



The Messenger

December
2023

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church

*We are called to ponder myst'ry and await the coming Christ,
to embody God's compassion for each fragile human life.
God is with us in our longing to bring healing to the earth,
while we watch with joy and wonder for the promised Savior's birth.*
ELW 258 Unexpected and Mysterious

December begins with our Advent season of Waiting. Waiting for both the coming birth of the Christ baby and also waiting for the second coming of our Lord. Waiting for both the Alpha and the Omega. Our beginning and our ending. We, however, are not defined by our beginning or our ending but rather by how we live our lives in between.

Advent is not a time to wait idly. It is a time to wait actively. Our Gospel texts leading up to the month of December have repeatedly reminded us to, "Keep awake!" We each have our own personal work to do in this liminal in-between time. We are called like John the Baptist to prepare the way. And how do we do that? Advent is a special season to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. We do this by praying and sharing with others. We also look for ways to be kind, thankful, and forgiving.

Our midweek Advent service series this year is entitled "Watch, Wait, and Wonder." As we begin the hectic preparations for this Holiday season, as we prepare our hearts for arrival of our Lord, let us take time to watch for where Christ is already present

among us. Let us find moments to sit in silence and wait for the voice of God in our lives. Make we have the wonder of a child at their first Christmas as we catch glimpses of where the Kingdom of God is already breaking through into this weary and broken world. May you all experience the steadfast love and soul peace that only comes from God in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Pastor Jacque



*May that love that came
that holy night
light all of your days
with hope and joy.*

Welcoming All, Growing Together in Faith, Sharing Christ & Love

2024 Offering Envelopes



Offering envelopes for next year will be available for pick-up in the narthex beginning December 3. If you are visiting one of our homebound members, please feel free to deliver their envelopes!

Winter Weather

As we enter the season of winter weather advisories, please know that any cancellations of church activities will be posted on the congregational Facebook group (private) and page (public), KSAL.com and local radio/TV stations that we are able to contact. If you feel the roads are not safe to travel on, please stay home!



Immanuel Lutheran Church accepts qualified charitable distributions (QCD) from an

IRA. This provision of the Internal Revenue code allows an individual, age 70 1/2 or over, who owns an IRA to get tax relief from a distribution from the IRA that is paid directly from the IRA to a qualified charity. Consult with your tax advisor for details.

Please notify the church office when...

- ...You or a family member is hospitalized. Also, let the hospital chaplain know you would like a visit from Pastor Jacque.
- ...You have a change of address.
- ...Your phone number has changed.
- ...Your email address has changed.
- ...Members of your family are students attending school away from home or are living at a different address.

Thanks to your generosity we have raised \$6,712 for the new accessible door! The total cost for the project was \$14,488. Donations are still welcome.

Do you have an article for the Messenger?

Please send information to office@immanuelsalina.org
Deadline for the newsletter is the 15th of the month.

CONTACT US:

255 S. 7th St.....Salina, KS 67401
Church office.....(785) 825-4750
Jacqueline Thornton, Pastor.....pastorjacque@immanuelsalina.org
Mindy Tillberg, Deacon.....office@immanuelsalina.org
Church office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-12:30 pm.

End of Year Giving



Thank you for financially partnering with us this year as we have sought to be the hands and feet of God in our community and beyond! We are so grateful for your support in what God is doing in and through Immanuel. Although the year is quickly drawing to a close, our financial needs continue. As of November 15 we are \$13,000 short of funds. We ask that you prayerfully consider the ministry of Immanuel in your end of the year giving decisions. With your generosity, we can eliminate our debt and begin 2024 with a solid foundation for our continued ministry of sharing God's love with others.

Congregation Council Action from October 2023:

Approved moving \$160,000 from First Bank savings to the Schwab account to obtain a higher interest rate.

Approved accommodation request for Illinois State University students who will volunteer at Ashby House during their Alternative Spring Break January 7-13, 2023.

Approved date for Congregational Meeting.

Approved 2024 Proposed Budget to present to congregation at Congregational meeting.

Approved recommendation to repair west steps. Recommendation will be presented at Congregational meeting.



Thank you for your generous support once again! I would not be able to complete seminary without your support and prayers...I cannot wait to preach for you all when I am home in December... Thank you again for all your love, prayers, and support while I am at seminary. I cannot wait to see you all in December!

Peace & Blessings,

Megan Mong, Word & Sacrament Ministry candidate
(Megan's full thank you note can be found on the bulletin board outside the church office.)



Altar Guild

Wednesday, Nov 29

3:00 pm

Decorate for Advent & Christmas.

Wednesday, Jan 3

3:00 pm

Take down Christmas decorations.

Wednesday, Jan 17 at 5:15 pm

Monthly meeting. Come join us!

New members are welcome.



Youth Group Angel Shopping

& Christmas Party

Sat, Dec 2 * 9:00-11:30am

We will gather at Walmart (south doors) to shop for our Salvation Army Angel. Once we are done, we will go to brunch and our Christmas party. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift (\$10 or less).



2024 Pledge cards

will be collected on
Sunday, December 3.



Midweek Advent

Worship

Watch, Wait, and Wonder



These contemplative liturgies will help us practice prayer in the moods and gestures evoked in this season.

December 6 at 12:15 pm

In the spirit of keeping vigil, the first week centers upon watching for Christ's coming again.

December 13 at 12:15 pm

The second week calls us to prayerful waiting in preparation for the coming of Jesus.

December 20 at 12:15 pm

Drawing upon the idea that "wisdom begins in wonder," the third week invites us to embrace imaginative wonderment at the things of God.



Midweek Advent offering is designated for Salina Shares. The mission of Salina Shares is "to share

our time, our lives and our resources to enrich the lives of others. We share what we can when we can in an effort to release hope, impact lives and affirm the dignity of everyone we meet."

To further support Salina Shares this month, our 5th Sunday special offering will be a collection of Dish soap and Laundry pods.

Year End Reports Due December 29

As 2023 comes to an end, Ministry Team chairs and organizations need to submit year-end written reports to church office

by Friday, December 29. Financial reports are due to the church office as soon as possible.



WELCA Dutch Lunch

December 18 at 11:30 am

Join us at Martinelli's!

To make a reservation contact
Ellen Vaupel at (785) 827-1375.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

December 24

7:00 pm



The church office will be closed
December 26 & 29.

~ Mark Your Calendars ~

December 31 - Megan Mong preaching

January 7 - Lessons & Carols



DECEMBER Worship Volunteers *(as of 11/20/23)*

| | December 3 | December 10 | December 17 | December 24 | December 31 |
|------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Greeter | | Tom Davis | | | |
| Usher | | Tom Davis | | | |
| iPad | | | | | |
| Acolyte | | | | | |
| Cantor | Pam Michel | | | | |
| Assisting Minister | Pam Michel | | | | |
| Lector | Pam Michel | Kathy Yosai | Janet Ireton | | |
| Children's Sermon | | | | | |
| Communion Assistant | | | | | |
| Altar Guild Communion | Connie Beisner | Corlene Lange | Janet Ireton | Kathy Herron Melanie Pruitt | |
| Fellowship Hosts | | | Yosai/Milleson | | |

JANUARY Worship Volunteers *(as of 11/20/23)*

| | January 7 | January 14 | January 21 | January 28 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| Greeter | | | | |
| Usher | | | | |
| iPad | | | | |
| Acolyte | | | | |
| Cantor | | | | |
| Assisting Minister | | | | |
| Lector | | | | |
| Children's Sermon | | | | |
| Communion Assistant | | | | |
| Altar Guild Communion Care | | | | |
| Fellowship Hosts | | | | |