

Pastor's
Article



Bulldog
Believers
&
Dinner 4 Dawgs



Christmas Caroling
&
Christmas Eve
Service



Church
Activities

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Elida Immanuel
699 Sunnydale Avenue
Elida, Ohio 45807
Phone—419.331.2366

Pastor Connection

Dear Friends,

I am in the midst of taking a deep breath and sip of coffee as I reflect upon the events of these past couple of months. Between the fires in California, the recent political fires, the fires of hateful talk and actions in this country, and the fires of uncertainty about our future, I have sensed a certain amount of fear in our language as of late. Cultural experiences, combined with the unknown, can breed fear. The Bible is chock full of persons being warned by angels or others to not be afraid. A perfect example is part of our Christmas story which is found in Matthew 1:18-25. Jesus' earthly father, Joseph, was in a quandary. He learns that his fiancé is pregnant and he knows he isn't the father. In the culture of that day, Mary not only faced the possibility of public disgrace, but perhaps even death. Joseph's reputation was also at risk. He was afraid for Mary and he was afraid for himself. Joseph wanted to do the right thing and in the throes of uncertainty, he decides to quietly divorce Mary. "But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins'" (Matthew 1:20-21).

I love this "back story" to the account of the Savior's birth. At Christmas time, we seem to focus a lot on the actual birth. You know what I'm talking about. There are the angels, shepherds, cattle lowing, born in a stable Jesus. That's what we want to celebrate. That's what we want to remember most. And that's okay. I'm not trying to discard the blessed event. However, there is so much more to tell. There was so much fear and uncertainty that seemed to drive a lot of the story. Joseph was afraid. Mary was afraid when she found out she was going to bear a child. They were both afraid of not paying their taxes, which is why they were traveling in the first place and ended up in a stable. The shepherds were afraid. It seemed that fear was a cultural norm for that time.

Fear should not remain a cultural norm today because we have the peace of Christ to lean on. Friends, uncertainty is going to be with us until we see Jesus face to face. The issues that dominate today's culture will try to influence our behavior and decisions, just as it has for thousands of years. Yet, we have the peace of Christ in our hearts. This is what allows us to extinguish the fires that pop up in our everyday life. We don't have to be driven by what the world says is right or wrong, or by the atmosphere of hate and judgment, or by the political climate. We have the peace of Christ which will supply us with the strength and stamina to overcome anything that comes our way.

Continued on the Activity Page

Connecting Families to Christ

Immanuel Connection



Staff:

Pastor:
Bruce Tumblin..... bktumblin@gmail.com

Ad. Asst./Treasurer:
Cathy Mouser..... immanuel@bright.net

Financial Secretary:
Jola Vandemark..... immanuel@bright.net

Kidz Konnect Coordinator:
Marisha Simmons..... immanuel@bright.net

Worship Coordinator:
Angie Nartker..... immanuel@bright.net

Accompanist:
Karen Myers..... immanuel@bright.net

Custodian:
Doug Vandemark..... immanuel@bright.net



Sunday Schedule

8:30 A.M. Traditional Service
9:30 A.M. Connection Time
10:45 A.M. Contemporary Service

Sunday —Connection Zone—

Children & Youth Classes

Birth—35 Months..... Kidz Konnect Nursery
3 Years—Kindergarten..... Kidz Konnect Pre-School
1st – 6th Grade..... Kidz Konnect Room
7th—12th Grade..... Youth Connect Room

Adult Classes

Young Adult Class Adult Connect Room
Pathfinders Class Adult Connect Room
Friendship Class..... Fellowship Hall
Win-A-Person Class Fellowship Hall

November Giving

2018 Monthly Budget Amount \$22,935.00
Amount Received \$26,711.00
10% deducted for Missions \$ 2,671.10
Total..... \$24,039.90

Designated Giving: \$ 372.47
(Kidz Konnect, Heifer Project, Missions, Flowers,
Memorials, Special Events, etc.)



Kids Konnect



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Lily Harvey	6th
Marc Troyer	7th
Hadley Overholt	14th
Reagan and Leona Swickrath	22nd
Collin Watson	29th



The Kidz Konnect kids will be going Christmas Caroling & Bowling on Sunday, December 2nd. We will meet at the church at 2:45 and will leave the church by 3:00 P.M.

Bulldog Believers
will meet
Wednesday,
December 19th
3:00—4:30 P.M.



Family Faith Idea

To keep your family's focus on Jesus this Christmas play "find Jesus". Set up your family's nativity scene and on December 1st begin each day by hiding the baby Jesus and do this until Christmas Day. Start by hiding him far away and each day hide him closer. Have the children find him each day. Then, on Christmas day place him back in the manger. Use this game to help keep Jesus in the forefront of your family's minds this Christmas season. Be sure to make time to read the Christmas story from the Bible as a family — Luke chapter 2.



Operation Christmas Child

The Kidz Konnect kids had a great time packing a few boxes for Operation Christmas Child in class this November. A few of our older Kidz Konnect kids helped deliver the 80 boxes collected from the church to the drop off site at TV 44. They were also able to help pack the boxes that had been dropped off at TV 44 in packing crates and load them into the semi's that will take them down to the processing center in North Carolina. The kids had a fun time being a part of this wonderful project and being "missionaries" here in our home town. We hope next year everyone will consider packing a box and we will have even more boxes to drop off!



Compassion Connection

Cards of Encouragement

Mrs. Mary Lyman
5077 Marciel St., Elida, OH 45807

Mr. Tom Miller
8960 Zion Church Rd., Elida, OH 45807

Mrs. Mary Early
3426 Cremean Rd., Elida, OH 45807



Candlelight Service

Elida Immanuel will have one service @ 9:00 P.M. In keeping with tradition, the Missions Committee has decided that this year's Christmas Eve Advent Offering will be given to Our Daily Bread

Advent Offering Envelopes are available at the Connection Center

Thinking of You!

Mrs. Doris Leimbach
9649 Taylor Ct.
Pickerington, OH 43147

Mrs. & Mrs. Gail Burget
1023 Gilliland Ave.
Delphos, OH 45833

Mr. & Mrs. Dave Smith
3878 Sky Hawk St.
Lima, OH 45801

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Hooks
801 Cornell Dr.
Lima, OH 45805

Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Riffle
3501 Diller Rd.
Elida, OH 45807

Ms. Chris Gibbs
3090 N. Kemp Rd.
Elida, OH 45807

Mrs. Helen Szuch
% Liberty Retirement
Community of Lima
2440 Baton Rouge
Lima, OH 45805

Mrs. Shirley Martin
3175 Cremean Rd.
Elida, OH 45807

Mr. & Mrs. Nolan Sherrick
7770 Elida Rd.
Delphos, OH 45833

Mrs. Mary Myers
328 Baxter St.
Elida, OH 45807

Mrs. Lois Smith
1070 Gloria Dr. #139
Lima, OH 45805

Mrs. Jean Ann Palmer
1425 E. Fifth St.
Delphos, OH 45833

Mrs. Donna McPherson
604 Sunnydale Ave.
Elida, OH 45807



Hospitalizations

When you are in the hospital or having surgery, please have someone (yourself, a friend or family member) call the church office @ 419-331-2366. If no one is available, leave a message. Messages are checked regularly Monday-Thursday during business hours. Over the weekend, in case of an emergency (life threatening illness or death) please call the parsonage @ 567-712-6765. (NOTE: this is a land line—will not accept text messages)

When you check in at the hospital and they ask you for "your religion", please inform them you go to Elida Immanuel Church. (And even then, we sometimes do not get contacted by the hospital) *If you simply say that you are protestant or United Methodist, they do not contact the church. It is our job as a church to support you in times of sickness, and your communication is an important part of the equation. Thank you for your help.*

Active Connection



DINNER 4 DAWGS

November was a quiet month for D4D as we were between school sports seasons. We did have the opportunity to serve the school play cast on dress rehearsal night! This meal was taken to the high school, and the students are in between having their make-up and hair done. It was a great time of serving in the name of Jesus!!

On December 7th, we will again take a meal into the school as we will honor the Grit 9 Design class. They have done such a great job on Immanuel's website; we just had to show them some appreciation, too! On December 18th, we will serve the girls' basketball team at the church. Looking into January, we will serve the swim team on the 7th. We have several more teams to coordinate so stay tuned by watching the bulletin and Connection Card for ways you, too, can join in the fun!!

Thank you for your continued prayers and as always please include all the students, faculty and staff in your talks with God.

Becky Bollinger, Coordinator

To Elida Immanuel,

On behalf of the athletes and the Elida Athletic Department, we want to thank you for organizing a meal for each of our teams. The support that you give to our district as a whole and to the athletes is greatly appreciated. You are a huge blessing to Elida.

Sincerely,

The Elida Athletic Department

Young Adult Connection Class to begin new study:

(Well actually some of us are a "little older," so feel free to join us.) For four weeks, beginning December 2nd through December 23rd we will explore Jesus Among Other Gods. Join us at 9:30 as Cheryl Troyer facilitates this video-based study and discussion time.

"Jesus Among Other Gods." In a world with so many religions, why Jesus? In his most important work to date, Ravi Zacharias shows how the blueprint for life and death itself is found in a true understanding of Jesus. With a simple, yet penetrating style, Ravi uses rich illustrations to celebrate the power of Jesus Christ to transform lives. With four 15-24-minute powerful segments and dramatic footage shot in 14 different countries, Jesus Among Other Gods contrasts the truth of Jesus with founders of Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, strengthening believers and compelling them to share their faith with our postmodern world.



A Big THANK YOU to everyone who helped support this year's Operation Christmas Child Mission project. We as a church donated 80 shoeboxes to brighten Christmas and disciple children all around the world. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus Christ with those less fortunate.

Cherie Moser, Coordinator



Communion Sunday



December 2

HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

2018 Giving: January – November \$501.00
Monthly Mission donation for Dec.: **BREAKFAST CEREALS**

Thank you for being faithful to this Mission Ministry through your "quarter" giving on Communion Sunday! Quarter poles are located at each Sanctuary door.

Please remember to bring at least 1 item per family to worship EACH month in support of the Allentown food Pantry. Your donations make a difference for families and individuals who visit the Allentown food Pantry.

Active Connection



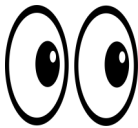
Our next M & M Luncheon will be Thursday, December 27th @ Noon. The menu will be lasagna, lettuce wedge, dinner roll, angel food cake w/ pineapple and pecans and drink.

Following our luncheon, we will play "Gift Giving" Bingo.

You won't want to miss this! Plan to join us and invite a friend!

Tom and Sally Murphy, Coordinators

Attention



Elida Immanuel Youth!

Pastor Bruce will hold a series of confirmation classes beginning in February 2019. Confirmation is when a person reaffirms their baptismal vows which were made on their behalf when they were baptized as a baby, or if you have not been baptized, then this is the perfect time to take that step of faith. It is a time when you publicly declare your faith in God and His grace, His Son Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, and acknowledge the work of the Holy Spirit in your life. It is also an opportunity for the congregation to confirm its commitment to you for your own spiritual development. I am extending this invitation to all of Elida Immanuel's young people who are ages twelve to eighteen and who have not gone through confirmation. This is a decision that I hope you will pray about and discuss with your family. There will be an organizational meeting on Sunday, January 13th, immediately following the 10:45 A.M. service. A light lunch will be served. I encourage all who wish to be a part of the confirmation class and their parent(s)/guardian, to attend. *Please let the church office know by January 7th if you will be attending.*



OUR DAILY BREAD

"Sock Drive"

November 18 – December 23

OUR GOAL is 1,400+

Old man winter is just around the corner and Our Daily Bread "Sock Drive" is under way! We are looking to deliver 1400+ pairs of socks, **men, women and children**, to Our Daily Bread! Won't you be a part of this great ministry and help us reach this goal?

Francis Early, Jr., Coordinator

The Immanuel Library

The adult library is the room east of the "front double doors" of the church!

Judy Long, Coordinator

Jacob's Bell

by John Snyder



Jacob was a successful business-man with a wonderful family--until alcohol took it way. He'd been a homeless widower for 20 years when the Salvation Army helped him transform his life. Now working as a bell ringer, he's befriended by a young girl who--through a series of coincidences--leads him back to his children. Will they forgive him?

Continued from Pastor's article

A perfect, innocent child, born in the humblest of circumstances, has given us the hope that wasn't available before. We have the joy of this Gospel message ingrained in our soul. And we have the grace of God which transcends all understanding to guide us. Friends, we are blessed beyond measure. My prayer is that you will embrace this season, push uncertainty and fear aside, and allow Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior, and to be your peace.

In Christ service,

Pastor Bruce



WOW

Wow, where did this year go? It is hard to believe that in a few days we will be celebrating Christmas. With every Christmas song and TV show we see about Christmas, we take a step back and remember those Christmases of years past. We all long for those days of our children to be little, to still have our parents and grandparents around the table. What's amazing is that most of our children have children, and we are the parents and grandparents around the table. This journey we call life continues to keep moving, and at every turn there is something called change. This is created by the outcome of a life event. Some changes are bitter, some are welcomed and some, the jury is still out on. But one thing is for sure, change will take place, and how we embrace the change will also affect our outlook on life and our day to day relationship with those people we come in contact with. If we think back to the first Christmas and the changes that would follow by the choices each person made, it started with Joseph and the choice he made when he found that Mary was with child. Then there were the Magi; what if they would have found the birth place of Jesus and reported this back to King Herod, or if the shepherds would have remained in the fields? I'm sure there were many others who had experiences of life choices at that first Christmas season that we do not see recorded, yet their lives would never be the same. In Mathew 28, it

is written; ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." You are now saying to yourself, what does this have to do with the Christmas season? You see it is still about change, and it is still about how we are affected with life events, and how we react to them. At the end of the day we will look back and say did I make a difference? As we prepare for 2019, let us become the light of Christ to the Elida community and the Lima area. Let us start with a smile and an outstretched hand to those around us. Let us become contagious for Christ and embrace his change. Let 2019 be the year that we look back and say, this was the year we drew a line in the sand and made a difference.

Mike Mouser
Trustees Co-Chairperson



2018 GENEROSITY

ESTIMATE OF GIVING FOR THE 2019 BUDGET

\$ 283,892.00

Thank you for your faithfulness to Elida Immanuel on Generosity Sunday!

Any 2018 Estimate of Giving (catch-up) to be credited for the 2018 tax year needs to be to the church office by Sunday, December 30th.