



PARISH NEWS

May 2022

Partners in Ministry,

Christ is risen! Easter is a season of hope and joy, a time for us to celebrate the good news of God's victory over the power of sin and death.

I think we need that hope, especially after the last few years. As we celebrate the hope of Easter, we have reason to hope that the worst of the pandemic is behind us.



The Pastor's Advisory Committee has continued to meet faithfully, keeping close watch on the recommendations of public health officials and conditions in the KC metro area. The goal has been to guide Immanuel's ministry in ways that show love and care for each other, and for the community around us. As we've learned more and seen conditions improve, we've been able to loosen many of our restrictions.

In fact, most of our precautions have been eased. We've returned to sharing smaller community meals, passing the peace during worship, and singing more of the liturgy together. Other precautions remain. Communion is still celebrated "pilgrim style," with instrumental music instead of congregational singing as people receive the sacrament, and we're still refraining from larger indoor community meals. We are also continuing to ask people to wear masks, and we provide them for anyone who might not have one.

While masks can be inconvenient at times, we continue to be guided by a sense of compassion for those in our community, which includes people vulnerable to COVID-19. Wearing a mask is a simple way for us to care for those around us, keeping each other safe as we return to other, less restrictive modes of doing ministry.

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(From Pastor Micah, continued)

The Advisory Committee will continue to meet regularly and, should conditions continue to remain favorable in the weeks ahead, will reconsider our masking policy.

I'm deeply grateful for the countless ways the people of Immanuel have cared for each other throughout this ordeal. As we look forward with the hope of Easter, may we continue to show the love of God in all we do!

In Peace,
Pastor Micah

JOIN WORSHIP IN PERSON OR ONLINE



As Christ welcomes us, Immanuel welcomes you to worship at 9:30 a.m. Sundays. In-person worship also is streamed live on Immanuel's YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/immanuelkansascity>.

In the scriptures for the month, the disciples wade in the water (remembering baptism) and eat with Jesus (celebrating holy communion), reminding us of our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing Easter life to others.

ROBERT BARTHEL ORGAN RECITAL, MAY 1, BENEFITS GATHERING TABLE

Robert Barthel, Immanuel organist, will present an organ recital at 3 p.m., Sunday, May 1, in the sanctuary. The event, sponsored by Immanuel's Social Ministry and Congregational Life committees, also will be streamed live on Immanuel's YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/immanuelkansascity>.

Robert will perform:

- "Fantasia" and "Fugue in G Minor," BWV 542, by Johann Sebastian Bach
- "Choeur en Rondeau," from *Te Deum*, by Guillaume Lascoux
- *Herzliebster Jesu*, op. post. 122, no. 2, by Johannes Brahms



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(Robert Barthel Recital, continued)

- *All'Offertorio: Sinfonia col tanto applaudito inno popolare*, by Padre Davide da Bergamo
- "Berceuse (sur les paroles classiques)," p. 31, no. 19, by Louis Vierne
- "Tocata," from *Symphony No. 5*, op. 42, no. 1, by Charles-Marie Widor

A free-will offering will benefit ministries at Gathering Table, which provides showers, meals, clothing, laundry facilities, encouragement and the word of God to houseless and needy people.

CALLING IMMANUEL VOLUNTEERS

There are many volunteer opportunities at Immanuel. For example:



- Immanuel's financial secretary needs volunteers to count offerings after church on Sundays. Working in a team of 2-3 people, you will count, document and prepare a deposit for the offerings. The time commitment is about 90 minutes one Sunday per month. To volunteer or learn more, contact Linda Fox, stitchingfox@sbcglobal.net or 816-679-0928.
- The Worship & Arts Committee seeks volunteers to carry the brass cross from the chancel to the back of the church. Note that the cross weighs more than 20 pounds and is a bit top heavy. If you are interested and can carry the cross — or would like to try carrying it — contact Karen Bame, bamek@umkc.edu, or the church office, office@immanuelkc.org or 816-931-8483.
- The Congregational Life Committee needs volunteers to work together to offer opportunities for fellowship, food and fun. It's a fresh opportunity to support Immanuel's community-building efforts. Call the church office to volunteer to help bring new life into our ministry.
- Do you love weddings? Two Immanuel members have volunteered to be wedding coordinators, but we could use two more so the volunteers could work in pairs. You would help brides, grooms and their families get to know our building and do a few things to prepare for wedding days (such as masking the windows in Spong Common Room, which is where brides and attendants prepare). An Immanuel wedding coordinator also will attend wedding rehearsals and ceremonies to answer questions. Contact the church office to get a complete list of wedding coordinator duties.
- We still need a few hosts for refreshment and fellowship time following Sunday worship. Immanuel provides all the coffee and treats, so it's an easy task. If you would be willing to set up and clean up on an upcoming Sunday, please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HEADS TO THE PLAYGROUND, ADULT FORUM ADDRESSES INTERESTING TOPICS



When the weather cooperates, Immanuel Sunday School families gather on the playground after worship for fun, fellowship and periodic activities.

Be sure to mark your calendars for a May 22 end-of-school celebration after worship.

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

May 1 — Gathering Table Update: Immanuel member BJ Laven, who serves on the board of Gathering Table, will provide an update about services and needs at the ministry in northeast Kansas City. The people of Immanuel support Gathering Table in a variety of ways.

May 8 — Jesus Our Mother: It's Mother's Day, so Don Arney will lead a discussion about Julian of Norwich. Julian, the mystic and anchoress, uses images of a loving, patient mother to describe Jesus and the Trinity. She wrote 700 years ago, but she has a lot to share about God and our joy found in God's love.

May 15 — Our Vision for Ministry: Pastor Micah will provide an update and ask for input about priorities and projects that are emerging from the Vision for Ministry document and the work of the Immanuel Steering Committee.

May 22 — Can We Talk About Guns? Don Arney will lead the second Adult Forum conversation about options that we, as people of faith, may have in response to increasing gun violence in our community.

May 29 — Last Things: Pastor Micah will lead a discussion about how we as Christians can prepare for the end of life, both for ourselves and for our loved ones.



GARDEN ITEMS ARE FREE FOR THE TAKING



In the spirit of reusing and recycling, Immanuel gardeners offer unused garden items free for the taking.

“Shop” the tables in the elevator lobby. You are welcome to bring items to add to the table and/or take some of them home with you.

The garden-item exchange began as part of Immanuel's April 24 Earth Day celebration and will continue for a few weeks.

BRING NEW OR GENTLY USED WINTER COATS FOR MLM CHRISTMAS STORE

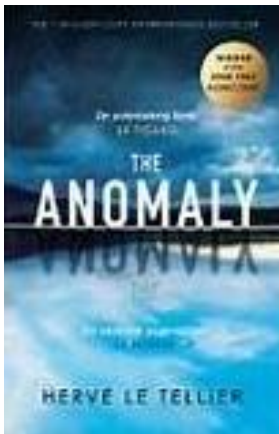
Virtually all gifts donated to the MLM Christmas Store are new ... but winter coats are an exception. Both new and gently used winter coats are welcomed.

Now that winter has loosened its grip, don't put those gently used coats that you no longer wear or that the kids have outgrown back in the closet. Instead, you can bring them to the bin in the coat room off the main hallway upstairs at Immanuel.

Your generosity can help keep someone warm next winter.



FRIENDS OF LITERATURE MEETS TO DISCUSS *THE ANOMALY*



Friends of Literature will meet at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 12, at the home of Roland and Betty Pera, 13115 W. 77th St., Lenexa, KS, 66216. The group will discuss *The Anomaly*, by Herve Le Tellier.

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

Winner of the Goncourt Prize, *The Anomaly* is described as a whip-smart novel that blends crime, fantasy, sci-fi and suspense as it plumbs the mysteries surrounding a Paris-to-New York flight.

NEWS FROM YOUR CONGREGATION COUNCIL

The Immanuel Congregation Council, which met April 26:

- Discussed updated policies developed by the Personnel Committee. The council sent the policies back to the committee to review language about sick leave, parental leave, harassment policies and hiring practices, among others.
- Approved a resolution of thanksgiving recognizing Pastor Ann Rundquist's years of service to Immanuel.
- Approved the purchase of a new dishwasher for the Spong Common Room kitchen to replace the current unit, which no longer washes dishes.



THREE WELCOMED INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST THROUGH BAPTISM

During recent weeks, we have welcomed three people into the body of Christ at Immanuel through baptism.

Winnie Sue Williams was baptized Palm Sunday, April 10. She is the infant daughter of Cody and Samantha Williams, and the granddaughter of Mindy Rash.

Abigail Charlotte and Samuel James Wieck were baptized during the Easter Vigil, April 16.

With the whole church of God, we welcome the newly baptized into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. We join them in promising to bear God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.



(Left to right) Chris Barnes, Amanda Rash, and Cody and Samantha Williams celebrate following Winnie Sue's baptism.



(Left to right) Pastor Micah; Sam Wieck; Janette Rodecap, mom of Sam and Abby; and Abby Wieck gathered by the font.

PEOPLE AT GATHERING TABLE SAY, 'THANKS FOR THE SOCKS!'

Thanks to your generosity during the March of Socks and Underwear, Immanuel donated 370 pairs of socks and 106 pairs of underwear to Gathering Table.

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('Thanks For The Socks,' continued)

Now, people who need them have warm, dry socks and underwear. That's important not only for comfort, but also for health, because damp clothing can lead to rashes and infections.

Pastor Ann Rundquist says everyone who receives your donations sends heartfelt thanks. "Thank you for supporting God's ministry and God's people living in poverty," she adds.



PASTOR ANN: 'EMBARKING ON NEW ADVENTURES'

Dear friends,

It was a privilege walking together with you on the path of Jesus as we strengthen our faith.

I am embarking on a new adventure in ministry as an advocate for justice, particularly in the Historic Northeast Kansas City. Also, I am working with Wartburg Seminary, local congregations and YouthWorks to introduce and promote Lutheran ministries in diverse locations. On a personal note, conversational Spanish, guitar, gourmet cooking, and pickleball are on the agenda!

Thank you for supporting me and Gathering Table at a vulnerable time when our futures were unclear and actually at risk.

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea; daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be. I am weak but thou are strong: Jesus keep me from all wrong; I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

With you in Christ,
Pastor Ann



Among her many activities in the northeast part of Kansas City, Pastor Ann helps welcome refugees from war-torn countries as they begin their lives in the Kansas City area. The young Afghan girl with whom she is pictured here is among recent arrivals to our community.

Thank you, Pastor Ann!

MAY SCRIPTURE READINGS AND WORSHIP LEADERS

MAY 1

First Reading: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

Psalmody: Psalm 30

Second Reading: Revelation 5:11-14

Gospel: John 21:1-19

Assisting Minister: Vicki Swanson

Psalmist: Connie Benolkin

Communion Steward: Karen Bame

Crucifer: Ingrid Peterson

Altar Committee: Milan Hanson

Media: Kevin Fewell

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

MAY 8

First Reading: Acts 9:36-43

Psalmody: Psalm 23

Second Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

Gospel: John 10:22-30

Assisting Minister: Connie Ross

Psalmist: Roland Pera

Communion Steward: Melodee Blobaum

Crucifer: Milan Hanson

Altar Committee: Suzanne Steffen

Media: Jack Friedrich

Ushers: Tracy & Cece Atherton, Kate Hauber

MAY 15

First Reading: Acts 11:1-18

Psalmody: Psalm 148

Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6

Gospel: John 13:31-35

Assisting Minister: John Anderson

Psalmist: Karen Bame

Communion Steward: Rick Sundell

Crucifer: BJ Laven

Altar Committee: Bonnie Thomas, Milan Hanson

Media: Linda Fox

Ushers: Chris Roth, Bob Hyland, Kevin Fewell

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(May Scripture Readings and Worship Leaders, continued)

MAY 22

First Reading: Acts 16:9-15

Psalmody: Psalm 67

Second Reading: Revelation 21:10, 22 - 22:5

Gospel: John 14:23-29

Assisting Minister: Tori Friedrich

Psalmist: Connie Benolkin

Communion Steward: Kathy Linder

Crucifer: Ingrid Peterson

Altar Committee: *TBD*

Media: Milan Hanson

Ushers: Marc & Patti Winkler, Randy Callstrom

MAY 29

First Reading: Acts 16:16-34

Psalmody: Psalm 97

Second Reading: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

Gospel: John 17:20-26

Assisting Minister: Catie Tomlin

Psalmist: Megan Sawyer

Communion Steward: Linda Taylor

Crucifer: BJ Laven

Altar Committee: Karen Bame

Media: *Need volunteer*

Ushers: Chris Roth, Bob Hyland, Kevin Fewell

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

May 1

8:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Luther Hall

9:30 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. Refreshments and Fellowship, Luther Hall

10:45 a.m. Sunday School, Outside

10:45 a.m. Adult Forum, Spong

Noon Mutual Ministry Committee, Spong

1 p.m. Set Up for Organ Recital, Sanctuary and Luther Hall

3 p.m. Robert Barthel Organ Recital and Reception, Sanctuary and Luther Hall

3 p.m. OA-KC, Gathering Space



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(Calendar of Events, continued)

May 2

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

May 3

4 p.m. Youth Chorus Auditions, Spong

5 p.m. Soundwave, Gathering Space

6 p.m. Scandinavian Dancers, Luther Hall

7 p.m. Congregation Council, Room 1

May 4

4 p.m. Youth Chorus Auditions, Spong

May 5

4 p.m. Youth Chorus Auditions, Spong

7 p.m. Choral Spectrum, Sanctuary

7 p.m. OA-KC, Sanctuary

7 p.m. Social Ministry Committee, Zoom

May 6

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

May 7

8:30 a.m. Set Up for Baby Shower, Spong

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

10 a.m. Baby Shower, Spong

1 p.m. Youth Chorus Auditions, Spong

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

UKRAINIANS NEED OUR HELP

Bombings in Ukraine continue. Needs for food, water and hygiene are increasing, and the death toll is rising.

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(More News to Use, continued)

Lutheran Disaster Response is working with companion churches in Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia and Romania, as well as with ecumenical partners such as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis.

You can contribute to Eastern European Crisis Response at <https://elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/Our-Impact/Eastern-Europe-Crisis-Response>; 100 percent of your gift will assist those affected in Ukraine and neighboring countries. You also can send checks to Lutheran Disaster Response, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA, 22116-8009.



ARE YOU MISSING SOMETHING? CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE ABOUT WHAT'S LOST AND FOUND

Jewelry. Eye glasses. A CD. Miscellaneous keys. All that and more is in Immanuel's lost-and-found box in the church office.

Missing something? Contact office@immanuelkc.org or 816-931-8483.

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/), <https://signup.tithe.ly/>.
- Setting up an automatic payment through your financial institution.



Additional ways to support Immanuel include Amazon Smile — simply register at <https://smile.amazon.com/>, and Amazon will donate a percentage of what you spend to Immanuel with every purchase you make. Thank you for giving to Immanuel! Questions? Please contact the church office, office@immanuelkc.org or 816-931-8483.

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, Carmen Norris, Betty Pera, Deanne Schlehuber, EB Walker and Carolyn Wilson



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(Thinking of One Another, continued)

Friends of Immanuel

Ivy Anderson & Family, family of Suzanne Steffen
Erin Baker, family of Jean Nuernberger
James, Jim and Ethel Clanin, family of Lori Clanin
Baby Cruz and the Brown Family, family of Jean Nuernberger
Family & Friends of Danny, friend of Gathering Table
Family & Friends of Camille Engler, sister of Sally Baehni
Normajean Holtje, cousin of Mike Ortmann
Shelley Johnson, niece of Karole Jacobsen
Betty Kueker, mother of Terry Kueker
Dale & Kay Mowbray, friends of Deanne Schlehuber
Nancy's mother, friend of Linda Setterburg
Ken & Rose Nuernberger, family of Jean Nuernberger
Beth Shepard, sister of Patti Winkler
Janet & Randy Spicer, friends of Mary Lynn Coleman-Reno
Pam Staggs, sister of Connie Ross
Women of Westport Oxford House, friends of Immanuel

If you would like to add someone to or remove someone from the prayer list, contact the church office. Names will remain on the list for three months unless you indicate otherwise.

Email ImmanuelKCPrayerTeam@gmail.com to request prayer for someone who does not wish to appear on the public list.



5/1 **Robert Setterburg**
5/2 **Maddie Wilcox**
5/3 **Taylor Reid**
5/5 **Andree Cuthbertson**
5/6 **Matthew Beckmann**
5/8 **Amanda Rash**
5/8 **Lisa Schlehuber**
5/10 **Neil Johnson**
5/11 **Riley Kennedy**
5/11 **Carolyn Wilson**
5/14 **Michael Friedrich**
5/15 **Jeff Winker**
5/16 **Taylor McCoy**
5/16 **Emily Parsons**
5/17 **Pam Edvalds**
5/17 **Darren McCarter**
5/17 **Soren Radke**

5/19 **Parker Winkler**
5/20 **August Atzenweiler**
5/20 **Candy Thompson**
5/21 **Brice Boehmer**
5/23 **Ken Beckmann**
5/23 **Anna Kennedy**
5/23 **Camryn Gossick**
5/23 **Ryan Gossick**
5/23 **Milan Hanson**
5/24 **Alex Hastings**
5/25 **Peg Himebaugh**
5/25 **Chris Roth**
5/26 **Beatrice Wu**
5/27 **Kathy Ellerbeck**
5/30 **Luke Hastings**
5/31 **Nathan Jones**
5/31 **Meredith Majerle**

IMMANUEL LEADERSHIP

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Bonnie Thomas, vice president
Melodee Blobaum, secretary
Kathy Linder, treasurer
Linda Fox, financial secretary
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Mason Carey
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