

PARISH NEWS



A new year has dawned, and with 2020 finally behind us, we can look forward to the future. I've heard variations on this theme every January for the past few years, thinking that after what we've lived through in the past year, we deserve some good things to look

forward to. The last few years have been rough, 2020 especially, and with COVID vaccines getting rolled out, it seems like the year ahead of us will finally realize the hope we've been carrying for so long—that the world can get better.

It's easy to be pessimistic about what the future might hold—after all, we've been here before, and we know it can get worse. But we can make this world a better place. The problems we face as a human race are big, but they're not insurmountable, and together we can make a real and lasting change. The call we hear in the gospels, that we love one another as God loves us, is an invitation to be a part of God's redeeming work in the world. We have ample opportunities to put that call into action, in ways large and small, and I hope we'll do so in the coming year. The world can be a better, more peaceful, more loving place, and we can make that happen.

PASTOR'S BOOKCASE

The Broken Kingdoms
by NK Jemisin

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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 2021 issue is Friday, January 15, 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.

IMMANUEL LEADERSHIP

Council & Executive Committee

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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

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 Pfoltnner, 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



As we approach 2021, I'm reminded that many people, myself included, make resolutions about things they want to do in the coming new year. These things usually fall along the lines of getting healthier (lose weight, exercise more, stop smoking, worry less, limit alcohol, etc.), improving finances (reducing debt, spending less, saving more, etc.), and repairing whatever relationships may become strained and/or distant, to name a few.

A couple of things happened this week that turned my attention to another kind of resolution. Combined with journaling, it could become a form of spiritual discipline too. (hint*hint) What is it, you ask? None other than kindness, which the dictionary defines as the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate. Kindness might also look like being helpful or showing empathy. It may mean doing nice things without expecting nice things in return. During worship on December 20, Commitment Sunday, do you remember hearing Linda Fewell say that the kindness people have extended to one another during the pandemic is what gives her hope? That got me to thinking about kindness and what a wonderful and, yes, important quality it is. The Bible has much to say about kindness, including the verse from Colossians that appears in the image here. Do a quick internet search for kindness Bible verses, and see what I mean.

The other thing that happened was a conversation with another Immanuel member. I call her from time to time just to check-in and see how she and her husband are doing. Well, this week she called me and in the course of our conversation, she shared a recent experience she had. While at the grocery store, she shopped for a few items and got in line behind a man with a full cart.



When he saw she only had a few items, he asked her to go before him. She said it was okay and to go ahead. He insisted and they changed places. As if that wasn't kind enough, when she went to pay for her items, the checker said that someone had paid her bill anonymously. When she asked who the only answer the checker would give was someone in the store. She experienced two random acts of kindness in one morning. Her heart was filled with joy!

What was the last act of kindness that you received? How did it make you feel? After all, kindness is love...it is selfless, caring, compassionate, unconditional. It is grace, being tender-hearted, forgiving each other just as God also in Christ forgave us. Together, let us resolve to show kindness each and every day. Volunteer, give compliments, hold the door for someone, contribute your time, talents, and resources to Immanuel, be slow to anger, give the benefit of the doubt; there are many ways to be an example of kindness.

Onward!



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>.

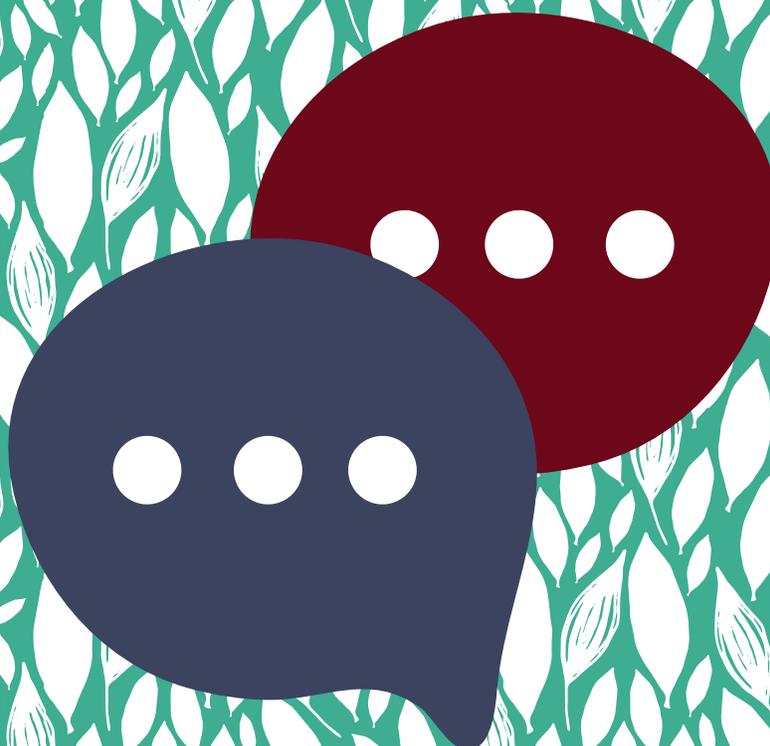
We're doing our best to mitigate the risk of gathering, and when we come together in these days of pandemic, there is a risk of spreading COVID-19. To help us limit that risk, we ask that you to keep the following in mind:

- 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.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of the December 15, 2020, Council Meeting

- October financials were reviewed. For the first time this year it was necessary to transfer funds (\$7,000) from the Endowment Trust Fund in order to cover expenses.
- December 20th is Stewardship Sunday. Offering commitments received to date reflect a decrease in revenues. Final results will be announced after the first of the year.
- 2021 Budget work continues.
- The budget will be finalized during a special officers' meeting.
- Word has been received that we can file for forgiveness of ILC's Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) loan. The expectation is that the full amount will be forgiven.
- In preparation of the annual congregational report Pastor has requested committees submitting a report do so within the next **two weeks**.
- You may have noticed that we haven't had many supply pastors this year. That is because Pastor Sievenpiper has not had a Sunday off since we discontinued in-person services in March. He has been supplying YouTube services every Sunday. Recognizing this extra effort and lost vacation time the Council approved allowing him to carry over two unused 2020 vacation weeks into 2021.



JANUARY

WEEKLY READINGS

03

FIRST READING JEREMIAH 31:7-14
PSALM PSALM 147:12-20
SECOND READING EPHESIANS 1:3-14
GOSPEL JOHN 1:[1-9] 10-18

10

FIRST READING GENESIS 1:1-5
PSALM PSALM 29
SECOND READING ACTS 19:1-7
GOSPEL MARK 1:4-11

17

FIRST READING 1 SAMUEL 3:1-10 [11-20]
PSALM PSALM 139:1-6, 13-18
SECOND READING 1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20
GOSPEL JOHN 1:43-51

24

FIRST READING JONAH 3:1-5, 10
PSALM PSALM 62:5-12
SECOND READING 1 CORINTHIANS 7:29-31
GOSPEL MARK 1:14-20

31

FIRST READING DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20
PSALM PSALM 111
SECOND READING 1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13
GOSPEL MARK 1:21-28

JANUARY

WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

03

LAY READER Melodee Blobaum
PSALMIST Tori Friedrich
PRAYERS Dave Peterson

10

LAY READER Jean Nuernberger
PSALMIST Karen Bame
PRAYERS Bryan Park

17

LAY READER Rebecca Blocksome
PSALMIST Roland Pera
PRAYERS Sara Prem

24

LAY READER Friedrich family
PSALMIST Beth Callstrom
PRAYERS Friedrich family

31

LAY READER Kate Hauber
PSALMIST Dave Peterson
PRAYERS Linda Fox

ILC EVENTS *AT A GLANCE*

9:30 AM SUNDAYS YOUTUBE

VIRTUAL SERVICE

AFTER SUNDAY SERVICE ZOOM

BIBLE STUDY

10:00 AM TUESDAYS ZOOM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

7:00 PM JANUARY 6 ZOOM

EPIPHANY SERVICE

7:00 PM THURSDAYS ZOOM

HAPPY HOUR

7:00 PM LAST THURSDAYS ZOOM

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Members Donate Poinsettias To Brighten Worship, Remember Others

Katherine Linder

Bill and Mary Jo Moore, *in memory of*
our parents Charles and Florence Moore and Paul and Marjorie Bishop

Jean Nuernberger, *in honor of*
Immanuel Lutheran Church Staff and Lay Leaders

Mike Ortman, *in memory of*
my mother, Betty Ortman

EB Walker, *in memory of*
my husband, Dave Walker



Thinking About Joining Immanuel?

Within a few weeks, Immanuel officially will welcome at least one new member into the fellowship of faith we share at Immanuel. Stay tuned!

If you've been thinking about joining the congregation or simply would like more information about what membership means, contact Pastor Micah, msievenpiper@gmail.com or 816-931-8483, ext. 11.

You Can Join New Tech Team To Help Transmit Worship, Other Programs

Pastor Micah is seeking a few assistants to help compile digital files and assist during live-stream worship and other events.

"Even when we return to in-person worship, learning and service — which simply can't come too soon! — we'll still need an online option to post on Immanuel's website," he says. "Live streaming and recording our services helps us reach more people, including our own members who, even when the virus is a thing of the past, can't make it to church."

Although it might be helpful to be comfortable with technology in general, Tech Team members don't need any experience. To volunteer, contact Pastor Micah, msievenpiper@gmail.com or 816-931-8483, ext. 11.

Epiphany Service

Members of Immanuel are invited to join the prayer team for an Epiphany blessing of the home at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, via [Zoom](#) and [YouTube Livestream](#). The service is likely to last 20 to 30 minutes.

The practice of blessing Christian homes on Epiphany or during the weeks following it began in Europe and includes using chalk to inscribe a formula that includes the year and letters C M B separated by crosses. For 2021, the inscription would be 20 + C + M + B + 21.

The letters stand for the traditional names of the three wise men – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar – but also can represent the Latin phrase “Christe Mansionem benedicat,” which means Christ, bless this house.

Leaders for Immanuel’s Epiphany service will gather inside the house we share – Immanuel Lutheran Church on Westport Road – with blessings for various rooms offered by members of the prayer team and Pastor Micah, all suitably distanced and masked. In addition to blessing the space, we hope the service will ease some of homesickness we share for our shared home and give us a glimpse of the rooms that we so love and miss.

Text of the service will be available as a PDF after the service for members who wish to bless their own homes.

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!



SWEET MEMORIES



2014 BULLETIN FOLDERS

**SUE FUNK,
PEGGY DOLLARD,
VIVIAN HUNT,
EB WALKER, &
JACKIE TURNER**

HAPPY *Birthday*

ELIN MYERS 1/4
MARGARET PARK 1/4
KAREN BAME 1/6
ALEX PETERS 1/8
KENNY ROSS 1/8
BRIAN THOMAS 1/9
JOSEPH NOERNBERG 1/11
COLIN FEWELL 1/12
B.J. LAVEN 1/12
STACIA PETERS 1/14



NANCY BECKMANN 1/15
DAN KUMM 1/17
BETH CALLSTROM 1/18
CODY TOMLIN 1/21
MELODEE BLOBAUM 1/22
LARRY BENOLKIN 1/24
RICK SUNDELL 1/25
DOUG GOSSICK 1/26
JAY BROWNING 1/27
AUDREY PARSON 1/29
STEVEN SWANSON 1/31

JANUARY *2021*



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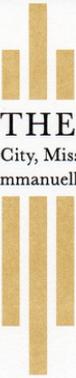
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