

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2020

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Did you know? Can you help?
Annual Stewardship Drive – **PLEASE PARTICIPATE**
December Calendar
Church Council & Staff

It's beginning to look a lot like WINTER.....with that in mind, I have been asked to share the following change - in consideration for our parking lot ushers who are braving the elements...

Starting with **November 29th service**, we are asking all **Drive-In worship participants** to drive up to the door/overhang at the Education wing in the main (south) parking lot. The usher will hand out communion, bulletins and receive offerings. Using the overhang, the usher will be somewhat protected from the weather and will also not have to cross the street!



Immanuel Lutheran Church

1002 Powell Ave.

Erie, PA 16505

814-833-4062

LIKE US on Facebook

www.ilc-erie.org

Office: immluthch@verizon.net



Grace & Peace from the Pastor's Desk

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Our Thanksgiving holiday is over, and the secular world is well ensconced in the Christmas season... maybe you are too. It's easy to get lost in the shopping, wrapping, cards, decorations and everything else that can be considered the holiday season. However, in the church year, it is the season of Advent, the new beginning of the Christian year, a time of waiting and a time of preparation.

As Christians we live in the now, and the not yet. We straddle the time where Jesus has been born into our world, and the time of his second coming. Advent is that time of preparation for a birth that has taken place over 2000 years ago to be re-imagined and celebrated, and a specific time period set aside for the expectation of a time to come, when our Savior will return, not as an infant born in a humble stable, but claiming his rightful title as King over all creation.

Although this season cries for us to speed up, to make sure everything is ready, to meet the deadlines for parties, celebrations, Christmas Eve and Christmas morning, the true way to celebrate Advent is to take time to slow down, to listen with hope that God has not forgotten us, and that Jesus will come again. We desperately need a God who will restore us and save us. We need to share in the meal that prepares us for Jesus. We need to rejoice together. We need to take time to ponder the promises of God in the way that Mary pondered what it would mean to bring the Son of God into the world.

This year, as we listen to the words of Peter, Paul, Isaiah, Mark, Luke, John, and the psalmists, I invite you to hear the words again, for the first time. Let the message of God's story among humankind reach into your soul, and stir it in a way that brings new life. If you are interested in searching for this other than Sunday mornings, I invite you to a Tuesday evening [Bible study to be held at 6:30 pm](#) via Zoom. Please do not let the word Zoom frighten you away. If you like seeing other people's faces and being seen, and have internet access, you can bring us into your home via your computer. If you're the type who wants to remain unseen, or you have no internet connection, all it takes is a phone call to a local number to join in the discussion of the Bible readings for the week. The readings, Zoom information, and the phone number will be published weekly, prior to the study, which will begin November 24. There will be no book to study, just a reading of the texts (which can be done prior to the meeting, but there is no requirement to do so).

Know that I am available to you by a scheduled or drop-in visit to the office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings; by phoning 833-7062 during office hours; or by leaving a message on my cell phone (724-557-2386), and I will call you back. Have a happy and reflective Advent season!

PLEASE NOTE: PASTOR IS TAKING VACATION 12/25-1/2/21 AND CAN BE CONTACTED IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY.

**Grace and Peace,
Pastor Karen**

Christian Education



Sunday School continues to meet in the large classroom across from the office at 10:30 a.m., after our 9:30 a.m. church service. We are studying the Gospel message Pastor Karen preaches on each week. The Mitten Trees went up 11/22, on Christ the King Sunday. This is the last Sunday of the liturgical cycle "A" - now we move to "B" as a new year begins with Advent on 11/29, when we will be collecting our Sunday School Mission offering for Community Shelter Services, and our weekly lessons will be preparing us for Jesus coming. We will be doing weekly crafts. Due to social distancing we will not be doing a Christmas program during service this year.

~Stay safe and hope to see you soon.

*Prayer,
Anita*



The true light was coming into the world.

John 1:9

Prayer for Advent

from Creative Communications and shared by Janice Kreger

O Lord, the Advent candles, with their familiar, glowing light, help us to turn to you. May we stay alert in these weeks, anticipating the joyful celebration of your Son's arrival into the world. As the Advent lights keep darkness at bay, may they also keep us from wandering from your ways. Help us to stay ever watchful, like the gatekeeper. Help us, we pray, to hold your mercy deep within our heart, carrying it with us as we prepare for the coming of our infant Savior.

Amen



Carolyn lovingly did the Sunday School bulletin boards and had such creativity and patience – please take a minute to visit the memorial Sunday School bulletin board showing pictures of the Sunday School ministry over many years. Always in our hearts – thank you Carolyn!

~ ~ ~

Thank you to Janice Kreger & Anita Byrne for providing this collage.

Advent is represented by the color



DECEMBER 2020 Worship Calendar for Immanuel Lutheran, Erie PA

Date	Presider	Assistant	Lector
12/6/20 9:30	Kostur	Debbie Redditt	Bill Redditt
12/13/20 9:30	Kostur	Cindy Geddes	Cindy Geddes
12/20/20 9:30	Kostur	Bob Dorler	Bob Dorler
12/24/20 CHRISTMAS EVE 5:30 PM FAMILY SERVICE 10:30 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE *CLEANING WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN SERVICES	Kostur	Bob Dorler Anita Byrne	Bob Dorler Anita Byrne
12/27/20 9:30	Michael Snider	Asst.: Stan Holsopple Lay Distributor: _____	Stan Holsopple



DID YOU KNOW...
this time of year –

~blue~
and symbolizes

HOPE

*The season of Christmas is
represented by the color*

~white~
symbolizing
LIGHT & JOY

- Altar Guild:** S.Leubin/P. Maloney/S.Pfeiffer
- Counters:** K.Lee/C. Feiler/C/Geddes
- Ushers:** Ushers as assigned by B. Dorler Head Usher
- Christmas Eve: Early: R.Kuntz/B. Redditt Late: TBD

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

Sign-up sheets on the bulletin board for January

**JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
DECEMBER 15TH**

**OUR 2021 ANNUAL YEAR IN REVIEW MEETING HELD IN
JANUARY IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER, SO PLEASE BEGIN TO
PREPARE & SHARE YOUR COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS WITH
THE CHURCH OFFICE, AS WE THANK GOD FOR GUIDING OUR
MINISTRY AT IMMANUEL FOR 80 YRS!!!**



KEEP IN PRAYER: The families of Carolyn Kuntz and Jackie Thompsett - Stephanie Wood's niece, who joined the saints in heaven in November; Denise Arnold's Mom - Lucie Arndt and sister, Lana as well as brother-in-law Pastor Huhn; John & Tim Botwright and Tim's wife Karen, Wally Coughlin's sister & family; the Feiler & Lee families; Ruth & Ken Foos – friends of Carol McCray; Jim & Lorraine Hornaman, Kyle Husted, Jim Kuntz, Nancy Leonard – Pastor Karen's friend, Diane McGranor, Phyllis Lindahl, Carole Rickrode, Sharon Roemer, Jan Rowe – Pastor Karen's friend, and all of our members who are grieving; who are in nursing homes, who are serving on the "front line" during the COVID-19 pandemic or who are ill at home.

We pray for those in the military: Scott Case– Navy, (C. Geddes nephew) & Christopher Peterson – Navy (Grandson of the late Agnes & Chuck Peterson).

Shut-In Ministry

***No time in your busy life for much more?
How about just an occasional phone call or card?
Current Shut-in list: Audree Adams, Judi Casler,
Sally Fager.***

Please remember the members of Immanuel who are "shut in," and cannot make it to service, you may want to offer them a ride, give them a friendly call, send them a card. The current Shut-In Mailing List is available in the office or see our current directory.

If you are sick or in the hospital please notify the church office and if you'd like home communion or a copy of our newsletter ~ please let us know in the office.



FAITH

IN

ACTION

Thank you
for sharing

your

Time &
Talents



From our **Social Ministry Committee**: It is time to collect items for the Christmas bags we donate to Community Shelter services. The sign-up sheet for items needed will be found at the donation collection table in the hallway.

Items needed are:

washcloths, combs, hand cream, lip balm, hand sanitizer, pens, candy, and razors.

All items MUST be turned in by Dec. 6. The necessary shopping will take place shortly after the December 6th collection deadline so don't delay. Don't have time to shop, make a monetary donation marked Social Ministry Christmas Bags and we will shop for you.

The **FOG Committee** will be collecting Non-perishable food items until Dec. 20th. The items collected will be donated to the Westminster Food Pantry. If you are coming into church, your food



can be placed in the box marked Food Drive. If worshipping in the parking lot on Sundays place food items on porch for the ushers to bring inside. Thank you~ Char Feiler & Sally Leubin



**Inter-Church
Ministries**
of Erie County



Coats for Kids Collection

November 16 – December 5

collection sites, during business hours:

N Northwest

26th and Peach Streets
West 26th (Peninsula Dr.)
850 Pittsburgh Avenue
34th and Liberty Streets
Summit Square (1945 Douglas Prkwy)
800 State Street

ExpERIENCE Children's Museum

420 French Street



CREATE. EXPLORE. IMAGINE. PLAY!

Community Partners



WCTL Radio 106.3

Chido's Cleaners, 1103 State

Thank you, Erie!

All collected items donated to and distributed by
Booker T. Washington Community Center, 1720 Holland Street
John F. Kennedy Community Center, 2021 East 20th Street
Bayfront Nato MLK Community Center, 312 Chestnut Street
after December 5

DID YOU KNOW?



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



*Sharing this article from the
SWPA Synod Green Team
and the ELCA*

This Christmas is likely to be very different for us. With that in mind, perhaps consider starting some new traditions this year with a focus on environmentally friendly gifts and activities or a reduction in the number of gifts. There are lots of ideas, here are a few to consider:

- Make donations to charitable organizations in honor of family and friends (consider ELCA.org/goodgifts)
- Contact businesses in towns where extended family and friends live and order gift cards to be sent to you in time to then mail them back to your gift recipients.
- Limit use of non-compostable or non-recyclable wrapping paper. Use newspaper, plain brown packing paper (have kiddos decorate) or even useful items like towels, scarves or small blankets instead.
- Offer the gift of time and talent instead of purchasing something (are you a handy-person, a baker, a gardener, a window washer, etc.) A home-made gift card offering x hours of your skill or x meals from you might mean more than something you buy at a store.
- Put together an album of photos of you and your family to share with relatives. That can be done through various sharing mechanisms online where access is limited by links or named people only.
- If you have adult (or nearly so) children and/or grandchildren, make them a memory book of events from your life they may not know (include old photos, stories - did you get into trouble at school for something, favorite recipes, bible verses, etc.). It will be something they will cherish for years.
- If you really want to give physical gifts, consider things that can be good for the environment (e.g. solar powered items like outdoor path lighting, phone chargers, flashlights, etc. or reusable items as stocking stuffers - grocery bags, filtered water bottles, "waxed" papers, cloth napkins, etc.)

Check out the new resource from the ELCA and the Blessed Tomorrow program: [CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#) or visit blessedtomorrow.org
Providing Access to Financing and Vetted Contractors to Achieve
Environmental Commitments

Is your house of worship looking to finance critical repairs, upgrades, energy efficiency, or clean energy projects?

Blessed Tomorrow knows it's not always easy to come by advantageous capital or find vetted contractors. We partnered with Unety to offer a [web-based platform](#) that makes it easy for houses of worship to achieve environmental commitments, upgrade their buildings for future generations, and better leverage their properties to survive during these hard times.

As you seek to fight climate change, save money, steward your resources and care for Creation, let us help you!



HOLIDAY POINSETTIA AND HUNGER APPEAL

I would like to give _____ flowers for the Special Offering for Christmas at \$8.00 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 eliminating hunger locally and globally.

\$ _____ 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 13, 2020.

Annual Stewardship Drive – please participate

It is that time of year again when we ask you to help us plan ahead for the coming year of 2021 and in so doing we are asking if you can make a commitment to giving your time, talent and financial support to the ministry of Immanuel. With you we can do all things through God who helps us.

Please fill out this form, and the Time and Talent form and return them to us as soon as you can.

*Thank you on behalf of the Immanuel Council and Stewardship Committee
Cindy Geddes – Stewardship Committee Liaison to Council*



With a grateful heart for God's boundless generosity and as an expression of my Christian stewardship, I make this commitment for Christ's church and the ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

My/our commitment is: \$ _____
per week, or

per month, or \$ _____

per year \$ _____

I understand I may adjust my pledge at any time by contacting the church office.

Name _____ Date _____

Email address _____

(Cut here, put in sealed envelope marked: "Attn: Stewardship" and place in the offering plate or give to the Church Office)



Pledge Commitment for 2021 to Immanuel Lutheran Church

For my records, my commitment is:

\$ _____

per _____

(keep this portion for your records)

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT**

Please consider expanding your involvement in the life and ministry of our congregation in the coming year. If you have more than one family member, please initial the activity in which each member would like to be involved.

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____

In recognition of God's love and gifts, I would like to share my time and talents in the following ways:

Worship/Music

- Committee Member _____
- Sing in Choir _____
- Play Piano _____
- Other musical instruments _____
- Acolyte _____
- Altar Guild _____
- Usher _____
- Worship Assistant _____
- Lector _____
- Write prayers _____

Christian Education

- Committee Member _____
- Sunday School Teacher _____
- Sunday School Helper _____
- Sunday School Substitute _____
- Work with Teens _____
- Work with Youth Group _____
- Bible Study Group _____
- Vacation Bible School _____
- Volunteer in Nursery _____ (Clearance req'd)

Outreach & Growth

- Committee Member _____
- Visitor to Homes _____
- Greeter at Services _____
- Telephone Caller _____
- Fill in for Coffee Hour _____

Support

- Stewardship Committee Member _____
- Finance Committee Member _____
- Counting Team Member _____
- Help in Church Office _____
- Write Articles for Newsletter _____
- Grant Writing _____
- Thrivent Member/Grants _____

- Help in Kitchen _____
- Bake Sale _____
(sitting at table during sale)
- Visit Hospitals, Shut-ins _____
- Deliver Flowers _____
- Dinners _____
Furnish Dishes _____
Serve/Clean Up _____
- Habitat for Humanity _____
- CROP Walk _____
- Sewing/Quilting Group _____

Property

- Weeding/Trimming Grounds _____
- Committee Member _____
- Repairs on Church Property _____
- Specify Other _____

Willing to be called to help out around the church _____

I am interested in:

- Women of ELCA _____
- Lutherlyn _____
- Adult Fellowship Group _____
- Lutheran Men in Mission _____
- Over 40 Luncheon _____
- New Member Sponsor _____
- Immanuel Players (Play) _____
- NWPA Synod Green Team _____

If there are other ways you would like to serve, please indicate below:

Congregation Council Member _____

Service

- Social Ministry Committee Member _____
- Help with Holy Trinity Pasta Kitchen _____
(last Thursday in October – Dinner)

Church Records Update

Please take the time to fill out this form so that we are able to update the church records. Sometimes it's something as seemingly insignificant as a changed cell phone number or email, but we like to be up to date here in the office! So fill this out and bring it to church with you. You can either place it in the offering plate, email the information to immnluthch@verizon.net, mail to the church office or leave it in the Administration office mail box by the church office door. Thank you for your help!

Full name _____

_____ Single _____ Married _____ Widow/Widower _____ Divorced _____ Separated

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Phone numbers _____
Home Work Cell

Email Address _____
Home Work

Place of employment _____ Job Title _____

Birth date _____ Baptismal Date _____ Confirmation Date _____ Marriage date _____

Spouse _____
(maiden name if applicable)

Phone numbers _____
Work Cell

Email Address _____
Home Work

Place of employment _____ Job Title _____

Birth date _____ Baptismal Date _____ Confirmation Date _____ Marriage Date _____

Children's information (if your children are confirmed, they should complete their own form)

Name _____ Birthdate _____ Grade _____

Name _____ Birthdate _____ Grade _____

Name _____ Birthdate _____ Grade _____

Name _____ Birthdate _____ Grade _____

Name _____ Birthdate _____ Grade _____



December Birthdays

- 2 Nathan Paternosh
- 3 Connie Cooper
- 4 J. Sierota
- 9 Jodie Feiler
- 15 Rebecca Griffin Bureau
- 19 Thomas Kocur
- 20 Courtney Casler
- 21 Mary Cerveny
- 25 John Leubin; Laura Ditzler
- 27 Derek Nelson
- 29 Mary Kreger; Kristen Andrews
- 31 Beth Siefert/Tim Summers

Everyone loves a birthday card! Please remember a member!!

Celebrations

December Anniversaries

- 13 Rick & Mary Hetrick

of Life and

Did I forget you? Please e-mail me or call me with your birthdays, anniversaries or a special day you would like us to share.

immluthch@verizon.net

Love

December 2020

Greetings of Peace



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 BIBLE STUDY 6:30 PM	2 TOPS 9:00 AM AA 7:30 PM	3	4	5
6 One Service 9:30 a.m. Drive-In & Indoor Sunday School 10:30 AM Deadline for Christmas bags	7	8 BIBLE STUDY 6:30 PM	9 TOPS 9:00 AM AA 7:30 PM	10	11	12
13 One Service 9:30 a.m. Drive-In & Indoor *Sunday School 10:30 a.m.	14	15 BIBLE STUDY 6:30 PM	16 TOPS 9:00 AM AA 7:30 PM	17	18	19
ANNUAL CONG. MTG. & COUNCIL MTG. AFTER CHURCH						
DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE						
20 One Service 9:30 a.m. Drive-In & indoor Sunday School 10:30 a.m.	21  WINTER BEGINS	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE Services 5:30 and 10:30 PM NO TOPS AA 7:30 PM	25 Merry Christmas!! 	26 Pastor Kostur on vacation 12/25 through Jan. 2nd 2021
27 One Service 9:30 a.m. Drive-In & Indoor Sunday School 10:30 a.m.	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE		



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recycled paper

2021 COUNTING SCHEDULE AND GUIDELINES

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS A KEY TO UNLOCK DRAWER AT BANK
FOR BAG WHEN DEPOSITING

Jan	Bill Redditt	
Feb	Debbie Redditt	833-7024
March,	Stan Holsopple	833-8672
Aug., Oct.	Denise Arnold	838-7068
April	Char Feiler	833-5865
& Nov.	Debbie Madurski	774-3590
May,	Cindy Geddes	734-1286
July & Sept.	Barbara Coughlin	833-7198
June	Kim Lee, Char	K: 838-4022 CF: 833-5865
& Dec.	Feiler, Cindy Geddes	CG: 734-1286

SUBSTITUTES 2021

Bob Dorler	833-2719
Cindy Eckman	833-2889
George & Sue Pfeiffer	833-0797

Please arrange for a substitute if you cannot count.

Call the church office at 833-4062, if there must be a permanent change.

Each weekly offering must be counted and tallied separately using separate worksheet and cover sheet paperwork for that week. A separate deposit slip for each week should be processed as well, so that the bank records will correspond to our records. Money total and envelope total must be equal. *Make sure there is a readable amount on each envelope and that it equals the amount in the envelope. ***Write down the name – amount – what for – on a piece of paper if check is not in an envelope or a non-numbered envelope.* If an error cannot be found, make a note of the amount. No figures are to be changed by the counters!

List those paying for altar flowers and send to office. A separate list of memorials, Easter and Christmas flowers must be given to the office for the bulletins.

Supplies are ordered only through the office! Extras are on the bottom shelf of the counter's cabinet. When night deposit bags are low and deposit slips are low notify the church office. These will be ordered by the secretary or John Siefert (treasurer).



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*

Christian Education

Council liaison: Cindy Eckman
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

**Mitten Trees are up 'til after Christmas
Mission Offering For Comm. Shelter Services:
Nov. 29, 2020
No Christmas Program this year**

Communications

Council liaison: vacant Committee Chair: vacant

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

Finance

Council liaison: George Pfeiffer
Budget Planning for 2021

Property

Council liaison: Bob Dorler Committee Chair: Stan Holsopple

**YOUR HELP WITH CLEANING, ETC. ALWAYS
APPRECIATED – NEED SERVICE HOURS?**

Stewardship

Council liaison: Cindy Geddes

Annual Pledge, Time & Talent and Update Forms

Social Ministry Committee

Council liaison: Debbie Madurski – Committee chair: Debbie Madurski
Community Shelter Christmas Bags

Worship & Music

Council liaison: Debbie Redditt Chair: vacant
****Looking For New Committee Co-Chairs**
Drive-In And Indoor Worship Services**

Immanuel Hours

Church Office – 833-4062
Hours - Mon-Thurs. 8:30am-12:30pm
immluthch@verizon.net

Staff

Pastor Karen Kostur
Church Caretaker: Wally Coughlin
Organist/Music: Director Bryan Timm
Admin. Ofc.: Lori Swanson Nemenz

Sunday School

Coord: Anita Byrne & Janice Kreger

Elected Lay Leadership

Treasurer: Bill Redditt
Fin. Sec.: Cindy Geddes – 734-1286

Church Council Officers

Pres. – Debbie Redditt – 449-1855
Vice Pres. – Bob Dorler – 833-2719
Secretary – Debbie Madurski – 774-3590

Council Members

Cindy Eckman, Char Feiler, George Pfeiffer, Sally Leubin, Bob Dorler, Cindy Geddes

****REMINDER: COMMITTEE
AND COUNCIL REPORTS FOR
OUR ANNUAL JANUARY
MEETING WILL BE DUE
SHORTLY! THANK YOU**



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