



# The Immanuel Herald

Publication of Immanuel United Church of Christ

**December 2025**

## Pastor's Corner

### A Message from Pr. MaryBeth

*"In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar ~ when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene ~ during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness."* ~ Luke 3:1-2

### CHRIST IS BORN TODAY!

Through Advent, into Christmas, we affirm the message of Jesus who is born into a world in need of healing, mercy, justice, hope and love. In writing his Gospel, Luke wants us to be sure that Jesus, the babe in a manger, was born, not into a fairy-tale story, but into the real geopolitical landscape of the first century. Luke's Gospel looks like a Who's Who of secular and religious leaders of the times, he's far less concerned with precise historical facts than he is with making a confession of faith: the events he narrates, though small on the world stage, are of global significance. During Advent, at Christmas and in every season, the Prince of Peace is born into our very real story, into our history, today!

In the year that JD Pritzker was Governor, and Brandon Johnson was Mayor, in the year that Donald JT was President; when Leo XIV was Pope ~



Christ is born ~ not in a mansion of gold, but in that RV parked overnight at Sam's Club, or at Casa Esperanza in South Chicago on E. 88<sup>th</sup> and Saginaw ~ on the corner of Starlight and Glory Avenue in Bethlehem. At one and the same time, we await *and* celebrate the Prince of Peace.

In this Advent and Christmas, let us be ready to live into mercy, to work for justice, to offer hope and show love. Jesus was born into a political situation dominated by the Roman Empire, in a society struggling to defend itself against oppression and corruption. Jesus' ministry of healing, hospitality, peace and hope was threatening to the status quo. This is the Christmas faith into which we are called ~ to celebrate, follow and imitate the Prince of Peace in every aspect of our lives.

*As always, your friend in Christ,  
Pr. MaryBeth*

## Notes from the President

December. A month to remember. Remembering our past, thinking of our future. I recall once, a jingle used on a radio station as an intro to the weather. It went "What's the weather for the weekend going to be? Will it be Hot, Cold, Rain or Snow?" Whichever, did not really matter to us, good, bad or indifferent, together, we made it a fantastic weekend.

Today, we find our weather to be on the stormy side. The waves are splashing high onto our decks and the darkness ahead makes it hard to see the shore. Be strong, together, our faith is still alive and continues to shine the way.



Immanuel in December always brings joy. As we all sing along in our service, I can hear the joviality and mirth. That wonderful music we hear and enjoy is a reminder that God and the Angels are and will always be with us.



Coffee hours seem to attract more delicious goodies as the season brings out the master chefs in us all and we all like to share with others. Yes, the beauty and warmth and fellowship at Immanuel brings out the beauty that is still in our world.

Come, share the holidays with Immanuel. As you sit in your pew, look at the colorful lights upon our Christmas tree. Allow them to ease your pain and bring you back to a happy place, and smile.

What's in our future? At Immanuel, we cannot control the weather. We can join together as one and weather whatever may come and together make it fantastic. Wishing everyone Joy and Happiness and Peace, today and for eternity.

BobO



### Matthew 6:34

"Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble".

## Worship & Friendship at Immanuel DECEMBER 2025

**Tues. Dec. 2, 6:30pm:** Advent Study

Zoom: Names for the Messiah

**Sun. Dec. 7, 10am:** Worship, Communion

Second Sunday of Advent, Adult Class

**Mon. Dec. 8: 7pm:** Council, Zoom

**Tues. Dec. 9, 6:30pm:** Advent Study

Zoom: Names for the Messiah

**Sun. Dec. 14, 10am:** Worship, Joyful Noise

Third Sunday of Advent, Adult Class

**Tues. Dec. 16, 6:30pm:** Advent Study

Zoom: Names for the Messiah

**Sun. Dec. 21, 10am:** Worship, Communion

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Adult Class

**Wed. Dec. 24, 10pm:** Worship

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**



**Sun. Dec. 28, 10am:** Worship



### ORDER POINSETTIAS

**For Christmas Eve**

**by Sun. Dec. 14**

**\$24 each  
to Immanuel UCC**



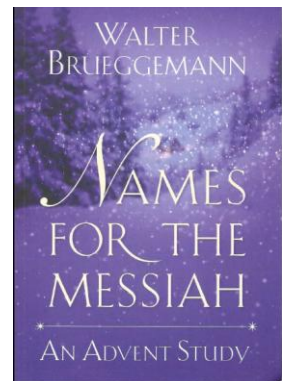
## Adult Class

Advent Study

"Names for  
the Messiah"

by

Walter Brueggemann



### Two Options to Participate

#### Sunday Morning & Tuesday Evening

"For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us; authority rests  
upon his shoulders; and he is  
named Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace." ~ Isaiah 9:6

"Names for the Messiah" ponders  
each title and how the people  
understood it then, how Jesus did  
or did not fulfill the title, and how  
Christians interpret Jesus as  
representative of that title.

**This Advent Study will be offered  
after worship Sundays,  
11:15am-12, Nov. 23, Dec. 7, 14, 21.**  
Bring your refreshments and join the  
conversation.

Immanuel will also join  
Pilgrim-Faith, Peace Memorial,  
Salem and Christ Memorial for  
**a Zoom class Tuesdays, 6:30-8pm,  
Nov. 25, Dec. 2, 9, 16.**

Materials are available!

**Let Pr. MaryBeth know  
that you are interested in  
either or both class options.**



**Please Keep These Families in your Prayers:**

Rosemary Davidson  
Dolores and Al Eriksen  
Diane Eriksen  
Samantha Hickerson  
Gary Hickerson

Pam Gross  
Jim O'Toole  
Andy Busse  
Dennis Vail  
Neighbors at Immanuel Residence

Christine Hickerson  
Brad Stone  
Karen Wyka  
Jackie Moline



**IMMANUEL HOT SHOTS FALL BALL LEAGUE**

Tis the season for bouncing basketballs with Immanuel Hotshots Fall Ball League. This session will end on December 13. Volunteers are needed to work the concession stand for the Saturday games. The money made from concessions helps pay for the referee and time-keepers. Lend a hand on a Saturday

morning, 8am-12noon: **Come for a few hours or stay for four hours**

**2026 Tentative Herald Schedule**



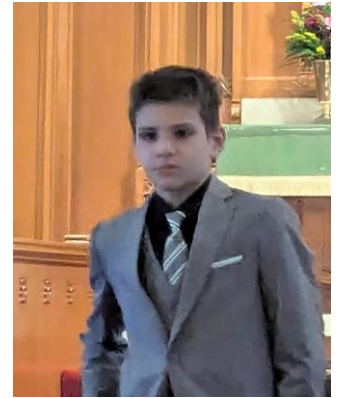
**Herald Issue Due Date**

January/February	December 18
March	February 13
April	March 20
May	April 17
June/July	May 15
August	July 17
September	August 21
October	September 18
November	October 16
December/January "27"	November 20



## MCM & Sunday School Gifts to the Heifer Project

On Sunday November 16, Mr. Finn Taylor informed and thanked the congregation for the many generous gifts. From the pulpit he delivered the following information: The goal of this project, to provide access to water, was to collect \$300.00. An amazing \$825.00 was collected! The funds will be donated for a cow, \$500, for water, \$300, and for a flock of chicks, \$20.00. Thank You!!



### MISSION, CARE AND MEMBERSHIP November ~ December 15



Thank you to all who have donated to this special mission ~ and to all who will continue to donate through Dec. 15. Because of your donations, \$348, so far, Jane Feuerer was able to go shopping and fill up her trunk with specific pantry items to support the children and families of

“Our Lady of Tepeyac Elementary School”  
in Chicago’s Little Village Community.

This mission will **continue until December 15**. MCM invites Immanuel to help in this small way by donating the pantry items listed below:

Beans of any kind	Vegetables	Peanut butter	Tomato sauces
Fruits	Jams	Tomatoes	Tuna fish
Crackers	Soups	Chicken	Dessert mixes: pudding
Pasta	Cake mixes	Peanut butter	Cookies, snacks
Canned Milk	Vegetables	Chili	Oil for cooking
Rice or rice mixes	Beans of any kind		Mac and Cheese
Mashed potatoes			

Canned, jars or dry packages are most desirable that will fit in a child's backpack to take home.

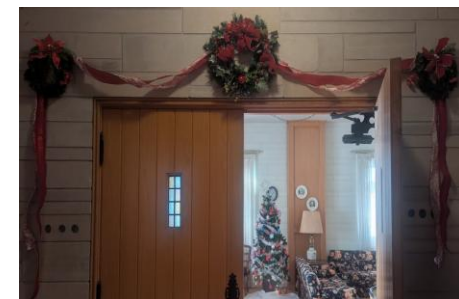
<https://www.tepeyacelementary.org/>



## Traditions and Transformations of Immanuel



After Thanksgiving, we decorated for the Christmas Season after worship Nov. 23. We'll say 'adios' to the decorations January 11.



Thank you to all who helped decorate, and prepare the amazing lunch: salads, desserts, German potato salad, chili, shrimp, sauerkraut and sausage. A wonderful meal to share with the great teamwork.



### UCC Christmas Fund Offering; December 21

"When they saw the star, they were filled with joy."  
~ Matthew 2:10 ~

**The Christmas Fund** has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

Envelopes available in the Narthex or send via US Post  
To Immanuel: note "Christmas Fund"



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A Publication of

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**December 2025**