



# The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church

July  
2020

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

A few weeks ago, I shared something on my facebook page that said the following:

Love your neighbor who doesn't look like you, think like you, love like you, speak like you, pray like you, vote like you. Love your neighbor. No exceptions.

This statement is similar to the second greatest commandment that Jesus gave when he was being tested. Love your neighbor as yourself. As this past month has progressed, I have to admit that I am a bit surprised that some people want to make exceptions to this commandment. It appears for some that Jesus' command to love one another is only appropriate when we agree with or look like the one who is being loved.

Some people are arguing that it is ok that George Floyd died and there is no concern with the way he died because of his criminal record. Before his record became common knowledge, I said in a sermon that nobody deserved to die the way he did. That officer knelt on the back of his neck while he was already handcuffed for almost 8 minutes with about the final 3 of those minutes after he was totally unconscious.

I still stand by that statement because I don't care what he did, that officer was not elected jury, judge and executioner. I am content that the officers have been arrested and should stand trial for their actions. I am fine with all the peaceful protests as people of all races stand up and say enough is enough. But I struggle with the rioters and looters of all races who are there to increase racial division.

The fact that people are taking advantage of the situation to spread more hate and division does not mean that we do not have a problem as some proclaim. It actually shows that we definitely have a problem in judging people not just by our race but by everything that makes us different.

It is here that we must listen to Jesus and remind ourselves that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. And then look at what we say and do. Look at what we post on social media. Do we follow the command of Jesus to love our neighbor?

In Christ,  
*Pastor Kent*

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## Worship during a Pandemic

Some people remain hesitant to return to in-person worship and others were eager to resume in-person worship. No matter where you stand on the issue, there is a place for you here at Immanuel! We encourage you to join us online or in-person for weekly worship on Sunday mornings.



The safety of our members and guests is our primary concern. To minimize the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus, the sanctuary, chapel, and upstairs restrooms are the only areas open on Sunday mornings. We are not serving communion nor are we singing during worship. The Worship & Music Ministry Team will research and submit a recommendation to the Council about safely resuming communion and singing during worship.

During the week, the building is open by appointment only. Please call the church office before visiting.

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



## Harvest Worship

Our Harvest Worship is posted on [our Facebook page](#). We encourage you to use this devotional during wheat and other harvest times.



## Financial Report

Thank you for all who are supporting the ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church as we live our mission of Welcoming All, Growing Together in Faith, Sharing Christ's Love! Our expenses for May 2020 exceeded our income (before PPP Loan) by \$7,900. Your consideration is appreciated as we enter into July when our quarterly insurance payment is due.

Due to the closure of the Lindsborg Pool, our congregational pool party has been cancelled.



## CANCELLATIONS

For the safety of our community, Vacation Bible School has been cancelled for this summer.

Due to the closure of the Lindsborg Pool, our congregational pool party has been cancelled.

## Congregational Council Action from May 2020:

Motion was approved to re-open for in-person worship on Sunday, May 24, 2020.



Thank you to everyone who helped deliver flowers for Mother's Day! We raised \$1,000 for the 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering and \$607.70 for the general youth checking account.

*Immanuel Youth*

## 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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Church office.....(785) 825-4750  
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## Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesdays 8:00am-12:00pm  
Wednesdays 9:45am-12:00pm  
Thursdays 8:00am-10:45am

Pastor Kent is available at other times by appointment. His cell phone is linked to the church answering system, so if you leave a voicemail message, he will contact you as soon as possible.

## Backyard Camping with Camp Tomah Shinga!

Nothing can replace the friendships, memories, and adventures of camp. But the summer staff hope to engage you and your family through worship, hiking, crafts and so much more with their Backyard Camping this summer! Subscribe to the Camp Tomah Shinga's YouTube channel and explore creation, build community, and grow faith together!



## Tri-Rivers Fair Parade Tuesday, August 4 7:00 pm

Volunteers are needed to walk during the parade to hold our sign and to hand out candy. We also need LOTS of non-melting candy to hand out! Donated candy can be placed in the tub in the library.

## Hot Times, Fun in the City Sunday, August 23 4:00-7:00 pm.



All are welcome to the car show, kids' game, cake walk, 50/50 Raffle, and Hot Wheel races for all ages! Hamburger/hot dog meal will be served, donations are encouraged. This benefit will support the Sunflower Adult Day Services and Lutheran Disaster Response. If there are any restrictions to the number of people in a gathering, Hot Times will be cancelled. Contact the church office if you are able to help!



## Anniversary Celebrations

Congratulations Pastor Kent Happel and Deacon Mindy Tillberg! Pastor Kent is celebrating his 25th year as a Rostered Minister. He has served Immanuel since 2003. Deacon Mindy is celebrating her 20th year as a Rostered Minister. She has served Immanuel since 1996. Thank your for your ministries at Immanuel!

## Central States Synod Assembly

The Synod Council, meeting by Zoom™, postponed the 2020 Synod Assembly to June 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Synod Council, acting on behalf of the Assembly, adopted a budget, voted on resolutions, and tended to other business of the Synod. For information about the 2020 Synod Assembly, please visit the Synod website at [www.css-elca.org/assembly](http://www.css-elca.org/assembly)



### Central States Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

## Statement of the Synod Council of the Central States

The recent murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Dreasjon (Sean) Reed, and George Floyd have jolted many to action. For more than a week, individuals around the world have taken to the streets to express their pain, anger, and frustration over the dehumanization being experienced by black and brown people due to individual/systemic racism. The anguish endured by people of color in this country because of the actions or inactions of other citizens is real, and it cannot be ignored.

Racism and racist notions have no place in Christianity. They are antithetical to our core beliefs. We believe God made all of humanity in God's image (Gen. 1:27). We believe Jesus Christ lives in each one of us (1 John 4:13) and tears down the dividing wall of hostility between us (Eph. 2:14). And we believe we are all members of the Body of Christ; hence, "if one member suffers, we all suffer with it" (1 Cor. 12:26).

Despite our relationship with God, we are sinners. We consciously and unconsciously sin against God and each other in thought, word, and deed. We love neither God nor our neighbor with our whole heart. Instead, we give in to temptation and seek to satisfy our own desires.

The Synod Council of the Central States encourages its congregations and their members to use this time of national self-examination as an opportunity to engage in courageous dialogue to tackle the sinful issue of racism. We invite our faith communities to listen to the experiences and perspectives of those who have endured racism and aggression at the hands of individuals and institutions, including our own ELCA. We also ask members to reflect on what actions they have taken or missed to reduce racism and lift up the dignity of all people.

The Council understands that discussions about race are difficult. Some participants may feel uncomfortable and even vulnerable. But what is hard should not stop us from doing what is right.

The Synod has tools available ([www.css-elca.org/justice](http://www.css-elca.org/justice)) to facilitate positive, courageous dialogue. Therefore, we encourage congregations and members to be brave and examine their own attitudes and conduct. Each person, regardless of background or age, can help to advance the eradication of racism, disrupt systemic inequality and inequity, build a more inclusive community, and live out Christ's teaching to love our neighbor.

Rev. Susan Candea, Bishop  
Ms. Nancy Nagel, Vice President  
Rev. Chad Langdon, Secretary  
Mr. Scott Schulte, Treasurer

Ms. Susan Boxberger  
Ms. Chelsea Deines  
Rev. David Strommen  
Rev. Lorna Paulus  
Mr. Daniel Lilienkamp  
Mr. Terrence Freeman

Rev. Kristen Koch  
Ms. Linda Lockhart  
Mr. Dallas Rakestraw  
Mr. Theodore Keesee  
Deacon Mindy Tillberg  
Mx. Joanie Saltzman

God's work. Our hands.