

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2024

Volume 39, Issue 4

THE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
MISSOURI
SYNOD



From Your Pastor

Matthew's account of Jesus' birth does not get as much focus as does that of Luke's. Most Sunday School Christmas programs are based on Luke's account—after all, there are more players in Luke's account, and so more parts! Matthew just gives focus to Joseph and the angel who speaks to him. I suppose we could say that Matthew gives us the adult version and the man's perspective of Jesus' birth.

Matthew tells us of Joseph—a just man, a good, righteous, honorable, faithful man. Joseph was the kind of man you would want your daughter or your sister to marry. We need more men like Joseph!

Matthew tells us of Joseph, a good man, who finds himself in a very bad situation. We know the story so well—we know how it turns out—after the angel came to tell Joseph about what was in God's plan for Mary and him. But try to image what it was like for Joseph, just for a moment—in the time during which he first found out Mary was pregnant and before the angel appeared to him in a dream to tell him what God was doing in their lives. Joseph's betrothed—and betrothal was a legally binding covenant between a man and a woman *before* they came together in marriage—Mary, was found to be pregnant and he was not the father!

Joseph was a good man, but he couldn't just look the other way. Good and honorable man that he was, neither could he subject Mary to the most humiliating consequences. "Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way" (Matthew 1:18): there was a good man with only bad options.

We understand what it means to strive to live the Christian life, only to be faced with bad options. Many of us will be together at Christmas gatherings with family members who care very little for Jesus and the things of God, even are antagonistic to all that we believe. There you are, Christian—a good man, or a good woman—and you are faced with the reality of having these conversations, which you have had before, and you know how they have gone. Still, how can you stay silent? So here are your options: are you going to make it uncomfortable for

everyone again this Christmas, or will you "keep the peace," and keep your mouth shut?

Then, there is the expectation of all the gifts. You don't want to go along with the consumerism of our culture—and you are already up to your eyeballs in debt—but it's Christmas, right? Life in this world for good men and good women—and maybe, especially for good men and good women—often only offers us bad options.

Now in Joseph's case—and Mary's case—God was doing something very unique and special, so He sends His angel to tell them of His plan and their parts in it. Joseph, being a man of faith and a good man, does what he is told. He takes Mary as his wife. I imagine he was still very much afraid, but he takes Mary and he names the Boy when He is born, just as he was told.

The Boy grows into a good man—if ever there was One! This Boy, named by Joseph, His adopted father, grows to be a Man and takes upon Himself the very worst possible option there is—not out of compulsion, but out of compassion—that He might save His people from their sins, even the "good" ones, like the one writing this article and you who are reading it.

Through His Son God saves us, just as He saved Joseph, and He sends us, just as He sent Joseph, to name the One who saves us from our sins, to name the One who saves all people from all sin—for all who will receive Him in faith. So, we name Him, day in and day out, in what we think and what we say and what we do—in all life's options! We name Him everywhere we go, around our own tables, and we name Him around His own table! We name Him before a crooked and twisted generation that needs a Savior. We name Him, who puts His saving name on us, for that is our calling His people. This is our privilege and in every opportunity we have in this coming season, we will call His name: Jesus, as the angel told Joseph! You shall call His name Jesus!

Your fellow servant for Jesus,

Pastor Mahuken

Poinsettia Tree

If you would like to donate a poinsettia for our memorial poinsettia "tree", please call the Church Office 676-2235. Let us know if it is being donated in memory of someone.



The church will be purchasing all poinsettias in order to keep them identical. Cost is \$12 each.

=====

ANGEL TREE DONATIONS



This year our Angel Tree will be in support of the Sioux City Gospel Mission.

Their primary needs are blankets, quilts, hats, mittens, sweatshirts, socks, boots, underwear (new) and the following food items: canned vegetables and fruits, soups, canned tuna or chicken, coffee and pasta.

Please take an angel from the Christmas tree in the Narthex to help brighten someone's Christmas, thank you!

Sponsored by our Mission Board

Our congregation will support TAP (Temporary Aid Program) Through the month of December

Many necessities can't be purchased with Food Stamps such as paper towels, toilet paper, soap, disposable diapers, shampoo and laundry detergent.

At this time TAP is particularly in need of: sugar, flour, soups, crackers, cooking oil, tuna, canned tomatoes, tomato juice, macaroni, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, hamburger helper, tuna helper, complete pancake mix and syrup, laundry soap, dish soap, and personal hygiene products. Please be very sure that the items you donate have good expiration dates as often TAP has received items that have already expired and that makes more work for them as they can't put them out on the shelves.

Cash donations are also very helpful as they enable us to buy in quantity and take advantage of sales.

Donations can be sent to: TAP, PO Box 121, Denison, IA 51442. TAP is located at 210 South 25th Street, just north of El Jimador. It is open and staffed by volunteers Monday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

There will be a donation box in the church Narthex through the month.



Please remember these members at Christmas:

Gracewell: Ruth Reincke, Dr. D. L. Schmidt

Heritage Heights (Eventide apts.): Donna Koch and Delores Sonksen

Odebolt Specialty Care: Ruby Friedrichsen

Silveridge: Janet Beeck, Janice Gierstorf, Don Namanny, Gerald Pedersen

Shut-ins at Home: Lillie Petersen and Carolyn Schroeder



IOWA LUTHERAN SCHOOL
TUITION ORGANIZATION
Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me..."

The Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization continues to offer tuition assistance for students attending our Lutheran schools. It is an honor to allow more students to receive a Christ centered education that will shape them for life. November 10th we celebrated ILSTO Sunday, a day to recognize to importance of making Lutheran education accessible to all.

Today, we ask you to consider a tax deductible donation to ILSTO. Your gift will have an amazing impact as we know that these students are grounded in truth and faith through the Gospel. In return, you'll receive the highest tax credit in the state of Iowa, 75%! As you consider your end of year charitable giving please think of the students whose only opportunity to regularly hear the gospel, is in our schools. Let's make sure we have the funding to make it possible for all who desire a Lutheran education.



- December 2.....Becky Hanlin
Brian Hennings
- December 3.....Kevin Andresen
Kaitlyn Bruhn
Merry Jacoby
Terry Kline
Loretta Reimers
- December 4.....Tyson Hennings
Jonathan Lundell
- December 5.....Jodi Lorenzen
- December 6.....Savannah Steinkuehler
- December 7.....Clinton Bruhn
Josh Hanke
- December 8.....Karli Wittorf
- December 9.....Sara Becker
- December 10.....Janice Jepsen
Julie Petersen
- December 12.....Paul Nahnsen
Angela Nielsen
Darwin Petersen
Willis Petersen
Kathy Weiss
- December 14.....Dana Kolln
- December 15.....Lila Bubke
Nash Heiden
- December 16.....Ashley Gallagher
- December 17.....Dennis Segebart
- December 19.....Reighlyn Bremser
Morgan Jepsen
- December 20.....Hannah Lindberg
- December 21.....Ryan Hill
- December 22.....Mary Chisholm
- December 26.....K'Lynn Harm
Austin Hubbard
- December 27.....Ryan Friedrichsen
Doyle Slavik
- December 28.....Quintin Lovan
Ally Lundell
Jaxdan Pierson
- December 29.....Sandy Bubke
Scott Moeller
- December 30.....Charlie Beeck
Anthony Hatcher

- Lowell & Julie Teut (40th).....December 7, 1984
- Larry & Judy Jensen.....December 12, 1975
- Gerard & Mindi McKibbin.....December 14, 2006
- Doug & Stephanie Prussing.....December 18, 2021
- Matthew & Christine Wunschel.....December 23, 1988
- Gene & Lori Kragel.....December 25, 1978
- Jacob & Abby Macumber.....December 30, 2017

Please notify the office of any omissions or corrections.



Wednesday Advent Worship

*This year our Midweek Advent Worship
will begin with caroling at 5:30 p.m.*

Worship will begin at 5:45 p.m.

Supper will be served following worship at 6:30 p.m.

December 4, 5:45 p.m.

“Restore” Psalm 80

December 11, 5:45 p.m.

“Revived” Psalm 85

December 18, 5:45 p.m.

“Returned” Psalm 126

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Worship

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship
4 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship
9 a.m.

Our Christmas Day offering will go to
Immanuel’s Home Mission Fund.



††††††††††††††††††††††††††††††

To be included in your giving
statements for 2024,
gifts must be received in the
church office
by December 30, 2024.



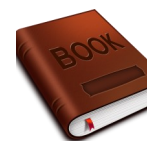
- January 3.....Denise Clausen
Hannah Prussing
Ronnie Streck
- January 5.....Christi Fredericks
Blaze Palmer
Robert Whitenack
- January 6.....Nick Riessen
Michael Rothe
Scott Schultz
- January 7.....Nancy Bielenberg
Ryan Kragel
Karson O'Brien
- January 11.....Kent Bornhoft
- January 12.....Tyler Hennings
Marlene Lee
Kyle Segebart
- January 13.....Randy Segebart
Bonnie Teut
- January 14.....Caitlyn Andresen
Jake Schneider
Madilynn Shafer
Da'Leyah York
- January 15.....Harper Lee
Don Wunschel
- January 16.....Tracy Beeck
Elli Heiden
Sandy Hummel
Kirsten Maschmann
Kimber Wood
- January 17.....Kelsey Wittorf
- January 19.....Bethany Daniel
Linda Prussing
Amy Schultz
Jessica Thistle
Payton Treiber
- January 20.....Aaron Hennings
Kristi Kluender
Jessica Ogren
Jordan Voss
- January 21.....Chris Sands
- January 22.....Elaine Teut
- January 23.....Makayla Millar
- January 24.....Judy Gierstorf
Karl Wittorf
- January 27.....Sheila Groth
Cindi Paulsen
Beth Winquist
- January 28.....Jayne Jepsen
Evelyn Streck
Ramon Velasquez
- January 29.....Kenneth Namanny
- January 30.....Rhonda Kragel
Harley McManigal
- January 31.....Makayla Miller

- Kent & Nan BornhoftJanuary 4, 1997
- Roger & Carol WaldeJanuary 15, 1961
- Charles & Jean Rohlf.....January 28, 2012

Please notify the office of any omissions or corrections.



From the Church Record Book



Baptized: *"Let the little children come unto Me..."*

Winsor Kae Johannsen, daughter of Justin Johannsen and Jaide Wulf, was baptized on November 10, 2024.

Marriages: *"...and the two became one."*

Gage Miller and Kayla Hennings were married at Immanuel on November 2, 2024.



Sunday School Christmas Service

Saturday, December 14, 4 p.m.

"Star of Love"

Please mark your calendar to join us for this special worship opportunity, and plan to enjoy a soup supper together following the service.

The Sunday School is sponsoring the Christmas tree in the north Narthex. Please bring new or gently used toys to be given to area children. The last day to bring them will be Sunday, December 15.



The 5th-8th grade classes will have program practice Wednesday, Dec. 4 and Dec. 11 from 5:00-5:30 p.m. before the mid-week Advent services.

ALL children will have practice Saturday, Dec. 14 from 9:00—11:00 a.m. We look forward to seeing everyone!

~ THE LWML
INVITES ALL
LADIES ~



On November 7th, we began our afternoon with a Bible study titled “Always Thankful” and we ended our day enjoying pumpkin desserts and preparing Thanksgiving cards to be sent to Immanuel members in care facilities.

Christmas contributions were approved to Crossroads of Crawford County, Lutheran Family Services, and to help support two Seminary students.

We also are planning to give Christmas gifts to our Immanuel Preschool students to be presented at their program.

In place of the regular December meeting, we decided to have a Christmas Brunch on December 5th at 10:00 a.m. which will include time for fellowship and some fun activities.

We wish everyone a joyful Christmas!

—Submitted by Donna Harm, Secretary



Come see the “Live Drive Thru Nativity”
on Saturday, December 14, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Steve and Connie McCollough Farm
3235 L Avenue
Vail, Iowa

From Your library . . .
“Have we got a book for you!”



Facing Your Giants

By Max Lucado

A non-fiction book entitled Facing Your Giants by Max Lucado is in our library and it deals with facing our giant, Goliath, in this life. He taunts us with bills we struggle to pay, people we can't please, habits we can't break, failures we can't forget, a future we can't face, etc.

This book compares us to David—you could familiarize yourself with his story and wonder what God saw in him. As the author says, David fell as often as he stood and stumbled as often as he conquered, but David gives us this reminder:

“Focus on giants—you stumble.

Focus on God—your giants tumble.”

David's life story was punctuated with **nevertheless**—the runt of eight brothers, **nevertheless**, he was chosen to be King of Israel. He was nicknamed “Twiggy” by a nine foot adversary, **nevertheless**, he slew Goliath with a strip of leather and a pebble.

As king he committed adultery and murder, **nevertheless**, he was called a “man after God's own heart.” As the author stated in this book, “Do you need a ‘**nevertheless**’ to be written in your biography? You face giants, **nevertheless**, God will strengthen you.

Max Lucado is a senior minister for a church in San Antonio, Texas. He is the author of multiple best sellers, both fiction and non-fiction, and is one of America's leading inspirational authors. There are several of his books in our library for your reading pleasure.

—Submitted by Karen Wood



It's true when people say your life picks up speed as you get older! I can hardly believe we'll be having the Christmas program in three weeks. I am sitting here reflecting (and praying) about what would be fun to share with you. The Scripture James 1:22 came to mind. "But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." I have a student who seems to be a highly auditory learner. I suspect so because often children who learn this way can (and need to be) moving around while they are listening to the story. Yet when asked a question regarding the story, they are able to easily pull up the information. This happened the other day and, as always, I had to internally chuckle. It is humorous because we can think the person moving around isn't paying attention when in fact it's what they need to do to learn.

It feels like there are two applicable lessons from this example. The first being, we need to check ourselves when we're thinking about passing judgment on someone's spiritual life. You may think they are the person who is far from surrendering their life to the Lord. They appear to be doing their own thing and not engaged in what we would think was important. However, they may very well be the one who is closest to tuning into the call of Holy Spirit for repentance and intimacy in their walk with the Lord. God is sovereign. He knows far better

than us whose heart is ready. I pray I will set aside my fleshly/natural vision and begin to more consistently allow my heart to see life from a spiritual perspective.

Second, just as this student heard and applied (by recollecting and verbalizing the answer), it is important for us to apply the Word into our own lives. Of course, we need to allow Holy Spirit to bring it to life. Are we willing to do it? Can we lay down the control of how we think things should work and instead let the Word lead us? As we head into the Christmas season, I pray that we'll remember there are people hurting. Yes, even people in our own circle of relationships. Let's pray for opportunities to be doers of the Word and listen carefully as those doors open to share the incredible Truth of Christmas. God's gift of Jesus!

May you each have a wonderful and blessed Christmas. Feel free to join us December 5 as the children lead us in worshipping our Savior and celebrating His birth.

Mrs. Gustafson



The leaves have been providing a great source of fun for recess!
I love how this class engages with their classmates with such joy!

Faith-filled parenting...Service

In the Word

Show me Your ways, O LORD, teach me Your paths; guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long. (Psalm 25:4-5)

Of the Word

Jesus was the greatest teacher. He spent years with His disciples teaching them about the Father's plan of salvation for the world. He told His friends that He was the Way of salvation and that believers in Him would be saved from the consequences of their sin. Jesus taught by word and deed, and He continues to teach through His Holy Spirit.


Parents are teachers every day. They learn about Jesus, the Master Teacher, from the Bible and put those same teaching attributes to work in their homes and with their families. It has been said, "He who dares to teach must never cease to learn." This is especially true of God's Word, which instructs not only our minds, but also our hearts. Christian parents strive to be in the Word as they continue to learn to be the best teachers they can be.

Stretch your faith-filled parenting

Tell your child about a favorite teacher you had in school. Why was he or she the favorite? Share the Good News about Jesus, the Master Teacher, with your child every day.

Walking with my Lord

Master Teacher, give me the ability to teach, and give my child a willing heart to learn the awesome lessons of Your Word. In Your name I pray. Amen.



Weekend to Remember
by FamilyLife

Immanuel's Home Mission Fund will pay the registration cost for any Immanuel couple to attend the 2025 *Weekend to Remember* marriage conference. Hotel stay and transportation at your own expense.

- * Omaha, NE: March 14-16 at Hilton \$151/night—(price good until February 28)
- * Des Moines, IA April 4-6 at Marriott Downtown \$132/night—(price good until Feb. 24)
- * Lincoln, NE: May 30-June 1 at The Cornhusker Hotel \$124/night—(price good until May 9)

Weekends also available in Minneapolis and Branson.

Please find more information at:
<https://www.familylife.com/weekend-to-remember#where>



THE GOOD SHEPHERD HOUR

Greetings to all fellow Lutherans within listening range of the Good Shepherd Hour. The Good Shepherd Hour is broadcasted over the radio in Fort Dodge, Le Mars, Sioux City and Storm Lake on Sunday morning. The GSH is a short service of that week's Bible readings, a hymn, a sermon message, a creed, Lord's Prayer and blessing. It is perfect for shut-ins and those home sick, who don't have access to their home church's service and for anyone else. Most important, the GSH is available to those who don't know Jesus at all or have fallen away from him.

The Good Shepherd Hour's was originally started in connection with the chaplaincy in Sioux City, but the chaplaincy has ended. Its current speaker is Pastor Trevor Freudenburg of the LCMS. For your spiritual growth, past broadcasts can be found at <https://kscj.com/the-good-shepherd-hour>. Good Shepherd Hour radio times and stations are listed below:

KVFD, Fort Dodge	1400 AM	8:00 am
KLEM, Le Mars	1410 AM or 96.9 FM	8:00 am
KSCJ, Sioux City	1360 AM or 94.9 FM	8:00 am
KAYL, Storm Lake	101.7 FM	8:30 am

Please keep the ministry in your prayers. If you would like to support the Good Shepherd Hour ministry or want more information, please contact us at the address below. You can sponsor a broadcast for a station or for all the stations, or any donation will be a help to the ministry.

Good Shepherd Hour, PO Box 5044, Sioux City, IA 51102-5004.
 Email: goodshepherdhour2@gmail.com



Main Street Living is a televised worship service produced in conjunction with Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod churches and pastors. Local LCMS pastors attend recording days about every two months to record a liturgy and sermon. These services are then edited to include regional choirs and aired on location television stations. Six unique regional services are produced and aired each week.

- * The mission of Main Street Living is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ using television and other media.
- * Main Street is NOT intended to be a replacement for in-person worship, but is here to provide liturgical services to those who are unable to attend a local service.
- * The main source of support comes from viewers and their families in the form of mail-in donations, online donations and memorials which are tax-deductible.
- * MSL is a designated 501(c)(3) corporation in the state of South Dakota. It is governed by a board of directors and facilitated by an Executive Director. Additionally, each market has its own leadership and production teams who recruit, schedule and record pastors and choirs—as well as process local donations.
- * Choirs are comprised of members from surrounding LCMS congregations. Choir recording sessions meet at area churches and record around a dozen hymns to be edited into future services.
- * The program is broadcast each Sunday at 10 am on KCAU-Sioux City or at 10:30 am on WOWT-Omaha.
- * MSL can be viewed anytime at MainStreetLiving.com or their Facebook page.

On November 23, Immanuel’s Youth and families, along with a group from Faith, Deloit, packed meals at Mercy Meals of Siouxland.



What a blessing it was to welcome one of the most effective missionary couples we have in all of Africa. On Friday, November 1, the Celebration of All Saints, our missionaries Shara and Michael Osiro came and reported on all the exciting things that are happening in Kenya to bring the message of our Lord Jesus to people who have never heard the name of our dear Savior.



What’s happening at Camp Okoboji?!

Sent by Adam Hengeveld, Executive Director

Giving Tuesday: December 2 and 3 will be your opportunity to include Camp Okoboji in your giving plans! Camp Okoboji is blessed to announce our Giving Tuesday Campaign will be a Matching Fundraiser! On December 2 and 3, your donation—cash, check, or credit card—will be matched, \$1 for every \$2 raised up to \$10,000! Gifts marked “Giving Tuesday” or “Matching Campaign” but received on days other than December 2 and 3 will be acceptable to be included for the match. To learn more, please contact the Camp Office at 712-337-3325. Make your gift online at campokoboji.org.

Personnel: Summer Staff recruitment is ongoing. NLOMA Joint Recruitment is active. Encouraging youth within your congregations to consider serving as Summer Staff is the most effective way to recruit! Please encourage youth (at least 16 years of age) and college students to consider serving with us in 2025.

We are looking for part-time cleaning assistants to help us through the off-season. Please contact Kellie at the Camp Okoboji office 712-337-3325.

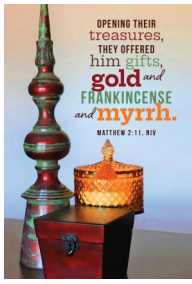
Volunteers: THANKS to volunteers and groups who give so generously of their time and talents in serving Camp Okoboji. A big “THANKS” goes out to the annual mailing volunteers who spent the day helping us get out 6,000 appeal letters.

Needs/Wants List: Sharing opportunities to assist Camp with specific items.

- * Gas grills
- * Outdoor rocking chairs
- * Laundry soap, bleach and hand soap
- * Queen size mattress pads
- * New commercial grade vacuums, coffee pots, toasters, crock pots
- * Thrivent Action Cards (contact Kellie Jones for potential projects; 712-337-3325)
- * Also, see our Amazon wish list at https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2U3MCM8Z6HGPY?ref=wl_share.

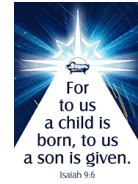
On Sunday, November 24 we recognized Pastor Kaiser’s 40th anniversary of Ordination into the Office of Pastoral Ministry. This year, 2024, also marks Pastor Kaiser’s 50th year in church work as he served for 10 years, first as a teacher and then as a Director of Christian Education before entering the seminary to prepare for the Lord’s service as a Pastor.








DECEMBER 2024

Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Schleswig, Iowa



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p>1 9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC</p> <p>11:15 a.m. Hanging of the Greens</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Elders' Meeting</p>	<p>2 Preschool</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Schulz</p>	<p>3 Preschool</p>	<p>4 6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool Confirmation</p> <p>5:45 p.m. Midweek Advent Worship</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Midweek Advent Meal</p>	<p>5 Preschool</p> <p>10:00 a.m. LWML</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Preschool program</p> <p>No Bible Study</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Santa Claus Day & Craft Fair</p> <p>12:00 p.m. 4-H Schleswig Sharks</p> <p>4 p.m. Worship w/HC</p>	
<p>8 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC</p>	<p>9 Preschool</p>	<p>10 Preschool</p> <p>8:30 am Pastors' Conference at Battle Creek</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Library potluck</p>	<p>11 6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool Confirmation</p> <p>5:45 p.m. Midweek Advent Worship</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Midweek Advent Meal</p>	<p>12 Preschool</p> <p>9 a.m. Quilting</p> <p>No Bible Study</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 4 p.m. Sunday School Christmas Service followed by soup supper</p> 	
<p>15 9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC</p>	<p>16 Preschool</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Schulz</p>	<p>17 Preschool</p>	<p>18 No Bible Study</p> <p>p.m. Preschool Confirmation</p> <p>5:45 p.m. Midweek Advent Worship</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Midweek Advent Meal</p>	<p>19 Preschool</p> <p>No Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Winter Begins</p> <p>4 p.m. Worship w/HC</p> 	
<p>22 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC</p>	<p>23 No Preschool</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve No Preschool</p> <p>4 p.m. Candlelight Worship w/HC</p> <p>8 p.m. Candlelight Worship w/HC</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day No Bible Study No Preschool No Confirmation</p> <p>9 a.m. Worship w/HC</p> 	<p>26 No Preschool</p> <p>No Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 4 p.m. Worship w/HC</p>	
<p>29 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC</p>	<p>30 No Preschool</p> <p>Last day for offerings to be included in 2024</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve No Preschool</p>	 <p>Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. <small>Luke 2:14, KJV</small></p>	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px;"> <p>Preschool Mon., Tues., Thurs.: 8 a.m.—3 p.m. Wed.: 11:45 a.m.—3 p.m.</p> <p>Confirmation 5th & 6th grade: 3:30 p.m.—5:15 p.m. 7th & 8th grade: 6:15 p.m.—8:00 p.m.</p> </div>			



JANUARY 2025

Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Schleswig, Iowa



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																										
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Preschool Mon., Tues., Thurs.: 8 a.m.—3 p.m. Wed.: 11:45 a.m.—3 p.m.</p> <p>Confirmation 5th & 6th grade: 3:30 p.m.—5:15 p.m. 7th & 8th grade: 6:15 p.m.—8:00 p.m.</p> </div>			<p>1 New Year's Day</p> <p>No Bible Study No Preschool No Confirmation</p>	<p>2</p> <p>No Preschool</p> <p>1:30 LWML</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>4 p.m. Worship w/HC</p>																																										
<p>5</p> <p>9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC</p>	<p>6 Epiphany</p> <p>Preschool</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Preschool</p> <p>5:30 Board of Ed Planning Meeting</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30 Bible Study</p> <p>p.m. Preschool</p> <p>Confirmation</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Preschool</p> <p>9 a.m. Quilting</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5:30 Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>11</p> <p>3:00 pm Hennings/Palmersheim wedding</p> <p>No 4 pm Worship</p>																																										
<p>12</p> <p>9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & Voters' Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Preschool</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Preschool</p> <p>8:30 Pastors' Conference at Immanuel</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30 Bible Study</p> <p>p.m. Preschool</p> <p>Confirmation</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Preschool</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>4 p.m. Worship w/HC</p>																																										
<p>19</p> <p>9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC</p>	<p>20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p> <p>No Preschool</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Preschool</p> <p><i>Messenger</i> Deadline for February issue</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30 Bible Study</p> <p>p.m. Preschool</p> <p>Confirmation</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Preschool</p> <p>9 a.m. Quilting</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>4 p.m. Worship w/HC</p>																																										
<p>26</p> <p>9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Preschool</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Preschool</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30 Bible Study</p> <p>p.m. Preschool</p> <p>8:45 a.m. Newsletter Assemblage</p> <p>Confirmation</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Preschool</p> <p>Pastor at District Board of Directors meeting</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>February</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																										
						1																																										
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																																										
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																										
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																										
23	24	25	26	27	28																																											

AFRICAN RADIO MINISTRIES—NEWS

We celebrate God’s work through you, the African Radio Ministries partners and the saints serving in God’s vineyard in Africa.

Ethiopia News

October Kingdom Growth...

- * New Converts 45
- * Baptized 29
- * Callers 79
- * Confirmed 40
- * Listening Groups 4
- * Bibles/Booklets Provided 42
- * Inmates in Confirmation Classes 419!!

Shashemene Prison Visitation

Rev. Mengistu and a group of 11 youths from his congregation visited the Shashemene Prison, bringing gifts for the inmates. They worshipped and encouraged both the female and male inmates, sharing the love of Christ with all. The group generously donated soap, sanitary pads for women, and 12 suitcases packed with clothing for men, women, and children. During the joyous and spirit-filled worship: 40 people were confirmed in their faith, 25 people believed in the Lord Jesus, 42 Bibles were distributed, Holy Communion was shared, and God’s Word was preached to hundreds.

Jinka Ajo Preaching Station

Ajo church was planted in 2022 and has been growing significantly by God’s grace. 153 people were trained in serving and evangelism over a weekend in October. At the conclusion of the training, a prayer service was held with the surrounding churches. Believers in this area have begun a great revival.

Since the number of believers in Ajo Church has increased greatly, they are in the process of expanding into a new house of worship.

Liberia Updates

Grand Gedeh: Principal Responds Immediately to the Gospel

In late 2023, a few people from Bokor Town heard the message of Christ preached on the radio by Pastor William Monroe. They called the next day asking many questions. Noting the eagerness in their tone, he immediately walked to the distant village to meet his new friends, seeding a new church.

In January, the small group of believers began worshipping together. This month, the village public school Principal brought his family to church. They immediately responded to the Gospel message by offering to hold worship services in the school until a permanent structure can be built.

Maryland County-15 Baptisms!

The ARM Maryland program, managed by Rev. David Bardue, celebrated the baptism of 15 new believers in Christ. One new member Lisa said, “I am a regular listener of the Saturday radio program. The program has helped me to read the Bible and learn about Jesus.”

We are so grateful to God for everyone that is praying us through this cancer journey. At times fatigue has been difficult. *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thes. 5:14*

God’s blessings on you!
John & Kathy Duitsman
Missionary Linda Kurtz

!AMIGOS EN CRISTO and GRACIA!

News from *Las Iglesias Evangélicas Luteranas*
Amigos en Cristo in Denison and Gracia in Storm Lake
Pastor Pedro Lopez

Hello everyone, greetings to you from your Hispanic Ministry. On this Thanksgiving season, we are grateful knowing that God continues to bless us as we share the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ with our established members and the new friends we meet as we continue with our different programs, Bible studies, and worship services. We would like to thank all of our volunteers and everyone for your prayers and for your support. We would not be able to do this without all of you.

At Hartley and Carroll, we are almost at the end of our ESL programs. As before, this program has given us the opportunity to share the Word of God with our students. Our students and our volunteers have had the opportunity to learn and also have interest in finding out more about our church. Exposed to both English and Spanish, some students are taking the opportunity and are coming to the English services to hear the Word of God in the new language and making new friends with our members.

At St. Paul-Carroll, we will be having the Thanksgiving celebration on Tuesday, November 26. We will have lots of food and will celebrate the Word of God with many families from the community. Feel free to come and celebrate with us and your new brothers and sisters from the Hispanic community.

On December 10 we will finish the classes with the distribution of the certificates and celebrate with a potluck. Everyone will share Hispanic dishes of delicious food.

On December 21 we will celebrate Christmas Mexican Posada Style with lots of Hispanic food. Please feel free to come and celebrate with us!

At Hartley, the Mexican Posada will take place on December 2 at 6:30 pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church. We will also have lots of Hispanic food. This day is also the closing of the 2024 ESL session in that area. Again, you are welcome to come and celebrate with us.

At Denison, we will have the Thanksgiving celebration on Sunday, November 24. Our families will celebrate with many Hispanic dishes and give thanks to God for the many blessings and for the many years this Hispanic Ministry has been in existence.

On December 22, the Mexican Posada will take place with lots of food. Please come and celebrate with us.

At Storm Lake, we will celebrate the Mexican Christmas Posada on Wednesday, December 18 at 7 pm. We invite you to come and celebrate with the Word of God and lots of food.

The worship services and Bible studies continue the same at every site. Please continue to pray and support these amazing people and ministries in your midst!

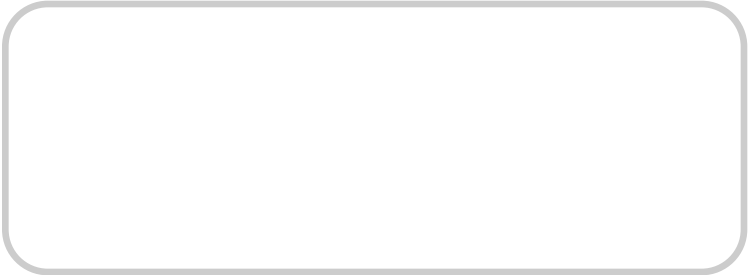
Bendiciones y hasta pronto!
Pastor Lopez

**IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
501 Glad St. PO Box 27 Schleswig, Iowa 51461

Non Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Schleswig, Iowa
Permit No. 19

Change Service
Requested

TO EVERYONE IN THE HOME OF:



THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
501 Glad St. PO Box 27 Schleswig, Iowa 51461
Office: 712-676-2235
Saturday Worship at 4 p.m. w/HC
Sunday Worship at 9 a.m. HC on first & third Sundays
Sunday School and Bible Classes at 10:15 a.m.
+++++
E-mail: immansch@iowatelecom.net
or: markey@iowatelecom.net
Website: www.immanuelschleswig.com
"Like" us on Facebook

Pastor: Merle F. Mahnken—
Home Ph.: 712-676-2242 Cell Ph.: 712-269-6364
Assisting Pastor: Kurt Kaiser
Cell Ph.: 712-269-8452

Office: Amanda Bruhn and Valerie Teut
Preschool: Leslie Gustafson
Janitor: Jolene Whiteing
Snow Removal and Lawn Care:
Ryan Jepsen; 712-790-1603
Loren and Janice Jepsen



**OUR MISSION
STATEMENT:**
*"Together in Christ,
we grow through the
Word and
Sacraments, serving
our Lord and
sharing His saving
grace with all
people."*