

IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS

JUNE 2020

PANDEMIC PROCEDURES. We ask that all worshipers continue to observe social distancing measures. Generous donors have provided us with plenty of masks to give to our members and guests. We ask that you wear one during worship as much as you are able. You are invited to take the mask with you and use it whenever needed and to bring it back with you for worship next week.

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).

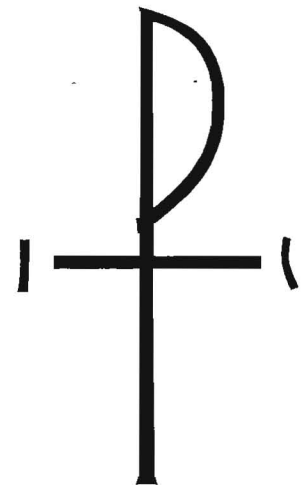
EMAIL LIST. Regular email updates are being sent to members and friends of Immanuel. If you are not receiving them and would like to, please email the church office at ilc@fmctc.com so that we can add your email address to our list.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS meets on Zoom Sundays from 10:30 to 11:30. We are reading through 1 Corinthians. This month we will be studying chapters 6 - 8. If you need help getting on Zoom from your smart phone or your computer, contact the church office.

WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 on Zoom. For some of us it is a pajama and popcorn party. All are welcome. You can come and go as you like. We conclude with a brief Bible study and prayer. If you need help getting on Zoom from your smart phone or your computer, contact the church office.

WORSHIP IN JUNE

Date	Message	
June 6-7 Trinity Sunday	"Mission Possible" (Matthew 28:16-20)	Communion
June 13-14 Pentecost 2	"Workers for the Harvest" (Matthew 9:35-10:16)	
June 20-21 Pentecost 3	"Fearless" (Matthew 10:17-33)	Communion
June 27-28 Pentecost 4	"Family Values" (Matthew 10:34-42)	



Dear Friends in Christ,

I saw a news report about churches that are struggling to stay financially viable during the pandemic because of reduced offerings. The report suggested that many churches may end up going out of business because of the pandemic and the resulting economic depression. At Immanuel we have not seen any reason for concern for the financial future of the congregation. Nor have any of the pastors that I have talked to. Members have continued to support their local congregations.



When Congress passed the 2 trillion dollar CARES Act, it included the Payroll Protection Program to help small businesses keep up their payroll for a couple of months during the shutdown. Some Senators made sure that churches were included in the program. And many urged churches to take advantage of the program. I know at least one church that has done so.

However, I am not very keen on the idea of taxpayer money going to support religious institutions. This means that our tax dollars are supporting Muslim, Mormon, and who knows what kind of religious organizations. This is money that should have been available to help small businesses stay alive. And it is money that will have to be paid for at some point, and churches don't pay taxes...yet. If churches close, it won't be because of the pandemic or the government. It will be because their members didn't support them.

Why do we support churches? It is because we believe in their purpose. And what is the purpose of a Church? Why does Immanuel Lutheran Church exist? We have a committee that has been reviewing our church constitution to recommend updates and improvements. One of the things we are suggesting is a clearer and more concise constitutional statement of purpose based on wording from the Great Commission and Luther's Small Catechism. Here is our proposal:

The mission of Immanuel is to follow Jesus Christ, making disciples (Christ-followers) by:

- a. Calling people to worship God in Word and Sacrament with worship services that proclaim the gospel of justification by grace through faith in Christ alone and that invite people to respond in prayer, praise, thanksgiving, service, and witness.
- b. Gathering people as members of the Body of Christ who care for one another as family.
- c. Enlightening people with education in the Word of God applied to ministry in daily life.
- d. Sanctifying (setting apart) and sending people and gifts to serve the world with the compassion of Christ by equipping people to serve in daily life, by reaching out to the poor and powerless, and by supporting local, regional, and global mission partners.

That is a purpose worth supporting and building upon. Thanks for your part in keeping Immanuel working toward this purpose.

Yours in Christ, *Phil Nielsen*

◀ May 2020

June 2020

Jul 2020 ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 7:00 Fellowship on Zoom	4	5	6 5:00 Communion
7 9:00 Communion 10:30 Adult Bible Class on Zoom	8	9 7:00 Church Council on Zoom	10 7:00 Fellowship on Zoom	11 8-4 4-H Event (Mary Taggs)	12	13 5:00 Worship
14 9:00 Worship 10:30 Adult Bible Class on Zoom	15	16	17 7:00 Fellowship on Zoom	18	19 Graduation party set-up	20 Barnes grad party 5:00 Communion
21 9:00 Communion 10:30 Adult Bible Class on Zoom	22	23	24 7:00 Fellowship on Zoom	25 Newsletter Deadline	26	27 Voge grad party 5:00 Worship
28 9:00 Worship 10:30 Adult Bible Class on Zoom 1-5 Taggs grad party	29	30				

Birthdays &



Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to the following:

Clarice Andersen who will be 89 on June 6.

Angie Wittrup who will be 85 on June 13.

Lorene Thiede who will be 92 on June 21.

Happy Anniversary to the following:

Mert & Diane Kastens who will be celebrating their 56th anniversary on June 5.

Jon & Beverly Burmeister who will be celebrating their 55th anniversary on June 6.

David & Kay Koos who will be celebrating their 59th anniversary on June 10.

Art & Linda Andersen who will be celebrating their 54th anniversary on June 25.

CONGRATULATIONS to Kirsten (Applegate) and Jeffrey Maronde on the birth of their daughter Jacqueline Diann 9 lb 5 oz on Easter (April 12).

THANKS BE TO GOD: Marian Riessen's cancer is in remission. Baby Brody Nelson (son of Preston & Shelby Nelson) has come home.

Welcome New Members

We have new members to welcome here at Immanuel. Phil and Jane Smith, come to us from a Lutheran Church at Kiron, Iowa. Phil grew up in the Roman Catholic Church at Storm Lake, Iowa. He works for the Crawford County Road Department. Jane grew up in the Lutheran Church at Pocahontas, Iowa. She is the City Clerk for Harlan. They have 4 children between them living in Iowa and Omaha.

We also welcome Austin Phipps who has reactivated his membership at Immanuel through affirmation of faith. He was baptized here at Immanuel in 2003. He just finished his junior year at Harlan Community High School and will be attending basic training this summer in the Army Reserves.

And soon to be joining Immanuel will be Kari Palmer and her sons Jace and Levi. Kari grew up at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Irwin. She is the sister of Katie Petersen. She lives with her husband Jake over toward Audubon. She works as a RN. Jace is turning 9 this month and Levi will be 5 next month.

Welcome to Immanuel.



Please Pray for:

ON OUR PRAYER LIST: Dewey Hess, Verda Larsen, 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), Angie Van Henkelom (daughter of Mert & Diane Kastens) and Sam Jacobs (chaplain at Salem Lutheran Homes).

COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY May 12, 2020—7 pm

The Immanuel Church Council met May 12 with 11 of 14 members present by video conferencing. Pastor Phil led devotions from Psalm 62 in "The Songs of Jesus" by Tim Keller. June devotions will be led by Becky Chipman.

Treasurer reported April of \$26,608 and April expenses of \$14,691. Year to date income is \$101,813 (which is about \$1000 ahead of 2019). Year to date expenses are \$87,955 (which is about \$10,000 less than 2019). Our general fund account ended April at \$40,000. Our emergency fund savings are at \$17,653. Thanks to all who have continued to support the ministry of Immanuel.

Outreach – Immanuel has given 515 pounds to the Shelby County Food Pantry which is ahead of 2019.

Worship – Pastor met with Midwest Sound and lighting to get a second bid. Still awaiting that bid. He has also investigated some other possibilities being used in other churches which are quite a bit cheaper. We have a number of members making masks for folks when we begin gathering for worship.

Education – Considered the Christian Spanish Immersion Preschool program and decided to recommend that Immanuel not take that project on this year. Working on a recognition of our high school graduates.

Fellowship – Pastor Phil will be starting a Wednesday evening fellowship/Bible study time on Zoom.

Property – Have taken pictures of a rust problem in the mortar of our tuckpointing job. Thanks to Charlie Conrad for mowing our grass.

Executive Committee – Pastor is working on online and smart phone donation systems with Vanco who already handles our EFT giving.

Pastor's Report – Pastor took 9 days of vacation in April.



	WORSHIP & GIVING							
<u>Attendance</u>						<u>General</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Total for May</u>
May 16/17	15	+	21	=	37			
May 23/24	9	+	14	=	23	\$ 14,676.00	\$140.00	= \$14,816.00

The following is part 1 of a two-part Series of an email from Pastors Baraka, Frank and Yohana, our friends in Kidugala and the surrounding parishes. Stay tuned as Part 2 of this email will follow in the next month's Insights.

Part 1 of an email dated April 20, 2020:

Hi Friends over there in ILC,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Here in Kidugala is fine the rain season now is over. We are waiting the harvest season to come hopefully in June to July respectively. We hope that you are doing fine too as we do here in Kidugala.

It has been a long time since we communicated with you in giving you a report about some of our HEAD projects, we are sorry for that. Somehow it has been affected by the leadership changes in our Parish but everything is doing fine.

We thank God that this year we have been receiving a lot of rains than we expected normally for our crops and all the creation too. We believe this is also a blessing to us because we expect to have some good harvest from our shambas this year.

It is our hope and prayer that our Partnership will continue well and stronger this year too. Even though there is a world calamity of Covid19, we believe in Jesus name it will come to an end. In Tanzania all the Schools and universities are being closed but the Sunday services are still allowed. We use time of our church services to pray God for this world calamity. However, from this week all Sunday schools and confirmation classes are being stopped too. The Corona is a rough virus, but God will help us.

As we had already informed you, we again repeat that on 21st January 2020 we received another pastor for Kidugala Parish whose name is Frank Mexon Mng'ong'o. Frank replaced Pastor Enelika Chungu.

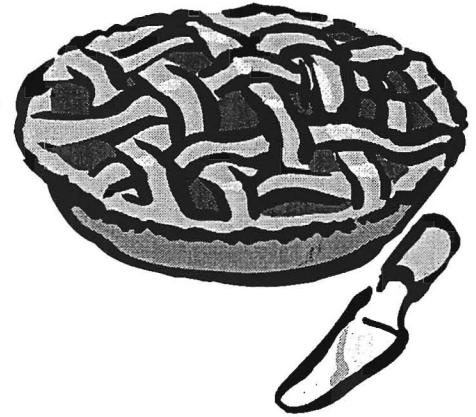
But also, we have chosen another Parish treasurer whose name is Evangelist Chesamu Mgya who was an Evangelist at Masilu preaching point has replace Evangelist Rehema Kidzumbe whom the Diocese appointed her to be a treasurer for Kidugala District. Rehema now is working with pastor Yohana in the District. It's our expectations that we will well collaborate with these new leaders in our Partnership.

May God bless you

With regards, Pastors Baraka, Frank and Yohana

TANZANIA PIES

Even though we have not been able to hold our main annual fundraiser event (The Soup Dinner and Auction in March) Immanuel has again provided scholarships so that over 150 orphans can attend primary school. These are children who have lost one or both parents and who would most likely not be able to attend school for lack of funds without our scholarship. Fortunately, we had enough reserve funds to provide those scholarships without interruption. Also, thanks to Larry Haas, we have also been receiving a lot of funding through our can and glass redemption. Larry has been emptying the donation cage about every other day for a while.



We will be needing more funds to continue our high school scholarship program. If you are interested in sponsoring a Tanzanian student in high school, we have a deal for you. For donations over \$20, Pastor Phil will deliver a pie to your house. These delicious apple, cherry, or rhubarb pies are waiting for you to bake and serve. It's a great way to beat the coronavirus blues. Pies can also be purchased at the church office for just \$10.

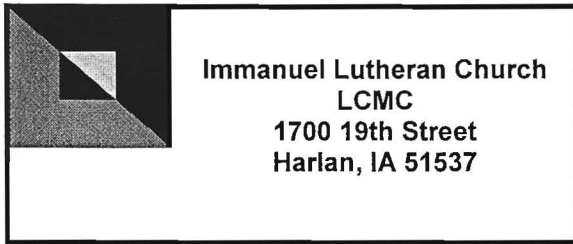


HYMN/SONG OF THE MONTH

This month we will be singing two songs as our "Hymn/song of the month". The first is LBW 393 "Rise, Shine, You People" by Ron Klug and Dale Wood. It is an uplifting hymn to remind us that Christ has entered human history and he has defeated the power evil. The hymn encourages us to celebrate the victory of Christ over evil by hurling our songs and prayers against the darkness still remaining in our world. The author of the words, Ron Klug, was a choir director at a Lutheran Church that Hope Chipman and her parents were members of in Northfield, Minnesota.

Special Music

We will also be singing Matt and Beth Redman's song "Blessed Be Your Name." Borrowing words from the book of Job, the song calls us to praise God when things are going well and when things are not going well. God is always in control and we can trust Him to work all things together for the good of His purpose in our lives.



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