



# IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS JUNE 2023



Uncovering the  
Truth

of who God is  
and who we are



## Vacation Bible School – July 25 to 29

Plans are underway for Immanuel's 2023 VBS/Day Camp with counselors from Ingham/Okoboji. The theme is "Uncovering the Truth of who God is and who we are. Children ages 4 through 12 are invited to join us for 4 days of fun and friendship, stories and songs, skits and surprises, crafts and games, snacks and laughs. The day will run from 12:30 to 5:00 Monday through Thursday. On Thursday there will be a 5:00 p.m. program for families and friends followed by a hot dog feast.

We need 4 things to get ready for VBS. First, we need families to **register** their children. The registration form is available in the church office. Please invite your child's favorite friends to join us. Second, we need **volunteers** to help staff our VBS. Please contact the church office if you are available -- whether that is for one day or all 4 days. Third, we need a couple of **host homes** to house our camp counselors for the week. Finally, we will need **food** donations and volunteers to serve food. We are looking forward to a great week of VBS together.

## Worship in June

Date	Message	
June 3-4 Trinity Sunday	"The Hope of Glory" Romans 5:1-11	Communion
June 10-11 Pentecost 2	"The Second Adam" Romans 5:12-19	
June 17-18 Pentecost 3	"Dying and Rising" Romans 6:1-11	Communion
June 24-25 Pentecost 4	"Slavery and Freedom" Romans 6:12-23	



## Pastors' CORNER

Dear Friends in Christ,

In Acts 17 we read that while Paul was waiting in Athens, "he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols." A contemporary translation might read that Paul was "triggered" to see that the city was full of idols. Before becoming the apostle of Christ to the Gentiles, Paul had been a Pharisee. And if there was one thing that Pharisees hated, it was the worship of idols. As a Pharisee, Paul would have been so triggered by those idols that he would have screamed at the people of Athens and called them idiots for worshiping blocks of stone or metal. He would have mocked them just like some of the Old Testament prophets did.

But instead, Paul approached those idolatrous pagan gentiles with humility and gentleness. He said, "People of Athens, I see that in every way you are very religious." He recognized that without the truth of God, those ancient pagans were lost in their search for meaning in life. Paul didn't not condemn them for being lost. He had sympathy for them.

Maybe it was because Paul remembered how lost he was before Jesus graciously confronted him on the road to Damascus. Paul was so lost that he thought God wanted him to arrest and beat up and even kill followers of Jesus. But then a lightning bolt from heaven knocked him down and he heard the voice of Jesus calling him into a whole new life. Paul knew that he could have been just as idolatrous as those Gentiles except for the grace of God.

It was also because Paul remembered that our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against forces of wickedness in the spiritual realm. Every human being is someone that Jesus came to rescue and call to himself. Therefore, as followers of Jesus, we should always speak out of love. Jesus called us to love our enemies because he loves our enemies just as much as he loves us. And he loves us a lot.

There are so many hateful angry voices in our society today criticizing people for their politics or their religion or their lack of religion. As followers of Jesus, we should not be among them. We may be triggered by certain political ideologies or by certain religious opinions, but we should remember two things. First, the only reason we are not lost in confusion and sin is because of the grace of God. And two, if we are to help people find the truth and grace of Jesus, we must do it with humility, gentleness, and patience. Anger and hatred will only drive people further away from the truth. We cannot hate anyone into faith.

If there is any hope for the future of our culture and our country, it will be because people turn off the angry voices of hate and turn toward the grace and truth of Jesus. If people hear Christians as just one more angry voice in the media, we have failed to follow Jesus. There is no excuse for anyone being an angry Christian. Angry people are really just people who have been hurt, or who have been frustrated, or who are afraid. They need to know Jesus.

Yours in Christ, *Phil Nielsen*



**ON OUR PRAYER LIST:** Julie Vorm, Nancy Gessman, Galen Johannsen, Shirley Olson, Dan Jensen, Shirley Haner, Kayla Weis, Sandra Haney, Connie Benson, Bill Broveak (son-in-law of Ed & Shelia Mills and brother in law of Gaige & Sherry Lytle), Jerry Christensen (son of John Christensen), Jaya Fever (daughter of Pastor Kyle Fever), Rita Whiteley (cousin of Maggie Hatcher), Wade Mills (son of Ed & Shelia Mills and brother of Sherry & Gaige Lytle), Curt Olson (son of Sue Olson), Julie Duval.



### Happy Birthday to the following:

Kathryn Voge will be 81 on June 9.  
 Angie Wittrup who will be 88 on June 13.  
 Sandy Stormer will be 82 on June 14.  
 Karma Petersen who will be 81 on June 18.  
 Lorene Thiede will be 95 on June 21.  
 Karen Brasch who will be 82 on June 29.  
 Barbara Sorensen will be 83 on June 29.

### Happy Anniversary to the following:

Mert & Diane Kastens who will be celebrating their 59th anniversary on June 5.  
 Dave & Kay Koos will be celebrating their 62nd anniversary on June 10.  
 Art and Linda Andersen who will be celebrating their 57th anniversary on June 24.

## Immanuel Photo Directory

Thank you to everyone who posed for a photo at church or who has submitted a photo. It is much appreciated. We will have one more Sunday morning photo date on June 11. If you would like to submit a photo, we prefer photos sent digitally by email to [ilc@fmctc.com](mailto:ilc@fmctc.com).



Congratulations to Jason and Kayla Weis, Georgia and Emmet on the birth of Jonah Albert Weis on Friday, May 19. And congratulations to Tony and Taylor Hansen on the birth of Leni Ann Hansen on Wednesday, May 17.

**WORSHIP SERVICES** at Immanuel are recorded for viewing on HMU channel 15 (9:30 a.m. Sunday and 5:30 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](http://www.harlanimmanuel.org/sermons.html)) and on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/ilcharlan](http://www.facebook.com/ilcharlan)).



Anyone can find  
 the *dirt*  
 in someone.  
 Be the one  
 who finds  
 the **gold**.

Proverbs 11:27



## Summer Music

Luther said that music is one gift of earth that we get to take to heaven with us. It is a gift that we love to have shared here at Immanuel. We encourage all our musicians, young and old, to share their love of music with our congregation. Solos or groups, vocal or instrumental, we would love to hear your music on Sunday morning or Saturday evening. There is a sign up list in the church office for you to volunteer.



Thank you Immanuel Congregation for the lovely flowers. It has been a joy to serve as your interim handbell director this past year.

*Linda Mosher*

## Prison Ministry

Immanuel has partnered in the past with The Church of the Damascus Road (CODR) prison ministries to reach out to inmates at the Iowa correctional facilities in Rockwell City and Fort Dodge. Did you know that the U.S. has the largest incarcerated population in the world? Did you know that unemployment rates may be as high as 70 % among ex-offenders and as many as 50 % of released prisoners end up homeless and living on the streets? Did you know that ex-prisoners commit nearly 70 % of all crimes? The ministry of CODR to prisoners and released ex-offenders is desperately needed. If you are interested in learning more about our partnership with CODR, you can get on the email list of the CODR newsletter by sending your email address to [codroffice23@gmail.com](mailto:codroffice23@gmail.com).



On Sunday, May 14, we welcomed two little ones into the family of faith through the gift and call of Holy Baptism. We baptized Lucy Scott Hastert, daughter of Jeff and Erin Hastert. She was born March 17, 2023. Her sponsors are Ross and Kaitlea Hastert and Marc Kommes. We also baptized Mavrik Own Book, son of Shelby and Dylan Book. Mavrik was born September 20, 2020. His parents are Shelby and Dylan Book. His grandparents are Jeff and Penny Nelson. Great grandmothers are Pat Schug and Deb Stendrup. His sponsors are Alex Nelson and Aryn Book.



## MAY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The Immanuel Church Council met May 9 with 10 of 13 members present. Steve Allen led devotions reflecting on Isaiah 43:1 from The Chosen daily devotional. John Tagg will lead devotions in June.

**Treasurer:** April income was \$31,289 and expenses were \$21,375. General Fund balance was \$76,297. Building Fund balance was \$58,955. Organ Project Balance was \$44,905 at the end of April.

**Worship/Evangelism:** Pulled pork supper fundraiser had over 130 in attendance and raised \$12,000 for the organ project. With a promised gift of \$11,000, we agreed to go forward on a contract with Temple organ to rebuild the pipe organ. The cost is now estimated to be \$72,000. We have had a little interest in the music director position.

**Outreach/Stewardship:** 452 pounds donated to the food pantry. Sharing cupboard and fridge are up and running. June Mission Partners are our 2 church camps (Riverside and Ingham/Okoboji). Tanzania Team is looking for volunteers to join the mission trip in August. Scholarships are available.

**Property:** Ken Carstens is mowing the church lawn. We will look into cleaning out the sewer line. Still working on getting wasp traps set up in the church.

**Executive:** Pastor presented a letter regarding membership renewal as a way to encourage members to think about becoming more active. There will be one more photo Sunday on June 11. Members can still submit photos to the church office.

Suggestion was made that we remove the overgrown yew bushes by the entrance and replace them with something low maintenance but a little more contemporary. Suggestions are welcomed.

### WORSHIP & GIVING

	<u>Attendance</u>				<u>General</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Total</u>	
<b>Apr. 22-23</b>	20	+	116	=	136	\$ 4,077.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 4,122.00
<b>Apr. 29-30</b>	49	+	110	=	159	\$ 2,812.50	\$ 50.00	\$ 2,862.50
<b>May 6-7</b>	?		167	=	167	\$ 5,162.00	\$ 272.00	\$ 1,039.00
<b>May 13-14</b>	18	+	145	=	163	\$ 4,679.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 4,749.00
<b>May 20-21</b>	28	+	87	=	115	\$ 2,982.00	\$	\$ 2,982.00



# IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS



## ILCW EXECUTIVE BOARD

May 10, 2023

The ILCW Exec Board met Wednesday May 10 in the narthex with Sandy Nelsen, Kathy Block, Janet Johannsen, Sharon Daberkow, Julie Vorm and Jean Whitfield present. Sandy called meeting to order at 9:00 AM

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Motion by Sharon and seconded by Julie to approve the April minutes. Ayes all.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Kathy reported bills were paid to Floral Elegance of \$295.32 for Easter lilies and \$16.04 to Jean Whitfield for ironing board cover. Receipts from donations totaled \$355 bringing April balance to \$1756.35.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** **Community:** The Committee prepared 22 May goodie bags to be delivered after the Gathering meeting. Sharon thanked all who provided treats for the bags. Upcoming events are Salem Home Birthday Party on Friday June 30 at 2:30. Elm Crest Bingo will be Wednesday July 12 at 2:30. **Kitchen:** Jean will pick up the imprinted napkins at Stone Printing in Carroll. Kitchen cleaning day will be June 14 after Gathering. **Mission Quilters:** Julie reported 4 quilts completed.

**OLD BUSINESS:** **Camp:** Those attending camp are listed on the narthex bulletin board. Deadline is June 1 to apply.

**NEW BUSINESS:** **VBS** will be week of July 24. Okoboji Bible Camp will present each day. ILCW will provide snacks. **August 9 Gathering** will be at 5:15. ILCW Board will meet at 4:00. **Bazaar October 18**—same menu and same price.

There being no further business we adjourned to the Fellowship Hall.

## ILCW GATHERING

Sixteen ladies and Pastor Phil attended. Sandy extended invitation to make a donation to the Camper Fund if they wish. Sharon asked for volunteers to help distribute 22 May Goodie bags after Gathering. She gave preview of the June program "Wedding in India" to be presented by Doris Silling. Marge served 3 delicious flavors of pastry. We all moved to the Chapel for Becky's program assisted by Pastor Phil on "**Christian Education at Immanuel**". Christian education has changed over the years from being a separate Sunday School time into a program that fits families' needs. ILC's educational program is of different levels and presented today with video recordings of each teacher and showing activities at each level. These levels are: JAM—Jesus And Me (3 yr old thru 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) meet Sunday during church. GROW--God Rocks Our Wednesdays (3<sup>rd</sup>—5<sup>th</sup> grade) meet Wed. after school till 5:00. Confirmation (grade 6-7-8) meet Wednesday evening till 6:30 as does LYO (9-12<sup>th</sup> grade) till 8:30. JAM teachers are Ken, Andrea & Jolie Nielsen. GROW teacher is Pastor Phil and helper Becky Chipman. Sixth is taught by Craig Olson (New Testament) and Steve Allen (Old Testament), 7<sup>th</sup> taught by Tim Brelje (New Testament) and 8<sup>th</sup> taught by Pastor Phil (Creed and Sacraments). LYO is led by Eric Chipman and Pastor Phil. Each teacher in the video told of how long they've been teaching, activities done at each session including crafts, singing, games and snacking. LYO have supper together provided by the church. They all expressed how much they enjoy being with the youth of our congregation. GROW kids are each given an Adventure Bible which they learn to use and encouraged to highlight and make notes in it. At the end of their time in GROW they will be presented the Bible they have been using thru their 3 years. When starting Confirmation each student is given a new Bible. What an outstanding program. Many of us learned things we did not know about the educational program at ILC. Becky ended the program with prayer and all recited The Lord's Prayer. Thank You Becky and Pastor Phil and the other teachers for your unending commitment to make a difference for the youth attending.

NO JUNE BOARD MEETING BUT GATHERING WILL MEET JUNE 14 AT 9:30. Sharon program. Janet refreshments.

NO JULY BOARD MEETING OR GATHERING

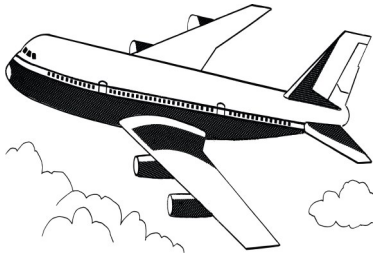
AUGUST 9—GATHERING AT 5:15

Bunko will continue this summer 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tues. 2 PM.

Janet Johannsen, Secretary



## TANZANIA HAPPENINGS



**Tanzania here we come!** In August a group from Immanuel will be traveling to Kidugala. In preparation for the trip, we would like to take along leather work gloves of all sizes as gifts for the pastors and evangelists. Also, cheater glasses of all strengths to help people to be able to read. If anyone is interested in helping with these gifts it would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be left in the church office.

**FROM THE TANZANIA TEAM:** Thank you so much for the rhubarb. We appreciate all the donations, it will taste great in the pies this fall.



**FREE:** Check out the books and DVDs on the table in the library. Take some home for your reading/watching summer enjoyment. Then pass them on for someone else to enjoy.



## SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

You are invited to join the Adult Bible Study this summer as we read through the Gospel of John. We meet Sunday mornings from 10:15 to 11 a.m.





Immanuel Lutheran  
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Office Email: [ilc@fmctc.com](mailto:ilc@fmctc.com)  
Pastor Phil's Cell Number: 712-579-2098  
Home Number: 712-766-3178  
E-mail: [peacephillip@gmail.com](mailto:peacephillip@gmail.com)  
[www.harlanimmanuel.org](http://www.harlanimmanuel.org)

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



# JUNE 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>28</b> 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class	<b>29</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00 CF Quilters	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8-8 Kastars	<b>3</b> 3pm Kastars Wedding 5:00 Communion
<b>4</b> 9:00 Communion 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class	<b>5</b> 6:30 Garden Club	<b>6</b> 9:00 CF Quilters 6:00 Worship/Evang.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 5:00 Worship
<b>11</b> <b>Photo Directory Pictures</b> 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 1-4:30 LaVera Stern	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:00 CF Quilters 2:00 Bunco 6:30 Executive Bd 7:00 Church Council	<b>14</b> ILCW NO BOARD MTG. 9:30 ILCW Gathering <u>"Clean Kitchen Following"</u>	<b>15</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 6:30 Ladies Homestead	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 5:00 Communion
<b>18</b> 9:00 Communion 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00 CF Quilters	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Assemble Newsletter</b> 8-4 Extension Day Camp	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 5:00 Worship
<b>25</b> 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class	<b>26</b> 9:00 Mission Quilters	<b>27</b> 9:00 CF Quilters 2:00 Bunco	<b>28</b> 8-4 Extension Day Camp	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> 5:00 Communion

# Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule

	July 8-9	July 15-16	July 22-23	July 29-30	August 5-6
Acolytes	Jolie Nielsen Aubrey Petsche	Grant Chipman Cade Neve	Jace Palmer Rex Swanson	Abbey Brue Katie Stern	Collin Burchett Trevor Herbst
Saturday Greeter/Usher	Linda Peterson	Orvetta Priest	Terry & Shelly Saunders	Debbie Stendrup	Allan & Myrna Andersen
Saturday Altar Guild		Kayla Jacobs			
Sunday Greeters/Ushers	Winter Sette Craig & Sandy Sisson	Al & Sandy Simdorm Phil & Jane Smith	Trent & Jenni Svendsen Chad & Lisa Swanson	Dave Voge Regena Weihs	Scott & Jean Whitfield – Phil & Sharyn Zimmerman
Sunday Altar Guild		Kathy Block Mary Taggs			Donna Nelson Vicki Strissel
Scripture Reader (Sunday)	Jennifer Malone	Tim Herbst	Kayla Jacobs	Mary Johnson	Hertha Haas
Communion Servers (Sunday)		Ken & Julie Vorm			Jan & George Applegate
Coffee Hosts (Sunday)	Jeff & Erin Hastert	Colin & Roberta King	Derald & Patti Kumm	Elaine & Jill Miller	Sandy Nelson Donna Nelson
Sound	Alan Ahrenholtz	Alan Ahrenholtz	Alan Ahrenholtz	Alan Ahrenholtz	Christopher Chapman
Video	Alan Ahrenholtz	Alan Ahrenholtz	Alan Ahrenholtz	Alan Ahrenholtz	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	Steve Allen	John Taggs	Dave Greve	Joey Hansen	Dave Greve