

# Immanuel's Word

*Immanuel Lutheran Church-LCMS      Bossier City, Louisiana*

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## **Pastor's Word**

**“I'm with you always ...”  
By Pastor Yeager**

Our family's nightly routine before the kids head off to bed usually involves prayers and songs. When my girls have finished their dinner, they make their way to the living room so that Alex and I can put them into their pajamas. After that, we would usually spend the rest of the time relaxing through prayers and favorite hymns that they like from our hymnal. Later on, the kids would make their way to bed, and usually with a book or toy.

Now, my oldest daughter, being five years old, is very observant. And one night, as she is going to bed, she notices that her room didn't have a cross in it like the living room; or mommy and daddy's room.

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## January Readings

### January 2

Gen. 46:1-7  
1 Pet. 4:12-19  
Matt. 2:13-23

### January 9

Isaiah 42:17  
1 Cor. 1:26-31  
Matt. 3:13-17

### January 16

Ex. 33:12-23  
Rom. 12:6-16  
John 2:1-11

### January 23

2 Kings 5:1-15  
Rom. 12:6-16  
Matt. 8:1-13

### January 30

Jonah 1:1-17  
Rom. 13:8-10  
Matt. 8:23-27

She was concerned. Because there was no physical cross that she could see, her room was suddenly a bit darker than what she wanted. And as I kissed her good night, she noticed the crucifix on my neck. She said, "Daddy, I want a cross with me." I smiled, looked at her and said, "Elle, you do have a cross with you." She said, "really?!" I said, "Yes, silly, you have a cross on your forehead and your heart." While checking her forehead and heart, she said, "Does anyone else have a cross." I said, "Oh yeah, a bunch of people wear the cross. And even if you don't see it. We all carry the cross on our foreheads and hearts." I continued, "you were given this cross in your baptism, and so was Sydney. So, you don't have to be afraid when you go to bed in a dark room because you have the cross. And that means Jesus will be with you always."

I said this to my daughter, not only to teach her a little bit about baptism, but also in hopes that the Gospel would bring light to a room that seemed so dark.

And so, I thought that I would bring these same words to all of God's children here at Immanuel. Because a world without the cross seems like a very dark and scary place. Especially during this current crisis that has befallen us. Whether it's the virus or the economy, the future seems a bit scary to some people. And with so many things to be concerned about, sometimes we can lose sight of the cross. However, I would love to remind everyone, that you still bear the cross on your forehead and heart. And Christ is still with you. You are still God's children. And as we go forward in the next few months, remember your baptism. Live in your baptism. Confess your sins and have confidence that our God has overcome the works of the devil and the evil plans that he plots throughout your lives. And remember this promise from our Risen LORD and savior Jesus Christ: **behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.**

*(continued pg. 3)*

Dear Saints, take heart and know that your sins are forgiven. You have been marked in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The God of Heaven and Earth has placed his name on you in the waters of Holy Baptism. No longer do you have to fear a world that has become darkened with the stain of sin. Instead, cling to those words that the Angels proclaimed on Easter Sunday, **He is not hear, he has risen, come and see the place where he lay.** God has given you an eternal glory, a promise that you bear on your forehead and heart. And on the last day, when Christ comes to Judge the living and the dead, he will take you to be with him in heaven forever.

In the name of Jesus+  
Amen.

## From Our Congregational President

Merry Christmas Immanuel Family!

Yes, I know, it's early. As I write this, we haven't celebrated Thanksgiving yet but preparations are being made.

We all have a great deal to be thankful for this year. For me, it's thankfulness for a happy, healthy, productive family. For my wife who keeps me straight and grounded, for our children, their spouses, the grandchildren, our parents and siblings, aunts and uncles, cousins, all of our extended family and friends. I am also grateful and thankful for our ILC family. Thankful for all who attend, who serve on boards, who serve as teachers, who volunteer their time to see to the needs of others, those who see to the needs of the facility, and grateful for our Pastor Yeager and his family who see to our spiritual needs.

Please remember all the activities occurring in December; Voters meeting on December 5; Christmas program on the 12th. Christmas Eve services at 3:00 & 7:00 p.m.; Christmas Day service at 10:00 a.m.

You might also be mindful of the volunteer opportunities in our area, chances to assist and serve others through stewardship and the riches God has bestowed on us.

I wish you all a Happy, Safe, and Merry Christmas, God Bless you and your family and friends as you celebrate the birth of our Blessed Savior Jesus!

Thanks to all for all you do!

Mark Stevens  
President, ILC

## From Our Head Elder

Dear Immanuel Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing this article on December 15 and I am excited about the future of our church. Our Education Board delivered a fantastic Children's Christmas Program this past Sunday. We are very blessed to have such dedicated adults (Pam Searing and her helpers) working with our children in the Education Department.

We have two Christmas Eve Services at 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm. We have a Christmas Day Service at 10:00 am. We have a New Years Eve Service at 7:00 pm. I hope that you will be able to attend one or all of these services. The Senior Pastor Call Committee has decided to delay our zoom interviews of the top four candidates until January of 2022. We will interview two candidates on January 10 and two candidates on January 17.

The committee will have our last meeting on January 24 to select the top three candidates and rank them in order of precedence. The PIFs and SETs of the top three candidates will be available in the church office on January 25. The actual recorded interviews will be available on Sunday, January 30. Please pray for the Senior Pastor Call Process, Pastor Yeager and his family and church Unity. I am very excited about the Harmonious Shared Team Ministry we will have in the very near future.

In Christ,  
Jimmy Cox  
Elder Chairman

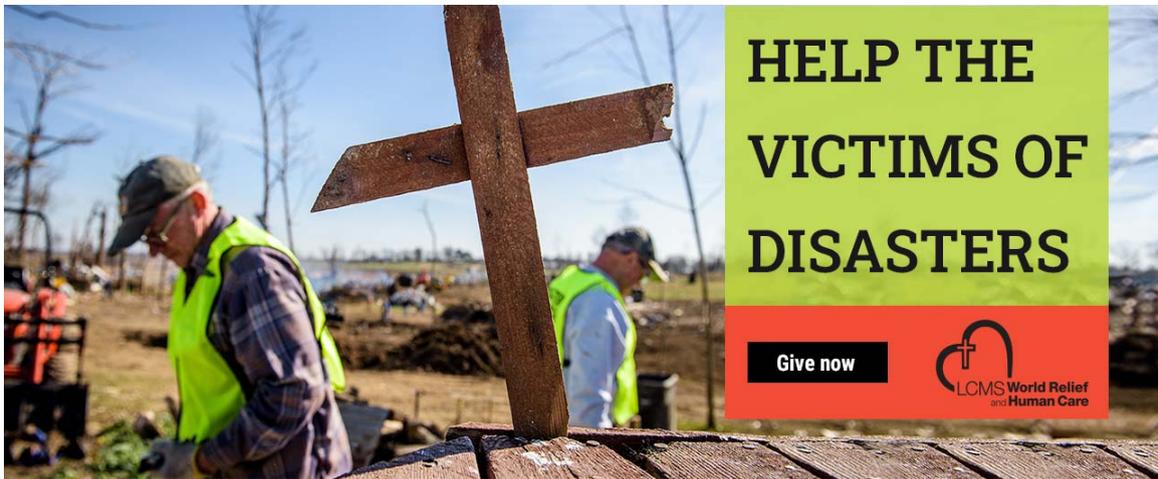


## LWML NEWS

Our January LWML meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 18th, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Instead of an outside guest speaker, we will have a Bible study titled, "Jesus is the King of kings" led by Shirley Fortune.

Please make plans to join us. Our in- gathering will be for "Renesting". Current needs include hand towels, wash cloths, clear or white shower curtain liners, graters and irons.

Thank you,  
Shirley Fortune



At this Christmastime, please consider our neighbors suffering from the recent tornadoes and donate to the LCMS Disaster Relief. Please make checks payable to Immanuel and note it is for disaster relief. We will send it to the district. Thanks you.

## **Changes To Our Worship Bulletin**

In an effort to remain current on the prayers we specifically say for those in need on Sunday, we will be starting a new "In Our Prayers" list January 1.

We are not excluding anyone from our petitions, but updating it. There are people on our list who have recovered and are not in need of specific healing prayers.

## **Tidbit from the Board of Congregational Concerns**

Do you need or know someone who could use a ramp to get into a residence? There is a company called "Amramp Ramps, Lifts and More" who builds ramps for permanent use or rents them for temporary needs. A ramp could save your back and arms if you have a step or rise to navigate. They advertise free estimates. Call them at 800-649-5215 or check them out at [www.AMRAMP.COM](http://www.AMRAMP.COM)

## **FELLOWSHIP BOARD**

Christmas Party: Thank you to all that came out to the Christmas Party this year. And thank you to those that donated or made gifts. A special thank you to Todd Huhn for making and donating the special Advent trees. Last year's tree was donated back and won again this year. It will be fun to see who will get it next year! The second "Tipsy Tree" will be donated back and will be won again next year! Another special thank you to Scott Broberg who opened with prayer and Elisa Broberg for organizing childcare this year. Mark your calendar for next year – December 2, 2022!

Advent Dinners: A huge thank you to all that brought food, helped with clean-up and enjoyed our Advent dinners.



## Fort Wayne Seminary Kantorei Concert

Thursday, March 10, the Ft. Wayne Seminary Kantorei will sing at Immanuel. They humbly ask for two things that evening: 1) a meal and 2) an audience to sing before. We have honored their request and will be hosting a potluck that evening followed by their concert.

The Kantorei is a select ensemble of seminarians who tour twice a year. This year, their tour includes the Southwest and we are blessed they asked to share their singing gifts with Immanuel.

This link is a sample of their gift

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mkUAK94ThI>



## Low-impact walking and Exercise Class for Ladies

Beginning January 10, a low-impact walking and exercise class for ladies takes off! Classes will be Monday, Tuesday, and Fridays, 9 AM until 10 AM. A daily devotion will lead us in to our new year's resolution of health. Shelia Robeson, Glenda Kroll, and Phyllis Kirsch will lead our group, *Firm Believers*. Please contact Shelia, Glenda, or Phyllis if you have questions!

# January Calendar of Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> Divine Worship 9:00 PM Sunday School 10:30 AM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <i>Moms in Prayer</i> 9:30 AM	<b>5</b> <i>Catechism 6:00 PM</i> <i>Evening Prayer 7:00 PM</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Divine Worship 9:00 PM Sunday School 10:30 AM	<b>10</b> Ladies' Low-impact exercise class 9:00 AM	<b>11</b> <i>Moms in Prayer</i> 10:30 AM Ladies' Low-impact exercise class 9:00 AM  Boards of Finance, Education, Evangelism, and Stewardship 5:30 PM	<b>12</b> <i>Catechism 6:00 PM</i> <i>Evening Prayer 7:00 PM</i>	<b>13</b> Elders 6:00 PM	<b>14</b> Ladies' Low-impact exercise class 9:00 AM	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Divine Worship 9:00 PM Sunday School 10:30 AM	<b>17</b> MLK DAY Office Closed  Ladies' Low-impact exercise class 9:00 AM	<b>18</b> <i>Moms in Prayer</i> 10:30 AM LWML 10:00 AM Ladies' Low-impact exercise class 9:00 AM	<b>19</b> <i>Catechism 6:00 PM</i> <i>Evening Prayer 7:00 PM</i>	<b>20</b> Newsletter Deadline	<b>21</b> Ladies' Low-impact exercise class 9:00 AM	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Divine Worship 9:00 PM Sunday School 10:30 AM <b>BLOOD DRIVE</b>	<b>24</b> Ladies' Low-impact exercise class 9:00 AM	<b>25</b> <i>Moms in Prayer</i> 10:30 AM Ladies' Low-impact exercise class 9:00 AM	<b>26</b> <i>Catechism 6:00 PM</i> <i>Divine Worship 7:00 PM</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Sewing Mission Outreach 9:00 AM – Ladies' Low-impact exercise class 9:00 AM	<b>29</b> Sewing Mission Outreach 9:00 AM-
<b>30</b> Divine Worship 9:00 PM Sunday School 10:30 AM	<b>31</b> Ladies' Low-impact exercise class 9:00 AM					



## January Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUN                      MON                      TUE                      WED                      THU                      FRI                      SAT

						1 <i>Meyye Ekstrom</i>
2	3	4 <i>David Ford Mike McKim</i>	5	6 <i>Thomas Dickson Ann Engle Katy Kirsch</i>	7 <i>Dylan Russell Eleanor Taylor Cathy Ward</i>	8 <i>Lee Anderson</i>
9	10 <i>Henry Robison Cydney Walters</i>	11	12 <i>David Cotton Mark Stevens</i>	13 <i>Gerda Broberg Dustin Hooker Blenna Robinson</i>	14 <i>Sara Halphen Brenda Humphries</i>	15 <i>Dave Sprague</i>
16 <i>Mary Lou Tonjes John Varilek</i>	17	18 <i>Megan Hendricks</i>	19	20 <i>Mark Brooks Glenda Kroll Tammy Szekacs</i>	21 <i>Janie McKim Tracey Schrader</i>	22
23	24	25	26 <i>Aubrey Brooks Bentley Jones Virginia Lutterman</i>	27 <i>Cheryl Bull  Sandy &amp; Al Jones</i>	28 <i>Gayle &amp; Earl Broyles</i>	29
30	31 <i>Kedric Lemon</i>					

# In Our Prayers

Mary Ahrens · Delane Ahrens · Robert Frederickson · Lisa Kimball  
 Todd Willis · Virginia Lutterman · Kristopher Harper · Vera Pearce ·  
 Angela Colvin · Priscilla Bogart · Mary Jo Minks ·  
 Jackie Kaucher · Karen Tester · Glenda Juneau ·  
 Jack Derbonne · Cheryl Carroll ·  
 Gerry Meche · Norma Langston · Al Jones ·  
 Jim Tanquary · Pastor Kunz · Pat Stevenson · Duane Kimball ·  
 Dawn Adams · Casey Redman · Jason Engle  
 Jim Sorenson · Rachel Zaragoza · Mary Vandiver · Linda Doyle  
 Laura Lesher · Jack Russell · Michiel Bakker · Hannah Frobel

## RENESTING NEEDS

1. Full Sized bed Sheets
2. Bath Mats
3. Clear or white shower curtain liners
4. 60-watt light bulbs



## Ministering Among Us This Month

<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	<i>Diane Ford, Stephanie Hooker, Lana DeVille, Maryanne Mosteller, Robin Ford</i>
<b>USHERS</b>	Paul Jones, Mark Stevens
<b>GREETERS</b>	M.L. Rogers
<b>ACOLYTES</b>	
<i>January 2</i>	Lawson Deblieux
<i>January 9</i>	Elisabeth Huhn
<i>January 16</i>	Madi O'Neal
<i>January 23</i>	Katherine Huhn
<i>January 30</i>	Karlie O'Neal
<b>POWERPOINT</b>	
<i>January 2, 16, 30</i>	Tristan Jenkins
<i>January 9, 23</i>	Sloane Engle

<b>A/V</b>	
<i>January 2, 16, 30</i>	Lee Anderson
<i>January 9, 23</i>	Charlie Johnson
<b>ELDERS</b>	
January 2	Jimmy Cox, Paul Jones
<i>January 9</i>	<i>Zolly Kirsch, Justin Lacy</i>
January 16, 23, 30	To Be Announced

## **Financial Report For January 2022 Newsletter**

Budget status as of 30 November 2021

Actual Income \$409,094

Actual Expenditures \$377,694

Budgeted income and expenditures \$452,737

Net Income (Actual Income minus Actual Expenditures) +\$31,400

**2021 Church Operating Budget-** The 2021 budget was set at the December Voter's Meeting. The yearly budget is complex and is worked during the last quarter to be presented to the Voter's Meeting held in December. Immanuel's budget is \$481,896 for 2021. We will not make our budgeted income for the year; I anticipate \$470,000 total income. This is not bad news since we are far below budgeted expenditures. If you have any questions or suggestions about a budget item, please see someone in that board or a Finance Committee member.

**Important Update** - As noted in last month's newsletter, the downward trend in pledges and operating income must stop and income must increase to continue as we would like. The Finance Committee worked closely with the Council and Board of Elders to provide needed information as we attempt to stabilize our pastoral staff. During the month of November and December, our pledges and income have increased significantly. The 2022 Pledge Drive started 26 August. Please prayerfully consider your pledge and tithe so the Finance Committee can carry out a realistic budget for 2022. As of 21 November, we have received 53 pledges totaling \$364,670. This figure is \$61,810 more than the total pledges for 2021. This was a very successful pledge drive and puts the church in very good circumstances for 2022. Thank you very much.

**2022 Budget-**The various boards and the Council have agreed on a budget of \$454,766 for next year. With the favorable results of our pledge drive so far this year, the Finance Committee believes we have a realistic and achievable budget for 2022. You voted to pass and accept this budget at the Voter's Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December. A copy of the 2022 budget is hanging on the bulletin board by the kitchen.

**Maintenance Update-** It's no secret that the recent sprinkler system relief valve failure has hampered our operation severely. A group of helpers are working with various suppliers and the insurance company to economically get back into full operation. If you would like to help defray campus update costs, you may contribute to the Building Fund. The Building Fund is always a good place to contribute anything extra you would like to offer. Thank you in advance.

**Financial Secretary Position-** Welcome Bill and Ken to the Finance Committee. Thank you for showing your interest in the financial affairs of the church. Tammy Szekacs is the Treasurer's assistant, so if you have any financial questions, please see her or Charlie Johnson for help. Now we are looking for a person, or team, to train with our Financial Secretaries, Glenda and Earl Kroll, to aide them and to possibly assume the position in the future. Their position receives the weekly donations, deposits funds in our bank, and reports to the congregation. Pray for congregational solidarity, our pastor and all church workers, for the missions of the church, world peace, government agreement, for those involved with and suffering from the Corona Virus, other world disasters, and for those in need.