



MESSENGER

Immanuel

Lutheran Church

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

May 2021

Volume 24, No. 5

In This Issue:

Art Show	2
Worship & Music	3
Children, Youth & Family	4
Community Events	4
ILC History	5
New in the Library	7
Childcare Advocacy	8
Project Home News	8
Council Updates	9

FROM THE PASTOR

Bringing God's message of hope

As we move into the summer, we are all looking ahead. Has anyone planned a summer vacation? Are you looking forward to eating at a restaurant (outside if necessary)? Are you thinking about getting together with friends? The vaccination rates have us hopeful that we can begin to emerge more fully in the coming months.

As we emerge, Immanuel is thinking about the year ahead. Considering both what happened in the past year, and all the opportunities before us, the Church Council has set our vision: "To bring God's message of hope to our communities." With all the grief, turmoil, and disruption of the past year, we want to speak out and live out the hope that Christ gives us – hope of a community that is caring and just. A community that shares and forgives. A community that values each person. As Christians we both speak and demonstrate that hope through the power of the Spirit.

This past weekend, our council, team Leaders and staff came together for a "retreat" via Zoom to consider how we will live out our vision this year. We looked at what went on at Immanuel in the past year along with the responses to the questions that went out to the congregation in March. (Thank you to all those who responded!). We asked the question, "What difference will we make in the next year and for whom?" How will this congregation bring God's message of hope to our communities?

The discussion was thoughtful and inspired. We ended the day with three ends (outcomes) we would like to work toward in the next year:

Work for justice by addressing racism and bias.

The Immanuel community will identify and work against individual and structural racism as well as biases, overt and hidden, that marginalize people based on disability, gender, race, ethnicity, age, religion, or sexual orientation.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Worship

Join us for live, virtual worship Sunday mornings at 10 am. Go to Immanuel's website, 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, May 9.

Sunday Coffee Hour

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

FROM THE PASTOR (continued)

Connect with our communities.

People of Immanuel and residents throughout our community will engage across generations in support of one another and our community partners.

Be a resource for spiritual renewal and living lives of faith.

People will look to Immanuel, in-person and online, as both a resource to discover and be renewed by their faith, as well as a guide for living lives as followers of Jesus Christ.

During the next month, our teams will each be setting goals to work toward these ends. What resources can we provide to support peoples' faith and decision making? How can we begin to examine our biases to those who are not like us in age, gender, race, religion or ability? How will we increase participation? How will we connect with the neighborhood?

There is much to think about and to do. But everything we do, we do in Christ, who gives us the wisdom and the power to live out the Good News. I pray for God's blessing on our efforts to share the hope that is in us.

A sister in Christ,

Pastor Cindy

15th annual Immanuel Art Show
Let There Be Art.

While we continue to wait for the building to safely reopen, we're going to have another online show!

The artists have submitted photos of their works, and there is now an online gallery of them that you can access by going to:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/vjRp89Sxm52of3dy5>

The gallery will remain up online from Sunday, April 11, through May 23.

Visit it and enjoy the art, even if we can't do it together.

Questions?
Contact Dave Alstead at dave@davidalstead.com

let there be art

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Organist search update

Welcome interim organist Kathy Handford.

The search is on for a new organist to lead our congregation in song! Dave Alstead, Chris Cherwien, Jan Johnshoy and Pastor Cindy are interviewing potential candidates and hope to have a person in place by the end of the summer.

We are fortunate to welcome Kathy Handford as our interim organist. For the past fifteen years Kathy has been the University Organist and Lecturer in Music at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin. Kathy is an active performer and will be part of the Tuesday Organ Concert Series at St. Louis King of France, in downtown St. Paul, on **May 11 at 12:35 pm**. Treat yourself to some beautiful organ music and say hi to Kathy afterwards!

Registration continues for Music & Arts Camp



9 am–3:15 pm August 9-13, 2021

Scholarship funds are available!

Please let your friends and neighbors know that we have full and partial scholarship money available! All requests will be kept confidential. This camp is for children and youth who have completed K-8th 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. It is looking hopeful, but if the camp must be cancelled full refunds will be given.

Please invite your friends and neighbors! Exciting Electives include Calligraphy, Handbells, Photography, Gamelan, Japanese Weaving, & Clay Creativity. Register early to ensure your children get the electives of their choice. Contact Chris Cherwien or go to ilcps.org/IMAC for more information.



Choristers' last rehearsal

The Choristers Choir will have their last Zoom rehearsal of the season on **Wednesday, May 19**. Our young singers have been terrific all year with remote rehearsals! It has been wonderful to see their smiling faces every Wednesday! It will be an even greater joy to see and hear them in person when we can safely rehearse in the Music Room!

Singers and instrumentalists needed for summer

If you would like to sing or play a musical instrument for worship this summer (either as a soloist or in an ensemble), please let [Chris Cherwien](#) know. She will help you select music and choose a date to record. Thank you, talented Immanuel musicians!

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

Sign up for VBS Day camp—participants and volunteers needed

This year's VBS will be open to kids who have completed K-5, with opportunities for older children to volunteer as leaders and a special separate PreK event. Our theme focuses on the disciples after Jesus's death and resurrection. It was a confusing and strange time as they wondered how to be community again.

We will need middle-school, high-school and adult helpers during this week. Can you join us? [Contact Emily King](#) to express your interest, and she will find the perfect position for you.

VBS will be **9 am–noon, July 12–15**. Cost: \$40. Register online [HERE](#).

Confirmation scheduled for May 16

Confirmation is **May 16 at 4:30 pm** at the Highland Park Pavilion. It will be recorded and made available to members by request. Being confirmed: Leland Engelking, Ava Herrmann, Sam Moeller and Wesley Norquist.

Thank you for supporting the silent auction

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Youth Silent Auction to support our youth. Between auction purchase and donations, we raised \$3,200 for the youth! Many Thanks!

ELCA Youth Gathering volunteer opportunities

The ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in the Twin Cities **July 24–28, 2022**. We hope to send several Immanuel youth in partnership with other area churches. With 30,000 young people expected to converge on Minneapolis and the surrounding area, volunteers will play a key role in the gathering's success. Applications for the Gathering Volunteer Corps (GVC) and Local Volunteers will open on **May 22**. Learn more about volunteering [HERE](#).



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Guatemala Gala will be virtual

Join the Synod's Guatemala Committee online at **7 pm Sunday, May 2**, for its 2021 Guatemala Gala, supporting the education ministries of the Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala (ILAG). You can watch the gala on [Facebook](#) or the [synod website](#) with pre-gala music and photos starting at **6:50 pm**. Highlights include:

- Pastor Julio Lux's personal story of receiving an ILAG scholarship
- Vocal pieces from the MILAGRO women, marimba music by Jorge and Edwin Hernández and a virtual choir of the Saint Paul Area Synod and more!

If you want to get in the Latin mood, make your own authentic Guatemala meal by following recipes from Chef Amalia Moreno-Damgaard—a cooking demonstration video and recipes can be found on the [event page](#).

Lutheran Social Services' Benefit for Youth registration is open

The 2021 Benefit for Youth will take place online on **Tuesday, May 18**. A virtual reception starts at **11:15 am** and the livestreamed event starts at **noon**. This annual benefit funds LSS programs for homeless youth living in Minnesota, including those at Safe House in St. Paul. Please register [HERE](#) to receive instructions for joining the free gathering. Emily King is serving as our "host" for the event; contact her with questions.

MOMENT IN HISTORY—150th ANNIVERSARY

Stained glass windows throughout the building

Immanuel has beautiful stained glass windows with pictures and Scripture verses telling the Gospel story. They have been lovingly donated by ILC members. Some of the windows have plaques that identify the donors and to whom the windows honor. Below is a brief history on some of them.

Lectern/Transept Side

The first window in the side transept has a picture of Jesus holding a lamb and a staff with the verse, *“The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want.”* The second window has Jesus blessing a child, with the verse *“Suffer the little children to come to me and forbid them not.”* The third window on the south side is a picture of Jesus holding the Holy Bible, with *“Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven”*, Given by the Junior League.

Pulpit Side

The first window near the pulpit is of Jesus with John the Baptist. *Behold the Lamb of God.* Given in loving memory of Sarah Marie Grove. The next is of Jesus riding the donkey into Jerusalem with people waving palms. *Hosanna in the Highest.* Given by Marvel, Ove, and Miles Wangensteen. This family story is from Doug Wangensteen. *I heard the story about the “Wangensteen” window from my father several years before he died in 2002:*

My grandparents, Martin and Agnes Wangensteen, were charter members of Immanuel, I believe. Martin immigrated from Norway in 1902, was a baker, and owned a bakery on Snelling Ave, a few store fronts south of St. Clair. While their three children (Marvel, 1915-2015; Ove [my father], 1917-2002; and Miles, 1922-1982) were growing up, they were paid to work at the bakery. When Immanuel decided to raise money for the stained glass windows you asked about (I don't know the date), my grandfather thought the family should buy one of the windows. One evening at dinner, he told Marvel, my dad and Miles that the three of them would buy the window and the window would be in their name. He would loan them money to give to Immanuel and would take a certain amount from each of their wages until the loan was paid. (My dad didn't say how he and his siblings responded, but they knew they had no choice.) So, the kids' names went on the brass plate below the window, and my grandfather took earnings from their weekly pay. My dad did not remember how much was taken or for how long this went on; however, it ended one Christmas when, as part of their gifts, my grandfather announced that he would forgive the remainder of the loan.

Peg thinks this is a good story. It reflects one of the ways, about 80 years ago, that a Norwegian immigrant taught his children not only about the value of money, but also that they should use some of their money to support important causes. My father and Miles went on to have careers as social workers, and Marvel became a high school teacher.

— Doug Wangensteen



Continued on page 6

MOMENT IN HISTORY—150th ANNIVERSARY (continued)

Pulpit Side (continued)

There is a window given in memory of Freddie Anderson and Russel West. The window with a picture of Jesus praying in the garden and the verse “*Thy will be done*” was presented by the Sunday School in honor of Superintendent H.G. Grove in 1930.

Another window with no picture was given “In memory of our parents Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hopland.” It is a picture of someone playing a harp. *Sing praises to the Lord which dwelleth in Zion. Psalm 9:11* Given by the Junior League in memory of William Marten Knudsen. The beautiful stained glass window above the altar featuring Christ’s Ascension surrounded by angels and disciples was donated by the Ladies Aid. In the Narthex are three windows with symbols of our sacraments: Holy Communion, Alpha and Omega—the beginning and ending letters of the Greek alphabet “*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord.*” Revelation 1:8—and Holy Baptism. They were donated by Agnes Hansen in memory of her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. Lawson.



The three stained glass windows in the East Lounge represent symbols of our faith. 1) A hand giving a blessing. 2) Jesus the Good Shepherd with His sheep 3) A dove representing the Holy Spirit. All three windows were donated by Roger and Carole Needels’ parents, Ferne and Everett Needels, in memory of their 9-year-old son, Kenneth (Roger’s brother), and his grandmother.

— By June Husom, Carole Needels, Doug Wangensteen and Judie Prayfrock

THE LIBRARY

Read Brave St. Paul books available in ILC library

C

Bid Bidania, V. T.

Astrid and Apollo and the Starry Campout. C. 2021

A family camping trip sounds fun and exciting, but quite scary also, and Astrid isn't sure she is up for the trip even though her twin brother is eager to go.

C

333.91

Lin Lindstrom, Carole

We Are Water Protectors. C. 2020

Native Americans regarded water as a sacred part of Mother Earth. They taught that life itself is tied to water, and it was their duty to protect it. Now we all are challenged and encouraged to join in protection for clean water and the other gifts of Mother Earth.

364.137

C

398.2

Lun Lunge-Larsen, Lisa

The Legend of the Lady Slipper. C. 1999

A young Ojibwe girl's brave act to save her family leads to the beginning of a lovely flower called the lady slipper. *(not a Read Brave Book—but still a great book)*

Cas Castillo, Marcelo Hernandez

Children of the Land: A Memoir. C. 2020

When the author crossed the border between Mexico and the United States as a five-year-old child, he suffered temporary stress-induced blindness. He quickly regained his vision, but also quickly understood that from then on he must do everything possible to remain invisible in this new country. "This unforgettable memoir from a prize-winning poet about growing up undocumented in the United States recounts the sorrows and joys of a family torn apart by draconian policies and chronicles one young man's attempt to build a future in a nation that denies his existence." Quote from book jacket

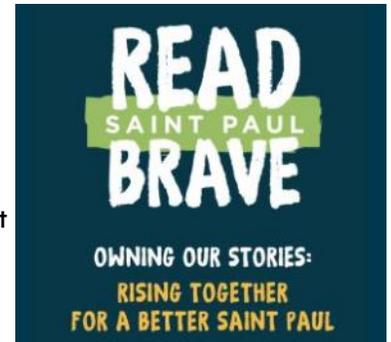
Y

Fic

Yan Yang, Kelly

Front Desk. C. 2018

Ten-year-old Mia Tang has lots of secrets which she has to hide while working hard to help her parents run mean Mr. Yao's motel. At the same time she is trying to fit in at her fifth new school in just a few years! "It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness, and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao, and go for her dreams?" Quote from book cover



SOCIAL ACTION

Jesus blesses little children

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." Matthew 19:14, NRSV

Childcare Awareness & Advocacy in MN - My Childcare Story - Kelley Wells

"I had heard that infant childcare spots are in very high demand in the Twin Cities, so when I found out we were expecting our first son, Isaac, I started looking for childcare centers when I was about 12 weeks pregnant (before many of our friends and family even knew we were expecting). I visited three childcare centers over the course of the week and picked my first choice, mainly based on its proximity to my workplace. However, when I contacted that center to be enrolled, their infant spots for my requested start date were already full. So, I quickly enrolled in my second choice, and Isaac started attending there at 3 months old. Fast forward 3 years later and we were expecting our second son, Elijah. I let our childcare center know right away so we could secure an infant spot for him. When I returned to work about 3 months after he was born, our childcare costs were higher than our monthly mortgage payment, despite the discount our center offers for having multiple children enrolled. This was definitely a big strain on our budget during that first year of Elijah's life, but I know we were still very privileged to be able to make it work. There are so many families in Minnesota for which childcare costs are simply unattainable, and we need solutions to make it affordable for all!"

Kelley's story highlights the shortage of quality childcare spots in MN and the high cost of care to families. Minnesota has lost over 20,000 child care spaces in two decades. Learn more from a March 9, 2021, MPR news story [HERE](#).

Let's be a part of the solution!

- Join Immanuel's Childcare Awareness & Advocacy email list [HERE](#).
- View the Childcare Awareness & Advocacy slideshow and **TAKE ACTION** [HERE](#).
- Questions? Contact Anna Kirkness at akstark@gmail.com.

Volunteer opportunities with Project Home

Every June, Immanuel partners with Messiah Episcopal to provide volunteers for Project Home. For the second year, COVID-19 has shut down the family shelter located with local faith communities. HOWEVER, there is good news! Project Home has moved to the former home of the Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet on Randolph Avenue in St. Paul and can serve up to 20 families there. They hope to re-open shelters located in churches, synagogues and mosques in January of 2022 to serve an additional 35 families. [Watch a video about their work during the pandemic](#)

In the meantime, there are still volunteer opportunities with Project Home:

- Bring a lawn chair or blanket to enjoy the wonderful green space and help children pick out books at the bookmobile and either read to them or be read to by early readers.
- Help with a Cinco de Mayo festival. We'll have crafts and activities for the kids during the day and show a movie in the evening.
- Create a volunteer team to help with meals on the weekends (when the kitchen has been remodeled).

Contact [director Sara Liegl](#) for more information about these opportunities.

COUNCIL UPDATES

April 2021 Council Meeting Summary

In keeping with Minnesota's social distancing guidelines, the meeting took place online.

2021 continues to offer new and innovative ways to spread the word of God to the world around us. While we are still not ready to worship in person, we continue to support one another with our online presence. In recent years, a strong website was crucial for outreach. Now, with the online streaming services we have added, we are not only able to worship with our congregation, but others in our community are able to worship with us and hear ILC's message. Through the efforts of our Stream Team, we seek to expand these new services and further improve our outreach in this new market.

Thank you to the congregation for your constant generosity, for sharing your resources and your time. Our finances are going strong, supporting the work that we do and the people who give of their time to help however they can. If you are interested in becoming more involved in ILC, please reach out.

2021 brings a new vision for Immanuel: To bring God's message of hope to our communities. At the 2021 annual retreat taking place April 24, ILC's council, ministry teams and staff will be working to create goals for the next year to serve this vision for our future. Thank you to our congregation for letting us know what is important to you in your faith and lives. Your feedback helps us to shape our vision and our goals.

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

Immanuel Staff		
Cindy Bullock Pastor cbullock@ilcsp.org	Chris Cherwien Director of Worship & Music ccherwien@ilcsp.org	Kathy Handford Lund Interim Organist
Emily King Children & Family Ministry eking@ilcsp.org	Michelle Stillwell Youth & Family Ministry mstillwell@ilcsp.org	Deanna Hesse Church Administrator dhesse@ilcsp.org