



Notes from Nancy



"MEMBER" OR "DISCIPLE"?

Are you a *member of your church* or a *disciple of Christ*?

Is your primary relationship with the congregation or with Jesus Christ?

In and out of your church, what do you hear about most: conversations about people and activities in our lives - or our relationship with **Jesus Christ** and what he is doing in our lives?

MEMBERSHIP - Members in a congregation are expected to:

Give money to support others who do ministry such as the pastor or a missionary.

Maintain the institution. Give enough money to keep the building heated, lights on, and maintained and to make sure that enough people take their turn on committees and council.

Live an upright life and be a good citizen of the community.

DISCIPLESHIP - Our primary relationship is with Jesus Christ, not the congregation. Although, the congregation is the community of people with whom this relationship is lived out and nurtured.

As disciples, we are commanded to have a deeper relationship with Jesus, become more like Jesus, and share the "Good News" with others.

Disciples think of the pastor and the congregation being in a "partnership" instead of thinking they "pay the pastor". They don't complain about what the pastor is or isn't doing but instead they understand that "ministry" belongs to all God's people.

A Disciple's life involves praying daily, reading scripture daily, going to church to worship weekly, tithing, serving others in Jesus' name, and sharing Jesus with the unchurched.

Disciples see that the church can't grow within the walls of the church.... They go out into the community to reach the unchurched, those in need, and those who have not gone to church in some time.

Nowadays, a lot of churches have few members and even fewer disciples.

Therefore, Christ's call to discipleship is not an option but the livelihood of the church.

Our **VISION** should be on the Kingdom of God, **NOT** the church itself.

Are **YOU** a church member or a disciple of Christ?

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28: 19-20

As Christians, we are all called to be **DISCIPLES!!**

- Thoughts from a Friend by Joanie Lawrence Cain

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

Transition Team Update

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Transition Team has been formed and has been working toward their mission to lead our church family through the process of defining who we are, our needs as a congregation, and what characteristics we are looking for in a future pastor. Our team is Karla Arpin, Zoë Greenemeyer, and Emily Komarek.

The team met via zoom with Pastor Dave Whetter, synod Assistant to the Bishop, who outlined the process the team would be going through to achieve our goal. We are presently in the process of gathering demographic data about Immanuel. We have received our books needed for a class we will all be attending virtually on June 2-3 that is led by the Kansas Leadership Center, which is located in Wichita. The purpose of the class is to guide us on how to move our congregation through this process.

In the future, we will be contacting each member to gather data about your opinion, hopes, and vision as we move forward in preparing to call a pastor. This contact may be in person, by phone, or by questionnaire. We will do our best to get each family contacted so each person is represented in achieving our goal. The information we gather will be provided and passed on to a Call Team.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of the members of our Transition Team. Have a blessed month and please keep our transition team in your prayers as we go through this process. *Karla Arpin, Chair*



Congregation Council Action from March 2021:

Recommendation approved to continue the church and parsonage lawn care programs with Total Turfcare.

Recommendation approved to adopt the Child-Youth Protection Policy.

Motion approved to postpone 150th Anniversary celebration to May 2022.

During the month of May, the Missions Team will be collecting monetary donations for Project Salina.



Our goal is to raise \$250.

Project Salina collects donations to purchase and distribute food to area residents who struggle to afford food. One of the times of greatest need is summer. During the summer months, when school is not in session, providing 3 meals a day for children is often difficult for many families. Donations for Project Salina are divided between Ashby House, Emergency Aid/Food Bank, Salina Rescue Mission, Salvation Army and Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas.

Monetary donations are encouraged for three simple, yet very important reasons: 1) Project Salina can purchase in bulk and is tax exempt, making your dollar go even further. 2) Monetary donations allows for purchasing food throughout the year reducing the amount of storage space required. 3) Purchasing throughout the year allows for better tracking of expiration dates, ensuring all food gets used.

Please mark your donations for "Project Salina" and place in the offering plate or mail to the church .

Salina Presbyterian Manor, in partnership with Redeemer Lutheran Church, has resumed their Grief and Loss Support Group. The group meets each month on the 3rd Friday at 2:00pm at Redeemer (743 E Magnolia Rd). Participants will be physical distancing and are asked to wear a mask. For more information, contact Chaplain Mary Bridges (785-825-1366, ext 1153).



Volunteers are welcome to join **St. John's Lutheran Quilt Tying** group on Wednesdays are 9:00 am. There are both sitting and standing jobs available. Have questions? Call St John's church office at 825-5081.

Heading to the Lake this summer? **Wilson Lake Ministry** offers an interdenominational worship service on Sunday mornings (Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend) at 9:30am at the Tatanka Lodge.



**Mother's Day
Flower Delivery
May 6-8**



We will be delivering flowers for the Dillon's on Cloud again this year! All volunteers will need to wear masks; deliveries will be no contact. If you are able to help, contact Mindy or sign-up on the Youth Bulletin Board.



Financial donations for the Synod Assembly Offering will be collected during the month of May. See the enclosed flyer for more information about the offering. Please mark your donation for "Synod Assembly Offering" and place in the offering plate on Sunday or mail to the church.

Church Anniversary

In order that we may gather safely without any restrictions, the Congregational Council, in consultation with the Anniversary Planning Team, has postponed the celebration of Immanuel's anniversary until May 1, 2022. Mark your calendars for this celebration!



**LWR
Personal
Care kits**

Thank you to everyone who donated items and helped assemble Lutheran World Relief Personal Care kits. On April 18 we quickly assembled 70 kits! We are asking for **29 more towels** (lightweight bath-size towels, dark colors, between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27") to use the rest of the supplies we have available. Contact Mindy Tillberg if you have questions.

Do you have an article for the Messenger?

Please send information to mindy@immanuelsalina.org
Deadline for the newsletter is the 15th of the month.

CONTACT US:

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Church office.....(785) 825-4750
Nancy Mitchell, Synod Authorized Minister....nancy@immanuelsalina.org
Mindy Tillberg, Deacon.....mindy@immanuelsalina.org
Erica Arb, Preschool.....happyhearts@immanuelsalina.org

Sunday, May 2

Graduate Recognition

High school and college graduates will be recognized at worship on Sunday, May 2. Please let the church office know if there are graduates in your family.



Bishop Candea preaching

Sunday, May 2 will also be an opportunity to meet our Central States Bishop. Bishop Susan Candea who will be preaching at Immanuel on that day. All are welcome to worship!

Welca Meeting

May 13 at 2:00pm

All women of Immanuel are invited to the monthly gathering.



Altar Guild

Wednesday, May 19 at 5:15pm
Monthly meeting

Sunday, May 23

Pentecost & Affirmation of Baptism

*Everyone is invited to wear **RED** on this Sunday!*

Pentecost is the day on which we remember the story given to us in the Acts 2. The story goes:

- 40 days after the resurrection (which we celebrate at Easter) Jesus ascends into heaven (which we celebrate on Ascension Day)
- Before he ascends, Jesus promises that he will not leave us "comfortless", but will send the Holy Spirit to strengthen and to guide us, to guide the church.
- Ten days later, on the Day of Pentecost, Holy Spirit descended on the people gathered.



We wear **RED** to remind us of the fire of the Holy Spirit!

Also on this Sunday, Jake Tillberg, who has completed the requirements for confirmation, will affirm his baptism. Congratulations Jake!