

# Immanuel Messenger

*“God With Us”*

November 2022 – Volume 22 Issue 6

## *“Thanks a Lot”*

*By Pastor Patrick Curley*

You’ve had this happen. Someone was supposed to take care of something but didn’t. Maybe they just forgot or maybe it wasn’t that important for the person, so they thought they’d get around to it later. And then when the non-favor was discovered, the tart retort came-- *“thanks a lot!”*. In other words, thanks for nothing. Can you be thankful for nothing? Especially, a lot of non-thanksgiving? We do it all the time.

It isn’t only that people let people down, some think that God does also. It usually happens when a prayer doesn’t yield the expected outcome. *“I prayed, Lord, but you didn’t give me what I asked for. Thanks a lot.”* I’ve been told more than once or twice that this was the reason someone stopped going to church or even believing. In essence they were saying that God didn’t do anything for them. Really?

Did they not consider the hands that God gave them that were clasped together in prayer? The hands they use in a thousand ways every day to carry out the day’s business. Or the eyes that were closed so as not to be distracted by the worries all around? Yet, those very eyes behold the glory of God’s creation all around, too, if they would but notice. Did they not consider the head that was bowed in hallowed position because they came before the Lord Almighty? But this very head holds the mind that could articulate thought and give voice to prayerful petition, the mind that knows it exists and that there is more to life than just meets the eye. How about the warm bed that they knelt next to placed within the home God gave them for shelter from the cold? Was there no food in the refrigerator that they had gone without supper or would not wake to breakfast? Not likely. *“Thanks a lot, Lord?”* A lot, a lot!

That which we have to thank our gracious Lord for before uttering a single petition of request would fill our hours each and every day. For besides all the temporal blessings we have noted, let us here include Jesus by whom we can approach the throne of grace at all and not be afraid. We call out to God, *“Father”*, as beloved children because of our Savior who has reconciled us to God by His cross. *“Thank you, Jesus!”* Maybe if we spent more time mindful in our prayers of God’s goodness already to us instead of using prayer only in times of crisis, we’d be more thankful? Spend as much time in prayer saying *“Thanks”* and *“Wow”* as you do saying *“Help!”* Your prayer life will take on a new and welcomed splendor if you do.

This is why prayer is elemental to Christian worship. Yes, we ask God for help but more often we are praising His name for His goodness to us in Christ and in so many other ways, too. We have a lot to thank Him for. The Gospel isn't nothing. It is God's love for us. He loves us a lot. How much? Well, consider Jesus again. "How much do you love us Jesus?" "This much", He says as His arms spread wide being nailed to the cross for our sins.

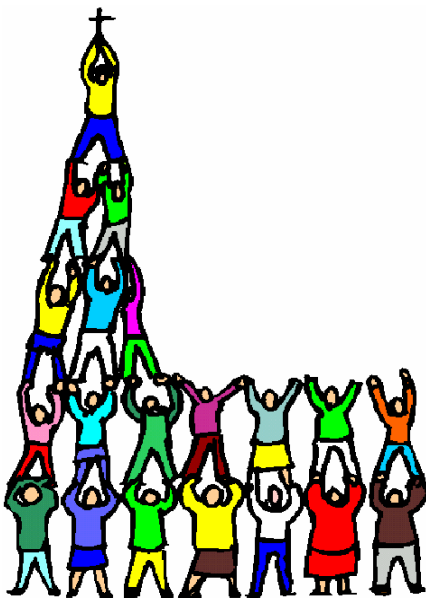
Yes, "thanks a lot, Lord." But not for nothing... for everything. "O give thanks to the Lord for He is good and His mercy endures forever!" Amen.

### Change to 10 AM or Leave It at 9 AM?

Things to consider: those asking are both young and older, live near and far. Some younger ones have said Sunday is their one day to sleep in after a busy work week, but some older ones have also said it is difficult getting ready for 9 AM service. Changing times would probably affect our Sunday Bible Study. But we have a Wednesday class already at 11 AM and could add a monthly Saturday morning class that might have more regular participation than Sundays after church and Linger Longer. Less activity may encourage more participation. What would Linger Longer look like being so close to the lunch hour? Maybe it could evolve some weeks into a fellowship meal for members and visitors alike? In the meantime, we will see you on Sundays at 9 AM!

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Vice Chairman: John Gilkinson  
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Publicity: Randy Fewins  
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### *Annual Congregational Voter's Meeting*

**Please join us on Sunday November 13, 2022, following the service. There are a few important decisions to be made. The two most pressing topics are the 2023 Budget and a vote on whether to change the Sunday morning worship time. Working together is an important part of fellowship. We hope to see you there!**

### Projects Completed or approved for 2022:

1. Roof Installation Scheduled for November on Fellowship Hall
2. Tree Removal at Front Entrance (Completed)
3. Plants Removed from Front Stained-Glass Window (Completed)
4. Front Entry Door Painted (Completed)
5. Air Condition Replaced w/ducts at Rear of Church (Completed)

## E-Waste Collection

Do you have an extra TV, Computer, Printer, or Monitor lying around your home that you would like to get rid of before the holidays? Please bring them to church November 13<sup>th</sup> and place them into a collection bin at no cost to you. Immanuel will receive money for your e-waste.

**Financial Report:** As of September 30, 2022, the General Fund had the following balances:

General Fund Checking	\$82,793.36
Dedicated Funds	<u>\$19,998.9</u>
Adjusted Balance	\$62,794.43

Total income for the month of September was \$12,310.82 and expenses of \$10,549.51.



### Kyle Lewis – Our Seminary Student

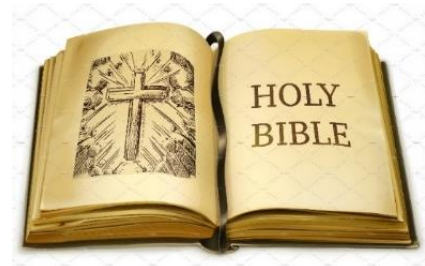
The seminarian fund has a balance of \$441.00 and we usually send him a gift at Christmas. Kyle and his wife have two little children. Let's collect enough to give them a special Christmas. It is important to support our seminarians as the Lutheran Church needs Pastors. We usually send another gift at Easter and Kyle graduates in May.

## Bible Study Classes

Sunday Mornings at 10:30 AM in November we are studying the book of **Ephesians**.

Starting November 23 (Thanksgiving Eve) we will transition the Wednesday morning (11:00 AM) Bible Study to the evening (7:00 PM) through Advent.

Sunday and Wednesday Bible study attendance could be stronger, but we have a steady group and, relative to Immanuel's current size, isn't too bad either. Being a church that is growing through the Word is also vital to any future growth otherwise. True growth is always fueled by the Holy Spirit who is better apt to guide those in tune with and motivated by Holy Scripture.



## Current Mission Project

We are encouraging our members to participate in this year's Operation Christmas Child put on by Samaritan's Purse. Please bring your filled shoebox anytime until November 13<sup>th</sup>. There are brochures and instructions in the Narthex. Our goal is 50 boxes! Let's exceed expectations!

### SHOEBOX GIFT IDEAS



**"WOW" ITEM**

- Soccer ball with pump
- Doll
- Stuffed animal
- Shoes



**TOYS**

- Toy cars
- Jump ropes
- Yo-yos
- Toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries)



**PERSONAL CARE ITEMS**

- Toothbrushes
- Washcloths
- Combs
- Hairbrushes



**SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

- Pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, and markers
- Notebooks and paper
- Coloring and picture books
- Solar calculators

**ACCESSORIES**

- Socks
- Sunglasses
- Jewelry and watches
- Flashlights (with extra batteries)

**DO NOT INCLUDE**  
candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; scary or war-related items; seeds; food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items or glass containers; aerosol cans

**MARK FOR BOY OR GIRL:**



GIRL



BOY

SHOEBOX LABEL

MARK THE CORRECT AGE CATEGORY:  
10-14 Years Old

5-9 Years Old

2-4 Years Old



223-FDF-FD9



**"Through your prayers**

and generosity, we're sending the Gospel to the ends of the earth! Be sure to make your shoebox gift unique and include a letter and photo—those personal touches can mean so much to a child."

—Franklin Graham,  
President, Samaritan's Purse

To Donate and Follow Your Box, **SCAN THE QR CODE** on the label **OR** enter the nine-digit code beneath it at [samaritanspurse.org/activate](http://samaritanspurse.org/activate).

**If you prefer, your donation can be mailed via the enclosed postage-paid envelope.**

*NOTE: You can still use this label even if you choose not to activate the tracking.*



**Samaritan's Purse®**  
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF

## Important Upcoming Dates for Your Calendar

November 13 (following service)	Annual Congregational Voters Meeting
November 23 – 7:00 PM	Thanksgiving Eve and Pie Social
November 30 – 7:00 PM	Advent Service
December 7 – 7:00 PM	Advent Service
December 10 – 5:00 PM	Christmas Tree Trimming and Soup Dinner
December 14 – 7:00 PM	Advent Service
December 24 – 7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
December 25 – 10:00 AM	Christmas Day Service
January 1 – 10:00 AM	Worship Service



## *An Inspiring Story For All*

Just up the road from my home is a field with two horses in it. From a distance, each looks like every other horse. But if you stop your car or are walking by, you will notice something quite amazing. Looking into the eyes of one horse will disclose that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down but has made a good home for him. This alone is amazing.

If nearby and listening, you will hear the sound of a bell. Looking around for the source of the sound, you will see that it comes from the smaller horse in the field. Attached to her halter is a small bell. It lets her blind friend know where she is, so he can follow her. As you stand and watch these two friends, you'll see how she is always checking on him, and that he will listen for her bell and then slowly walk to where she is, trusting that she will not lead him astray.

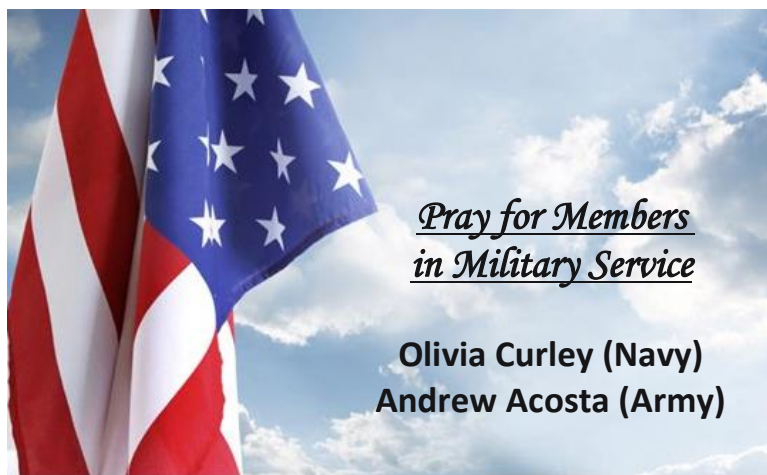
When she returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, she stops occasionally and looks back, making sure her friend isn't too far behind to hear the bell.

Like the owner of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems or challenges. God watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need.

Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by the little ringing bell of those whom God places in our lives. Other times, we are the guide horse, helping others see the way.

Good friends are like this. You don't always see them, but you know they are always there. Please listen for my bell, and I'll listen for yours.

~ Author Unknown



### October Birthdays:

- 01 Reggie Thibodeau
- 07 Sharon Fiel
- 10 Frieda Bartsch
- 17 Courtney Fry  
Gretchen Johnson
- 21 Colney SooHoo



### Anniversaries

- 07 Bob & Marls Wolff
- 19 Randy & Nancy Fewins
- 26 Becky & Tom Cholcher-Marino



## *Thanksgiving Eve Service and Social*

*November 23, 2022, at 7:00pm is our service. Immediately following please join us for fellowship and bring your favorite pie (or dessert) to share! Bring a friend or family member who may be with you for the holiday.*

### *An Opportunity to Serve*

It has been a custom of long standing at Immanuel that our members participate in the morning service. Please consider signing up for one of these important duties.

Sunday Lector: This person is responsible for going forward and reading the scriptures at the lectern.

Linger-Longer Host: Bring goodies to share after the service.

Altar Flowers: Honor someone or an occasion by donating \$45 to purchase the arrangements.

### *Sunday October 30 was Pastor Appreciation Sunday*

**Thank you!** I was deeply moved by the kind words, the cards, the gifts, the cake and cupcakes, the flowers-- each way you made me feel appreciated to be your Pastor last Sunday. Thank you, thank you! Lulu and I are both very grateful that God has brought us all together. May He bless our years together!

God bless, Pastor Curley

### *Shut-Ins*

Pastor Curley visits those on this list, but let's all remember them in our prayers. Maybe give them a call or drop them a card to let them know they have not been forgotten.

Pete Busso (Chino)

Pat Cook (Chino)

Richard and Sharon Fiel (Rancho Cucamonga)

Nyla Gibson (Ontario)

Gretchen Johnson (Butterfield Ranch)

Audrey Lensch (Rancho Cucamonga)

Dick and Nancy Manning (Fountain Valley)

Jane Pratt (Chino)

Tim and Carolyn Rennegarbe (Rancho Cucamonga)

Carol Gilkinson (San Dimas)

**A pastor** never gets to say "I'm off duty". Never gets to punch out at 5. Never gets to have a normal schedule. We don't know how many sleepless nights they spend on their knees praying for their church. How much opposition they face. How many family opportunities they miss to meet with hurting people. We can't carry their burden for them but we can do what the Bible tells us to: **Pray for them. Encourage them. Support them.** By blessing them we will only be blessed in return.