



PARISH NEWS

March 2022

People of God,

Every year, the season of Lent provides us an opportunity to spend time in reflection. It's a journey that begins with remembering our mortality, marking ourselves with a sign of the cross in ashes and remembering that we will die.

In years past, I've reflected on how we often go out of our way to avoid this uncomfortable truth, and how important Ash Wednesday is in grounding us in the power of the gospel that promises new life — because how can there be hope in new life if we don't first acknowledge death?



My tune has changed after these past two years.

As our country rapidly approaches 1 million deaths from COVID-19, and countless more experience ongoing complications, I don't think we're in danger of forgetting the reality of death. It's all around us. We wear masks to protect ourselves and each other. We avoid doing things we once took for granted. We long for a return to "normal," because even if our previous normal wasn't a utopia, it at least didn't mean knowing we might be risking serious illness just to go grocery shopping or meet a friend for lunch.

I find that this new reality paints the season of Lent in a new light. Ash Wednesday isn't a shocking confrontation with something we'd sooner forget; it's a simple admission of something we can't avoid. The 40 days that lead to the cross and the tomb feel less like Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, and more like a reprieve from the constant fatigue of living in such difficult days. It feels like an oasis in the desert, where we are fed and watered by the grace of God that brings life out of death.

Lent is not a season of despair, but a season of hope. It's a time to prepare for Easter, trusting that in the fullness of time, we will stand before the empty tomb and hear again the good news that Christ is risen, and us with him.

In Peace,
Pastor Micah Sievenpiper

JOIN US FOR LENTEN WORSHIP AND REFLECTION IN PERSON OR ONLINE



As Christ welcomes us, we welcome all to worship and study during Lent. Join us as we learn and grow in faith together.

Ash Wednesday Worship is at noon or 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 2, in the sanctuary. The 7 p.m. service also will be streamed live on Immanuel's YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/immanuelkansascity>.

As we mark our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism and reminds us to rejoice that we are beloved children of God.

Sunday worship begins at 9:30 a.m. each week in the sanctuary and also is streamed live on Immanuel's YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/immanuelkansascity>.

The scriptures for March remind us that Lent is an opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, and to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus. This is no small pilgrimage on which we embark. It is a journey Jesus knew, and it is one he shares as he walks with us daily.

If you participate in Ash Wednesday or Sunday worship via YouTube, you can view and download the worship bulletin and parish announcements for the day. Both are available in the Worship **Bulletins and Parish Announcements** section of Immanuel's website, <https://immanuelkc.org/bulletins-and-announcements>. You'll find a link in the description below the YouTube video window when you log in before worship.

Midweek Lenten Study and Worship will take place each Wednesday, March 9-April 6, via Zoom. Log in at 6 p.m. for a study focused on the Mothers of the Church. Each week, we will learn about a woman who has shaped our faith. Those discussions will be followed by worship at 7 p.m., also via Zoom.

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

Meeting ID: 514 335 5703

One tap mobile: +13017158592, 5143355703# US



Immanuel's Pandemic Advisory Task Force follows Centers for Disease Control guidelines so, during in-person worship or other events and activities at Immanuel, please help limit health risk by:

- Staying home if you have tested positive for COVID-19 or have experienced COVID-like symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath).
- Wearing a surgical mask (or an N95 or KN95 mask) over your nose and mouth. Surgical masks are available at Immanuel if you need one.
- Practicing safe hygiene (e.g., coughing or sneezing into your elbow.)

IMMANUEL WELCOMES NEW LEADERS AND NEW MEMBERS



During Feb. 20 worship, Pastor Micah officially installed Immanuel members who have been called and elected to serve in leadership roles. They are (pictured left to right) Pastor Micah; Linda Fox, financial secretary; Melodee Blobaum, secretary; Connie Benolkin, president; Elizabeth Hastings, council member; Bonnie Thomas, vice president; Kathy Linder, treasurer; and Randy Callstrom, council member. Not pictured are council members Henrik Andersen, Mason Carey, Scott Thompson, Sara Prem, Deborah Crawford and Lynden Peters.

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(Immanuel Welcomes New Leaders and New Members, continued)

With God's help and guidance, they pledged to faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which they have been elected. In turn, the congregation pledged to support its elected leaders with God's help.



With thanks for the gift of baptism, we welcomed Jessie Laughridge and Nathan Jones as new Immanuel members.

As they pledged to continue their baptismal covenant, the congregation promised to support and pray for them.

Jessie and Nathan are architects with Burns & McDonald and SFS Architecture respectively. They will be married at Immanuel next year.

Thanks to our elected leaders, and a warm welcome to Jessie and Nathan!

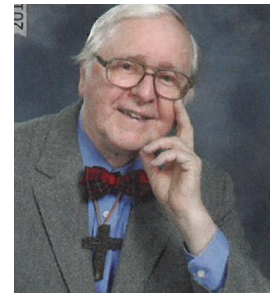
REMEMBERING REV. KEITH KLOCKAU

Rev. Keith Klockau, 92, a faithful Immanuel member who previously had served as pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church LCMS and as a missionary, died Feb. 24 at Kingswood Senior Living Center, where he had been in hospice care.

On Saturday, March 5, a visitation will begin at 9 a.m. in Spong Common Room with the funeral service following at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

You may send expressions of sympathy for Pastor Keith's family to:

Chris Klockau
406 N. Gladstone Blvd.
Kansas City, MO 64123



Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Keith. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

TRY JOURNALING AS A LENTEN PRACTICE



If you are looking for a spiritual practice for your Lenten journey, consider journaling with Immanuel's Prayer Team.

Each week, the team will distribute a handout at worship that provides a daily journaling prompt as well as space to respond to the prompt by writing, drawing or doodling. It's an easy way to try out the meditative practice without investing in a journal. Who knows? It might be the start of a writing or artistic passion!

Miss a week of worship? No problem! The weekly journal pages will be available for download from Immanuel's website, <https://immanuelkc.org/2022-lenten-journals>.

Thanks to the Prayer Team for thoughtfully encouraging all of us as we travel our Lenten journey.

MORE SNOW!? LET'S HELP PASTOR MICAH SHOVEL

Because of a labor shortage, the company that clears snow from Immanuel's parking areas can't shovel our sidewalks, and the search for a company or individual to shovel has not been successful so far.



In the meantime, Pastor Micah has volunteered to shovel, and he would appreciate your help. If snow still is on the ground on a Sunday morning and if you are able, grab your shovel and join him at 8:45 a.m. to clear the way to Immanuel's entrances.

HELP THE HOMELESS AND NEEDY BY DONATING TO THE MARCH OF SOCKS (AND UNDERWEAR)

The March of Socks (and Underwear) begins March 6 and continues through March 31 at Immanuel.

Please bring new socks and underwear to the purple bin in the sanctuary-level hallway outside Spong Common Room. Your donations will assist homeless and needy people served by Gathering Table in northeast Kansas City.

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(March of Socks, continued)

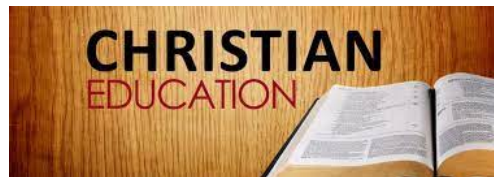
Socks and underwear are among the most-needed items, and our "march during March" will help ensure that they are available.

Thanks for donating generously, and thanks to the Social Ministry Committee for organizing our march.



REGULAR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR KIDS AND ADULTS CONTINUE DURING LENT

Immanuel Sunday School families receive lessons each week via email and, before Ash Wednesday, volunteers will give or personally deliver an activity package for Lent, Holy Week and Easter to each family.



Kids gather periodically after worship in Luther Hall, but most learning currently occurs through the lessons at home. Contact Suzanne Steffen, suzannesteffen7@gmail.com, with suggestions or questions.

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

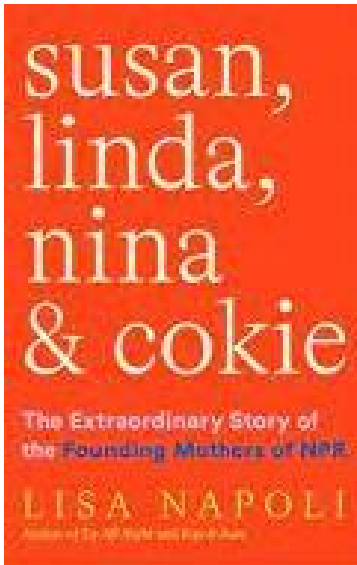
March 6 — Racial Justice in the Central States Synod, a conversation led by Dave Mareske, executive director of Hollis Renewal Center.

March 13 — Last Things, a discussion about end-of-life preparations led by Pastor Micah.

March 20 — Lutheran Campus Ministry at KU, an update and conversation with Pastor Dan Baldwin, the newly installed campus pastor.

March 27 — Prayer and Daily Life, a discussion led by members of Immanuel's Prayer Team.

FRIENDS OF LITERATURE MEETS TO DISCUSS *SUSAN, LINDA, NINA & COKIE*



Friends of Literature will meet at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 10, in Spong Common Room at Immanuel to discuss *susan, linda, nina & cokie: The Extraordinary Story of the Founding Mothers of NPR*, by Lisa Napoli.

All are welcome! To request the Friends of Literature Zoom link if you can't attend in person, contact Don Arney, 22sora@gmail.com or 816-918-5371.

Described as being as beguiling and sharp as its formidable subjects, Napoli's captivating account of these four women, their deep and enduring friendships, and the trail they blazed to becoming icons is based on extensive interviews. It also calls on the author's deep connections in news and public radio.

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE BY MARCH 13 ABOUT THE 'FRIENDS OF IMMANUEL' PRAYER LIST

You may have noticed that the Friends of Immanuel section of the prayer list, which appears in this newsletter as well as in bulletin inserts and weekly email announcements, includes people who have been on that list for some time.

The Immanuel Prayer Team has suggested that we hit the reset button.

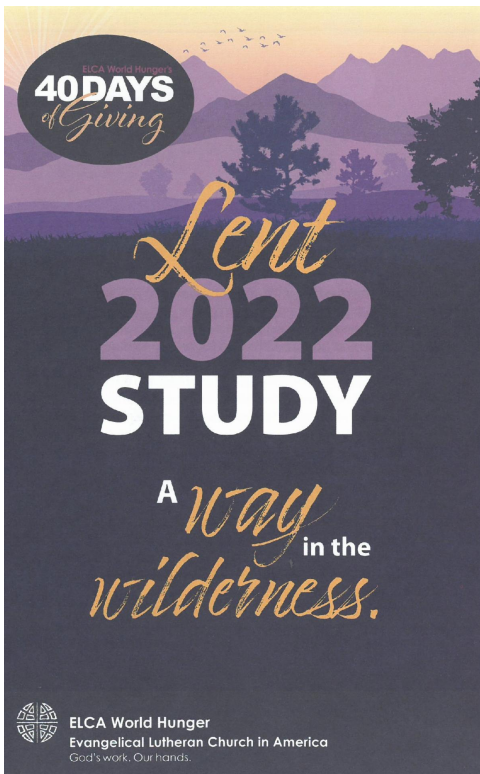
If you would like a friend to remain on or be added to that list, please contact the church office by March 13.

Pastor Micah emphasizes that anyone and everyone who desires or needs prayer belongs on that list, and it is important to us as people of God to lift them up in prayer.

So please contact the office with names of people who should be on that list as of March 13. People will remain on the list for three months or until you indicate otherwise.



WELCA MEETS WEEKLY DURING LENT TO EXPLORE 'A WAY IN THE WILDERNESS'



Scriptures during Lent remind us of a time in the wilderness, so weekly WELCA gatherings during March will explore God's promise: "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." *Isaiah 43:19*

The discussions, led by Pastor Ann Rundquist, will be guided by a booklet called "Lent 2022 Study: A Way in the Wilderness." You can pick up a copy in the narthex or request a copy by contacting Pastor Ann, pastorannrundquist@gmail.com or 785-643-7697.

Plan to join in at 1 p.m. on five consecutive Wednesdays — March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6. You can participate face-to-face in Spong Common Room or join via Zoom:

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

Meeting ID: 514 335 5703

One tap mobile: +13017158592, 5143355703# US

NEWS FROM YOUR CONGREGATION COUNCIL

During its March 22 meeting, the congregation council:

Elected 2022-2023 officers —

- Connie Benolkin, president
- Bonnie Thomas, vice president
- Melodee Blobaum, secretary
- Linda Fox, financial secretary
- Kathy Linder, treasurer



Accepted the Audit Committee report for 2019 and 2020. The report contained recommendations about —

- Documenting how financial activities are handled so transitions from one volunteer to another would move more smoothly.
- Establishing procedures for such tasks as maintaining records, documenting building use agreements, and keeping track of vendor documents.
- Further separating responsibilities for handling receipts, paying bills and tracking information in Shepherd's Staff.

Asked the Safety Committee to examine state laws regarding weapons at church and report back to the council.

MARCH SCRIPTURE READINGS AND WORSHIP LEADERS

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalmody: Psalm 51:1-17

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

NOON

Assisting Minister/Psalmist: Vicki Swanson

Altar Committee: Melodee Blobaum

Usher: Milan Hanson

7 p.m.

Assisting Minister: Connie Ross

Psalmist: Linda Taylor

Communion Steward: Karen Bame

Altar Committee: Melodee Blobaum

Media: Kevin Fewell

Ushers: Terry & Lori Kueker

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalmody: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Second Reading: Romans 10:8b-13

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

Assisting Minister: Connie Benolkin

Psalmist: Dave Peterson

Communion Steward: Kathy Linder

Altar Committee: Melodee Blobaum, Suzanne Steffen

Media: Kevin Fewell

Ushers: Pam Edvalds, Mike Ortmann, Jean Nuernberger, Del Karmeier

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, VIA ZOOM

Assisting Minister/Lay Reader: Melodee Blobaum

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

First Reading: Genesis 14:1-12, 17-18

Psalmody: Psalm 27

Second Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

(continued, next page)

(March Scripture Readings and Worship Leaders, continued)

Assisting Minister: Beth Callstrom

Psalmist: Karen Bame

Communion Steward: Milan Hanson

Altar Committee: Melodee Blobaum, Karen Bame

Media: Jack Friedrich

Ushers: Kate Hauber, Tracy & Cece Atherton

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, VIA ZOOM

Assisting Minister/Lay Reader: Kathy Linder

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-9

Psalmody: Psalm 63:1-8

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Assisting Minister: Tori Friedrich

Psalmist: Roland Pera

Communion Steward: Lauren Park

Altar Committee: Melodee Blobaum, Ellen Wilcox

Media: Linda Fox

Ushers: Chris Roth, Kevin Fewell, Bob Hyland

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, VIA ZOOM

Assisting Minister/Lay Reader: Bryan Park

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

Psalmody: Psalm 32

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Assisting Minister: John Anderson

Psalmist: Lauren Park

Communion Steward: EB Walker

Altar Committee: Melodee Blobaum, Suzanne Steffen

Media: Milan Hanson

Ushers: Marc & Patti Winkler, Randy Callstrom

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, VIA ZOOM

Assisting Minister/Lay Reader: Beth Callstrom

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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



Feb. 25

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

Feb. 26

8:30 a.m. Altar Guild, Spong

9:30 a.m. Shin Do Ryu Karate, Luther Hall

10:30 a.m. Prayer Team, Office Workroom and Conference Room

Feb. 27

8:15 a.m. Music 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

Feb. 28

5:30 p.m. Youth Chorus, Sanctuary, Luther Hall, Spong, Gathering Space

March 1

10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation via Zoom

5 p.m. Soundwave, Gathering Space

6 p.m. Executive Committee via Zoom

March 2

Noon Ash Wednesday Worship, Sanctuary

7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship, Sanctuary

March 3

7 p.m. Choral Spectrum, Sanctuary

7 p.m. OA-KC, Gathering Space

7 p.m. Social Ministry Committee via Zoom

March 4

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

March 5

9 a.m. Klockau Visitation, Spong

9:30 a.m. Shin Do Ryu Karate, Luther Hall

10:30 a.m. Klockau Funeral, Sanctuary

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(Calendar of Events, continued)

March 6

8:15 a.m. Music 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

March 7

5:30 p.m. Youth Chorus, Sanctuary, Luther Hall, Spong, Gathering Space

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.

MORE NEWS TO USE



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS MARCH 13

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to sleep Saturday, March 12.

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 in the offering plate on Sundays.
- Mailing checks to the church, 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, 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 or 816-931-8483.

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(More News to Use, continued)



POKER NIGHT BENEFITS CAMP TOMAH SHINGA

A Poker Night benefit for Camp Tomah Shinga will begin at 6 p.m., Thursday, March 18, at Hollis Renewal Center, 11414 Kansas Ave., Kansas City, KS, 66111. There's a \$50 buy-in and dinner is included. Register at www.camptomashinga.com/retreat-dates.

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

Rick Crawford, Andree Cuthbertson, Pat Durie, Ann Erickson, Peg Himebaugh, Naomi Karmeier, Dottie Keough, Family & Friends of Rev. Keith

Klockau, Family & Friends of Gerry Niewald, Carmen Norris, Betty Pera, Deanne Schlehuber and Carolyn Wilson

Friends of Immanuel

Family & Friends of Larry Atzenweiler, father of Andy Atzenweiler

Baby Reylyn & Family, friends of Peggy Dollard

Bakeberg Family, friends of Betty Pera

Brian, friend of Linda Setterburg

James, Jim and Ethel Clanin, family of Lori Clanin

Aerial Crow & James Brown, family of Jean Nuernberger

Family & Friends of Joanna Dollase, mother of Ellen Wilcox

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

Shelley Johnson, niece of Karole Jacobsen

Kayley Knubson, great-niece of Karole Jacobsen

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(Thinking of One Another, continued)

Margaret Kohler, aunt of Lori Clanin

Betty Kueker, mother of Terry Kueker

Erin Melican, family of Jean Nuernberger

Nancy's mother, friend of Linda Setterburg

Ken & Rose Nuernberger, family of Jean Nuernberger

Family & Friends of Norma Pera, sister of Roland Pera

Rev. Bill Peterson, friend of Pastor Ann Rundquist

Judy Robinson, friend of Mary Jo Moore

Beth Shepard, sister of Patti Winkler

Janet & Randy Spicer, friends of Mary Lynn Coleman-Renoe

David Strum, friend of Bill & Mary Jo Moore

Paula Weir, friend of Betty Pera

Anne Wiedenkiller, friend of Immanuel & Gathering Table

Women of Westport Oxford House (Genesee Residence), friends of Immanuel

If you would like a Friend of Immanuel to remain on or be added to the prayer list, contact the church office. Names will remain on the prayer list for three months unless you indicate otherwise.



3/4 Anna-Sophie Ahrens

3/4 Thomas Parsons

3/5 Diana Weeks-Radke

3/6 Iris Browning

3/7 Sandra Tree-Polsfus

3/7 Sarah Wilcox

3/8 Neil Pfeiffer

3/10 Judson Bertsch

3/10 Catie Tomlin

3/11 Carl Swanson

3/12 Claire Gassen

3/14 Carolyn Brauer

3/18 Amy Giedt

3/18 Rick Wilcox

3/21 Alexandra Ellerbeck

3/21 Freya Sievenpiper

3/22 Iris Roddy

3/24 Andy Atzenweiler

3/24 Jackson Gossick

3/26 Jean Nuernberger

3/31 Ann Erickson

IMMANUEL LEADERSHIP

STAFF

Rev. Micah Sievenpiper, pastor
msievenpiper@gmail.com
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Suzanne Anderson, music director
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Robert Barthel, organist
Robert.Barthel@hotmail.com
Linda Fewell, administrative assistant
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Phillip Cooper, building superintendent
pcoopq@yahoo.com

COUNCIL

Connie Benolkin, president
Bonnie Thomas, vice president
Melodee Blobaum, secretary
Kathy Linder, treasurer
Linda Fox, financial secretary
Henrik Andersen
Randy Callstrom
Mason Carey
Deborah Crawford
Elizabeth Hastings
Lynden Peters
Sara Prem
Scott Thompson

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office@immanuelkc.org
816-931-8483

Submit articles or information by the 15th of each month for the upcoming issue.

Immanuel Lutheran Church | 1700 Westport Road, Kansas City, MO 64111

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