

Busti Federated Church

They Call Him Immanuel (Emmanuel)

Newsletter

December 2019

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It's Christmas Time

Joseph was in intense emotional pain. His fiancé Mary was going to have a baby, but not by him. What was he going to do now? How could their proposed marriage ever work now? But how could he ever let her go? He loved her!

As he slept, an angel came to him in a dream to assure him, "What is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." Joseph believed the angel, too Mary to be his wife, and the rest is history. I'm sure the townspeople believed Joseph was the child's father. To discredit him, I could only imagine the stories that circulated the area.

But right after the account of Joseph's dream, the Bible says a very curious thing: *"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' – which means, 'God with us.'"* A prophetic sign given some 700 years before has a meaning beyond its own time. What does Immanuel mean? First, the name or title Immanuel comes from two Hebrew words – the preposition im, "with, beside, by, among" plus 'el, "God." It means simply, as the Bible teaches us, "God with us."

But what is its significance? What does it tell us about Jesus' person and life mission? What does it mean to you? I believe it teaches us two things.

God I with Us to Help Us

Do you know what it feels like to feel utterly alone? To try to attempt to live your life with no one to fall back on, no safety net, no help? If you've been through some desperate times in your life, then you know exactly what this feels like. The wonderful promise made through the Christ-child Immanuel is that God promises to be with you in your troubles. He will not leave you to your own resources. All of his resources are now available to you.

The difference for you can be like night and day. In the past God had made this kind of promise to special people in history. Abraham was an alien in a threatening land, but God said to him, *"I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go."* Moses was told to personally confront the most powerful king on the face of the earth with nothing but a staff and the promise from God, *"I will be with you!"* Moses believed God and went to Pharaoh at great risk. As a result, God delivered the people of Israel from Egypt through the Red Sea. After Moses died, his apprentice was thrust into leadership. God promised Joshua, *"As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. And surely am with you always, to the very end of the age."

That promise of Immanuel is not just to the apostles, it is to us also, for we see the same promise in the Bible to reassure all the rest of us – *"I will never leave you or forsake you."*

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Around the Church

Mark Your Calendars

Join Us Every Sunday For

Morning Bible Discussion
Sunday Mornings 9:00-10:00am
Studying the Book of Daniel
All ages are welcome

Worship Service
Beginning at 10:30am

Living Christmas Tree
December 6th at 8:00pm
December 7th at 5:00 & 8:00pm
December 8th at 6:00pm

Wreaths Across America
Saturday, December 14th
Lakeview Cemetery, Jamestown
Ceremony begins at noon
The cost is \$15.00 to sponsor a wreath

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Tuesday, December 24th
Beginning at 10:00pm

Resource Team Meeting
Tuesday, January @ 6:30pm

Annual Church Business Meeting
Sunday, February 9th
Following Morning Worship
A Soup & Sandwich Meal
Will Be Held After the Meeting

December Birthdays

Ruth Serrano	7th
Jim Chapman	8th
Joyce Dahlgren	11th
Ivan Pangborn	13th
Chick Morrison	22nd
Cale Ash	27th
Todd Hanson	28th
Gordy Robbins	29th
Joel Davis	29th

Anniversaries

Bill & Joanne Lucas	4th
Jim & Cindy Dustin	24th
Jim & Jane Chapman	28th

January Birthdays

Sandy Kearney	1st
John Siggins	2nd
Candy Sargent	4th
Catelyn Hanson	9th
Randy Sargent	14th
Bill Allshouse	26th
Matt Lenihan	27th
Mike Hohman	27th

Sanctuary Roof Fund: \$10,676.10

Pastor Lee O'Brien (716) 720-0115
Administrator CJ Kelley (716) 708-6920
bustifederatedchurch@gmail.com

Busti Federated Church
875 Mill Rd.
Jamestown, NY 14701
(716)664-1586

If you would like to submit an article, information or event to be placed in the Newsletter please have into the church office by the 15th of the month

Lifting Each Other Up In Prayer

Pray for our Nation & Military
Cpl Collin Hanson Cadet Clayton Hanson Tyler Davis

Pray for our community and first responders

Pray for those that are looking for jobs & seeking
career guidance

Pray for those that are facing difficult life decisions

Pray for those that have lost loved ones

Pray for those fighting with addiction

Pray for community outreach programs:
Love INC, UCAN, St. Susan Center, Blue Star Mothers

Pray for all those that are travelling

Pray for all of the unspoken requests and special needs

Pray for those who have a chronic illness:
Katie Lewis, Kay Calendar, Carol O'Brien, Jason Gould,
Kitty & Manny Boutureira, Carol Abbott, Bill Allshouse,
Terry Lata, Dee Gould, Jennie Locke (Carol's Mom)
Charlie Hannah, Cancer treatment, Val Nunn

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Jeremiah 29:11-13

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer

Romans 12:12

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful

Colossians 4:2

How To Submit A Prayer Request

Complete a prayer card - They are located in the back of each pew as well as the foyer outside the sanctuary. Then place the card in either the prayer box located on the communion table or in the prayer box located in the foyer

Email - bustifederatedchurch@gmail.com

Contact Pastor Lee - 716-720-0115

Text CJ Kelley - 716-499-1810 or call 716-708-6920

Website - www.bustifederatedchurch.org/pray and complete the request form and it will be sent to the church

Jonathan Gibbs (Pastor Lee & Carol's nephew)
Linda Fegley, Recovering from hit and run accident
Chick Morrison, Arthritis Pain
Ellen Emehizer, Receiving Radiation for Brain Tumor
Boyd Matteson, Bladder Cancer
Jerry Phillips, Healing for Arthritis
Caryl Bergstue, health concerns
All of those affected by violence
Shirl Streib's daughter Renea, health issues and depression
Sue Allshouse, knee pain caused by Arthritis
Lisa Saff (Boyd & Mary Lou's niece) battling cancer
Muriel Jackson, heart attack and was transferred to Erie
George Barone, COPD
Charlie Hannah, will be having surgery in Colorado in December
Colin Hanson training for deployment & promotion
Bill Luoma (CJ's uncle) rehab, waiting for surgery
Bill Lucas, continue to heal from knee replacement and recovery for minor surgery
LeRoy Pierce, facing many medical issues and is in WCA.
Art Swanson, rehab. in Erie
Jean Brown, comfort in the passing of her mother

Update:

Barb Heintzman, Cancer of the Appendix recovering for surgery and test results

God Himself Is with Us in Jesus

The title Immanuel tells us about the mission of Jesus, it also tells us about his nature. Remember the context? We have just been told about Mary's pregnancy, Joseph's concern, and the angel's assurance (*What is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit*). At that point the Bible narration tells us that this fulfills Isaiah's prophecy, *"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"* – which means, "God with us".

Matthew's account of Mary's conception tells the story from Joseph's point of view. Luke's account focuses on Mary's experience. The angel Gabriel has told Mary that she will bear a son who will be the Messiah.

"How will this be, 'Mary asked the angel, since I am a virgin? The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.'"

In other words, Immanuel, "God with us," is to be understood literally. Jesus is the physical son of Mary in his human nature, but spiritually, he is the Son of God, he has been begotten by God himself.

So when the Shepherds gathered and worshipped the Baby, they are worshipping God himself. Jesus the Son is divine to the same degree that God the Father is divine. Let me put it this way: *Jesus is God!!*

That is the very radical meaning of Christmas. It isn't about mistletoe and music, or parties and presents, or even the spirit of giving. Christmas is a celebration of the radical fact that God took on human flesh when Jesus was born – God himself – is Immanuel, God with Us!

To You and Yours: Merry Christmas!
Pastor Lee

Jamestown Christmas Parade

**Friday, December 6th 6:00pm
Third St. Bridge to City Hall
Followed by City Tree Lighting**

Theme: Rockin Around the Christmas Tree

Living Christmas Tree

December 6th at 8:00pm
December 7th at 5:00 & 8:00pm
December 8th at 6:00pm

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the Living Christmas Tree. In honor of this milestone, they will be presenting the cantata which was performed the first year! It contains many favorite carols and other songs, performed in a 30 foot high wooden structure constructed in the sanctuary at First Covenant Church in Jamestown, NY. Nearly 200 volunteers gather annually to present this musical gift to the community.

Mitten Tree

Please Consider Donating Kids
Hats, Gloves, Scarves & Socks
Items need to be at the church by
Sunday, December 8th
They will be delivered to children in need
Before the Holidays

Church Building Usage

There is a church activity calendar located on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary. If you would like to reserve any part of the building please check the calendar and then contact CJ at:

Phone: 716-708-6920

Text: 716-499-1810

Email: bustifederatedchurch@gmail.com

With winter approaching it is important that all activities are on the calendar so that we can make sure the parking lot is plowed and shoveling and salting is done if needed.

Blue Star Mothers Christmas Care Package Collection & Packing

Blue Star Mothers Lake Erie will be collecting items to fill care packages to send to deployed armed service members for Christmas. If you have participated in the past please discard any old lists, even though the items may appear mostly the same. Please take note of the items not accepted. If those items are received, they will be re-donated locally. Packing will be on Saturday, December 7, at 9 AM, at Fluvanna Community Church, 3363 Fluvanna Avenue in Jamestown. Again this year, they are hoping to pack between 750 and 1000 boxes! Set up and organization will be on Thursday, December 5th, starting at 5 PM, so they ask that all donations be delivered to the church by that time. And your help is greatly appreciated too! Come when you can, and leave when you must. Postage is upwards of \$15 a box, so any monetary donations are also appreciated. Items can be delivered to the church and we will make sure they arrive at the packing facility. Thank you for supporting this great mission!

Remember that homemade cards and handwritten letters are always appreciated! Please no aerosols, Ramen (instant) noodles, flammables (lighters, matches, hand warmers), nerf guns, pump sprays, plastic containers of fruits, crackers or soft bars, liquids, expired or close to expiration items.

- ◆ Baby wipes
- ◆ Hand sanitizer
- ◆ Sunscreen (no aerosols)
- ◆ Lip balm
- ◆ Batteries (AAA or AA)
- ◆ Beef Jerky
- ◆ Slim Jims,
- ◆ Beef Sausage Rolls
- ◆ Body wash & Shampoo
- ◆ Candles
- ◆ Crossword puzzles
- ◆ Word Searches
- ◆ Playing cards
- ◆ Dental floss
- ◆ Toothbrushes
- ◆ Toothpaste
- ◆ Mouthwash
- ◆ Deodorant (no aerosols)
- ◆ Q-tips & Disposable Razors
- ◆ Dried Fruit & Fruit Snacks
- ◆ Fruit Rollups, Trail Mixes
- ◆ Energy drinks (in durable container)
- ◆ Eye drops
- ◆ Small travel blankets
- ◆ Nerf or Tennis Balls
- ◆ Yo-Yos
- ◆ Tuna/Chicken box w/crackers
- ◆ Water Enhancers (individual portions)
- ◆ Zip Lock Bags (all sizes, heavy duty)
- ◆ Flip Flops
- ◆ Foot/baby powder
- ◆ Pocket Tissues,
- ◆ Pain Relievers
- ◆ Coffee (ground or instant) & Filters
- ◆ Sugar & Creamer Packets
- ◆ Hand/Body Lotion
- ◆ Hot Drinks Packets
- ◆ Instant Individual Soup Mixes
- ◆ Hot Cereal Mixes
- ◆ Mints, Gum, & Hard Candy
- ◆ Nuts, Corn Nuts
- ◆ Sunflower Seeds
- ◆ Microwave Popcorn
- ◆ Peanut Butter
- ◆ Pop-top Canned Fruit (no plastic)
- ◆ Protein Bars
- ◆ Power Bars,
- ◆ Clif Bars
- ◆ Ready-to-eat Chili, Pasta or Soup



51 Boxes

Thank you to everyone that contributed to Operation Christmas Child . We were able to reach our goal of 50 boxes with a total of 51. The boxes have been delivered to a centralized collection center and will soon be on their way to a child in need. Please continue to pray for this ministry and the children and families that will be touched by your generous gifts.



Did you know?

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to the Hazeltine Public Library when you shop through smile.amazon.com and select us as your charity!

- There is no cost to you- just navigate to the smile version of the site!
- The selection is the same as regular Amazon.com
- Use your current account or create your new account through smile.amazon.com with your email and password
- Amazon Smile eligible purchases will be indicated on the product page
- Amazon Smile purchases provide needed funds for new books and programming at the Hazeltine Public Library

For more information, visit smile.amazon.com/about

We only benefit when you start your shopping trip at: smile.amazon.com



Thank you!

ARE YOU READY?



Learn how to cope when the power goes out, keep yourself and your family safe in emergencies, prepare for the winter ahead.

Presented by Tom Tempel of Practical Preppers



Monday December 9, 2019

7 PM

RESERVATIONS APPRECIATED

Hazeltine Public Library
 891 Busti Sugargrove Rd.
 Jamestown, NY
 phone 716.487.1281

The 12 Days of Christmas

The Importance of Advent

Preparation for Christmas is an important theme for Advent, but more is involved. Advent gives us a vision of our lives as Christians and shows us the possibilities of life.

The vision of life that Advent gives us is twofold; it looks back to the first coming of Christ at Bethlehem, and it looks to the future when Christ will come again. In the Interval between these two events we find meaning for our life as a Christian.

First we celebrate Christ-become-human. We view his life and experience his presence as a human being in our history. Christ came to show us what life can and should be. He gave us true and valid principles by which we can live true and valid lives. But Jesus knew that the human heart could not live in isolation. He formed the Church around the concept of a people held together by love. In that community we discover unlimited possibilities and meaning. Alone we can do nothing. Together we find real meaning.

When Christ left this earth, he did not abandon us. He remains with us in his Spirit, the Church, the sacraments, the Scriptures and each other. He lives in community with us and keeps his vision of life before us.

When Christ comes again, his presence will no longer be hidden behind the signs and symbols of the liturgy or the words of the Scriptures. His presence among us will be revealed in all its fullness, a presence that will never end, a presence that will perfect and complete our community.

This is the "greater significance" of Advent. In these few short weeks we take in the sweeping panorama of time - from Christ's birth to his Second Coming. The season of Advent brings us the magnificent vision of life and hope for the future given to us by Christ.

Advent is our time to become more involved, more caught up in the meaning and the possibilities of life as a Christian community. Thus we are preparing not only for Christmas but also for Christ's Second Coming. This means that when he comes again, we will be awake and watchful. He will not find us asleep.

As we come into the Christmas Season we will no doubt hear many a Christmas Carol including "The 12 Days of Christmas". Although there are many theories of the meaning of the song, one is that it was a code used by persecuted Christians. Even if this isn't the actual reason, it's still fun to look at it from a Christians perspective.

Partridge in a Pear Tree
God's love through Jesus

Two Turtle Doves
The Old and New Testaments

Three French Hens
Gifts of Faith, Hope and Love

Four Calling Birds
Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

Five Gold Rings
Five Books of Moses

Six Geese A-laying
The Six Days of Creation

Seven Swans A-swimming
Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Eight Maids A-Milking
The Beatitudes

Nine Ladies Dancing
Fruits of the Spirit

Ten Lords A-leaping
The Ten Commandments

Eleven Pipers Piping
The Eleven Apostles

Twelve Drummers Drumming
The Twelve Points of the Apostles Creed

It's Christmas Time

Each year while many of us enjoy the holidays celebrating with friends and families, thousands of men and women have volunteered to place their lives in jeopardy so that we can remain free. Along with these brave men and women are those that have fought and returned home injured. You have an opportunity to show your gratitude and help lift their spirits by sending them a card for Christmas. Many of us mail out cards and have extras laying around. Please consider sending those cards to a wounded warrior. It only takes a few minutes and the cost of a stamp to say thank you to these brave soldiers. Cards can be mailed to:

A Recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20307-5001

Jamestown and surrounding communities are blessed to have many active non-profit organizations helping to meet the needs of the less fortunate. As we approach the end of the year and the holiday season many of these groups see an influx of needed services. At Busti Federated Church we try to assist as many of these organizations as possible. Included is a list of just some of the local groups that we support and can also use your help.

Love Inc.

UCAN

Liberty's Way

St. Susan's Center

Blue Star Mothers

Busti Hazeltine Library

Busti Volunteer Fire Department

Busti Old Fashioned Christmas Busti Historical Society Thursday, December 5th 6:00-7:30pm

All community members welcome; admission by donation. Horse-drawn carriage rides will bring you from your car to the Miller House where you can experience a Victorian Era Christmas celebration!

Crafts for children and families will be available. Cookies and other refreshments will be offered. Parking available at the Busti Fire Department. All donations will go directly to the Busti Historical Society in support of their yearly programming.

Christmas Banquet Emmanuel Baptist Church Saturday, December 14th 5:00-7:30pm

Guest Speaker: Elder Uvie Stewart Jr.,
Emmanuel Temple,

An Eleven Course Traditional Christmas Dinner
Appetizers, Soup, Salad, Turkey, Ham, Stuffing, Gravy,
Vegetable Melody, Cranberry Sauce, Pasta Bow Tie
with Pesto Sauce, Chocolate Cake Topping Bar, Coffee,
Tea & Punch \$15.00 per Ticket

Busti Fire Annual Craft Bazaar Busti Fire Department Saturday, December 7th 10:00am - 4:00pm

Multiple rooms full of craft and vendor tables.
Chinese Auction. Lottery raffle.
The kitchen will be open as well!!

This is a fundraiser for the Busti Fire Department.