



Address Service Requested



Come and see: Seeking and finding faith

In this session, we meet John the Baptist, who bears witness to Jesus. As the circle of Jesus' disciples grows, we share in the invitation to "come and see." At the wedding in Cana and during the cleansing of the temple, we reflect on how the character of God is revealed in Jesus.

WELCA

WEDNESDAY, February 6th

11:30 am in Spong

Potluck - Bring something to share with everyone!

Questions? Contact Pastor Ann

PARISH NEWS

January 2019

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The Parish News is a monthly publication of ILC. Articles or information pertinent to the life and mission of the congregation may be emailed to the office at office@immanuelkc.org. Space limitations may require editing of material. **Deadline for the February 2019 issue is Friday, January 18.** To be removed from our mailing list or submit a change of address, contact the church office at 816-931-8483 or office@immanuelkc.org.



From Pastor Micah

Blessings on a new year!

Now is the season of resolutions and commitments, some of which may even make it into February, if we *really* keep at it. Maybe it's cliché, to remark on fleeting nature of many New Year's Resolutions, but it conveys a common truth about human experience: that change is hard. There's an irony in that, given that change is inevitable. The world around us is always in flux, and the same is true of ourselves, whether we're aware of it or not. It's why I'm such an ardent believer in the Lutheran tradition. Our heritage isn't as an individual church body, but as an ecumenical movement, crying out for reform and change throughout the wider church. It doesn't always come easy, and it's often met with resistance, but together as the body of Christ, we can change the world.

I had the privilege this past Advent of leading a mid-week series based on apocalyptic storytelling. We imagined ourselves living through the end of the world, and it lead to some interesting, often surprising places. There was on moment in particular that stuck out to me, as the group was weighing their options and preparing to make some difficult choices, one person reminded everyone gathered there of a truth we can easily forget: "our strength is the community to have, and our ability to help each other."

As the new year dawns, and we continue to face an increasingly divided world, I hope that we can remember that simple truth, and lead on one another. We may find that we're capable of greater things than we thought.

Peace,
Pastor Micah

IMMANUEL LEADERSHIP

Staff

Micah Sievenpiper - Pastor
msievenpiper@gmail.com
Ann Rundquist - Ministry Coordinator
pastorannrundquist@gmail.com
Cell: 785-643-7697
Robert Barthel - Organist
Vicki Bartholomew - Administrative Assistant
Suzanne Anderson - Music Director
Kevin Fewell - Building Manager

Council & Executive Committee

Connie Benolkin - Vice President
Dean Byrom
Deborah Crawford
Jeff Fox
Kate Hauber
Terry Kueker - Secretary
Mary Jo Moore - President
Lynden Peters
Mindy Rash - Treasurer
Rick Sundell - Financial Secretary
Scott Thompson
Catie Tomlin
Jack Umbach



Poinsettias

In Remembrance and Thanksgiving



Dean & Beth Byrom

In memory of our parents & those who went before us

Ken & Nancy Beckmann

In memory of Louis & Ruth Sarli

Melodee Blobaum

In memory of Joel Blobaum

Jeff, Heather & Allison Winker

In memory of grandparents

Terry & Lori Kueker

In memory of our fathers Merle & Kirby

Sara Prem

In memory of Marion Cottrell

Ellen, Rick, Maddie & Sarah Wilcox

In loving memory of Crome Dollase & Robert "Opa" Wilcox

EB Walker

In memory of Dave Walker by his family

BJ & Patty Laven

In memory of Anna Bell & Bernie Laven

Karole & John Jacobsen

In memory of our parents

Roland & Betty Pera

In memory of our mothers Annabell Gant & Pauline Pera

Friedrich Family

In Thanksgiving for Jack & Ginger Hudson & Jim & Geraldine
Friedrich

Ron & Mary Coleman-Renoe

In Thanksgiving of family & loved ones

Mary Ann Ciochon

Glory to God

Jean Nuernberger

Thanksgiving for loved ones

Kate & Dave Hauber

In Thanksgiving for family & friends

Boehmer Family

Thanksgiving for Immanuel

John Anderson

Blessings from the Anderson Family

Norma & Leonard Carr

In honor of our family

CeCe & Tracy Atherton

In Thanksgiving of family present & past

Lisa & Christopher

In Thanksgiving for our Immanuel Family

Bill & Mary Jo Moore

In honor of our parents

Lila Aamodt

Walt & Sharyl Serafin

Jeff & Linda Fox

Jack Manning

The Simonich Family

IN OUR PRAYERS...

Members of Immanuel

Theresa Draper, Andree Cuthbertson, Lori Clanin, De Pfoltnr, Ann Erickson, Sandy Bustamante,
Clay & Martha Bowden, Lisa Schlehuber, Bill Norris, Paula Simonich, Jackie Turner, Carolyn Wilson, Everett Hedeem,
Roger Gieschen

Friends of Immanuel

Beverly Dumler, friend of Roland & Betty Pera
Molly Brown, daughter-in-law of a friend of Mary Jo Moore
Paula & Erin Weir, friend of Betty Pera
Bakeberg Family, friends of Betty Pera
Kat M, Janice M., friends of Peggy Dollard
Kara Cordell, family of the Atherton's & Hauber's
Sue Carlson Albers, aunt of Marc & Patti Winkler
Darlene Henninger, aunt of Catie Tomlin
Lee Hass, grandmother of Catie Tomlin
Sharon Guess, co-worker of Linda Fewell
Lance Hill, brother of Deborah Crawford
Craig, Charlotte, Laurel Gibson, family of Deanne Schlehuber
Debbie Tomlin, mother of Catie Tomlin
Christopher Hovde, family of the Boehmer's & Krupp's
Spencer Krupp, family of the Boehmer's & Krupp's
Karen Brooks, sister of Beth Callstrom

Denise Smith, cousin of Lori Kueker
Baby Reylyn & Family, friends of Peggy Dollard
Major, friend of Linda Taylor & Peggy Dollard
Kim R. & family, friends of Peggy Dollard
Baby Simone & Cami, friends of Lauren Park
Craig Reinig, brother-in-law of Linda Taylor
Jon & Fran Ceder, friends of Larry & Connie Benolkin
Eleanor Daniels, daughter of Clay & Martha Bowden
Carol Fewell, mother of Kevin Fewell
Julia Mills, niece of CeCe & Tracy Atherton
Scott Kimbriel, friend of Janie Fee
Paula Crane Craton, niece of Mary Nelson
Rock Westfahl, friend of Kevin & Linda Fewell
Clyde Baker, father of Beth Byrom

For Bereavement:

The Family of Tim Norris, son of Bill & Carmen Norris

Poinsettias in the Sanctuary were purchased by members in honor or thanksgiving of loved ones during the Christmas season. Thank you to the members of Altar Guild for selling and displaying the poinsettias for everyone to enjoy.

SOUPER BOWL

Sunday, February 3

After 2nd Service

Luther Hall

SOUP

VS

CHILI

Bring a soup or chili to share with everyone. Prize goes to the best tasting one! See the sign up sheet near the Vestry. Proceeds will benefit the Youth Ministry

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 OFFICE CLOSED 9 am OA-KC Gathering Space	2 1 pm At Your Best Gathering Space 6 pm Women's Recovery Gathering Space 7 pm Shin Do Ryu Karate Luther Hall	3 6 pm Social Ministry Mtg Krokstrom Klubb 7 pm OA-KC Meeting Room 1	4 9 am Bulletin Folders / Congregational Life 6:30 pm World Folk Dancers Choir Room	5 10 am Shin Do Ryu Karate Choir Room
6 8:15 & 10:30 am Worship 9 am Choir Practice 9:15 am Education for all Ages 3 pm OA-KC, Meeting Room 1 6 pm Musica Vocale, Luther Hall	7	8 7 pm Scandinavian Dancers Luther Hall	9 1 pm At Your Best Gathering Space 6 pm Women's Recovery Gathering Space 7 pm Shin Do Ryu Karate Luther Hall	10 9 am Home School Gathering Space 6:30 pm Volker General Gathering Space 7 pm OA-KC Meeting Room 1 Friends of Literature Roeder's Home	11 9 am Bulletin Folders / Congregational Life 6:30 pm World Folk Dancers Luther Hall	12 8:30 am Altar Guild Spong 10 am Shin Do Ryu Karate Luther Hall
13 8:15 & 10:30 am Worship 9 am Choir Practice 9:15 am Education for all Ages 3 pm OA-KC, Meeting Room 1 6 pm Musica Vocale Luther Hall	14	15 6:30 pm Finance Committee Conference Room 7 pm Scandinavian Dancers Luther Hall Council. Spong	16 1 pm At Your Best Gathering Space 6 pm Women's Recovery Gathering Space 7 pm Shin Do Ryu Karate Luther Hall	17 9 am Home School Gathering Space 4 pm KC Choral Spectrum Sanctuary 7 pm OA-KC Meeting Room 1	18 9 am Bulletin Folders / Congregational Life 6:30 pm World Folk Dancers Luther Hall	19 10 am Shin Do Ryu Karate Luther Hall Bell Choir Spong
20 8:15 & 10:30 am Worship 9:15 am Education for all Ages 3 pm OA-KC, Meeting Room 1 6 pm Musica Vocale Luther Hall	21 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm MW Victim Impact Spong	22 7 pm Scandinavian Dancers Luther Hall	23 1 pm At Your Best Gathering Space 6 pm Women's Recovery Gathering Space 7 pm Shin Do Ryu Karate Luther Hall	24 7 pm OA-KC Meeting Room 1 KC Choral Spectrum Sanctuary	25 9 am Bulletin Folders / Congregational Life 6:30 pm World Folk Dancers Luther Hall	26 9:30 am Worship & Arts Spong 10 am Shin Do Ryu Karate Luther Hall Ruth Sadasivan Reh. Sanctuary
27 8:15 & 10:30 am Worship 9 am Choir Practice 9:15 am Education for all Ages 3 pm OA-KC, Meeting Room 1 6 pm Musica Vocale	28	29 7 pm Scandinavian Dancers Luther Hall	30 1 pm At Your Best Gathering Space 6 pm Women's Recovery Gathering Space 7 pm Shin Do Ryu Karate Luther Hall	31 7 pm OA-KC Meeting Room 1 KC Choral Spectrum Sanctuary		



1 John 1:7 (NIV) says, “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.” Remember these words during the cold, dark months of winter. Resist staying “in”, hunkering down, living in isolation from one another. Rather, be the light that God gives each of us, lighting the darkness and bringing hope to the least, the last, the lost, and the lonely. God is counting on us.

From the Prez



As I write this, today begins the winter solstice and we go into what some people refer to as the dark season. Long days of bitter cold weather, grey, overcast skies and nights turning dark early in the evening. Burr-r-r.

But we Christians take comfort in knowing there is a light in this darkness, a baby born of a virgin mother, in a land far away, illuminated by a star of wonder, a miraculous sign of the hope. This baby, named Jesus, was Christ, the Word incarnate. John 1:4 (NIV) says, “In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.” This “life” is a gift Jesus brought from God into a dying world.

Our challenge in the coming year is to resist the forces of darkness, relinquishing sin by following Jesus, living in His power, and growing in His grace.

Decorations around Immanuel



Many of the liturgical artworks, such as the banner above, was constructed and contributed by member Carl Carlson

January Worship Schedule

	8:15 am	10:30 am
January 6	Assisting Minister: Kevin Fewell Lay Reader: Jerri B. Yungeberg Communion Assistants: Sharyl Serafin & Josie Yungeberg Ushers: Pam Edvalds & NEED VOLUNTEER Greeter: Mike Ortmann	Assisting Minister: Jeff Fox Lay Reader: Linda Fox Communion Assistants: Heather Winker-S & Nam Ahrens Acolyte: Jack Friedrich Cross: Lynden Peters Ushers: Mike, Kelle, Kyle Boehmer, Michael Hamlin Greeter: Beth Byrom
January 13	Assisting Minister: Karen Bame Lay Reader: Melodee Blobaum Communion Assistants: Rick Sundell & Alex Hastings Ushers: Pam Edvalds & Matt Hastings Greeter: Hastings Family	Assisting Minister: John Anderson Lay Reader: Vicki Swanson Communion Assistants: Linda Taylor-S & Desiray Boehmer Acolyte: Zach Boyd Cross: Mason Carey Ushers: Del Karmeier, CeCe Atherton, Kate Hauber, Ken Ross Greeter: CeCe Atherton
January 20	Assisting Minister: Linda Fox Lay Reader: Lisa Hansen Communion Assistants: Karen Bame & Elie Roddy Ushers: NEED VOLUNTEERS Greeter: Carolyn Wilson	Assisting Minister: Linda Taylor Lay Reader: Kate Hauber Communion Assistants: Milian Hanson-S & Connie Benolkin Acolyte: Milian Hanson Ushers: Chris Roth, Linda & Kevin Fewell, Bob Hyland Greeter: Linda Fewell
January 27	Assisting Minister: Lauren Park Lay Reader: Bryan Park Communion Assistants: Sharyl Serafin & EB Walker Ushers: Dee Craig & Elizabeth Hastings Greeter: Don Arney	Assisting Minister: Jeff Fox Lay Reader: Mike Fee Communion Assistants: Gretchen Bishop-S Acolyte: Hank Hunter Cross: Ushers: Marc & Patti Winkler, Randy Callstrom, BJ Laven

Communion Servers:
Pastor, Assisting Minister and one Acolyte will complete the communion team.
Please remember to check in with Pastor Micah in the Vestry before service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL news

The Children's Sunday School group enjoyed many activities during the Advent season. Each class had fun decorating a tree to adorn their classroom doors in early December, which made the space more festive for the MLM Christmas store volunteers. The kids also sang at the beginning of 10:30 service on the second Sunday in Advent. They really loved wearing robes as they sang! On December 16th, we joined with Adult Forum and others to gather donated items into Christmas bags and make cards for members who are sometimes unable to make it to church. The Parson family also helped lead the group in singing many wonderful Christmas carols.

We have a great group of kids who really enjoy being together, and look forward to their participation in the 2019 Sunday School year!



SOCIAL MINISTRY

Who: The Social Ministry committee

What: Explore and act on ways to minister to our brothers and sisters locally, nationally, and globally

When: First Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Where: ILC neighborhood eateries

Why: Because we are called to serve others

Questions: See Pam Edvalds, Rick Sundell, or Janie Fee

We plan and carry out projects such as the MLM Christmas Store gift drives, Easter card sale. CROP Hunger Walk, school supplies drive, just to name a few.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 3rd at 6:00 p.m.
Krokstrom Klubb - 3601 Broadway (KCMO)

Large Print Bulletins

If you would like a large print bulletin for the 10:30 am service, please ask an usher. A limited number are available each Sunday.

January birthdays

Barb Gile	January 1
Margaret Park	January 4
Karen Bame	January 6
Alexandra Peters	January 8
Ken Ross	January 8
Brian Thomas	January 9
Colin Fewell	January 12
BJ Laven	January 12
Jack Helgesen	January 13
Elias Pera	January 14
Isaac Pera	January 14
Stacia Peters	January 14
Nancy Beckmann	January 15
Daniel Kumm	January 17
Beth Callstrom	January 18
Cody Tomlin	January 21
Melodee Blobaum	January 22
Larry Benolkin	January 24
Dean Byrom	January 24
Rick Sundell	January 25
Jay Browning	January 27
Charles Helgesen	January 28
Steve Swanson	January 31

Make sure the office has your birthday so we can include you on our list!



Discussion Leader: Henrik Anderson

All interested adults are invited to come enjoy an evening of thoughtful theological discussion, as well as good food, drink, and fellowship. If you are interested in attending, please add your name(s) to the signup sheet located on the bulletin board outside the Vestry. Questions? Please contact Janie Fee at 816-444-5492.

Thursday, January 31st at 7pm

The Bier Station – Kansas City, MO
Upstairs in the Bier Garten
120 E. Gregory Blvd. (1 block east of Main Street)

Confirmation News

The Confirmation students are currently working their way through the Old Testament and asking “what does this mean in my life?”

Please attend 75% of worship services and email or leave me a weekly note expressing something you liked, questioned or disliked during the service. Examples: a statement from the service, hymn or even a ritual. There will be an assignment or make up session for each class you can't attend.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 17th at Noon. We will be having a potluck so please bring a dish to share with everyone!

If you have not done so already, Annual reports from all committees are due to the Church office ASAP. Thank you to everyone who have already submitted their reports.

MLM Christmas Store Thank You!

Thank you for contributing to the success of the 2018 MLM Christmas Store. 900 families were served, as well as 100 homebound individuals!

Whether you helped with the client intake process, shopped for donations, carried gifts from MLM and area churches into our building, organized and counted gifts by category, set up the Christmas store, greeted and assisted shoppers, passed out refreshments to folks as they waited to shop, took down the store and cleaned up...your volunteer efforts were greatly appreciated!

Together, we helped to brighten the holiday season for many families and individuals in the Kansas City area. Again...**THANK YOU!**

Looking ahead - as you shop after-holiday sales, keep in mind that Immanuel will be gathering donations for next year's Christmas Store during our annual MLM Christmas in July event. Now is a great time to pick up winter clothing, personal gifts, toys, and household items at bargain prices!



A New Way To Give

Giving to Immanuel just got easier! We set up an account with [Tithe.ly](https://get.tithe.ly), an on-line app that you download to your computer and/or smart phone. It's easy to set up an account: <https://get.tithe.ly>. Once the app is downloaded, set up your account. Be sure to search for/click on Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1700 Westport Road, KCMO, 64111 to be the recipient as there are hundreds of congregations named Immanuel! Then select an offering amount, offering source, date you want to send your offering (one time, recurring), etc., click send, and within 48 hours, Immanuel receives your offering. You receive an email notification. It's that easy! For more information, ask Jack Umbach, jackumbach@gmail.com.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

At its December 18th meeting, the Congregation Council took the following actions:

- Pastor Sievenpiper advised the Christmas Eve Services will be at 5pm and 9pm. Per his report the Advent series is going very well and leading to interesting discussions.
- Pastor will be assembling a team to help guide the long term vision for Immanuel.
- Over all the MLM Christmas Store experience for 2018 was a success with nearly 1000 families receiving gifts.
- Council is looking at ways to identify and pursue options that would result in lowering our debt. A motion was approved to investigate options to pay down the loan and adjust the term to better fit our budget. Kate Hauber will lead a team to investigate the options.
- The ILC Audit Committee Report for 2017 has been reviewed. There were two committee recommendations. 1) One concerning the reconciliation and funding of dedicated fund accounts by year end. Due to cash flow issues and receiving December's financials from our accounting firm it is not possible to complete these tasks by year end. The Audit Committee recommends performing these tasks by end of the first quarter of the following year. It should be noted that it is basically a timing issue and that more than sufficient funds exist in other accounts to fund the accounts in question. 2) The Council should provide adequate space for the Treasurer to store 7 years of financial records. Both findings were accepted, approved in a motion, and will be implemented.
- The Stewardship Committee reports we have received 2019 financial pledges from 52 family units totaling \$247, 160. This represents a 6.5% increase over 2018 for those same families. Another letter will be forthcoming encouraging those who have yet to respond to do so.
- The Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2019.

Complete minutes will be available upon request from the church office once approved by Council at their January meeting.

friends of LITERATURE

Friends of Literature meets Thursday January 10th at 7:30. We are at the home of Jan and Steve Roeder. The book is a new, very unique novel by George Saunders. The novel takes place during and after the death of Abraham Lincoln's son "Willie" Lincoln and deals with the president's grief at his loss. The bulk of the novel, which takes place over the course of a single evening, is set in the bardo—an intermediate space between life and rebirth. *Lincoln in the Bardo* received critical acclaim, and won the 2017 Man Booker Prize. Time magazine listed it as one of its top ten novels of 2017.

Come help us explore this new novel. Contact Don Arney, or any Friends of Literature regular, for more information.

Thank You Immanuel!!

Dear Friends,
On behalf of Shepherd's Center Central, its Board of Directors and employees, I want to thank you for your generous donation of \$650 which was received on November 9, 2018. With support of people like you, we are able to provide program and solutions of active and homebound older adults.

Thank you for your support and dedication to helping make Kansas City a better community for all ages.

With gratitude,
Pam Seymour



Thank You Immanuel!!

Dear Members of Immanuel Lutheran,
The continued interest, involvement and financial support that your organization has given to Hollis Renewal Center are vitally important. As a

friend of Hollis congregation, you are partners with many other groups and individuals as you steward this beautiful place. We gratefully acknowledge your generous gift of \$500, recorded on December 11, 2018. It makes a substantial difference to have this kind of support.

God's blessings this Season of Easter,
Dave Mareske
Executive Director

Adult Forum Topics	
January 6	TBD
January 13	Stump the Pastor
January 20	Martin Luther King, Jr. - "The Other America" with Pastor Micah
January 27	Church Council & 2019 Budget Presentation