

Journey Connection

December 2025

Mission Statement of Immanuel Church

To be and to make Spirit-filled followers of Christ who shine the light of God's love to the world.

Welcome to Immanuel Church!

We at Immanuel are on a joyful journey – with Jesus – to disclose His presence in the world and His love for all people. With Humility, we invite **everyone** to join us, **regardless** of their relationship with Jesus, and even if they doubt His reality. And we invite **everyone** to join us, **regardless** of race, culture, age, sexual orientation, family status, or the brokenness of their lives. On this journey there are no judgments – just Jesus. Whoever you are, **you are welcome** to join us!

If you desire information about becoming more involved in Immanuel Church, please contact Rev. Rich Vincent pastor@immanuelwestbend.org or Jenny Landowski director@immanuelwestbend.org or leave a message at the church office (262) 334-2886



Thoughts from our Pastoral Assistant / Director of Ministries

Dear Immanuel Church family and friends,

A couple weeks back, Chaplain Esteve offered a beautiful message on the importance of training ourselves to be hopeful people. He expressed how you aren't naturally born with hope but rather need to be diligent in directing your mind to think that way. Chaplain Esteve then offered a weekly list to work from of "Possible Strategies to Train Hope". As we begin this season of Advent, I invite you to consider being mindful of his suggestions on training hope...you may just find they do wonders for your sense of Peace, Joy and Love as well!

1. Monday – Make a Sense of Humor a Self-Imposed Rule

Even if it's just corny jokes or small moments of silliness, humor keeps the heart flexible and the mind open.

2. Tuesday - Choose Bold Optimism

- i. Remember: most of us enjoy more varied and appetizing food, better healthcare, more opportunity to travel more often and farther, and have more comfort and safety, than any king or queen of the past. (See *The Better Angels of Our Nature*, Steven Pinker.)
- ii. Expose yourself to simple acts of kindness. They are all around us, and yes, also in your social media feeds if you look for the good.

3. Wednesday – Pick Your Battles and Protect Your Peace

Ask yourself: Who or what am I letting ruin my day? Many battles simply aren't worth the emotional cost.

4. Thursday - Check Your "Thank-You" List Often

Gratitude shapes perspective. And yes — even be grateful for those who challenge you. They are often unexpected teachers.

5. Friday - Don't Fall for the Pressure to Be Happy

The "pursuit of happiness" can become a trap. Happiness isn't an achievement; it's something that comes and goes in small, beautiful doses, savor them!

6. Saturday - Explore Meaning in the Midst of Struggle

This may be one of the hardest practices. Look for possible growth, strength, or compassion that may have emerged from past or present struggles. It's okay if the answers feel imperfect or incomplete.

7. Sunday – Think Positively About Others

Give people the benefit of the doubt. This doesn't excuse hurtful, selfish behavior, but it encourages empathy. Better to be slightly too naïve than too guarded.

Now, along those lines of **HOPE**... As Pastor Rich continues to bounce back from his returned onset of cancer back in August, we are initiating a way to give **HOPE** to others who, like him, rely on blood transfusions to keep their **HOPE** for life alive. In response to everyone's question, "what can I do for Pastor Rich", members of our Health and Wellness Ministry have been busy planning a Blood Drive in his honor (see flyer on next page). Our **HOPE** is that you'll see this opportunity as a way to do something that is meaningful to Rich...giving a donation of your blood would be the best Christmas Gift you could offer to show your love and support for our beloved pastor. 🥩 If you have any questions or need help signing up, Sara Arndt and Elizabeth Carlson-Losch would be happy to assist you. Sara ~ 262-355-5464 Elizabeth ~ 262-685-8588

Blessings to you during this Advent Season as you train your heart for Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

In Joy, In Service, ~Jenny

Immanuel United Church of Christ Blood Drive

Rich, the pastor of Immanuel United Church of Christ in West Bend, is loved and appreciated by his church family for his faithfulness and humble leadership. His messages prompt his congregation to shine the light of God's love to the world!

In January 2020, Pastor Rich was diagnosed with a form of bone marrow cancer. In August 2023 he was also diagnosed with Leukemia. He underwent a bone marrow transplant, which saved his life. Sadly, his cancer returned in August 2025, and he's been battling it ever since. The number of blood and platelet transfusions has been exorbitant, but each one a precious gift in itself. In honor of Pastor Rich, and with the hope of shining God's love to others, we invite you to give the best Christmas Gift ever, the Gift of Life! Your donation will help patients just like Pastor Rich all over Wisconsin!



LOCATION:

Immanuel United - Basement - 501 Walnut Street, West Bend

Monday December 22 All attempting donors will receive a \$25 e-gift card (valid email required.)

GIFT CARDS FOR DONORS:

1:00 PM - 6:30 PM

MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT:

Appointments are highly encouraged. Secure your spot by visiting the link below, scan the QR code, or call 877.232.4376.

tinyurl.com/ImmanuelDec22







Bucket Raffle for Immanuel's General Expenses

Immanuel's Consistory...RAISING AWARENESS...RAISING FUNDS...

Thanks to the financial contributions of members of various church groups, "buckets" have been assembled to represent various operating expenses.

We invite you to take a chance at winning by purchasing tickets!

100% of profits directly support Immanuel's General Fund!

Tickets can be bought starting on Sunday, November 9th,
Drawing will take place at Immanuel's Christmas Benefit Concert
on Sunday, December 7th

\$1 per ticket or 6 for \$5



<u>Snow Removal</u> sponsored by the <u>Wise Guys</u> \$100 Gift Card - Sunburst Ski Hill

General Maintenance sponsored by our Property Group \$100 Gift Card - Menards



<u>Utilities</u> sponsored by your <u>Consistory</u> \$100 Gift Card - Kwik Trip

Music sponsored by members of the Choir, Bells, and Worship Team
\$100 Gift Certificate - The Bend



Hospitality sponsored by our Goodie Gang \$100 in Coffee Shop Gift Cards

Christian Ed sponsored by leaders of JAM Time, CORE, & SHINE \$100 Gift Card - Hobby Lobby

Technical Support sponsored by our techies in the Sound Booth & Office \$100 Gift Card - West Bend Theatre

Outdoor Property sponsored by the SonShine Gals \$100 Gift Certificate - Stein's Gardens and Gifts

<u>Musical Instrument Maintenance sponsored by Pastor Rich</u> \$100 Gift Card - West Bend Music Academy

Outreach sponsored by Pastoral Assistant Jenny \$100 Gift Card - Amazon







On behalf of our President...

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel United Church of Christ,

Our Christmas Benefit Concert is Sunday, December 7th. The Pre-Concert Social begins at 6:00. Music begins at 7:00. Free will donations will support Immanuel's General Fund. Sounds like a perfect way to spend a Sunday evening! I'll see you there.

Advent is upon us. The four themes of Advent - hope, peace, joy, and love - guide us through a season of meaningful reflection and spiritual preparation. As each week unfolds, may our hearts align with the message of Christ's birth, deepening our understanding of his presence in our lives.

I enjoy finding quotes that provide inspiration and motivation. My classroom is full of quotes or "words" as my students say. Here are a couple of quotes that I found for us to ponder this Advent Season.

Mother Teresa, "At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern."

St. John Paul II, "It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open the doors of hope."

Blessings, Amy

Financial Secretary...

Romans 12:13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Beginning of December, 2026 offering envelopes will be ready for pickup. They will be available in the Narthex after both services. Please note that offering envelope numbers have most likely changed. If you do not want envelopes for 2026, please let the office know.

Blessings, Charlene & Karen

Immanuel UCC 2025 Annual Local Mission Budget is \$442,589

Thank you for your continued support of Immanuel's local ministries mission of:

- providing meaningful life changing worship
- nurturing persons in their faith journey
- witnessing to our faith in service beyond ourselves

Just a reminder, when writing checks to Immanuel and Joyful Journeys please write *two* separate checks as this makes it easier to account for what is designated for Immanuel and what is for Joyful Journeys. Also, you can make online donations separately to Immanuel and Joyful Journeys via each of their websites as noted below under the **Online Giving topic**.

If you have any questions regarding Immanuel finances or would like to discuss your giving, please note my regular office hours are on: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9am-3pm. You can also reach me via email, finance@immanuelwestbend.org or leave a message on the church phone 262-

finance@immanuelwestbend.org or leave a message on the church phone 262-334-2886 x105. I welcome the opportunity to chat with you.

Immanuel Finance Report October 2025

 October 2025
 Month
 YTD

 Total Income
 \$20,173.86
 \$307,533.21

 Total Expenses
 \$29,202.11
 \$334,170.15

 Income vs Expenses
 (\$9,028.25) Deficit
 (\$26,636.94) Deficit

Cash Available for Church Operations October 2025

Cash Balance Available Ending on Month 10/31/25 -\$ 2,433.43

Online Giving

In case you did not already know, both Immanuel United Church of Christ and Joyful Journeys, Inc. have the capability to receive online donations. You can set up payment via ACH from your checking account or use a credit/debit card. Just so you know that if you choose to use a credit/debit card there is a small fee of about 3.4-3.8% which the service provider reduces the amount we receive.

Offering Altar

The Offering Alter is located in the Narthex, just outside the Sanctuary. On it you will find the Giving Church; monetary donations can be slipped in through the slit on top. There is also information about Immanuel Church and its ministries

along with additional contribution envelopes. If you are a visitor and would like us to contact you, please fill out the information form and drop it in the Giving Church and be sure to help yourself to a welcome packet. Also available on the Offering Alter are Prayer Request forms; prayers dropped into the Giving Church will be shared with the SonShine Gals during communal prayer time. For those interested in donating online, for your convenience, access our secure giving page on our website through the QR Code below.

If we can be of further assistance to you, please contact Jenny Landowski

at 262-334-2886 or director@immanuelwestbend.org



Property update...

This past month we had no maintenance issues.

Ahern came in to inspect our fire extinguishers; they reported no issues. Ahern is also scheduled to perform our annual Fire Sprinkler Alarm Test.

Our guys painted the front and rear steps of the Circle of Friends house with anti-slip paint to prepare for the winter season.

We installed new lock sets on both the front and rear doors of the COF shop, now they are both keyed alike.

We replaced a light fixture in the east entrance coming off the small parking lot. We are working with WE Energies on replacing a light fixture that was damaged by a fallen branch. This fixture aids in lighting a portion of our larger parking lot. We received a response from We Energies and they showed up on Wednesday the 19th and put it back into service.

The best part is we were not charged for the repair.

WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!

After a year of faithfully serving Immanuel Church as our Financial Secretary, Charlene Swanson has resigned her position with us. Following prayerful consideration, it was felt full-time work was needed to best serve her family. Charlene will be returning to her previous position working for Kohl's Corporate. As Charlene shifts jobs, we wish her all the best! In gratitude for her dedication and hard work, we ask that you join us in keeping Charlene in prayer as she moves forward.



Welcome Back...

After a year off from work, getting her health and wellbeing in order, Karen Zachow had been prayerfully considering part-time employment somewhere. It

was an answered prayer for her when she got the call asking if she would temporary step back into her old position as Financial Secretary at Immanuel Church as we looked to fill the spot. It was an answered prayer for us when she asked if she could have her old job back!

Karen plans to have regular office hours at Immanuel on Tuesdays, at which time she'd be happy to answer questions about your statements or assist you with your giving.



A Note From our Choir Director...

He is come in peace in the winter's stillness, Like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night; He is come in joy like the sun at morning Filling all the world with radiance and light.

He is come in love as the child of Mary; In a simple stable we have seen his birth: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels singing "peace on earth"!

From "Angels' Carol" by John Rutter

"Gloria in excelsis Deo" is a Latin phrase that translates to "Glory to God in the highest". It is most famously known as the opening words of the Angelic Hymn from the biblical account of Jesus's birth, when angels announced the event to shepherds. We can Eind this phrase repeated in many songs of the Christmas season, still proclaiming "Glory to God in the highest"!

Come join us and celebrate giving Glory to God in this Christmas season! Coming up this month we have:

Christmas Benefit Concert: December 7th Pre-Concert Social: 6:00 pm Concert: 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Lessons, Carols and Pageant: December 24th, 6:00pm

You are invited to sing with the choir on Christmas Eve - please consider participating in the beauty of Immanuel's Christmas worship. Contact me for details and to pick up a folder of our Christmas Eve music. There are also recordings available to assist with practicing.

Please contact me if you are interested in being a part of Immanuel's choirs.

Immanuel Church choirs practice schedule:

Handbell Ensemble: 5:00pm - 5:45pm Ladies Ensemble: 6:00pm - 6:30pm Adult Choir: 6:30pm - 7:15pm







J.A.M. Time* 2025 December 7th – December 21st Advent: Mary

God decided to bless Mary with the holy child, and she, His humble servant, willingly accepted the Lord's miracle.

(Paraphrased from Luke 1:30 and 38)



Cuttin' and Struttin' – Baby Blanket Kickin' Kitchen – Bon-Bons Pleasin' Plots – Movie & Popcorn

UP NEXT

December 21, 11:45 a.m.

December 24, 6 P.M.

December 28

Nativity Pageant Dress Rehearsal
Nativity Pageant (arrive by 5:00)
Family Worship – NO JAM Time

January 4 – 18 Moses

January 25 Camp Sunday!

~Interested in our JAM Time program...Check out the JAM Time bulletin board for program information and volunteer opportunities.

Questions? Please contact Mitch Schleif at

<u>Excited4jam@immanuelwestbend.org</u>

414-491-5057

*Jesus and Me Time – is Immanuel's Children's Ministry program for children age three through 6th grade. JAM Time meets Sunday mornings September - May from 10:30-11:30 in Fellowship Hall.

Nativity Pageant/Candlelight Festival of Lessons and Carols
Preparations are under way for our annual Christmas Eve service.
Please let Johanna Landowski or Mitch Schleif know if you plan on having your child participate in this year's pageant ASAP!

CORE

CORE had a wonderful time helping J.A.M Time make camp crafts to sell at the end of January for camp scholarships! It was a fun experience for both groups to interact and spend time together.

December Schedule:

December 7th – Advent (Peace) Did Jesus know he was God?

December 14th – Advent (Joy) If Jesus was God why did he have to die?

December 21st – Advent (Love) Do I have to believe Jesus performed miracles in order to be a Christian?

December 24th – Christmas Nativity Program NO CORE ON December 28th – Family Worship and PJ Sunday (only 9am worship)

CORE is part of Immanuel's youth ministries that serves kids in 7th & 8th grade. The foundation of CORE is reflective of it's name...exploring the core concepts of our beliefs and traditions, expanding on what it means to embrace Christianity and how it differentiates from other religions, and digging deeper into who we are at Immanuel UCC and how we can put our faith into action. They meet from 10:30-11:30am in the classroom off the west hallway in the lower level of church.

CORE Leader Johanna Landowski confirmation@immanuelwestbend.org Church 262-334-2886 Cell 262-353-2739

December SHINE

December Schedule:

Dec. 7th Dec. 14th

Dec. 21st- Christmas Party Day!

Dec. 28th- No SHINE (Family Worship Sunday)

SHINE is a faith and fellowship building group that meets together on Sunday mornings from 10:30-11:30 during the school year. It's open to all high school students, and there's no need to sign up in advance- just stop down in the room in the church basement nearest the elevator. If you miss the sign at the top of the door, you can also identify us by the number of couches and the crunching of snacks. Hope to see you there!

Questions? Comments? Ask Elise! shine@immanuelwestbend.org 262.343.1149

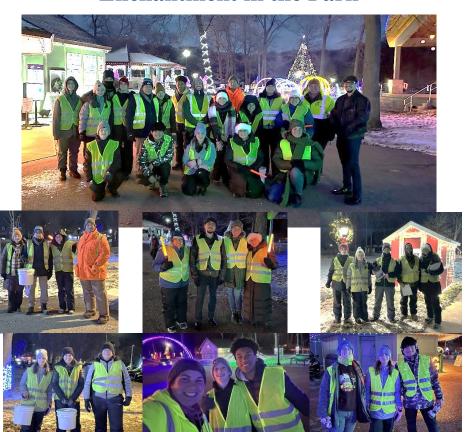
Youth Fall Activities went well. All had fun!

Fall Cleanup





Enchantment in the Park



YOUTH FALL/WINTER ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE 2025

DEC SAT 20

Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge 6:45am – 10am Kosciuszko Park in Milwaukee



If you have any questions, want to participate, or help with these events feel free to contact

Johanna Landowski

at <u>youthgroup@immanuelwestbend.org</u>

Church 262-334-2886

Cell 262-353-2739



Sunday Morning Childcare!



Immanuel offers childcare for children ages 3yrs and under, on Sunday mornings, during both 9:00 and 10:30am Worship.
Our Nursery is located above the Narthex and can be accessed by the stairway at the end of the hall.
Children aged 4 through 6th grade are welcome to visit or enroll in J.A.M. Time (Jesus & Me Time), which takes place in the lower level during the 10:30am Worship Service. If you have questions or need direction, an Usher would be happy to assist you.

SonShine Gals

The SonShine Gals is an eclectic group of women who share a common thread of growing together in faith and love through various book and spiritual studies, video discussions and prayer.

We normally meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from 10:00am-11:30am.

On December 11th, Jeanne Forester will be leading the group in a special Advent Devotion. Consider joining us, you are welcome. If you have any questions or are interested in joining us, please contact Jenny Landowski

Wise Guys

Hey fellas! Wise Guys is our men's ministry that meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00pm. You are invited to attend this social time including dinner and a short discussion. The sign-up sheet for **December 18**th is located on the bulletin board outside the main offices.



Consider checking it out, and while you're at it, bring a friend!

"Sharing Today's Word" Immanuel UCC Adult Discussion Group

We are excited to invite any individuals, beyond high school age, to check out our Adult Discussion Group, "Sharing Today's Word".

This group will meet on Sundays at 10:30am to discuss the sermon from that morning; they will gather in the space connected to the Friendship Room where Fellowship Time treats are served.

Wondering what to expect?? First off, your attendance can be as consistent or sporadic as you'd like it to be, as each gathering will be based off that day's message. This group does not have to come to a consensus. We can educate each other by sharing our opinions, ideas, and interpretations. By questioning and discussions, we will strive to develop and strengthen our faith. Hopefully, we will be able to help each other to not just listen effectively to the pastor's word but also make his message part of our lives.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Kent at kscheuerell@gmail.com



Do you enjoy knitting and/or crocheting? Consider joining the Prayer Shawl Ministry and add a special purpose to your hobby. In addition to Prayer Shawls, they've made sweaters for the children in India, hat's for Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge, scarves for our Soul Box, and Prayer Squares for new members.

This group meets on the 4th Monday of each month during September – May and invites you to join them.

For more information, contact Rosemary Seideman at roseway12@charter.net .

Get a "jump-start" on your Christmas Shopping ~ Raise Right Gift Cards
Let us help make your Christmas shopping easier... Gift Cards for Local Grocers,
Gas Stations, Clothing Stores, Online Shopping, Restaurants, and more are
available through Raise Right Gift Cards. A variety of cards are on hand for
immediate purchase, and hundreds of different cards can be ordered on a
monthly basis. Raise Right gives us a % of each sale, which benefits our Joyful
Journeys Ministries, both India and the COF Shoppe. A member of the India Task
Force will have cards available on Sunday mornings; you can find them seated at
the table across from the church mailboxes. They can also take your special
orders; forms can be found in mailbox # 79. Completed forms with payment
made out to Joyful Journeys can be dropped off on Sunday mornings or brought
into the main office Monday thru Thursday between 9am-3pm.

Orders this month will be called in on Monday, December 15th.

Overwhelming Gratitude for your Overwhelming Response!!!

Once again, you have heard the call and responded in kindness!
Thanks to your generosity, dozens of Thanksgiving Boxes were collected throughout November and countless were handed out to families experiencing hardships both within our congregation as well as the wider community. To be able to shine the light of God's love in the form of sharing food and basic necessities is exactly in line with what we are called to do as Spirit-filled followers of Christ.



We will continue collecting boxes throughout December with our "Reverse Advent Calendar" program. Any "boxes" not handed out by the end of the year will be taken to the Full Shelf Pantry in West Bend.

Full Shelf Pantry

"Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:37&40



Reverse K Advent Calendar

IN SUPPORT OF WEST BEND'S FULL SHELF PANTRY,
THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF DECEMBER,
WE INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN A
REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR.
EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX AND GIVE
THANKS FOR YOUR BOUNTY. DROP OFF BOXES AT
IMMANUEL CHURCH BEFORE CHRISTMAS
MON-THURS 9AM-3PM
TOGETHER WE CAN HELP KEEP OUR COMMUNITY
FED THROUGHOUT THE WINTER.

Suggested donations of much needed items...

December 1 - box of cereal

December 2 - peanut butter

December 3 - jar of jelly

December 4 - boxed potatoes

December 5 - macaroni and cheese

December 6 - canned fruit

December 7 - box of granola bars

December 8 - canned tuna

December 9 - dessert mix

December 10 - jar of applesauce

December 11 - box of tissue

December 12 - bottle of salad dressing

December 13 - jar of salsa

December 14 - box of crackers

December 15 - package of rice

December 16 - package of oatmeal

December 17 - package of pasta

December 18 - spaghetti sauce

December 19 - can of soup

December 20 - a hygiene product

December 21 - a canned vegetable

December 22 - package of toilet paper

December 23 - can of baked beans

December 24 - package of cookies

Unable to shop??

Cash/checks (payable to Immanuel) are accepted with notation designated to Food Pantry

or include it with your online giving.

Any questions see Jenny or Johanna Landowski

Brewers Baseball Game 2026

Greetings Immanuel members and friends,

There has been chatter in the past about doing a group outing to a Brewers Baseball Game, so we're starting now to organize that.

I have picked Friday July 24th against the Colorado Rockies.

The game starts at 3:10pm. The best seats/value are field infield seats, and the group rate is \$45 per ticket. To qualify for the special rate, we need to put our order in by Dec. 5th, so I'll need a headcount before then. More logistics as far as carpooling/bus? and tailgating will be decided at a later date.

Please reach out to me to let me know if you are interested and how many people are in your party. Again, we need to get the final count for our group pricing by December 5th, so don't delay!





We hope you can join us!

Thank you

Christopher Arndt Dadchrisdad@aol.com



Advent Devotions

During the busyness of the holiday season, we're inviting you to be intentional about pausing to take time to consider what it means to truly prepare for Christmas. Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas,

is a time for us to ponder hope, peace, joy, and love in our lives as we prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth.

Consider joining us on Wednesday, December 3rd, 10th, and 17th at 6pm in the Friendship Room, for a special Advent Devotion. A guiet time of prayer, music and reflection may be just the thing you need to help clear out space in your heart for the Christ child.

Consider your space...

As the snow and icy season falls upon us, we ask you to please consider your parking space.

If your physical condition allows you to securely walk across the parking lot, then we ask you to kindly park further back, leaving all the parking spaces in the small parking lot, as well as the first row of spaces closest to the back entrance available for those who might find a trek across a slippery parking lot a bit more challenging.

Thank you for your assistance and be safe!













CHRISTMAS BARKOB









Sunday, December 7th 10am - noon





Cookies sell for \$10 per pound



Sponsored by Joyful Journeys India Task Force





Joyful Journeys, Inc.~

An outreach ministry founded and operated by members of Immanuel Church.

OUR MISSION: to establish and or operate programs and facilities that will assist impoverished and needy people whose lives are challenged by current life circumstances, by helping to provide for their immediate basic needs and to bring them hope and promise for a brighter future.

Matthew 25:40 "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."



India Trip, take 2...

After the disappointment of the unfortunate canceled India Trip this past June, four of the travelers are giving it another try. Jenny Landowski – Lead, Al Nevala, Johanna Landowski, and Sophia Landowski will be venturing off mid-January to witness firsthand the good works that are being done in the village of Madhavapatnam by Joyful Journeys Ministry.

It has been six years since there has been an opportunity for representatives from Immanuel Church to travel there and our team is excited to reconnect with old friends as well as build new relationships!

Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare in body, mind and spirit for the trip ahead.







Additional Expenses in the month of December...

• Christmas Celebration

If you would like to cover, or contribute to additional expenses, you can do so by cash/check made out to Joyful Journeys or pay online through our secure website

https://joyfuljourneys-inc.org/
Thank you for prayerfully considering this.

Christmas in India

Christmas is right around the corner, and preparations are in the works for all the different ways we celebrate the joyous event recognizing Jesus' birth.

One of those ways is bringing the Spirit of the Christ Child into the village of Madhavapatnam. Our hope is to give a gift to all who are a part of Joyful Journeys in India.

Please consider making a monetary donation to help cover costs... \$5 ~ Student Gifts \$25 ~ Teacher, Cooks, House Pastors, Oldsters, Scavengers, Drivers, and Childcare Provider Gifts

Donations can be sent or dropped off at Immanuel Church by December 21st.

Please make checks payable to Joyful Journeys and
designate for Christmas Gifts.

Online donations can be made through our secure website: https://joyfuljourneys-inc.org/how-you-can-help/

Together, we can shine the Christmas Light of God's love in Madhavapatnam!



Circle of Friends

UNBELIEVABLE!!! November's visits to the Circle of Friends Shoppe were over top as we served 83 individuals from 29 families! Clearly, this ministry is having an incredible impact on those in our community who are experiencing hardships! How can you help?? Consider spreading the word and sharing our Christmas Wish List with your friends and family...or better yet, get a printout to hang up at your place of employment and invite others to help us keep the Shoppe stocked!! (Printouts can be obtained in Immanuel's Main Office). Items can be dropped off through December 24th.

Shopping not your thing?? You can give donations through our website https://joyfuljourneys-inc.org/ or give checks payable to Joyful Journeys, and we'll gladly shop for you! Please be sure to designate COF Giving Tree.



Blankets for Mr. Bob "Under the Bridge"



In support of the relationship, we have with Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge Ministry, we will be collecting gently used blankets during November and December to give to Mr. Bob as he serves his friends in need within the Milwaukee area. Our Youth will have the opportunity to personally hand some of these items out on Saturday, December 20th as they join Mr. Bob during his weekly visit to the park. What a blessing it is that our Circle of Friends Ministry and Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge have been able to support one another over the past several years as we seek to help those who are wrestling with various struggles in life.

If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Landowski at director@immanuelwestbend.org or Johanna Landowski at youthgroup@immanuelwestbend.org



The Christmas Fund

For the Veterans of the Cross and the **Emergency Fund**



The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

As an alternative to envelopes, you may donate directly and securely through Immanuel's website.

> https://www.immanuelwestbend.org/ Please specify under Church's Wider Mission.



Monday December 1st

10:30am Boundaries

Tuesday December 2nd

5pm Bell Choir 6pm Ladies Ensemble 6:30pm Adult Choir

Wednesday December 3rd

2:30pm PEO

Thursday December 4th

1pm-3-pm COF Shoppe

Friday December 5th

6:30 pm NA

Saturday December 6th

9:30am-10:30am Cookie Drop off 10am-Noon COF Shoppe

Communion Sunday December 7th

Second Sunday of Advent

9am and 10:30 am Worship 10am-Noon Christmas Cookie Walk 10:30am J.A.M. Time, CORE, SHINE, & Sharing Today's Word

CHRISTMAS BENEFIT CONCERT

6pm Social ~ Refreshments 6:30 Pre-Concert Music 7pm Concert Begins

Monday December 8th

4:15pm Citizen Advocates

Tuesday December 9th

5pm Bell Choir 6pm Ladies Ensemble 6:30pm Adult Choir

Wednesday December 10th

Thursday December 11th

10am SonShine Gals 5:00 pm Church & Ministry 6:00 pm Consistory

Friday December 12th

6:30 pm NA

Saturday December 13th

10am-Noon COF Shoppe

Sunday December 14th

Third Sunday of Advent

9am and 10:30 am Worship 10:30am J.A.M. Time, CORE, SHINE, & Sharing Today's Word

Monday December 15th

Tuesday December 16th

1pm Staff meeting 5pm Bell Choir 6pm Ladies Ensemble 6:30pm Adult Choir 6:30pm PEO

Wednesday December 17th

5pm - 7pm COF Shoppe

Thursday December 18th

6pm Wise Guys

Friday December 19th

6:30 pm NA

Saturday December 20th

6:45am-10am
MR. Bobs under the Bridge
8am-2pm
NA Breakfast with Santa
10am-Noon COF Shoppe

Sunday December 21st

9am and 10:30 am Worship 10:30am J.A.M. Time, CORE, SHINE, & Sharing Today's Word 11:45am Nativity Pageant run through 1pm Indivisible West Bend

Monday December 22nd

1pm Prayer Shawl Group

Tuesday December 23rd

Wednesday December 24th

Church office hours 9am-Noon

6pm Family Nativity Pageant and Candlelight Festival of Lessons and Carols

Thursday December 25th

Office Closed

Friday December 26th

6:30 pm NA

Saturday December 27th

Family worship and Pajama
Sunday December 28th
9am Worship (ONE SEVVICE)
No J.A.M. Time, CORE, SHINE, &

Sharing Today's Word

Monday December 29th

Tuesday December 30th

Wednesday December 31st

Church office hours 9am-Noon





Altar Flowers

Would you like to help beautify our worship services by donating flowers for the altar? You can celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or place them in memory of a loved one. The **sign-up sheet** is posted outside of Pastor Rich's office.

Please **fill out an order form** and return it with a check for \$30.00 to the church office. After the second service, the sponsoring member can take the flowers home.

This month our flowers have been donated by:

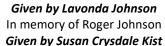
December 7th: Al & Kathy Olsen
In honor of Robert Olsen on Pearl Harbor Day.
He was a WWII Veteran

December 14th: Bath Family
In celebration of the Christmas Season

December 21st: Al & Kathy Olsen
In memory of Carmen Olsen.
Her birthday would have been this past week.

December 28th: June Sommerfeld
In celebration of the birth of Jesus and all the blessings of Christmas

Thank you to all who shared poinsettias with us Christmas Eve!



In memory of Susannah Jane Kist (Sasan's daughter)

Given by Louise Aplin

In gratitude for all the clergy who have filled in for Pastor Rich

Given by Jinna Bertelsen

In memory of Dale & Gigi Thompson, Jeff Thompson, Terri & Bill Tybring,

Arnold & Ginny Bertelsen

Given by Mary Ellen Dodge

In memory of Gerald Mayer

Given by June Sommerfeld

In celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus and all the blessings of family & friends.

In memory of my husband Mark Sommerfeld and

the Christmas memories we shared.

Given by May Jo Norgel

In honor of the Murphy Family & in memory of John & Michael Norgel

Given by Jim Morrison

In memory of Mona Anderson

Given by Laura Kletti Herrick

In memory of my dad Art Kletti

Given by Georgia Kletti

In memory of my wonderful husband Art

Given by Curtis & Jeanne Forester

In memory of G. W. and Margery Forester and Walter and Lola Kletti

Given by Elaine & Glenn Radzinski

In memory of Angela Norton, Zak Schmoldt, Audrey Radzinski, & Louise Dorzok, and in honor of Jenny Landowski for all her work here at Immanuel church

Given by Marie Papez

In memory of Tom Papez

Given by Doug & Jean Stewart

In memory of Lawrence & Marjorie Stewart and Walter & Ione Nagel

Given by Jenny "Memna" Landowski

In memory of our beloved Big Bob

In honor of Theodore Paul Riegel

Given by Johanna Landowski

In loving memory of my dad and nephew Teddy and in gratitude of my wonderful family

Given by Charlene & Stuart Swanson

In memory of David, Esther & Dale, Curtis, Fred & Jean Kick, Elsie & Leroy Anderson

Birthdays for December

Peggy Kaye 2nd Robert Huecker 4th Marissa Mastenbrook 7th Olivia Riegel 9th Penny Elliott 10th Robert Hammen 10th Jakir Shaikh 10th Robert Patten 12th Jinna Lusty 13th Jerry Kuckuk 15th Esther (Oma) Kohler 16th Eben Susnik 19th Brady Arndt 20th Al Nevala 21st Natalie Thielke 21st Elizabeth Carlson 25th Nancy Naab 26th Millie Salinas 26th Graham Flaherty 27th Blaine Tofte 27th Kathryn Hartley 29th Jane Kosednar 29th





Tending the Flock

Please keep our Immanuel Church Family in your thoughts and prayers, specifically those listed below. Contact the church office if you are in need of pastoral care, or would like to be added to the prayer requests.

Yellow Roses:

Ronald and Kathleen Diels, DeDe Emory, Doris Hawkins, Carol King, Jerry Kuckuk, Orv Larsen, Judy Muelling, Bill Myers, Nan Myers, Charles Roemer, and Joan Stenstrup.

Health Concerns:

Darleen Baerenwald, Terry Christie, Jessica Frederick, Ken French, Bruce Kapanke, Susan Kist, Bill Myers, Nan Myers, Emilie Nieman-Witt, Doug Stewart, Dave Wolff, and Pastor Rich.

Those of us who are suffering from depression and/or addiction: Serving in the military:

Jackson Raad and his wife Carlyn Raad, Rebecca Gerard Shanahan and her husband, David.

Continuing their education:

Brett Bartoszewicz, Abby Frederick, Kathryn Hartley, Kendra Kapanke, Chase Mastenbrook, Lexi McCrillis, Julia Raad, Madison Schmitt, and Adam Vincent.

Four Way Covenant Pastor:

Rev. Jim Schleif

Hospice Care

Ken French

Family Loss

Joyce Boltmen − Sister ~ Diane Beck

Olivia, Paul, & Calvin Riegel – Son, brother ~ Theodore Paul Riegel (miscarriage) Landowski family – Grandson, nephew ~ Theodore Paul Riegel (miscarriage)

Deaths

Theodore Paul Riegel (miscarriage) – November 25th, 2025

Prayer Requests

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ~Philippians 4:6

If you have a special prayer that you would like lifted up on your behalf, feel free to fill out one of the Prayer Request forms located on the Offering Alter and deposit it into the Giving Church or email it to Jenny at director@immanuelwestbend.org.

The SonShine Gals will respectfully include your joys and concerns within their prayers.

Thank you for serving & letting your light shine this month!

GREETERS:

December 7 9:00am Carol Argabright, Pat Sommer

10:30am Dave & Lynn Hammen

December 14 9:00am Carol Argabright & KC Laycock

10:30am Barb Seefeldt & Lavonda Johnson

December 21 9:00am Max Sommerfeld

10:30am Mary Ellen Dodge, & Mary Jo Norgel

December 28 9:00am Nancy Naab, Esther Kohler

USHERS: Head Usher: Gary McCrillis

December 7 9:00am Max Sommerfeld, Rich Gerner

10:30am Gene Kreis

December 14 9:00am Michael Bath, Rachel Gumm

10:30am Elaine Radzinski

December 21 9:00am Mike Soener, Patricia Love

10:30am Ben & Ashley Russell

December 28 9:00am Wayne & Rosemary Seideman

READERS:

December 7 9am Carol Merrifield 10:30am Jan Nesladek
December 14 9am Kari Lutter 10:30am Doug Stewart
December 21 9am John Buck 10:30am Elaine Radzinski

December 28 9am Kris Zulick

COFFEE MAKERS:

December 7 Bonnie Gerner December 14 Jim & Anne Mari Peters

December 21 Eric Christie

December 28 Mary Demmon

Fellowship Hour:

December 7 COOKIE WALK

December 14 STILL NEED SOMEONE

December 21 Mary Jo Norgel

December 28 Christmas Cookies

(bring some cookies to share!)

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

December 7 Adult Choir December 14 Larry Wheelock December 21 Handbell Ensemble December 28 Larry Wheelock

Communion Servers: December 7 9:00 – Amy Schmitt & Gary McCrillis Floater – Sophia Landowski

10:30 – Shannon & Sara Flaherty

Staying connected with Immanuel through social media...

Website – https://www.immanuelwestbend.org/
Facebook – Immanuel United Church of Christ
YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/c/ImmanuelUCCWestBend

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

501 Walnut Street, West Bend, WI 53095 (262-334-2886) Email address: office@immanuelwestbend.org Immanuel Website: www.immanuelwestbend.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/ImmanuelWestBend/

MINISTERS: All of us

PASTOR: Reverend Richard Vincent pastor@immanuelwestbend.org **PASTORAL ASSISTANT/DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES:** Jenny Landowski

director@immanuelwestbend.org

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Johanna Landowski office@immanuelwestbend.org

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Karen Zachow finance@immanuelwestbend.org

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES: Mitch Schleif

excited4jam@immanuelwestbend.org

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES and CORE LEADER: Johanna Landowski youthgroup@immanuelwestbend.org & confirmation@immanuelwestbend.org

DIRECTOR OF SHINE: Elise Susnik shine@immanuelwestbend.org

ORGANIST/ MUSIC DIRECTOR: Beverly Mark bevbeemark@gmail.com

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: Larry Wheelock llwheels@icloud.com

WORSHIP TEAM LEADER: Bradley Mitchell bradleybmitchell@hotmail.com CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR: Terry Christie christieeric35@gmail.com

CUSTODIAN: Sophia Landowski **CHILDCARE:** Tobias Halfman

CONSISTORY ELDERS:

Amy Schmitt – President, Christopher Arndt-Vice-President, Carol Argabright- Secretary, and Mitchell Schleif

CONSISTORY DEACONS:

Ben Russell – Treasurer, Mike Soener – Property, Joe Halfman, Bradley Mitchell, Charlene Swanson, and Kent Scheuerell

Finance Committee:

Karen Zachow - Financial Secretary, Ben Russell – Treasurer, Julie Feit, Tama Gluck, Dave Hammen, and Doug Stewart,

