

## Immanuel's Hidden Treasures

2020's miracle of Christmas is still warm in our hearts. Be it joy of a special gift, the love of family glowing through a zoom reunion. Memories of past Christmas' or just the feeling of peace and relaxation and/or loving eyes smiling on a beloved pet (or 6).

Christmas always makes me want to reminisce of days of yore and brings me back to my youth and Bethel Church in Roseland where I grew up.

I recall the days when I was the acolyte. I enjoyed the times when we had to light all 10 instead of the main two candles on the altar. Great memories. The one memory I still recall was at Bethel, the candles shrunk as they were burning and had to be changed periodically.

Moving to the future and my arrival at Immanuel. Sunday after Sunday during the service my eyes moved around watching the goings on and from time to time glanced at the candles. After a few months, I started wondering about the candles and why they where not burning down. I couldn't believe the Church put fresh candles in every Sunday. What was this miracle of the never melting candles?

My "Duh" moment came one Sunday, when Art took the candles down from the altar and opened up the metal candleholders to reveal, "melted candles". So answers the miracle of Immanuel's never melting candles.

I know what you are thinking, this months hidden treasures are melted candles. Nay, nope, not candles. This months hidden treasures are the countless and at times nameless people who

volunteer their time and energy in keeping Immanuel strong and vibrant and a treasure to our communities. To our congregants and friends who attend faithfully and support Immanuel. We pray for our Immanuel shut-ins whom all grace us from a distance. We wish good health the strength to you all. We are blessed with visitors who grace our church. We thank you ALL for being in whatever way you may be with Immanuel. E pluribus unum. Together we are Immanuel UCCEP.

May the hidden treasures at Immanuel continue to grow and shine and become stronger as we move into 2021. May good health and fortune come to all in 2021. May GOD bless us, today and forever.