

Immanuel Lutheran News

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James F. Wright, Pastor Vern Spilker, Director of Family Life

Visit our web site at www.immanuelaltamont.org

January 2012

Boldly Without Fear

We are thankful to God that the Parish Hall capital fund has been completed! Nearly 1.5 million dollars was committed to the building and its furnishings over the past 7 years. God has answered our prayers for help during the recession and has allowed Immanuel church to complete this goal. The parish hall is used for numerous Bible study sessions, confirmation instruction, funeral dinners, choir rehearsals, youth meetings, after school care for children, Lion's Club meetings, quilting, a help group, girl scouts, as well as occasional community and family gatherings, baptism dinners, wedding receptions, and even seasonal craft shows. It is a benefit to the congregation and community to have such a good meeting space. It also provides healthy outreach to the community through the after school care program.

The Parish Hall could not have been possible without the generous donations, labor, and fund raising activity that God's people have offered. It is a good indicator of what God's people can do when they all work together on a common goal. We all have the same reason to give. God has given so much to us, both in the material blessings of money and abilities, but especially in His love and grace. He promises to us that when we give in response to his gifts to us, we will be the ones who benefit. He will always return to us in one form or another more than we give.

Now that the Parish Hall is completed, is it time to give less to God? Certainly not. **We do not give to a building. We do not give to a project. We give to God!** That doesn't change because a loan is paid. God has given everything for us. God the Father gave His Son, Jesus. He was born in Bethlehem of Judea. His parents took the child to Egypt to save his life. He grew up a working man, a carpenter. As God he served us when we

should have been serving him. The Father gave him to us in sacrifice for all of our sins. Through Jesus we have been given salvation and paradise yet to come, not to mention the peace that each believer has each day. All of this is given to us. How can we not respond generously to God in gifts?

I encourage everyone who gave regular gifts to the Parish Hall fund to continue to give to God at that level through Immanuel's General Fund. Such resources will allow us to continue and expand our ministry to God's people through worship services, adult education, evangelism in the community, youth mission trips, and missions to the world through our synod including the support of Pastor Ted Krey and family in the Dominican Republic.

Perhaps our greatest mission is our support of Altamont Lutheran School. We can't fully realize the impact of the school's influence in the lives of children who study the Bible as a part of each day's lessons, and the number of people who have gone on from the school to be leaders in the church in other communities, and professional church workers, including pastors, Lutheran school teachers, and directors of Christian education. Altamont really has a reputation for producing some excellent Christian educators and leaders. Some have married pastors, which is a mission in itself. Yes, a Lutheran education is a valuable tool for mission that we are blessed to be a part of in this community.

As the New Year begins, continue to give to God as you have in the past, and we will continue to be blessed beyond our ability to conceive. As for the debt retirement we have reached, a celebration is being planned for the near future.

A blessed new year to you,

Pastor Jim Wright

EPIPHANY PRAYER SERVICE—Friday, January 6 at 6:30 pm.

CHURCH OFFICERS, new and returning, are asked to attend either service (8:30 or 11:00) on Sunday, January 1 to be installed.

Immanuel Officers for 2012

Chairman – Mike Bowman

Vice Chairman – Howard Winter

Secretary – Debby Frailey

Elders – Marlin Guse, Alan Walk, Craig Wolff, Mike Maske, Gene Robinson, Dave Corder, Dave Heiden, Wayne Mueller

Trustees – Bill Laatsch, Kory Wolff, Tony Arend, Matt Will, Dennis Siebert, Alan Whitt

Bd. of Christian Education – Randy Milleville, Ellen Walk, Christy Seidel

Financial Secretary – Wayne Schroeder, Donna L. Kroening

Envelope Comm – Tim Huelskoetter, Scott Wharton, Steve Miller, Ruth Moehring

ALIS Board – Lori Grimsley, Tom Wendling, Kirsten Osteen, Troy Stuckemeyer, Kerry Wolff

Board of Stewardship – Nancy Bowman, Kevin Schultz, Michael Durbin

Auditor – Roy Long, Neil Winter, Erik Meier

SS Superintendent – Mindie McManaway

Asst SS Superintendent – Carrie Wharton

Head Usher – Russell Phillips

Asst Head Usher – Mike Hoffmeister

LCC Board Members – Gene Stuemke, Roger Berg

Let Us Pray:

Under medical care: Ray Backs, Verna Durbin, Bill Fritcher, Armond Goers, Molly Hougham, Kenny Oldham, Whitney Roedl, Lynn Winter, Sam Yagow, Marshall Buhrke; Richard Hankins, Pat Gatewood, Dee Schuman, Beth Speers, Rich Voelker.

- For the unemployed
- For good government
- For our church staff and ALIS staff
- For our missionary, Rev. Ted, Rebecca, Esther and Matthias Krey in the Dominican Republic
- For Synod and District LCMS Leaders

If you are hospitalized or need pastoral care please notify the church office or Pastor.

Quarterly Voters' Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 15 at 1:30 p.m. **Trustees and Elders** meet the previous week on Monday, January 9 at 7:00 p.m. and **Church Council** at 7:30 p.m.

Parish Hall Loan has been paid in full so you no longer need to donate to that fund. Praise God! Consider making a special donation to the Operating Loan as of Dec. 27, 2011, we still have a balance of \$10,000.

Cradle Roll to Sunday School promotion will be at the weekend services on January 7/8th.

November Perfect Attendance

3 yr olds

Kade Milleville

Brayden Schnarre

4 yr olds

**Kylie Osteen*

Kindergarten

Della Berg

Riley Berg

Claire Boehm

Aden McManaway

**Peyton Osteen*

**Nathan Stuemke*

1st

**Matthew Becker*

Lucas Shepard

Nathan Shepard

2nd

Ellie McManaway

3rd

**Emma Simmons*

**Brayden Stuemke*

4th

none

5th

Grace Simmons

**Hayden Voelker*

6th

**Emily Becker*

Brooke Stuckemeyer

**Austin Wendling*

**Karsyn Wolff*

7th

none

8th

Logan Deadmond

**Klaiton Wolff*

** Perfect for Year*

Pick up your offering envelopes from the narthex for 2012 if you have not already done so.

Scrip Order dates for 2012:

Turn in @ School	Turn in @ church	Orders delivered
Jan 6th	Jan 8th	Jan 13th
Jan 20th	Jan 22nd	Jan 27th
Feb 3rd	Feb 5th	Feb 10th
Feb 17th	Feb 19th	Feb 23rd
Mar 2nd	Mar 4th	Mar 9th
Mar 16th	Mar 18th	Mar 23rd
Mar 30th	April 1st	Apr 5th
Apr 13th	Apr 15th	Apr 20th
Apr 27th	Apr 29th	May 4th
May 11th	May 13rd	May 18th

Thank You to all who helped set up and to all who attended the Christmas Bazaar. Thank you to the vendors, buyers and to all those that supported us in any way. It is appreciated
Sr. LYF

Thank you to those who raked leaves, shared cookies and to the Jr. LYF Carolers for caroling at my house.

God's blessings to you all. Lucille Schroeder

Thanks all of you for the prayers, cards and concerns for me and my family during my hospital stay and since my return home. A special thanks to Pastor for his visits. May God bless each of you. Merry Christmas and Happy 2012. Pam Hooks

Ladies Aid meeting Thursday, January 5 at 7:00 p.m. Devotion by Freda Beccue; topic by Vern Spilker. Hostesses are Roxie Wendling and Charla Wolff.

LWML Meeting Sunday, January 8, 1:30 p.m. Mite Box Devotion by Mildred Renken; topic by Andrea Winter on her Poland Mission Trip. Hostesses are Mary Berg, Linda Long, Florence Seales and Claudia Berg.

Poinsettia Pickup: Thank to everyone who donated poinsettias and to the new Manger Scene and Operating fund loan. If you would like to have your poinsettia, they can be picked up after the 11:00 am service this weekend (Jan. 1) or any weekday during office hours. The names of the donors are on a card attached to the bow. The card may be tucked into the flower and not visible, but can be easily found. *The list of donors was in last week's bulletin.*

Men's Choir begins rehearsals on January 8th at 8:00 a.m. More singers from jr. high through adult males are welcome. This is an excellent father/son opportunity to serve the Lord together.

Wednesday Sr. LYF TogetherTimes begin again on January 4th, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. Sr.LYF members are welcome to assist with After School Care any day of the week, but especially on Wednesdays before TogetherTimes.

SIGN UP TIME IS RUNNING OUT!!!!
"Riches in Richmond" LYF Servant Event

next summer June 23-30 in Richmond, Virginia. ***It looks like the majority of the costs can be covered.*** A commitment is needed from LYF members before any registrations can be completed. This is a high quality servant event opportunity for students who will have completed 8th through 12th grade. Individuals (youth or adult) who are interested in participating should let Vern or Pastor know within the next few weeks, since the registration deadline is January 15, 2012. Complete details and registration forms are available from Vern, Pastor and on the bulletin boards in the Narthex, PH lobby and LYF rooms. "Last Call for Richmond Servant Event Registration Forms to be turned in to Vern."

MUSIC BOX

January Wednesdays 6:30pm Mixed Choir
January 6 (Friday) 6:30pm Mixed Choir sings

??High School Choir at Immanuel??

Is there an interest? Definitely a commitment! Talk with Marlene or Vern.

No Girls Youth Choir in January

Cantata Awesome participants for the Savior!!

Thanks! What a blessing! Thanks for all the congregational support and response. Have you realized all the "behind the scenes" people that make things happen?

Happy New Year of blessings and commitments to and for our great "King of kings and Lord of Lords"!

Marlene

Life Sunday - Why would anyone want to keep children from the arms of Jesus? The disciples seemed to be doing just that in Mark 10: 13-16. Perhaps they thought they were doing Jesus a favor. After all, people were always crowding around Him and now all these children? Give Jesus a break!

But Jesus was "indignant" with His disciples over this. These children were precious. They were the work of His hands, knit together in their mothers' wombs. Jesus uses these as a picture of all who are vulnerable and in need. Just as we are completely dependent upon Jesus for life, so we are completely dependent upon Him for the new life of His Kingdom. Jesus does not want anyone turned away. He desires to welcome and bless the vulnerable.

On Sunday, January 22 Immanuel Church will share Jesus' love for the vulnerable on a Sanctity of Human Life Sunday.

GriefShare Classes at Salem Lutheran, 1401 Hawthorn Road, beginning Mon., Jan. 9, Pastor Doug Meyer of Salem Lutheran Church will conduct classes known as GriefShare. This is a 14-week program designed to help people who have lost loved ones to find healing, hope, and support as they seek to adjust to life without these precious ones around anymore. GriefShare includes three parts: a weekly video presentation which provides important teaching from many experts on topics related to death and grief; support group which allows participants to talk through issues and feelings; and a workbook which provides a tool to guide participants in sorting through their thoughts and emotions and in learning what the Bible says about grief-related topics. Classes are 6:30 to 8:00 each Monday evening and are open to the public. Please call the church office at 548-3190 for more information or to register.

Luther Tour 2012: Rev. Jeffrey McPike, chaplain at Carle Hospital and vacancy pastor at Immanuel Lutheran of Osman is hosting a tour to Germany, France, Switzerland, and Austria, July 8-19, 2012. Areas where Luther and Bach were born, lived and worked and died are included, as well as many other scenic areas including the Rhine River, Black Forest, the Alps, and "Sound of Music" sites around Salzburg. For more information, go to www.OsmanLutheran.org to download the brochure or call Pastor McPike 217-903-4853.