



MESSENGER

Immanuel

Lutheran Church

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

September 2021

Volume 24, No. 9

In This Issue:

Worship & Music	2
Children, Youth & Family	3
Flea Market	4
Moment in History	5
Adult Bible Study	6
Community News	6
150th Anniversary Update	7
New in the Library	8
Council Update	9

FROM THE PASTOR

Dreaming of fall

In 1995, when my family moved to Minnesota, we came for a house-hunting trip at the beginning of September. I remember saying to my husband, "It seems like people up there are so sad. Like they can't bear for the summer to end." After 26 years of living here, I get it. There is nothing better than a Minnesota summer—beautiful lakes and rivers, amazing wildflowers, being outside on clear evenings. There's so much to do, see and experience.

This year, the move into fall feels even harder. The State Fair has fewer people. Schools will open ... cautiously. Businesses are pushing back in-person opening. No one (even the experts) are sure what the virus will hand us in the weeks ahead. It's easy to be sad about the fall.

But then I remember how glorious fall can be in Minnesota—pumpkins, apples, beautiful leaves, cooler days, and I remember that God gives us wonders and opportunities in every season. Perhaps instead of bemoaning what we can't do, we can wonder what God is placing before us. We can imagine new paths and new adventures. I've always admired the prophets, who could create a glorious picture of what could be and then invited us into it.

What do you think God might be leading us into in this time of unknowns? What relationships, practices, or opportunities are we invited into? Could this fall include a call for you to reflect? Deepen a relationship? Chose Sabbath rest? Learn about an issue or about someone who lives on your block? Enter intentional prayer? I'm not sure what the fall will hold, but I do know God will be present with us, guiding and supporting us—if we let God show us the way.

As we begin our fall together, there are a few things the staff and teams will be offering. All of these depend on safety protocols and community participation. Look in this newsletter for info about:

- Worship: There will be one service on Sundays until our numbers

Continued on p. 2

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Worship

We gather for worship at **9 am (9/5) and 9:30 am (starting 9/12)** on Sunday mornings both in person and online. You can watch the livestream on our website, through YouTube or on Facebook.

Holy Communion

We will commune in person and virtually.

Fellowship

Coffee time will be held outside after Sunday worship.

Faith Formation for All Ages

We'll begin Sunday morning faith activities on September 19.

FROM THE PASTOR (continued)

require expanding or until safety protocols are lifted.

- Education: Children, youth and adults are invited to Sunday morning activities, all in person, masked, distanced and outside if possible. These will occur at 10:30 am. Confirmation will begin in mid-September.
- Music: There will be in-person rehearsals and Sunday offerings of choirs and bells. See below.
- The Flea Market: The annual sale and festival will have a new look this year! See [Page 4](#).
- The 150th Anniversary: Our celebration will begin a bit muted and get bigger during a whole year of celebration. See [Page 7](#).

This can be a glorious fall. Just dream a bit and watch for what God is inviting us into.

— A sister in Christ, Pastor Cindy

WORSHIP & MUSIC

We are grateful for a great week of Music & Arts Camp

Thanks to 66 wonderful children/youth, a highly skilled staff and fantastic volunteers, our 5th Music and Arts Camp was a success! Special thanks to Shawna Boll, Russ Carlson, Kay and Peter Draine, the Improvers, Chillon Leach, Kari Sheldon, Eliza Mitzel and Kelley Wells for helping with set up, clean up, lunch, snacks, bulletin boards and so many other tasks! This is community at its best and we are grateful!

Worship & Faith Formation This Fall

One service beginning **September 12 at 9:30 am**

Coffee Hour following worship at **10:15 a.m.** outside

Faith Formation for all ages begins **September 19 at 10:30–11:15 am**

Choir schedules and protocols for the fall

The Building Reopen team has given us safety protocols that we will be putting into place so that we may begin rehearsals in person for our choirs this fall.

- * Mask wearing while singing and ringing
- * 3 ft. distance between adult choir members
- * 6 ft. distance between children and youth choir members

We welcome new singers and ringers! Adult choir rehearsals begin **Wednesday, September 8**. Children and youth choirs begin the following **Wednesday, September 15**. See the schedule below:

Wednesdays:

4:45–5:30: Choristers Choir (children in grades 2-6) Starting September 15. Music Room

5:45–6:30: Middle C Choir (Youth in grades 7-12) Starting September 15. East Lounge

6:45–7:45: Jubilate Ringers (Adult Handbells Choir) Starting September 8. Music Room

7:45–9: Cantorei (Adult Vocal Choir) September 8. East Lounge

Please consider joining one of our choirs! You will be warmly welcomed. If you have any questions, please contact [Chris Cherwien](#).

Update on Sunday school

Starting September 19, our faith formation activities will run **10:30-11:15 am**. PreK (age 3+) and elementary kids will meet in the Lower Commons, and secondary students will meet in the Youth Room. If any group exceeds the indoor limit, we will split into 2 spaces that both allow for ventilation.

Everyone must be masked indoors, regardless of vaccination status.

In September, our preK-elementary emphasis will be on reintroduction to our space and our community. On Sept. 19, we'll be learning names and working in teams to build epic table forts! For our middle- and high-schoolers, the focus will be rebuilding connections and catching up on all they've been up to.

Email Emily King (preK & elementary, eking@ilcsp.org) or Michelle Stillwell (middle & high school, mstillwell@ilcsp.org) to introduce children who are new to our program. We need name, grade/age and parent contact info.

Parent/caregiver meeting September 13

Parents and other caregivers, please join Emily King and Michelle Stillwell for a hybrid in-person/Zoom meeting about the fall. We'll share our plans for Sunday mornings, Wednesdays and other gathering times and provide time for discussion about safety and other questions. Meet at **7 pm Monday, September 13**, in the East Lounge or on Zoom (link will be provided in News & Notes).

Volunteer to participate

Adults, join us on Sunday mornings! We are looking for people to walk alongside our young people as they explore their faith—to wonder and question and play and create with them. (There might be a little less *playing* with the teen crowd, but they do still have fun.) Email Emily King (eking@ilcsp.org) to volunteer.

Confirmation kicks off mid-September

Attention all families with incoming 7-9th-graders: Confirmation orientation will be **Tuesday, September 14, at 7 pm**. It will be held virtually, so keep an eye on your emails for a Zoom link. Parents and participants should attend together.

7th-grade confirmation will begin **Wednesday, September 15, at 7 pm**. For now the plan is to meet in person at church. We will keep an eye on all incoming information and re-evaluate as needed.

9th-grade confirmation will meet once a month with Pastor Cindy starting in September. She will discuss the year's schedule at the orientation; many things are TBD.

Let's get social, high-schoolers!

We are excited to bring back once-a-month high school youth night! We will kick things off **Sunday, September 19, at 7 pm**. As always, we will be keeping an eye on all incoming information and re-evaluate as needed.

Nursery and KidPacks unavailable

Under the ILC reopening guidelines, the nursery continues to be closed. Once we reach full Phase 4 opening and are given clearance, we plan to reopen and staff the nursery on Sunday mornings and on Wednesday evenings. Clipboards with coloring sheets and colored pencils will be available for Sunday worship, and the library is open.

Immanuel's Flea Market & Fall Festival

We're back ... outside!

Join us in the lot & under the tents Sept. 24–25*

If you plan to donate items:

We are planning a smaller sale than usual, so please review the product lists below.

ALL products should be in very good condition, clean and dry.

Give us a hand and sort your items by category before donating!

Donations accepted:

Saturday (9/18): 10 am–1 pm

Sunday (9/19): 10:30 am–3 pm

Monday (9/20): 10 am–2 pm, 5–8 pm

Tuesday (9/21): 10 am–2 pm, 5–8 pm

Wednesday (9/22): 10 am–2 pm

**After 2 pm Wednesday
no donations accepted**



- Toys
- Kitchenware
- Home decor

- Accessories
- Valuables
- Jewelry
- Furniture
- Games and puzzles

In excellent condition only:

- Clothing - Kids & Adults
- Sporting Goods
- Lawn & Garden / Garage
- Bath Items



- Books and magazines
- Holiday decorations
- Blankets/pillows

- DVDs, CDs, electronics
- Baby equipment including strollers, cribs, baby gates, car seats, etc.
- TV's and computers
- Large appliances

If you plan to volunteer:

Masks required for volunteers

If you plan to shop, eat and play:

Sale: Friday (9/24) 10 am–7 pm

Music: Friday (9/24) 5–7 pm

Bag sale: Saturday (9/25) 9 am–1 pm

Concessions sold both days of sale

* Severe weather dates: Oct. 1–2.

Check ilcsp.org for updates.

All profits given to community partners. Our fundraising goal is to raise \$7,500! Additional online donation opportunity coming soon!

Look for a sign-up link in News & Notes or contact Christine Danielson for more information about roles and times. We will need many helpers to move product on Thursday and Friday (9/23-24), as well as sorting and pricing throughout the week.

MOMENTS IN HISTORY: FLEA MARKET & FALL FESTIVAL

According to some history notes, the early church had flea markets as far back as the 1920's and 1930's. In 2005, the Flea Market idea resurfaced while John Marboe and Joy Bussert were Immanuel's pastors. Pastor Joy led the team. She wanted to take advantage of the rare asset of having a parking lot on Snelling Ave and the visibility to the community that it provided. Hosting the sale, music and fair food provided by Ross Robey *outside* was key to the "blacktop" event. That year, the "New York-Style" Flea Market sponsored a street dance in the parking lot. The joint event brought in \$5,000 with the proceeds going to the Rezek House and Immanuel's capital campaign.



When Christine Danielson took over the helm in 2009, she was given one and only one directive: **You have to keep the sale outside to utilize the blacktop.** Mother Nature had another idea! The forecast (and actual weather) was for heavy rain, and the one and only "directive" was ditched and a plan was quickly developed to move the sale inside. However, what seemed like a setback turned into a game-changer! Feedback for the indoor Flea Market was so positive it was decided to keep the sale inside for future Flea Markets.

In 2010, Kari Moeller and Heather Cordes planned the first carnival in the parking lot to maintain the spirit and intent of the outdoor blacktop event. The Kids' Carnival was accompanied by live music and fair food. Thus the Fall Festival was born.

The year the Flea Market leadership team switched from benevolence giving of 10% to 100% was during the recession in 2010. The Immanuel general fund was tight and no benevolence giving was budgeted. A seed was planted when the team applied for an \$800 Thrivent grant that required 100% of the funds to be given away. They proposed to and got approval from the church council that 100% of the net profits be donated to benevolence to continue support to our community partners. The Flea Market has donated 100% ever since.

As the years went by, the benevolence list grew. The leadership team narrowed it, focusing on fewer partners so the gifts would be more impactful. In 2019, advocacy organizations were added to the direct service organizations as recipients. This was done in keeping with the Social Action Team's purpose to live out the words of Micah 6:8 *"And what do I ask of you? To love kindness (acts of service and benevolence), do justice (advocacy and action), and walk humbly with your God (spiritual growth and learning)."*

Now in 2021, with concerns about COVID-19 and its variants, the Flea Market has returned to its one and only directive—to be outside on the blacktop!

Come and join the fun outside!

—Christine Danielson and Judie Prayfrock

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Enter the Bible

This fall, there will be two different times to dive deep into the scriptures we hear on Sunday morning.

Thursday evening at 7 pm via Zoom: Come get a first look at the gospel reading for Sunday. No Bible experience required. Pastor Cindy will offer some background on the text, then we'll all offer questions and insights about then—and now. Let Pastor Cindy know if you are interested, and she'll send you the Zoom link. Come when you can—beginning September 16.

Sunday mornings at 10:30 am in person: Have you ever come up with a question or insight during a sermon but didn't have a way voice it? Here's your chance. Gather in the East Lounge (or if it's beautiful, we'll take some chairs outside under a tree), to think more deeply about what we just heard and sang. Bring your questions, challenges and wonderings about how scripture can speak to us today. Come when you can, beginning September 19.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Place holiday greens order with Scouts by Oct. 21



Boy Scout Troop 90 will be selling holiday greens again. Orders will be taken online. The website will be available on **September 15**. The order **deadline is October 21**. Absolutely no late sales will be accepted. Delivery of the greens will be Tuesday, November 23. If you have questions, please contact Mark Thompson.

For Afghanistan

Early last week, a former military chaplain reached out to me. He is heartsick at the suffering he sees in Afghanistan. He knows, as do I, the deep investment made by the U.S. troops, who served there over the past 20 years, as well as the profound yearning of many civilians for a freer way of life. It is another huge humanitarian crisis, arising before our eyes.

While we may champion different political and diplomatic strategies, as Christians we are called to do several things:

- **Pray:** Consider joining the prayers in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan through [Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service's website](#).
- **Advocate:** You can find resources for your own advocacy efforts through the [ELCA's Advocacy website](#).
- **Volunteer:** As individuals and congregations we can support local resettlement efforts for refugees and asylum seekers from many nations. More information on concrete initiatives can be found through [Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota's Circle of Welcome program](#) or [Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services](#).

What we may not do as Christians is ignore the needs of neighbors—near and far. *O God, strength of those who believe in you, give comfort and clarity of vision to us in this time of need. Open our ears to hear your voice and obey your will; open our hearts that true justice and wisdom may abound; and open our hands that violent resolution of conflict may cease, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen (Prayer from ELW)*

— In Christ's service, Bishop Patricia Lull



Kicking off Immanuel's 150th anniversary year

On December 19, 1871, a group of nine Norwegian immigrants to Minnesota gathered together, probably in a home, for communion with a traveling Norwegian pastor, Osten Hanson. He was soon to become the president of the Hauge Synod in the United States, a branch of the Norwegian Lutheran Church. These Norwegian Lutherans next met for communion in February of 1872 with a new itinerant minister and stayed together, eventually forming Immanuel Lutheran Church in Saint Paul.

Now 150 years later we are still together as a strong and vital congregation. Much has changed. We no longer have services in Norwegian. The church building is in its fourth location, though still in Saint Paul. We have merged with two other Lutheran congregations, which brought new life and talent to our congregation. Immanuel in its earliest days reached beyond the congregation to support missionaries and benevolence partners throughout the country and the world. Overseas partners have changed over the years from missions in China, Madagascar and Alaska to more recent partnerships in Tanzania and Guatemala.

We are kicking off this 150th anniversary year with a commemorative worship service on **Sunday, October 10, at 9:30 am** at Immanuel with live streaming online. Bishop Patricia Lull will be the preacher that day. Former pastors will be honored, and we will sing a specially commissioned hymn written by David Stark. Sandy Anderson is sewing a new indoor banner for the celebration. There are so many Immanuel pastors, staff and members who have supported the work of our church over the years. We have much to be grateful for.

Plans to have a banquet after the service have been postponed. When it is safe for all of us to gather together and have an anniversary meal, we will reschedule the banquet, hopefully for sometime in 2022. Other events planned for next year include an outdoor panoramic photo of the entire congregation and rotating exhibits in the new display cabinet in the narthex. Do check out the historic hymnals on display in the cabinet now. Thank you to Ray Peterson for his amazing cabinet-building skills. Look for the 150th anniversary banner on the Snelling side of the Immanuel building. It will be on display this month.

"Immanuel," which means "God with Us" is such an appropriate name for our congregation. God has been faithfully with us as individuals and as a community for 150 years. We look forward to the new directions our church will take as the coming years unfold.

— Ann Derr

NEW IN THE LIBRARY



Y

Fic

Gra Gratz, Alan

Refugee. C. 2017

Joseph is a Jewish boy living in the 1930s Nazi Germany. Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. All three of these teenagers go on dangerously harrowing journeys in search of refuge. Although the three are separated by decades and continents, amazing and shocking connections tie their stories together at the end. This is a riveting read for adults as well as youth. While the teens in the book are fictional characters, their tales are based on true events experienced by real people in search of refuge.

Fic

Dar Dare, Abi

The girl with the louding voice: a novel. C. 2020

Adunni is a fourteen-year-old girl living in a rural Nigerian village with her father and younger brother after the death of her beloved mother. Adunni longs to continue school and get an education so that she can find her “louding voice” and speak up for herself. But despite her father’s promise to her dying mother, he takes her out of school and marries her off to an old man who already has two other wives. The author, who grew up in Lagos, Nigeria, has written a heart- breaking, beautiful novel about how one courageous girl is able to achieve her dreams in even the most daunting circumstances.

248.3

Far Farag, Lois

Balance of the heart: desert spirituality for twenty-first-century Christians.

Taking a look back at the spirituality and wisdom of the desert monastics of 4th century Egypt may help us refocus our attention on what really matters: “ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:27) Even though we may not practice the solitary life style of the monastics in our busy, hectic pace of today’s world, we can still learn to focus on God’s Word and live out Scripture in our daily lives.

THANK YOU



Thank you so much for your generous support of the 2021 School Tools Drive. This was the 25th year Interfaith Action held a School Tools Drive and Immanuel has been part of most of them! This year, you donated a total of \$1,607—the combined value of both school supplies and money. Your ongoing support of this community outreach project is very much appreciated! Interfaith Action is working with 8 community programs, to be sure the supplies collected by Immanuel and many St. Paul area faith communities reach children from low income families. Now these children can start school with the tools they need to learn. MANY THANKS!

COUNCIL UPDATE

August 2021 Meeting Summary

In keeping with Minnesota's social distancing guidelines, the board decided to try a blended meeting, offering both online and in-person attendance. The opening devotional was a contemplation on how Jesus's teachings are an invitation to a deeper relationship with God.

Thanks to Mary Gwen Thompson for giving a deep dive into the work that Children, Youth & Family ministry team has been doing. Once again, this past year has given Immanuel an opportunity to connect with one another and with our community in new and creative ways. Thank you to the volunteers who have delivered resources to families, to those who helped with VBS and the Music & Arts Camp, and those who spent their precious time participating in the gatherings offered. Going into the fall and the upcoming school year, the team is still exploring ways to blend our ever-growing online resources with in-person gatherings to offer our community more ways to participate as individuals are able. This has been a time for thinking and a time for wondering, and the work of CYF is seeking to work more in this contemplative approach, rather than always seeking the direct answer in faith formation.

ILC is hard at work to get the fall schedule together. It will be different than previous years, as we have come to expect, but seeking to serve our congregation and community as best we can. There will be one service with faith formation following. The coffee hours will continue to be held outside for the time being. All of our ministry teams are involved in this process and excited by how much more we can do than we could a year ago. If you are interested in joining any of our teams, or have ideas you would like to bring to ILC, please reach out. We are a congregation rich in resources and generosity. Thank you for all your continued support.

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. If you would like to attend, please 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 Worship & Music ccherwien@ilcsp.org	Deanna Hesse Church Administrator dhesse@ilcsp.org
Emily King Children & Family Ministry eking@ilcsp.org	Michelle Stillwell Youth & Family Ministry mstillwell@ilcsp.org	Peter Aldrich Organist paldrich@ilcsp.org