



PARISH THREE

Immanuel and St. Johns Lutheran Churches

January Worship Schedule

Jan 3rd 9am at Immanuel
Jan 10th 9am at St. John's
Jan 17th 9am at Immanuel
Jan. 24th 9 am St. John's Annual Mtg.
Jan. 31st 9 am Immanuel Annual Mtg

Following the holidays we will turn our attention towards the new year! **Remember to complete your year end reports** for the annual meetings. Annual meetings will be January 24th at St. John's and January 31st at Immanuel.

The times and places of worship are listed. Remember though we may go back to zoom or online services only depending on the pandemic. An email will be sent along with word of mouth communication.

<https://zoom.us/j/4409991095...>
Meeting ID 44 999 1095 Pass-
word 137207

Remember you can check out the website at Parishthree.com

Thank You!

Thank You for all of the cards and gifts and all of the appreciation you show me as your pastor.

Being with you and serving you is a great privilege.

May you have a wonderful 2021!

Pastor Kim Peterson

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Pastor's COLUMN

January 2021

Dear Friends In Christ,

A woman had cancer. Her friend saw her at the Christmas Eve service. Christmas Eve was the only time of year they were able to see each other as that is when they were both home.

The friend made her way across the church to greet her and hug her. What words should she say? Her childhood friend was probably dying of cancer. When the warm hug was over, she looked her friend in the eyes, still looking for the right words.

"I'm so sorry," were the only words she could say.

The woman with cancer had a surprising answer. "I have known Christ in so many good times," she said sincerely and directly. "And now I will know him in his sufferings."

The page of the calendar will turn on January 1st. Our hopes and dreams include the desire for this nightmare with Covid-19 to be over. With every January 1st, the turn of the calendar page brings about expectations for a better year. Maybe this year will be better than last.

We easily become lost in the troubles of the year.

We must remember whose we are. We are Christians. We belong to Christ, and God calls us His own. In baptism we die to ourselves to be raised to new life in Christ. Lost in the troubles of this world, we too often fail to turn our eyes to our Lord and walk with Him.

As we enter into 2021, look for Christ. He is already there ahead of us. Remember how Christ has loved us and cared for us. Learn about suffering from him. Learn to practice God's grace for each other as we live for Christ and for our neighbor.

Begin this New Year reflecting on how God has been good to you and will be good to you through Jesus Christ.

Happy New Year,

Pastor Kim Peterson



MINUTE BIBLE STUDY

Mark 1:4-11

Who is this Jesus who greets us in the New Year? January 6th is the Baptism of Jesus which moves us into the season of Epiphany. Who is this Jesus? He cannot remain in the cradle forever.

1. John was baptizing a baptism of repentance.
2. Where did he baptize Jesus?
3. When Jesus came out of the water, what did he see?
4. What do you think it means when it says “the heavens ***torn*** apart” rather than “the heavens opened up?”
5. The Word “torn” is used in only one other place in the New Testament. What happened in Luke 23:45. What was torn in this verse?
 - a. What was going on?
 - b. What do you think this tearing means for us?
6. The Holy Spirit descended like a dove on Jesus. What did the voice from heaven say?
7. If this is the Son of God, what could that mean for us as we enter into a new year?

ST. JOHN'S

Jan 3 - Nick Wood
Jan 9 - Lori Larson
Jan 14 - Amy Juhl
Jan 15- Jim Steffen
Jan 16 - Morgan Hobbs
Jan 16 - Allyson Wilson
Jan 17 - Jacob Rivera
Jan 18 - Britaney Folkerts
Jan 19 - Nolan Harmon
Jan 20 - Deb Alphas
Jan 20 - Dennis Smith
Jan 22 - Jake Wood
Jan 23 - Dixie Buns
Jan 24 - Jacquelyn Kennedy
Jan 25 - Lori Neal
Jan 26 - Karen Larson
Jan 28 - Olivia Gibbs
Jan 30 - Steve Gerdes



IMMANUEL

Jan 2 - Doug Culbertson
Jan 3 - Timothy Ricklefs
Jan 4 - Jay Mayland
Jan 6 - Gregory Gjerde
Jan 8 - Le Ann Bruns
Jan 8 - Michael Mayland
Jan 8 - Abby Sexton
Jan 13 - Kody Plymesser
Jan 14 - Branden Larsen
Jan 16 - Julie Alphas
Jan 17 - Sharon Hoffmann
Jan 17 - Tyson Ricklefs
Jan 20 Nicholas Kardoes
Jan 30 - Scott Gjerde
Jan 30 - Ronald Schmidt
Jan 30 - Emily Ullmann
Jan 31 - Ethan Boyken



St. John's Annual Meeting will follow church on Sunday, January 24th. No brunch this year!



Immanuel Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, January 31st following church service.



Immanuel News

Servant Schedule

Communion/Dossal/ Banners
Doug & Lisa Swingen

Readers

January 3rd– Jim Post
January 17th --Wendy Harms
January 31st - Sherri Post

St. John's News

Servant Schedule

Ushers - Eric Larson & Daryl
Beenken

Communion - Lisa Steffen

Bulletin Board - Olivia & Kyra
Gibbs

Altar Cloths & Flowers
Julie Larson

Readers

January 10-Val Gibbs
January 24 Gary Hayungs

Thank you St. John's for the
Christmas present. It is appre-
ciated! Diana, Val and Phyllis

Parish Three Council Meeting
January 12th at 7:00pm at St.
John's.



Answers to the How Well Do You Know Your Christmas Carols?

O Little Town - 14

What Child 6

Love Came - 18

Go, Tell It - 23

Jolly Old - 21

We Wish You- 1

Of the Father's - 24

Carol of - 29

God Rest - 4

Bring a Torch - 28

Pat-a-pan - 22

Sweet Little - 10

O Holy Night - 2

Silver Bells - 15

It Came Upon - 5

Hark! The Herald - 19

I'll Be Home - 3

Away in a Manger - 26

Sing We Now - 13

Angels, We Have - 11

Silent Night - 27

Mary, Did you - 16

We Three Kings - 8

O Come All Ye - 9

Joy to the World - 25

Little Drummer - 7

The Holly and - 30

Fum, Fum, Fum - 12

Jingle Bells - 17

White Christmas - 20

Thank you to all who helped with the sharing tree this year at St. John's! We helped out 35 children and provided gift cards for the families. Thank you! Val

Annual reports should be sent to parishthre@wctatel.net

St. John's submit reports by January 15th and Immanuel submit by January 20th.



January 2021, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Raising Our Voice for Iowa Children and Families

Families struggling without access to mental healthcare. Human services providers overworked and underpaid. Former refugees and immigrants striving to build new lives.

These are all issues faced by Iowans. Help us ensure their voices are heard at the Iowa State Capitol.

This legislative session may look different from past years. But now more than ever, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) will be advocating for our community members who are so often overlooked in our society.

You can join us in this important work. Visit LSIowa.org/advocacy and sign up for our Advocacy Alerts. Learn more about the legislative process, the issues impacting your neighbors, and your role as a citizen in helping to amplify their voices. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and [facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

Compassion During Crisis

Across the state, LSI team members work with families at risk of child abuse or neglect, connecting them to the tools and resources they need to keep their children in their homes whenever safely possible.

One of the critical programs available to parents is the Strengthening Families program. The program typically provides 14 weeks of in-person parent group work, family activities, and a family meal to enhance child development, help parents create their own support network, and reduce the likelihood of child abuse or neglect.

When COVID-19 created challenges to this in-person model, LSI did not give up on the families who relied on this important service. Instead, LSI's Behavioral Health Intervention Services team has gone virtual.

Maria, a program supervisor with LSI, has been leading a virtual version of the program this year, where families join a Zoom meeting and use "breakout rooms" for individual sessions. Meals are purchased from Hy-Vee and delivered the night of the session, so families are still able to celebrate their tradition of eating together each week.

This year has created several challenges for all of us, but LSI continues to answer the call and provide the high-quality care and services Iowa children and families deserve.

OAXACA REPORT: Dear Sponsors, Greetings from *Centro de Esperanza Infantil* and Oaxaca Street Children, Mexico! We hope that this message finds you and your family in good health due to the current epidemic amongst us. Currently we are dispensing grocery bags to 100 families every Friday and every Saturday since we are not able to serve food in our dining room. A total of nine to ten students daily come to the center to continue their studies online. (Most of our students live too distant to come to the center daily). We continue to operate at the center but under limited circumstances as our children, young adults, and families come to the center mainly for administrative reasons. We are doing our best to care for our 670 children and their families during this difficult time.

The kinder, elementary and secondary students were not able to come to our center during the summer to write their Christmas letter to their sponsors, therefore, some of you will not be receiving a letter and a grade report this year from your sponsored child. Only the older students were able to send their letters via email to us. We hope that you understand the situation and we hope to be back to normal next year. The Mexican Board members, staff of CEI, the children and their families want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and safe New Year! A special thank you to all the sponsors, donors and volunteers for both your ongoing support and the extra support to help us through this tough year!

Dra. Martha Canseco Bennetts, President of the Mexican Board

It's SNOW-ing!

This puzzle contains 22 words that begin with "snow-." Find the words, then write them at the bottom of the page.

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

