

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

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

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Mission Statement

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



There will be no peace as long as God remains unseated at the conference table.

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Article	1
Scriptures	2
Reader Schedule	2
Birthdays	2
Homeless News	2
Senior Facebook	3
Lives Distressed	3

Living in a Post-Christian Culture!

"Today we are doing ministry in a world where people don't think they need God." Those were the words of Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies as he began his presentation to the recent online District Church Worker's Conference.

Over the last seven years we have had numerous discussions about how we can make Immanuel grow. We convened a Vision Committee, we invited a group called The 72, we started a blessings box, we give four percent of our offerings to local community agencies that help the homeless, we have a Face Book Page and a website. Yet, all of our pre-pandemic 10% growth was because of transfers from other churches.

It is difficult for us to grasp that we now live in a non-religious, pluralistic age. We are all aware of declining church attendance over the past 50 years as well as the Church's decreasing influence on society. We have a sense of losing Christianity. It feels like something has been taken away from us. There is an "us vs. them" mentality in the Church today. We have a sense of being under attack and that we need to *do* something. . . . **but we don't know *what* and we don't know *how!***

We Christians find it easy to discuss our beliefs among ourselves, but we struggle mightily when faced with the opportunity to share our beliefs with those outside the church.

So what do we do? What *can* we do? Here are a few Bible passages that Pr. Lakies pointed us to for consideration. I encourage you to look them up and read them for yourselves. Here I will merely summarize them for you leaning heavily on the The Living Bible.



1 Peter 2:12-17

Be careful how you behave among your unsaved neighbors. Even if they have contempt for the Gospel, they will praise God for your good works when Christ returns. For the LORD's sake, obey the government because God has put governments in place to punish criminals and honor those who do right. God wants your life to stifle unbelievers who don't know what the Gospel can do for them. Show respect to everyone, love Christians everywhere, fear God and honor the government.

Colossians 4:5-6

Be prepared with a few sentences that summarize your faith. Then, when the opportunity presents itself, expect that the Holy Spirit will give you the right words to say. Be prudent and gracious as you speak to others about your faith. Your job is to plant the seed and let the Holy Spirit do His work. Don't be belligerent, no one ever became a Christian because they lost an argument!

Philippians 2:3-4

Live humbly, not like you are trying to make a good impression on your neighbors. Put the concerns of others first and your personal concerns second. Consider others more important than yourself. Show an interest in people, listen to and understand their problems first. They won't care how much you know about the Gospel until they know how much you care about them!

Now read the second paragraph again! Do you see the problem? It is not our job to save anyone, it is only Jesus who saves. Our job is to plant seeds and let the Holy Spirit grow and nurture that seed. The salvation of others is up to Jesus.

May the God of hope guide your words and your ways!
Pastor Larry Oliver

Scripture Readings For November

Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalms	Epistle	Gospel
Nov. 1	All Saints' Day (Nov. 1)	Rev. 7:(2-8) 9-17	Psalms 149	1 John 3:1-3	Matt. 5:1-12
Nov. 8 (Proper 27)	Twenty-third S. a. Pentecost	Amos 5:18-24	Psalms 70	1 Thess. 4:13-18	Matt. 25:1-13
Nov. 15 (Proper 28)	Twenty-fourth S. a. Pentecost	Zeph. 1:7-16	Psalms 90:1-12	1 Thess. 5:1-11	Matt. 25:14-30
Nov. 22 (Proper 29)	Last S. of the Church Year	Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24	Psalms 95:1-7a	1 Cor. 15:20-28	Matt. 25:31-46

Readers & Volunteer Schedule For November

November 1	November 8	November 15	November 22	November 29	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTER
Keith Moore	Linda Tedisch	Priscilla Stratton	Debbie Graham		Linda Tedisch Fran Jacobs	Ann Oliver
<p>If you <u>can not</u> participate on the date scheduled, please let Laurie or Linda Anderson know so we can schedule someone else in your place. Thank You For Volunteering!</p>						

Delores is again requesting that you bring your un-needed clothing to church so it can be distributed to the homeless at Helping Hands. This year we will not be having a Christmas party there because of the pandemic. We will however take things to them and let them distribute what we bring. She would also like some help preparing Christmas sacks. You can contact her directly at dgrinden2@gmail.com or call her at 541-248-3740.



November Birthdays

Keith Moore 11/6
 Nita Marshall 11/19
 Leia Waldron 11/28
 Lorene Gotta..... 11/30

November Anniversary

Jim & Nita Marshall..... 11/5



Homeless Outreach

I am saddened to tell you that due to the pandemic, we will NOT be doing our Christmas parties at Helping Hands and Signs Of Victory this year. GOD willing we will be able to resume next year. We will still assemble our Christmas gifts and anyone interested in putting some together and delivering them to the door of the homeless shelter, please call me. My thought at this moment is starting December 10, I will have the supplies on a table downstairs in the fellowship hall with an example of a gift bag. Take as many as you would like to assemble and deliver. We will be delivering approximately 125 gifts. A gift bag only takes up to about 5 minutes to put together depending on how fast you work.

Thank you and early

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU.



I will keep you informed about any changes.

A Senior's Version of FACEBOOK

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists: I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them "thumbs up" and tell them I "like" them. And it works just like Facebook. I already have 4 people following me: 2 police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.

The less you respond to rude, critical, argumentative people, the more peaceful your life will become.



Lives Distressed Cannot Be Blessed

*Refuse to be discouraged,
Refuse to be distressed,
For when we are despondent
Our life cannot be blessed,
For doubt and fear and worry
Close the door to faith and prayer,
And there's no room for blessings
When we're lost in deep despair,
So remember when we're troubled
With uncertainty and doubt
It is best to tell our Father
What our fear is all about.
For unless we seek His guidance
When troubled times arise,
We are bound to make decisions
That are twisted and unwise,
But when we view our problems
Through the eyes of God above,
Misfortunes turn to blessings
And hatred turns to love.*

Helen Steiner Rice



Immanuel Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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We're on the web!

Immanuelalbany.org