



The Image

December 2022



Immanuel Lutheran Church

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“It’s the most wonderful time of the year....”

There is indeed something wonderful about the Advent and Christmas season. In part, it is the feeling of excitement and anticipation as we look forward to celebrating Christmas. We may delight in giving and receiving gifts. We may relish the traditions. We may appreciate the family time. There is also a sense of enjoyment in getting cozy during the cold winter months.



We may love to experience *hygge* inside while we watch the beauty of the snow falling outside. The term *hygge* became popular here in the U.S. a few years ago after some books and articles came out describing this way of life.

An article from the New Yorker quoted the Oxford Dictionary and described it this way:

“hygge,” a Danish term defined as “a quality of coziness and comfortable conviviality that engenders a feeling of contentment or well-being.” Pronounced “hoo-guh,” the word is said to have no direct translation in English, though “cozy” comes close. It derives from a sixteenth-century Norwegian term, *hugga*, meaning “to comfort” or “to console,” which is related to the English word “hug.” Associated with relaxation, indulgence, and gratitude, *hygge* has long been considered a part of the Danish national character.

Perhaps when we gather together for our Advent & Christmas services and events at church this season, we can draw on the spirit of *hygge*. It could be another way of experiencing Sabbath in this new season. God’s Sabbath rest for us could feel like a warm hug and a hot cup of cocoa. As we allow ourselves to relax and get cozy we can be filled up with God’s peace and joy. In turn, we share that cozy spirit with others. Extending a cup of tea or a warm blanket to share in the enveloping grace and love of God with us, Immanuel, this season.



Happy Hygge and Merry Christmas!
Pastor Jamie



Advent Services - Sundays at 9 AM

Sunday, November 27th

Sunday, December 4th

Sunday, December 11th with Choral Cantata

Sunday, December 18th with Children's Program & Christmas Cookie Share to follow worship

Worship on Wednesday - 6 PM

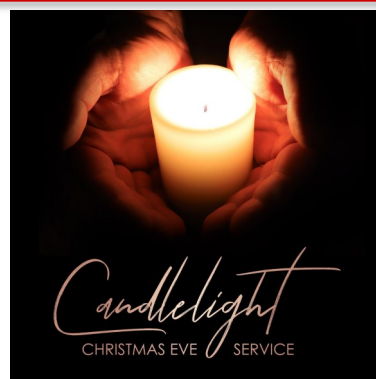
Wednesday, December 7th

Wednesday, December 14th

*ELCA Christmas Day Service
10 AM at Grace Lutheran*



*Christmas Eve
Worship at 4 PM*



LOOKING AHEAD...

Service Lessons & Carols
at Immanuel
January 1st - 9 AM



Study Isaiah!

Wednesday Bible Study - 10 AM

During Advent our Wednesday morning Bible study will be using a Bible study prepared for the synod by Pastor Greg Kaufmann.

Please join us for this 4-part series on Wednesdays:
Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21 at 10 a.m.

More resources here!

<https://nswi.org/isaiah-bible-study>

Youth & Family Ministry News

By Alyssa Engedal familyministry@immanuelec.org

Children's Christmas Program - December 18

Our Christmas Program has gone to the birds! Well, a cow, sheep, donkey and camel to be exact. Join us in worship on Sunday, December 18, to find out about the birth of baby Jesus, from the animals who were there! We will also have several youth sharing special music, hear the reading of the story from scripture, and get to sing some favorite hymns. The kids are hard at work preparing, and are excited to share this program with the congregation!



Christmas Tree Pick Up - January 8, 2023

Advent is here...that must mean it's Christmas tree time! Following the holiday, will you have a tree to get rid of? Our 2023 Summer Trip Team will once again be hosting a Christmas Tree Pick Up! This year's pick up will happen on January 8. You can sign up online using Sign Up Genius or on paper in Luther Hall. Donations can be left attached to the tree, given via PayPal (paypal.me/ImmanuelYouth) dropped off in the church office, or mailed in. Just sign up, get your tree out to the curb by 8 am, and we'll stop by your house and take away your tree! The cost is a free will donation to our trip. Thank you for your support! The link to online sign up can be found [HERE](#)!

Christmas Cookie Fundraiser - December 11

Do you love cookies? The 2023 Summer Trip Team is here to help you out! Following worship on Sunday, December 11 the team will be providing Christmas cookies. We will decorate them as a group ahead of time, then sharing them with all of you. Any donations given will go towards our upcoming trip to Tennessee.



LSS Gifts

Don't forget to return your LSS gifts! Presents should be returned to the church office, **wrapped and with the shopping tag attached**, by December 14. Thank you for your generosity!



Cozy Christmas - December 14

Join us for a Christmas-themed WoW on December 14th! Come in your coziest Christmas PJs. We will worship with our favorite carols and hear the Christmas story. Hot cocoa will be provided! Our youth will be collecting our LSS gifts and making Christmas cards for people in the congregation.

Family Fun Night - December 21

On Wednesday, December 21 there will be no WoW or learning...instead - we will have a family bowling night! Join us at Wagner's from 6 - 8 PM. Cost is \$11 per person and includes shoes and two hours of bowling. If you're planning to join us, please sign up in the Narthex. All are welcome!



"From Worry to Wonder"

A Christmas Message from Bishop Laurie

On June 19, 2020 our granddaughter was born. She was born three months into the pandemic. Her parents were worried. Her grandparents were worried. It is challenging enough to be pregnant and give birth in the best of times but to give birth in the middle of a worldwide pandemic is an even greater worry. We worried about the unknown dangers this virus might present to the mother, the unborn baby, and the new born baby. Our worries kept us up at night. Our worries were relieved when she was finally born, perfect in every way. Our worry gave way to wonder-filled joy. Worry transformed to wonder as we looked back to see how God was holding and carrying them through the unavoidable worry. Our worry transformed to gratitude and wonder watching for what God would be up to next in her tiny life.

It's December 2022. We prepare to celebrate the birth our Lord Jesus. This Advent we come with our fears and worries too. We are living in the midst of challenging times in our country. The very foundation of our nation seems less stable. We each come with our own personal set of worries and fears about our families, health, finances, work, safety, the future...What is it that keeps you up at night? What are you worried about today?

Folks across our church are experiencing doubts and uneasiness about the future of their church. Does it keep you up at night? What are the threats to your church's future? How can the conversation move from fear and worry to wonder? As the miracle of Christ's birth is celebrated this season, we can move from worry to wonder. We wonder what God is up to now in this day and age. Together we wonder what God's will is for the future of our church. Together we wonder; how can we use the abundance and blessings, (what we do have and opportunities in front of us), to make a difference in Jesus' name.

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. Luke 2:8-10a

Shepherds living in the fields watched over their sheep to keep them safe. There were dangers that kept the shepherds up at night and plenty of things for the shepherd's to worry about in the cold night like wild animals, predators, thieves, & bad weather. There was so much to worry about, but one night an angel of the Lord, all shiny and bright appeared and transformed their fears and worldly worry to divine wonder.

To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" Luke 2:11-14

Friends, you are precious, beloved, baptized children of God.

We know that the antidote to worry is to trust in God. During this Advent, Christmas and Epiphany season I pray that your worries will be transformed to wonder at what God is doing and promises to do in your lives and in our churches. May the miracle of Christ's birth transform your worries to wonder! I am grateful for your partnership in ministry.

Peace be with you, Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson



Checking In

PrepareEnrich Marriage Check-ups

Every marriage benefits from a periodic check-in. Parenting, career, family responsibilities, health, and just life in general, impact the vibrancy of relationships. Over time, couples often lose the ability and desire to talk about their relationship. Reignite companionship, romance, and commitment with P/E Checkup.

Pastor Jamie is a trained PrepareEnrich facilitator. Not only does this program help couples who are planning to get married, it also helps couples do marriage check-ins to strengthen existing marriages or cohabitating partnerships.

You can do this assessment online for only \$35. Pastor Jamie will then hold a free session with the couple to discuss the results, find couple exercises, and set goals to strengthen your relationship. This is a completely confidential session that will benefit your marriage and life! This is a great way to kick off January and new year.

To participate, email Pastor Jamie and she will send you a link to the survey and set up a virtual conference. Learn more at www.prepare-enrich.com



Beacon House provides safe shelter and meals for up to six families for 30 days. It is operated by **Family Promise of the Chippewa Valley, Inc.** and is located at 309 E Lake Street. Support is provided by the **Interfaith Hospitality Network**, comprised of volunteers from more than twenty Eau Claire-area congregations who provide evening meals for the families staying at Beacon House. Families are accepted from all area counties, although priority is given to current Eau Claire county residents, and those showing a strong intent to remain in the area.



OUR MISSION is to advocate for and support families who are homeless in our community by providing temporary housing and support services, and by fostering independence.

Unitarian Universalist and **Immanuel Lutheran Church** will provide evening meals from **Sunday, December 18th through Wednesday, December 21st only. We will not provide meals on Thursday 12/22, Friday 12/23, or Saturday 12/24. We will not be hosting meals or providing overnight assistance this week.**

However, volunteers are welcome to serve and to share meals with the residents. Your coordinator will give you a count of adults and children that we can expect; 12 to 15 residents is typical. Meals are served at approximately 5:30 pm. Please plan to deliver meals shortly beforehand.

Sign up [HERE](#) if you are interested in preparing or serving a main or side dish.

Thank you!



AMMPARO AT IMMANUEL



A message from our local ELCA AMMPARO organization:
As we prepare for Advent and remember the many stories of migration of our Biblical ancestors and contemplate all those who migrate in today's world and become our neighbors:

“Dios es nuestro amparo y fortaleza,” (“God is our refuge and strength,”) Psalm 46:1

AMMPARO is a holistic, whole church commitment by the ELCA, as a church in the world, to accompany children and their families today and in the future.

The word “amparo” in Spanish means the protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. The ELCA’s strategy to Accompany Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) was envisioned after witnessing the plight of children who are forced to flee their communities in Central America and Mexico because of complex and interrelated reasons, including chronic violence, poverty, environmental displacement and lack of opportunities.

AMMPARO in the Chippewa Valley has been active since 2019. ELCA congregational members meet regularly and Immanuel Lutheran Church acts as our fiduciary agent. To build awareness and serve our neighbor, we have hosted educational events, worked with Latino families, collaborated with community organizations like JONAH’s Immigration task force, Welcoming New Neighbors, and Chippewa Valley Bridge Builders. We have particularly relied upon Deacon Lidix Montoya’s knowledge and the Neighbor to Neighbor or Vecino a Vecino ministry.

We have given gas cards for parents to be able to get to work, and shared emergency funds to keep families in their homes, and we have helped with costly immigration legal representation fees. In order to show Christ’s love to our neighbors, we need funding.

- ♦ We have learned that to maintain DACA status there is a \$500 application and a \$500 reapplication fee every two years. This is a governmental processing fee and does not include advice from a lawyer.
- ♦ Currently we are advocating for a young victim of a crime who’s worked with law enforcement to apprehend the assailant. The individual can seek a protective visa that would allow her to work and live safely in the U.S . Applications and lawyer fees cost \$8,000 and more.
- ♦ Legal Representation for asylum applicants, (people who have fled their country and entered the U.S. legally) can cost \$10,000.

As we prepare for Advent and remember the many stories of migration of our Biblical ancestors and contemplate all those who migrate in today’s world and become our neighbors, please consider giving to our local AMMPARO organization. Checks may be sent to: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 3214 Golf Road, Eau Claire WI 54701. Address Check to: Immanuel Lutheran Church with AMMPARO in the memo line.



Jesus said,” ... I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Matthew 25:35

Green Tips for the Holidays by Sue Waits

As we enter the Christmas season, the Immanuel Green Team brings you a few environmental tips.

Packing Peanuts and Bubble Wrap

If you receive a package with packing peanuts, you can bypass the landfill by taking them to the PakMail store located at 2809 E Hamilton Ave for reuse. If your shipped items come wrapped in bubble wrap or plastic air pillows, you can drop off the plastic wrap at any location that takes plastic bags/film such as the drop box outside Festival Foods. (Do not put in curbside recycling bin)



Christmas Lights

Broken Christmas lights can be recycled by bringing them to the church and placing them in the red bucket by the office. The Immanuel Green Team will take all lights to First Choice for recycling.

Christmas Wrap

Most wrapping paper is not recyclable. To reduce waste, consider:

- Reusing gift bags you received last year or purchasing used gift bags at a thrift store
- Make a gift bag from scrap cloth
- Use kraft paper or newspaper to wrap gifts and decorate with pine boughs and raffia rather than ribbon. Newspaper and kraft paper are recyclable and compostable.
- Use old birdseed bags, old road map or other things you would normally throw away.
- Get creative and reuse what you have rather than purchasing wrapping paper. It is good for the environment and the bank account to reuse rather than purchasing new.



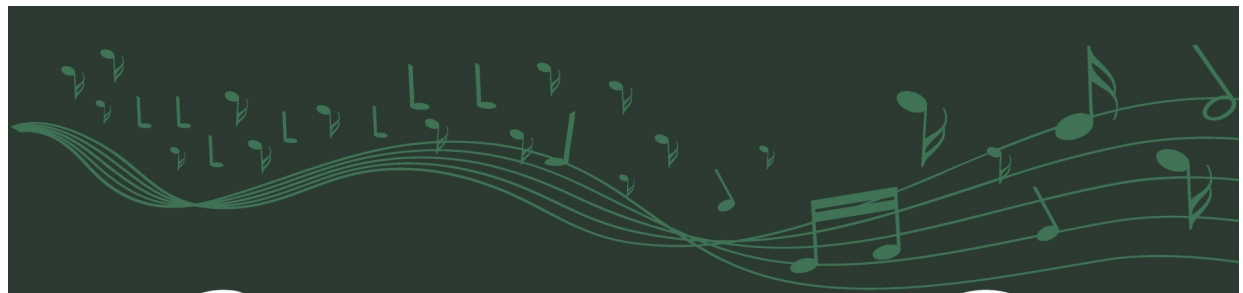
ZIP Chili Cook Off Update by Holli Jacobson

ZIP would like to thank the congregation for their generous support of our Chili Cook Off. We raised over \$450 for our upcoming trip. A Big Thanks to all the chefs for the tasty variety of chili and CONGRATULATIONS to Katie Pospishil who won the popular vote with her sweet chili recipe!

It was so great to have the event back at church!



THANK YOU to the congregation who supported our fall fundraiser clothing drive! We raised \$2,000! The kids voted and chose to donate 10% of our earnings to the Ronald McDonald House!



CAROLS & BARRELS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

6:00 P.M.

THE BREWING PROJEKT

ALL AGES WELCOME



You are needed...please consider volunteering for any of these tasks:



- Read the lessons at worship - Sign up [HERE](#)
- Food pantry greeter - Sign up [HERE](#)
- Assisting minister - Sign up [HERE](#)
- Usher/greet on Sunday morning - Sign up [HERE](#)
- Altar care - Sign up [HERE](#)
- Fellowship snacks - Sign up [HERE](#)
- Sunday A/V assistance - Sign up [HERE](#)
- JoF teacher (Contact Alyssa Engedal)
- Sing in the choir (Contact Tammie Delveaux Rubenzer)
- Play handbells (Contact Peggy Blomenberg)
- Join the Immanuel Green Team (Contact Sue Waits)

Call the church office if you have questions 715-577-4638



01 Rylie Hansen
04 Aidan Tarpenning
04 Elijah Drier
05 Sarah Nix
08 Donna Lehmkuhl
10 Diane Kaufmann
10 Kurt Lothe
11 Gavin Lutteke
13 Dave Langhus
13 Rozi Balts
14 Lynn Fox
14 Jennifer Larson
14 Jennifer Lashley
16 Greg Kaufmann
19 Eric Lundberg
20 Campbell Dean

21 John Bowman
22 Mark Olsen
22 Carrie Hansen
22 Karyn Odell
22 Amber Calkins
23 Jennifer Dean
23 Karla Hegde
24 Melissa Haas
24 Leah Carter
26 Emilie Anderson
26 Bryan Rassbach
27 Klair Hanson
28 Diane Blanshan
28 Nathan Schlieve
29 Carol Hanson

06 Mike & Luella Calkins
20 Nathan & Linda Aaseng
27 Greg & Diane Kaufmann
30 Monte & Violet Pederson
31 Chuck & Becky Ihle

Ten families in our community received a Thanksgiving Basket complete with turkey, side dishes and pie. Thank you for your generous food and monetary donations for this important yearly ministry!



The families were very appreciative!



December 2022

If you shop on Amazon, log into Amazon Smile. We receive \$ from your purchases:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-0990139>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 - Advent 1 9 AM Worship 10 AM Learning & Fellowship	28 4:00-6:00 PM Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM - H3	29 9:30 AM - H3	30 10 AM Bible Study 5:15 Meal 6 PM Worship 6:30 PM Learning/SHYN 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	1 Noon - 4 PM Material Witness Quilting	2	3
4 - Advent 2 9 AM Worship 10 AM Learning & Fellowship and Hanging of the Greens	5 4 - 5:30 PM Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM - H3	6 9:30 AM - H3	7 10 AM Bible Study 5:15 Meal 6 PM Worship 6:30 PM Learning/SHYN 7 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Mentor Meeting	8 Noon - 4 PM Material Witness Quilting	9	10
11 - Advent 3 9 AM Worship Choral Cantata 10 AM Learning & Fellowship	12 4 - 5:30 PM Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM - H3	13 9:30 AM - H3 7 PM Council Mtg	14 10 AM Bible Study 5:15 Meal 6 PM Worship—Cozy WoW 6:30 PM Learning/SHYN 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	15 Noon - 4 PM Material Witness Quilting 10:30 AM-9:00 PM Youth Fundraiser @ Panda Express	16	17
18 - Advent 4 9 AM Worship - Children's Christmas Program 10AM Fellowship and Congregational Cookie Share	19 4 - 5:30 PM Food Pantry Open NO H3	20 NO H3	21 10 AM Bible Study 7 PM Choir Rehearsal Preschool Christmas Programs Bowling Family Fun Night 6 - 8 PM at Wagner's	22 Preschool Christmas Programs	23	24 4 PM Christmas Eve Worship 
25 Christmas Day 10 AM ELCA Worship Service at Grace Lutheran 202 W. Grand Ave 	26 4 - 5:30 PM Food Pantry Open NO H3	27 NO H3	28 NO Bible Study No Choir Rehearsal	29	30	31



Pastor Jamie Brieske

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Address service required

Dated Material—useless if delayed

PLEASE
PLACE
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HERE



IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A congregation of the
Northwest Synod of the ELCA of Wisconsin*