



# ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET

*Celebrating 30 years of giving that makes a difference!*

**Sunday, December 8**

**11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Upper Room**

<https://www.immanuelwi.org/acm2024>

*There is something on our list for everyone on yours, and the fit is always right!*

Christmas is all about giving... celebrating God's gift to us in the birth of Jesus. But often this "reason for the season" gets lost, overwhelmed, as we are, with too much "stuff" and not enough meaning. There is pressure to find just the right thing instead of focusing on things that really matter.

Immanuel Church offers a special way to give gifts that give twice, through our annual **Alternative Christmas Market**. Now in its 30<sup>th</sup> year, the festive "market" in Immanuel's Upper Room, welcomes **local mission partner representatives to talk with shoppers about the work of their organizations**, how a gift to the Alternative Christmas Market can make a difference, and how **shoppers can volunteer to serve!** As the market celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> year, the Mission Committee is pleased to be returning to our pre-pandemic tradition of welcoming **fourteen organizations!**

Enjoy holiday refreshments while you shop among friends and think about how the gifts you purchase will benefit people in Milwaukee and around the world. Give the teenager in your life a journal and colored pens (\$15) through Courage MKE. Your friend who loves to cook might love to receive a Tricklebee Café cookbook of customer favorite plant-based recipes (\$20). Or what about a day of shelter for a woman and her children in recovery housing for the "new mom" in your family (\$60 through Meta House)? And, as you gather in the warmth of family and friends this Christmas, consider giving each person who gathers around your tree, a warm blanket for the survivor of a natural disaster (\$10 through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance). Items range in price from just \$10 to \$100. **Be sure to pick up a card (\$1) for each gift**, with a description of your purchase, as your gift to a family member or friend.

Purchases may be made in-person on December 8 at the market or during Coffee Hour on December 15 or 22. Orders may also be placed by phone (414-276-4757) by calling the church office (Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.). The shopping list is available at: <https://www.immanuelwi.org/acm2024>.

*New this year: for a small convenience fee,*  
**shoppers may use credit cards to purchase in-person gifts!**  
Cash or check is, of course, always accepted.



**Invite a friend to join you**  
for this much-loved, and much-anticipated, Immanuel holiday tradition.

# 2024 ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET

## Participating Agencies

### **Bread of Healing Clinic**

Begun as a ministry of Cross Lutheran Church in 2000, the Bread of Healing Clinic now sees 400 patients each month at three locations on the North Side of Milwaukee. The Clinic provides essential services to those who would otherwise fall through the cracks of our health systems. Most patients are employed but do not have access to health insurance. Many patients may make too much money to be eligible for Medicaid, and not enough to afford their employer's premiums. In addition to primary care services and free medications, the clinic offers programs such as counseling, a dental clinic, and a broad scope of social work services. The name of the organization comes from Ecclesiastes 11:1, which invites the reader to: "Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days." Maya Angelou writes further: "When we cast our bread upon the waters, we can presume that someone downstream, whose face we may never see, will benefit from our action, even as we enjoy the fruits sent to us from a donor upstream." It is a recognition that in all times and in all places, we are all givers and receivers of gifts.

[www.breadofhealingclinic.org](http://www.breadofhealingclinic.org)

### **Cathedral Center Shelter for Women and Families**

Cathedral Center is one of the largest local shelters focusing services specifically for unaccompanied women and families with children. Cathedral Center's mission is to provide a safe environment for women and families while working to end homelessness, one life at a time. Cathedral Center's Emergency Shelter offers a safe environment for up to 28 unaccompanied women and 8 families with children for up to 90 days. In 2023, Cathedral Center's emergency shelter provided 18,089 nights of shelter to 436 people including 160 children. Cathedral Center provides a safe environment for our community's most vulnerable to heal and to receive services to set and achieve goals focused on health and wellbeing, increasing earned income, and securing safe housing.

[www.cathedral-center.org](http://www.cathedral-center.org)

### **CIVIC MUSIC MKE**

Active in developing the musical life of Milwaukee since 1918, CIVIC MUSIC MKE supports music education and provides performance opportunities for young musicians in the greater Milwaukee area. Participating instrumentalists and vocalists take part in a variety of unique opportunities to refine their skills and grow as a musician through private lessons, auditions, workshops, competition, and performance. Last year, CIVIC MUSIC directly served over 150 young musicians and their teachers in our community. More than 95% of our programming involves students 18 years old or younger. CIVIC MUSIC encourages talented young musicians to pursue the next level of musicianship by providing unique performance opportunities and recognition of their accomplishments at a critical time in their growth and development. The *Private Lesson Program* gives young musicians the opportunity to study music privately to accelerate their growth. Through the *High School Competition and Showcase Recital*, and *High School Awards* programs, high school students receive further training, performance opportunities, support, and recognition. The *Educator Awards* recognize inspirational music teachers, and the *Citizens Awards* celebrates outstanding citizens integral to Milwaukee's musical life. CIVIC MUSIC also hosts two family events, Kids Musicfest and Live at the Ivy, that expose kids to music, talented local musicians, and music organizations.

[www.civicismmilwaukee.org/](http://www.civicismmilwaukee.org/)

### **CORE El Centro**

CORE El Centro is a non-profit organization in Walker's Point which provides holistic wellness services for Milwaukeeans. CORE offers both group programming and one-on-one services. Group programs include yoga, Tai Chi, Zumba, and classes for children like ballet and kickboxing. One-on-one services include acupuncture, massage, reiki, and spiritual accompaniment. Although wellness services are often quite pricey, CORE's dynamic and subsidized pricing provides access to those who might otherwise find such services out of reach. CORE is open to anyone and everyone, with a specific mission to welcome Milwaukee's Spanish-speaking community. All programs and services are available in both Spanish and English with most of the staff fluent in Spanish. Founded in 2002, last year CORE El Centro provided direct services to about 1,000 Milwaukeeans and looks forward to many more years of serving the Milwaukee community!

<https://www.core-elcentro.org/>

### **Courage MKE**

Courage MKE is a local Milwaukee nonprofit with a mission is to provide the resources and support LGBTQ+ youth need to thrive. Started in 2015, Courage MKE opened Wisconsin's first group home for displaced LGBTQ+ youth in 2019. Milwaukee's first transitional living program and home for LGBTQ+ young adults (18-24) was opened in 2024. The program and home serve young adults who are either homeless or aging out of foster care with no support. Courage MKE has a number of other programs to help support Wisconsin's queer youth including a new support group for loved ones of LGBTQ+ children. Learn more through Courage MKE's website and social media channels.

<https://couragemke.org/>

### **Eastside Senior Services**

Eastside Senior Services helps older adults who live downtown, in Shorewood, Riverwest, and on Milwaukee's East Side continue to live in their own homes in a safe and dignified manner. Through direct support services, provided at no cost, these older adults are able to stay closely connected to and engaged with their communities while leading active, independent lives. Services include: transportation and shopping services, in-home visits to seniors who are lonely or isolated, seasonal chores, light housework, remembrance through cards and small gifts, telephone reassurance, referral, and advocacy.

[www.essmilw.org](http://www.essmilw.org)

### **Forward Scholars Tutoring**

Started by Common Ground, Forward Scholars is a community volunteer tutoring program focused on supporting kindergarten through third grade students who are not yet reading at grade level. The tutoring program began in the fall of 2022 with 135 children at five Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) and was wildly successful. On average, students made nearly twice the expected reading growth for one school year. Additionally, children gained confidence in themselves as readers and treasured the relationships that were built with tutors. For the 2023-2024 school year, Forward Scholars served over 180 students at seven MPS schools and, on average, students made a full two years growth in reading accuracy and fluency in eight months of tutoring. This year, Forward Scholars urgently needs your help to continue to provide reading services to MPS students due to the financial crisis in MPS. Over 250 volunteers (14 from Immanuel!) are providing 1:1 individualized reading instruction to students in nine MPS schools, twice a week for 45 minutes each session. Please help share the gift of reading. Together we can build brighter futures and stronger communities through reading. Watch a short video about the Forward Scholars story at the link below.

[www.forwardscholars.org](http://www.forwardscholars.org)

### **Interchange Food Pantry**

Interchange Food Pantry (IFP) addresses hunger relief and racial inequity. 82% of our guests live in Milwaukee's food deserts with limited access to plentiful, affordable, and nutritious food. This year, IFP will serve approximately 55,000 guests, who are the socially disadvantaged, mostly black (78%), and 47% children. Your donation will allow the IFP to purchase quality, consumer-friendly, culturally specific fresh fruits and vegetables and protein items such as peanut butter and chicken. In 2024, the produce and protein items will cost IFP \$150,000. Gifts through the Alternative Christmas Market will help provide pantry guests with the same quality food so many Milwaukeeans enjoy at home!

[www.interchangefoodpantry.org](http://www.interchangefoodpantry.org)

### **Meta House**

Meta House has been transforming lives for over 60 years by ending the generational cycle of addiction by healing women and strengthening families. The organization is widely revered for its comprehensive, gender-specific approach to treating women with substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders. Meta House was one of the nation's first programs to welcome children into the inpatient/residential treatment program to receive services alongside their mother so the whole family could heal simultaneously. In addition to core substance use and mental health services, families have access to a wide array of supportive services, including prenatal care, lactation consultation, drop-in childcare, one-on-one child therapy, family therapy, father/partner involvement, parenting support, and nurturing classes. Recognizing that, in addition to their substance use disorder, most of the women in its programs face homelessness and/or unstable housing, limited education, employment challenges, and histories of trauma, Meta House offers case management, peer support, and vocation and education services to ensure women have the tools they need to thrive in recovery. Alternative Christmas Market gifts provide women and children with hope and healing as they build a strong foundation for their future; thank you!

[www.metahouse.org](http://www.metahouse.org)

### **Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity**

Motivated by God's love, Immanuel Presbyterian Church and other Presbyterian Coalition congregations have helped 30 families in Milwaukee become first time homeowners through Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity. In thirty years, the Presbyterian Coalition has completed work on 4 rehabs and 26 brand new homes, plus financial contributions totaling well over one million dollars!

- 24 of the families the Presbyterian Coalition has helped still live in their homes
- 9 families have paid off their mortgages
- 2 new families will move into their homes by next spring
- Cumulatively, Presbyterian Coalition families have lived in their homes almost 450 years and celebrated almost 450 Christmases together.

Gifts through the Alternative Christmas Market will help another family achieve the dream of stability and independence through affordable homeownership in 2025!

[www.milwaukeehabitat.org](http://www.milwaukeehabitat.org)

### **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church (USA), enabling congregations to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events. PDA focuses on the long-term recovery of disaster affected communities, and works collaboratively with national and international partners, such as the United Nations, the World Food Program, and the Red Cross. PDA's core budget, including staff and administrative costs, is funded through the One Great Hour of Sharing, and its program work is additionally funded through designated gifts, including those from Immanuel's Alternative Christmas Market.

[www.pcusa.org/pda](http://www.pcusa.org/pda)

### **Tricklebee Café**

Tricklebee Café is a pay-what-you-can community cafe that offers healthy meals, food service training, and spiritual nourishment. In its 9<sup>th</sup> year of thriving, Tricklebee is a ministry of the Moravian Church in America that recognizes the racial disparities that exist in Milwaukee, including the food insecurity that is systemically ingrained in the community. We offer plant-based, delicious meals that are freshly made each day. These meals are not reserved for those who can pay. All may eat here. We serve homeless neighbors regularly. We believe that everyone deserves healthy food, regardless of how much money they have in their pocket. Our purpose is aligned with Jesus of Nazareth who said of the hungry crowd: "I do not want them to go away hungry." Many families in our area are food insecure and only have access to highly processed food from corner stores, with fresh produce rarely being available. Many of these neighbors lack cars and live over a mile from a grocery store. As a member of *One World Everybody Eats*, our customers may volunteer in exchange for a meal, or "pay it forward" for others' meals. We promote food security by providing nutritious, affordable, locally sourced meals to all. Our pay-what-you-can model takes the emphasis off money and puts it on the exchange of good(nes)s, presuming that everyone has something to offer. Through our licensed kitchen, we also provide training to the under-employed to help them seek dignified jobs and sustainable incomes in foodservice and hospitality. We also share our kitchen with local food entrepreneurs (currently, all women of color).

[tricklebeecafe.org/](http://tricklebeecafe.org/)

### **Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church - Arts and Science Literacy Camp and Ministry to Those Without Homes**

A small congregation in Milwaukee's Bay View neighborhood, Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church is committed to ministries that address social justice and equity. "Divine Intervention," provides winter emergency overnight safe sanctuary for those experiencing homelessness from December 1 to March 31. Dinner is served every night and take away foods are provided each day. This year Tippe is upgrading the stove and dishwasher in the kitchen and replacing window blinds in the sleeping area to make the space feel warmer and safer.

Inspired by the success of the Divine Intervention Ministry with homeless neighbors, Tippe continues its Arts and Science Literacy Camp (ASLC) started 2018. The innovative mission of ASLC is to offer an integrated arts approach to supporting literacy, coupled with fine arts expression and a foundation in science. Camps are offered weekly over the summer as well as after school during the school year for Kindergarten through Sixth grade.

[www.tippechurch.org](http://www.tippechurch.org)

### **Urban Ecology Center - Washington Park**

The Urban Ecology Center (UEC) connects people in the city to nature and each other. We work to inspire generations to build environmental curiosity, understanding, and respect while also restoring the environment around each branch. The Center's three branches are located in urban parks: Riverside Park on Milwaukee's east side, Washington Park on the west side, and Three Bridges Park in the Menomonee Valley. These communities are some of the most diverse in the state, and there are more than 100,000 people living within a two-mile radius of each branch. The Center's signature program, the Neighborhood Environmental Education Project (NEEP), partners with more than 60 schools located within a 2-mile radius of our branches. Many of the students who participate in our summer camp programs, or join us for community programs or our High School Outdoor Leadership program, originally connected with the UEC through their NEEP classes. UEC's Neighborhood Engagement team connects more deeply with the community through door knocking, community outreach events, and by attending neighborhood meetings. The Washington Park branch is undergoing a major building renovation that will double its capacity for serving the neighborhood.

[www.urbanecologycenter.org/branches/washington-park](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org/branches/washington-park)

