

PARISH NEWS



"Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ."

1 Corinthians 12:12

People of God,

If you had told me a year ago that before long getting a haircut would be a significant moral dilemma, I would have been very confused. To be honest, I'm still a little confused as to why it's such a dilemma, and not just with haircuts, but with going to a crowded bar, or going to the zoo, or vacationing in places filled with other people. Not long ago, these were totally normal things to do without a second thought, but right now, in the middle of a pandemic, they are not the same.

It's not that I don't understand the urge to return to some semblance of normalcy, or the need to get out of the house for a few moments to restore one's sanity—I get it! Right now, every time we walk out our front doors, we need to make a decision, weighing the necessity of our trips, balancing our own needs against the needs of others, and what we've seen happening in our country over the past four or five months has been clear: we, as a culture, as a nation, do not value community. We prioritize self over others, we think about how things might affect us, and ignore the impacts our choices might have on someone else, especially if we can avoid seeing that impact for ourselves.

AUGUST 2020 IN THIS ISSUE

Prayers	4
Council	6
Weekly Readings	7
Social Ministry	8

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 **September 2020 issue is Thursday, August 27, 2020.**

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.

It's been a deeply convicting few months. We've seen other places overcoming the exact challenges that have overwhelmed us, and to me, it seems clear why: our country does not value community, compared to individual liberty. This isn't anything new, but right now, it's nearly impossible to ignore.

The church is different. The witness of the gospel proclaims a much different kind way to approach the world, a different way to understand ourselves—not as individuals, but as a community united in the body of Christ. We are all one, and we recognize that what affect one of us, impacts all of us. As we live out our faith, we remember that everyone we encounter bears the image of God. As members of the body of Christ, we can be a source of grace and life for the world. How we treat one another, including how we care for strangers we will never even meet, is one way in which we live out our faith. Right now, in the midst of pandemic, it's one of the most important things we as the church can do.

In Peace,
Pastor Micah Sievenpiper

IMMANUEL LEADERSHIP

STAFF

Micah Sievenpiper - Pastor

msievenpiper@gmail.com

Ann Rundquist - Ministry Coordinator

pastorannrundquist@gmail.com

Cell: 785-643-7697

Ter'Ranay Teague - Administrative Assistant

Suzanne Anderson - Music Director

Robert Barthel - Organist

Kevin Fewell - Building Manager

Council & Executive Committee

Mary Jo Moore - President

Connie Benolkin - Vice President

Terry Kueker - Secretary

Kathy Linder - Treasurer

Rick Sundell - Financial Secretary

Lynden Peters

Mindy Rash

Scott Thompson

Jack Umbach

Kathy Boehmer

Deborah Crawford

Janie Fee

Kate Hauber

Mason Carey

IN OUR PRAYERS...

Members of Immanuel

Gretchen Bishop | Lori Clanin | Andree Cuthbertson | Theresa Draper | Ann Erickson

Karole Jacobsen | De Pfofner | Naomi Karmeier | Gerry Niewald | Martha van Rooyen

Deanne Schlehuber | Jackie Turner | Carolyn Wilson

Friends of Immanuel

Jack & Mary Kantola, friends of Doug & 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

Lance Hill, brother of Deborah Crawford

Baby Reylyn & Family, friends of Peggy Dollard

Major, friend of Linda Taylor & Peggy Dollard

Kim R & Family, friends of Peggy Dollard

Eleanor Daniels, daughter of Clay & Martha Bowden

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

Mike Finn, family of Mary Jo Moore

Kerrington Jones, family of Mary Jo Moore



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

Vickie Little, friend of Kevin and Linda Fewell

Normajean 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

Eric Gustafson, brother of Vicki Swanson

Audrey Mueller, Aunt of Mike Ortmann

Nancy A., friend of Linda Setterburg

Allan Boardman, friend of Kevin and Linda Fewell

Lois Blobaum, Melodee Blobaum's mother-in-law

Vaughn Pittz, friend of Mike and Janie Fee

Pastor Chris Nietubicz, friend of Mike and Janie Fee.

From the President



We live in challenging times. Covid-19 has upended the lives of many people here in the United States and throughout the world. Facing the threat of extinction has had a huge impact on the way we live, and the future remains uncertain. There is talk of an emerging “new normal” but no one knows for sure what that means, what it will look like. Change is all around us and, sometimes, with lightening speed.

Change can be difficult, especially when it comes out of nowhere and is so disruptive. It is easy to become overwhelmed and full of despair. This is especially true for people infected with the virus, their loved ones, and those in health care that treat them. This is also true for the unemployed, the uninsured, and food hungry. And then there are the many families finding themselves having to juggle working at home with parenting duties that include home schooling their children. There are people with elderly parents isolated in senior centers and nursing homes, unable to be physically present.

Six months into this pandemic and what have we learned? We have learned of our capacity to change radically in response to an emergency situation. Who can forget the photo of a vacant Times Square in New York City? It's good to know evacuations can occur so quickly! There are many other examples of communities, states, countries working together swiftly and responsibly to save lives.

We don't have to look far for an example. Pastor Sievenpiper and the Congregation Council early on moved swiftly and responsibly to close the church to in-person gatherings, including worship services. More recently, Pastor created an Advisory Committee of congregation members to review the Covid-19 plan put in place months ago. This group will advise when/how to re-open. Updates will be provided by constant contact emails, announcements, and postings. Watch for these. If you are not getting communications, please contact Pastor at msievenpiper@gmail.com or me at maryjom50@gmail.com.

Many of Immanuel's ministries have moved from facility-based to home-based. Council and Immanuel's staff are working to ensure individuals and families are well-cared for during this transition. We maintain contact with every member through a Tele-Care Ministry Program. From these conversations, we learn of needs and try our best to help out. People seems to appreciate the calls, notes and cards, and it's fair to say that relationships between and among members are deepening. This is a good thing!

Immanuel is working to expand and to improve its digital presence. An obvious change was moving “live” worship from Pastor’s office into the sanctuary. As Pastor and others continue to make technology improvements, more offerings will be possible and made available.

While Council grapples with the “new” normal of church and what it means for Immanuel, staff and some members are engaged in community service. This work varies widely, but common is preparing “to go” meals at home and dropping them off to a location serving the homeless, e.g., The Gathering Table. Other efforts include making personal hygiene kits, buying new/used clothing items, preparing devotional booklets, and sending thank you cards to front-line health care workers, to name a few.

People have become acutely aware that the well-being of everyone depends on the well-being of each of us. This is another good thing!

As Christ-followers, “we live by faith, not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:7)

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of the July 21, 2020, Council Meeting

- Lori Kueker (MLM liaison) has been in opening discussions with MLM on their plan for this year's MLM Christmas Store. ILC's Christmas Store Committee and Pastor will be working with MLM to determine the extent of our participation.
 - As previously reported Immanuel received roughly \$26,300 under the Federal Government's Payroll Protection Plan. ILC will easily have sufficient salary expenditures to qualify under the forgiveness plan. Working with Miller Management ILC will prepare the necessary forgiveness documents once the Federal instructions have been published.
 - The Council has begun an ongoing discussion on what it means to be church leaders during the pandemic and beyond. We are using studies written by Carey Nieuwhof outlining 7 current trends and 11 traits of churches that may impact our future. The goal is to try and be proactive in preparing for the new normal.
-

August WEEKLY READINGS

AUGUST 2

FIRST READING ISAIAH 55:1-5

PSALM PSALM 145:8-9, 14-21

SECOND READING ROMANS 9:1-5

GOSPEL MATTHEW 14:13-21

AUGUST 9

FIRST READING 1 KINGS 19:9-18

PSALM PSALM 85:8-13

SECOND READING ROMANS 10:5-15

GOSPEL MATTHEW 14:22-33

AUGUST 16

FIRST READING ISAIAH 56:1, 6-8

PSALM PSALM 67

SECOND READING ROMANS 11:1-2A, 29-32

GOSPEL MATTHEW 15:[10-20] 21-28

AUGUST 23

FIRST READING ISAIAH 51:1-6

PSALM PSALM 138

SECOND READING ROMANS 12:1-8

GOSPEL MATTHEW 16:13-20

AUGUST 30

FIRST READING JEREMIAH 15:15-21

PSALM PSALM 26:1-8

SECOND READING ROMANS 12:9-21

GOSPEL MATTHEW 16:21-28

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, Janie Fee, Linda Fewell, Lori Kueker or Gretchen Bishop

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE 2020

Christmas in July 
**POSTPONED UNTIL
NOVEMBER**

September 13 **God's Work.
Our Hands.
Sunday**
Look for information mid-
year regarding this year's
activities

CROP Hunger Walk Sign Up

September 13 | 20 | 27 October 4 | 11

You may participate by walking or making a donation to support ILC walkers. Our donations benefit people in our local community, as well as folks around the globe who struggle with hunger. This year's walk is scheduled Sunday, October 11, 2020



MLM Christmas Store

November 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29

Gift donations are accepted through the entire month of November for families in the KC Area

December 6 | 7 | 8

Volunteer to set up and stock the Store

December 9 | 10 | 11 | 12

Volunteer to greet guests, restock the floor, and/or become a shopping assistant for KC families.



ILC EVENTS

Click the title to go to each site

VIRTUAL SERVICE

While we haven't been able to gather in person recently, we're still finding ways to be the church together. We continue to gather for worship on Sunday mornings, at 9:30 on the Immanuel Youtube channel.

BIBLE STUDY

Join us on Zoom after our virtual church service. Follow the link and check out *page four* for the weekly readings. We should be convening around 10:00 AM every Sunday. Everyone is welcome to join the conversation. Please visit our Facebook page or in the Youtube video description for up to date information.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Stay tuned...

Henrik Andersen will be providing Theology on Tap information later this month!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

PEGGY DOLLARD 8/8

MASON KUMM 8/8

LILA AAMODT 8/12

MARC WINKLER 8/12

BENJAMIN HASTINGS 8/14

EB WALKER 8/16

TORI FRIEDRICH 8/17

JACK UMBACH 8/17

DOUG AHRENS 8/18

DEBORAH CRAWFORD 8/18

CHRISTIAN MAZZA 8/18

AUGUST YUNGBERG 8/18

JOSHUA FRIEDRICH 8/24

MARTHA BOWDEN 8/28

MARY COLEMAN 8/30

DARREN RADKE 8/31





CONGRATULATIONS ROBERT

ROBERT BARTHEL HAS GRADUATED FROM KU
THIS SPRING. HE COMPLETED HIS MASTER'S
DEGREE IN CHURCH MUSIC, MAJORING IN ORGAN.



FEEDING 800

Due to the Coronavirus, our sack lunch packing event has been *postponed*. The Social Ministry Committee will reschedule the event once we get a better sense of when we will be allowed to resume in-person church activities.

In the meantime, consider gathering non-perishable food items that will be included in the sack lunches. The single-serving, packaged items we need include:

- Tuna/chicken kits
- Beef jerky sticks
- Fruit snacks (cups, strips, or gummies)
- Granola bars
- Crackers or cookies

Our goal is to include two protein non-perishable food items (marked above) in each sack lunch, in addition to a fruit, granola bar, and cracker/cookie item! We need 800 of each item listed about to meet this goal.

As you venture out to run essential errands or place your online grocery order, please consider adding at least one of the items listed above to your cart. Thanks in advance for helping us get a jump start on this important ministry!



Christmas in July



POSTPONED

UNTIL

NOVEMBER

Based on continuing health concerns and recommendations regarding social distancing, the Social Ministry committee has made the heartfelt decision to postpone our July ingathering of gifts for Metro Lutheran Ministry's Christmas Store. At this time, we are planning to accept gift donations during the month of November, ahead of the Christmas Store's opening in early December. Updated information/dates will be provided in future newsletters.

A tropical beach scene with palm trees and a snowman holding a thermometer. The snowman is wearing a red Santa hat and a red scarf, and is holding a large red thermometer. The background shows a blue sky, green ocean, and sandy beach.

Christmas
in
JULY

*Benefiting the 47th Annual
Christmas Store Dec 6th- Dec 12th*

**You can sponsor a gift online at
www.MLMChristmas.givesmart.com
or by visiting our Amazon Wish List:
<https://a.co/cZR4NVD>**

**METRO
LUTHERAN
MINISTRY**

**Questions? Contact Rebecka at
rebeckanoel@mlmkc.org**

[CLICK HERE TO SPONSOR A CHRISTMAS GIFT](#)

[CLICK HERE TO VISIT OUR CHRISTMAS STORE WISH LIST](#)

**CONTACT REBECKA NOEL AT REBECKANOEL@MLMKC.ORG
WITH ANY QUESTIONS!**



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

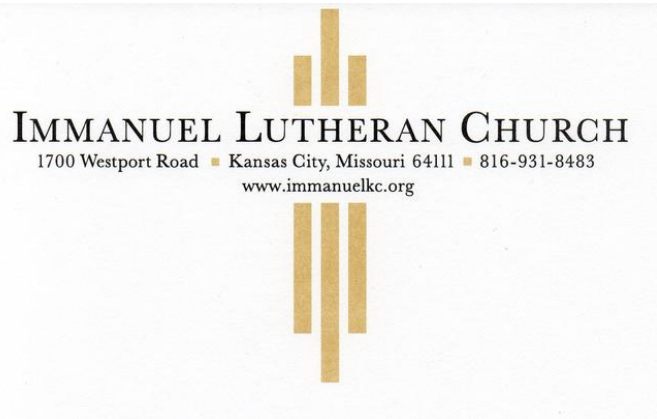
CLICK BELOW TO GET STARTED



Online



Get the app



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED