

# IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS JULY 2020

## VBS 2020 – July 11

Are you feeling sad and lonely? In Philippians the apostle Paul calls us to find joy in sharing the gospel promise, in seeking the mind of Jesus, in trusting the gift of forgiveness, and in thinking good thoughts. We won't be gathering for Vacation Bible School this summer, but we do want to make connections with the children of Immanuel (ages 5 to 14). So on Friday, July 10, from 5:00 to 6:30, the Education Team will be offering VBS on the go. Families are invited to come to the Church parking lot and pick up a free meal and a "VBS in a Box" from Immanuel. The meal can be taken home or if the weather is nice you can set up a blanket or your own chairs and eat on the church lawn. The Box will contain an Ingham-Okoboji DVD/CD and a VBS-style family craft project and ideas for other VBS activities. So come join us for a VBS taste of joy from Immanuel.

## District Gathering – July 12

The Heartland District of LCMC includes Immanuel and about 40 other LCMC congregations across Western Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and South Dakota. Saturday, July 11, at 9:30, the Heartland District invites you to a live virtual district gathering with congregations across the district. If you are interested in participating, please call Pastor Nielsen for more information. You can join with a group at Immanuel to participate in this virtual gathering or you can link up with us on your own phone or computer at home. We will be discussing ways that LCMC congregations can support and encourage one another.

## July Mission Partnership

Shelby County Community Outreach (SCCO) is our mission partner for July. SCCO offers several kinds of assistance to people in our community including help with home repair projects, God's Helping Hands, Hero's Attic furnishings, community service projects, and the backpack program for school students.

## Worship in July

July 4-5	"The Great Invitation" (Matthew 11:16-30)	Communion
July 11-12	"Jesus, the Farmer" (Matthew 13:1-23)	
July 18-19	"Weeds!" (Matthew 13:24-43)	Communion
July 25-26	"Treasure!" (Matthew 13:31-52)	



Dear Friends in Christ,

"We are all in this together." That's a slogan we have probably all heard during these past months of the COVID public health emergency. And it is true. We share a common humanity with people of every nation, culture, language, political party, economic status, and religion. We are all vulnerable to this virus. We are all part of the problem and part of the solution.



We are all in this together. This is even more deeply true for us who share a common bond in Christ. We have been baptized into the Body of Christ. That means that even in our separation we are still connected to one another in Christ. We are united in one body whether we are able to hug one another or even meet together. None of us goes it alone.

Jesus wants to bring his followers together across racial, political, national, generational, and economic divides. In Jesus we share a common baptism and a common meal. The sacraments are about connecting us to Jesus, but they are also about connecting us to one another.


One of the reasons first century Christians were persecuted was simply because they crossed all the social barriers of the ancient world. Freemen and slaves ate together. Men and women worshiped together. Jews and Gentiles called each other brother and sister. This drove the ancient world crazy. I hope that today our joining together as one in the Body of Christ will still drive this divided world crazy. We can't ignore our differences. But we see our unity in Christ as deeper than any of our racial and political differences.

The answer to the social divisions and tensions of our nation is not political or educational. It is spiritual. The way toward peace and justice is the Church. Unfortunately the Church in American doesn't have the best record on racism and political division. Jesus is still praying that his followers will find the unity we have in Christ as a powerful testimony to the world of the power of the gospel.

It is a little hard to find our unity right now while we are unable to be close to one another. We may feel like we are alone and forgotten because we can't enjoy the social connections and community events we have taken for granted in the past. It is hard to look forward to anything because everything seems so uncertain. And then we see our world tearing itself apart over racial and political fault lines. Why is the world so crazy?

Because we humans are always looking for our hope in the wrong places. We keep thinking that we can create our own future apart from God. But every other hope is a false and empty hope. So God has set up our world to be fragile and fractured, cursed and chaotic, so that we will look for the one thing that cannot be shaken: God's eternal Kingdom, God's eternal love for us. This COVID epidemic has caused us to slow down and wonder where we are going in this world. And if you are feeling lonely and empty, that is a good sign that you are seeing this world for what it is. Now just remember you are not alone. We are all in this together. And most importantly Jesus is in this together with us to bring us into his unshakeable Kingdom.

Yours in Christ, *Phil Nielsen*



*Please  
note...*

**CUSTODIAN POSITION OPEN:** We have enjoyed having Ed Wehr work as our custodian. He has helped clean up a lot of storage rooms and has kept our buildings in good shape. Ed plans to retire from the position this fall. So we are looking for someone to take on the custodian position. Job description and applications will be available in the church office.

**PANDEMIC PROCEDURES:** We ask all worshipers to continue to observe social distancing measures. Please do not sit with anyone who is not living with you. You are invited to take a mask and keep it as our gift to you.

**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 (4:00 p.m. Wednesday). Our worship services are also posted on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/ilcharlan](http://www.facebook.com/ilcharlan)) and on our website ([www.harlanimmanuel.org/sermons.html](http://www.harlanimmanuel.org/sermons.html)).

**EMAIL LIST:** Regular email updates are being sent to members and friends of Immanuel. If you are not receiving them and would like to, please email the church office at [ilc@fmctc.com](mailto:ilc@fmctc.com) so that we can add your email address to our list.

**ADULT BIBLE CLASS** meets on Zoom Sundays from 10:30 to 11:30. We are discussing 1 Corinthians. All are welcome.

**APPLE and CHERRY PIES ON SALE** from the Tanzania Team are available from the Church office for a free will donation.



*Birthdays &**Anniversaries***Happy Birthday to the following:**

Minehart Brasch who will be 80 on July 20.

Marilyn Burger who will be 85 on July 29.

**Happy Anniversary to the following:**

Vernon & Linda Brue who will be celebrating their 53rd anniversary on July 8.

**WE REMEMBER IN SYMPATHY** Loretta Baughman and her family at the death of Loretta's son, Lynn. Lynn died Tuesday, June 23rd and a graveside service was held on Saturday, June 27th at Kirkman.

**OUR SYMPATHY** to Scott Larsen and family at the death of his mother, Verda Mae Larsen. Verda died June 29th and a private graveside service will be held.

*With Deepest  
Sympathy*

**OUR SYMPATHY** to Neil Ohms and family at the death of his father, Amond Ohms. Amond died on June 28th and arrangements are pending at this time.



Have you been missing some of your WOW family? We will plan to gather July 8 at 9:30 AM in the church Fellowship Hall. It will be a good opportunity to visit and share fellowship. Hopefully we will be able to have our annual Harvest Bazaar October 18. We will keep updating as the time gets closer. We pray that all of you are safe and healthy.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." *Psalm 46:1*

**Please Pray for:**

**ON OUR PRAYER LIST:** Faye Jacobsen, Jon Burmeister, Shawn Havick, Annette Anderson, Nancy Gessmann, Marlys Moore, Clarice Andersen, Connie Benson, Chuck Matthews (son of Mary Beaman), Curt Olson (son of Sue Olson) and Sam Jacobs (chaplain at Salem Lutheran Homes).

## COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY June 9, 2020—7 pm

The Immanuel Church Council met June 9 with 11 of 14 members present by video conferencing. Becky Chipman led devotions from Genesis 1:26. God made humanity to reflect God's image in all races, genders, and nationalities. July devotions will be led by Mary Petersen.

Treasurer reported May income of \$16,585 and May expenses of \$17,650. Year to date income is \$118,399 (which is slightly ahead of 2019). Year to date expenses are \$105,645 (which is about \$12,000 less than 2019). Our general fund account ended May at about \$40,000. Our emergency fund savings are at \$18,833. Thanks to all who have continued to support the ministry of Immanuel.

**Outreach** – Immanuel has given about 600 pounds to the County Food Pantry. Tanzania team has sent funds for orphan schooling. Auction is still on hold. Pies are for sale. July Mission Partner is Shelby County Community Outreach. LC Clinic has asked for support through the Baby Bottle Boomerang Fundraiser. LC Clinic is a pregnancy support ministry encouraging women and men to consider options to abortion. Free services include STI and pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, counseling, training, and baby supplies.

**Worship** – Midwest Sound and Lighting submitted a bid for the new camera system at \$5,880. Pastor and Derek Chapman will compare bids and make a recommendation.

**Education** – Thanks to Mary Petersen for creating a video celebration of our high school graduates. Discussion about a substitute for VBS. Maybe a VBS at home event.

**Fellowship** – Wednesday evening fellowship/Bible study time on Zoom continued through the end of June.

**Property** – Looked at AC units. An electrical unit will be replaced. Otherwise, they are ready for summer.

**Pastor** – Recommended Kari Palmer and sons, Jace and Levi, for membership. Graduation parties and a bridal shower have been scheduled for the fellowship hall. We have an applicant for the custodian position when Ed retires this fall. Pastor will take some vacation days during the last two weeks of June.



<b>WORSHIP &amp; GIVING</b>						<u>General</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Attendance</u>								
<b>May 30/31</b>	13	+	39	=	52			
<b>June 6/7</b>	27	+	42	=	69	\$ 11,515.00	\$ 350.00	\$11,865.00
<b>June 13/14</b>	23	+	34	=	57	\$ 4,856.00		\$ 4,856.00
<b>June 20/21</b>	15	+	26	=	41	\$ 1,864.00		\$ 1,864.00
<b>June 27/28</b>	18	+	25	=	43	\$ 3,409.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 3,419.00

Part 2 of an email dated April 20, 2020:

We would like to inform you that on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020, we visited a total of 153 Orphans in our 4 Governmental Primary Schools (Kidugala, Gonelamafuta, Masaulwa and Masilu) found in our Parish of Kidugala. We distributed to them School uniforms and some of their School equipments like exercise books, pens and pencils. Since on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019 you had sent us USD 9,000 which was equal to Tshs. 20,547,000 for this purpose, therefore we have used this year Tshs. 4,913,050. Therefore, we were remained with Tshs. 15,633,950 in our Parish bank account.

Last year (2019) we were remained with Tshs. 6,788,571 for Primary School Orphans plus the remained amount of this year. So far, we are remaining with Tshs. **22,422,521** in our Parish bank account. We have a planned that when the schools will be opened again due to Covid19 a part of these remaining money will be used to buy some shoes for all of them who are in need as we had agreed with you last year when you came to Kidugala. However, the other remaining amount of money might be used for some inconveniences in case of some other new Orphans at schools this year.

Indeed, in all these activities, the Andrew was extra busy with us and because of that, Andrew needed some repairs and consumed extra fuels due to the rough road caused by heavy rains of this year. Usually this activity is somehow expensive and time consuming one **but for the Lord**.

You do remember well that on 12. Sept. 2019 together with other funds, we did receive \$8000 which gave Tshs. **18,280,000** for the fees to the Secondary Schools Orphans. We are glad to inform you also that on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020 we distributed and used Tshs 14,880,250 for School fees to Secondary Schools Orphans. Therefore, we are remaining with **3,119,750** Tshs in our Parish bank account. The remaining money will be used for inconvenience in case of some other new Orphans.

We are glad to inform you that the activities for IDC building – integrated Development Centre in Kidugala is now at the finishing stage. We try to send you photos in some days to come.

Our **HEAD** Committee in Kidugala is very much grateful for your donations to the **HEAD** projects and for your prayers for us. Your donations have made the difference by bringing some positive impacts to the societies. Please send our thanks to all our friends, God bless you all.

We hope after this rain season, we will be restarting the establishing of tech school at Kidugala.

Please, send our greetings to our friends over there, may the Love and Peace of our almighty God be with you especially in this situation of Covid19.

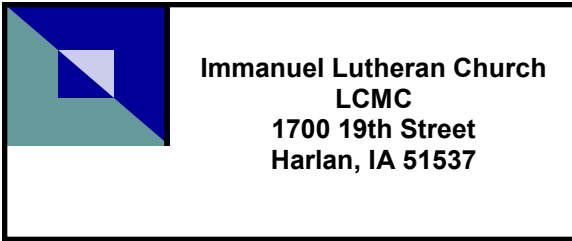
May God bless you

With regards, Pastors Baraka, Frank and Yohana



## July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>4</b> 5:00 Communion
<b>5</b> 9:00 Communion 10:30 Adult Bible Class on Zoom	<b>6</b> 9:30 OA	<b>7</b> 9:00 CF Quilters	<b>8</b> 9:30 WOW	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 5-6:30 VBS Grab & Go	<b>11</b> 9:30 Heartland District Virtual Gathering 9:30-2 Bridal Shower- Diane Greve 5:00 Worship
<b>12</b> 9:00 Worship 10:30 Adult Bible Class on Zoom	<b>13</b> 9:30 OA Fair activities in Fellowship Hall, all-purpose room & library all week	<b>14</b> 9:00 CF Quilters 7:00 Church Council on Zoom	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7:00 Ladies Homestead Gathering	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 5:00 Communion
<b>19</b> 9:00 Communion 10:30 Adult Bible Class on Zoom	<b>20</b> 9:30 OA	<b>21</b> 9:00 CF Quilters 7:00 TZ Zoom Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Newsletter Deadline 8-5 WIC Clinic	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:00 Worship
<b>26</b> 9:00 Worship 10:30 Adult Bible Class on Zoom	<b>27</b> 9:30 OA	<b>28</b> 9:00 CF Quilters	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Assemble Newsletter	<b>31</b>	



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**Staff:**

Pastor Phil Nielsen  
Music Director: Heidi Thies  
Office Manager: Joan Wehr  
Custodian: Ed Wehr