
Expressions of Immanuel Church

February 2024

Worship Service 10:15 am

Immanuel Church 8888 St Rt 274

PO Box 127,

Kettlersville, Ohio 45336



**Immanuel
Church**

Immanuel Church
8888 St Rt. 274
PO Box 127
Kettlersville, Ohio 45336

Dear Church Family,

Over the month of January, we have been looking at being a shepherd of the sheep. Many of us would likely admit, we have not been the most obedient sheep of God's flock. We have been like the lamb in the picture beside us, lost, dirty, and unable to find our way home. We have been caught in the rain, the bushes, and the mud. We have had cold, sleepless nights filled with worry, tears, and doubt. We would most like, also admit, that we have not been trustworthy shepherds. We have sought our own way, our own path, and our own outcomes rather than seeking to live as sheep of God's Pasture or to protect sheep as shepherds mirroring the image of Christ.



I think this is the real challenge. Are we willing to take on the responsibility for others without their desire and lead them to walk closer to God and Christ? Are we willing to help them hear the voice of Christ, learn from it, and become shepherds themselves? If we are going to be Christ-like, then we need to be willing to stand in the path of evil and defend the weak. In this process, we need to be careful not to become legalistic or overly authoritarian. We need to move people forward in their relationship with Christ and yet, allow Christ to draw them to Him. It's a balancing act. But one thing I have learned and possibly a lot later in ministry than I would like to admit. Being a leader is not coaching from behind. So many of the ministry leadership books reference the passage of Mark which states that Jesus came to serve and not to be served. I agree with this statement, however, when pressed too far in leadership, the pastor or disciple maker becomes the wagging tail of the dog. The dog is in charge, not the tail. As shepherds, you are in charge of the food, water, safety, care, and life of the sheep. You are ultimately responsible. There is a word that many fear today, the word is "accountable". Many passages of the New Testament remind us that we will be held accountable for what we teach and do not teach to others. If we teach the wrong thing it would be better for a millstone to be tied around your neck and thrown into the depths of the sea. Let's say it! That's harsh. Because it is harsh we shirk the duty and pass the buck. Well, I'm not the pastor. It's not my job, the church Elders should be handling that. Bologna! If you are a believer, you are called to make disciples. This means you are called to be a shepherd. The flock entrusted to you may be yourself, it may be yourself and one other person, or it may be yourself and ten other people, but it is not an option to say "It's not my problem."

If we are called to be Christ-like, then we take on the sins of those around us and help them become cleansed, just as Christ has cleansed us. We pick up the dirty lambs and take them home to wash, feed, dry, and make sure they are safe. If you are in the hair care industry, you know what the directions are, wash, rinse, and repeat!

Daily we are called to deny ourselves, pick up the Cross, and follow Christ. Daily we are called to go and make disciples. Daily we are called to be shepherds of the flock of God. We are to be our brother's keeper, care for our neighbor, and set the prisoners free. Ironically we act more like the shepherds of Ezekiel 34 caring for our wants, needs, and interests rather than worrying about the desires of Christ. We live to be served by Christ rather than to serve Him with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength. It may be time that we rethink what it means to be a shepherd and our responsibility as a follower of Christ. It's nice to be sheep without responsibility, but since we believe Jesus died for our sins, we may want to be more. After all, Jesus became the sacrificial lamb for our sins. So consider this. You can be a shepherd in the Kingdom of God or cast into the lake of fire for your sins of disobedience. Goats and Sheep, God does the separating.

Sincerely,

Pastor Ed Rinehart

Immanuel Church of Kettlersville
Minutes from the December 12, 2023 meeting.

ATTENDANCE:

Mark Elsass, Joe Lammers, Pastor Ed Rinehart, Carson Manger, Ginger Holtkamp, Dave Kettler, Matt Wick, Ned Meyer and Terri Goodwin.

Absent: Parker Manger, Diane Greer

Mark Elsass called the meeting to order.

Pastor Ed opened the meeting with prayer.

SECRETARY REPORT:

Terri Goodwin read the Secretary's Report from the November 2023 meeting held for Immanuel Church of Kettlersville, Ohio. One correction: Treasurer's Report – Page 3 showed all increases and decreases in the unrestricted and restricted bank accounts to now total \$69,003.33, not #21,568.05 as recorded.

Ginger Holtkamp moved to accept the minutes with corrections made to the Treasurer's Report.

Dave Kettler seconded the motion. Motion passed.

TREASURER REPORT:

Ginger Holtkamp reviewed the treasurer report for the period ending November 30, 2023. Beginning balance was \$69,003.33. Miscellaneous decreases totaled \$5,080.61. Checks and payments cleared equaled \$17,752.84, and deposits and credits totaled equaled \$10,615.00 for a cleared balance of \$62,325.13.

Page 2 showed an un-cleared balance of \$61,649.50. **Page 3** showed all increases and decreases in the unrestricted and restricted bank accounts to now total \$61,117.11. **Page 4** reviewed the income and expense detail report for November. Total Income was \$8,743.00. The expense total was \$13,420.61, for a net loss/gain of (\$4,677.61). **Page 5** showed all bills for December. At the time of consistory, bills paid totaled \$5,094.11. Bills yet to be paid totaled \$2,822.54, and the total is \$7,916.65.

Terri Goodwin moved to accept the report and to pay all bills for the month. Ned Meyer seconded the motion. Motion passed.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

- At present we have 16 people involved in Confirmation Class.
- Sermons for 2023 are winding down. We have two weeks in November and the first 4 Sundays of December. As per the schedule, I will be off on Sunday, December 31st. I will be spending time with family and resetting for the New Year of 2024.
- Longest Night Blue Christmas has been planned by Steve and Keith of Gilberg Hartwig Funeral Home. December 21st at 7 pm at Holy Redeemer in New Bremen. This is open to all who have lost loved ones.
- The sermon series for January through Easter is a Shepherd theme, and then moves into aspects of Jesus as our Shepherd and also as the Lamb of God.
- Attendance update: this year's averages are in-house 88, Facebook 111, YouTube 23, and Fall Sunday School 47. Sunday School to Worship attendance compares to 53% of our Average Worship Attendance. November 19th, when the congregation shared their joys and thanksgivings, was the highest-watched Facebook broadcast yet. 248 views. Nearly double.
- February 13 will be a Consistory meeting and February 14 will be an Ash Wednesday service. Lent will be starting seven weeks after Christmas. Maundy Thursday will be March 28 with a Seder Supper in the Fellowship Hall, Good Friday the Church will be open (March 29) and Easter is March 31. Needless to say, the first three months of the New Year will go quickly!

TRUSTEE REPORT:

Ned Meyer reported that the plaster work has been completed. He paid the company and it was voted during the meeting to reimburse him the \$1,500. Ned reported on Elevator Inspection Variance/Compliance. Paperwork will be submitted to change compliance from every two years to every five years. Countryside Insurance will be

contacted to provide another option/quote for insurance for the church. Mennonite Mutual had not responded to the previous request to quote since the last meeting.

A shelf will be installed in the back of the current storage area in the church basement. Five applicants have come forward for the Bartenstein scholarship and a meeting will be scheduled to discuss financial commitment to each applicant. Folding doors that once closed off the current broadcasting booth are available for donation. See Ned Meyer or Ginger Holtkamp if interested.

A request was made to review the current rental agreement for the use of Fellowship Hall for members. Clarification on the process of who is paid and how payment is made is in question. A motion was made by Ned Meyer and seconded by Joe Lammers, to table discussion until January 2024 Consistory meeting, with a printed flyer to be presented for approval explaining the appropriate procedure.

Ned Meyer reviewed the accomplishments of 2023:

- Audit financial records by February consistory meeting 01-2023
- Automatic door opener installed to basement door - 01-25-23
- Elevator annual inspection – 02-02-23
- Fire extinguisher inspection – Homeland Security 1st time – 03-24-23
- Sanctuary OH lights replaced with LED lighting – 08-17-23
- Improve elevator doorway lighting – 08-21-23
- New lighting in Sunshine Room – 08-21-23
- Parsonage downspout routed to drain – 09-30-23
- Bartenstein scholarship applications made available through September of 2023
- Patch asphalt at parsonage alley – 10-24-23
- Develop a budget for 2024 – approved 12-10-23
- Replace the roof on the tool shed and South door entrance by the basement – (carry over work into 2024)

Projects for 2024:

- Prime and paint church where plaster repair was completed in 2023.
- Church basement entrance and tool shed – roof/re-roof
- Bartenstein Scholarship 2023 distributed 1/24/24, with applications available for September 2024.
- Audit financial records by February 2024.
- Develop a budget for 2025.

Parsonage projects and improvements:

- Bushes removed.
- Concrete poured for drive and steps (26 yards).
- Level the ground and remove the steep hill in front.
- Till and sow grass.
- What to do with the property once the Pastor moves.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Benevolence and Outreach: A request for a \$50 donation to New Knoxville High School for After Prom, was voted on. Ned Meyer moved to donate the \$50. Joe Lammers seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Care and hospitality: Nothing to report.

Decorating: Thanks to everyone who stayed after worship, on November 26 and decorated for the Advent/Christmas season. Tear down will be after worship on Sunday, January 7, 2024.

Worship: Nothing to report.

Education: Nothing to report.

Youth: High involvement. All programming going well.

OLD BUSINESS: The audit committee will meet sometime after the 10th of January. Further discussion on combining paper products for all organizations and committees church-wide. Security refresh is set for immediately after worship, on Sunday, December 17th.

NEW BUSINESS: It was suggested that descriptions for open positions for committees be put in weekly email, and addressed in worship on Sunday morning, December 17th.

Ginger Holtkamp moved to adjourn the consistory meeting.

Dave Kettler seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The next meeting is Tuesday, January 9, 2024 @ 7:00 pm.

The meeting concluded with the sharing of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Goodwin

Calendar of Events for February 2024

Immanuel Office Hours: Pastor Ed Tues.& Wed. afternoons and Monday from 9 am until Noon
Kelly Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00 am to Noon

Morning Coffee Monday through Saturday from 7 am to 8 am

February 4th 9:00 am Sunday School
10:15 am Immanuel Service and Online Service – Holy Communion
6:00 pm Youth Group
February 5th 7:00 pm Women's Guild
February 7th 6:30 pm Confirmation Class
February 9th 1:00 pm Scrapbooking
February 10th 8:00 am Scrapbooking
February 11th 9:00 am Sunday School
10:15 am Immanuel Service and Online Service
11:30 am Soup-er Bowl Sunday luncheon
February 12th 7:00 pm Shepherd's Sheep – Diagnosed with Cancer Support Ministry
February 13th 7:00 pm Immanuel Consistory Meeting
February 14th 11:30 am Widow & Widower's Luncheon
6:30 pm Confirmation Class
February 15th Newsletter Items due to the office
February 18th 9:00 am Sunday School
10:15 am Immanuel Service and Online Service
February 21st 6:30 pm Confirmation Class
February 25th 9:00 am Sunday School
10:15 am Immanuel Service and Online Service
2:00 pm Security Team training
February 28th 6:30 pm Confirmation Class

Pastor Ed will be on vacation starting February 15th until the 21st. Please see your Elders if there are any needs during this time.

Special Thanks:

We want to thank all our church family, Sunday School, and the Women's Guild for the wonderful cheer basket with a lot of "goodies" in it. Also, the carolers entertained us with a lot of nice Christmas carols.

We also have received some wonderful cards this past year. We appreciate all you do for us.

Thanks again. Take care, Roland & Beverly Kettler

Weekly Schedule

Date:	Feb 4	Feb 11	Feb 14 Ash Wed.	Feb 18	Feb 25
Liturgist	Terry Lukac	Kim Nellis	Confirmands	Parker Manger	Mark Elsass
Greeters	John & Cathie Blanchard	John & Jennifer Blanchard	Confirmands	Ernesto & Katie Casillas	Dawn Dabbelt & Jane Egbert-Exley
Sound booth	Mark Elsass & Will Lammers	Ned Meyer & Sebastian Monnin	Matt & Levi Wick	Dave Kettler Family	Matt & Levi Wick
Broadcast	Ned	Kelly	Kelly	Mark	Curt
Singers	Ned, Terry, Anita	Parker, Joann, Ned		Ned, Terry, Anita	Parker, Joann, Ned



SCRAPBOOKING/CARD MAKING EVENT

WHERE: Immanuel Church of Kettlersville

Friday, Feb 9, and/or Saturday, Feb 10

Friday (1:00 pm-?) and Saturday (9 am-4 pm) Cost \$35

Friday evening and Saturday (9 am-4 pm) Cost \$30

Just Saturday Cost: \$20

Cost includes: 8 ft. table, lunch (Saturday), door prizes

Bring Tools, cutting equipment, lighting, ext. cords, etc.

Limited space available. Forms are available in the sanctuary.

Contact Dawn Dabbelt @ 419-733-9598 – 4dabbelts@nktelco.net,

Rebecca Lenhart @ 937-538-1760 – lenhartr@watchtv.net if any questions

The Youth Group will meet on the first Sunday of each month. Join Hattie and Morgan in the fellowship hall from 6:00 until 7:30 pm.

Youth Group will host **“Soup”-er Bowl Sunday** on February 11 in the fellowship hall following service! The youth group will provide bowls, eating utensils, drinks, and peanut butter & jelly sandwiches. You bring your favorite soup! Hope to see you all there!



Immanuel Church Benevolence and Outreach

December update: A van load of household and baby items from the giving tree, along with \$1,550 from December benevolence was delivered to Rustic Hope. A big thank you to all who supported this worthwhile ministry. Everything was very much appreciated!



February 2024 - Epiphany Ministry of Ohio - Epiphany is an ecumenical Christian ministry for young men & women who are in custody at Juvenile Justice Facilities. Epiphany's purpose is to manifest God's love to incarcerated and troubled youth. Ginger Holtkamp is a member of the Epiphany team.

March 2024 - Shelby County Food Pantries

Agape Distribution Food Pantry - located at 209 Brooklyn Ave in Sidney. They maintain a food pantry on-site as well as a mobile food pantry that travels to various sites in the area.

Alpha Community Center - serves meals, emergency pantry, offers child & adult programs, homeless shelter, and assistance on an as needed basis. They are located at 950 Childrens Home Rd at Sidney.

April 2024 - Matthew 25 Ministries (m25m) - They are a humanitarian aid and disaster relief organization helping disaster relief victims and the poor locally, regionally, and internationally. They are based out of Cincinnati Ohio. Their mission is to fulfill Matthew 25:34-40. Besides monetary donations, m25m also accepts donations from corporations, organizations, and individuals. These items are then processed and shipped where needed. Volunteer opportunities are available at their processing center. For more information, go to m25m's website: www.m25m.org



Widow and Widowers Luncheon!

A luncheon for all widows and widowers on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. The meal is scheduled to begin at 11:30 am in Immanuel Church Fellowship Hall.

Whether you are returning or just joining, please come and enjoy the fellowship! Join us – **February 14th at 11:30 am**

Menu: Hamloaf, Cheesy Potatoes, Roasted Veggies, Fruit Salad, and Dessert served with coffee, water, or punch!

Guest speakers: Heather Jurosic, RN will be discussing the Connected Care Program, and Amanda Perry, APRN will speak on heartburn. Both ladies are from Joint Township Hospital.

February Birthdays

February 1st Katie Casillas
February 1st Missy Wells
February 2nd Benjamin Kettler
February 2nd Anita Lukac
February 5th Johanna Casillas
February 13th Caroline Eisert
February 17th Levi Wick
February 19th Sara Kettler
February 28th Blane Manger



Happy Anniversary

John & Cathie Blanchard
Emerson & Margie Shroyer

February 7th
February 25th

If your Birthdate or Anniversary has been missed please let the Church Office know so that we may check our records for incorrect or missing information.

Immanuel Church Financial Overview

for the period December 01, 2023 to December 31, 2023

Type	Account Name	Begin Balance	Increase	Decrease	End Balance
First National Bank					
	Unrestricted	\$42,757.67	\$12,718.18	\$9,356.70	\$46,119.15
	Restricted	\$18,359.44	\$2,281.00	\$1,502.64	\$19,137.80
		\$61,117.11	\$14,999.18	\$10,859.34	\$65,256.95
	Advent Flowers	\$384.50	\$0.00	\$379.64	\$4.86
	Benevolent Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	11 Nov Benevolence	\$1,070.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,070.00
	12 Dec Benevolence	\$0.00	\$1,550.00	\$0.00	\$1,550.00
	Adam & Amy Burkey - Missionaries	\$80.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$230.00
	Improvement Fund	\$130.00	\$355.00	\$0.00	\$485.00
	Memorial Fund	\$524.14	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$524.14
	Bill Elsass Mem	\$1,422.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,422.00
	Dale Egbert Mem	\$1,895.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,895.00
	Doris Dillon	\$1,009.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,009.30
	Elaine Timmerman	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75.00
	Harvey Watkins Mem	\$425.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$425.00
	Lucille Meyer Mem	\$1,580.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,580.00
	Marilyn Eutrecht	\$640.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$640.00
	Peggy Watkins	\$761.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$761.00
	Ray Egbert Mem	\$170.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$170.00
	Roy Baucom Mem	\$590.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$590.00
	Todd Shellabarger Mem	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
	Prayer Garden	\$317.11	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$317.11
	Sunday School Fund	\$1,119.35	\$116.00	\$123.00	\$1,112.35
	Widow and Widower Fund	\$547.50	\$110.00	\$500.00	\$157.50
	Luncheon Expense Money	\$775.16	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$275.16
	Youth Fellowship Fund	\$4,594.38	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,594.38
		\$18,359.44	\$2,281.00	\$1,502.64	\$19,137.80

If you have questions, concerns, or items regarding the Financial Report please contact a Church Trustee.

Immanuel Church Easter Flower Order Form

Spring is just about here and as Easter approaches, we enjoy the celebration of Christ Jesus. We have a wonderful way to rejoice in the season by beautifying our church with the vibrant flowers of the Easter season. Listed below are the choice of flowers and prices.

This year you have two options:

Option One: I will purchase my flowers and have them at the Church on Maundy Thursday for the Easter Celebration.

Please Check _____

Fill in only your name and “given” information below for Listing in the Church Bulletin on Easter.

Option Two: Purchase Flowers through the Church. Flowers are from Minister True Value.

To order flowers through the church, please fill out the entire form below and return it with the total amount due to the church office by February 14th.

Make checks payable to Immanuel Church.

Your Name _____

Given in Honor of: _____

Given in Memory of: _____

Given to Beautify the Church: _____



Flower Type	Quantity	Cost
Easter Lilies - Single Stem – \$18.00		
Hyacinth 6.5” – \$15		
Tulips 6.5” - \$15		
Chrysanthemum 6.5” - \$15		
Pansy Basket – \$17.50		
GRAND TOTAL		

(Prices include the plant, \$1.50 for foil and \$2.00 for the freight cost)

Check # _____

Cash _____