 12/11/2017 | Isaiah 26:7-15 |
| 12/12/2017 | Isaiah 4:2-6 |
| 12/13/2017 | Malachi 2:10-3:1 |
| 12/14/2017 | Luke 1:5-17 |
| 12/15/2017 | Habakkuk 2:1-5 |
| 12/16/2017 | Habakkuk 3:2-6 |

| | |
|------------|--------------------|
| 12/17/2017 | Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11 |
| 12/18/2017 | 1 Kings 18:1-18 |
| 12/19/2017 | 2 Kings 2:9-22 |
| 12/20/2017 | Malachi 3:16-4:6 |
| 12/21/2017 | 2 Samuel 6:1-11 |
| 12/22/2017 | Zephaniah 3:8-13 |
| 12/23/2017 | Zephaniah 3:14-20 |
| 12/24/2017 | Isaiah 9:2-7 |
| 12/25/2017 | Isaiah 62:6-12 |
| 12/26/2017 | Jeremiah 26:1-15 |
| 12/27/2017 | Exodus 33:18-23 |
| 12/28/2017 | Jeremiah 31:15-17 |
| 12/29/2017 | Isaiah 49:5-15 |
| 12/30/2017 | Proverbs 9:1-12 |
| 12/31/2017 | 1 Kings 3:5-14 |

PRAYER LISTS

Currently at Immanuel Lutheran Church there are two opportunities to request you or your loved ones be included in prayer. On the last page of the church bulletin, we print the names of individuals that have requested prayer. Also, there is a group of ladies, who will include you or your loved one in their daily personal prayers.



In order to be sure that we are meeting the needs of our congregation, please call Immanuel's church office to request either one or both of the two opportunities. The office phone number is 410-374-4463.

Names remain on the church's printed list for four weeks. At the end of the four weeks, without information to the contrary, the name will be removed. If needed, you should call the office to have the name remain or to place the individual back on our prayer list.

MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

Rev. Wal Reat is our ELCA Global Missionary sponsor. He serves in South Sudan among the refugees in several camps along the border between South Sudan and Ethiopia. Keep Rev. Wal in your prayers.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYER AND HEALING

Pastor offers individual prayer at the communion rail, with anointing and laying of hands for healing for those who desire it before each service.

MARYLAND FAITH HEALTH NETWORK

This new partnership between Immanuel and LifeBridge Health will enable us to be better informed and provide more consistent care and support for our members during and following hospitalization at Carroll, Northwest or Sinai Hospitals.

Registration forms are available in the back of the sanctuary and in the church office. If you have not already done so, please register soon. You will receive an ID card you can use when you are hospitalized, which will enable the hospital to be in touch with us to let us know you are there.

We are looking for volunteers! Please see Judy Bixler or Pastor Charlie, or contact the church office, if you are willing to ...

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| * visit someone at home or the hospital | * make a phone call |
| * give a ride to a medical appointment | * write a note or send a card |
| * prepare and/or deliver a simple meal | * pray for someone in the hospital |



COMMUNICATION DEADLINES

Information to print in the weekly service bulletin must be received by noon on the Wednesday prior to worship. Information to print in the monthly newsletter must be received by the 15th of the month prior.

JUST IN TIME FOR YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING!!

You can help Immanuel by linking your Amazon account to our Church ID. We receive 0.5% proceeds from your purchases. Start with this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-0729004> then after confirming Immanuel as the Charitable Organization to receive the proceeds, you will then be directed to the 'regular' Amazon webpage. *Happy Shopping!*

TIS THE SEASON...

At Immanuel, we hold that every member of the congregation is a gift and blessing from God. Keeping this in mind, it is our responsibility to care for the safety of each and every member of the congregation. Therefore, weather conditions or circumstances may establish the need to cancel worship services and/or activities.

The policy is to evaluate the situation (weather or other conditions) and when possible make the decision to cancel services or activities **two hours prior** to the service or activity through the following official sites:

WBAL Ch. 11 television closure site

Immanuel's Facebook page

Immanuel's Web site (www.immanuel.lutheranccmd.org)

Immanuel's Office Phone Recorded Message (410-374-4463)



In the event of a cancellation, the message will be conveyed in the above media forms and the pastor will try to offer an alternative time. The decision to cancel activities will be made by a review of the NOAA.gov website, in consultation with the Council President and Pastor. The policy may be amended at any time with the consent of the council.

YEAR-END TAX TIPS

As we get closer to the end of the calendar year, we think of ways to minimize our income tax liabilities for the tax year.

*Did you know ... if you transfer your common stock to the church you receive a donation in the amount that it is worth on the date of the transfer? If you would like more information please contact Rachel Murphy, Jeremy Edwards or Audrey Shaffer.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelope boxes for 2018 are available for pick up. Remember that your envelope number may have changed from last year. Please make an effort to pick up your box of envelopes to ensure that your donations are posted correctly. Thank you.



NORTH CARROLL MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry is open every Thursday from 3:30 to 4:30pm, unless schools are closed. Food is free to anyone in need. The pantry is in a room by the parent pick up entrance in front of building next to gym. (2401 Hanover Pike Hampstead 21074) Any questions or concerns, please contact: School Principal, Ralph Billings or School Counselor, Mary Dee Oxen at 410-751-3440 or mdoxen@carrollk12.org.

CHRISTMAS IN A BARN

Christ Lutheran Church presents Christmas in a Barn on Sunday, Dec 17th at 5pm held at the Peregoy Farm on Grace Rd in Hampstead. Dress warm, bring a flashlight and blanket– it's a barn and not heated.

CONCERTS AT GETTYSBURG

Schola Cantorum, the choral group with which Caroline Marshall sings, will be performing twice in December at Gettysburg Seminary Chapel. Admission is free. A freewill offering will be received during intermission. Contact Caroline or Pastor Charlie for more information.

***Festival Choral Vespers for Advent Sunday, Dec 3 at 7:30pm**

The holiday season kicks off with candlelight prayer and the Schola Cantorum singing some of the last millennium's most beautiful music of hope and expectation.

***Christmas Offering: Sunday, Dec 17 at 7pm**

Our annual holiday sampler of favorite performers and festive music, this year led by Wayne Hill, the Ben Jones Brass, the Gettysburg Children's Choir, and the Schola Cantorum with Stephen Folkemer on the organ.

LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP

Thursday, Dec 21 at 7pm

This joint worship service with Trinity UCC on the longest night of the year offers a simple yet moving Christmas celebration for those who find it hard to rejoice this Christmas due to the stress of illness, loss, or depression. The service this year will be held at Trinity UCC, next door to Immanuel, and will be co-led by Pastor Charlie and Pastor Suzanne.

PASTOR SUZANNE'S FAREWELL SERVICE

Sunday, Jan 7 at 10:45am

Pastor Suzanne Schmidt, our neighbor at Trinity UCC, will be retiring next month. The people of Trinity are inviting us to attend her farewell service on Sunday, January 7 following Immanuel's 9am Epiphany worship service. We wish Pastor Suzanne all the best as she moves into the next chapter of her life!

North East Social Action Program



Mission Statement:

North East Social Action Program's mission is to extend God's compassion and provide assistance to the community in need.

NESAP is a Christian nonprofit organization that has served residents in need in Carroll County and parts of Baltimore County, MD, since 1984. Our services include financial assistance for rent, fuel, utilities, transportation, minor medical, as well as food, clothing, school supplies and Christmas assistance. Thrift Store at 1046 S Carroll St in Hampstead.

NESAP 2017 Holiday Food Drive suggested donations:

canned peas, corn, green beans, baked beans, sweet potatoes, fruit, applesauce, cranberry sauce, cake mix, icing, corn muffin mix, flavored rice/noodle side dishes, macaroni and cheese, stuffing, soup

COMMUNITY DISCOUNT CARDS

For everyone on your list ... Naughty and Nice!

Available for sale in the store are our 2018 Community Discount Cards. A full year of savings from the following local merchants:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Outlaw BBQ | J&P's |
| Bertuccio's Bakery | Matthews Tire |
| Dutch Corner | Petals, Flowers and Gifts |
| Fortune Inn | Pizza Hut |
| Genova's to Go | Spargos |
| Greenmount Bowl | Tevis home |
| Greenmount Station | Tropical Island Soft Serve & Snoballs |
| JJ Hoffmans' Creamery | |

**The price of each card is only \$5.
Get your before last year's card expires on Dec 1st!**

STEWARDSHIP

There are many ways of being part of what God is doing at Immanuel. One important way is through your regular church offering, which supports the ongoing operations of the church. In future months we will look at other vitally important aspects of stewardship.

Thank you to all who have submitted estimates of giving for 2018! Our totals so far are 36 households responding, with a total of \$100,644 anticipated regular giving in the coming year. You may still make an estimate of giving by contacting our financial secretary, Rachel Murphy, at the church office with your information by mail, email or in person. Please let her know if the amount represents what you plan to give weekly (x52), monthly (x12), quarterly (x4), or the total for the year.

2018 offering envelopes are available in the church narthex. Please pick yours up next time you are here. If you are unable to pick them up, notify the church office and we will make other arrangements. If you do not find a set of envelopes in your name, you may request a set through the church office and we will have them ready for you.

Another option for regular church giving is through our online giving portal, where you can make a one-time gift or set up an automatic weekly or monthly gift. Visit our web site, www.immanuellutheranccmd.org, and click on the link near the bottom of the home page that reads: "click here to give online." If you do not have internet access and would like to set up automatic giving, contact the church office and we will be happy to help.

We are working on a new, convenient way to give: mobile giving, using your cell phone. Look for more information in future newsletters.

Regardless how you give to God's work through Immanuel, we respect your privacy. Be assured that the only person who will know how much you give or your estimate of giving will be our financial secretary. She will provide you with a quarterly statement of giving in April, July, and October, and a year-end statement in January as a record of your giving and a way of ensuring that your records agree with ours.

Thank you so much for your generous support for God's work here at Immanuel!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Charlie

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Chair: Matthew Rooney, 570-947-4875
Administrative Team: Doris Dell, Jo Fleck, Jeanne Swain

On behalf of the KIT ministry, thank you to every volunteer who made a visit or reached out to a member of Immanuel during the month of October. The Administration team continues to receive positive feedback. The members of Immanuel truly enjoy and appreciate the KIT ministry visitations.

During the month of October, 3 visitations took place, 1 telephone conversation, and 1 letter was written. The KIT volunteers bring conversation, church bulletins, and prayer to those they visit. The Administrative team works with Pastor Charlie and the Stephen Ministers to address any further needs which may be identified during these visitations.

Our visitation list is always growing so if you know of someone who would like a visit by the KIT ministry please let us know.

We are still looking for eager volunteers to go out in pairs to visit designated members of Immanuel. The group will reach out to those in our congregation who are unable, or frequently unable to attend worship, or participate in church events and activities.

If you have questions about the KIT ministry please contact anyone on the administrative team. We hope you consider joining our visitation team!

MUTUAL MINISTRY

Chair: Bob Nicoll
Members: Christine Crouch, Rodgers Hagert, Sandy Voight,
Jamie Rooney, Pastor Charlie, Doris Dell, Brittany Trott



The Mutual Ministry team met on November 12th. During our meeting we reviewed the various activities taking place to improve communication and involvement within our church. Both topics were identified as areas for growth from the church survey results.

During this meeting we also welcomed the newest member of our team, Brittany Trott.

Our next bi-monthly meeting will be held on February 5th at 11:30am in the Martin Luther room. If you are interested in learning more about our team, please contact one of our members.

MISSIONS

Joe Fleck, jpflecksr@gmail.com, 410-848-5919

The Monthly Mission for December is The Lutheran Campus Ministry. The ministry at Towson State University is a member of the ELCA and is one of three such ministries in Maryland's Universities and Colleges. They provide an opportunity for Lutherans on the campuses to gather as Jesus did, around a table of friends and strangers to share the word and a meal. Pastor Laura is involved in this critical time in campus life of these young adults. We can help her in her mission with your generosity.

Their Mission Statement:

Who are we?

- We are followers of Jesus and those who want to learn more about Jesus.
- We serve our brothers and sisters in the name of Christ.
- We gather to eat, to worship, to learn from each other, to celebrate and to struggle.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you to everyone who donated time, money, and supplies for Operation Christmas Child.

With your generous donations we packed 60 boxes this year! That's double the amount we packed last year.

Brenda and Pete Wulforst, Deb Hebrank and Norm Downes dropped off the boxes on November 19th and we tracked a box, like we did last year.



Thank you again
for all your support!

~Matthew, Jamie and Declan Rooney

DEATHS

Carl McCullough

October 24, 1921 - October 24, 2017

THANKS

Donation received in memory of John Barron
and all The Blacks and The Sterners that have passed away by Virginia

Donation received in memory of Carl McCullough from
Doris Dell
Brad and Iva Martin
Nancy Little and Pearl Moffitt
Don Diserod

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Deb Hebrank, 410-952-3320; Rhonda Kiler, 410-239-7028;
Brenda Wulforst, 443-507-6753, Amanda Yingling, 717-880-5215



Christmas is fast approaching! We are sponsoring nine families from the Manchester/Hampstead area. Our giving tree is set up in the Narthex. Please consider taking a tag. We also have our table set up for food donations for our Christmas Baskets. If you have any questions or would like to help with the delivery of the gifts and food (on Saturday, Dec 16), contact Deb Hebrank, Amanda Yingling, or Rhonda Kiler.

NESAP/TOFF is in need of Mashed Potatoes. Please consider picking up a box from the dollar store and donating it. Thank you!!

Our last Table Of Grace for this year was served on October 31st. We served 117 clients with a hot meal of Beef Stroganoff over noodles, Green Beans, Fruit, Bread and Dessert. The meal was enjoyed by all!

We would like to thank everyone that helped this year whether at the Table Of Grace or helping us with our sponsored families. Please know that we could not accomplish this without your help! We look forward to working with you in the upcoming year. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!!

We also wish you and your family
a very Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy and Happy New Year!!!

PROPERTY

Chair: Brian Kremen
Members: Frank Burnette, Tim Rill

- In the process of securing the church better we have changed the locks. New keys have been given to the appropriate people. Next we will be upgrading some hardware on the doors themselves as they are very old and are in need of repairs.
- New LED lighting will be added at the rear door of the Sunday school building.
- Four new hose bibs have been rebuilt, with frost free devices and with a lockable water supply.
- The kitchen project plans have been completed. We are now ready to invite qualified contractors to provide us with the written proposals.
- AJ Michaels started the boilers for the winters. We had some small repairs that needed to be completed and all is up and running.
- Some of the sidewalks and the walkways have been power washed.
- The new snow blower is ready to go to work as soon as mother nature provides the snow.

2016 COUNCIL

President: Brenda Wulforst, 443-507-6753
Vice President: John Gregg, 410-599-3091
Recording Secretary: Jamie Rooney

Immanuel's church council met Tuesday, November 14 at 7 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Approved nominees for Cemetery Board

—Gene Black and Stanley Martin

Approved nominees for Church council, 2018-2020

—Tim Rill and Jeremy Edwards

Current and future security lighting at Immanuel was discussed. Property will evaluate all options to secure the parking lots and also to satisfy concerns of our neighbors.

OLD BUSINESS

The Congregational meeting scheduled for Sunday, November 19 was discussed. Final details regarding preparations for the business meeting and the German meal were reviewed.

FELLOWSHIP

Chair: Rhonda Kiler, 410-239-7028

Members: Deb Hebrank, 410-952-3320; Brenda Wulforst, 443-507-6753;
Linda Gregg; Matthew Rooney; Jamie Rooney

Our last coffee hour for this year will be December 3rd. Thanks to you we always had delicious baked goods and plenty of good conversation

Thanks to everyone who participated in the German Brunch held at the Annual Congregational Meeting on November 19, 2017. There were so many delicious dishes made by our congregation.



We are so thankful that you are always there
to support the Fellowship Committee
in all of the events we have had this year.

CONGREGATION MEETING 2017

- The 2017 Congregational meeting was held Sunday, November 19. The quorum was met. Attending members received the 2017 Annual Report.
- The 2016 meeting minutes were approved.
- Council nominees Tim Rill and Jeremy Edwards were elected to church council for 2018-2020. Cemetery board nominees were elected. They are Gene Black and Stanley Martin.
- Brian Kremen completed his term. Frank Burnette completed the term he filled for Tony Mancuso, who resigned in March, 2017. Frank will now complete the two year term of Todd Robinson, who resigned in the fall. Both Brian and Frank were thanked for all of their work on council.
- The 2018 budget was discussed and approved. Jeremy Edwards resigned as treasurer. Sharon Slivecky accepts the treasurer job as of Jan 2018.
- A video highlighting the past year was shown. Thank you to Jamie Rooney for preparing the video with the help of Pete Wulforst, who supplied pictures.




- Old Business highlighted the following:

Kitchen renovations are moving forward, American Red Cross has approved our Social Hall to be used in the event of a disaster, Faith Health Network encourages your participation, KIT is willing to serve our members, if you let us know who they are, LEAD is a new mission at Immanuel.

- The Sunday school and congregation members packed 60 boxes for Operation Christmas child. Over 75 cold weather bags were packed and donated by Delores Whitehead, Jane Taylor and their families. Members were encouraged to take bags with them to distribute to people in need. Thanksgiving meals were delivered to 9 families in the Manchester-Hampstead area.
- Members were encouraged to join Thrivent and use their dollars for projects of outreach. Remember to pick up 2018 offering envelopes.
- Immanuel has a growing partnership with Trinity. We will miss Pastor Suzanne when she retires in January.
- With the recent national events, Immanuel's church council is looking at ways to secure our church during worship services. More information will be published in the weekly bulletin and monthly Visitor.
- The meeting was adjourned.

December 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| 3 Missions Special Offering 9am Worship / Communion 10-15am Coffee Hour 10-15am Luther Men Practice 10-45am Adult Bible Study 7-30pm Choral Concert-Gettysburg Seminary | 4 7pm Confirmation Class 8pm AL-Anon 8pm AA | 5 11am Bible Study-OTR 7pm Scouts | 6 7-15pm AA 7pm Bible Study-Pr Home | 7 Pastor Retreat (Day) 6pm Chime Practice 7pm Choir Practice | 8 Pastor Day Off 8pm AA 8pm AL-Anon | 9 5pm Worship / Communion 6-30pm AA |
| 10 8-15am Children's Choir Practice 8-30am Luther Men Practice 9am Worship / Communion 10-15am Sunday School 10-30am Adult Bible Study 7pm Confirmation Class | 11 8pm AL-Anon 8pm AA | 12 11am Bible Study-OTR 7pm Scouts 7pm Church Council Mtg at Wulfford Home | 13 7pm Stephen Ministry 7pm Bible Study-Pr Home 7-15pm AA | 14 6pm Chime Practice 7pm Choir Practice | 15 Social Hall Reserved Pastor Day Off 8pm AA 8pm AL-Anon | 16 5pm Worship / Communion 6-30pm AA |
| 17 9am Worship / Communion 10-15am Sunday School 10-30am Adult Bible Study 7pm Choral Concert-Gettysburg Seminary | 18 9am Work Day 7pm Confirmation Class 8pm AL-Anon 8pm AA | 19 11am Bible Study-OTR 7pm Scouts 7pm Bible Study-Pr Home | 20 4-30pm Stephen Ministry (CLV) 7-15pm AA | 21 6pm Chime Practice 7pm Choir Practice 7pm Longest Night Worship at Trinity UCC | 22 Pastor Day Off 8pm AA 8pm AL-Anon | 23 5pm Worship / Communion 6-30pm AA |
| 24 9am Worship / Communion 10-30am Adult Bible Study 3pm Afternoon Service 7pm Family Service 9pm Candlelight Service | 25  Merry Christmas! 8pm AL-Anon 8pm AA | 26 7pm Scouts | 27 7-15pm AA | 28 6pm Chime Practice 7pm Choir Practice | 29 Pastor Day Off 8pm AA 8pm AL-Anon | 30 5pm Worship / Communion 6-30pm AA |
| 31 9am Worship / Communion 10-15am Sunday School 10-30am Adult Bible Study | | | | | | |

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Leaders: Bob Nicoll, Connie Dattilio

Members: Evonne Brilhart, Christine Crouch, Carol Nicoll, Audrey Shaffer

At the November Stephen Ministry meeting, our guest presenter was Kelly Anderson, Admissions Coordination for Assisted Living and the Skilled Nursing Health Care Center at Carroll Lutheran Village.

Because Stephen Ministers often have elderly Care Receivers undergoing life transitions, this was an important topic to explore. Kelly shared information about levels of care, admission criteria, financial considerations, and migrations between levels of care, both at Carroll Lutheran Village and at Continuing Care Communities in general. Although this was a session open to the congregation, only Stephen Ministers were in attendance. Kelly, however, left information with the Stephen Ministry team to distribute to those wanting more information about Assisted Living or the Health Care Center at Carroll Lutheran Village. Note that the Health Care Center provides long term skilled nursing care; memory care; and rehabilitation following surgery, illness, or injury.

For further information about Assisted Living or the Health Care Center at Carroll Lutheran Village, contact Kelly Anderson directly at 443-605-1067

Stephen Ministers have 50 hours of initial training, plus ongoing educational opportunities and peer supervision to help us meet the needs of our care receivers. If you are going through a difficulty such as loneliness, illness, divorce, or job loss, we can be there for you. There is no reason to hurt alone. A Stephen Minister is willing to walk along with you and to listen to you confidentially and without judgment. We are not professional counselors, but rather lay Christian caregivers willing to express our compassion and concern you when you are hurting. If you need the reassurance of God's love, and the knowledge that someone cares enough about you to share what you are struggling with, please talk with Pastor Charlie, or any of our Stephen Leaders or Stephen Ministers.



Stephen Ministers are the caregivers; God is the Cure Giver.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Susan Burnette, 410-357-9466, sb31220@gmail.com

Jerry Hoffman, 410-374-2565, Organist/Choir Director;

Audrey Moose, 410-429-4047, Chime Choir Director

Judy Bixler, 717-632-1805, Saturday Evening Service; Jennifer Holbrook, 410-374-6401, Acolytes;

Sandy Voight, 410-239-9428, Altar Guild; Wayne Thomas, 410-374-9538, Adult /Luther Men Choirs

Amanda Yingling, 717-880-5215, Children's Choir Coordinator

Looking Ahead ...

Dec 2-3

Advent 1

Poinsettia sales begin (deadline Dec 17)

Saturday @ 10am ~ *'Hanging of the Greens'*

decorating of sanctuary and tree

Special Missions Weekend Offering for

'Lutheran Campus Ministry, Towson'

Sunday Coffee Hour following morning service

Luther Men practice (choir room) after morning service

Dec 9-10

Advent 2

Poinsettia Sales continue

Sunday-Children's Choir practice @ 8:15am (K Room)

Luther Men final practice @ 8:30am (Choir Room)

Sunday-Special Music by Children's Choir and Luther Men

Dec 17-18

Advent 3

Sunday- Sunday School Christmas Program @ 9am

Poinsettia Sales deadline

Sat, Dec 23

Poinsettia Delivery @ 9am

Dec 23- 24

Advent 4

Christmas Eve Afternoon Service @ 3pm

Christmas Eve Family Service @ 7pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 9pm

Dec 30-31

Lessons & Carols Services @ 5 pm and 9 am

Jan 6-7

Epiphany

Special Missions Weekend Offering

Sunday Coffee Hour

DECEMBER ALTAR GUILD

Frank Burnette

Susan Burnette

Christmas Eve Services:

3pm: Ellen Linsenbardt

7pm: Steve Burris

9pm: Susan Burnette

DECEMBER HEAD USHERS

Saturdays at 5pm: Jeanne Swain

Sundays at 9am: Frank Burnette

Christmas Eve Services:

3pm: John Gregg

7pm: Debbie Hebrank

9pm: Brian Kremen

2018 ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIP CALENDAR

The 2018 Flower ~ Lessons & Prayers Sponsorship Calendar is now posted with forms and envelopes in the education hallway. Consider co-sponsoring with a family member or friend.



Prices: \$50 for both vases ~ \$25 for one vase ONLY
 \$30 for Center arrangement
 \$20 for Lessons & Prayers

Sign-up often to insure your choices. Fill out the needed sponsorship information form with your choice of payment and enclose in the supplied envelope. Place all sponsorships in the basket on the lamp table in office.

OCTOBER 2017 WORSHIP ATTENDANCES

| Weekend Dates | Saturday ~Sunday Attendance | Remarks: |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sept 30 / Oct 1 | 21 + 72 = 93 | Pentecost 17 |
| Oct 7 / 8 | 24 + 94 = 118 | Hymn Sing |
| Oct 14 / 15 | 22 + 66 = 88 | Pentecost 19 |
| Oct 21 / 22 | 14 + 95 = 109 | Pentecost 20 |
| Oct 28 / 29 | 22 + 97 = 119 | 500 th Reformation |
| Monthly Total | 527 | |
| Saturday Average | 21 | |
| Sunday Average | 85 | |
| Wkend Average | 105 | 5 weekends |

OCTOBER ATTENDANCE REVIEW

| Year | Monthly Attendances | Monthly Averages |
|------|---------------------|------------------|
| 2009 | 536 | 134 |
| 2010 | 562 | 112 |
| 2011 | 676 | 135 |
| 2012 | 563 | 141 |
| 2013 | 507 | 127 |
| 2014 | 506 | 127 |
| 2015 | 454 | 114 |
| 2016 | 550 | 110 |
| 2017 | 527 | 105 |

HANGING OF THE GREENS

On **Saturday, December 2nd**, beginning at **10am**, Worship and Music will gather for our yearly ***Hanging of the Greens***. The gathering area of the church and our Christmas tree will be decorated for the holiday season. Thank you to Wayne and Jean Thomas, of Thomas Tree Farm, for donating our beautiful tree. Join us for festive decorations and fellowship!

2017 SEASON of ADVENT

The **four weeks of Advent** begin the weekend of **December 2nd-3rd** and continue through the **9am Sunday morning service on December 24th**.



The liturgical color for Advent is blue, as displayed on the altar, lectern and pulpit parament cloths. The Advent wreathes, with their four blue candles surrounding a center Christ candle, will be lit one candle for each weekend during Advent; the Christ Candle being lit at the Christmas Eve services.

The congregation will sing the traditional Advent hymn, ‘*Light One Candle*’ (ELW[#]240). Join Immanuel’s family for this year’s Advent journey and ‘*Prepare the way of the Lord*’ as we await the birth of the Christ Child.

MUSIC MINISTRY @ IMMANUEL

Consider becoming a part of the Music Ministry of Immanuel!

We currently support four various groups:

The Sunday Adult Choir

The Chime Choir

The Luther Men

The Children’s Choir - ‘All God’s Children’



If you are not able to commit to regular practices at this time, but could participate occasionally during the year, please contact

Jerry Hoffman (*Organist/Choir Director*)

Audrey Moose (*Chime Choir Director*)

Wayne Thomas (*Luther Men Choir*)

Amanda Yingling (*Children’s Choir Coordinator*)

NO EXPERIENCE IS NEEDED.

just a willingness to help and ‘*make a joyful noise*’!

Sunday Adult Choir hold weekly practices on Thursdays from 7-8pm

Chime Choir practice on Thursdays at 6pm (in the auditorium)

The Luther Men, sing quarterly, will sing on Sunday, December 10th

Children’s Choir, sing on Sunday December 10th

More information on *Music Ministry Bulletin Board* in the office hallway.

DECEMBER LECTIONARY SERIES CONTINUES...

Begin or end your day with a Bible Reading.
Join us as we read through the month of December.

| Week of: | First Reading | Psalm | Second Reading | Gospel |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Nov 27 ~ Dec 3 Advent 1 | Isaiah 64:1-9 | Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 | 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 | Mark 13:24-37 |
| Dec 4 ~ 10 Advent 2 | Isaiah 40:1-11 | Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 | 2 Peter 3:8-15a | Mark 1:1-8 |
| Dec 11 ~ 17 Advent 3 | Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 | Psalm 126 | 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24 | John 1:6-8, 19-28 |
| Dec 18 ~ 24 Advent 4 | 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 | Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 | Romans 16:25-27 | Luke 1:26-38 |
| Dec 24 Christmas Eve | Isaiah 9:2-7 | Psalm 96 | Titus 2:11-14 | Luke 2:1-14 {15-20} |
| Dec 25 Christmas Day | Isaiah 62:6-12 | Psalm 97 | Titus 3:4-7 | Luke 2:{1-7}, 8-20 |
| Dec 26 ~ 31 Lessons & Carols | Isaiah 61:10 ~ 62:3 | Psalm 148 | Galatians 4:4-7 | Luke 2:22-40 |



Birthdays and Anniversaries are listed below.
If you wish to be included, contact Susan Burnette.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Donna Kreseski
Brett Bohli
Lindsey Bohli
Sandy Fisher
Ken Kiler
Johnny Day
Ricky Hoffman
Patty LaMotte
Todd Robinson
Alice Warehime

Amanda Yingling
Madelyn Edwards
Ernie Martin
Jane Taylor
Patrick Rickell
Zoe Gregg
Colby Trent
Eugene Black
Susan Burnette
Thomas Hagert

Michael Yingling
Lindsay Lopata
Donald Diserod
Janet Patterson
Debbie Miller
Rachel Graf
John Popp
Kevin Day
Barbara Skelley
Pam Mullins

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Rodgers and Janis Hagert | December 11, 1992 |
| Aaron and Lauren Lesser | December 11, 2010 |
| Gregory and Donna Patterson | December 18, 2010 |
| Harry and Jean Arbaugh | December 24, 1968 |
| Ron and Gloria Bryant | December 25, 1964 |

2017 POINSETTIA SALE



Orders for this year's **Christmas Eve Poinsettias** begin the weekend of **December 2nd / 3rd** and runs **through Sunday, December 17th**. Cost of \$10.50 each

Poinsettias can be sponsored by using an order form:

*found in the back of this newsletter

*found on the Poinsettia bulletin board at main entrance of Education wing

***** Remember to order one poinsettia per order form only *****

On the **order form**, include this necessary information:

~Choose one of the following:

‘To the GLORY of GOD’ or ‘In MEMORY of’ or ‘In HONOR of’

~Provide the correct wording for the bulletin insert

~Circle your choice of payment (cash or check written to Immanuel Church)

~Enclose order form with payment in the supplied envelope

Place in the ‘Poinsettia’ basket on the lamp table in the church office. If office door is locked, please drop through the door slot.

DEADLINE FOR ALL ORDERS: Sunday, December 17th. All orders received by the deadline will be included in this year's Christmas Eve bulletin insert. Direct any questions to Susan Burnette.



IMMANUEL'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Christmas Eve this year is on **Sunday, December 24th**. Immanuel offers three Christmas Eve Services:

3pm Afternoon Service

7pm Family Service

9pm Candlelight Service

Invite your family and neighbors!

Sponsored poinsettias may be picked up following the 9pm service.

December 2017 Worship Assistants

~ 5pm Saturday Services ~

| | Saturday December 2 Advent 1 | Saturday December 9 Advent 2 | Saturday December 16 Advent 3 | Saturday December 23 Advent 4 | Saturday December 30 Lessons & Carols |
|----------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|
| Head Usher | Jeanne Swain | Jeanne Swain | Jeanne Swain | Jeanne Swain | Jeanne Swain |
| Greeter | Nancy Hoffman | Charlotte Hann | Linda Black | Barb Davidson | Judy Bixler |
| Lector | Linda Black | Luther Myers | Jeanne Swain | Judy Bixler | Lessons & Carols |
| Offering Ushers | Barb Davidson Ron Davidson | Charlotte Hann Walter Hann | Linda Black Rodgers Hagert | Barb Davidson Ron Davidson | Judy Bixler Jeanne Swain |
| Communion | Linda Black | Jeanne Swain | Jeanne Swain | Judy Bixler | Linda Black |

~ 9am Sunday Services ~

| | Sunday December 3 Advent 1 | Sunday December 10 Advent 2 | Sunday December 17 Advent 3 | Sunday December 24 Advent 4 | Sunday December 31 Lessons & Carols |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|
| Head Usher | Frank Burnette | Frank Burnette | Frank Burnette | Frank Burnette | Frank Burnette |
| Altar Guild | Frank Burnette Susan Burnette | Frank Burnette Susan Burnette | Frank Burnette Susan Burnette | Frank Burnette Susan Burnette | Frank Burnette Susan Burnette |
| Greeters | Betty Miller Kathryn Regester | Jane Taylor Delores Whitehead | Chris Miller Debbie Miller | Linda Gregg John Popp | Dawn Burris Steve Burris |
| Lector | Pete Wulforst | Andy Kiler | Carol Nicoll | Carolyn Phillips | Lessons & Carols |
| Offering Ushers | Wendy Maloney Linda Schmidt Ron Schmidt Audrey Shaffer | Debbie Mace Steve Mace Alice Warehime Dale Warehime | Laurie Miller Steve Miller Brenda Murray Brenda Wulforst | John Gregg Matthew Rooney Barb Skelley Bill Skelley | Jeremy Edwards Barbara Guthrie Todd Robinson Ernest Weiss |
| Communion Stewards | Susan Burnette Norman Downes Jo Fleck Joe Fleck | Susan Burnette Connie Dattilio Carolyn Phillips Carroll Phillips | Susan Burnette Audrey Shaffer Bart Walder (intinction) | Susan Burnette Christine Crouch Debbie Hebrank Sandy Voight | Susan Burnette Jennifer Edwards Rhonda Kiler Audrey Shaffer |
| Acolytes | Jayden Bosnick Jordan Bosnick | Dylan Andrews Willis Kiler | Ryan Edwards Kyle Robinson | Jordan Bosnick Austin Gregg | Tanner Eckhardt Kyle Robinson |
| Crucifer | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- | Ashton Eckhardt |
| Pray w/ Pastor | Bob Nicoll | Connie Dattilio | Bob Nicoll | Christine Crouch | Connie Dattilio |
| Bell Ringer | Joe Fleck | Ernest Weiss | Bart Walder | Brian Kremen | Frank Burnette |

Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve Worship Assistants

| | 3pm Afternoon Service | 7pm Family Service | 9pm Candlelight Service |
|--|--|--|--|
| Head Usher | John Gregg | Debbie Hebrank | Brian Kremen |
| Altar Guild | Ellen Linsenbardt | Steve Burris | Susan Burnette |
| Greeters | Linda Gregg Zoe Gregg | Dawn Burris Steve Burris | Terri Rill Tim Rill |
| Lector | Pete Wulforst | Barbara Guthrie | Jeanne Swain |
| Offering Ushers | Rhonda Kiler Ernest Weiss Brenda Wulforst Pete Wulforst | Garth Eckhardt Chris Miller Debbie Miller John Popp | Jennifer Edwards Jeremy Edwards Jennifer Robinson Todd Robinson |
| Communion Stewards (Intinction) | Rhonda Kiler Brenda Wulforst Pete Wulforst | Norman Downes Bart Walder Amanda Yingling | Frank Burnette Susan Burnette Barb Yingling |
| Acolytes ~ Torchbearers | Dylan Andrews Austin Gregg | Ashton Eckhardt Tanner Eckhardt | Ryan Edwards Kyle Robinson |
| Crucifer | Andy Kiler | Bart Walder | Jeremy Edwards |
| Pray w/ Pastor | Christine Crouch | TBD | TBD |
| Bell Ringer | Ernest Weiss | Garth Eckhardt | Gene Yingling |

January 2018 Worship Assistants

~ 5pm Saturday Services ~

| | Saturday January 6 Epiphany | Saturday January 13 | Saturday January 20 | Saturday January 27 |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Head Usher | Jeanne Swain | Jeanne Swain | Jeanne Swain | Jeanne Swain |
| Greeter | Judy Bixler | Charlotte Hann | Barb Davidson | Linda Black |
| Lector | Linda Black | Luther Myers | Judy Bixler | Jeanne Swain |
| Offering Ushers | Judy Bixler Rodgers Hagert | Charlotte Hann Walter Hann | Barb Davidson Ron Davidson | Judy Bixler Rodgers Hagert |
| Communion | Linda Black | Jeanne Swain | Judy Bixler | Jeanne Swain |

~ 9am Sunday Services ~

| | Sunday January 7 Epiphany Sunday | Sunday January 14 Baptism of our Lord | Sunday January 21 | Sunday January 28 Youth Sunday |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Head Usher | Rhonda Kiler | Rhonda Kiler | Rhonda Kiler | Rhonda Kiler |
| Altar Guild | Frank Burnette Susan Burnette | Frank Burnette Susan Burnette | Frank Burnette Susan Burnette | Frank Burnette Susan Burnette |
| Greeters | Carolyn Kittelberger Betty Miller | Linda Gregg John Popp | Jane Taylor Delores Whitehead | YOUTH |
| Lector | Barbara Guthrie | Russell Jensen | Joe Fleck | YOUTH |
| Offering Ushers | Carolyn Phillips Carroll Phillips Linda Schmidt Ron Schmidt | Debbie Mace Steve Mace Alice Warehime Dale Warehime | Laurie Miller Steve Miller Brenda Murray Brenda Wulforst | YOUTH |
| Communion Stewards | Frank Burnette Susan Burnette Andy Kiler Audrey Shaffer | Susan Burnette Norman Downes John Gregg Debbie Hebrank | Susan Burnette Jeremy Edwards Matthew Rooney Sandy Voight | Susan Burnette Christine Crouch Norman Downes Audrey Shaffer |
| Acolytes | Jayden Bosnick Willis Kiler | Dylan Andrews Austin Gregg | Ryan Edwards Kyle Robinson | Ashton Eckhardt Tanner Eckhardt |
| Crucifer | Jordan Bosnick | Ashton Eckhardt | ----- | ----- |
| Pray w/ Pastor | Bob Nicoll | Connie Dattilio | Bob Nicoll | Christine Crouch |
| Bell Ringer | Frank Burnette | Bart Walder | Ernest Weiss | Brian Kremen |

NOTE: The Worship Assistant Schedules are subject to change during any weekend service. Reminder emails and/or phone calls are sent each week. Should you be unable to fulfill your responsibility, please contact Susan Burnette at sb31220@gmail.com or 410-357-9466. Thank you.

2017 Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

(Sale runs Saturday, Dec 2 – Sunday, Dec 17)



Name: _____ Envelope # _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Poinsettias Cost: \$10.50 each

**** One Poinsettia Per Order, Please ****

Please check or complete the appropriate space below
exactly as you wish it to appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

_____ To the GLORY of GOD

~ OR ~

In MEMORY of: _____

~ OR ~

In HONOR of: _____

Sponsored By: _____

CIRCLE PAYMENT OPTION: Cash vs Check # _____ Payment Enclosed: \$ _____

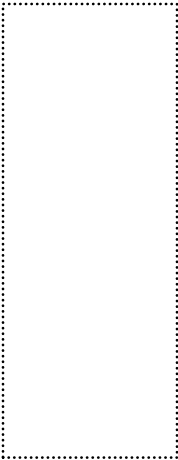
1. Make your check payable to: *Immanuel Lutheran Church*.
2. Place this completed information with your payment in the envelope provided.
3. Place envelope in the 'Poinsettia' basket on the lamp table in the office.
4. DEADLINE IS: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th.

Thank you, Worship & Music

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
3184 Church Street
PO Box 739
Manchester, MD 21102

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Mailed 11-29-17