

DECEMBER Newsletter

Happy New Year! Christ the King Sunday and the 1st Sunday of Advent (November 24th and December 1st this year) mark the divide between church years. We have now entered Church Year C, which focuses on the Gospel of Luke.

Church Year C starts the same way Church Year B finishes, with apocalyptic, or end times, texts. We had Revelation 21:1-6 (November 3rd), Daniel 12:1-13 and Mark 13:1-8 (November 17th), Daniel 7:9-14 and Revelation 1:4-8 (November 24th) at the end of B, and Luke 21:25-36 (December 1st) to begin year C. Go ahead and look them up. Don't be afraid to crack that Bible open. Reading it will change your life! Setting it on your coffee table, not so much.

These cryptic tales of the "end of time" have led to immense speculation over the years: When will Christ return? What will that return look like? How will we know when that will take place?

But all that contemplation has led to tall tales, supposedly based on scripture, especially the book of Revelation. Most

of those "meditations on scripture" absolutely distort the message found there. Revelation, like all apocalyptic literature, is a call to remain faithful, even in the face of the trials and tribulations that life throws our way. The famous Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse from the opening of the seven seals in Revelation 6 are one example. The first, the rider of the white horse, represents the conquest of pestilence or disease. The second, the rider of the red horse, represents war. The third, the rider of the black horse, represents famine. The fourth, the rider of the pale green horse, represents death. Most interpretations today take them as precursors, clear signs of Christ's imminent return. If you believe this to be true, the question I have for you is: have we ever had a time without disease, war, famine or death? No! So why



Pastor John Andrews
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218-456-2144

HLC Office Manager:

hlp@rrv.net

ILC Office Manager:

Diann Prussia
immanuel1@loretel.net

Pastor's story continued on next page...

Prayer List

Lorie Arneson (Vonnie Jacobson's sister)
Ron Berry (Karen Smart's brother)
Elaine Borgen (Brian Borgen's mother)
Jonathan Grothe
Terry Guttormson
Westin Hage (son of Dustin and Tasha Hage)
Katie Halvorson
Marlene Hetland
Tom Hinkley (son of Janice Hinkley)
Cole Kaiser (son of Melanie Nelson's niece)
Allison Lindgren (sister of Darin Johnson)
Paul Martinson
Pastor Myron Nysether
Regan Okroi
Harlan Rise
Helen Rognlie
Tom Socha

Becky Todd
Diane (Penny) Todd
Jacquelyn Todd
Marijo Vik
Netta Wenshau

Military Service of:

Colton Armstrong
Steele Armstrong
Dustin Beliles
Riley Culp
Stefan Horn
Stephen McCraven
Carlos Medina
Isaac Spaeth
Gabriel Mertz
Tucker Hansen

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 1st

9:00 "Hanging of the Greens" Augustana

9:00 "Hanging of the Greens" Immanuel, Hendrum

11:30am-1:30pm HLC Men's Potato Dumping Dinner and Silent Auction

Saturday, December 14th

9:00-10:00am 25¢ Store at Immanuel for kids

10:00-11:00am 25¢ Store at Immanuel for others

Sunday, December 15th

5:30pm "Christmas in the Barn" at Karen Brommenschenkel's farm

Wednesday, December 18th

5-7pm HLC Freewill Community Dinner hosted by Evie Holte & Layne Leiser - Kid's Club from 5:30-6:30

Tuesday, December 24th

4:00 Candlelight Christmas Eve worship at Halstad

5:30 Candlelight Christmas Eve worship at Immanuel

hasn't Christ already returned? I believe it's because we've been given a commission and we haven't yet finished our job. Jesus will return when everyone has at least had a chance to come to faith. That will require us to share our faith with everyone God puts in our lives.

Instead those who write book after book and movie after movie about the end times continue to pound the drums of war, even though these texts have never been a call to armed conflict. They've never been a demand that we destroy our fellow humans or that we tear down a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem before Christ will return. They don't require the destruction of nation after nation in order to prove our faithfulness. We do that by trusting the living Word of God when he says even he doesn't know the hour or the day of his return, and that it doesn't matter because our role hasn't changed. God wants all to be saved and we are supposed to be facilitating people coming to faith in a God who loves them, not scaring them with fabrications of combat, confrontation, struggle and strife.

How can I say that? Because of this passage that immediately precedes the defeat of the Beast and its armies: John's prophecy of the conquering Lamb from **Revelation 19:11-16 The Rider on the White Horse**.

¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse! Its rider is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems; and he has a name inscribed that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, wearing fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron; he will tread the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his

robe and on his thigh he has a name inscribed, "King of kings and Lord of lords."

Although he has an inscribed name that only he knows, the rider of the white horse is obviously Jesus, wearing the name "The Word of God." His not so secret title is revealed in :16; "King of kings and Lord of lords," which is inscribed on his thigh, where a sword would normally hang. This Lord and King wields a different kind of power. Before he even enters the fray, his robe is already bloody from his past victory, when he conquered death through his faithful suffering and sacrifice for us. He leads the armies of heaven, also riding white horses, but instead of battle dress, they were linen robes, washed white in the blood of the Lamb. Called and chosen by Christ, they are dressed in uniforms they earned by conquering evil through being faithful and by resisting idolatry and greed.

In the great cataclysmic battle of Revelation 19, what do the heavenly armies do? Nothing! Like the gift of our salvation, all the action belongs to Jesus Christ. "In righteousness **he** judges...from **his** mouth comes a sharp sword...**he** will rule them...**he** will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God."

John's Revelation doesn't show the Christian community taking up arms against the nations of the world. Jesus is the agent of God's victory and the only weapon mentioned, or needed, is the Word of God. That is the weapon we are also called to brandish. But you need to know it in order to be able to utilize it.

So this New Year try again to read the Bible in a year, although if it takes you three years, you will still be ahead of 99% of the population. This New Year pledge to make it to church every Sunday possible and I will pledge to keep preaching on the Word of God. Every sermon I've given has been biblically based. Unless you're a seminary professor, I guarantee you'll learn something new each week. Even if you are a seminary professor, you might be surprised to learn new things, because I focus on the whole Bible, while they specialize. I believe the Psalms have much to teach us and you can't understand the New Testament until you understand the Old Testament, because the New Covenant is just a continuation of the Old Covenant (Testament comes from the Latin for Covenant).

And finally if you would like to start a Bible study, I would be delighted to facilitate in any way I can. If I'm leading a study, however, the problem for me is people look to me for the answers and discussion becomes a one-way street. If I'm only listening to myself talk, I never learn anything new. We all have different perspectives and experiences that can inform our interpretation of the text. I may need to hear what you have to say in order to better understand what God is trying to communicate to me, and vice versa. Hopefully we can inform each other. Happy New Year!

Pastor John



SUNDAY
DECEMBER 15TH
5:30 PM

NEW LOCATION

KAREN BROMMENSCHENKEL FARM
1473 MN Hwy 200
HENDRUM MN 56550



December 2024

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>9am ALC with Communion 10:30am ILC Worship 11:15am ILC Coffee & Fellowship</p>	<p>9:30am ILC Quilting 12:30pm ALC/ HLC Quilters</p>	<p>6-7pm BFS Bible Study at HLC</p>	<p>6:30 - 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation at Grace Lutheran</p>	<p>9:30am-4pm Hendrum Food Pantry at Hendrum Professional Building</p>		<p>9am-2pm Brew & Renew Open</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9am HLC Worship 10am HLC Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am ILC Worship 11:15am ILC Coffee & Fellowship 11:25am ILC Council Meeting</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:30am ILC Quilting 12:30pm ALC/ HLC Quilters</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6-7pm BFS Bible Study at HLC</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 - 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation at Grace Lutheran</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30am-4pm Hendrum Food Pantry 5:00pm HLC Council Meeting</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Immanuel 25 cent store 9-10am children shop 10-11am anyone can shop</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9am Immanuel WELCA 9am HLC Worship 10am HLC Council Breakfast 10:30am ILC Worship 11:15am ILC Coffee & Fellowship 5:30pm Christmas in the Barn at Karen Brommenschenkel barn</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:30am ILC Quilting 12:30pm ALC/ HLC Quilters</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30 - 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation at Grace Lutheran 5-7pm HLC's Freewill Community Dinner hosted by Evie & Layne 5:30-6:30 Kid's Club meet during dinner</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30am-4pm Hendrum Food Pantry</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9am-2pm Brew & Renew Open</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9am HLC Worship 10am HLC Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am ILC Worship 11:15am ILC Coffee & Fellowship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve Service 4:00pm Halstad 5:30pm Immanuel</p>	<p>25</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>9:30am-4pm Hendrum Food Pantry</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9am HLC Worship 10am HLC Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am ILC Worship 11:15am ILC Coffee & Fellowship</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	 			

December 2024

Augustana & Halstad Lutheran Churches Newsletter



HLC Council Meeting Minutes November - pending approval

Thursday November 14th, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m.

The HLC Council meeting was called to order by Donna Scholl @ 5:32 p.m. Members attending: Alli Tice, Cheryl Johnson, Darin Johnson, Pastor John Andrews, Heidi Horn, Jackie Hellerud, Stacey Hellerud and Donna Scholl. Members absent: Jon Hellerud, Chad Tice, Dean Nelson and Gaylord Christianson.

Pastor John led with prayer.

Reports for October were reviewed.

UVP Parish Commission Update: No update

Secretary: Minutes from October were reviewed. Pastor was off only one week for his knee surgery instead of the two weeks stated in the October meeting minutes.

Deacons: Jackie has been passing out newsletters and hanging up flyers at the post office, Sunrise apartments and nursing home.

Trustees: Darin stated the heat is working on the west side now. He cleaned and filtered the system with a pump, which has helped.

Missions & Ministries: The Renew Thrift Store has been doing well.

Memorial Secretary: Report reviewed. \$4900 has been transferred from the memorial fund to the general fund.

Treasurer: In October, \$11,513.25 was deposited with \$11,010.74 paid out in expenses.

Financial Secretary: Reports reviewed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor John stated that there was a paid youth gathering offered to the kids, but there was no response with any interest. Confirmation students will be participating in the bell ringing on November 30th and on December 14th in Hendrum. Pastor stated he is having issues with the Confirmation kids completing sermon notes as needed. Sunday school continues to be held during the Wednesday freewill dinners.

Motion made by Jackie and seconded by Darin to approve reports.

Old Business: *Jeff cleaned and sanitized the basement.

New Business: *Christmas decorating will take place after church on November 24th.

*Potato Dumpling Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 1st, from 11:30am - 1:30pm.

Continued on next page...



Halstad Giving Tree

DONATE AND MAKE A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS BRIGHTER.

The Halstad Lutheran Church Giving Tree is ready!

Now through December 9th, if you would like a Christmas tag to shop for a child or to give a donation contact:

Lorie Paulsrud 218-456-2599, 701-238-0440 or

Angela Mickelson 218-456-2574, 218-474-0452.

Gifts will be ready for pick up at Halstad Lutheran on December 12th.



HLC'S ANNUAL MEN'S POTATO DUMPLING DINNER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1
11:30am-1:30pm

Halstad Lutheran Church, 304 - 5th St E, Halstad, MN

Thrivent Funded

\$15/adults
\$10/children
Dine In, Take Out

MENU

Potato Dumplings
Ham
Jiffy Corn Casserole
Lefse
Dessert



Dive into our silent auction items, find your hidden gem, and outbid everyone to capture your treasure.

Money raised for the general fund.

...continued from first page

There will be a silent auction held at this time. Silent auction items are needed.

*Wednesday freewill dinners: November 20th - Close Up, Layne Leiser and Evie Holte; December 18th - Close Up, Layne Leiser and Evie Holte; January 15th - Close up; February 19th - OPEN; March 19th - Lent; April 16th - OPEN; May 21st - OPEN; June 18th - OPEN; July 16th - OPEN; August 20th - OPEN; September 17th - Close Up

*Next council meeting - Thursday, December 12th @ 5:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn

Meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Heidi Horn, Council Secretary

KIDS CLUB



WHO: 4 yr old - 6th grade

WHAT: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WHERE KIDS WILL LEARN ABOUT *Jesus's love and God's saving grace.*

WHEN: THIR'D WEDNESDAYS FROM 6:00PM - 7:00PM (DURING THE COMMUNITY MEAL)

WHERE: HALSTAD LUTHERAN CHURCH
304 5th ST E, HALSTAD MN

SPONSORED BY: UNITED VALLEY PARISH

Next Session:
Wednesday, December 18th
MY JESUS TREE

JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS

YOU ARE INVITED TO HLC'S

FREEWILL COMMUNITY DINNER

Halstad Lutheran Church
304 5th St E

HOSTED BY EVIE HOLTE
AND LAYNE LEISER



RAISING MONEY FOR A
CLOSE-UP TRIP TO
WASHINGTON DC
IN THE SPRING

5-7
WEDNESDAY,
PM
DECEMBER 18

Featuring Santa's favorites:

Chili & Cinnamon Rolls





Immanuel Lutheran News & Views

We are a congregation strengthened by God's Word, Reaching out to all people with Christ's love.

321 Main Street
P.O. Box 130
Hendrum, MN 56550

Church: 218-861-6218
Food Shelf: 218-861-5700

ELEVATOR AVAILABLE



You can contact
Pastor John Andrews

Email: revjohn52@yahoo.com
Phone: 701-306-2575

DECEMBER FAITH, CARE AND SHARE

Kris & Faye DeLong (Team Leaders)
Steve & Christy Jacobson
John & Lorraine Jossund

FLOWER AND ALTAR GUILD

Debby Borgen and Becky Harrington

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Faye DeLong and Pam Hedrich

IMMANUEL CHURCH COUNCIL		
PRESIDENT	Faye DeLong	218-456-2640
V. PRESIDENT	Del Schnabel	218-861-6284
TREASURER	Tod Harrington	701-860-6280
SECRETARY	Cindy Todd	701-861-6363
DEACON	Amy Sweeney	919-770-6812
BOARD OF ED.	Bonnie Scholl	701-860-6470
TRUSTEE	Mike Smart	218-861-6420

ILC Nov. Council Minutes unavailable at this time.

ILC Council Meeting Sunday, Dec. 8th following worship.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF IMMANUEL

2025 marks the 150th anniversary of the Immanuel Lutheran Church congregation. A celebration date should be determined soon. Congregation began in 1875. Decisions will need to be made.

If you are interested in leading the planning committee or just lending a helping hand, please call the church office or Faye DeLong to volunteer. Many hands make light work and we would love your help.

BAKE SALE DECEMBER 14

The Women of Immanuel will be having a bake sale on December 14th at the Infinity Center (Hendrum School) as part of Deck the Halls; 9 am until gone. Questions: Call Bonnie @ 701-860-6470.

25 CENT STORE WILL OPEN ON DEC. 14

Immanuel Lutheran will host the annual 25 Cent Store on December 14. The goal of the store is for kids to buy gifts for family and friends. Kids shop 9-10 am and all gifts are a quarter. Children should bring their lists (please keep lists to 10 people) and we'll have shoppers to help them.

All shoppers welcomed 10-11 am; gifts are \$1 for adult shoppers. All gifts will be wrapped. Donations of new items for the store are welcomed and can be dropped off at Immanuel Lutheran Church or Northwestern Bank.

Volunteers are needed to welcome and help kids shop, wrap gifts, set up and clean up. If you can share your time, or have questions, please contact Becky Harrington, 701-860-6280, todbeckyh@gmail.com.

Youth 25¢
Adult \$1.00



Store

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hendrum

Saturday, December 14th
9am - 10am YOUTH Shoppers
 • Bring your list and we will help you shop!
 • Please limit list to 10 people

10am - 11am ALL shoppers
 • Items will be \$1.00 for shoppers 18+ yr old

Proceeds go to Halstad Lutheran Giving Tree

Free gift wrapping!
 To: *Everyone*
 From: *Volunteers*



EVERYTHING is 25¢
 for kids to buy gifts for family and friends!

Adults can shop the **BARGAINS** for **\$1.00!**

Gifts for all ages!

Donations of NEW items for the store can be dropped off at Immanuel Lutheran Church or Northwestern Bank, Hendrum. Items are especially needed for toddlers, middle school boys, and men. Also seeking tape, gift bags, and tissue paper. No clothing, holiday decor, or knickknacks please.

This project is supported by a Thrivent Action Team

United Valley Parish
CHRISTMAS EVE
 Candlelight Services



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 2024

4:00PM **5:30PM**
 AT HALSTAD AT IMMANUEL

UNITED VALLEY PARISH 13TH ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS IN THE BARN



SUNDAY
 DECEMBER 15TH
 5:30 PM




KAREN BROMMENSCHENKEL FARM
 1473 MN Hwy 200
 HENDRUM MN 56550



Live Nativity Children's Storytime Acoustic Songs Dress Warm

KIDS CLUB



WHO: 4 yr OLD - 6TH GRADE

WHAT: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WHERE KIDS WILL LEARN ABOUT *Jesus's love and God's saving grace.*

WHEN: THIRD WEDNESDAYS FROM 6:00PM - 7:00PM
(DURING THE COMMUNITY MEAL)

WHERE: HALSTAD LUTHERAN CHURCH
 304 5TH ST E, HALSTAD MN

SPONSORED BY: UNITED VALLEY PARISH

Next Session:
 Wednesday, December 18th
MY JESUS TREE

Christmas in the Barn
Sunday, December 15; 5:30 PM
Karen Brommenschenkel Farm
1473 MN Hwy. 200

Donate A  **Poinsettia**

Please bring your donated poinsettia to Immanuel Lutheran Church by Monday, December 23