

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
WEEKLY CALENDAR and ANNOUNCEMENTS
December 20, 2020

Monday – Friday office hours	8:00 am – 3:30 pm
Sunday, December 20: Divine Service	8:00 am & 10:00 am
Wednesday, December 23: ILS Chapel (CLC)	8:25 am
Thursday, December 24: Christmas Eve Service	5:00 pm
Friday, December 25: Christmas Day Service	9:30 am
Sunday, December 27: Divine Service	8:00 am & 10:00 am

Sunday School will resume January 10th

Sunday School (PreK – 12) is on break for Christmas and will resume on Sunday January 10, 2021. We are so thankful for all the students that have been attending. Merry Christmas from all the Sunday School teachers!

December 27 bulletins will be printed on December 23 (Wednesday) this week. Please have any announcements to the office before noon on the 23rd. Thank you.

Welcome to the family! Through our ministry to our members in the Plainview Senior Housing (a.k.a. the “high rise”), we welcome Miss Kimberly Loechler into the membership of Immanuel via adult confirmation. Kim is partially disabled which hinders her ability to be out of her apartment for long so it may take some time for us to meet her. But we delight that the Gospel has touched her heart and she is now going to receive our Lord’s body and blood for forgiveness, life, and salvation as we minister there on a monthly basis. Welcome, Kim, and may God bless you!

Online auction fundraiser for Hope Lutheran High School in Winona is from Wednesday, December 30 through Sunday, January 3. Look for more info and website links soon. See hopelhs.org for more.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services will be held in the CLC this year. Christmas Eve is at 5:00 p.m. and Christmas Day at 9:30 a.m. (with Holy Communion). The Christmas Eve service will be prerecorded in the church sanctuary to be available on YouTube on the 24th. Host a “watch party” and gather around God’s Word spoken and sung to celebrate the Savior’s birth!

Financial Update: As this crazy year comes to a close, the Board of Stewardship and Church Council are so very grateful to all our members who have contributed to the ministry of the Gospel at Immanuel. As of November 30, our expenses have exceeded our giving by **\$14,122.42**. A recent article (<https://thefederalist.com/2020/12/10/new-mental-health-survey-shows-conservatives-were-right-church-is-essential/>) noted the importance of faith: “According to the results of a new Gallup self-assessment survey, Americans’ mental health is at its lowest point in two decades... except for devout religious people. Remarkably, faithful churchgoers were the only people who reported *improvements* in mental health since last year... While many people’s suffering increased exponentially in 2020, economically, physically, and spiritually, they needed the hope that only the gospel can afford...” Church is essential because the Gospel is essential for peace in this world and joy for the world to come. Would you prayerfully consider a special year-end gift to help us finish the year in the black and with reserves to carry us well into 2021 so our Gospel outreach can grow and flourish? God’s blessings to you as we finish 2020 in His strong name!

Charitable contributions for 2020 must be received before the first worship service in 2021 in order to claim the deduction for 2020. Checks that are mailed and postmarked in 2020 will still be deductible even if received at church in 2021.

Second Grade students receive a gift of a Bible from the ILCW. Immanuel Lutheran School students received their Bibles during chapel on December 16. For congregational members who have a 2nd grade student, please make arrangements to pick up or receive your child's Bible. We would normally send invitations for a Sunday in which they are handed out, but due to COVID conditions, we feel that we should allow each family to determine how to get this precious gift of God's Word into the hands of His children. Contact Lisa Hoekstra, Becky Luckstein, Pastor Augustine, or the church office.

ILCW would like to thank the congregation for contributing to the door offering last week. The \$501.25 collected will be used to support Concordia Seminary students & other church projects. We have very generous donors & pray the Lord will continue to bless each of you richly. Thanks again!

Food Shelf Drive Immanuel Lutheran School is collecting items for the Plainview/Elgin Food Shelf. If you would like to help with a donation, a display has been set up in the CLC Lobby.

Each year Immanuel Lutheran Church Women have collected Christmas "gifts from the heart" for residents at Green Prairie Rehabilitation Center. This year especially, due to social isolation experienced because of Coronavirus precautions, we want to share our giving. We will be collecting gifts in December until 12/20/2020. Please bring gifts wrapped or in a gift bag. Indicate if gift for "man" or "woman" or "either." Suggestions from Activity Director: more women (32) than men (10), slipper socks with grips or regular socks, lotions, soaps, jewelry and such. Gifts will be collected in CLC entry. Thanks for your generosity. If you have any questions, contact Becky 951-1716.

Remember our Seminarian – PJ & Melanie Aarsvold are out in Lakewood, CO (Denver area) for PJ's vicarage. If you would like to send Christmas greetings and words of love and encouragement or congratulations - they are expecting a child in February – their address is:

PJ Aarsvold
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
2100 Wadsworth Blvd
Lakewood, CO 80214-5707

Home Communion Visits – If you or a loved one are sheltering at home during the pandemic and desire Holy Communion, please know that Pastor Augustine and Pastor Fuchs are willing to set up a visit to bring you the body and blood of Jesus for your forgiveness and strength. He can meet in your home or outside; masked or unmasked; for a short visit (scripture, devotion, and Supper) or a longer visit with you for the Lord's consolation and care during this time of social distancing. We were not created to live in isolation. If you need this precious medicine for your body and soul, call the church office to schedule a visit.

Stay Informed on Church/School news via email: Share the sign up for the weekly bulletin announcements and news! Send an email to ilcs-news+subscribe@googlegroups.com. You may need to put ilcs-news@googlegroups.com in your contact list or mark as a safe sender to avoid emails going into a junk/spam folder. Or contact the office and we can add you to the news group or prayer chain (ilcs-prayers+subscribe@googlegroups.com).