

# What's Happening at Immanuel

## Words from Pastor Joe

This year advent starts with the same theme that ended the season of Pentecost. Jesus is coming again with authority and judgment. Be prepared! Be awake! Be alert!

What does it mean? Be awake for what? Be alert for what? Be prepared? Sounds like an invitation to join the Boy Scouts and to develop lots of survival skills. Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of scouting in England 117 years ago was asked that very question: Be prepared for what? **"Why, for any old thing." said Baden-Powell.**

**The Scout handbook (1988 edition) on page 54 explains the "Be Prepared" motto: ... Baden-Powell wasn't thinking just of being ready for emergencies. His idea was that all Scouts should prepare themselves to become productive citizens and to give happiness to other people. He wanted each Scout to be ready in mind and body for any struggles, and to meet with a strong heart whatever challenges might lie ahead.**

Is that the same thing that Jesus meant? Perhaps to some degree because Jesus did send his disciples into the world to love God with everything they had as well as to love their neighbor. There will be challenges that rise in my life and yours every day. Some have to do with people who are well known to us, and some have to do with strangers. Some have to do with no people at all but just circumstances where our character will be exercised even when no one is looking.

Jesus was always concerned that the heart of his people was always directed according to the prayer that he taught us. "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Your Kingdom come! Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness ... these other things will be yours as well. Be prepared when you are called upon to be a good neighbor – like a scout doing a good deed every day

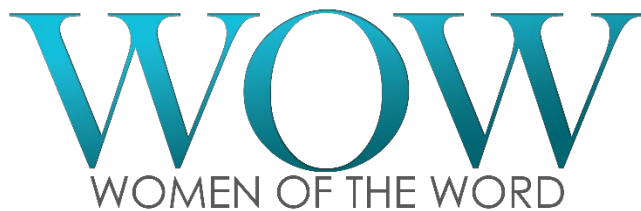
But Jesus goes to a whole other place. "... you will be called before judges and governors and rulers in this world. The Holy Spirit will give you what you need to say." Be ready! When people call you non-essential and say all manner of evil things against you on my (Jesus') account ... then you are truly blessed." Be alert! And Peter, later in his ministry, says, "when someone asks you for a defense of the hope that is in you (Jesus). Be Prepared! But do it with gentleness and respect. It is better to suffer for doing Good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil." (1 Peter 3:15-17)

For Jesus being ready and being alert and being prepared is all about being filled with God's word so that you can be a child of His kingdom. Then you can draw from the treasure which is eternal and speak and live in a world which is temporary and passing away. Come and listen to the prophets and messengers of God and be prepared to meet Jesus when he comes to you in unexpected ways. Be prepared for the eternal adventure – JESUS!

**See you at worship this week!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 9:00 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Coffee and Fellowship	9 6:30 pm Church Council	10	11 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm WOW	12	13	14
15 9:00 am Bible Study 10:15 am Children's Christmas Program 11:15 am Coffee and Fellowship	16	17	18 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm WOW	19	20	21
22 9:00 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Coffee and Fellowship	23	24 5:30 pm Community Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS	26	27	28
29 9:00 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Coffee and Fellowship	30	31				



Woman of the Word meets Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be starting the book ["Imagine the God of Heaven"](#) See Suzy for more details.

# WELCOME TO SOLA

Immanuel is happy to share a new online resource with you. The church has purchased an online subscription to Sola. The subscription allows FREE unlimited use for our church family. Simply use the following link and logon information to access educational resources that are trustworthy and useful to give you a deeper appreciation for God's Holy Word!

**[solapublishing.com](http://solapublishing.com)**

Logon: Imm210 (this is Immanuel's PO Box #)

Password: Immanuel



The graphic features a dark blue background with the 'rightnow MEDIA' logo in the top right. A central smartphone displays a video player with 'Hebrews' visible. Three circular portraits of people are arranged around the phone. The main text reads 'FREE ACCESS TO +20,000 BIBLE STUDY VIDEOS'. Below this, it states 'Every person at our church has free access to biblical video series for adults, youth, and kids—now streaming on your favorite device.' A 'Get Free Access' section lists three steps: 1. Click the link in your email invitation Or text ILC CERES CONE to 49775 or scan the QR →; 2. Create your free account.; 3. Download the app for your device and start browsing!. A QR code is positioned to the right of the steps, and a small circular portrait of a man is at the bottom right.

## POINSETTIAS

We will be taking orders for poinsettias this year for the altar at Church. For a 4" plant the cost is \$6.00 for a 6" plant the cost is \$12.00. See Fran to sign up and place your order.

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Special offerings collected during Thanksgiving and Christmas services will go to LCMC Disaster Relief.

Immanuel will be collecting donations for Turkeys & Hams for the backpack program if you would like to contribute.

We will be collecting special offerings for the new video system, water heater and reverse osmosis system - these items will cost approximately \$9,000.

# THE 24 TH ANNUAL LCMC GATHERING & CONVENTION SEPTEMBER 29TH – OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup> FAITHLIFE CHURCH IN MARION IOWA

Every morning we started with a Bible study given by Gabrielle Arland. Then a welcome & worship. On Monday the keynote speaker was Kyle Fever. “You Got to Open Your Heart to Me.” Engaging your cultural moment was the theme for this year. Are we on the outside looking in at culture or are we engaging in culture? We are often unaware of ourselves engaging with culture. We do not laud weakness. Christ was crucified exemplifying human weakness. We need to learn how to lean into our human weaknesses and take stock of our own weakness. The world around us does not do well with weakness, in fact, we learn to hide them. The world tends to use weakness against us. Know that your weakness does not define you. Hope is trusting we believe in a loving God. Know that He will meet you in the middle of your weakness, be beside you, and help you through it. He will give you the strength you need to preserve (to God be the Glory).

On Tuesday the keynote speaker was Stephan Witmer. Our culture is the loudest, angriest, most influential and strongest in the world. We all want to be a servant until we are treated like one. We must recognize God’s gift of weakness. What are our limitations? What are our weaknesses? We know that weakness is counter cultural, but we need to be open about our weakness. Paul embraced the purpose of his weakness. He gave praise and thanks to God in his weakness. It is our weakness and God’s glory. God’s power shows in our weakness. “My power is made perfect in weakness.” When we are weak then He is strong. We have the example gift and word of Christ – the weakness and strength of Paul. Paul boasted and was satisfied with his weakness received from God. It is then we see God’s divine power. There is power in weakness, God’s power.

I also took three breakout classes. The first was grandparenting in the present age. The message I received from this class grandparents are the cheerleaders and unconditional love for the grandchildren. The second class was reaching young adults inside and outside church.

The age group being 18 – 30. Piers and anchors – if you can get a few young couples generally that will generate more couples. Keep current with social media and see what we can learn from them. The third class was engaging through sharing our God stories. Engage with life stories – share testimony and use Bible stories to relate with what you are sharing.

I was surprised to meet two of the ladies I went to England with in the emersion trip of 2022 for Church Doctor Ministries. Tracie Swank and my roommate. Catching up was fun! We voted on the budget and some nominations for the board on Monday and Tuesday during business sessions.

Submitted by

*Fran Freeman*

## PRAYER LIST

Jeremy Pribnow (Surgery – Hedges)  
Francis Millet (Health – Countryman)  
Will Varilek (Healing – Member)  
Diane Alsbrooks (Health – Rudeen)  
Cali Molnar (Car accident – Pearson)  
Brogan Molnar (Car accident – Pearson)  
Sara Axmann (Health – Stratton)  
Christie Bevington (Health – member)  
Lisa Johnson (Cancer - Neighbor)  
Gracie Lambert (Health)  
Heather Lucht (Health – Hanson)  
Scott Negley (Cancer – Tetley)  
Tammy Morse (Cancer – Fisher)  
Kim Pearson (Health – Pearson)  
Rene & Sharon Remillard (Health – Hanson)  
Jayson Boden (Jodi's Son)  
Gracie Wilcox (Blood Disorder – Bevington)  
Steve Martz (Stroke – Bevington)  
Roger McGinnis (Health – Countryman)  
Dawn Buss (Health – Fran's Daughter)  
Benedikte Ehlers (Cancer – Fran's Tour Guide)  
Ron Weltruski (Bone Cancer – Hedges)  
Zack Emerson (FCA Mission)  
Adam Johnson (Convincing Proof)  
Wade Family (Missionaries – Bible Translation)  
Persecuted Christians around the World  
People in War Torn Areas  
Health & Protection of Everyone

**DECEMBER USHERS**

Dec. 1 Doug & Shawn Rudeen  
Dec. 8 Dane & Hailey Drahota  
Dec. 15 Aaron & Crystal Haake  
Dec. 22 Leroy & Barb Hanson  
Dec. 24 John & Janis Bible  
Dec. 29 Fran Freeman

**DECEMBER LECTORS**

Dec. 1 Shawn Rudeen  
Dec. 8 Hailey Drahota  
Dec. 15 Crystal Haake  
Dec. 22 Suzy Fredrickson  
Dec. 24 Janis Bible  
Dec. 29 Fran Freeman

**DECEMBER ACOLYTES**

Dec. 1 Colton  
Dec. 8 Bella  
Dec. 15 Blaine  
Dec. 22 Sarah  
Dec. 24 Colton  
Dec. 29 Ethan

**FOOD PANTRY**

All Items Needed for Holiday Desserts and Baking.  
The food pantries are in great need through the Holidays!