

## IMMANUEL CHURCH CALENDAR—A PEEK AT THE WEEK!

### Sun. December 23—Fourth Sunday in Advent, Choir Cantata

9:00-Prep and Prayer meeting for those helping with the service-fireside room  
9:15-Church nursery is staffed  
9:30-Worship Service, Sunday School  
10:30-Coffee time

**Pick up your Christmas Wreath order from our youth today in church garage**

### Mon., December 24—Office Closed

3:40 and 9:40—Prelude Christmas Carol sing-along begins  
4:00 and 10:00—Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, Holy Communion

### Tues., December 25—Christmas Holiday

**Pastor Marla on Vacation through January 1**

NO Text Time Bible Study

### Wed., December 26

6:00-Choir rehearsal  
NO Confirmation or Youth Group

### Thurs., December 27

### Fri., December 28

### Sat. December 29

### Sun., December 30— First Sunday of Christmas

**Our guest Pastor is Richard Baumann while Pastor Marla is on vacation.  
Music by Tracy Tolzmann on several Automatic Musical Instruments and  
Pat Remer on the Baby Grand Piano**

9:00-Prep and Prayer meeting for those helping with the service-fireside room  
9:15-Church nursery is staffed  
9:30-Worship, No Sunday School class  
10:30-Coffee



**Thursday Men's Bible Study** of the book of Revelation with Jim Mielke resumes on Thurs., Jan. 3rd.

**Sunday School** resumes on Sunday, January 6th!

**Sunday New Testament Bible Study** with Jim resumes on Sunday, January 6th right after worship—grab a coffee and come to study.



## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

37515 Park Trail, Almelund, MN 55012

Rev. Marla Amborn

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 23, 2018, 9:30 A.M.

*A welcoming community rooted in Christ, growing in faith and serving with joy!*

Today's Hymnal: **ELW** - Evangelical Lutheran Worship (**red**)

**Hearing devices are available from an usher.**

**Children's bulletins & Worship Bags are available at the back of the church.**

**P: Pastor, C: Congregation, R: Reader**

### Prelude

### Welcome and announcements

**Advent Candle** TJ & Katherine Flanery, Rylee and Kendall

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. The Sunday of Love.

Love born in a manger. Love born for us all.

The love of mother, father, young and old.

Love, Emmanuel. Love, Divine.

### 4 Advent Candles are lit by the Acolyte

### Lighting Song

**He Came Down** (Tune from ELW #253)

He came down that we may have Love.

He came down that we may have Love.

He came down that we may have Love.

Hallelujah, forevermore!

### Dedication of our Baby Grand Piano

**Opening Hymn** ELW #269 **Once In Royal David's City**

**Children's Sermon** sing "Away In a Manger" with the Choir!  
(children are released to attend Sunday School.)

**The Scripture Luke 1:26-42 C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and

*(continued on next page...)*

### Immanuel Lutheran Church Staff:

Marla Amborn, Pastor—cell: 651-315-3354  
pastormarla@immanuelalmelund.org

Momoh Freeman, Organist

Pat Remer, Accompanist

Rick Berthiaume, Church Custodian

Merrie Tolzmann, Administrative Assistant

Stephanie Wendel, Financial Secretary

Mark Weslander, Financial Recorder

Daryl Abrahamson, Cemetery Groundskeeper

Companion to Itonya Congregation, Tanzania

**Church Phone:** 651-583-2340

e-mail address:

[imcal@frontiernet.net](mailto:imcal@frontiernet.net)

web site:

[www.immanuelalmelund.org](http://www.immanuelalmelund.org)

Jason & DeeDee Fredlund

Youth Directors, 651-465-6130

Direct Sunday School and

Confirmation questions to

Pastor Marla Amborn.

will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

### **Matthew 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

**Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ**

### **The Story “An Angel’s Visits” Mary & Joseph**

Portrayed by Janine Schifsky and Norm Peterson, Narrator. Pat Remer

### **The Message “Born Anew” Pastor Marla Amborn**

### **♪ Choir Cantata “Fantasia Noel” ILC Choir**

Momoh Freeman, Director; Pat Remer, Accompanist

### **YOUTH/CONFIRMATION UPCOMING DATES:**

Sun., Dec. 26 No Youth Group or Confirmation, Pastor on Vac.

Wed., Jan. 2 6:30-8:00– Youth Group undecorate the church

Wed., Jan. 9 6:30-8:00-Confirmation Class

***If you ordered a wreath please pick it up today after worship in the church garage. Please do not pick one up without having it checked off the list by a youth representative.***



**Our Mitten Tree** A huge thank you to the members of the church for filling our tree to overflowing. Any items that come in now before Christmas will be taken to the Food Shelf.

Date change update: **LUTHER POINT RETREAT**—January 17-20, hosted by Sarah Circle

**This Advent and Christmas season and always, let us give the gift of our praise and thanks to our most glorious Lord.**

*For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.*

(1 Chronicles 16:25)

**Your Stewardship Committee**

***Blessings on your stewardship journey!***

“O come let us adore Him.”



**Immanuel Annual Congregational Meeting is set for:  
February 10, 2019.**

**Note to Immanuel Committees**—Please make assignments as to who will be turning in your committee/treasurer’s reports for the 2018 Annual Report. Deadline is January 27 so report can be copied and ready for pick up on February 3, one week before the annual meeting. Material is preferred typed and ready to copy or even better, sent to the office via email in MS Word so it can be formatted for the report.  
*Thank You!*

**Treasurers reports** are due as soon as you have them ready early in January so the Auditing can be done in time for the printing of the Annual Reports on Jan. 27. There is a box in the Church office for documents for the auditors. *Thank you for your work!*

**Volunteers are needed to serve on committees in 2019.** Call Pastor Marla or a member of the Nominating Committee; Dave Rue, Jeske Noordergraaf, John Sandberg, Joanne Johnson to volunteer to be on the 2019 ballot.

### Known to be hospitalized this week:

DeWayne Gunderson—St. John's Hospital  
Alice & John Mortenson - Alice is in hospice at Parmly

**December 16, 2018 Attendance: 107**

### Financial Picture:

Current-\$1,701.00; Building Fund-\$36.00; Benevolence-\$120.00;  
Loose-\$67.00; Special Donations-\$415.00 Total: \$2,339.00

Benevolence: Und. \$20; Luther Point \$100.  
Special Donation.: Piano lamp/humidifier \$180; Itonya Scholarship \$235

**Don't forget** to get your end of year donations to Immanuel in by Dec. 30 to have your gifts noted in your 2018 statement of giving. Also, Thrivent Members—Thrivent Choice Dollars need to be assigned to Immanuel if you wish to give. Thanks so much!

**Please check out the Gathering Area** to pick up your **offering box** and if you can deliver a box to family or friend to save postage costs that would be most appreciated!

### Bible Study Opportunities:

**Scriptural Text Bible Study "Text Time,"** Tuesdays., at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room with Pastor Marla (no study on Dec. 25 or Jan 1.)

### PLEASE CHECK OUT THE POSTERS ON THE NARTHEX BULLETIN BOARDS.

♪ **This Land is Your Land, This Land is My Land** ♪  
**This Land is Soon to be Momoh's Land!**

Our very own Momoh Freeman is seeking to become a US Citizen. That is an expensive process costing thousands of dollars. To support him in this effort you are invited to his **Citizenship Concert:**

**Sunday, January 13, 2 PM**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church of Almelund**

Talented musicians from within our congregation, the surrounding community, and the Liberian community will come together sharing their musical gifts. Our new baby grand piano will get a good work out! Following the concert we will gather for a reception with fancy desserts hosted by the Worship and Music Committee.

This is a fund raiser, so gifts of any amount will be appreciated and be used to directly support Momoh's citizenship effort. Bring family, friends, and anyone who loves music and loves this country to come and be part of it. Together we will celebrate the joy of music as we help Momoh know the joy of becoming an American Citizen. It will be fun. You won't want to miss it!

### Tithes and Offerings

**Offering Music** "Burgundian Carol" Lori Haag

### Offering Prayer

Pastor: Generous God,

**Congregation: in this season when giving is expected of us, and can so easily become a burden instead of a delight, we give thanks for the gift that you gave us in Jesus: the gift of your love—no strings or ribbons attached. Accept whatever gifts we bring today, out of full and grateful hearts. Amen.**

♪ **Choir Cantata "Fantasia Noel," continued...**

### Prayers

#### Lord's Prayer

#### The Sending

Pastor: The stories of the birth foretold go with us, leading the way,  
**Congregation: our guiding light, in this drama of mystery, incarnation, delight and wonder, may we be strong enough to bear your blessing.**

P: During this most holy of weeks,

**C: surprise us again Lord of all, Emmanuel. Amen**

### Benediction

**Sending Hymn ELW #292 Love Has Come**

**Dismissal** P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

**Pastor Marla will be on vacation the week of Dec. 25 through Jan. 1.** If you have a pastoral emergency please contact Pastor Marla during this time.

**THANK-YOU** so much for your kindness. People like you make the world a better place. Thank You! :) Dear Lois and the Sunshine Singers and Immanuel Lutheran Church—Your Parmly friends thank you for your time, treats and talents! Thank you for making our September Birthday Party special. You are appreciated!

-Life Enrichment Department, Chelsea and Shelley.

**Thank you to my church family and friends** for all your prayers and best wishes. Some even brought over food when I first lost my hearing. Thank you also for all the get well cards. Just letting you all know I will keep Pastor updated. Alice Burnside



## WELCOME TO WORSHIP TODAY!

**Visitors**, please sign our guest book located in the back of the sanctuary. If you are interested in knowing more about our congregation please speak to Pastor Marla today or call the church this week! Contact info is on the back of this bulletin.

**Encourage all children** who can read to follow along in the bulletin and hymnal during our worship service today! There are children's bulletins at the back of the Sanctuary. A **nursery & mother's lounge** is located in the upper floor of the addition, with a speaker in the room so you can hear the service. **We provide volunteer Nursery Care** each week beginning at 9:15.

**Special Thank you to Robin Chinander for gifting the Immanuel Congregation with a Baby Grand Piano!** We are dedicating this gift today during worship!

**Today we celebrate God's Gift of music with a special cantata called "Fantasia Noel" with the Immanuel Choir!** One more way to celebrate as we await the birth of Jesus!

**All are welcome to come to the Fellowship Hall after worship for a time of fellowship!** Make a new friend today!

***There is an envelope in your bulletin today with an opportunity to donate toward two wonderful funds through our church:***

The Baby Grand Piano, donated by Robin Chinander, is ready to be dedicated today. There are still a few expenses ahead -- a piano light and humidifier system (which helps keep the piano in tune) are needed and will cost \$770.00 total. **Donations will be greatly appreciated to underwrite these expenditures** and will complete this wonderful musical project.

**In addition to the piano upcoming costs, the council approved the request for dollars to help the students of Itonya to continue their education.** We need \$750.00 total to continue helping students from our sister congregation in Itonya Africa! If you are interested in helping to pay toward the education of our brothers and sisters across the sea please use the giving envelope in your bulletin today. Any amount will be well used for these giving opportunities! Blessings to you!

**Happy Birthdays:** 23rd—Suzanne Minar; 24th—Hanna Sandstrom; 25th—Todd Peltier, Jeanne Burnside; 27th—Jaime Burnside, Merrie Tolzmann; 28th—Arlen Burnside, Kelly Garbe; 29th—Cindy Johnson, Perry Lindberg, Loraine Rue, Jacovy Flodquist, Jillian Flodquist



## Christmas Worship at Immanuel!

Invite family, friends and neighbors to worship!

**Christmas Eve, Mon., Dec. 24, 4:00 & 10:00pm—**  
Candlelight Worship Service, Holy Communion

### THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE TODAY:

**Pastor:** Marla Amborn

**Ushers:** Marshall & Heather Johnson **Head Usher:** Marshall Johnson

**Organist/Choir Director:** Momoh Freeman **Accompanist:** Pat Remer

**ILC Choir Members:** Lois & Marlin Ness, Norm Peterson, Mark Weslander, Tracy & Merrie Tolzmann, Pat Remer, Julie Weller, Gina Sapp, Janine Schifsky, Lori Haag, Diane Johnson

**Altar Guild:** Nancy Nadeau **AV Tech:** Nancy Nadeau

**Greeter:** Pat & Don Noyes **Acolyte:** Carter Rothe

**Reader:** Jeske Noordergraaf

**Advent Candle Readers:** TJ & Katherine Flanery, Rylee and Kendall

**Offering Counters:** Alice Burnside, Pat Remer, Deb Kregel

**Coffee:** Sarah Circle

**Sunday School Teachers:** Loraine Rue and Diane Rothe

**Nursery Caregiver:** Joanne Johnson

### Connecting with Our Fiends in Itonya

For all of you who would like to connect with our partner congregation in Itonya, Tanzania, we have an opportunity to send our greetings. Ken Smith, who traveled to Itonya with Pastor Marla and led the water project, will be traveling to Tanzania again at the end of December. He can hand deliver greetings or small gifts to our partners in Itonya. This is a chance to send a Christmas card, note, photo, or something light that doesn't take up much room in a suit case. This is a great way to connect with prayer partners, or with the Itonya congregation as a whole. Our partners in Itonya would be very excited to know we are thinking of them. Please get your items for Itonya to Pastor Marla by Christmas Eve.