

PARISH NEWS



"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:40, NRSV

Friends in Christ,

The year is half over, and what a decade it's been so far. January seems like it's a world away, with the devastating Australian wildfires and deadly escalation of international tensions between the US and Iran seem almost like ancient history, now. Every week, we see the tension rise; around the world, we see more protests, even as we see more BIPOC people being unjustly denied the same rights as their white counterparts. These children of God, made in God's image, being denied basic dignity and respect, often being murdered without any hope of justice for their families and communities. It's almost enough to push out of our minds the deadly virus still plaguing our world— almost, but not quite enough. 120,000 human lives are not so easily ignored, or forgotten, and that number only promises to climb.

JULY
2020
IN THIS
ISSUE

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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 August 2020 issue is Thursday, July 16, 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.

Pastor's Bookcase

The Broken Kingdoms

by N. K. Jemisin

What we're left with is a lot of anxiety and a lot of uncertainty. We don't know what's going to happen next, but as the people of God, we have hope that it gets better. That the promise of the resurrection isn't something that limited to what happens after our death —the resurrection is the work of the Church today, the work of all the people of God to proclaim new life for all of creation.

We are a people united by hope, called to live out the grace of God. The question for us today is how will we do that? When so much seems out of our power, what can we do? There isn't a single satisfying answer to these important questions, but I think that a good place to start is to remember how Jesus sought out those who were most vulnerable. The naked and the hungry and the incarcerated. Outcasts and outsiders and strangers. "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family," Jesus says, "you did it to me."

We probably can't solve all the worlds problems overnight by ourselves, but we absolutely can care of people. We can lend our voices to those whose cries have been ignored. We can stand up in solidarity with all who suffer injustice. We can care for those who seen as the least important, knowing that's precisely where we find Christ in the world.

In Peace,

Pastor Micah Sievenpiper

IMMANUEL LEADERSHIP

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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 | De Pfofner

Naomi Karmeier | Gerry Niewald | Deanne Schlehuder

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

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

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

From the President



Less than a month ago, on May 25, an unarmed black man named George Floyd was murdered by a white police officer in Minneapolis, MN. While Floyd was handcuffed and lying face down, the officer had his knee on Floyd's neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, during which time Floyd begged for his life, repeatedly saying he couldn't breathe, and calling for his mother. The last 3 minutes he was motionless and without a pulse. The officer continued to use lethal force.

Floyd was taken by medics to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced dead. Witness videos of the event went viral, igniting the city.

Protests have occurred in U.S. cities and many countries throughout the world. Enough is enough, people say. End racism once and for all. Justice now! What are we to make of this? Importantly, what are we going to do about it? There is no denying we live in a racist society, that people of color, particularly black people, suffer from centuries of persecution



(CNS photo/Eric Miller, Reuters)

and mistreatment. Our libraries are full of books, articles and films on the subject. The stories of pain and suffering abound in works of art, music, dance, poetry, plays and movies. It's on each of us to learn our racist history, and, to understand the how and why of it, and how it continues to harm people of color today. My answer to the first question I asked is this... the Holy Spirit is shaking the world to its core, awakening the dry bones in Ezekiel to new life that is right with God. And my answer to the second question? We are to live our faith in Jesus Christ by loving our neighbor, dismantling racism, and working toward a truly just and equitable society. Doing nothing is not an option. Inaction only perpetuates existing policies and practices that deny racial equality and justice for our brothers and sisters. We can, we must do better. God is counting on us.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of the June 16, 2020, Council Meeting

- Kathy Linder is now our Congregational Council Treasurer. Thanks to Mindy Rash for her excellent work.
 - Pastor Micah is working with John Anderson, Terry Kueker, and Jack Umbach to upgrade technology capabilities in the sanctuary.
 - A new part-time paid position of Building Superintendent was approved. This position will be combining the janitorial services formerly contracted out and the building manager position, currently held by Kevin Fewell. This will improve the quality of the cleanliness of the building, as well as streamline the physical management of our property.
 - Look for new signage outside and eventually inside our building to cordially welcome all into our midst. It will show our status as a “Reconciling Congregation in Christ” and a clear message that everyone is welcome! Thanks to the hard work of the Welcoming and Hospitality Committee and the Property Committee.
-

July WEEKLY READINGS

July 5, 2020

FIRST READING

Zechariah 9:9-12

PSALM

Psalms 145:8-14

SECOND READING

Romans 7:15-25a

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12, 2020

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:10-13

PSALM

Psalms 65:[1-8] 9-13

SECOND READING

Romans 8:1-11

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19, 2020

FIRST READING

Isaiah 44:6-8

PSALM

Psalms 86:11-17

SECOND READING

Romans 8:12-25

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26, 2020

FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5-12

PSALM

Psalms 119:129-136

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-39

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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!

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

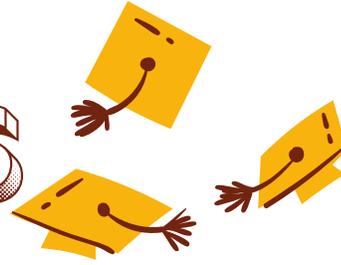
NOVEMBER

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.

SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE!



GRADUATIONS



Camryn (left) & Ryan (right)

Camryn Gossick graduated from Shawnee Mission East HS this Spring. She played volleyball, basketball and soccer at East. She was named to the second team all conference basketball team. She also played club soccer. She sang in the school choir and was a member of the National Honor Society. She plans to attend Kansas State University this fall.

Ryan Gossick graduated from Shawnee Mission East HS this spring. She was a member of the swim team. She also was a videographer for the Harbinger, the school paper. She won several awards for her videos from the state and national organizations. She sang in the school choir and was a member of the National Honor Society. She plans to attend the University of Missouri this fall.



Audrey Parson recently graduated from Lee's Summit West High School. Audrey participated in the following activities in high school: cross country, track, basketball, concert choir, Una Voce chamber choir, National Honor Society, Student Activity Council, and orchestra. Audrey also was very active in AAU track in the summers, received the Top Female Athlete award in 2020 for her senior class, and was MTCCCA Academic All-State for four years. She will be attending Wichita State this fall, majoring in Exercise Science and running cross country and track for the Shockers.



JULY

LEONARD CARR 7/2
 TRYSTIN MORGAN 7/10
 JEFF FOX 7/12
 TER'ANAY TEAGUE 7/13
 LIAM HYLAND 7/15

HENRIK ANDERSEN 7/16
 LINDA FEWELL 7/23
 UTE AHRENS 7/27
 MINDY RASH 7/27
 ELIE RODDY 7/31

BIRTHDAYS





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for safe and secure donations.

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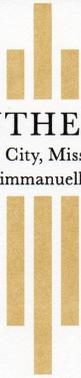
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