



# The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church

October  
2019

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

In figuring out something to talk about, I found myself on Facebook once again and at a post that I shared a few weeks ago.

“Judas had the best pastor, the best leader, the best adviser and the best counselor and he still failed. The problem is not the leadership or the church that you go to. If your attitude or character does not change or your heart does not transform; you will always be the same.”

Think about that for awhile. We all know that we are sinners and not one of us is worthy to be saved. And yet God forgives us and offers eternal life despite our ugliness to one another and to God. If God’s grace does not change us, then we will continue to be ugly to one another. We will continue to not allow ourselves to be touched and changed by the Gospel. Instead of spreading God’s love to others, we will be sharing hatred and lies.

I don’t know about you, but I do believe that a world that is focused on God’s love for all is a much better option than a world of hatred. Judas proved that even with the best pastor, leader, adviser and counselor, failure is still a possibility. The problem with Judas is that he decided that his own selfish reasons were more important than what Jesus was teaching. As a result of his own decision, Judas betrayed Jesus.

Each one of us is Judas. We can be more concerned about our own selfish desires and interests than the common good of all. We can look down upon others and even condemn others without even knowing the truth or just thinking that others are not as good.

We all condemn Jesus to death each day because of our sins. And yet it is Christ who spreads his arms wide and takes our punishment. He takes on our condemnation and offers us forgiveness in return.

When we live in forgiveness instead of condemning others, we live in God’s grace. That grace brings about a change within us that allows us to share Christ’s love with others. It helps us to change from Judas to be more like Christ as we live with one another.

In Christ,  
Pastor Kent

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## Reformation Sunday, October 27

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg church, thus launching the Protestant Reformation. On October 27, worshippers are invited to wear **RED** in commemoration of this event.

One of Luther’s efforts was to make the Bible more accessible for the common people. So on this Sunday our 3rd grade students will receive Bibles as a gift from the congregation. If you have a 3rd grade student, please contact Mindy Tillberg.



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

## God's Work. Our Hands. 2019

Over 35 volunteers of all ages from Immanuel, Redeemer, and St. John's Lutheran Churches participated in "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday on September 8 at Ashby House. Ashby House empowers homeless families and individuals to improve self-sufficiency, self-advocacy, and holistic recovery. Congregation members worked in the newly located family shelter taking out nails and prepping spaces for construction. Others worked in a nearby



Ashby House facility cleaning out construction debris. Over at the main office, the downstairs crew put together LWR Baby and School Kits, while the upstairs crew sorted and organized donated items for immediate accessibility.

Ashby House Facilities Manager, Jeff Shaw, stated that the work done by our crew would have taken weeks for staff to accomplish. And some things would have never gotten done. While the rain kept us from doing the originally planned outdoor landscaping, the indoor work kept folks busy. Jeff invited us back later this fall for another work day to do the landscaping. More info will be coming when that is scheduled. Thank you to everyone who participated in "God's Work. Our Hands." this year! It's good to serve our Salina community as a common ELCA presence!

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You are invited to the [installation](#) of Rev. Susan Candea as Bishop of the Central States Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on Sunday, October 20 at Atonement Lutheran Church in Overland Park, KS. At 3:00pm there will be a Gathering Reception with the Installation service beginning at 5:00pm.

### Congregation Council Action from August 2019:

Approved usage of the Rummage & Bake Sale proceeds for the church General Fund.

**Hurricane Dorian** hit the Bahamas with devastating force, leading to major damage and a



growing number of reported deaths. [Lutheran Disaster Response](#) is in communication with the Florida-Bahamas Synod, the South Carolina Synod, the North Carolina Synod, Lutheran Services Carolinas and other partners who are responding to the recovery efforts.

What you can do:

- \* PRAY for people who have been affected by hurricanes, that God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.

- \* GIVE your gift designated "[Hurricane Response](#)" will provide survivors of this hurricane and others like it with immediate relief, and accompany them on the long road to recovery. Your designated gift will be used entirely (100 percent) for direct response until it is complete. Together, we can support those whose lives have been impacted by hurricanes.



Thank you for the prayers & cards during the illness & passing of my dad, Charles Shrader. We are so blessed to have such a nice church family.

*Sally & Doug Olson & Family*

Thank you to all my church friends for all the cards and best wishes that I received for my 95th birthday. *Roberta Sharp*

Thank you to our family and friends at Immanuel for your prayers for us these last few weeks. We are getting better and appreciate all the love and support of our church family. Thank you to Pastor Kent for all the wonderful visits and communion he has given to us. *Dannie & Don Tillberg*

Thank you to everyone who donated money, gathered supplies, and assembled the Lutheran World Relief School Kits on God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday. Because of your generous donations and a Thrivent Action Team grant, we prepared 101 kits. Thank you!

At the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August, the social statement [\*Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action\*](#) was approved. It was crafted in the hope that the Holy Spirit will move readers into fruitful understanding, commitment, and action. Grounded in God’s intention of abundant life for all, it confesses patriarchy and sexism as sin. It names the resources of the Lutheran faith to address this sin and identifies what needs to be done both in the church and in society. The social statement is entitled a “call to action” because it urges members to recognize patriarchy and sexism as sinful and invoke systemic changes which fosters abundant, flourishing life for all persons within both church and society.

### Financial Update

Unassigned Cash Balance (01/01/19)	\$9,552.19
Revenue to-date	130,456.27
Expenses-to-ate	<u>(145,472.98)</u>
Unassigned Cash Balance (08/31/19)	(\$5,464.52)

We are still running a deficit and ask you to prayerfully consider your giving for the rest of the year. In October we have an insurance payment, which is a large expense! Work has begun on the 2020 budget. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact Gary Arpin or Corlene Lange.

**Generations in Faith Together (GIFT)** will meet Sundays at 10:00am. All ages are invited to participate in this education opportunity!



**Confirmation Class \* Oct 13 \* Noon-3pm**  
7th & 8th grade students - please bring your Bible!

**Altar Guild Meeting**  
**Wednesday, Oct 16 at 5:15pm**

**Sun, Oct 20 \* Noon-2pm**  
6-12th graders are invited for food, fellowship & fun! Bring \$2 for lunch.



**Haunted Forest**  
**Oct 26 \* 6pm**

6th-12th graders will head to the Salemsborg Falun United Youth Group’s Haunted Forest. See Mindy to sign up. Cost is \$5/person

**Reformation Sunday**  
**October 27**

Worshippers are encourage to wear **RED**, the color symbolizing the Holy Spirit and the Christian martyrs. 3rd graders will receive Bibles during worship too!



**Senior Lunch**  
**Mon, Oct 28 at Noon**  
Please bring a dish to share. Table service provided.

**All Saints Sunday \* November 3**

If you have a loved one that you would like remembered during worship on All Saints Sunday, please sign-up on the sheets located in the Narthex and Chapel area during the month of October.



**Welca Group**  
Thursday, October 10 at 2pm at church

**Anna Group**  
Wednesday, October 16 at 1:30pm at Pres. Manor

**Elizabeth Group**  
Wednesday, October 16 at 6:15pm at church

### Newsletter Distribution

The November Messenger will be emailed on Oct 25. To receive your newsletter by email, contact [Mindy](mailto:Mindy). For those who opted for print copies, they will be available for pick-up on Sunday, Oct 27. If you do not pick yours up that day, it will be mailed to you.

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

Please send information to [mindy@immanuelsalina.org](mailto:mindy@immanuelsalina.org)  
Deadline for the next newsletter is October 15.

### CONTACT US:

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