

IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS

MAY 2020

Immanuel Lutheran Church Plan for Worship in the Pandemic

We will continue to record our worship service each week and post it on Vimeo at (<https://vimeo.com/ilcharlan>) and on Facebook at (<https://www.facebook.com/ilcharlan>) as well as broadcasting the service on HMU (Sundays and Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.) and on FMCTC (Mondays at 6:00 p.m.)

We encourage anyone who is over 60 or who has any underlying health risks to stay safe at home and to participate remotely. The Holy Spirit is with you and the Spirit works through the Word whether recorded or in person.

For those who have no risk factors, we will welcome you to worship at Immanuel beginning on Saturday, May 16, at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 17, at 9:00 a.m. However, we ask you to not come to worship at Immanuel if you feel less than healthy (fever, cough, or sore throat) or if you have been exposed to someone who has COVID symptoms in the past 7 days.

We will use only the front doors on the west side of the building. Someone will be there to open the door for you.

We strongly recommend that people wear masks in the building in order to protect the environment for others. We will have masks available for you to take and use and then take home for later use after cleaning. Both Saturday and Sunday worship services will be in the sanctuary.

There will be no greeters or ushers. At the back of the sanctuary there will be bulletins available and an offering plate. We ask that people not congregate outside the sanctuary but instead go right into the sanctuary to find a seat. No hand shaking, please.

We ask every individual or family group to maintain 6 feet of distance from others so that no one needs to feel uncomfortable. Seating will be in every other pew on each end. That means we will be limited to about 75 people per worship service. We don't expect that to be a problem because we believe most of our members will be staying home.

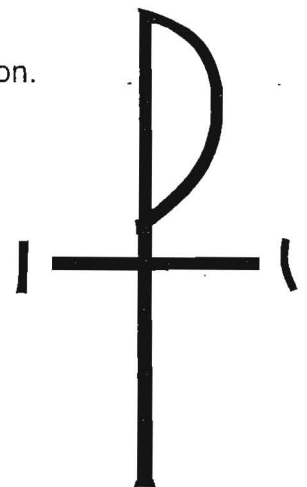
There will be no coffee and donuts after worship. That alone will keep our in-person attendance down. People are asked to leave the building immediately following the worship service. Visiting may take place at a safe distance in the parking lot.

We will be sharing communion. It will be set up by volunteers who wear gloves and masks. We will use a careful social distancing method of distribution.

All of this is subject to change based on COVID-19 rates in our community.

Please check our website (harlanimmanuel.org) or Facebook page for the latest information.

There will be no Sunday School classes for children this month. The Adult Bible Class will be meeting on Zoom, Sunday mornings 10:30 to 11:30. Bring your own donuts and coffee. Call Pastor Phil (579-2098) if you need help getting on Zoom.



May 2020

Dear friends in Christ,

As you may have heard, Governor Kim Reynolds has given permission for churches to open up and gather for worship provided that we take reasonable measures to mitigate the spread of coronavirus. Gov. Reynolds said she was doing this for two reasons.

One reason was respect for our constitutional rights to assemble and practice religion. But just because we have the right to do something doesn't mean that we should. In fact, the New Testament (as in 1 Corinthians 10:23-24) calls us to surrender

our rights for the sake of our neighbors. Luther put it this way: "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." In other words, we are free from the judgement of the law, but out of love for our neighbors, we will sometimes lay down our rights. I may have no worries about contracting the coronavirus or even dying from COVID-19. But out of care and concern for those around me, I will for their sake take needed precautions.

A second motivation for allowing a bit of normalcy back into life is the knowledge that the coronavirus is going to be around for a while until we have vaccines developed, mass produced, and widely delivered. That is going to take time. So we are just going to have to learn to live with the coronavirus for a period of time. Economically and emotionally we cannot maintain an aggressive mitigation strategy for that whole time. So we are going to open up a little bit at a time in localities where the virus is not very active. As long as we don't see rising infection rates, we can continue to relax some of the restrictions on our community.

So what are we to do? How cautious should the Church be? Should we stay closed until all is safe? Should we just open up and trust God to take care of us? We are not afraid of dying, but we are afraid of spreading a virus to our neighbors who are not ready to die.

Some people find courage by minimizing the dangers of life. That is not real courage. That is foolishness. Make no mistake; the coronavirus is a real threat to our community. It has caused great disruption and suffering in communities that were slow to react. It could potentially do great damage to our healthcare system and personnel. Those who say that we should just all get exposed and get it over with are not thinking about those who will have to deal with the consequences of mass contagion.

Real courage acknowledges the reality of suffering and death, takes precautions, and then trusts that whatever happens, God's got this. So we are going to move forward with courage but also caution, with confidence and care. It won't be like we want it to be, but it will be baby steps in that direction.

So we are moving forward with opening our building for worship gatherings. Some may ask why we are doing this. Good question. We are not looking for big numbers. We still expect that most of our members will worship with us from home. But we want to provide the encouragement and support of communal worship during these trying times. We hope it will give hope and encouragement to those who are viewing also to see that we are moving toward a new normal.

Yours in Christ, Phil Nielsen



LUTHER ON THE CORONAVIRUS

Consider the following advice from Martin Luther during the Black Plague:

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this as such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God."

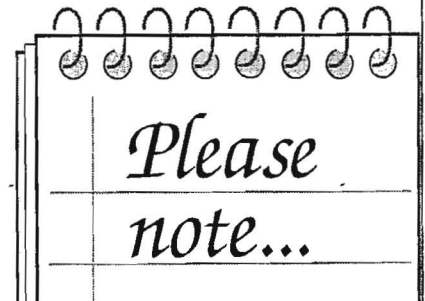
*With Deepest
Sympathy*

We remember the family of Bill Hosack in our prayers. Bill died on March 28 at the age of 66. We ask God to continue to comfort Carmen and her family. A family committal was held and we hope to have a public celebration of Bill's life at a later date.

TANZANIA

The Word from our friends in Kidugala, Tanzania, is that schools are closed but churches are still open. The coronavirus is affecting Dar es Salaam but has not reached out as far as Kidugala. We have heard that the Kidugala parish has a new pastor. Their bishop changes pastors about as often as we change the oil in our cars.

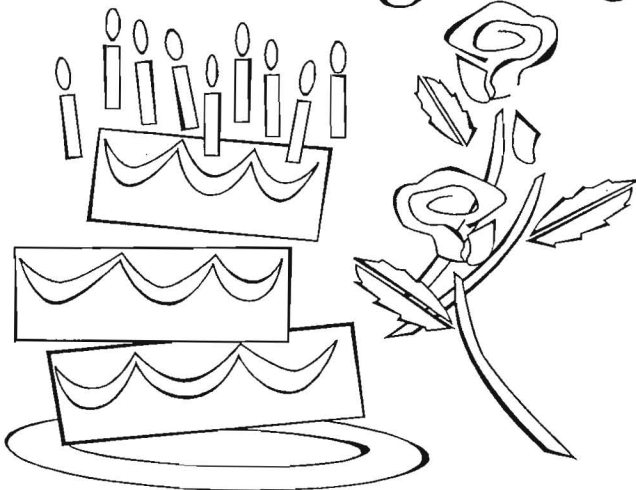
We have received word that both our church camps have cancelled all summer programming. So there will be no Okoboji Team led VBS at Immanuel this summer. Perhaps by the end of the summer we will be able to offer some kind of VBS to children, but that depends on public health recommendations from the state and county.



GARDEN SPOT AVAILABLE: Immanuel has a garden spot available for growing your own produce, herbs and/or flowers. Please contact the church office for more information.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Effective May 1st the church office hours will transition to summer hours of 9-1:30 Monday through Friday until sometime in August. We will keep you posted.

Birthdays &



Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to the following:

Loyal Moore who will be 94 on May 1.
 Lynette Miller who will be 80 on May 1.
 Verna Christensen who will be 82 on May 6.
 Donna Hansen who will be 86 on May 10.
 Bert Hillers who will be 80 on May 12.
 Shirley Knudtson who will be 94 on May 16.
 Bonnie Grabill who will be 84 on May 20.
 Lois Sick who will be 88 on May 22.
 Louie Troll who will be 90 on May 22.
 Marian Riessen who will be 88 on May 23.

Happy Anniversary to the following:

Louie & Lois Troll who will be celebrating their 67th anniversary on May 3.
 Harry & Orvetta Priest who will be celebrating their 55th anniversary on May 16.
 Ken & Shirley Olson who will be celebrating their 50th anniversary on May 23.
 W.A. "Pat" & Ruthe Pattison who will be celebrating their 64th anniversary on May 27.
 Bruce and Kay Havick who will be celebrating their 59th anniversary on May 27.

Worship in May

Date	Liturgical Day	Sermon Theme	Text	
May 3	Easter 4	Easter Life	John 10:1-10	
May 10	Easter 5	Easter Truth	John 14:1-14	
May 16-17	Easter 6	Easter Love	John 14:15-21	Communion
May 23-24	Easter 7	Easter Glory	John 17:1-11	
May 30-31	Pentecost	The Spirit of Forgiveness	John 20:19-23	Communion



ON OUR PRAYER LIST: Arlene Warner, Marian Riessen, Brody Nelson, Jon Burmeister, Shawn Havick, Annette Anderson, Nancy Gessmann, Marlys Moore, Clarice Andersen and Connie Benson.

Please Pray for:

COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY April 14, 2020—7 pm

The Immanuel Church Council met April 14 with 9 of 14 members present by video conferencing. John Taggs led devotions about "What kind of a God is this?" Pastor Phil will lead devotions in May.

Treasurer reported March income of \$28,872 and March expenses of \$30,539 which included \$8,668 for our annual liability and property insurance premium and \$1788 for utilities. Year to date shows a plus \$1941 of income over expenses. General fund is at \$27,787. Capital savings fund is at \$16,218. Thanks to all who have continued to support the ministry of Immanuel.

Outreach – April mission partners are Shelby County Food Pantry (\$1000), Iowa Community Kitchen (\$500), and the School Food Program (\$500). May mission partners will be LCMC Asian Ministry (\$1000) and LCMC Disaster Fund (\$1000). TZ team is sending funds for orphans in Kidugala parish. Shelby County Food Pantry is in need of general items.

Worship – Recording of worship services is continuing. Easter service was aired on KNOD and an extra time slot on HMU.

Education – Sunday School is done for this year. Pastor will be meeting with his confirmation class by video conferencing this next month. A recognition of graduating seniors will be put together by video to be shared at a future worship service and also online. A gift card will be presented to each graduating senior.

Fellowship – We hope to have some kind of "Homecoming" celebration this fall if conditions permit.

Property – We have a volunteer lined up to mow our lawn this summer. Thanks to Charlie Conrad.

Executive Committee – We discussed the CARES Act which allows churches to apply for a small business forgivable loan. We decided not to pursue this since we depend on donations rather than business. We know that the Church will survive the pandemic and we want these limited funds to support businesses that may not survive the pandemic. We discussed ways for people to make online or mobile device donations.

Pastor's Report – Pastor recommended Phil and Jane Smith and Austin Phipps for membership at Immanuel. The possibility of a Spanish Immersion preschool at Immanuel was discussed and referred to the Education Committee for a recommendation.

THANK YOU to everyone who has continued to send offerings to God through Immanuel Lutheran Church. April offerings were \$23,221 for our general fund, this includes over \$5,000 from a member as an inheritance tithe. We also received \$1,395 for our building fund, \$100 to the Food Bank and \$15 to Tanzania.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

Lindsey Diane Andersen

daughter of Mark and Michelle Andersen
1924 1400th St., Kirkman, IA 51447

Ethan James Arkfeld

son of Jon and Jami Arkfeld
1250 1200th St., Defiance, IA 51527

Colton Dean Barnes

son of Rick and Denise Barnes
1520 Cheyenne Ave, Harlan, IA 51537

Andrew Joseph Bruck

son of Matthew and Michelle Bruck
1623 Cheyenne Ave, Harlan, IA 51537

Alex Stephen Livingston

son of Steve and Julie Livingston
1501 6th St, Harlan, IA 51537

Johnathan Cyrus Monson

son of Dave and Angie Monson
2011 9th St, Harlan, IA 51537

Reece Kyle Nielsen

son of Pastor Phil and DeAnn Nielsen
1728 Peach Rd, Kirkman, IA 51447

Emily Hope Taggs

daughter of John and Mary Taggs
706 Farnam, Harlan, IA 51537

Jacob Louis Voge

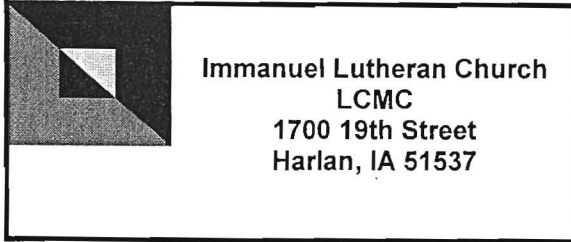
son of David and Angela Voge
1408 8th St, Harlan, IA 51537

◀ Apr 2020

May 2020

Jun 2020 ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:30 Adult Bible Class on Zoom	4	5 7:00 Constitution Comm on Zoom	6	7	8	9
10 10:30 Adult Bible Class on Zoom	11	12 7:00 Church Council on Zoom	13	14	15	16 5:00 Communion
17 9:00 Communion 10:30 Adult Bible Class on Zoom	18	19 7:00 TZ meeting	20	21 Newsletter Deadline	22	23 5:00 Worship
24 9:00 Worship 10:30 Adult Bible Class on Zoom	25	26	27	28 Assemble Newsletter	29	30 5:00 Communion
31 9:00 Communion 10:30 Adult Bible Class on Zoom						



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Office: 755-5207
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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
Music Director: Heidi Thies
Office Manager: Joan Wehr
Custodian: Ed Wehr