

GABRIEL'S GAZETTE



*"Loving, Sharing, Serving
Jesus with you."*

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Windows into Immanuel

Among the passages of the Bible you might most likely skip would be Exodus 25-30 regarding the Lord's extremely detailed instructions for the building of the Tabernacle with all its furnishings and decorations, the vestments of the priests, down to the materials, colors, and measurements. The Lord said, "Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the Tabernacle, and all of its furniture, so you shall make it." (Exodus 25:9)

Why would God care so much about the details? It's not like God needs our gold and precious materials. Nor do we need them to make our worship more worthy of God or to make our prayers heard. And yet, God didn't just have Moses put up a plain old tent for His house. The Tabernacle – and later the Temple – was built with the finest wood, gold, fabrics, embroidery, and colors possible at that time.

The Tabernacle was planet earth's throne room for God. This was the place where God dwelled with His people, speaking to them, receiving their offerings, and forgiving their sins. God wanted an earthly, material way to teach His people about His holiness, their sin, and His power of salvation. And God used all the human senses to do that: sight, smell, taste, hearing, and touch. To walk into the Tabernacle would be like walking into heaven, with all the gold and kingly fabrics. There were cherubim-embroidered curtains and vestments with pomegranates on them. You would smell the aroma of incense and taste the fine wine, bread, and meat offered there to the Lord. You would hear the chanting of the Levites and the people. All would teach you that this is holy ground and you must be made holy by God in order to be in His presence.

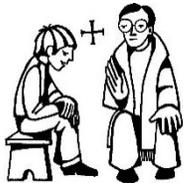
Later, when the time came for God to bridge the gap our sin had made between

man and God, God's Tabernacle became the human flesh of the son of Mary. Now, because of the incarnation, we could hear and see and touch our God in human flesh! God, a spirit, became a tangible person for us, forever uniting heaven and earth. But because "He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him" (Isaiah 53:2), men desecrated this Temple. But God raised Jesus from the dead and made Him the source of our salvation. In human flesh our Lord rules over the creation and blesses us with His gracious presence wherever Christians gather.

Our church building also doesn't look like other common structures in our everyday lives. When you walk into it, you are to sense that you are coming into God's presence, where He comes to speak to us and give us His gifts. We still enter holy ground when we come into the sanctuary, which is why we give special reverence to that space, but now we are cleansed by Jesus' blood and sanctified by His Spirit to be there. We have access to the Holy of Holies! Thanks be to God!

The most prominent features of our sanctuary are the tall windows and large cross in the center. These are meant to be *windows* into the reality of Christ's saving presence among us. He is Immanuel, "God with us"! Beginning the weekend of November 30 and December 1, I will be giving weekly children's sermons on each of the images of the windows. (Saturday, I will print color images of them, since they will be dark.) Join us as we go through Christ's story from the Old Testament to the New Testament, from the Incarnation to the Time of the Church today, using the beautiful art God has given us.

Pastor



Private Confession

I will be making Private Confession more available for those who would like to use it. Beginning Saturday, December 14, I will be available in my office for Confession every second Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. You can always make an appointment for another time as well.

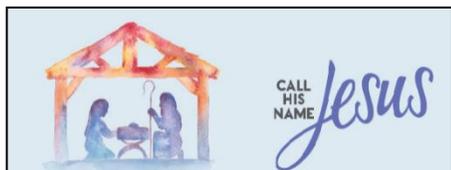
- Pastor



ADVENT IS QUICKLY APPROACHING and our midweek services begin on December 4th. Traditionally we offer a supper before worship. **We need two groups to sign-up to provide midweek meals, one on Dec. 4th and one on Dec. 11th.** Please contact the office at (219) 872-4419 to sign up.

Please note: there will be no meal on Dec. 18th.

Advent Devotional



Foretold by the prophets and announced by angels, Jesus' birth is the fulfillment of divine promises. The events of Christmas have God's fingerprints all over them. At just the right time, He brought His Son into this world to redeem us. In *Call His Name Jesus*, we see how God is ever-present in our lives—so much so that His Son became one of us to bring us back to Himself.

Be sure to pick up your copy of *Call His Name Jesus* today! Large print copies are also available for those who would like one. This is a wonderful Advent devotional! If you would like an additional copy please let the office know. You can also download a copy to an e-reader at www.lhm.org.



ALL THE LADIES OF IMMANUEL ARE INVITED TO THE LADIES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY!

**When: December 7, 2019
12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

**Where: Holly's Restaurant
3705 Franklin Street
Michigan City, IN**

R.S.V.P. by Wednesday, December 4th to Janet Solum (219) 324-9602 or bsolfam@frontier.com or the office at (219) 872-4419 or immanuellutheran1237@gmail.com. You may also sign-up on the sheet on the bulletin board.

Please join us!
All meals are dutch treat.



CONGREGATIONAL QUARTERLY VOTERS MEETING



TUESDAY, DEC. 10, 7:00 PM

This is an important voters meeting for all members. We will be electing new officers for 2020 and voting upon the budget for the coming year.



Immanuel provides volunteer teams to deliver meals for a specific route each Monday for *Meals On Wheels* in Michigan City. Right now, we have five teams of two people – that's about once a month for each team. However, during the winter months, two of our teams head south for the winter months, so we could really use some additional help!

Do you have just one hour one on Monday per month to help us provide this very important service to our homebound neighbors? If you would like more information or would like to ride with a team to see how it's done, please contact Peggy Elser, 326-1354.



A Living Nativity

Immanuel will be participating with four other churches in a live nativity on **Saturday, Dec. 21, 5-8 p.m. at the corner of Barker Ave. and Woodland Ave.** It will include Christmas carol singing, live persons dressed as the parts of Jesus' birth narrative, and live animals. Check the bulletin board for more information and to help.



Advent Midweek Services Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. Dec. 4 & 11

Come early for supper at 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Week Services



Wednesday, December 18

7:00 p.m. Sunday School Service

Saturday, December 21

6:00 p.m. Worship Service with Communion

Sunday, December 22

10:00 a.m. Worship Service with Communion

Tuesday, December 24

6:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols Service

Tuesday, December 24

11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
with Communion

Wednesday, December 25

9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service
with Communion

Saturday, December 28

6:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer

Sunday, December 29

10:00 a.m. Worship Service with Communion

Tuesday, December 31

6:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Service
with Communion



PLEASE NOTE: There will not be a January edition of *Gabriel's Gazette*. Watch your mailboxes and the weekly bulletin for information about January activities.





Shepherds & Lambs

The Sunday School Newsletter

December 2019

I can't believe another year is almost over!

Our students again will share the birth of our Savior in a service titled "CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD" on **Dec. 18 at 7 p.m.** Students need to be at church at 6:30 p.m. that night. We will have only one practice this year because of staff conflicts. That practice will be 10 a.m.-12 p.m. on Dec. 14, with a party from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. The classes will have a section to practice. We hope that all will fall into place on the 14th. ALL STUDENTS NEED TO BE THERE FOR SURE!! Song sheets and speaking parts will be distributed shortly.



We will be having treat bags for students after the Children's service. There will be a signup sheet on the bulletin board with items that the congregation could help donate. The students really enjoy these Christmas bags and we appreciate anything you can bring to make this happen! The candy needs to be at church no later than Dec. 15. Thank you!



A Blessed Christmas to all,

*--Lynette Johnston-Martin,
Superintendent*



This year to help countdown the days until Christmas, we are going to use what's called THE JESSE TREE.

A Jesse Tree represents the family tree of Jesus Christ. There are 25 ornaments with each ornament representing a story from the Bible that tells about God's people before Jesus was born. Each story shows God's salvation plan and tells how He guided humanity to prepare for the coming Messiah.

The tradition of the Jesse Tree dates back to the middle ages. The name "Jesse Tree" comes from Isaiah 11:1, "Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit." Jesse is the father of King David. The Savior was to come from David's family line.

During the Advent season, starting Dec. 1, a Bible story is read which relates to Jesus' family or God's people. After the family reads the Bible story, an ornament is colored and placed on a tree. This is a GREAT way to share the Christmas story as a family. Please make this an important part of your family devotion as we prepare for the birth of Jesus.

Nativity Word Search

C A N O I T A V L A S D N S H S
 Q S H E P H E R D S R F A L L U
 R A T S A M T S I R H C T E J S
 N E M E S I W S H E E P I G O E
 J G N I K M A R Y G I U V N S J
 M O S Y I H X Q U R Q W I A E T
 D O N K E Y R E G N A M T D P M
 Z I L I N N K E E P E R Y O H F



- angels
- Christmas
- donkey
- innkeeper
- Jesus
- Joseph
- king
- manger
- Mary
- nativity
- salvation
- sheep
- shepherds
- star
- wisemen

Nine students had Perfect Attendance in October. Good Job Kids!





Christmas season concerts . . .

MICHIGAN CITY COMMUNITY CHORUS

You are invited to the Michigan City Community Chorus' Christmas Concert on **Sunday, Dec. 15, at 2:00 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall.



Handel's "MESSIAH"

First Presbyterian Church
121 W. Ninth St.
Michigan City, IN

This is the 55th year that Handel's *Messiah* is being presented. It is directed by Phil Bauman with distinguished soloists, orchestra, and choir. Several members of Immanuel have been singing in this event for many years.

Ticket Info:

There are a limited number of tickets printed for each event. There will be three opportunities to hear Handel's *Messiah*:

- Public dress rehearsal on Saturday, **Dec. 21**, 10:30 a.m.
- Concert Performance on Saturday, **Dec. 21**, 7:00 p.m.
- Concert Performance on Sunday, **Dec. 22**, 3:00 p.m.

Tickets held in Will Call unless picked up prior to the event. Ticket Questions?

Phone: [\(219\) 872-6746](tel:2198726746)

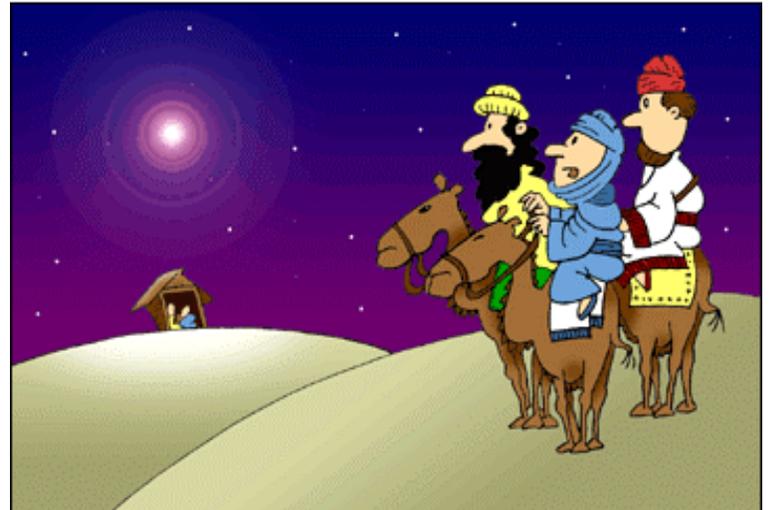
Email: tickets@McMessiah.com



Come one and all!
"Soup & Song"
Christmas Caroling
to our shut-ins
& older members.
Sunday, Dec. 15

We will have everything you need to join us. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. We will meet at church at **4:00 p.m.** and will leave by 4:15. We will then come back for soup and cocoa when we are finished caroling.

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Thanks to Nadine Fafard (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-24-2001

**THAT'S THE BEST ONE-STAR HOTEL THAT
I'VE EVER SEEN**



We will be collecting care package items for our Service members

We will be collecting items for each of our servicemen from now to **December 5th**. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place and place your items in the shopping cart. We do not need to collect everything on the list or the same items for each person. This is just a guideline of items that are most requested.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place and more information in your mailbox. If you prefer to get something that is not listed, please let the office know what it is.

**Sending care packages is a great way to show our heroes
that we are thinking of them.**

Please direct any questions to the office.

Treats

Soldiers love getting treats from back home, but remember that they need to be non-perishable. The key to sending treats is to make sure they are portable. Soldiers like to be able to carry snacks on them. This means looking for packaging that is smaller and won't burst open easily. You could also include ziplock bags so that your soldier can portion snacks.

Snack bars (<i>we send a lot of Moose Crunch Bars</i>)	Cheese crackers	Nuts
Small, hard containers of snacks	Candy (<i>avoid chocolate</i>)	Trail mix
Snack cakes	Gum	Chips of any kind
	Sunflower seeds	Gummies

Entertainment

Entertainment options are great to send as soldiers have downtime to spend while they are not out on a mission.

Letter writing supplies	Board games	Journals (<i>Pilot Precise is often requested</i>)
Frisbees/balls	Cards	V5 Stick Rolling Ball Pens
Holiday decorations	Books	

Food and Drink

Sending food or drinks is a little trickier. The best things to send are things that are already prepared, things that will enhance the MREs they receive (Meals Ready to Eat) or quick sources of protein. Here are some ideas:

Ramen Noodles	Energy bars	Peanut butter
Seasoning salt	Tuna fish	Coffee Whole Bean or Ground
Hot sauce	Sardines	Red Bull
Flavoring packets for water	Beef Jerky	Monster Energy Drinks
Individual packets of condiments	Summer Sausage	V8
Powdered drink mix	Instant Mac and Cheese	Perrier
	Tea bags	Gatorade

Toiletries

Lots of soldiers say that toiletries are also great to send, but be sure to check-in with your soldier on his or her specific needs. It may not seem that exciting to you, but the soldiers really appreciate receiving personal care items. Here are some things to send:

Toothbrushes	Lip Balm/gloss	Glass cleaner or lens cleaning cloths (<i>for cleaning sand off their glasses</i>)
Toothpaste	Lotion	Axe Body Spray
Shaving lotion	Pain relievers	Fingernail clippers
Disposable razors	Eye drops	Q-Tips
Shampoo	Foot powder	First aid kits
Mouthwash	Sunscreen	
Baby wipes		

Other Items

Other items that are frequently requested:

Ankle socks, boot socks, and work gloves.	AAA batteries	Cozy Shower Towel
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FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE . . .



For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, is teaching those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. This is because worry and anxiety show what we care about. Our anxiety reveals what we love and to what we're devoted. It reveals what we trust in.

This is why our Lord begins this section with an overarching principle: "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

But you say: "I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell." Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father in heaven will ensure that you have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument.

Your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven feeds the birds and clothes the lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you when you are worth more than they are?

For you know that you are worth more than them. You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. Did the Son of God come down from heaven and become a lily? Did he descend and take on the form of a bird? No!

He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone. He is one of us, our brother. And what did He do when He became flesh to

dwell among us? He gave His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death, that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom forever.

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserve because of it. He was raised again on the third day to overcome sin and death ... for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?

To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to care about this and find security in it, is to serve another god. It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God is risen from the dead, lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that God – who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son, and sanctifies you by His Spirit – will not keep His promises of sustaining you in this life.

Jesus says this: Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness. God's kingdom is His rule among us. His rule among us comes when our Father in heaven gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. This is what we ask God to do for us in the prayer Jesus taught us.

Your Father in heaven knows what you need – food and clothing, house and home, etc. – and He promises to give it to you. Chief of the things you need is His grace and mercy in His Son, Jesus Christ. So, seek after that. Those who seek will find. And all the necessities of life, our Lord says, will be added to you.

- *LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter, December 2019*



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Sunday, **Jan. 5** – Installation of new officers of the congregation
 Monday, **Jan. 6** – Deadline for submitting news for the February *Gazette*
 Tuesday, **Jan. 7** – First Council Meeting of the New Year

