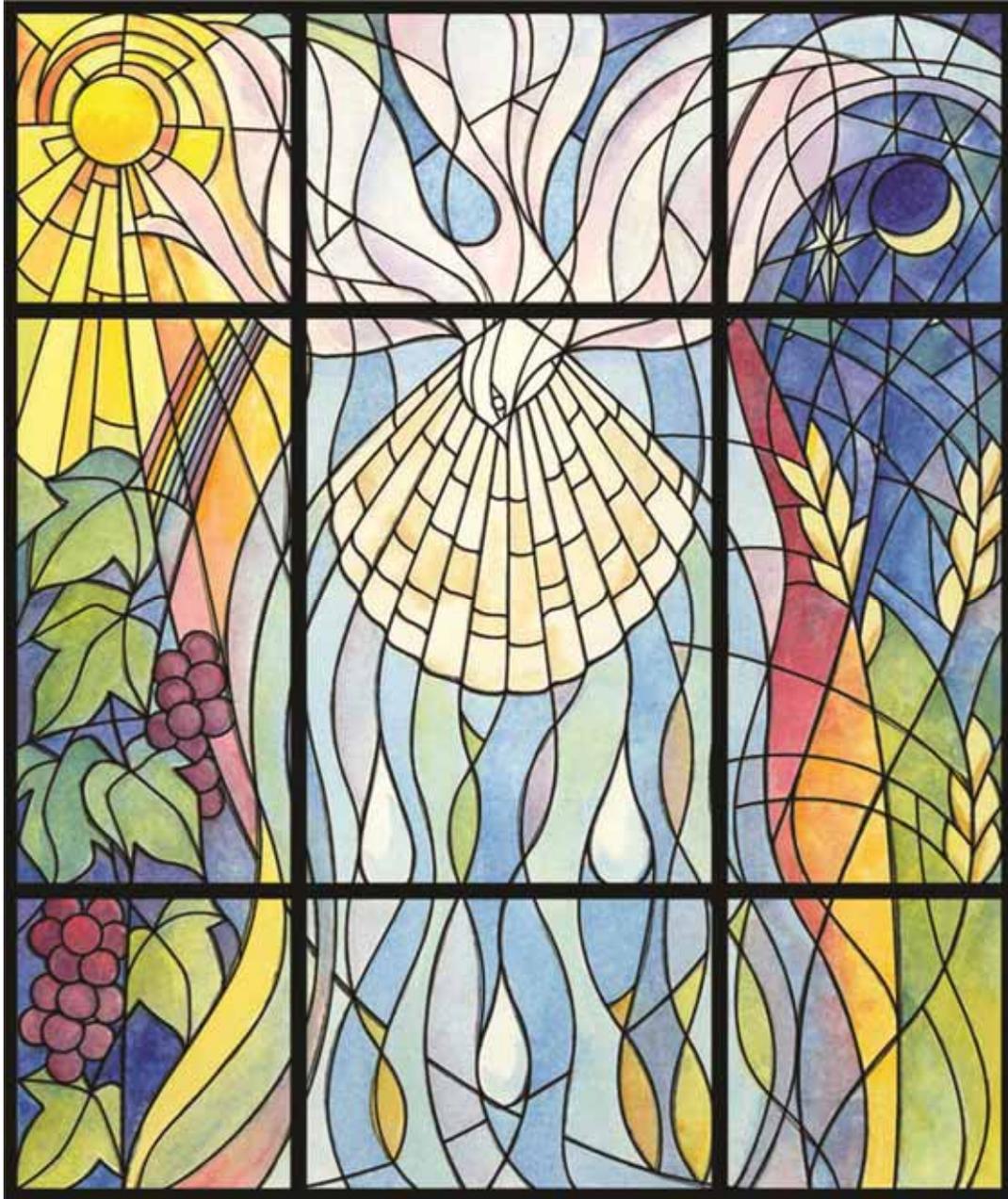


Immanuel Lutheran Church

508-222-2898

www.immanuelc.org



MEMBER INFORMATION

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The Immanuel community has created this member packet to assist you in identifying the ministries and committees of the church. You will also find worship and member information that may be helpful in becoming an active member of our church family.

Your sponsors are a friendly resource for connecting with others and answering future concerns. Besides your sponsoring family, feel free to contact our Pastor or Office Manager if you have any questions about a ministry or procedure.

We at Immanuel know that joining a church is a big commitment, and we welcome you as a new partner in ministry. Our goal is to have members involved in carrying out the mission of the church. We challenge you to learn about the various ministries and committees of Immanuel and how you can contribute to the life of the church. Please feel free to also invite your extended family, friends and neighbors to join us in worship!

Peace,

The Members of Immanuel Lutheran Church

A Brief History of Immanuel Lutheran Church

In the late 1800's and early 1900's Swedish immigrants came to the United States in large numbers. Two main factors spurred this immigration. Land was the biggest factor. There was not enough farmland in Sweden to support the growing population, but young men were also motivated to leave the country to avoid the mandatory military draft. Many of the Swedes who came to Attleboro worked in the jewelry factories. Their familiarity with farm tools and machinery lent itself easily to the manufacturing of jewelry. As regular paychecks rolled in, extended families still in Sweden were encouraged to sail to America. These families worked together and played together, sharing social times with Swedish smorgasbords, singing, games, and dancing. And as the state church of Sweden is Lutheran, they also shared a common faith.

The Second Congregational Church loaned their "Golden Star Hall" as a meeting place for the fledgling church and on January 13, 1905 the first official service was held. On that date the Rev. J.E. Morten of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Providence, RI, led the service. His sermon was based on Ephesians 2, verses 19-22 which says, "So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God." The members chose for their name the "Swedish Evangelical Immanuel Lutheran Church". Immanuel is translated as "God with us", and 100+ years later, we know that He still is.

For the first 16 years of its history, Immanuel shared a pastor with the Pawtucket, RI, Lutheran Church. Money was tight and the members worked hard to accomplish their goals. The first goal was to build a house of worship. A building fund for a new church was started with a \$106 contribution from the Ladies' Aid Society. In 1912 this goal was achieved with the dedication of a new church building on the corner of Union and East Streets, near the center of Attleboro.

At the time the church was built the membership of Immanuel had doubled, but it was still only 44 members, not a large group for such an undertaking! Each member contributed to the new church building. The Svea Society bought the pews, 10 members joined together to purchase the altar and pulpit, one generous member donated the stained glass window, and the Luther League (their name for the youth group) raised enough funds for a matching grant from the Carnegie Foundation of New York to secure a pipe organ for the church.

When World War I broke out the industrial depression at the beginning of the war affected the free will offerings to the church. The focus of the community shifted away from the spiritual toward the patriotic. Monetary contributions were drawn to Liberty Bonds and Thrift Stamps. However, valuable lessons were learned from the war as well. Method and precision were necessary in winning the war and these same attributes were applied to reducing the indebtedness of the church. By 1920, the 15th anniversary of the church, the church was debt free. By the 25th anniversary of the church, a full time minister had been hired and a parsonage located at 22 Pine Street in Attleboro had been purchased.

In the 25th anniversary booklet written in 1930, Pastor Gustave Carlson wrote, "We believe that the religious institutions have always played an important part in shaping the future destiny of people. May our younger people and future generations find inspiration in reviewing the story of the sacrifices of the fathers and their solution of the problems which confronted them in the land of their adoption".

By the 50th anniversary of the church in 1955, the character of the congregation had changed. Of the total confirmed membership, 70% were of Swedish descent and by the 75th anniversary in 1980, only 28% were of Swedish descent. Our ethnicity has broadened over the years to embrace a diversity of ancestries and our name was changed to just Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Over the last 100 years the tapestry which makes up our church has been interwoven with many threads. One thread has been the dedication of this church to social awareness. As a church founded by a group of immigrants, sympathy to those in foreign countries experiencing conflict has been a priority. In the 1950's Immanuel sponsored 3 Eastern European families who wished to immigrate to the United States. Jobs, homes and support were provided by the congregation to help these needy families. In the 1980's the church sponsored 2 Cambodian families who had spent many years in a refugee camp, and again we provided housing, food and employment. In the last few years we have been privileged to welcome a Sudanese refugee to our congregation who has helped broaden our awareness of the deplorable conditions in some African nations. We have sent handmade quilts to third world countries, and sponsored needy children. We even bought a cow!

The thread of worship has always been the uppermost priority for Immanuel. The building that we now worship in was the result of a vision that was begun in 1964. At that time a building committee was established and 57 members served on committees which produced a document called the "Master's Plan". In November of 1969 the new church complex was dedicated. It was a mix of the old and the new. The organ was brought from the old church as were the bell in the bell tower, the collection plates, and the fancy black candelabras that we use on special occasions. The cornerstone from the old church was relocated here and a new cornerstone was added.

The sanctuary of this church was designed for the congregation to be full participants in worship, not merely observers. The choir is purposely positioned in the rear to support the singing of the liturgy and hymns, not to perform. Music and singing have always been part of the fabric of our worship and it is one of the strongest ministries of the church today.

The last 30 years have shaped a future full of promise for Immanuel. For 24 of those years we have been guided by women pastors who have brought a new perspective to our ministry.

We have strong lay leadership in our church which heightens our worship experience. We are a church where all people are welcome and embraced regardless of ethnic origin or sexual preference. We value and support our youth. We sing.

In 1955 the 50th anniversary booklet contained this quote, "Looking at the past is only helpful insofar as it charts the direction for future action. We cannot be content to rest on the laurels of the past, for a church which is satisfied with a completely static existence must eventually perish".

No, we are not content to rest on our past laurels and it is up to us to chart our future direction. We hope that learning a little about our past will encourage you to be actively involved in our future. Whatever role you wish to play, do it with the same conviction and faith that our 24 charter members displayed. Celebrate the Spirit! Amen.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Immanuel is a vibrant church due to the lively participation of our members in many different ways, according to the diverse blessings of talent and knowledge we are each given to share. Every person, no matter what age or background, has something to share for God's good purpose. You too, have been blessed to be a blessing!

The following information is designed to familiarize you with the various ministry teams at Immanuel. For more information or to get involved, see the roster or website to contact chairpersons and team leaders, or ask the pastor for direction.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

The Capital Improvements Committee is concerned with the church's physical assets including the building, grounds and equipment. Unlike the Property Committee, this group is concerned with long range planning for improvements and additions as well as specific capital projects and maintenance plans.

The mission of this group is to identify and plan for future additions, upgrades and replacements of church property. When specific projects are being undertaken, the committee will assist the council in planning for the best methods to specify, design and finance these projects. All planning done by this committee is sent to the Church Council for review and direction. In addition to capital improvements, the committee is responsible for a maintenance plan for the building, grounds and equipment for the use of the Pastor, Church Council and Property Committee in protecting and maintaining the churches investments.

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council addresses current issues and develops long-term planning for the life of the church. See the roster or church website to contact the president and council members.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

This committee provides opportunities for adults and youth to grow in faith, spirituality and understanding of Christ. Ways to serve Christian Education include: confirmation mentors, Sunday School teachers, adult education leaders and Vacation Bible School teachers and helpers.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The committee is responsible for scheduling coffee hour volunteers.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Supervises all income and expenditures, prepares the annual budget, and advises the council and congregation on good stewardship of church financial resources.



HOSPITALITY TEAM

This team's mission is to extend greetings, renew the spirit and encourage the fulfilling experience of being a member of Immanuel. We welcome visitors in a gentle and loving way, reaching out to those who would like a gentle hand. We offer ourselves as gifts of God, to encourage healing and renewal to our congregation. The goal of the hospitality team is to understand how people feel about their experience entering and being a member of our church, to influence making the experience of coming into and being a part of the church as positive as possible, and to communicate as much as possible why it is a great church.

Team events include: potluck, worship, progressive and competition dinners throughout the year designed for adults and families. Also, for family fun, members and their families attend a Paw Sox game, enjoy "Desserts on the Common" on July 4th and go on a Harvest Festival Hayride.

MUSIC AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE

This committee supports the Pastor and the Minister of Music in planning and preparing music for worship services. Responsibility for maintenance of the organ and pianos is part of this job description. The committee has organized annual talent shows, an ecumenical music fest, a display of fine arts, literature, and crafts, and is always glad for new members and new ideas to expand Immanuel's ministry through music.

Music in Ministry

MUSIC MINISTRY

There are many ways to be involved in Immanuel's Ministry of Music. All parts of the music program are focused on faithful worship and fellowship. The Pastor, Minister of Music, and both the Worship and the Music and the Arts Committees plan and support these vital programs. Talk with any of them for more information and how to begin participating!

Choir

The Adult Choir supports the congregational singing and offers an anthem for the 10:00 AM worship service from September thru June. Anyone from high school age or older who enjoys singing in groups is invited to join. Rehearsals are held at 9:00 AM on Sundays and on most Tuesdays at 7:30 PM.

Choir Chimes

The Adult Chimers rehearse most Tuesdays at 6:30 PM from September to June, and participate in worship services 4-6 times a year, especially during Christmas and Easter seasons. No musical experience is necessary to participate. The love of music, the desire to participate in worship thru music and the ability to count to 6 or 8 are the only requirements.

Holiday Chimers

The Holiday Chimers meet periodically during the year, especially for the Advent, Christmas, and Easter seasons. The youngest chimers are third graders and there's no upper age limit! This is usually an inter-generational ensemble, with no previous experience required.

First Sunday Singers

On the first Sunday of each month, at each service, congregation attendees are invited to arrive 20 minutes early for rehearsal of an easy song or hymn, to be sung at the time of the offering. This is another opportunity for inter-generational participation in the worship life of Immanuel.

Folk Ensemble

Currently, Immanuel's Folk Ensemble consists of two guitars, a clarinet, and occasionally a flute. The ensemble plays for worship once a month from September to June. Instrumentalists of all ages and players of other instruments are invited to participate.

Soloists and Small Ensembles

Immanuel's solo singers and instrumentalists regularly offer solos and voluntaries for the 8:00 AM worship service and for summer services when the Choir is taking a rest.

MUTUAL MINISTRY

Serves as liaison between the congregation and the paid staff for support of staff and communication from the congregation.

OFFICE HELP

Assists the Office Manager with clerical duties to support the ministries of our congregation.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Identifies issues and coordinates projects related to the maintenance, protection and safety of all church property including grounds, buildings and equipment.

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Assists people in need within our congregation, in our surrounding communities and worldwide through direct aid, educational programs and special offerings. In addition to the ministries identified below, the social ministry committee also collects blankets, household goods and personal care products throughout the year. Each year we focus on hunger to support the ELCA Hunger Appeal and also bring to the congregation's attention opportunities to respond to the needs of those victims of disasters.

Blanket Drive

Cleaned, gently used blankets, sheets and bedspreads (twin size preferred) are collected during January. They are dedicated during a service, counted and distributed to the Family Resource Center.

Caring Cooks

The Caring Cooks work to provide meals for families who have a member returning from the hospital and other transitional times. Please talk to Pastor Sandi if you are in need of assistance from the Caring Cooks.

Christmas Is For Kids

Each year, Immanuel asks the Christmas Is For Kids council for a list of unwed mothers and babies/children. Members pick tags and purchase gifts for them, bring them to the church unwrapped and then the committee members deliver them to the organization.

Coat Drive

Cleaned, gently used coats are collected each November. They are dedicated during a service, counted and distributed to the Family Resource Center.

Crafters Circle

The Circle consists of congregation members and friends who enjoy crafting—knitting, crocheting, quilting, sewing, etc. This circle creates prayer shawls for those in need, lapghans (lap blankets) for our Wounded Warriors, Baptismal blankets for the newly baptized, lounge pants for community organizations to give out. A Stitches and Scriptures program, where people learn to knit and crochet is in the planning stages. Scriptures to be discussed will be "stitch" oriented. Gatherings are on the first and third Thursday evenings in the church lounge from 7:00 PM to approximately 9:00 PM.

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

(continued)

Food 'n Friends Kitchen

Every other month on the first Saturday, Immanuel sponsors the Food 'n Friends Kitchen, held at the Centenary Methodist Church in the center of Attleboro. The coordinator is given a stipend, which is used to purchase food for the meal and bring to the Kitchen, usually on the Friday before. The hours are from 8:00 AM to approximately 12:30 PM. Under the guidance of a coordinator, members are responsible for the preparation, serving and clean up of the meal. Some come for the preparation work, some come for the serving, some come for the clean up while others stay the whole time. The average number of patrons served can be 60-80. It takes a minimum of ten volunteers, but more hands make less work.

Monetary donations may be made by using an "Angel Pig" envelope located in the sanctuary pews. There are bins located in the Education Wing hallway for donated clean plastic containers, plastic grocery bags and notions, which are brought to the Kitchen for distribution. Occasionally, members are asked to prepare a certain food and bring it to the Kitchen.

Good News Garage

Good News Garage (GNG), a program of Lutheran Social Services with operations in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, is one of the first nonprofit social enterprise car donation programs in the United States. The mission of Good News Garage is to create economic opportunity by providing affordable and reliable transportation options for people in need. Immanuel sponsors a fundraiser each year to specifically benefit GNG Rhode Island. Ideas for and participation in fundraisers are most welcome.

Hat & Mitten Tree

Each Advent season, members of Social Ministry place a Christmas tree in the lounge. Lights and new hats, gloves, mittens and scarves are placed on the tree to decorate it. Ten days before Christmas, the apparel is given to the Family Resource Center in Attleboro or to the Christmas Is For Kids program.

Lutheran Disaster Relief

Lutheran Disaster Relief is part of the ELCA and helps organize the response to disasters and associated collection of life-saving resources for victims.

Project Bread or The Bread Brigade

Each Saturday around 7:00 AM, two Immanuel members go to Panera Bread in Plainville and pick up donations of bread, rolls, bagels and sometimes sweets. These donations are delivered to the elderly, a men's home and the Food 'n Friends Kitchen at Centenary Methodist Church.

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Members of the team help to build understanding that stewardship is a year-round discipleship path, and teaches others to consider how they may care for God's people with the resources they have been given.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

This committee is committed to the ministry of teaching children about Jesus Christ in a Bible-based curriculum combined with arts and music.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA (WELCA)

The Immanuel congregational unit of Women of the ELCA is a fluid, evolving unit that changes to meet the needs of the women of Immanuel at a specific moment in time. Our purpose statement reads as follows:

As a community of women,
created in the image of God
called to discipleship in Jesus Christ,
and empowered by the Holy Spirit,

We commit ourselves to
grow in faith
affirm our gifts
support one another in our callings,
engage in ministry and action, and
promote healing and wholeness
in the church,
the society
and the world.

Most recently we have focused on growing in faith, affirming our gifts, and supporting one another in our callings, by retreats, gatherings and healing conversations. In the past we have engaged in ministry and action by raising funds through our church fair that have supported projects such as building the kitchen in our church, providing assistance with heating in the community and donating to Lutheran World Relief.

Please look for ways to participate in Women of the ELCA in the newsletter, and know that if you are a woman that attends Immanuel Lutheran Church, you belong and we are excited to have you journey with us.

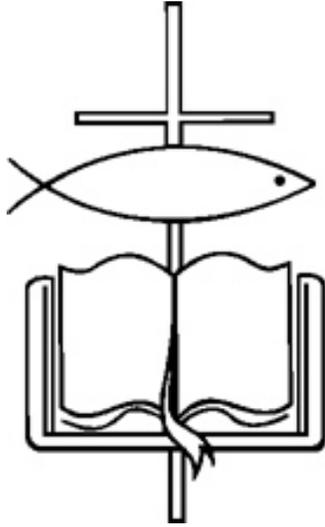
WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The worship committee plans and prepares for Sunday worship including the Altar Guild, training readers and servers and working to ensure that our worship proclaims the Gospel, celebrating and revealing Christ among us today.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Middle School and High School youth are invited to share in the life of the church at many levels including Christian education as a means of growing in faith and understanding, planning and leading worship, recreational and missional events with other youth, and serving the needy in our community.

WORSHIP AND MEMBER INFORMATION



BAPTISM

At Immanuel we welcome all ages to Baptism, for those who have not yet received this sacrament. In our worship we often "remember our Baptism" as a time of reflection for already baptized members. If you wish to request a Baptism for yourself or a child, please speak to the pastor regarding instruction and scheduling.

BLUE BAGS FOR CHILDREN

Blue bags filled with activities for children are available for use during worship. Ask an usher for help locating the bags in the back of the church.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

There are various opportunities for adults and children to grow in faith and scriptural understanding.

Adult Studies

Christian Education for adults is presented in a variety of ways at Immanuel. The Sunday Forum is a casual discussion group with the Pastor about current sermon topics, at 9:00 AM in between the services. Bible studies and topic discussions are scheduled at other times during the year, depending upon interest.

*Confirmation

Confirmation is a two-year process for seventh and eighth grade students, which runs concurrent with the public school year. This program incorporates education about Lutheran theology and worship, formation in discipleship practices, deepening a sense of spirituality and growing in personal reflections on faith. Confirmation students are trained to serve as Sunday morning worship assistants on a rotating basis as well as to co-lead special services.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (continued)

*First Communion

First Communion education is offered to elementary students first grade and older, and is a process of education and awareness about the meaning of Holy Communion in worship and growing in faith. Please contact our Assistant Sacristan for more information about class dates and sign-up.

**Please note that both First Communion and Confirmation ages have been the practice at Immanuel for many years; however, parents may elect to wait until their child is older or more mature for either rite. Any baptized infant or child may receive communion after discussion with the Pastor.*

Sunday School

The Sunday School Program at Immanuel is from ages three to grade six and begins at 9:00 AM. Registration forms are available by contacting our Office Manager.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

VBS is held for one week every summer as a time of spiritual community for children including fun, crafts, music and Christian education. Dates and registration forms are available by contacting our office manager. VBS is open to all children regardless of denominational affiliation.

COFFEE HOUR

Volunteers are assigned to host Coffee Hour on a rotating basis. They are notified by email and in the church newsletter. Coffee hours are held after both services on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Lounge. Volunteer helpers are asked to bring healthy snacks and baked goods. Coffee, cold drink mix and paper products are provided. New volunteers are always welcome and coffee hosts work in teams.

E-NEWS

Immanuel publishes weekly and monthly newsletters for our members and friends. In an effort to reduce our carbon footprint and minimize costs, these publications are sent via email. Contact the church office to be added to our database. If you do not have access to the internet, hard copies can be mailed. Printed copies are also available on the Resource Table in the Fellowship Lounge.

WORSHIP AND MEMBER INFORMATION



FOOD BARRELS

Donations of nonperishable goods are accepted anytime, but the Social Ministry Committee encourages members to bring their contributions for the food barrels on the first Sunday of each month. The food donations are distributed to the needy in the Attleboro area through SELF-Help of Attleboro.

GLOBE OF LIGHT

The overall symbolism of the Globe of Light is peace. The circular shape of the Globe encompasses and encloses people of all nations. The candlelight suggests the hope we draw from Jesus, the Light of the World. In recent years, the Globe has been used as follows:

- During Healing Services, worship attendees are encouraged to light a candle after receiving communion.
- Each Sunday in Epiphany we pray for six to seven countries and light candles on the Globe representing those countries.

MUSIC MINISTRY

See "How Can I Get Involved?" for more information on the music program.

NAMETAGS

Evangelism provides you with a plastic nametag at the time of being received as a new member. You are encouraged to wear your tag for all church functions so more members can learn who you are and vice versa. Name tags for Sunday School students are available in the Kindergarten classroom. If you need a replacement, contact the Office Manager.

NURSERY

Nursery care is provided during the regular season 10:00 AM service or the summer 9:00 AM service, for children age six and younger. All care providers and Sunday School leaders have met our Safe Church policy which includes pastoral review and state background checks.

PRAYER CHAIN

Immanuel's Prayer Chain consists of members who pray daily for our shut-ins, people listed in the prayer request book and announced on a Sunday morning and the extra prayer requests that are shared with the chain as the need occurs. Any request for a prayer for you, a friend, relative or acquaintance (they do not have to be a member of Immanuel) may be called to the Office Manager (508-222-2898), and it will be passed down the chain. Serious situations should be referred directly to the Pastor.

PRAYER LETTERS

During worship services we pray for people who are named in the prayer book. There is a table at the back of the Sanctuary with prayer letters to send to each of the people mentioned. Members are encouraged to sign these letters each week to show your support and encouragement. If you have someone to add to the prayer list, please write it in the prayer book or contact the Pastor.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers are not placed on the altar at Immanuel, but a vase in memory, honor or celebration of a special person or event may be placed on the pedestal with the Sacrament Elements. You may sign up for memorial or honorary flowers on the flower chart on the side wall of the sanctuary – ask an usher for direction. The cost of a Sunday floral bouquet is listed in the weekly bulletin. Checks are payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church with a notation included "Sunday flowers." Any flowers not picked up after Sunday worship will be shared with a hospitalized member or shut-in during the week.



WORSHIP AND MEMBER INFORMATION

STEWARDSHIP

Good stewardship is a year round activity, a discipleship path where we consider daily how we may care for God's people with the resources we have been given by God, to do so. Our Pastor has challenged us to discover that "giving blesses the giver."

Commitment Sunday

Commitment or Pledge Sunday occurs in November so that the Finance Committee may review financial pledges and recommend a budget for the following year. However, pledges may be submitted/revised any time of year – ask the ushers or church office for a pledge form.

Gifts of Time and Talent

In addition to financial gifts, all members are also encouraged to offer their spiritual gifts and time to assist with the ministry at Immanuel. A "Grow Where You Are Planted" form is included in this packet for your use in volunteering your gifts.

Offering Envelopes

Distribution of envelopes takes place annually in December. Members may pick up their boxes on the Resource Table in the Fellowship Lounge or in the Church Office. Concerns about envelopes or records of giving may be directed to the Financial Secretary.

E-Giving

You may choose to set up an automatic monthly or weekly "e-gift" from your own banking institution, through "online bill-pay." This is easy to do and a bank representative can show you how if you need assistance. Persons who give via bank draft or on a monthly basis are invited to place a "cross stone" in the offering plate as a devotional remembrance of a gift already given during that week or month. Cross stones are in the basket on the prayer table near the Sanctuary entry doors.

Special Gifts/Designated Funds/Memorial Gifts

Special gifts to the church are meaningful ways to remember or honor special persons or events. You may use one of the "Love" envelopes provided in your offering envelope box or one of the envelopes provided in the church pews. Please designate gift information in the memo area of your check. You may also designate how you prefer your gift to be used. Occasionally Immanuel will make requests for special contributions to support specific missions or ministries. Members are encouraged to consider these requests with open hearts.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

During the summer months we worship with one unity service at 9:00 AM. We also have an outdoors service each summer at LaSalette Shrine in Attleboro.

WEBSITE

Immanuel's web address is www.immanuelc.org. You will find information regarding the ministries of our congregation, contact information and a link to the church calendar of events.

YOUTH MINISTRY

The Youth Group welcomes all youth from seventh to twelfth grades. Our mission is to provide a time for young people to come together in faith, service and worship through fellowship. The group participates in various social and service activities. Meetings are held in the Youth Room at Immanuel.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Do I have to be an “official” member before I can participate at Immanuel?

All who seek the grace of God and the fellowship of Christian community may participate at Immanuel, in a variety of ways. Our Pastor welcomes conversations with persons who are new to church, feel alienated from a previous church or feel disconnected with their faith.

May I receive Holy Communion?

We believe that all who are able and willing to receive the blessing of this sacrament should do so.

Therefore:

Our Eucharist table includes both red wine and white grape juice, wheat bread and gluten-free rice wafers.

All baptized Christians may receive Holy Communion, regardless of race, previous faith tradition, marital status or sexual orientation.

Adults who are not yet baptized may discuss with the pastor how they may prepare to receive Baptism and Communion.

Baptized children who are pre-First Communion are welcome to receive and grow in their understanding of receiving in First Communion instruction (first grade).

What are all those papers on the table in the back of the sanctuary?

Each person who is prayed for during worship, receives a “prayer letter” from the church. The prayer letters are on the back table on Sunday mornings so that all may sign their name to the letter, as a sign of unity and encouragement for the prayed for.

Do I have to wear a nametag? How do I get one?

Nametags are helpful, but optional. Call the Church Office to request a nametag.

Do I have to make the sign of the cross? Can I eat meat on Good Friday? May we pray the rosary?

The Lutheran church today includes many people who come from other Christian traditions. These questions and more can be answered in a brief “New Members Class” or ask the Pastor as questions arise during your new church experience.

Is church ever cancelled due to weather? How are we notified?

A notice will be placed on the church website and voice mail. For all who are signed up for e-news, an emailed notice will also be sent directly to you.

MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS

Are there Bible Study groups I can join? Can I start a group?

Bible Study groups are held at various times depending upon interest, and will be noted in the newsletter and calendar. The pastor welcomes requests to start a new study or discussion group.

What does ELCA mean? Where can I find specific information on Lutheran doctrine?

For all you ever wanted to know – and more! – about the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, visit our national website: www.elca.org. The Pastor is also available to answer specific questions about Lutheran theology and worship. Immanuel is a member of the New England Synod of the ELCA. Visit www.nesynod.org for more information.

What is the church schedule for the year?

We worship at two services with Holy Communion at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM, September through May. During the summer months, worship is offered at 9:00 AM. For specific events, see our church calendar at www.immanuellc.org.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



PASTORAL CARE – HOW TO RECEIVE Prayer Requests / Pastoral Visits / Pastoral Counseling

How may I, a friend or a loved one receive prayers from the Pastor or the church?

To include a prayer in our Sunday worship, one may call the church office and make a request, or write a prayer request in the prayer book at the rear of the sanctuary.

To receive a prayer visit at home or in the hospital, please contact the pastor at the church office.

How may I or a loved one receive a visit from the Pastor at home or in the hospital?

Please call the pastor at the church office to schedule a visit at home or in the hospital.

**In times of urgency, please contact the pastor by cell phone at any time of day.*

How may one receive pastoral counseling?

Pastoral counseling may be arranged by calling the Pastor at the church office to discuss an issue of concern, to schedule pastoral counseling or to arrange a time of confession.

**If the issue regards an immediate emergency, please contact the Pastor by cell phone at any time of day.*

LIFE TRANSITIONS

Baptism / Marriage / End-of-Life and Funeral Planning

When are Lutherans baptized?

Lutherans believe in one Baptism in a lifetime, and baptize both children and adults who have never been baptized. To discuss and schedule a Baptism, call the Pastor at the church office.

How do I schedule a wedding?

To discuss pre-marital counseling and schedule a wedding, call the Pastor at the church office.

In the event of my death, how may I share my wishes with my family?

All members, not just seniors, may consider a discussion with the pastor to pre-plan for their funeral, celebration of life, as well as end-of-life care instructions. Please contact the pastor for further information.

In the event of my death, how may I bless the church with a financial bequest?

Plans for bequests and memorial funds may be discussed with the pastor, however specific provisions must also be made in one's will or trust, or in the most direct way, as an additional beneficiary on one's life insurance policy.



Immanuel Lutheran Church

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