

# From the pastor...

Dear Members of Immanuel Lutheran,

Habits are a part of life, routines, we might also call them. As we know and understand, there are good habits, some habits that are not so good, and habits that are bad habits.

The Bible tells us about one of the habits that Jesus had. In Luke 4:16, we read these words: "He (Jesus) went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. As was his custom, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read." It was Jesus' "custom", his habit to be in the synagogue on the Sabbath day. We might say it was his habit to be in church on Sunday, on the day of worship. Think about that! The Son of God who certainly knew everything there was to know about God's Word still was to be found in God's house on the day of worship hearing and sharing the message of God's good news.

In the "What does this mean?" of the Third Commandment in Luther's Small Catechism, he explained the commandment in these words: "We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his Word, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it." "Gladly hear and learn it" – that is God's will and desire for us in our spiritual lives that we gladly, joyfully, willingly hear and learn God's Word with our fellow believers. That too is God's desire for us. The writer of the book of Hebrews wrote that we should not give up meeting together, that is, gathering for worship with our fellow believers. The Lord instructs parents to teach and train their children in his Word. That includes a life of faithful worship with fellow believers.

The past months of social distancing have taken many of us out of the habit of worshipping with our fellow believers in church. It would be good for all of us to think about getting into the good habit of gathering in church for worship again. We are seeking in our worship practices to avoid unnecessary contact, to maintain social distancing, and to maintain a sanitary and safe worship area. Each week, we offer three different worship times (Thursday at 6:30 pm, Sunday at 8:00 am & 10:00 am). Come and join us.

Parents, please remember what an important part of the spiritual training of your child/children it is to be in worship with your fellow believers. I hope we will see all of you in God's house of prayer.

In our Lord's service,

*Pastor Charles Learman*

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### **Call Accepted!**

Praise and thanks to our gracious God, Pastor Joseph J. Fricke has accepted the call to be Immanuel's next shepherd. Please continue to pray for Pastor Fricke, his family, and the congregation of St Paul. Plans are being made for Pastor Fricke's installation on October 18.



### **Vacancy Pastor**

Pastor Charles Learman will continue to serve as our vacancy pastor until Pastor Fricke is installed. He asks that we do not hesitate to contact him if needed for home or hospital visits, or any emergency. His cell number is 715-938-4494 and email is [clearman@gmail.com](mailto:clearman@gmail.com).

### **Sunday School Registration 2020/2021**

Last week Sunday School parents received an email about Sunday School registration, along with a copy of the form. Please complete and turn the form in by email, mail, or drop off in the church office. You can also pick up a paper registration form from the shelf in the main hallway. Your child needs to be registered whether we meet in person or facilitate at home learning.

### **Sunday School Meet & Greet**

Discussion continues as to whether we will have in-person or at-home Sunday School to start the year. Feedback from parents is encouraged! Either way, on **September 13** there will be a Meet & Greet between services in the Sunday School classrooms. Come and meet your child's teachers and pick up their lesson folder which will be used for in class and/or at home learning. You can also register your child at this time, if you didn't have a change to do it in advance.

## **A Few Items of Note from the Voters' Meeting**

- Regretfully, due to concerns about COVID, Worship in the Park and the picnic have been cancelled. It was discussed that it would be very difficult to safely have a meal and to ensure social distance during the service. We do not want to send a message to the community that we are not concerned about their safety and well-being.
- Many of Immanuel's service groups are in need of volunteers. Please take one of the service opportunity brochures from the shelf in the main hallway to see the many different ways you can serve. You can also speak to Pastor Learman, Dale, or Carla to find out where help is most needed.

## **Online Worship**

We understand that just because we have resumed gathering together for worship, this virus has not gone away. Anyone who is considered high risk, who is feeling sick, or who is just not comfortable with gatherings yet is encouraged to continue to worship at home. Videos of our worship services will still be posted to our website regularly.

## **Special Note on Offerings**

What a blessing to have members who continue their regular offerings during this uncertain time. Thank you so much for making the support of God's work a priority in your life! Immanuel must continue to meet our financial obligations. Physical (check) offerings can be mailed to the church address. We are very happy to now offer online giving through our church website. Click on the orange button that says ONLINE GIVING and follow the easy steps to set up offerings. Thank you!



## **Meeting Notes Available**

The minutes from Immanuel's council meetings will be available on the shelf in the main hallway. Please pick up a copy if you would like to stay informed.

## **Luther Prep Job Openings**

Luther Prep has several job openings. For more information about this position, please see the flyer posted on the bulletin board.

## **New Organ Fund**

Please consider giving a special offering toward the fund to replace our organ when the time comes. Our current organ has been with us a while and we would like to be prepared for the day when it is beyond repair. Thank you to our members who have already given generously to this future need.

## **College Students**

WELS Campus Ministry, a ministry of WELS Home Missions, provides resources, support, and encouragement to WELS congregations that serve college students around the United States and Canada. Go to the Campus Ministry section of the WELS website to learn more and to sign up for faith-building materials for your college students.

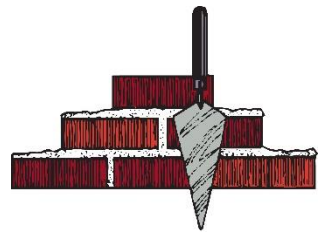


## **Letter from China**

We received a new letter from our member Richie Drager, who has been working and ministering in China for several years now. Things have been challenging for him since COVID hit, but things are looking up. Please see his letter posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

## **Steps & Ramp Update**

The bulk of the work on our new steps and ramp is complete. A company has been hired to fabricate and install our railings, this process is underway. Thank you to everyone who has made a special offering to help cover the cost of this project!



## **Servicemen/women**

Do you know a serviceman or woman serving on our behalf? Go to [www.wels.net/refer](http://www.wels.net/refer) to register them for free resources.

## COVID-19 Notice

We have taken enhanced health and safety measures to reopen our church. You must follow written guidelines and the directions given by the ushers and pastor. **We ask everyone in our church building to follow the state mandate to wear masks when inside a public building.** An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and people with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable. By visiting Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19. Let's help keep each other healthy!



## Offerings vs. Budget as of 7/31/2020

Offerings: \$187,749.45    Budget: \$200,678.33    Difference: -\$12,928.88

## Confirmation Class of 2020

Congratulations to the confirmands of Immanuel. Due to the current need to limit gatherings, the students were confirmed in private services. Though life on earth is unpredictable, we pray the faith of our newest communicant members will stand on the Rock that can never be shaken. Please encourage them to come to worship and receive the blessing of the Lord's Supper often!

**Confirmation Class of 2020:**  
Ian Heald, Taylor Joseph,  
Emilie Schmidt, Ben Trudell,  
Grace Trudell, & Cooper Woolley



## **September Usher Teams**

9/3 Thurs 6:30 pm Heald Family  
9/6 Sun 8:00 am Dennis Brown/Kenton & Karen Marti  
9/6 Sun 10:00 am Mike & Gail Maron  
9/10 Thurs 6:30 pm Lee & Toni Braatz  
9/13 Sun 8:00 am John & Vicki Morris  
9/13 Sun 10:00 am Jerry Schultz Family  
9/17 Thurs 6:30 pm Jody & Monica Gehrke  
9/20 Sun 8:00 am Naatz Family  
9/20 Sun 10:00 am Altreuter Family  
9/24 Thurs 6:30 pm Lee Braatz/Matt Davis  
9/27 Sun 8:00 am Mark & Dona Snyder  
9/27 Sun 10:00 am Baum Family



# SEPTEMBER

## Birthdays

Lee Zimmerman, 9/3

Cathie Joseph, 9/4

Lisa Naatz, 9/4

David Joseph, 9/5

Lori Tetzlaff, 9/5

Phil Henselin, 9/6

Rita Bartsch, 9/7

Emmett Sukow, 9/7

Lorretta Winkelman, 9/7

Cory Draeger, 9/9

Michelle Keller, 9/9

Dianna Pippenger, 9/11

Jason Wildes, 9/12

Cheryl Holzhueter, 9/13

Ryan Wildes, 9/13

Carson Bainbridge, 9/14

Hayden Bainbridge, 9/14

Molly Altreuter, 9/15

James Baum, 9/15

Elizabeth Elliott, 9/16

Lina Draeger, 9/17

Roger Dobson, 9/18

Justin Erdmann, 9/18

Ian Heald, 9/18

Jason Brown, 9/19

Haddie Altreuter, 9/21

Eli DeMoe, 9/23

Megan Jones, 9/23

Justin Emrath, 9/24

Emma Sukow, 9/24

Julie Meyer, 9/25

Thomas Orval, 9/26

Bonnie J Thelke, 9/27

Seth White, 9/27

Esther Madison, 9/28

Dustin Nora, 9/28

Ashley Heald, 9/29

Leah Morris-Robinson, 9/30



# September

ANNIVERSARIES

Couple	Years	Date
Michael and Gail Maron	43	9/17
Donald and Theresa Klug	38	9/11
Scott and Shari Sukow	36	9/1
Mike and Deb Schumacher	36	9/15
Lee and Kim Zimmerman	32	9/17
Kurt and Trisha Altreuter	19	9/22
Kyle and Heather Maron	7	9/28
Jamie and Beki Genz	6	9/27



**WELS**

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Vacancy Pastor Charles Learman

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