



Thoughts from Pastor Scott...

Do You See What I See?

This last month, my wife Carla and I took our annual trip for a week in southwest Florida. It's a great time to slow down and just enjoy the beauty of God's creation as well as each other.

This year, we had the fun of taking in the 33rd Annual American Sand Sculpture Competition in Fort Myers Beach, Florida. Nineteen sand sculptors from around the world compete against each other to create some amazing works of art in the sand. This wasn't your typical sandcastle kind of stuff. There were large sculptures of seahorses, people, symbolic works of art, plus this whimsical smaller sculpture of Olaf the snowman and Elsa from the movie "Frozen".

One guy from Michigan had three layers of sand held together with plastic bands of different diameters – stacked like you'd see a three layer wedding cake. He had pulled off the top band of plastic and was beginning to carve something into the sand. I asked him how he knew what to do as he worked in the sand. His response made me think of how God sees us. He told me that when he gets a pile of sand, he pictures in his mind what is in the sand and then he removes all the stuff around it so that the beautiful sculpture comes into being and everyone can see and enjoy it.

This Christmas, we're reminded that God does the same with us. God sees the potential of what lies inside of us. When we allow His Spirit to work at sculpting our life to reflect His, he works throughout our life to make a beautiful message to our world. That's why God sent us a message in a manger over 2,000 years ago in the form of a baby. He was telling us not only that He loves us but that he longs to work in our lives for His message of faith, hope and love to show through to others.

As you unwrap your presents under the tree this Christmas season, remember the greatest gift of all – Jesus Christ, God's Son, who was born, lived, died on the cross, and rose to life again that you and I might truly live in this life and eternity with Him.

God is with us... Pastor Scott



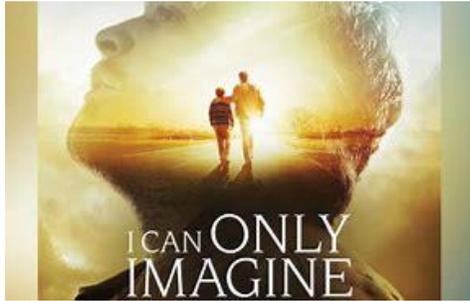
December 2019 Immanuel Calendar

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 9 am – Sunday School 9:45 am – Choir practice 10:15 am – Worship, decorate church afterwards	2	3	4 5:45 pm – Supper & Confirmation at Immanuel 7 pm – Women of the Word (WOW) Bible study “I Can Only Imagine”	5	6	7
8 9 am – Sunday School 9:45 am – Choir practice 10:15 am - Worship	9 7 pm – Church Council meeting	10	11 5:45 pm – Supper and Confirmation class at Immanuel	12	13	14
15 9 am – Sunday School NO CHOIR PRACTICE 10:15 am – Worship & Sunday School program 11:15 am – Soup Potluck	16	17	18 6 pm – Confirmation Class field trip to Roper & Sons Funeral Home (4300 O St, Lincoln) <i>Alternate time is 5:45 pm at Immanuel</i> NO Women of the Word (WOW) study tonight	19	20	21
22 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 am – Choir practice 10:15 am - Worship	23	24 5:30 pm – Traditional Christmas Eve Candle-light Worship	25 CHRISTMAS DAY NO Confirmation class tonight	26	27	28
29 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL NO CHOIR PRACTICE 10:15 am - Worship	30	31	Jan 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020!	Jan 2	Jan 3	Jan 4



Enjoy the sounds of the season with the Lincoln Boys Choir’s “Winter Reflections”. Sunday, December 15th at 5 p.m. at Saint Paul United Methodist Church in Lincoln. 1144 M Street (11th & M Streets)

Tickets are \$15 for adults. 18 and under are free.

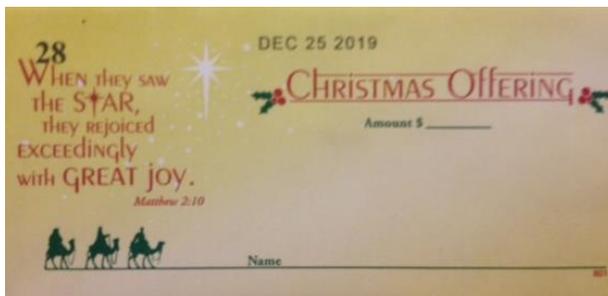


WOW
WOMEN OF THE WORD

Women of the Word Bible Study **Wednesday, December 4th at 7 p.m.**

All women of Immanuel and our community are welcome to join us as we study the second part of a 4-session Bible study series called “I Can Only Imagine”. To help us understand and experience the love of God, we’ll be focusing on a short passage of Scripture each session along with a video. As we find ourselves with the good news of Jesus, we find Jesus inviting us into the heart of God as we live in forgiveness and healing. Please note that we will only meet December 4th since the Confirmation class may be taking a field trip on December 18th to Lincoln that evening.

Opportunities to Give a Special Christmas Eve Offering **December 24th – Christmas Eve**



As we did last year, this year’s Christmas Eve worship service special offering will go toward “Sleep in Heavenly Peace” – a ministry that builds and donates beds so that children in the Omaha metro area do not have to sleep on the floor. Last year, Immanuel raised approximately \$1,500 toward this worthy cause. Please consider

making a generous gift on Christmas Eve for our special offering so that children may have a good night’s sleep. When you make your special offering gift, please use the envelope pictured here that is in your offering box. Thank you.



Immanuel did it!

100 shoeboxes of Christmas gifts for children have been filled and sent

Thank you to everyone who took the “Centennial challenge” and filled one or more shoeboxes with toys for children in our parts of our world who otherwise would have no gift at Christmas. 2019 has been a great year of celebrating Immanuel’s 100th year and this was a wonderful way to close the year out by giving gifts to others.





Join us for a Cookie Exchange

Sunday, December 8th after worship

All members and friends of Immanuel are invited to bring two dozen cookies to our "cookie exchange". Following worship on December 8th, we'll gather in the fellowship hall to exchange cookies with each other and set

aside a sampling of our cookies for each of Immanuel's homebound members. Please contact Jane Otto (402.525.2223) or Pastor Scott (402.499.4444) if you have questions.



Prayer List

Christie Bevington (Health – Member)

Krystal Tilson (Surgery – Member)

Andrea Christensen (Health – J Christensen)

Richard Benes (Terminal cancer – Fredrickson)

Bob Knuth (Health – Otto)

Heather Lucht (Health – Hanson)

Ron Weltruski (bone cancer -Hedges)

Craig Boden (Work – J. Boden)

Amanda Sykes (Health – Sykes)

Kim Pearson (Health – L Pearson)

Kelly Hamilton (Health – Bevington)

Sandi Wendell (Health – Wilson)

Briggs Gushard (Health – Rudeen)

Lora Robinson (Health – Freeman)

Joan Hornung family & friends as they mourn her loss

Sydney Kenning (Strength & comfort for Sydney's family)

December Ushers & Lectors



USHERS

DECEMBER USHERS

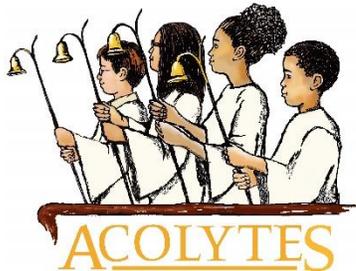
- Dec. 1 - Doug & Shawn Rudeen
- Dec. 8 - Kevin & Gaylene Olson
- Dec. 15 - Fran Freeman
- Dec. 22 - Tim Wheland
- Dec. 24 - Leroy & Barb Hanson
- Dec. 29 - Christie Bevington



DECEMBER LECTORS

- Dec. 1 - Shawn
- Dec. 8 - Donna
- Dec. 15 - Fran
- Dec. 22 - Tim
- Dec. 24 - Fran
- Dec. 29 - Issac

DECEMBER ACOLYTES



- Dec. 1- Owen
- Dec. 8 - Kyle
- Dec. 15 - Taylor
- Dec. 22 - Joe
- Dec. 24 – Karrie
- Dec. 29 - Reid



December

Food Pantry

Any food item to make
Holiday meals or baking
items for Holiday treats &
desserts