



MESSENGER

Immanuel

Lutheran Church

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

July 2021

Volume 24, No. 7

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FROM THE PASTOR

As I write this, we are planning for our first in-person worship service in 15 months. What a year it has been! I don't need to remind you of the stress, the isolation, the unknowns and especially the changes that have taken place in the past year—I'm sure each person can create a list of "things I never want to deal with again." I know I can (including preaching to an iPhone!) It's hard to look back.

But one way I do want to look back is in gratitude for a community of faith that did its best to remain givers of life during so much death and loss. So, this month I'd like to honor the life givers.

First and always, I thank God for being faithful and holding us through it all. For giving us beauty and joy in small ways. For science and vaccines, for people willing to step up and do all kinds of hard things, and for hope that no matter what, God is with us and for us.

I am grateful to the members of this community who did their best to stay centered and keep the main thing the main thing. Those who worshipped as they could amidst changing lives and changing technology. Those who reached out to offer help to neighbors, church members and those who were struggling. I am grateful to those who created neighborhood groups and led them, those who sent cards, bought groceries, donated to community helpers and somehow helped us all stay connected to God and to each other.

I am grateful for generous stewards of God's gifts. So many of you helped keep the congregation both financially sound and able to give to others.

I am grateful to those who stepped up and stepped out as the city and world became all too aware of the inequality among us. Many of you read, discussed and learned more about the lives of our black, brown and indigenous brothers and sisters. Many of you marched in protest or provided food or supplies to a broken community. As the congregations of MacGroveland joined to learn and work for a more just neighborhood through JCART, you supported them. I honor you for your outreach.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Worship

We gather for worship at 9 am on Sunday mornings both in person and online. Please pre-register online [HERE](#) for worship in the sanctuary. You can watch the livestream on our website, through YouTube or on Facebook. You can also find recordings of past Sundays in all 3 places.

Holy Communion

We'll share Holy Communion during our service on July 13.

Fellowship

Coffee time will be held outside after Sunday worship.

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FROM THE PASTOR (continued)

I am grateful for those who kept Immanuel running from the background. The Improvers who continued to come to the building and make sure it functioned and fixed broken things. The Property team have made improvements and needed repairs. The Stream Team who helped with technology throughout the pandemic and going forward. And the staff, who didn't miss a beat but reinvented their jobs almost weekly to make sure we could still offer hope to a weary community.

It has been a horrible year. And yet, with God's grace there is still much to be grateful for. I thank you for your faithfulness and look forward to all we will imagine and do together in the year ahead.

A sister in Christ, Pastor Cindy

SUMMER WORSHIP UPDATE

IN-PERSON SERVICE: Worship in person in our sanctuary at **9 am** during July and August! Here are some guidelines:

1. Capacity is currently limited to 100. Please register [online](#) by the Saturday prior. You may also call the church office by Friday to register.
2. Masks are required for protection of and in respect for those in our community who cannot be vaccinated.
3. Enter the building through the Snelling Avenue or parking lot doors, and enter the sanctuary through the Gathering Space doors. There will be NO ENTRY from the Goodrich Avenue doors.
4. You can socialize outside but not inside.

COFFEE HOUR: We need volunteers to host fellowship time after worship. The host would prepare coffee and provide lemonade or juice and a simple snack for 20 to 30 people. Please call the church office or sign up [HERE](#). Coffee hour will be held on the south lawn, weather permitting.

VIRTUAL SERVICE: Online at **9 am** by going to [our website](#) or directly through YouTube, Facebook (including on your Smart TV). Zoom will no longer be available beginning July 4. You can also watch a recording later at your convenience.

If you have any questions about how to access worship online, please call the church office or contact [Mark Thompson](#). He will be available on Sunday mornings to answer questions.

OUTSIDE SERVICE: Bring a lawn chair for outdoor worship at **9 am July 18** on the south lawn. We will also offer a recorded service on this Sunday, posted online earlier in the morning, for those unable to join us in person. Outdoor worship is weather dependent; if it rains, we'll move into the sanctuary.

IMMANUEL'S MUSIC & ARTS CAMP

Invite your neighbors! Registration deadline: July 31

Camp will be **9 am–3:15 pm August 9-13**, with a closing celebration Friday evening.

We are excited that 50+ children have already registered! Please let your friends and neighbors know they still have time to register for our wonderful weeklong camp for completed K-8th grades. Our electives are Pen & Ink, Handbells, Photography, Gamelan, Japanese Weaving and Clay Creativity. Register soon, as electives are filling up!

Please go to ilcps.org/IMAC for more information and to register.



Find and share peace at VBS

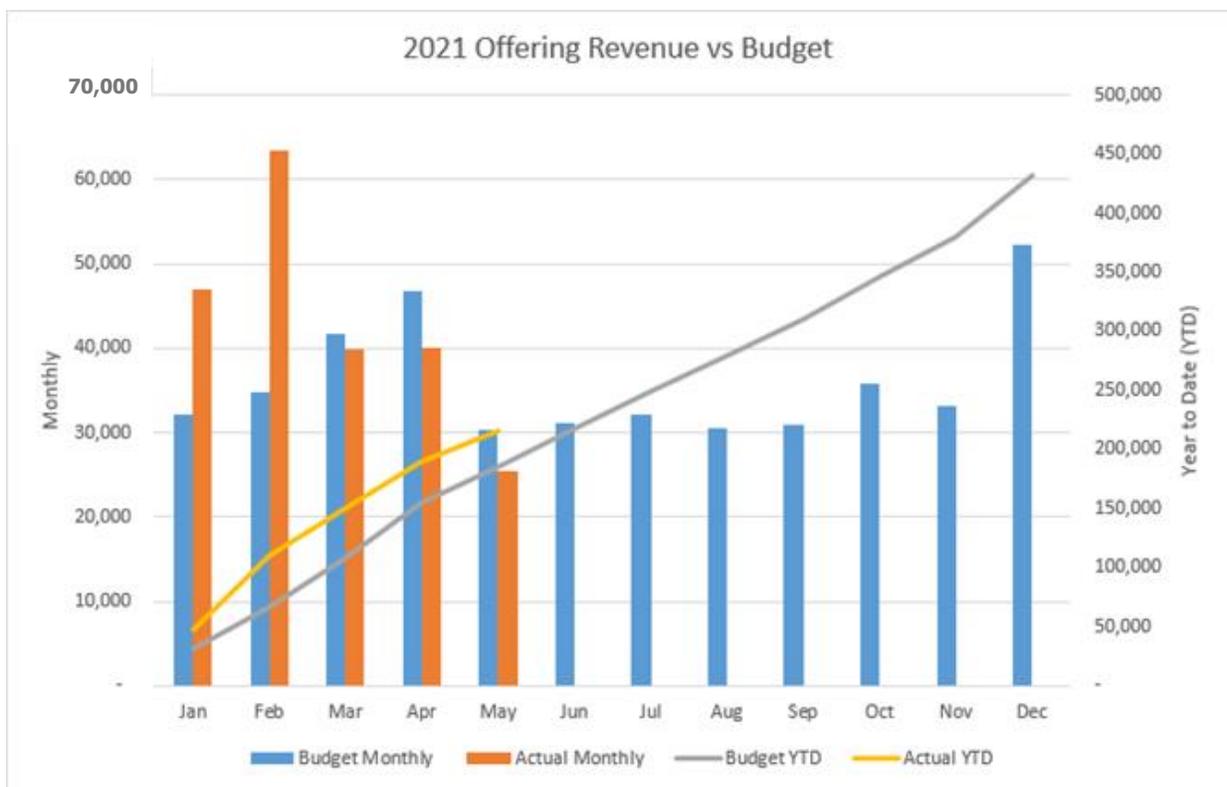
At “Peace Out” VBS day camp, we’ll explore Jesus’s appearances to the disciples after his death. They were freaking out, shut away from the world and wondering what to do next. Then Jesus showed up, saying, “Peace be with you.”



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](#)

For preK kids + families (siblings welcome): Join us Saturday, July 17, at 9-11 am at Pilgrim Lutheran. Free. This is not a drop-off event. [RSVP](#)

QUARTERLY FINANCE UPDATE



The tan bars show the monthly offering contributions and the blue bars show budget expectations. The yellow line represents cumulative giving, which is trending above pledges indicated by the gray line. NOTE: Some people pay their whole pledged amount at the start of the year, but our projected budget (gray line) averages that giving over 12 months.

We are sharing a chart showing the progress of our current offering contributions, which has been very good; however there are some additional near-term expenses forecast. As we return to our building, we anticipate preparation expenses, and our continued online worship services have necessitated additional expenses for audio/visual equipment. Also, giving typically drops in the summer months. Please prayerfully consider giving during these months as we return to our regular worship schedule. You may also consider setting up automatic donations through the Immanuel website in order to support our mission throughout the year. As the opening process continues, we are looking forward to seeing everyone in person! Thank you again for your steadfast faithfulness in support of our mission in Christ.

— Lee Bjerke and Mark Thompson, Finance ministry team

SOCIAL ACTION OPPORTUNITY

School Tools drive through August 1

Our annual School Tools drive supporting Interfaith Action is almost underway.

There will be collection boxes at the church **Sunday, July 11, through Sunday,**

August 1. The goal is to provide children with **new** school supplies that they need

in the fall. Interfaith Action is leading the drive to benefit children from families with low income who are served through several programs in Greater St. Paul. Just one of these partners, the St. Paul Public Schools, serves nearly 2,000 students each year who are homeless. You can find out more details at [Interfaith Action's website](#).



Needed Supplies:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| ✓ Backpacks | ✓ Pens, pencils, highlighters | ✓ Scissors and rulers | ✓ Facial tissue |
| ✓ 3-ring binders | ✓ Markers, colored pencils, crayons | ✓ Loose-leaf paper | ✓ Calculators |
| ✓ Glue sticks/bottles | ✓ Pencils, erasers, sharpeners | ✓ Reusable masks | ✓ Hand sanitizer |
| ✓ School boxes | ✓ Spiral & composition notebooks | ✓ Highlighters | ✓ Folders |

You can help in different ways:

- Drop off items listed above at the church.
- Make a check payable to "Interfaith Action," noting "School Tools" on the memo line, and send to the church.
- Donate online at ilcsp.org/give. Be sure to choose "OTHER" and type in "SCHOOL TOOLS."

BUILDING UPDATE

Security system install set for this month

A video security system will be installed at Immanuel during July. The purpose of the system is to provide more safety and security to staff and others who work in the building. The system will allow staff to visually confirm who is requesting entry into the building and monitor their movement after they have been allowed to enter. The intercom buttons at Snelling Avenue and off the parking lot will still be used when doors are locked. The system is being paid for by a State of Minnesota grant program designed to increase the security of non-profit organizations. Other congregations and the Saint Paul Police were consulted in selecting the system, and four vendors were interviewed before choosing Per Mar Security, the company that maintains our current alarm system.

Some things to know about the video security system:

- The system will be in entryways, passageways and stairs. Cameras will also monitor the parking lot, alley, indoor common areas and coat racks. The system is not in meeting rooms, offices or the sanctuary.
- The system will be video only; no sound will be monitored.
- The system will be able to store up to 30 days of recorded video. Recorded video will only be accessed to investigate a security incident.
- A written policy on the system's use is being developed to ensure it is used for business and security purposes only and people's privacy is protected.

Further information on the system is available by contacting Deanna Hesse in the church office or [Ron Struss](#), Property team.

MOMENT IN HISTORY—150th ANNIVERSARY

Dorothy Day Center

The people of Immanuel have a heart for the needy and reach out in many ways. Serving meals through Dorothy Day’s ministry has been a long-standing outreach. A dedicated, consistent team has served a noon meal to the homeless population in downtown St Paul on the third Saturday of the month since 1982. The program was first administered through the Loaves and Fishes program, then by Catholic Charities. Jerry and Joanne Sandahl were the original volunteer recruiters, grocery shoppers, and leaders. Nancy Reidel took responsibility for grocery shopping after Joanne’s death. Jerry and Nancy continue in leadership today.



The fixed menu has always been Sloppy Joes on buns, “beans & weenies”, homemade cookies and milk. Hard boiled eggs and bananas are also offered as “pocket food” to take away for later. The meal begins with a prayer. Men, women, children, and families are served. They are so gracious and grateful and enjoy interacting with Immanuel’s volunteers. Jerry said the most difficult part of this ministry is seeing the children. Jerry began collecting Beanie Babies and stuffed animals to distribute to the children. The little ones appreciate receiving his kind gesture.



Over the years, cooking has moved several times including on-site at Dorothy Day on 7th street downtown where clients were served. The new Dorothy Day Place opened in 2019. Food preparations returned to the site making it much more efficient for volunteers who arrived at 10 am and finished by 1:00 pm with a strong crew of 15. The team served 197 people on average per month in 2019 and close to 2,000 meals during the year. Immanuel’s budget is \$400 per month. Leftover food is re-served or re-purposed by professional staff. In March 2020, the COVID 19 Pandemic caused the team to cease physically volunteering, but Immanuel continues to fund the monthly meal which is prepared by the Dorothy Day staff. The volunteer team plans to return to serving Sloppy Joe’s at Dorothy Day once it is safe enough to do so.

— By Christine Danielson, June Husom, Jerry Sandahl and Judie Prayrock

COMMUNITY NEWS

Neighbor church offering Restoration Healing Circles

6 pm July 11 and July 25 in the sanctuary, Fairmount Ave UMC

This summer Fairmount Ave UMC, 1523 Fairmount Avenue in St. Paul, will be offering Restoration Healing Circles, a time to simply gather in a circle and share how we are processing the many emotions of coming out of the pandemic. This is not therapy or a Bible study, rather it is simply being present, offering space, holding story. Come for one or both sessions. All are welcome.

RSVPs appreciated but not required. You can sign up and get more information [HERE](#). Please plan to wear a mask indoors.

NEW IN THE LIBRARY

C

782.7

Hau Haugen, Marty

Child of wonder. C. 2018

This song was originally intended to be sung as a solo after the baptism of the godson of the composer, Marty Haugen. His beautiful lyrics and music were meant “to celebrate the sacredness of human life and delight in the lives of children,” however they do not specifically refer to only a Christian theology of baptism. Many faiths and cultures also gather in ritual celebrations in joy at the birth of a child, and the artist, Stephen Nesser, vividly portrays many of those customs. Quote is from the book cover



976.3

Bro Broom, Sarah M.

The Yellow House. C. 2019

“While Katrina is the cataclysmic event that centers Broom’s story, The Yellow House isn’t really about the storm. It’s about the devastating, generational effects of social, economic and political disparity across racial lives, and how people with few resources are decimated by disasters.” In this New Orleans memoir, Sarah Broom, the youngest in a family of twelve, relates an intimate and loving story of her family and the house which was witness to their lives. -Quoted material from Atlantic Journal-Constitution

241.4

Cur Curry, Michael B.

Love is the way, C. 2020

In this wise and loving book, Michael Curry, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, uses his own life and experiences to show the radical, transforming power of God’s love, even in the most difficult and threatening circumstances while confronting selfishness, poverty, racism and other social injustices. “Bishop Curry asks us to love ourselves, one another, and God more fully. And unlike so many others, he actually shows us how.” -Quote above is from Rabbi Steve Leder

Fic

Dif Diffenbaugh, Vanessa

The Language of flowers: a novel. C. 2012

After a child-hood spent in the foster-care system, Victoria is unable to get close to anyone. Her one consolation and connection with the world is her love and knowledge of flowers and the meanings which had been associated with them in Victorian times. As an emancipated older teen, flowers become her salvation as she chooses appropriate ones for customers and encounters a young man who opens her heart.

ILCW

Women invited to July Bible study

Join us in the Gathering Space at **9:30 am Monday, July 19**, for a Bible study, open to all women of the community, hosted by Grace Circle. We'll use the *July Gather* magazine to guide our discussion. Advance preparation is not required or expected. If participation exceeds Immanuel’s current covid restriction of 25, we’ll split into an indoor and an outdoor group.

COUNCIL UPDATES

June 2021 Council Meeting Summary

In keeping with Minnesota's social distancing guidelines, the meeting took place online. As we look to our reopening, the council is looking at how meetings will take place in the future, with an eye to safely meeting in person. The council is currently planning to try a hybrid in-person/zoom meeting for the August meeting.

As we look forward to opening up, we continue to be mindful of doing so safely and with the most vulnerable of our congregation in our minds. But we are looking forward to meeting more in person. There is outdoor worship on 6/20 on the south lawn, complete with singing and no masks required. Starting on 6/27, we return to indoor worship. Because it will be indoors, we will still be requiring masks. If you are interested in joining us, please pre-register. While we are looking forward to more in-person gatherings, we are still maintaining our increased online presence and online worship will still be available.

Thank you to our congregation for your continued support, for your generosity with time and resources. Thank you to our Ministry Teams for being vigilant with your budgets. ILC's finances are going strong. If you are interested in joining one of our Ministry Teams, or otherwise becoming more involved with Immanuel and our mission in Christ, please reach out.

The process of reopening will be ever-changing, as we know from all that has happened over the last 15 months. We're doing our best to reach out to people in every way we can. Please make sure to check your emails and our website for the latest updates.

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.

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



Immanuel Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

104 Snelling Avenue South

Saint Paul, MN 55105

Address Service Requested

WORSHIP WITH US ONLINE

Worship on Sunday

Join us for worship Sundays at 9am, in the sanctuary or worship online at Immanuel's website, ilcsp.org. The 9:00am service will be recorded and can be viewed anytime from our website at your convenience.

Sunday Coffee Hour

Gather on the Goodrich Ave., lawn after the 9:00am Sunday worship (10:00ish or whenever the service ends).

Please remember: For now, we are asking everyone to wear a mask during the service in the sanctuary to protect and respect our youngest members and others who cannot be vaccinated. Enter the sanctuary through the Snelling Ave or Parking Lot doors. The Goodrich Ave doors will be locked. For now, the Gathering Space will not be available for socializing or coffee hour. Coffee hour will be outside on the Goodrich lawn beginning Sunday, July 4th.

