



# MESSENGER

Immanuel

Lutheran Church

A community growing in Christ, living in grace and serving in love.

March 2021

Volume 24, No. 3

## In This Issue:

|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Lent                      | <a href="#">2</a> |
| Worship & Music           | <a href="#">3</a> |
| NLC Virtual Concert       | <a href="#">3</a> |
| Children, Youth, & Family | <a href="#">4</a> |
| Youth Silent Auction      | <a href="#">5</a> |
| MN FoodShare Month        | <a href="#">5</a> |
| JCART Study Group         | <a href="#">6</a> |
| ILC History               | <a href="#">6</a> |
| Council Updates           | <a href="#">7</a> |

## FROM THE PASTOR

### What's Next?

It's Lent and we are hearing AGAIN & AGAIN God comes to us. AGAIN & AGAIN, we are renewed in faith and life. We try to walk in the way of Jesus and AGAIN & AGAIN God guides us, challenges us and gives us strength.

As we walk in the way of Jesus, I'm looking ahead to where that way will take us in the next few months. We are nearing a time of emerging from a long wilderness of COVID-19. We will begin, in the next few months, to get out of our houses and begin being community again.

Are we ready? When the pandemic hit, we had to pivot instantly into new ways of worship, work, school, and being family. Within a week or two, everything had changed, and we were scrambling to make anything work. But it's not that way this time. Coming back will happen slowly. We have time to think deeply about what's next for family, for the community, and for the church.

For example, if you were crazy busy before the pandemic, do you want to go back to that kind of schedule? Or will you plan now for ways to defend against it? If you regretted not being able to spend time with extended family or friends, how will you make that a priority when you can gather? If you have a favorite practice now—morning coffee with someone, afternoon walks or exercise, time to read—how will you not lose those times when life opens up?

And what of Immanuel? Our vision during the pandemic has been to bring hope in new ways. How will we move forward, embracing the new while cherishing our traditions? What needs to stay in the pre-pandemic world, and what do we want to bring forward into the new age? What is most important in our faith community, and how will we focus on that, leaving the adiaphora behind.

In the next few weeks, the council will be asking 2 questions of Immanuel: (1) *What are two things that are important to your Christian life?* (What do you need to support or strengthen your own walk of faith—this can be a church-wide activity, a personal practice, community involvement, an attitude, a concept or anything else that is important to you.) AND (2) *As we come back together, what are two things Immanuel needs to focus on for the*

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

### Worship

Join us for live, virtual worship Sunday mornings at 10 am. Go to Immanuel's website, [ilcsp.org](http://ilcsp.org), and click on "Worship with us online." You'll also find recordings from the past few Sundays.

### Holy Communion

We'll share Holy Communion during our service on the 2nd Sunday, March 14.

### Sunday Coffee Hour

Gather online after Sunday worship (10:30ish). Find the link in News and Notes or at the end of worship.

Continued on Page 2

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## FROM THE PASTOR (continued)

future? Council members will be making some phone calls, but we can reach more people if you take some initiative. [Here's a link](#) where you can write out your thoughts, or just call me or any council member to let us know your ideas.

These are exciting times, full of possibility. Please dream with me—so we can be ready to emerge as the faithful, vibrant congregation that we are.

A blessed Lent to you all,

—Pastor Cindy

### Lent and Easter 2021



#### Sundays in Lent (10 am online)

Lent 3 – March 7: AGAIN & AGAIN - We are shown the way

Lent 4 – March 14: AGAIN & AGAIN - God loves first

Lent 5 – March 28: AGAIN & AGAIN - We are reformed



#### Daily Devotions (Sign up [HERE](#) for devotions)

You can still sign up for two opportunities for daily reflection and prayer:

**A Daily Word:** A single word to reflect on during your day.

**A Devotional Booklet** with four reflections each week including commentary, poetry, visual art, coloring, and written reflections. You can sign up for devotions [HERE](#).



#### Wednesdays in Lent (7 pm online)

**Worship** – Gather together in an evening Zoom meeting for a time of personal and group reflection and prayer. Click [HERE](#) to join or find the link in News & Notes.

*(Confirmation and adult Bible study will meet after worship.)*

**Soup Suppers** – Although we can't be together to share a meal on Wednesdays before worship, watch News & Notes each week for a favorite soup recipe to have your own Lenten soup supper. The recipes are also posted on the website [HERE](#). If you have a recipe to share, email it to [Kim Thompson](mailto:Kim.Thompson).



#### Holy Week

At this point, we are planning for a virtual Holy Week, once again re-imagining a holy space so we can journey to the cross and celebrate the resurrection.

Palm Sunday – **March 28, 10 am:** AGAIN & AGAIN – We draw on courage

Maundy Thursday – **April 1, time TBA:** AGAIN & AGAIN – We are held together

Good Friday – **April 2, 7 pm:** AGAIN & AGAIN – We find ourselves here

Easter Vigil – **April 3, 6 pm:** AGAIN & AGAIN – We watch for the dawn

Easter Sunday – **April 4, 10 am:** AGAIN & AGAIN – The sun rises

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## WORSHIP & MUSIC

### Virtual choir recordings planned for Holy Week

Middle C and Cantorei singers, look for two virtual choir opportunities this month! Marlene Johnshoy has agreed to work her magic, once again, for our Good Friday and Easter Sunday services. The instructions for the first piece has been emailed; check your inbox, as recordings are due Sunday, March 7. Many of you participated in the last recording, and it was beautiful! If you are not a member of one of our choirs but would like to participate, please [contact Chris Cherwien](#).



### Online registration is now open!

August 9–13, 9 am–3:15 pm. \$175, \$125 for siblings

“Love is ...” is the theme for our 6<sup>th</sup> Music and Arts Camp! This camp is for children and youth who have completed K-8<sup>th</sup> grades.

Local pandemic conditions will continue to be evaluated, and the camp may have to be changed or canceled due to the COVID-19 recommendations closer to the starting date. We are hopeful the vaccine distribution will be successful and that infection rate numbers will decrease to the point where we can hold camp as usual! Full refunds will be given if camp is canceled.

Please invite your friends and neighbors. We have full and partial scholarship money available. All requests will be confidential. Please contact Chris Cherwien or go to [ilcps.org/IMAC](http://ilcps.org/IMAC) for more information and to register.

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## COMMUNITY EVENT

### National Lutheran Choir virtual program with the Keith Hampton Singers & Friends

**Hope Lives!** As we approach the one-year anniversary of the world shutting down due to the pandemic, we are finding glimmers of hope: hope that vaccines will allow us to come back into the daylight of life and interactions with others! People of faith are among those who long to fully come together. They have missed gathering weekly for services, and they deeply miss singing hymns together.

Join the National Lutheran Choir and guest artists the Keith Hampton Singers & Friends in singing well-known hymns that highlight the joy of an ever-growing hope, and new hymns that speak to our time. All are welcome.

This free program will be streamed on **Sunday, March 14, at 4 pm** at [NLCA.com](http://NLCA.com).

### Building remains closed but reopen plan is in the works

The Building Reopen Task Group is working on a phased plan for reopening the building as infection rates go down and vaccination rates go up. Watch for updates here and in News & Notes.

The church council has accepted the group's recommendation to keep the **building closed through March 27**. Current staff access will continue, and the reopen group will continue to consider specific requests from ministry teams for ministry activities that must use the building.

Reminder: All visitors should wear a mask when in the church building.

**Family Faith night will focus on Communion**

Last month, we had fun making our faces shine like the sun, like Jesus’s did when he was transfigured on the mountain. We also talked about giving up or adding something for Lent. Miss Emily was going to add daily prayer. Did you choose a Lenten practice or “fast”? How is it going?

This month, we’ll meet on **Thursday, March 11, at 6:15 and 6:30 pm**. Our topic: back to basics with Holy Communion. This will be a refresher for parents and kids who are communing and an introduction to the sacrament for all who aren’t. Since many families join during their evening meal, we’ll plan to break some bread together. For those who aren’t at the table, have a special toy nearby.

**God-Centered Day Camp (aka VBS) registration opens this month**

**July 12–15, 9 am–noon, for kids who’ve completed K-5:** Our VBS is a collaboration with Pilgrim Lutheran and brings in kids from our congregations, the neighborhood and beyond. It’s a high-energy week that blends a Bible lesson with fun activities. With our kids adjusting after a long time away from the church building and their friends, we’ll spend a lot of time relearning how to be a community, using Jesus’s disciples after the Resurrection as our models. Registration opens **March 15**. Look for the link in News & Notes closer to that time.

In addition, we’ll hold a special preK & parent session that week (exact day TBD) with play and pray time for all, and time for parents to (re)connect with one another. Watch for more about this Faith Explorers VBS event in the next couple months.



**High school book club starting new book**

All high school youth are invited to meet via Zoom **every other Sunday evening at 7 pm** for book club. We will be reading *I’m Still Here—Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*, by Austin Channing Brown. Contact [Michelle Stillwell](#) to join in.

|                                      | Confirmation Schedule                    | High School Schedule |                |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------|----------------|
| Mar 3                                | Prayer Service 7pm, Confirmation 7:30 pm | Mar 7                | Book Club, 7pm |
| Mar 10                               | Prayer Service 7pm, Confirmation 7:30 pm | Mar 14               | Check in, 7pm  |
| Mar 17                               | Prayer Service 7pm, Confirmation 7:30 pm | Mar 21               | Book Club, 7pm |
| Mar 24                               | Prayer Service 7pm, Confirmation 7:30 pm | Mar 28               | Check in, 7pm  |
| Mar 31                               | Confirmation 7:30 pm                     |                      |                |
| All classes and meetings held online |  |                      |                |



Save the Date  
to Support Our Youth

Kick off: **Friday, April 16, 7 pm**

## Virtual Silent Auction - For Immanuel Youth



We will need more items from you than ever. Because of COVID-19 negatively impacting local business, we will not be seeking donations from them this year.

Please start working on making or gathering things you could donate.

- Maybe you started a new crafty hobby this year or mastered new kitchen skills.
- Or you want to support favorite local businesses by buying gift cards.
- You might join with a friend or your Neighborhood Group to put together a themed basket.
- Or share your time: Teach a lesson. Organize a COVID-safe outing.
- Still can't think of something? Ask [Michelle Stillwell](#) for more ideas!

### You can bring items to the church Mon–Fri, 9 am–4 pm

Wear a mask and leave the items at the bottom of the entryway stairs.

### Drop-off day: Sunday, March 28, 11 am–1 pm

Bring your items this day if you can't make it during the week! Masks & distancing required.

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## SOCIAL ACTION

### March is MN FoodShare Month



Record-setting visits, over 3.8 million in Minnesota, were made to food shelves during 2020. MN FoodShare envisions a future where all Minnesotans have access to healthy food and no one struggles with food insecurity.

Immanuel is again participating in a campaign to end hunger. Normally, we collect money for the Keystone Food Shelf during the chili cookoff, Lenten soup suppers, and 3rd Sunday coffee hour twelve months a year and direct requests for MN FoodShare in March. We've lost most of those opportunities. **Help us make up the difference with your donation today.**

**You are invited to support Keystone during the month of March.** Designate "Keystone Food Shelf" in the memo line when you send your check to Immanuel or donate online [HERE](#). Please make note of it with your on-line donation as well. THANK YOU for giving generously!

**Engaging children:** Watch the News & Notes in March for suggested activities and resources for engaging your kids in giving and learning about food insecurity.

**How far does your dollar go?** Keystone pays an average of \$.07 per pound of food they distribute—the average retail cost is \$1.73. Using this amount, \$20 feeds two families for a week and \$100 buys 700 pounds of food. The impact is big!

*"Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor." Proverbs 22:9*

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## SOCIAL ACTION (continued)

### Book study group during Lent

The Joint Church Anti-Racism Team (JCART) is organizing a small-group study, listening to the voices of Native peoples. The small groups will use a curriculum resource called *On This Spirit Walk*, “which offers to its readers the opportunity to hear voices typically drowned out by the dominant culture.” The commitment would be to meet with the same small group (4 to 6 individuals) 4 times during March and April. There would be self study and reflection required to prepare for each session. Topics may include values, worship, justice, and repentance, but there will be an opportunity for each group to set their own direction based on interest areas of the group.

If you are interested, register [HERE](#), and JCART will contact you to create groups and coordinate times.

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## MOMENT IN HISTORY—150th ANNIVERSARY

### Boy Scout Troop 90 and Immanuel Lutheran Church

The association of Boy Scout Troop 90 with Immanuel began in May of 1934 when the Immanuel Men’s Club sponsored the Troop. The Troop was 24 boys strong and was led by Scoutmaster Herbert Page. By 1942 Troop 90 had its first two Eagle Scouts. Some of the event ribbons earned by the Scouts during this time have survived and are stored safely in the Scout room. In May of 1947 the Troop was disbanded due to “No boys or leadership.”



In 1952, under the guidance of Al Forman and Everett Needels, Troop 90 was started at Immanuel, sponsored by the Immanuel Brotherhood. This begins 69 continuous years of sponsorship by Immanuel Lutheran Church. The Troop started with 13 Scouts led by Scoutmaster Robert Pope. Since then Troop 90 has had 26 Scoutmasters and has produced 86 Eagle Scouts.

Included in that group of Eagle Scouts are these sons of Immanuel who attained Scouting’s highest award:

|                |               |                |              |                   |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Eric Urness    | Lars Teppo    | Noel Teppo     | Dan Barbosa  | Eric Edhlund      |
| Austin Bentley | Justin Purves | Jake Sherman   | Alex Kaardal | Charlie Bartholic |
| Nick Valure    | Bram Valure   | Chris Thompson |              |                   |

Over the years the Troop has won numerous awards related to its excellent Scouting program. Many of its adult leaders have received awards at the district and Council level. Three of our leaders (Russ Edhlund, Elmer Kaardal, and Mark Thompson) have received the rare Lutheran Lamb award for service to youth in Scouting and the Lutheran Church. In 2009 one of our Scouts (Richard Silverman-King) was awarded the BSA National Life Saving Medal of Merit when he used skills taught to him by older Scouts to save a classmate from choking.

Camping and high adventure is the cornerstone of Troop 90’s program. Among the exciting destinations they have traveled to are Isle Royale, the BWCA, the Big Horn Mountains, Yellowstone National Park, the Superior Hiking Trail, the Porcupine Mountains, Philmont Scout Ranch, and Florida Sea Base. They have spent the night sleeping in such unusual places as a giant cave, a World War II submarine, and the outfield at the Metrodome.

As we begin our 69<sup>th</sup> year, we look forward to continuing the great traditions of exciting outdoor adventure and wholesome character development that has been our hallmark for these many years. From all the Scouts of Troop 90 past and present, we thank Immanuel Lutheran Church for their outstanding support.

— Russ Edhlund

## COUNCIL UPDATES

### February 2021 Council Meeting Summary

In keeping with Minnesota's social distancing guidelines, the meeting took place online. The meeting opened with a Praise Song for the Pandemic, looking at all the people and blessings we are surrounded by, even in trying times.

Deb Ahlquist started her year as president by reviewing our new governing structure and inviting discussion on what has been successful and what can continue to be improved as we embrace our new structure. The transition has been quite successful and well suited to the times we find ourselves in. Ministry teams have more autonomy to act quickly to new situations, giving us as a congregation greater adaptability. Communications between teams, as well as between teams and the council, continue to improve. The council's main focus is to listen to the congregation and to guide Immanuel as we grow together. Some of the goals we had in 2020 had to find new ways to adapt to what we needed in the moment, but the congregational goal to connect to one another has stayed constant. As we continue to plan for the future, we can look at our new ways of connection to improve our reach in our community.

Thank you to John Toso, who joins the council as an at-large council member, and to Jeff Schmidt, who joins as vice president. Thank you to those who served in 2020. If you are interested in becoming more involved at ILC, please reach out to either a council member, team member, or Pastor Cindy. Volunteers are always welcome!

The meeting was adjourned and closed with a prayer.

The complete version of official minutes of each Council meeting can be obtained at the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Ahlquist, Council President, or any Church Council member. The Council meets monthly, usually on the third Tuesday. Meetings are open to the public, and all are welcome. Currently the Church Council is meeting by video conferencing. If you would like to attend, contact any Church Council member.

#### Church Council/Team Chairs

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Deb Ahlquist</b> , Council President | <b>Ross Robey</b> , Financial Secretary          | <b>David Alstead</b> , Worship & Music               |
| <b>Paul Mattessich</b> , Past President | <b>David Alstead</b> , Asst. Financial Secretary | <b>Gay Bartholic</b> , Stewardship                   |
| <b>Jeff Schmidt</b> , Vice President    | <b>Nick Consoer</b> , Member at Large            | <b>Mary Gwen Thompson</b> , Children, Youth & Family |
| <b>Martha Hansen</b> , Secretary        | <b>Sue Klevan</b> , Member at Large              | <b>Harvey Jaeger</b> , Property                      |
| <b>Mark Thompson</b> , Treasurer        | <b>John Toso</b> , Member at Large               | <b>David Hansen</b> , Membership                     |
| <b>Jackie Hippen</b> , Asst. Treasurer  | <b>Lee Bjerke</b> , Finance                      | <b>Christine Danielson</b> , Social Action           |

#### Immanuel Staff

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Cindy Bullock</b><br>Pastor<br>cbullock@ilcsp.org               | <b>Chris Cherwien</b><br>Director of Worship & Music<br>ccherwien@ilcsp.org  | <b>Julie Lindorff</b><br>Organist<br>julielindorff@gmail.com   |
| <b>Emily King</b><br>Children & Family Ministry<br>eking@ilcsp.org | <b>Michelle Stillwell</b><br>Youth & Family Ministry<br>mstillwell@ilcsp.org | <b>Deanna Hesse</b><br>Church Administrator<br>dhese@ilcsp.org |