

The Visitor

Immanuel Lutheran Church

December 2017 * Volume 55 #11



Advent Waiting and Holy Fatigue

During Advent we wait for the coming of Christ. We wait for Christmas when we remember the coming of Christ as an infant in the manger in Bethlehem. We wait for Christ to come at the last day when he will raise us from the dead and usher in the Kingdom and the fullness of salvation. We wait for Christ to come into our lives today into the times and places of our lives.

And Scripture tells us how to wait:

³A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” (Isaiah 40.3-5 NRSV)

While we are saved by the power of God’s grace alone, we are also called to be agents of God in the world, working to build the Kingdom here and now, not by frantically forcing the Kingdom into being but by joyfully waiting on the Lord and becoming vessels of God’s grace and power. We are called to wait on the Lord and allow the Lord to work through us.

How are you waiting? What are you allowing God to do through you this Advent?

It is easy to become cynical about “The Holiday Season”. But, an alternative is to stop fighting and go with the flow. The flow of the Holy Spirit as we wait for Christ to come – to Bethlehem, in the resurrection of the dead, and especially into our lives today in power.

Where do you see the hungry being fed, the naked clothed, the sick ministered to, the imprisoned visited? How can you jump into the flow of God’s love in these places, not with your own power but in the power of the Spirit?

As we allow God to work through us, we may still find ourselves tired at the end of the season, possibly even more so than usual. But it will be a good tired, a holy fatigue of being used by God as we wait.

And the glory of the Lord will be revealed as the mouth of the Lord speaks and works through you.

Peace on earth and good will to those whom God favors,
Pastor Burgess

REMINDER: Please notify the church office either by calling (203) 238-1248 or with a note placed in the offering plate when a family member is/will be hospitalized so the church can provide appropriate care and prayers for you and your family member. Thank you for your help.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Richard M. Burgess, Pastor: (860) 462-6545

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Diane Murphy, Administrator: (203) 238-1248

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**OFFICE HOURS
9am-1pm Monday-Friday**

THE NEXT VISITOR

Articles for the January Visitor will be due on December 27th and mailed on December 29, 2017. Please get your articles in on time. Thanks, Diane



Save the Date

The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 21st, immediately following our regular service that day. The rain date in the event of inclement weather will be the following weekend, January 28th. We will also at that time, ask the Congregation for approval of changes made to our Constitution as required by Synod which address a uniform and updated document. These Changes were made by a Committee formed back with President Nick Ives leading the task that due to time constraints never made their way to a Congregational Meeting for approval before being sent out for Synod approval and ratification in our Congregation in 2019. This document was also reviewed this past summer by a committee designated for this task. This documented will be posted in Augustana Hall and copies will be provided to any member interested to prior to the Annual meeting as well as on the day of that meeting.

Church Delay / Closing notice

In case there is need caused by a weather event (Snow Ice, loss of power) where it becomes necessary to postpone our morning service, members are urged to check with NBC Weather on air notification or calling the Office at Immanuel and checking with our in-house phone weather notification at 203-238-1242. Notification will also go out to members of the Church Council, our Director of Music and our Christian Education Department heads. The safety of our Congregation is of the utmost importance and common sense should guide your decisions during or following a major snowfall.

Transition Update

Our Call Committee is still busy interviewing tentative Candidates for a full-time job here at Immanuel. God's plan for our future has not been revealed to us as of yet while we continue to interview Pastoral Candidates provided by our ELCA Synod.



Advent 2017 at Immanuel

Join us in worship and fellowship as we await the coming of Christ. All events include music, lessons, and Holy Communion, to which all are welcome.

Dinner Church begins at 6:30 with pot luck, but know that your presence is always more important to us than whether you bring food or not.

Sunday	December 3	9:45 am	Advent 1 Worship
Tuesday	December 5	6:30 pm	Dinner Church
Sunday	December 10	9:45 am	Advent 2 Worship
Tuesday	December 12	6:30 pm	Dinner Church
Sunday	December 17	9:45 am	Advent 3 Worship
Tuesday	December 19	6:30 pm	Dinner Church
Sunday	December 24	9:45 am	Christmas Eve

Immanuel Lutheran Church

164 Hanover St, Meriden, CT 06451

203-238-1248

Sunday Church School Scribbler

The **Advent** season begins on Sunday, December 3rd. **Advent** is the start of a brand-new church year (year "B"), so "Happy New Year!" During **Advent** we not only prepare to celebrate God coming to us as the baby Jesus, we also prayerfully ponder the time when Jesus will come again. That last part can get lost in all the holiday cheer, but it is so very important for Christians to remember that Jesus is coming...

Dec. 3 rd	Keep Awake	Mark 13:24-37	Anticipate
Dec. 10 th	John the Baptist	Mark 1:1-8	Repent
Dec. 17 th	Justice & Jubilee	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Justice
Dec. 24 th	The Annunciation	Luke 1:26-38	Possibilities
Dec. 31 st	Simeon & Anna	Luke 2:22-40	Expectations

Children's offering envelopes can be a teaching tool. Your family can prepare for worship together, either Saturday evening or Sunday morning, by putting a child(ren)'s money into the envelope, praying to God that their gift will be used wisely by God's church, maybe even decorating the envelope then, remembering during worship to put it into the offering plate. Children have the opportunity to take on more responsibility and participate more fully in worship.

Advent Devotionals

SCS families will be receiving an Advent daily devotional to use during this exciting season. If you want to experience God's word during Advent, but your child(ren) are not currently enrolled in SCS, please leave word with Diane in the office or speak with Kim on Sunday mornings.

The Bulletin boards in the SCS hallway are getting updated thanks to Harriet and Clark Doehr. Check out their work on the BIG bulletin board when you have a moment. Thank you Harriet and Clark!

Should the decision be made to cancel SCS due to weather, families will receive a text unless you let Kim Freeman know another way to contact you.

See you in worship,

Kim Freeman, SCS coordinator

SCS Room Cleanup

On Friday, November 24th, Immanuel's current confirmands gathered to clean and sort the many toys in the Sunday Church School area. They worked to match up game and puzzle pieces, sanitize the toys and laundered the stuffed animals. Stop into room 2/3 in the SCS hallway to witness how clean it is at the moment. The group worked from 10am to 12noon and then got to know each other a bit better over lunch. Thank you to Kate, Emily, Shauna, Thaylia, Jodyann and their leaders Jennifer, June and Beth Ann.

