

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH
DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2024



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Please be sure to get your
articles and photos for the
January newsletter to Brenda
by December 20th

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Grace & Peace : From the Pastor's Desk

“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn. Luke 2:7

“to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” Luke 2:11-12

Gone are the days of the beautiful December window displays with toys and Santa's sleigh, elves and dancing cookies, (with an occasional manger scene thrown in if there was room) that heralded the Christmas season. Now Christmas decorations appear before Halloween in many of the big box stores and the beauty of the classical Christmas displays is a memory from days of old.

Unfortunately, so is the Christmas story we Christ followers have come to know and love. Years ago I served a church that had a release program, that is a time when children can leave school and be transported to a church for a religious program that lasts exactly an hour, including travel time. There were around 20 children participating on a regular basis. Most of them came to get out of school for an hour. The majority of those children had never heard of the birth of Jesus. A story we retell every year and know just about by heart was brand new to them. I can still recall their amazed faces when they learned about Jesus being born in a stable, surrounded by animals, angels singing and shepherds visiting. And none of them questioned the authenticity of what they were being taught. They believed. These little unchurched children came to believe in the birth of a savior.

Christmas Eve has always held a special place in my heart as I am sure it does in many of yours. How loved we are that God's son was born in such humble circumstances. How loved we are that God cared enough to send his son to earth.

Advent, the four weeks spent preparing for Christmas, begins December 1 this year. Our Advent study will begin Thursday, November 21 at 11 a.m. so that the entire four week study can be completed before Christmas. I had planned on using Will Willimon's book *Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation*, however, after re-reading the book, I determined it really wasn't what I wanted to present. I decided to use *Hidden Christmas* by Timothy Keller instead. In this study Timothy Keller goes beyond the scene of a manger, shepherds and angels to the background of the nativity. He unravels the message of hope and salvation found within Jesus's birth, for us to experience the redeeming power of God's grace in a deeper and more meaningful way.

If Thursday mornings don't work for you the same study will begin on Sunday's after church beginning Nov. 24 following a brief time of fellowship, again after fellowship on Dec. 1. Dec. 8 will be after the church meeting. We will skip Dec. 15 due to the church council meeting and complete the four week study on Dec. 22. I hope many of you will take the time to join this Advent study.

As always, please don't hesitate to call me. 724-557-2386 is my cell, if I don't answer please leave a message. I'm in the office Tuesdays from 1-3, Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (814-833-4062) Feel free to call or visit.

Christmas Eve services are 5:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., with special music beginning at 9:30 p.m. They will be the same service other than the choir will only singing at the 10:00 p.m. service. Bring the little ones who may not have heard about the birth of Jesus, and I will have a special message for them so our faith in Christ will be passed down through posterity.

ATTENTION!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

There will be a Congregational Meeting following worship on December 8th.

2025



2025

Council Members are needed for the 2025 year. If you are interested please get your commitment to Bob Dorler as soon as possible.

all interest must be received no latter than December 8th.



Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2024 Election Book & Bake sale a success!!! The sale made \$522.95!!!!

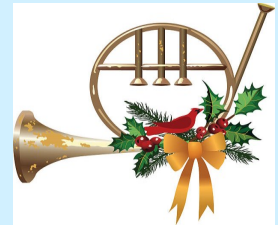




Christmas Eve Worship Services

First Service at **5:30 pm**

Special Worship Music beginning at **9:30 pm** followed by second Worship at **10 pm**



There will be **NO** Flagship City Chorus on December 16th and 23rd. We will resume on December 30th.



Stop by the lounge after worship the first Sunday of the month for a cup of java and share some conversation with your Immanuel family



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

DECK
THE
HALLS



Following worship on December 8th we will gather to decorate the church for the joyous holiday of Christ's Birth. We would love to have everyone who is available participate.



On November 24th the Mitten Trees were put up for collections for Bethesda.

Donations of mittens, hats and scarves will be accepted.

You will find a tree to add your donation to in the Narthex and one in the lounge.

Your support and kindness mean the world to the children.

THANK YOU!



We will be taking orders for poinsettias once again this year to decorate the church for Christmas Eve Worship Services. The cost is \$8.50.

We will also be taking donations for Erie Meals-On-Wheels to help the elderly and disabled in the community receive meals.

The last day to order poinsettias is December 15th.



HOLIDAY POINSETTIA AND HUNGER APPEAL

I would like to give _____ flowers for the Special Offering for Christmas at \$8.50 each.
\$ _____ is enclosed.

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Given by _____

Please indicate your preference below
_____ please deliver to shut in or local charity
_____ I will deliver to shut in or local charity
_____ I prefer to pick up after late service

Instead of flowers I would like to give _____ for the Special Offering for Christmas to go towards Erie Meals-On-Wheels.
\$ _____ is enclosed.

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Given by _____

PLACE FORM & DONATION IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR SEND TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY DECEMBER 15TH.

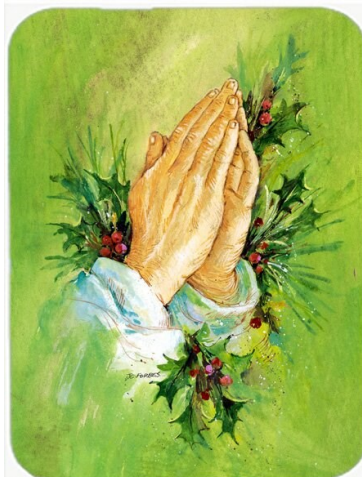
Please remember the members of Immanuel who are "shut in," or having some health challenges and cannot make it to service, you may want to offer them a ride, give them a friendly call or send them a card.

Don't forget those who have suffered a loss this year and will be facing the holiday season alone for the first time. Take a moment and reach out to someone who is in need or struggling this holiday season. 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 and Sharon Roemer
Allison 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

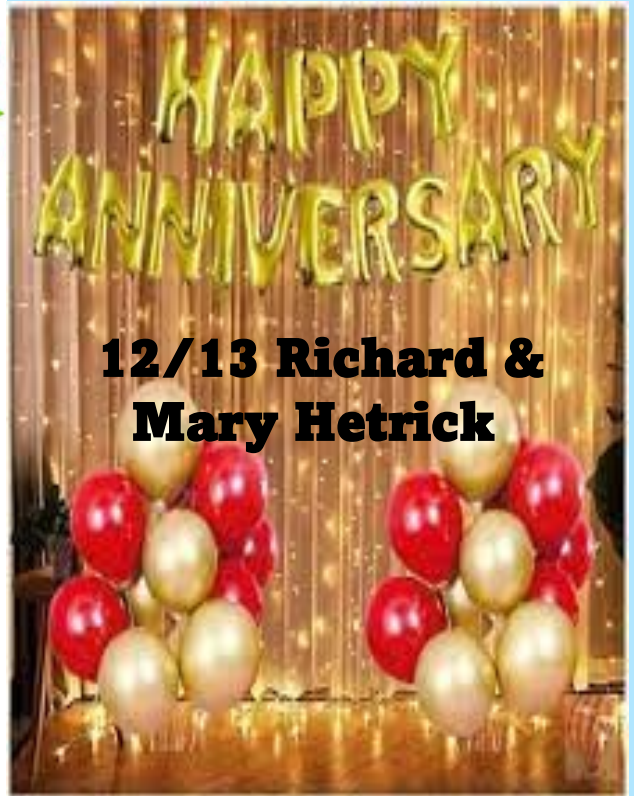
25 Days of Christmas Kindness

- 1 **Invite a friend or neighbor over for dinner**
- 2 **Bring a coffee to a friend or co-worker**
- 3 **Volunteer to ring bells for the Salvation Army**
- 4 **Buy extra dog or cat food and drop it off at one of the local shelters**
- 5 **Donate to a charity of your choice**
- 6 **Offer to babysit for a friend or neighbor while they Christmas shop**
- 7 **Pick up litter at your local park**
- 8 **Pray for someone you haven't seen in a while**
- 9 **Stop in to check on an elderly neighbor with a plate of cookies**
- 10 **Support a small business**
- 11 **Put together care packages**
- 12 **Donate blood**
- 13 **Leave your mailman homemade cookies**
- 14 **Let someone go ahead of you in the check-out line**
- 15 **Volunteer at a food bank**
- 16 **Pray for the person behind you**
- 17 **Go old fashioned and mail Christmas cards**
- 18 **Check on your neighbor**
- 19 **Hold the door open for someone and tell them to have a nice day!**
- 20 **Make Christmas cards for a nursing home**
- 21 **Give someone who can't drive a ride to church**
- 22 **Compliment a stranger**
- 23 **Donate unused clothing and/or toys to a local charity**
- 24 **Get a group of people to go Christmas Caroling**
- 25 **Rejoice and celebrate the Lord**
Have a Merry Christmas!

Celebrations of December Life & Love

Happy Birthday!!!!

12/2 Nathan Paternosh
12/3 Connie Cooper
12/4 John Sierota
12/5 Kailee Sturgeon
12/7 Gretchen Andrews
12/9 Jodie Feiler
12/12 Jeremy Cool
12/12 Natalie Jackson
12/15 Rebecca Griffin Bureau
12/15 Cassandra Kuczynski-Casler
12/19 Thomas Kocur
12/20 Courtney Casler
12/21 Leslie Rickrode
12/22 Timothy Botwright
12/24 Sara Benson
12/25 Jesus
12/25 Laura Ditzler
12/29 Kristen Andrews
12/29 Mary Kreger
12/31 Beth Siefert



12/13 Richard & Mary Hetrick

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.

The Meaning Of Christmas

Far away in Bethlehem, a Baby Boy was born;
Born with neither riches nor with fame,
Yet Wise Men came from all around to
bring to Him their gifts,
And peace was felt by all who heard His name.

Angels watched Him as He slept,
and gently rocked His bed;
Their voices singing softly in His ear;
His Mother and His Father both gave thanks to God above
For the greatest gift of all, their Son, so dear

They knew His life upon this earth
would not be filled with wealth,
They also knew He would encounter strife;
But most of all, they knew that He would be a loving Child,
And teach the love of God throughout His life.

At Christmas, as we celebrate
this Birth of Jesus Christ,
Let's keep in mind the truth of Christmas Day;
For it's not the Christmas wrappings,
nor the gifts that lie within,
But our gift of love to others in every way...



A Culinary Walk With The Bible

Scripture Cake has also been called "Bible Cake", "Scriptural Cake", "Old Testament Cake" and "Oar & Anchor Scripture Cake". It was very popular in the late 19th century, especially in the southern Appalachians. It was a means to teach girls baking and Bible verses.

One of the earliest recipes dates back to the "Atlanta Constitution" dated June 27, 1897. But there are researchers who have found reference to the cake in late 1700s in England and Ireland. Other researcher claim it was a favorite cake of Dolly Madison, wife of President James Madison.

Scripture Cake

3/4 cup Judges 5:25 (butter)
1 1/2 cup Jeremiah 6:20 (sugar)
5 Isaiah 10:14 (eggs, separated)
3 cups sifted Leviticus 24:5 (flour)
3 teaspoons 2 Kings 2:20 (salt)
3 teaspoons Amos 4:5 (baking powder)
1 teaspoon Exodus 30:23 (cinnamon)
1/4 teaspoon each 2 Chronicles 9:9 (spices, nutmeg, ginger, allspice)
1/2 cup Judges 4:19 (milk)
3/4 chopped Genesis 43:11 (nuts)
3/4 cup finely chopped Jeremiah 24:5 (figs)
3/4 cup 2 Samuel 16:1 (raisins)
Whole Genesis 43:11 for garnish (almonds)

In a 4 quart mixing bowl or the bowl of an electric stand mixer, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. (Of course no electric mixer in olden days.) Beat in egg yolks, one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Sift together flour, salt, baking powder, cinnamon and spices.

Beat flour mixture into butter and egg mixture, alternating with milk, until flour is just blended in. Beat egg whites until stiff; fold into batter. Fold in chopped nuts, figs and raisins. Turn into 10-inch tube pan that has been greased and dusted with flour.

Bake at 325 degrees until a cake tester inserted in cake comes out clean, about an hour and ten minutes. Remove from oven and place on a wire rack to cool. About fifteen minutes, turn cake out from pan onto wire rack to cool completely.

The Christmas Candle



The Christmas candle has been a part of the holiday tradition since ancient times. Here are some interesting facts about this festive item:

The use of candles during the Christmas season dates back to the Roman Empire, where candles were used to celebrate the winter solstice.

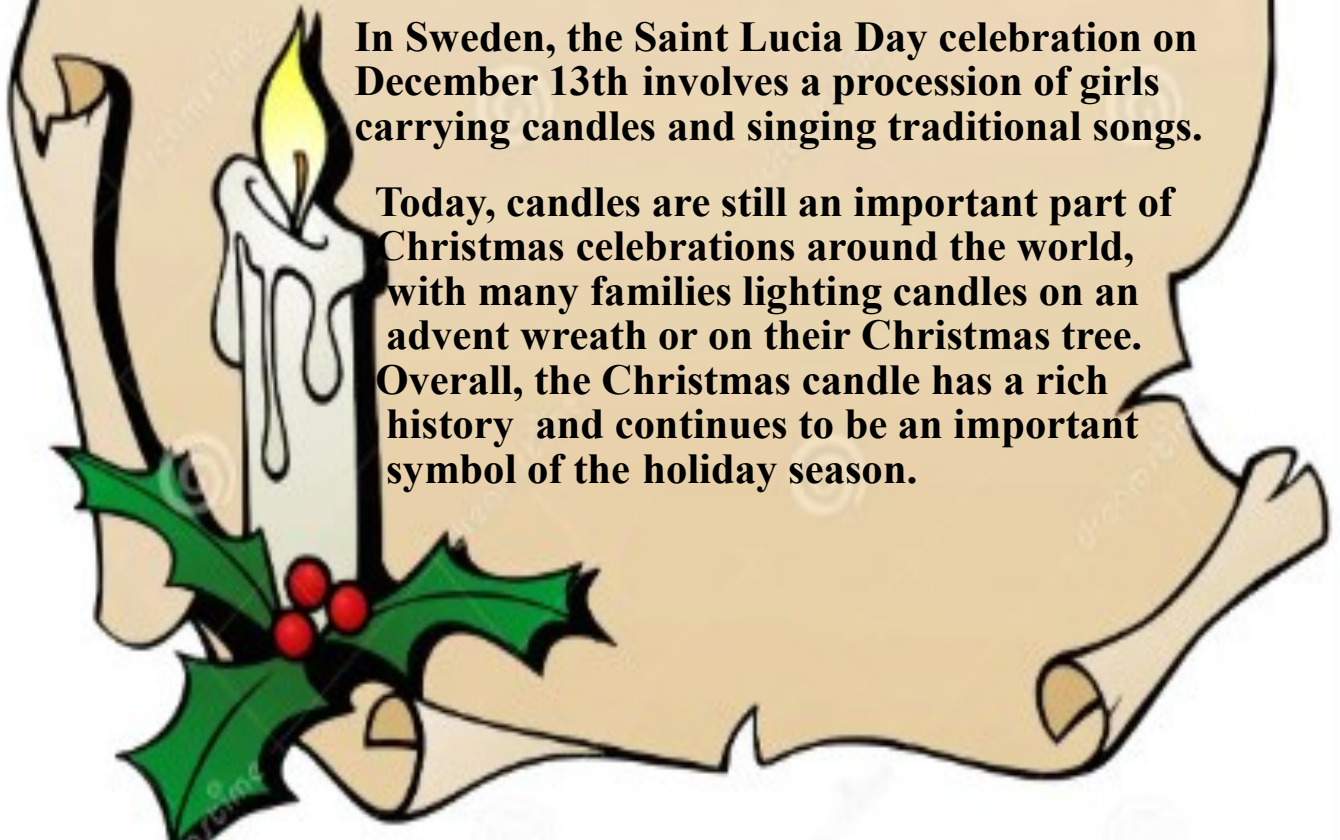
In the Middle Ages, candles were used to symbolize the star of Bethlehem, which guided the wise men to the birthplace of Jesus.

The first recorded use of a Christmas tree with candles was in the 16th century in Germany.

The tradition of lighting a candle in the window during Christmas Eve originated in Ireland, where it was a sign of welcome to Mary and Joseph as they searched for a place to stay.

In Sweden, the Saint Lucia Day celebration on December 13th involves a procession of girls carrying candles and singing traditional songs.

Today, candles are still an important part of Christmas celebrations around the world, with many families lighting candles on an advent wreath or on their Christmas tree. Overall, the Christmas candle has a rich history and continues to be an important symbol of the holiday season.



Green Corner NWPA Synod Green Team



Creation Care with Eco-Friendly Wrapping

As Christmas approaches, here are some ideas for earth-friendly wrapping. Consider using alternatives to traditional wrapping, such as:



- ✦ Newspaper or brown paper rolls (kids can decorate with markers or Christmas card cut-outs)
- ✦ Reusable shopping bags (preferably cotton)
- ✦ Re-use gift bags (make it fun - see how many years you can use the same one)
- ✦ Christmas cards make great gift tags
- ✦ Wrap items in a t-shirt
- ✦ Wrap items in a tablecloth or blanket
- ✦ Instead of ribbon,
 - Use 100% cotton yarn (such as Sugar and Cream, available in many colors)
 - Use jute twine (100% biodegradable); add a fresh holly sprig for color
 - Avoid shiny, glossy wrapping, as it is not recyclable

If giving multiple gifts to a person/family, place them unwrapped in one (reusable) bag and have the recipient select one at a time. (No peeking inside first!)



Martin Luther, "God is wholly present in all creation, in every corner, behind you and before you." (LW 51:43)

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

<https://www.northwesternpasynodelca.org/nwpa-green-team.html>



Christmas Bible trivia questions

NO CHEATING!!! Cover the bottom of the page while you answer the trivia questions!!!

- ◆ Which Gospel contains the story of the birth of Jesus? (there's actually two!)
- ◆ What sign did the shepherds receive that led them to baby Jesus?
- ◆ Who was the king who ordered the census, leading to Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem?
- ◆ According to the Gospel of Matthew, what event did the visit of the Magi trigger?
- ◆ What were the names of the shepherds who visited Jesus in the manger?
- ◆ Which Old Testament prophet foretold the birth of Jesus?



Answers :

The Gospel of Luke (2:1-20) and the Gospel of Matthew (1:18-2:12)

The shepherds received a sign of a heavenly host of angels praising God (Luke 2:8-14)

Ceaser Augustus

The visit of the Magi triggered King Herod's fear and subsequent massacre of all male infants in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1-16).

The Bible does not mention the names of the shepherds who visited Jesus.

The prophet Isaiah foretold the birth of Jesus (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7).

C H R I S T M A S

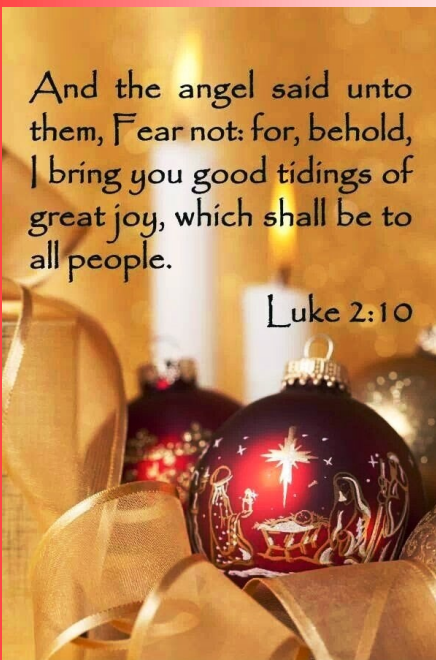
We all have busy lives and Christmas is right around the corner. For many of us it means spending time with friends and family and celebrating what we see as a joyous season. For others, this time of year finds many suffering, often in silence. People can feel isolated at this time of year, alone or because this is a time of year for reflection can feel mournful and sad.

It is important to notice those around you and how they are feeling and coping with the loneliness and stress of the holiday season. Often it is not the grand gestures that make a difference to how someone is feeling, but the simple things like a phone call, a text message, a plate of cookies, a hug or just a few minutes sharing a conversation.

Often times many of us don't know what to do when we are faced with an acquaintance, friend or family member who is struggling. But, it is quite simple. Just be there for them. Notice their feelings and don't be afraid to ask how they are doing. But most of all just take a few minutes during the season to let them know you care and make a little time for them.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Luke 2:10





Advent is a season of waiting and expectation for Christmas – the birth of Christ, the Nativity of Our Lord. We prepare our homes and hearts for four weeks before Christmas. Advent is also the beginning of a new liturgical season – it concludes a long period of Ordinary Time and leads us into the new church year with hope and patience in preparation for Christmas.

This season was likely first celebrated in the fifth century, originating from the tradition of fasting several times a week, beginning on St. Martin de Tours' Feast Day (November 11) and concluding on Christmas Day. Nowadays, Advent always starts about four weeks before Christmas, on the Sunday closest to St. Andrew's Feast Day (November 30).

Advent always begins on a Sunday and includes three other Sundays leading up to Christmas. Traditionally, this first Sunday of Advent is always the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle on November 30, whether before or after. This year, the Feast of St. Andrew is on a Wednesday, so the first Sunday of Advent precedes the apostle's feast day.

Advent always starts four Sundays before Christmas. This year, in 2024, Advent starts Sunday, December 1. Advent always ends on Christmas Eve, the day before Christmas. Advent ends Tuesday, December 24, 2024.

After Advent, the Christmas season begins with Christmas Eve vigil masses. The Christmas season ends on Monday, January 8, 2024, the day on which we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Epiphany is always celebrated on January 6. Traditionally, this day marks the visit of the Magi – when the three wise men visited the baby Jesus. It's often observed on the Sunday between Jan. 2 and 8.

The Advent Candles

The four candles of Advent represent the four Sundays of Advent, and they respectively symbolize hope, peace, joy, and love. In some homes and parishes, people will also light a fifth candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to represent the birth of Jesus; this candle, when added to the Advent wreath, is typically white and larger than the other candles and is placed in the center of the wreath.

- Advent week 1 – Hope: Prophecy Candle (purple)
- Advent week 2 – Peace: Bethlehem Candle (purple)
- Advent week 3 – Joy: Shepherd's Candle (pink)
- Advent week 4 – Love: Angel's Candle (purple)



The Chrismon Tree Traditions, meaning and history.....

The word “Chrismon” is a **combination of the words “Christ” and “monogram”**. The word Chrismon has been adopted to refer to special Christmas tree ornaments that have been developed to display symbols of Christ. The designs of the Chrismons has over the years been extended to represent symbols of Christianity.

Chrismon trees typical are put on display during the four weeks of the Advent seasons and are removed following Christmas day. The term “Chrismon” is a combination of the words “Christ” and “Monogram” and literally means the monogram of Christ.

Some people might refer to the Chrismon tree as the Tree of Christ. Chrismon refers to the special ornaments that are placed on the tree rather than the actual tree – the Chrismon tree being a tree with the Chrismons on it.

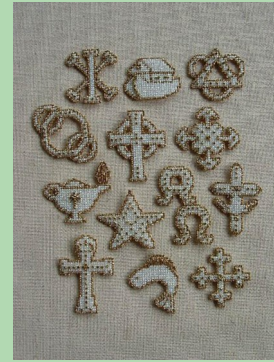
The Chrismon tree differs from the traditional Christmas tree in that it is decorated only with clear lights and Chrismons made from only white and gold material; the later two being liturgical colors of the Christmas season.

Every aspect of the Chrismon tree has significance, from the symbols on the ornaments to the colors they draw on. Chrismon trees are typically decked in all white and gold. The white symbolizes the perfection and purity of the Lord, while gold points to His nobility and glory. The tree’s white lights are a reminder to believers that He is the Light of the world and the evergreen symbolizes our own eternal life, a gift of Christ’s sacrifice for us.

On 1957, Mrs. Harry W. Spencer of the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia, was inspired to use these Christian symbols, or Chrismons, in lieu of colorful balls and non-religious décor on her church’s Christmas tree.

Each of these Chrismons are symbolic to the life of Jesus Christ. The ornaments are always white and can be made with felt, foam, beads or cloth with gold embellishment such as ribbons, glitter and bead work. Often handmade, Chrismons can be made in a variety of crosses, shapes, objects, letters and numerals.

While it would be hard to list all of the Chrismon ornaments, there are many books as well as guides online that can help you visualize each of the various ornaments. However, here are a few of them as well as what they represent.

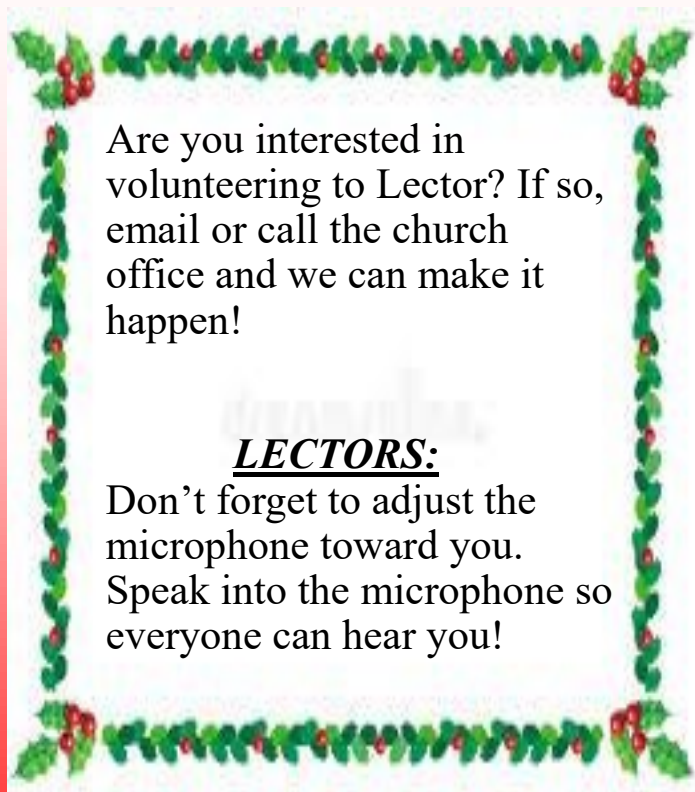


- The Alpha and Omega represents Christ who said “I am the beginning and the end, the first and the last
- The Triangle – represents the Trinity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- The Latin Cross – represents the cross that Jesus was crucified on.
- The Three Intertwining Circles – the eternal quality of the Trinity with no beginning or end.
- The Latin Cross – represents the cross that Jesus was crucified on.
- The Calvary Cross – represents the Latin Cross standing on a three step platform. The three steps represent Faith, Hope and Love.
- The Cross Crosslet – Representing the spreading of Christianity to the four corners of the world.
- The Anchor Cross – represents a time when Christians were prosecuted for their faith and used this symbol to avoid persecution.
- The Heart – the symbol of charity.
- The Butterfly – a symbol of the resurrection and life everlasting for the believer.
- The Lyre – represents the joy in praising the Lord .
- The Ark and the Rainbow – Symbolizes God's promise.
- The Angel of God – Symbolizes the angelic announcement of both the birth and the resurrection of Christ.
- The Triquetra and Circle. The endless circle suggests eternity. The triquetra—the figure composed of three separate and equal arcs—symbolizes the One God who showed himself to man in three separate and distinct persons.



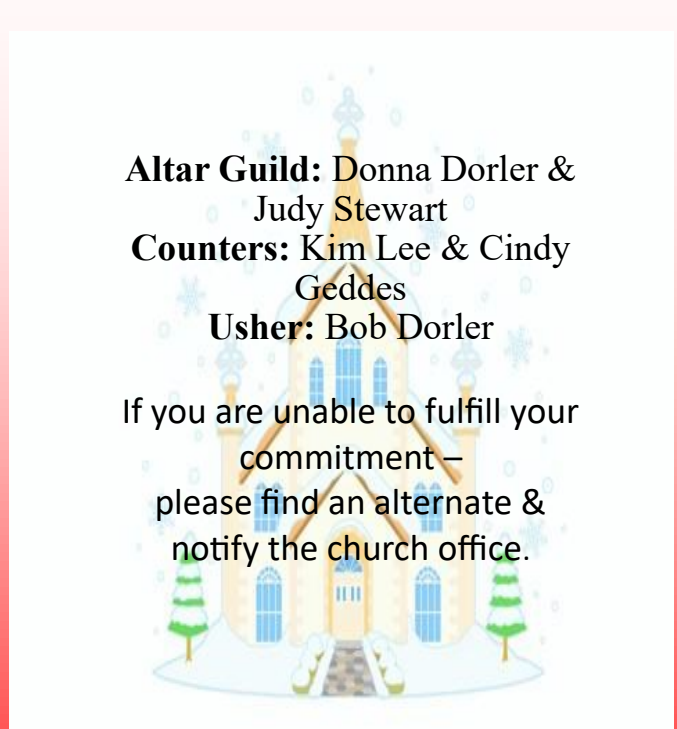


Date	Presider	Assistant	Lector
12/01/24 9:30 AM	Kostur	Bob Dorler	Bob Dorler
12/08/24 9:30 AM	Kostur	Cindy Geddes	Ronneil Middaugh
12/15/24 7:00 PM	Kostur	Debbie Redditt	Bill Redditt
12/22/24 9:30 AM	Kostur		
12/24/24 5:30 PM	Kostur	Bob Dorler	Ronneil Middaugh
12/24/24 10 PM	Kostur		Zach Middaugh
12/29/24 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: Donna Dorler & Judy Stewart
Counters: Kim Lee & Cindy Geddes
Usher: Bob Dorler

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

What the Christmas Tree Symbolizes



The Christmas tree is the iconic symbol of Christmas. From the enormous glittering tree in Rockefeller Center, to Charlie Brown's humble bending branch, you can't separate the Christmas tree from the holiday. Decorations of trees vary from culture to culture—glittering ornaments and lights to popcorn and cranberry garlands to cobwebs (in the Ukraine) and elaborate little sculptures made from radishes (in Mexico). But where did the tradition of the Christmas tree originate, what does it symbolize and how did it become the central symbol of Christmas?

The Christmas tree has a long, rich history rooted, some think, as far back in ancient Egyptian and Roman culture. An evergreen branch over the door was used to ward off evil spirits and to symbolize life and growth during a dormant season. The Celts decorated their temples with green pine branches which symbolized everlasting life. In the 16th century, devout Christians brought evergreen trees into their homes in Germany. It is thought that on a wintery walk through the woods, Martin Luther saw twinkling lights through the trees and recreated the look with his own family in his home for Christmas. He is even credited as the first person who decorated a tree with lights. Most likely they were candles.

In the early 19th century, the Christmas tree wasn't popular in America, and many Christians saw this as a pagan symbol of Christmas, but German immigrants decorated their homes with them, and they began to rise in popularity. Queen Victoria catapulted the popularity of the Christmas tree when a detailed sketch of she and her German husband, Prince Albert, and their children around their own decorated Christmas tree, was printed in the *Illustrated London News*. They were very popular royals, so the Christmas tree was firmly established as popular and fashionable not only in Britain, but also on the east coast in America. By 1890, [Christmas ornaments](#) were being imported from Germany into the U.S. And, though smaller, four-foot trees were popular in Europe, the American "go big or go home" attitude influenced even Christmas tree selection, and many Americans liked oversized, floor-to-ceiling trees. With the electric light, trees could shine every hour of the day, and soon Christmas trees were a common sight in city centers, churches, and towns across the U.S.

The symbol of the Christmas tree was adopted from the pagan tradition and adopted into the Christian tradition. Because Christmas is the holiday that celebrates the birth of Christ, as a light in the dark world, the lit tree was a reminder of that light. The Christmas tree also represents the Tree of Life, commonly recognized as the most important tree in the garden of Eden. Some people decorate with apples or apple ornaments, or a single apple ornament, which symbolized knowledge and reminded the devout Christian of original sin, and the lights symbolized Christ's dealing with sin and turning darkness into light.

Whether Christmas is a holiday to express religious belief or a time to celebrate with family and friends with good food, laughter and gifts or both, the Christmas tree is central to many family's celebrations. At Old World Christmas, we love it when our ornaments create personal symbols and meaning for your Christmas tree and for the tree's of the people you love the most.

2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 First Sunday of Advent 9:30 am worship Quarter Sunday Coffee Hour	2 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm	3 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	4 Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	5 Advent Bible Study 11 am Choir 12 pm	6 St. Nicholas Day AA 7:00 pm	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
8 9:30 am Worship Congregational Meeting 10:35 am Decorate the Church	9 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm Flute Choir 7 pm	10 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	11 Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	12 Advent Bible Study 11 am Choir 12 pm	13 AA 7:00 pm	14
15 9:30 am Worship Church Council 10:35 am	16 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm Flute Choir 7 pm	17 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	18 Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	19 Advent Bible Study 11 am Choir 12 pm	20 AA 7:00 pm	21 Winter Solstice
22 9:30 am Worship	23 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm Flute choir 7 pm	24 Christmas Eve Worship 5:30 pm Worship 10 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	25 Christmas Day Happy Birthday Jesus! AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	26	27 AA 7:00 pm	28
29 9:30 am Worship	30 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm Flute Choir 7 pm	31 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm				

What Does the Number 7 Mean in the Bible and Why is it Important?

In scripture seven often symbolizes completion or perfection.

Numbers in Biblical times were often symbolic of a deeper meaning and significance. The number seven is especially prominent in the Bible, appearing over 700 times. From the seven days of Creation to the many "sevens" in Revelation, the number seven connotes such concepts as completion and perfection, exonerated and healing, and the fulfillment of promises and oaths.

Genesis tells us that God created the heavens and the Earth in six days, and, upon completion, God rested on the seventh day ([Genesis 1](#); 2:1-2). Based on this cycle of work and rest, God commands us to also labor for six days and then complete the week by resting on the seventh day, the day God set apart as the holy Sabbath ([Exodus 20:9-11](#)).

The number seven also has meaning and denotes completion at the Crucifixion, when Jesus spoke seven statements in agony from the Cross at the completion of His earthly duties:

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" ([Luke 23:34](#)).

In the context of perfection, Jesus spoke in a grouping of seven when He was asked how we should pray ([Matthew 6:9-13](#)). In response, Jesus gave us the Lord's Prayer, surely a perfect way to pray considering that the words came from Christ Himself! Notably, the Lord's Prayer contains seven petitions:

Hallowed be thy name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; Lead us not into temptation; and Deliver us from evil.

You can find so much more about the importance of the number 7 in the Bible at www.christianity.com. Take a moment to visit the website and see what you thought you knew about the Bible, but may have not.



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 Slovenkay

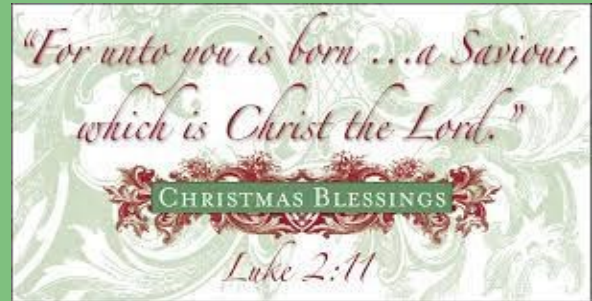
Admin. Ofc.: Brenda Mastson

Sunday School

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

2024 Congregation & Church Council Officers

Pres: Bob Dorler 814-833-2719
VP: Rick Kuntz 814-572-3719
Sec.: Mary Hauser 814-397-7552
Fin. Sec.: C. Geddes 814-734-1286
Treasurer: Bill Redditt 814-833-9756



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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: Bob Dorler & 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: Sue Pfeiffer

Christian Education

Council liaison: Mary Hauser



2024 Council Members

