



Evening Advent Services at
7:00pm

Dec 1st Immanuel
Dec 8th St. John's
Dec 15th Good Hope

Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service
With Holy Communion

St. John's 5:00pm
Immanuel 6:15pm
Good Hope 7:30 No Com-
munion

Christmas Day Service
Good Hope 9:00am



Dec 1st 9am at Immanuel
7pm at Immanuel
Dec 8th 9am at St. John's- WOW Christmas Program
7pm at St. John's
Dec 15th 9am at Immanuel with Communion
7pm at Good Hope
Dec 22nd 9am at St. John's with Communion
Dec 24th 5pm at St. John's with Communion
6:15pm at Immanuel with Communion
7:30pm at Good Hope
Dec 25th 9am at Good Hope
Dec 29th 9am at Immanuel

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 19th at St. John's and January 26th at Immanuel.



Parish Information:
Office Phone: 641-926-5798
Office email: Parishthre@wctatel.net

Pr. Kim Cell: 605-759-5415
Pr. Kim Home: 515-928-2552
Pr. Kim EMAIL: ktkso2@netins.net
Mailing: PO Box 95, Woden, Iowa 50484

Pastor's COLUMN

December 2019

Dear Friends In Christ,

Each year Christmas arrives earlier and earlier. All of us grumble about Christmas sales beginning around Labor Day. The joy of Christmas is lost for many as our focus is directed from Christ to things. There is anger this year that some stores are planning to be open on Thanksgiving Day. Sadly, in a few years that will probably become the norm as stores compete for the necessary sales in order to remain open.

With Christmas songs playing in the background, we find ourselves getting into the "Christmas Mood". In other words we fall victim to the calls of the world.

So the question often asked of worship leaders is "why do we not sing Christmas Carols right after Thanksgiving?" Without realizing it, the ways of the world have convinced us that the month of December is Christmas time.

The result is the loss of that season of Advent. Advent is the four Sundays of looking forward to the coming of Christ. Those four Sundays separate us from the directions of the world to turn our hearts to the promises of God that a Savior will be coming.

Yes, it is a struggle. TV designates a certain number of days before Christmas as the "the days of Christmas". Even Christian radio frequently speaks of the twelve days of Christmas as the time before Christmas. (the 12 Days of Christmas are actually after Christmas ending on January 6th, Epiphany) Sadly, by December 26th, we have tired of Christmas.

We need those four Sundays of Advent. We need that time to prepare spiritually, recognizing our need for a Savior. By observing those four Sundays of Advent we actually prepare to celebrate a Christmas that includes Jesus Christ.

We live in world that slowly chips away at our faith. Little by little we give in, usually without much thought. It is so easy to take the Christ out of Christmas to give us the feelings we so much desire.

Lest you say, "I still want to sing Christmas hymns in December" we do begin to slip them in. We must admit, we enjoy them too. But as your Pastors, as your Spiritual leaders we work to guide you to the Season of Hope, the season of anticipation, of looking forward to the coming of Christ, that season of Advent. Can Christmas be more than just "feeling" or "being in the mood"?

Take some time to look at the words of some of our beautiful Advent hymns. Notice how they turn our eyes and hearts away from the desires of this world to the desires of God's love and hope. Perhaps you might want take some of those hymns and make them a part of your devotions during December. Read the words and be filled with hope. Listed are a few of the favorites

Oh Come, O Come Emmanuel #34

Prepare the Royal Highway # 26

Comfort, Comfort Now My People #29

Wake, Awake, the Night Is Flying #31

Fling Wide the Door # 32

In Christ,

Pastor Kim Peterson



MINUTE BIBLE STUDY

From "Oh, Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel"

Vs. 5 Oh, come, O Key of David, come,

And open wide our heav'nly home;

Make safe the way that leads on high,

And close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to you, O Israel

At one time, Advent was known as the "Winter Lent". Churches had mid-week services. Time was devoted to preparing for the coming savior. Our study this month could serve us well by refocusing our lives on Christ Jesus, or as some would say, by putting Christ back into the season.

Romans 13:11-14

The Apostle Paul write, "The hour has come for you to wake up from your present slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed." (NIV)

We are so busy at Christmas time that we enter into a time of "slumber". As Christians we know that Christmas is about Jesus but we are as caught up in the ways of this world as anyone else.

1. What can we do to awaken from our "slumber"?

Write a plan for yourself and your family that you will use beginning December 1st (during the Advent Season). An example could be an advent wreath with a reading each evening at supper.

2. "our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed"

Another perspective on these words – if you knew you were going to die within another month or two, how would your preparation for and your celebration of Christmas be different?

3. Vss. 12-13 St. Paul talks about the activities of the darkness, in other words, lives of sin. He makes a list that includes the obvious.

Examine the Ten Commandments and their meanings as they are written in Luther's Small Catechism.

How has your life been with God according to the first three commandments? Be honest! How might you change your life to live more to the glory of God in preparation for the coming Savior?

Confess your sin on Sunday morning and hear the Words of Forgiveness. Be cleansed and set a goal to serve God more faithfully.

Now examine your life with your neighbor according to Commandments 4-10. This is painful business. How well have you loved and served your neighbor, not according to your standards but according to God's standards?

Again, confess your sin on Sunday morning and hear the Words of Forgiveness. Be cleansed and set a goal to serve God by loving your neighbor more faithfully.

Vs. 14 "Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of your sinful nature" (NIV)

As you study these verses how might your month of December, the Season of Advent, be a more fulfilling time of preparing for Christmas. Examine the plan you made in Question #1. Put it into practice. By doing so Christmas will be more than good feelings and the tension of rushing around.

By December 25th you will be pleasantly surprised as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

ST. JOHN'S

IMMANUEL

Dec 1 - Hailey Kofron
Dec 1 - Steven Schutjer
Dec 2- Levi Wood
Dec 4 - Danielle Kurtzleben
Dec 5 - Tyler Doden
Dec 10 - Evan Hobbs
Dec 16 - Abigail Brandt
Dec 18 - Sherri Kunkel
Dec 19 - Carmen Fjetland
Dec 20 - Andrew Hanna
Dec 22 - Harriet Kurtzleben
Dec 23 - Nicholas Doden
Dec 23 - Wendy Harms
Dec 25 - Natalie Hankins
Dec 28 - Alyza Schimmelpfennig
Dec 31 -Nancy Buns

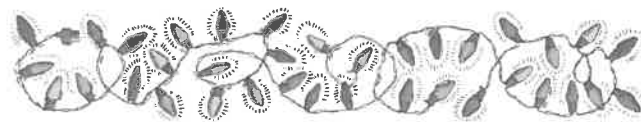


Dec 2 - Millie Culbertson
Dec 4 - Shelly Kardoes
Dec 5 - Karen Post
Dec 9 - Matthew Schmidt
Dec 10- Amanda Post
Dec 13 - Jennie Alphs
Dec 15 - Chase Stohr
Dec 19 - Nancy Axness
Dec 19 - Kevin Brandt
Dec 20 - Marcia Ullmann
Dec 24 - Gerald Rurup
Dec 24 - Doug Swingen
Dec 27 - Owen Harms
Dec 28 - Matt Escobar
Dec 29 - Phyllis Schmidt
Dec 30 - Allison Ullmann
Dec 31 - Betty Ricklefs



Dec 8 - Wayne & Jeanne Tollagson
Dec 11 - Denny & Linda Smith

Dec 9 - John & Karla Schutter
Dec 20 - Gerald & Janice Meyer
Dec 27 - Ron & Deb Schmidt



YOU'RE INVITED

The Hancock County Little Theater Chorus will present their annual Christmas concert on Sunday, December 8 at 3:00 PM at the United Methodist Church in Britt. Come enjoy the chorus, the Joyful Sounds bell choir and various instrumentalists. There are refreshments that follow; a free-will offering will be taken.

Immanuel News

Servant Schedule

Communion/Dossal/ Banners
Matt & Meaghan Swingen

Readers

December 1st–Wendy Harms
December 15th- - Sherri Post
December 29th Susan Post

From Erika - Our
sponsor student

St. John's News

Servant Schedule

Ushers - John Kurtzleben &
Daryl Beenken
Communion - Lynne Larson

Bulletin Board -Phyllis Schutjer

Altar Cloths & Flowers

Deb Schimmelfennig &
Shirley Peterson

Readers

Dec. 8th Christmas Program
December 22nd -Surprise reader

Acolytes

Dec. 8th - Hunter Brandt
Dec. 22nd -Sydney Nygaard

Dear Godparents

Hello, I hope that you like to read this letter. I thank you for all the help that you have given me for my school year in high school and that I have been able to finish my studies and go ahead. I can take the next step and enter college. I am happy to be able to enter the school of Nursing and Obstetrics in the University of Benito Juarez. I will try hard and get good grades since I am satisfied being able to study this career. It is something that I have wanted to do. Well my family has been well, we have continued to live in the same neighborhood. Everything has been well. The birthdays we have celebrated have been perfect and in health. I wish that you have a pretty Christmas, that you spend it well and a Happy New Year. I say farewell and that you take care. Hugs and blessings, luck and goodbye.

Your goddaughter, Erika Esther Garcia Merino



Wreaths for St. John's - Memorial or in Honor

****In Honor of Family & Friends from Bradley & Ruth Buns**

****In memory of Loren & Donna Roberts and Kenny & Betty Buns from Mona & Denny Buns**

****In memory of Bill & Velma Gerdes from the family**

****In Memory of Bertha Gerdes from family**

****In Memory of Loved Ones from Pat & Clay Hobbs**

****In Memory of Pastor Trudy from Pastor Kim.**

****In Memory of Dick & Pat Schutjer & Robert Rezac from Bruce & Phyllis Schutjer**

****In memory of Leonard & Nancy Steffen & Douglas & Dore White from Jim & Lisa Steffen**

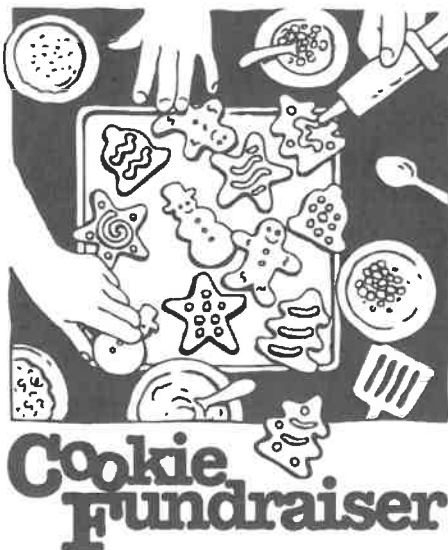
****In memory of Loved Ones Doug & Lisa Swingen**



The Sharing tree is up . We will be helping around 33 children. Please be sure to stop by St. John's church and pick an angel from the tree and buy a toy for that child in need.

We will also be providing food for 10 families. There is a sign up sheet on the bell tower door

Items need to be to the church by Thursday, December 12th.



St. John's Ladies don't forget your 3 dozen Christmas Cookies for the bucket of cookie sale on December 7th. They need to be at the Woden Community Center no later than 7:00am on December 7th or can be dropped off the day before.. We need everyone's help baking to make it a success.

WOW in December

WOW Christmas Program December 8th at 9:00am Children, Please arrive at 8:30am to prepare for the program. WOW Christmas Party will be December 11th 6:00 - 7:00 and on December 18th 6:00 - 7:00 for Christmas craft. Class will resume on January 8th at 6:00 pm



Parish Three Council Meeting
December 10th 6:30pm at St.
John's



Annual Meetings in January

January 19th - St. John's -
meeting after church and
brunch served after the
meeting

January 26 - Immanuel
meeting after church



St. John's WELCA Bucket of Cookies Sale & Breakfast

Saturday, December 7th

Breakfast 6:30 am- 9:00am

Serving: Scrambled eggs & ham, toast, rolls and a
drink

Freewill Offering

**Cookie Sale starts at 7:30 am- 9:00 am or until
gone**

For \$9 you get a bucket to fill with all the homemade
goodies! 3-4 dozen cookies will fit in the bucket

There will be a raffle for craft items

Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Prizes are Christmas
Wall Quilt, Color Street Nails Basket, Handmade
Christmas Cards, Handmade All Occasion Cards, set
of 3 Swedish Tomte Christmas Gnomes, Christmas
Gift Wrapping Basket and a pair of Handmade
Christmas Stockings

Need not be present to win.

Light up a life

Remember and honor your loved ones with a dedication at the MercyOne North Iowa Hospice

Tree of Life lighting program:

- Lake Mills: Dec. 2, 6 p.m., Salem Lutheran Church, 401 South Lake Street
- Osage: Dec. 2, 6 p.m., Alliance Church, 726 State Street
- Garner: Dec. 4, 6 p.m., Concord Care Center, 490 Lyon Street
- Hampton: Dec. 5, 6 p.m., St. Paul Evangelical Church, 17 2nd Street NE
- Clear Lake: Dec. 9, 6 p.m., The Dock, 500 Main Avenue
- Iowa Falls: Dec 9, 6 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 619 Main Street
- Forest City: Dec. 10, 6 p.m., TSB Bank Community Room, 101 Highway 69 North
- Mason City: Dec. 12, 6 p.m., Music Man Square, 308 South Pennsylvania Avenue
- Charles City: Dec. 16, 6 p.m., St. John's Lutheran Church, 200 South Main Street



Donate at: MercyOne.org/northiowa/tree-of-life



This gift is from:

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

In Memory of:
 In Honor of: _____
 Please print the name as you'd like it to appear

Gift amount:

- \$25 \$50
 \$75 \$100
 Other \$ _____

Optional: I would like North Iowa Hospice to notify the family of my gift. Please send notice to:

Their Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Specify the tree lighting program(s) where you'd like the name to appear:

- Mason City Charles City Clear Lake
 Forest City Garner Iowa Falls
 Hampton Lake Mills Osage

Send contribution two days before specified event to:
North Iowa Hospice | 232 2nd St. SE Mason City, IA 50401-3906