



The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church

December
2024

Time waits for no one. One year ends and another begins. Our church year, Year B, ended on the last Sunday in November as we celebrated the Festival of Festivals on Christ the King Sunday. Our new church year, Year C, begins on the 1st day of December as we embark on our Advent journey. Four Sundays of Advent with three mid-week Wednesday 12:15 pm Advent services as we wait for the arrival of the Christ child once again.

Our mid-week Advent prayer service series this year is entitled “Restore Our Hope” and is based on the ancient Isaiah Scriptures.

- 1 A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- 2 The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- 3 His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
- 6 The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
- 7 The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- 8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den.,’
- 9 They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.



God is ever-present in the waiting of Advent. God is ever-present in the hustling bustling days of Christmas. And as the old year comes to the end, God is constantly restoring and creating anew. As we await the coming of our Lord, we also await the day when “the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD,” when there will be no more pain and destruction. Until then, take time to slow down, draw a deep breath and ask yourselves: For what are you waiting and praying for this season of Advent? Blessings to you. Amen.

Pastor Jaeger

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

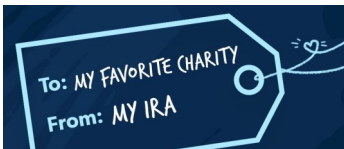


2025 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for next year will be available for pick-up in the narthex soon. 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 it is unsafe to travel, 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.

Congregation Council Action from October 2024:

Written reports approved. No other action taken.

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 \$20,000 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 2025 with a solid foundation for our continued ministry of sharing God's love with others.

Dear Immanuel members,

It is with great joy that I tell you I have been endorsed by the Central States Synod.



This is the second major step in the candidacy process which affirms my call to Word and Sacrament ministry and allows me to move forward into internship. I have one semester of classes left and I will start interviewing for internship sites soon. Thank you for all your prayers as I continue my studies. I will keep you all in my prayers and up to date on all my happenings. Next semester I will have my senior sermon live-streamed if anyone would like to watch. Thank you all again!

Peace, Megan Mong

Word & Sacrament Ministry candidate

Walking with those who grieve

The holiday season can be difficult for people who are grieving a death or deep loss. As Christians, we do well to be aware that not everyone feels whole-hearted joy this time of year. How can we support them? Grief counselor Alan Wolfelt explains that walking alongside — “companioning” — one who grieves “is not about assessing, analyzing, fixing or resolving another’s grief. Instead, it is about being totally present to the mourner, even being a temporary guardian of [his or] her soul.” Among Wolfelt’s 11 tenets for “companioning the bereaved”:

- It’s about being present to another person’s pain, not taking it away.
- It’s about listening with the heart, not analyzing with the head.
- It’s about walking alongside, not leading.

For more tips visit centerforloss.com/2019/12/

Altar Guild

Wednesday, Dec 4

3:00 pm

Decorate for Advent & Christmas.

Wednesday, Jan 8

3:00 pm

Take down Christmas decorations.

Wednesday, Jan 15 at 5:15 pm

Monthly meeting. Come join us!

New members are welcome.



Midweek Advent Worship

December 4, 11 & 18

12:15 pm

Restore Our Hope

Join us each Wednesday in Advent as we reflect on scripture and the season in light of the many pressures of our surrounding culture that challenge the message of Advent.



Midweek Advent Offering



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 Laundry pods.

... and you shall call his name
Jesus for he will save his people from their sins.
Matthew 1:21, ESV



“Advent” means “coming,” of course, and the promise of Advent is that what is coming is an unimaginable invasion. The mythology of our age has to do with flying saucers and invasions from outer space, and that is unimaginable enough. But what is

upon us now is even more so — a close encounter not of the third kind but of a different kind altogether. An invasion of holiness. That is what Advent is about.

— Frederick Buechner, *The Clown in the Belfry*



Wednesday, December 4

5:30-7:00 pm

5:30 pm Gathering & Dinner

6:00 pm Messy Activities

Come, begin preparations for Christ's birth! All ages are invited to get messy together through games, crafts, singing, and Biblical storytelling.

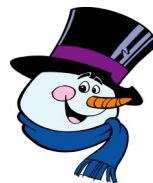
Youth Group Angel Shopping & Christmas Party

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 go to brunch and celebrate our Christmas party. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift (\$10 or less).

Christmas Candles

Altar Guild is selling candles to decorate the sanctuary for the holiday season. Cost is \$10 per candle. Contact the church office by Monday, December 9 to place your order.



WELCA Lunch

December 16 at 11:30 am

Join us at Olive Garden
to celebrate the holiday season!

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship**
Tuesday, December 24
7:00 pm



Lessons & Carols
Sunday, December 29
9:30 am

Year End Reports Due December 31

As 2024 comes to an end, Ministry Team chairs and organizational leaders need to submit year-end written reports to church office by Tuesday, December 31. Financial reports are due to the church office after December banks statements have been



The church office will be closed Dec 23-Jan 1.

DECEMBER Worship Volunteers *(as of 11/21/24)*

	Dec 1	Dec 8	Dec 15	Dec 22	Dec 24 Christmas Eve	Dec 29
Greeter	Tom Davis			Tom Davis		
Usher		Tom Davis	Tom Davis			
iPad						
Acolyte		Tom Davis				
Cantor	Pam Michel	Henry Diehl	Pam Michel	Jeri Clouston		
Assisting Minister	Pam Michel	Henry Diehl	Pam Michel			
Lector	Jeri Clouston	Janet Ireton	Kathy Yosai			
Children's Sermon	Liz Diehl		Liz Diehl		Not needed	
Communion Assistant						
Altar Guild Communion Care	Carol Ann SLoos	Janet Ireton	Connie Beisner	Kathy Herron		
Fellowship Hosts			Yosai/Milleson			

JANUARY Worship Volunteers *(as of 11/21/24)*

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
Greeter				
Usher				
iPad				
Acolyte				
Cantor				
Assisting Minister				
Lector				
Children's Sermon				
Communion Assistant				
Altar Guild Communion Care				
Fellowship Hosts				