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Immanuel Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 55
Atwater, MN 56209

CHURCH Decorating Day Dec. 1 - 11 a.M.

CHRISTMAS Program
Dec. 15 - 9 a.M.

CHRISTMAS Eve WORSHIP
Dec. 24 - 4:30/11 p.M.

Rev. Christa Forsythe, Pastor
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Facebook: Immanuel Lutheran - Atwater, MN

The OUTREACH
Volume XXXVIII - Number XII - December 2013

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 1 - 1st Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m.Worship/Holy Communion
10:00 a.m.Fellowship
10:15 a.m.Sunday School
10:15 a.m.Confirmation

December 8 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m.Worship
10:00 a.m.Fellowship
10:15 a.m.Sunday School
10:15 a.m.Confirmation

December 15 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m.Worship
SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
10:00 a.m.Fellowship
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - NO CONFIRMATION

December 22 - 4th Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m.Worship/Holy Communion
CHOIR SINGS
10:00 a.m.Fellowship
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - NO CONFIRMATION

December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:30 p.m.Worship/Holy Communion
11:00 p.m. .Candlelight Worship/Communion

December 29 - 1st Sunday After Christmas

9:00 a.m.Worship
10:00 a.m.Fellowship
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - NO CONFIRMATION

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Join us for a special Christmas Worship service December 24 as we celebrate the incarnation, Jesus' birth.



There will be two services this year, one at 4:30 p.m. and one at 11 p.m. Holy Communion will be celebrated at both services.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 15, our Sunday School youth will be presenting the **"The Best Gift"** during our 9:00 a.m. worship service. The kids have been busy learning fun songs and filming parts of the program in Sunday School during recent weeks, and they are excited to share their program with you!

Kids should meet in the Fellowship Hall at 8:30 a.m. that day to line up and practice songs.

WORSHIP SERVICE BROADCAST TIMES

Our Sunday Worship is broadcast on Channel #8 every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m.

If you have a special request for a church service broadcast, please call 320.974.3388.

OFFICE HOURS

The **church office** is typically staffed Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9 a.m. - Noon. & Fridays 9-11 a.m.

Pastor Christa's office hours are currently Wednesday and Friday from 9-noon, and Tuesday 8:30-10 a.m., or by appointment. Pastor Christa will be in the office many afternoons, but left those hours open for pastoral care, visitation, etc. Call her for any reason: 320-535-0641.

Please be aware that if an office staff member is working in the building alone, the doors will be locked. Please knock, or call ahead if you need to enter the building.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The World Trembles with Fear --- and God in the Flesh Enters In --- Immanuel, God with us! God's Love Meets Our Fear

John 1:5 "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

"God, I am sorry I ran from you. I am still running, running from that knowledge, that eye, that love from which there is no refuge. For you meant only love and love, and I felt only fear and pain. So once in Israel – love came to us incarnate, stood in the doorway between two worlds, and we were all afraid."

— Annie Dillard, writer and poet

Fear. It is a primal instinct – one that has determined survival over the centuries. And yet, in Scripture, God says – "Fear not, I am with you," or "Do not be afraid, I am here," over 365 times. I wonder why that is? Perhaps because the God of this world knows that worry, anxiety, and fear is our response to many things. It is how we respond to stress. It is how we respond to new changes, even good ones. Fear is a driving force in our lives, even when it is not about us. We worry and have fears for our children and grandchildren -- and sometimes, though, we ourselves may not be afraid --- we carry our fear for others like weights of worry, in our vain attempt to control the outcome of things through our worry and fears. In my experience, fear does only one thing --- it destroys and kills. Fear robs us of love, joy, peace, and hope. When we live in a place of anxiety, worry, and fear --- the peace and hope of God feel far away.

During the season of Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas, we are bombarded with Christmas come early. Lights are up, decorations are set. "Buy, buy, buy!" is what we are told by the ads. We even fall prey to the worries and fears, as we judge for ourselves that we are lacking compared to others because of material wealth or key gifts or items. We also let fear and worry take over our expectation for Christmas get-togethers, as the stress of family life or work life spills into our celebration. Or for many --- after the loss of a loved one --- we just long for January when the pain, loss, fear, and sorrow are not so great. Fear, worry, sorrow – they take over the Christmas celebration.

Our celebration of what? Before we know it --- the Christ child has gotten completely lost at Christmas. As fear, worry, and "to do lists" take over our preparations and gatherings at Christmas, we lost sight of the One who loves us with a love that will never let us go. The One who answers our fears and worries with – do not be afraid.

Yet, what does God do with our worry and fear? What does God do with our judgment of others? What does God do with our busy-ness that takes over our heart for family, friends and faith? What does God do?

God comes. Immanuel – God with us.

As my son's Children's Bible answers through Sally Lloyd Jones' words. What does God do?

Pastor's Message - To Page 7

COFFEE SERVING SIGN-UP IN NARTHEX

This year, we will have a calendar for families to sign-up to serve coffee hour. The calendar will be available until Sunday, December 29. After that date, names will be filled in by the Faith In Action team. You may be asked to serve more than once. Dates are available from February 23, 2014 thru February 2015.

JANUARY OUTREACH DEADLINE

January Outreach **articles are due** in the church office on **Sunday, December 15.**

We will be **fold**ing the December Outreach **Friday, December 27**, at 9:00 a.m. Helping hands are needed. **PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE!**

WELCA NEWS

Merry Christmas and Good will to all!

I think about all the preparation that I need to get ready for the holiday and again I am overwhelmed.



The cards, cookies, baking decorating, gatherings, getting ready for family homecomings. All things that could be so very hectic if I let them overwhelm me. These are things that are and most definitely should be considered blessings; the things we appreciate the most especially at such a blessed time of the year, that we Celebrate the Coming of our Lord!

WELCA will be readying Christmas plates of cookies for our shut-ins and others. This will take place December 8. If you are able to bring 2 dozen cookies to share in this event, it would be much appreciated. Cookie plates will be assembled after coffee, either in the fellowship hall or the library. Thank you!

New dish towels are being added to the kitchen, and we are still looking for a bargain for glasses for the kitchen also. Serving group 6 is still on kitchen detail until January.

We are still looking for Ideas for the Love Offering in February. We have a few things to consider, but we are open to all suggestions.

We would like help revamping the serving group list and Co-chairs for 2014, If you have ideas for this, please go for it. Any and all help is gratefully accepted.

Merry Christmas!

**Sisters in Christ, Linda Burns
WELCA Interim President**

WEATHER-RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the event that Immanuel's worship services are cancelled, Q102 (102.5FM)/KWLM (1340AM) radio in Willmar will be where the cancellation is announced. You can also check "Operation Snow Desk" at www.yourq102.com

4 - The Outreach

WOMEN'S MORNING BIBLE STUDY



The Women's Morning Bible Study meets at Peaceful Thymes at 9:00 a.m. Thursday mornings.

Immanuel's Website is New & Improved!

Visit the church website to view The Outreach, Weekly Bulletins & The Monthly Calendar.

**www.immanuelatwater.com
email: imman@frontiernet.net**

**Other Helpful Internet Links:
Prayer Ventures:**

<http://archive.elca.org/prayerventures/>

Synod Update:

<http://www.swmnelca.org/html/Synod%20Update.html>

GLLM Retreats: www.gllm.org



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Find us at [Immanuel Lutheran - Atwater, MN](https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheran-Atwater-MN). We hope to use this site as a valuable outreach tool, and to post announcements and information. There are lots of great photos to see, and it is a great way to stay in touch with church events.

Immanuel Lutheran Church - Atwater, MN

POINSETTIAS



Poinsettias will be for sale to help decorate our church for Christmas. Order forms will be inserted into the worship bulletin December 1 and 8, and will also be available in the office. Poinsettias are available in Red, Pink, Burgundy, and Blue, and cost is \$16. Order deadline is **Sunday, December 8.**

LIVE NATIVITY SCENE

Hawick United Methodist Church. Saturday, December 14 from 4-7 p.m. "Follow the Star" and drive by to experience the wonder of that Holy Night. Weather permitting. Please bring a food shelf item and/or cash donation for area community food shelves.

CAROLING & COCOA

& Open House at Forsythe Home

KEEP THE DATE OPEN!! Our Caroling & Cocoa event is right around the corner! ALL AGES ARE WELCOME as we share some Christmas spirit through song.

When: Sunday, December 22, 5:45 p.m.

Where: Meet at church at 5:45 p.m. We will go Christmas-Caroling around Atwater, then meet at the Forsythe home after we are done to enjoy cocoa, snacks, and holiday fellowship!

Bring: Warm outdoor clothes and a snack to share

Provided: Hot Cocoa & Marshmallows, Apple Cider

All Are WELCOME!



CHOIR DATES

Immanuel's choir practices at 7 p.m. Wednesdays. We will be singing at the December 22 service, and possibly the 11 p.m. candlelight service. We are always looking for more voices to join us!

CHRISTMAS AT TRINITY

You are invited to the 20th Annual Christmas at Trinity. Saturday, December 7, from 9 a.m. - Noon in Grove City. Brunch is \$7/adult, \$3.50/child 10 and under. Take outs are \$7.50. Coffee & roll is \$2. Cookie Walk \$4.00/dozen. Candies, bake sale, lefse, ethnic goodies, crafts, quilts, rugs, cards, napkins, raffles, live Christmas music and more. Everyone welcome.

LUTEFISK & MEATBALL DINNER

Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer. Saturday, December 7, from 4-6:30 p.m. Meal includes lutefish, meatballs, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, glorified rice, romeogrot, lefse, flatbread, rosettes, milk, and coffee. Adults \$14, children ages 5-12 \$6.

BLOCK NURSE MOVIE

The Living At Home Block Nurse Program will be showing their last movie December 9th at Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 1:30 p.m. The movie will be "Deck the Halls". Two neighbors have it out after one of them decorates his house for the holidays so brightly that it can be seen from space. Come enjoy this last presentation, some treats, coffee, and a few laughs with friends. See you at the movie!



Immanuel's Decorating Day



Sunday, December 1 at 11 a.m.

Help us decorate Immanuel for the Advent and Christmas seasons...
and have some **FUN** in the process!

Come and enjoy cider, coffee, cookies, and carols!

BBQ's and chips will be provided. Bring a snack to share if you'd like.

Enjoy fellowship with others in our faith community.

All ages are welcome...there are jobs for every member of the family!

CONNECT WITH PASTOR CHRISTA...

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I still look forward to hear about your longings for Immanuel – your hopes and dreams for God's work in and through this congregation, God's people and God's hands. I am also eager to hear your story... your challenges, struggles, blessings, and hopes and dreams. So – here are some ways to connect in the months ahead:

COTTAGE MEETINGS: Coffee and dessert and time to connect. These are gatherings in someone's home on an evening or late afternoon – time to fellowship, eat, drink, and dream about what God is up to here at Immanuel.

The **DECEMBER** Cottage Meeting dates are: Thursday, December 5, at 7 p.m. at Lee & Deb Mickle's home; Tuesday, December 10, at 7 p.m. at Denise & Kern Kragenbring's home; and Tuesday, December 17 at Pat & Sandy Walsh's home.

Sign-up and come to share, fellowship, get to know each other and DREAM together! It is our hope that all Immanuel members come to these gatherings of 8-10 people. Whether you've been here through all the transitions or been away for a while...join us! (More Cottage meetings in January).

HOME VISITS: If interested in having Pastor Christa connect with you at your home, please, call her #320-535-0641 or call the church office. Thanks! Looking forward to connecting!



SWEATER SALE FUNDRAISER

Do some of your gift shopping right here at Immanuel!

There are many great sweaters hanging in the Narthex, and all are just \$10 each! Great styles and colors! Great gift ideas!

All sweater sale money will benefit the youth of Immanuel.

FUTURE EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

2014

Annual Meeting - January 26

Our Congregational Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 26, 2014, at 10:00 a.m.

ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE

All committee and organization reports for the Annual Report are due in the church office by December 15.

Camper Brunch - January 26

Our Bible Campers and their families will be serving a brunch following worship January 26. Your free-will offerings will support Immanuel's Bible Campers. Come and enjoy coffee and brunch during the Annual Meeting! **(If you attended camp in 2013, please plan on helping serve this brunch!)**

Camp Sunday in February

It is not too early to start thinking about Bible Camp!

Immanuel is a corporate congregation of GLLM, so our members receive the corporate rate for camp programs. Immanuel also helps to fund a portion of the youth cost of attending Bible camp at a GLLM camp.** If you have questions about camp, please contact Janelle.



****In order to be eligible for financial support from Immanuel, you must be registered with the camp and notify the church office BY APRIL 27.**

Carpenter's Tools March 30

The Carpenter's Tools musical group will be leading our worship March 30. Immanuel member Erica Borchert sings with this group.

Pastor's Message - From Page 3

"Everything was ready. The moment God had been waiting for was here at last! God was coming to help his people, just as he promised in the beginning. But how would he come? What would he be like? What would he do? Mountains would have bowed down. Seas would have roared. Trees would have clapped their hands. But the earth held its breath. As silent as snow falling, he came in. And when no one was looking, in the darkness, he came..."

"God gave the world his wonderful gift. The baby that would change the world was born. His baby Son... This baby would be like that bright star shining in the sky that night. A Light to light up the whole world. Chasing away darkness. Helping people to see. And the darker the night got, the brighter the star would shine... This child was a new kind of king. Though he was the Prince of Heaven, he had become poor. Though he was the Mighty God, he had become a helpless baby. This King hadn't come to be the boss. He had come to be a servant... Heaven had broken though. The Great Rescue had begun..."

May we each hear God's call to "Fear not," as Christ enters into our homes, workplaces, bedrooms, cars, attics, schools, buses, locker rooms, barns, rec rooms, bars, shops, and sanctuaries. May we bring our fears, worries, judgments and busy-ness to the feet of the Christ-child and see how the Judge of all Judges looks at us with love and casts out fear and sin and judgment. Immanuel, God with us, looks at us with love and judges us as worth the love and life of the Christ-child. That kind of love destroys the power of sin and death, of fear and judgment. That kind of love --- sets us free.

As Annie Dillard wrote, the love of God became incarnate and stood between two worlds beckoning us to fear not *and to come...*

May we have courage, hope and joy to COME just as we are and SEE all that the Lord has done. Witness God's love incarnate as we await and witness the birth of the Christ-child. May Immanuel, God with us, fill us to overflowing, as God's love and grace pours out of us this Advent season.

CORNER

Christian Education

bible Camp

Campers, please submit a few sentences telling us about your camp experience, as well as a picture or two, if you have some. Many of you have returned from camp already, but we haven't received any pics yet...hint, hint!

sunday School

Christmas program practice will continue December 1 and 8. It is very important for the kids to be at Sunday School these days so we can prepare for the program.

Sunday School students will be presenting "The Best Gift" during our 9:00 a.m. worship December 15. Please meet downstairs in the Fellowship Hall at 8:30 a.m. that morning to line up and practice songs.

bible camp Fundraisers

The "Book Sale" Bible Camp Fundraiser continues. Anyone who has gently used books that you are finished with (including children's books) is encouraged to donate books for our sale. **Cost: \$1/hardcover, \$.50/softcover.** Thanks for supporting our campers, and thanks to all those who have donated and purchased books. We plan to continue this fundraiser as long as we have books to sell, so please check out the selection of books regularly!

1x1 pastor Time

Connection Time with Pastor Christa - 6th-12th graders, Pastor Christa wants to connect with you and take you for coffee, ice cream - or whatever. So call or text her at #320-535-0641.

Christian Education Ministry Team Members

Harold Eisenbacher (council rep) ♦ Jaylen Rossell (council rep)
Barb Everson ♦ Janelle Eisenbacher ♦ Nick Rossell ♦ Shane Hagstrom

milestone Ministry

At Baptism, parents make promises to God to raise their child in faith and teach them about God's love. Milestone Ministry is Immanuel's way to support parents in that promise.



Next Milestone - For 1st/2nd Graders:

Sunday, December 1: 1st/2nd Graders receive their Advent Log and special prayer during worship.

camper Brunch

Campers will be serving a brunch Sunday, January 26 following worship. This is the day of the annual meeting. Please plan to stay for brunch and the annual meeting and support our campers. Your free-will offerings will help pay camp fees for 2014. Anyone who attended camp in 2013 should plan to help serve the brunch.

confirmation Classes

Confirmation students: remember your yearly requirement of sermon notes (20), service hours (25), & activity points (4).

Regular confirmation classes will meet December 1, 8, 15.

Any 7th-12th Graders interested in singing a song together for the Christmas program, please talk to Pastor Christa.

confirmation Notes

Important Dates:

Monday, December 2 - Confirmation students will be selling wreaths with the Atwater Lions. Meet at the Atwater Community Center at 6 p.m. This is a required service event for Confirmation.

Wednesday, December 4 - Confirmation make-up class from 6-8 p.m.

Wednesday, December 18 - Confirmation Christmas Party; 6-7:30 p.m. at Immanuel.

christian education Calendar of Events

(watch for monthly updates!)

DATE	TIME - PLACE	EVENT
December 1	9:00 a.m./Immanuel	1st/2nd Graders Advent Milestone Ministry
December 2	6:00 p.m./Atwater Community Center	Confirmation Kids Help Sell Christmas Wreaths
December 4	6-8 p.m./Immanuel	Confirmation Make-Up Day
December 15	9:00 a.m./Immanuel	Christmas Program
December 18	6-7:30 p.m./Immanuel	Confirmation Christmas Party
December 22		No Sunday School or Confirmation Classes
December 29		No Sunday School or Confirmation Classes
January 26	10:00 a.m./Immanuel	Campers & Families Serve Brunch
February Date TBD	9:00 a.m./Immanuel	Camp Sunday

FROM OUR MISSIONARIES

Dear Sponsoring Congregations:

We are only days away from All Saints Day and of course we just celebrated Reformation Sunday. We give thanks to God for sending us Martin Luther and inspiring him to work for the Gospel with all his heart and soul. His influence is still very much with us today. Even in Japan Reformation Sunday presents us with an opportunity to see our true condition as sinners and yet we have the promise of eternal life through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

Below please read the experience that Carol recently had.

May each of you be able to rejoice in this season of both fall and reformation. We always give thanks for your partnership.

In Christ, Jim and Carol Sack

A homeless man made his abode in a small truck equipped in the back with charcoal-stone grill that roasts the savory Japanese sweet potatoes. One sees such trucks at park entrances and other places, and the aroma of these potatoes is like an invisible ribbon that draws passersby, inviting them to purchase a steaming potato wrapped in paper bag. This is one of the rare foods that are not considered impolite to eat while walking. At night you can hear the identifiable sing-song speaker of the truck, announcing: "Potato~~ stone-roasted sweet potato!" This is one of the nostalgic sound imprints for anyone who has lived in Japan for a while.

Just such a potato man happened to come in contact with a young man, well-dressed but for some reason at that time penniless and famished. The potato man, in a reversal of customary fortune, offered the hungry young man a potato, free of charge. The young man gratefully received the potato but could not part without giving something to the potato man in return; thus he offered the potato man a book.



Mr. Furuya (in the wheel chair).

The potato man was a kind of wise soul, actually well read. He took this book and began reading it. He realized it was "a strange book." Perhaps his natural curiosity led him to continue reading it by the roadside. An older woman came by, strolling with a friend. The woman saw the potato man reading this book and said, bluntly, "If you are reading this book, you should be going to church." The book was the Bible, and the potato man took up her invitation and began attending the woman's church.

From this point there is a gap in my knowledge of the story. I met the potato man last January. His name is Furuya san. After his introduction to the church, he eventually, not without struggle, received Baptism and became a church member. I met him many years after this, six months before his death at the age of 63. The woman who invited him to church was the mother of one of my pastoral harp students. The mother

Missionaries Greeting - To Page 10

OCTOBER OFFERING

General Fund

First Sunday	\$3608.00
Second Sunday	1541.00
Third Sunday	797.00
Fourth Sunday	1753.00
Total	\$7,699.00

Building Fund

First Sunday	\$90.00
Second Sunday	0.00
Third Sunday	0.00
Fourth Sunday	75.00
Total	\$165.00

Organ Replacement Project

First Sunday	\$345.00
Second Sunday	0.00
Third Sunday	60.00
Fourth Sunday	115.00
Total	\$520.00

Per Sunday

Average Attendance (per Sunday)	104
Avg. General Giving (per service) ...	\$1925.00
Avg. Building Fund Giving (per service) ..	\$41.00

Offering Needed

Per Sunday	\$3253.00
Per Month	\$14,095.00

Income for 2013 (excluding Organ Project)

Thru October	\$106,810.00
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Needed for Remainder of 2013 ... \$52,538.00

2013 Total Budget \$159,348.00

**please note that these figures do not
reflect all financial transactions*

Missionaries Greeting - From Page 9

passed away four years ago, and now Furuya san was dying with her identical form of cancer. My student called in a panic, as Furuya san, angry at his pastor, depressed, feeling abandoned, and estranged many years from his former wife and daughter, was now leaning upon her for all the support he needed at this end of his very complicated life. My student was scared by his level of need, and yet knew that to run away would be a betrayal of her mother's good will and of her own deepest Self, informed by God's Holy Spirit.

Our entire class gradually came to know Furuya san, having several opportunities to share pastoral harp with him and with others in his hospice ward, at his request. It was expected that he would live one month or so, but we had the privilege of knowing him for six. In that time, the ideas we were reading about Spiritual Care for the dying came to us in a living form. We saw a man transformed. We saw a complaining man become a man full of gratitude. We saw a man angry at his pastor become a sheep returned. We saw a man afraid of death become a man ready and waiting~~ except for one matter.

In the very last week of life, Furuya san became desperate to re-connect with his daughter whom he had not seen in 40 years. Finally he accepted the terrifying the risk of rejection and wrote a letter, delivered to her unknown destination by a knowing relative~~ saying~~ I love you! I have always loved you! May God's love be with you!

By the time the daughter received the letter she rushed to her father's bedside, in time to see her father face-to-face, just a few hours after he made his transition to the Lord's Presence. The daughter washed her love upon her father's urn, embracing it in the funeral. My student commented, "At last Furuya san was held in his daughter's loving arms." He bequeathed his Bible and spiritual journal to this daughter.

We offered pastoral music to him, he offered us a "living textbook" in which the theoretical words were made manifest in Furuya san's life and death. Again we can say, "The dying are our teachers." Praise be to God.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - November 13, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robin Johnson, Jaylen Rossell, Pat Walsh, John Hagstrom, Harold Eisenbacher, Sue Bohn, Dean Nelson, Jacklyn Frericks, Deb Mickle, Pastor Christa.

Meeting called to order by Harold Eisenbacher. Devotions led by Sue Bohn. Minutes of the last meeting approved. Treasurer's Report approved.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Snow removal: Dale Anderson and son and grandson will remove snow.
2. Soybean Project will be discussed at the next council meeting.
3. Finance/Stewardship Committee will address giving needs and giving patterns of our congregation.
4. Council talked at length regarding Immanuel's giving and financial situation. Current giving (time, talents, money) does not meet our present needs.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS: Full reports, if available, can be found in the Church Office.

Christian Education:

1. Christmas program December 15.
2. Switching back to classroom curriculum in January.
3. 1st/2nd graders making Advent logs for Milestone ministry.
4. March 30 Carpenter's Tools will be leading worship and possibly Sunday School music.
5. Possible Epiphany party in January.

Building/Property: Water fountain is repaired.

Finance/Stewardship: Budget planning for 2014 is underway.

Worship & Music: Christmas services are being planned.

Evangelism/Faith in Action:

1. Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat went great.
2. Project HOPE backpack packing went well.
3. Christmas decorating is Dec. 1, starting at 11 a.m. BBQ's provided. Everyone encouraged to attend.
4. Working on planning a Lenten service project; possibly school kits or health kits through LWR.
5. Caroling party planned for December 22.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Christa submitted a report highlighting Confirmation Sunday, All Saints Sunday, Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat. She spoke about financial concerns and raised the question about if Immanuel can afford a full-time pastor, or would 3/4 time be necessary. She talked about making sure that part-time staff members are both encouraged and compensated adequately. She supports making the Financial Secretary position a paid position in 2014. Full report is available in the Church Office.

OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS: Annual Report articles are due December 15.

Respectfully Submitted, Robin Johnson, Secretary

Council & Ministry Team Schedule

Council Meets: December 11, 7 p.m.

Devotions: Deb Mickle

Worship & Music: Wed. Dec. 11 - 6 p.m.

Christian Ed.: Sun., Dec. 8 - 11:30 a.m.

Finance/Stewardship: TBD*

Property: TBD*

Evangelism/Faith in Action:

Sun. Dec. 22 - 10:15 a.m.

*Team Leaders, please notify the church office of your monthly meeting date and time so that information can be included in the Outreach.

A NOTE FROM ILC'S FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP TEAM:

ILC brothers & sisters in Christ, THANK YOU for all the ways you have given of yourselves, your time, gifts, and finances in 2013. Your serving and giving have blessed Immanuel and God has used it all for His ministry here and outside our walls. Please, continue to remember Immanuel in your year end charitable giving. Many thanks for all you are and give to ILC!

--- Thankfully, ILC's Finance & Stewardship Team and Pastor Christa

NEW MEMBERS

Immanuel welcomed 9 new members Sunday, November 17: Kate & Trevor Berger and their children, Kendell & Micah; Pastor Christa & Jon Forsythe and their children, Marcus & Jennica; and Linda Marshall, who is transferring her membership back to Immanuel, which was her childhood church.

Bergers moved to Atwater from Litchfield. Kate is an English teacher at ACGC high school and Trevor is Chief of Police for the city of Atwater.

Forsythes also moved to Atwater from Litchfield when Pastor Christa accepted the call to be Immanuel's new Pastor. Jon is the Assistant Administrator in charge of PR and Marketing for Wings Adolescent Treatment Center in Litchfield.

Linda is the daughter of Glenn & Betty Stranberg. Except for periodic visits to family in Atwater, she has been gone for 40 years and is happy to be back. She is a Travel Director and does onsite management of corporate events.



The Berger Family



Linda Marshall



The Forsythe Family



NEWLY BAPTIZED

Tayden Robert Frericks

We rejoice as Tayden Robert Frericks was welcomed into God's family through the sacrament of Holy Baptism Sunday, November 24.

Tayden is the son of Jacklyn & Justin Frericks and his sponsors were Jared Pistulka, Zac Pistulka, and Rebecca Nelson.

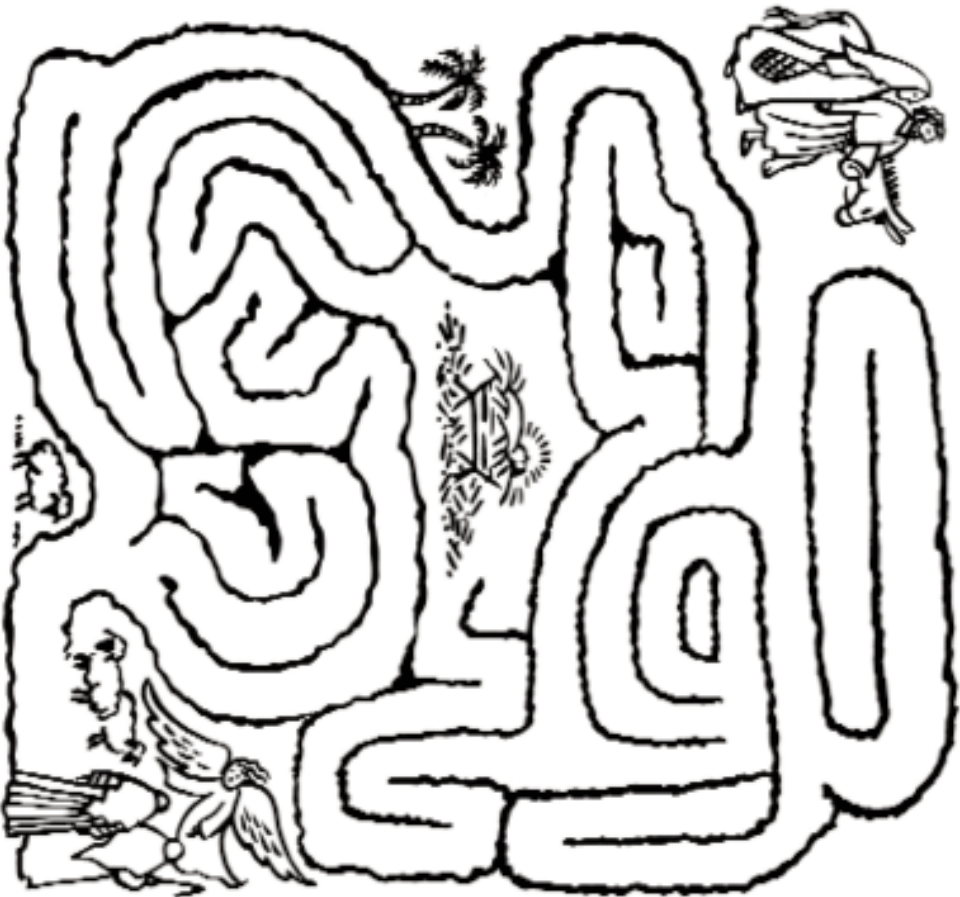
God's Blessings to Tayden and his family!

hear & Celebrate

God came to us in Jesus on Christmas night

Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Help Mary and Joseph find their way to the stable.



Help the shepherds find their way to the new baby.

KIDS' PAGE

Christmas carols



We sing joyful songs at Christmas to celebrate

Jesus' birth. What is your favorite Christmas carol?

What is your family's favorite Christmas carol? Who

sang the first Christmas carol? Angels! Use the code

to find the first words of the angels' song.

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Please remember to notify the church office of any corrections that should be made to birthdays, anniversaries, names, addresses, etc., so we can keep our files updated. Thanks!

- | | | | |
|------|---|-------|---|
| 12-1 | Delvin Hoepner
Carla Hagstrom
Amanda Fusari | 12-10 | Mark Berscheid
Lindsey Peterson |
| 12-2 | Pat Walsh
Adam Shultz
Kyrietta Rouser | 12-11 | Jacklyn Frericks |
| 12-3 | Dale Anderson
Nicolas Hutchinson | 12-12 | Julie Evenson |
| 12-4 | Tiffany Hintz
Travys Lawver | 12-13 | Chery Mueller
Lynn Buisman
Jada Rosenquist |
| 12-6 | David Hedberg | 12-14 | Bill Bergstrom
Jesse Hutchinson
Dana Hedberg |
| 12-7 | Harold Eisenbacher
Holly Hoekstra | 12-19 | Cheryl Rouser
Emily Naber |
| | | 12-21 | Mark Preuss
Hayden Straumann
Brayden DeArmond |
| | | 12-23 | Pat Heining
Steve Wothe |
| | | 12-24 | Joan Nelson |
| | | 12-25 | Mary Peterson |
| | | 12-28 | Halle Miller |
| | | 12-29 | Dylan Rossell |
| | | 12-31 | Vern Passmore
Bruce Wothe |

HOMEBOUND LIST

Please remember these homebound people with a visit, a card, or a special prayer to bring a little added sunshine into their lives.



Doris Berscheid
Box 266
Atwater, MN 56209

Mark S. Berscheid
Sunnyview
Room #1
316 Sunrise Lane
P.O. Box 686
Atwater, MN 56209

Lucille Carlson
Bethesda Heritage
1012 3rd St. SE
Room 360
Willmar, MN 56201

Blanche Hoepner
Sunnyview
316 Sunrise Lane
P.O. Box 686
Atwater, MN 56209

Bill Hutchinson
Bethesda Heritage
Room 322B
1012 3rd St.
Willmar, MN 56201

**Robert &
Darlene Kirk**
20277 105th Ave. SE
Atwater, MN 56209

Grace Peterson
11055 180th St. NE
Atwater, MN 56209
974-8273

Rocile Sokolosky
322 Sunrise Lane
Atwater, MN 56209
974-8217

Dennis Wallin
441 Williams Ave. E.
Apt. 207
Dassel, MN 55325

DECEMBER

Celebrating 
An Anniversary This Month

- | | |
|-------|---------------------------|
| 12-5 | Greg & Kim Holm |
| 12-10 | John & Carla Hagstrom |
| 12-11 | Jim & Chery Mueller |
| 12-17 | Kern & Denise Kragenbring |
| 12-18 | Ron & Kathy Garner |
| 12-30 | Larry & Sheila Rossell |
| 12-31 | Dale & Bethany Ehrenberg |

December *Assisting Schedule*

Ushers Russ, Martin, & Ryan
Peterson, Don Anderson

Communion Assistants

Dec 1 Robin Johnson
22 Harlan Madsen
24 Sharon Cramlet-4:30 pm
Connie Halvorson-4:30 pm
Dennis Goehring-4:30 pm
TBD-11 p.m.

Lectors

Dec 1 Harold Eisenbacher
8 Veda Stockland
15 Pat Walsh
22 Martin Peterson
24 Connie Halvorson-4:30 pm
TBD-11 pm
29 Rolayne Beerman

Greeters

Dec 1 Ernie & Shirley Frarck
8 Dale & Bethany Ehrenberg
15 Susan Bohn
22 Dennis & Sharon Goehring
29 Doug & Debbie Hanson

Acolytes

Dec 1 Skye Powers
8 Elizabeth Sherwood
15 Holly Hoekstra
22 Jaylen Rossell
24 Gabe Eisenbacher-4:30 pm
24 Holly Hoekstra-11 pm
29 Kobe Holtz

Altar Guild

Larry & Sheryl Stranberg

Offering Counter

Dean Nelson

Coffee Hour Servers

Dec 1 Jeff & Leslie Blom
Erick & Pam Narragon
8 Lee & Deb Mickle
Val & David Svor
15 Bob & Peggy Starz
Anthony & Suzi Holtz
22 Roger & Robin Johnson
Sue Bohn
29 Brent & Jolene Garberich
Crystal & Matt Gomez

January *Assisting Schedule*

Ushers Greg & Kim Holm
Pat & Sandy Walsh

Communion Assistants

Jan 5 Chuck Stranberg
26 Janet Rossell

Lectors

Jan 5 Veda Stockland
12 Harlan Madsen
19 Bob Starz
26 Denise Kragenbring

Greeters

Jan 5 John & Sharon Holm
12 Sandy Edwards
19 Chuck & Jean Stranberg
26 Dean & Beth Nelson

Acolytes

Jan 5 Alex Hovey
12 Gabby Lawver
19 Emily Naber
26 Jeremy Nelson

Altar Guild

Harlan & Julie Madsen

Offering Counter

Chuck Stranberg

Coffee Hour Servers

Jan 5 Pat & Sandy Walsh
Veda Stockland
12 Nick & Melissa Rossell
19 Kyle & Kala Kaehler
Roger & Janet Rossell
26 BIBLE CAMPERS SERVE
ANNUAL MEETING BRUNCH