



PARISH NEWS

NOVEMBER 2021



November is a season of endings.

The nights get colder and longer, trees go from colorful to barren, and the year draws to a close. We mark All Saints Day, remembering our beloved dead. We gather in our harvests, either literally or metaphorically, and celebrate with a great Thanksgiving feast before the long, lean winter months.

When we gather in worship, we hear a similar refrain that echoes the anxiety of the season. The lectionary takes on an apocalyptic tone, and we hear warning from scripture about hardships and calamities. It can be a dismal time of year.

It can also be a time for new beginnings.

Crops that can be harvested in spring take root in fall. When the nights are long and the skies clear of summer haze, we see the stars more clearly. There's no certainty in this, of course; our asparagus might not grow like we plan, and cloudy skies might block our view of the heavens. But there is always hope.

A few years ago, we held a series of midweek Advent gatherings during which we made up stories together through an activity called "The End." Beginning with disasters of various kinds, everyone who gathered around the table imagined what it would be like to live through the end of life as we know it. The experience led to some powerful moments, in large part because it required us to build something new out of the ashes of what had ended.

I hope to engage all who are interested in something similar this year. I'm still searching for the right set of "rules" to guide our thinking and imagining, but the plan is to gather via Zoom at 7 p.m. each Wednesday evening during Advent, beginning Dec. 1. This year, I'm aiming for a theme of kindling hope in the face of hardship. All are welcome to participate, even if you've never heard of this type of activity before. If you're interested or if you have questions, please let me know!

As many things draw to an end, I'm eager to see what new beginnings God has in store for us.

In Peace,
Pastor Micah Sievenpiper

WORSHIP IN PERSON OR ONLINE

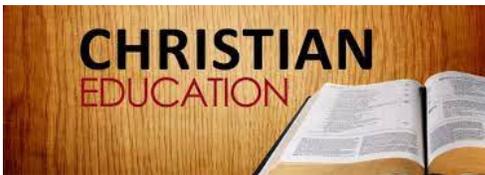
As Christ welcomes us, we welcome all to worship, which begins at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday. All in-person services in the sanctuary also are streamed live on Immanuel's YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/immanuelkansascity>.



During in-person worship or other events and activities at Immanuel, please help 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.)

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUE FOR KIDS AND ADULTS



Sunday School gatherings after worship each Sunday continue outside if weather permits, inside with masks if it doesn't. Before Nov. 28, each student will receive an Advent packet, which contains at-home activities that focus on preparing for Christ's birth in the world as it is today.

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

Nov. 7 — Grateful Giving, a discussion with the Immanuel Stewardship Team

Nov. 14 — A Christian Response to the Pandemic: A discussion led by Immanuel members Dr. Matt Hastings, an expert in neurology and neurophysiology, and Dr. Elizabeth Hastings, an expert in developmental and behavioral pediatrics.

Nov. 21 — Justice and Peace, an exploration led by Pastor Micah.

Nov. 28 — Thanksgiving weekend: No Adult Forum.

SHARE THE BLESSING OF CHRISTMAS: DONATE TO THE MLM CHRISTMAS STORE

The MLM Christmas Store will return to Immanuel to serve more than 1,000 needy families during the week of Dec. 5-11 — that's just a few short weeks away! With other Lutheran congregations, we have the opportunity to share the blessings of Christmas by donating some of the most-needed gift items. The store especially needs:

- Blankets.
- Coats.
- Pot-and-pan sets.
- Small appliances.
- Sweatshirts and sweatpants.
- Underwear.
- Warm clothes for boys and girls.
- Gift cards.

During November and early December, 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 most-needed 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 also can 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.

Along with Christmas gifts, the Christmas Store also needs the gift of your time. For information about the various ways you can help during the day or evening Dec. 5-11, contact Michelle, michellesalierno@mlmkc.org or 816-285-3154.

Thank you for sharing the blessings of Christmas.

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

Grateful Giving

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR COMMITMENT SUNDAY, NOV. 14

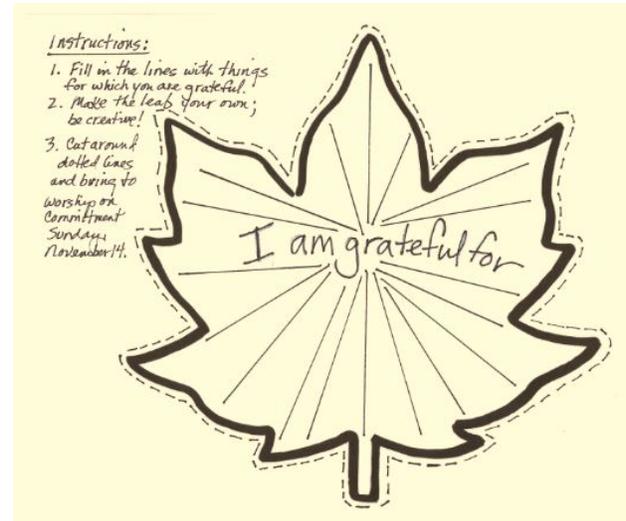


Commitment Sunday is Nov. 14, so please mark your calendars.

Before that date, each Immanuel household will receive a series of communications — via email, postcard or letter — that focus on Grateful Giving.

As you learned in the first of those communications, the mailing that includes your commitment card — through which you will indicate gifts of time and money you can offer Immanuel during 2022 — also will include one or more Leaves of Gratitude. You and any other family members each can cut out one or more leaves, and fill them in with pictures or words that represent things for which you are grateful. Use crayons, markers, paint, glitter, stickers, whatever ... have fun!

Plan to bring the leaves forward with your household's commitment card Nov. 14. We'll then display the leaves as a collective symbol of the gratitude that will carry us into 2022.



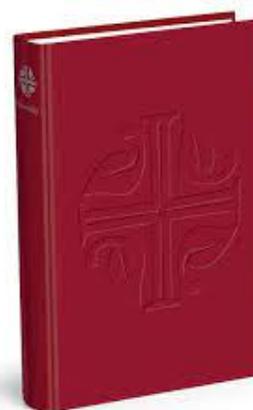
in the mailing with your household's commitment card, you and any other household members will receive Leaves of Gratitude like this one. Complete and bring them to worship Nov. 14.

As we read in Psalm 145:18, "When the peace of Christ rules in our hearts, thankfulness overflows. Even in the darkest of times, we can praise God for his love, his sovereignty, and his promise to be near us when we call."



NOVEMBER WELCA GATHERING EXPLORES ELW RESOURCES

Exploring the wealth of resources in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW, the cranberry-colored worship book) will highlight the November WELCA gathering, 1 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 17. Pastor Ann Rundquist will lead the exploration of both well-known and lesser-known faith resources in the book that some might think of as only a hymnal.



You can participate face-to-face in Spong Common Room (masks required), where copies of the ELW will be available to peruse. Or you can join via Zoom at:

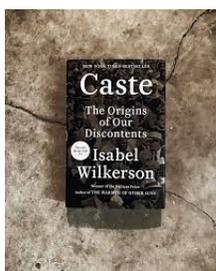
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5143355703>

Meeting ID: 514 335 5703

One tap mobile: +13017158592, 5143355703# US

If you will participate via Zoom and would like to borrow a copy of the ELW, contact Pastor Ann, pastorannrundquist@gmail.com or 785-643-7697.

FRIENDS OF LITERATURE MEETS TO DISCUSS *CASTE, THE ORIGINS OF OUR DISCONTENTS*



Friends of Literature will meet at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 11, via Zoom to discuss *Caste, The Origins of Our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson.

All are welcome! To request the Friends of Literature Zoom link, contact Don Arney, 22sora@gmail.com or 816-918-5371, or the church office, office@immanuelkc.org or 816-931-8483.

Through stories and metaphors, Wilkerson argues that we cannot know our country without understanding the caste system embedded in the United States since its beginnings. The writing is at once entertaining, judgmental and hopeful as Wilkerson uses her journalistic skills to weave facts into stories.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANN **YOUR CARE SHINES THROUGH** **AT GATHERING TABLE**

Thank you, dear Immanuel friends, for demonstrating love and care for the homeless and desperately needy people served at Gathering Table.



They join me in gratitude for:

- All who pack sack lunches. Gathering Table volunteers give out about a hundred of them each week for breakfast, a midday snack or the evening meal. People would go hungry without them.
- Kathy Linder, for securing a Thrivent Action Team Grant that provided several days of hot lunches.
- Jeri Blaske-Yungeberg, whose Thrivent Action Team grant paid to purchase a bed for a cancer patient.
- Pam Edvalds and the Immanuel Social Ministry Committee for securing a Thrivent Action Team grant that will pay for Thanksgiving dinner at Gathering Table.
- Bill and Mary Jo Moore, whose Thrivent Action Team grant will help pay to transport 12 homeless people, including veterans, to the Veterans Day parade in Leavenworth, which is the second-largest such parade in the country.

Are you a Thrivent member? Your Action Team grant could pay to transport homeless people to Immanuel to shop at the MLM Christmas Store on Wednesday, Dec. 8.

For more information about the grants and to apply, visit

<https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/thrivent-action-teams.html>.

NEWS FROM YOUR CONGREGATION COUNCIL



Brian Thomas created a financial trend analysis for 2017-present that, overall, indicates a consistent flow of income and expenses.

Events with notable budgetary impact include the renegotiation of the

mortgage loan to lower Immanuel's expenses, and the 2020 and 2021 Payroll Protection Plan loans, which provided additional income. The 2020 loan was forgiven in 2021, and the 2021 should be forgiven in 2022.

Currently, the full-year budget projection indicates that Immanuel will end 2021 with a \$19,600 deficit, which is a considerable improvement compared with the \$118,000 year-end deficit that had been anticipated a few months ago.

Thank you to Brian for the analysis, to Kate Hauber for helping to renegotiate the mortgage loan, and to Kathy Linder for providing information that leads to forgiveness of the Payroll Protection Plan loans.

Pastor Micah is working with a consultant to explore purchasing up-to-date, refurbished computers and network equipment. The new equipment will enable the church office to reduce costs, increase capabilities and keep Immanuel's data secure.

Council members have reviewed the Vision for Ministry statement created by the Immanuel Steering Committee. It will be implemented after it is circulated to the congregation for comments and revised accordingly. Many thanks to the steering committee for its thoughtful work.

NOVEMBER SCRIPTURE READINGS AND WORSHIP LEADERS

11/7

First Reading: 1 Kings 17:8-16

Psalmody: Psalm 146

Second Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28

Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

Assisting Minister: Connie Ross

Psalmist: Beth Callstrom

Communion Steward: Milan Hanson

Media: Kevin Fewell

Ushers: Terry and Lori Kueker, BJ Laven,
Hastings Family

11/21

First Reading: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Psalmody: Psalm 93

Second Reading: Revelation 1:4b-8

Gospel: John 18:33-37

Assisting Minister: Vicki Swanson

Psalmist: Roland Pera

Communion Steward: Melodee Blobaum

Media: Michael Hamlin

Ushers: Hanson/Roddy Family, Tracy and
Cece Atherton, Kate Hauber

11/14

First Reading: Daniel 12:1-3

Psalmody: Psalm 16

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-
18] 19-25

Gospel: Mark 13:1-8

Assisting Minister: John Anderson

Psalmist: Linda Fox

Communion Steward: Rick Sundell

Media: Jack and Tori Friedrich

Ushers: Michael Hamlin, Pam Edvalds,
Del Karmerier

11/28

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalmody: Psalm 25:1-10

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

Assisting Minister: Linda Fox

Psalmist: Karen Bame

Communion Steward: EB Walker

Media: Milan Hanson

Ushers: Kevin and Linda Fewell, Randy
Callstrom, Gretchen Bishop



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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



Nov. 1

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

Nov. 2

10 a.m. Coffee and Conversation via Zoom

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

Nov. 4

5 p.m. Choral Spectrum, Luther Hall

7 p.m. OA-KC, Gathering Space

7 p.m. Immanuel Social Ministry Committee, Spong

Nov. 6

8:30 a.m. Property Workday

8:30 a.m. Altar Guild, Spong

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

9:30 a.m. Choral Spectrum, Sanctuary

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



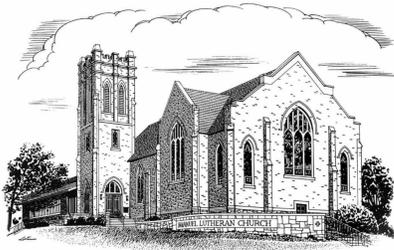
FOLLOWING WORSHIP, JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP TIME, INSIDE OR OUT

Help yourself to refreshments following Sunday services. We'll gather outside if weather permits or in Luther Hall if it doesn't.

Could you offer hospitality to your Immanuel friends by hosting coffee/refreshment time? Please sign up on the bulletin board in the main sanctuary-level hallway.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS NOV. 7

Make a note to “fall back” by turning your clocks back one hour before you go to sleep this coming Saturday, Nov. 6. We return to Central Standard Time at 2 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 7.



IMMANUEL ARTIST CREATES DRAWING OF OUR CHURCH HOME

The drawing of our church home that currently graces the front of each Sunday's worship bulletins and parish announcements is based on a large framed drawing presented to Immanuel on the occasion of our congregation's 100th anniversary. Immanuel member and talented artist

Mary Lynn Coleman finessed the image so it now is a perfect fit for our printed and digital publications. Thank you, Mary Lynn!

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 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 or 816-931-8483.



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURES FOR VETERANS DAY, THANKSGIVING

The Immanuel office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 11, for Veterans Day, and Thursday-Friday, Nov. 25-26, for Thanksgiving.

KINDLY SIGN FOR AND RETURN CHURCH RECORDS, FILES AND PHOTOS

When you borrow records, files or photos from Immanuel, please add your name, the date and a description of what you borrow to the sign-out sheet on the reception desk in the church office. Kindly return those items, as well as any you might already have in your possession, when your work is completed.



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.

ARTISTS WANTED FOR HOLLIS WINTER ART FAIR

Hollis Renewal Center is seeking artists to sell their creations at the Hollis Winter Art Fair. Items for sale will include pottery, photography, handmade jewelry, hand-turned woodworking and more. Please consider applying to exhibit or pass along the information to other interested parties. Visit <https://www.holliscenter.org/hollis-art-fair.html> for more information or to fill out an application, which must be submitted by Nov.1. Questions? Contact Hollis, 913-441-0451 or info@holliscenter.org.



GET FREE, UNBIASED MEDICARE ADVICE FROM KANSAS CITY SHEPHERD'S CENTER

During Medicare open enrollment, certified counselors at KC Shepherd's Center can provide a free, unbiased, confidential review of your

Medicare options, including researching your individual needs and providing you with choices. Neither the counselors nor Shepherd's Center are affiliated with any insurance agency. To schedule an appointment, call 816-444-1121.

THINKING OF ONE ANOTHER

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



Members of Immanuel

Joe & Lori Clanin, Rick Crawford, Andree Cuthbertson, Family and Friends of Theresa Draper, Pat Durie, Ann Erickson, Peg Himebaugh, Naomi Karmeier, Dottie Keough, Rev. Keith Klockau, Wilbur and Gerry Niewald, De Pfofner, Family and Friends of Evelyn Roberts, Deanne Schlehuber, Carolyn Wilson, and Family and Friends of Lois Winkler.

Friends of Immanuel

Baby Reylyn & family, friends of Peggy Dollard
Bakeberg family, friends of Betty Pera
Pinky Brauer, sister-in-law of Carolyn Brauer
Jack Cannon, brother of Lori Kueker
Jim, Ethel and James Clanin, family of Lori Clanin
Denise, friend of Linda Setterburg
Chloe & Carley Engler, great nieces of Sally Baehni
Jennifer Gougo, volunteer at Gathering Table
Ivy and Josie Grayson families, friends of Dottie Keoug
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 and Patti Winkler
Jack & Mary Kantola, friends of Peg Himebaugh
Family and Friends of Darren Koepke and Sandy Nelson, former colleagues of BJ Laven
Margaret Kohler, aunt of Lori Clanin
Betty Kueker, mother of Terry Kueker
Chris McCallum, nephew of Mike Ortmann
Patty and her son J.J., friends of Linda Setterburg
Erin Melican, family of Jean Nuernberger
Ken and 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 Anderson
Beth Shepard, sister of Patti Winkler
Janet & Randy Spicer, friends of Mary Lynn Coleman-Renoe
Paula Weir, friend of Betty Pera
Rock Westfahl, friend of Kevin & Linda Fewell
Larry Weians, husband of Barbara Weians
Anne Wiedenkiller, friend of Immanuel and Gathering Table
Arnold and Irma Wuertz, parents of Linda Taylor
Karen Wuertz, sister-in-law of Linda Taylor

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

11/1 **Mason Carey**
11/1 **Sadie Velasco**
11/2 **Daniel Prem**
11/3 **Eleanor McCarter**
11/3 **Kerri Noland-Gear**
11/3 **Carmen Norris**
11/4 **Andi Tomlin**
11/4 **Katie Werner**
11/5 **Erin Hauber**
11/8 **Mac Bertsch**
11/10 **Debra Lynn**
11/10 **Gerry Niewald**
11/12 **Grace Park**
11/14 **Gretchen Bishop**
11/14 **Matthew Prem**

11/19 **Brenna Myers**
11/19 **Patti Winkler**
11/20 **Connie Benolkin**
11/20 **Anke Hirsekorn**
11/21 **John Anderson**
11/22 **Soren Thomsen**
11/22 **Bill Moore**
11/23 **M Gear**
11/26 **Ed Ellerbeck**
11/27 **Kelly Kennedy**
11/27 **Robert Tomlin**
11/29 **Lee Craig**
11/29 **Donna Roth**
11/30 **Kayla Carey**

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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