



# MESSENGER

Immanuel

Lutheran Church

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

June 2021

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## FROM THE PASTOR

### Experiments in Gathering

I recently finished a science fiction novel about an astronaut (actually, a biologist who was trained as an astronaut) who was sent to a distant star to save humanity. During the journey, the rest of the crew was killed. So he was alone in space, with no way to contact earth and facing the job of saving humanity. As this lone astronaut approached the star, he discovered another ship—from another planet, with someone who had also been sent to save their species, and whose crew had also died in the journey. (Okay, it stretches the imagination, but the writing was good.)

The two astronauts had to make first contact, learn to communicate with each other, learn each other's cultures, and learn each other's skills. Only when they had done all of that could they start to figure out how to save two planets. (I'm not sure which was hardest – learning to communicate or saving the planet.) When they finally started working together, they tried things and failed. Things broke. They thought things would work that didn't and they came up with new ideas. They had emergencies. But in the end ... well, I'm not going to tell you the end. (The book is *Hail Mary*, by Andy Weir, if you want to read it.)

I'm glad I don't have to know what those astronauts knew about microbiology, physics or engineering. But I will say in the past year I've learned a lot about new ways to communicate, about trial and error, and about what to do when I don't know what to do. It has been a year of figuring things out for all of us. Now, as we start to reopen, we have even more things to figure out. Someone said to me this week, "This reopening the world feels as stressful as when we had to close things down. Nobody knows what to do or who to listen to."

But, like in the novel, we are not alone in our journey. We have the Holy Spirit moving among us and calling us into a whole new way of being in community. Immanuel has an incredible number of talented, devoted people that have offered and will offer their skills to the church this summer. We will find our way back into physical community. But in the meantime, we will experiment. We will succeed some and fail some. We will try new things and experience the joy of discovery.

This month, I invite you to experiment with us. We'll try some new things that we'll figure out together. Here are our experiments in gathering for

## 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, June 13.

### Sunday Coffee Hour

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

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## FROM THE PASTOR (continued)

Sundays in June:

**June TBD – Begin streaming the worship service from the sanctuary.** It may take a few weeks to get all the bugs out, but we hope to quickly be as comfortable virtually in the sanctuary as we were Zooming from people's homes. All worship will be online.

**June 13 – Coffee hour to honor graduates.** Come say "Congratulations!" to our high school and college graduates in an outdoor coffee hour at **11 am on the South Lawn (Goodrich Avenue)**. Light snacks, lemonade and coffee will be provided. Bring your own chair if you think you'd like to stay a while! The worship service will be online as usual.

**June 20 – Outdoor worship.** We'll gather at **9 am in the parking lot** to worship and sing—yes, sing—together for the first time in a year! Bring a chair for everyone in your household. If you can't make it at 9, or if the weather doesn't cooperate, the online worship service will stream as usual at 10 am.

**June 27 – Church picnic.** Join the fun at **11 am–1:30 pm at the Highland Park Picnic Shelter**, 1200 Montreal Ave. We'll have burgers and dogs on the grill. Bring any sides for your household (this is not a potluck), along with plates and utensils. There's a great children's play area by the shelter, and we'll have other games (Kubb, bocce and cornhole) set up nearby.

Watch for more information about steps to re-open the building. But until we can, plan to be a part of our outdoor experiments in gathering.

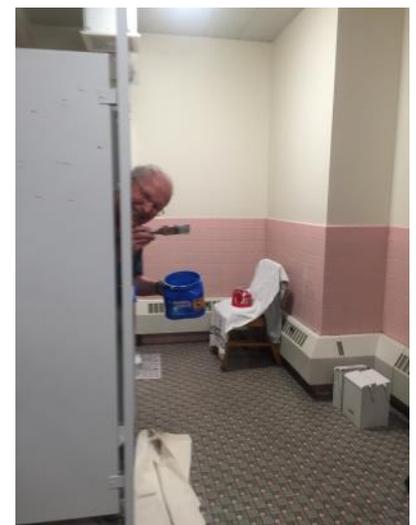
A sister in Christ,

— Pastor Cindy

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## BUILDING HAPPENINGS

Even though the building has been closed to the congregation, many things have been happening in and around it. The tuckpointing project on the exterior of the building is complete, boiler furnace repairs have been done and energy saver switches have been installed on the air conditioning units to increase energy efficiency and save money. Per Mar Security will begin installation of security cameras in June, and our volunteer grounds crew have planted beautiful flowers. A trio of tech-savvy guys have been implementing a new system for live-streaming services from the sanctuary, improving the quality of our online broadcasts and enabling us to keep our online presence in tandem with in-person worship. The Improvers have been busy repairing lights, staining furniture and painting walls and stalls to spruce up the building for everyone's return!



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## WORSHIP & MUSIC

### Registration continues for Music & Arts Camp

9 am–3:15 pm August 9-13, 2021



Registrations are rolling in! Invite your friends and neighbors to our wonderful weeklong camp for children and youth who have completed K-8<sup>th</sup> grades. Local pandemic conditions will continue to be evaluated. It is looking hopeful, but if the camp must be cancelled full refunds will be given.

Our electives this year include: Pen & Ink, Handbells, Photography, Gamelan, Japanese Weaving and Clay Creativity. What fun classes for our campers!



Please go to [ilcps.org/IMAC](http://ilcps.org/IMAC) for more information and to register!

### 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!

### Thank you, Immanuel musicians!

Each week throughout the pandemic, singers and instrumentalists have been safely recording music for our online worship services. What a gift they have given us with their music! Here is a list of people who have shared their talents and time for our worship services:

Deb Ahlquist, Dave Alstead, Stephanie Alstead, Shawna Boll, Mark Brudevold, Jane Johnshoy Domier, Dale Fierke, Josie Iaria, Seth Harris, Evan Helgeson, Sarah Hoel, Margaret Horstmann, Paul Horstmann, Jan Johnshoy, Marlene Johnshoy, Audrey King, Emily King, Anna Kirkness, Dave Klevan, John Mattessich, Eliza Mitzel, Lily Mitzel, Kari Moeller, Elsa Mundt, Greta Mundt, Ingrid Mundt, Berit Nelson, Scott Norquist, Matt Olson, Ray Peterson, Phil Rukavina, Anna Schmidt, Jeff Schmidt, Otto Schmidt, Lilly Sheldon, Alice Stark, David Stark, Mike Tjaden, John Toso, Kelley Wells.

### Parking lot worship services will be June 20, July 18 and August 15

It has been a long time since we have been able to safely worship in person. **Bring a lawn chair** to Immanuel's parking lot for outdoor worship at 9 am on three Sundays this summer!

We will also offer our regular 10 am virtual service on these Sundays for those unable to join us in person.

Outdoor worship is weather dependent. If it rains, join us for the virtual service at 10 am.

**Find and share peace as a VBS camper or volunteer**



Has change left you feeling bewildered? Do you wish someone could guide you in this new normal? You're in luck! We know someone who can help: Jesus!

At "Peace Out" VBS day camp, we'll explore Jesus's appearances to the disciples after his death. They were freaking out, shut away from the world, and wondering what to do next. Then Jesus showed up, saying, "Peace be with you."

**For kids who've completed K-5:**

Join us Monday-Thursday, July 12-15, at 9 am-noon at Immanuel. \$40 (no one will be turned away if they can't pay). [Register online](#)

**For preK kids + families (siblings welcome):**

Join us Saturday, July 17, at 9-11 am at Pilgrim Lutheran. Free. [RSVP online](#)

**For middle-schoolers thru adults:**

Volunteer with us! We'll need the most help M-Th, but there will be opportunities Saturday morning too. Grandparents, nannies, friends—if they like kids and want to spread Jesus's peace, they have the qualifications to help! Needs include: small-group shepherds, station helpers, COVID-safety helpers, Monday welcomers, daily setup/takedown crews. Contact [Emily King](#) to volunteer.

**volunteer!**



**Confirmation service again goes off-site**



Four of Immanuel's young people chose to affirm their faith this spring. A confirmation service was held on Sunday afternoon, May 16, in Highland Park. God provided us with wonderful weather for the outdoor ceremony. Ava, Leland, Sam and Wesley were all confirmed in a traditional service in a non-traditional setting. The last two classes of confirmands have had the unique experience of being confirmed outside of the church building.

**Congratulations to our 2021 graduates**

Immanuel high-school seniors are:

- Anna Schmidt
- Ingrid Mundt
- Otto Schmidt
- Ava Hansen
- Jonah Engelking
- Rocky Robey
- Ellen Dufresne

Congrats also to our post-secondary graduates, including nursery staffer Lily Alexandroff, who graduated from Macalester.

We wish you all well as you launch new chapters in your lives! May God help and guide you.

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## NEW IN THE LIBRARY

305.8

Olu Oluo, Ijeoma

**So you want to talk about race.** C. 2019

Talking about race has never been easy, and talking with people from different races can be even more difficult. One of the keys is listening carefully. This outstanding book provides insights and examples of how to communicate. It is probably one of the best guides for honest, thoughtful conversations about race and racism for both black and white Americans.

377.6

DeC DeCarlo, Peter

**Fort Snelling at Bdote: a brief history.** C. 2020

“For millennia, the area where the Minnesota River joins the Mississippi has been a crossroads, a place of strategic power. But its history is deeply complicated. Many Dakota people consider the area, known as Bdote, to be both a sacred place of Origin and a site of genocide. Many other people think of Fort Snelling, the limestone fortress built by US soldiers at Bdote in the 1820s, as the ‘birthplace of Minnesota,’ an icon of patriotism and pioneer spirit . . . The fort today is a powerful reminder that most Minnesotans today are descendants of immigrants, living on Dakota land.” - quoted material from book cover

Fic

Rho Rhodes, David

**Driftless: a novel.** C. 2008

The story is set in an area of Southwestern Wisconsin which had missed the last of the Pleistocene glaciers, and thus also missed the glacial deposits of rock, clay, sand, and silt called drift. Hence its name, Driftless. Here a man named July Montgomery wandered into a small, almost forgotten village named Words, and settled there for almost twenty years. In this setting David Rhodes weaves a beautiful novel of a small community, and the way in which so many ordinary people’s lives are woven together with that of July’s in such a richly connected way.

Fic

Smi Smith, Alexander McCall

**Bk.20 To the land of long lost friends** C. 2019

Book number 20 in the No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency series finds Mma Precious Ramotswe as astutely and wisely engaged as ever in solving mysteries in her Botswana neighborhood. However, this time she must act even more carefully because the case involves family, which always requires a most delicate approach.

Fic

Rin Rinker, Sherri Duskey

**Goodnight, goodnight, construction site.** C. 2011

After seeing all the tough, hard-working trucks, cement mixers and bulldozers get tired out and go to sleep after a long, hard day’s work at the construction site, even the toughest young listeners or readers will soon contentedly drift off to dreamland also.

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## SOCIAL ACTION OPPORTUNITIES

### Volunteer 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 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.
- 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.

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### Join Common Hope walking team



Immanuel is sponsoring a team for “Walk for Hope” to support children in Guatemala. For 35 years, Common Hope has fought poverty with diplomas and ensured many students graduate from high school. This year Common Hope is celebrating its 35th anniversary, and we are helping to celebrate The Power of Walking the Extra Mile! Please help support Common

Hope by donating through [Immanuel's page](#) on the Common Hope site.

The Immanuel Men's Club and members of the congregation sponsor students. Poverty ends wherever education thrives. Common Hope works with Guatemalan families to provide the resources needed to achieve better lives. Your gift MATTERS. Together, we matter, and we can give hope to students and their families in Guatemala.

The Virtual Finish Line is **Sunday, June 13.**

- Join the team: [How to Register](#)
- Learn more at [Walk For Hope](#) or at [Common Hope's site](#)
- Donate: [Fundraising page](#)
- Invite others to join you!

If you have questions, email [Marlene Johnshoy](#).



Student sponsored by  
Immanuel Men's Club

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## MOMENT IN HISTORY—150th ANNIVERSARY

### Meals on Wheels

In 1976, Immanuel began its involvement with Meals on Wheels thanks to the initiative of long-time member Truus Ingebritson. Truus believed there were many elderly people in the area who did not have proper nutrition. She talked to Pastor Elder Bentley about her idea of Immanuel's participation to which he promptly agreed! They thought it would be possible if area churches would get on board. The federal government had a Meals on Wheels program but the one Truus started was independent of it. She was the co-founder of SWAM (Southwest Area Meals).

*One of [Truus's] favorite sayings is, "Love is a basket with five loaves and two fishes. It's never enough until you start to give it away!" Truus says that she really doesn't run the program. She says, "Someone else does who can multiply the loaves and fishes." (Quoted by St. Paul Dispatch columnist Oliver Towne, January 1984 article)*



Truus Ingebritson

Truus coordinated her efforts with St. Mary's Catholic Church and St. Mary's Nursing Home located on Norfolk and Prior. The area churches provided the drivers who delivered the meals to people's homes. Each church was designated one day to deliver the meals. Drivers received a route and index cards with information about each individual, such as name, address, directions to the residence, dietary restrictions, and health concerns. It took about one hour for the drivers to deliver their assigned meals. St. Mary's supplied nutritious, well-balanced meals keeping in mind special dietary needs of people. On Immanuel's assigned day, Rachel Husom, Betty Jorgenson, and Betty Ofstead rotated days taking turns filling the containers with nutritious meals.

When Truus retired, Betty, Rachel, and Betty assumed the coordination of Immanuel's program. Eventually, St. Mary's took over the coordination of the program with locations in Marion Park and West 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The participating churches still provided the drivers. June Husom and Rachel delivered meals out of the West 7<sup>th</sup> Street location. On holidays, Truus would often help deliver meals.

*"For holidays, she added small gifts with the meal deliveries. One time she was short \$200 to purchase those small holiday gifts. She went to church and prayed. That night, I got a call from a woman who said she had \$200 to give to some worthy cause and wondered if SWAM could use it." (Oliver Towne's January 1984 article)*

Immanuel visitation Pastor Ralph Glenn loved telling a joke before his report at council meetings. This one is a favorite!

*"A family of mice died and went to Heaven. When St. Peter asked the mouse family how they liked Heaven they squeaked, "We love it! But, it is a little bit too big for us to get around and see all of Heaven." St. Peter thought for a little bit then gave each mouse roller blades. Delighted, they zoomed around Heaven enjoying the sights!" Months later, a family of cats died and they also went to Heaven. When St. Peter asked the cat family how they liked Heaven, they meowed, "We love it, especially the **Meals on Wheels!**"*

— By June Husom, Louise Meltvedt (Truus's daughter) and Judie Prayfrock

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## COMMUNITY NOTES

### **Mental health resources are available to all**

Reputable news sources have reported PTSD, depression, chemical abuse, physical abuse, etc., are on the rise and will become their own kind of epidemic as things “open up.” It’s already fully rooted and growing, in all age brackets. We as a community are looking at so much to do AND trying to learn how we’ll navigate our way back in community that this very important loving care should not be overlooked.

The following are free resources compiled by one of our members:

- NAMI – National Alliance on Mental Illness (St. Paul based, largest of its kind in USA) --- [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)
- Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota – [www.lssmn.org](http://www.lssmn.org)
- Alanon – [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org)
- AA – [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)
- AA – [www.aaminneapolis.org](http://www.aaminneapolis.org)
- The Retreat Treatment Center - [www.MyRecovery.com](http://www.MyRecovery.com) offers free zoom platforms
- Ramsey County – adult mental health and chemical health services (651) 266-7900 crisis hotline [www.ramseycounty.us](http://www.ramseycounty.us)

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### **Wake at dawn with Winged Heart Yoga**

Chrissy Mignogna is offering yoga classes via Zoom. After the yoga class returns to the church, Chrissy will still offer Zoom access so that people can join the yoga group from home. Anyone who is interested please contact Chrissy for the Zoom link or check out [her website](#). “Wake at dawn with a winged heart and give thanks for another day of loving” - Kahlil Gibran.

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### **Speak out about Child Care Assistance Program**

Minnesota’s Child Care Assistance Program provides financial assistance to low-income families so parents can work or pursue education and children can receive nurturing care in a safe and stable environment. It is underfunded, placing Minnesota far below the federal recommended levels of reimbursement and limiting options for parents and children.

**Action needed:** Contact Governor Tim Walz, Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka and Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman about the need to increase funding for the Child Care Assistance Program.

## COUNCIL UPDATES

### May 2021 Council Meeting Summary

In keeping with Minnesota's social distancing guidelines, the meeting took place online. The meeting opened with a contemplation on Romans 8:18-27, to focus on the Spirit as we enter Pentecost. The Spirit is the life, breath, power, and hope of God and our inspiration on our journey with Christ in our lives and works.

The council approved Immanuel's participation in the Riverside Innovation Hub Learning Cohort for 2021-2023. We will partner with other congregations in the area to make new connections in our communities. This work is directly in keeping with our mission to bring God's message of hope to our communities, and we are very excited to be invited to participate.

Thanks to Harvey Jaeger for leading us through a deep dive into all the work the Property Team has done and plans to do for ILC. Their work centers on keeping Immanuel in good repair to aid the other ministry teams and our congregation in the work we do for God. In addition to their work with the Improvers maintaining the building, the team secured a grant for a new video security system and found savings on sales tax for our energy costs through COVID grants, rebates, and sales tax refunds. They have great ideas for the future, both long and short-term, to make Immanuel a welcoming space inside and out for all interested in coming to us. If you are interested in becoming involved with the Property team, or any of our ministry teams or council, please reach out to Pastor Cindy or any team members or staff.

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> Pastor cbullock@ilcsp.org	<b>Chris Cherwien</b> Director of Worship & Music ccherwien@ilcsp.org	<b>Kathy Handford Lund</b> Interim Organist
<b>Emily King</b> Children & Family Ministry eking@ilcsp.org	<b>Michelle Stillwell</b> Youth & Family Ministry mstillwell@ilcsp.org	<b>Deanna Hesse</b> Church Administrator dhese@ilcsp.org