

Immanuel's News and Notes ~ January 3, 2021

Happy New Year! Welcome to worship, one and all. Please greet one another with the peace of Christ. "God of the Ages, I offer You my heart, anew with this new year. Help me love You and my neighbors all year long, one day at a time. Amen." A special welcome to our guests, please sign our book in the Narthex, and join us again.

Please Remember in Your Prayers: Loren Lee (knee surgery), Coleen Bruhn, (knee surgery) Arlen Meseck, Kandi Teut, Lydell Schoenfeld, Mardella Andresen, Darwin Petersen, Rachel Mentink, Lodean Voss, Diane Taylor, and Rick Henline. *If you have a concern for which you would like us to pray, please call the office, 676-2235, or send an email to: im-mansch@iowatelecom.net.*

Flowers in church are in memory of Bill Aldag, we thank the family for sharing them with us.

End of the Year Statements are in your church boxes.

Portals of Prayer for you on the table in the Narthex.

The Christmas Decorations will be taken down after Bible Class today. If you donated a poinsettia, please take one home with you.

Elders' Planning Meeting today at 11:30 a.m.

The Church Council will meet Tuesday evening, January 5 at 7 p.m. The Voters' Meeting will be next Sunday, January 10 at 10:10 a.m.

The January Messenger will be assembled on Wednesday morning, January 6 at 8:45 a.m., if you would like to help. Thanks.

Readings for Next Sunday, January 10, the Baptism of Our Lord: Genesis 1:1-5; Romans 6:1-11; Mark 1:4-11.

Updating for Addresses: We will be printing a current membership list for our annual report. If you or a family member has a change of address or phone number, please let the office know. Also, please turn in any year-end reports for your group or board.

"God is not just our God or the God of just our people or just our nation or our congregation or our denomination or our demographic category or our tribe or our ethnicity or our language. There is no justice if it's just about just us. No, God is the God of all time and all space and all people. In Christ, all things hang together. Step into your new year with this fresh recognition that the Holy Spirit wants to fill every nook and cranny of your life until you overflow with God's everlasting love for everybody." *Pastor John Nunes on The Lutheran Hour—A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life.* www.lutheransforlife.org.

The Lutheran Hour: "Too Much" by Speaker Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. The Gospel according to St. Mark shows us the Savior Who is always on the move. (Mark 1:1-2:12). Listen to *The Lutheran Hour* every Sunday morning on Denison's KDSN 104.9 FM at 6:30 a.m. and KDSN 1530 AM, at 10:30 a.m.

Building Healthy Families: Depression is associated with many things, but a weak faith is not one of them. Martin Luther himself struggled with depression as did many of our other church leaders. If you are feeling depressed, please don't suffer alone. Luther had the right idea 500 years ago when he said, "Solitude produces melancholy. When we are alone the worst and saddest things come to mind. We reflect in detail upon all sorts of evils. And if we have encountered adversity in our lives, we dwell upon it as much as possible, magnify it, think that no one is so unhappy as we are, and imagine the worse possible consequences." Talk to your pastor or reach out to a Lutheran Family Service counselor for an in person or telehealth conversation. It's why we're here! **Lutheran Family Service—www.LutheranFamilyService.org.**

About the Cover: Jesus increased in wisdom. In His divine nature, the Son of God has all knowledge and wisdom. He has no need for anyone to teach Him and yet in humility deigns to become a Child, taking on our human nature. So, according to His humanity, He grows in wisdom. Jesus has become like us, except without sin, in order to redeem the whole of who we are.

Attendance

Christmas Eve 4 p.m. **102**
8 p.m. **68**
Christmas Day 9 a.m. **42**

Saturday, Dec. 26: **29**
Sunday, Dec. 27: **51**
80

Sunday School: **16**
Adult Bible Class: **14**
High School BC: **3**

Gifts

Church Plate: **\$5,019.00**
Sunday School: **\$ 19.60**

Christmas Eve: **\$4,078.00**
Christmas Day: **\$1,225.00**

The Week Ahead in Ministry: **January 4—10**

Tuesday: 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Preschool Classes Resume
7 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Wednesday: 3:30-5:15 p.m. Confirmation Classes Resume
11:45 a.m.-3 p.m. Preschool

Thursday: 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Preschool
1:30 p.m. LWML

Saturday: 6 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship
10:05 a.m. Sunday School & HS Bible Class
10:10 a.m. Voters' Meeting

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. John 1:5.

Nine year-old Brent was in second grade when most children his age were in fourth. He was big, clumsy, and learning was always a struggle. But Brent was also a gentle child who would always defend the underdog, and was well liked by his classmates. Brent's parents encouraged him to audition for the Sunday school Christmas service. He wanted to be a shepherd, but the teacher in charge of casting made him an innkeeper. She figured Brent's size would lend believability to the role when he refused a room to the holy family. Mother and father helped with his lines and during rehearsals all came off without a hitch. Brent was firm telling Joseph, "There's no room in the inn."

The night of the service, the lights, costumes, and music touched Brent in a very special way. That's why, when Joseph knocked on the painted cardboard door of the inn, Brent was ready. He opened the door and growled, "What do you want?" "We seek lodging," Joseph replied. "Seek it elsewhere," Brent said in a firm and deep voice. "There's no room in the inn." "Please, good innkeeper," Joseph pleaded. "This is my wife, Mary. She is with Child and is very tired. She needs a place to rest.

There was a long pause as Brent looked at Mary. The teacher in charge was prepared. She whis-

pered Brent's line: "No! Be gone!" Brent remained silent. In the best of acting tradition, the couple playing Mary and Joseph acted as if nothing had happened. They turned and began to move into the darkness. That's when Brent called out, "Don't go! You can have my room."

That night, while parents were rightly proud of their children, all were proud of Brent. They knew they had seen something wonderful in the selfless invitation of the young man. One student probably explained it best when she reflected: "We were acting in a program; but for Brent, Jesus was real."

Is Jesus real for you? All around the world today, there are many who still live their lives in sin's darkness. They never understand the wonderful truth of God's love that came so naturally to the young innkeeper. They never see the reality of Jesus, God's Light in the darkness. This day, He has come to the door of your heart. This day, if you have never had room for Him before, it is time by the Spirit's power to call out: "Don't go! Jesus, You can have my life."

Excerpt from The Lutheran Hour sermon preached by the Rev. Ken Klaus on January 5, 2003.

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Worship:
Every Saturday ~ 6 p.m.
Sundays ~ 9 a.m.
Sunday School and
Bible Class ~ 10:05 a.m.
Communion: Every Saturday
& First & Third Sundays

Our Services and the Adult Bible Class are streamed live, recorded, and can be accessed at any time by clicking on Facebook, YouTube and our website at immanuelschleswig.com.

"Together in Christ, we grow through the Word and Sacraments, serving our Lord and sharing His saving grace with all people."

