

Immanuel Monthly

**December
2015**



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Making more and stronger disciples of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL
522 S. CHURCH STREET — WATERLOO, IL — 618.939.6480
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From Our Administrative Pastor...

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Immanuel,

For many years now I've considered Easter my favorite holiday. To be honest, I like it more than Christmas. The biggest part of my preference for Easter has to do with celebrating Jesus' glorious victory over the bondage of sin, death, and the power of Satan. The sad drama of Good Friday when Jesus died for the sins of the world gives way to the joyful drama of the empty tomb on Easter morning when Jesus showed himself to be God and Savior of the world.

Part of my preference for Easter, though, has to do with the world's inability to secularize Easter. Our culture has tried to draw attention away from Jesus on Easter by promoting Easter bunnies and eggs, but the effort hasn't been very successful. Almost everyone knows that Easter is about Jesus—about Jesus dying and coming to life again.

The good news that Jesus was "born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Gal. 4:4, ESV) is so tremendous, no amount of commercialism can overshadow or overpower it.

Not so with Christmas. Christmas has become a huge commercial event with mass shopping from Black Friday until a few days after Christmas Day. You can listen to Christmas music for hours—and not hear one word about Jesus. Television shows and movies are full of Christmas lore about Santa, reindeer, gifts, and the Grinch, but Jesus' birth is rarely mentioned. It's almost as if all the trimmings for a huge birthday party celebration were put in place, but the guest of honor, Jesus, wasn't invited.

You know what, though? I've rethought my observations about the secularization of Christmas and come up with this conclusion: **Christmas is awesome!** True, some people may

not get Christmas, but we do. Some people may forget the reason for the season, but it's still the glorious celebration of Jesus' birth. During Christmas we remember how love in the person of Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be *Immanuel*, that is, "God with us." The fact that Jesus left the tranquility and grandeur of heaven and accepted all the limitations of being an infant in order to save us fills us with wonder. The good news that Jesus was "born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Gal. 4:4, ESV) is so tremendous, no amount of commercialism can overshadow or overpower it. As we give and receive gifts during this season, we remember that God's greatest gift, Jesus, came to us on Christmas day to give us all the gifts God has for his people.

So, eat cookies, tear open presents, enjoy the lights, decorate your house from top to bottom, and CELEBRATE THE MARVELOUS BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR! Have a merry, blessed Christmas!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Joup

Part of my preference for Easter, though, has to do with the world's inability to secularize Easter.

A "Note" from our Music Director

Counting the days until Christmas!

That is what happens as one approaches Christmas! In fact, some have been counting the days since July, when store shelves were already being stocked for the Christmas Season! I, too, am counting the days until Christmas...with anticipation for the various choirs to share their *Christmas praises* with Immanuel's worshippers.

One of the Adult Choir's Christmas Eve anthems is titled "**Carol of the Stable**" by Jeffrey/Dudley-Smith. The "carol" is filled with "descriptive" words and phrases that makes one stop and think about that special night of our Savior's birth. I would like to share two of the verses with you:

*Silence of midnight,
voices of angels
singing to bid night
yield to the dawn.
Darkness is ended,
sinners befriended
where in the stable
Jesus is born.*

*Splendor of starlight
high on the hill side
faint is the far light
burning below;
Kneeling before Him,
shepherds adore Him,
Christ in the stable
long, long ago.*



I pray as you count the days to Christmas that **His Light** will be shared throughout the month of December, and always. And, as you count, take the time to "**kneel and adore Him**" just as the shepherds did so long ago. Come and join the celebration of our Savior's birth!

Serving Him,

Do You Have an Email Address?

Did you know that you could be a good steward by receiving our newsletter via e-mail? Call (939-6480) or e-mail (immanuelwaterloo@gmail.com) the church office and let Lisa know to remove you from the mailing list and add you to the e-mail list.

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to...

1	Jeremiah Bell	30	Jenna Hoeffken
	Norman Eggemeyer		Caleb Troup
2	Jenny Boker	31	Laura Richter
3	Cathy Goforth		Dan Worley
5	Drake Downing		
	Becky Ellis		
	Angie Prescher		
	Barb White		
6	Holly Kelling		
7	Jeff Filipiak		
	Reba Menke		
8	Olivia Rusteberg		
9	Brenda Schreder		
10	Esther Brandt		
	Merry Conway		
12	Breanna Altes		
	Berneta Bachelier		
	Jeffrey Haare		
13	Nyla Bartels		
	Chris Moore		
14	Reese Downing		
	Virginia Horn		
	Deborah Joellenbeck		
	Roy Unterseh		
15	Willa Mae Prange		
16	Myla Eggemeyer		
	Colton Glessner		
	Grace Troup		
17	Vickie Wynn		
18	Derek Heise		
	Jim Stueve		
	Sam Stumpf		
	Richard Waite		
19	Linda Bommarito		
	Sharon Rehmer		
20	Scott Kirkley		
	Tom Wheatley		
21	Greyson Kruse		
	Ava Rehmer		
23	Wayne Hargrave		
24	Lillian Eggemeyer		
	J. T. Englert		
	John Reisner		
26	Evan McDaniel		
	Michael Quinn		
	Haley Vernier		
	Hannah Vernier		
27	Janis Milton		
28	Robert Mesnarich		
	Bill Stueve		
	Melissa Ziegler		
29	Janet Crawford		
	Marvin Henry		
	Louella Lipe		

Happy Anniversary to...

1	Clem & Karen Ruesler, 31 yr.
5	Sandy & Jackie Nichols, 17 yr.
6	Bob & Barb Vernier, 27 yr.
7	Ray & Sue Champion, 30 yr.
9	Adam & Jill Eggemeyer, 10 yr.
13	Bob & Shirley Elmore, 12 yr.
17	Bob & Gayle Mesnarich, 38 yr.
	Jerry & Jane Moeser, 16 yr.
19	Tony & Cindy Troup, 32 yr.
21	Morris & Nina Binder, 52 yr.
22	Bob & Linda Polansky, 31 yr.
23	George & Myra Lesinger, 48 yr.
24	Larry & Georgia Wynn, 62 yr.
25	Bobby & Mandy Rehmer, 12 yr.
26	Les & Sandra Downing, 50 yr.
27	Dennis & Yvonne Brandt, 35 yr.
	Leo & Karen Hodapp, 44 yr.
31	Clarence & Susan Vogt, 58 yr.

May God bless all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries during December!

Parish Leaders

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Tony Troup, 618-340-8375

Church & School Staff:

Merritt Demski, 847-254-9666	Field Education Student
Lisa Clamors, 618-719-4954	Office Secretary
Ann Frank, 282-6597	Music Director
Sandy Mueller	Housekeeping
Ken Schanz	Groundskeeper/Maintenance
Cindy Troup, 618-340-0757	Preschool Director
Veronica Demski	Preschool Teacher's Aide

Church Council:

Lee Eggemeyer, 458-8555	President
Alan Stumpf, 618-719-9033	Vice-President
Laura Kinzinger, 939-8175	Secretary
David Powell, 618-974-9222	Treasurer
Warren Frank, 282-6597	Financial Secretary
Taryn Niemeyer, 939-7982	Christian Education
Allen Jacobs, 939-3035	Church Properties
Colby Crook, 618-910-2825	Evangelism
Sandy Mueller, 618-420-1373	Social Ministry
Alan Stumpf, 618-719-9033	Spiritual Ministry
Dawn Rubemeyer, 939-4314	Stewardship
Sandy Nichols, 618-719-3424	Youth Ministry

Other Volunteers:

Cindy Troup	Sunday School Superintendent
Louise Nobbe	Head Sacristans
Lerona Pryor	
Hazel Moeckel	
Sandy Thompson	Flower Coordinator
Lisa Clamors	Women's Christian Ministry
Janet Crawford	Fellowship Committee

Field Education Students:

Matthew Bohlmann, 1st Year	314-960-9884
Lesley Chen, 1st Year	617-651-7890

Have you ever thought about joining one of Immanuel's Boards or committees? If so, please contact the appropriate person listed above.

Elders' Shepherding Program

(Families whose last name begins with)

A-B	Rodney Clamors, 618-719-4023
C-D	Jim Crawford, 618-799-8789
E-Ha	Scott Janssen, 214-629-6975
He-Hu	Bob Polansky, 618-979-0918
J-K	Jason Valerius, 458-4890
L-Mel	Wayne Collmeyer, 618-719-7235
Men-My	Cal Neeman, 939-5137
N-P	Elden Niemeyer, 939-7982
R-Sche	Larry Taake, 939-4757
Schi-Sw	Jerry Grant, 939-5032
T-Wel	open
Wem-Z	Larry Goessling, 939-8824

Elders and Pastors:
Alan Stumpf, 618-719-9033

Monthly Collections

Board of Social Ministry:

December: Concordia Seminary Food Bank

These items include all canned goods, boxed items, sauces, soups, toilet paper, paper towels, diapers (all sizes), laundry detergent, fabric softener sheets, hygiene items, and cleaning supplies, and other non-perishable items. This Food Bank benefits all of the Seminary students and their families throughout the year. You can put your donations in the barrel in the narthex.

Sunday School:

December: Lutheran Braille Workers

Each month, the Sunday School classes take a monetary offering for a specific charity. Thank you to all of the Pre-K through 8th grade students that contribute to these collections each month!

Bible Study Opportunities!

Sunday Education Hour: This Bible study hour consists of Sunday School for the youth (3 years old to 8th grade), a young adult Bible study (high school & college age) on *"Broken: 7 Christian Rules that Every Christian Ought to Break as Often as Possible"* led by Vicar Merritt in the youth room; *"Letters from a Jailbird: Paul's Prison Epistles"* led by Pastor Troup in the overflow room; and a DVD-based Bible study for young adults and families led by Scott & Jen Janssen and Tim Scheibe in the church basement kitchen.

Men's Bible Study: A DVD Bible study on "Joseph: Carpenter of Steel" led by Pastor Troup is held at Burger King every Tuesday at 6:30am.

Wednesday Morning Adult Bible Class: This Bible study and fellowship time is held every Wednesday at 9:30am. This class is led by Vicar Merritt Demski. They are studying the Book of Romans.

Ladies' Bible Study: We're taking a break, and we'll resume our study of the book of Ruth on January 7th. All ladies are welcome!

Adult Information Classes: Pastor Troup is currently leading an Adult Information Class on Sunday evenings at 6:30pm in the overflow room.

***Everyone is invited to attend one or more of these Bible studies!
Bring a friend!***

Making more and stronger disciples of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

IN OUR PRAYERS...

Please note: The names listed below will remain on our public prayer list for two weeks unless the church office is notified otherwise. Thank you.

We Pray for our Fellow Parishioners: Millie Menke, Erwin Liefer, Lorine Horn, Doris Horn, Ed Horn, Isabel Gibbons, Clem Ruesler, Linda Allscheid, Dennis Brandt, Curt Wittbracht, Virginia Horn, Roland Muench, John Stueve

We Pray for Friends and Relatives of Parishioners: Michael Washausen, Nina Van Kamp, Ken Horn, Susan Higgins, Al Gruber, Donna Huffman, Blayne Woodcock, Bob Lenhardt, Debbie Wynn, Ron Lewis, Glen Polacek

We Pray for Those in the Service of Our Nation: Dusty Hansen, Dan Cohlmeier, Alicia Kirkley, Dustin Bender, Aaron Bommarito, Alex Naumann

We Pray for Our Missionaries and Special Missions: Uganda Mission Team (preparing for their January 2016 trip), Eric & Linda Funke (Tanzania), Unity Lutheran Elementary School (East St. Louis, IL)

October 2015 Official Acts

Transfers Our:

10/12/15—*Shawn, DeAnn & Joshua Schukar* to Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Collinsville, IL

October Finances

October Church Attendance

October 2015 (4)	860
October 2014 (4)	888
October 1985 (4)	933

2015 Weekly Average (as of 10/31): 236
As of 10/31/15, there were 863 baptized members.

Important Events Coming Up at Immanuel...

See the calendar on page 7 and the website (www.immanuelwaterloo.org) for all of the events coming up at Immanuel!

Total Deposits	\$ 38,180.54
Total Expenses	\$ 41,876.94
Over/(Short)	\$ (3,696.40)

October 31, 2015 Balances:

Checking	\$ 79,222.82
Scholarship Fund	\$ 9,063.71
Mission Trip Fund	\$ 6,244.87
Music Dept. Fund	\$ 876.00
Nobbe Mem. Fund	\$ 7,986.00
Loan	\$ 56,462.52

2015 Year to Date:

Deposits	\$381,327.22
Expenses	\$379,831.77
Over/(Short)	\$ 1,495.45
Unpaid Obligations	\$ 0.00

December 2015 Worship Helpers

Dates	Times	Ushers	Servers	Lectors	Acolytes	Greeters	Media Team
Wed, Dec 02	7:30pm	10			Alex Magnuson & Alex Whelan	Ushers	Lisa Clamors ®
Sat, Dec 05	5:30pm				Audra Scheibe	Marilyn Collette	Wyatt Drewes
Sun, Dec 06	7:45am	1		Veronica Demski	Evan Fink & Drake Downing	Ushers	Bradley Altes ®
	10:15am	11	Matthew Bohlmann	Matthew Bohlmann	David Broske & Grace Herschbach	Wayne & Cathie Collmeyer	Haley/Hannah Vernier
Wed, Dec 09	7:30pm	2			Evan Breidecker & Falon Breidecker	Ushers	Lisa Clamors ®
Sat, Dec 12	5:30pm		Greg Wiegand		Jack Metzger	Marilyn Collette	Nick Hergenroeder
Sun, Dec 13	7:45am	4	Lesley Chen	Matthew Bohlmann	Ian Schrader & Jenna Hoeffken	Charles & Phyllis Lloyd	Dave Powell
	10:15am	3		Rodney Clamors	Griffin Nichols & Kaden Nichols	Ushers	Mitchell/Tim Scheibe ®
Wed, Dec 16	7:30pm	8			Jacob Williams & Kaylee Tucker	Ushers	Gregory/Paul Hoeffken ®
Sat, Dec 19	5:30pm		Rodney Clamors		Jordyn Koch	Marilyn Collette	Dave Powell
Sun, Dec 20	7:45am	9		Wayne Collmeyer	Lillian Prather & Matthew Stratman	Ushers	Pam Nagel ®
	10:15am	10	Lesley Chen	Lesley Chen	Kylee LaRue & Kyra Drewes	Wayne & Cathie Collmeyer	Wyatt Drewes
Thu, Dec 24	4:00pm	7	Gary Altes	Gary Altes	Sophia Alu, Tyler Cooley, Aaron Lloyd	Ushers	Gregory/Paul Hoeffken ®
	7:30pm	5	Howard Shive	Karen Hodapp	Evan Fink, Audra Scheibe, Grace Herschbach	Ushers	Bradley Altes
Fri, Dec 25	9:00am	6	Dean Harbison	Linda Harbison	Madalyn Valerius, Drake Downing, Alex Whelan	Ushers	Lisa Clamors ®
Sat, Dec 26	5:30pm		Wayne Collmeyer		Paul Hoeffken	Marilyn Collette	Dave Powell
Sun, Dec 27	7:45am	1	Warren Frank	Joey Birrittier	Rachel Patterson & Sami Wheat	Ushers	Nick Hergenroeder
	10:15am	11		Marian Obst	Alex Magnuson & Audra Scheibe	Ushers	Haley/Hannah Vernier ®

Usher Teams:

- 1 Roy Unterseh, Jim Stueve, Dennis & Raymond Brandt, Ed Arras
- 2 Chuck Keller, Craig Mehner, Larry Taake, Dawn & Chase Rubemeyer
- 3 Don Moeller, Rodney & Lisa Clamors, Alec & Michael Trout, Ollney Mueller Jr.
- 4 Bill Stueve, Charles Lloyd, Kevin Whelan
- 5 Robert Mesnarich Jr., Pam Nagel, Don & Carol Matzenbacher
- 6 Jason & Nick Valerius, Wade Marshall, Gerald Woodcock, Tim Troup
- 7 Alan Stumpf, Larry Decker, Ross Schrader
- 8 Larry Goessling, Jim Smothers, Dave Wiese, Cal Neeman, Dean Harbison
- 9 Jim Crawford, Marvin Henry, Allen Jacobs, Ellery Byer
- 10 Elden Niemeyer, Sharon Osterhage, Wayne Hargrave, Wyatt Drewes
- 11 Lee Eggemeyer, Ken Schanz, Roger Schanz, Curt Wittbracht, Eric Eggemeyer

Vestment Color:

12/1—12/23 purple
12/24—12/31 red

Saturday Accompanists:

12/5—Ron Jones
12/12—Joan Ruwald
12/19—Ron Jones
12/26—Ann Frank

Collator:

Nede Bachelier

December 2015 Altar Flowers

- 12/5—12/6** Given to the glory of God by Ray & Sue Champion in honor of their 30th wedding anniversary
- 12/12—12/13** Given to the glory of God by the Nobbe family in memory of Robert Nobbe on his birthday
- 12/19—12/20** Given to the glory of God by Larry & Georgia Wynn in honor of their 62nd wedding anniversary
- 12/24—12/25** Given to the glory of God by Doris Horn in thanksgiving for her family & friends
- 12/26—12/27** Given to the glory of God by Leo & Karen Hodapp in honor of their 44th wedding anniversary

The 2015 Flower Chart is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Sign up early for the weekend you would like! As your weekend gets closer, Sandy Thompson, the flower coordinator, will contact you to give you more details.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December		1 6:30a Men's Bible Study at Burger King 6-7:30p Zumba 7:00p Elders' Meeting	2 9:30a Adult Bible Class 6-6:30p Immanubells 6:30-8p Midweek 7-8p Choir 8:05p Agape Ringers	3	4 9a-7p Drop off cookies for Cookie Walk 6-8p Set up for Cookie Walk & Craft Fair	5 8:00a Decorate for Christmas 9a-12p Cookie Walk & Craft Fair 5:30p Holy Communion 7:00p Trivia Night
	6 7:45a Worship Service 9:00a Educ Hour 10:15a Holy Communion 1:30-3:00p Children's Christmas Service Practice	7 <i>Pastor Troup OFF</i> 7:00p Book Club Meeting	8 6:30a Men's Bible Study at Burger King 6-7:30p Zumba 7:15p Board of Christian Education Meeting	9 9:30a Adult Bible Class 5:45-6:15p Immanubells 6:15-7:15p Midweek 6:15-7:15p Choir 7:30p Advent Service 8:15p Living Nativity Practice 8:15p Agape Ringers	10	11 9:00a Board of Evangelism Meeting 9a-11p Scrapbook Day 5:30p Holy Communion
	13 7:45a Holy Communion 9:00a Educ Hour 10:15a Worship Service 11:15a Christ Concert Practice 1:30-3:00p Children's Christmas Service Practice	14 <i>Pastor Troup OFF</i>	15 6:30a Men's Bible Study at Burger King 6-7:30p Zumba	16 9:30a Adult Bible Class 5:45-6:15p Immanubells 6:15-7:15p Midweek 6:15-7:15p Choir 7:30p Advent Christ Concert & Living Nativity Service	17 7:00p Church Council Meeting	18 9:30-11a Children's Christmas Service Practice 5:30p Holy Communion
	20 7:45a Worship Service 9:00a Educ Hour 10:15a Holy Communion 7:00p Children's Christmas Service & Birthday Party for Jesus	21 <i>Pastor Troup OFF</i>	22 6:30a Men's Bible Study at Burger King 6-7:30p Zumba	23 NO Midweek Classes 5:45-6:30p Immanubells 6:30p Agape Ringers 7:00p Choir	24 <i>Church Office Closed</i> 4:00p Holy Communion 7:30p Holy Communion	25 9:00a Holy Communion
	27 7:45a Holy Communion 9:00a Educ Hour 10:15a Worship Service 2:45p Christmas Caroling	28 <i>Pastor Troup OFF</i> 2-4p Youth Night in the Multipurpose Room (Junior High, High School & College)	29 6:30a Men's Bible Study at Burger King 6-7:30p Zumba	30 NO Midweek Classes or Choir Practices	31	26 5:30p Holy Communion

2015

Our Calendar is Now on Google!

Want to stay up to date? Go to the *Calendar* page on our website (immanuelwaterloo.org) and check it out! Be sure to subscribe to this calendar, and you'll have the most up to date info on Immanuel's activities and events. *Notice that something is missing? Let us know!*

Congregational Meeting Recap

During our semi-annual congregational meeting on Sunday, Nov. 1st, we heard reports from each board, from Vicar Merritt, and from Pastor Troup. In addition, we approved the 2016 budget and voted unanimously to extend an exclusive call to Merritt Demski (Vicar) to serve as Associate Pastor upon his graduation from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in the spring of 2016. Please continue to keep Vicar, Veronica, the Council of Presidents, and Immanuel's staff & members in your prayers during this time as the Holy Spirit works in the lives of all involved.

Support Our BASIC Youth Group!

1. Immanuel's BASIC youth group sponsors a coffee & doughnut fellowship each Sunday morning from 8:45-9:00am and 10-10:15am outside the multipurpose room. **If you would like to sponsor a Sunday, please sign up on the list on the table.** All freewill offerings are appreciated!
2. Recycle your aluminum cans! There is a large trash can in the kitchen for those cans. If you have a large amount and put them in trash bags, you can put the bags over by the white shed at the corner of the parking lot.
3. The paper recycle bins are located in the back of the education building. Load them up with your paper recycling products!
4. The ice machine is available and ice can be purchased for a freewill donation during office hours, and on weekends before and after worship. Simply load your container with the large ice scoop and place your money in the donation can.

Thank you for your support!

Thank you to the following people for helping cut out the Walker Carry-all Totes: Stephanie Brandt, Phyllis Brown, Janet Crawford, Ann Frank, Cathy Goforth, Carol Gruber, Sandy Mueller, Sandra Mueller, Taryn Niemeyer, Dinah Pflasterer, Vivian Reiss, and Melissa Ziegler. The totes were designed by Vivian Reiss and sewn together by Stephanie Brandt, Ann Frank, Cathy Goforth, Taryn Niemeyer, Dinah Pflasterer, and Vivian Reiss. These totes will be given to Immanuel's shut-ins at Christmas. Thank you to all involved! —Immanuel's Board of Social Ministry

Mark Your Calendars Now for Immanuel's 2015 Advent and Christmas Services!

Advent Services:

Wed., Dec. 2—7:30pm

Wed., Dec. 9—7:30pm

Sunday School Christmas Service:

Sun., Dec. 20—7:00pm

Christmas Services:

Thurs., Dec. 24—4:00pm & 7:30pm

Fri., Dec. 25—9:00am

Advent Christ Concert and Living Nativity Service:

Wed., Dec. 16—7:30pm

An Update from Our Missionary Partners...

Funke News: Step by Step



Eric, Linda, and Michael Funke

Our steps are made

firm by the Lord, when He delights in our way; though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong, for the Lord holds us by the hand.

Psalms 37:23-24

As we were walking with Michael the other day, holding his hand as he tottered down the path, I couldn't help but think about our Heavenly Father who holds our hands as we stumble along. As we continue our work in Tanzania and have begun the precious work of parenthood, we are so thankful for a God who walks with us step by step. There have been many meaningful steps this last month in our school, in our community, in the Tanzanian Lutheran church, in Tanzania as a country, and in our family.

Our School

As we are nearing the end of this school year, all of the classes are busy with exam preparations, and Form 4 is already in the middle of national exams. Please keep them in your prayers. Eric's schedule has increased until the year's end, as he is now teaching both math and computers to the Pre-Form 1 students. Even as this school year concludes, we are excited about the possibilities for next year. We just received the first shipment of dictionaries, gifted to our school by the Vacation Bible School of St. John in Cypress, TX. We are thrilled that the students will be better able to learn new words, look up words in their classes, and read their English Bibles.

At the beginning of the month, Eric and the other math/science teachers also attended a seminar on a new e-learning curriculum. Next year our school will receive several tablets and will be using the national curriculum for computer classes. This will give computer classes a greater priority as our students will be expected to take a national exam in computer technologies. We are still trying to figure out ways to get internet at our school to accommodate the new program.

We are also so excited that the first steps have been taken in building the new library/computer lab. As of this week, the trenches have been dug and the workers have begun making the bricks. Likewise, we are getting much closer to having the \$25,000 needed to complete the building thanks to the fall festival fundraiser at St. John, Fort Collins, CO which brought in \$1810.85. **Now we only need \$4,033!** Can you help? If you would like to help us take these last financial steps, you can go to www.GlobalLutheranOutreach.com/support-funke.html and write your donation amount next to "Funke: Mwadui Library". You can also write a check to Global Lutheran Outreach with "Funke: Mwadui Library" in the memo line and send it to Global Lutheran Outreach, 6709 Ficus Drive, Miramar, FL, 33023. Please make sure you put the donation amount in the Funke: Mwadui Library line or write Library on your check, because otherwise we will not know your intention, and it will end up in our general fund. Thank you to all who are helping to make this dream a reality!

National Elections

This month was also Tanzanian national elections. Since the country was founded, there has only been one ruling party. This election was the closest in Tanzanian history between two parties. While there was potential for riots and we stuck close to Mwadui during election week, we thank God that the electoral process was peaceful in the vast majority of Tanzania. We pray that God may guide President Magufuli and the new leadership of Tanzania.

Home Life

Little by little we are settling into our new life as a family of three. Since Omary is at school during the week and the work load around the house seems to have tripled with our new addition, we are thankful that friends recommended Dina to us as a new house helper. She has been an absolute blessing in our lives! One of our greatest challenges this past month was ongoing illness—colds, 24 hr. fevers, contact dermatitis, etc. However, we thank God that our family's health has finally seemed to settle out. Michael has brought so much joy to our lives!! On October 28th, we celebrated Michael's 2nd birthday and his first as part of our family :-). Michael's language skills, confidence, and comfort level continue to grow daily. He loves to laugh, sing, and discover the world around him. If you would like to see more pictures and videos of Michael's first month at home, go to www.facebook.com/AFunkeTimeInTanzania or www.youtube.com/EricFunkeGLO. Lots of cuteness awaits you there ;-)

Written by Eric & Linda Funke on November 6, 2015.

*Would you like to receive the updates (complete with pictures) by email straight from Eric & Linda?
If so, email Linda at Linda.Funke@globallutheranoutreach.com and ask to be on their email update list.*

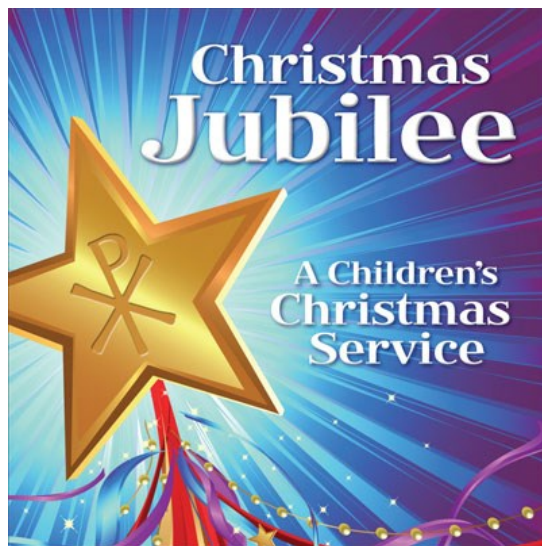
Cookie Walk & Craft Fair

Saturday, December 5

9:00am-12:00pm

Purchase homemade cookies by the pound (\$7.00/lb.) and visit several vendors to purchase those special Christmas gifts!

Christmas Cookies



"Christmas Jubilee"

Children's Christmas Service

Sunday, December 21

7:00pm

Sunday School children in preschool through 8th grade will be participating in this service. Come and listen as the Christmas story is told by the young people.

Following the service, you are invited to a "Birthday Party for Jesus" hosted by the Board of Christian Education in the multipurpose room. Cake, ice cream, and drinks will be served.

Sunday, December 27th

We'll meet in the Overflow Room at 2:45pm.

One group will sing at Oak Hill & Bellefontaine Place, and the other group will sing at Rosedale House, Garden Place & Legacy Place. We are looking for singers of all ages and of all musical backgrounds. Please consider joining the caroling fun. Invite your family and friends to sing Christmas carols/songs with you!

Caroling





Greetings from the Women's Christian Ministry (WCM)!

Our last WCM meeting for this year was held in November. And, many important decisions were made. First of all, our officers will stay the same for 2016. President – Lisa Clamors, Vice President – Sharon Osterhage, Secretary – Angela LaRue, and Treasurer – Barb White.

Among other business, we chose our new activities for the year 2016. The women had quite a number of suggested activities to choose from, and I hope you will be pleased with and enjoy what they chose for next year's events! Watch this newsletter column and the church bulletins for continuing updates on what the WCM will be doing. By the way, our Bi-county Backpack Collection and our annual fall Bunco event will both be ongoing.

Planning for our 2016 Mini-Retreat will begin sometime in January and many hands will be needed for this annual outreach event. If you would like to help out with it, please let me know. You do not have to be a WCM member to help. Some of the areas needing volunteers are registration, set-up & decorating, handing out flyers, and of course bringing a breakfast food item. Don't miss out on the fun and fellowship as we work together to minister to the many women who attend this inspirational event! I almost forgot the most important area where you can help out...praying for our planning committee for this event, for the women that will attend the retreat, and prayers for our keynote speaker as she makes her preparations! More about who our speaker is and what the theme of this year's mini-retreat is will be coming soon!

The Thursday evening Women's Bible Study has finished its latest study. We will take a break for the holidays and resume again on January 7, 2016 (at 7:00pm in the overflow room), picking up with our study of *Ruth: More Than a Love Story* as we delve into the remainder of the book of Ruth. As always, all ladies are welcome to join us!

The Women's Christian Ministry has been truly blessed throughout this year with faithful women who have lived their faith through their dedication in serving in their homes, in church and in our community. Immanuel is truly blessed! Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The next Women's Christian Ministry meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 19th, at 7pm in the Overflow Room. We will be discussing our upcoming activities for 2016! Be there!

In Christ,
Lisa Clamors

P.S. See page 13 of this newsletter for an opportunity to enjoy a retreat for women with the WCM's help!

"How good and pleasant it is when sisters live together in unity!" Psalm 133:1

Interested in Serving on Immanuel's Media Team?

We are always looking for good computer-savvy people (junior high age or above) to join Immanuel's media team. Training is available, but the job is really simple. If you are interested and would like to join this team, please contact Lisa in the church office (immanuelwaterloo@gmail.com or 939-6480). Thanks!



Advent Christ Concert & Living Nativity Service Wednesday, December 16 7:30pm

The service will begin in our sanctuary with wonderful instrumental and vocal music putting us in the Christmas spirit, and then we'll join Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and angel, and the animals, the stable as they share in the birth of our Lord and Savior on that first Christmas Eve in Bethlehem!

Refreshments will be served following the service. There will also be a time to pet the animals, too!

Invite your family and friends to this special service!

Christmas Cards of Love

The Board of Social Ministry invites the congregation to join them in brightening our shut-ins' Christmas season. This board will be delivering a "goody bag" to each shut-in on December 27th. In addition to this gift, we are asking the members of Immanuel to remember them as well. Please consider sending a Christmas card to the shut-ins of our congregation. Your help will brighten their Christmas and extend the love of Immanuel to them.

NAME	ADDRESS		CITY, STATE, ZIP
Earl Downs	106 East Front St.		Waterloo, IL 62298
Wilbert Kohlmeier	228 Mueller		Waterloo, IL 62298
Isabel Gibbons	228 Mueller, Suite #5		Waterloo, IL 62298
Clem Ruesler	233 N. Moore St.		Waterloo, IL 62298
Ed Nobbe	% Tom Nobbe	302 Wedgewood	Waterloo, IL 62298
Donna Lieb	311 Hickory St.		Waterloo, IL 62298
Carol Woodcock	412 Morrison Ave.		Waterloo, IL 62298
Judy Hitzemann	611 Morrison Ave.		Waterloo, IL 62298
Sandy Moore	7 Ruby Street		Cahokia, IL 62206
Arnold Prigge	835 Circle Drive		Red Bud, IL 62278
Doris Horn	Columbia Rehab & Nursing Center	253 Bradington Dr, Rm #205	Columbia, IL 62236
Erv Liefer	Garden Place	735 Columbia Ave, Apt. 40	Waterloo, IL 62298
Joan Rehmer	Garden Place	735 Columbia Ave, Apt. 18	Waterloo, IL 62298
Jerry & Nancy Huck	80 Meyer Lane		Bloomsdale, MO 63627
Robert Blattner	Legacy Place	526 Legacy Dr., #42	Waterloo, IL 62298
Anita Wild	Oak Hill Nursing Home	623 Hamacher	Waterloo, IL 62298
Gerald Fischer	Oak Hill Nursing Home	623 Hamacher	Waterloo, IL 62298
Lorine Horn	Oak Hill Nursing Home	623 Hamacher, Room 513	Waterloo, IL 62298
Stella Laugesen	Oak Hill Nursing Home	623 Hamacher, Apt. 223	Waterloo, IL 62298

Women's Retreat

Camp Wartburg

Rejoicing in Being a Woman of God

In today's world where equality is often equated with being the same, we will explore a shocking observation – men and women are different! "That's no big revelation," you may say, but after taking the time to examine the influences of society on gender roles, and comparing that to what the Bible says, we will explore the theological significance of the female gender and learn to embrace it more deeply as we rejoice in being women of God!

Friday, January 22:

- 6:00 pm** Registration
- 7:00 pm** Welcome, Introductions, Devotion
- 8:00 pm** Keynote Speaker
- 9:00 pm** Snacks, Fellowship

Saturday, January 23:

- 8:00 am** Breakfast
- 8:45 am** Presentation/Bible study
- 9:45 am** "Womanly Adventure"
- 12:00 pm** Lunch
- 1:00 pm** Group/Individual Prayer & Reflection

The speaker will be Ruth McDonnell. Deaconess Ruth McDonnell is a 2006 graduate of the deaconess program at Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis. She received a Master of Arts degree in exegetical theology from Concordia in 2005 and is currently a doctoral student at Concordia, preparing for exams and researching for her dissertation on funeral hymns and how they speak about the resurrection of the body and the life of the world to come. Ruth also has a Bachelor of Music Education from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Ruth has worked as a music teacher and tax preparer as well as serving the church as a music director, parish deaconess, district mission facilitator, and seminary administrator. Ruth is married to a mechanical engineer, Peter, and has two adult sons, Timothy and Eric.

Need time to get away?

Need a nice break to focus on God's Word and fellowship with other women?

Would you like to attend this retreat?

If so, please contact Lisa Clamors (618-719-4954 or 939-6480 or lclamors@gmail.com) by January 10, 2016. The actual cost for the retreat is \$45; however, the WCM of Immanuel is sponsoring this event so **your cost is only \$20.00!** Your fee is due at the time of registration.

We hope you can join us for this fun time of fellowship and being in God's Word!

WORSHIP SERVICES

SATURDAY

5:30pm

SUNDAY

7:45am & 10:15am

Holy Communion is celebrated at every Saturday service, at the 7:45am service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, and at the 10:15am service on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of each month.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday
8:00am – 4:30pm

Pastor Troup's day off is Monday.



2015

Don't forget to visit us on the web...

immanuelwaterloo.org

You'll find our weekly announcements and updates, our calendar, and other up to the minute information!



May God continue to bless you:

Return Service Requested



Immanuel Lutheran Church
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Waterloo, IL 62298

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