

THE VOICE OF IMMANUEL

December 2017

As we wrap up one year, we begin planning for the next. A business whose primary goal is to complete the fiscal year enters the new year without any real direction. A farmer whose primary goal is to complete the harvest, enters the new growing season without real plans. Fall tillage is for the next year. Putting down fertilizer is in preparation for next year's crop. Many people do pre-tax planning so that income or expenses can be adjusted as needed.

As we approach December 31, this is a good time to make plans for the sake of the church. Perhaps you would like to consider making an end-of-the-year donation for the General Fund, the Building Fund, or the Benevolence Fund. By ending strong, we can begin to make plans for the future.

Recently the Endowment Fund held a brief seminar on Life Decisions. Half of the time was spent discussing health decisions. What is a living will? What is a power of attorney for health care? How can I make decisions and give directions to my family on the type of treatments I would like to receive? Kim Busboom did an excellent job of sharing a lot of information. We have forms here at church to help you out. We also have forms to help you leave instructions on your funeral arrangements. Stop by the church and pick them up.

The second half of the seminar was on legal aspects. What is a will? What is a trust? How can I be certain that my wishes regarding the distribution of my estate are carried out? Attorney Kyle Emkes gave us basic knowledge of what is possible. If you would like to follow up, the East-Central Illinois Group of Thrivent Financial invites you and your children to a free legacy strategies event. It will be from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Saturday, January 6, 2018, at the I-Hotel and Conference Center. Please RSVP by December 29

by calling 217-819-4646.

As you consider estate planning, of course you will want to include your family. But you have also been involved in many other groups that can benefit from your thoughtfulness and preplanning. How can you look ahead? How can you plan for the continuation of those things you see as important throughout your lifetime?

Attached to this newsletter is a brief brochure describing Immanuel's Endowment Fund. Experience has shown that this Fund is a good way for the congregation to receive such gifts and for the wishes of the donor to be respected. It will help us grow in benevolent giving which is a hallmark of Immanuel.

As you consider other possible recipients, many of the medical conditions come to mind – Heart Association, Cancer Society, Hospice. You may also consider some other alternatives. For example, our local cemeteries need a solid financial foundation to ensure that grounds will be well kept and expansion is possible. The North American Lutheran Seminary needs support to ensure that orthodox Lutheran seminary training is available. An organization which has been very important in my own ministry is the Society of the Holy Trinity. This organization of Lutheran clergy is designed to help pastors remain faithful to their ordination vows. Your estate planning can help any of these.

As you make decisions regarding health care and estate planning, it is vital to do so from a Christian perspective. I think it is a wonderful witness if you include something about your faith in your will. You could include some favorite Bible verses, a favorite hymn, a statement of faith, or one of the Creeds. Those who follow you will be blessed by it.

Pastor Jim Lehman STS

PARISH NURSE

December – Holiday Blues / Stress:

*“One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.”
Luke 18:1 NLT*

Are you overbooked for this month? Do you look at your schedule and start to panic? How can you possibly do everything? There are meetings, birthdays, gifts, decorating, parties and too many other things, not including work, family and church.

It's time to trim your list instead of the tree.

Consider fewer gifts, fewer decorations and not so many parties. Find quiet time to spend with devotional materials and in prayer. The only way to get to the heart of Christmas is with Jesus. All of the other things are fine, but they aren't necessary.



Practice some stress busting techniques. Here are some ideas:

- **Leave.** If the noise level is too much or the crowds are closing in, just leave. You don't have to stay in the toy store with all of the screaming youngsters, and you don't have to converse with the know-it-all at the party. You can walk away.
- **Close the eyes.** Take a break from the lights and activities. Closing the eyes is a great way to get re-centered.
- **Try some solitude.** In the middle of so much activity it helps to have time alone. Use the quiet time to set priorities, to pray, or to count your blessings.
- **Go outside.** Fresh air and sunshine can make a difference in how you feel. Being in God's creation and going for a walk can help find extra energy.

- **Locate some water.** Listen to it, watch it, drink it or sit in it. Water refreshes in so many ways. He knows what we need; maybe that is why God put so much on earth.

- **Breathe!** Remember to exhale occasionally. When the shoulders are up to the ears, it's time to take some deep breaths. Fill the lungs completely from the bottom to the top. Pause for a couple of seconds. Exhale letting all of the air out of the lungs from

the top to the bottom. Repeat three or four times. Your shoulders have relaxed with the rest of the body. Stress causes shallow breathing. Deep breathing releases it.

- **Listen to music.** Choose whatever type makes you happy. Sing along. It's amazing how good this can make us feel.

Give yourself the gift of peace in the midst of a world in chaos. Have a great holiday and share your peace with those around you. (Source: www.mayoclinic.com)

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

The December project for the Women of Immanuel will be the "Christmas Toy Drive". We will be collecting for the needy children of Champaign County. Please place the new toys **UNWRAPPED** in the Christmas Box in the breezeway. We will be collecting until December 10. Thank you for the help you have given us in all of the projects this past year.



LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD

The Lutheran Brotherhood will hold its monthly breakfast meeting in Luther Lounge on Saturday, December 2, 2017, at 7:00 a.m. After breakfast and fellowship, the Nativity Scene will be set up. Come and join us. New members are always welcome.

POINSETTIAS

Please help us beautify the church for Christmas by signing up for poinsettias. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board, across from the Church Office. The cost for each 6-inch pot is \$8.00 and the deadline for ordering is **Sunday, December 10th, 2017.** Let's try for 50 beautiful poinsettias!

ANNUAL REPORTS DEADLINE

is **Sunday, December 10th**. All presidents, treasurers, and committee chairs are asked to have their reports turned in by this date.



END OF THE YEAR

In order to close the church books in an orderly manner, it is important that all financial support (pledges, year-end gifts, etc.) for 2017 be in the office by December 25th. Also, if you reserved a date for altar flowers or radio broadcasts this year, we would appreciate these being paid for before December 25th.

WEATHER CONCERNS

In case of inclement weather, the decision regarding cancellation of worship services will be made between 6:00 - 7:00 a.m. The decision will be announced on our website and Facebook page, as well as on WCIA-TV, WIXY, and WHMS. You may also look on illinoishomepage.net.



THANKS

Thank you to the many volunteers who have helped with the bulletins, newsletters, directory and other bulk mailings during this year. Behind the scenes we have so many dedicated people, and we appreciate that they come, sometimes at the last minute, to help out. May God Bless them all!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The newsletter deadline for January will be Friday, **December 15th, 2017.** If you have any notes, minutes, or newsworthy items you would like included in this newsletter, please get them into the church office by this deadline.



WOMEN OF IMMANUEL

Women of Immanuel Will Not Meet in December

“Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth, Peace to Men in whom His Favor Rests.” Luke 2:14

May the Peace and Beauty of the Christmas Season remain with you throughout the New Year – Enjoy this Christmas Season with family and friends.

Mission Trip

As most of you know Bonita Kopmann went to Haiti on a Mission Trip last year with “Friends of the Children of Haiti”. Bonita will be going again this year January 13th thru 21st.

Last year her bags were filled with much needed items for the children in fact you were so generous in your giving that we collected more than she could put in her bags, so this year she will be taking those leftover items with her. When I spoke to Bonita she told me she would love to be able to give each child, she meets, a small gift for they have so little. I told Bonita that I was sure we could make that wish come true.....so I’m asking for your help. We will be collecting “small” toy items for Bonita to take along with her to hand out to the children, ages 9 months to 5 years old. Some suggestions for toys are match box cars, beanie babies, small dolls, small books, even chew toys. Please bring your donations to the church by Sunday January 7th and drop them off in the suitcase in the breezeway. Let’s all help put a smile on a child’s face.

Please keep Bonita and the others on this mission trip in your thoughts and prayers as they travel and care for God’s Children.

Also, if anyone is interested in the history of FOTCOH they have published a book called “The House of Life.” This book is available in our library.

HYMN SING

There will not be a hymn sing in December.

THANK YOU!

The pavilion has already seen use as a ministry tool. Now its usefulness has been expanded. Chilly days or windy days or rainy days will not keep us from using it for outdoor events. Garage doors have been installed on all four sides. That will really improve the opportunities!

Thank you to those who have donated doors. We very much appreciate your generosity! Thank you to: Lois Harms, Marilynn Sage family, Merle & Sylvia Sage, and Leo & Judi Studer.

EUCHRE

High Score: Darlene Johnson & Janice Duitsman

Low Score: Florence Frerichs

Most Loners: Elmer Christians & Lois Maury

Most Pokes: Elmer Christians & Delmar Grussing

Euchre is **CANCELLED** for **December**. Please join in the fun at the next Euchre Tournament on January 21, 2017, 3-5 p.m. Everyone is welcome!





Council Minutes

November 9, 2017

Parish Education: Sunday School Christmas program will be December 17, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. A reschedule date is set for December 22, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Social Ministry: Trunk or Treat was a huge success. Thirty-two trunks were set up and well over 200 people were in attendance. Four garage doors have been donated for the pavilion.

Endowment Fund: Motion to recommend to the congregation the disbursement of the Endowment Fund Interest as 40% Rantoul Food Bank, 25% NALC Disaster Relief, 25% Capital Fund, and 10% Common Fund.

New Business: Discussion of how to use the parsonage.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 12 at 6:00 p.m.



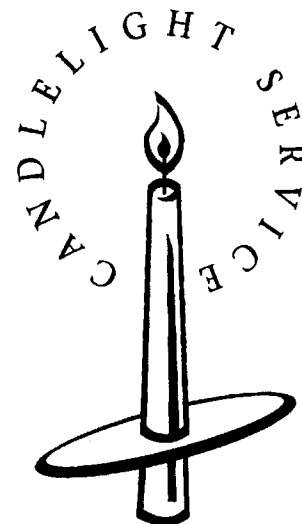
SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Sunday, December 10th: Practice at 1:30 p.m.
- Saturday, December 16th: Practice at 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday, December 17th: Program at 6:00 p.m.
- Alternate Weather Date: December 22, 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Christmas Eve Worship and Holy Communion is Sunday, December 24th, at 3:30 p.m. and again at 5:30 p.m.


DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS
Friday, December 8 at 5:30 p.m.



JANUARY 2018

Date	Acolyte	Lay Readers	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers
Sunday, January 7, 2018 5:00 pm 8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. COMMUNION	Hallie Harms Josh Burkhardt Austin Cotter Rylie Huls	Lloyd Duitsman Shirley Wyatt	5:00 Lois Harms 8:00 Adam Crites Darla Rubarts 10:15 Judy Rademaker Stacey Huls	Jason Stalter & Family Emilie Steffey Norman & Darlene Uken Molly Flesner	January: 8:00am Kyle Johnson(Captain) Brian Emkes Dave Wolken Judy Kopmann
Sunday, January 14, 2018 8:00 am 10:15 am	Kyle Meccoli Colin Wayland	Angie Sage Mike Stark		Rodney & Peggy Bergman Casey Flesner Jake & Marla Goff Janice Duitsman	January: 10:15am Jeff Suits(Captain) Evan Suits Todd Wilson Kale Goff
Sunday, January 21, 2018 5:00 pm 8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. COMMUNION	Denley Heller Grace Flessner Brayden Karlson Cain Buhr	Wilma Suits Shari Hoveln	5:00 Bonita Kopmann 8:00 Diana & Rylee Sjuts 10:15 Erin & Megan Siuts	Tyler & Stephanie Vogelsang Julie Wilson & Callie Heidbreder Maynard & Jo Ann Duitsman Darlene Johnson	
Sunday, January 28, 2018 8:00 am 10:15 am	Anna Crites Annual Meeting	Teri Travis Annual Meeting		Dan & Becky Dunlap Julie Hedrick	

DECEMBER 2017

Date	Acolyte	Lay Readers	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers
Sunday, December 3, 2017 5:00 pm 8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. COMMUNION	Anna Crites Rylie Huls Denley Heller Grace Flessner	Emilie Steffey Toni Brown	5:00 Sharon Emkes 8:00 Robyn Camp Stacey Huls 10:15 Karon Currie Shirley Wyatt	Callie Heidbreder Lois Harms Mike Stark & Joyce Romine Janine Standifer & Hailey Braden	December: 8:00am Wally Worley(Captain) Trent Worley Tad Worley Adam Crites
Sunday, Dec 10, 2017 5:00 p.m. 8:00 am 10:15 am	Lindsay Suits Jessica Palmer	Nicole Crites Edgar Hovel		Gery & Lois Maury Rosetta Suits Les & Debbie Siuts Dr. David Bruns	December: 10:15am Blake Hedrick(Captain) Kyle Ramm Rodney Bergman Derek Harms
Sunday, Dec 17, 2017 5:00 pm 8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. COMMUNION	Tyler Scott Cain Buhr Hallie Harms Karsten Wayland	Robyn Camp Maynard Duitsman	5:00 Lois Harms 8:00 Sue Calhoun Nicole Crites 10:15 Callie Heidbreder Hailey Braden	Ranae, Jamie & Janna Buck Bev Lehmann Ernie & Evelyn Sjuts Bev Heiden	
Sunday, Dec 24, 2017 8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. Christmas Eve @ 3:30 pm Christmas Eve @ 5:30 pm COMMUNION	Colin Wayland Josh Burkhardt Austin Cotter Kyle Meccoli Anna Crites Denley Heller Brayden Karlson Brett Brown Grace Flessner Jessica Palmer	Leon Schmidt Erin Siuts Keith Sjuts Kalista Lutes	3:30 Ranae Buck, Janna Buck, Julie & Jamie Hedrick, Bev Lehmann 5:30 Mike Stark, Joyce Romine, Alicia Dowda, Toni Brown, Bonita Kopmann	8:00 Lawrence & Chris Schluter Mark & Kim Wood 10:15 Betty Ihnen Rick & Jodi Wolken Jeff & Shari Hovel Elaine Wilson Scott & Jana Sage Bob Tuller	 <h3 style="text-align: center;">December</h3>

DECEMBER 2017, Continued

Date	Acolyte	Lay Readers	Communion Assistants	Greeters		Usher
Monday, Dec 25, 2017 Christmas Day @ 9:00 a.m. COMMUNION	Tyler Scott Lindsay Suits	Bev Lehmann	Edgar & Sharon Hovel	Edgar & Sharon Hovel Dave & Denise Wolken		
Sunday, Dec 31, 2017 5:00 p.m. 8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Karsten Wayland Brett Brown	Jennifer Wayland Joyce Romine		Virlon & Wilma Suits Mary & Devin Wolken Larry & Eunice Frerichs Marie Reitmeier		

December 2017 CALENDAR-IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 7:00 a- Lutheran Brotherhood 1:30 p- Sjuts/Walker Wedding 5:00 p- Worship & Holy Communion
3 8:00 a & 10:15 a- Worship & Holy Communion 9:15 a- SS/Adult SS	4 8:30 a- LWR Sewing	5 9:30 a- Pastors' Study & Worship	6 6:00 a- Mens Bible Study 6:15 p- Joy Bells 7:00 p- Choir Confirmation	7 8:30 a- LWR Sewing	8 5:30 p- Decorate Church for Christmas	9 5:00 p- Worship
10 8:00 a- Worship 9:15 a-SS/ Adult SS 10:15 a- Worship 1:30 p- SS Practice	11	12 9:30 a- Pastors' Study & Worship 6:00 p- Council	13 6:45 a- Mens Bible Study & Breakfast 6:15 p- Joy Bells 7:00 p- Confirmation	14 10:00 a- Communion at Brookstone 1:30 p- Communion at Country Health	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 9:30 a- SS Practice 5:00 p- Worship & Holy Communion
17 8:00 a & 10:15 a- Worship & Holy Communion 9:15 a-SS/Adult SS 6:00 p- SS Christmas Program	18 8:30 a- LWR Sewing	19 9:30 a- Pastors' Study & Worship	20 6:15 p- Joy Bells	21 8:30 a- LWR Sewing	22 *ALTERNATE DATE for SS Christmas Program* 7:00 p.m.	23 5:00 p- Worship

24 8:00 a- Worship 9:15 a- SS/Adult 10:15 a- Worship 3:30 p & 5:30 p- Christmas Eve & Holy Communion	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 9:00 a- Worship & Holy Communion	26	27 7:00 p- Choir	28	29	30 5:00 p- Worship
31 8:00 a- Worship 9:15 a- SS/Adult 10:15 a- Worship						

*The Sunday School Christmas Program is scheduled for Sunday, December 17th at 6:00 p.m. In case of bad weather, the alternate date is Friday, December 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 2017 TREASURER'S REPORT

Fund Balance Information

GENERAL FUND

Fund Balance	9/30/2017	\$ 130,178.07
Offerings	\$ 27,107.93	
Dedicated & Other Fund Receipts	3,276.55	
Total Income		\$ 30,384.48
Pastoral Ministry	\$ 19,258.06	
Worship & Service	1,706.17	
Our Church Home	2,972.16	
Dedicated Fund Expenses	1,169.37	
Total Expenses		\$ 25,105.76
	10/31/2017	\$ 135,456.79
Less Dedicated Fund Total		67,358.46
Total Unobligated Balance		\$ 68,098.33

General Fund Invested as:		Checking \$ 13,941.63
Money Market \$10,954.22	CD \$42,708.50	CD \$ 67,852.44

BUILDING FUND

Fund Balance	9/30/2017	\$ 102,172.63
Offerings	\$ 7,689.25	
Total Income		\$ 7,689.25
Building & Repair	\$ 432.06	
Insurance	4,953.52	
Landscaping	350.00	
Utilities	1,090.31	
Total Expenses		\$ 6,825.89
Total Fund Balance	10/31/2017	\$ 103,035.99
Total Unobligated Balance		\$ 103,035.99
Building Fund Invested as:		Checking \$ 103,035.99

Other Fund Balances

Endowment Capital \$	40,628.92	Memorial \$	26,657.68
Endowment Common \$	34,989.13	Endowment Interest \$	207.08

Offering & Attendance October 2017

By Category

General	\$ 27,107.93
Benevolence	6,718.00
Building	7,689.25
Total	\$ 41,515.18

October Attendance

1109
222

Benevolence Offering Includes

Gen Benevolence	4,483.00	Lutheran CORE	40.00
Rantoul Food Bank	1,420.00	NALC Seminary	150.00
Lutheran Disaster Relief	625.00		

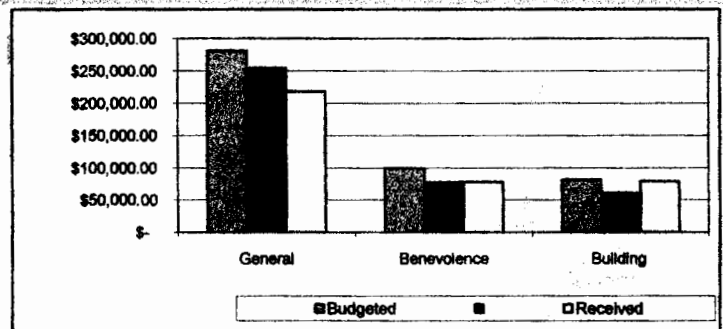
Additional Offerings Received

Sunday School	386.37	Ethiopia Airfare	1,200.00
Altar Flowers	35.00	Cookbooks	30.00
Parking Lot	450.00	Historical Committee	500.00
Lutheran Brotherhood	33.00	Bible Study	24.00
Radio Broadcast	140.00		

Stewardship Progress Year to Date

	Budgeted	Received	Ahead/(Behind)
General	\$ 281,480.00	\$ 218,007.89	\$ (63,472.11)
Benevolence	100,000.00	77,919.63	(22,080.37)
Building	81,750.00	78,858.58	(2,891.42)
TOTAL	\$ 463,230.00	\$ 374,786.10	\$ (88,443.90)

	Expenses	Ahead/(Behind)
General	\$ 254,300.39	\$ (36,292.50)
Benevolence	77,919.63	-
Building	60,813.91	18,044.67
TOTAL	\$ 393,033.93	\$ (18,247.83)



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 Barbara Busboom, *Pastor Emeritus*

Telephones (Area Code 217)
Church Office 694-4156
Fax 694-4155 E-Mail: flatville@wigi.us
Web Site: www.flatvillechurch.com

Church Officers

Robyn Camp, Pres.
Blake Hedrick, V. Pres.
Casey Flesner, Sec.
Derek Harms, Treasurer

Congregation Council

Brenda Barr
Rodney Bergman
Robyn Camp
Casey Flesner
Derek Harms
Blake Hedrick
Stacey Huls
Ryan Sage
Scott Sage

Cathedral Choir Director Charlene Bergman
Cathedral Choir Co-Directors Marilyn Buhr/
Daria Rubarts

Cathedral Choir Pianist Lois Harms
Bell Choir Director Laveda Clem
Youth Choir Directors Erin Siuts

Organists: Irene Buhr, Janice Siuts, Brenda
Anderson, Linda Pein, Laveda Clem, Heidi Brown

**Parish Education
Committee**

Judi Studer - Chairman
Missy Buhr
Casey Flesner
Audrey Harms
Edgar Hovel
Nathon & Amy Jones
Ben Lehmann
Marie Reitmeier
Jennifer Wayland
Denise Wolken

Building & Grounds

Kiel Rulon
Evan Suits
Daniel Wilson

Youth Committee

Audrey Harms
Nathon & Amy Jones
Jennifer Wayland
Denise Wolken

**Vacation Bible
School Committee**

Amy McElroy
Darcy McMahon

Sunday School Staff

Ben Lehmann, Supt.
Missy Buhr, Asst. Supt.
Leo Studer, Treas.

Custodian/Groundskeeper:
Darren Ramm

Church Secretary:
Katie McKinney
flatvillesecretary@wigi.us

Financial Secretary:
Jo Ann Duitsman
flatvillefinance@wigi.us