



IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS JULY 2022



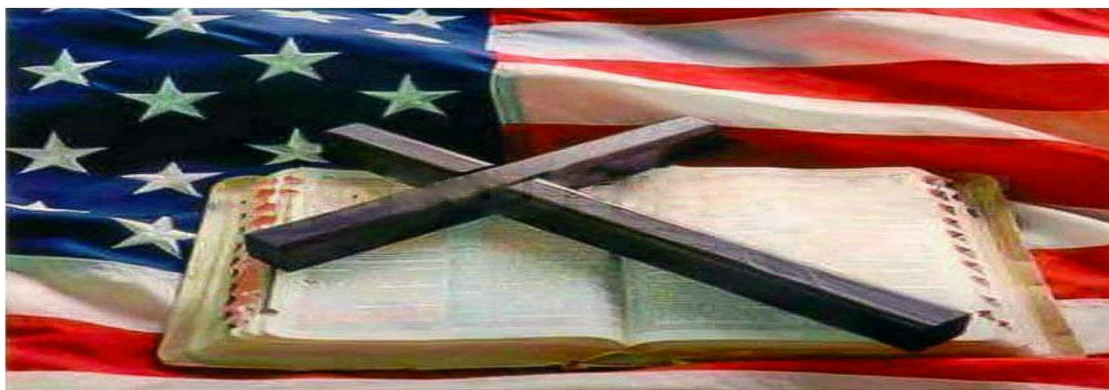
“The Kingdom of God Is a Party”

VBS 2022 – July 25-29

Kids age 4 to 12 are invited to join us for 5 days of exploring the seasons of the Church Year. Monday will be an Advent and Christmas party with everyone wearing blue. Tuesday will be an Epiphany party with everyone wearing green. Wednesday will be a Lenten party with everyone wearing purple. Thursday will be an Easter party with everyone wearing white or yellow. And Friday will be a Pentecost party with everyone wearing red.

There will be puppets, games, Bible stories, songs, crafts, and of course, snacks. Each day will run from 9:00 to noon. Friday will conclude with a picnic lunch from 11:30 to noon with parents and other adults welcome. Please fill out a registration form in the church office so that we can be prepared for our students. We are looking for a few more adults and youth to join our VBS team of volunteer leaders and helpers, even those who can only help part-time.

One Nation Under God



**This Independence Day, we're reaching out to say
The best things in life are FREE.....
Just like God's love for you.**



Dear Friends in Christ,

I have talked to a few people lately who have mentioned feelings of “burnout”. People are feeling a weariness of life in a world that seems out of control. Listening to the news is overwhelming. Dealing with conflict and with angry people is exhausting. Facing the frustration of failure and brokenness is exasperating.

How much simpler it is to just retreat from life and focus on our own personal happiness and ignore the world, ignore our neighbors, and ignore God! Burnout tempts us to just click on the next internet link and watch the next escapist video or TV show and just stop thinking and feeling. We have all felt a least a little burnout at one time or another.

There is help and healing found in simplifying one’s life and letting go of over-commitment. Paying attention to your own body, mind, and heart, and taking care of one’s mental and physical health are vital. Too much of our frantic pace of life is an effort to run away from emptiness in our souls. It is good to be still and to listen to the still small voice in our own souls.

But isolating and numbing oneself with entertainment or alcohol or other addictive behavior is not the answer to our burnout. The answer is right there in the Ten Commandments: “Remember the Sabbath.” Remember the need for a regular sabbatical, a step away from our regular routine and from the demands of productivity, to tend to the soul that God has placed within us. Sabbath is about getting back to the basics and simplifying life. Sabbath is about remembering the bigger story that gives meaning and hope to our individual life stories.

It is good to take some vacation time away from home and from the regular routines. Unfortunately, too often I have crammed too much driving and too much activity into my vacations. What we really need is time to slow down, to reflect, to have deeper conversations with people who matter to us. We also need time to get out in nature and walk and smell the roses. Some of my best vacations have been family camp weeks at Okoboji.

And each week, there is need for time to focus on the Big Story, God’s Story. Sometimes worship can seem like just one more demand, one more expectation that we are too weary to maintain, especially for those who have young children. And yet, the regular discipline of just showing up and asking God to speak to us through songs, Scripture, sermon, and fellowship is therapeutic. God’s Word is healing -- not like a magic pill, but like a regular dose of medicine that slowly heals one’s heart and mind.

Immanuel wants to be here for you. We want to invite you to share in some sabbatical time every week. Singing is good low-impact cardiac, mental, and spiritual exercise. Scripture is effective often in ways we don’t even realize. Prayer is letting go of our anxiety and entrusting it to God. Smiles from our neighbors are contagious. And sharing your time with others is uplifting.

A Lutheran theologian called worship a royal waste of time. What she meant was that worship is time when we stop the rat race and come to our King and remember that we are not justified by our doing but simply by our being – being a child of God.

Yours in Christ,

Phil Nielsen

Worship in July

July 2-3	"Fighting for the Gospel" Galatians 2:11-21	Communion
July 9-10	Guest preacher	
July 16-17	"Law and Promise" Galatians 3:1-14	Communion
July 23-24	"The Purpose of the Law" Galatians 3:15-25	
July 30-31	"Adoption" Galatians 3:26-4:7	

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 July, 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>
May 28-29	11	+	85	= 104	\$ 1,817.50	\$	\$ 1,817.50
June 4-5	14	+	76	= 172	\$ 4,411.50	\$ 50.00	\$ 4,461.50
June 11-12	17	+	84	= 110	\$ 6,717.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 6,742.00
June 18-19	25	+	83	= 95	\$ 2,464.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 2,614.00

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to the following:

Carolyn Hursey will be 81 on July 7.

Marilyn Burger who will be 87 on July 29.

Happy Anniversary to the following:

Vernon & Linda Brue who will be celebrating their 55th anniversary on July 8.

Dalton and Gayl Jensen who will be celebrating their 50th anniversary on July 22.

WOW HAPPENINGS

ALL women of ILC and their friends,

July 13: No WOW in July

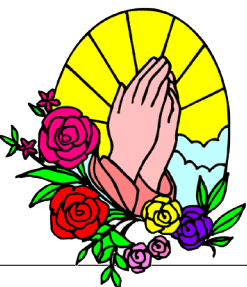
July 25-29: We will be serving and provide snacks for VBS. Look for the sign-up sheets.

Wednesday August 10: WOW gathering at 5:15. Please join us for ice cream sundaes, laughs, and visiting. We hope this once later time provides an opportunity for some others to join those of us who have been enjoying this once a month morning fellowship. Everyone is welcome. Why not check it out?

Saturday September 17: We are hosting the Heartland District LCMC Fall WOW Retreat. There will be more information in the next Insights. We have been busy with plans. You will have the opportunity to attend, help with this event, and donate items.

Wednesday October 13: ILC Harvest Bazaar and Luncheon. More information coming. There is always a Country Store for those of you who are working on crafts you'd like to donate.

The large part of the **Immanuel Garden** will be planted as an area for Iowa Wildflowers for Bees, Butterflies and Birds. The seeds were donated. The small portion of the garden is planted with tomatoes, zucchini, cabbage, beans and cucumbers to be shared.



ON OUR PRAYER LIST: Deb Stendrup, Doris Towne, Carolyn Hursey, Nancy Gessmann, Donna Hansen, Lois Troll, Connie Schwieso, Judi Pederesen, Twyla Grabill, Jeanette Kroger, Harry Priest, Nancy Christensen, Connie Benson, Sandra Farr (mother of Cora Chapman), Bill Broveak (son-in-law of Ed & Shelia Mills and brother in law of Gaige & Sherry Lytle).



MAY AND JUNE COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARIES

The Immanuel Church Council met May 10 with 10 of 12 members present. Pastor Phil shared devotions. Council met with Heidi Thies and 2 other members about the Music Director position. Heidi asked the council to explain their views on her employment. Later on, Heidi Thies submitted her resignation. Derek Chapman also resigned from the council.

The Council met June 14 with 9 of 11 members present. Steve Allen led devotions from John 7:24 where Jesus says, "Stop judging my mere appearances and instead judge correctly." John Taggs will lead devotions in July.

Vicki Strissel, Steve Allen, Scott Shannon, John Taggs, and Eric Chipman volunteered to take Sunday Council duties.

Treasurer's Report- May YTD income is \$118,515 and expenses are \$107,505. General Fund stands at \$87,552 including about \$26,000 of the Ted Williams bequest. The Building Fund is at \$58,900.

Worship/Evangelism – Plans to rent a digital organ for trial use for a month. Council directed the committee to find people to fill various music positions at Immanuel.

Fellowship/Education – VBS is being planned for last week of July. Neither Okoboji nor Riverside has enough staff this summer to offer us a day camp team. We will run our VBS with our own volunteers. Pastor is heading it up with help from Becky Chipman, DeAnn Nielsen, and Donna Nelson.

Outreach/Stewardship – 441 pounds for the food pantry so far. May Mission Partner was one of our main LCMC seminaries (Institute of Lutheran Theology). June Mission Partner is West Central Community Action. We are not planning to staff the Community Kitchen Christmas meal this year.

Property – Hinges are worn out on front doors causing them to sag. Will look into replacements.

Executive – Presented a first draft of an Employee Handbook. John Taggs was appointed to recruit someone to fill out the year on council for Derek Chapman.

Pastor's Report – Recommended Marty Burchett, Colin and Roberta King (Camden and Raina), and Richard and Barb Furst for membership at Immanuel.



WOMEN OF THE WORD EXEC BOARD June 8, 2022

The WOW Exec Board met Tuesday, June 8 at Sandy Nelsen's with Kathy Block, Janet Johannsen, Sharon Daberkow, Sally Nairn and Julie Vorm present. Chair Sandy called the meeting to order at 8:45 AM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The May 17 minutes had been reviewed. Motion by Sharon to approve. Kathy seconded.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bills received in May were \$235.40 from Floral Elegance for Easter lilies and \$79.40 from Jan Applegate for placemats. Motion to approve by Janet and seconded by Sharon. Total income of \$150 was received from Carolyn Hursey's donation and Pauley Jones Funeral Home for funeral of Loretta Baughman. May ending balance is \$1832.24. Kathy reported two families and 3 individuals will be attending camp this summer. Checks are made out and ready to be mailed to the camp. Deadline to sign up was June 1.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank You's were received from Lorene Thiede and Marlene Sondergard for the May Goodie Bags.

OLD BUSINESS: Fall Retreat: After discussion it was decided the local ministry to receive 50% of the offering from the September retreat would be Shelby County Community Outreach. Tanzania would also receive 50% of the offering. Guests will be asked to bring a donation of items to send to Tanzania. Items such as reading (cheater) glasses, flash cards or jump ropes were suggestions. Items not liquid or perishable are needed. Program volunteers are in place and the menu was decided. There will be sign up sheets in August for donations of bars and other items to complete the luncheon menu. LCMC churches in our district (the Midwest states) will be receiving an informational mailer shortly. RSVP dead line to attend was set as September 1.

August 10 WOW: Food and activity were decided for the 5:15 meeting. We hope to see lots of new faces—and also the “regular” faces at the meeting. Didn't think “old” faces was appropriate!

NEW BUSINESS: Upcoming Events: VBS July 25-29-we will help with snacks and people needed to help with snacks daily. Signup sheet will be in narthex. LCMC Heartland District Retreat at Immanuel September 17. Harvest Bazaar-October 12. Christmas Tea will be Sat. Dec 3. Group A in charge this year. Meeting adjourned to Linda Mosher's home next door for WOW Gathering.

WOW GATHERING

Linda treated 16 attendees to a “tea party” complete with beautifully decorated tables and china and served many delicious sweet breads, fruit dish and of course tea. Her program was on “8 Oldest Quilt Patterns in History” with origins back to 3400 BC. She displayed quilts of each of the first 8 patterns. From oldest: #1 “crazy quilt” not really a pattern-just random stitching together of what scraps were available. First found in Egyptian tombs and Europe pre-17th century. Gained popularity in Centennial of 1876. #2 Rose of Sharon-American. #3 Eight-Pointed Star-origin France-early 18th century. #4 Friendship Quilt-early 19th century-origin New England. Often made in secret and signed by loved ones to be given to a special person. #5 Nine Patch-origin American in early 19th century. Very common utility quilt. #6 Pinwheel-origin American west-depicts windmills seen along the trail traveling west. #7 Log Cabin-origin English/Irish. Strips resemble logs--meaningful to traveling pioneers and seeing the center square (usually red) was a reminder of home, warmth and security. #8 Dresden Plate-German origin early 20th century-inspired by porcelain plates produced in city of Dresden. A few of the quilts on display were considered “summer quilts” as they were just the front and a backing having no inner batting or other fabric between—lighter weight for the summer heat. Thanks to Linda for the time spent in having such a special gathering. It was greatly enjoyed by all. We closed with the Lord's Prayer. **NO WOW IN JULY! See you August 10 at 5:15 at the next WOW GATHERING.**
Janet Johannsen, Secretary

TANZANIA HAPPENINGS

Wells - Wells - Wells

Imagine not being able to turn on your faucet to get clean drinking water. Next, imagine not even having a well to go to for any water, but instead you must walk to the nearest “watering hole” and bucket it back to your home. (Also keep in mind that this water is probably not “clean” drinking water.)

With this in mind, members of our congregation have recently been led to generously contribute to a NEW well project.

It takes \$10,000 to dig a well. To date, donations for a new well stands at \$6,520.

If you would like to advance the drill further please mark funds to “Tanzania Well Project”.

Thank you to all who have already contributed.

Heartland district

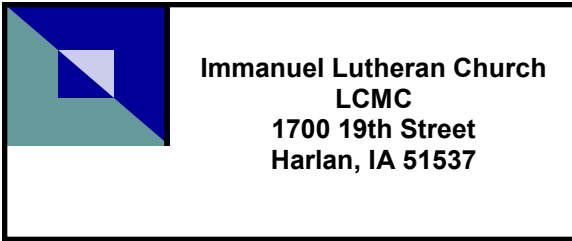
Immanuel is part of the Heartland District of LCMC which includes congregations in Western Iowa and Nebraska. The Heartland District is holding its annual conference July 29 and 30. It is an opportunity for members of LCMC congregations to get together with their LCMC neighbors for encouragement and networking. LCMC is all about congregations supporting and encouraging one another. The featured speaker will be Pastor David Drum from Tucson, Arizona. He will be speaking about Jesus’ prayer for the unity of the Church and how we can be part of answering that prayer. If you are interested in attending with Pastor Phil, please contact the church office.

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. Micro-entrepreneurs can be supplied with merchandise to sell in their local market places, creating small self-sustaining businesses. Re-purposing the shoes also reduces our carbon footprint, reduces the need for raw materials, and consequently helps protect our environment. 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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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Office: 755-5207
Office Hours: 9-1(M-F)
Office Email: ilc@fmctc.com
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

JULY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 9:00 Worship 10:15 Adult Bible Class	27	28 9:00 CF Quilters	29	30	1	2 5:00 Communion
3 9:00 Communion 10:15 Adult Bible Class	4th OF JULY OFFICE CLOSED	5 9:00 CF Quilters 6:00 Garden Club	6	7	8 PASTOR OFF	9 PASTOR OFF 5:00 Worship
10 PASTOR OFF 9:00 Worship No Adult Bible Class	11 8:30-2 4-H Fair Closing	12 9:00 CF Quilters 6:30 Executive 7:00 Church	13	14 4-H Pies	15 4-H Pies 6:00 Rehearsal	16 11:00 4-H Pies 5:00 Communion 3:00 Sunken/Carter Wedding
17 9:00 Communion 10:15 Adult Bible Class	18	19 9:00 CF Quilters	20	21 Newsletter Deadline 6:30 Ladies Homestead	22	23 5:00 Worship
24 9:00 Worship 10:15 Adult Bible Class	25 9-12 VBS 9:00 Mission Quilters	26 9-12 VBS 9:00 CF Quilters	27 9-12 VBS	28 9-12 VBS Assemble Newsletter	29 9-12 VBS 11:30 VBS Picnic	30 5:00 Worship
31 9:00 Worship 10:15 Adult Bible Class	1	2 9:00 CF Quilters	3	4	5	6 5:00 Communion

Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule

	July 23-24	July 30-31	August 6-7	August 13-14	August 20-21
Acolytes	Grant Chipman Gavin Sisson	Aubrey Petsche Kaitlyn Stern	Jolie Nielsen Angel Stern	Donovan Smith Caden Herbst	Gave Arkfeld Harrison Kjergaard
Saturday Greeter/Usher	Art & Linda Andersen	Emmert Andersen	Mary Beaman	Connie Behrends	Karen Braasch
Saturday Altar Guild			Cheryl Nielsen		DeAnn Nielsen
Sunday Greeters/Ushers	Malissa & Michael Koesters, Randy & Sharon Kroger	Gaige & Sheryl Lytle, Janell Leinen	Steve & Julie Livingston, Todd & Angie Madsen	Jon & Kara Meiners Jeff & Penny Nelson	Preston & Shelby Nelson, Wayne Nelson
Sunday Altar Guild			Vicki Strissel Kari Palmer		Mary Taags Cora Chapman
Scripture Reader (Sunday)	Rick Chipman	Sharon Daberkow	Vickie Errett	Hertha Haas	Lois Hansen
Communion Servers (Sunday)			Ron & Kathy Block		Jim & Becky Chipman
Coffee Hosts (Sunday)	Dave & Angie Monson	Sandy Nelsen Linda Norgaard	Greg & Donna Nelson	Phil & DeAnn Nielsen	Kris Olson-Harmon Sally Narin
Sound	Alan Ahrenholtz	Alan Ahrenholtz	Christopher Chapman	Christopher Chapman	Christopher Chapman
Video	Alan Ahrenholtz	Alan Ahrenholtz	Darin Haake	Darin Haake	Darin Haake
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	Eric Chipman				