



# PARISH NEWS

JANUARY 2022



People of God,

“The future’s not set. There is no fate but what we make for ourselves.” John Connor, *Terminator 2*

We are made in the image of God. Each of us is given free will and imagination that allow us to create wonderful things.

Some people write stories. Some people make music. Some people build houses. The choices we make affect the world around us in ways big and small, even if we don’t see their impact.

As a community of faith, we strive to make our impact in the world a positive one, rooted in the good news of God in Jesus Christ. As the new year begins, and as we look ahead to our annual meeting when we will reflect on the ministry we share, we have a perfect opportunity to discern how we are being called to live out the gospel, shaping a more just, loving future for our community and world.

As I hope you’ve heard by now, the Immanuel Steering Committee has been working to articulate a vision for what we hope ministry at and through Immanuel will look like in the future.

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*(Pastor's message, continued)*

We began this process by listening to you and, during the past two years, we've prayerfully organized the values and mission of Immanuel into an aspirational document that outlines a vision for how we want to approach ministry.

It's not a strategic-planning document; more a confession of what is important, and a naming of how we want to approach ministry as, together, we journey into an uncertain future. The Steering Committee's aim was to build something that would encompass the whole congregation so, at first glance, the document can appear intimidating in its scope.

The next task of the Steering Committee is to create a plan to begin putting the vision into practice — and for that, we need your help.

We began this process by listening to you tell us what you believe the guiding principles of Immanuel are; now, we hope you'll tell us what you believe our priorities should be as we live out the gospel. You can send thoughts to me, [msievenpiper@gmail.com](mailto:msievenpiper@gmail.com), or send to the Immanuel office, [office@immanuelkc.org](mailto:office@immanuelkc.org). Additionally, I hope you'll keep an eye out for more opportunities to participate in discussions about the next stage in the planning process, including during adult forums and our annual meeting in February.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are able to do incredible things. I'm excited about what the future holds at Immanuel during the coming year and through all the years ahead.

In Peace,  
Pastor Micah Sievenpiper

## **WORSHIP IN PERSON OR ONLINE**

As Christ welcomes us, we welcome all to worship, which begins at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday. All in-person services in the sanctuary also are streamed live on Immanuel's YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/immanuelkansascity>.

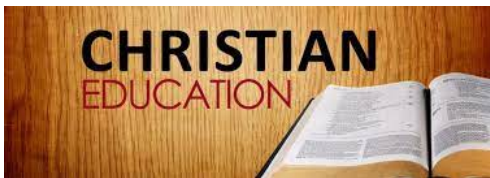


*(Worship In Person or Online, continued)*

To limit health risk during worship or other events and activities at Immanuel, please:

- Do not attend if you have tested positive for COVID-19, have experienced COVID-like symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath) or have had close contact with someone who has tested positive within the past 14 days.
- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth.
- Practice safe hygiene (e.g., coughing or sneezing into your elbow.)

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUE FOR KIDS AND ADULTS



**Immanuel Sunday School** families continue gathering after church services in Luther Hall for brief activities, projects or singing. Contact Suzanne Steffen, [suzannesteffen7@gmail.com](mailto:suzannesteffen7@gmail.com), with thoughts or questions.

**Adult Forum** begins 15 minutes after Sunday worship in Spong Common Room. Here's the Adult Forum schedule for January:

**Jan. 2** — Lectionary study led by Don Arney

**Jan. 9** — 2021 Metro Lutheran Ministry (MLM) Christmas Store Wrap-Up Report with Michelle Salierno, MLM volunteer manager, and Immanuel member/MLM volunteer Beth Callstrom

**Jan. 16** — Spiritual Practices during Wintertime with the Immanuel Prayer Team

**Jan. 23** — Little By Little, a discussion about social justice

**Jan. 30** — Immanuel's 2022 Budget, a discussion with members of the Immanuel finance committee and congregation council

## PLEASE SIGN UP TO HOST COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP TIME



Could you offer hospitality to your Immanuel friends by hosting coffee/fellowship time? It's an important time for gathering and conversation and, because Immanuel provides the coffee and treats, it's an easy way to serve. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the main sanctuary-level hallway or contact the church office, [office@immanuelkc.org](mailto:office@immanuelkc.org) or 816-931-8483, to volunteer.

## **SUPPORT IMMANUEL'S MINISTRIES IN 2022**

Sincere thanks to all who have made financial commitments to Immanuel's 2022 ministries. Through Dec. 26, 46 households have pledged \$208,200.



If you have not yet made your 2022 commitment, now is the time! Kindly complete a commitment card found in the narthex, or write your pledge amount on a slip of paper with your name and place it in the offering plate. You also can send your financial commitment information to the church office in care of Rick Sundell, financial secretary. Immanuel leaders need commitment information to plan Immanuel's 2022 budget, so thanks in advance.

Your Stewardship Committee

Cece Atherton, Mary Jo Moore, Pastor Micah Sievenpiper, Rick Sundell, Linda Taylor and Heather Winker



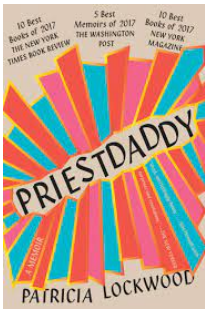
## **JAN. 6 EPIPHANY SERVICE TELLS THE STORY OF THE MAGI**

Join us at 6 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 6, for an informal Epiphany service.

We'll gather around the firepit in front of Immanuel as we celebrate the revelation of God to the nations, and tell the story of the Magi visiting the holy family in Bethlehem.



## FRIENDS OF LITERATURE MEETS TO DISCUSS *PRIESTDADDY*

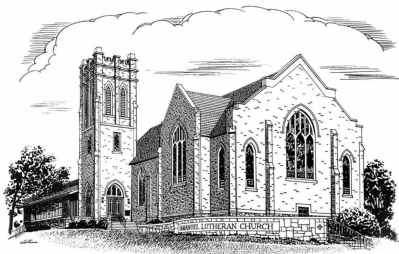


Friends of Literature will meet at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 13, at Immanuel to discuss *Priestdaddy*, a memoir by Patricia Lockwood. All are welcome!

To request the Friends of Literature Zoom link if you can't attend in person, contact Don Arney, [22sora@gmail.com](mailto:22sora@gmail.com) or 816-918-5371.

Lockwood's book, which was named among the 10 best of 2017 and was awarded the 2018 Thurber Prize for American Humor, recounts her upbringing as the daughter of a married Lutheran minister who converted to Catholicism, becoming one of the few married Catholic priests. The story chronicles her return as an adult to live in her father's rectory, and deals with issues of family, belief, belonging and adulthood.

## JANUARY WELCA STUDY DELVES INTO IMMANUEL'S VISION FOR MINISTRY



Discussion about and input into Immanuel's new Vision for Ministry, which was drafted by the Immanuel Steering Committee, will highlight the upcoming WELCA study and gathering, 1 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 19.

Connie Benolkin, congregation council president and member of the Steering Committee, will lead the discussion.

You can participate face-to-face in Spong Common Room (masks required), or you can join via Zoom:

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

Meeting ID: 514 335 5703

One tap mobile: +13017158592, 5143355703# US

Questions? Contact Pastor Ann, [pastorannrundquist@gmail.com](mailto:pastorannrundquist@gmail.com) or 785-643-7697.

# YOU CAN SUPPORT A CHILD IN NEED THROUGH THE KENYAN CHILDREN'S FUND

For almost 10 years, the Kenyan Children's Fund (KCF), which is Immanuel's global mission project, has helped meet the basic needs of children in Masii, Kenya, who have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS and are living in deep poverty.

## Providing water, food and more

Jimmi Kimuyu, an Immanuel member and KCF founder now residing in Masii, says, "In Kenya, we are experiencing drought and famine, and many needy families are suffering. The people of Masii are deeply grateful for the well that KCF funded, which provides 7,000 area residents with water that is safe to drink."

Jimmi adds that gratitude for all that your generosity has allowed KCF to accomplish flows far beyond the water well.

"With your donations, we provide much-needed monthly food supplements and some household products — including maize, beans, rice, flour, soap and cooking oil — for 45 children and their guardians," he explains. He adds that, during 2021, KCF also has:

- Purchased required school uniforms for very needy children.
- Constructed a bathroom for girls at the local primary school, where only a boy's bathroom had previously existed. The bathroom allows girls to stay for the entire school day.
- Repaired the badly damaged roofs of several structures in which sponsored children and their guardians reside.



*Monthly food supplements provide crucial nourishment to orphans and their guardians. The KCF also was able to provide some extra food for Christmas.*



*Covering mud huts with tin roofs protects children and guardians from punishing heat and rain.*

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*(Kenyan Children's Fund, continued)*

### **Needs endure, and your support is key**

During 2022, financial support will remain crucial.

**Your donation of \$390 per year to Kenyan Children's Fund, payable to Immanuel, will provide basic support for one child throughout 2022. But contributions of any amount are a blessing.**

You can donate:

- By check. Please make donations payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church, designating KCF in the memo line.
- Via the Tithe.ly online program, <https://signup.tithe.ly/>. Select Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1700 Westport Road, Kansas City, MO, 64111. Then select KCF from the drop-down menu, and enter your donation amount.
- By arranging a direct contribution from your financial institution.

Jimmi adds that, with your generosity, the KCF also may be able to fund additional needs. "We hope to provide mattresses for children who now sleep on dirt floors. Assistance with school fees, and money to purchase a truck to transport food and building-repair materials also are greatly needed," he explains.

Jimmi speaks for everyone associated with the KCF when he says: "We simply can't thank you enough. May almighty God abundantly bless you and keep you. In the words of Psalm 41, 'Blessed is he who has regard for the weak; the Lord delivers him in times of trouble. The Lord will protect him and preserve his life; he will bless him in the land and not surrender him to the desire of his foes.' "

If you have questions or need more information about the KCF, please contact Mary Jo Moore, 816-309-7879 or [maryjom50@gmail.com](mailto:maryjom50@gmail.com). You also are welcome to reach out to other members of the KCF Committee at Immanuel, including Peggy Dollard, Linda Fewell and Michael Hamlin.



*Now that there is a girls' bathroom/ washroom at the primary school, girls are much more likely to be able to stay in class for the entire day.*

*Before your generosity made the new structure possible, there had been only a boys' bathroom at the school.*

## NEWS FROM YOUR CONGREGATION COUNCIL



Citing concerns about the Omicron variant, Immanuel's COVID-19 Advisory Committee recommends that Immanuel's current health and safety guidelines remain in place as is. Advisory Committee members also have opened discussions with YouthWorks about how young volunteers who stay in our building this summer will remain safe and healthy.

**Terry Kueker shared that staff and volunteers of Metro Lutheran Ministry and Immanuel both consider the 2021 Christmas Store a success.** Although final results aren't yet in, the store served a minimum of 1,000 families and perhaps as many as 1,300. During a meeting with MLM staff and volunteers in early January, Immanuel hosts will suggest ways to relieve parking congestion and confusion. The council extends heartfelt thanks to all Immanuel volunteers who participated in the store, with special recognition to this year's hosts: Milan Hanson, Beth Callstrom, and Terry and Lori Kueker.

**As of Dec. 26, the Stewardship Committee reports receiving 46 commitment pledges totaling \$208,200.** Based on those responses and past budgetary experience, the 2022 Immanuel budget likely will forecast \$288,000 in total-year offerings.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM GATHERING TABLE

Thank you, Immanuel friends, for generously supporting Gathering Table in 2021 with your gifts of food, time, money, clothing, prayer and friendship.

The photo here shows a group of us sharing joy after shopping at the MLM Christmas Store. Your volunteer transportation assistance made this happen! You also helped Gathering Table serve more than 10,000 meals and support two organizations that make their home in the Gathering Table building — Once We Were Refugees and Christ Salvation Congo Refugee Congregation.



Please join us in 2022 as we share ministries of meals, pantry, showers, laundry, clothes, Bible study, worship, refugee services and fellowship in historic northeast Kansas City.

With love and sincerity,  
Pastor Ann



# JANUARY SCRIPTURE READINGS AND WORSHIP LEADERS

**1/2**

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 31:7-14  
**Psalmody:** Psalm 147:12-20  
**Second Reading:** Ephesians 1:3-14  
**Gospel:** John 1:[1-9] 10-18

**Assisting Minister:** Connie Benolkin  
**Psalmist:** Vicki Swanson  
**Communion Steward:** Karen Bame  
**Media:** Kevin Fewell  
**Ushers:** Pam Edvalds, Mike Ortmann,  
Jean Nuernberger, Del Karmeier

**1/16**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 62:1-5  
**Psalmody:** Psalm 36:5-10  
**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
**Gospel:** John 2:1-11

**Assisting Minister:** Linda Fewell  
**Psalmist:** Karen Bame  
**Communion Steward:** Milan Hanson  
**Media:** Linda Fox  
**Ushers:** Chris Roth, Kevin Fewell, Bob  
Hyland

**1/9**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 43:1-7  
**Psalmody:** Psalm 29  
**Second Reading:** Acts 8:14-17  
**Gospel:** Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**Assisting Minister:** Catie Tomlin  
**Psalmist:** Jeff Fox  
**Communion Steward:** Kathy Linder  
**Media:** Jack Friedrich  
**Ushers:** Kate Hauber, Tracy & Cece  
Atherton

**1/23**

**First Reading:** Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
**Psalmody:** Psalm 19  
**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a  
**Gospel:** Luke 4:14-21

**Assisting Minister:** Connie Ross  
**Psalmist:** Roland Pera  
**Communion Steward:** Lauren Park  
**Media:** Michael Hamlin  
**Ushers:** Randy Callstrom, Marc & Patti  
Winkler

**1/30**

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 1:4-10  
**Psalmody:** Psalm 71:1-6  
**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
**Gospel:** Luke 4:21-30

**Assisting Minister:** John Anderson  
**Psalmist:** Linda Fox  
**Communion Steward:** EB Walker  
**Media:** Milan Hanson  
**Ushers:** Terry & Lori Kueker

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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



## Jan. 2

- 8:15 a.m.** Music Ensemble Rehearsal, Luther Hall
- 9:30 a.m.** Worship, Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m.** Refreshments and Fellowship, Luther Hall
- 10:30 a.m.** Sunday School, Luther Hall
- 10:30 a.m.** Adult Forum, Spong
- 3 p.m.** OA-KC, Gathering Space

## Jan. 4

- 10 a.m.** Coffee & Conversation via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m.** Youth Chorus, Spong
- 5 p.m.** Soundwave, Gathering Space
- 6 p.m.** Immanuel Executive Committee via Zoom
- 6 p.m.** Scandinavian Dancers, Luther Hall
- 7:30 p.m.** Immanuel Stewardship Committee via Zoom

## Jan. 5

- 10 a.m.** 2021 MLM Christmas Store Wrap-Up Meeting, 3031 Holmes

## Jan. 6

- 6 p.m.** Informal Epiphany Worship, Outside by the Firepit
- 7 p.m.** OA-KC, Gathering Space

## Jan. 7

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

## Jan. 8

- 8:30 a.m.** Altar Guild, Spong
- 9:30 a.m.** Shin Do Ryu Karate, Luther Hall
- 10 a.m.** Youth Chorus, Gathering Space
- 10 a.m.** Immanuel Worship & Arts Committee via Zoom

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. If you have questions or would like to add an event to the calendar, contact the church office, 816-931-8483 or [office@immanuelkc.org](mailto:office@immanuelkc.org).

## MORE NEWS TO USE

### 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 or 2022 commitment cards in the offering plate on Sundays.
- Mailing checks or commitment cards to the church office, 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 your continued giving to Immanuel! Questions? Please contact the church office, [office@immanuelkc.org](mailto:office@immanuelkc.org) or 816-931-8483.

### CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED JAN. 17

The Immanuel office will be closed for Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, Jan. 17.



### LIKE AND FOLLOW THE IMMANUEL FACEBOOK PAGE

If you use Facebook, check the Immanuel Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchKC> for photos and information about congregational life and ministry at Immanuel, including weekly postings about Sunday worship. You then can share that information with your Facebook friends.

## THINKING OF ONE ANOTHER



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

### Members of Immanuel

Tracy Atherton, Larry Benolkin, Joe & Lori Clanin, Rick Crawford, Andree Cuthbertson, Pat Durie, Ann Erickson, Peg Himebaugh, Naomi

Karmeier, Dottie Keough, Rev. Keith Klockau, Wilbur and Gerry Niewald, Betty Pera, Deanne Schlehuber and Carolyn Wilson

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*(Thinking of One Another, continued)*

### **Friends of Immanuel**

**Baby Reilyn & Family**, friends of Peggy Dollard  
**Bakeberg Family**, friends of Betty Pera  
**Pinky Brauer**, sister-in-law of Carolyn Brauer  
**Brian**, friend of Linda Setterburg  
**Family & Friends of Susan Butricks**, aunt of Traci Ellis  
**Jack Cannon**, brother of Lori Kueker  
**James Clanin**, family of Lori Clanin  
**Jim & Ethel Clanin**, parents of Lori Clanin  
**Aerial Crow & James Brown**, family of Jean Nuernberger  
**Traci Ellis**, Oxford House resident & Immanuel friend  
**Chloe & Carley Engler**, great nieces of Sally Baehni  
**Jennifer Gougo**, volunteer at Gathering Table  
**Troy Green**, brother-in-law of Marc & Patti Winkler  
**Kurt Hanneman**, friend of Bill & Mary Jo Moore  
**Lee Hass**, grandmother of Catie Tomlin  
**Jerri Hatteberg**, friend of Deborah Crawford  
**Normajean Holtje**, cousin of Mike Ortmann  
**Laura Winkler Johnson**, aunt of Marc & Patti Winkler  
**Jack & Mary Kantola**, friends of Peg Himebaugh  
**Margaret Kohler**, aunt of Lori Clanin  
**Betty Kueker**, mother of Terry Kueker  
**Chris McCallum**, nephew of Mike Ortmann  
**Erin Melican**, family of Jean Nuernberger  
**Pam Moore**, sister-in-law of Bill & Mary Jo Moore  
**Nancy's mother**, friend of Linda Setterburg  
**Ken & Rose Nuernberger**, family of Jean Nuernberger  
**Norma Pera**, sister of Roland Pera  
**Rev. Bill Peterson**, friend of Pastor Ann Rundquist  
**Judy Robinson**, friend of Mary Jo Moore  
**Harry Roth**, friend of Henrik Andersen  
**Beth Shepard**, sister of Patti Winkler  
**Janet & Randy Spicer**, friends of Mary Lynn Coleman-Renoe  
**David Strum**, friend of Bill & Mary Jo Moore  
**Family & Friends of Lynda Weber**, mother of Traci Ellis  
**Paula Weir**, friend of Betty Pera  
**Anne Wiedenkiller**, friend of Immanuel & Gathering Table



# BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

1/4 Elin Myers  
1/4 Maggie Park  
1/6 Karen Bame  
1/8 Alex Peters  
1/8 Ken Ross  
1/9 Brian Thomas  
1/11 Joseph Noernberg  
1/12 Colin Fewell  
1/12 BJ Laven  
1/14 Stacia Peters  
1/15 Nancy Beckmann

1/17 Dan Kumm  
1/18 Beth Callstrom  
1/21 Cody Tomlin  
1/22 Melodee Blobaum  
1/24 Larry Benolkin  
1/25 Rick Sundell  
1/26 Doug Gossick  
1/27 Jay Browning  
1/29 Audrey Parson  
1/31 Steve Swanson

## IMMANUEL LEADERSHIP

### STAFF

**Rev. Micah Sievenpiper, pastor**  
msievenpiper@gmail.com

**Rev. Ann Rundquist, ministry assistant**  
pastorannrundquist@gmail.com

**Suzanne Anderson, music director**  
suzanneandersonilc@gmail.com

**Robert Barthel, organist**  
Robert.Barthel@hotmail.com

**Linda Fewell, administrative assistant**  
office@immanuelkc.org

### COUNCIL

**Connie Benolkin, president**  
**Bonnie Thomas, vice president**  
**Terry Kueker, secretary**  
**Kathy Linder, treasurer**  
**Rick Sundell, financial secretary**  
**Henrik Andersen**  
**Melodee Blobaum**  
**Randy Callstrom**  
**Mason Carey**  
**Deborah Crawford**  
**Kate Hauber**  
**Lynden Peters**  
**Sara Prem**

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