

# PARISH NEWS



Creation wasn't complete until God took a nap.

Rest is a fundamental part of the foundation of the cosmos. The creation story that begins the Bible concludes with God resting, making holy the sabbath. Rest is woven through the Hebrew Bible, not just for people, but for animals and the land itself. It's not something we see valued in the modern era; rest is seen as a luxury. Our culture has an obsessive focus on productivity—if you're not doing something productive, then you're just wasting time. Our scriptures tell a much different story, one where rest and relaxation are not seen as superfluous, but as sacred elements of creation.

Feeling exhausted is not a sign of weakness. Taking a day off isn't being lazy; it's an act of worship, ordained by God and woven into the fabric of the universe. Jesus did it all the time, constantly taking time to leave the crowds behind him, and just relax by himself for a bit.

We don't always do a great job of that. We get overwhelmed by the demands put on us, and life in the midst of a pandemic only makes those burdens more onerous. Sometimes, we aren't afforded the opportunity to rest, but when you're feeling weary and overwhelmed, remember that God created naps, and called them good.

In Peace, Pastor Micah

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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](mailto:office@immanuelkc.org).

Space limitations may require editing of material. Deadline for the **April 2021 issue is Friday, March 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](mailto:office@immanuelkc.org).

# IMMANUEL LEADERSHIP

## Council & Executive Committee

### STAFF

**Micah Sievenpiper - Pastor**  
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**Ann Rundquist - Ministry Coordinator**  
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Cell: 785-643-7697

**Ter'Ranay 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

**Milan Hanson**, starting treatment for Lymphoma

**Jacobsen Family**, as they mourn the death and celebrate the life of John's sister **Dorry Lomscha** and 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.

**Dottie Keough, 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

# MOVING FORWARD



In all relationships, there are givers and takers. Those roles flip back and forth as is necessary when one in the partnership is able to give and the other needs to take. As Christians, we are graced with God's continuous gift of love and mercy, free for our taking. We take that gift, and when we are able, we turn and give gifts of caring, patience, support, and mercy to others. In the big picture, that is what we are called to do.

As we begin this new year post Immanuel's annual meeting, we know we have much to do. Although there are many ministries to attend to, our overall focus is caring for people as God has cared for us. We are gifted with the gift of God's love that needs to be shared in relationship with others. Caring for others means both within the walls of Immanuel and beyond our walls.

Of course, the details on how to implement our mission, our sharing of the good news is always up for discussion, but we know that as Christians we have the basic task in our vision. The pandemic notwithstanding, Immanuel is still worshiping God, still empowering people to serve where they can, still connecting with others. Looking forward, we will impact our community even more as we come out of the pandemic restrictions.

This last year has presented momentous challenges and hardships. It has also given us a time to more deeply reflect, meditate, and listen for God's will for the people of Immanuel. Imagine that we have been taking God's gift, so that moving forward, we will be equipped to be givers to those near and far. May we accept God's gift of salvation and the gift of each other to do the work of the church.

God's peace,  
Connie Benolkin

# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

## Highlights of the February 16, 2021, Council Meeting

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- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Audit Committee was unable to access the needed materials to perform the 2019 audit. Council authorized the Audit Committee to audit both 2019 and 2020 in 2021. A brief summary of both years will appear in the 2021 Annual Report.
- The Council approved a final version of the proposed 2021 Budget for inclusion in the Annual Report, and to be voted on at the Annual Congregational Meeting.
- President Mary Jo Moore walked the Council through the 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting agenda. Presentation assignments were also agreed upon.
- The final bill associated with the January 13th water leak was received bringing the total to \$5,078. Rick Sundell reported that approximately a dozen responses to the appeal, totaling roughly \$3,000 had been received to date.
- Pastor Micah gave an overview of the new ConfirmationPacket. Like so many things the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the need to overhaul the previous methodology in favor of a more self-directed approach. The new process is modeled after the Girl Scout and Eagle Scout programs. Confirmands will choose from an approved list of subjects/projects that they find important to their faith and then meet the requirements of those projects.

# MARCH

## WEEKLY READINGS

07

**FIRST READING** EXODUS 20:1-17

**PSALM** PSALM 19

**SECOND READING** 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25

**GOSPEL** JOHN 2:13-22

14

**FIRST READING** NUMBERS 21:4-9

**PSALM** PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

**SECOND READING** EPHESIANS 2:1-10

**GOSPEL** JOHN 3:14-21

21

**FIRST READING** JEREMIAH 31:31-34

**PSALM** PSALM 51:1-12

**SECOND READING** HEBREWS 5:5-10

**GOSPEL** JOHN 12:20-33

28

**FIRST READING** ISAIAH 50:4-9A

**PSALM** PSALM 31:9-16

**SECOND READING** PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

**GOSPEL** MARK 14:1--15:47

# MARCH

## WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

07

**LAY READER** Adam Rouse  
**PSALMIST** Megan Sawyer  
**PRAYERS** Melodee Blobaum

14

**LAY READER** Larry Benolkin  
**PSALMIST** Vicki Swanson  
**PRAYERS** Connie Benolkin

21

**LAY READER** Hanson/Roddy Family  
**PSALMIST** Linda Fox  
**PRAYERS** Hanson/Roddy Family

28

**LAY READER** Linda Fewell  
**PSALMIST** Connie Benolkin  
**PRAYERS** Linda Taylor

# MARCH CALENDAR

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

## Join Altar Guild

### Have breakfast. Build your vocabulary.

Looking for a volunteer opportunity here at Immanuel that blends the sacred and the ordinary?

One that lets you get to know other volunteers over a monthly breakfast (in non-Covid times) as well as in service that benefits the entire congregation?

Consider becoming a member of Altar Guild, the group that prepares the elements for Holy Communion each week, and decorates the sanctuary for each season. You'll expand your vocabulary to include words like purificator and paten, as well as enjoy breakfast at our monthly meetings, typically at 8:30 a.m. on the last Saturday of each month.

Want to know more?

Contact Melodee Blobaum at [mhblobaum@gmail.com](mailto:mhblobaum@gmail.com), or 913-558-6524.

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## 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/sRh0T9QI>.

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.

# Water leak devastates Immanuel's water systems.

## Can you help?

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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 nearly \$5,000. 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

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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](mailto:rebeckanoel@mlmkc.org).

Look out for more opportunities to come in 2021!



New Member Welcome



Jess Gray

I've lived in Kansas City for almost 4 years now. I moved to Missouri from Southern California. I was raised in a military household and have lived all over the world with due to father being in the Marine Corps. I currently work for Children's Mercy & KUMed as a clinical trials coordinator on the Covid-19 vaccine trials. When I'm not working, I enjoy doing art projects and and playing sports.

# March BIRTHDAYS

Anna-Sophie Ahrens 3/4 Carolyn Brauer 3/14

Thomas Parsons 3/4 Amy Giedt 3/17

Diana Weeks-Radke 3/5 Rick Wilcox 3/18

Iris Browning 3/6 Alexandra Ellerbeck 3/21

Saundra Tree-Polsfus 3/7 Freya Sievenpiper 3/21

Sarah Wilcox 3/7 Iris Roddy 3/22

Neil Pfeiffer 3/8 Andy Atzenweiler 3/24

Judson Bertsch 3/10 Jackson Gossick 3/24

Catherine Tomlin 3/10 Jean Nuernberger 3/26

Carl Swanson 3/11 Dolores Pfofner 3/27

Claire Gassen 3/12 Ann Erickson 3/31



## **JOIN TITHE.LY**

Immanuel Lutheran's online tithe & donation tool.

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

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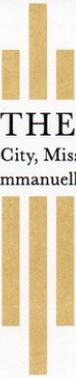
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