

Notes

- 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 24, 2023

Prelude

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

Call to Worship

Prayer

Hymn 131: *Angels, From the Realms of Glory*

Hymn 158: *Away in a Manger*

Advent Candle Lighting

Reader 1: When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God's plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'" (Luke 1:34) And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth,

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name (Luke 1:46-49).

Reader 2: We, like Mary, hear God's call to be part of making God's dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, "How can this be? I am only..." Yet, like Mary, the "onlys" that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God's love transforms us into bearers of good news.

Congregation: We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God's salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.

Children's Message

*Hymn 135: *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

Morning Prayer

Scripture: Luke 2:8 - 20

Message: Why the Shepherds?

*Responsive Hymn 125: *Joy to the World*

Offering Prayer

Offertory: *Mary Did You Know?* Emily Griffioen

*Doxology

Church Happenings

*Benediction

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

* Please Stand

Announcements

- **Leigh Jass** will lead us today. Thank you for serving, Leigh!
- Plan to come back this evening at 5 p.m. for our **Candlelight Service**.
- **"Thank you** so much for the gift certificate. Your thoughtfulness was appreciated!" **Dave & Joy Bonin**
- **Business items approved by vote** at the Annual Meeting are the 2024 Budget, the new Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, and replacing the concrete on the east side of the church, with that work beginning next spring.

Prayers & Praise

- **Please pray for Brandon Smith**, nephew of Judy Klink, who has had surgery for cancer, and will undergo several weeks of chemotherapy.
- **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.

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

Serving Us Today

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

December 31

Greeters: Crystal Braner
Clean Up: Volunteers
Musician: Donna Buseman