



# PARISH NEWS

JULY 2021



I have long wondered why so many Christian communities are fixated on the idea of persecution. Perhaps it's just how so much of the early church experienced the world; persecution is enshrined in Acts as part of their reality. Jesus warned his disciples that following him could cost them everything, a way to encourage them when times seemed hard and they suffered for their faith.

The modern church doesn't have that problem, at least where we live. Christianity is common, and going to church isn't seen as an act of sedition or treason. Christian language and symbols are common sights in public spaces, in a way the symbols of other faiths aren't. Yet that doesn't discourage some Christians from claiming they are persecuted for their faith, a claim I've always found confusing because it didn't match my own experience. Certainly, there are places in the world where that's true, but never anywhere I lived.

What fascinates me most about the claim to persecution, which seems to measure the validity of a person's faith by how much they've suffered for it, is that it often ignores the call at the heart of the gospel. Jesus does warn us that following in his steps could cost us everything -- but not because a random cashier says "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas." There is a cost to discipleship, as Jesus warns, because we are called to love like Christ, to care for the outcast and refugee, to welcome those who are told they are unworthy, to see the goodness in all people.

That's a bold stance to take. In the waters of baptism, we receive a counter-cultural call to work against the systems of this world that oppress and enslave and divide us from one another. Working against those systems is risky, and might cost us everything, but it's also where we see the work of God being done most readily. It's not easy work, but the cost of discipleship shouldn't be confused with persecution, and I hope the difficulty of

doing ministry doesn't discourage us, because it's through us that God is working in this world.

In Peace,  
Pastor Micah

## COVID 19 PRECAUTIONS

During in-person worship, please help us limit health risk:

- 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.)

All indoor services will be streamed live on [Immanuel's YouTube channel](#).

**CLICK HERE TO PARTICIPATE IN LIVESTREAM WORSHIP, 9:30 A.M. SUNDAYS**

## IN REMEMBRANCE: LARRY TAYLOR

Funeral services for Larry Taylor, husband of Linda Taylor, will take place Tuesday, July 13, at Immanuel.

Visitation will begin at 9:30 a.m. in Spong Common Room, followed by the funeral service at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

To watch a live stream of the service, [click here](#).



## TENDING OUR GARDEN: SPOTLIGHT ON CROSS-LINES



Immanuel has been providing financial support to Cross-Lines Community Outreach, Inc., for many years. Located in

Kansas City, Kan., this nonprofit organization provides basic needs, hunger relief and housing stabilization for people living in poverty. Cross-Lines was started in 1963 by a group of concerned clergy who had a simple idea: that poverty-borne problems could be answered best by looking to the community for solutions

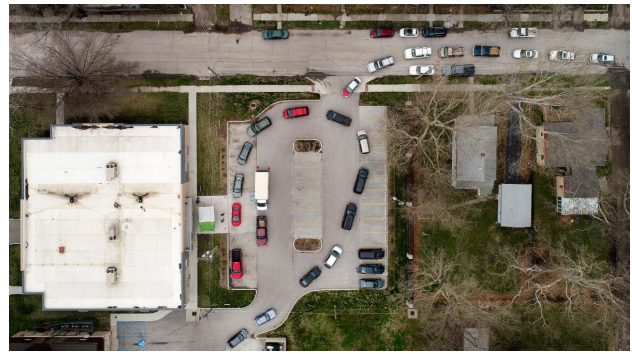


and working together to tackle them. Collaboration is key. Metropolitan Lutheran Ministry, another nonprofit supported by Immanuel, is one of its valued community partners.

According to Kelley Carpenter, director of development and marketing, the fundamental approach of Cross-Lines has not changed over the years -- meet people where they are in life, extending dignity and respect, and provide an array of programs and services that address the whole person without considering a person's faith tradition. She explained that the 18 staff, 1800 volunteers, and thousands of clients come from different life experiences, including many faith backgrounds.

Carpenter said, "Our doors are open to everyone. If you are hungry, you can get fed here, regardless of where you live. Hunger relief has grown by leaps and bounds in the last several years -- 11,000 people served in 2019 to more than 22,000 in 2020. Our community kitchen serves breakfast and lunch -- 57,000 meals during the past year. Our housing stabilization program helps people who are in a bad spot, and at risk of losing their living space and becoming homeless. Our basic needs program addresses personal hygiene -- we operate a shower program -- and offers transportation to the Cross-Lines warming center when temperatures dip very low."

Carpenter emphasized that Cross-Lines could not do all that it does without community supporters like Immanuel. She also said the organization always needs volunteers to box lunches, maintain a community garden and participate in its senior commodity program. To volunteer or learn more, contact Community Engagement Manager Rachel Russell, 913-281-3388 or [rachel@cross-lines.org](mailto:rachel@cross-lines.org).



*(Top) Cross-Lines provides volunteers with masks, gloves and hand sanitizer. The Community Kitchen dining room currently is closed to the public.*

*(Middle) Cars line up at the Cross-Lines drive-up food pantry in March. A total of 736 people were served in one day.*

*(Bottom) Individuals experiencing homelessness found a refuge from the bitter cold in the warming center that opened in January in the old sanctuary space of the Cross-Lines church building.*

A Cross-Lines newsletter contained this unattributed quote: "Hope in the face of difficulty. Hope in the face of uncertainty ... In the end, that is God's greatest gift to us ... a belief in things not seen. A belief that there are better days ahead."

Immanuel acts on this belief through its continued support of vital community organizations such as Cross-Lines.

Check future issues of *Parish News* for additional Tending Our Garden articles that



illustrate how our "garden of ministry" extends far beyond our church walls.

## TENDING OUR GARDEN: SPRUCE-UP DAY HELPS BEAUTIFY OUR CHURCH HOME



Weeds. Poison ivy. Thorns. Overgrown bushes. Weeds. Trash.

And did we mention weeds?

Immanuel's Stewardship committee hosted a spruce-up day Saturday, June 5, as part of the Tending Our Garden theme and effort. Twelve Immanuel gardeners brought every kind of gardening tool, donned hats and gloves, and spent the morning improving Immanuel's front lawn, flower beds, stone walls and walkways. The team filled about a dozen lawn bags with weeds, branches and clippings and, as a finishing touch, Kate Hauber planted flowers in the pots near the front and Bell Street entrances.

Watch Weekly Announcements emails for news about Immanuel's next spruce-up event.



*The Spruce-Up crew included (front) David Hauber, Kate Hauber, CeCe Atherton, Jeff Fox, (back) Mary Jo Moore, Suzanne Steffen, Linda Fewell, Karen Bame, Rick Sundell, Milan*

Hanson, Roland Pera and (not pictured) Heather Winker.

## LET'S CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN JULY WITH GIFTS FOR THE MLM CHRISTMAS STORE

The MLM Christmas store will return to Immanuel this year and plans to serve about 1,000 needy families -- more than ever before. With other Lutheran congregations, we have the opportunity to awaken the spirit of Christmas in our hearts during the heat of summer by donating items to Immanuel's Christmas in July ingathering for the Christmas store.

Check the 2021 Christmas Store wish list (at right) and kindly add one or more of those items to your July shopping list. Gift cards are especially popular options that families who shop at the store greatly enjoy.

During July, place your purchases under or around the Christmas tree, which you'll find in Immanuel's upstairs hallway outside Spong Common Room. The tree will be decorated with special ornaments that list specific items on the Christmas Store wish list. Please take an ornament or two as a shopping reminder.

If in-person shopping isn't convenient for you, you can also order wish list items online at <https://a.co/iuirdMI> and have them shipped directly to MLM Christmas Store, 3031 Holmes, Kansas City, MO, 64109.

Thank you, people of Immanuel, for your generosity and for keeping Christmas in your hearts year-round.

## KENYAN CHILDREN'S FUND NEEDS SPONSORS

Immanuel's global  
mission project,

### 2021 Christmas Store Wish List

METRO  
LUTHERAN  
MINISTRY

#### Men's Gifts

Wallet  
Watch  
Cologne  
Tools  
Electric Razor  
Bath/Body Kits  
PJ's  
Robe  
Slippers  
Nice Gloves  
(work or leather)  
Baseball Hats  
(local pro teams)  
Hair Clippers  
Shoes  
Fishing Equipment  
(rod/tacklebox,  
lures, etc)

#### Small Kitchen Appliances

Crock Pots  
(3.5 qt or bigger)  
Blender  
Griddles  
Toaster Oven  
Toasters  
Hand Mixers  
Waffle Makers  
Popcorn Makers

#### Toys

All Toys Are Needed  
Preschool-12 yrs old  
Boys & Girls

#### Women's Gifts

Robe  
PJ's  
Bath/Body Kits  
Expensive Candles  
Perfume  
Nail Polish Kits  
Make-Up Kits  
Fashion Purses  
Fashion Wallets  
Flat Iron  
Blow Dryer  
Shoes

#### Housewares

Sheets (all sizes)  
Dish Sets  
Pots & Pans Sets  
Skillet Sets  
Silverware Sets  
Kitchen Utensil Sets  
Bakeware Sets  
Glass Sets (min. of 4)  
Comforter (all sizes)  
Pillows  
Bathroom Rug Sets  
Towel Sets  
Mixing Bowl Sets

#### Knits

Hats  
Gloves  
Scarves  
All Ages & Sizes

#### Teen Gifts

Bluetooth Headphones  
Bluetooth Speakers  
Cologne/Perfume  
Art Kits  
(for adults not children)  
Lighted Make-Up Mirrors  
Nail Polish Kits  
Spa Pedicure Machines  
Baseball Hats  
(local pro teams)  
Flat Irons  
Blow Dryers  
Basketballs (regulation size)  
Football (regulation size)  
Soccer Balls (regulation size)  
\$25 Gift Cards to Target or  
Walmart

#### Adult Clothing

Socks  
Underwear  
Panties  
Sweatpants  
Sweatshirts  
Undershirts

#### Please No Shirts/Jeans/Etc

#### Blankets

King & Queen Size Only  
No Throws

#### Kid's Clothing

No Baby Clothing  
Sizes 2T- 14/16





the Kenyan Children's Fund, is seeking sponsors for 15 needy children. The cost to sponsor a child is only \$390 per year, which pays

for food supplements, clothing (especially required school uniforms), school supplies, medical care and other essentials for children in Masii, Kenya, who have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS or otherwise left without care.

Of the 45 children initially supported by Immanuel members and their families and friends, nine have aged out of the program, moved away and/or married. But younger children have entered the program, so the need continues.

To sponsor one or more needy children:

- By check, please make your donation payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church, designating KCF in the memo line.
- Via the Tithe.ly online giving program, select KCF from the drop-down menu.
- Arrange a direct contribution from your bank.

To read Kenyan Children's Fund news, visit <https://kenyanchildrensfund.org/>.



*This Kenyan child is smiling about the bundle of food provided through the Kenyan Children's Fund.*

For more information, contact Mary Jo Moore, 816-309-7858 or [maryjom50@gmail.com](mailto:maryjom50@gmail.com).

Your KCF Team:

Peggy Dollard, Linda Fewell,  
Michael Hamlin and Mary Jo Moore

## NEWS FROM THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL

**Telecare Ministry:** Pastor Ann Rundquist is working to make Immanuel's telecare ministry more effective in communicating regularly with members who wish to be contacted. If you would like to receive or make friendly calls, contact Pastor Ann, 816-931-8483 or [pastorannrundquist@gmail.com](mailto:pastorannrundquist@gmail.com).

**In-Person Ministry and Meetings:** Immanuel's building is once again available as a meeting place for church groups and community organizations. Please continue to wear a mask when you are inside the building.

**Building Superintendent:** The Personnel Committee will begin searching for a Building Superintendent in July, with the hope of hiring someone by August.

## IMMANUEL'S 2ND SPRUCE UP DAY SATURDAY, JULY 17



Join your Stewardship team in sprucing up the outside of Immanuel. All are welcome!

Date: Saturday, July 17, 8 -11 a.m.

If you can't make it by 8 a.m. that is okay.

Come when you can!

We are pulling weeds, pruning, and trimming bushes. Bring your own gardening gloves and water bottle. If you have clipper, lawn bags, and the like, bring those too.

Your Stewardship team thanks you!

## SPECIAL LUNCH, ONGOING STUDY ARE JULY WELCA HIGHLIGHTS

Immanuel's Women of the ELCA (WELCA) are invited to **join Pastor Ann Rundquist for lunch, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Friday, July 9, at her home, 8722 Walmer** (between Metcalf and Lamar, off of 87th St. on the southeast side of the condo complex, second floor). There will be someone outside to direct you when you arrive. Call or text Connie Ross to let her know if you can attend, 913-219-1212.

WELCA fellowship and study continues at 1 p.m. July 14, 21 and 28 via Zoom with Just L.I.F.E. (Liberation Is For Everyone) Session Two, pages 22-27 in *gather* magazine, which is a ministry of WELCA.

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

Meeting ID: 514 335 5703

To ask questions or request a copy of the magazine, contact Pastor Ann, [pastorannrundquist@gmail.com](mailto:pastorannrundquist@gmail.com). To subscribe to the magazine, visit [www.gathermagazine.org](http://www.gathermagazine.org).



## NEWS FROM SYNOD ASSEMBLY UNITED IN CHRIST THROUGH BAPTISM: ONE BODY, MANY MEMBERS

During the Central States Synod Assembly in early June, a gathering of voting representatives from all ELCA churches in the region, Bishop Susan Candeia introduced the synod's new mission statement: **United with Christ in Baptism. Traveling the Way of Jesus. Joining God's Reign of Justice and Radical Love in the World.** Judith Roberts, ELCA senior director for diversity, equity, and inclusion, invited us to talk about the complex dynamics of racism. The ELCA Social Statement, **Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and**

**Culture**, continues to express our calling to celebrate culture and ethnicity, to confront racism, to engage in public leadership, witness, and deliberation on these matters, and to advocate for justice and fairness for all people. She encouraged us to continue the conversation, even amid uncomfortable feelings it may raise, for there is much to learn as we listen to one another and much work for us to do.

During the business meeting, synod voting representatives:

- Amended the synod constitution so it conforms with the bylaws and required provisions approved at the 2019 church assembly, including that no more than 50 percent of lay voting members of the assembly shall be of the same gender.
- Approved compensation guidelines for rostered ministers for 2022.
- Received the treasurer's report, which indicated that mission support from congregations increased in 2020 and the response to the annual appeal was the largest ever.
- Approved a budget of 1,674,534.

Voting members also passed resolutions about:

- A season of Global Awareness, which designated Epiphany as a time for congregations to lift up the church around the world; October 23, 2021, as a Sunday of solidarity with our companion synod in Russia; April 24, 2022 as a Sunday of solidarity with our companion synod in Papua New Guinea.
- Embracing the Earth Charter, which calls us to consider actions to take to become better stewards of creation.
- Calling for a social statement about Child Protection, encouraging congregations to adopt child protection policies and engage in education about effective discipline for children.

## JULY SCRIPTURE READINGS AND WORSHIP LEADERS

**7/4**

**First Reading** EZEKIEL 2:1-5

**Psalm** PSALM 123

**Second Reading** 2 CORINTHIANS 12:2-10

**Gospel** MARK 6:1-35

**Assisting Minister:** Linda Fewell

**Psalmist:** Tori Friedrich

**Media Team:** Kevin Fewell

**7/18**

**First Reading** JEREMIAH 23:1-6

**Psalm** PSALM 23

**Second Reading** EPHESIANS 2:11-22

**Gospel** MARK 6:30-34, 53-56

**Assisting Minister:** Dave Peterson

**Psalmist:** Dave Peterson

**Media Team:** Michael Hamlin

**7/11**

**First Reading** AMOS 7:7-15

**Psalm** PSALM 85:8-13

**Second Reading** EPHESIANS 1:3-14

**Gospel** MARK 6:14-29

**Assisting Minister:** Connie Benolkin

**Psalmist:** Megan Sawyer

**Media Team:** Tori and Jack Friedrich

**7/25**

**First Reading** 2 KINGS 4:42-44

**Psalm** PSALM 145:10-18

**Second Reading** EPHESIANS 3:14-21

**Gospel** JOHN 6:1-21

**Assisting Minister:** Linda Fox

**Psalmist:** Lauren Park

**Media Team:** Milan Hanson

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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

### **SUPPORT IMMANUEL BY SHOPPING AMAZON SMILE**

Amazon Smile will donate a percentage to Immanuel Lutheran Church with every purchase you make with no extra fee. Simply click the link below to join. Make sure you see the Smile logo when you access your account in the future.

[Support Immanuel on Smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

After you register, you can download the Amazon Smile mobile app for your phone. See easy [instructions here](#).

### **JOIN THITHE.LY**

Tithe.ly is Immanuel's online tithe and donation tool. Download the app or sign up via the website for safe and secure donations. Simply:

- Sign up
- Search for Immanuel KC
- Donate

To get the app, [click here](#).

To sign up online, [click here](#).

### **GET A COVID-19 VACCINATION AT THE GATHERING TABLE**

One-shot Johnson & Johnson Vaccines will be available 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, July 10, at The Gathering Table, 5001 Independence Ave., Kansas City, MO, 64124.

Pfizer vaccines, which require two shots, also will be available, with the second shot given July 31.

Walk-ins are welcome or you can register at <https://gt0710jandj1.timetapcom/#/>.

### **PROGRAM DOUBLES FOOD STAMP BENEFITS**

The Double Up Food Bucks program helps those using SNAP (food stamps) double their food dollars for fruits and vegetables. For more information or to find participating locations for you or someone you know please visit:

[www.DoubleUpHeartland.org](http://www.DoubleUpHeartland.org)



## **CHAMPSS OFFERS MEAL PLANS FOR SENIORS**

The Johnson County Area Agency on Aging Nutrition Program is pleased to offer CHAMPSS, a dining opportunity program for adults 60 or older and their spouses.

CHAMPSS, which stands for Choosing Healthy Appetizing Meal Plan Solutions for Seniors, is offered through the Older Americans Act, a federally funded program.

Please be sure to watch the enrollment presentation video with instructions on how to enroll.

To get more information for you or someone you know, visit <https://www.jocogov.org/dept/human-services/area-agency-aging/nutrition-services/champss>.

## **YOU CAN DOWNLOAD DEVOTIONS FOR YOUR E-READER**

*Christ in Our Home* daily devotions now are available for purchase each quarter for Kindle and other electronic reading devices. Purchase and download the devotions from the ebook store where you shop for your reading device.

## **CHURCH OFFICE WILL CLOSE FOR LABOR DAY**

The Immanuel office will be closed Monday, Sept. 6, in observance of Labor Day.

## **THINKING OF ONE ANOTHER**

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

## **Members of Immanuel**

**Milan Hanson, Dottie Keough, Peg Himebaugh, Family of Larry Taylor, Joe & Lori Clanin, Rev. Keith Klockau, Andree Cuthbertson, Theresa Draper, Ann Erickson, De Pfofner, Naomi Karneier, Gerry Niewald, Deanne Schlehuber, and Carolyn Wilson.**

## **Friends of Immanuel**

**Lea Welch**, daughter of Karole and John Jacobsen

**Jerri Hatteberg**, friend of Deborah Crawford

**Kathy Johnson**, sister of Karole Jacobsen

**Jon Hobbble**, 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  
**Family of Liz Wuertz**, sister-in-law of Linda Taylor  
**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  
**Denise**, friend of Linda Setterburg  
**Allan Boardman**, friend of Kevin and Linda Fewell  
**Kurt Hanneman**, friend of Bill & Mary Jo Moore  
**Roger Hershey**, friend of Bill & Mary Jo Moore  
**Harrell Roe**, cousin of Karole Jacobsen  
**Patience Robb & Fran Robb & family**  
**Maria Wilcox**, mother of Rick  
**Denise**, friend of Linda Setterburg  
**Rick Crawford**, husband of Deborah  
**April Nave & family**  
**Patience Robb & Fran Robb & family**  
**Jayde Wisner & family**, particularly for Daisy  
**Denise**, friend of Linda Setterburg  
**Deidra, Kevin, Victor, Yvonne, Cody, Shelly, Rachel, Nick, Mark, Jan, Dana, Dominic,**  
**Guy, Gracie, Gabby, Kristie, Misty, Terri, William, Lisa, Al, Carrie, Connie, Roger,**  
**Melissa, Obi, Heather, Lorenzo, Bekah, Ashlei, L.F., Erika, Tom, Jody, Katie, Kristy,**  
**Lindsay, Mary, Duane, and Michelle**



BIRTHDAY  BLESSINGS



7/2 Leonard Carr Jr.  
7/10 Charlotte Gibson  
7/10 Trystin Mrgan  
7/11 Stella Atzenweiler  
7/11 David Ferguson  
7/12 Jeff Fox  
7/15 Sam Atherton  
7/15 Liam Hyland  
7/15 Clayre Parson  
7/16 Henrik Andersen  
7/17 Allison Gossick

7/21 Christopher Moore  
7/22 Levi Hogan  
7/23 Linda Fewell  
7/24 Taylor Gardner  
7/24 Riley Rothe  
7/25 Jessica McCoy  
7/27 Ute Ahrens  
7/27 Mindy Rash  
7/29 Josephine Leedy  
7/31 Elie Roddy

## IMMANUEL LEADERSHIP

### STAFF

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

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

**Sunni Battin, administrative assistant**  
office@immanuelkc.org

**Suzanne Anderson, music director**

**Robert Barthel, organist**

### 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**  
**Linda Fewell**  
**Kate Hauber**  
**Lynden Peters**  
**Sara Prem**

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