



Love is on the Way!

Christmas Eve
4:00 PM and 9:00 PM

Christmas Day
9:00 AM



THE NEW START

Advent begins on Sunday, December 2nd this year, and with it the new church year. I have always appreciated the church year and the liturgical rhythms it brings. It reminds us that we do not operate on the world's time. Rather we center our lives around the birth, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Each season focuses on a different aspect of the Christian faith and life. Advent focuses on the arrival of Christ. It is a new beginning, re-centering ourselves on waiting for God. When Jesus came into the world, everything changed. During Advent we remind ourselves of this beautiful ever-unfolding reality. We reset our lives and our priorities. We assume a posture of hope.

This week I am getting out the new worship planning calendar in my office. I am setting out my new devotions and preaching commentaries. I am preparing for the new season. At home, you may be getting out the Christmas tree and the candles. You may be decorating your home in preparation for the Advent and Christmas season. You may take out the special nativity and your favorite reminders of the season. In doing so, you are preparing not only your home, but your spirits as well. We are resetting ourselves to God's time.

This Advent and Christmas season we do simple things that seem to make time slow down. We light candles and sing songs. We hear the old story of angels and shepherds and one precious baby. We tell the story to our children and grandchildren, and in amazement they tell the story back to us. It's a story about love. God coming into this world to be with us. God's great love for the world enfleshed in a tiny baby. This Advent season, God invites us to start anew. A new season. A new year. A new start filled with the hope that love is on the way.

In Christ's hope and joy,
Pastor Jamie Brieske

ELCA Good Gifts

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God is calling us into the world – together. And with generous, loving hands, we can make a difference.

On the little tree in the Narthex are tags for ELCA Good Gifts. Give a gift of a cow, pig or chickens this year!

Cookies for our Homebound Friends

Share a little Christmas cheer and help our folks who are home-bound feel a little more connected. Bring Christmas cookies to the church on Saturday December 15th by 10:00 AM. The packages will be ready for anyone to deliver on Sunday, December 16th to our Immanuel Friends.

Deck the Halls

The trees arrive on December 7th. After worship on December 9th, grab a cup of coffee and a snack and head to the Sanctuary or the Narthex to decorate the trees. All the trimmings will be ready to go!

Chippewa Falls Halmstad and Southview Elementary Music Students to sing at Immanuel!

December 18th at 4:00 PM

Helissa Bell and Tammie Delveaux will be bringing their students here to Immanuel to share their musical talents. After their performance, stay to enjoy a Christmas snack and beverage.

Wholly Yoga

December 4th at 7:00 PM
Join Sandy LaValley for restoration, relaxation and fellowship. After yoga stay for snacks and conversation.

Have questions about what it means to be a gay Christian?

There are great resources at queergrace.com, curated by Pastor Emmy Kegler, an ELCA pastor located in Minneapolis, MN. Here is an excerpt from the question, “Why do some Christians believe it is okay to be gay...?”

The Bible does not actually say that much on same-gender sexual activity.

In the Christian Scriptures, there are fewer than ten verses that talk about same-gender sexual activity, out of over thirty-one thousand total verses in the Bible. In contrast, there are hundreds of verses about caring for the poor and oppressed, and hundreds more about how to use one’s possessions and money. Some faithful Christians believe that we should focus on issues of poverty, liberation, and stewardship more than on issues of sexuality.

Same-gender relationships are not discussed in the Bible.

There are references in the Bible to same-gender sexual acts. However, sexuality and sexual orientation was understood in a very different way in the times when the books of the Bible were written. The concept of sexual orientation and the existence of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people simply were not ideas that the Bible writers had access to. When the writers of the Bible condemn same-gender sexual activity, they are not condemning loving, monogamous, committed, same-gender relationships as we experience them today, because those did not exist when the Bible was being written.

The church has previously come to re-understand “what the Bible says.”

Five hundred years ago, the Christian church believed (as did the rest of western civilization) that the sun rotated around the earth. Astronomers began to suggest, based on their observations, that the sun was actually the center of the solar system, and the earth moved around it. At first, the church rejected this outright. Some Bible verses specifically state that the earth cannot be moved (1 Chronicles 16:30, Psalm 104:5), or that the sun is what moves (Joshua 10:12-13, Ecclesiastes 1:5).

As the scientific community continued to study the stars and the sky, it became scientifically impossible to believe that the earth was the center of the universe. The church, then, had to recognize that the Bible verses that referred to the earth as “fixed,” or observed the sun moving around the earth, did not reflect reality.

The Christian church in America also experienced this divide over “what the Bible says” during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, in the debate over slavery. Both pro-slavery and anti-slavery advocates relied on verses and stories from the Bible to ground their beliefs.

Today, the church continues to discuss how to understand and apply Bible verses around divorce, the role of women in the church, military force, and many other topics.



EMMY KEGLER

Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, out looking for the lost coins of the world.

Parent's Night Out ~

The 2019 Summer Adventure Trip team invites all parents to have a night off! On Friday, December 7 from 5:00 – 8 PM they will entertain your kids while you take some time to yourself. Please contact Alyssa or get a registration form from the narthex. Cost is a freewill donation towards our trip.

Advent Celebration, Sunday, December 16

Our Journey of Faith kids are working hard on memorizing lines this year, to share the story of Christmas with all of you. And after worship, enjoy the Advent Feast! Sign-up to provide food is in the Narthex.

Family Fun Night

Roller Skating at High Roller!

All are welcome to join us for fellowship & pizza at the skating rink (on Melby Rd in Eau Claire) from 5:30 – 7:30 pm on Wednesday, December 19. Freewill donations will be accepted to offset the cost of our event. Included in the event are skating, roller skate rentals (blades are a small fee, or you can bring your own), use of the jungle gym, pizza & soda. See you there!

Don't forget to return your LSS gifts!

Presents should be returned to the church office, unwrapped & with the shopping tag, no later than December 12. Thank you for your generosity.

Need extra baked goods?

Our Summer Adventure team is here to help you out! Following worship on Sunday, December 9 the team will be hosting a Bake Sale. All items will be available for a Freewill Donation to our trip.

Family Retreat

The 2019 Immanuel Winter Retreat at Luther Park Bible Camp in Chetek is coming up quickly! Mark your calendar for the weekend of Feb 15-17. This retreat is for everyone! There will be a variety of games, crafts, and activities for all ages. We'll also spend time enjoying God's creation by taking winter walks, sledding, and (for those of you who prefer the great indoors) just enjoying the beautiful view of the lake through the large



Summer Trip update!

We have 17 youth, 2 college students & 2 adults participating in our trip and we are SO excited! We will be heading to Texas Creek, Colorado to spend a week in God's most beautiful creation, the mountains, camping, hiking, and rafting. Watch your Image over the next few months to get to know our team a little better. We appreciate your prayerful & financial support of this awesome faith opportunity.

Christmas Tree Pick-up

Since it's Advent...that must mean it's Christmas tree time! Following the holiday, will you have a tree to get rid of? Our 2019 Summer Adventure Trip team will be offering to pick up and dispose of your Christmas tree! This year's pick up dates will be January 6 & January 13. It's simple - grab a flier & envelope from the display tree, sign up on the table, and leave your tree by the curb on the day you've selected for pick up. We'll come to your house after worship, and take away your tree! The cost is a free will donation to our trip. More information and the sign up info will be available in the narthex, as the dates get a bit closer. Thank you in advance for your support!

Family Promise of the Chippewa Valley truly is a team effort requiring the combined talents of the staff, volunteers, congregations and Board of Directors.

Beacon House

The Beacon House shelter, located in downtown Eau Claire, can house up to 6 six families at a time. Families can stay for up to 30 days. Extensions are granted if families are working on their goals and need additional time. The shelter is supported by volunteers from over 20 area congregations that make up the Interfaith Hospitality Network. This network of volunteers provides the evening meal for our families as well as staff the building overnight. Families are accepted from all counties although priority is given to current Eau Claire county residents and those showing a strong intent to remain in the area.

Transitional Housing

Established in 2010, this duplex can house 2 families at a time. Families from the shelter that need additional time to achieve their goals can stay for several months. The family pays 30% of their income while the agency pays all of the expenses related to that unit.

Case Management

All families receive case management services to assist with barriers to permanent housing. This may include employment and budgeting assistance, help with completing housing and employment applications, or referrals to needed services

Rapid Rehousing

Moving people from the shelter to permanent housing as quickly as possible has long been the goal of Family Promise of the Chippewa Valley. Rapid Rehousing dollars are funds from HUD (Housing and Urban Development) which are used for rental and security deposit assistance. Rental assistance can last for up to 12 months.

The Community Table, Inc.

Immanuel serves at the Community Table the 4th Wednesday of every month. Community Table serves 100-175 meals per day and volunteers are needed to prepare, cook and serve. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of local businesses, churches and individuals, The Community Table guarantees a nutritious meal to the The Chippewa Valley's neediest.

Beacon House

December 16-22

If you can cook, serve a meal, have friendly conversations or sleep, you can help at Beacon House.

Contact Curt Carlson at 715-559-7888 or find the sign-up on the Sign-up Genius link found on our website under the "Volunteer" drop down menu.

We partner with the Unitarian Universalist Church to serve our neighbors in need 4 times per year.

Feed My People

Open Volunteer Night

**Thursday, December 13th
4 to 7 PM**

Come volunteer and learn more about your area food bank! Volunteers can expect to help repack bulk food items such as pasta or cereal or help label cans. Activities are kid-friendly and children as young as 8 are welcome to volunteer with a parent. This evening is set up for small family groups or individuals. There are two shifts -one from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and the other from 5:30 to 7 p.m.- to choose from. For more information or to sign up, contact us at Nick@fmpfoodbank.org or 715-835-9415 ext. 101.

Immanuel Food Pantry

Winter is an especially trying time for folks who are food insecure. Consider making a monetary donation to the Immanuel Food Pantry. We need volunteers to serve during our hours of operation! See Janet to Sign-up!

09 Marianna Gilbertson

16 Zan Degen

23

24 4:00 PM

24 9:00 PM

30 Dee Schlieve

Lectors

02 Youth

09 Grant Johnson

23 Curt Carlson

24 4:00 PM Bob Wilcox

24 9:00 PM Steve Mikelson

30 Sharon Lehman

Ushers

02 Loren & Emilie Anderson

09 Alison & Keith Martin

16 Scott Reuter & Lang Jacobson

23 Volunteer

24 4:00 PM Bob & Linda Lodahl

John Bowman

24 9:00 PM Steve Mikelson

Gary Pospishil

30 The Engedal Family

Greeters

02 Youth

09 Emilie & Loren Anderson

16 Toni Wahlstrand

Teckla Wahlstrand

23 Jim & Karen McCrady

24 4:00 PM Jo Stolp, Barb Carlson,

Pam Anondson

24 9:00 PM The Hokanson Family

30 Ray & Sue Koch

Bread and Wine

02 Melissa Tarpenning

09 Rachel Neidermire

16 Melissa Tarpenning

23 Melissa Tarpenning

24 4:00 PM Melissa Tarpenning

24 9:00 PM Melissa Tarpenning

30 Melissa Tarpenning

Altar Care

Check the calendar in the sacristy

Counters

Sue Luthy & Peggy Blumenberg

04 Elijah Drier

05 Kevin Bogstad

05 Sarah Nix

06 Stephanie Fey

08 Donna Lehmkuhl

10 Diane Kaufmann

10 Kurt Lothe

12 Martin Fankhauser

12 Brian Manning

12 Michael Hokanson

13 Dave Langhus

13 Elizabeth Redetzke

13 Ava Weber

14 Erv LaFave

14 Lynn Fox

14 Jennifer Lashley

14 Blake Latimore

14 Trevor Lattimore

16 Greg Kaufmann

16 Erika Albano

17 Fred Ingersoll

19 Eric Lundberg

20 Allison Haus

20 Campbell Dean

21 John Bowman

21 Mark Olsen

22 Karyn Odell

22 Amber Calkins

23 Jennifer Dean

23 Karla Hegde

23 Nick Degen

24 Melissa Haas

26 Emilie Anderson

27 Klair Hanson

27 Duane Walsh

28 Diane Blanshan

28 Nathan Schlieve

29 Carol Hanson

Anniversaries

06 Mike & Lu Calkins

27 Greg & Diane Kaufmann

31 Becky & Chuck Ihle

A Eucharistic Minister can bring monthly communion. Please contact our Care Ministries Coordinator, Janet Carlson.

Andrea Schaffer

715-514-7284

Lectors

Becky Wilcox

715-835-9784

Ushers and Greeters

Barb Hokanson

715-835-1524

Bread and Wine

Melissa Tarpenning

715-858-1190

Compassionate Friends

Candle Lighting

Sunday, December 9th

at 6:00 PM

Compassionate Friends is a worldwide organization support families who have experienced a death of a child.

On Sunday the 9th come to Immanuel where the Compassionate Friends group gather to light a candle, share stories and fellowship.

For more information about

Compassionate Friends:

www.compassionatefriends.org

Pastoral Care

Please call Pastor Brieske if you would like a visit, call the church office during office hours or the pastor's cell phone after office hours. We do not receive updates from the hospital about our members due to privacy concerns. Please leave info about the hospital and room number and your condition. If you text the pastor about a friend or loved one, please include whether or not you have spoken with the person or an immediate family member. It is always helpful to have as much information as possible. If a visit is requested the pastor will make every attempt to see you in the hospital or at home. Consider adding Pastor Brieske's cell phone number to your contacts or carry her card in your wallet in

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Advent 1 9:30 AM Worship Baptism 10:30 Fellowship Learning RIC conversation session 2 community rm. Book group in youth rm.	3 5:30-7 PM Food Pantry open 6:30 PM H3	4 9:30 AM H3 6:30 PM Immanuel Yarners 7:00 PM Wholly Yoga	5 10:15 AM Sr. Bible Study Noon-Material Witness- es Quilting 5:15 PM WoW Meal 6:00 PM WoW Worship 6:30 PM Learning 6:45 PM SHYN! 7:00 PM 9th Grade Mentor mtg. 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 9-11 AM Food Pantry open	7 9-11 AM Food Pantry open 5-8 PM Parent's Night Out	8
9 Advent 2 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Learning Decorating the trees and Bake Sale 6:00 PM Compassionate Friends Candle Lighting	10 5:30-7 PM Food Pantry open 6:30 PM H3	11 9:30 AM H3 5:00 PM Pan- cake Supper 6:00 PM Pre- school Movie Night	12 10:15 AM Sr. Bible Study Noon-Material Witness- es Quilting 5:15 PM WoW Meal 6:00 PM WoW Worship 6:30 PM Learning 6:45 PM SHYN! 7:30 PM RIC conversation Session 2	13 9-11 AM Food Pantry open	14 9-11 AM Food Pantry open	15 8:30 AM Men's Group 9 AM Christ- mas Program practice
16 Advent 3 Advent Celebration 9:30 Worship with Children's program After worship the Advent Celebration Feast Serving at Beacon House this week	17 5:30-7 PM Food Pantry open 6:30 PM H3	18 9:30 AM H3 4:00 PM Chippewa Falls Halmstad and South- view Elemen- tary children here to sing! Snacks after	19 10:15 AM Sr. Bible Study Camp Create Christmas program 5:30—7:30 PM Family Fun-Roller Skating Party!	20 9-11 AM Food Pantry open Camp Create and Create-A- World Christmas programs	21 9-11 AM Food Pantry open Create-A- World Christmas Program	22
23 Advent 4 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship No learning	24 Christmas Eve Worship 4:00 PM and 9:00 PM	25 Christmas Day 9:00 AM	26 No WoW Serving at Community Table	27 9-11 AM Food Pantry open	28 9-11 AM Food Pantry open	29
30 Christmas 1 9:30 AM Worship	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2 WoW resumes	3 9-11 AM Food Pantry	4 9-11 AM Food Pantry	5

pastor@immanuelec.org
715-563-3145

Alyssa Engedal
Family Ministry/Camp Create
familyministry@immanuelec.org

Janet Carlson
Ministry Coordinator
office@immanuelec.org

Create-A-World Preschool
Katy LoRusso

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Sign-up for Worship Leaders
Sign-up for WoW opportunities.
Sign-up for volunteer opportunities

Sign up on our website to:

Receive the e-image
Receive weekly email Blasts
Sign-up for e-giving

If you have questions
or need help navigating
sign-up genius
please contact the office at
office@immanuelec.org

Immanuel Lutheran Church
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Eau Claire, WI 54701
Address service required

Dated Material—Unless Delayed

PLEASE
PLACE
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