



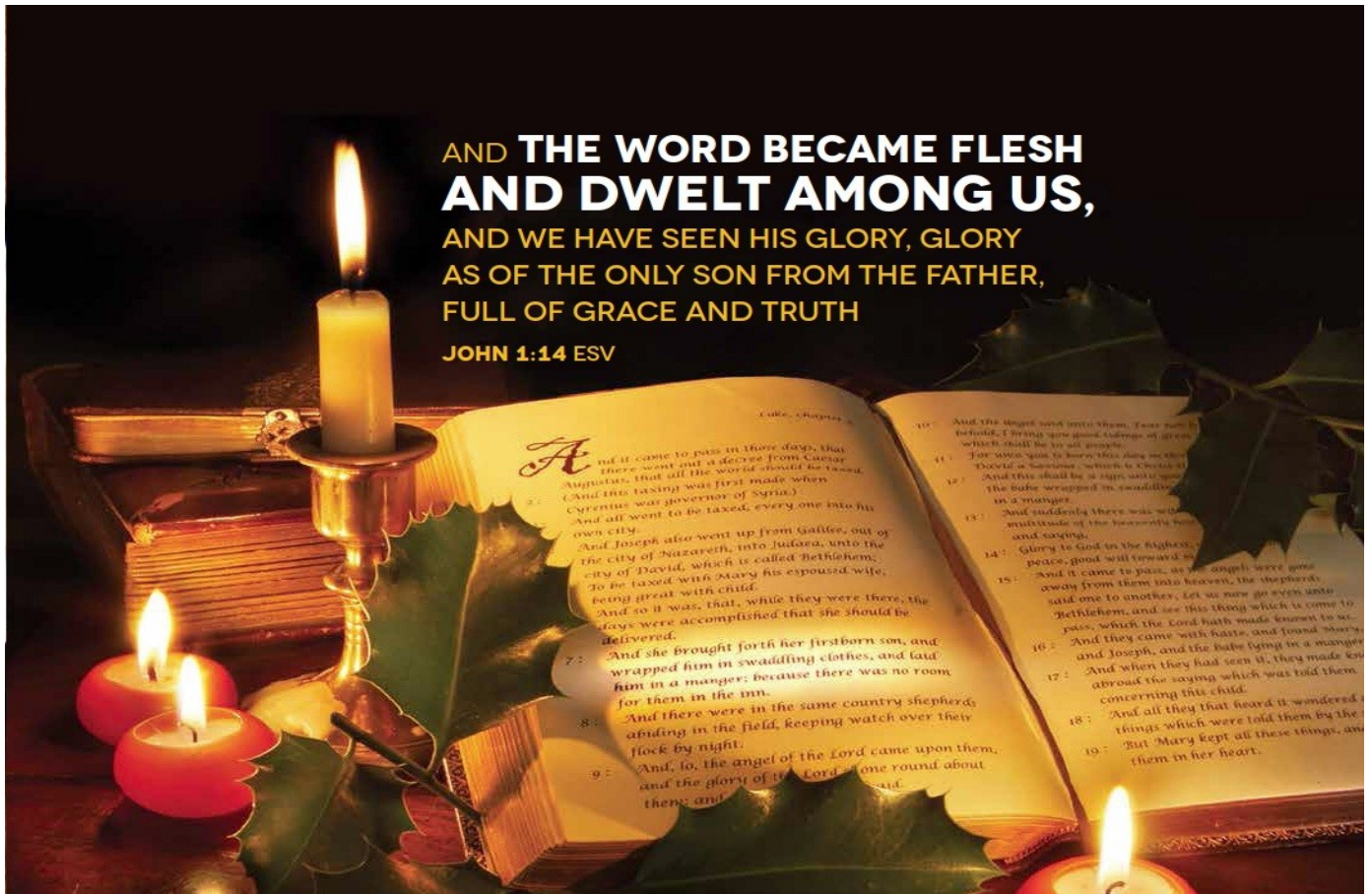
St. John & Immanuel Lutheran Churches Tecumseh / Sterling

**Newsletter
December 2022**

Rev. Marcel Kohlmeyer,
Pastor

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Advent / Christmas Worship Schedule

Advent Theme

"THE BIBLE, OUR BOOK OF ADVENTS"

Finding Christ in the Old Testament is the focus of this year's Advent Series, "The Bible, Our Book of Advents." True Advent challenges us, but there is much in our surrounding culture that subtly wears down messages of Christ's advents. Advent is about anticipation, less of the manger and more about the final revelation of Christ when He leads His ransomed to the inheritance reserved in heaven. You are invited to consider biblical narratives that are not always the focus of the Advent season. We contemplate anew the stories of Abraham, Jacob, Moses and Joshua with an eye toward the advent and arrival of God among His people, then and now.

November 30	"Born, Born, Born, to Living Hope!"	Genesis 12:1-3; 18:1-15; John 8:48-58
December 7	"Surely the Lord Is in This Place"	Genesis 28:10-17; John 1:43-51
December 14	"I AM Has Sent Me to You"	Exodus 3:1-15; Deuteronomy 18:15
December 21	"The Goodly Land I See"	Joshua 1:1-6; 1 Peter 1:3-9; Hebrews 4:1-11



Soup Supper
(December 7 & 21) at St. John (Tecumseh)
6:00-6:45pm

Advent Services
(November 30 & December 14) at Immanuel
(Sterling)
(December 7 & 21) at St. John (Tecumseh)

Hymn Sing – 7:00pm
Evening Prayer – 7:15pm

Christmas Schedule

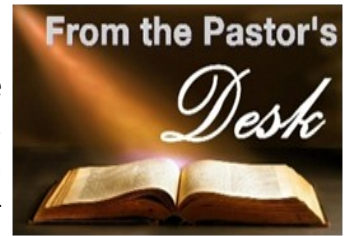
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Immanuel	<i>December 24</i>	5:30 pm
St. John	<i>December 24</i>	7:30 pm

Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion

Immanuel	<i>December 25</i>	8:30 am
St. John	<i>December 25</i>	10:30 am

Advent Candles – What Do They Mean?



It is that time of the year. The Christmas decorations and lights are up and we are preparing to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Only one thing stands in our way, Advent. Advent is one of the Church seasons that seems to be looked over. Throughout my years in the ministry, I have had people ask about singing Christmas hymns and not the Advent hymns. So, is it wrong to listen to or sing Christmas hymns during Advent? The answer is no. Sometimes it makes good sense to do so when a Christmas hymn is expressing a point of Scripture being read on Sunday morning. However, there is a lot of beauty in the Advent season. Advent is the preparation and buildup for the big celebration of Christmas. Advent comes from the Latin which means “coming”. And this season is about the first coming of Christ. And yet, there is also the focus on the future with Christ’s second coming. And so, as the Scriptures called on people to be prepared for the first advent of Christ, so there is the call to prepare for us today, to be prepared for Christ’s second advent even while we prepare to celebrate His first advent.

With all of that in mind, one the decorations that we have in the church during this time is the Advent wreath and the candles on it. There are four advent candles and one Christmas candle. Each of the four advent candles focuses our attention on the theme of the week. The Christmas candle is lit on Christmas eve with the rest of the wreath and remains lit until Epiphany. So, what do these candles mean?

1st CANDLE - (Blue/ Purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE** – announces the period of waiting. The Old Testament prophets point us to the coming Messiah in fulfillment of those prophecies. ***“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”*** (Isaiah 7:14). We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope always comes from Immanuel – God with us.

2nd CANDLE - (Blue/ Purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** – This candle represents the preparations that needed to be prepared for the coming King. However, He would not come in a palace but in a humble stable and placed in a manger. The prophet Micah prophesied - ***“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.”*** (Micah 5:2). ***“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem”*** (Luke 2:4). God kept His promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. To prepare means to “get ready”. Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD!

3rd CANDLE - (Pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY** – While there is a penitential aspect to the preparation of the Advent season. The third Sunday is set aside as a special Sunday of joy! The candle is about the message of JOY that the angels sang, ***“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!’ ¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’”*** (Luke 2:13-15). This news is too good to keep to ourselves. Upon finding the Christ child, they told all about the angels’ message, ***“And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.”*** (Luke 2:20). This news is too good to keep to ourselves. Tell all about this Good News of great JOY!

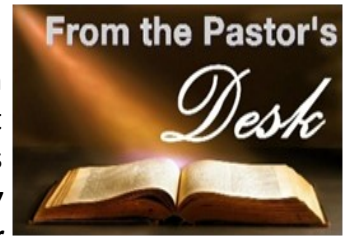
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From the Pastor

4th CANDLE - (Blue/ Purple) THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE -

The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent His only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! This candle points us to the Savior who came that first Christmas and who will come again on the Last Day! Both are centered in His love for us and all humanity! ***“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”*** ¹⁷ For

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ ***Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”*** (John 3:16-18). Christmas is near and the time of His second advent is nigh! Now is the time to be prepared and watching for His coming.



5th CANDLE - (White) "CHRIST CANDLE" or "CHRISTMAS CANDLE" – This candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless Lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! ***“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”*** (John 1:29). Jesus said, ***“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,*** ¹⁵ ***that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”*** (John 3:14-15). The first Christmas takes place in the shadow of the cross but every Christmas shines in the glory of His resurrection! His birth was for our death, His death was for our birth!

May the Lord bless you as you prepare during this Advent season to celebrate His birth and look forward to His Second Advent!

Pastor Kohlmeier

ST. JOHN AND IMMANUEL NEWSLETTER

Hey, Parents...

Parents, please make sure the Church office knows when your graduate is going off to college. We would like to have their address and email to we can keep them in touch with what is going on in Church.



Hello everyone!

It's hard to believe that it is December already. We have been very busy here in Preschool. We are learning so much.

This month our themes will be Gingerbread and Christmas. There will be a science table with gingerbread senses activities.

This will include see and build, sound jars, mystery bags, and smell jars. The pretend center will become a bakery for Christmas time.

We will have a new letter G and then review all the letters we have learned so far. We will not have a new number until after Christmas break as we will be practicing recognizing and writing them.

In Jesus time we will be busy practicing for our Christmas program and doing a few activities about the Christmas story. We continue to learn new verses each time we have a new letter. We practice them every day.

Our last day before break is December 16. This is when we will have our Christmas party. We will also have a pajama/movie day the Friday before. As you can see, we will be super busy having fun and learning lots! We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Mrs. Walters

SMILTENE ORPANAGE



Smiltene Orphanage is located at the very top of the hill in the middle of the town of Smiltene, Latvia. It used to be the KGB headquarters building when Latvia was occupied by the Soviet Union.

The Director is a kind woman by the name of Lubovah, which means love. She is a Ukrainian lady. There are currently 19 children living in the house, I am not sure how many women are in the Women's house with babies.

When we visited there in August, Luba, that is her "Nick" name, had 2 Ukrainian women and their children living there plus 8 other Ukrainian women and their children had come for a rest from the war.

Luba takes in containers from OGT and distributes the quilts, clothing, goods, bikes, furniture, etc. to the community and her people in the Ukraine.

She has a backpack program every year in Smiltene before school starts, she organizes camps for kids before and after school starts.

Oh, I forgot to mention that Luba is beyond 80 years of age. Her Lord and Savior is her driving force and her love of people. She sends a message of big thanks to you for all the help and support you give to her for the children and the Women with babies in her care.

Pastor Artis & I are looking forward to sharing with you about this Orphanage and our trip to the Baltic states in December, December 7th to be exact.

See you then,

Karen Reehl Tiedeman

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE



Dad and I went to the National Lutherans for Life Conference in Rock Island, Illinois. While there, we listened to keynote speaker Melissa Ohden tell her story as an abortion survivor. We also listened to workshop speaker Dr. Gregory Seltz, former speaker of the Lutheran Hour and current Executive Director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, talk about Civic Advocacy. I was recognized as the second-place national essay contest winner for the ninth through twelfth grade category. It was a wonderful experience to meet other Pro-life teens (from Germany, Indonesia, and the U.S.A.!) I was truly blessed to be able to experience it with my dad!

Blessings in Christ,
Madalyn Kohlmeyer



ST. JOHN'S EVENTS



Food Shelf Challenge: Thank you to everyone who donated the non-perishable food items for the drive. We collected over 648 items **Southeast Nebraska Community Action in Tecumseh Will receive an additional \$500 from Thrivent.** The food drive will be supplemented with a Generosity Multiplier Gift, courtesy of the Thrivent Member Network – Nebraska Region.

REFORMATION SERVICE



Special Guest Speaker, Rev. Hesham Shehab at the Circuit Reformation Service held at St. John's on October 30th.

Raheem Alhassen (Iraqi refugee),
Rev. Hesham Shehab,
Rev. Marcel Kohlmeyer



Pastor Hesham Shehab was the Preacher and Presenter at the event. Pastor Shehab is a missionary, reaching out to Muslims in the western suburbs of Chicago. He presented on his journey from the Muslim Brotherhood to faith in Jesus Christ and his mission work among Muslims.

We had a great turnout for the Reformation Service with over 60 in attendance for the afternoon service, presentation and the fellowship meal.

ST. JOHN'S TRUNK OR TREAT



St. John's Trunk or Treat held on October 31st, was a great success. We had 10 trunks and over 280 kids attend.



ANNIVERSARIES, BIRTHDAYS, BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS & GREETERS

Birthday Celebrations

- 3 Sharon Bohling,
Bill Borrenpohl
- 4 **Donna Rathe**
- 6 Betty Krause
Duane Sugden
- 8 Ray Borrenpohl, Rue Kuhl
Natalie Dean
- 10 Presley Juilfs
- 12 Owen Miller
- 13 Sharon Lintz
- 14 Steve Nolte
- 15 Cameron Lowther
- 16 Larry Carmine
- 17 **Linda Eis**
- 18 **Lauren Weyers**
- 21 Jolyne Borrenpohl,
Madalyn Kohlmeyer
- 24 Miles Laver
- 27 Billy Frye
- 28 **Jocelyn Rathe**
- 29 Dwayne Bartels
Treyton Holthus
Jonathan Schmid
- 31 Lindy Drum

Anniversary Celebrations

- 20 Ken & Deb Brinkman (37 yrs)
- 21 Dave & Paula Carnagey (31 yrs)

Baptismal Birthdays

- 3 Lowell Nolte
- 11 Joyce Rathe
- 12 **Duane Sugden**
- 24 Ray Borrenpohl
- 25 Bill Borrenpohl
- 26 Linday Drum
- 29 Betty Krause
- 31 Jennifer Bartels
Saylor Howell, Rue Kuhl

*Immanuel Members in **Bold***

Greeters

- Dec 4 Marcus Griess Family
Merlyn Saathoff
- Dec 11 Lin Hoke
Duane & Rosie Sugden
- Dec 18 Dave & Paula Carnagey
Jackie Boden
- Dec 25 Cheryl Grove
Linda Eis



MONTHLY SERVANTS OF GOD

St. John's

Altar Guild

Luann Carming

Elder of the Month

Kevin McKinney
(402) 335-8271

Trustee of the Month

Aaron Kinney
(402) 335-0751

Immanuel

Flower Committee

Women of Immanuel
&
Clairne Harms

Elder of the Month

Galyn Bartels
(402) 866-1057

Acolytes

Dec 4 Reese McDonald &
Cadenz McDonald

Dec 11

Dec 18 Jackson Haughton &
Andrew Kohlmeier

Dec 25 Madalyn Kohlmeier &
Sophia Schmid

Acolytes

Wyatt Rathz
&
Joelynn Rathz



Pastor office hours: Please call for appointment
Secretary office hours: Monday—Friday: 8:30 am—12:30 pm

December 2022

(C) = Services with Holy Communion

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Second Sunday in Advent (C) Divine Service [Immanuel] 8:30am Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Bible Study [St. John's] 9:30 am (C) Divine Service [St. John's] 10:30am Cantata Practice [St. John's] 7:00 pm	5 Pastor's Family Day	6 Quilting (St. John's) 9 - 3	7 Preschool Chapel 9:00 am Faith Train / Midweek / Confirmation 4:30 pm Soup Supper (St. John's) 6:00 - 6:45 pm Advent Service (St. John's) 7:00 pm	8 Orphan Grain Train Volunteering (Lincoln) 1:00 - 3:30 Budget Meeting (St. John's) 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice 8:00 pm	9	10
11 Third Sunday in Advent Divine Service [Immanuel] 8:30am Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Bible Study [St. John's] 9:30 am Contemporary Service [St. John's] 10:30 am Special Voter's Meeting [St. John] 11:30 am Cantata Practice [St. John's] 7:00 pm	12 Pastor's Family Day	13 Newsletter Deadline Quilting (St. John's) 9 - 3 Circuit Meeting (Christ, Nebraska City) 9:00 am	14 Preschool Chapel 9:00 am Faith Train / Midweek / Confirmation 4:30 pm Advent Service (Immanuel) 7:00 pm	15	16 Haughton / Tyler Wedding Rehearsal 5:30 pm	17 Haughton / Tyler Wedding 3:00 pm
18 Fourth Sunday in Advent (C) Divine Service [Immanuel] 8:30am Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Bible Study [St. John's] 9:30 am (C) Divine Service [St. John's] 10:30am Children's Christmas Program at beginning of each Church Service Christmas Cantata [St. John's] 7:00 pm	19 Pastor's Family Day	20 Quilting (St. John's) 9 - 3	21 Faith Train / Midweek / Confirmation 4:30 pm Soup Supper (St. John's) 6:00 - 6:45 pm Advent Service (St. John's) 7:00pm	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Divine Service [Immanuel] 5:30 pm Divine Service [St. John's] 7:30 pm
No Preschool Dec 19 th thru Jan 2 nd						
25 Christmas Day (C) Divine Service [Immanuel] 8:30am (C) Divine Service [St. John's] 10:30am	26 Pastor's Family Day	27	28	29	30	31 Office: 335-3816 Parsonage: 335-9117
			Pastor & family on vacation			

**Saint John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church and
Preschool**

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@outlook.com

Pastor's email:
revkohlmeyer@hotmail.com

[YouTube](#)

St. John [Facebook](#)
Immanuel [Facebook](#)

Website: www.2gatherinchrist.org



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Address Correction Requested
