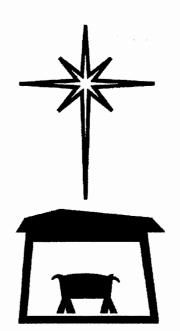


THE VOICE OF IMMANUEL

January 2017

Come let us Him



Merry Christmas Happy New Year

Poster Gody Essex 88

Katie mey.

Quan Duitman



January - Family

"It is not good for man to be alone."
Genesis 2:18 NIV

The celebrations of faith and family during Kwanza, Hanukkah, and Christmas are over, yet attention to family is just as important in January as it was in December. Since the family of the 1950's is no longer the norm, we as a church need to ask what it means to be 'family,' how we support families, and how we reclaim its importance.

Today's families are led by traditional parents, single parents, gay couples, blended or step families, or by a group that is unrelated. Even though they may look different, each group is made of people who support and love each other in all of life's situations. Without family, people are often set adrift with no direction or support which tends to make them less healthy. Positive relationships provide unconditional love and encouragement which fosters self-esteem, positive attitudes, and better health habits. They ground a person and provide building blocks for other relationships.

How does one build and nurture positive families? Be interested in each other's activities. Attend and support each other's interests and events. Plan outings for the family and offer positive, bonding experiences. Listen to each other and learn to 'agree to disagree' as families also need to understand and deal with conflict.

All families have highs and lows so it is important to teach children how to handle disappointment and adversity as well as how to celebrate the joys and wonders of family life. Embrace all family life whether it consists of a biological, church, neighborhood, college, or other supportive 'family.' Each setting is important to your spiritual, mental, and physical health.

(Source: Focus on the Family www.focusonthefamily.com/)

MEN'S MINISTRY

LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD

The Lutheran Brotherhood will hold its monthly breakfast meeting in Luther Lounge on Saturday, January 7, 2017, at 7:00 a.m. After breakfast and fellowship, we will take down the Nativity Scene. Come and join us. New members are always welcome.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion at **Brookstone** is Thursday, January 12th at 10:00 a.m.

Holy Communion at **Country Health** is Thursday, January 12th at 1:30 p.m.





We thank you for your many acts of kindness during this past year. They are received with thanksgiving and deep appreciation. May God continue to bless us as we work together to share the Gospel and to further His kingdom here on Earth.

In His service,

Pastor James T. Lehmann, STS
Pastor Cindy A. Bisser, STS
Pastor Barbara Busboom
JoAnn Duitsman
Katie McKinney

BIBLE STUDIES BREAK

The Wednesday Men's Bible Study will take a break during the month of January and will start up again on February 1, 2017.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The February newsletter deadline will be Monday, January 16, 2017. Please give Katie any information you would like to be included.



Happy JANUARY Birthdays! Our warmest and best wishes to each of you as you celebrate your special day!

1/1	Lou Ann Mennenga
1/6	Fern Becker
1/6	Sharon Duitsman
1/9	Margaret Priebe
1/11	Wilbur Dixon
1/16	Larry Frerichs
1/16	Gloria Schmidt
1/17	Diana Frerichs
1/17	Shirley Wyatt
1/19	Anna Duitsman
1/19	Norman Uken
1/20	Arnold Hinrichs
1/21	Norma German
1/22	Norma Flesner
1/26	Ernest Sjuts

Del Dahl

1/28



The Annual Meeting of Immanuel Lutheran congregation has been set for 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, **January 22, 2017**, in the Church. All confirmed members of Immanuel's congregation, at least eighteen years old, are eligible to vote at the meeting. The Annual Report to the congregation will be mailed soon. Please read the information in the report and bring your copy with you to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE FOR DECEMBER

	Sat.	Sun.	Sun.	<u>Totals</u>
		8:00 a.m.	<u>10:15</u> :	<u>a.m.</u>
12/4	28	135	57	220
12/11	19	111	75	205
12/18	Ba	d Weather- Ca	ancelled	

Children's Christmas Program Christmas Eve Service	125
3:30 p.m.	471
5:30 p.m	158
Christmas Day	125

RADIO BROADCAST AND ALTAR FLOWERS

The new 2017 sign-up charts for Altar Flowers and Radio Broadcast are on the bulletin board next to the church office for you to make your reservations. Altar Flowers are \$35.00 and Radio Broadcast is \$70.00. You may call the church office to reserve a date or sign up on the charts. Please pay for your flowers or radio broadcast when you make your reservations.

CALL THE PASTORS

You may be sure of this: Your pastors are willing to come to the hospital or your home, the street corner, or anywhere at any hour of the day or night when they are needed. Call them if you need them. Otherwise they will not know of your need until it is too late. Do not trust the grapevine to get the message to them. "Everyone already knows" is seldom true and the messages coming through the grapevine are often incorrect. Call the pastors. It is better that they receive the same message several times than to not know of the need at all.

KOGUDUS II FOR MARRIED COUPLES

We invite you to a weekend of fellowship, sharing, growing, and learning with your spouse in God's time at Camp Griesheim, Hartsburg, IL, on February 10-12, 2017. For more information please contact Darren and Pam Franzen at 469-2552 or Tim and Abbey Scott at 586-9933.

WOMEN OF IMMANUEL

The Women of Immanuel will not meet in January. We wish everyone much peace and wonder as we behold our King who has come!

Friends of the Children of Haiti is going on a Mission Trip in early January. When Bonita Kopmann went last time she saw that the Mothers had a need for basics for their children. Cloth diapers, diaper pins, small packages of baby wipes, plastic baby bottles, onesies and receiving blankets are some of the basics. We would like to do a collection of these items and Bonita will gladly take them to Haiti to distribute. The collection started in December and will continue until January 8th. We thank you for your support in this project.

Also, if anyone is interested in the history of FOTCOH they have published a book called "The House of Life." The book is available for purchase from Amazon or will be available soon in our library here at church.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS & STAFF

The office is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Jo Ann Duitsman is here on Mondays and other days as needed. Katie McKinney is here Tuesday through Friday. Pastors' day off is Monday. They are generally in the office in the mornings Tuesday through Friday.



CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES December 13, 2016

Pastor's Report: Pastor Lehmann discussed the program Amazon Smile. Individuals shopping on this site can designate a percentage of the qualified purchases to go towards a non-profit organization. Any contributions received from this program will go towards the Benevolence Fund. Evangelism: All Saints Day was discussed. We will make an attempt to revamp the

<u>Parish Education</u>: It was suggested to potentially hold a class or Bible study for the young members during the Sunday School hour.

concept for next year.

Property: English Brothers indicated the tuckpointing project is 65% complete. The window that was broken during the job will be fixed before Christmas. Scott will proceed with gathering bids for the interior repairs since English Bros. believes things to be sealed tight.

Worship: The new piano has been delivered and is in the balcony.

New Business: Thrivent Choice Dollars will be sent to the Benevolence Fund. The Council recommends the 2017 Benevolence be distributed as following: 30% NALC; 20% NALS; 20% NALC Theological Education Fund; 10% World Mission Prater League; 10% St. Elias Church, Chicago (Arabic); 10% Life Stream Church, Chicago (Ethiopian).

Next Council Meeting: January 10th at 6:00 p.m.

	JANUARY 2017 CALENDAR-IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH										
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday					
1 8:00 a- Worship & Holy Communion 10:15 a- Worship & Holy Communion	2 8:30 a- LWR Sewing	3 9:30 a- Pastors' Study & Worship	4 7:00 p-Confirmation Cathedral Choir	5 8:30 a- LWR Sewing	6 4:00 p- JOY Lock- in	7 7:00 a- Lutheran Brotherhood 5:00 p- Worship & Holy Communion					
8 8:00 a & 10:15 a- Worship & Holy Communion 9:15 a- SS/Adult Class	9 .	9:30 a- Pastors' Study & Worship 6:00 p- Council	11 6:15 p- Joy Bells 7:00 p-Confirmation	12 10:00 a- Communion at Brookstone 1:30 p- Communion at Country Health	13	14 5:00 p- Worship & Holy Communion					
8:00 a & 10:15 a- Worship & Holy Communion 9:15a- SS/Adult Class 1:00 p- Ostfriesian 3:00 p- Euchre	16 8:30 a- LWR Sewing	17 9:30 a- Pastors' Study & Worship	18 6:15 p- Joy Bells 7:00 p-Confirmation	19 8:30 a- LWR Sewing	20	5:00 p- Worship led by the youth					
22 8:00 a-Worship led by youth 9:15 a-SS/Adult Class 10:15 a- Annual Meeting 1:30p- Hymn Sing Country Health 2:00 p- Devotions	23	24 9:30 a- Pastors' Study & Worship	25 6:15 p- Joy Bells 7:00p-Confirmation Cathedral Choir	26	27	28 5:00 p- Worship					
29 8:00 a- Worship 9:15 a- SS/Adult Class 10:15 a- Worship	30	31 9:30 a- Pastors' Study & Worship									

JANUARY 2017

Date	Acolyte	Lay Readers	Communion Assistants	Communion Assistants Greeters	
Sunday, January 1, 2017 5:00 pm 8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. COMMUNION	Jessica Palmer Colin Wayland Anna Crites Brett Brown	Angie Sage Dr. David Bruns	5:00 Lois Harms 8:00 Amy Jones & Alicia Dowda 10:15 Toni Brown & Julie Hedrick	Robyn Camp Donna Garrell Ernie & Evelyn Sjuts Janice Duitsman	January: 8:00am Blake Hedrick (Captain) Brian Emkes Adam Crites Grant Goff
Sunday, January 8, 2017 8:00 am 10:15 am COMMUNION	Tyler Scott Grace Flessner Denley Heller Kyle Meccoli	Nicole Crites Maynard Duitsman	5:00 Sharon Emkes 8:00 Robyn Camp Darla Rubarts 10:15 Erin & Megan Siuts	Edgar & Kay Busboom Lois Harms Mike Stark & Joyce Romine Mary Quinlan	January: 10:15am Rodney Bergman (Captain) Bruce & Kelly Wolken Tyre Stephens
Sunday, January 15, 2017 5:00 pm 8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. COMMUNION	Karsten Wayland Lindsay Suits Josh Burkhardt Hallie Harms	Lloyd Duitsman Joyce Romine	5:00 Rodney Bergman 8:00 Elaine Wilson Nicole Wolken 10:15 Hailey Braden Callie Heidbreder	Virlon & Wilma Suits Bev Heiden Jake & Marla Goff Marie Reitmeier & Danny Roelfs	
Sunday, January 22, 2017 8:00 am 10:15 am	Austin Cotter Annual Meeting	Teri Travis Annual Meeting		Dave & Denise Wolken Devin Wolken	
Sunday, January 29, 2017 8:00 am 10:15 am	Anna Crites Brett Brown	Emilie Steffey Bev Lehmann		Mark & Kim Wood Janine Standifer Tyler & Stephanie Vogelsang Dr. David Bruns	

FEBRUARY 2017

Date	Acolyte	Lay Readers	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers
Sunday, Feb 5, 2017 5:00 pm 8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. COMMUNION	Kyle Meccoli Jessica Palmer Tyler Scott Colin Wayland	Denise Wolken Virlon Suits	5:00 Mike Stark 8:00 Nicole Crites & Karon Currie 10:15 Molly Flesner & Judy Rademaker	Leon & Mary Ann Schmidt Elaine Wilson Ranae & Janna Buck Shirley Johnson	February: 8:00am Bob Clem (Captain) Larry Frerichs Dirk Harms Keith Frerichs
Sunday, Feb 12, 2017 8:00 am 10:15 am	Denley Heller Grace Flessner	Nicole Wolken Judi Studer		Julie Wilson & Callie Heidbreder Emilie Steffey Maynard & Jo Ann Duitsman Darlene Johnson	February: 10:15am Brant Hoveln (Captain) Jeff Hoveln Matthew Lehmann Todd Wilson
Sunday, Feb 19, 2017 5:00 pm 8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. COMMUNION	Karsten Wayland Hallie Harms Josh Burkhardt Lindsay Suits	Jennifer Wayland Keith Sjuts	5:00 Joyce Romine 8:00 Sharolyn Worley & Adam Crites 10:15 Diana Sjuts & Rylee Sjuts	Lloyd Duitsman Darla Rubarts Ray & Judy Rademaker Rosetta Suits	
Sunday, Feb 26, 2017 5:00 pm 8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Brayden Karlson Anna Crites Austin Cotter Brett Brown	Leon Schmidt Shari Hoveln	5:00 Bonita Kopmann 8:00 Ranae & Janna Buck 10:15 Denise Wolken & Sue Calhoun	Norman & Darlene Uken Dan & Becky Dunlap Leo & Judi Studer Betty Ihnen	

This is from one of our mission churches

From the church pulpit
Here come Christmas
Written by Rev. Rimon Said

Pastor of St. Elias Christian Church in Chicago

When Adan and Eve disobeyed God at the beginning of the creation, all who born through them became sinners because they inherit that from sinner parents. For this reason Paul, the apostle writes in Romans 3:23 saying: "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". That's mean all who born, born as a sinner and they need the redemption of God. "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4-5).

The law was the law of Moses which teaches people how to worship God and how to offer a sacrifice to redeem themselves. From that time, God prepare a plan to redeem all creation by coming in flesh and die at the cross. Paul the apostle say: "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory" (1st. Timothy 3:16).

All prophets who prophesy before Jesus birth, said that the Messiah should born from a virgin. Isaiah prophesy saying: "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). The prophecy does not say who this virgin could be, but in other prophecy this virgin should be from the descendants of King David.

From the tree family of the virgin Mary and her future husband Joseph, both were from the descendants of king David. Mary and Joseph have an engagement covenant together and preparing to get married soon. Before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. When Joseph learn that, and not wanting to make Mary a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But

while he thought about these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for what she conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit, and she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:18-21).

As a faithful Jew, Joseph was waiting the Messiah as all other Jews. He believes in what the angle told him. He was blessed to be the first to see the Messiah when He born. It was a privilege that the Messiah came through his family. What a blessing Joseph and Mary get.

If Jesus should have born from a virgin, why it is needed a man as Joseph! From the life of Jesus, we learn later that Jesus is going to born in a poor family, so all people on earth could come to Him, and get benefit of His redemption. If Jesus will be born in a rich family, the poor could not approach Him and will be not allowed to meet with Him. But Jesus came for all people, He came for the rich and for the poor. When Jesus born, he was infant, He need someone to take care of Him. Mary was the woman who take care of Jesus, and Joseph was the man who God choose to take care of the baby mother. For this reason, God from the beginning make Mary be connected to Joseph so both will take care of raising the baby Jesus.

Have you ever thought why God choose Joseph but not someone else! Joseph have things in himself that other men does not have, for this reason he was the only appropriate man to be connected to Mary, and take care of the baby Jesus.

Joseph was a just man. He listens to God's voice when the angle appears to him in a dream telling him not be afraid from what had happened with Mary, for what she conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. Joseph does not complain at God, and is willing to do anything God ask him to do. Joseph was a humble man. Despite all these things Joseph face some difficulties in his life which change his life in different direction.

First: Joseph have a dream that he and Mary will get married and have family with children. Suddenly his dream crashed when Mary was found pregnant with a baby before they get married. Joseph know that the law of Moses condemns a woman if she was found with a baby before marriage, and is subject to death. In Deuteronomy 22:20-22 says: "If the thing is true, and evidences of virginity are not found for the young woman, then they shall bring out the young woman to the door of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her to death with stones, because she has done a disgraceful thing in Israel, to play the harlot in her father's house. So, you shall put away the evil from among you. If a man is found lying with a woman married to a husband, then both shall die, the man that lay with the woman, and the woman; so, you shall put away the evil from Israel".

It was too difficult for Joseph to see Mary put to death as the result of Bering a baby in her womb before she gets married. Because Joseph was righteous, he put in his mind to put Mary away secretly.

Second: After the angle of God appear to Joseph in a dream, telling him that Mary conceived with a baby in her womb through the Holy Spirit, Joseph could not complain but to accept. Who could believe Joseph or Mary with what had happen with them! Joseph believe that nothing is impossible in front of God, He could do anything He wants. Joseph believe that God will protect him and Mary and the new born child from being punished through the religious priest who could question them about this strange story. Joseph was blessed by being related to Mary, and get blessed by taking care of his small family. He was blessed by naming the new baby Jesus which means Immanuel the one who is going to save people from their sins. Above all of that Joseph was blessed to see that the prophecy of the coming Messiah is happening through his small family. After all of that, Joseph does not afraid from anything else in his life. He believes that if God is with him, no one could be against him.

Jesus born in a poor family. He born in a manger which his family does not own. Paul the apostle could say in later years: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich" 2nd Corinthians 8:9

As we approaching the Day of Christmas, let us remember the Holy Family. You need to trust God and His word. Do not afraid from people because God is grater that all human beings. Listen to His voice through the Gospel. Let His light shine upon you. May this Christmas be a blessing to you and to your family. Merry Christmas and happy new year.

St. Elias Church News & Announcement

St. Elias Christmas service will be at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. On Saturday December 24th. 2016 The service will be in English language along with our host church St. Philip Lutheran Church.

On Christmas Day December 25, 2016 Christmas service will be at 1:00 p.m. in the Arabic language. All are welcome to join us.

At St. Elias we worship every Sunday at 1:00 p.m. followed by a coffee hour where people can meet and talk to build good relations with each other.

The first Sunday of each month we have a non-Liturgics service where we can sing more hymns and have more prayers than the regular Sundays. During the service, we have anointing in oil for healing and blessing.

NOVEMBER 2016 TREASURER'S REPORT

		NOVENIE			Information				50 (40 (40 (40 (40 (40 (40 (40 (40 (40 (4
GENERAL FUND					BUILDING FUND				and the second s
Fund Balance	10/31/2016		\$	167,322.13	Fund Balance	10/31/2016		\$	92,579.70
Offerings		\$ 30,251.50			Offerings		\$ 6,023.50		
Dedicated & Other Fund	Receipts	8,839.51			Other Receipts		0.37		
	Total Income		\$	39,091.01	}	Total Income		\$	6,023.87
					Building, Repair & Project	cts	\$ 4,649.43		
Pastoral Ministry		\$ 22,162.00			Utilities		1,316.50		
Worship & Service		2,499.99				Total Expenses		\$	5,965.93
Our Church Home		4,071.79				-			
Dedicated Fund Expenses		9,551.19							
	Total Expenses		\$	38,284.97					
	•			·	Total Fund Balance		11/30/2016	\$	92,637.64
Total Fund Balance		11/30/206	\$	168,128.17	Total Unobligated Balar	псе		\$	82,634.08
Less Dedicated Fund Tota	1			63,969.84	Building Fund Invested as: :	Money Market	\$10,003.56 Checking	8	82,634.08
Total Unobligated Balan	ce		\$	104,158.33					
							Other Fund Balances		
General Fund Invested as:		Checking		3,623.50	Endowment Capital	•	Memorial	•	18,324.77
Money Market \$10,949.11	CD \$ 42,314.84	CD	8	111,240.72	Endowment Common	34,920.08	Endowment Interest	S	503.51

Offering & Attendance November 2016

By Category								
General	\$	30,251.50						
Benevolence	\$	11,176.75						
Building	\$_	6,023.50						
Total	\$	47,451.75						

The way is a second

 November Attendance
977
 244

Benevolence Offering Includes			Additional Offerings Received				
Gen Benevolence	4,575.00	Lutheran CORE	40.00	Sunday School	431.25	Parking Lot	400.00
Thanksgiving	4,792.75	FOTCOH	0.00	LYO	150.00	Tuckpointing	6,639.99
Rantoul Food Bank	255.00	LWR	50.00	KFC	10.00	Altar Flowers	140.00
				Capital Endowment	189.00	LWR Sewing	5.00
				Radio Broadcast	210.00	Historical Books	40.00
	, i			Lutheran Brotherhood	27.00	Initial Offering	3.00
				Special Flowers	14.00		

Stewardship Progress Year to Date

. 50 5000 0 0	 Budgeted		Received	nead/(Behind)
General	\$ 312,043.42	\$	239,688.50	\$ (72,354.92)
Benevolence	110,000.00		86,591.55	(23,408.45)
Building	 80,758.33		76,112.25	(4,646.08)
TOTAL	\$ 502,801.75	\$	402,392.30	\$ (100,409.45)
	Expenses	Ah	ead/(Behind)	
General	\$ 273.046.33	\$	(33,357,83)	

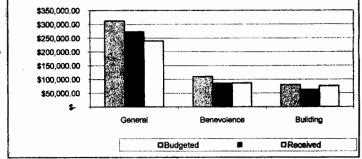
\$ 422,535.82 \$ (20,143.52)

13,214.31

86,591.55

62,897.94

Benevolence Building



Immanuel Lutheran Church 2498 County Road 2100 E Thomasboro IL 61878-9699

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Immanuel Lutheran Church, Flatville
Pastor James T. Lehmann, sts
Pastor Cindy Bisser, sts
Pastor Barbara Busboom, Pastor Emeritus

Telephones (Area Code 217)

Church Office 694-4156
Dial-A-Devotion 694-4711 Fax 694-4155E-Mail: flatville@wigi.us
Web Site: www.flatvillechurch.com

Church Officers

Robyn Camp, Pres. Ranae Buck, V. Pres. Callie Heidbreder, Sec. Derek Harms, Treasurer **Congregation Council**

Rodney Bergman Ranae Buck Robyn Camp Casey Flesner Derek Harms Blake Hedrick Callie Heidbreder Kyle Johnson Scott Sage Cathedral Choir Director Charlene Bergman
Cathedral Choir Co-Directors Marilyn Buhr/
Darla Rubarts
Cathedral Choir Planist Lois Harms
Bell Choir Director Laveda Clem
Youth Choir Directors Erin Siuts

Organists: Irene Buhr, Janice Siuts, Brenda Anderson, Linda Pein, Laveda Clem, Shirley Wyatt

Parish Education

Committee
Judi Studer - Chairman
Audrey Harms
Edgar Hoveln
Marle Reitmeier
Diana Sjuts
Casey Flesner
Sue Calhoun
Jennifer Wayland
Sharolyn Worley

Building & Grounds

Justin Franzen
Evan Suits
Daniel Wilson

Youth Committee

Audrey Harms Diana Sjuts Jennifer Wayland Sharolyn Worley Vacation Bible School Committee

Darcy McMahon Casey Flesner **Sunday School Staff**

Sue Calhoun, Supt. Ben Lehmann, Asst. Supt. Leo Studer, Treas.

Custodian/Groundskeeper: Darren Ramm Church Secretary:
Katie McKinney
flatvilles : tary@wiqi.us

Financial Secretary: Jo Ann Duitsman flatvillefinance@wigi.us