

Happy Birthday!

Dec. 4 John Pals
Dec. 19 Larry Pals
Dec. 27 Everett Joshua Stahl,
Nathan Stahl
Dec. 28 Brad Berneman
Dec. 29 Gary Steenblock
Dec. 30 Brenda Stahl

Happy Anniversary!

Dec. 3 Curt & Skip Dorenkamp
Dec. 7 Tate & Jenna Goeman
Dec. 30 Joel & Cindy Boelman

9:30 a.m. Morning Worship
(Playroom available downstairs)

10:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

10:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

Immanuel Reformed Church

Belmond, Iowa
(641) 444-4318

Elders:

Larry Pals Don Goeman Dennis Vanness

Deacons:

Tate Goeman Lawrence Basener Leigh Jass

www.immanuelreformedchurchbelmond.com
www.facebook.com/ImmanuelReformedChurch

*Need to place something in the bulletin? Please email it to
karen_halfpop@yahoo.com before 10 a.m. on Friday mornings.*





Welcome!

Immanuel Reformed Church

December 17, 2023

Prelude

*Opening Hymn 145: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Call to Worship

Prayer

Hymn 127: *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne, vs. 1, 4, 5*

Hymn 136: *The First Noel, vs. 1, 3, 6*

Advent Candle Lighting

Reader 1: When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed,

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit (Isaiah 61:1-3a).

Reader 2: We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

Congregation: We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Children's Message

*Hymn 141: *O Little Town of Bethlehem, vs. 1, 2, 3*

Morning Prayer

Scripture: 1 John 5:19

Message: Seeing What Is Invisible – Part 2

*Responsive Hymn 133: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Offering Prayer

Offertory

*Doxology

Church Happenings

*Benediction

*Closing Hymn 153: *Come On, Ring Those Bells*

* Please Stand

Announcements

- **David Brownfield** joins us again in the pulpit. Thank you for your service to our family, David!
- Our **Congregational Meeting is TODAY**, right after worship. Sunday school will not be held.
- **Next Sunday** is Christmas Eve! Our regular service will be held at 9:30 a.m., and plan to come back at 5 p.m. for the **Candlelight Service!**
- **"I appreciated the gift certificate** I received. Thank you, friends, for your thoughtfulness and kindness." **Donna**
- **"Thank you** to the 'friends' who surprised me with a gift card!" **Aimee**
- **"Thank you** for the gift card from the thoughtful Secret Santa. It is much appreciated." **Julie Berneman**
- **"We want to say thanks** to the person (people) who gave us the gift card. Your kindness is greatly appreciated." **Mary and Jerry"**

Prayers & Praise

- **Pray for those in our church family** with ongoing health issues, that they would find peace and healing.
- Pray for the **spiritual growth of our church families**, and our ability to reach out to those in our community who need the saving grace of Jesus.
- Prayers for the **Lord to be present** as Immanuel transitions to our new denomination, Alliance of Reformed Churches (ARC)
- **Guidance** for our all of our consistory members and search team members as we seek the next Pastor for Immanuel.

Serving Us Today

Greeters: Joel & Cindy Boelman
Clean Up: Joel & Cindy Boelman
Musician: Donna Buseman

December 24

Greeters: Dave & Joy Bonin
Clean Up: Dave & Joy Bonin
Musician: Donna Buseman