



IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS AUGUST 2022



Women's Conference

LCMC Heartland District Annual Women of the Word Conference

September 17, 2022

This year it is held right here at Immanuel!!!

Registration is from 8:30-9:00. At 9:00 there will be worship with communion. Our members will be sharing an interesting and entertaining program about their experiences in Tanzania. As we support this great mission there is so much to learn. At noon there will be a delicious lunch prepared by Immanuel women. After lunch there will be some beautiful music. There is a \$10 registration fee due September 1. More information will be coming from the district during the month of August which we will share through church and emails. We will also be requesting help, bars, and sweet breads. Heartland District has congregations in Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska, & Kansas. Come share the day with women from across the District. Contact Sandy Nelsen, 755-7373 or nelsen@harlannet.com if you have questions. Hope to see you there.

*“Connecting Women, Transforming
Lives.....*

Together with One Heart and One Purpose”

August 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

There are many reasons to be afraid for the future of the Church, but there is a better reason to not be afraid.



I read a recent article commenting on the rapid decline of churches over the past 20 years. Over the past 20 years the number of people reporting membership in a particular church shrank from 66 percent to 47 percent. Church members are now a minority in America. Over the past 20 years the number of people reporting no church affiliation (the “nones”) grew from 8 percent to 21 percent.

Looking at Immanuel, average worship attendance in 2002 was 245. Average attendance in the first half of this year is 121. That is a loss of 124 in attendance. I don't have to tell you what would happen if we lose that many participants in the next 20 years. You can do the math. Even if we just lose the same percentage, it doesn't look good.

There is a vicious cycle at work. The less members participate, the less ministry and service we offer to the community. The less ministry and service we offer to the community, the less people see any value in the Church. The less value people see in the Church, the less people participate.

What are the forces driving this decline in Church participation? Here are my guesses.

1. People move a lot, and connecting with a new community is hard. Lots of people move and just never make the effort to connect with a new faith family.
2. Powerful political polarization has driven some people away from the church. They have experienced church as either too conservative or too liberal for their taste.
3. Anger in our society has spilled over into the Church, and conflict has erupted and torn congregations apart leaving some people with a negative experience of Church.
4. People are experiencing information overload from social media, the internet, TV streaming, and the 24-hour news cycle. People need less and not more input in their lives.

One of the main reasons that people cite for regularly participating in the Church is good preaching. Far more than friendly people and good music and active programming, people say that they participate because of good preaching. Pastors are feeling a ton of pressure right now when church attendance is dropping every year. Burnout is heavy among the clergy. For many pastors, it feels like we are failing. And less young people are going into ministry because they see how stressed out pastors are.

But there is one very good reason to not be afraid for the future of the Church. That would be Jesus. If he used Peter, James, and John to turn the world upside down, he can use us. The Church was launched by someone who knew his way out of the grave. Therefore, we shouldn't be surprised that his Church keeps rising from the dead. The way forward may look very different from the past, but Jesus called his followers to use new wine skins for new wine.

I am always interested in your thoughts on how the Church should move forward. How can we address the forces that are driving people away from participation in the Church? My guess is that there are a lot of little mustard seed ways that we can grow into the future of the Church. What would encourage your Church participation? How can we better be the Church in this time? What questions do you want to hear addressed in preaching? And what gifts do you have to share to build up our shared ministry? This really is a great time to be the Church.

The need for the Church has never been clearer.

Yours in Christ, *Phil Nielsen*

Worship in August

August 6-7	“Losing the Gospel?”	Galatians 4:12-20	Communion
August 13-14	“Religion or Gift?”	Galatians 4:21-31	Children’s sermon
August 20-21	“Freedom!”	Galatians 5:1-12	Communion
August 27-28	“Walking in the Spirit”	Galatians 5:13-26	Children’s sermon

Gifts of Music

The Church Council would like to encourage members of Immanuel to share gifts of music with the congregation during our worship services. Do you have a song to share? Instrumental or vocal. Solo or group. Maybe a child would like to play a piano piece. We have a “music calendar” in the church office for people to sign up to share music with the congregation during August or September.



Summer Bible Study



The Sunday morning Adult Bible Class is studying the last half of Genesis. We will be talking about two colorful personalities, Jacob and Esau. Then we will discuss what might be the greatest story of all ancient literature: the Joseph story. We meet from 10:15 to 11:00 each Sunday. All are welcome.

Food Pantry

Immanuel has long been a strong supporter of the Shelby County Food Pantry which is administered by West Central Community Action. We have given over 1000 pounds of food and other necessities in each of the past two years. This year we have given over 440 pounds to the Pantry. Thanks to all those who have made contributions.

The Shelby County Food Pantry has seen an increasing need for its resources because of the ending of COVID relief programs and the rising cost of basic necessities. We encourage our members to continue to support the Food Pantry. The first Sunday of each month is our “First Fruits Sunday” when we encourage our members to bring non-perishable food items and other necessities for the Food Pantry.

WORSHIP & GIVING

	<u>Attendance</u>				<u>General</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Total</u>
June 25-26	24	+	74	= 98	\$ 2,543.20	\$ 50.00	\$ 2,593.20
July 2-3	17	+	82	= 99	\$ 6,973.50	\$ 175.00	\$ 7,148.50
July 9-10	17	+	76	= 93	\$ 4,122.50	\$ 80.00	\$ 4,202.50
July 16-17	18	+	98	= 116	\$ 2,509.50	\$	\$ 2,509.50
July 23-24	15	+	88	= 103	\$ 2,698.00	\$	\$ 2,698.00

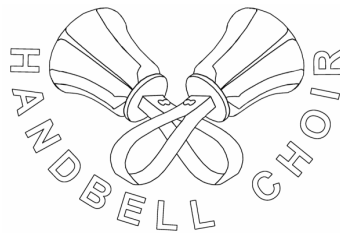


Happy Birthday to the following:

Twyla Grabill will be 91 on August 13.
 Irene Hansen who will be 99 on August 13.
 Mert Kastens will be 81 on August 15.
 Della Holdsworth who will be 95 on August 17.
 Maggie Hatcher will be 84 on August 18.
 Vernice Vrtiska who will be 88 on August 20.
 John Christensen will be 85 on August 25.

Happy Anniversary to the following:

Mark and Linda Knoell who will be celebrating their 55th anniversary on August 5.
 Larry and Peg Haas who will be celebrating their 51st anniversary on August 21.
 Allan and Sally who will be celebrating their 53rd anniversary on August 22.
 Dave and Judi Pedersen who will be celebrating their 56th anniversary on August 27.



MUSICAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AT IMMANUEL

Immanuel Lutheran Church is looking for an individual or several individuals to serve as staff for the musical ministry of our congregation. Positions include: choir director, choir accompanist, bell choir director, youth praise band director, and worship accompanist. If you are interested in any of these paid positions or if you know someone who might be interested, please contact a member of the church council or the church office.

OUR SYMPATHY to Bonnie Grabill at the death of her son, Dale.



ON OUR PRAYER LIST: Sherry Lytle, Sandra Haney, Deb Stendrup, Doris Towne, Connie Schwieso, Judi Pedersen, Jeanette Kroger, Harry Priest, Connie Benson, Sandra Farr (mother of Cora Chapman), Catherine Glenn (mother of Sharon Kroger), Bill Broveak (son-in-law of Ed & Shelia Mills and brother in law of Gaige & Sherry Lytle).



JULY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARIES

The Immanuel Church Council met July 12 with 8 of 12 members present.

John Taggs shared devotions. Where are you, Lord? In the darkest places of the world. John 1:5 says that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. Sin has estranged us from God, but Jesus came to bring light into our darkness. August devotions will be shared by Ivy Nielsen.

Steve Allen, Eric Chipman, John Taggs, Peg Haas, Vicki Strissel, and Scott Shannon volunteered for Sunday morning council member duties.

Treasurer's Report - George Applegate reported that June income was \$18,762 and expenses were \$20,712. General fund is at \$85,168 including \$25,989 from the Ted Williams bequest. Capital projects savings account is at \$60,232.

Worship/Evangelism – Discussed renting a digital organ for the congregation to hear at a cost of \$1700 for a one month rental. Council decided to ask congregational members for feedback on desire to hear a digital organ. Also, discussing looking for staff for the music director position.

Fellowship/Education – VBS is being planned for July 25-29. Steve Allen is planning to restart a men's fellowship/study in mid-September.

Outreach/Stewardship - 693 pounds for the food pantry so far. Blessing Cupboard is a little bare. Thank you notes from ILT, IOLBC, and Riverside. July Mission Partner is West Central Community Action (\$2000). August Mission Partner is \$1000 to LC Clinic and \$1000 to GoServ Global. TZ Committee wired \$8000 for H.S. scholarships. New well is at \$7000. Trip in 2023.

Property – Greg Nelson fixed the doors on the front entrance. Mowed lawns. Roundup sprayed on parking lot. A lawn Nativity display has been offered to Immanuel.

Executive Committee – Committee is reviewing a proposal for the Music Director staff. The employee handbook proposal has been revised and is being reviewed for approval next month.

Pastor's Report - Phil Nielsen reported that Jennifer Plumb has requested a transfer to Trinity Lutheran Avoca for her and her children. He also gave a report for the Trust Committee.



WOMEN OF THE WORD EXEC BOARD

July 12, 2022

The WOW Exec Board met Tuesday, July 12 at 1:00 at Sharon Daberkow's home with Sandy Nelsen, Kathy Block, Janet Johannsen, Sharon Daberkow, Sandy Nairn and Julie Vorm attending. Guest present was Cheryl Chipman.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kathy reported June income donations from the Loretta Baughman family and Carolyn Hursey totaling \$555.00. Thank You! Disbursement to Ingham Bible Camp of \$700 for two families and 3 individuals to attend camp this summer. No bills were presented leaving June ending balance at \$1687.24.

COMMITTEE REPORT: Mission Quilters: The July meeting will be canceled due to Bible School starting that week.

OLD BUSINESS: August 10 WOW Gathering @5:15: Entertainment will be led by Julie. Treats will be provided by all the board members.

HEARTLAND DISTRICT LCMC RETREAT: Saturday September 17- - Mark your calendars. Plans are continuing and being finalized. Registration is from 8:30-9:00. There will be opening worship, a Tanzania program with many interesting facts and items available to purchase, lunch, entertainment, short talk by someone from our designated local service organization who will receive part of the offering, a business meeting and closing devotions. It will be an exciting and informational day which should conclude by 2:30. Don't miss it!

Vacation Bible School: A BIG Thank You to all who volunteered to help in any way and also provide snacks for the kids and teachers.

Thanks to Sharon for opening her home for our meeting, providing cool drink and treats.

Upcoming events: Harvest Bazaar--Wednesday Oct 12

Christmas Tea--Saturday Dec 3 – Group A in charge

Janet Johannsen, Secretary



WOW AUGUST 10th GATHERING

WOW, Women of the Word, will be gathering August 10th in the fellowship hall at **5:15**. Join us for sundaes, bars, laughs, games, and fellowship with the women of Immanuel. Everyone is welcome. We hope that gathering at this one time later time in August will encourage you to join some of the women of Immanuel. We have several events coming up the rest of the year that we want to share with you.

TANZANIA HAPPENINGS

Summer in Iowa is hot and humid. I was always under the impression that Africa was hot and humid, I was wrong. We received a video from our friend Pastor Wallace, he was riding his motorcycle on a gravel road covered with SNOW. This is highly unusual for Tanzania. They are having a cold winter and are not prepared for this extreme weather.

The four wells that were drilled over the last two years are up and running. A couple need a little finishing work on tanks and towers for the tanks, but the water is accessible. Immanuel is working towards a fifth well, at the moment there is over \$7000. When we reach \$10,000 another well we be drilled. Thank you so much for your generosity in providing "Living Water" to people in need.

Get your passports ready! The Tanzania Team is planning a trip in July to August of 2023 to Kidugala and the surrounding area. We are so excited to be able to visit our friends. We will be visiting the orphans, all the wells, schools and so much more. Pray about it, talk to any of us on the Tanzania Team, we hope to introduce more people to what is going on in Kidugala. More information to come.

Recipe from the soup supper. This was made by the Praise Band.

Lasagna Bow tie Soup

- 1# hamburger
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 2 cups beef broth
- 2 Tbsp minced garlic
- 1 Tbsp basil
- 1 (28 oz) can diced tomatoes
- 1. (6 oz) can tomato paste
- 2 cans tomato soup
- 1 box bow tie noodles
- 1 can kidney beans drained and rinsed
- 1 bag shredded mozzarella cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste



Brown hamburger and onion. Drain grease off. Add all ingredients except pasta and cheese. Cook on low until oils. Stir often to prevent sticking to the bottom. Boil pasta in a separate pot, drain, then add to soup before serving. Top with cheese

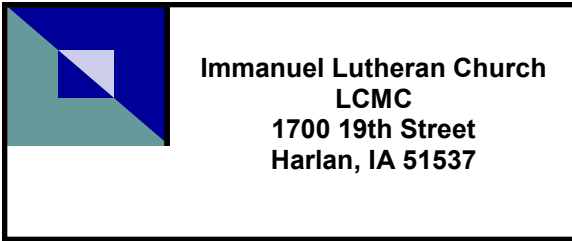


SHOES NEEDED! If you have gently worn, used or new shoes taking up space in your closet, those shoes can be re-purposed and shipped to developing nations where many cannot find jobs. If you have any type/size of shoes that you are willing to donate, they can be placed in the donation box.



What an easy way to help others and protect the environment!

WORSHIP SERVICES at Immanuel are recorded for viewing on HMU channel 15 (9:30 a.m. Sunday and 6:00 p.m. Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday) and on FMCTC channel 48 (Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.). Our worship services are also posted on our website (www.harlanimmanuel.org/sermons.html) and on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ilcharlan).



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Pastor Phil's Cell Number: 712-579-2098
Home Number: 712-766-3178
E-mail: peacephillip@gmail.com
www.harlanimmanuel.org

Staff:

Pastor Phil Nielsen
Office Manager: Connie Boysen
Custodian: Slava Aleev

AUGUST 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Adult Bible Class	1	2 9:00 CF Quilters 6 pm Worship & Evangelism Comm.	3 7 pm Fellowship & Education Comm.	4	5	6 5:00 Communion
7 9:00 Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Adult Bible Class	8	9 9:00 CF Quilters 6:30 Executive Bd 7:00 Church Council	10 WOW BD MTG 5:15 WOW	11	12	13 Boy Scouts 5:00 Worship
14 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Adult Bible Class	15	16 9:00 CF Quilters	17	18 Newsletter Deadline 6:30 Ladies Homestead	19	20 5:00 Communion
21 9:00 Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Adult Bible Class	22	23 9:00 CF Quilters	24	25 Assemble Newsletter	26	27 5:00 Worship
28 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Adult Bible Class	29 9:00 Mission Quilters	30 9:00 CF Quilters	31	1	2	3 5:00 Communion

Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule

	August 27-28	September 3-4	September 10-11	September 17-18	September 24-25
Acolytes	Mikayla Jensen Baleigh Sette	Grant Petersen Jonas Reynolds	Emeri Smith Kori Smith	Angel Stern Carly Torneten	Caden Herbst Trevor Herbst
Saturday Greeter/Usher	James Burmeister	Lavon Christensen	Roger & Joann Christensen	Tom & Lisa Conry	Kathy Dirks
Saturday Altar Guild		Maggie Hatcher		Sandy Nelsen	
Sunday Greeters/Ushers	Neil & Melanie Ohms Kevin & Jade Osborn	Sue Olson Ken & Shirley Olson	Taylor Peek Dylan & Katie Petersen	John & Gaylon Petsche family Bruce & Rita Pfankuch	John & Jill Plagman Doug & Mary Renkly
Sunday Altar Guild		Peg Haas Mary Petersen		Becky Brelje Kathy Block	
Scripture Reader (Sunday)	Kayla Jacobs	Janet Johannsen	Mary Johnson	Nancy Ludwig	Elaine Miller
Communion Servers (Sunday)		Rick & Cheryl Chipman		Richard & Sharon Daberkow	
Coffee Hosts (Sunday)	Linda Norgaard Kris Olson-Harmon	Craig & Judy Olson Kari & Jake Palmer	Karma Petersen Linda Petersen	Karen Plewes Lois Hansen	Jesse & Jeanna Rudolph
Sound	Christopher Chapman	Gaige Lytle	Gaige Lytle	Gaige Lytle	Gaige Lytle
Video	Darin Haake	Alan Ahrenholtz	Alan Ahrenholtz	Alan Ahrenholtz	Alan Ahrenholtz
Projection	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)
Council Person	Vicki Strissel	Scott Shannon			

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