



# The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church

August  
2020

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

The time has come for us to say goodbye as our mutual ministry comes to a close. I will be taking the first two weeks of August off for vacation to finish packing, hopefully doing some painting in our new home if we get it early and then moving to Emporia.

I have been thinking of our ministry together these past 9 months since I submitted paperwork and have many fond memories of doing ministry with you. We have also had our bumps in the road but through it all, God has always been active. God has been guiding us through the Holy Spirit as we worked to share the gospel of God's love and forgiveness that is meant for all people.

I never imagined that my final months with you all would be in the middle of a pandemic but here we are. It has drastically changed how we will be saying goodbye but it is also what is needed at this time. Where Immanuel goes from here is up to you as a congregation as you work with Pastor Dave Whetter, Bishop's Associate, and your interim pastor. Your future as the Body of Christ in Salina is wide open. As you figure that out, it will take the work of all of you.

This work is not just the work of the council or call committee. It isn't just the work of the staff. It is the work of all disciples who are here at Immanuel. Where Immanuel goes and what its ministry looks like will take shape from all of your input.

A couple of weeks ago, we finished the book of Job and I said that we are all somewhere in the book every day of our life, both as individuals and as institutions. Our lives move from a good life, to heartaches, depression, not recognizing any hope, seeing a glimpse of God somewhere in the distance, taking a few steps backwards, focusing on God once again and being blessed by God.

This transition time that you are entering will have all of that. But when you embrace it and listen/watch for God's guidance, I can promise you that you will be blessed. How this journey ends is 100% in your hands and how you decide to move forward. You will always hold a special place in my heart and I will also be praying for you as we all proclaim God's love in word and deed.

In Christ,  
Pastor Kent

Pastor Kent,

As you leave our community of faith, we give thanks for your ministry here. You have been a faithful messenger of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You have shown us how to live out our baptismal promises and fed us with the living presence of Christ. You comforted our sorrows and shared our joys. Thank you for sharing life and ministry with us these last 17 years. As you have been a blessing to us, we pray that you are a blessing to others in your new call. Thank you.

*The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.*

*Numbers 6:24-26*



*Welcoming All. Growing Together in Faith. Sharing Christ's Love*



### Hot Times

Due to the increase in local COVID-19 cases and the cancellation of other local events, Hot Times has been cancelled for this year.

### 150th Anniversary

The Anniversary Planning Team has decided to postpone our celebration until May 2, 2021. Please share this information with your family and friends.

### Rummage Sale

After much discussion, the Rummage Sale team felt it was in the best interest to cancel the Rummage Sale for this year (2020) in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to 2021 and scheduling the Rummage Sale again!

### LWR School Kits

We will not be assembling Lutheran World Relief school kits this year. If you would still like to gather items for next year, please contact Mindy.

### Congregational Council Action from June 2020:

Motion was approved to use Goodville Mutual Casualty Insurance for the church property insurance.

Motion was approved to allow congregational members to use the Fellowship Hall for small gatherings with the expectation they will be responsible to clean up and disinfect after the event and abide by the rules of the county guidelines at the time regarding the number of people attending, and have them sign a form that they understand the church's expectations.

Motion was approved to keep the A/C at a reasonable temperature and not turn it on and off between worship services.

#### Do you have an article for the Messenger?

Please send information to [mindy@immanuelsalina.org](mailto:mindy@immanuelsalina.org)  
Deadline for newsletter articles is the 15th of the month.

#### CONTACT US:

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Let us welcome the newly baptized!



Quinley Rose Swisher , child of Uriah & Emily Swisher was baptized on July 11, 2020.

Briar Ralph Johnson, child of Lane & Jennifer Johnson was baptized on July 20, 2020.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and in to the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world!



### Financial Report

The summer seems to be flying by! The finance committee reviewed the June financial statements at their last meeting. The offering was only \$8,430, the lowest it has been all year. In order to meet budget, we need at least \$15,317 each month. We ask that you consider your support of the activities of Immanuel. You can drop off your offering at the church office (mornings), put it in the offering plate on Sunday, mail it to the church – 255 S. 7<sup>th</sup>, Salina, KS 67401, or make an electronic payment through your bank. Thank you for your consideration.

### Transitional Ministry

As we wait for the Synod to identify an interim pastor to serve our congregation, the following Parish Ministry Associates and Pastor will be leading us in worship during August:



- August 2 - Dorothy Hanna, PMA
- August 9 - Dorothy Hanna, PMA
- August 16 - Nancy Mitchell, retired PMA
- August 23 - Nancy Mitchell, retired PMA
- August 30 - Pastor Delvin Strecker, retired

COVID-19 safety protocols for worship (physical distancing, no singing, no communion, exiting the building promptly after worship, etc.) will remain in effect during the month of August.

There will be no assisting ministers in August. The Revised Common Lectionary will be used.