



PARISH NEWS

August 2022

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21, NRSV

Partners in Ministry,

Jesus spends a lot of time talking about what we treasure. The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's gospel is perhaps the most famous example, encouraging his would-be followers to think about what they cherish, with evocative images of moth and rust destroying the fleeting treasures of this world.

As a child with an over-active imagination and a love for "Muppet Treasure Island," this always put in my mind an image of rotting treasure chests, tarnished silver and verdigris encrusted gold. And while I think that's a valuable image, I'm convinced that Jesus is interested in something much deeper.

Throughout the gospels, Jesus constantly challenges our priorities, calling us to consider what we value, and why. Our treasures are more than the money we have in the bank or the gold we have buried in locked chests on remote tropical islands. What we treasure is reflected in how we live our lives — how we treat the people around us and the planet we share. How we vote and how we speak and how we spend our money.

Our world is built on fleeting treasures of greed and selfishness. The gospel calls us to treasure what endures, looking beyond ourselves to the world around us. We are called to cherish one another, treating friends and strangers with love. We are called to treasure this planet, so that the generations that follow us might also enjoy the beauty and splendor of creation. I pray that we have the wisdom and understanding to cherish treasures that endure, and the courage to let go of that which is fleeting.

In Peace,
Pastor Micah Sievenpiper



JOIN WORSHIP IN PERSON OR ONLINE



Immanuel welcomes you to worship at 9:30 a.m. Sundays. In-person worship in the sanctuary is streamed live on Immanuel's YouTube channel, [youtube.com/immanuelkansascity](https://www.youtube.com/immanuelkansascity).

During August, we hear of God's promise to Abraham, to the early church and to the "little flock" of which we are a part today. Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Have no fear!

WATER AT IMMANUEL WILL BE SHUT OFF TEMPORARILY JULY 30

Water throughout Immanuel's building will be shut off for a couple of hours on the morning of Saturday, July 30, while repairs occur in a lower-level janitor's closet sink that is part of our building's original 1928 construction. Water service should resume by noon.



JULY 31 PRAYER SERVICE FOCUSES ON GUN VIOLENCE



Immanuel's Prayer Team and Committee for Justice and Peace will present a service of lament for gun violence at 5 p.m. Sunday, July 31. A time for conversation and refreshments will follow the prayers.

The service will lift up petitions for those directly affected by gun violence, those who grieve its toll on the community and those who can take action to relieve it.

Neighbors, neighborhood groups and political leaders from both sides of the state line will be invited to the service.

You can invite people, too. After worship on the morning of July 31, members of the Prayer Team will offer copies of a flier about the service that you can share with others. Please help spread the word, and plan to be there for prayer.

ADULT FORUM ANNOUNCES TENTATIVE AUGUST LEARNING LINEUP

Adult Forum begins 15 minutes after Sunday worship in Spong Common Room. Here's the tentative learning lineup for August.

August 7 — Last Things: Pastor Micah will lead a discussion about how we as Christians can prepare for the end of life, both for ourselves and for our loved ones.

August 14 — Immanuel Update: Congregation President Connie Benolkin and other members of our congregation council will provide an update about activities, goals and challenges that face our congregation today.

August 21 — Revelation Revealed, Part 1: Pastor Micah kicks off a three-part study of the book of Revelation.

August 28 — Revelation Revealed, Part 2: Discussion led by Pastor Micah about the final book of the New Testament continues; the third and final session will take place Sept. 4.



IMMANUEL NEEDS YOUR REFERRALS FOR THE OPEN PARISH COORDINATOR POSITION



Members of Immanuel's Personnel Committee are interviewing candidates for the open Parish Coordinator position (formerly the Administrative Assistant position), and they need your help.

Please review the job description posted on Immanuel's website, <https://immanuelkc.org/join-immanuels-staff>. Then contact Don Arney or Connie Benolkin with the names of individuals you know who might be good candidates. You can reach Don at 22sora@gmail.com or 816-918-5371. Reach Connie at conbenolkin@gmail.com

or 913-961-8389.

Immanuel would like to fill the position before the end of August. Thanks in advance for your referrals.

HEAR SUZANNE ANDERSON IN RECITAL AUG. 7

Songs from British History is the theme of a recital featuring Immanuel's Music Director, Suzanne Anderson, soprano. The recital will begin at 2 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 7, at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, 415 W. 13th St., Kansas City, MO, 64105. The program also will feature Jeffrey Noonan on lutes and Paul Meier on piano. Admission is free.

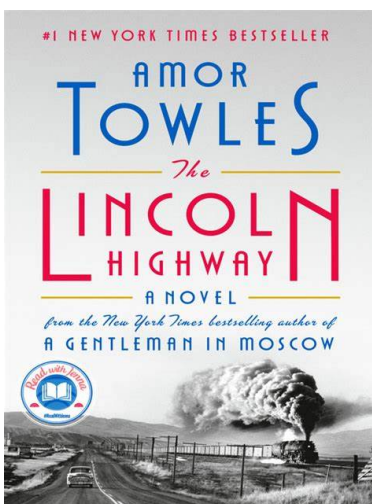
The recital offers a musical look at events from British history through the pairing of modern works with historical texts and related songs from the time.



During the first half of the program, *King Harald's Saga* by Judith Weir tells the story of King Harald of Norway's ill-fated invasion of England in 1066, just 19 days before the successful Norman invasion of England at the Battle of Hastings.

The second half of the program features Libby Larsen's song cycle, *Try Me Good King: Last Words of the Wives of Henry VIII*, and the lute songs on which each of the movements was based.

FRIENDS OF LITERATURE MEETS TO DISCUSS *THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY*



Friends of Literature will meet at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 11, at the home of Steve and Jan Roeder, 4408 West 112th Terr., Leawood, KS, 66211. Steve will lead a discussion about *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles, who also wrote *A Gentleman in Moscow*.

All are welcome! To request the Friends of Literature Zoom link if you can't attend in person, contact Don Arney, 816-918-5371 or 22sora@gmail.com.

Reviewers say Towles' book is remarkably brisk and buoyant. Though dark shadows fall across its final chapters, the book is permeated with light, wit and youth. Towles has snipped off a minuscule strand of existence —

10 wayward days — and when we look through his lens we see that this brief interstice teems with grand stories.

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKS OFF SEPT. 18

Sunday School will kick off Sept. 18! Stay tuned for more information about the format and time.

If you're interested in helping, please contact Jeri Yungeberg, Tori Friedrich or Elizabeth Hastings.



NEWS FROM YOUR CONGREGATION COUNCIL



Immanuel's congregation council met Tuesday, July 26.

Sara Prem reported about efforts and plans of the Property Projects Funding Task Force to date. Among the highlights are a planned Sept. 18 ice cream social with music by John Anderson to

kick off the effort.

Henrik Anderson reported that YouthWorks has hosted 375 participants from 25 churches located in 10 states during this summer's run at Immanuel. Participants performed service activities at 19 venues, including community gardens, soup kitchens, thrift stores, homeless shelters, social organizations and Immanuel.

Connie Benolkin reported that efforts to fill the administrative assistant opening left by Linda Fewell's planned move to Florida are under way.

JENNIFER THIERER AND LUKE DERRINGER WED JULY 30 AT IMMANUEL

Jennifer Thierer and Luke Dearing will be married July 30 at Immanuel.

Jen and Luke were part of the Immanuel community before moving to the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Those whom God has joined together let no one separate.



THANK YOU, YOUTHWORKS!



Oke, Lauren and Abby, our YouthWorks staff people, have led hundreds of young volunteers through seven weeks of Christ-centered work for nonprofits in the KC metro.

As Henrik Andersen reported during the July 26 congregation council meeting, they hosted 375 participants from 25 churches in 10 states during their summer at Immanuel. Participants served at 19 venues, including community gardens, soup kitchens, thrift stores, homeless shelters, social organizations and Immanuel.

The final group of 2022 volunteers departed July 29, and the staff departs Aug. 1. Thank you, YouthWorks, for the opportunity for Immanuel to be part of your work to make Kansas City a better place!

AUGUST SCRIPTURE READINGS AND WORSHIP LEADERS

AUGUST 7

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

Psalmody: Psalm 33:12-22

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

Assisting Minister: Connie Benolkin

Lay Reader: Jeri Blaske-Yungeberg

Communion Steward: Karen Bame

Crucifer: Milan Hanson

Altar Committee: Melodee Blobaum, Suzanne Steffen

Media: Kevin Fewell

Ushers: Jack Friedrich, Linda Fewell

AUGUST 14

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Psalmody: Psalm 82

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

Assisting Minister: Beth Callstrom

Lay Reader: Catie Tomlin

Crucifer: Milan Hanson

Communion Steward: Milan Hanson

Altar Committee: Melodee Blobaum, Heather Winker

Media: Jack Friedrich

Ushers: Ken Beckmann, Josie Yungeberg, Connie Ross

(continued on next page)

(Scripture Readings and Worship Leaders, continued)

AUGUST 21

First Reading: Isaiah 58:9b-14

Psalmody: Psalm 103:1-8

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-29

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

Assisting Minister: John Anderson

Lay Reader: Jean Nuernberger

Communion Steward: Rick Sundell

Altar Committee: Melodee Blobaum, Heather Winker

Media: Linda Fox

Ushers: Rick Wilcox, Hastings Family

AUGUST 28

First Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7

Psalmody: Psalm 112

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

Assisting Minister: Tori Friedrich

Lay Reader: Jessie Laughridge

Crucifer: BJ Laven

Communion Steward: Linda Fox

Altar Committee: Melodee Blobaum, Heather Winker

Media: Milan Hanson

Ushers: Jack Friedrich, Scott Thompson

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Here's a look at upcoming events that will take place at Immanuel or via Zoom:

Friday, July 29

All Day YouthWorks, Gathering Space

Morning YouthWorks, Spong and Luther Hall

3:30 p.m. Wedding Setup, Sanctuary

5 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Saturday, July 30

All Day YouthWorks, Gathering Space

9:30 a.m. Shin Do Ryu Karate, Luther Hall

3:30 p.m. Wedding Preparations, Sanctuary

5 p.m. Thierer/Dearinger Wedding, Sanctuary



(continued on next page)

(Calendar of Events, continued)

Sunday, July 31

All Day YouthWorks, Gathering Space

9:30 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. Refreshments and Fellowship, Luther Hall

1 p.m. German Folk Dancers, Luther Hall

3 p.m. OA-KC, Room 1

3:30 p.m. Prayer Team Setup, Sanctuary and Luther Hall

5 p.m. Prayer Service Focused on Gun Violence, Sanctuary and Luther Hall

6:30 p.m. Property Projects Funding Task Force, Office Conference Room

Monday, August 1

All Day YouthWorks, Gathering Space

4 p.m. Youth Chorus Auditions, Spong

Tuesday, August 2

4 p.m. Youth Chorus Auditions, Spong

6 p.m. Scandinavian Dancers, Luther Hall

Wednesday, August 3

4 p.m. Youth Chorus Auditions, Spong

Thursday, August 4

4 p.m. Youth Chorus Auditions, Spong

7 p.m. OA-KC, Gathering Space

7 p.m. Social Ministry Committee, Zoom

Friday, August 5

3:30 p.m. World Folk Dancers, Luther Hall

Saturday, August 6

9:30 p.m. Shin Do Ryu Karate, Luther Hall

2 p.m. Scandinavian Association, Luther Hall Kitchen

Sunday, August 7

9:30 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. Refreshments and Fellowship, Luther Hall

10:45 a.m. Adult Forum, Spong

1 p.m. German Folk Dancers, Luther Hall

3 p.m. OA-KC, Gathering Space

Join An Event Via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5143355703>

Meeting ID: 514 335 5703 One tap mobile: +13017158592, 5143355703# US

Visit <https://immanuelkc.org/calendar> to view the full calendar of upcoming events at Immanuel. Contact the church office with questions or to add an event to the calendar.

MORE NEWS TO USE



GIFTS TO LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE WILL BE MATCHED

Since Russia's war against Ukraine began in February, donors have enabled Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) to continue providing refugees with food, shelter, hygiene kits, medical

supplies, psycho-social care, pastoral care, housing, job searches, language study, school admission, legal services, cash assistance and more.

LDR also continues to respond to disasters that don't get as much ongoing news coverage, such as tornados and flooding in the Southeast United States, eastern Missouri and Kentucky.

Thanks to an exceptionally generous donation, your gifts to the LDR general fund now will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$50,000. Your gift will go twice as far to assist people in need when crisis strikes.

Contribute at <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/>. You also can send checks to Lutheran Disaster Response, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA, 22116-8009.

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Our work together matters — to each other and to the wider community. Your contributions help Immanuel do its work.

You may give by:

- Placing contributions in the offering plate on Sundays.
- Mailing checks to the church, 1700 Westport Road, Kansas City, MO, 64111.
- Donating online through Tithe.ly, <https://signup.tithe.ly/>.
- Setting up an automatic payment through your financial institution.



Additional ways to support Immanuel include Amazon Smile, <https://smile.amazon.com/> — simply register, and Amazon will donate a percentage of what you spend to Immanuel with every purchase you make.

Thank you for giving to Immanuel! Questions? Please contact the church office, office@immanuelkc.org or 816-931-8483.

THINKING OF ONE ANOTHER

Your prayers, calls,
notes and cards can
brighten someone's day.



Members of Immanuel

Rick Crawford, Andree
Cuthbertson, Pat Durie,
Family & Friends of Everett
Hedeem, Peg Himebaugh,
Naomi Karmeier, Dottie Keough, Lori & Terry Kueker, Carmen Norris, Ellen Parson, Betty
Pera, Carol Powers, Deanne Schlehuber, EB Walker and Carolyn Wilson

Friends of Immanuel

Karen Brooks, sister of Beth Callstrom
Baby Cruz and the Brown Family, family of Jean Nuernberger
James, Jim and Ethel Clanin, family of Lori Clanin
Phillip Cooper, Immanuel Building Superintendent
Darlene Henninger, aunt of Catie Tomlin
Normajean Holtje, cousin of Mike Ortmann
Family & Friends of Betty Kueker, mother of Terry Kueker
Family & Friends of Marge Konovalske, cousin of Karole Jacobsen
Betty Ladwig, mother of Kate Hauber and Cece Atherton
Angela Lingle, aunt of Tori Friedrich
Family & Friends of Mary Lucht, friend of Bill and Mary Jo Moore
Dale & Kay Mowbray, friends of Deanne Schlehuber
Nancy's mother and sister, friends of Linda Setterburg
Beth Shepard, sister of Patti Winkler
Janet & Randy Spicer, friends of Mary Lynn Coleman-Reno
Pam Staggs, sister of Connie Ross
Family & Friends of Donald Vought, father of Donna Roth
Women of Westport Oxford House, friends of Immanuel

If you would like to add someone to or remove someone from the prayer list, contact the church office. Names will remain on the list for three months unless you indicate otherwise.

Email ImmanuelKCPrayerTeam@gmail.com to request prayer for someone who does not wish to appear on the public list.



8/3 Michael Hauber

8/8 Peggy Dollard

8/8 Mason Kumm

8/11 Jimmi Kimuyu

8/12 Lila Aamodt

8/12 Marc Winkler

8/14 Benjamin Hastings

8/15 Brendan Kennedy

8/16 EB Walker

8/17 Tori Friedrich

8/18 Doug Ahrens

8/18 Deborah Crawford

8/18 Christian Mazza

8/18 August Yungeberg

8/24 Joshua Friedrich

8/27 Paul Simonich

8/27 Stella Velasco

8/30 Mary Lynn Coleman Renoe

8/31 Darren Radke

IMMANUEL LEADERSHIP

STAFF

Rev. Micah Sievenpiper, pastor

msievenpiper@gmail.com

Suzanne Anderson, music director

suzanneandersonilc@gmail.com

Robert Barthel, organist

Robert.Barthel@hotmail.com

Linda Fewell, administrative assistant

office@immanuelkc.org or 816-931-8483

Phillip Cooper, building superintendent

pcoopq@yahoo.com or 816-666-2468

COUNCIL

Connie Benolkin, president

Bonnie Thomas, vice president

Melodee Blobaum, secretary

Kathy Linder, treasurer

Linda Fox, financial secretary

Henrik Andersen

Randy Callstrom

Mason Carey

Elizabeth Hastings

Lynden Peters

Sara Prem

Janette Rodecap

Scott Thompson

PARISH NEWS

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