



Immanuel News

The newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greeley, Colorado

December 2024

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. - Philippians 4:4-7

Friends in Christ,

Advent is upon us. I don't know about you, but I'm caught each year in the tension of desiring a contemplative Advent and the urgency of the holiday season. Even as I want to be preparing for Christmas and celebrating, I also often wish for Advent to be a more intentional time for prayer and spaciousness. As we enter into Advent, as we navigate this tension in our life together and the rest of our lives, and as we move through transition together, I invite us this month to small practices of contemplative prayer.

For me, the breath is a rich and easily accessible place to turn for small moments of contemplation in the midst of a busy day. Breath prayer has a long tradition in Christian spirituality, and is easy to adapt for anyone. I especially love practicing breath prayer with brief passages of scripture, connecting body, mind, and heart with holy words.

I offer you a couple of suggestions for breath prayer with scripture this month. Perhaps you might try a few of these, or use your own favorite words.

Inhale: To you, O Lord

Exhale: I lift up my soul (Psalm 25:1)

Inhale: Show me your ways

Exhale: and teach me your paths (Psalm 25:4)

Inhale: Be still

Exhale: and know you are God (from Matthew 6:10)

Inhale: Your grace

Exhale: is enough for me . (1 John)

Inhale: Both day and night

Exhale: belong to you. (Psalm 91:1)

In these weeks of Advent and Christmas, may the Christ be always with you, and may the lovingkindness God be with you and remain with you always.

Pr. Monica

WORSHIP

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Advent & Christmas at Immanuel

December 1 - First Sunday in Advent - *Hope*
December 8 - Second Sunday in Advent - *Peace*
December 15 - Third Sunday in Advent with Youth Christmas Pageant - *Joy*
December 22 - Fourth Sunday in Advent - *Love*
December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, 4pm
December 29 - First Sunday of Christmas, Service of Lessons & Carols
with Holy Communion

Advent at Immanuel: *More Than Words*



Our Advent theme this year is *More Than Words*, using prayers and worship materials from the creative ELCA pastors of *Barn Geese Worship*.
Their invitation for us this year is this:

It's almost Advent, and it's time to get the words out of storage. Hope. Peace. Joy. Love. These words weave their way through the season of Advent, inviting us to prepare for the arrival of Jesus the Word himself. They have a sense of familiarity, like heirlooms passed down the generations. And just like heirlooms, the original meaning and impact can be dulled by a patina of too much familiarity. How about a polishing cloth?

We pray that your community of faith will encounter each of these words as more than words. We hope that you will experience each of these words as signs of the Spirit's stirring. Let these words become a fire in your bones that you can't keep to yourself. Let them spark a transformation that God has already begun. Let them challenge you, comfort you, equip you, and inspire you so that they will be more than words: they will be the Word, incarnate in Christ's body and Christ's church.



Special Music

Hello Immanuel family and friends! I'm reaching out to see if there is a group of people interested in lifting their voices to celebrate the season? This would be to make a special music offering during the December 22nd church service. Nothing complicated. Just a simple group sing. If you are interested, please let me know by Monday, December 9th. That way there is time to find a song and schedule a rehearsal. Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la!

Cindy Budde

peteandcindyb@gmail.com



Join us for Christmas Eve Liturgy
24 December, 4pm
Immanuel Lutheran Church
1865 14th Avenue

YOUTH & FAITH FORMATION

FIRST SUNDAY YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, December 1, 2024

Christmas Program Rehearsal for all Youth — 9:00 am

Immanuel Youth present:

“The Friendly Beasts” - -A Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 15, 2024,

during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Join us for a *cookie reception* in the

Fellowship Hall immediately

following the program.



Help needed for the Christmas program:

Youth: Rehearsals on Sunday, Dec. 1 @ 9:00 am
and Sunday, Dec. 15 @ 9:00 am

Adults: Costume organizers, Rehearsal helpers,
Goodie Bag shopping/assembling

YOUTH & FAITH FORMATION *(Continued)*

YOUTH GROUP
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER



*Notepad & Calendar
Sale*



Each Sunday in
December starting
December 1st

Youth Group
 *Christmas* 
**GIFT WRAPPING
FUNDRAISER**

Bring your presents and let us wrap
them for you!

December 15th

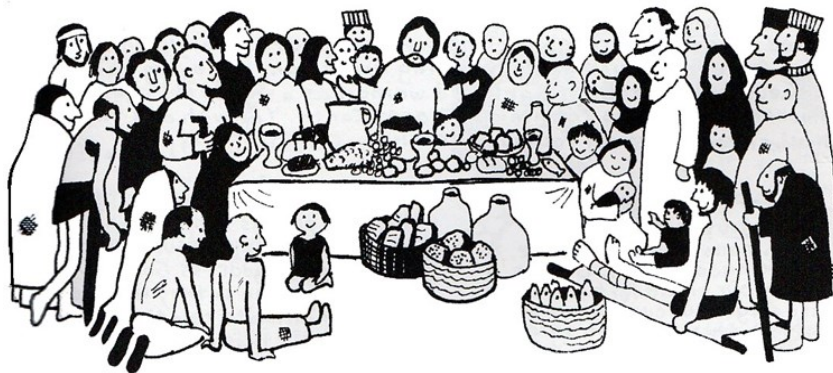


*Any Donations
Appreciated*

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Our Adult Faith Formation/Bible Study continues on Sunday mornings at 9:15AM in the library with exploration of Pr. Dan Erlander's *Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe.*

No Bible Study Sunday, December 29.



GIVING & SERVICE

Giving Tree 2024

Each year the Immanuel Lutheran family contributes so much to help those in need. Please consider helping again this year!

Immanuel is partnering once again with Heath Middle School's Clothing Closet. This year the school is requesting winter gear - **hats, gloves, scarves and coats!** We are also asking for **monetary donations**. We will use the money to purchase small, reusable, cloth bags which the students can use to discreetly carry feminine products.

Be ready to select a tag or two from the Giving Tree beginning Sunday, November 24th.

If you have questions, feel free to contact Molly Ward - mcmward@comcast.net or 970-714-8774.



Free Little Pantry



Your help is needed to keep our "Free Little Pantry" stocked! Please bring **one** or **two** recently purchased, shelf-stable, sealed, non-perishable, food or nonfood item(s) that can withstand varying temperatures & place these items in the barn or in the overflow bin located in the Narthex.

Let's help our neighbors in need & work together to FILL THE BARN!

On their way . . .

On November 7th, Urban Servant Corp was busy loading a truck with Lutheran World Relief kits, including the school kits that were made by Immanuel. The kits are on the way to Minneapolis for final distribution around the world. Thank you for your support of Immanuel's Youth, Tied in Faith and Lutheran World Relief as we strive to be the spirit of Christ in the world.



LUTHERAN EPISCOPAL CAMPUS MINISTRY

This month at Campus Ministry:

December at Campus Ministry is all about supporting students through the last push of final projects and exams. Sunday Dinner Church gatherings in December will celebrate Advent and bless those who are graduating this semester.

Campus Ministry Stories: Home

This fall, LECM has been gathering stories from students and alumni about how LECM has made a difference in their lives. Some of you may remember Haylee Hayden, who graduated in 2023. We are delighted to share Haylee's story with you.



Haylee Hayden is an early childhood teacher and an avid hiker. She has conquered four of Colorado's 14ers and two peaks over 13,000 feet. Her horse "Penny" is another of her passions. While at UNC studying early childhood education, Haylee was looking for an open and affirming place to belong. Though she tried several communities on campus, she struggled to find one that felt right for her. On the advice of the director at the Lutheran camp where she had worked for six summers, she gave Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry a try.

On her first visit to LECM she felt right at home. "I am so thankful for the welcoming and inclusive space for everyone I found there," Haylee said. "I was looking for a place that respected women and their role in the church." It was also important to her to be part of a community that is LGBTQ friendly. And, she loved gathering off campus at the LECM house. "The LECM house was nicer and cozier than meeting on campus," she said.

Haylee treasures her memories of casual communion services and conversations around the dinner table. "It took away the performance aspect of church," she remembers. "It was okay to just be a church-going person enjoying time with like-minded people. It made me value the community of the church a lot more." Upon graduation, she immediately sought out another faith community. Haylee wants everyone to know how welcoming LECM is. "You can be who you are, and it is safe even if you are still questioning your faith."

Your generosity helps make Lutheran Episcopal Campus ministry a cozy, inclusive space for students like Haylee. Your support makes it possible for us to offer weekly meals and communion services where young adults can explore their faith and feel safe and at home. Thank you for your partnership in this ministry!

Bring a Meal for Sunday Dinner Church next semester

Support campus ministry and students in Greeley by signing up to bring a meal for Sunday evening Dinner Church gatherings! These meals are a weekly anchor in our community, and students look forward each week to eating together. Your help providing the food for these meals makes this time together possible, thank you!

Dates are now open for the winter/spring semester! Find more details and sign up on the LECM Meal Train page: <https://mealtrain.com/ynk9ey>. If you are able, please plan to stay for dinner! (include QR code for Meal Train)



PRAYER & CARE

Always Say A Prayer Team



If you have prayer concerns, please contact Pastor Monica
pastor@immanuelgreeley.org

Call/Text 970.573.6020 or the Church Office.
Prayer request cards can be found at the back of the nave
along with a box to place your requests.

**All concerns will be kept confidential unless you choose
to add your name to the prayer list in the bulletin.**

Members of the Prayer Team

Roma Arithson Connie Deines
Sharrol Bernahl Diane Filipe
Janet Willis

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Memory Makers

Pack a lunch, gather your supplies, and let's enjoy quality time together working on scrapbooks, digital books, cards, & other paper projects.

Date: Saturday, December 14, 2024

Hours: 9:00am – 4:00pm

Location: Immanuel Lutheran Church – 1865 14th Avenue, Greeley

Host: Amy Herold – A Creative Memories Independent Consultant

www.creativememories.com/user/amyherold

Need more details or have questions - contact me at herold_amy@hotmail.com
or 970.978.0870 (cell).

Hope to see you there!



CHURCH COUNCIL



Name	Phone	E-mail	Committee
Budde, Cindy	C: 970-371-6588	peteandcindyb@gmail.com	Secretary – Communications & Social Media
Elmquist, Julie	H: 970-330-6679 C: 970-371-2734	sjelmquist@msn.com	Vice President -Youth Team, Property
Herold, Amy	970-978-0870	herold_amy@hotmail.com	Youth Team
Larson, Lelyn	970-371-0307	larsonoff@gmail.com	President -Finance, Property

EFTF –Endowment Foundation Trust Fund

The Endowment Foundation Trust Fund (EFTF) uses interest earned on the donations in the trust fund to support special needs and work of the church that is not covered by the church budget. If you have a special need in mind, please submit a request for fund disbursement. The EFTF Committee considers requests quarterly. Please see an EFTF Committee member if you have questions or pick up a request form from the EFTF mailbox in the church office.

Committee members: Cindy Thompson, Jacqui Larson,
Janet Crespin, Janet Johnson

GIA Clothing Bank

Several Greeley-area churches are sponsors for and help operate the Greeley Interfaith Assn. Clothing Bank, located at 228 N. 9th Avenue in Greeley.

The hours open are 10:00 am—2:00 pm-Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays.

The Clothing Bank accepts gently used items of clothing and then sells them to the public at a reasonable cost. Proceeds of the sales cover operating expenses and then go toward community scholarships and grants.

Some Immanuel members have committed to being on duty on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month.

Donations can be dropped off at the Clothing Bank during the hours of operation.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact: Julie Elmquist, Katy Sickles or Cindy Thompson.



CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

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- Thrivent Choice Dollars applications will be accepted in January and February with awards being made in March
- Donations for this year's Giving Tree will focus on needs at Heath Middle School's Clothing Closet
- We will be putting out feelers to see if anyone is interested in doing special music on December 22

**Join us for our next meeting on
Tuesday, December 10th at 5:00 pm.**

Tied in Faith...

will be taking a break for November & December. They will begin meeting again in January.



WELCA

Love and Priscilla/Ruth Circle
will not be meeting this month.

*Please call the church office, 352-3003, for additional
information*

December Birthdays

1	Beck Larson
5	Brooks Carlson Gary Denman
6	Jesslyn Olguin
10	Teya Hawkins Madelynn Peterson
14	Elaine Morrison
16	Luke Larson
18	Tim Adams Karen Karst
19	Wayne Alm
24	Ron Thompson
27	Sharroll Bernahl



December Anniversaries

1	Marvin & Connie Deines David & Melanie Hoyland
12	Lelyn & Jacqui Larson

If we have missed your
birthday or anniversary, please call the church office so that we
can update the records



December 2024

1 9:00 am- Rehearsal 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am- Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am-Holy Communion 11:30 am-Prayer Team	2 Common Sense Kleaining—Church	3	4	5	6	7			
8 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am- Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am-Holy Communion 2:00 pm-Women's Advent	9 Common Sense Kleaining-Annex 9:30 am—2:00 pm—ILC at GIA Clothing Bank	10 5:00 pm-Council Meeting	11	12	13	14			
15 9:00am-Youth Rehearsal 10:30 am-Holy Communion Christmas Pageant & Cookie Social	16 Common Sense Kleaining—Church	17	18	19	20	21			
22 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am- Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am-Holy Communion	23 Common Sense Kleaining-Annex	24 	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Church Offices Closed	26 Church Offices Closed	27	28			
29 10:30 am-Holy Communion	30 Common Sense Kleaining—Church Church Offices Closed	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE Church Offices Closed							

Thanks to our Volunteers!

December 2024

December 1:

Greeter: Vera Sylvester
Ushers: Ron & Cindy Thompson
Assisting Minister: Janet Willis
Lector: Janet Willis
Communion Setup: Cindy Thompson
Communion Ass't: Lelyn Larson
Tellers: Marvin & Connie Deines

December 8:

Greeter: Janet Willis
Ushers: Matt & Molly Ward
Assisting Minister: Julie Elmquist
Lector: Molly Ward
Communion Setup: Molly Ward
Tellers: Vera Sylvester, Brenda Turnwall

December 15:

Greeter: Vera Sylvester
Ushers: John Johnson & Sally Stewart
Assisting Minister: Cindy Budde
Lector: Luke Larson, Jack Larson
Communion Setup: Sue Morse
Tellers: Linda Sample, Janet Johnson

December 22:

Greeter: Julie Elmquist
Ushers: Juan Cruz, Katy Sickles
Assisting Minister: Cindy Budde
Lector: Pete Budde
Communion Setup: Linda Cruz
Tellers: Janet Crespin

December 24 – Christmas Eve:

Greeter: Janet Willis
Ushers: John Johnson & Sally Stewart, Katy Sickles
Assisting Minister: Julie Elmquist
Lector: Luke Larson, Jack Larson
Communion Setup: Janet Willis
Tellers: Bob & Sue Morse

December 29:

Greeter: Julie Elmquist
Ushers: Katy Sickles, Vera Sylvester
Assisting Minister: Janet Willis
Lector: Janet Willis
Communion Setup: Cindy Thompson

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor: Monica Butler 970-573-6020 or 970-352-3003
Secretary: Denise Pollard Stricker 970-352-3003
Office Hours: M—Th 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
Offices closed on Fridays

Executive Council:

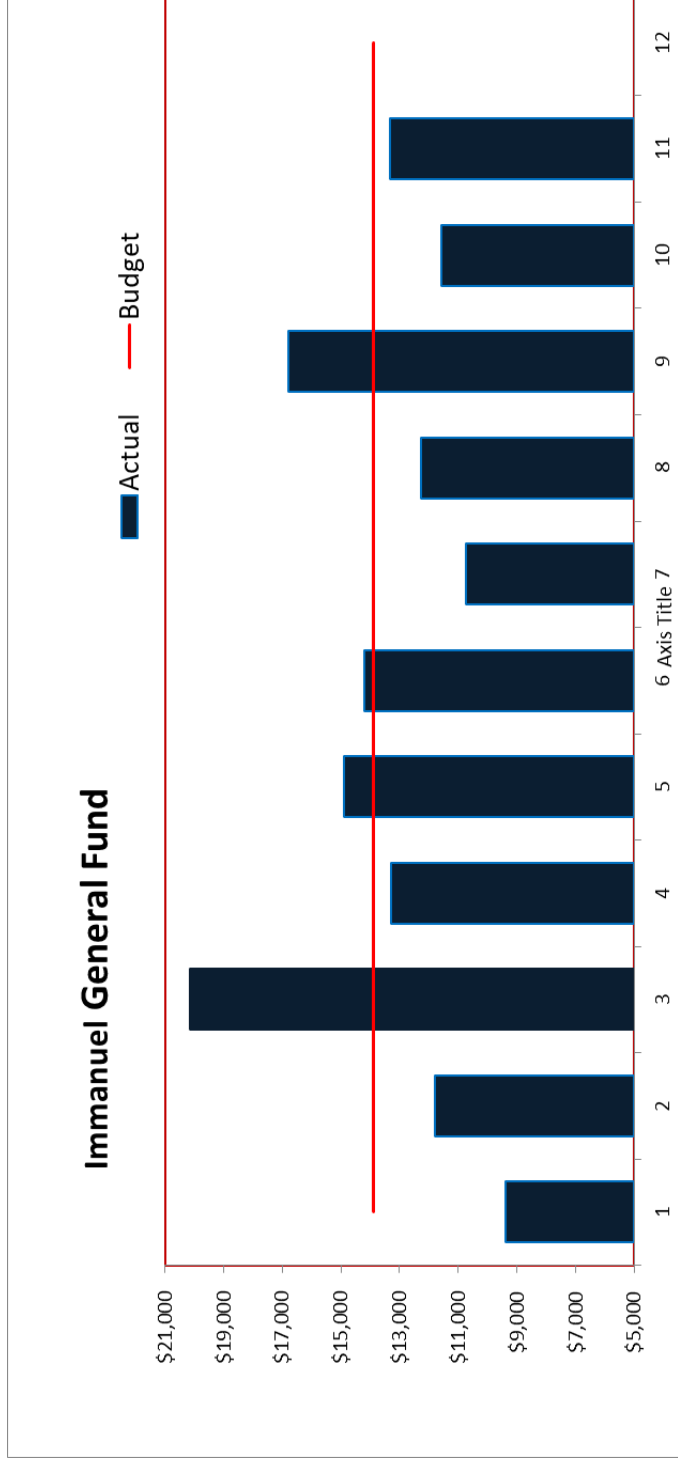
President: Lelyn Larson (c)970-371-0307
Vice President: Julie Elmquist (h)970-330-6679 or (c)970-371-2734
Secretary: Cindy Budde (c)970-371-6588
Treasurer: Connie Deines (c)970-378-1475
Financial Secretary: Bob Morse (c)303-359-5919

Receipts thru NOV 2024

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

DESCRIPTION	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Year to Date
Budget	13,878	13,878	13,878	13,878	13,878	13,878	13,878	13,878	13,878	13,878	13,878	13,878	152,658
Actual	\$9,373	\$11,803	\$20,148	\$13,299	\$14,881	\$14,181	\$10,721	\$12,252	\$16,804	\$11,586	\$13,333		148,382
Under (Over)	4,505	2,075	(6,270)	579	(1,003)	(303)	3,157	1,626	(2,926)	2,292	545		4,276



IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

PURPOSE STATEMENT

*IMMANUEL IS CALLED TO PROCLAIM THE
LIFE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF
CHRIST; TO PROVIDE PLACES AND
OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP AND
FELLOWSHIP; AND TO BE THE SPIRIT OF
CHRIST IN THE WORLD.*

We welcome and encourage submissions for our newsletter. Please make all submissions in writing. We prefer that the material be submitted in electronic form, if possible. All material is subject to editing for content, clarity and style, as needed. The deadline for the newsletter is the **15th** of every month.

Please forward your submission by mail to 1865 14th Ave., Greeley, CO 80631, by fax to 970-352-7096, or by email to office@immanuelgreeley.org

Immanuel Lutheran Church
1865 14th Avenue
Greeley, Colorado 80631

Return Service Requested

December 2024