

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
WEEKLY CALENDAR and ANNOUNCEMENTS
December 17, 2023

Monday – Friday office hours	8:00-3:30 pm
Sunday December 17: Divine Service	8:00 am
Christian Education Hour	9:15 am
Sunday School Christmas Program	10:15 am
Monday, December 18: Lifelight Bible Study	9:00 am
High Rise Church	1:00 pm
Stephen Ministry	7:00 pm
Wednesday, December 20: Chapel Service	8:30 am
Advent Supper/Board of Ed	5:00-6:15 pm
Advent Worship	6:30 pm
Friday, December 22: Christmas break begins/no school at ILS	
Saturday, December 23: Hoosier Ridge Christmas Service	6:00 pm
Sunday December 24: Divine Service (w/Communion)	9:30 am
Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols	5:00 pm
Monday, December 25: Christmas Day worship (w/Communion)	9:30 am

Congregational Survey is still open if you did not get a chance to do so in person last Sunday or by filling out the online form. Surveys are available by the entrances. If you have any questions, contact Matthew Feils at 507.923.0462 or matthewfeils7@gmail.com.

Advent Service this Wednesday, December 20 with a meal served prior by the Board of Education. Make plans to join us for a time of repentance, prayer, and hope in our coming Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed lasagna dinner at last week's Advent Supper. The money raised, \$290.00, will be put towards the church deficit. A special thanks to Tom & Lisa Hoekstra for hosting!

Charitable contributions for 2023 must be received before January 1, 2024 to be on your giving statement for this year for any charitable giving deductions for 2023. Checks that are mailed and postmarked in 2023 will still be deductible even if received at church in January. For your contribution to be on your statement of giving, it must be in a giving envelope, a check with your name on it, or through our website with Vanco's e-giving service. Gifts made through Thrivent (Choice Dollars or their e-giving platform) are not direct gifts to Immanuel and therefore not on your statement of giving.

We have good news! Our general fund is (\$76,142.57). We have reduced the deficit by almost \$20,000 since October! We are headed in the right direction! When we look at that number, it may look like there is a mountain in front of us. It may seem like a burden, too much to handle. But through God's Grace and Mercy we are reminded that he moves mountains and carries our burdens. "Therefore, the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him." Isaiah 30:8. If the Lord places it on your heart this month, we would encourage you to give. These costs go towards Pastor & staff salaries, utility bills, repairs, upkeep and so much more. Let us show God our thankfulness through this month's gift.

We are still looking for a person to be Chairman of the congregation. I know there is someone out there saying, "Why hasn't anyone asked me to be Chairman?" If you are that person, call me at 507-534-2115 or the church office at 507-534-3700. If you know that person and they are afraid to call, you call with their name at the same numbers. Butch Mussell

New Directories are available in the Resource room to account for the address and membership changes over the past year.

Candles and Cookies for sale...ILS has these two fundraisers for the school through December, or until sold out. The candles are lighted and range in price from \$15 to \$40. There are nativity, cardinal, and snowman scenes left. Cookies come 5 dozen per bag, precut, frozen and ready to bake for \$30. All proceeds go to Immanuel Lutheran School. Contact the office to purchase.