

# IMMANUELITE

December 2018

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FROM THE



PASTOR

Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. – Genesis 12:17

From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built on altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. – Genesis 12:18

Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning between Bethel and Ai, to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the Lord. –Genesis 13:2-4

The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you." So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the Lord. –Genesis 13:14-18

From there [Isaac] went up to Beersheba. And the

Lord appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your offspring for My servant Abraham's sake." So he built an altar there and called upon the name of the Lord and pitched his tent there. And there Isaac's servants dug a well. –Genesis 22:6-25

God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there. Make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau." So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you and purify yourselves and change your garments. Then let us arise and go up to Bethel, so that I may make there an altar to the God who answers me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone." So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods that they had, and the rings that were in their ears. Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree that was near Shechem. And as they journeyed, a terror from God fell upon the cities that were around them, so that they did not pursue the sons of Jacob. And Jacob came to Luz (that is Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him, and there he built an altar and called the place El-Bethel, because there God had revealed Himself to him when he fled from his brother. –Genesis 35:1-7

These are most of the accounts of the altars that the patriarchs built in the time they sojourned in the Promised Land. It seems that most of the altars were built voluntarily. Only the altar in Genesis 35:1-7 was commanded by God. If it were not for the account of the sacrifice of Isaac in Genesis 22 we would have no knowledge that the patriarchs ever sacrificed animals on these altars. They seem to serve primarily as monuments to where God appeared to them and in some cases revealed His promises to them. Or the altars serve as places where the patriarchs and their families called on the Lord.

Since most of these altars were built voluntarily and only the one in Genesis 35 was commanded it is also appropriate for God's people to build altars today. God has not commanded the construction of altars in the New Testament. He does, however, appear to us and make promises to us.

Consider the following passage: Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." -Matthew 26:26-28

This is Matthew's account of the institution of the Sacrament of the Altar. Since our Lord's words are true by definition He therefore appears to us in the Sacrament of the Altar under the forms of bread and wine. When He appears to us He makes us the promise of the forgiveness of sins. Therefore in keeping with the practice of the patriarchs, our congregation has built an altar for the purpose of celebrating the Sacrament of the Altar. It marks the place where our God appears to us and makes us His promises.

In the Church in the days after Pentecost "they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42). This means that prayer has always been a part of the assembly of believers in Jesus when they gather together for worship. Therefore in keeping with patriarchal practice our altar at Immanuel also serves to mark the location where our congregation gathers to calls on the Lord.

The altar is therefore holy.

Because of Jesus,  
Pastor



G.R.O.W., a Christian ecumenical men's group in the Newman/Broadlands area, will meet Sunday,

December 2<sup>nd</sup> at Immanuel. All interested Christian men in the area are invited to attend the meeting, which begins with breakfast at 7:00am and includes a devotion and a spiritually uplifting topic or speaker each month. There is no charge for the meeting, although opportunity is given for a free-will offering, which is used in various ways to serve others in the community and beyond.



Those celebrating the anniversary of their Baptism into God's Holy Family during the month of December include:

- 1- Jason Renfrow  
Megan Osborne  
Robert Benschneider
- 2- Jed Gerdes  
Heather Luth
- 3- Craig Messman
- 4- Vicki Clem  
JoAnne Stahl  
Collin Rohl
- 5- Ella Gerdes
- 6- Gabriel Goetting
- 7- Wayne Long
- 10- Christina Roberts
- 11- Larry Negangard  
Colson Herriott
- 14- LeAnn Brenner  
Colby Luth
- 15- Katie Rutledge  
Leslie Rutledge  
Brian Rutledge
- 16- Bernida Baker
- 17- Norman Miller
- 18- Angela Henderson  
Orthalyne Taylor  
Lyndsay Rardin
- 19- Stacy Luth  
Sofie Schwink
- 20- Scott Sanstrom  
Laurie Umbarger
- 21- Jessica Wright  
Taylor Paris
- 22- Kevin Peregrine
- 23- Keith Rohl
- 24- Tyson Struck  
Adria Struck

25- Annette Gerdes  
 27- Kari Struck  
 29- Christina Mohr  
 30- Archie Boyd  
 Frederick O. Schwink

Kerry Wienke- phone number  
 Ann Wright  
 Steve Stone- phone number  
 Hillary Wienke- phone number  
 Lauren Rardin- phone number  
 Tracy Cokley- phone number  
 Joselyn Howell  
 Todd & Jennifer Buchanon  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Budde  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dave Kelly  
 Steve Messman- phone number  
 Mr. & Mrs. Brian O'Donnell  
 Austin Payne- phone number  
 Mary Payne- phone number  
 Beth Peregrine- phone number  
 Rebecca Rahe  
 Ryan Rahe  
 Kathy Richter



Remember to save those printer cartridges. Turn them in at the office. We will recycle them and use the money to offset office expenses. The recycle company is now accepting old cell phones also. If you want to discard them, you may drop them at the office also. Thanks and happy recycling. Go Green!



The Knitting Group will meet Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 1:30pm. Please join us and help make blankets.



The following address changes are for the regular directory or the picture directory, so please make changes as needed:

Glenn & Shirley Rothermel  
 4114 W. Springfield Ave. #304  
 Champaign, IL 61822

We need the address for the following. If you know how to reach them, please let the office know.

Kent Beck- phone number  
 JoAnn Stahl- phone number  
 Roy Wakefield- phone number



We have a collection box to help the schools by collecting Betty Crocker Boxtops and Campbell Soup labels. We will take our collection at the end of the school year and divide them among the schools that our students attend. This helps the schools purchase items that help the students. The collection box is on the red board in the hallway.





Dear Family and Friends,  
December 2-8 is Influenza Vaccination Week.

Influenza, or flu, is a serious respiratory illness that is easily spread from person to person. We are all at risk for getting and spreading the flu. If you have asthma or other lung diseases, you are at a higher risk of developing complications from the flu. Health officials recommend that everyone 6 months of age and older receive an influenza vaccination each and every year. We encourage you to speak with your healthcare provider to learn more about influenza and annual vaccination. Influenza (flu), also referred to as seasonal flu, is a highly contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. Anyone can get the flu as it is spread easily from person to person, usually when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It can also be acquired from surfaces touched or otherwise contaminated by an infected person (e.g., table tops, door knobs, pens, etc.).

The best way to prevent influenza is to get a flu vaccine every year. The influenza virus is constantly changing. Each year, scientists work together to identify the virus strains that they believe will cause the most illness, and a new vaccine is made based on their recommendations.

- It is recommended that everyone over the age of 6 months receive the yearly influenza vaccine.
- Children between 6 months and 8 years of age may need two doses of flu vaccine to be fully protected from flu. Discuss this with your child's healthcare provider.
- Children younger than 6 months of age are at higher risk of serious flu complications but are too young to get a flu vaccine. Because of this, safeguarding them from flu is especially important. If you live with or care for an infant younger than 6 months of age, you and others in your family should get vaccinated to help protect them from the flu.
- A high potency flu vaccine is available for those over 65. Discuss this with your healthcare provider.

- The best time to get the flu vaccine is soon after it becomes available in the fall of each year.

#### Practice Good Health Habits

- Wash your hands often. The most common way to catch the flu is to touch your own eyes, nose or mouth with germy hands. So keep your hands clean, and away from your face. Wash hands with soap and warm water for 30 seconds, or about the amount of time it takes you to sing "Happy Birthday" twice. Also carry hand sanitizer.
- Keep your distance when you are sick or if you are around someone else who is sick.
- Keep it to yourself. One gift you can give others is to help prevent other people from catching your flu. You should stay home from work, school and public places when you are sick (Keep in mind you can still spread germs up to 7 days after getting sick). Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow when coughing or sneezing, but never your hand. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.

Remember, getting an influenza vaccine is the best way to protect yourself from the flu. The shot only takes about two weeks to take effect so it can be effective even if the season has started in your area, and as late in the year as March.

If you are interested in getting the flu vaccine, please call your primary care physician, or local health department.

Your Parish Nurse,  
Jody Farmer and Tiffany Paul

Blood Pressure Screenings will be available  
December 9, and 23.





# Special Offering

...On Sunday, December 2nd we will have fourth and final special offering for the "Car Fund". Please use the "Car Fund" envelope in the bulletin. Put "Car Fund" in the memo line with your number.

...On Tuesday, December 24th is the plate offering for "Lead a Child". Please use the "Love" envelope in the pew rack. Put "Lead a Child" in the memo line with your number.



The following persons will make up the nominating committee for the 2019 Church officers:

- Paul Compton
- Brian Taylor
- Paul Freebairn
- Pastor Sharp- advisory member

# Christmas Worship SCHEDULE

...Tuesday, December 24th we will have the Children's Program at 6:00pm.

...Tuesday December 24th we will have our Candlelight Service at 11:00pm

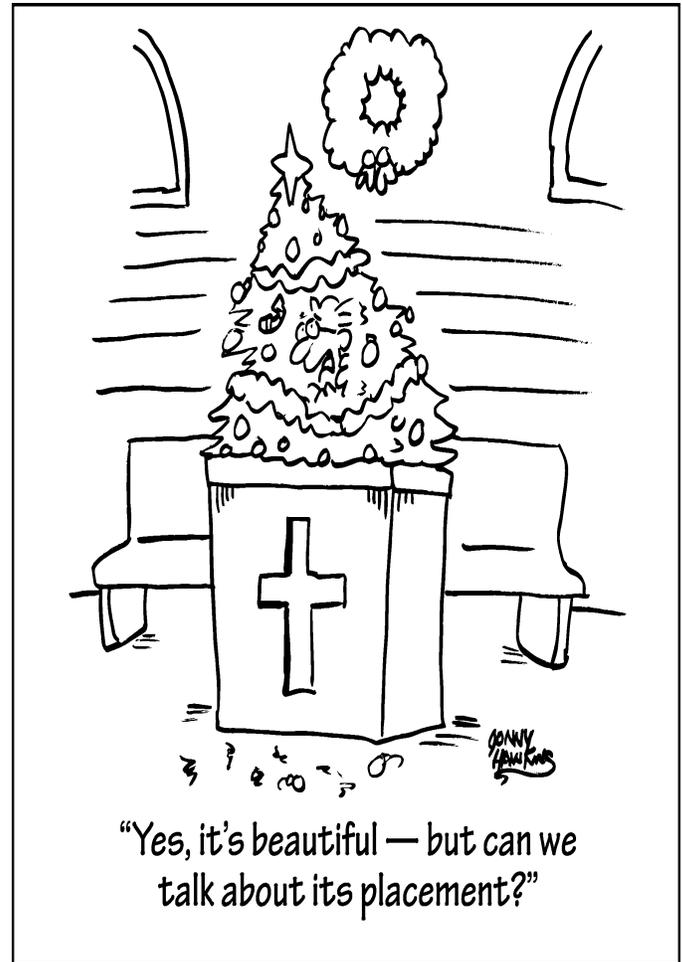
...Wednesday December 25th we will hold our Christmas morning service at 10:00am

Mark your calendars and join us for 1 or all.



# BAPTISM SERVICE

On Monday, November 12th, William Boyer IV was baptized in a private service. William was born August 20, 2001 in Champaign. Parents are William (Rob) III and Kate Vetter Boyer. We welcome William to Immanuel.



"Yes, it's beautiful — but can we talk about its placement?"