

# PARISH NEWS



I spend more time than I should arguing with strangers on the internet. I know it's not good for my mental health, and I sincerely doubt I've ever changed someone's mind as a result of a clever tweet or rambling Facebook comment, but sometimes I just can't help myself. Most of the time, it's about stuff that is absolutely unimportant, in the grand scheme of things; things like trying to convince strangers that Houston Astros should be stripped of their 2017 World Series title because they cheated, or why a certain fantasy author is grossly overrated.

But sometimes, those arguments aren't so meaningless. Sometimes they're debates about who should get basic human rights, or whether vaccines save countless lives, or whether we should care that we're killing the planet we call home. Sometimes, these conversations deal with matters of life and death—things that really shouldn't be up for debate. We live in a fractious, divided world. There should be a lively, robust debate among people who disagree. We should listen with open ears to ideas that challenge and convict, and be willing to learn and grow. But sometimes we need to take a stand for what we believe.

SEPTEMBER  
2020

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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](mailto:office@immanuelkc.org).

Space limitations may require editing of material. Deadline for the **October 2020 issue is Thursday, September 24, 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](mailto:office@immanuelkc.org).

**PASTOR'S BOOKSHELF:**  
*THE DEEP*  
RIVERS SOLOMON

We are the church, united in the body of Christ in this world. There is a lot that we disagree on, from theology and doctrine, to more human concerns, like civic engagement, or whether the Astros should be stripped of their 2017 World Series title (with apologies to any Astros fans out there, it seems to me like a no-brainer. But I digress). Our differences should be valued, our diversity of wisdom and opinion cherished for the gift it is, but there are some convictions that we share: that the grace of God is revealed to us in Jesus Christ. That all people are made in God's image, and are welcome in God's presence. Now, how we understand these truths varies, much as it has since the earliest days of church, but like the church in every age, we are called to live out these convictions together in the world.

I believe we are called to cry out in solidarity with the oppressed as Christ did, especially in a moment like ours where our fellow human beings are being denied their humanity. I believe we are called to protect those who are vulnerable as Christ did, especially in the midst of a global pandemic that our country has been loath to address. I believe the mission of the church is to be the body of Christ in the world, and while we will often disagree on some of the specifics, we are united in the waters of baptism and entrusted with this holy work of ministry. What we do can change the world—what we do can affect matters of life and death. Siblings in Christ, let us work with compassion and hope for all of God's creatures and creation.

In Peace,  
Pastor Micah Sievenpiper

# IMMANUEL LEADERSHIP

## STAFF

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Ter'Ranay Teague - Administrative Assistant

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Robert Barthel - Organist

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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

Jack Umbach

Kathy Boehmer

Deborah Crawford

Janie Fee

Kate Hauber

Mason Carey

Sarah Prem

# IN OUR PRAYERS...

## Members of Immanuel

**Himebaugh Family**, on the death of Doug Himebaugh.

**Bowden Family**, on the death of Martha Bowden.

**Schulze Family**, on the death of Mike Schulze.

**Joe and Lori Clanin**, whose home caught fire when a power line fell on the roof following a recent windy storm. They are OK and are temporarily staying in a hotel while the search for a temporary residence continues. The plan is to rebuild/repair their damaged home, which will take months. To learn about when and how to help the Clanins, contact Pastor Ann, [pastorannrundquist@gmail.com](mailto:pastorannrundquist@gmail.com).

**Dave and Ingrid Peterson and family**, on the death of Dave's mom. Grieving hearts are thankful for her generous life on earth.

**Karole Jacobsen**, following retinal replacement surgery.

**Rev. Keith Klokau, Gretchen Bishop, Andree Cuthbertson, Theresa Draper, Ann Erickson, De Pfofner, Naomi Karmeier, Gerry Niewald, Deanne Schlehuber, Jackie Turner and Carolyn Wilson**, coping with health issues.

**Pam Edvalds**, recovering from a broken leg.

**All who are separated from loved ones because of COVID-19 restrictions.**

**The people of Iowa**, battered by hurricane-force winds that caused extensive damage to home, health and livelihood.

**Those impacted by hurricanes, especially Hurricane Laura.**

**Those affected by wildfires, especially those in California and Colorado.**

## Friends of Immanuel

**Jack & Mary Kantola**, friends 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

**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

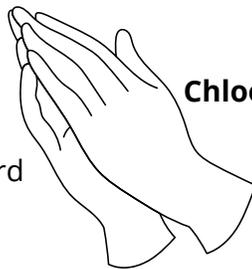
**Janet & Randy Spicer**, friends of Mary Coleman Renoe

**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



**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

**Normajean 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

**Pastor Chris Nietubicz**, friend of Mike and Janie Fee

**Mike Finn**, family of Mary Jo Moore

**Kerrington Jones**, family of Mary Jo Moore

# From the President

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Mary Jo Moore recently returned from vacation. As a replacement to her monthly article, she offers a pandemic poem of reflection and hope during this time of isolation. Enjoy!

## **Our Chrysalis Moment**

*By Anodea Judith*

This is our chrysalis moment  
Where the transformation begins.  
Every caterpillar must do it eventually;  
Or die,  
Never to sprout their colorful wings in the air  
And fly.  
So like the caterpillar,  
We may as well surrender.  
Cocooning in our homes  
Our world turned upside down.  
Inside, we can no longer spread  
our vicious disease of consumption  
No longer run mindlessly toward our destruction.  
Inside there is stillness  
Inside, there is rest.



Outside, the air is clearing,  
The rains are falling.  
You can feel the peace,  
Settling on the land at last.  
And Yes, there is death.  
For there's always a dissolution.  
Old systems falling away,  
That were already pretty slimy.  
It may be frightening  
All the uncertainty and loss.  
But even in the darkness  
Imaginal cells are awakening  
Weaving a new web.  
Recognizing that this is finally  
Our time.  
Our time to be heard  
Our time to make new sense  
Our time to do things differently  
And when at last the dream awakens  
To its nascent beginnings,  
The chrysalis melts away.  
A caterpillar no longer,  
We spread our tender wings  
And fly.



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

## Highlights of the August 18, 2020, Council Meeting

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- Financial status was reviewed and while expenses and giving are both below budget, the net result is that finances are in order. The Stewardship Committee plays an important part in our financial health. The Chair seat is currently opened and will be addressed in the near future.
  - Pastor Micah Sievenpiper reported that the Advisory Committee on Re-Engagement and Re-Opening has sent a survey to the congregation seeking help to define ILC's future directions. So far 39 responses have been received. Those who have not responded are encouraged to do so, and will find a link to the survey in Friday's new weekly news email.
  - The ILC Christmas Store Task Force, sighting several pandemic related reasons, reluctantly made a recommendation not to host this year's Christmas Store. Among the reasons sighted are: the safety of volunteers, customers, the Purple Dragon, and ILC members; potential liability should we be found not to have provided adequate space meeting CDC guidelines; and MLM proposed format changes requiring use of our facilities for 6-8 weeks. The Council ratified the recommendation, and MLM will be notified of our decision. We will seek other ways to participate this year, and sincerely hope that ILC will again be able to host in 2021.
  - Following up on previously mentioned plans the Council has scheduled an August 29th Zoom Retreat to continue our discussion on what it means to be church leaders during the pandemic and beyond.
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# September WEEKLY READINGS

## SEPTEMBER 6

**FIRST READING** EZEKIEL 33:7-11  
**PSALM** PSALM 119:33-40  
**SECOND READING** ROMANS 13:8-14  
**GOSPEL** MATTHEW 18:15-20

## SEPTEMBER 13

**FIRST READING** GENESIS 50:15-21  
**PSALM** PSALM 103:[1-7] 8-13  
**SECOND READING** ROMANS 14:1-12  
**GOSPEL** MATTHEW 18:21-35

## SEPTEMBER 20

**FIRST READING** JONAH 3:10--4:11  
**PSALM** PSALM 145:1-8  
**SECOND READING** PHILIPPIANS 1:21-30  
**GOSPEL** MATTHEW 20:1-16

## SEPTEMBER 27

**FIRST READING** EZEKIEL 18:1-4, 25-32  
**PSALM** PSALM 25:1-9  
**SECOND READING** PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13  
**GOSPEL** MATTHEW 21:23-32

# 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

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### Greeting Card Sale

Handmade cards featuring artwork provided by our Sunday School students.

**Pack of 5 cards/\$10.**

Contact: Janie Fee 816-444-5492

Linda Fewell 816-868-0713

More info on page

### 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

**THIS YEAR'S  
WALK IS A  
VIRTUAL EVENT**



### MLM Christmas Store

As details become available regarding plans for this year's MLM Christmas Store, the Looking Ahead calendar will be updated with dates/times and volunteer opportunities

# ILC EVENTS

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CLICK ON EACH HEADING TO DIRECT YOU TO THE EVENT

**9:30 AM  
SUNDAYS**

VIRTUAL SERVICE

**AFTER SUNDAY  
SERVICE**

BIBLE STUDY

**10:00 AM  
TUESDAYS**

COFFEE &  
CONVERSATION

**7:00 PM  
WEDNESDAYS**

BOOK STUDY

**7:00 PM  
THURSDAYS**

HAPPY HOUR

**LAST  
THURSDAYS  
7:00 PM**

THEOLOGY ON TAP

## The Heart of America (HOA) CROP Hunger Walk is going virtual this year, but that isn't stopping Karen Bame!

Karen has walked in every HOA CROP Hunger Walk since she moved to Kansas City in 1990, and COVID-19 is not going to stop her from participating in her 31<sup>st</sup> consecutive walk to raise money to feed hungry people!

So, on Saturday, October 10, 2020, at 10 AM, Karen will put on her sneakers and walk until she has gotten at least 10,000 steps on her Fitbit! Because this year will be Karen's 31<sup>st</sup> consecutive year of walking in the HOA CROP Hunger Walk, Immanuel's Social Ministry Committee has set a goal of raising **\$3100!**



### What is the HOA CROP Hunger Walk?

*"CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk events held in cities and towns across the United States raising funds to support the global mission of **Church World Service**, a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. Twenty five percent of the funds raised are returned to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts."*

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/kansascitymo/>

The monies raised by the HOA CROP Hunger Walk will be used to fund global projects that include 1) food security and nutrition, 2) water, sanitation and hygiene, 3) refugee protection and resettlement, and 4) disaster preparedness and response. The 25% of funds raised in Kansas City will support agencies like MLM, Shepherd's Center and a Raytown summer lunch program for kids.

### How can you help Immanuel's HOA CROP Hunger Walk Team meet our 2020 Goal?

Join the Immanuel CROP Walk Team and raise money as a virtual walker!

- go to the HOA Crop Hunger Walk website: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/kansascitymo/>
- click on Register on the right side of the page
- create your registration and click next
- join the Immanuel Lutheran KC ELCA team
- click the waiver acceptance box and complete the registration.

Donate to Immanuel's Team or to Karen

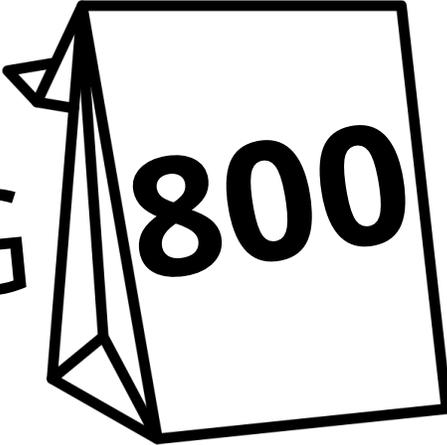
- go to the HOA Crop Hunger Walk website: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/kansascitymo/>
- click on Donate on the right side of the page
- search for Immanuel Lutheran KC ELCA (team) or Karen Bame (walker).
- follow the instructions to make your donation. Any amount you can donate is welcomed!

If you prefer to write a check, please make it out to CWS/CropWalk and mail it to:

Karen Bame  
6803 Edgevale Rd  
Kansas City, MO 64113



# 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!



# MLM NEEDS YOUR HELP

**BETTE, THE CHRISTMAS QUEEN HAS PUT A CALL OUT FOR BOXES.  
THE SIZES SHE IS LOOKING FOR ARE:**

- Copy paper boxes **with** lids
- 16" x 20" x 20"
- 22" x 16" x 15" (medium home depot boxes - not heavy duty)
- 20" x 20" 12"

Even if the measurements are not exact, boxes close to those sizes will work. Boxes can be dropped of at the Central Location:

(3031 Holmes, KCMO 64109)

## ***Want to help out in other ways?***

You can donate items to the Christmas Store by going to our [Amazon Wish List](#). Items are sent directly to us!

Volunteer to help process Christmas Store applications.

[Click here to sign up!](#)



# MLM VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

MLM loves its volunteers! We currently have multiple volunteer opportunities available. If you feel comfortable and are not part of the vulnerable population, we would love to have you!

Please see the list below for available opportunities:

**Pre-Christmas Store Volunteering** - Help the MLM staff get ready for the Christmas Store by helping approve applications and/or contacting clients with their Christmas Store appointment time.

[Click here to see available dates and times!](#)



**Garden/Orchard** - MLM has a large garden and orchard that takes a lot of work to maintain! This is a great volunteer opportunity for youth groups, families, or anyone who wants to try their hand at gardening. For more information, contact the program manager, **Marcus Leach at [marcusleach@mlmkc.org](mailto:marcusleach@mlmkc.org)**.

**Pre-Packing Food Boxes** - Every Monday-Friday (8:30am-11am) at the Central Location (3031 Holmes KCMO 64109), volunteers help pre-pack food boxes to handout through our food pantry. You must sign up in advance. For more information or to sign up, email **Rebecka at [rebeckanoel@mlmkc.org](mailto:rebeckanoel@mlmkc.org)**.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**NOAH MAJERLE 9/11**

**KELLE BOEHMER 9/12**

**KYLE BOEHMER 9/12**

**CHARLIE FRIEDRICH 9/14**

**MIKE ORTMANN 9/16**

**KATHARINE AHRENS 9/17**

**SARA PREM 9/19**

**VICKI SWANSON 9/21**

**DESIRAY BOEHMER 9/22**

**DAVID PETERSON 9/23**

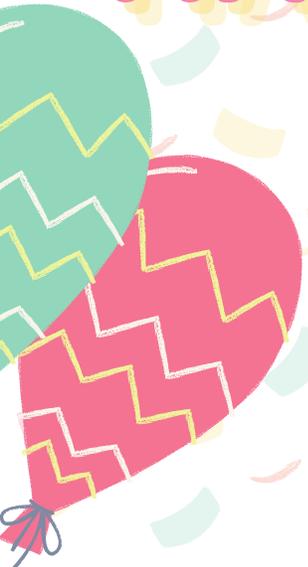
**LINDA TAYLOR 9/23**

**LINDA FOX 9/24**

**LAUREN PARK 9/27**

**JORDAN AHRENS 9/28**

**KAROLE JACOBSEN 9/28**





## **JOIN TITHE.LY**

Immanuel Lutheran's online tithe & donation tool.

Download the app or sign up via their website  
for safe and secure donations.

### **FOLLOW THESE EASY STEPS**



Sign Up



Search for Immanuel KC



Donate

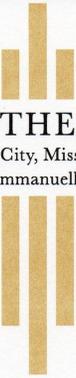
### **CLICK BELOW TO GET STARTED**



Online



Get the app



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[www.immanuelkc.org](http://www.immanuelkc.org)

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**