



Immanuel's News

DECEMBER 2019

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Advent Services

December 4th, 11th, and 18th at 7:00 PM

Christmas Eve Service

December 24th at 7:PM

Christmas Day Service

December 25th at 10:30AM

Symm's asking (and approval of our Board of Elders), Pr. Scott Blazek continued the ministry for about a year and 10 months. The Lord, in His patience, has granted our congregation's prayerful request for a regularly-called pastor, and we pray for all concerned, especially for Pr. Reeder and his family's transition to our area.

As he concludes his vacancy with us, Pr. Blazek wants to humbly thank God and extend sincere appreciation to I.L.C., for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. By God's good grace, may we all ever be steadfast in being Christ-centered and Bible based, and faithful in our witness to Jesus' saving Gospel, as St. Paul reminds in I Corinthians 1:23-24, "We preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." *Soli Deo Gloria!*

IMMANUEL/FAITH IN CHRIST LWML

The Advent Season - The Beginning of a New Church Calendar Year
 and a New chapter for our Congregation!

December 1 is the first Sunday in the season of Advent, the beginning of a new Church Calendar Year (the A Series that features predominantly the Gospel of Matthew) and a new chapter for Immanuel Lutheran Church in Clovis - the installation of a new pastor, Rev. Thomas Reeder, (4 pm. that afternoon.)

With this important transition, a three plus years vacancy comes to a conclusion. We thank God for His faithfully providing ministry of Word and Sacrament during that time. Pr. David Symm of St. John, Lariat, served as our vacancy pastor for the first year and a half; and, at Pr.

Our annual Christmas party will be Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 4 p.m. at the Piepkorn's in Portales. All ladies are invited to join us for a Christmas devotion, Mite dedication, caroling, food, and fun. For our in-gathering we'll be collecting hats and gloves for Light House Mission; all sizes and colors are needed.

All are invited to bring a food dish to share as we gather to be in the Word and fellowship together. We will meet at the church at 3:30 p.m. to carpool to the Piepkorn's.

In January we will continue with a CPH Bible study based on women of the Bible and learn about Esther. In January, for our movie night, we'll watch "One Night with the King" based on the story of Esther.



Celebrating with flowers! Poinsettias:

One of the joys of the Christmas season is the decorating of the church. One of Immanuel's traditions is to decorate the altar area with poinsettias. It's a wonderful time to honor and/or remember a friend or family member by donating a poinsettia in their name; the list will be published for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. You have the opportunity to pick the number of poinsettias you wish to donate, purchase the size and color of poinsettia from whichever business you prefer, and get them "to the church on time." Please have the poinsettias in the Library by Sunday, December 22. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for you to list the name and occasion for the giving of the poinsettias. You may take your poinsettias home after the Christmas Day service.

Please remember when caring for the poinsettias that they must be in a temperature of 62 degrees or above; also, cold wind will "burn" them – so consider covering them with a plastic bag if they are brought on a really cold, windy day. For questions or more information contact Sylvia Bean.



Adult Fellowship:

In December it's party time! So, come on over to the Balls as they host the Christmas Party on Saturday, December 7th, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Bring a snack or dish to share and a gift for the "White Elephant Exchange." If you are still in possession of one of the famous "cows," please bring that also (in addition to the exchange gift). Remember: each person needs a gift so they can be a part of the gift exchange. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex – please plan to join in for this evening of fellowship and fun.

Caroling:



Joy to the World!

Every year in December, to help share the Good News of salvation through our Savior, Jesus Christ, we visit our shut-ins and area assisted living/nursing home facilities. We will meet at 3:30 p.m. at the church so we can carpool and caravan as we go caroling in the Clovis area. Our caroling date is set for Sunday, December 22! The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex so we'll have a tentative count. We have song sheets and sometimes even a piano for accompaniment. So join us for fun, fellowship, and the opportunity to share the love of Jesus through song! Bring a friend! Children are welcome! For questions/information contact Sylvia Bean



The Women's Retreat is a gathering time for women of all ages who would like an evening of fun, fellowship, food, and a movie. Mark your calendars for Friday, January 17, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. We begin our time together with food and fellowship, followed with a devotion and a movie (One Night with the King) at Christina Bean's. A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex. Bring a snack to share and join us for an evening of R&R.

Hanging of the Greens



Hanging of the Greens will be December 4th, starting at 5 PM.



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Why Christmas Cookies???

The Lighthouse Mission was very pleased with all the cookies we provided serving as missionaries for a day. Now they ask if we would help provide Christmas Cookies for the Annual Children's Christmas party and the Stewardship Committee is taking up the challenge to be missionaries once again. The Children's party is on December 14th. So, the cookies need to be at the Church by the morning of Dec. 11th so we can deliver them that afternoon.

Offerings & Attendance for;

	Offerings	SS.	Service
27 OCT	\$ 9,362.00	14	48/38
03 NOV	\$ 3,393.00	12	53/39
10 NOV	\$ 1,866.00	13	41/36
17 NOV	\$ 2,821.00	12	46/35
24 NOV	\$ 1,417.00	11	52/42
TOTAL	\$18,859.00	62	240/190

Jesus' Birthday Party

The "Happy Birthday, Jesus" Party will be Sunday, December 22 during the Sunday School hour. Snacks will be provided.



Immanuel Lutheran Church 2020 Budget (approved by the voter's on November 24, 2019)

I. Christ to All the World:

1. District /Synod Missions	\$ 5,449.00
2. Convention Assessment	\$ 215.00
3. Lighthouse Mission	\$ 500.00
4. Mc Dermott Mission	\$ 500.00
5. Evangelism	\$ 1,000.00
6. Preschool	\$ 5,000.00
7. Gasoline	\$ 200.00
Subtotal	\$ 12,864.00

II. Preaching the Gospel among Us

1. Pastor's Salary	\$ 35,000.00
2. Housing Allowance	\$ 17,000.00
3. Mileage Allowance	\$ 2,500.00
4. Conference/Conventions	\$ 1,500.00
5. Guests Pastors	\$ 200.00
6. Pension & Welfare	\$ 5694.00
7. Medical Allowance	\$ 15,000.00
8. Ongoing Education	\$ 500.00
9. Book Allowance	\$ 100.00
Subtotal	\$ 77,728.00

III. Care & Upkeep of God's House

1. Custodian	\$ 4,940.00
2. Lawn Care & Maintenance	\$ 2,100.00
3. Utilities	\$ 14,200.00
4. Insurance	\$ 8,800.00
5. Maintenance & Repair	\$ 4,000.00
6. Building Fund	0.00
7. Moving Fund	0.00
Subtotal	\$ 34,040.00

IV. Ministry of Work & Music

1. Altar/Worship Supplies	\$ 800.00
2. Publicity	\$ 625.00
3. Christian Education	\$ 2,950.00
4. Stewardship	\$ 450.00
5. Portals of Prayer	\$ 300.00
6. Youth Gathering Fund	0.00
7. Junior/Senior Youth	\$ 300.00
8. Organist & Music	\$ 200.00
9. Sunday School	\$ 600.00
10. Sunday Nursery	0.00
11. Fellowship/Kitchen Supplies	\$ 600.00
Subtotal	\$ 6,875.00

V. Administration of God's Work

1. Church Secretary	\$ 7,000.00
2. Office/Equipment Supplies	\$ 2,000.00
3. Social Security/Workmen's Comp	\$ 1,000.00
Subtotal	\$ 10,000.00

TOTAL BUDGET **\$ 141,507.00**



And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' Matthew 25: 40

Young women in Kenya and Cameroon live in extreme poverty and violence, hunger and little education force many to sell themselves for mere dollars. Nairobi has one of the highest HIV rates in Africa, with few public resources for treatment, dying from HIV/AIDS is a very real possibility.

In Cameroon, sexual exploitation, prostitution and trafficking is so common that about 30 percent of girls ages twelve to 25 have given birth at least once. Many young pregnant women are forced from their homes, often after rape or domestic abuse. These women are outcasts with nowhere to go – not even to their church.

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) is committed to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in these countries. Through ministry centers, LHM reaches out by sharing hope and faith in Jesus, changing the lives of these women both physically and spiritually.

Reaching Rahab, is one of the Christ-centered programs in Kenya making a difference in the lives of women living on the streets or in prison. With this program of counseling and teaching life skills, the cycle of poverty and prostitution is broken and these women are able to become independent and successful. With the sharing of Jesus and God's forgiveness, they also become reconnected to the church.

LORD Jesus, our help and our Redeemer, we implore You to bless our giving, to enable Lutheran Hour Ministries programs to bring hope and help to the young women of Africa caught in a life of prostitution and violence. You have

placed us in families and churches that support us. Grant our mites to multiply and grow that many young women will be enabled to change their life styles and be connected to the church. Amen.



Advent Season and Midweek Devotional Services

The new Church Year and the **Advent season** begins with **Sunday, Dec. 1**. The Advent seasons, made up basically of the four weeks before Christmas, is the winter penitential season to prepare for the celebration of the birth of the King of kings and Savior of us all.

To help mark the specialness of the Advent season, the Christian community offers a series of midweek devotional services to aid in our spiritual focus for the season if Jesus truly is "the reason for the season." Our congregation keeps this tradition by offering Advent midweek devotional services on **Wednesday evenings, Dec. 4th, 11th, and 18th**. The service begins at 7:00 p.m. and lasts about 40 to 45 minutes. As an evening type word and prayer service, the Lord's Supper is not included. Plan this in your December activities to accent the true holiness of the season!

Note: The Advent season brings with it the traditional "**Advent Wreath**." Though there are variations, our church Advent Wreath bears five candles: three blue or purple, one pink and a white one in the center. The four candles are for the four Advent Sundays leading to Dec. 25. Royal Blue or Purple is reflective of preparing for the coming of the King, Pink (lit on the 3rd Sunday) symbolizes "joy" as we are more than half way through the season (also reflective of the lessons for the 3rd Sun. in Advent). The White candle in the middle is the Christmas candle lit on Christmas Day as the other candles are extinguished (can be lit on Christmas Eve).