

DECEMBER 2024 AT IMMANUEL GEORGE

SUNDAYS:

9:15 a.m. – Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. – Worship (Communion is served the 1st & 3rd Sundays)

December 1st | 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School for ages 3+

December 15th | 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for ages 3+

Mondays:

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Pastor Matt Office Hours, George

Tuesdays:

December 24th | 5:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service in George

Wednesdays:

December 4th | 5:30 p.m. – Mid Week Advent service in Rock Rapids

December 4th | 7:00 p.m. – Confirmation in Rock Rapids

December 11th | 5:30 p.m. – Mid Week Advent service in George

December 11th | 7:00 p.m. – Youth Group in George

December 18th | 5:00 p.m. – Bread of Life Distribution

December 18th | 5:30 p.m. – Mid Week Advent service in Rock Rapids

December 18th | 7:00 p.m. – Confirmation in Rock Rapids

DECEMBER/JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

DATE	SOUND/POWER POINT	GREETERS	READERS	ACOLYTES
12/1	Richard Heidloff & AJ Landis	Ryan & Kristy Funk	Marla Ahrenholtz	Cullen Funk
12/8	Fred Landis & Leo Ver Steeg	Mark & Mary Behrens	Glenda Heidloff	Leo Ver Steeg
12/15	Greg Ver Steeg & Sosie Ver Steeg	Steve & Darla Kruse	Julie Ver Steeg	Isaiah Sandbeck
12/22	Richard Heidloff & AJ Landis	Greg & Julie Ver Steeg	Mark Behrens	Khoryn Funk
12/29	Fred Landis & Leo Ver Steeg	Darlene Woelber & Angie McConnell	Darlene Woelber	Jack Denny
1/5	Greg Ver Steeg & Sosie Ver Steeg		Angie McConnell	Cullen Funk
1/12	Richard Heidloff & AJ Landis		Sosie Ver Steeg	Leo Ver Steeg
1/19	Fred Landis & Leo Ver Steeg		Cathy Huff	Isaiah Sandbeck
1/26	Greg Ver Steeg & Sosie Ver Steeg		Richard Heidloff	Khoryn Funk

DECEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mid-Week Services:

During the month of December there will be a midweek service held every Wednesday night at 5:30.

Christmas Eve Service:

On the 24th there will be a Christmas Eve service in George at 5:00, and Rock Rapids at 7:00.

Please lift in Prayer:

Bev Kaster, Brad Sandbeck, Clay Hansmann, Doug Hilbrands, Isaiah Sandbeck, Rich Ahrenholtz, Rita Hilbrands, Ruben Stueven, Wanda Parker, Wendy Smith, Richard Garlic, and Military Families.

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries:

6 – Ryan & Khristy Funk

11 – Harris & Bev Kaster

21 – Joe & Marlene Quincy

Birthdays:

1 – John Grotluschen

1 – Mary Behrens

1 – Evangeline Walker

2 – Cristopher Everhart

3 – Mila Jean Kruse

10 – Brent Jorth

13 – Dawson Krahling

13 – Merrill James Weish

15 – Mike Hoing

17 – Glenda Heidloff

18 – Penelope Welsh

20 – Clay Hansmann

22 – Marshall VandeKamp

22 – Sadie Krahling

26 – Kayleen Bathke

27 – Norene Funk

28 – Deb Hansmann

28 – Lynn Grotluschen

28 – Marlene Quincy

28 – Steven Kruse

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MATT

"The word advent means 'expectation.' What advent can do for us is create a sense of hope." -Louie Giglio

What is your favorite part of Advent or Christmas? For me it is the music during worship! We sing hymns that I wait all year for, there is no better hymns for music other than perhaps Easter! One hymn that has been on my mind quite a bit is "O Holy Night." In particular these lines: "Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth, a thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious mornin'"
Sometimes it feels like life is monotonous and like each day is the same. Or if there are changes, the hustle and bustle of life is there, rush Rush RUSH. It can be easy to feel dull to the world around us. And that is the importance of Advent.

We awake from our slumber of daily life during Advent as we hope and wait for the Saviors return! The shepherds and wise men were waiting for the Savior to be born, and now we are alert for Christ's return. It is a time of waiting, resting, intentionality and hope. I think of this time of year as an opportunity to look outside of us and share generously with those who are in need.

For our midweek Advent services our offering will go to help purchase a well for those in need of safe and clean drinking water. The cost of one well is \$2,500 and my hope and goal is between our Immanuel families we can purchase at least one. I think about how much more difficult life is without clean water. Spending numerous hours walking to get water for basic needs. The medical conditions that come with not having clean water. I think of the missed opportunity for education for the youth as they spend their time getting water rather than having the opportunity to learn. Or for the adults missed working opportunities.

I think of how weary I would be having to put that much time and effort into getting water each day. I wonder about the thrill of hope a well could bring to a weary community who yearns for a new and glorious mornin. Will you join me in helping provide clean water for those who need it and could use some rejoicing? It could be as simple as 25 people/families donating \$100 or 50 people/families donating \$50. Or some combination of larger donations and smaller donations. May we this Advent and Christmas not keep the hope of Christ just for ourselves but share it for a world that desperately needs it. Amen.

God's peace,
Pastor Matt

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Council met Sunday November 17th after worship.

Present: Marla Ahrenholtz, Mark Dickmann, Ryan Funk, Clay Hansman, Craig Denny and Pastor Matt.

Absent: Angie McConnell

Ryan called the meeting to order.

Devotions: Pastor Matt: "Live by Hope".

Secretary's Report: Angie reported minutes approved by email.

Treasurer's Report: Craig gave the report. He mentioned we are ahead on giving. The rest of the report looked good. Mark made a motion to approve and Clay seconded. All approved.

Evangelism and Worship: Christmas Eve services: George service will be at 5:00pm and Rock Rapids at 7:00 pm. Pastor will be doing an Advent service called Sanctified Heart on December 1st.

Property and Stewardship: Our parsonage renter lost the garage door opener. Craig will check into getting a new one.

Fred Landis will put up the churches' outdoor Christmas card around Thanksgiving.

Education and Youth: Sunday School is going well. There will be no Christmas program. Marla will talk to Judd about ordering apples, oranges, peanuts, and candy for Christmas sacks. We are figuring on 35 sacks this year.

Old Business: Byron will continue working on new electrical service for the church. He is waiting on an electrical box that was special ordered.

Summa money that is left in the account is \$4117.00. It will be given to the following ministries:

1. Cherish House
2. Bible Camp
3. Oakland Foundation
4. Bread of Life

New Business: Annual meeting is set for January 19th after church. Lunch will be provided by the Council. We will put in the bulletin that if anyone is interested in running for Council to let a Council member know.

December 8th there will be a Joint Council meeting in George after church to go over Pastor's Compensation agreement.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Matt reported the Wednesday night Youth Group attendance. When in George it has been 12-15 kids and when in Rock Rapids it has been 5-10 kids. We will look into getting drivers to help transport kids to Rock Rapids.

Next meeting date: December 15th after church. Motion to adjourn made by Mark and 2nd by Craig. Motion approved.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.