



# MESSENGER

A community growing in Christ, living in grace and serving in love.

December 2021/January 2022

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## FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS DESK

### **New quarterly publication will replace the Messenger**

The publication you are reading right now is about to undergo a shift. A big shift. Dare I say, A CHANGE.

The Messenger has traditionally included longer articles about what's happening in our church community. Over time, however, it has tended toward long versions of News & Notes items and only a few (but wonderful!) features.

Readership is low. And so, my friends, I've proposed a new publication format, one that I hope will help us foster connections and get to know one another better.

*"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new." Socrates*

Our new "Messenger" — name TBD — will look very different. First, it will come out quarterly, coinciding roughly with major church seasons. It will have big photos, like a magazine. News articles will be more about *why* than *what* because we want to see faith connections. (See the Wilder gift article on page 6 for a sample.)

Features may include:

- Celebrating accomplishments and activities outside the church
- Faith at home resources
- Photo and art galleries
- A "beginner's" guide to the church building and traditions
- Deeper looks at what our ministry teams do
- Name that ILC "saint" (among us or having gone before us)
- Important dates coming up
- Staff reflections
- History spotlights and photos
- Council recaps

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

### **Worship**

We gather for worship with Holy Communion at **9:30 am** on Sunday mornings both in person and online. You can watch the livestream on our website, through YouTube or on Facebook.

### **Fellowship**

We invite you to remain inside for fellowship after the service but without coffee or treats.

### **Faith Formation**

Activities begin at **10:30 am**.

*Continued on page 5*



## O, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

*May your hearts be filled with hope, peace, joy and love this season.*

*- Chris, Cindy, Deanna, Emily, Michelle and Peter -*

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### FROM THE PASTOR

#### **Grateful in the waiting**

Once again we are in Advent, the season of waiting for the one who comes. It seems like we have been waiting A LOT in the past year — waiting for vaccines, waiting to be together again, waiting for wildfires in the west to ease, waiting for the dissension among fellow citizens to resolve, waiting for God to make this world new once again.

If we have learned anything from the past year, it is that change come slowly. We try, we fail, we try again. But another thing we have learned this year is that we are an active part of the change. We can learn. We can do new things together. God is working among us to bring newness into our world.

In this advent season I am grateful that we can wait (and try, and learn) together. I am grateful for your willingness to adapt, to support each other and to remain faithful in a difficult year. I am grateful for so many of you who have stepped up to try new things. I am grateful that you want to reach out into our community with God's goodness. And I am grateful to God who continues to lead and strengthen us.

Blessings on your advent waiting,

— Pastor Cindy

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#### **Holiday office closures**

Our offices will be closed Friday, Dec. 24 (after noon); Monday, Dec. 27; and Friday, Dec. 31 (after noon).

# Advent and Christmas 2021

## Virtual Carol Sing with David Stark

Dave Stark will give us the gift of a Virtual Carol Sing on **Thursday, Dec. 2, from 1–2 pm**. Connect [through Zoom](#) or go to our website to log into this hour of Christmas delight!

## Daily Word Devotion

#AdventWord offers a daily word, meditation and visual image for your reflection. Images and meditations can be experienced via the [AdventWord website](#), [direct daily emails](#), and [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). Audio meditations are available on the AdventWord website and [YouTube](#). If you want to respond on social media with your own thoughts or images, use #AdventWord.

## Christmas Stories Study

Join Pastor Cindy on **Thursday evenings** on Zoom to discover the joy, challenge, exuberance and humor in the Christmas stories. Amy-Jill Levine, professor of New Testament at Vanderbilt University, will be our video guide. The Dec. 2 session begins at 8 pm; other session times TBD. Use [this Zoom link](#) to join in.

## Christmas Caroling

Join us in Christmas caroling! Many in our community

look forward to this each year. Children and teens, invite your friends! We will meet in the Music Room after worship on **Sunday, Dec. 12**. For safety, we will only carol outside. Please sign up in the Gathering Space or with Chris Cherwien ([email her](#) or leave a message).

## Hanging of the Greens

Please help prepare our worship space for the coming of our Lord on **Wednesday, Dec. 22, at 6:30 pm**. We will decorate our trees and hang the greens! This is an event for all ages. Children, we need your energy and creativity! The Middle Cs, Choristers and Cantorei will rehearse at their normal times that evening. (No Confirmation)

## Pick-up Christmas Pageant (With a Twist)

The last few in-person Christmas seasons, we put on a non-rehearsed, all-ages, “pickup” Christmas pageant on the Sunday before Christmas. This year, we’re “picking up” scripts and costumes and filming around town. Video magicians will put scenes together for a video premiere **after worship on Sunday, Dec. 19**. Join us in the East Lounge for this fun event or watch the video on YouTube.



## Christmas Eve Services

3, 4:30, 10 pm

**Pre-registration is required**

Celebrate the birth of Jesus on Friday, Dec. 24! Our services will be at 3, 4:30 and 10 pm. All will have the same format, with a more contemplative tone at the late service. All services will be livestreamed.

Seating for the 4:30 service will begin at 4:15; *please do not come early*. We anticipate this service to be our largest, so if you’d like a little more space, consider attending at 3 or 10 pm.

Because of limited capacity, we ask you to [please register](#) in advance for our 3 and 4:30 services. Our East Lounge and Music Room will be set for additional seating to accommodate as many as we can.

Register for Christmas Eve at [ilcsp.org/Christmas/](http://ilcsp.org/Christmas/), [using this online form](#) or by calling the church office.

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## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

### Faith formation in December and January

#### All: Sunday schedule for December

12/5: Kids will hear an Advent story and film another pageant scene, meet in the Lower Commons; youth will continue their book study, meet in the Youth Room.

12/12: We encourage families to participate in caroling after the service; classes will not meet.

12/19: Join us after worship for the video premiere of our Christmas Pageant in the East Lounge.

12/26 and 1/2: We will not meet.

#### PreK-grade 5 kids: What's next?

Starting Jan. 9, we'll start into a series looking at Biblical heroes — flaws and all! All of these ordinary people became extraordinary and risked their lives for their faith.

- Esther: spoke up to save her people
- Elijah: told people to stop their godless ways
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego: refused to worship an idol
- Paul: traveled all over to tell the Good News

We hope to have another outdoor gathering after worship in January or early February — let's go sledding after the snow flies! Watch News & Notes for details.

#### 7th- and 8th-grade Confirmation: Holiday schedule

We won't meet on Dec. 22 or 29. Have a great Christmas break!



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### Plan ahead for 2022 summer fun!

We're hoping for continued progress in our world's covid situation, enough that we can play and pray all day! Save the dates for these great programs:

**VBS: A God-centered day camp — June 13–17.** We'll be joining several other neighborhood churches to create a camp that digs into having faith *and* believing in science. We hope to be able to offer all-day sessions and a few field trips, too! Age eligibility TBD. Registration will open in February or March. Contact [Emily King](#) for more information.

**Boundless: God Without Measure ELCA youth gathering — July 24–28.** We are so excited to have the national Youth Gathering right in our back yard (well ... Minneapolis)! With transportation hurdles out of the way, we hope that many of our current high-schoolers will go. Contact [Michelle Stillwell](#) or go to the [Boundless website](#) for more information.

**Immanuel's Music & Arts Camp — August 8–12.** We're going to have another great lineup of electives that will get kids singing, moving and creating while also seeing Jesus's presence. This all-day camp is for children who've completed K–8. Registration opens in February. Invite your friends! Contact [Chris Cherwien](#) for more information.

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## FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS DESK (continued)

- What's in the library
- Thank you notes

I imagine there is already a small feeling of panic welling up inside you — how will I know what's going on? And how will others know what my group is planning? Have no fear: News & Notes will continue to be the spot to share news! Longer explanations can go online or be one of the featured news articles in the quarterly. When needed, we can provide printouts for our non-digital readers.

To make this project work best, I need you to help. Yes, *you*. **Nominate** a “saint” to be featured, **share** photos of ILC people and events, **recommend** a library book, **ask** a question about faith or the church, **submit** a poem or prayer you've written. I want to hear about the things our community is doing — **accomplishments and awards** at school or work, **volunteering** around town, **sharing kindness** in big and small ways, etc. You are all God's hands and feet in the world, and we want to celebrate the ways you and your family and friends live out faith.

I am really excited for this new approach, and I look forward to getting to know our community more deeply. There will be no January edition of the Messenger, giving us time to transition to the new format. Our first quarterly issue will come out in February, with a look ahead to the summer youth gathering and to Lent. If you have ideas for stories or news from your group, please contact me.

— Emily King, content director and editor for the new publication

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## OFFICE UPDATES

### Year-end giving deadline

Please remember that as the end of the year approaches, if you plan to mail a donation to the church be sure it is postmarked no later than **Dec. 31** or it cannot be included in 2021 accounting. The church office closes at noon on Dec. 31.

### Save the date for the Annual Meeting

We meet each year as a congregation to approve the ministry plan (budget) and elect our leaders for the year. Our annual meeting will be **Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022, at 10:45 am**. We need at least 50 people to attend to be able to vote.

The finance team will present the budget and answer any questions the prior week, on **Sunday, Jan. 23, at 10:45 am**.

Deadline for team reports from team leaders is **Friday, Jan. 7**. We suggest a half page limit, if possible,

and include any photos you have. Please email your team reports to Deanna at [dhesse@ilcsp.org](mailto:dhesse@ilcsp.org).

### Stewardship pledges: Thank you!

On behalf of the Stewardship team, thank you to all who submitted your giving pledges for 2022. Having these in hand helps us make informed decisions as we budget for next year. If you haven't completed your pledge card yet, it's not too late but please do so ASAP! The online link is [ilcsp.org/give](https://ilcsp.org/give). If you have any questions, contact the church office.

### Offering envelopes available soon

2022 offering envelopes will be placed under the bulletin board outside the church office. Please pick yours up. If you cannot make it in person and wish to have yours mailed to you, call the church office at 651-699-5560.

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## GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

### Wilder gift program ‘creates a connection’

If you are looking for an extra reason to shop the sales this month, you are in luck: There are a few gift requests left from the Wilder Child Development Center. The return deadline is **Sunday, Dec. 12**.

Sometimes called the Wilder boxes or Wilder baskets, the program started as a way to provide a holiday meal to families facing financial pressures. However, the meal was not culturally appropriate for the St. Paul preschool’s diverse clientele, prompting church leaders to step back and ask what the families actually *want*.

Today Immanuel shoppers fulfill requests for toys, clothes, activities and experiences specific to each household. There is joy in choosing the family whose interests match our own or tug at our hearts.

The Reed family — Tyson, Maria, Leif and Siena — makes shopping for Wilder an annual tradition.

“The Wilder gift program has been so meaningful to our family in providing a tangible, focused way to think about giving without expectation, and spreading joy beyond ourselves,” Maria says. “Picking out those little tags with a description of the family members and theme for the gift creates a connection to someone we may never meet, but with whom we share this community, this holiday and this experience. What a great way to remember how we all belong to each other, especially at Christmas.”

To participate, sign up [online](#) or take a tag from the church bulletin board. Organizers suggest a \$75 maximum per family. Bring wrapped gifts, with family number indicated, to Immanuel’s Snelling Avenue entryway anytime before Dec. 12. If you have questions or need help, contact ILC [organizer Kelley Wells](#).

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### Christian’s Toy Box open for donations

For many years, Immanuel members have supported Child and Family Services at Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota by donating to Christian’s Toy Box, named after a young Immanuel member who fought cancer, Christian Osen.

Place new, unwrapped toys, games, art supplies, books and other creative activities into the toy box at Immanuel or drop off checks or gift cards at the office (mailing them is fine too). Checks should be made out to Children’s Hospitals & Clinics, MN, with “**Christian’s Toy Box**” on the memo line. To give online, use this link: <https://www.givemn.org/story/Christian-S-Toy-Box>

The Osen family will deliver all donations to the Child Life Associates on Christian’s birthday anniversary, **Dec. 14**.

This annual donation is always anticipated and welcomed by the associates, some of whom worked directly with Christian during nearly four years of treatment for Leukemia. And then the smiles and joy provided to patients of ages birth–18 is something we wish we could witness. The reactions by children and parents alike, relayed to us later, warms our hearts and fill us with pride in what you, our Immanuel friends, have offered during the holidays!

Thank you for your past support and in advance for this year’s support!

— The Osen Family



Christian at age 7

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## MOMENT IN HISTORY — IMMANUEL'S BANNER MINISTRY

### With felt pieces and colorful ribbons, hanging artwork celebrated special days

During 2021, the Messenger has carried history articles about Immanuel's various ministries. From the Flea Market to the Improvers, Immanuel reaches out to members and the community blessing them with the love of Christ.

Pastor Bentley especially loved banners for their simple yet beautiful way to convey messages. Sandy Anderson suggested to him that she saw a place where banners could enhance our worship space. Here is a piece written by Sandy Anderson for Immanuel's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. June Husom found it in her things and thought Sandy would like it and sent it to her!

*"Banners have been a part of Immanuel's worship since 1973. Even before that, the interior was enhanced with felt banners. In 1973, I decided to make red and blue round banners to hang in the space between the sanctuary windows. Using the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, I sewed a verse on each banner.*

*After the passing of Allie Pratt in 1979, her husband, Richard, donated money to buy materials for several new banners in memory of Allie. That started the PTL ("Precious Little Tucks") Club, otherwise known as the Banner Committee comprised of Marcia Hanson, Arlene Storeby, Mary Sue Howes, Barb Minor, and me. Shirley Evans was our groupie, following us wherever we went, a different home each week. In true Norwegian fashion, we always had a wonderful little treat to cap off the evening. We solved a lot of world problems, shared stories and laughs.*

*By 1980, we had created the Christmas Angel banner (Gabriel), the Easter butterfly banner, the Pentecost banner, the Thanksgiving batik banner, the Good Friday banner, and the Noah's Ark Baptism banner, all in memory of Allie. We ceased meeting weekly after I delivered my first child in 1980."*

The 150 Anniversary Committee commissioned Sandy to create a banner. She submitted two designs. The banner was sewn on an old, old Singer sewing machine that was Ruth Husom's (possibly even her mother's machine). Sandy bought it from June and Rachel Husom, who donated the money to the Flea Market. The banner would be displayed in the Gathering Space. Sandy chose celebratory colors for the ribbons that would coordinate with the Gathering Space. It was created so that the ribbons would move with the wind and breezes while the main part would be weightier. It was made out of indoor/outdoor fabric, which was difficult to iron but a good choice as it would stand up to rain. The Anniversary Committee had some requests: the colors and the fonts must be the same as the outdoor banner. The end result is exactly what Sandy and the Committee envisioned and most especially, celebratory.



By Sandy Anderson, June Husom, and Judie Prayfrock

## COMMUNITY

### See Immanuel's bell choir perform with NLC at Basilica

Join the National Lutheran Choir this holiday season for the 36th-annual Christmas festival, The Earth Adorned. Immanuel's Jubilate Ringers will be joining the NLC and ringing a beautiful anthem for all three concerts. Look also for our own Chris Cherwien and Matt Olson in the choir. For tickets and more information, go to [NLCA.com](http://NLCA.com) or call 612-722-2301.

#### Live Concerts at the Basilica of Saint Mary, 1600 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis

- Friday, Dec. 10, 4:30 and 8 pm
- Saturday, Dec. 11, 8 pm

Adults and seniors: \$33; Students: Pay what you can;  
18 and under: Free

#### Livestream

- Friday, Dec. 10, 8 pm
- Free to all. Go to [NLCA.com](http://NLCA.com) to watch.

### VocalEssence performing Bach oratorio at Basilica

Come see Immanuel organist Peter Aldrich sing with VocalEssence at the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis. VocalEssence and the Bach Society of Minnesota present Bach's Christmas Oratorio on **Friday, Dec. 3, at 7:30 pm**. Only a few tickets remain! All attendees must have proof of vaccination or a negative covid test. For more information or tickets, go to [www.vocalescence.org/event/concert-bachs-christmas-oratorio/](http://www.vocalescence.org/event/concert-bachs-christmas-oratorio/) or call 612-371-5656.

#### Join a ministry team!

Passionate about faith education, social events, justice work, or caring for the community? Join a ministry team! Participation can be virtual or in-person, depending on the team. Contact the team chairs listed on page 9 or a staff person to learn more. (FYI, the CYF team is looking for members right now!)



## Volunteer with Lyngblomsten!



Lyngblomsten, a senior services provider located in the Como Park neighborhood of St. Paul, is looking for volunteers to help make a difference in the lives of older adults! Founded more than a century ago, Lyngblomsten provides healthcare, housing, and community-based services to older adults and their families.

As a Lyngblomsten volunteer, you'll put your skills and interests to good use helping out with a variety of opportunities.

#### Some of the many volunteer opportunities you can choose from include:

- Assisting with group social activities
- Helping with resident mobility on campus
- Assisting residents with bingo, card games, and board games
- Helping run Anna's café & gift shop
- Assisting with arts activities and programs

#### Get Started Today!

Learn more and fill out an online application at  
[www.lyngblomsten.org/volunteer](http://www.lyngblomsten.org/volunteer)

#### For more information

Call (651) 632-5499  
Email [volunteer@lyngblomsten.org](mailto:volunteer@lyngblomsten.org)



*Influenced by Christ, Lyngblomsten provides a ministry of compassionate care and innovative services to older adults in order to preserve and enhance their quality of life.*

## COUNCIL UPDATE

### November 2021 meeting summary

In keeping with Minnesota's social distancing guidelines, the board conducted a hybrid meeting, offering both online and in person attendance. With Thanksgiving forthcoming, the opening devotional was a contemplation on gratitude. Who are you grateful for? What in this country are you grateful for? And what has God done in your life that you are grateful for?

Thanks to Gay Bartholic for presenting a deep dive into the work of the Stewardship Team. Though last year had its challenges, Immanuel's spirit of giving remains strong. The team's goal is a 5% increase in pledges this year. Many have increased their pledges by 5% or more. Thank you to all for your continued generosity, for sharing not only your resources but yourselves, to ILC and its work

The council also discussed the budget for 2022. 2021 had some skewed spending, due to COVID allowances. The council considered how spending over the last year met our congregational goals and how budget considerations going into next year would further the work ILC seeks to do in the world. Worship and music were a large portion of the overall budget, due to the work the church has done in getting the Stream Team up and running, increasing our online presence and giving us new ways to reach out to people around us.

Advent is near and ILC is looking forward to having more in-person activities to safely celebrate the joys of the season. Please keep an eye on the calendar and communications coming from the church to keep up with all ILC has to offer. The meeting was adjourned and closed with a prayer.

If you have any questions, please contact Deb Ahlquist, Council President, or any Church Council member. The Council meets monthly, usually on the third Tuesday, in a hybrid format of in-person and Zoom. Meetings are open to the public, and all are welcome. If you would like to attend, please contact any Church Council member.

Church Council/Team Chairs		
<b>Deb Ahlquist</b> , Council President	<b>Ross Robey</b> , Financial Secretary	<b>David Alstead</b> , Worship & Music
<b>Paul Mattessich</b> , Past President	<b>David Alstead</b> , Asst. Financial Secretary	<b>Gay Bartholic</b> , Stewardship
<b>Jeff Schmidt</b> , Vice President	<b>Nick Consoer</b> , Member at Large	<b>Mary Gwen Thompson</b> , Children, Youth & Family
<b>Martha Hansen</b> , Secretary	<b>Sue Klevan</b> , Member at Large	<b>Harvey Jaeger</b> , Property
<b>Mark Thompson</b> , Treasurer	<b>John Toso</b> , Member at Large	<b>David Hansen</b> , Membership
<b>Jackie Hippen</b> , Asst. Treasurer	<b>Lee Bjerke</b> , Finance	<b>Christine Danielson</b> , Social Action

Immanuel Staff		
<b>Cindy Bullock</b> Pastor cbullock@ilcsp.org	<b>Chris Cherwien</b> Worship & Music ccherwien@ilcsp.org	<b>Deanna Hesse</b> Church Administrator dhesse@ilcsp.org
<b>Emily King</b> Children & Family Ministry eking@ilcsp.org	<b>Michelle Stillwell</b> Youth & Family Ministry mstillwell@ilcsp.org	<b>Peter Aldrich</b> Organist paldrich@ilcsp.org