



December 2022/January 2023

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Caring For Our Community Through Christ

## **PASTOR'S PONDERINGS**

Dearly beloved,

Why do we have church on Christmas? I'll be honest, the first time I heard that Lutherans attend church on Christmas, I felt sorry for them. I mean after all, it's Christmas. There is food to eat, presents to open, movies to watch, eggnog to consume, and grandparents homes to visit (and the presents that are there). And, besides we are out of school and off work, why not just enjoy it without having to add one more thing, that is church, to the already full Christmas day schedule.



So why do we have church on Christmas? It's true not everyone does. The church I grew up in (prior to being Lutheran) did not. Maybe we'd have a Christmas Eve service but we'd not be in the pews on the day we celebrate the birth of our Lord. And we weren't alone. A lot of churches in Christendom do not have services on Christmas day.

Truth is, having services on Christmas day is a matter of religious liberty within the church. Meaning that it's not commanded by God that we do it nor is it forbidden to do so. It's what we call "adiaphora", meaning that it's neither commanded nor forbidden. Thus, if we chose not to have church on Christmas, our souls will not be damned and God isn't going to strike us down with bolts of lightening.

So this month, I wanted to just take a few moments and consider the question, why do we have church on Christmas?

The first thing I'd like us to consider is that having church on Christmas is all about Jesus. Regardless of the commercialism of Christmas, the jolly elf from the North Pole and his nine reindeer (yes, I included Rudolph), the traveling, food, and family gatherings; nothing will change the fact that Christmas is about God becoming incarnate. Think about that. God created all things in 6 days. The same God sent His Son into the world and in the womb of a virgin, God became flesh. How cool is that! Christmas is about God, Immanuel, with us.

Look no further than the local church's rendition of the Christmas story and you'll see, not twinkling lights on a tree surrounded with presents, but a tired mom, a nervous dad, and a cooing baby in a

*Continued on Page 2*



# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod

***Caring For Our Community Through Christ***

**REV. DAVID CASEY-MOTLEY, PASTOR**

## **PASTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION**

Cell Phone.....253-241-1435  
Email ..... pastordavid.immanuel@gmail.com

## **PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.; and by appointment

## **BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS**

The office is normally open from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Please remember that the administrative assistant may be  
away from the office running errands during this time.

Office Phone .....410-673-7107  
Office Fax Number .....410-673-1426  
Office Email .....immanuellutheranpreston@verizon.net

## **CHURCH OFFICERS — 2021**

President..... Richard Wheatley  
Secretary..... Lynn Short  
Financial Secretary ..... Dee Lambert  
Treasurer..... Janice Isenberg  
Evangelism Chair.....  
Trustee Chair ..... Dale Kenton  
Stewardship Chair ..... Lynn Faulstick  
Board of Education Chair ..... Rene Langwost  
Elders Chair ..... Mark Frase

manger. It's the true story of Christmas, given to us by the prophet Isaiah, and followers of the Babe of Bethlehem in St. Matthew and St. Luke's Gospels.

A second thing I'd like us to consider is that having church on Christmas is for sinners. Listen again to these familiar verses from St. Luke's Gospel, "**And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'"** (Luke 2:10-11). A Savior. Savior of what? Sinners. That is why He came, to save sinners, that is to save you and me and the whole world. For had it not been for sin, we'd not need a Savior to come for us. And just because it's Christmas doesn't mean we hit a pause button on sin. We sin daily. The old Adam in us raises his ugly head and left to ourselves, we'd succumb to him. But, God loves us so much that He came on Christmas to be our Savior, to die on the cross and in doing so, to forgive our sins, and make us sons and daughters of God.

On Christmas day, consider it another way, "For unto you, here this day, in the place where we gather, we receive our Savior who is Christ the Lord." We receive Him in Word, and in Holy Communion. Another name for Holy Communion is the Mass. Christ-Mass, or Christmas. For sinners.

A third thing I'd like us to consider as it pertains to having church on Christmas is that at Christmas, we lift our heads and see the cross of Good Friday. In the church year, Holy Week and Easter come about four months after the celebration of Christmas. In a short period of time we go from riding a donkey into Bethlehem to give birth to a Savior, to the Savior riding a donkey into Jerusalem to die for the sins of the world, giving a new birth to those who believe.

I understand this may not be as easy to hear because it seems to 'take away from' the joy of Christmas and yet the message doesn't change. Christmas points to Easter. And it must. The babe in the manger will become the risen Savior of the empty tomb. There is no way around it. Nor should there ever be one without the other.

Yet as hard as it may be to consider Easter at Christmas, it

*Continued on Page 3*

should instead give us great joy and a reason to sing. Yes! God comes for us! And He came to die for us! Praise the Lord for that. In His coming, we have hope because in His death our sins are forgiven. I don't know about you but that is certainly something we can celebrate together on Christmas day. "God tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere. Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born". Tell it, sing it, receive it, live it! O come, o come, Emmanuel!

Finally, having church on Christmas is also a matter of tradition. Traditions don't have to be bad things and coming to church together as a family on Christmas is certainly a tradition worth having. I understand that it's not tradition for everyone, maybe even for you. If your tradition is to gather with family and celebrate the day together, then wonderful! What a beautiful tradition to have. Pastor's family does that too. But as you gather this month, I challenge you to consider adding attending church on Christmas day to your traditions! You won't regret it and you'll receive a gift better than anything you could ever put a ribbon on, that is, the gift of God's Word and Sacrament.

God bless you saints. O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord. Amen.

With a servant's heart,

Pastor David

### **Thank you**

**Dear Immanuel Church,**

**Thank you so much for your generous donation. We are truly blessed by your support of our ministry**

**Sincerely,  
His Hope Ministries Staff**



### **From our Congregational President**

**As the year nears its end we truly have a lot to be thankful for here at Immanuel. God has blessed us with a caring Pastor and a congregation dedicated to serving the Lord. Many in more than one area. We could not function without your dedication.**

**A special thank you to the Anniversary Committee, for planning the many wonderful activities of remembrance through the last 125 years.**

**May we continue to thrive as we serve the Lord in the coming year.**

**In God's Service,  
Dicky Wheatley**

### **Thank you**

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to assist with WinGS' annual fall bazaar. It was quite the success with all of the help that you provided. We were very busy and had lots of visitors to our church at the bazaar.

With the funds that were raised, WinGS was able to donate \$1000.00 each to the following needs. His Hope Ministries in Denton, Immanuel's Care & Compassion Fund, and the Florida-George LCMS District to assist victims of Hurricane Ian.

We appreciated your time and talents to help with preparation, donations, and patronage. Thank you for always supporting our efforts

**WINGS (Women IN God's Service)**



## Robert Levin Hopkins



Robert Levin Hopkins, of Easton, died at the Corsica Hills Nursing and Rehab Center, Centerville on Monday November 14, 2022. He was 86.

Born in Easton, MD. On July 2, 1936 he was the son of the late Raymond W. and Martha Henry Hopkins. He graduated from Easton High School, he then worked as a supervisor at Airpax in Cambridge until his retirement. Bob enjoyed his time with his family and friends, he gained his pilot's license and could be found at the Easton Airport flying his air coupe. He spent his winters in Lake Land, Florida, while there he would attend and be a part of the local air show. He would cut grass at the park where he stayed just to be busy. Bob was a long time member of the Colonial Rodders Car Club in Easton, spending many hours with the group working on custom cars.

He is survived by his two brothers; Larry (Phyllis) of Easton, MD; Sherman (Linda) of Martin City, MO; one sister; Karen Fay Karas (Stanley) of Fort Calhoun, NE. Also many nieces and nephews.

Memorial service will be held at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Preston, on Saturday November 19, 2022 at 11:00AM. The family will receive friends from 10:00 until 11:00AM.

Memorial donation may be made to; The Immanuel Lutheran Church, 242 Main St, Preston, MD 21655 Arrangements are by the Framptom Funeral Home 216 N. Main Street Federalsburg, MD. 21632 (please visit [www.framptom.com](http://www.framptom.com) ).

ries with the family).

### Thank you

**Dear Immanuel Church,**

**This Thanksgiving and always, we are so grateful for you church's partnership. Thank you for all the ways you love and serve those in great need. May you have a blessed and beautiful holiday**

**Your Food for the Poor Family**

# Stewardship News

Pledge Sunday may have passed but we are still accepting Pledge Cards. Feel free to put your completed Pledge Card in the plate at church or mail to Immanuel Lutheran Church, PO Box 39, Preston MD 21655, Attention: Financial Secretary. A special thank you to those who have pledged already. We as a church family can truly count our blessings!

## SPECIAL FUNDS

### Compassion Fund

Anonymous  
WinGS

## Care and Compassion 2022 Angel Tree

For the last fifteen years Care and Compassion has sponsored a needy family for Christmas.

Thank you to all who are participating in this year's Angel Tree Program. All of the Angel Tags have been claimed. Remember that we would like to have all gifts in by December 4th. If you would still like to participate, we are still accepting cash or gift cards.

If you have any question please call Irene Wheatley at 410-310-2571. Thanks again for helping Immanuel care for our community through Christ.

Irene



# Immanuel Nursery School

## Fall Fun

- Firehouse Visit
- Bartenfelder's Farm
- Harvest Party







Kurt Fairbanks	12/1
Mindy Delano	12/3
Stephanie Fuchs	12/6
Michael Knorr	12/6
Craig Langwost	12/6
Andrew Nabb	12/6
Noah Ferkler	12/9
Jaclyn Langwost	12/9
Coltyn Smith	12/11
Rex Rosebrock	12/13
Jeanette Schmick	12/14
Kalei Durando	12/20
Anthony Durando	12/22
Edwin Schanken	12/23
Marti Cheesman	12/24
Janelle Mellor	12/24
Arlene Stevens	12/27
Mallory Frase	12/29
Amanda Knorr	12/30
Lillian Andrew	12/31
Shelly Kapitan	12/31



Melissa & Michael Mulligan	12/6
Dan & Denise Mitchell	12/18
Anthony & Joanna Durando	12/27



Joe Bartenfelder	1/3
John Fuchs	1/4
Luke Gadow	1/4
Landon Garcia	1/4
Cheryl Hochmuth	1/14
Grace Cannon	1/15
Michelle Wheatley	1/15
Phillip Fuchs	1/16
Doris Maser	1/16
Melissa Mulligan	1/21
Jordan Fuchs	1/23
Michael Jantz, Sr.	1/23
Mark Frase	1/24
Jeffrey Coppage	1/25
Joey Durham	1/26
Warren Frase	1/27
Michelle Frase	1/28
Bailey Knorr	1/28




Maureen & Phillip Garcia	1/16
--------------------------	------



# DECEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 8:50-3:25 Nursery School  9:30 AM Women's Bible Study	<b>2</b>  	<b>3</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
<b>4</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Divine Service with Holy Communion Voters Assembly 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg.	<b>5</b> 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	<b>6</b> 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	<b>7</b> 8:50-3:25 Nursery School 6:30 pm Bell Practice 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon 7:40 pm Choir Practice	<b>8</b> 8:50-3:25 Nursery School 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. WINGS	<b>9</b>  	<b>10</b>  
<b>11</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Christmas Program 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg.	<b>12</b> 8:50-3:25 Nursery School 7:00 pm Church Council Mtg.	<b>13</b> 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	<b>14</b> 8:50-3:25 Nursery School 6:30 pm Bell Practice 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon 7:40 pm Choir Practice	<b>15</b> 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	<b>16</b> 7 pm Nursery School Christmas Program	<b>17</b>  
<b>18</b> Sunday School 10:30 am Divine Service with Holy Communion 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg.	<b>19</b> <----- NURSERY 7:00 pm Board of Elders Mtg	<b>20</b> -----SCH	<b>21</b> OOL----- 6:30 pm Bell Practice 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon 7:40 pm Choir Practice	<b>22</b> CLOSED----->	<b>23</b>  	<b>24 CHRISTMAS EVE</b>  7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service
<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 10:30 am Divine Service with Holy Communion	<b>26</b> <----- NURSERY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	<b>27</b> -----SCH	<b>28</b> OOL----- 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon	<b>29</b> CLOSED----->	<b>30</b>  	<b>31</b> 

## THOSE SERVING IMMANUEL DECEMBER 2022

Date	Ushers	Assisting Elder	Lay Reader	Acolyte	Sound System	Camera Operator	Kids Worship	Greeter	Head Tellers
December 4	Roland Limpert & Jack Collins	Rex Rosebrock	Glen Plutschak	Catie Casey-Motley	David Schmidt	Janice Isenberg	Rene Langwost	Kenny and Michelle Wheatley	Janice Isenberg Shelly Kapitan John Crampton
December 11	Roland Limpert & Jack Collins		Desi Casey-Motley		David Schmidt	Zack Kirwan	Rene Langwost	Kenny and Michelle Wheatley	Karen Lyons Jennifer Phillips
December 18	Roland Limpert & Jack Collins	Todd Butler	Sam Lozen	Veronica Phillips	Rex Rosebrock	John Crampton	Rene Langwost	Kenny and Michelle Wheatley	Dee Lambert Glen Plutschak Linda Jefferson
December 24 Christmas Eve	Roland Limpert & Jack Collins		TBD	Kalei Durando Catie Casey-Motley (Crucixer)	TBD	TBD	Rene Langwost	Kenny and Michelle Wheatley	TBD
December 25	Roland Limpert & Jack Collins	Mark Frase	Arlene Stevens	Lucas Maloney	Jim Harris	Ruth Thomas	Rene Langwost	Kenny and Michelle Wheatley	David & Kathy Schmidt Julie Schmidt



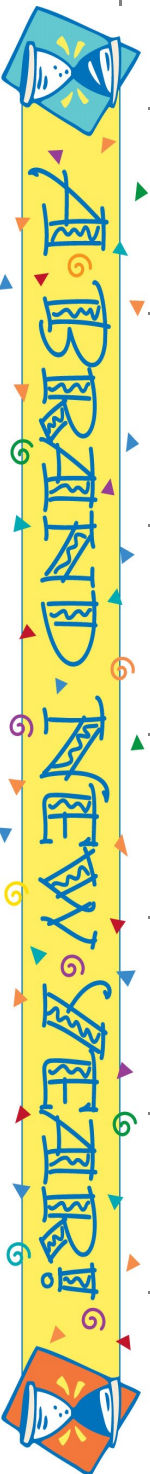


# JANUARY

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 am Divine Service with Holy Communion 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	2 8:50-3:25 Nursery School 6:30 pm Board of Elders	3 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	4 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	5 8:50-3:25 Nursery School 	6 Men's Prayer Break fast 8:30 a.m	
8 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Installation of Officers 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	9 8:50-3:25 Nursery School 7:00 pm Church Council	10 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	11 8:50-3:25 Nursery School Bells, 6:30 Choir 7:30	12 EPIPHANY 8:50-3:25 Nursery School 7:00 pm WinGs 7:00 p.m. WINGS	13	14
15 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Divine Service with Holy Communion 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	16 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY NURSERY SCHOOL CLOSED	17 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	18 8:50-3:25 Nursery School Bells, 6:30 Choir 7:30	19 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	20	21
22 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Voter's Assembly 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	23 8:50-3:25 Nursery School 6:30 pm Nursery School Board	24 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	25 NURSERY SCHOOL Bells, 6:30 Choir 7:30	26 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	27	28
29 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	30 8:50-3:25 Nursery School 6:30 pm Nursery School Board	31 8:50-3:25 Nursery School				

## THOSE SERVING IMMANUEL JANUARY 2023

Date	Ushers	Assisting Elder	Lay Reader	Acolyte	Sound System	Camera Operator	Kids Worship	Greeter	Head Tellers
January 1	Mark Frase Dale Kenton	Rex Rosebrock	Iris Rieck	Catie Casey-Motley	David Schmidt	Janice Isenberg	Rene Langwost	Kenny and Michelle Wheatley	Janice Isenberg Shelly Kapitan John Crampton
January 8	Mark Frase Dale Kenton		Janice Isenberg		David Schmidt	Jennifer Phillips	Rene Langwost	Kenny and Michelle Wheatley	Karen Lyons Jennifer Phillips
January 15	Mark Frase Dale Kenton	Todd Butler	Krissy Frase	Veronica Phillips	Rex Rosebrock	John Crampton	Rene Langwost	Kenny and Michelle Wheatley	Dee Lambert Glen Plutschak Linda Jefferson
January 22	Mark Frase Dale Kenton		Catie Casey-Motley		Jim Harris	Ruth Thomas	Rene Langwost	Kenny and Michelle Wheatley	David & Kathy Schmidt Julie Schmidt
January 29	Mark Frase Dale Kenton		Carol Frase		Jim Harris	TBD	Rene Langwost	Kenny and Michelle Wheatley	Carol Frase Paul Nichols



FLGA District, LCMS  
5850 T.G. Lee Blvd., Suite 500  
Orlando, FL 32822

(407) 857-5556  
(407) 857-5665 Fax  
(877) 457-5556 Toll Free  
<http://flgadistrict.org>

October 25, 2022

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
PO Box 39  
Preston, MD 21655

Dear Immanuel:

Greetings and peace to you as we continue to experience the presence of the God who is our  
“Refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble.”

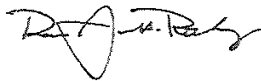
As God’s people, it is appropriate for us to celebrate His unconditional love and blessings as He daily provides for all our needs and so much more. In the midst of the devastation from Hurricane Ian, these blessings become even more apparent as we see how many lost so much and even struggle to meet their basic needs.

On behalf of the people and ministries of the Florida-Georgia District, please accept my heartfelt thanks for your financial support of those in need! Your gift will make it possible for us to assist the workers/staff of our churches & schools who suffered damage. In addition, we will be coming along side of those congregations that suffered damage to assist them financially also. We rejoice that we are also partnering with LCMS Disaster Response in responding both to these financial needs and in setting up Disaster Response Camps in SW Florida. The Body of Christ throughout our District is truly blessed by the support of people like you!

The Florida-Georgia District exists that we might “Equip, Empower and Engage” congregations, God’s people, in serving their communities as Christ’s presence. It is our prayer that through our work together, many more may be connected to Jesus and experience Christ’s love for today and eternity!

Please continue to keep all those who have been impacted in your prayers, and those who are assisting in the recovery. May God abundantly provide for those in need. Again, I thank you for your gift and partnership!

Sharing God’s Amazing Grace,



Rev. James H. Rockey, President  
Florida-Georgia District, LC-MS

This letter may be used for Tax Deduction Purposes, in the amount of \$1,000.00  
No goods or services were received for this donation. (Tax ID: 59-0668482)

*“Equipping, Empowering, Engaging...Connecting People to Jesus”*

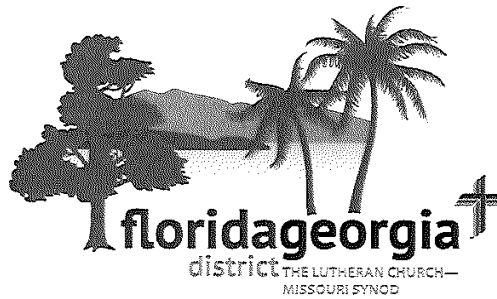
James H. Rockey  
*President*

Jennifer Tanner  
*School & Youth Ministries*

Peter A. Meier  
*Missions & Outreach*

Laura E. Zirbel  
*Finance & Administration*

Jay P. Wendland  
*LCEF*





## Some of the special days to Remember

December 1st and 8th Women's Bible study resumes.

December 4th—Special Voters' Assembly after the Worship Service

Third Sunday of Advent — December 11, 2022 Children's Program during Worship Service at 10:30

Fourth Sunday of Advent — December 18, 2022

Christmas Eve — December 24, 2022 Candlelight Service at 7:00 PM

Christmas Day — December 25, 2022 Worship Service at 10:30 AM

New Year's Eve — December 31, 2022

New Year's Day — January 1, 2023 Worship Service at 10:30 AM

Epiphany — January 6, 2023

January 8th Installation of Officers - January 9th Church Council

Choir and Bells resume on January 11th after Christmas Break



### All are welcome to attend the Christmas Children's Program during the Worship Service on the 11th

Fill your heart with joy while awaiting the Savior's birth! Come to *This Is My Son*, the children's Christmas service at Immanuel Lutheran Church Preston on Sunday December 11 during worship service at 10:30 am. Through songs and readings, children will tell us about the perfect Son of God, who came to save us. Come hear how God makes us His children!

Christmas Program practices during Sunday School:

No Sunday School on December 25th and January 1st

