

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
154 Madison Street SE  
Albany, Oregon 97321

Email: [ilchurch2009@gmail.com](mailto:ilchurch2009@gmail.com)  
Phone: 541 926-3495  
Website: [www.immanuelalbany.org](http://www.immanuelalbany.org)

Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Volume 10 Issue 11

December 29, 2023

## Mission Statement

Our Mission is to Honor God, by sharing His love, living in Christ, and serving our community.



*Everything that is done in the world is done by hope.*

*Martin Luther.*

## Inside this issue:

Pastor's Article	1
Scriptures	2
Sunday Servers	2
Birthdays	2
Shoebox Report	3
Just For Fun	3
Before You Go	4

## Follow the "Light of Christ" All Year

The end of the year, especially the time between Christmas and New Year's, is an interesting time of the year. It seems to be the only time during the year when we stop, look around and take stock of our situation. We look back and remember the good and bad events of the year being concluded. And we look forward to the coming year making resolutions and predictions for the months ahead. But then, beginning January 2<sup>nd</sup> or perhaps sooner, our culture forgets about the Spirit of Christmas, about peace, love and tranquility and resumes a more worldly approach to life. And during the rest of the year, it appears we just focus on the current, day-to-day events of living and forget about the past or future and where we are going.

For Christians, the New Year brings the season of Epiphany, one of the oldest seasons of the church year. Epiphany is sometimes referred to as the third part of Christmas with Advent and Christmas being the first two parts. The season of Epiphany emphasizes the breadth of God's love for all the people of the world and His plan for salvation for all people. For that reason, Epiphany is also referred to as the Gentiles' Christmas.



Epiphany, which comes from a Greek word that means "manifest" or made known, begins with the visit of the Magi representing Jesus' coming to save both Jews and Gentiles alike. It continues with His baptism, the choosing of his disciples, His first miracles and concludes with the Transfiguration after which He turns his face toward Jerusalem and the crucifixion.

The season of Epiphany encourages us to remember and follow the "Light of Christ," the light that guides and directs us today and will guide us every day of the coming year. Epiphany reminds us that Christ is the "Light that shines in the darkness." This year, may we hold on to God's promise to drive out the darkness of sin and bring us salvation.

Like the Magi, we are on a journey of faith in the coming year. In the season of Epiphany may we seek Christ with a spirit of openness, humility and perseverance, trusting that God has revealed Himself to us in Christ. May this Christ light our pathways as we journey through the season of Epiphany and the rest of 2024.

Happy New Year,  
Pastor Larry Oliver

## Scripture Readings For January

Season	Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
	Jan. 7	The Baptism of Our Lord	Gen. 1:1-5	Psalm 29	Rom. 6:1-11	Mark 1:4-11
	Jan. 14	Second S. a. the Epiphany	1 Sam. 3:1-10 (11-20)	Psalm 139:1-10	1 Cor. 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
	Jan. 21	Third S. a. the Epiphany	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Psalm 62	1 Cor. 7:29-31 (32-35)	Mark 1:14-20
	Jan. 28	Fourth S. a. the Epiphany	Deut. 18:15-20	Psalm 111	1 Cor. 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28

## January Serving Schedule

Dates	Elder	Greeter	Reader	Server	Altar Guild	Counting Team
1/7/2024		Roy Fender	Debbie Graham			
1/14/2024		Greg & Patti Grill	Linda Tedisch			
1/21/2024		Debbie & Ralph Graham	Denny Stahlnecker			
1/28/2024		Priscilla Stratton	Jeanne Butler			

Thank you for serving your church  
 If you cannot serve, please find someone to take your place.  
 Please leave a note for the secretary.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### January Birthdays

Velma Bariletti ..... 1/9  
 Jim Marshall ..... 1/22  
 Dolores Grinden ..... 1/28/1930

# Celebrate!

### January Anniversaries

Marv & Fran Jacob ..... 1/1/1954  
 Dennis & Karen Hewitt ..... 1/11/1985

I never thought  
 I'd be the kind of  
 person who'd  
 wake up early in  
 the morning to  
 exercise ...

And I was right.

With everyone's help with donations this year, we were able to fill 9 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. I was able to go shopping and fill these boxes with the help of Karlee. The boxes included, clothing, toiletries, towel with wash cloth, socks, school supplies, flashlight with extra batteries, stuffed animal and other toys. I also included a card letting each recipient know the box came from members at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Albany Oregon. Samaritans purse added a book telling the Christmas story and other information so each child can learn more about Jesus. Often, once these children learn about Jesus, they share what they learn with their friends and family. Thank you so much for making a difference in a child's life. Your donation truly did make a difference in God's kingdom. - Patti Grill



*Accept* what is,

Let go of what **was**,

And have **faith**

In what

*Will be.*

Just For Fun! 😊

I've done some terrible things for money...like getting up early to go to work.

9 out of 10 husbands agree that their wives are always right. The 10th husband hasn't been seen since the study was conducted.

Has anyone tried unplugging the United States and plugging it back in?

Got me an emotional support pet. It's chicken. It's crispy. It also came with a biscuit.

Got up at 5 am, ran 4 miles, came back, made vegetable smoothie for breakfast, did 2 loads of laundry, mopped and vacuumed floors, and that's all I remember about my dreams.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT G4, INC.



Thanks to Shirley Ostrander

01-15-2004

HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?



Happy, Happy New Year!  
We wish you all the best,  
Great work to reach your fondest goals,  
And when you're done, sweet rest.

We hope for your fulfillment,  
Contentment, peace and more,  
A brighter, better new year than  
You've ever had before.

By Joanna Fuchs



## Chicken Bisque Soup

*From the Gables, (formally) Corvallis, Oregon*

1 (3 pound) stewing hen

16 cups water

3 Tablespoons salt

½ cup melted butter

1 cup flour

½ cup chopped chicken (taken from above)

½ cup chopped pimientos

½ cup blanched peppers

1 teaspoon MSG

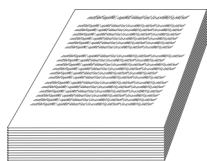
½ teaspoon pepper

3-4 drops yellow food coloring



Boil the stewing hen in water with salt until tender. Strain off 8 cups of stock. Make a roux of the butter and flour. Add strained stock and simmer for 15 minutes. Carve ½ cup chicken from carcass and add to mixture. Add remaining ingredients, stirring constantly until heated. Serve at once.

This recipe is being printed by request.



## Before You Go, give them this

Welby O'Brien  
50plus Magazine

Many mistakes are fixable. Some are not. It's ironic that while most of us have the choice and opportunity to leave our "house in order" for those we leave behind, those who do so tend to be the exception.

When a good friend died suddenly, he left behind a tangled mess for his son to wade theroufh. His outdated will was the least of it. Doing his best just to function in his grief, his son had no clue about his dad's accounts or passwords and was overwhelmed with the unfinished business and loose ends.

Things would have gone so much smoother had dad taken the time to 1) organize things, and 2) provide information to guide his son.

Cleaning out clutter is an item discussed in one of my books about preparing for our own goodbye. Mentioning this once with a group, an older fellow boasted, "I'm not doing that. It's my revenge!" This still makes me chuckle, but seriously, it will make a big difference for those left behind if we do all we can to get things in order.

The awkwardness and unpleasantness of discussing our desires, decisions and information with beloved pales in comparison to how they'll be affected if we DON'T.

While the process can be daunting, the following can help.

- Collect and organize all important info and let others know where to find it.
- Be sure your will or trust is legal and current.
- Complete an advanced directive.
- Pay your debts.
- Consider being a donor, either organ and tissue or whole body.
- Explore options for prepaid funeral home services.
- Write any desires for your funeral or celebration of life.
- Attend to any rifts with family or friends.
- Be at peace.



The clamor of daily life is such a powerful distraction that we easily assume there will be ample time to take care of things "later." But we all know that any of us could go at any time. Don't wait. Why not enjoy today and every day knowing that whenever our time comes, while our dear ones will grieve, their stress will be lighter for the preparations we made. And that, my friends, is truly a gift.

Welby O'Brien is author of Goodbye for Now: Practical Help and Personal Hope for Those Who Grieve and other books. Find her at [www.welbyo.com](http://www.welbyo.com).

### Immanuel Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Pastor Larry Oliver (541)-730-6673

Pastor's Hours: Wed - Thur 9:00 am - 12 noon

Musician: Ann Capps

154 Madison St. SE, Albany, OR 97321

Office: 541-926-3495

Email: [ilchurch2009@gmail.com](mailto:ilchurch2009@gmail.com)

Office Hours: Tues - Fri 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

**We're on the web!**

**[Immanuelalbany.org](http://Immanuelalbany.org)**