

# Immanuel Monthly

**January  
2017**



## **In This Issue:**

- 2 Ask the Pastor?!?! & A Note from Our Music Director
- 3 January Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 4 Bible Study Opportunities
- 5 November Finances, Official Acts & Attendance
- 6 January 2017 Worship Helpers' Schedule
- 6 Youth Group News!
- 7 January 2017 Calendar
- 8 WCM Newsletter
- 8 Narthex Expansion Project
- 9 Funke Newsletter

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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL  
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## ***From Our Administrative Pastor...***

Matthew 2:11. On coming to the house, the Magi saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Immanuel,

Epiphany is January 6. Epiphany is the celebration of the coming of the Magi (the wise men) to see and worship Jesus. Although we often associate the coming of the Magi with Christmas, picturing them visiting the infant Jesus in the manger the day he was born, Epiphany is its own separate and special church festival. The Greek word for “child” in Matt. 2:11 indicates that Jesus was a toddler when the Magi came to see him. What’s more, Jesus and Mary were in a house and not a stable when the visit occurred. The visit took place several months up to two years after Jesus was born!

*It's no coincidence that many Jewish Christians call themselves "fulfilled Jews."*

But when the visit occurred really isn't all that important. The real significance of Epiphany is that it clearly demonstrates that Jesus is a Savior for all people, both Jews and Gentiles. To be sure, God used the Jews in a mighty way to bring salvation to the world. Jesus was a Jew. He was born in Judea and was taught God's Word by Jewish parents and teachers. He knew and followed the one true God, the God of Israel. He is, in fact, God with the Father and Holy Spirit! Jesus is the fulfillment of all Old Testament prophecy concerning the Messiah (the Anointed One)—prophecies written by Jewish prophets. It's no coincidence that many Jewish Christians call themselves “fulfilled Jews.” They look to Jesus as the fulfillment of their prophecies. What’s more, unlike other Jews, they haven't given up on the teaching of a Savior sent from God, nor are they looking for the coming of this Savior. He's come! Salvation has been accomplished! All is fulfilled.

But the coming of these ancient scholars from the east, these Magi, shows us that Jesus and the salvation he brings are for all people, Jews and non-Jews. Jesus said in Matthew 28:19, “Go and make disciples of **all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Jesus died for everyone. There's not a person past, present, or future for whom Jesus didn't die. We can go to anyone on the street and say, “Friend, Jesus died and rose for you, to take away your sin.” We can make that announcement to an Arab, a Nigerian, an Indian, a Frenchman—ethnicity doesn't matter. Christ died and rose for all

That's not to say that everyone is saved. To reject Jesus and fail to rely on him as Savior is to reject his gifts. His gifts of forgiveness, life and peace with God. But Jesus' provision of forgiveness is out there for everyone. He holds out life to all. He wants “everyone to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” (1 Tim. 2:4)

So, Happy Epiphany everyone! Let's celebrate the coming of the wise men. Let's praise God that Jesus came into the world to be the Savior of all. Let's thank the Lord for the good news of Christ—good news for people of every tribe, nation, and tongue. God bless you!

Love in Christ,

*Pastor Joup*

*Although we often associate the coming of the Magi with Christmas, picturing them visiting the infant Jesus in the manger the day he was born, Epiphany is its own separate and special church festival.*

## From Our Associate Pastor...

“How am I supposed to receive communion? Is it wrong to touch the common cup? Is there anything holy and special about the cup and bread or is it just a cup and bread? Is it wrong not to kneel?”

Depending on where you attend church, may determine the answer you receive, and that's not necessarily wrong. As long as the theology of what's happening during the Lord's Supper is right, the practice of how it's received has room to shift around (and the practices have shifted around over the course of history). But whatever is done should be done for a reason rather than just “because”.

In the Lord's Supper we receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. We don't understand how that all works, except that we take Jesus' and Paul's Word for it. Jesus' says that this meal is his own body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Then we read Paul re-emphasize this reality throughout 1 Corinthians (check out Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; and 1 Corinthians 11:23-25 in particular). If this is what we confess, then we might wonder how we should interact with the elements. We don't want to miss the point of the Lord's Supper, but we also want to receive it rightly and reverently.

You can see a deeper discussion on how the Supper was received on the church website, but the short version is, “People got to the point of worshipping the bread and wine, and then in response to that problem, others said, ‘It's only a symbol and nothing special at all.’” We Lutherans say that it does remind us of God's love, but it also delivers the forgiveness of sins. We aren't flippant as we receive the elements, but we also don't worship them. It's a balance between the two. Some Lutherans will reverence the elements as a sign of respect (not worship) and others will simply receive it without much outward show, but with a humble heart trusting God's promise of peace and life.

At Immanuel, some people will not touch anything connected to the elements (i.e. they won't touch the host or the cup), but most people will receive the host in their hand and then use one or both hands to help guide the cup to their mouth. Some people also practice intinction (dipping the bread into the wine) which is fine too. Each church is different regarding use of the individual or common cups, kneeling vs

continuous line, and so on.

Regardless of how we receive the supper, we do it reverently acknowledging that we, poor, miserable sinners are blessed to have a loving God who forgives us for our imperfection and continues to strengthen and sustain us in the one true faith now and forever. We don't hope that we can experience God somehow or know him through a feeling inside, but we have his true Word that says, “Here is where you have forgiveness. There is where I locate myself for your own assurance of salvation.”

Have a question you would like answered or have some questions based on this response? Send me an email or come on in to chat.

*Pastor Denski*

## A “Note” from our Music Director

### Rehearsals Resume...

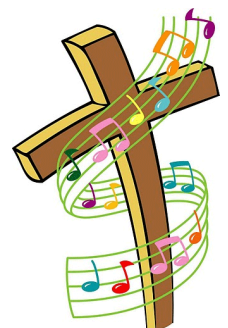
After a short "Christmas Break" the various music groups will begin their **2017 Spring Season**. Please consider joining Immanuel's Music Ministry in the New Year! Contact me via phone, internet or personally if you have any questions about opportunities, practices, groups, etc.

- *Immanubells* will resume practices on Wed., Jan. 4th @ 6 pm
- *Sunday School Choirs* on Jan. 8th prior to their lessons
- *Adult Choir* on Wed., Jan. 11th @ 7 pm
- *Agape Ringers* on Wed., Jan. 11th @ 8:05 pm

**Thanks** to all who so willingly give of their time and talents to serve the Lord musically. Thank you to everyone who participated in our Christ Concert and Living Nativity service. It was a wonderful evening filled with beautiful music and the live nativity to praise and honor our Savior, Jesus. Thank you to ALL of the musicians who provided special music during our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services!

Serving Him,

*Jenn*



## January Birthdays & Anniversaries

<b>Happy Birthday to...</b>	25	Ernie Bartels
		Denise Gruber
1		Shirley Miller
2		Stephen Goforth
3		Marilyn Collette
	27	Carol Gruber
		Leah Worley
	28	Phyllis Brown
4		Wyatt Drewes
	30	Roger Kinzinger
		Joyce McDaniel
		Sandy Moore
	31	Donnie Rusteberg
5		Jim Bouquet Jr.
		Dennis Brandt
		Michael Horn
		Jenny Jung
		Gloria Knoke
6		Aaron Liefer
7		Darrell Gaitsch
		Jerry Huck
		Floyd Senf
8		Candi Bise
		Rosie Fink
		Scott Janssen
		Kadin LaRue
9		Mike Obst
		Alec Trout
		Taylor Vernier
10		Josie Koch
		Nancy Rodenberg
		Gladys Ruff
11		Cal Neeman
		Daniel Niemeyer
12		Charlie Lloyd
		Jackie Nichols
		Bob Polansky
13		Bob Elmore
		John Maag
		Kelly Mehner
		Diana Pulcher
		Ross Schrader
14		Bob Blattner
		Linda Eggemeyer
		Samantha Kruse
		Mike Lloyd
15		Kimber Prescher
16		Larry Menke
17		Rhonda Major
18		David Naumann
		Emily Rhodes
19		Kelly Goforth
21		Jackson Eybel
		Barb Grant
22		George Lesinger
		Brian Nobbe
23		Addie Janssen
		Stanley Mitchell

### Happy Anniversary to...

8	Larry & Reba Menke (40)
9	Steve & Marcia Jones (46)
10	Ernie & Nyla Bartels (30)
15	Mike & Michelle Fink (12)
20	David & Bev Jarvis (49)
26	Bud & Gloria Knoke (66)
28	Dennis & Nancy Rodenberg (33)
30	Dean & Susan Kohlmeier (24)

*God's blessings to each of you as you celebrate a birthday or anniversary in January!*



### ...with our College Age Friends!

Pastor & Veronica Demski invite you to their house for a college age get together before heading back to school. Join them for snacks and fellowship on **Thursday, January 5 from 7-9 pm** at their house (520 S. Church St.) in Waterloo.

## Parish Leaders

### Pastors:

Rev. Dr. Tony Troup, 618-340-8375	Administrative
Rev. Merritt Demski, 847-254-9666	Associate

### Church & School Staff:

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 Co-Director
Linda Polansky, 618-980-3475	Preschool Co-Director

### 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
Pat Kelly, Sr., 636-373-2967	Stewardship
Sandy Nichols, 618-719-3424	Youth Ministry

### Other Volunteers:

Cindy Troup	Sunday School Superintendent
Louise Nobbe	Head Sacristans
Marilyn Collette, Dianne Holle, and Deb Joellenbeck	
Sandy Thompson	Flower Coordinator
Lisa Clamors	Women's Christian Ministry
Janet Crawford	Fellowship Committee

### Field Education Students:

Nathan (Mariah) Abel, 4th year	832-257-8788
Ben (Gini) Spaulding, 1st year	586-588-1756

*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	Bill Holtgrieve, 939-9105
Wem-Z	Larry Goessling, 939-8824
Elders & Pastors: Alan Stumpf, 618-719-9033	

*Have a question or would like to speak to your elder, feel free to call him anytime.*

## Monthly Collections

### Board of Social Ministry:

January: Concordia Seminary's Food Bank and New Life Evangelistic Center in St. Louis

Concordia Seminary's Food Bank is in need of non-perishable food items, especially during this time of the year. New Life Evangelistic Center is also in need of new or gently used warm clothing (coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, sweatpants, socks, hats, gloves, etc) and blankets. Please drop off your donations in the barrel in the narthex. Thank you for your support!

### Sunday School:

January: Life Network of Southern Illinois

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!

### Bi-County Backpack Program:

This is an ongoing collection that supports children in Red Bud, Valmeyer, and Waterloo throughout the year. See the weekly bulletins for a list of items needed.

## Bible Study Opportunities!

**Sunday Education Hour (9-10 am):** 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 "*Creation vs Evolution: The Facts, Myths, and Social Impact*" led by Pastor Demski in the youth room; a DVD study "*Afraid: Demon Possession and Spiritual Warfare in America*" led by Pastor Troup in the overflow room; and a "*Sticky Faith*" 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 Bible study on the *book of Matthew* led by Pastor Troup is held at Burger King every Tuesday at 6:30 am.

**Wednesday Morning Adult Bible Class:** This Bible study and fellowship time is held every Wednesday at 9:30am. This class is led by Pastor Demski, and they are studying the *book of Jeremiah*.

**Ladies' Bible Study:** Join them on Thursdays at 7:00 pm in the overflow room as they study "A Woman of Contentment: Ecclesiastes" by Dee Brestin. Books are available in the church office. *This study begins on Jan. 5th.*

**Adult Information Classes:** None at the present time. Watch the bulletins as one will be beginning shortly.

**Elders' Bible Study:** A number of Immanuel's elders will be leading a Bible study called "What Jesus Demands from the World" in their homes every month. These studies focus on who Jesus is, what He expects of us, and how He provides loving direction and strength for our good and ultimate satisfaction. *They'll be studying one chapter per month, and there will be a few opportunities for each chapter every month.* Please feel free to contact the Bible study leaders if you would like more information. All are welcome! Refreshments will be served each evening.

**Sunday, Jan. 1** – 7:00 pm at Bob Polansky's house (6820 Fountain Oaks, Waterloo) – 618-979-0918

**Sunday, Jan. 8** – 7:00 pm at Jim Crawford's house (16 Mary Ct, Waterloo) – 618-799-8789

**Sunday, Jan. 15** – 7:00 pm at Wayne Collmeyer's house (209 Crosswinds Ct, Waterloo) – 618-719-7235

## 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, Doris Horn, Nancy Huck, Isabel Gibbons, Sandy Moore, Phyllis Brown, Esther Brandt, Kim Holtgrieve, Shirley Moeckel, Norma Wheatley, Jerry Moeser, Iva Mesnarich

**We Pray for Friends and Relatives of Parishioners:** Michael Washausen, Nina Van Kamp, Ken Horn, Al Gruber, Karen Altes, Kurt Klotzer, Nicole Bachelier, John Stumpf, Marlene Tonkins, Sue Neeman

**We Pray for Those in the Service of Our Nation:** Alicia Kirkley, Dustin Bender, Aaron Bommarito, Alex Naumann, Paul Doty, Jonathan Fuller, Amanda Milburn

**We Pray for Our Missionaries and Special Missions:** Eric & Linda Funke (Tanzania), Unity Lutheran Elementary School (East St. Louis, IL)

## November Church Attendance

November 2016 (4)	863
November 2015 (5)	1126
November 1986 (5)	1297

2016 Weekly Average (as of 11/30): 226  
As of 11/30/16, there were 875 baptized members.

## Do You Have an Email Address?

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

## Can You Help?

Immanuel has a small group of people willing to help transport others to the doctor, store, etc. We are in need of a few more volunteers to help with this service. If you would like to be put on this list, please contact Lisa in the church office.

## November 2016 Official Acts

### Baptisms:

11/5—*Waylenn Bryndle Kruse*, daughter of Josh & Nichole nee Merten Kruse

11/27—*Emma Sue Crowe*, daughter of Michael Crowe and Carrie Langhorst

### Funerals:

11/26—Cathy Goforth

11/29—Anita Wild

## January 2017 Altar Flowers

12/31—1/1 open

1/7—1/8 Given to the glory of God by Ernie & Ny Bartels in honor of their 30th wedding anniversary

1/14—1/15 open

1/21—1/22 Given to the glory of God by Bob & Linda Polansky & family and Ethel Kurfman

1/28—1/29 open

*The 2017 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 will contact you to give you more details.*

## Our November Finances

Total Deposits	\$ 30,865.50
Total Expenses	\$ 42,425.85
Over/(Short)	\$ (11,560.35)

November 30, 2016 Balances:

Checking	\$ 63,792.13
Scholarship Fund	\$ 9,385.33
Narthex Exp. Fund	\$ 10,740.00
Nobbe Mem. Fund	\$ 8,236.00
Loan	\$ 27,014.41

2016 Year to Date:

Deposits	\$378,424.27
Expenses	\$401,831.91
Over/(Short)	\$ (23,407.64)
Unpaid Obligations	\$ 0.00



## January 2017 Worship Helpers

Dates	Times	Ushers	Servers	Lectors	Acolytes	Greeters	Media Team
Sat, Dec 31	5:30 PM		Wayne Collmeyer		Tyler Cooley	Ushers	Lisa Clamors
Sun, Jan 01	9:00 AM	7	Warren Frank	Joey Birrittier	Jenna Hoeffken & Ian Schrader	Barb & Courtney Heimbarger	Pam Nagel @
Sat, Jan 07	5:30 PM		Greg Wiegand		Jordyn Koch		Kelley Keller
Sun, Jan 08	7:45 AM	1	Warren Frank	Warren Frank	Paul Hoeffken & Lilly Prather	Ushers	Laurie Sparwasser @
	10:15 AM	3		Rodney Clamors	Addie Janssen & Kyra Drewes	Ushers	Greg Hoeffken
Sat, Jan 14	5:30 PM		Rodney Clamors		Lauren Patterson		Lisa Clamors
Sun, Jan 15	7:45 AM	2		Gary Altes	Sami Wheat & Blake Kloeppel	Ushers	Pam Nagel
	10:15 AM	5	Wayne Collmeyer	Wayne Collmeyer	Tyler Cooley & Alex Magnuson	Ushers	Greg Hoeffken @
Sat, Jan 21	5:30 PM		Chuck Keller		Jack Metzger		Greg Hoeffken
Sun, Jan 22	7:45 AM	4	Chuck Keller	Ben Spaulding	Alex Whelan & Autumn Whelan	Charles & Phyllis Lloyd	Kelley Keller @
	10:15 AM	6		Karen Hodapp	Evan Fink & Jay Grant	Ushers	Mitchell/Tim Scheibe
Sat, Jan 28	5:30 PM		Wayne Collmeyer		Jordyn Koch		Lisa Clamors
Sun, Jan 29	7:45 AM	9		Nathan Abel	Jenna Hoeffken & Addie Janssen	Ushers	Laurie Sparwasser
	10:15 AM	7	Rodney Clamors	Marian Obst	Ian Schrader & Kyra Drewes	Wayne & Cathie Collmeyer	Lisa Clamors @

### Usher Teams:

- 1 Roy Unterseh, Jim Stueve, Dennis & Raymond Brandt, Ed Arras
- 2 Chuck Keller, Craig Mehner, Larry Taake, Dawn & Chase Rubemeyer
- 3 Rodney & Lisa Clamors, 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, Paul Broske Sr.
- 8 Larry Goessling, Jim Smothers, Dave Wiese, Cal Neeman, Dean Harbison
- 9 Jim Crawford, Allen Jacobs, Don & Joey Birrittier
- 10 Elden Niemeyer, Sharon Osterhage, Wayne Hargrave, Wyatt Drewes
- 11 Lee Eggemeyer, Ken Schanz, Roger Schanz, Curt Wittbracht

### Vestment Colors:

1/1—1/13      red  
1/14—1/31      black

### Saturday Accompanists:

1/7, 1/21, 1/28  
Ron Jones

1/14  
Joan Ruwald

### Collator:

Linda Allscheid

## BASIC Youth Group News!



Join us on **Sunday, January 15, from 12-2 pm** in the youth room so we can have a bit of lunch together, have fellowship and then dig into questions that our junior high and high school students have about both faith, life, and current events. Parents are welcome to stay and have some fellowship and encouragement

together while the junior high and high schoolers meet with Pastor Demski for our lesson time. It's a great time, and we encourage anyone with junior high or high school students to get involved so we can grow together! If you have any questions, just let Pastor Demski know.

### **Donut Duty—Who's on for January?**

1/1— n/a                      1/8— ?  
1/15— Birrittier            1/22— ?  
1/29— ?

*\*\*\*If you would like to sponsor a Sunday, please sign up on the list on the bulletin board in the narthex or email Pastor Demski.*

## Reduce! Reuse! Recycle!

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.

The paper recycle bins are located in the back of the education building. Load them up with your paper recycling products!

***The youth group  
thanks you for your  
support!***

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <i>Happy New Year!</i> 9:00a Holy Communion  7:00p Elders' Bible Study at Bob Polansky's House	<b>2</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i> <i>Pastor Troup OFF</i>  7:00p Book Club Meeting	<b>3</b> 6:30a Men's Bible Study at Burger King  6-7:30p Zumba 7:00p Elders Meeting	<b>4</b> 9:30a Adult Bible Class  6-6:30p Immanubells 6:30-8p Midweek	<b>5</b> <i>Pastor Demski OFF</i> 7-9p College Get-Together 7:00p Ladies' Bible Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9a-11p Scrapbook Day  5:30p Holy Communion
<b>8</b> 7:45a Holy Communion 9:00a Educ Hour 10:15a Worship Service  7:00p Elders' Bible Study at Jim Crawford's House	<b>9</b> <i>Pastor Troup OFF</i>  8:00p Men's Prayer Group	<b>10</b> 6:30a Men's Bible Study at Burger King 6-7:30p Zumba 6:30p Board of Social Ministry Mtg 7:15p Board of Christian Ed Meeting	<b>11</b> 9:30a Adult Bible Class  6-6:30p Immanubells 6:30-8p Midweek 7-8p Choir 8-9p Agape Ringers	<b>12</b> <i>Pastor Demski OFF</i>  7:00p Ladies' Bible Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:30a Board of Evangelism Meeting  5:30p Holy Communion
<b>15</b> 7:45a Worship Service 9:00a Educ Hour 10:15a Holy Communion  12-2p Youth Group 7:00p Elders' Bible Study at Wayne Collmeyer's House	<b>16</b> <i>Pastor Troup OFF</i>	<b>17</b> 6:30a Men's Bible Study at Burger King 6-7:30p Zumba  7:00p Women's Christian Ministry Meeting	<b>18</b> 9:30a Adult Bible Class  6-6:30p Immanubells 6:30-8p Midweek 7-8p Choir 8-9p Agape Ringers	<b>19</b> <i>Pastor Demski OFF</i>  7:00p Ladies' Bible Study 7:00p Church Council Meeting	<b>20</b>  6:00p Men's Movie Club at Pastor Demski's house	<b>21</b> 5:30p Holy Communion
<b>22</b> 7:45a Holy Communion 9:00a Educ Hour 10:15a Worship Service & Preschool Children Sing for Lutheran Schools Week	<b>23</b> <i>Pastor Troup OFF</i>  8:00p Men's Prayer Group	<b>24</b> 6:30a Men's Bible Study at Burger King 8a-4:30p Life Line Screening 6-7:30p Zumba	<b>25</b> 9:30a Adult Bible Class 6-6:30p Immanubells 6:30-8p Midweek 7-8p Choir 8-9p Agape Ringers	<b>26</b> <i>Pastor Demski OFF</i>  7:00p Ladies' Bible Study	<b>27</b>  <i>Men's Retreat at Camp Wartburg</i>	<b>28</b>  5:30p Holy Communion
<b>29</b> 7:45a Worship Service 9:00a Educ Hour 10:15a Holy Communion	<b>30</b> <i>Pastor Troup OFF</i>	<b>31</b> 6:30a Men's Bible Study at Burger King  6-7:30p Zumba	<b>January 2017</b>			

Want to Stay Up to Date?

Go to our website ([immanuelwaterloo.org](http://immanuelwaterloo.org)) and check it out! Be sure to subscribe to the calendar, and you'll have the most up to date info on Immanuel's activities and events. Also, click on *Church News* from the homepage to get access to all of the weekly announcements & updates and monthly newsletters. *Notice that something is missing? Let us know!*



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

**The Thursday evening Women's Bible Study starts up again on January 5 in the overflow room!** For those interested, we would love for you to join us at 7:00 pm each Thursday through Easter. We will be studying "A Woman of Contentment: Ecclesiastes" by Dee Brestin. Books are available in the church office. Come when you can and invite a friend. Hope to see you there!

**Mark your calendars now for the Women's Retreat held at Camp Wartburg on February 17-18, 2017!** See next month's newsletter for all of the details and to register!

**Planning for our 2017 Mini-Retreat will begin this month 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. More about who our speaker is and what the theme of this year's mini-retreat is will be coming soon!

**Had you been considering getting involved with the Women's Christian Ministry?** You can be involved as much or as little as you would like. Would you like to help with our Mini-Retreat planning? Would you like to become an active voice of the WCM, attend meetings, and help plan women's events? Would you like to attend the Women's Retreat? Would you like to help with funeral dinners? Would you like to prepare a special meal for new parents? Would you like to help with our fall Bunco event? Would you like to help provide donations during our collections? Would you like to offer support and prayers for other women? Would you like to participate in our Ladies' Bible study? Would you like to help with the country store at the Wurstmarkt? If you have answered "yes" to any of these, come to our meeting on Tuesday, January 19th and find out more! All women are welcome!

We would love for more ladies to get involved and to play an active part in the events and activities at Immanuel! The WCM welcomes YOU! Feel free to contact me anytime at lclamors@gmail.com or 618-719-4954.

**The next Women's Christian Ministry meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17th, at 7 pm in the Overflow Room. We will be discussing our upcoming activities for 2017! Be there!**

In Christ,  
*Lisa Clamors*

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

## Narthex Expansion Project

Anyone wishing to donate to the narthex expansion project may do so by placing your donation in a regular envelope and labeling it "Narthex Expansion." This will be added to the Narthex Expansion Exploration Fund. This fund will become our building fund once the building project has been completely approved by the congregation.

## Blood Drive

The next Valmeyer Community Blood Drive will be held on Monday, Jan. 2, 2017, from 2-7 pm at the Parish Center (101 S. Meyer) in Valmeyer. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or redcrossblood.org and enter: ValmeyerComm to schedule an appointment. A delicious meal and wonderful attendance prizes will be available to all who donate.

*Looking for pictures of our latest events? Find us on Facebook!*

Type in @ImmanuelWaterlooIL in the search field and like our page. We also have a group, too, so search for *Immanuel Lutheran Church LCMS (Waterloo, IL)* and join our group.



## An Update from Our Missionary Partners...

### *Heri ya Krismas! (Merry Christmas!)*

We pray that you all have a blessed Advent season and a great Christmas time as we remember the birth of our Savior. We have almost finished visiting all of our congregations, and then will begin a period without work of special time with family and friends. We have been so blessed to have seen you all these past several weeks, and are looking forward to this Christmas with our families.

In honor of our son learning the alphabet this year, we present the Funke family's ABC's of 2016...

**Adoption.** We finalized the Tanzanian side of Michael's adoption. We have already started the process to adopt a little girl this coming year! Michael will have a sister!!

**Baraka.** Our young friend, Baraka, who was born without eyes, finished Kindergarten with the help of his aide. Please pray that we can find a good school for him next year and that the funding will come together.

**Community Health Evangelism.** Linda helped our diocese start a CHE program which teaches Biblically-based community organizing to address a wide variety of health needs. We pray this program continues to flourish.

**Deaconesses.** We took the newest class of Tanzanian deaconesses on a study tour to Moshi/Arusha to be inspired by a variety of ministries.

**E-learning.** Eric worked with Studi Tanzania to start an e-learning pilot program. Eric helped them work out the kinks and is hopeful it will greatly assist science and math classes next year.

**Furlough.** We returned to the U.S. in late September for a 4-month furlough. It has been such a joy to introduce Michael to family and friends in the U.S. Michael was baptized on November 6.

**Guidance.** Linda continued to teach a guidance and counseling course at school covering topics such as study skills, goal-setting, communication, and spiritual growth.

**Home.** Michael has brought so much joy and laughter to our home! Linda especially enjoyed doing homeschool activities with him this year.

**Internet.** We post daily on [www.facebook.com/AFunkeTimeInTanzania](http://www.facebook.com/AFunkeTimeInTanzania) and it is an open page, so you don't need a Facebook account to see it.

**Jerry.** We sent the diocese CHE coordinator, Jeremiah Shauri, to a 5-week training. He came back so excited that he held a 2-day review session for trainers in November.

**Kristo.** Kristo is Swahili for Christ. We continue to grow in our relationship with Christ through our wonderful church in Tanzania. Linda also led a weekly English-speaking Bible study.

**Library.** With the help of many donors, this year our school built a new library and computer lab building. Students are finally able to access all of the school's books, and Eric finally has ample space to teach his computer class.

**Math.** Eric chaired the math and sciences department, mentored teachers, and taught math classes as needed.

**Newsletter.** If you would like to receive this newsletter, please email [Linda.Funke@GlobalLutheranOutreach.com](mailto:Linda.Funke@GlobalLutheranOutreach.com)

**Overview.** If you haven't already seen it, please go to [www.youtube.com/EricFunkeGLO](http://www.youtube.com/EricFunkeGLO) and check out our 8-minute "Year 4 In Review" video.

**Prayers.** We've had many challenges, especially as Linda continues to treat Small Intestine Bacterial Overgrowth, and your prayers have meant so much to us.

**Questions.** Our students asked so many wonderful questions! We feel blessed to be part of their lives.

**Relationships.** We are so grateful for the friendship of our Tanzanian neighbors and church community, fellow expats, and loved ones throughout the world. These relationships keep us grounded.

**Sponsorship.** We were able to sponsor several students to continue their education and hope to continue finding sponsors for students with financial constraints.

**Treatment.** Our adoption social worker shared the story of Majid who had not been able to walk. With the help of generous donors, Majid received the treatment he needed. This year he walked for the first time, and next year he will start school at the Lutheran primary school in Kahama.

**Upcoming.** We will return to Tanzania January 17th and we have many dreams for the new year—adopting our daughter, filling the library with books, sending deaconesses to the Diakonia World Federation conference in Chicago, preparing students for the national exam in computer technologies, expanding Community Health Evangelism, etc.

**Volunteers.** We have had the joy of welcoming many wonderful volunteers to our area. If you would like to come out to visit and/or serve, please let us know. Karibu sana! (You are very welcome!)

**Words.** Thanks to one of our sponsor churches, our students had access to dictionaries to help with their English. The new students also received Bibles. As our students learn English, we continue to work on our Swahili.

**eX-cited.** We are excited to see what God will do in the coming year. While we have some ideas, God continues to surprise us.

**You.** We literally could not be doing what God has called us to do in Tanzania without friends like you! We are so thankful for your prayers, encouragement, and financial support. You can partner with us financially by making a secure online donation at <http://globallutheranoutreach.com/supportfunke.html>. Checks should be made to "Global Lutheran Outreach" with Funke in the memo line. All donations are tax deductible.

**Zany.** Sometimes our lives can feel pretty zany, but we know God is leading us and we are thankful for the many joys of this year!

*Written by Eric & Linda Funke on December 1, 2016. Would you like to be added to their email list? If so, email Eric & Linda at [Linda.Funke@GlobalLutheranChurch.com](mailto:Linda.Funke@GlobalLutheranChurch.com) and let them know.*

## Many Blessed Events at Immanuel during 2016

- Thirteen (13) children were baptized during 2016. Eight boys and five girls.
- Eleven (11) 8<sup>th</sup> graders were confirmed on April 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Eight (8) dedicated people make up the staff of Immanuel Lutheran Church & Preschool (2 pastors, 2 teachers, 1 music director, 1 groundskeeper, 1 custodian, and 1 secretary). **And, countless volunteers do various tasks around the church—thank you!**
- Seven (7) people on the Uganda Mission Team (Adam Eggemeyer, Emilie Land, Bob & Linda Polansky, Anne Stumpf, Jason & Nick Valerius) traveled to Kampala, Uganda in Africa in January 2016. Thank you to all who supported them! (right)
- Nine (9) Agape Ringers participated in the Bell-a-bration Workshop & Concert in February at Peace Lutheran Church in Lemay, MO. We will be participating in February 2017 as well.
- Our Living Last Supper was held on Palm Sunday. (right)
- The annual Mini-Retreat hosted by Immanuel's Women's Christian Ministry was held on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 84 ladies from Immanuel and the area churches attended. The 2017 one is scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup>!
- Merritt Demski continued to serve Immanuel as a part-time office worker and a fourth year field education



student until May. On Call Day in April, he was placed here at Immanuel! Praise be to God! He graduated in May, was ordained at his home congregation on June 4<sup>th</sup>, and was installed at Immanuel as our Associate Pastor on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Since then, he is officially known as "Pastor." (left)

- Our Vacation Bible School was held at Immanuel in June, and over 100 children participated. Holy Cross, Wartburg, also co-hosted this fun week at "Barnyard Roundup!" (right)

• Fifteen (15) high school youth, 4 chaperones, and Pastor Demski attended the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA in July. Lots of fun and fellowship was enjoyed by all. (top of next page)





- Four (4) people were recognized during our “Crown of Silver” recognition in September.
- About 40 children participated in the Children’s Christmas Service, “Joy to the World” on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>.
- There were 10 funerals and 12 babies born at Immanuel in 2016.
- Immanuel offers a youth bell choir, an adult bell choir, and an adult vocal choir for anyone interested in contributing their instrumental and vocal abilities.
- As of December 31, 2016, we have a roster of 877 confirmed members and 710 baptized members. Our average weekend attendance (for all 3 services) is 229.



(Above) Youth playing games during one of their monthly youth group get togethers. (Right) Various volunteers serving during our Wurstmarkt. (Below left) We celebrate Lutheran Schools Week in January each year and invite our preschool families. (Below right) Our Living Nativity service.



## **WORSHIP SERVICES**

### **SATURDAY**

5:30 pm

### **SUNDAY**

7:45 am & 10:15 am

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

## **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday – Friday  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

***Pastor Troup's day off is Monday.  
Pastor Demski's day off is Thursday.***



# 2017

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

[immanuelwaterloo.org](http://immanuelwaterloo.org)

You'll find our weekly announcements and updates, our calendar, and other important information!



May God continue to bless you:

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