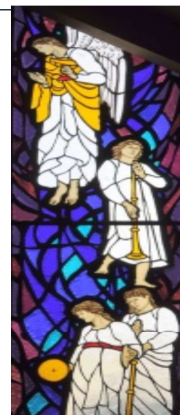


Immanuel's News

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2024



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"Behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him." (Matthew 2:9-11 NKJ)

In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

"Epiphany is one of the oldest seasons in the Christian Church Year, second only to the Easter season. This season of lights emphasizes Jesus' manifestation (or epiphany, from the Greek epiphaneia, ἐπιφάνεια) as God and man. The earliest Christians called the Feast of Epiphany the Theophany "revelation of God"). When the Gentile Magi came worship Jesus, they show that everyone now has access to God. Now all people, Jew and Gentile, can come to God's temple to worship, because Jesus is the new temple: God in the flesh. The Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6) marks the celebration of the visit of the Magi" (From *Pastoral Desk Diary 2024*, CPH p40).

As during the season of Advent and Christmas we worship our Lord Who is coming again and Who became flesh through the virgin's womb, so during the season of Epiphany we worship our Lord Who manifests Himself to the world – for our salvation. All of God hear and praise and rejoice in the Lord for His appearing – still – in Word and Sacrament. Our Lord Jesus comes, bringing salvation. Amen.



Birthdays
January
 Don Boes, Bill Lincoln, Kurt Fackler, Tommy Smith

February
 Pr. Scott Blazek
 Joan Johnson, Charlie Abel

BOARD of EDUCATION:

The Board of Education will not meet in January but will meet in February.

Immanuel's First Quarterly

Voters Meeting

Is scheduled for the 19th of February 2023, after the Service. We will have a covered dish dinner as well.

Women's Retreat Night



The Women's Retreat Night is a gathering time for women of all ages who would like an evening of fun, fellowship, food, and a movie. Our January date is Friday, the 12th. We begin our time together at 6:30 p.m. with food and fellowship, followed with a devotion and movie 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.

Immanuel/Faith in Christ LWML

Thank you to all who attended the LWML Christmas party at the Piepkorn's. We sang Christmas carols, collected mites for missions (\$125.55), and Pastor Piepkorn shared a Christmas devotion service with us .

The LWML goal of mission outreach is being accomplished by the power of the Spirit working through others, funded with "mites," so that God's Word is shared with the people of the world. We invited Immanuel congregation to be a part of this mission outreach by participating in our Mite Box offerings through our **LWML Mite Tree** that is put out in the Narthex on the second Sunday of each quarter (January 14, 2024). We will have a reminder in the bulletin and at the end of the service, inviting all to put a dollar or dollars on our Mite Tree and/or change in the Mite Box by the tree.

Our LWML monthly get togethers for Bible study and fellowship will be Thursday, January 11, 2024 and Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall. All women of the congregation are invited to attend and bring a snack/dish to share. An offering for missions and our general fund will be taken. Pastor Reeder will be leading our

Bible study on Esther. Come join us and even bring a friend.

Stay tuned for upcoming information for our **LWML RMD Pecos Zone Spring Workshop** that will be at Immanuel, Roswell, in March or April 2024.

Adult Fellowship

YOU'RE INVITED TO MARDI GRAS:



Our party will be Saturday, February 4, 2023 at The Beans. It's an evening for being with good friends, sharing great food, and lots of fun. The sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex by February 1, to RSVP and indicate the Cajun or French-style dish you will bring. You are invited to provide your own adult beverages.

Preschool

The Preschool is still "on hold" until we enroll more students. We did pass our State inspection in December for another year. This will continue to keep our license current so we can open the Preschool when we have at least four registrations.

Bible Classes:

Bible study opportunities: Sundays from 9:15-10:15 a.m., on Wednesday mornings from 10:00-11:30 a.m. The *Book of Concord* will meet again starting on January 22nd, at 10:30 am.

From the Library

The Complete Guide to Christian Denominations: Understanding the History, Beliefs, and Differences (Ron Rhodes, Harvest Publishers House, 2005).

From the back cover: "Do you ever wonder...What's the difference between one denomination and another? Why do several denominations call themselves Baptist or Presbyterian or Lutheran? Where do those names come from, anyway?...In addition to membership statistics, you'll find... · A brief explanation of how the denomination began · a short summary of its teaching on God, the

Bible, the church, and other important topics · a quick overview of some of its distinctive characteristics.” Covering the different denominations alphabetically, from Advent Churches to Reformed Churches, this book can serve as a helpful text for study. We’re currently studying different Christian denominations and other groups on Wednesday morning (resuming Jan 3 with Roman Catholicism).

A Lutheran Perspective on the ELCA:
<https://witness.lcms.org/2022/a-lutheran-perspective-on-the-elca/>

LCMS FAQ:
<https://www.lcms.org/about/beliefs/faqs/denominations>

Are all Lutherans the same:
<https://pastorreeder.wordpress.com/2011/09/27/are-all-lutherans-the-same/>

The Confessional Corner

On June 25, 1530, laymen (not ordained clergy) read before Emperor Charles V what is known as ‘The Augsburg Confession’

(<https://bookofconcord.org/augsburg-confession/>). This confession of faith follows the Apostles’, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds in the *Book of Concord*. By placing the Creeds first, the Lutheran Reformers wanted to show their agreement and continuity with the historic Christian faith. So also with The Augsburg Confession. In 28 articles, they confess what Scripture teaches, bearing witness to what is taught among them and also condemning contrary teaching, teaching that is contrary to the Sacred Scripture, the Word of God. Christ’s church, and her members, distinguish between truth and error.

Ask The Pastor

Q: Is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Lutheran?

A: In name, yes, but in name only. Though the ELCA claims to be Lutheran, their statements about the Bible, their teaching concerning abortion, homosexuality, transgenderism, and the ordination of women (to name a few), and their understanding and practice of fellowship are contrary to Holy Scripture and therefore, they are not Lutheran.

For more information see the following links:
 What about...The Difference between the ELCA and the LCMS:

<https://files.lcms.org/file/preview/L8e2Gjt87rWqodPoNpfP5IMUXuhzitFK>

Offerings & Attendance			
Service	Offerings	SS.	
5 NOV.	\$ 7,091.00	13	35/33
12 NOV.	\$ 3,466.00	14	36/34
19 NOV.	\$ 3,414.00	14	36/36
22 NOV.	\$ 837.00		23/21
26 NOV.	\$ 1,897.42	13	41/38
3 DEC.	\$ 3,667.00	15	30/29
6 DEC.	\$ 140.00		22
10 DEC.	\$ 2,059.00	13	45/42
13 DEC.	\$ 517.00		16
17 DEC.	\$ 18,444.00	14	40/37
20 DEC.	\$ 305.00		38
24 DEC.	\$ 9,620.00	16	45/40
24 DEC.	\$ 671.00		36
25 DEC.	\$ 595.00		25/20
31 DEC.	\$ 3,058.00	13	26.24
TOTAL'S	\$ 55,781.42	125	
		494/354	

Caroling

We had a great time caroling on the evening of December 17th. Thank you to all who participated in the caroling. We want to thank all who offered “treats” and shared their hospitality. It was great to share the love of Jesus through song and fellowshiping together.

Poinsettias:



Joy to the World!





**ASH WEDNESDAY
SERVICE
14 FEBRUARY 2024**



**Mid-week Lenten Services
21,28 February and 6,13,20 March**

**2022-2024 LWML RMD Mission Grant #7:
Support for University Lutheran Chapel -
\$5,000**



University Lutheran Chapel (ULC) is a dedicated campus ministry at Colorado's largest public university. ULC provides the witness and ministry of Jesus Christ in Word and Sacraments to the students, faculty and staff of Colorado University – Boulder. They offer Lutheran worship every week in which the forgiveness of sins through Word and Sacrament is proclaimed. This grant supports the campus ministry of ULC which serves young adults, but unlike a traditional congregation, cannot be self-sustaining given their mission status and a congregational makeup of students. Grant amount: \$5,000