

SUNDAY, December 13

Worship Service, 8:00 a.m. (*limited attendance*)

YouTube Live Stream, 8:00 a.m.

Pastor Karg's Lutheran Faith Study, 9:30 a.m. via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87837832823?pwd=V1lZejdHSnVNbzVyMDRGUHVwWHFydz09>

Worship Service, 10:30 a.m. (*limited attendance*)

LOC Worship, 10:30 a.m. In person & Live stream

Women's Bible Study, 1 Peter. Led by Carla Krazl, 9:40 a.m.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/631046461>

password: 3LZi8K

Moeller Study, 10:30 a.m.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4708301524>

Confirmation Classes, 5:00 p.m. via Zoom, link on website

HS Youth Group, in person, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday school is back this weekend!

Please join Mrs. Springer on Zoom Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/339366309>

Meeting ID: 339 366 309

Passcode: 316

Materials will be available for pick up that will go with each of the stories in the December lessons

MONDAY, December 14

Ladies Lifelight Bible Study, **9:00 a.m.** (via Zoom)

Contact Barb Kiehl to join barbkiehl@sbcglobal.net

TUESDAY December 15

Communion by appointment only, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, December 16

Advent Worship, 7:00 p.m. (*limited attendance*)

THURSDAY, December 17

FRIDAY, December 18

SATURDAY, December 19

Worship, 5:00 p.m. (*limited attendance*)

SUNDAY, December 20

Worship Service, 8:00 a.m. (*limited attendance*)

YouTube Live Stream, 8:00 a.m.

Worship Service, 10:30 a.m. (*limited attendance*)

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LOC Worship, 10:30 a.m. In person & Live stream

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password: 3LZi8K

Moeller Study, 10:30 a.m.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4708301524>

Confirmation Classes, 5:00 p.m. via Zoom, link on website

HS Youth Group, via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/982354437>

password: 63132

To register to attend Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday 8:00 am or Sunday 10:30 am worship services, please use the link below: (***we will do 1 month at a time***) Also, because space is at a premium, if you sign up and your numbers decrease or you cannot attend please contact the church office ASAP so we can give others an opportunity to attend. You must **sign up by Thursday Noon** to be added to one of weekend worship opportunities.

<https://forms.gle/G714w7J4tLFcYLfB9>

To register to attend communion other than during a worship service, please follow this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040944acab2aa4f58-communion>

Once you hit the enter/submit button you can enter a number of people in your group; you don't need to make separate entries.

These days/times are available:

Tuesdays: 10-11 am

Wednesdays: 5-6 pm

Attendance Last Weekend:

Midweek Advent:

Weekend worship: 184; LOC: 34

YouTube views:

ILC Sunday: 158; LOC: 75

Please watch your email
Tuesdays and Fridays for
additional church information

IMPORTANT WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

We have a separate sign up for all of the special **Christmas services** including **Advent**. If you would like to attend any of those services, please use this link to sign up. <https://forms.gle/fidBwxRuEwMXwhXu5>
With the probability of more people than usual desiring to attend church we will continue to use the Fellowship Hall for overflow seating.

POINSETTAS FOR THE ALTAR

If you are interested in purchasing a poinsettia or two for the altar this Christmas season the deadline to order is **this Tuesday, December 15**. Each plant is \$13.00.
Please contact Arlene Coulter @ 314-428-8133 or Connie in the church office @ 314-993-2394.

NEW STUDY!

Join Pastor Karg (and others) as we take an overview of the Christian faith from a Lutheran perspective. Each half-hour session will include a short video of introduction followed by discussion. If it has been a while since you last took even a casual look at the teachings of the Lutheran church and the faith you profess, then we invite you to join us for this 12 week course. Can't join us every week, then join when you can. **Sunday mornings 9:30 – 10:30.**

Here is the Zoom link. (Password: **Faith**)

Topic: Overview of the Christian Faith

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87837832823?pwd=V1lZejdHSnVNbzVyMDRGUHVwWHFydz09>

Meeting ID: 878 3783 2823

Passcode: Faith

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

All men are welcome to join on Wednesday mornings. The meetings are scheduled to begin at 8 AM, but you may join the meeting before that time and interact with others who also have joined early.

Time: Wednesdays through December 2020, 08:00 AM

Central Time (US and Canada)

Click the following link to join the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84442764843?pwd=cDZkcGswK1kwNDZMdm4zeGZLcFA1dz09>

Meeting ID: 844 4276 4843

Passcode: 315023

CONCERT AT IMMANUEL (Live stream!) 12/25/20

Please join us as we enjoy a Christmas concert presented by Ariel for their SLSO Chamber members as they perform in our sanctuary a variety of Christmas pieces from Bach and Haydn along with a selection of traditional hymns. For details:

<https://www.arielconcertseries.com/december-25th-concert.html>

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

If you have any Thrivent products, please make sure to log into their website to designate to where you would like your Thrivent Choice Dollars to go! You have until **March 31, 2021** to designate.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2021 offering envelopes are now available for pick up in the church atrium

GET INVOLVED!

Immanuel is seeking individuals willing to serve on various boards. We currently have the greatest needs on our Board of Stewards (celebrating the talents of Immanuel) and Board of Parish Education. If you are interested in serving or want more information, please email Chris Copeland at President@Immanuelolivet.org

PASTOR CALL COMMITTEE

Immanuel expects to call an additional pastor in 2021. We are seeking individuals willing to serve in the two at-large roles on the call committee. This committee serves as the exploration and recommendation group that will help Immanuel find its next called leader to shepherd our flock. If interested, please email Chris Copland at President@immanuelolivet.org

USHERS NEEDED!

Please consider volunteering as our teams are in short supply, especially for the upcoming Christmas services. Women are welcome! Also, consider partnering up with a spouse or teenage son/daughter or grandchild. Contact Tom Murray by murray23@juno.com, 314-324-0487 or 314-807-4105.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

It's December and preparations for Christmas are underway. Unfortunately, for some, this is a period of great stress, inadequate sleep, and too much busyness. Is this what Advent is all about? Jesus said, *"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me"* (Revelation 3:20). What a pleasant request! Shut the door of the world. Open the door of your heart. Enjoy fellowship with Jesus!!

EDUCATION GRANT

Attention Widows and Single Mothers

The Immanuel Endowment Fund has been given to help widows, single mothers and their dependent children with obtaining a quality education to help them develop skills to support their family. If you feel you qualify for this program, please contact Pastor Karg. Application deadline is Feb. 14, 2021.

BREW IN THE LOU (Virtual this year!)

There's still time to pick up your Brew in the Lou Passport to help support LESA's financial aid for our Lutheran Schools. It's good through next October and we have them available in the school office for \$30 right now!

PORTALS OF PRAYER

The January-February-March issue of Portals of Prayer and Hopeful Living is now available for pick up on the table in the church vestibule.

Our Christian Sympathy and prayers for comfort go to the family of Donna Kerwin, who passed away this past week as well as the families of Tony Hill, father of Angela Ballenger, and Cathy Grueneberg, sister of Pam Niewald.

Members Ill or Recuperating:

Marilyn Brockman, Tom Brockmann, Dick Crane, Imogene Geib, Char Gordon, Lois Greenway, Carmaletha Hughes, Michele Kasban, Lera Koenig, Marguerite Krenning, Helen May, Carl McKenzie, Cheryl Metzler, Jean Mueller, Karen Peyton, Cindy Rowold, Cheryl Schaff, Donna Scotino, and Zane Zeable

Ill or Recuperating Family Members and Friends:

Jackie Bergoon, Ted Chmielowiec, Rev. Burneal Fick, Mike Fleming, Sally Handrick, Kathryn Hann, Judith Hardy, Steve Janssen, Ruth Lauer, Chris Lochmann, Rhonda McMahan, Bill McMahon, Paul Migneron, Dave Peters, Bernadette Phillips, Cathy Plese, Jim Simpson, Suki, Velma Walkmaster, Tom Walsh, Regina Wigger, and Kristin Williams.

Immanuel Members Serving in Healthcare and are at Risk:

Amy Dunbar, Jared Eggerman, Rachel Erdmann, Trudi Gatteys, Julie (Stiegemeier) Hanson, Christina (Shaw) Hemenway, Lauren Martin, Rachael Ludwig Schaefer, Jennifer Schmidt, Erin Stiegemeier, and Michele Zalmanoff

Immanuel Members Serving as First Responders or in the U.S. Armed Forces: James Hsiao, Matthew Hsu, Greg Hsueh, Chris Kaslin, Richard McKenzie, Steven Musselwhite, David Peters, Ransom Springer, Alexandra & Michael Wagener, and Michael Xu.

Family Members & Friends Serving as First Responders or in the U.S. Armed Forces: All First Responders, Greg & Stephanie Morgan, Bethany Siress

MOVING FORWARD Please be respectful of others as you venture out and please follow the guidelines set out for our area. *So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love...*

Philippians 2:1-2

REMEMBER OUR INBOUND FAMILY

JANUARY BIRTHDAY is Larry Greenway. They are always grateful to be remembered by their Immanuel Family. Birthday cards will be picked up from the mail box in the atrium on **Sunday, January 3 at 10:30 a.m.**

Questions??? Contact Diane Tallyn (314) 910-2032 or email diane_tallyn@hotmail.com.

DECEMBER FOOD PANTRY ADVENT CALENDAR

Pick up a copy at the Food Pantry table located near the church elevator.

OFFERING While we are **all** not yet able to attend in person worship please prayerfully consider continuing with your regular tithing. You may do this through online giving <http://immanuelolivette.org/givepluschurch.html>, Bill Pay through your bank, or the regular mail.

Still time for scrip purchases before Christmas!

Finish up your Christmas shopping with scrip! Gift cards available from denominations of \$5-\$250, grab fast food, clothing stores, shoe stores, department stores, gas stations, online shopping, hardware stores and more!

Email Katie Krenning to put in your order: scrip@ilsolivette.com or call at 314-567-5828

STEWARDSHIP DEVOTION

Scripture Reading: *"But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart"* (Luke 2:19).

"The Unappreciated Gift"

One year, during the weeks leading up to Christmas, my husband carefully selected three three-ring binders. He purchased specially treated plastic holders to go into the binders. Then he spent many hours sorting and arranging the stamps he had bought and saved over the previous several years and inserted them into the plastic holders and then clamped them into the binders. On Christmas Eve he presented them to our three children. Our sons, who are older, immediately knew the value of the gift they had been given. Our daughter, however, was not too impressed. We could tell by the way she glanced at her binder and murmured a less than heartfelt thank you that she did not appreciate what she held in her hands, then carelessly tossed onto her stack of other gifts. We realized we had some educating to do, or we ran the risk of her using those stamps to mail her letters!

While our kids realized the monetary sacrifice their dad made, I'm not sure they ever comprehended the thought and love that went into the gift he made. Of course, the gift of a stamp collection can't compare with the gift our Heavenly Father gave in sending His Son, but a comparison can be drawn, nonetheless.

Christmas comes and goes, and even though we spend time in church reading the Christmas story and singing the carols, do we comprehend the thought and love that went into God's gift? Do we, like Mary, treasure these things and ponder them in our hearts? Do we, like the shepherds, tell the Good News that amazes all who hear it and appreciate it (Luke 2:17-18)? Are we content to let Jesus remain the unappreciated gift?

Discussion Questions:

1. Read and ponder the Christmas story in Luke and in Matthew.
2. Make a list of people with whom you want to share the Good News so they might learn to appreciate God's gift of His Son.
3. How do you show appreciation to God for His most indescribable gift?

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, I confess that I, too, am unappreciative. I confess that I take for granted Your great gift. I confess that I have lost the awe that I should have when pondering these things in my heart. I ask You to forgive me. I ask You to fill me with deep love and gratitude for Jesus and His gifts of forgiveness and eternal life. I ask You to give me joy that spills out of my life into the lives of others as I share the Good News of Jesus. In His name I pray. Amen.

