



The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church

December
2019

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

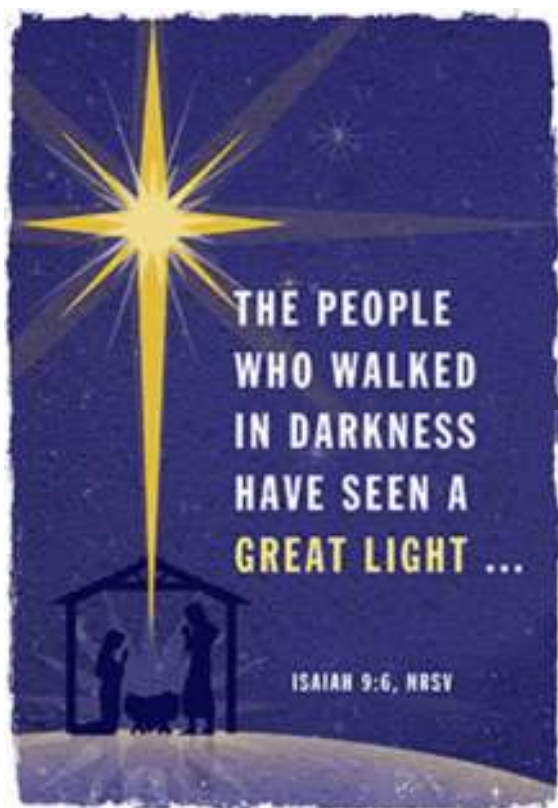
December 1st marks the first Sunday of Advent. The overall theme of Advent is a time of watchfulness and preparation. We focus our lives on the coming celebration of the birth of Jesus and also on the 2nd coming of Christ Jesus.

As we move through December, what is your focus? Are you running yourself ragged trying to get all of the shopping done or planning the perfect party? Are you busy baking cookies or making treats for this season? Are you busy making plans for visiting family during this season?

There are many things in this world that can distract us from what this season is all about. Advent is intended to help prepare ourselves to receive Jesus. We receive him as we celebrate his birth but we also prepare to receive him when he comes again.

During this season of Advent, do not neglect to prepare for the coming of Christ. Christmas is not about the best parties, the best presents or the best treats to eat. It is about the greatest gift we have ever received in Jesus. It is about God's love for each one of us. I pray that each one of you has a joyous Advent as we prepare to receive Christ Jesus.

In Christ,
Pastor Kent



Midweek Advent Worship

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18
12:15 pm & 7:00 pm

Blue Christmas

Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 pm

Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday, December 24
7:00 pm & 9:30 pm

Christmas Day Worship

Wednesday, December 25 at 10:00 am

Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 29
8:30 am & 11:00 am

Welcoming All. Growing Together in Faith. Sharing Christ's Love

2020 Offering Envelopes



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

Year End Reports

As 2019 comes to an end, Ministry Team chairs and organizations need to submit year-end reports to Gloria Tillberg by Friday, January 10.

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!



“The way you celebrate Christmas can be a gift in itself, handing on traditions that will give your child a feeling of continuity, comfort and joy in all the Christmases to come.”

~ Fred Rogers

Congregation Council Action from October 2019:

Motion was approved to send an email survey to members to secure worship assistants.

Motion was approved to purchase a high-end residential dishwasher to replace the broken commercial dishwasher.

Council accepted with gratitude a donated refrigerator to replace the broken cooler used by the Altar Guild.

Motion was approved to continue to use the Portico “Gold” level of insurance for appropriate employees.

Motion was approved to maintain the number of council members to eight people.

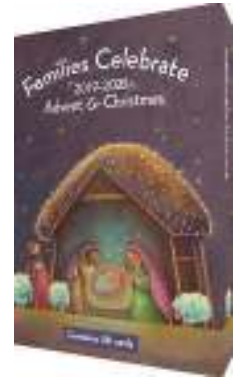
During December we will collect items for the Salina Food Bank. Items needed are:



- Jelly
- Muffin Mix
- Instant Potatoes (Mashed)
- Canned pork & beans
- Apple sauce
- Toilet Paper
- Razors
- Deodorant
- Bar Soap

Families Celebrate Advent & Christmas is a color-

ful deck of cards that is full of rituals, prayers and reflections. Endlessly flexible for busy schedules, you can create a new after-meal ritual, use them as decorations, or carry them on the go. Explore the entire season from Advent to Christmas through Epiphany. These make a great gift for families! There are a limited number of these available, please see [Mindy Tillberg](#) if you would like a set!



End of the Year Giving



Thank you for financially partnering with us this year as we have sought to be the hands and feet of Jesus 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 remain significant. As of November 4, we are \$21,497.91 short of funds. We ask that you prayerfully consider the ministry of Immanuel in your end-of-giving decisions. With your generosity, we can eliminate our debt and begin 2020 with a solid foundation for our continued ministry of sharing God’s love with others!



Thank you to everyone who participates in Dillon’s Community Rewards! Because you selected Immanuel as your recipient organization, Dillon’s donates to us based on the shopping you do everyday. We have received \$947.64 this year alone! Thank you!

At the [ELCA Churchwide Assembly](#) in August, voting members approved “*A Declaration of Inter-religious Commitment*”. Over the years, our inter-religious relations have deepened and expanded. As a church, we have developed educational resources, engaged in dialogue and common action, defended our neighbors against religious bigotry, and cared for our various partnerships. While we have focused on Jewish and Muslim relations, we have also participated in organizations and efforts that reflect the broader diversity of religions and worldviews in the United States and globally. “*A Declaration of Ecumenical Commitment*,” “*Declaration of the ELCA to the Jewish Community*” (1994) and “*A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment*” together form the policy basis for the ecumenical and inter-religious relations of the ELCA.



Altar Guild
Wednesday, Dec 4 at 3:00pm
 Decorate for Advent & Christmas.
Friday, Dec 20 at 11:00am
 Pick-up and set out poinsettias.



Midweek Advent Worship
December 4, 11, and 18
12:15 pm & 7:00 pm
 “*Names of the Messiah*”
 Holden Evening Prayer service.
 Offering benefits the Rescue Mission.

Generations in Faith Together (GIFT) will meet Sundays at 10:00am. All ages are invited to participate in this education opportunity!



Youth Group Angel Shopping & Christmas Party
Sat, Dec 7 * 9:00-11:30am

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



Welca Group
 Thursday, Dec 12 at 2pm at church
Anna Group
 Wednesday, Dec 18 at 1:30pm at Pres. Manor
Elizabeth Group
 Will not meet in December



Newsletter Distribution

The January Messenger will be emailed on Dec 20. To receive your newsletter by email, contact [Mindy](#). For those who opted for print copies, they will be available for pick-up on Sunday, Dec 22. If you do not pick yours up that day, it will be mailed to you.



Do you have an article for the next Messenger?

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

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Blue Christmas Worship
December 8 at 4:00 pm

Many of us know the difficulty of the holiday season – a time when we feel that we are supposed to celebrate hope, love, joy, and peace. Yet we often feel sadness, grief, and depression. The Blue Christmas worship acknowledges the struggles that many people face during the holidays and provides a safe place of rest, comfort, and healing.

If you have undergone a difficult loss, transition, or life change, you are invited to this special time of worship. Participants will have the opportunity to write the name of their grief on an ornament and hang it on the blue tree. Ornaments may be taken home after the Christmas season.



There will be no **Senior Lunch** in December.

