

January 2020 Newsletter



From the Pastor

Happy New Year! It's the start of a new decade... the 2020s.

A new year can help us feel like we can make a new beginning. As we look at the past decade of the 2010s there are likely things we accomplished and can have a sense of pride in. There are also likely things that went wrong and may have turned out poorly. As Pastor Matt Norlen of the the Ceresco Covenant Church reminded us of at our community Thanksgiving Eve worship service, we have had blessings and not-so-blessings. Our God has been the one constant through it all.

I love that we're moving into the year 2020. It reminds me of eye vision. When we can see clearly, we have "20-20 vision". So, this year is a time for us to remember who we are as God's people and seek a clearer vision of how we can live our lives with a greater purpose than just our own.

When my oldest granddaughter Savannah was seven years old, my wife and I took her with us on a week's vacation to Southwestern Florida. During our last night in the cottage by the beach she looked up from her supper plate and looked me straight in the eyes and asked, "Grandpa, what's your purpose in life?". Her question caught me off guard. I wasn't expecting a question like that to come up at our supper table. So, I had to think a minute and then say to her, "Savannah, my purpose is to be a good husband and to show you and your brother and other people what God's true love is all about".

As we head into the 2020s, I would encourage you and all of Immanuel to ask that question of yourselves... "What is my purpose in life?". God has created each of us unique and different from one another with different talents, relationships, and personalities. Yet, there is one thing that we all share... a loving relationship with Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

So, consider making a resolution of two. Not just for the new year but for the new decade. Ask how God can use you to show His love to others through your words and actions. Ask how you will seek His purpose for your life to use the God-given abilities you have been given to grow in some way to make a positive difference in our world. Pray for "20-20" spiritual vision as we enter this new decade together.

God is with us.... Pastor Scott





IMMANUEL'S THREE DAYS OF PRAYER: January 7th – 9th, 2020

Prayer is a gift that God has given to us as a means to approach His throne of grace with confidence—like that of a child coming to his or her parents sharing concerns, victories, defeats and every part of life. It's an opportunity to express our deepest heartaches and greatest joys with God.

Immanuel is part of an association of Lutheran congregations across the United States and around the world which prays. On January 7th through 9th, please set aside some time throughout your day to focus on the prayer themes listed below as we seek to glorify God through our lives and the life of our faith family called Immanuel.

Day One: January 7

This is a day focused on **confession**. We have made our lives, our relationships—and sometimes even the church—in our own image. We confess that the church belongs to Jesus and not to us. We gather to lay down our pride, our sin and our self-serving agenda and ask Jesus for forgiveness, which He gives freely and with mercy.

Day Two: January 8

This is a day of **petition**. Pray for Immanuel, for Pastor Scott, for our Church Council members – Ken, Lisa, Justin, Janis, Kathi, Jared and Christie, for our church secretary Fran, for Teresa our church custodian, for Suzy and others involved with the Sunday School, and for those who provide the ministry of hospitality in our church kitchen and in other ways. Pray for all of Immanuel's faith family and friends that they might know God's redeeming love for all people through Jesus Christ.

Day Three: January 9

This is a day for **vision**. Pray that the Holy Spirit will again move through the hearts and minds of leaders and pastors that God's vision for His church might be revealed and fulfilled. This is a time of prayer for renewal, revival and encouragement. Pray for God's vision for you, Immanuel, Christians in the greater Ceresco area and throughout our world.



2020 ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING January 26th at 11:15 a.m.

All voting Immanuel members are encouraged to attend this year's annual church meeting, following worship on Sunday, January 26th, in the church sanctuary. Voting members are confirmed members of Immanuel who have communed within the past year. Our alternate snow day is Sunday, February 2nd.

Church business will include approval of the 2020 church budget and addressing issues which impact our activities in serving Christ Jesus and His mission. Often, Immanuel's annual meetings have been only 30 minutes to less than an hour in length. We look forward to seeing you there.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PLANNING MEETING

It's hard to believe but it's that time of year again to begin planning for this summer's 2020 Vacation Bible School. If you are interested in helping with the planning in any way – crafts, lessons, ideas, or other ways – please plan to attend the VBS planning session at Immanuel on Monday evening, January 20th at 7 p.m.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP – December 24, 2019

What a beautiful way to worship God together toward the end of this past decade as a faith family. Pictured to the left is Immanuel's family and friends singing Silent Night with lit candles. Thank you to all of those who decorated the church and had a part in making our worship a meaningful experience this year.



Please remember Immanuel's homebound members in your prayers:

Barb Basel

112 Pine Street, P.O. Box 404 – Ceresco, NE 68017
402.665.2174 (Home) 402.480.2582 (Cell)

John Christiansen

1509 County Rd. B – Ceresco, NE 68017
402.429.6475

Marie Johnson

2425 Folkways Blvd, #336 – Lincoln NE 68521
402.438.5618 (home) 402.417.9537 (cell)

Laurel and Rose Nelson

Saunders Medical Center Long Term Care, Room 114
1760 County Road J – Wahoo NE 68066
402.416.1862 (cell)

Rexilius, Dale and Bernadine

c/o Tabitha GracePointe
4620 Randolph St, #203 – Lincoln NE 68510 402.484.9318

January 2020 Immanuel Calendar

**Note: Women of the Word (WOW) will meet the 3rd & last Wednesdays of January
NO Confirmation classes the nights of January 1st or 8th**

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020!	2	3	4 9:30am- Pastor Scott at Heartland District Council meeting in Omaha
5 9am – Sun School 10:15am Worship 1:30 & 2:15pm – Pastor Scott leads worship at Wahoo nursing homes	6	7	8 NO Confirmation class this evening	9	10	11
12 9am – Sun School 9:45am – Choir practice 10:15am Worship	13 7:00pm Church Council meeting	14	15 5:45pm – Confirmation Supper & Class 7:00pm – Women of the Word (WOW) Bible Study: "I Can Only Imagine"	16	17	18
19 9am – Sun School 9:45am – Choir practice 10:15am Worship	20 7:00pm Vacation Bible School planning meeting @ Immanuel	21	22 5:45pm – Confirmation Supper & Class	23	24	25
26 9am – Sun School 9:45am – Choir practice 10:15am Worship 11:15am – Annual Meeting	27	28	29 5:45pm – Confirmation Supper & Class 7:00pm – Women of the Word (WOW) Bible Study: "I Can Only Imagine"	30	31	Feb 1

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)

Crystal Haake (Foot surgery – Haake)

Mary Tvrdy (Health – Otto)

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



January Food Pantry

Paper goods such as

Paper towels ~Toilet paper

Napkins ~ Paper plates

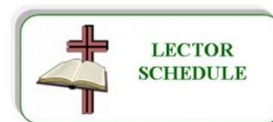
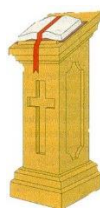
Kleenex

January Ushers & Lectors



JANUARY USHERS

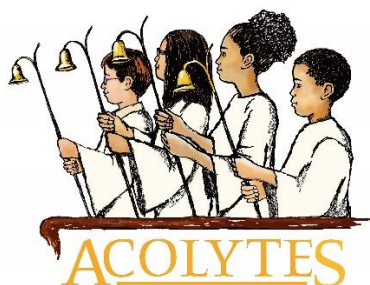
Jan. 5 - Ray & Jane Otto
Jan. 12 - Justin & Kristy Badberg
Jan. 19 - Jodi Boden
Jan. 26 - Fran Freeman



JANUARY LECTORS

Jan. 5 - Ray
Jan. 12 - Kristy
Jan. 19 - Jodi
Jan. 26 - Fran

JANUARY ACOLYTES



January 5 - Karrie Weaver
January 12 - Joe Weaver
January 19 - Jace Badberg
January 26 - Hunter Sykes