

# Immanuel United Church of Christ

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
DECEMBER 2023 Newsletter

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December 2023

### **Most Precious Gift**

***“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that***

***will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”***

In Luke 2:8-11, the term, “*Christ the Lord*” is how the angels described the baby born in the town of David.

The Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible defines “*Christ*” as the official title given to Jesus in the New Testament. It signifies His office as anointed Savior and alludes to His spiritual qualifications for the task of saving His people.

There are several terms, meanings, and uses for “*Lord*” depending on who or what would be the subject of the word. Renters have their landlords; England has the House of Lords as well as various other lords of royalty.

Recently some famous people have been knighted and may be addressed as Lords. Just to list a few, we have, Alfred Hitchcock, Bob Hope, Sean Connery, Elton John, Paul McCartney, George Martin, Roger Moore, Bill Gates, Mick Jagger, and even Bono from the band, U2. Notice that these are all rich men.

God’s gift to the world, which the angels were heralding, was that little baby laying outside in a feeding trough. Baby Jesus would become our LORD and Savior.

There has never been another like Him and there will never be any other Christ for this world again. Unlike the multiple lords of today, no amount of money played any part in Jesus becoming Christ. He was destined to become our Christ and Savior for the world only by way of His work on that cross, from before the beginning of time.

Jesus is the reason for the season and why we eagerly celebrate the coming of Baby Jesus every year. In fact, our Christian year begins here.

So, no matter what you may receive on any Christmas day, our Lord, Christ Jesus will always be your most Precious Gift. He came, offering the gift of salvation for the whole world and He came in love from the God of Love. No person or thing can ever be better. Amen.

*Rev. Bob Wilkins*

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## CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council met on November 15, 2023. Members present at the meeting were: Roy Berrey, Kerry Black, Jordan Hinderman, Brandi Ruf-Wepking, Sheila Siegler, Dave Sutherland, Connie Ubersox, and Pastor Bob Wilkins. Absent: Nancy Slama and Fritz Hirsbrunner.

Review and Repair of the Agenda/Minutes – Dave Sutherland will follow-up and report back on the failed radon test for the downstairs area.

The Council approved the October 2023 minutes with the changes mentioned above. The November financial report was approved as presented.

### Reports:

**Pastor's Report** - provided in hard copy to the committee. Baptism in January.

**Christian Education Committee** – December 17<sup>th</sup> tentatively planned for Sunday School Christmas Program. No Sunday School Novembers 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Building and Grounds Committee –**

1. Parsonage Fireplace Cleaning – Pastor Bob called a couple companies but they cannot come until next year.
2. Lyndell project – add a monitor to pulpit so those speaking can see the screen behind them. Dave Sutherland will mention monitor request to Marjean Sutherland.
3. Dave Sutherland got four radon tests from the county and all four failed in the basement of the church. We will only pursue this unless we take on a day care again.

**Mission Team** – work on getting a clothing drive together for the Back Bay Mission folks in Biloxi. They are in need of personal items as well.

**Stewardship Committee** – stewardship messages in November.

**EF & G Committee** – Thanksgiving and Christmas cards will be going out to “Mature” Members.

**Woman's Guild** – December meeting 13<sup>th</sup>, no meeting in January or February.

**Worship Committee** – Advent Season Sunday, Dec 3 to Sunday, Dec 24; Bell Choir; Sunday after Thanksgiving pastor will be off.

### **Old Business**

1. Kids Day Care in Immanuel – Table until Fritz Hirsbrunner is back.

### **New Business**

None

The next Council meeting will be Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 6:15 p.m.





### **IN MEMORY OF JACK KEITH SIEGENTHALER**

Our deepest sympathies go out to the family of Keith Siegenthaler who passed away November 21, 2023. We will always remember the happy memories we have in knowing Keith. He will be affectionately remembered and sadly missed by all who knew him. May those memories bring you joy and peace.

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### **WOMEN'S GUILD**

Annual Women's Guild Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday, December 13th at noon. Lunch will be provided, we will be having Chili/chicken noodle soup, sandwiches and dessert. Anyone who wishes to participate in a gift exchange please bring a \$5-\$10 gift

wrapped or in a bag and we will be playing a gift take away game. Look forward to seeing everyone there, it's always a fun afternoon.

There will be no Women's Guild meetings in January and February. Also, if anyone has any ideas for programs at our monthly meeting please let me know. I am having trouble coming up with ideas.

Debbie Loken  
Guild President

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### **THANK YOU!!**

An awesome group of volunteers represented Immanuel UCC and rang the Salvation Army Bells at Piggly Wiggly. A huge thank you goes out to Betsy Ellefson, Brooks, Hudson & Jordan Hinderman, Nancy McCarten, Tana Risseeuw, Hailey, Marjean & Rachel Sutherland, Steve &

Sheila Siegler and their grandchildren, Abby, Willy & Zoey. They did an amazing job as the bucket was full when it was returned to the bank.

Marjean Sutherland

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

On December 17th there will be a Sunday School Christmas Program during worship.

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## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The Christmas Eve evening service at Immanuel will be at 5:00 p.m. Please come and join in the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

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## PASTORAL CARE

If you know of any church member that would appreciate a pastoral visit, please let Pastor Bob Wilkins know and he will follow up with the contact. You can contact Pastor Wilkins at 812-691-0907, or at 608-776-4110.

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## October 2023 Financial Information

	October 2023	Budget	Year to Date 2023	Year to Date Budget
Contributions/Other Revenue	\$ 7,059	\$ 8,939	\$ 79,063	\$ 74,422
Expenses	\$ 5,663	\$ 8,580	\$ 56,056	\$ 72,487
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ 1,396	\$ 359	\$ 23,007	\$ 1,935

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Wishing all of you a happy,  
healthy and safe Christmas  
season.

**Merry Christmas!**



#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 13 – Women's Guild Christmas party at noon
- Dec. 17 – Sunday School Christmas Program during worship
- Dec. 20 – Church Council Meeting at 6:15 p.m.
- Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m.
- Dec. 25 – **MERRY CHRISTMAS**

Dec. 26 – Deadline for January newsletter articles



**Luke 2:8–11 announces that Christ the Lord, our Savior, has come. Rejoice in the Lord.**

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D I V A D K H N R T D L  
S I H C N E E B E O I K  
D E I F I R R E T W A T  
R R D I A R F A P N S A  
E E O B C R R U E I C E  
H H O R O O A S R P N R  
P T G I U T K H E E P G  
E S V N H C C O A N L A  
H A D G O T P R B O R N  
S F I L A L B S R H I G  
S N F W E Y H Y I S F E  
G D L I V I N G D R O L  
Y A D O T B F H B T T H

AFRAID	ANGEL	APPEARED
AROUND	BEEN	BORN
BRING	CHRIST	DAVID
FIELDS	FLOCKS	GLORY
GOOD	GREAT	KEEPING
LIVING	LORD	NEARBY
NEWS	NIGHT	PEOPLE
SAID	SAVIOR	SHEPHERDS
SHONE	TERRIFIED	THERE
TODAY	TOWN	WATCH

And **there** were **shepherds living** out in the **fields nearby**, **keeping watch** over their **flocks** at **night**. An **angel** of the **Lord** **appeared** to them, and the **glory** of the **Lord shone around** them, and they were **terrified**. But the **angel said** to them, “Do not be **afraid**. I **bring** you **good news** of **great** joy that will be for all the **people**. **Today** in the **town** of **David** a **Savior** has **been born** to you; he is **Christ the Lord**. (Created with Logos® Software.)



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 <sup>ST</sup>	Diane Ritchie
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Chuck Gratz
7 <sup>th</sup>	Janette Steger
9 <sup>th</sup>	Kerry Black
10 <sup>th</sup>	Maddox Reilly
12 <sup>th</sup>	Ron Blaser
13 <sup>th</sup>	Cindy Pluemer
17 <sup>th</sup>	Jaci Kammes
24 <sup>th</sup>	Suzanne Marx
25 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Glendenning Gary Paynter
29 <sup>th</sup>	Ardith Kundert
	Anthony Buss
30 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Leahy

## DECEMBER LITURGISTS

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jordan Hinderman
10 <sup>th</sup>	Pam Hardt
17 <sup>th</sup>	Brandi Ruf Wepking
24 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Blaser
Christmas Eve Service—Nancy Slama	
31 <sup>st</sup>	Joan Blaser



Deadline for the  
January  
newsletter  
articles is  
**December 26,  
2023.**



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11 <sup>th</sup>	Travis & Nicole Lewin
12 <sup>th</sup>	Ron & Carol Johnson
31 <sup>st</sup>	Sara & John Gleason Jay & Peggy Lancaster