





DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025

## THE CROSS CONNECTION

News and Happenings for the "Connected-Compassion" Community

A publication of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Light of Christ Chinese Ministry, and Immanuel Lutheran School

# CONTACT US

314-993-2394 9733 Olive Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63132 Pastor Karg rkarg@immanuelolivette.org Pastor Lim elim@lightofchristmission.org

Church Office Hours Monday-Friday 8:00-4:00

# WORSHIP WITH US

Saturdays - 5:00 pm

**Sundays** – 8:00 am and 10:30 am

(also Live Streamed on YouTube)

Holy Communion served 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays each month

**Sunday School** Sundays – 9:20-10:15 am

Bible Classes Sundays—9:30-10:15

### **Light of Christ Worship**

Sundays-10:30 am (also Live streamed on YouTube)

Holy Communion served 1st & 3rd Sundays each month

# CONNECT WITH US









Immanuel Lutheran Church-Olivette

# ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Midweek Advent

Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11, 18-7:00 pm

Sunday, Dec. 22

One Service, 9:00 am

**Christmas Eve** 

Family Service, 5:00 pm

Service hosted by Light of Christ (Chinese/ English), 7:00 pm

Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols, 9:00 pm

### **Christmas Day**

Choral Communion Service, 9:00 am

Sunday, Dec. 29

One Service, 9:00 am

New Year's Eve

Communion Service, 5:00 pm



### **PASTORS**

Rev. Rory Karg 314.761.5523 Rev. Alex Schrader 314.591.4305

### **MISSION PASTOR**

Rev. Edmund Lim 314.991.8804

### DAY SCHOOL FACULTY

Christine Nixon- Principal

Adam Schoedel- Grade 8

Brenda Hente - Grade 7

Jamie Hart- Grade 6

Clayton Erdmann- Grade 5

Rachel Larson- Grade 4

Lori Steingraber- Grade 3

Chris Meyr- Grade 2

Hailey Cole- Grade 1

Lisa Mull- Kindergarten

Bethany Greatens-Pre-Kindergarten

Cheri Fitzgerald- Preschool

Anna Iannucelli- Jr. Preschool

Adam Schoedel- Athletic Director

Keith Huckshold-Algebra Teacher

### **ELDERS**

Head Elder - Greg Miller
Zone 1 (A-B) - Luke Burkemper
Zone 2 (C-F) - Greg Miller
Zone 3 (G-I) - Brian Bunte
Zone 4 (J-L) - Drew Hackmann
Zone 5 (M) - Tim Schaff
Zone 6 (N-R) - Todd Mirly
Zone 7 (S) - Bump Trower
Zone 8 (T-Z) - Pete Seddon

### **STAFF**

Connie Baur– Business Administrator
Helen Qiu– Light of Christ Secretary
Ksenia Mirly– School Secretary

### **MUSIC MINISTRY**

Paul Snyder- Worship Coordinator & Choir Director

### **FIELDWORKERS**

Andrew Cole, Ethan Luft, Steve Steingraber, Abram Egger

### **VICARS**

Joshua Horst, Nan Tian

## CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Neal Niewald– President & Vice President

Natalie Oleshchuk- Secretary

Gregg Knehans- Treasurer

Joan Marek-Financial Secretary

Bethany Greatens

Superintendent

Greg Miller- Elders Board Chairman

Connie Jander– Day School Board Chairman

Carla Krazl- Stewards Board Chairman

Kathy Murray– Parish Education Chairman

### **CO-EDITORS**

Rita Eckert
Katie Krenning

# OFFICIAL ACTS

### RECEIVED BY TRANSFER

Thim and Lisa Theil (Aaron, Jake and Evie) from King of Kings Lutheran Church

### **BAPTISMS**

Hayleigh Erach, 9/14/24 Avery Hack, 9/14/24

### **DECEASED**

Dale Nichols, 10/26/24

# ARTICLE DEADLINE

January 12 for February/March

Articles can be placed in the Anchor
Mailbox in the fellowship hall or e-mailed in
a **Microsoft Word** document type format
(\*.doc) to anchor@immanuelolivette.org

# FROM THE PASTOR

If you haven't noticed...life is crazy busy. It doesn't seem to matter where you are in life, single; young couple; little kids at home; knee deep in high school sports and select teams; or empty nesters, everyone seems to be busy with everything. And now, surprise, surprise, we are all about to throw Advent, Christmas and Epiphany right into the mix of our busy lives. "There is always so much to do..." How many of your conversations with friends and family, maybe even with yourself often contain this lament?

Life was crazy busy for the sisters Mary and Martha, then Jesus was added to the mix; this was enough to push Martha over the edge. Of course, it didn't help that her sister Mary just sat there hanging on Jesus' every word. As she does the work of entertaining, you can almost hear her disgust and resentment as she moves purposely and deliberately about. To her complaint about Mary and obvious disappointment Jesus responds, "...you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary."

Now to be fair we probably all have our Martha days; those days when we fuss and worry about anything and everything because we want it all to be just right. When you have special events and guests, it is hard not to want to have things special and perfect but Jesus reminds us that "one thing is necessary." The one thing necessary is the Word of God; the Word that abides forever.

All of us together are about to begin a most blessed time in the Church Year—Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Each of these seasons give us different aspects of the hope that is ours but all three keep our focus firmly fixed on the "one thing necessary"—the Word of God made flesh, Jesus Christ.

It is a blessing to enter into a Church season that has us looking forward and anticipating the promised return of our Lord and Savior; this is the hope of all Christians. Christ has promised to come again and with bated breath we watch for that blessed return, knowing that the One who has promised is faithful and true.



But the anxiousness and worry about many things will make its way early into the season as we gloss over the hope and anticipation of Advent and have our eyes already on the celebration of Christmas.

Christmas is a joy to celebrate, but how often have we been so focused on the preparation and our celebrating with family and friends, that the Christ child, the manger and the very fact that God for our sake took on flesh, often gets pushed aside with the discarded wrapping paper of so many other gifts...much, much lesser gifts that have no lasting worth or meaning.

Jesus is God's gift to the world, the Word made flesh, the babe in Bethlehem's manger, the one who for our sakes would take His very life to the cross on Calvary. In the busyness of it all, take a breath; Jesus is "the one thing necessary," may His peace be yours this Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Season.

-Pastor Karg

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL



### Partnering with Families to Prepare God's Children for the Future

ILS Olivette's Vision is to lead students to seek and know their **identity in Christ**, develop a continual **love of learning**, and live fully redeemed lives **serving** others.

### **FIRST SEMESTER HAPPENINGS**

As the first semester at Immanuel comes to a close, it is a perfect opportunity to reflect on the growth, learning, and joy that have defined these past few months. The sharing of Jesus daily and the many opportunities have been marked not only by quality education but also enriching activities, all nurtured by a team of dedicated and inspiring teachers and pastors.

From the beginning of the school year, our teachers have worked to create an engaging and supportive environment that aligns with our Lutheran faith and values. Their thoughtful lesson plans, creative teaching methods, and dedication to the personal and academic development of each student demonstrates commitment and care. In fact, other Lutheran schools often send their teachers to observe lessons and discuss ways they can integrate and enhance their teaching as well. Not too long ago, an entire school staff from Illinois visited Immanuel. It was a blessing to share ideas and collaborate together. A few local schools sent teachers to discuss curriculum with 5th and 6th grade teachers, Clayton Erdmann and Jamie Hart. We are thankful for our teachers' willingness to assist. Take a look at the work in our hallways and you'll see evidence of quality learning!



Immanuel Lutheran School Olivette. Missouri 2024-2025

Beyond academics, our school has also offered a variety of extracurricular activities that have allowed students to explore their interests and build life skills. Our Junior Eagle soccer league expanded to a few grades, a children's handbell choir was formed, and cheerleading has made a comeback! Our gym was packed for the first girls' and boys' basketball games. It was great to see and hear the fans cheering on the Eagles! Music, art, and physical education have been highlights, giving students the chance to express themselves, discover new talents, and stay active.

We could not do these things without the support and prayers from our church and school community. As we prepare for the second semester, we celebrate the success and continue with our goals for our mission and ministry to proclaim Christ in all things, as we educate and walk alongside our families.

In His Service.

Christine Nixon, Principal

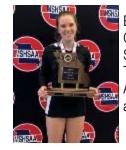
# IMMANUEL SCHOOL ALUMNI NEWS

Grace Schaff, Ella Krenning, and Talya Williams, all from Immanuel's class of 2021, attend Lutheran High School of St. Charles and have all received various athletic and academic awards this fall season:



Grace Schaff for becoming a 4-time All-State runner, 1 of only 2 in Lutheran High Cross Country history to hold this distinction! They placed 5th in State this season.

Grace is also a National Merit Commended Scholar for achieving an exceptional score on the PSAT and placing her within the top 3-4% of testtakers nationwide.



Ella Krenning for being a part of a Class 4 Volleyball 3rd Place finish in State, along with receiving a First Team American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) award for the Best and Brightest.



Talya Williams for being a part of the Lutheran High Tennis team as they won the District Championship for the first time in school history!

# **EDUCATION GRANT**

Attention Widows and Single Mothers:

Immanuel has been given money in a trust fund to help widows and single mothers further their personal education and the education of their dependent children. If you feel you qualify, please contact Pastor Karg to discuss applying for the grant. The money that will be awarded will be allocated out of the interest generated by the base fund. The award will be made based on the need expressed in an application form to be given to those applicants that qualify. Anyone interested in this program will need to submit the application by Feb. 15, 2025. Approval of funds will be made by May 15, 2025.

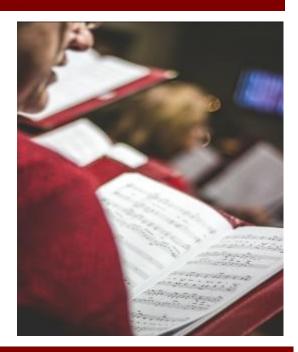
# ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

You're invited to hear the musical groups from Immanuel perform at their annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 15, at 1:30 pm.

The concert will include a variety of selections by the Immanuel School Choir, Handbells, Light of Christ, Psalm 100 Ensemble, and a combined Adult Mixed Choir; plus a chance for you to join in singing favorite Christmas songs and carols.

If you're interested in being part of the mixed choir, join us for practice on Sunday, December 1, at 1:00 pm and on Sundays, December 8 and 15, immediately following 8:00 worship.

Please come worship Christ, the newborn King!





### Come, behold the works of the LORD at Light of Christ

"It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your steadfast love in the morning, and Your faithfulness by night" (Psalm 92:1-2).



The LORD continues to draw people to Himself through LOC. On 9/22, five sisters in Christ were received into the Immanuel/LOC family as new members. We pray that "they are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God." (Psalm 92:13).

The LORD richly blessed 4 seniors who are in their 90s. We sang praises to the LORD, reflected

on Psalm 92 and enjoyed fellowship and delicious dishes together as we celebrated their birthdays on 9/28. We pray that "they still bear fruit in their old age; they are ever full of sap and green." (Psalm 92:14)





The LORD brought together over 10 families who are willing to host and lead small groups. We met on 10/19 to pray together for the new ministry, went through training materials and discussed the Small Group ministry plan. May His steadfast love and His faithfulness be shown through the Small Group ministry.

The LORD blessed 4 couples at the reaffirmation of marriage vow on 10/20. May the faith and love of these couples "flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon." (Psalm 92:12)



The LORD shows His love and care through the usher team. The team

met on 11/3 for a training meeting with Pastor Lim to learn about their roles as ushers. May their hearts be filled with God's love. May the Light of Christ shine through their warm smiles each Sunday.

The LORD has made us glad by His

work; at the works of His hands we sing for joy! The LOC Choir had a wonderful time on 11/9 singing, learning about the worship service, the role of the choir and importance of unity. Each member shared his/her favorite song and how the song impacted his/her life. May the Holy Spirit unite us through music and His word, so with one mind and one voice we may glorify our LORD.





"How great are Your works, O LORD!" (Psalm 92:5) The LORD gave new lives to 4 sisters through baptism on 11/10. What a joyful day! May the LORD continue to work in their lives that

they may declare that the LORD is their rock.

On the same day, we hosted a community workshop on the topic of mental health. Two professionals brought light to the community by sharing very helpful information on depression and anxiety, also ways to deal with worries. Sadly, in this corrupted world, there are despair and sickness. It seems that "the wicked sprout like grass and all evildoers flourish" (Psalm 92:7), but our LORD is on high forever. For behold, the

enemies shall perish; all evildoers shall be scattered. The LORD is our rock! May His steadfast love be declared in the morning, and His faithfulness by night. How great are Your works, O LORD!

# OUR COMMUNITY

# Women's 🖠



Thank you to everyone who signed up to attend the Christmas Banquet on Dec. 3. It promises to be a delightful and festive evening! Appetizers will be served at 6:00 and catered dinner at 6:30, with a program and gift exchange afterwards. Those choosing to participate in the gift exchange should bring a \$5 wrapped gift.

The annual Cookie Fair is coming up on Saturday, Dec. 14! Please see the advertisement elsewhere in this issue for the details and plan to bring your specialties!

The Jan. 7 meeting will begin with a Cup-o'-Soup dinner at 6:00 pm. Please bring a can of either chicken or beef based soup (no cream soups) to add to the steaming pots. The committee will provide the rest. After a short meeting we will join the Men's Club for a "Game Night." All ladies welcome!



# **MEN'S CLUB**

The Men's Club will have its December meeting at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, the 3rd, in the East Building Commons. It will begin with some traditional Christmas caroling off-site, as well as to the women attending their banquet, then a normal meeting and refreshments to follow. We encourage all congregational men and current members to join us. Hope to see you there!

The January meeting is 6:00 pm on Tuesday, the 7th. After a light meal and a brief meeting, "Game Night" with the Women's Guild will feature co-ed dartball, pinochle, ??. Come join the fun!



# **CHURCH DECORATING**

Come help Couples & Singles Club beautify our church for Christmas on Sunday, Dec. 1, 2:00. All extra hands (to fluff greenery and bows) and legs (ladders are involved!) will be appreciated. A light meal will be served when the work is completed, followed by a short business meeting.

Also... help for Undecorating on Jan. 5 after late service would be great, too!



# COMMUNITY CARE TEAM

### **FOOD PANTRY**



We are happy to accept monetary donations and do the shopping for you, or, pick up a list of food pantry suggestions on the food pantry table near the church elevator. Your donations make a difference! Personal hygiene items, including travel size, and brown grocery bags with/without handles are also accepted. Thank you for helping to keep this ministry ongoing for the Concordia Food Bank and Jewish Food Pantry. Food donations may be left on the table at any time. Questions? Contact Diane Tallyn (314) 910-2032 or diane tallyn@hotmail.com.



### Caire Teaim

Our Mission:To reach out in compassion and care to those in need in our community in the name of Christ.

### **IMMANUEL INBOUND**

Please take time to send our Inbound a card; they love hearing from Immanuel! Cards due by 10:30 am, Dec. 8.

December Birthday - Donna Scotino

Personalize your Christmas cards for **Joan Gansman**, **Virginia Kellman**, **Dorothy Knoll**, **Donna Scotino**, **Marilyn Weinstock**, and **Zane Zeable**, just like you prepare other Christmas cards. No postage necessary. Just place cards in the black mail box in the atrium. Make sure the recipient's name is on the envelope. December cards will be delivered by an Immanuel volunteer. Contact Diane Tallyn (Cell 314-910-2032 or diane\_tallyn @hotmail.com) with any questions.

### 2024 CHRISTMAS GIFT COLLECTION

This year our Christmas Gift Collection will support the 100 men housed in the emergency shelter program at Peter & Paul Community Services (PPCS). We're going to collect supplies for 100 gift bags, to ensure that these men have a useful, thoughtful Christmas present. We're asking our Immanuel family to contribute to the collection by providing any of these items:

Pair of socks

Individual size snacks (pretzels, chips)

Candy

Protein bar

Hygiene kit items: razor, toothbrush, floss, or TRAVEL SIZE shaving cream, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, or toothpaste (No regular size, please)



Community Care Team members will be in the atrium after worship services through Sunday, Dec. 8 to accept donated items. We're happy to accept monetary donations, and we'll do the shopping for you. Cash/checks can be given to us in the atrium, placed in the offering plate, or dropped off at the church office. Checks should be made **payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church with CCT** 

Thank you for helping us deliver 100 gift bags to the men in time for Christmas! Please contact Diane Tallyn or Suzanne Hough with any questions.

Collection noted in the memo section.

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2024 CHRISTMAS COTTAGE DECEMBER 6

Immanuel students are invited to Christmas shop for others at the Christmas Cottage on Friday, Dec. 6, in the fellowship hall. PK4-8<sup>th</sup> grade students will shop during the school day, purchasing up to 10 items. They may return after school with a parent to purchase additional gifts. Anyone may shop from 3:30-4:30. PS2 and PS3 may shop from 3:30-4:30 with their parent.

Many volunteers are needed to make this event a success. Please contact Pam Niewald 314-805-0716, or email <a href="mailto:pamniewald@gmail.com">pamniewald@gmail.com</a> if you would like to volunteer any of the following shifts:

8:30-12:00 \*Assist young shoppers \*Cashier \*Wrap/tag gifts

1:00-2:00 \*Consolidate gifts \*Take down tables

3:30-5:00 \*Wrap/tag gifts \*Clean up

Donations are much appreciated and may be left in the Christmas Cottage tote anytime, located under the desk near the 1st floor elevator.

Christmas Cottage Team: Pam Niewald, Rachel Erdmann, Cheryl Schaff, Diane Tallyn and Margaret Watkins.



# ANNUAL COOKIE FAIR DECEMBER 14, 9:00-12:00



All Immanuel members are invited to make cookies of all kinds! Bring them to the fellowship hall counter anytime Friday, Dec. 13 or before 9:00 am on Saturday. A large supply is needed!

Everyone is encouraged to come to the fair and invite friends and neighbors, too. Customers make their choices from the long line of open containers using a plastic glove to put selections into a box. The filled box is then weighed; cost is \$10 per pound.

Past customers have been extremely pleased and tend to return each year. Immanuel has a reputation for having excellent bakers! The Cookie Fair benefits the Women's Guild scholarship fund, mission projects, and Immanuel needs. Thank you for participating!

# **BOARD OF STEWARDS**

### Vitality??

Health experts tell us to drink a minimum of eight glasses of water a day. Even eight minutes a day spent in reading God's Word accompanied by prayer and meditation on your reading could do wonders for your spiritual vitality. Persevere in Christ's energy! (Excerpt from *Discussing Stewardship with Confirmands*, p. 13)

# CHRISTMAS STORY WALK



# GREETERS LIST

### **Notes To Greeters:**

Please note on your personal calendar, and trade with someone if you have a conflict. Badges are in the Volunteer Room. More Greeters are always welcome. Please call Judy Meyr (314-265-1182) if interested in this service to the Lord.

### December 2024

Sun. 12/1: 8 am Carla Krazl

10:30 am Tim & Cheryl Schaff

Wed 12/4: 7 pm Brice & Lisa Williams

Sat. 12/7: 5 pm Ricci Grabski

Sun 12/8: 8 am Luke & Barb Burkemper

10:30 am Jerry & Margaret Watkins

Wed. 12/11: 7 pm John & Suzanne Domalewski

Sat. 12/14: 5 pm Sue Wyland & Betty Crane Sun. 12/15: 8 am Duane & Bette Bude

10:30 am John & Christa Hellert

1:30 pm Ken & Rita Eckert Concert:

Wed. 12/18:

7 pm Leslie Elgert

Sat. 12/21: 5 pm Becky Shaw Sun 12/22: 9 am Cheryl Lokke

Christmas Eve 5 pm Lois Stiegemeier

9 pm Greg & Sherry Miller

9 am Bob & Angie Sudbring Christmas Day

Sat. 12/28: 5 pm Mike & Mar Croxton

Sun. 12/29: 9 am Char Gordon

New Year's Eve: 5 pm Bryan & Jenny Hackmann

January 2025

Sat 1/4: 5 pm Leslie Elgert Sun 1/5: 8 am Rae Mohrmann

10:30 am Tim & Cheryl Schaff

Sat. 1/11: 5 pm Ricci Grabski

Sun. 1/12: 8 am Brice & Lisa Williams

10:30 am John & Christa Hellert

Sat. 1/18: 5 pm Sue Wyland & Betty Crane

Sun. 1/19: 8 am Char Gordon

10:30 am Diane Tallyn

Sat. 1/25: 5 pm Margaret Watkins 8 am Cheryl Lokke Sun. 1/26:

10:30 am Greg & Sherry Miller

# **UPCOMING EVENTS!**

# One Night

Saturday, January 25, 2025; 5-8 pm

Held in Immanuel's Gym

# Two Events

Chili Cook-Off and Cornhole Tournament

Corn Hole begins at 6:30 pm.

# A Combined Fundraiser

Immanuel 8<sup>th</sup> grade: Chicago Trip Immanuel Sr. High Youth: National Youth Gathering

# SOUP SUPPER



The Youth are serving a soup supper before the first Advent service on December 4, 5:00-6:15. This is a free will offering event, all proceeds will go to the youth participating in the National Youth Gathering in 2025. Thank you for your support!

# DECEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	9	7
8:00/10:30 Worship			9:30 Bazaar	9:30 Quilters	All Day Christmas	4:00 Christmas Walk
1:00 Christmas Decorating ing 6:30 Sr. High Youth		6:30 Women's Guild	6:00 Handbells		Cottage	5:00 Worship
∞	6	10	11	12	13	14
8:00/10:30 Worship			9:30 Bazaar	9:30 Quilters II.S BBall Tourney		9:00 Cookie Fair
-		ILS BBall Tourney	6:00 Handbells			5:00 Worship
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:00/10:30 Worship			9:30 Bazaar	9:30 Quilters		
1:30 Christmas Concert		4-8:00 ILS Dine-Out	6:00 Handbells			5:00 Worship
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26	27	28
9:00 Worship	NO School	5:00 Family Service 7:00 LOC Led Service	Church/School Of- 9:30 Quilters fice Closed 9:00 Worship	9:30 Quilters		5:00 Worship
	30	31 New Year's Eve	Sunday Morning Schedule	Schedule	Light of Christ	
9:00 Worship	NO School	5:00 Worship	8:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30 a.m. Worship	nool/Bible Class	9:30 a.m. Chinese & English I Catechism Class 10:30 a.m. Bilingual Worship 12:00 p.m. Lunch	9:30 a.m. Chinese & English Bible Classes Catechism Class 10:30 a.m. Bilingual Worship 12:00 p.m. Lunch

# JANUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Bri	Sat
	3		1 New Year's Day 2	2	3	4
Connected	ted Compassion	ssion		9:30 Quilters		5:00 Worship
2	9		8	6	10	11
8:00/10:30 Worship 11:30 Church UnDeco-			9:30 Bazaar	9:30 Quilters		
<b>S</b>		6:30 Women's Guild				5:00 Worship
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:00/10:30 Worship			9:30 Bazaar	9:30 Quilters		
7:00 Adult BBall						5:00 Worship
19	20 MLK Day	21	22	23	24	25
8:00/10:30 Worship	No School Church/School Offices		9:30 Bazaar	9:30 Quilters		5.00 Worship
7:00 Adult BBall	Closed		ILS Dine-Out			5:00 Chili Cookoff
26	27	28	29	30	31	
8:00/10:30 Worship			9:30 Bazaar	9:30 Quilters		
7:00 Adult BBall	,	4:00 ILS Open House				

