

**SAVED**

**By Grace,**

**CALLED**

**To Serve.**

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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit Number 2

Address Service Requested

**ANNUAL Meeting &  
Camper BRUNCH  
Sunday, January 26  
10 a.m.**

**Rev. Christa Forsythe, Pastor**  
[christaforsythe@gmail.com](mailto:christaforsythe@gmail.com)  
Cell: 320.535.0641

**Janelle Eisenbacher**  
**Office Administrator**  
Home: 320.664.4416

**Melissa Rossell**  
**Office Administrator**  
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**Church Contact Information**

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Website: [www.immanuelatwater.com](http://www.immanuelatwater.com)

Wise \* Men



Still Seek  
Him

Volume XXXIV - Number 1 - January 2014

The **OUTREACH**

Facebook: Immanuel Lutheran - Atwater, MN

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## January 5 - 2nd Sunday of Christmas

9:00 a.m. . . . .Worship/Holy Communion  
10:00 a.m. . . . .Fellowship  
10:15 a.m. . . . .Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. . . . .Confirmation  
11:30 a.m. . .Christian Education Team Meets

## January 12 - Baptism of Our Lord

9:00 a.m. . . . .Worship  
10:00 a.m. . . . .Fellowship  
10:15 a.m. . . . .Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. . . . .Confirmation  
2:00 p.m. . .Piano Recital (*students of Mary Benson*)

## January 19 - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 a.m. . . . .Worship  
10:00 a.m. . . . .Fellowship  
10:15 a.m. . . . .Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. . . . .Confirmation  
11:30 a.m. . . . .Faith In Action Team Meets

## January 26 - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

**BAPTISM OF LILY ROSE LITZAU**

9:00 a.m. . . . .Worship/Holy Communion  
10:00 a.m. . . . .Fellowship  
10:00 a.m. . . . .**Annual Meeting**

**CAMPERS/FAMILIES SERVE BRUNCH**

10:15 a.m. . . . .Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. . . . .Confirmation

# ANNUAL MEETING

**January 26, 2014**

Our Congregational Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 26, at 10:00 a.m. in the basement Fellowship Hall during our Fellowship time.

If you would like an Annual Report mailed to your home, please contact the church office, otherwise Annual Reports will be available at the church after Wednesday, January 15.



**The Annual Report will be assembled  
Wednesday, January 15, at 9 a.m.  
Helping hands are needed!**

# CAMPER BRUNCH

There will be a brunch served during the Annual Meeting Sunday, January 26. A free-will offering will be accepted and will be put towards camper fees for Immanuel's 2014 Bible Campers.

**2013 campers and their families are asked to provide 2 dozen muffins for the brunch.**  
**Your help in serving that morning would also be appreciated!**

## 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

## Wise Men Still Seek Him Today

*"If as Herod, we fill our lives with things  
and again with things.*

*If we consider ourselves so unimportant that we  
must fill every moment of our lives with action.  
When will we have time to make the long slow  
journey across the desert as did the Magi?  
Or sit and watch the stars as did the Shepherds?  
Or brood over the coming of the child as did Mary?  
For each one of us there is a desert to travel,  
a star to discover, and a being within ourselves  
being brought to life." — Michael Podesta*

The first chapter of the Gospel of John states: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... What has come into being in him was life – and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

Where is baby Jesus? Who took him? Who moved him? Where did he go?

A year ago, these were the words on Pastor Kathy Hartley's lips as the search was on for baby Jesus 2012. Well, again these words passed my lips – as we prepare for Christmas Eve. The nativity that was set up in the sanctuary throughout the December season of Advent did not have the Christ child in it. We waited until Christmas for baby Jesus to make an appearance. However, that means that each year – without fail – someone asks, "Where is baby Jesus?"

Throughout the season of Christmas (December 25-January 6th), we heard the good news of the Christ child born for us. The very name of our church, Immanuel – comes from the prophet Isaiah's prophecy of the coming Messiah. In the babe in the manger – we meet Immanuel, God with us. We then heard how the shepherds, angels,



animals, passers-by, and wise-men meet the baby Jesus. Their lives are forever changed because of this encounter with God, the Word made flesh.

As we approach Epiphany, when we celebrate the arrival of the magi in Bethlehem, we are in our darkest days of the year. In Jesus, we meet God's Light that will shine in the darkest of days and moments. In the Magi – we see strong, wise, intelligent, if not quite brilliant men from a different land who have been on a journey --- all the while asking and seeking --- where is baby Jesus?

Even Mary and Joseph ask, "Where is Jesus?" when a young, pre-teen Jesus is lost for three days in Jerusalem. After three long days, they find him safe, well, and teaching in the temple, "his Father's house."

The shepherds, Mary and Joseph, the wise men – even Pastor Kathy and I – we all asked the same question --- where is baby Jesus?

Perhaps after the hustle and bustle of Christmas and New Year's – now that life is back on a regular schedule again, kids and grand-kids back to school --- everyone back to work and life as normal --- perhaps you, too, are asking --- where is baby Jesus? Where did he go? How did he get lost or disappear so quickly?

*Pastor's Message - To Page 7*

## FEBRUARY OUTREACH DEADLINE

February Outreach **articles are due** in the church office on **Sunday, January 19.**

We will be **folding** the February Outreach Wednesday, **January 29**, at 9:00 a.m. Helping hands are needed.

# WELCA NEWS

Blessings to us from God to let us enjoy another year! Christmas has flown by. Special times and memories will last forever.

I hope for WELCA a year of great planning and success with our women's group by increasing in size and energy.



February is time to share our Love Offering. We need to meet to get our program set, and hopefully make some new plans for the rest of the year. Please bring your IDEAS to the meeting January 12, we will try to meet in the library after a bit of time with coffee and fellowship.

We will try the honor system of our serving groups helping to keep Immanuel kitchen in order and cleanliness. Serving group 1 will be responsible for January and February.

You are welcome to join in anytime with the Bible Study group on Thursday morning, and be on the buzz for when the girls start quilting again. If we don't get more help, we may have to discontinue making quilts and sharing the monies with the youth groups for their trips, Bible camp and Education. If you can't help on the days scheduled for quilting, maybe you could take materials home and work on creating a top for a quilt.

Thanks to all my helpers for making 2013 run smoothly.

Happy New YEAR to all!

**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](http://www.yourq102.com)***

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# 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](http://www.immanuelatwater.com)  
email: [imman@frontiernet.net](mailto: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](http://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*

# GOOD NEWS, GOOD BREWS! MEN'S RETREAT

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**Jan. 31-Feb. 2**

This is a "craft" weekend for the guys! If you ever wanted to learn about the craft of brewing beer, or just share your passion for brewing with others, this is the weekend for you! Experience the craft of brewing from start to finish! Near Sibley State Park, gather for a great winter getaway at The Village on the Shores of St. Andrew.

Get ready for some serious R&R with your leaders for the weekend: Pastor Reggie Klindworth, Dave Eliason and Ryan Allen. This is a great opportunity for crafting, conversation and community.

\$105.00 includes 2 nights lodging (double occupancy) snacks, four meals and supplies. A private room will be an added fee of \$20.00. Sign-up at Immanuel by January 12.

## FAMILY GAME NIGHT

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Join us Sunday, January 12, from 5-7 p.m. for supper, games, prizes, and faith-filled fun for the whole family. All ages welcome.

## THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

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Thrivent families: remember to dedicate your Thrivent Choice dollars to a charity of your choosing. If you have not directed your funds by the end of March your Choice dollars will go back to Thrivent to be given as Thrivent chooses.

## DRIVERS NEEDED

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Home delivered meals in Atwater is in need of drivers to deliver meals. Our biggest need is for people who can drive every Wednesday or Thursday or a Wednesday or a Thursday of a week (ex: second Wed./Thur of each month or every Wednesday of month). Currently we have fantastic "fill in" drivers who we schedule on those days but that involves a lot of time calling to see if they would be available to deliver meals on the days that are open. If you could help with this activity, please call 974-8737. If you would like to be a "fill in" driver, please call and let us know that too. Thank you!

*Saved By Grace, Called To Serve*

## DEEPER LIFE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

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Longing to be nourished, strengthened, satisfied? We've prepared just the place for you. Join us for the first annual Deeper Life Cornerstone Women's Conference February 21-22, 2014.

Cost: \$35. Friday, Feb. 21: 7 pm-9 pm (doors open @ 6:15). Saturday, Feb 22: 9 am-4 pm (doors open @ 8:30). Cost includes: Three sessions w/speaker Dee Brestin. Worship. Light snack, beverages and lunch. Two breakout sessions.

About our Speaker: Dee Brestin, author of 23 Bible studies. Dee's passion lies in teaching women how to dig into God's Word for themselves, encouraging them to climb higher in their relationship with Him.

Lodging: Americinn Lodge and Suites, 1525 E Hwy 12 (less than a mile from Cornerstone). 320-693-1600. Rate of: \$104 plus tax for rooms with two queen beds. Limited amount of rooms available, Call to reserve your room by January 21.



*The Outreach - 5*

# Let's thrive: Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®

## Keeping the Farm in the Family

--Free Special Event Open to Public--

In just one hour, you'll gain a better understanding of how to:

- Identify and overcome transition obstacles
- Protect your assets today and in the future
- Develop a transition plan and maintain family unity

**When:** January 21<sup>st</sup> 2014 at 6pm

**Where:** The Oak's at Eagle Creek  
1100 26<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Willmar, MN 56201

**Offered by:** The Kandiyohi County Area Associates Team  
Financial Representatives: Ben Munsch, Charles Munsch, Andy Boersma, John Patock  
Featuring Guest Speaker Don Mahlen

**RSVP:** Contact Spicer Office (320) 796-0119 by January 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

*A Complimentary Plated Dinner will be served prior to workshop*

**This is an important meeting aimed at farm families looking to transition farm ownership from one generation to the next.**

***"Everyone should have this information to make them think about what to do with their property/assets."***

*-Workshop participant*

## 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 **JANUARY** Cottage Meeting date is: Sunday, January 19, at 2:30 p.m. at Immanuel. There will possibly be another Cottage Meeting date added for January, as well. Watch the Sunday bulletins for more information.

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!

**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!



# FUTURE EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

# 2014

## 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.**

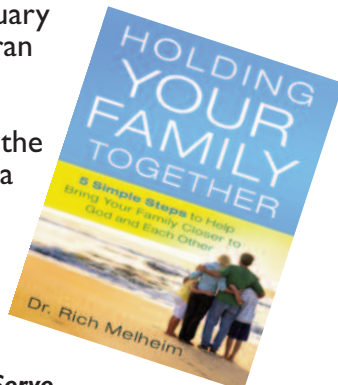
## Carpenter's Tools March 30

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

# HOLDING YOUR FAMILY TOGETHER FAITH 5 WORKSHOP

Workshop will be led by Rich Melheim, Director of Faith Inkubators. February 23, 1 p.m., at Vinje Lutheran Church in Willmar.

Sign up by February 9 in the church office. Join us for a great day to learn about passing on the faith to your kids at home.



*Saved By Grace, Called To Serve*

## Pastor's Message - From Page 3

Where is Jesus? A perfectly good question for us to ask --- especially when our life rushes past us in its busy, hurried style and before we know it,- Jesus seems to have disappeared from things.

Where is Jesus? Just like Mary and Joseph and their long three days seeking Jesus --- or the wise men and their even longer journey following the star with the hope of encountering the newest and best thing God was doing in creation --- God had come to earth, in the flesh. God comes to be with us, live with us, point us to His love that will never let us go. God was and is in the business of breaking all the boundaries between us and him in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The end to despair, hopelessness, self-centeredness, loneliness, sorrow, grief, pain --- even the end of death itself.

Yet, on their journey -- they must have felt like it was taking too long --- maybe they doubted or worried that they weren't going to find Jesus --- and then after three long days or months of travel --- God showed up.

God can do a lot with three long days.... God can do even more with our dark days or nights --- or even the dim, dull hum-drum of everyday life and schedules --- God brings Jesus right to us -- exactly where we are, just as we are --- and God breaks in bringing light and life.

Our preschool and Kindergartners sang last month, "Wise men still seek him today." Thanks be to God, that though it may seem foolish and odd to place our hope in a babe born 2000 year ago, it is not foolishness, but wisdom. Thanks be to God, that whether we seek him or not, God brings Christ to us -- to our workplaces, homes, businesses, cars, schools, clubs, bars, neighborhoods, town - into our very hearts and lives.

May we, like the magi --- have the courage to seek --- and even more to follow the one who finds us and brings us light and life. Where is baby Jesus? Right here, with you here and now --- and always. Thanks be to God!

**Peace, Pastor Christa**

# CORNER

Christian Education

## **camp Sunday**

We are hoping to celebrate Camp Sunday in February. If you are thinking about attending a Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Bible Camp this summer, this is a great time for you to learn more about the different programs available and the weekly schedule for summer camp. Watch for more information.

**2013 Bible Campers: Please submit your camp pictures and written memories/camp thoughts to the church office ASAP. You can also email the info to [imman@frontiernet.net](mailto:imman@frontiernet.net). We would like to include everyone who attended camp in 2013 in our camp slide show for Camp Sunday!**

## **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

## **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. Campers are asked to provide 2 dozen muffins for the brunch.

## **sunday School**

Sunday School classes resume Sunday morning, January 5, at 10:15 a.m. We will continue our Christmas celebration with an Epiphany party during closing music.

## **sunday school offering**

Sunday School students can bring their offering to closing music each week. We will be collecting offering at that time.

## **confirmation Classes**

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

Regular confirmation classes will meet January 5,12,19. If you attended Bible camp in 2013, or plan to attend camp in 2014, please plan to help serve the brunch during the annual meeting Sunday, January 26.

## **confirmation Notes**

### **Important Dates:**

January 15, 22, February 5 - Confirmation Parent/Student conferences from 6-9 p.m. Sign-up with Pastor Christa or in the church office for a half-hour conference with her about confirmation.

January 29 - Confirmation Make-up night. 6-8 p.m.

March 7-9 - SKI TRIP for 7th-12th Graders. Sign-up by February 25. Love to ski? Brand new? This trip is for you. Come for a great weekend of faith-filled fun in Virginia, MN & at Giants Ridge Ski resort.

March 28-29 - High School Synod Youth Event for 9th-12th graders. Sign up by February 2.

## **christian education Calendar of Events**

(watch for monthly updates!)

DATE	TIME - PLACE	EVENT
January 5	10:15 a.m./Immanuel	Sunday School/Confirmation Classes Resume
January 5	11:10 a.m./Sanctuary	Sunday School Epiphany Party
January 15	6-9 p.m./Immanuel	Confirmation Conferences
January 22	6-9 p.m./Immanuel	Confirmation Conferences
January 26	10:00 a.m./Immanuel	Campers & Families Serve Brunch
January 29	6-8 p.m./Immanuel	Confirmation Make-Up Night
February Date TBD	9:00 a.m./Immanuel	Camp Sunday
February 2		Deadline to Sign-Up for Sr. High Synod Youth Event
February 5	6-9 p.m./Immanuel	Confirmation Conferences
February 25		Ski Trip Sign-Up Deadline





# REAL GOD. REAL FAITH. REAL LIFE.

2014 Equipping Congregations Day, SW MN Synod

ALL ARE WELCOME! Congregation Members, Council Officers, Christian Educators, Worship & Youth Leaders, Pastors...Everyone!!

Saturday, February 22, 2014 - 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Vinje Lutheran Church, Willmar, MN

Speaker: **The Rev. Dr. David J. Lose**, The Marbury E. Anderson Assoc Prof of Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary will be speaking on Real World Faith: Meeting God in the Everyday. We will also hear from **Bishop Jon Anderson** of your Southwestern Minnesota Synod.

## WORKSHOPS

You will be able to choose 3 workshops to attend throughout the day!

- Going Green
- Rethinking Church
- Faith in the Home
- Faith Practices for Everyday Life
- Insurance Uncovered
- Revising a Congregation's Constitution
- Forgiving God, Forgiving Self, Forgiving Others: The Power of Real Life
- What I Learned About Young Adults at Green Lake Bible Camp
- Gardening to Feed Our Families and Communities
- Worship For All Ages, By All Ages
- Congregation Leaders and Planning
- Internet Ministry: Do We Have To? Church Websites and Social Media for the Very Frightened
- What's up with the ELCA? - Interpreting the ELCA
- Becoming an Effective Treasurer
- Unbinding the Gospel: Why Share Our Christian Faith?
- Youth Ministry from a Youth's Perspective
- Vibrant Faith Ministries Resources
- "Inter-Sensory Worship: See, Hear, Touch, Smell and Design Your Worship Space"
- Safety Tips on a Sensitive Subject: Child Sexual Abuse
- Discovering Hope for Rural Congregations
- ELW Uncovered
- Healthy Congregations
- Meeting Our Muslim Neighbors
- Cross-Generational/Intergenerational Ministry
- Alternative to Sunday Morning
- Q&A with Guest Speaker David Lose

A complete workshop list with descriptions and leaders is available on our website.

## SCHEDULE

- 8:30am..... Registration
- 9:00..... Hymn Sing
- 9:15..... Welcome & Devotions
- 9:45..... Part 1 - Rev. Dr. David Lose
- 10:35..... Break
- 10:45..... Workshop 1
- 11:35..... Lunch
- 12:10pm..... Heavenly Harvest Gospel Band
- 12:20..... Faith Story - Bishop Jon Anderson
- 12:40..... Break
- 12:50..... Workshop 2
- 1:40..... Break
- 1:50..... Workshop 3
- 2:20..... Break
- 2:50..... Part 2 - Rev. Dr. David Lose
- 3:20..... Blessing & Sending

## GO TO [WWW.SWMNELCA.ORG](http://WWW.SWMNELCA.ORG) EVENTS PAGE TO REGISTER.

Registration fee includes all materials, refreshments and lunch.

### BEFORE February 10:

Group Rate (no limit!):

- \$50/Congregations or Parishes with total average worship attendance of 100 or less
- \$100/Congregations or Parishes with total average worship attendance of 101 or more
- OR \$15/Person

**AFTER February 10:** \$25/person; NO Group Rates.



**Southwestern Minnesota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

# NOVEMBER OFFERING

## General Fund

First Sunday	\$4144.00
Second Sunday	1707.00
Third Sunday	4411.00
Fourth Sunday	2173.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,435.00</b>

## Building Fund

First Sunday	\$140.00
Second Sunday	10.00
Third Sunday	0.00
Fourth Sunday	75.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$225.00</b>

## Organ Replacement Project

First Sunday	\$325.00
Second Sunday	15.00
Third Sunday	65.00
Fourth Sunday	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$405.00</b>

## Per Sunday

Average Attendance (per Sunday)	101
Avg. General Giving (per service)	\$3109.00
Avg. Building Fund Giving (per service)	\$56.00

## Offering Needed

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

## Income for 2013 (excluding Organ Project)

Thru November	\$119,470.00
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**2013 Total Budget** ..... **\$159,348.00**

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

# MEMORIAL GIFTS

**Sept. 22, 2013 - Dec. 22, 2013**

## In Memory of Hazel Kusler

Immanuel	\$200.00
Organ Fund	\$20.00
Organ Fund	\$10.00
Organ Fund	\$5.00
Organ Fund	\$20.00
Immanuel	\$20.00
Immanuel	\$10.00
Immanuel	\$10.00
Organ Fund	\$10.00

## In Memory of Paul Peterson

Organ Fund	\$10.00
Organ Fund	\$10.00
Organ Fund	\$10.00

## In Memory of Leone Hagstrom

Organ Fund	\$20.00
Youth	\$20.00
Organ Fund	\$20.00
Organ Fund	\$20.00
Organ Fund	\$200.00
Organ Fund	\$10.00

## In Memory of Philip Miller

Organ Fund	\$300.00
Donna Grahn Scholarship	\$10.00

## In Memory of Eleanor Bidwell

Organ Fund	\$10.00
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## In Memory of Kristina Lynn Evenson

Organ Fund	\$70.00
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## In Memory of Ken Hanson

Organ Fund	\$20.00
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## In Memory of Roger & Curtis Thompson

Altar Guild	\$16.00
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## In Memory of Kathy Carity

Organ Fund	\$25.00
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## In Memory of Loved Ones

Altar Guild	\$50.00
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\*Please read these memorials over carefully and let the church office know if there are any additions or corrections. Please note that there may be more memorials that have not yet been received in the church office at this time.

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - December 11, 2013

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

Meeting called to order by Chuck Stranberg. Devotions led by Deb Mickle. Minutes of the last meeting approved. Treasurer's Report approved.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. The check for the soybean project will be placed in the organ fund. The project will be re-started with 2 acres of land donated for use by Dean Nelson and seed donated by Pat Walsh. Further donations are welcome.
2. For IRS purposes, Pastor Christa claims \$21,000 for housing in 2014.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Annual Meeting is 1/26/2014. Pat Walsh and Dean Nelson have agreed to serve 3 more years. Jaylen Rossell agreed to serve 1 more year as the youth member.
2. John & Sharon Holm will serve apple cider after 11 p.m. Christmas Eve service.
3. Immanuel Lutheran Church proposed budget for 2014 was reviewed and approved.
4. Immanuel Lutheran Church Christmas Hope & Challenge 2013 will be mailed out.

### Council & Ministry Team Schedule

Council Meets: January 8, 7 p.m.

Devotions: Chuck Stranberg

Worship & Music: TBD

Christian Ed.: Sun., Jan. 5 - 11:30 a.m.

Finance/Stewardship: TBD\*

Property: TBD\*

Evangelism/Faith in Action:

Sun. Jan. 19 - 11:30 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.*

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

#### Christian Education:

1. Will look at creating a "Kids in the Pews" card.
2. Epiphany party will be January 5.
3. Working on implementing 10 Commandments plan again.
4. Sunday confirmation attendance has been better; kids need to be accountable for event participation.
5. VBS will be at Bethlehem in 2014.
6. Camp Sunday will be scheduled in February.
7. Special thanks to Nick Rossell for extra efforts in planning, video taping, and preparing for the Christmas Program!

Building/Property: Gutters have been cleaned.

Finance/Stewardship: Budget presented and approved.

Worship & Music: Lenten service theme will be based on the 23rd Psalm.

#### Evangelism/Faith in Action:

1. Caroling & Cocoa Event is Sunday, December 22.
2. Christmas decorating Sunday went well; confirmation class helped. Some new people helped out.
3. Next project will be during Lent. Collecting supplies to make kits for Lutheran World Relief. Details will be discussed after the 1st of the year

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Pastor Christa reported that Cottage Meetings are going well. Thanks to all who have hosted these meetings. She expressed thanks to everyone who helped prepare and present the Christmas program, with a special thanks to Nick Rossell for the extra work/time on the video portion. People are positive and optimistic about church finances. No need to discuss 3/4 time pastor position at this time. Confirmation classes will stay on Sunday mornings, with retreats to be added during the year. *Full report is available in the Church Office.*

**OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS:** None.

**Respectfully Submitted, Robin Johnson, Secretary**

# THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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Our sympathy to the family of Doris Berscheid, who passed away December 19 at Bethesda Heritage Center in Willmar. The memorial service will be Saturday, January 4, at 11 a.m. at Immanuel. May God bring comfort & peace in this time of grief.

# THANK YOU

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Thanks to all our Church family and friends for the warm greetings, well wishes, cards and gifts we received for our 60th Wedding Anniversary. We enjoyed visiting with so many people. Thanks Again.

**Robert and Darlene Kirk**



**Jr. High Synod Youth Gathering** - Thanks to Shane Hagstrom and Jill Bengtson for chaperoning!



**Project HOPE  
Food Packing**



**Confirmation  
Parent  
Sunday**



# Scenes from the Confirmation Christmas Party!



# JANUARY



## Celebrating

*An Anniversary This Month*

- 1-1 Lee & Debra Mickle
- 1-5 Kevin & Kay Bomstad
- 1-15 Duane & Muriel Aljoe
- 1-25 Eugene & Sharon Ruchti

*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!*

## 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.

**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

- 1-1 Randy Hultquist
- 1-1 Kayden Fuchs
- 1-2 Greg Madsen
- 1-4 Susan Popowski  
Brittney Naber
- 1-5 Jessica Halvorson
- 1-7 Brody Bingaman
- 1-10 Kiara Rosenquist
- 1-11 Blanche Hoepner  
Jonathan Hanson  
Kevin Schwartz  
Taylor Bengtson
- 1-12 Wesley Bosch  
Hannah Bolton
- 1-13 Alyssa Buisman
- 1-14 Sandra Nelson
- 1-15 Cora Rosenquist
- 1-16 Tereasa Link
- 1-20 Kristine Anderson  
Shelly Hadley  
Jase Peterson
- 1-21 Elsie Potter  
Lori Hutchinson  
Kristin Straumann
- 1-24 Jonathan Nelson
- 1-27 Dean Goehring  
Derek Peterson
- 1-31 Jacob Peterson

## 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 Kobe Holtz  
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

## February *Assisting Schedule*

**Ushers** Sue Bohn, Lee Mickle  
Dean Nelson, Dale Anderson

### **Communion Assistants**

Feb 2 Melissa Rossell  
23 Jolene Garberich

### **Lectors**

Feb 2 Jolene Garberich  
9 Shane Hagstrom  
16 Peggy Starz  
23 Lee Mickle

### **Greeters**

Feb 2 Don & Kristine Anderson  
9 Rolayne Beerman  
16 Greg & Kim Holm  
23 Roger & Robin Johnson

### **Acolytes**

Feb 2 Kiara Rosenquist  
9 Jayden Anderson  
16 Taylor Bolton  
23 Teri Evenson

### **Altar Guild**

Pat & Sandy Walsh

### **Offering Counter**

Dean Nelson

### **Coffee Hour Servers**

Feb 2 Jerrel & Carol Hintz  
Tiffany Hintz  
Lance Rosenquist  
9 Chuck & Jean Stranberg  
Dan & Tricia Pirsig  
16 Blake & Lori Schroeder  
Gerald & Jennifer Schwartz  
23 **TBD**

**If anyone would be willing to serve coffee this date, please contact the church office.**