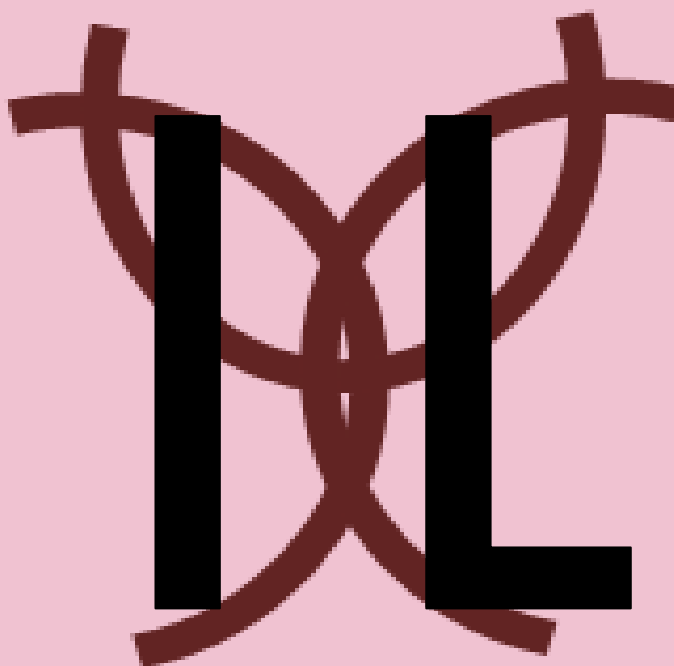


*IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH*

January 2025




1002 Powell Avenue
Erie PA 16505

814-833-4062



SEE WHAT'S INSIDE THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER

- * **From the Pastor's Desk**
- * **Bible Study**
- * **Social Ministry**
- * **Worship & Music**
- * **Annual Soup-Off**
- * **Poinsettia & Hunger Appeal**
- * **Prayer List**
- * **January in History**
- * **January's Celebrations of Life & Love**
- * **The Green Corner**
- * **Recipe of the Month**
- * **The History of New Year's Resolutions**
- * **January Worship Schedule**
- * **January Calendar**
- * **Church Council**



If you have any articles, announcements or photos for the February Newsletter, please get them to Brenda by February 22.

The spotlight on February's Rooted in Faith, Growing in Grace will be Debbie Redditt.

HAPPY NEW YEAR to our Immanuel Family.

Happy New Year



BEHOLD,
I am
Making
all things
new

REVELATION 21:5

****ANNOUNCEMENT****

On January 19th there will be a Congregational Meeting following worship to review the annual reports.

Grace & Peace : From the Pastor's Desk

Ephesians 4:31-32



Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.”

If you're anything like me, you've given up making New Year's Resolutions because they just aren't kept past the second week of January. The ten most common resolutions in order of their popularity are: exercise more, lose weight, get organized, learn a new skill or hobby, live life to the fullest, save more money/spend less money, quit smoking, spend more time with family and friends, travel more, and read more. They sound good to most people, but most people are unable to keep them because they don't properly prepare.

This year I'm asking all of you to consider taking on a New Year's Resolution. I'm not asking you to go on a diet or do more exercise, but I am asking something that will take some time. I'm asking you to be kind to one another. To practice kindness. To let go of snarky comments. To begin to respect one another by seeing each other as made in the image of God.

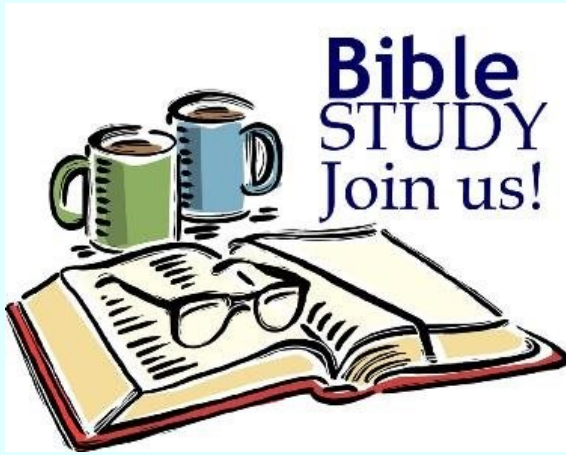
God created each one of us with different skills and gifts; some of us are better at one thing than another person may be, and not as good at something else that another person is very good at. We can all use our time and talents to serve God without thinking we know what we're doing better than the other person. And before we get angry about being the only person doing something let's ask, "Did I ask anyone else for help?" Sometimes we feel as though we're doing it all, and we may be, but the chance is that we never let anyone know what we are doing so they don't have the opportunity to help out.

Let's start over this year with a new attitude of loving kindness, asking for help when needed, offering complements instead of criticism. Let's be a place where if Jesus were to come through the door, he'd like what he sees and hears.

I'm asking you to adopt the new motto for 2022, "Be kind to one another." Think before you speak. Say only what will build up, not cut down. Be gentle with one another. We are the family of God. This is going to take a joint effort so I'm asking each of you to do your best to keep this resolution.

As always if you want to talk, I'm usually in the office Tuesdays 1 pm—2 pm and Thursdays 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Call or drop in 814-8334062 or call my cell phone any time 724-557-2386. Please leave a message if I don't answer. (I also text.)

***Grace and Peace,
Pastor Karen***



Bible Study will resume on January 16th at 11:00 am.

Come join us as Pastor Karen leads Bible Study every Thursday.

This session we will be discussing the book of Genesis, using the book Genesis to Revelation,

written by Dr. Walter Harrelson.



We will be collecting money to purchase bus passes for Community Shelter Services. The cost for each 5-day ride pass is \$7.50.

Please be sure to mark your donations Social Ministry Bus Pass

*Your support is always appreciated.
~Thank you~*



Worship & Music



Thursday's at Noon



Choir Practice

EVERYONE is welcome!



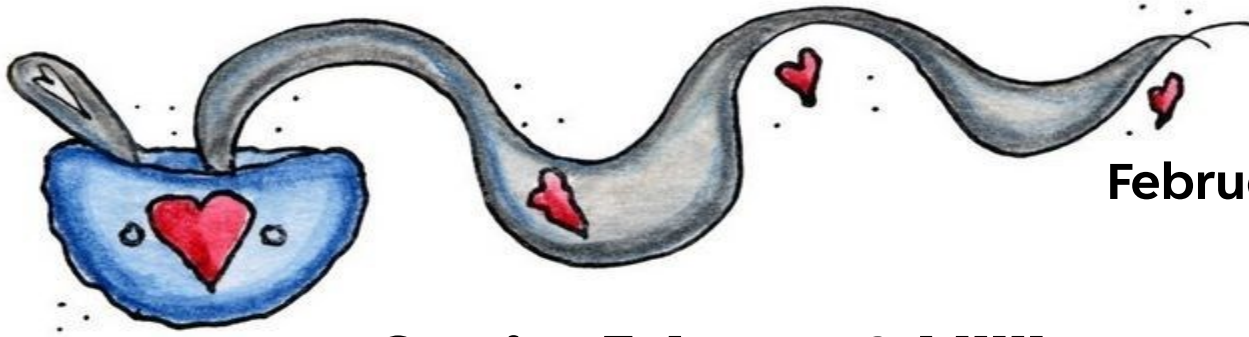
Don't forget that Quarter Sunday is the first Sunday of each month.

Coffee Hour

The first Sunday of every month is Coffee Hour following worship. Pop in the lounge after worship to share some laughs and conversation with your Immanuel Family. See you there!



**Sunday Worship 9:30 am
EVERYONE Welcome!
Come join the Immanuel Family!**



February 9th

Coming February 9th!!!! 2025 Annual Soup-Off!!!

Who's going to win the soup-off this year? Do you have what it takes?? Get ready for a competition of the best soup chefs Immanuel Church has to offer!

Dust off those cook books, shine up your soup ladle, get out your stock pot or crockpot and get busy! Let's see what you have to present to us this year!

Be original with one of your own recipes, or a long forgotten recipe from an old cookbook hiding at the back of your shelf. Remember that soup your granny used to make and you just loved it? Well, share it with us, we might love it too and it just might be the 2025 winner!!! Make your granny proud! There are so many possibilities!

Be daring! Try something new or unique. Have some fun and tempt everyone's tastebuds!

**February
9th**



Poinsettia's in honor/memory of:

Memory of: Wilbur & Dora Mays ; Charles & Anne Reed
Given by: David & Hanna Mays

Memory of: Alice & Sam Kuntz; Jeannie Kuntz; Carolyn Kuntz
Given by: Debbie & Bill Redditt

Memory of: Larry Morrow
Given by: Patty Morrow

Memory of: Carolyn
Given by: Rick Kuntz

Memory of: Sarge Wassel
Given by: Ronneil & Zachery Middaugh

Memory of: Terry Middaugh
Given by: Zachery & Ronneil; Holly Middaugh

Honor of: Greg, Kristin & Grace Coughlin
Given by: Wally & Barb Coughlin

Honor of: Our grandchildren - Paige, Sydney, Ethan, Adelyn & Addison
Given by: Tom & Judy Stewart

Erie Meals-on-Wheels donations in honor /memory of:

Memory of: Charlotte Dorler; Domenic & Lucille Gambatese
Given by: Donna & Bob Dorler

Memory of: Char Feiler; Justin Lee; Janet Lee
Given by: Kim & Mike Lee

Memory of: Michelle Geddes; Willey, Bob & Betsy Case
Given by: Larry & Cindy Geddes

Memory of: Our parents
Given by: Bill & Pastor Karen Kostur

Honor of: Ronan, Taylor, Evelyn & Grace Dorler
Given by: Donna & Bob Dorler

Honor of: Samantha & Alexandra Lee
Given by: Kim & Mike Lee

Honor of: My children - John McGranor ; Susan McGranor
Given by: Diane McGranor



*Poinsettia
and
Hunger
Appeal*



Thank you for your support and donations. As always your generosity is appreciated.

Please remember the members of Immanuel who are "shut in," or having some health challenges and cannot make it to service, you may want to offer them a ride, give them a friendly call or send them a card.

Don't forget those who have suffered a loss or are struggling. Take a moment and reach out just to check on them. It only takes a moment to share some kindness and love.

The current Shut-In Mailing List is available in the office.



If you are sick or in the hospital, please notify the church office.

If you would like home communion or a copy of our newsletter, please contact the office.

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Vince Belinski—Diane's Nephew
Karen Byrd
Eric Adkins and family
Janice Kreger
MaryAnn Long and Russ Long
Penney Maloney
Denise Arnold
The Botwright family
Connie Cooper
Jim and Lorraine Hornaman
Kyle Husted
Carol and Gordon Ketchel
Patrick Lewis—friend of Sandy Kocur,
Sandy's cousin - Scott Farr
Sandy's close friend's son-in-law, John
Bishop Michael Lozano
Brenda Matson
Andy Potaki
Carole Rickrode
Bob Roemer
Alice Tillotson—Mary Hauser's sister

All of our members & friends who are grieving;
Who are in nursing homes;
All who are ill at home

We pray for those in the military:
Christopher Peterson – Navy



January in history

January 1, 1776 - During the [American Revolution](#), George Washington unveiled the Grand Union Flag, the first national flag in America.

January 1, 1863 - The [Emancipation Proclamation](#) by President Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves in the states rebelling against the Union.

January 3, 1959 - Alaska was admitted as the 49th U.S. state with a land mass almost one-fifth the size of the lower 48 states together.

January 7, 1782 - The first U.S. commercial bank opened as the Bank of North America in Philadelphia.

January 10, 1861 - Florida became the third state to secede from the Union in events leading up to the American [Civil War](#).

January 10, 1878 - An Amendment granting women the right to vote was introduced in Congress by Senator A.A. Sargent of California. The amendment didn't pass until 1920, forty-two years later.

January 17, 1773 - The ship *Resolution*, sailing under Captain James Cook, became the first vessel to cross the Antarctic Circle.

January 20, 1945 - Franklin Delano Roosevelt was inaugurated to an unprecedented fourth term as president of the United States. He had served since 1933.

January 23, 1849 - Elizabeth Blackwell was awarded her MD by the Medical Institute of Geneva, New York, thus becoming America's first woman doctor.

January 24, 1848 - The California gold rush began with the accidental discovery of the precious metal near Coloma during construction of a Sutter's sawmill. An announcement by President Polk later in the year caused a national sensation and resulted in a flood of "Forty-niners" seeking wealth.

January 27, 1967 - [Three American astronauts](#) were killed as a fire erupted inside Apollo 1 during a launch simulation test at Cape Kennedy, Florida.

January 27, 1756 - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) was born in Salzburg, Austria. From the age of five, through his untimely death at age 35, this musical genius created over 600 compositions including 16 operas, 41 symphonies, 27 piano and five violin concerti, 25 string quartets, 19 masses, and many other works.

January 30, 1835 - President Andrew Jackson survived the first assassination attempt on a U.S. President. While leaving the House of Representatives Chamber, an insane would-be assassin fired two pistol shots at him, however both pistols misfired and the president was unharmed.

January's Celebrations of Life & Love



January

- 1 Steve Holsopple
- 11 Kim Paternosh
- 18 Mike Lee
- 19 Jack Botwright
- 25 Debbie Redditt
- 26 Judy Sierota



****There are no January wedding anniversaries to celebrate.****

Capital Campaign - Boiler:

Funds for the boiler campaign currently show

\$29,678.19

toward our goal of \$58,803.

Pennies for Poverty

collection is an ongoing effort in support of the Women of the ELCA – donations welcome in the Donation Center canister.



LITTLE FREE PANTRY AT IMMANUEL

**IF IN NEED – TAKE SOMETHING
IF YOU CAN SHARE - LEAVE SOMETHING**

Feel free to bring items to church office & we will make sure they get in the pantry for you.



Green Corner NWPA Synod Green Team

Eco-Friendly New Year's Resolutions

2025 is here and it's time to make a fresh start. Why not add some eco-friendly ideas to your New Year's resolutions? Even incorporating one new habit will help make a difference!

Turn off lights in areas where they aren't needed.

Cut back on paper towels; use cotton cloths instead.

Use rechargeable batteries.

Develop the habit of using reusable shopping bags for all purchases, not just groceries.

Shop locally and reduce online shipping containers.

Carpool and/or consolidate errands to reduce gas usage (and time).

Encourage and participate in tree planting initiatives.

Change your eating habits. Purchase local meat and produce or plant a small vegetable garden.

Reduce food delivery packaging; make more meals and snacks at home.

Pick plastic-free packaging, when it is available.

Bring your own food containers to restaurants for take-home food.

Refuse plasticware that is included in take-out orders.

Bring along a trash container for picking up litter when you are walking/hiking.

Advocate for environmental justice by addressing the disproportionate impacts of climate change on marginalized communities.

Host a creation-focused Bible study for church and community members using the "Our Kairos Moment: An ELCA Climate Care Study Guide". <https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/our-kairos-moment-an-elca-climate-care-study-guide/>

It's never too late to start new habits. Tiny steps can bring great rewards!

The Green Team's purpose is to "raise awareness of and advocate for the care of creation." Our mission is to support and encourage creation care ministries, raise awareness, model creation care advocacy consistent with ELCA teachings in our faith communities and public life.

nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com

[Like and follow us on Facebook: Northwestern PA Synod Green Team – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.](#)

Apple-Honey Drumsticks



12 skin-on
chicken drumsticks
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
2 cups apple juice
1/2 cup apple cider vinegar
1/4 cup low-sodium soy sauce
2 teaspoons honey
Grated zest of 1 lemon
1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
2 teaspoons sesame seeds (optional)
1 tablespoon unsalted butter



1. Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F. Set a wire rack on a rimmed baking sheet. Put the drumsticks on the rack and season both sides generously with salt and pepper. Bake 30 minutes; flip the drumsticks and continue baking until golden and crisp, about 30 more minutes.
2. Meanwhile, make the sauce: Bring the apple juice, vinegar, soy sauce, honey, lemon zest, red pepper flakes and a pinch of salt to a high simmer in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook until the sauce is syrupy and coats the back of a spoon, 20 to 25 minutes. Set aside until the chicken is done.
3. Stir the sesame seeds into the sauce, if using, and warm over medium heat, if necessary. Transfer the chicken to a large bowl. Add the sauce and butter and toss to coat. Season with salt and pepper. Transfer the chicken to a platter and drizzle with any remaining sauce from the bowl.

The History of New Year's Resolutions

About 4,000 years ago the ancient Babylonians were the first people to make New Year's resolutions. They were also the to celebrate the new year. Their new year began in mid-March at the time they planted their new crops, unlike today when the new year begins in January, the winter months.

A 12-day long religious festival known as Akitu, took place as the Babylonians crowned a new king or reaffirmed their loyalty to the reigning king. During the festival promises were made to the gods to pay debts and to return any borrowed objects. These were what we know today as New Year's resolutions. If the Babylonians were true to their word, the pagan gods would grant favor on them for the upcoming year. If they were untrue to their word, they would not be in good favor of the god's, and that was no place one wanted to be!

In ancient Rome emperor Julius Ceasar changed the calendar and established January 1 as the beginning of the new year circa 46 B.C. January was named for Janus, the two-faced god whose spirit inhabited doorways and arches, January had a special significance for the Roamn people. They believed that Janus looked back into the prior year and ahead toward the future, the Romans

A similar practice occurred in ancient Rome, after the reform-minded emperor Julius Caesar tinkered with the calendar and established January 1 as the beginning of the new year circa 46 B.C. Named for Janus, the two-faced god whose spirit inhabited doorways and arches, January had special significance for the Romans. Believing that Janus symbolically looked backwards into the previous year and ahead into the future, the Romans would offer sacrifices to the deity and they made promises to have good conduct for the coming year.

Early Christians recognized the first day of the new year for thinking about one's past mistakes and resolving to do and be better in the future. In 1740, John Wesley, founder of Methodism, created what was known as the Covenant Renewal Service, most typically held on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day. Also known as watch night services, they included readings from Scriptures and hymn singing and served as a spiritual alternative to the lively celebrations generally held to celebrate the coming of the new year. Now popular within evangelical Protestant churches, especially African American denominations and congregations, watch night services held on New Year's Eve are often spent praying and making resolutions for the coming year.

Despite the tradition's religious roots, New Year's resolutions today are mostly non-religious practice. Instead of making promises to the gods, most people make resolutions only to themselves and focus purely on self-improvement (which may explain why such resolutions seem so hard to follow through on). According to recent research, approximately 45 percent of Americans say they usually make New Year's resolutions. There are studies that show only about 8 percent are successful in attaining their resolutions. Even though there is such a small percentage of victory in accomplishing the goals, it most likely will not deter us from continuing to make resolutions – we have had somewhere around 4,000 years of practice!!

Date	Presider	Assistant	Lector
01/05/25 9:30 AM	Kostur	Bob Dorler	Bob Dorler
01/12/25 9:30 AM	Kostur	Anita Byrne	Ronnel Middaugh
01/19/25 7:00 PM	Kostur	Debbie Redditt	Zack Middaugh
01/26/25 9:30 AM	Kostur		

Are you interested in volunteering to Lector? If so, email or call the church office and we can make it happen!

LECTORS:

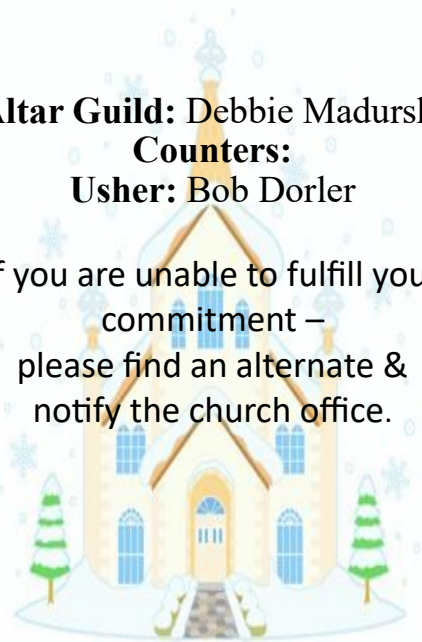
Don't forget to adjust the microphone toward you. Speak into the microphone so everyone can hear you!

Altar Guild: Debbie Madurski

Counters:

Usher: Bob Dorler

If you are unable to fulfill your commitment – please find an alternate & notify the church office.



2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	2 Property Meeting 10 am	3 AA 7:00 pm	4
5 9:30 am Worship Quarter Sunday Coffee Hour	6 Epiphany Quilters 9:30 am	7 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	8 Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	9 Choir 12 pm	10 AA 7:00 pm	11
12 9:30 am Worship Church Council 10:35 am	13 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship Choir 7 pm	14 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	15 Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	16 Bible Study 11 am Choir 12 pm	17 AA 7:00 pm	18
19 9:30 am Worship Congregational Meeting 10:35 am	20 Quilters 9:30 am	21 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	22 Tops 9 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	23 Bible Study 11 am Choir 12 pm	24 AA 7:00 pm	22
26 9:30 am Worship	27 Quilters 9:30 am	28 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	29 Tops 9 am	30 Bible Study 11 am Choir 12 pm	31 AA 7 pm	



Immanuel
Church Office
814-833-4062

Office Hours
8:30—12:30
Monday—Thursday

Church Council Committees

*We invite all members of Immanuel to join any of these committees and/or offer your gifts where you can – many hands make light work!!
Council usually meets the 2nd Sunday of the month*

Staff

Pastor Karen Kostur 814-833-4062
or Emergency #: 724-557-2386
Pastor's Office Hours – Tuesday 1:00-
2:00 Thursday, 9:00am-2:00pm

Church Caretaker: Wally Coughlin
Organist/Music Director: Allan Sloven-
kay

Admin. Ofc.: Brenda Mastson

Sunday School

Coord: Anita Byrne & Janice Kreger
Teachers: Anita Byrne & Pastor
Kostur

2024 Congregation & Church Council Officers

Pres: Rick Kuntz 814-572-3719
VP: Joe Byrne 814-397-7319
Sec.: Brenda Durst 814-873-0451
Fin. Sec.:
Treasurer: Bill Redditt 814-833-9756



Check out our website and "FRIEND" us on [Facebook](#)
Did you miss church? Need to keep updated and want easy access to the church calendar, newsletter or annual report?
Check out our website <http://www.ilc-erie.org/>

WATCH FOR US ON FACEBOOK, GOERIE.COM, ERIE NEWS NOW AND IN PRINT IN THE ERIE TIMES NEWS

Fellowship, Outreach & Growth

Council liaisons: Sally Leubin
COFFEE HOUR 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
ONGOING COLLECTION FOR LITTLE FREE PANTRY
SOUP COOK BOOKLET AVAILABLE

Finance

Council liaison: Vacant
ANNUAL Budget

Property

Council liaison: Rick Kuntz
Committee Chair: Debbie Redditt
FACILITY MAINTENANCE
RENTAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
ONGOING BOILER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Stewardship

Council liaison: Dave Mays

Social Ministry Committee

Committee chair: Debbie Madurski

Worship & Music

Council liaison: Joe Byrne Chair: ffer

Christian Education

Council liaison: Mary Hauser

