

# PARISH NEWS

## SEPTEMBER 2021



"You shall love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." Deuteronomy 10:19

September 11, 2001, is a day cemented in the minds of many of us who are old enough to remember it clearly. I was a freshman in high school, and I still can hear my principal's voice crackling through the loudspeaker as she announced what was happening. Teachers discarded their lesson plans, making room for the fear and uncertainty everyone seemed to share. Classroom TVs were rolled in, and we watched the horrors unfold in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.

Thousands of people died that day and, during the days that followed, I was transfixed by the subsequent groundswell of unity. We were frightened, but people came together to support each other. Collectively, we donated money, supplies and even blood to help care for victims and support first responders. In the face of tragedy and fear, we cared for each other, hoping to find healing from unspeakable tragedy.

Sadly, mutual aid wasn't the only thing that brought people together. There was a terrifying increase in hate crimes directed at Muslims and anyone who might appear to have Middle Eastern ancestry. Mosques were burned, and Sikh temples became targets for violence.

That violence wasn't perpetrated only by radical individuals in isolated incidents. By a wide margin, most people supported going to war. So for 20 years, we spent trillions of dollars on revenge. More than 70,000 Afghan civilians were killed, a number that's almost certainly an underestimation because, after 9/11, the U.S. military stopped keeping track of civilian deaths.

An entire generation has grown up not knowing what it's like to be a country at peace. And yet, after spending roughly \$300 million on a war effort *every day* for nearly two decades, extending hospitality to refugees created in the process remains controversial.

It shouldn't be. The Bible is clear about the importance of welcoming strangers and foreigners. The stories in Genesis and Exodus are mostly about immigrants and refugees, and about how God cares foremost for outsiders — especially those who are not treated with dignity. King David, one of the most important figures in scripture, is born only because his great-grandfather loved a Moabite refugee named Ruth. And the Gospel of Matthew depicts the holy family as refugees, fleeing violence in their home country.

As disciples of Jesus, it is our duty and our joy to encounter Christ in the presence of those who are strangers. We are called to care for those who are suffering and give aid to all who need it. It is a blessing to welcome strangers, and that's especially true when doing so can save lives. After decades of bloodshed and death, we have the opportunity to do better, to come together and bring hope and healing to people who have suffered unimaginable hardship. I hope we seize the moment.

In peace,  
Pastor Micah Sievenpiper

## PLEASE OBSERVE COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

During 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.)

All indoor worship services are streamed live on Immanuel's YouTube channel.

[CLICK HERE TO PARTICIPATE IN LIVESTREAM WORSHIP, 9:30 A.M. SUNDAYS](#)

## REFRESHMENT TIME, ADULT FORUM CONTINUE



-- **Help yourself to refreshments outside following Sunday services**, weather permitting. We still need hosts to help set up for refreshment time. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the main sanctuary-level hallway.

-- **In-person Adult Forum education** in Spong Common Room begins 15 minutes after the end of Sunday worship.

Here's a preview of upcoming topics:

**Sept. 5** — Lectionary Study led by Don Arney

**Sept. 12** — "God's Work. Our Hands." sack-lunch packing in Luther Hall

**Sept. 19** — Lutheran Basics I with Pastor Micah

**Sept. 26** — Lutheran Basics II with Pastor Micah

## TENDING OUR GARDEN: SPOTLIGHT ON GIRLS TO SCHOOL

Girls to School is a nonprofit dedicated to ending poverty in Mauritania, West Africa. Its mission is twofold: providing girls with an education and offering small loans to women so they can become entrepreneurs.

The organization was founded in 2009 by former Immanuel member Heather Arney when she returned from her Peace Corps service in Mauritania. Since then, Girls to School has enabled more than 1,000 girls to attend high-quality schools and to gather at a community center built by the organization. In addition, 300 women have benefited from loans that range in size from a little money for supplies required to sell food at the local market, to larger loans for land and housing. These opportunities help participating girls avoid early-age marriages, and give girls and women the chance to beat the cycle of poverty.

Heather, who now is president of Girls to School, appreciates Immanuel's long-term support. "Each year, Immanuel's gift helps a Mauritanian girl attend school and funds other activities, including supporting the community center where girls can study, use computers, read books and play games with other girls in the program," she says. Learn more at [girlstoschool.org](http://girlstoschool.org).

Immanuel transforms lives by supporting organizations such as Girls to School. 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.



*Financial support from Immanuel allows a Mauritanian girl to attend school, and allows many girls to use resources available at a community center that was built and is funded by Girls to School.*





*Women who receive loans from the Girls to School program meet periodically to discuss progress and share what they have learned. The loans, which are quite small by U.S. standards, can help the women lift themselves and their families out of poverty.*

## BE THERE TO SERVE GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOR DURING 'GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.' WEEKEND



**Feeding the Hungry Hundreds** is the theme of the 2021 "God's Work. Our Hands." service weekend, Sept. 11-12 at Immanuel. Two opportunities are great for people of all ages.

- **Join Immanuel friends 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Sept. 11, at Gathering Table, 5001 Independence Ave., Kansas City, MO, 64124.** We'll pack takeaway lunches for homeless and hungry people, then enjoy lunch together. All takeaway lunch items already have been donated; just bring your willing hands. Come when you can, leave when you must. Sign up on the bulletin board in the main sanctuary-level hallway or contact the church office, 816-931-

8483 or [office@immanuelkc.org](mailto:office@immanuelkc.org), if you can attend. Note that only people who are vaccinated are allowed in the Gathering Table building.

- **Be in Immanuel's Luther Hall after worship, Sunday, Sept. 12, to pack 1,000 sack lunches for hungry people.** Your generosity is key — and your recent donations have been generous! As a result, we still need only 302 ready-to-eat proteins (such as tuna- or chicken-salad kits available at Dollar Tree stores) and 701 beef jerky sticks. Please add these remaining items to your shopping list. Place donations in the purple bins in the main sanctuary-level hallway.

**Here are a few questions and answers about the lunch-packing event after worship Sunday, Sept. 12, at Immanuel:**

**Q:** Can those of us who are Thrivent members apply for Thrivent Action Team funds to help purchase items for the sack lunches, for refreshments before and after the event, or to pay for other event expenses?

**A:** Yes! Our lunch-packing event is a group endeavor that qualifies for Action Team funding. To apply, [click here](#). It's easy to apply but, if you have questions or need help, contact Pastor Ann, [pastorannrundquist@gmail.com](mailto:pastorannrundquist@gmail.com) or 785-643-7697.

**Q:** I have a "God's Work. Our Hands." t-shirt. Should I wear it Sept. 12?

**A:** Yes, please do!

**Q:** I don't have a "God's Work. Our Hands." t-shirt. How can I get one?

**A:** Contact the church office, [office@immanuelkc.org](mailto:office@immanuelkc.org) or 816-931-8483, to request "God's Work. Our Hands." t-shirts. Sizes may be limited.

**Q:** I can't walk or stand for significant periods of time. Can I help pack lunches while seated?

**A:** Yes! People seated at one of the packing lines will add one or two items to a lunch sack, and then pass it on to the next seated person until the bag is full.

**Q:** Can my child participate?

**A:** Children who can walk and follow instructions traditionally have loved this activity, and we love their participation.

**Q:** Can I participate if I may not be able to stay for the entire event?

**A:** Absolutely. We appreciate your help for any amount of time.

**Q:** Will anything other than food go into each sack?

**A:** In addition to food, each sack will include a disposable spoon, disposable napkin and a prayer card contributed by the Immanuel Prayer Team.

**Q:** Where and when will the sack lunches be distributed to hungry people?






**A:** The completed sack lunches will go to the midtown Kansas City location of Metro Lutheran Ministry, which distributes 800 or more sack lunches to hungry people each month.

**See the next page for a review of sack-lunch items that already have been donated and those we still need.**

**Thank you!**





	<p><b>Ready-to-Eat Protein (Such as Chicken Salad or Tuna Salad Kits available at Dollar Tree)</b></p> <p>Donated: 698 Still needed: 302</p>
	<p><b>Slim Jims or Beef Jerky</b></p> <p>Donated: 299 Still needed: 701</p>
	<p><b>Snacks (granola bars, or individual bags of <u>Cheez-Its</u>, chips, pretzels or cookies)</b></p> <p><b>Donated: 1,000 GOAL ACHIEVED! THANK YOU!</b></p>
	<p><b>Individual fruit or applesauce cups</b></p> <p><b>Donated: 1,000 GOAL ACHIEVED! THANK YOU!</b></p>
	<p><b>Bottled water</b></p> <p><b>Donated: 1,000 GOAL ACHIEVED! THANK YOU!</b></p>

## NEWS FROM YOUR CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

**Building Superintendent and Administrative Assistant positions:** Searches continue.

**Invitation to share concerns and celebrations:** Council members discussed feedback from congregants about Immanuel's current ministry and direction. They are eager to hear concerns and celebrations related to the work of Immanuel, and they invite members to reach out to any council member with comments.

**Committee candidates:** Council members are seeking candidates to fill roles on a few congregational committees, including Property and Altar Guild.

**Financial trends:** Efforts to make it easier to see trends and projections continue.

## JOIN WELCA SEPT. 1 FOR SHOW-AND-TELL ABOUT QUILTS AND 'FABRIC OF THE SPIRIT'

You are warmly invited to log on for a fun show-and-tell as the September WELCA (Women of the ELCA) study kicks off at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 1, via Zoom.

Karole Jacobsen will lead a discussion about "The Fabric of the Spirit," based on pages 16-19 in the September/October issue of *gather* magazine.

"Please join in with a quilt you have or a special fabric article that someone made for you or gave to you," Karole says. "It should be a fun show-and-tell hour."

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

Meeting ID: 514 335 5703

One tap mobile: +13017158592, 5143355703# US



Wednesday WELCA gatherings online are open to all. Here's a look ahead at upcoming discussion topics. Most are based on articles in the September/October *gather* magazine.

**Sept. 8** — "Letting Go," pages 14-15 of the magazine. Did you have to let go of something during the past year? Have you chosen to let something go? How did you feel letting go? Was there a benefit of letting go ... or a regret?

**Sept. 15** — WELCA convention review with emphasis on the presentation by Pastor Ann.

**Sept. 22 and 29** — "The Gift of the Spirit: A Divine Wild Goose Chase," pages 22-27 and 32-37 in the magazine.

To ask questions or request a copy of the magazine, contact Pastor Ann, [pastorannrundquist@gmail.com](mailto:pastorannrundquist@gmail.com) or 785-643-7697. To subscribe to the magazine, visit [www.gathermagazine.org](http://www.gathermagazine.org).

## SEPTEMBER SCRIPTURE READINGS AND WORSHIP LEADERS

**9/5**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 35:4-7a

**Psalmody:** Psalm 146

**Second Reading:** James 2:1-10 [11-13],  
14-17

**Gospel:** Mark 7:24-37

**Assisting Minister:** Linda Fox

**Psalmist:** Karen Bame

**Communion Steward:** Kathy Linder

**Media:** Kevin Fewell

**Ushers:** Pam Edvalds, Mike Ortmann

**9/19**

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 11:18-20

**Psalmody:** Psalm 54

**Second Reading:** James 3:13 and 4:3,  
7-8a

**Gospel:** Mark 9:30-37

**Assisting Minister:** Linda Fewell

**Psalmist:** Tori Friedrich

**Communion Steward:** Milan Hanson

**Media:** Michael Hamlin

**Ushers:** Kevin Fewell, Bob Hyland

**9/12**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 50:4-9a

**Psalmody:** Psalm 116:1-9

**Second Reading:** James 3:1-12

**Gospel:** Mark 8:27-38

**Assisting Minister:** Bryan Park

**Psalmist:** Linda Taylor

**Communion Steward:** Lauren Park

**Media:** Jack and Tori Friedrich

**Ushers:** Del Karmeier, Cece Atherton,  
Kate Hauber

**9/26**

**First Reading:** Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16,  
24-29

**Psalmody:** Psalm 19:7-14

**Second Reading:** James 5:13-20

**Gospel:** Mark 9:38-50

**Assisting Minister:** Tori Friedrich

**Psalmist:** Roland Pera

**Communion Steward:** Rick Sundell

**Media:** Milan Hanson

**Ushers:** Marc and Patti Winkler,  
Randy Callstrom

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Here's a look at upcoming events at Immanuel —

**Aug. 29**

**9:30 a.m.** Worship in the sanctuary

**10:15 a.m.** Refreshments outside

**10:30 a.m.** Adult Forum in Spong Common Room

**Aug. 31**

**10 a.m.** Coffee and Conversation via Zoom

**Sept. 1**

**1 p.m.** WELCA Bible Study via Zoom

**Sept. 2**

**7 p.m.** Social Ministry Committee in Spong Common Room



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](mailto:office@immanuelkc.org).

## MORE NEWS TO USE

### **CALLING ALL GOLFERS: HIT THE LINKS TO BENEFIT HOLLIS RENEWAL CENTER**

Join the fun Sept. 20 at Falcon Lakes Golf Club for the annual golf benefit for Hollis Renewal Center. The tournament, a four-person scramble with an 8 a.m. shotgun start, raises awareness and money, which allow Hollis to offer hospitality and spiritual rest to the greater Kansas City community. To learn more or to register, visit

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/blessings-abound-golf-benefit-2021-registration-161654712597?aff=erelexpmlt>.

### **YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN EARTHQUAKE/STORM RELIEF FOR HAITI**

In the midst of a political crisis, thousands were killed or injured and structures in much of the southwest portion of Haiti were damaged during the recent 7.2 magnitude earthquake and subsequent tropical storm.

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is collaborating to provide food, water, medical supplies and temporary shelter. Future areas of support will include psychosocial care, water and sanitation, and creating sustainable livelihoods through agriculture and livestock. LDR also stands with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti as it assesses damage and the effects on churches and church life.

The full 100 percent of your financial gifts will assist those affected by the earthquake. To make a contribution, visit <https://community.elca.org/haiti-crisis?erid=dba679bd-e2d9-466b-abf1-a4633e566fed&trid=dba679bd-e2d9-466b-abf1-a4633e566fed>.



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

Amazon Smile will donate a percentage of your shopping dollar amount to Immanuel with every purchase you make — and there's 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.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/44-0562040>

After you register, you can download the Amazon Smile mobile app for your phone. See easy instructions at <https://www.amazon.com/b?ie=UTF8&node=15576745011>.

## **JOIN TITHE.LY**

Tithe.ly is Immanuel's online tithe and donation tool. Download the app or sign up via the website to make donations safely and securely. Simply:

- Sign up
- Search for Immanuel KC
- Donate

To get started, visit <https://signup.tithe.ly/>.

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

*Christ in our Home* daily devotions 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.

## **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**

**Joe & Lori Clanin, Rick Crawford, Andree Cuthbertson, Theresa Draper, Ann Erickson,  
Peg Himebaugh, Naomi Karmeier, Dottie Keough, Rev. Keith Klockau,  
Cece & Tracy Atherton and all family of Julia Mills,  
Mike & George Nelson and all family of Mary Nelson, Gerry Niewald, De Pfoitner,  
Deanne Schlehuber, Suzanne Steffen & Bob Hyland and all family of David Steffen,  
and Carolyn Wilson.**

## **Friends of Immanuel**

**Baby Reylyn & family,** friends of Peggy Dollard  
**Bakeberg family,** friends of Betty Pera  
**Pinky Brauer,** sister-in-law of Carolyn Brauer  
**James Clanin,** family of Lori Clanin  
**Jim & Ethel Clanin,** parents of Lori Clanin  
**Richard Dryg,** brother of Connie Benolkin  
**Denise,** friend of Linda Setterburg  
**Chloe & Carley Engler,** great nieces of Sally Baehni  
**Kurt Hanneman,** friend of Bill & Mary Jo Moore  
**Lee Hass,** grandmother of Catie Tomlin  
**Jerri Hatteberg,** friend of Deborah Crawford  
**Roger Hershey,** friend of Bill & Mary Jo Moore  
**Normajeane Holtje,** cousin of Mike Ortmann  
**Jack & Mary Kantola,** friends of Peg Himebaugh

**Margaret Kohler**, aunt of Lori Clanin  
**Betty Kueker**, mother of Terry Kueker  
**Kat M. & Janice M.**, friends of Peggy Dollard  
**Major**, friend of Linda Taylor & Peggy Dollard  
**Audrey Mueller**, aunt of Mike Ortmann  
**April Nave & family**  
**Patty and her son J.J.**, friends of Linda Setterburg  
**Patience Robb & Frank Robb & family**  
**Judy Robinson**, friend of Mary Jo Moore  
**Harry Roth**, friend of Henrik Anderson  
**Janet & Randy Spicer**, friends of Mary Lynn Coleman-Renoe  
**Paula Weir**, friend of Betty Pera  
**Jayde Wisner and family**, particularly Daisy  
**Rock Westfahl**, friend of Kevin & Linda Fewell  
**Arnold and Irma Wuertz**, parents of Linda Taylor  
**Karen Wuertz**, sister-in-law of Linda Taylor



9/3 **Grant Pfeiffer**  
9/4 **Michael Dalbom**  
9/5 **Linda Martin**  
9/11 **Noah Majerle**  
9/12 **Kelle Boehmer**  
9/12 **Kyle Boehmer**  
9/12 **Greg Wu**  
9/14 **Charlie Friedrich**  
9/16 **Ethan Browning**  
9/16 **Mike Ortmann**  
9/17 **Katharine Ahrens**  
9/17 **Melaku Tizazu**  
9/19 **Sara Prem**  
9/19 **Allison Winker**

9/20 **Milly Bertsch**  
9/21 **Vicki Swanson**  
9/22 **Desiray Boehmer**  
9/22 **Lucy Gobber**  
9/23 **David Peterson**  
9/23 **Linda Taylor**  
9/24 **Linda Fox**  
9/25 **Samantha Rash**  
9/27 **Lauren Park**  
9/27 **Allyson Tomlin**  
9/28 **Jordan Ahrens**  
9/28 **Emily Dalbom**  
9/28 **Karole Jacobsen**  
9/28 **Lonnie Wahlgren**  
9/29 **Jim Martin**

# IMMANUEL LEADERSHIP

## STAFF

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

**Rev. Ann Rundquist, ministry coordinator**  
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**

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
1700 Westport Road  
Kansas City, MO 64111  
[www.immanuelkc.org](http://www.immanuelkc.org)  
[office@immanuelkc.org](mailto:office@immanuelkc.org)  
816-931-8483