

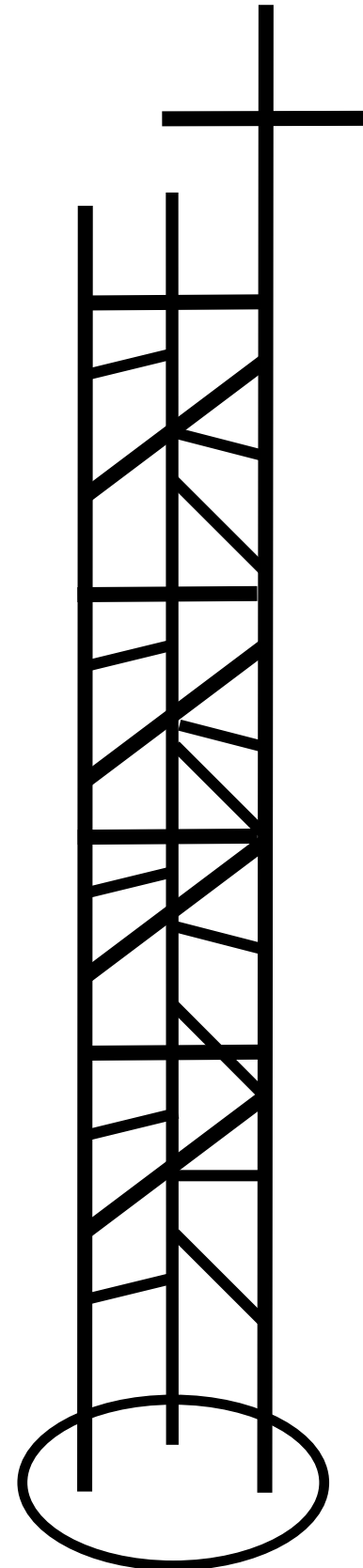
The EXPRESSION–January 2024

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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Nearly two thousand years ago we could have easily answered the question, "Where is God today?" All we would have needed to do is point to a young child who had been recently born in the village of Bethlehem, south of Jerusalem. God was there in that child, who was given as one of His titles, "Emmanuel" which means "God with us."

Two thousand years ago God could be seen, heard, and touched. For the thirty years or so that He walked the earth more and more people realized that He was God's Son. More and more people realized that in Him they could find God. Of course, two thousand years ago, because God could be touched, God could also be wounded and killed. Thus, God was in the world and vulnerable to the world's treacheries, prejudice and sin. And so, the world arrested, prosecuted, and executed God. In every age it is a truth that everyone does not see God the same way, nor are they willing to accept God on God's terms.

Nearly two thousand years ago Jesus came and went, or so it seemed to the world and in the process the world decided that He was not God.

But, for two thousand years, people (millions of people) have continued to find that when they asked in their time, "Where is God today?" the answer could continue to be, "In Jesus the Christ!" People discovered that Jesus was not dead. People discovered that Jesus rose from the dead, that He was alive, real and available. The peace of God, the grace of God, the love of God, the mercy of God, the hope of God, the healing power of God have all been discovered in the midst of people getting to know Jesus.

For two thousand years as they read the Scriptures, as they celebrated the sacraments, as they prayed, as they gathered with other believers, as they witnessed to the reason for the hope they had within them, they encountered Jesus and experienced God.

AD 2024. Where is God today? In a very real sense God is still found in the same person that God was found some 2000 years ago.

In AD 2024 this is our mission. We are to be a church, a Christian community, where God is encountered through the living Christ. Whatever we do as the church, wherever we go as the church, we are to be opportunities for the world to know Jesus.

Over two thousand years and still counting. God is with us. God is here. Jesus lives.

Pastor King



The school year is zipping right along, and we are ready to push forward in 2024. Many activities and projects will be completed, and much learning will take place in many different forms for all of our students. Some students thrive using pencil and paper, some technology, and some with hands on projects. All these are offered here at Immanuel as we learn our academics as well as about our Savior.

A great verse to focus on as we begin a new year is Colossians 3:23 “Whatever you do work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord, not for men.” As we step forward in faith, we should do all things to serve our Savior and bring others to faith in Him. This includes teaching children as much as we can about Jesus when they are young, so they will not depart from it.

Do you know a family or child who would benefit from what Immanuel has to offer? Now is a great time for them to reach out and gather information about the school for next school year. We offer tours of our building and meetings with the teachers, but also if there is an interest, they could spend a day with us to see what Immanuel is all about. Two common comments we get after a student visits for the day are, “You don’t just read the Bible all day!” and “Wow, your lunch is really good!”

As we look forward to 2024 and the great activities that are ahead of us, here are a few dates congregation members may wish to note:

- January 21 – 27 National Lutheran Schools Week
- March 15 – ILS Spring Auction
- May 2 – Talent Night

Finally, on a personal note, I have decided not to return to Immanuel next year as principal or teacher. This decision was made a while ago, as a family, and presented to the Board of Christian Education and Church Council. I feel it is important that the congregation, who support the school in so many ways, know of my intentions. I do not have a plan for next fall, and we are not looking to move, but I need to be more available for my family at home and in Missouri. I have done my best to serve Immanuel in my eight years here as teacher and principal, and I know that the Lord will place a good leader and teacher in my place.

I pray that you are all blessed with God’s love and good health in 2024.

Michelle King



Mortgage-Buster: Let it Snow!

Can we reach our goal? Help the students get an “in-school snow day” by donating towards our Mortgage Buster.

We have currently raised \$35,200 and have \$34,800 to go. Over Halfway there!

Note “Mortgage Buster” on your payment.

Immanuel Lutheran Sunday School

Joyous Greetings,

We are so incredibly proud of the C.O.O.L Kids! You all did such a great job on the Christmas program. We are so blessed! You all worked so hard to learn your parts, songs, and musical accompaniment. They are an amazing group! We are also so HAPPY to have a large group of kiddos that accompanied the choir at the advent concert! We know it was a busy day for many! Thank you, parents, for all you did to make that program possible. We know it’s lots of schedule shifting. We just appreciate your flexibility and constant commitment to our program. Lastly, a HUGE thank you to our Sunday school staff you guys are rock stars! We could not do it without you, and we’re very blessed to have each of you! Your talents are endless.

We will resume Sunday school on January 15, due to the Men’s Pancake Breakfast.

We will sing during the church service on January 29th (we are switching with the Day school this month).

Blessings,
Tyler and Julie Kranz

The Lutheran Hour - January 2024

January 2024

January 7

"As We Forgive"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(Matthew 6:12; Luke 11:4)

January 14

"TBD"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

January 21

"TBD"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

January 28

"Forgiveness Is a Gift from Far Away"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola
(Psalm 103:11-12)



Youth Group



The youth group was busy making tie blankets for Sibley County Human Services.