

IMMANUEL SPEAKS

JANUARY 2023



Dear Friends in Christ,

An author by the name of Robert Gallagher once said, “Change is inevitable — except from a vending machine.” Change is one of the constants of life. As we close one year and begin another we have all experienced change in one way or another. We ourselves, our kids or grandkids have gotten a year older. You may have started a new job or retired. Maybe there was a sickness or you experienced the death of a friend or a loved one. And the list of things that have changed this past year for all of us could go on and on. For good or for ill all of us have been affected by change this past year. We can also be sure that as 2023 begins, the new year will bring more change to our lives in one way or another.

My friends, what will the new year bring for the world, for you, and for me? Time will only tell. However, as a people of faith I believe there is one thing we can know for certain about the new year. We can be certain of God’s love for us. We hear these words from the prophet Isaiah, **“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you” (Isaiah 54:10).**

These were words spoken to the people of Israel as they began their return from exile. And believe me these people knew change. These words were spoken to a people who had been taken from all that they had known. They had been torn from family members, their homeland, the temple, and forced to live in a foreign country. Sitting by the rivers of Babylon the people would weep at what was lost. Sitting by the rivers of Babylon the people of Israel looked towards an uncertain future. Talk about change!!!

And yet even though their world was thrown upside down by change; God reminded them that God was with them. God reminded the people that God’s love and covenant with them could not be broken. The people of Israel who had been taken into exile would return to the Promised Land and rebuild the city, temple, and their lives. God would remain faithful to the promises that God had made!

In the same way my friends God continues to speak this message to us. As the years roll by and change occurs, the promise we have is this, “God’s steadfast love will endure forever”. We turn to the cross and see God’s great love for us as Christ took upon himself our sin and our death. We turn to the empty tomb and see that God has conquered death, assuring us that as Jesus lives so shall we.

When we gather to worship we turn to the baptismal font where through water and God’s word we are sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. We are claimed as one of God’s beloved children! We come to the table and are strengthened and nourished as we receive Christ’s own body and blood given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sin. We see the face of Jesus in our fellow sisters and brothers in Christ who are there to laugh and cry with us. We see the face of Jesus in our fellow sisters and brothers in Christ who are there to help bear our burdens. No matter what change occurs as Christians we have a sure and certain hope that our God is Emmanuel, God with us now, always, and forever!

My friends, what will 2023 bring to your lives and mine? We cannot say for certain. However one thing we can be sure of and it is this, “Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,’ says the Lord, who has compassion on you.”

Happy New Year,

Pastor Joel

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Pastor’s Report to Council (Nov. 8th Dec. 20th)

Rev. Joel Gueningsman

December 20, 2022

1. Pastoral Acts

- 56 in person/phone visits. Presided at 1 baptism: Louie Ray Schwinghammer

2. Worship

- Sunday School Christmas Program, Sunday December 18th @ 9 a.m.
- Christmas Eve worship, Saturday December 24th @ 5:30 p.m.
- Christmas Day worship, Sunday December 25th @ 9 a.m.

3. Education/Youth

- Sunday school has journeyed through Old Testament stories this fall.
- Confirmation one final lesson on 10 commandments; then transition to the Apostles Creed.

4. Congregational life

- Murder Mystery Dinner Theater, December 3rd
- Hymn Sing before December 4th community meal.

5. Mission & Outreach

- Thank you to everyone who participated in the fill a box for a family and for purchasing a gift for a local maccray youth.
- Check out the Advent & Christmas God’s global barn yard tree.

6. Wider Church

- Nothing to report at this time.

7. Continuing Education/Pastoral Self-Care

- Nothing to report at this time.

TRIBE MEMBERSHIP FOR FEBRUARY 2023

Below we have printed the Tribe Membership for February 2023. The chairperson will be calling you in the near future asking you to serve Immanuel in some small way. Start thinking today what you can volunteer to help with...oh, and please say yes! If everyone takes a job, the needs list will be filled. Thank you so much!

Dan Tribe

- Mark and Linnae Rothmeier
- Diane Koenen
- Ross and Brenda Harms
- Dakota and Gabby Rognile
- Daryl Niemeyer
- Jerry Bond
- Jack and Donna Sparks
- Tim and JoEllen Rosendahl
- Robert and Patsy Rand – Tribe Leaders
- Curt and Diane Meints

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OPEN RADIO BROADCAST FOR 2023

Listed below are the open radio broadcasts for the year of 2023. If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast, please contact the church office at 847-2138 or stop in the church office, or talk to Kathy. The cost is \$100.00 for each broadcast. Thank you to all who have supported this outreach at Immanuel Lutheran Church!

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|--------------------|-----------------------|
| January 15 | July 2, 9, 30 |
| February 5, 26 | August 6 |
| March 5 | September 3, 17 |
| April 23, 30 | October 8, 15, 22, 29 |
| May 21, 28 | November 5, 19 |
| June 4, 11, 18, 25 | December 3, 24, 31 |

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COMMUNITY MEAL

Our next Community Meal is Sunday, January 8th serving from 5:00-6:00 p.m. On the menu is: Beef stew, roll and dessert! We will be serving in the fellowship hall and also doing drive thru in the alleyway. Please let us know how many meals you will need by calling the church office or signing up on our Facebook page. The meal is free and all are welcome!

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A BIG THANK YOU!

A big thank you to all of you for your gifts you have shared with Immanuel this year! Sharing of your talents, volunteering in so many different ways and monetary gifts are so appreciated! God’s blessing to each and every one of you!

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Sunday, January 1 PowerPoint/Acolyte: Brielle Niesen
Lay Reader: Michele Shubert
Altar Guild: LuAnn Kruger

Sunday, January 8 PowerPoint/Acolyte: Emersyn Pederson
Lay Reader: Duane Dieken
Altar Guild: Ken and Jan Beyerl

Sunday, January 15 PowerPoint /Acolyte: Kylie Prekker
Lay Reader: Judi Boike
Altar Guild: Nancy Gosseling

Sunday, January 22 PowerPoint/Acolyte: Kailee Rosendahl
Lay Reader: Ken Beyerl
Altar Guild: Sara Sabe

Sunday, January 29 PowerPoint/ Acolyte: Eva Swenson
Lay Reader: Carissa Pederson
Altar Guild: Michele Shubert

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

Immanuel’s Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, January 29th after the worship service.
Committees please have your articles in to the church office by January 19th!

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OFFERINGS FOR SOME OF DECEMBER 2022

Sunday, December 4 \$8998.83

Sunday, December 11 \$7396.00

Sunday, December 18 \$9092.20

(Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship was Cancelled due to weather)

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CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will start again on Wednesday night, January 4th at 6:30 p.m.

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COFFEE FOR GALS

Coffee for Gals meets on Wednesday, January 25th at 2:00 p.m. All women of the church are invited!!

January

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 a.m. Worship/Comm union No Sunday School/No Fellowship Hour	2	3 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting	4 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	5	6	7
8 9:00 a.m. Worship/Comm. 10:00 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowsh ip Hour 5:00 p.m. Community Meal	9 1:30 p.m. Joy Bible Study	10 1:00 p.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting	11 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	12	13	14
15 9:00 a.m. Worship/Comm union 10:00 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowsh ip Hour	16 Office Closed	17 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting	18 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	19	20	21
22 9:00 a.m. Worship/Comm union 10:00 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowsh ip Hour	23	24 1:00 p.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting	25 2:00 p.m. Coffee for Gals 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	26	27	28
29 9:00 a.m. Worship/Comm. 10:00 a.m. SS/Fellowship 10:00 am Congregational Meeting	30	31 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting				

