



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School
8231 Tanner Bridge Road
Jefferson City, MO 65101
“What’s Happening”



Pastor: Rev. Steve Resner sresner@midmoimmanuel.com

Principal: Mr. Tyler Kopp principal@midmoimmanuel.com

Youth & Family Ministry: Mrs. Mandy McDonald mmcdonald@midmoimmanuel.com

Church & School Website: www.midmoimmanuel.com

Phone

Cell 291-5711

School 496-3766

Church 496-3451

The mission of Immanuel Lutheran School is to partner with parents and Immanuel Lutheran Church in providing a quality education that nurtures life-long learners who are rooted in Christ, built in faith, and growing in love.

Worship: Sunday 9:30 am

Deadline to submit newsletter articles: Wednesday at the end of the day

Tune in to 104.1 for drive-in worship service

December 15, 22, & 29 2023

FROM THE DESK OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

As we remember the first gift of Christmas, Jesus Christ, we thank God for the LIFE that he has given us here on earth and for the eternal LIFE he promises all believers in heaven.

Immanuel Family, we have the chance to give thanks for our own lives and help save others’ lives by giving the gift of blood on December 28th (1-6pm). The Sr. High Youth is hosting our annual blood drive in the commons, and we invite you to make an appointment and join us.


You can visit RedCrossBlood.org or scan the QR Code to schedule your appointment.

Thank you in advance for sharing this important gift during the holiday season!

In Him,

Mandy McDonald

Matthew 25:40 “And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’”

	 <p>American Red Cross</p> <p>Blood Drive</p> <p>Immanuel Lutheran Church & School</p> <p>In the Commons 8231 Tanner Bridge Road Jefferson City, MO 65101</p> <p>Thursday, December 28, 2023 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.</p>	
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PREPARING FOR CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

The third Sunday in Advent is known as *Gaudete Sunday*. ‘Gaudete’ is Latin for REJOICE. This is the PINK candle on the Advent wreath and symbolizes JOY. It is also known as the “Shepherd’s Candle”. The Shepherds were told of ‘Good News of Great Joy’ by the angels. When they saw the Christ child, they rejoiced!

Christ brings JOY! He brings the JOY of heaven to earth. He brings JOY into our hearts by faith. And He prepares us through this life to be ready for the Eternal JOY of living with Him forever. JOY goes beyond happiness. It is a state of contentment knowing that we are safe within our Father’s care in ALL things.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you everyone for all of your prayers, support, kind words, cards, and food during this difficult time. Being surrounded by love and kindness means so much. Words cannot describe how blessed my family and I are. Thank you.
Lynn Taggart & Family

THRIVENT MEMBERS - SECURE YOUR \$500 BEFORE IT EXPIRES!

Thrivent 2023 Action Team money will "expire" if not applied for by 12/31/23. The application only takes 5 minutes.

HAVE YOU USED YOUR THRIVENT ACTION TEAM GRANTS THIS YEAR?

ILS PTL is looking for anyone with action team grants available for upcoming fundraising opportunities! Please contact Kari Schulte, Jamie Sanning, or Beth Diener.

CHAPEL OFFERINGS

Third quarter chapel offerings will go to *Lutherans For Life*.

PART TIME PRESCHOOL AIDE NEEDED

We are looking for a part time aide working about **25-30 hours per week**. They would work from 7am to 1pm Monday through Friday. Duties would involve helping students with playtime and supervising them. It includes working with students directly. Not required to plan lessons, just be able to follow lessons provided by the lead teacher. It would also involve some light sweeping, cleaning tables, and snack time clean up.

CHRISTMAS BREAK SCHOOL/OFFICE INFO.

- ★ There is no school (Preschool-8) December 20 - January 2
- ★ The office will be closed December 22, 25, 29, January 1.
- ★ Office hours may vary during this time. If you need to stop by, please contact the office before doing so.
- ★ There will not be a newsletter printed until January 5.
- ★ If you have an emergency, please contact Mr. Kopp (260-446-2820) or Pastor Resner (291-5711).

Merry Christmas and blessings on the new year.

LUNCH MENU (All menus subject to change/milk served with all meals/peanut butter & jelly alternative daily)

12/18 Cheeseburger on bun, chips, baked beans, fruit, ice cream cup

12/19 PTL Christmas Lunch

1/3 Fish sticks, mac & cheese, veggie, fruit

1/4 Pizza, veggie, fruit

1/5 Corn dog, fries, veggie, fruit

Servants for the Lord

Date	Acolytes	Ushers	Lector	Elders	Finance Team
Dec 17	Dalton Mueller Carson Laughlin	Kelby Doerhoff Troy Bonnett	Josh Allen	Troy Wolken Brad Engelbrecht	Deven, Jason, Aaron
Dec 24 9:30 am	Cary's Strunk Bryson Schulte	Troy Wolken Cole Wolken Tyler Loveall	Jeff Distler	Donnie Propst Terry Carrender	Tim and Terry
Dec 25	Alec Sommerer Maren Sommerer	Ed Ehrhardt Troy Wolken Caleb Bernskoetter	Jason Sommerer	Bill Blochberger	

Dec 31	Braelynn Lowry Mari VanderWert	Ed Ehrhardt Craig Schulte Troy Wolken	Brad Engelbrecht	Danny Sommerer	Heather & Rochelle
December Altar Guild: Sabrina Beck, Helen and Kristina Siedenburg					

<u>Date</u>	<u>Upcoming Events</u>	<u>Time</u>
12/16	Junior High Scholar Bowl Tourney @ Calvary 5th Gr. Boys Basketball @ St Francis Xavier (Taos) 5th Gr. Girls Basketball @ Our Lady of The Lourdes (OLLIS)	8:30 am 11:00 am 12:00 pm
12/17	Adult Bible Study - The Commons Mom's Bible Study - Youth Room Children's Sunday School - Meeting first in Kindergarten Room Worship Service/Communion Preschool Christmas Service Youth Christmas Party	8:15 am 8:15 am 8:15 am 9:30 am 3:00 pm 3:00-5:00 pm
12/19	Host Varsity Boys Basketball Host 5th Gr. Boys Basketball End 2nd Quarter	6:00 pm 7:00 pm
12/20	Mid-week Bible Study - Book of Leviticus - Church Basement Request Christmas songs to sing before service Advent Service Choir Practice after Service No Women's Bible Study during Advent Season	9:15 am 6:30 - 7:00 pm 7:00 pm
12/24	Adult Bible Study - The Commons Mom's Bible Study - Youth Room Children's Sunday School - Meeting first in Kindergarten Room Christmas Eve Morning Service/Communion Christmas Eve Candlelight Evening Service	8:15 am 8:15 am 8:15 am 9:30 am 7:00 pm
12/25	Christmas Day Service/Communion	9:30 am
12/26	Pastor out of the office 12-26 thru 1-1	
12/27	No Wednesday morning Bible Class No Choir Practice	
12/28	Red Cross Blood Drive- Commons	1-6pm
12/31	No Sunday School, Mom's or Adult Bible Studies New Years Day Service/Communion	9:30 pm
1/3	School Resumes (PS-8) Chapel Service (Leader: <i>Mr. Kopp</i>)	8:30 am

Mid-Week Bible Study

Mid-Week Bible Study, Wednesday mornings, 9:15 in the Church Basement. We are extremely blessed and thankful to have Pastor Brandt leading us through the book of Leviticus. All are welcome.

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study will meet on **Monday, December 11, 2023** at Jason Propst's firehouse, 4501 Old Ridge Rd. The Men's Monday night Bible Study will be viewing a film series entitled "That The World May Know". This is a four part series filmed on site in the Holy Land. Each part is divided into "faith lessons" for discussion purposes. The first two parts are from the Old Testament, and the second two parts are from the New Testament. Part One is entitled "Promised Land". Part Two is entitled "Prophets and Kings". Part Three is entitled "Life and Ministry of the Messiah", and Part Four is entitled "Death and Resurrection of the Messiah".

Mom's Bible Study

If you are looking for a sweet group to make connections with while your child(ren) are in Sunday School each week, this is a perfect opportunity. We connect and share on various issues of motherhood, but more importantly we search the Scripture for guidance on how to raise the children that God has so graciously given us! Our Bible study digs deep into the lives of mothers in the Bible who felt many of the same insecurities, fears, and vulnerabilities that we do. But just like them, we have a Heavenly Father who loves us and promises to guide us with His Word.

Join us each Sunday (and feel free to invite your family and friends) from 8:15-9:15 am in the youth room. If your children are not yet of Sunday School age, we will have Sr. High Youth babysitters available in the preschool room to help babysit.

We will have Mom's Bible Study on Christmas Eve Sunday, but we will NOT have it on New Years Eve Sunday.

Children's Sunday School

Please join us for Sunday School each Sunday. **We have classes for all ages each Sunday from 8:15-9:15 am** Parents are welcome to attend the Adult Bible Study (commons) or the Mom's Bible Study (youth room) while kids are in Sunday School. We also have several youth group girls who have agreed to babysit those too young for Sunday School in the preschool classroom.

If you are interested in being a blessing to our Jr. and Sr. High Youth age Sunday School class by teaching one or more Sundays next semester, please contact Mandy McDonald at mmcdonald@midmoimmanuel.com. Lessons and supplies are provided. We just need willing hearts. Thank you to all of the wonderful teachers that have helped this semester!

We will have Sunday School on Christmas Eve Sunday, but we will NOT have it on New Years Eve Sunday.

Jr. and Sr. High Youth Events

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN YOUTH GROUP



- 12-17: Jr. and Sr. High Christmas Party (3-5pm)
- 12-24: Jr. and Sr. High Youth -Christmas Eve Service (7pm)
- 12-28: Sr. High Blood Drive (1-6pm)

See youth band app for more details.



Youth



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Jr. and Sr. High are invited to join us for a Bible Study, cookies, games, crafts, and a gift exchange.

DECEMBER

SUNDAY | 17 | 3-5 PM

Gift Exchange - Optional
Bring gift for same age and gender- \$15 limit

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH UPCOMING SERVICES



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS
SERVICE DURING CHAPEL

December 13
8:30 am

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS
SERVICE- EVENING

December 13
7:00 pm

PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS
SERVICE

December 17
3:00 pm

ADVENT SERVICE

December 20
7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING
SERVICE

December 24
9:30 am

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT
EVENING SERVICE

December 24
7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE
WITH COMMUNION

December 25
9:30 am



AREA NEWS

HICKORY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Indoor soccer signups are going on now through December 31 for ages 5-12. You can sign up online at www.hickoryhillbaptistchurch.com. Contact Steve Hogard at stevehogard@gmail.com or 573-645-2480 with any questions.

CALVARY NEWS

CALVARY INSIDER

What happened at Calvary last week, you ask?

- Mr. Ahlers led our Christmas chapel on Wednesday.
- A special dinner for Calvary's Gift volunteers was held on Thursday, and Calvary's Choir performed to show appreciation for all they do!
- Middle school students wearing a school t-shirt enjoyed free admission to the varsity basketball game on Friday! Calvary's Pep Band also made their game-day debut.
- Archery Lions took their best shot yesterday in the tournament at Thomas Jefferson MS. Check out their results on Facebook!

LION BASKETBALL

Home games this week:

Fri. 12/21 @6PM – Varsity Girls v. Eugene

Live stream the games: [twitch.tv/calvarylhs](https://www.twitch.tv/calvarylhs)

Visit calvarylhs.org/calendar/ to view the full calendar!

\$50 EARLY REGISTRATION BONUS

Registration is OPEN for the 2024-2025 school year! Incoming 9th graders and current 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students can already register for next year! When you apply or re-register for next school year with your \$100 registration fee before January 2, 2024, you will receive a \$50 credit toward your student's '24-'25 tuition. REGISTER TODAY!

NEED TO DO SOMETHING WITH YOUR "RMD" IN 2023?

If you are 72 or older, you can take advantage of a simple way to benefit Calvary Lutheran High School and receive tax benefits in return. You can give up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as Calvary without having to pay income taxes on the gift. This law no longer has an expiration date so you are free to make annual gifts to our organization in sync with your required minimum distribution well into the future. Your gift will make an impact today, building Christian leaders!

DONATE. SHOP. VOLUNTEER. BREAK.

Only 4 shopping days at Calvary's Gift remain before Christmas! The volunteers will be taking a break for the holidays, so the store will be closed Dec. 24 -Jan 10. Donate your gently-used items. Shop for decorations, gifts, and more! You are also invited to volunteer at the store. This could mean sorting items, handling donations, and ringing up sales. Come see where you can help out in the New Year. Call (573) 821-8875.

CHRISTMAS BREAK

To celebrate the Christmas season, Calvary will be out of school from December 20 through January 2. In order to allow our staff to spend time with their families, the office will be closed Dec. 21 through Jan. 1. The office will resume regular hours on January 2.

SAVE THE DATE IN 2024!

Jan. 5-6	Calvary Girls Basketball Tournament
Jan. 11-13	Calvary Archery Tournament
Jan. 27	Homecoming Basketball Games
Feb. 2-3	Calvary Boys Basketball Tournament
Feb. 8	<i>Discover Calvary Day (Visit Day for 7th Graders)</i>

Angel Tree

We are putting a Christmas tree in Founders Hall and calling it the Angel Tree. The tree is to remember all our loved ones that are celebrating Christmas in heaven and not here with us. Everyone is encouraged to bring an ornament and hang it on the tree in remembrance of that loved one or loved ones that are in heaven celebrating Christmas this year. The ornament can be anything you want to bring. We will also have a three-ring binder next to the tree for you to write down a special Christmas memory or just a description of your loved one. The binder will have page protectors so all you have to do is slide the page into the sleeve. You can hand write it or type. You may also include pictures. Don't worry about space. We will include as many binders as we need.



Christmas can be very difficult when our loved ones are no longer with us for the holidays. Special memories bring tears and pain. Hopefully sharing our memories with each other we can heal and turn those tears back into smiles.

This tree is not just for our church family. It is for anyone in our community that is missing a loved one. If you know such a person, tell them to bring an ornament. We will open the church whenever necessary to do that. My prayer is that every tear is turned into a smile.

DEAR JESUS, BECAUSE OF YOUR BIRTH...

***Dear Jesus, because of your birth,
When God sent you down to this earth;
T'was truly the answer to God's great power,
Unfolded to us in that Christmas Flower.***

***A Christmas babe so fair and sweet,
This Jesus was who came to defeat;
The very jaws of Satan's power,
Engulfing us in our very weakest hour.***


***If you but keep your eyes on the cross,
A Christian cannot but have any loss;
But salvation, a gift of priceless worth;
Dear Jesus, we receive because of Your birth.***

Written by Virginia Duenckel

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

We pray that the Lord would move your heart to contribute to one of the following items.
Thank You and God Bless!

1. 2,000.00 Electric Costs per month
2. 7,000.00 Building and Liability Insurance/per quarter
3. 7,500.00 Concordia Plan Health Insurance
4. 1,000.00 Propane Capital Energy/per week/winter
5. 234.00 Waste Removal/per month

<u>STEWARDSHIP</u>	<u>12-10</u>		<u>Finance Team</u>	<u>Date</u>
Sunday School Youth Y'ALL Mom's Bible Study Wed. Bible Study Ladies Bible Study Men's Bible Study Offerings	17 ** ** 3 16 ** ** \$ 9.00	December	Aaron, Jason & Deven Tim & Terry Heather & Rochelle Mary & John Pat & Jane	Dec 17 Dec 24 Dec 31 Jan 07 Jan 14
<u>Church Attendance</u> Sunday - 9:30 am Wednesday - 7:00 pm Communion:	214 89			
<u>Church Offering</u> Plate & Envelopes Electronic Total: <i>Avg Offering Goal (as of 7/1/23)</i> <i>Weekly church/school expense total</i>	\$ 8,501.40 2,835.24 11,336.64 <i>\$ 9,814</i> <i>\$14,000</i>	12-mo avg <i>\$9,326.00</i> <i>per week</i>		
<u>DRC Offering</u> <i>Monthly Building Loan Payment</i> <i>Bldg Loan Balance as of 12/1/23</i>	\$ 525.00 <i>\$ 4,125</i> <i>\$161,127</i>	December \$ 1,645.00 12-mo avg <i>\$2,752.00</i> <i>per month</i>		

Offering Options Available

We have several eGiving options if you would like to give a one-time or recurring offering electronically:

- 1) Set up an **online donation** from our website: <https://www.midmoimmanuel.com/online-giving>
- 2) Download the **Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement** app for your smart-phone and search for "Immanuel Lutheran Church and School" (several churches will display from just "Immanuel", so be sure to type in the full name - there are still at least three on the list that have the same name as us - be sure to select the one with our address - 8231 Tanner Bridge Road). Set up your profile and manage your offerings.
- 3) Text your offering through **Text Giving** by texting a whole number for the offering amount (i.e. "10" for a \$10 gift) to 1-573-267-5706. Follow the link that is replied back.
- 4) Contact Cody Morrow (573-680-2910 or cdymorrow@aol.com) or Jason Sommerer (573-338-2441 or summertime_99@hotmail.com) for assistance and we can set up an **auto-draft from your bank** directly to Immanuel.
- 5) Vanco also offers to accept gifts **over the phone** for our congregation. Vanco's Client Services team will take donations if you call them at 800.675.7430

Please let the office know if any of our members on the prayer list are in need of a call, communion or a visit from Pastor Resner or an Elder.

PRAYER REQUESTS

At Home or Hospital: Quinetta Rutledge, Brennan Schulte, John and Patti Trinklein, John Green, Jane Kesel, Konlee Kempker, Charlie Duenckel, Rebecca Eichelberger, Betty Hoecker, Terri Engelbrecht, Rita Linhardt, Danny Goodman, Dane Steenburgen, Denny Schulte, Ann Shipwash, Megan Limbach, Trevor Burrows, Cheryl Herzog, Clay Rolsing, Sandy Sebastian, Kenny Braun, Verna Mae Menteer, Tim Lafser, Judy Meisel, Roger and Ruth Braun, Susan Hill, David Dziadosz, Jeff Propst and Jerry Binkley.

~praying for you~

Praise God For Answered Prayers: For all the successful surgeries and healing of those who have been sick.

Celebrating Birthdays: Jared raun 12-17, Otto Morris 12-18, Jeff Skinner 12-20, Natalia Allen 12-21, Tori Schulte 12-21, Mike Horn 12-23, Doug Sommerer 12-23, Danny Ott 12-24, Miranda Darnel 12-26, Kevin Engelbrecht 12-27, Noah Wilbers 12-27, Andrew Sommerer 12-27, Bryson Carrender 12-28, Joni Braun 12-29, Cheryl Sloan 12-29 Garrett Russell 12-30, and Phyllis Sommerer 12-30.

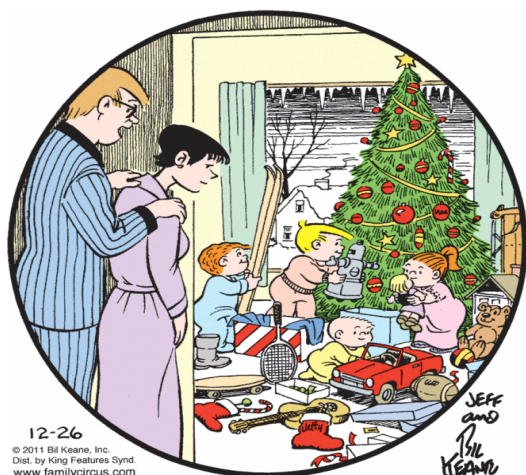
Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries: Bill and Jane Blochberger 12-17 62yrs., Dwight and Judy Schmoeger 12-18 52yrs., Weston and Kasidy Browner 12-19 3yrs., Jim and Mary Schilpp 12-21 55yrs., Devon and Johanna Henry 12-21 10yrs., Aaron and Nicki Russell 12-27 26yrs., Rado and Brenda Popp 12-28 49yrs.

Celebrating (1-5 yrs old) Baptism Anniversary: Braxlyn Wansing 12-30-18 5yrs.

Nursing Home Residents/Shut-Ins: Virginia Meier-Heisinger Bluffs

Military Personnel: Jack Schmoeger, Clare Hart, and A. J. Kempker.

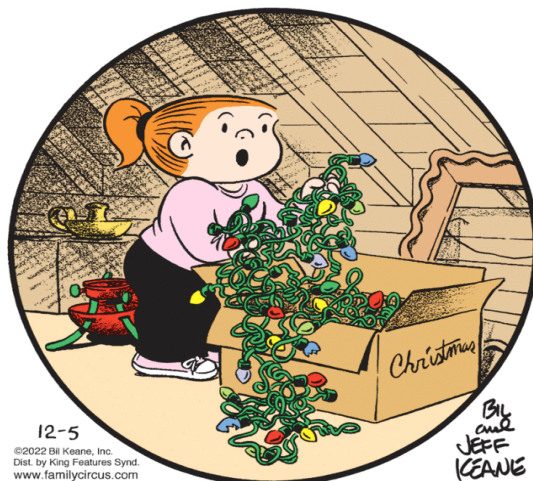
Thought For The Day: Don't judge someone else's strength against your weakness. Don't hold on to the shame of your past or judge someone else on their past. God gives each of us different strengths and gifts. Pray to be the Best you God meant for you to be. *Think about it!* But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10



12-26

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**"They won't know till they're grown,
but their BEST gifts are the
memories they're making."**



12-5

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**"We hafta unstrangle the
Christmas lights."**

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

December 2023

The Measure of Our Generosity

If you open up the Small Catechism, you'll find a shortened version of the Third Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." But if you look up the list of the Ten Commandments in Exodus, you'll find the full version:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Ex. 20:8–11)

Why did Luther shorten this commandment for the Small Catechism? Was it so that the kids wouldn't have so much to memorize? No, it was because Luther knew that all the details of the Third Commandment were part of the "shadow" of the Old Testament (Col. 2:16). Or as St. Paul puts it, there is "letter" in the Old Testament law and "spirit" (2 Cor. 3:6). The details of not working on Saturday were fulfilled by Christ. That part of the Sabbath regulation no longer applies. But the spirit of the law does remain: We need to dedicate sufficient time each week to hearing God's Word and giving it honor and respect. Or as Luther sums it up in the Small Catechism's explanation to the Third Commandment: "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

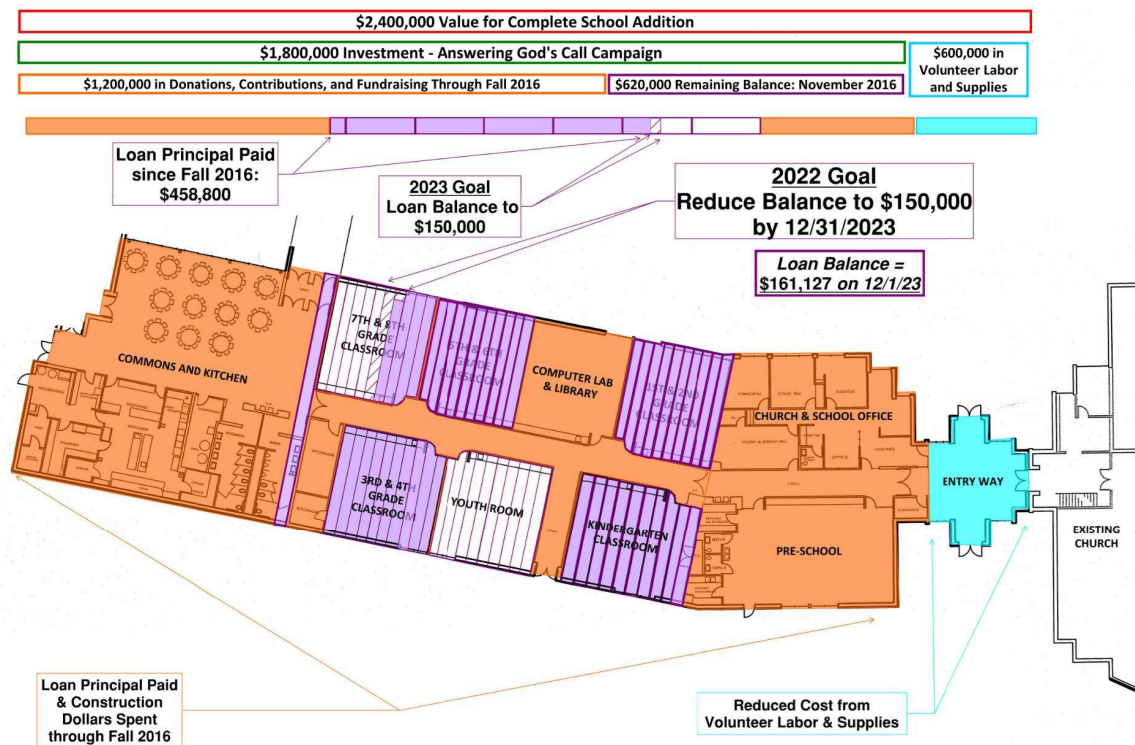
The same sort of analysis applies to our giving. In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to give a tenth of their income to the Levites so that those men could dedicate their lives to serving in God's house, teaching the people, conducting worship, etc. In the New Testament, there is not a rigid requirement listed about handing in your tax forms to church to make sure you've given enough. But the mandate to have a full-time ministry, which is the spirit of that law concerning tithing to the Levites, is right there in 1 Corinthians 9:14: "The Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel."

The New Testament church's job is significantly larger than the job of Old Testament Israel. We are commanded to preach the Gospel to all nations. There was only the temple to maintain in the Old Testament, but we have churches, schools, universities and seminaries, plus missionaries everywhere. So you tell me: Can we really undertake the work of the ministry if our giving doesn't even measure up to Old Testament levels of generosity?

DEBT RETIREMENT CAMPAIGN (DRC) – PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Have you wondered “What is the DRC?”. It’s an effort that kicked off in 2016, to accelerate progress in reducing the building loan that has been in place since 2011, when the current school building was constructed as an addition to the church. The image below has been used since 2016 to track our progress on the loan balance, which was at \$620,000 in the Fall of 2016. Since that time, we have reduced the loan balance to the current level to \$161,127, which is an amazing accomplishment.

In gratefulness to our wonderful Lord, we pause to give **Praise and Thanksgiving** for the wonderful facilities we have for our children to learn about God’s love. We give **Praise and Thanksgiving** for the progress the Lord has allowed us to achieve in reducing the loan balance by nearly a half-million dollars in just a few short years.



So what’s next and how can you help? FIRST – **prayer** – we continue to give **Praise and Thanksgiving** for the many blessings God continues to bestow on Immanuel.

SECOND – continue with your regular givings/tithes/contributions. Our primary ministry should continue to be our main focus, and that ministry is supported financially by all of our ongoing contributions.

NEXT – If you have a desire to help with reduction of the building loan balance, prayerfully consider and “**over and above regular giving**” one-time or recurring offering for the DRC. We have used pledge cards and more formal campaigns in the past. If you have an interest in filling out a pledge card, feel free to contact the office for details. Otherwise, consider a personal and private pledge - you may use the “Capital Campaign Contribution” envelopes that are included on a monthly basis in your regular offering envelope box.

Our short-term goal is to reduce the loan balance to \$150,000 by the end of 2023. Our long-term goal is to pay off the entire balance before our current interest rate expires in February of 2026, which gives us a little over two full years.

What amount is the right amount? Any amount helps. For perspective, if 100 family units contributed \$50 per month for two years, we raise \$120,000 towards our goal. At \$60 per month, we would reach \$144,000. At \$70 per month, we would exceed the current loan balance and would be able to look towards the future at whatever the Lord may have in store for us next.



THE ADVENT WREATH

Year after year, we light the Advent wreath in Church. But do we do this only out of habit or tradition? Did you know that each candle has significance and meaning? And there is a specific order to the lighting of the candles.

The **first candle** is purple or blue and is called the '**Prophet's Candle**'. It signifies **HOPE**. The first Sunday in Advent leads us to anticipate the birth of Christ, but also to celebrate a new beginning - a new Church Year and a new liturgical season. Christ brings *hope* to the world as prophesied by Isaiah's foretelling and Christ's fulfilment of all the Old Testament prophecies.

The **second candle** is also purple or blue and is called the '**Bethlehem Candle**'. It signifies **PEACE**. This candle reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. Building off the meaning of the Prophecy Candle, Jesus has come to bring peace by reconciling us with God the Father.

The **third candle** is pink or rose colored and is called the '**Shepherd's Candle**'. It signifies **JOY!** As the shepherd's were told by the angel, "I bring you *GOOD NEWS* of great JOY!" The third Sunday in Advent is also known as "Gaudete Sunday", which means rejoice or praise. We, too, like the shepherds, should rejoice for everything we see and hear about Christ.

The **fourth candle** is purple or blue and is called the '**Angel's Candle**'. It signifies **LOVE**. We eagerly await the birth of Christ as God has truly sent us His Love in Christ at Christmas.

The **fifth candle**, placed in the center of the wreath, is white and is called the **Christ Candle**. It signifies the purity and holiness of Christ. On *Christmas Eve*, we will light our candles from the Christ Candle. This signifies that, as Christ is the 'Light of the world', He comes to us and lights our hearts with faith in Him. And as we light our candles, we are reminded to share His love with others.