

Immanuel's News and Notes ~ December 14 & 15, 2024

Welcome! Isaiah declares: "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (12:3). May we be nourished by God's gift of salvation as we worship. Paul says: "Rejoice in the Lord always," but what if I don't feel joyful today? I will "with thanksgiving let [my] requests be made known to God" and wait for God's promised peace, which surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:4-7). We welcome our visitors and ask you to please sign our Guest Book in the Narthex and join us again!

Please Remember in Your Prayers: Glenda Bryson, Ryan Kragel, Tayten Kline, Lila Bubke (recovering from knee replacement), Bonard Christiansen, Laurie Ricke and Susan Kaiser (wife of Lutheran Bible Translator Jim Kaiser and sister-in-law of Pr. Kaiser). *If you have a concern for which you would like us to pray, please call the Church Office 712-676-2235 or send an email to: immansch@iowatelecom.net.*

For You in the Narthex: Offering envelopes for 2025 are on the table, please pick up yours and also those of any family members. Please take a moment and check your church mailbox for any other correspondence that may be in it.

This Sunday is the Deadline! New and gently used toys may be left under the Christmas tree in the lower Narthex. We will leave the door unlocked until 5 p.m. Sunday for last minute gifts. They are distributed through the efforts of West Central Development in Denison to families whose resources may prevent them from the means to provide gifts to their children.

Chris and Pastor Mahnken will be on vacation next week, December 16-20. If you need Pastoral care, please call the Church Office: 712-676-2235 or Pastor Kaiser: 712-269-8452.

Monday Evening Bible Study returns this coming Monday evening, Dec. 16, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Pastor Steve Schulz will lead the study based on The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant, Matthew 18:21-35.

There will be no Wednesday morning Bible Study December 18 or Christmas Day.

Midweek Advent Services conclude this Wed., Dec. 18 at 5:45 p.m.; supper will be served at 6:30. Invite a friend or neighbor to join us! Supper this week is served by the Mission Board.

"Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart." Our Thursday night Bible Study will not meet during the month of December. Classes will resume on Thursday, January 2, 2025.

Readings for next Sunday: Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Heb. 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-56).

"Thy Strong Word" every weekday morning at 6:25 a.m. on KDSN radio, 104.9. Pastor Peitsch will lead worship today at Denison Care, Silveridge and Gracewell.

Budget Update: At the end of November, our giving for 2024 is \$6,264.10 behind our expenses for the year. Please prayerfully consider God's blessings to you as you plan your giving for the end of this year. To be included in your giving statements for 2024, gifts must be received in the Church Office by December 30, 2024.

Record Updates: A current membership list will be printed soon for our Annual Report. If you or a family member has a change of address or phone number, or would like to receive the monthly *Immanuel Messenger* by e-mail rather than hard-copy USPS, please let the church office know. Year-end reports for your group or board should be turned in also.

Our Angel Tree in the Narthex has suggestions for us to give in donation in support of the Sioux City Gospel Mission. Items needed include: socks, underwear, sweatshirts, hats, gloves, scarves, boots, coats, large cans of fruit, large cans of vegetables, any kinds of soup, canned meats, coffee, pastas, blankets, quilts, and devotionals. Thank you!

We will be collecting items for TAP in Denison during the month of December. 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. Cash donations are also very helpful! Donations can be sent to PO Box 121, Denison, IA 51442.

The Sparrow's Nest at Crossroads of Crawford County, 139 N. 7th St., Denison, will be open extended hours for Christmas shopping. Regular hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 am—4:00 pm. Stop by Thursday, Dec. 19 during our extended hours—until 7 p.m.—for some Jumpy Monkey coffee or Hot Chocolate (free will donation) and shopping!

The Lutheran Hour: "Sorrow Welcomed Here" by Speaker Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. The church welcomes people, but does it also welcome their problems? Dr. Zeigler says the church should be a place that makes room for both joy and sorrow. (Zephaniah 3:14-20) Listen to *The Lutheran Hour* every Sunday morning on Denison's KDSN 104.9 FM at 6:30 a.m. and KDSN 1530 AM at 10:30 a.m., and anytime at www.lhm.org.

BASIC Fund, Inc. Tree of Lights. A contribution to the BASIC Fund Tree of Lights in memory of someone entitles the donor to be listed in the paper and around town. Funds from the Tree of Lights will be used to support worthwhile community projects. Forms can be found around town or contact Kathy Weiss, Lila Bubke, Barb Moeller, Anne Abbe, Nancy Bielenberg, Larry Grill or Leisha Kragel for more information.

"Who is going to be king? Christ or Herod? Christ or I? Every day we make dozens of decisions which either acknowledge Christ's lordship or which assert our own. The star of the Magi reminds the Christian that he has a gracious King to whom he can, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, submit his will and live. By His word Christ desires to reign in our hearts through faith!" *Rev. Darren Green St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota—A Life Quote from Lutherans for Life · lutheransforlife.org*

Building Healthy Families: This time of the year finds many busy shopping, wrapping, baking, hosting parties, attending concerts...you know the list! While these activities aren't bad, let this be your friendly reminder to slow down, be still, and not miss the reason we celebrate. Refocus if you need to! "Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:2 **Lutheran Family Service**

A life goal for every Christian should be to read the entire Holy Bible.
We are providing a reading plan to guide you through the entire Bible in two years.
You can start at any time. The entire reading plan is available in the Church Office.

MONDAY: Proverbs 22:1—23:35

THURSDAY: Proverbs 28:1—29:27

TUESDAY: Proverbs 24:1—25:28

FRIDAY: Proverbs 30:1—31:31

WEDNESDAY: Proverbs 26:1—27:27

SATURDAY: Ecclesiastes 1:1—2:26

Gifts:
 Church Plate: \$ 3,040.00
 Sunday School: \$ 52.00
 Adult Bible Class: \$ 49.25
 Midweek Advent 12/4 \$ 484.00

Attendance:
 Sat., Dec. 7 4 p.m.: 38
 Sun., Dec. 8 9 a.m.: 92
 130
 Midweek Advent 12/4: 63
 Sunday School: 24
 Adult Bible Class: 26

Acolytes today:
 Whitney Ernst & Emily Segebart

Librarian today:
 Bonnie Schroeder

~ The Week Ahead in Ministry ~
December 15-22, 2024

Sunday:	9:00 a.m. Worship w/HC
<i>December 15</i>	10:15 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
	1:00 p.m. Denison Care Worship—Pastor Peitsch
	1:40 p.m. Silverridge Worship
	2:15 p.m. Gracewell Worship
Monday:	8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Preschool
	6:30 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Schulz
Tuesday:	8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Preschool
Wednesday:	6:30 a.m. No Bible Study
	11:45 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Preschool
	3:30—5:00 p.m. 5th/6th Grade Confirmation
	5:45 p.m. Mid-week Advent Worship
	6:30 p.m. Advent meal served by Mission Board
	6:30—8:15 p.m. 7th/8th Grade Confirmation
Thursday:	8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Preschool
	6:30 p.m. No Bible Study
Friday:	~
Saturday:	4:00 p.m. Saturday Worship w/HC
Sunday:	9:00 a.m. Worship
<i>December 22</i>	10:15 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Class

About the Cover: One day, like the bright morning light that breaks through the darkness of night, the Lord's second coming will bring rejoicing. While we do not know the day, the Lord is at hand today. God's Word shines brightly, dispelling the darkness of anxiety and fear and replacing it with rejoicing in what He has accomplished for us in the forgiveness of our sins. The Lord is at hand. Let us rejoice today!

Immanuel Lutheran Church

501 Glad Street
 PO Box 27
 Schleswig, IA 51461

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

Church Office:
 Ph. 712-676-2235

Website:
immanuel Schleswig.com

E-mail:
immansch@iowatelecom.net
markey@iowatelecom.net

Worship:
 Saturday ~ 4 p.m.
 Sunday ~ 9 a.m.

Communion:
 Every Saturday and
 First & Third Sundays
 Sunday School &
 Bible Classes~10:15 a.m.

Worship Services are
 streamed live,
 recorded, and can be
 accessed at any time by
 clicking on Facebook,
 YouTube or our website.

***“Together in
 Christ, we grow
 through the Word
 and Sacraments,
 serving our Lord
 and sharing
 His saving grace
 with all people.”***

