Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

THE IMMANUEL RECORD

December 2014/January 2015

Kevin Jud, Pastor            Lukas Bickel, Principal
Wayne Shaw, Music Director

Missionaries:          Jacob & Michelle Gillard
                        Rob & Eshinee Veith
                        Nathan & Sara Esala

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I do not like how early the sun sets in the winter. It was worse when I lived near Washington D.C. and near Chicago. At least here it doesn’t set until after 5:00 PM. It is a dark time of year, as the days grow shorter and the sun sets so early after our return to standard time. It is a time of year that I really appreciate having a big window in my study and being able to be out and about during the day. Many folks get to work before sunup and come home after sundown and work the day in a space with no natural light.

We live in a spiritually dark world. We hear about it in the news, we see it in the brokenness in our own families, we feel it to our very cores as our old, sinful selves try to take control. It is a dark world.

Into this dark world Jesus, the light of the world arrived. Not with great fanfare riding on a flaming chariot, but brought into the world in the usual, yet unusual, way, with Mary and Joseph in the darkness of Bethlehem.

Jesus is the light of the world, and He came to take into Himself all the darkness of the world and continued…
absorb it all on that darkest of days on Mount Calvary outside Jerusalem. The light died, but the light did not stay dead. The light rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, and we wait for the light to return.

In this seasonal darkness we begin our time of Advent, the season of waiting for Jesus to come. Waiting to celebrate Jesus’ first coming into the world on that first Christmas and waiting for Jesus to return to conquer the darkness forever on the last day. As we light each Advent candle, we remember the light coming into the world and look forward to the return of the light.

In the meantime, we are the light of the world. We, who have been baptized into Christ, are the ones who bring the light of Christ to others in our love for others and in our telling about the Savior, Jesus who came and will come again.

Join us each Sunday in Advent to receive the Word and the Body and Blood of Christ. Also join us on Wednesdays at noon or 7:15 PM as we hear Christmas sermons from Martin Luther.

See you Sunday and Wednesday.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Kevin Jud
December 2014/January 2015 Worship Schedule
Sunday Services 8 AM and 10:45 AM
Advent Services Wednesdays Noon and 7:15 PM
Sunday School Christmas Program Wednesday, Dec. 17, 7:15 PM
Christmas Eve, December 24, 7:15 PM and 11:00 PM
Christmas Day Communion 10 AM
No New Year’s Eve Service

<table>
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<th>SEASON</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>FESTIVAL</th>
<th>1ST Reading</th>
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<td>Is. 64:1–9</td>
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<td>1 Cor. 1:3–9</td>
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<td>Dec. 7</td>
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<td>Mark 1:1–8</td>
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<td>Jan. 18</td>
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<td>1 Sam. 3:1–10 (11–20)</td>
<td>Psalm 139:1–10</td>
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<td>John 1:43–51</td>
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**Weekday Bible Studies:**

**Men’s Monday Night Bible Study:** Meets at 7 PM to study the Gospel of John. All men are welcome. Led by Gary Miller.

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study:** Meets 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM in the meeting room at church. Various topics. Led by Pastor Lyle Rasch.

**Sunday Morning Bible Studies:**

**Sunday School Classes:** Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle School, and Young Adult classes

**Mike Head’s Bible Study:** An in-depth study of the book of Acts. Meets in the 3rd and 4th grade room, which is the last classroom on the left down the back hallway.

**Matt Franke’s Bible Study:** A study of the lessons for the day in an interactive group format. Meets in the 5th and 6th grade room with a door off the gym.

**Pastor Jud’s Bible Study:** A study of the Sermon on the Mount. Meets at 9:45 AM in the meeting room.
NOTES
FROM OUR
SCHOOL’S PRINCIPAL

Those He Came to Save,

In disgust I made my way through downtown Hamilton one October night. I could not believe what I was seeing! Everywhere I looked there was another insult to my sensibilities. I kept thinking, “Who authorized this?” and “Can’t we get through Reformation Day and Thanksgiving first?” The lights and decorations seemed to be yet another hefty progression of the commercial Christmas agenda.

My futile attempts to fend off Christmas music, decorations, and foods get weaker every year. Oddly, so does my desire to do so. Not because I feel defeated but because I’ve had a change of heart.

Christ took on flesh, lived a perfect life, died a horrendous death, shouldered the sins of the world, defeated Satan, and rose again, all for the sake of those He came to save. Christmas is the celebration of when Jesus’ earthly journey began. Jesus, pure God and pure man, entered time and space to dispel the darkness. He brought truth and light to the world.

The Christmas story tells of the joyous gospel. As a sinner, I need this assurance in more than just the days of December. This good news belongs to the justified. With Jesus at the center, we can confidently throw off all that hinders and entangles, including our resentment of early celebrations.

Lukas Bickel, principal
The Ladies Aid met on Thursday, November 4, 2014 at noon.
There were 21 members and guests in attendance.
The lunch served was a delicious potato bar and dessert.
Pastor Jud did the table blessing.
Carolyn Ott conducted the meeting.

Pastor Jud’s report:
Carl and Carolyn Tepker are still in residence at Berkley Square in the rehabilitation wing. The church and school are currently looking to upgrade the phone system. They have upgraded the fire system. The organ needs a new pump, which will cost $5000.00 to replace. The church youth will again be selling homemade cookie trays to help with the cost for the Germany trip. Be sure to get your order in, as the date for pick up will be December 13. They would also appreciate anyone who would like to help bake. Advent will begin in December, and services will be at 12 noon and 7:15 P.M in the evening on Wednesdays. There are State Scholarships available for the school now. On November 19 there will be a baptismal service at 1:05 in which 11 students have signed up to be baptized.

Carolyn asked everyone to introduce themselves, since we had some new member and special guests present. We are blessed to have 5 new ladies join our group. They are Nancy George, Flo Harbin, Mary Lou Sandlin, Cathleen Woedl and Deloris Bowman. Special thanks to Nancy George for decorating the tables so nicely for the Thanksgiving dinner.

Principal Lucas Bickel’s report:
All has gone well with the school so far this year. There will be a chapel service on Wednesday at 1:05 P.M. for students. Parents and church members are invited to attend.

Our school’s Christmas Program is planned for December 18 at 7:00 P.M.
There will be costumes and other interesting things involved in the program. The program will be held at Baden High School due to the need for more parking. The athletics will have some new things developing in the spring. There will be free clinics led by the coaches. On November 21 the choir will sing at the tree lighting in downtown Hamilton. John Gumm, the Channel 12 weatherman, will be the master of ceremonies for the event.

continued…
Carolyn Ott began the business part of the meeting with everyone repeating the Lord’s Prayer.

Eileen Turain and Darrel Short gave a presentation about the Sojourners Alcohol Drug Recovery Program in Hamilton. Darrel Short gave a testimony of his own experiences. He is now the Director of Staff Development for the program. Eileen is the daughter of Pastor and Jan Kamps. There are 2 locations for women in the recovery program, and they have opened up a 26-bed unit for treatment. They also give treatment to get people back into Society and they have outpatient residences. They have three doctors and a Psychiatrist who work with the clients. They also work with Trinity Episcopal Church and have a free clothing closet program, so if you have clothing to donate, please consider this group. The clients are given a Basket of Hope when they enter the program. These baskets include a pillow, towels and washcloths, sheets and pillowcases and other personal items for women. A list of items needed was left with the members to contribute.

Wayne Shaw gave a presentation on a Mennonite couple that have developed a home for severe mentally and physically handicapped children in Liberty, Kentucky. It is called the Galilean Children’s Home and is on 20 acres of land. He will get a list of needs for the home and the children to us later. He had visited the home and was very impressed with the work this couple does with these children.

Catheleen Woedl gave a presentation on the Hopi Indian Reservation. They have started a small church. They can use bibles, song books, and blankets. They are located in Second Masa, Arizona.

The group discussed and voted to do all three projects but on different months.

Ruth Selmeyer read the minutes from the previous meeting. She had pictures of prayer shawls and lap robes that some of the members had made. She read a thank you from a lady for one of the prayer shawls.

The December meeting will be an appreciation luncheon for the staff of the school and church on December 4. The main course will be turkey, dressing and gravy, hot rolls, creamed potatoes and green beans from Bob Evans. A sign-up sheet was passed around for members to sign up for side dishes and desserts. The school band will perform at this meeting.

The treasurer’s report was given by Mary Plenz.
We voted to collect items for the Basket of Hope during the months of November and December. A list of these items was distributed and members signed up for items to contribute.

Carolyn Ott closed the meeting with prayer.

All ladies are invited to attend the Ladies Aid monthly meeting held on the first Thursday of the month at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ruth Selmeyer
Secretary
Youth News for Winter 2014-15

Cookie Day Dec. 13th
See Cookie Day Pages in Newsletter

Feb. 8 – Tentative Snow Tubing Noon to 5 PM. Cost $15

March 15 – First Communion Prep Grades 5-8

March 20-22 – 7th to 12th Grade Retreat

May 2 – Yard Sale

May 3 – Confirmation Sunday

May 15-17 -- 3rd to 6th Grade Retreat
SUMMER SERVANT EVENTS

Servant Event Sign Up begins Sunday, January 11
at 9:15 AM at Pastor’s Study

Camp Sonrise – June 15-20 – Working with physically and mentally handicapped friends to have a good week at camp experience. You need to be 14 years old or have completed 8th grade. No upper age limit. No limit on the number of participants. Cost $150. Half price for those who work the yard sale. I need an adult female volunteer for the week if possible.

Appalachian Servant Event – July 11-22 – Construction type work in the mountains around Asheville, NC. Limited to 5 high school youth who have completed 9th grade. Cost $275. You can earn half off if you work the summer yard sale.

Youth Note:
If money issues would prevent you from participating in a youth activity, please contact Pastor Jud so that alternate arrangements can be made.
YARD SALE

Start Saving Donations

Save your treasures for the Immanuel Youth Group Spring Yard Sale.

Saturday, May 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 8 AM – 3 PM to raise money for Summer Servant Events

Drop off will begin the afternoon of Thursday, April 30\textsuperscript{th}. Call church office 893-6792 or pastor 309-1550 for pick up of large items.

Clothing, toys, small appliances, furniture, household items, tools, etc.
Germany Trip

Wittenberg
Eisleben
Erfurt
Eisenach
Wartburg Castle
Salt Mine
Dresden
Berlin

UPDATED APPROXIMATE COST:
$2,250 plus passport and spending money

NON-REFUNDABLE PAYMENT of $100
DUE BY DEC. 15TH
If you’re interested in this trip as a high school youth or as an adult, please let Pastor Jud know so he can tell you more about the trip and fundraising opportunities.

pasterjud@hotmail.com or 513-309-1550 (call or text)
COOKIE SALE TIME!

It is time again for Immanuel's annual Christmas cookie sale to raise funds toward our trip to Germany in December 2015 (for youth who are enrolled in 9th grade by that time).

We are attempting to limit the number of fundraisers we have, and this is one of our most successful.

As in previous years we are asking all parents of youth from 6th grade to college age (and anyone else who’d like to bake) to bake 16 dozen or more colorful Christmas cookies (not too many brown cookies). We will assemble and deliver the trays on Saturday, Dec. 13th.

We also are seeking cookie donations from all the other wonderful bakers in the congregation.

Bring to church by 9:45 AM on Saturday the 13th or, if possible, bring them in on Friday Evening by 6 PM.

The cookies will be sold for $25 per tray of 7 dozen, so your contribution of cookies will raise over $50. If you are unable to bake, please consider a donation instead.

Please call Jeannette Jud with any concerns or questions at 218-5171, or email jeannettejud@hotmail.com.
CHRISTMAS COOKIES
LET US BAKE FOR YOU

Great to share with family, friends employees or clients!

The Youth of Immanuel Lutheran Church once again will be offering a delicious, colorful and large assortment of Christmas Cookies to help fund youth trips. All Homemade! Each tray will contain 7 dozen cookies plus extras, all colorfully wrapped for the price of $25.

Half trays are available for $15. Cookies will be delivered or may be picked up on December 13th between 11am and 1pm.

Mail this form to church by Dec. 8 or call Jeannette at 895-1156 or 218-5171 or email at jeannettejud@hotmail.com to place order. Orders will be filled in the order they are received until we run out of cookies.
Name: ____________________________________
Address: __________________________________
City: ______________________________________
Phone #: _________________________________
Desired Number of:
Full Trays_________ Half Trays_________
Amount Due ___________

Please make checks payable to “Immanuel Lutheran Church”

Choose one:
___ Pick up Saturday by 1 PM
___ Pick up Sunday at church
___ Delivery on Saturday (Hamilton & Fairfield Area)

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1285 Main St. Hamilton, OH 45013
immanuelhamilton.com

May you have a Merry Christmas with God’s Blessings!
St. Paul Lutheran Church
20th Annual Fixin’ Up The Thumb Servant Event
June 20-28, 2015

• Registration open to all previous participants

• Come for the whole week, special activities, or for the last weekend, or send in a video “remembrance”

• To register, or for more information:
  www.stpaulcaro.org/ministry/youth/servant-event/
Under the leadership of Pastor Ziegler, Leo H. Sippel joins the church as its fourth teacher. He was called and inducted as teacher of our children on March 15, 1908. He came to us from Vincennes, Indiana. School enrollment increased during his tenure from 1908 until 1939.

The Rev. William F. Brommer of Pleasant Dale, Nebraska became Pastor Ziegler’s successor in June of 1938. He served the congregation until ill health prompted him to resign in April of 1946.

During this time, the congregation had several offers from Mercy Hospital to buy the property. The group also embarked on a Building Fund campaign in the hope of future relocation and building. The war, however, slowed down any thoughts in this direction.

During July of 1939, the congregation called Mr. E. A. Luebke of Farmers Retreat, Indiana, to teach in the school. He remained in Hamilton until July of 1943 when he accepted a call to a congregation in Arlington, Nebraska.

continued...
Since the attendance had dwindled, the school did not reopen for the fall term in 1943. That the congregation still appreciated the blessings from the Christian Day School was evident from the request incorporated in the call extended to the next Pastor of Immanuel.

The Rev. Norman G. Schumm of Fort Wayne, Indiana, became Immanuel’s pastor in December of 1946. He was called with the premise that he would work for the reestablishing of the parochial school. Shortly thereafter, the congregation once again began working toward their dream of a new church in a new location. In 1948 Fred Winckler was chosen as architect for the new structure. A search was under way for a building site. The property of ten to twelve acres at 1285 Main Street was chosen from some possible locations.

In the same year, the congregation adopted a revised constitution, adding more deacons to the list of officers. As a growing congregation, their help was needed to help shepherd our flock.

Submitted by Carolyn Ott, Church Historian

(To be continued in the next Record.)
JUST A GIFT FROM GOD?

You haven’t heard in several months
My try at writing verse.
Some said they missed it, so
I guess I could have done much worse.
It’s just a gift God gave to me.
I sometimes THINK in rhyme.
A random thought might trigger it.
I do it all the time.
If someone asks me, “Pass the salt.”,
My brain starts spinning fast
To find a word that rhymes with salt
Before the salt is passed.
Everybody has a gift.
To you I’ve just revealed
One of the many God gave me.
YOU may have some concealed.
You probably don’t realize
How many gifts you’ve shown
To others when you flashed that smile
Or touched a heart unknown.
You have no doubt recognized
Your “blessings from above”.
Well, those are gifts to you from God
And all He asks is love.
Your soft speech may calm someone;
Or you might have to shout.
Results are all that matters.
That’s what it’s all about.
Your lovely voice up in the choir
Or sitting in the pew.
You may not think it’s pretty,
But that’s God’s gift in you.
Reflecting on your job in life,
(Or if you haven’t any),
You touched someone…somewhere today
Through God’s gifts….numbered “MANY”

Marylou Sandlin
Norma Schelter Memorials

Gertie Davis

Hubert Thiemann (Nancy Rasch’s father) Memorials

Margaret Dankovich
Ruth Selmeyer
Ladies Aid

Rebecca Shaw Memorials

Ruth Selmeyer  Rosemarie Plvan
Marvin & Marlene Beekman  Linda Benninghofen
Florence Harbin  Delores Bowman
Kenzie & Carol Cain  David & Carolyn Schul
Ladies Aid  Carl & Carolyn Tepker
G. Habib Nackhla  Werner & Pauline Schwitalski
Patsy Urmston  Gary & Donna Aufanc
Rhonda & Jude Haslinger  Hilbert & Jan Kamps
Bob & Shirley Hill  Gertie Davis
John & Victoria Gumm  Donald & Jan Barnhart
John & Carol Beckett  Neil & Janet Sohngen
Cathleen Woedl  Lyle Rasch
Mary Spoerl  G. Habib Nackhla
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Hall  Patsy Urmston
We would like to thank our family at Immanuel for your thoughts, prayers and cards. It is such a blessing to have the support of our church family in difficult times. You all have a very special place in our hearts.

The Tim Rasch Family

Thank you so much for allowing me to present the Gideon Ministry on October 19. The donations were $481.00 which will place 96 full Bibles around the world.

Mike Head
Giving back to the Lord a portion of what He has given you is acknowledging that all that we have and all that we are comes from the Lord as a gift. It is not our life, our body, our time, our money; it all belongs to God.

And so our offering should be:

**Regular**

**Cheerful**

**Sacrificial**

One of the best ways to do this is through the Simply Giving program of automatic giving. Simply complete the Authorization Form and return it to the church office. Thank you for your continued love and support of the Lord’s work at Immanuel Lutheran Church & School.
In an effort to keep our altar flowers cost at $15.00 per vase, Brian’s Florist will not bill individuals. Please make checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church and put in the payment box on the side of the cabinet in the Narthex. You may also mail a check to the church. Do not put checks in the offering plate. If you have any questions, please contact Patsy at 868-6888, Mary at 892-0370, or Nancy in the church office at 893-6792. Thank you. Please return the green plastic vase the flowers came in to the table outside Pastor’s office. Thank you!

If you have a joy or sorrow to share for the prayer list, please notify the church office.

Pastor Jud’s Honor System Bookstore is set up in the hall. Pay Pastor or place money in basket marked Bookstore.

Hearing assist devices are available - ask an Elder or Usher if you would like to use one.

Please keep praying for God’s protection and care for all members of the military and their families.

Especially: Danny Franke, Bill Brown, Matt Gille, Michael Telford, Chad Carpenter, Aaron McMahan, Andy Bowman
New Hymnals and Bibles for Immanuel

We would like to provide ESV Bibles and Lutheran Service Book Hymnals in the pews so people can use them during worship.

If you would like to help provide either Bibles or Hymnals, you can do so and give them as a memorial in honor of a loved one who has gone to the Church Triumphant.

Cost of each Bible is $12.

Cost of each Lutheran Service Book Hymnal is $25.

Please complete a memorial form and put it in the offering plate or give it to Nancy Rasch or Pastor along with your donation. Please make checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran and put “Bibles or “Hymnals” in the memo.

I would like to purchase for Immanuel:

_____ Bible(s) @ $12 each

In honor of:

________________________

________________________

________________________

_____ Hymnal(s) @ $25 each

In honor of:

________________________

________________________

________________________
December Birthdays

Daniel Karwisch  12/1
Sue Martin  12/3
Abigail Porter  12/3
Mike Southard  12/5
Alexander Tomazi  12/7
Judy Southard  12/8
Lisa Lucke  12/9
Kimberly Williams  12/9
John Ebbing  12/10
Daniel Heitger  12/11
Phyllis McGuire  12/11
Jill Ebbing  12/12
Charles Ervin  12/12
Aaron Beekman  12/14
Brenda Johnson-Gibbs  12/16
Rosemary Plvan  12/16
Mikayla Johnson-Gibbs  12/17
Mark Hess  12/18
Wolfgang Wolfram  12/18
Sean Eberly  12/19
Natalie Cornwell  12/20
Benjamin Cooke  12/23
Jordan Harshman  12/23
Cheryl McNutt  12/24
Susan Alverson  12/28
Haley Flohr  12/28
Ginny Miller  12/28
Sara Sheley  12/28
Barbara Diebel  12/29
Darrell Stephens  12/29
Mercy Bickel  12/31
Keith Brinker  12/31
Sara Protzman  12/31
Rachel Quinn  12/31

December Wedding Anniversaries

Jim & Reathel Vosberg  December 5  28 years
Les & Penny Beyer  December 8  35 years
Larry & Aline Parsley  December 13  17 years
Jeffery & Natalie Cornwell  December 19  49 years
Darrell & Diane Stephens  December 20  45 years
Donald & Jan Barnhart  December 28  55 years
January Birthdays

Jeffrey Martin 1/2
Kayla Connelly 1/5
Marcia Day 1/5
Anne Flohr 1/5
Christopher Streufert 1/5
Timothy Weller 1/6
Chelsea Abshire 1/7
Jeffrey Cornwell 1/8
Lee Sheley 1/8
Marvin Beekman 1/9
Rebecca Jud 1/9
John Baird 1/10
Dylan Oaks 1/10
Barbara Reed 1/10
Michaela Begley 1/11
Anna Stumpf 1/11
Gregory Dawson 1/12
Crystal Cooke 1/13
Kyle Schlade 1/17
Cody Snell 1/18
Robert Dawson 1/20
Ruby Erbeck 1/21
Janet Sohngen 1/22
James Vosberg 1/22
Carole Dingeldein 1/23
Earl Ray 1/23
Virgie Rutledge 1/23
Gary Short 1/25
Jeffrey Willbrand 1/25
Phil Abshire 1/26
Brennan Coley 1/26
Zoe Combs 1/28
Martha Risner 1/28
Mary Spoerl 1/28
Doris Vosberg 1/30

January Wedding Anniversaries

Timothy & Pamela Stumpf January 2 22 years
Pastor Hilbert & Jan Kamps January 7 48 years
December Service Schedule

**Sunday, December 7**

8:00 a.m.
Elders: Mike Head, Jeff Martin
Acolyte: Olivia Risner
Greeters: Bob & Dani D’Angora

10:45 a.m.
Elders: Greg Dawson, Tim Rasch
Acolyte: Hailey Reynolds
Greeter: Carolyn Ott

**Sunday, December 14**

8:00 a.m.
Elders: Mark Hess, Jeff Martin
Acolyte: Skylar Crooke
Greeters: Bruce & Andrea Brinker

10:45 a.m.
Elders: Tim Rasch, Tim Stumpf
Acolyte: Austin Pugh
Greeter: Branden Pugh

**Sunday, December 21**

8:00 a.m.
Elders: Mike Head, Rex Ortman
Acolyte: Jazmine D’Angora
Greeters: Bruce & Andrea Brinker

10:45 a.m.
Elders: Tim Stumpf, Dan Heitger
Acolyte: Nathan Weingartner
Greeter: Branden Pugh

**Sunday, December 28**

8:00 a.m.
Elders: Mark Hess, Phil Howard
Acolyte: Carly Ferris
Greeters: Bob & Dani D’Angora

10:45 a.m.
Elders: Dan Heitger, Greg Dawson
Acolyte: Bryce Behr
Greeter: Carolyn Ott

**Ushers for December**

8:00 a.m.
Phil Howard, Head Usher
Eddie Welch
Bob D’Angora

10:45 a.m.
Gary Gille, Head Usher
Doug & Ruby Erbeck
Mark & Joy Begley

**Altar Guild for December**

Pam Rupp
Cheryl McNutt
### January Service Schedule

#### Sunday, January 4

**8:00 a.m.**
- Elders: Mike Head, Jeff Martin
- Acolyte: Olivia Risner
- Greeters: Bob & Dani D’Angora

**10:45 a.m.**
- Elders: Greg Dawson, Tim Rasch
- Acolyte: Jocelyn Downing
- Greeter: Carolyn Ott

#### Sunday, January 11

**8:00 a.m.**
- Elders: Mark Hess, Jeff Martin
- Acolyte: Skylar Crooke
- Greeters: Bob & Dani D’Angora

**10:45 a.m.**
- Elders: Tim Rasch, Tim Stumpf
- Acolyte: Hannah Heitger
- Greeter: Carolyn Ott

#### Sunday, January 18

**8:00 a.m.**
- Elders: Mike Head, Rex Ortman
- Acolyte: Jazmine D’Angora
- Greeters: Bruce & Andrea Brinker

**10:45 a.m.**
- Elders: Tim Stumpf, Dan Heitger
- Acolyte: Hailey Reynolds
- Greeter: Branden Pugh

#### Sunday, January 25

**8:00 a.m.**
- Elders: Mark Hess, Phil Howard
- Acolyte: Carly Ferris
- Greeters: Bruce & Andrea Brinker

**10:45 a.m.**
- Elders: Dan Heitger, Greg Dawson
- Acolyte: Austin Pugh
- Greeter: Branden Pugh

#### Ushers for January

**8:00 a.m.**
- Bruce Brinker, Head Usher
  - Carol Hess
  - Kayleigh Hess

**10:45 a.m.**
- Tim Spoerl, Head Usher
  - Matt Franke
  - Jon Franke
  - Jim Vosberg

#### Altar Guild for January

- Janet Jones
- Chris Hilbert
Q: **What are the most common names for LCMS congregations?**

A: The 12 most common names for LCMS congregations are:

- Trinity - 569
- St. John - 467
- St. Paul - 464
- Immanuel - 325
- Zion - 323
- Grace - 235
- Faith - 221
- Our Savior - 168
- Redeemer - 168
- Christ - 144
- Good Shepherd - 136
- St. Peter – 131

Q: **Who wrote the common table prayer used by many Lutherans, "Come, Lord Jesus ... ," and where did it come from?**


- This is doubtless the best-known meal prayer among American Lutherans ...

The earliest known printing of the text is in a Moravian hymnal, *Etwas vom Liede Mosis, des Knechts Gottes, und dem Liede des Lammes, das ist: Alt- und neuer Brüder-Gesang. . .* (London, 1753). It is headed “Tisch-Gebetgen” (table prayer), and the text reads:

continued...
Komm, Herr Jesu! sey unser Gast; Come, Lord Jesus, be our Guest,
und segne, was du bescheret hast. And bless what you have bestowed.

It is likely that the text has an earlier, possibly Lutheran, origin. In the 1753 hymnal, it is placed not in the chapter containing “Old Moravian hymns” nor with the “18th-century Moravian hymns” but rather with “evangelical hymns from the 17th century” (“evangelische Lieder im siebzehnten Seculo”). The editor of the facsimile reprint, Dietrich Meyer, has identified the authors of most hymns in this chapter, all or nearly all of whom are Lutherans, but for “Komm, Herr Jesu” he has simply indicated “author unknown.”

More than one version of the second line of text is known among Lutherans in this country, including “Let these gifts to us be blest,” “Let Thy gifts to us be blest” and “Let these Thy gifts to us be blest,” as well as other variations. The same situation applies in Germany, where the line is variously said “und segne, was du bescheret hast,” “und segne, was du uns bescheret hast,” and “und segne, was du uns aus Gnaden bescheret hast” (“and bless what you have bestowed to us out of mercy”). The committee preparing HS98 has chosen the version that seems to be most widely used in this country; this version also avoids the problem of the archaic word “thy.”

Within our own LCMS tradition, this prayer appears in Evangelisch-Lutherisher Gebets-Schatz (St. Louis, 1881, 15th ed.; originally published in St. Louis in 1864). This volume of Evangelical-Lutheran Prayer Treasures underwent numerous reprintings even as late as 1908. It attributes the authorship of "Komm, Herr Jesu!" to Martin Luther, although this is doubtful.

You may wish to read an article by David W. Loy titled, Come, Lord Jesus, that was published in the 2011 June/July edition of The Lutheran Witness.
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