

PARISH NEWS



In a few weeks, we'll gather for our annual meeting, and like many things we've experienced in the past year, it's going to be different than usual. We won't be gathering in Luther Hall to share a delicious potluck before taking on the important work of reflecting on the last year of ministry, and preparing for the year ahead. This year, we will take that work online, as we have with much of the mission and ministry of Immanuel in recent months. We will gather over Zoom at 10 am on February 21, following our worship service. We'll hear about the ministries we've done, and set out a vision for what the coming year will bring.

As with many of the changes we've had to make in the past year, it's not ideal, especially knowing that not everyone has access to a computer or stable internet connection. Luckily, Zoom offers the ability to call into a meeting over the phone, just by dialing the number included in the invitation (see below) and entering the meeting ID code. If you would like some direction on how to access the meeting, please don't hesitate to reach out to me (msievenpiper@gmail.com), as it's important that no one be excluded from the work of the congregation.

Among the many important tasks ahead of us is the passing of the annual budget. We are deeply grateful for the gifts people give in support of our mission, and it's important that we are transparent when it comes to financial

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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 **March 2021 issue is Friday, February 19, 2021.**

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.

matters. To prepare for the annual meeting, we will hold two special budget meetings, where you can address the council with any questions or concerns you may have. Those meetings will take place on Sunday, February 7 at 10 am, and Wednesday, February 10 at 7 pm, using the same meeting info that's below. I hope you can join us and make your voice heard, as we do the work of God together at Immanuel.

In Peace,
Pastor Micah Sievenpiper

Topic: Annual Meeting

Time: Feb 21, 2021 10:00 AM Central Time

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5143355703>

Meeting ID: 514 335 5703

One tap mobile: +13126266799,,5143355703#

Call in number: 312 626 6799

PASTOR'S BOOKCASE

*Myths from Mesopotamia:
Creation, the Flood, Gilgamesh, and Others*
translated by **Stephanie Dalley**

HOLY COMMUNION AT IMMANUEL

We are offering service of Holy Communion at Immanuel's back parking lot. Group sizes will need to be limited, to allow for distance between us, so please sign up for a spot ahead of time by clicking this link: <https://reopen.church/r/sRh0T9Ql>.

We're doing our best to mitigate the risk of gathering, and when we come together in these days of pandemic, there is a risk of spreading COVID-19. To help us limit that risk, we ask that you keep the following in mind:

- Please do not attend if you:
 - have tested positive for COVID-19, and have had any symptoms within the last 14 days
 - have had COVID-like symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, etc.) within the last 72 hours
 - have had close contact with someone who has tested positive within the last 14 days
- Masks must be worn over your nose and mouth
- Please practice physical distancing, keeping 10 feet of separation from other people (aside from family members)
- Please practice safe hygiene while among other people (e.g., coughing and sneezing into your elbow)
- Bathrooms will not be available for use, as the church building will not be open
- Please do not attend if you have not registered.

IMMANUEL LEADERSHIP

Council & Executive Committee

STAFF

Micah Sievenpiper - Pastor
msievenpiper@gmail.com

Ann Rundquist - Ministry Coordinator
pastorannrundquist@gmail.com
Cell: 785-643-7697

Ter'Raney Teague - Administrative Assistant

Suzanne Anderson - Music Director

Robert Barthel - Organist

Kevin Fewell - Building Manager

Mary Jo Moore - President

Connie Benolkin - Vice President

Terry Kueker - Secretary

Kathy Linder - Treasurer

Rick Sundell - Financial Secretary

Lynden Peters

Mindy Rash

Jack Umbach

Kathy Boehmer

Deborah Crawford

Kate Hauber

Mason Carey

Sarah Prem

Linda Fewell

IN OUR PRAYERS

Members of Immanuel

Jacobsen Family, as they mourn the death and celebrate the life of Karole's sister, **Karlene Jo Konovalsky Buechman**

Ortmann Family, as they mourn the death of Mike's mother, **Betty Ortmann**

Family and Friends of **Jackie Turner**, as they mourn the death of a valued member

Peg Himebaugh, who has tested positive for COVID-19

Larry Taylor, experiencing health issues.

Joe & Lori Clanin, who survived a house fire but still are rebuilding and repairing.

Rev. Keith Klockau, Lori Clanin, Andree Cuthbertson, Theresa Draper, Ann Erickson, De Pfofner, Naomi Karmeier,

Gerry Niewald, Deanne Schlehuber, and Carolyn Wilson, coping with health issues

All who are separated from loved ones because of COVID-19 restrictions

Friends of Immanuel

Kathy Johnson, sister of Karole Jacobsen

Jon Hobble, brother of Linda Fewell

Jack & Mary Kantola, friends of Peg Himebaugh

Paula Weir, friend of Betty Pera

Bakeberg Family, friends of Betty Pera

Kat M., Janice M., friends of Peggy Dollard

Lee Hass, grandmother of Catie Tomlin

Baby Reylyn & Family, friends of Peggy Dollard

Major, friend of Linda Taylor & Peggy Dollard

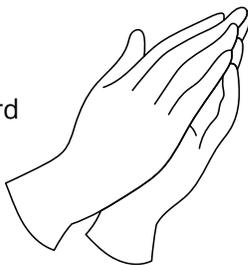
Kim R & Family, friends of Peggy Dollard

Julia Mills, niece of Cece & Tracy Atherton

Rock Westfahl, friend of Kevin & Linda Fewell

Janet & Randy Spicer, friends of Mary Coleman Renoe

Carol Gillespie, friend of Cece & Tracy Atherton



Karen Wuertz, sister-in-law of Linda Taylor

Liz Wuertz, sister-in-law of Linda Taylor

Darla Wolters, family of Carmen Norris

Harry Roth, friend of Henrik Andersen

James Clanin, family of Lori Clanin

Lauren James, friend of Lori Clanin

Judy Robinson, friend of Mary Jo Moore

Chloe & Carley Engler, great nieces of Sally Baehni

Normajeane Holtje, cousin of Mike Ortmann

Margaret Kohler, aunt of Lori Clanin

Jim & Ethel Clanin, parents of Lori Clanin

Pinky Brauer, sister-in-law of Carolyn Brauer

Audrey Mueller, Aunt of Mike Ortmann

Nancy A., friend of Linda Setterburg

Allan Boardman, friend of Kevin and Linda Fewell

From the President



After our annual congregational meeting on February 21, 2021, my term on Council ends and I will no longer be President of the congregation. It truly has been an honor and a privilege to serve you! I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

We've had good times and done some good stuff - reduced our monthly mortgage payments, leased space to the Purple Dragon Child Care group, secured a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan to retain staff, to name a few - and we've had some struggles. Last year pretty much upended congregational life as we had known it and come to love. Not being together in-person anymore brought sadness and grief to many. Luckily our tech-savvy pastor and capable music director were able to adapt quickly, offering warm-hearted worship services on YouTube. We purchased a Zoom account and began holding on-line coffee hours, Bible studies, book studies, meetings and Theology on Tap. We began weekly email announcements and a tele-ministry program to maintain contact with every household. Still, we missed being with one another, participating in our Lutheran liturgy, sharing holy communion, reciting prayers, and lifting our voices in song. We missed working along-side each other, doing the missional work of the congregation. And so it goes.

I remain confident that we will be together in-person once again and soon. And, by soon I mean during this year sometime. Covid-19 and the new variants continue to infect many and, until we are vaccinated, in-person gatherings will be limited. However, we live in the hope of what God has promised through the death and resurrection of His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Hope's strength is God's faithfulness.

Shalom,
Mary Jo Moore

"But, of course, it isn't really Good-bye, because the Forest will always be there...and anybody who is Friendly with Bears can find it."

A.A. Milne, The House at Pooh Corner



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of the January 19, 2021, Council Meeting

- The vast majority of the meeting centered on 2021 Budget preparation. While not totally finalized the current budget includes anticipated revenues of \$343,000 and expenses totaling \$479,000, for a deficit of \$136,000. This represents a year over year budget increase in deficit spending of \$94,000. The increase is almost equally split between decreased revenues and increased expenses.
- The Council is exploring potential ways to decrease deficit spending. Among things reluctantly being considered are staffing implications and the potential sale of property. The Stewardship Committee will be contacting members whose commitment cards have not been received in order to verify our offering assumptions.
- Other items being explored are use of matching gift programs offered by organizations such as Amazon Smile, where 0.5% of eligible purchases can result in donations to charities of your choice.
- The finalized budget will be presented to the Congregation in two Zoom meetings: Sunday February 7th at 10:00 am following worship, and Wednesday February 10th at 7:00 pm.
- The Annual Meeting will also be conducted via Zoom on February 21st at 10:00 am. The two critical agenda items will be approval of the 2021 Budget and the election of open positions on the Council and several Committees. Attempting a Zoom meeting will offer some unique challenges but with Congregational support we will all get through it.
- Terry Kueker reported that the Property Committee managed major repairs to the fire sprinkler and hot water systems in the new building. The repairs were necessitated due to a significant leak in the Gathering Space utility closet which shorted out the mentioned systems. The total cost of the repairs will be in excess of \$4,000.

FEBRUARY

WEEKLY READINGS

07

FIRST READING ISAIAH 40:21-31
PSALM PSALM 147:1-11, 20C
SECOND READING 1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-23
GOSPEL MARK 1:29-39

14

FIRST READING 2 KINGS 2:1-12
PSALM PSALM 50:1-6
SECOND READING 2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-6
GOSPEL MARK 9:2-9

17

FIRST READING JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17
PSALM PSALM 51:1-17
SECOND READING 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B--6:10
GOSPEL MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

21

FIRST READING GENESIS 17:1-7, 15-16
PSALM PSALM 22:23-31
SECOND READING ROMANS 4:13-25
GOSPEL MARK 8:31-38

28

FIRST READING GENESIS 17:1-7, 15-16
PSALM PSALM 22:23-31
SECOND READING ROMANS 4:13-25
GOSPEL MARK 8:31-38

FEBRUARY

WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

07

LAY READER Mindy Rash
PSALMIST Lauren Park
PRAYERS Mary Jo Moore

14

LAY READER Hastings family
PSALMIST John Anderson
PRAYERS Hastings family

17

LAY READER Jeff Fox
PSALMIST Linda Taylor
PRAYERS Heather Winker

21

LAY READER Connie Ross
PSALMIST Kevin Fewell
PRAYERS Ingrid Peterson

28

LAY READER Lynden Peters
PSALMIST Jeff Fox
PRAYERS Linda Fewell

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

10:00 AM **SUN. FEB 7TH** ZOOM

BUDGET PRESENTATION

7:00 PM **WED. FEB 10TH** ZOOM

BUDGET PRESENTATION

10:00 AM **SUN. FEB 21ST** ZOOM

ANNUAL MEETING

9:30 AM SUNDAYS YOUTUBE

VIRTUAL SERVICE

AFTER SUNDAY SERVICE ZOOM

BIBLE STUDY/ SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00 AM TUESDAYS ZOOM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

1:00 PM WEDNESDAYS ZOOM

GATHER BIBLE STUDY

7:00 PM THURSDAYS ZOOM

HAPPY HOUR

7:00 PM LAST THURSDAYS ZOOM

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Water leak devastates Immanuel's water systems. Can you help?

Watch your mail for a letter about how you can respond to unexpected expenses that were the result when a major water leak caused devastating electrical shorts in our building's sprinkler system, hot water recirculator, and the pump that expels water-heater exhaust outside the building.

Thankfully, all water systems now are back in working order — a must for the children and staff of Purple Dragon Day Care and for all people who are or will be in our building. But Immanuel now has bills for new equipment and labor that will total in excess of several thousand dollars once the invoices are totaled. It's an unanticipated cost for an emergency that required immediate action, and it exceeds Immanuel's budget for repairs and maintenance.

If your personal budget allows, please consider making a special contribution to help cover these unexpected costs. If you can contribute, kindly designate your donation for "water repairs." Immanuel will receive donations of any amount with gratitude and thanksgiving. As you consider how you can participate, please also offer your prayers — for the volunteers and professionals who responded to the emergency, for the continued safety of all people who enter our church home, and for people throughout our community who experience emergencies but have no-one to turn to for help.

Thank you for your prayers, your generosity, and for helping to ensure that our building will be ready to welcome us when we can gather together physically once again.

MLM Volunteer Opportunity

The Food Pantry is still accepting volunteers if you are not part of a vulnerable population.

Pre-Packing Food Boxes - Volunteers pre-pack food boxes that are distributed through the always-busy MLM Food Pantry. You can volunteer for a shift with the packing team:

8:30-11 a.m.

Monday-Friday

3031 Holmes.

You must sign up in advance. For information or to sign up, contact Rebecka, rebeckanoel@mlmkc.org.

Look out for more opportunities to come in 2021!



Let's Warm Hearts and Bodies with Key Items of Warm Clothing

More homeless people. More cold. And an even more meaningful opportunity to help.

Members of the Social Ministry committee will be in Immanuel's Bell Street parking lot to receive your donations of socks, underwear and men's gloves 9 a.m.-noon on two Saturdays – Feb. 20 and 27. The Gathering Table, a Lutheran ministry that serves the homeless and disadvantaged, will share your donations with people who need them most.

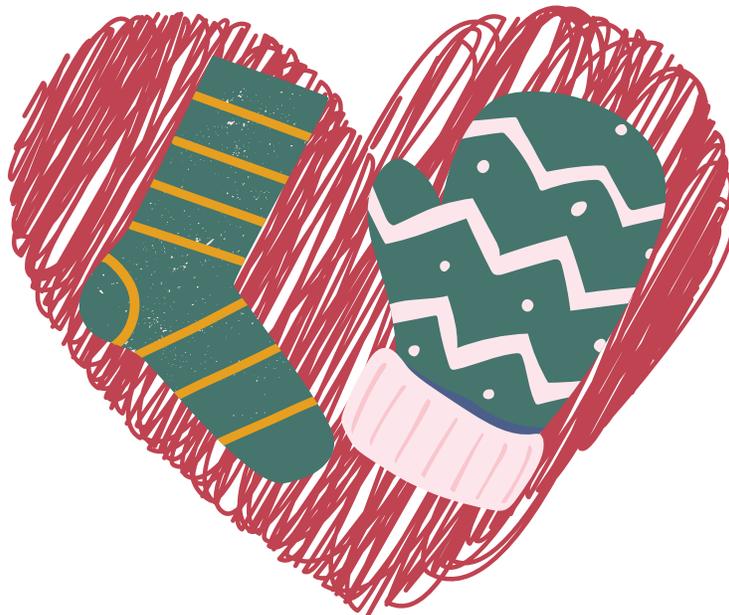
**DROP OFF SOCKS,
UNDERWEAR AND
MEN'S GLOVES
9 A.M.-NOON
SATURDAY, FEB. 20 AND 27
BELL STREET PARKING LOT**

Because of job loss during the pandemic, there are more homeless people in the Kansas City area than ever before. And there is a huge need for socks, underwear and gloves among the homeless, often because people don't recognize how crucial those items are to keeping homeless people warmer and healthier.

"The homeless struggle to stay dry, and when clothing that's against the skin gets cold and wet, it can freeze," says Pastor Ann Rundquist, ministry assistant at Immanuel and pastoral leader at The Gathering Table. "That can lead to poor blood circulation, tissue decay, infection and even amputation."

Can't deliver your donation of socks, underwear or men's gloves on the morning of Feb. 20 or 27?

Contact Linda Fewell, Linda.Fewell23@gmail.com or 816-868-0713, to make alternate arrangements.



ANN OLSON 2/1
ELISABETH HARRIS 2/5
MEGAN SAWYER 2/6
TED MOORE 2/7
NAOMI KARMEIER 2/9
BILL GASSEN 2/10
SALLY BAEHNI 2/11
RANDY CALLSTROM 2/12
ANTHONY MAZZA 2/12
CLARK SIMONICH 2/14
BRENDA KUMM 2/15
AUDREY PFEIFFER 2/15
NAM AHRENS 2/16
BENNETT KUMM 2/17

**HAPPY
BIRTH
DAY**

**FEB
2021**

VIVIAN KIESLICH 2/18
SUTTON CALLSTROM 2/20
CAROL POWERS 2/20
LORI KUEKER 2/21
DON ARNEY 2/22
KEVIN FEWELL 2/22
WILBUR NIEWALD 2/22
BONNIE THOMAS 2/22
JOSIE YUNGBERG 2/22
EVERETT HEDEEN 2/23
NATHAN KENNEDY 2/23
EVAN VELASCO 2/26
REBECCA CALLSTROM 2/28



JOIN TITHE.LY

Immanuel Lutheran's online tithe & donation tool.

Download the app or sign up via their website
for safe and secure donations.

FOLLOW THESE EASY STEPS



Sign Up



Search for Immanuel KC



Donate

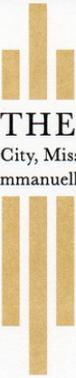
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