

IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS OCTOBER 2020

Sunday School Begins October 4

Bible School classes will begin Sunday morning, October 4. 3-year olds through 4th grade will meet for opening gathering at 10:15 in the sanctuary with Ivy Nielsen and Pastor Phil. Following opening 3-year olds through 1st grade students will be taught by Ken and Andrea Nielsen. 2nd through 4th grade students will be taught by Ivy Nielsen and Sandy Sisson. 5th and 6th grade students will be taught by Steve and Patti Allen. They will meet at 10:15 in their classroom upstairs at the northwest end of the hall. 7th through 12th grade students will meet at 10:15 in the LYO room on the main floor. Classes meet until 11:15. The Adult Bible class will meet in the fellowship hall at 10:30 to 11:15.

We are looking for a few new people to join our team of Sunday School teachers. If you love children and like to learn, this is a great experience. Kids teach us lots about our faith. If you are willing to assist in a class part-time, please let the church office know and we will help you get started with one of our teaching teams.

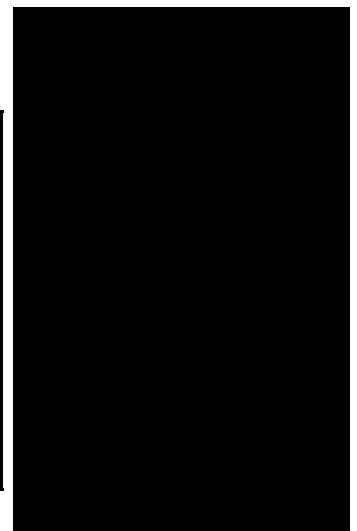
Confirmation of Faith – Sunday, October 25

Confirmation is the act of publicly confessing faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord. This year 7 young people are preparing to confirm their faith on Reformation Sunday, October 25. We celebrate God's gift and God's call in the lives of Christopher Chapman, Ava Monson, Braydon Ernst, Haylee Ernst, Claire Schmitz, Dani Smith, and Joshua Zimmerman.

Worship in October

This fall our worship services will focus on the Psalms. We will consider the 12 most well-known psalms. The Psalms are a powerful picture of the life of a Christian.

October 3-4	Stars, Scripture, Soul (Psalm 19)	Saturday: Communion Sunday: Outdoors
October 10-11	Through the Dark Valley (Psalm 23)	
October 17-18	The Roller Coaster of Life (Psalm 30)	Communion
October 24-25	Be Still and Know (Psalm 46)	Confirmation
Oct. 31-Nov. 1	A Clean Heart (Psalm 51)	Communion



Dear Friends in Christ,

Sunday School has been part of the life of the Church for some 240 years. Robert Raikes and others started the Sunday School movement to teach reading, writing, and Bible to children who worked in the factories of the industrial revolution in England. Sunday was the only day the children were not working 12 hours a day. Church members did not send their children to Sunday School because the Church and the Bible clearly taught that it was the responsibility of parents to teach the faith to their children. Sunday School students were orphans or other vulnerable children whose parents offered them no education.



Eventually Christians helped to outlaw child labor and to enact compulsory schooling laws. Sunday School evolved into a way for the Church to assist parents in the Christian education of their children. As public schools have become more secularized, Sunday School has become more important.

But still the ultimate responsibility for the education of children lies on parents. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 says *“These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”* Jesus commanded us to make disciples of all nations, and the nearest and clearest mission field is the children who live in our own homes.

So what do we want our children to learn? What should every disciples of Jesus know? The basic necessities would include: John 3:16, the Lord’s Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Apostles Creed, the 2 Sacraments and their significance, the Books of the Bible, the 23rd Psalm, the Great Commission, the Great Commandment, the Gospel in 5 simple statements. What would you add?

When I was a child, my family read through Egermeier’s Bible Story book several times. Ms. Egermeier had a great way of telling all the stories of the Bible for middle school age children and younger. The stores stuck with me. I believe those stories were a strong foundation for my life as a Christian. Stories have a way of continuing to teach the faith long after we hear or read them because they go right to the imagination. I encourage everyone to read a good Bible story book like Egermeier’s. If you need a copy of Egermeier’s Bible Story Book, they are available for \$10 from Immanuel.

So we plan to resume Sunday School classes as long as the public school is able to stay in session. I am very grateful to our dedicated Sunday School staff. They are investing themselves in the future of the Church.

Yours in Christ, *Phil Nielsen*

LCMC Gathering

Last year several of us from Immanuel enjoyed a powerful couple of days in Omaha with our LCMC partners in ministry from around the world. This year’s annual gathering is taking place in Minnesota with a limited number of in person participants and many others participating online. We invite you to join a group from Immanuel who will gather to view and discuss the LCMC Gathering on Monday, October 5, from 9:15 to 5:15. Call Pastor if you have any questions about joining us.

Excerpts from Confirmation Class Essays 2020

Josh Zimmerman: We need to love each other just as Jesus did. He lived without sins, and he tried to spread his faith across the world in hopes that others will believe in God, and we need to do the same as Jesus and his spirit is always with us. It's also important that we spread our faith to others, so they have a chance to go to Heaven, and they have a sense of Hope. As Christians, we have Hope for a better life, and we always have someone to turn to. ... We are here because we have a mission to spread the Word and live through Christ. ... He is our Hope. ...It all goes back to WWJD: What Would Jesus Do? He is the guiding spirit in our lives.

Dani Smith: ...It's about believing and trusting that Jesus, God's only son, gave his life for all people so that we can have eternal life in Heaven. It's also believing that everything of importance that we do is through Him. ... About 5 years ago, my mom was involved in a serious motorcycle accident. The doctors had said that it was a miracle that she even survived. ... Psalm 73:23-24 says, "Yet I am always with you: you hold me by my right hand, you guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory." He gave us an amazing gift that we will forever be thankful for.... Because of the Resurrection of Jesus and the Scriptures ..., we know that ahead of us is eternal life in Heaven.

Christopher Chapman: ... being a Christian is believing in God. Being a Christian also is believing in Jesus God's only son and that Jesus is the only way to Heaven and eternal life. I would consider myself to be a Christian because I believe In God and Jesus and that he died for our sins. I have gone to this church for over nine years, I was baptized here, and I went to Sunday school here, I also try to attend every church service. What I am saying is I am proud to be a Christian and to serve God the Father, and when I die I hope I can make it to heaven. I have learned a lot about the bible and I think believing is how to be a Christian.

Ava Monson: Being a Christian is a lifestyle; it means to educate others about who Jesus is and what he did for us. It means to always try your hardest and have faith even when things get tough

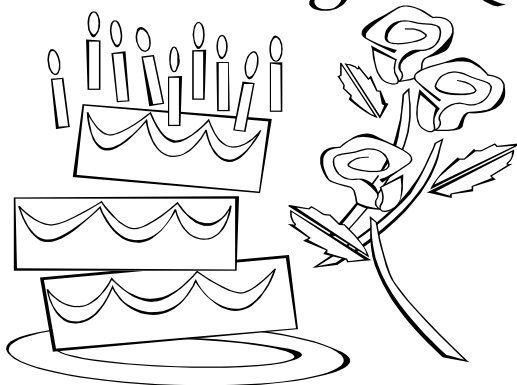
and to always go to God when you are having troubles. ... I believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that he died on the cross for us. Jesus sacrificed his life so that our sins could be forgiven also so that we could have eternal life.... Faith can be a very hard thing for some people because you can't see or talk to God face to face. But that is the whole reason we have faith because we know all of the great things that he has done for us so we should believe in him and in eternal life with him.

Haylee Ernst: During Confirmation class I was asked a very simple question, "What does it mean to be Christian and what makes you a Christian?" ... It was then I realized the Christian Faith was about believing in God and having trust in Him, it's more than going to church and church class. The Christian Faith is ongoing and everlasting. The Apostles Creed is just a part of Christian Faith, believing and trusting in God is also a big part of the Christian Faith. ... my Grandpa was diagnosed with cancer. My Grandpa meant the world to and I felt it was very unfair for him to have cancer. During his treatment I turned to God to help, have faith, and give strength to my Grandpa...

Braydon Ernst: I am Christian because Jesus died on the cross to save me of my sins. Also, that I believe in God by Going to Church to learn about the things they did and still do to keep my faith in Christianity. And I have learned that the Ten Commandments aren't possible to never do any of them which is why Jesus died on the cross to save me from evil....

Claire Schmitz: I believe that Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins. Even though he knows that we all sin and we can't live a sin-free life. To me going to church is my way to learn more and expand my knowledge about God and all the good things that he has done for us.... I believe that God is there for me all the time, especially when we need him to be there the most. He will always guide us in the right direction to try and help us make the right choices and comfort us. It is important to trust in God's plan and know he is guiding you along the way.

Birthdays &



Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to the following:

Marilyn Anderson who will be 84 on October 28.

Happy Anniversary to the following:

Ken & Carolyn Hursey who will be celebrating their 53rd anniversary on October 7.

Loyal & Marlys Moore who will be celebrating their 68th anniversary on October 21.

Warren & Susan Grummert who will be celebrating their 53rd anniversary on October 28.

Our sympathy for Randi McEvoy and family at the death of her husband, Jeff McEvoy. Jeff passed away September 6th and his funeral will be at Immanuel on September 26th at 11 am.

*With Deepest
Sympathy*



WOW social/distance gathering on
Wednesday, October 14 @ 9:30
in the Fellowship Hall

Offerings

Thanks to many generous givers, Immanuel is doing quite well financially. We have been able to maintain our outreach giving to the community and to global mission. Not once during our televised and online worship services has Pastor Nielsen had to say a word about giving. He doesn't want to sound like a typical televangelist. And thanks to you, we have been able to offer our worship services on television and online as a free gift without appealing for donations.



ON OUR PRAYER LIST: Dave Pedersen, Nancy Christensen, Jon Burmeister, Shawn Havick, Annette Anderson, Nancy Gessmann, Marlys Moore, Connie Benson, and Callie Wiltse (daughter of Scott & Jean Whitfield).

Please Pray for:

COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY September 8, 2020—7 pm

The Immanuel Church Council met September 8 with 10 of 14 members present by video conferencing. John Taggs shared devotions. Steve Allen will lead devotions in October.

John Taggs and Steve Allen agreed to take care of council person on duty the next 3 weekends.

Treasurer reported August income of \$24,607 and August expenses of 18,606. Year to date income is \$186,741 (which is \$8000 ahead of 2019). Year to date expenses are \$161,952. Our general fund account ended August at \$51,847. Our capital project savings are at \$23,227. Tanzania Projects Fund is at \$13,945. Thanks to all who have continued to support the ministry of Immanuel.

Outreach – Immanuel has given 932 pounds to the County Food Pantry. Our September Mission Partner was “Feed My Starving Children”. October Mission Partner is the new LC (Life Care) Clinic opening up in Atlantic. Larry Haas has redeemed a record amount of cans and bottles for the Tanzania Projects – over \$3100 so far this year. Thanks to Larry for all the time he puts in there.

Worship – We are still expecting our new camera system in the near future.

Education – Sunday School will begin October 4. Gathering Music may take place outside. WE have combined some grades because of a lack of a teacher for 1st and 2nd grades. 1st grade students will join the preschool and kindergarten group. 2nd graders will join the 3rd and 4th grade group.

Executive – Discussed the proposed amendments to the Immanuel Constitution. Motion carried to recommend the amendments to the congregation at a congregational meeting in November. The final ratification vote will take place at the 2021 Annual Congregational meeting. Copies of the proposed amendments will be made available in the church office.

Pastor – A wedding was held at Immanuel, the first one this year.



WORSHIP & GIVING

	<u>Attendance</u>					<u>General</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Total</u>
August 29/30	32	+	36	=	68	\$ 3,849.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 3,899.00
Sept. 5/6	22	+	42	=	64	\$ 4,153.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 4,163.00
Sept. 12/13	24	+	60	=	84	\$ 3,261.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 3,361.00
Sept. 19/20	17	+	66	=	83	\$ 2,597.00	\$	\$ 2,597.00

October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 5:00 Communion
4 9:00 Outdoor Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:45 Adult Bible Class on Zoom	5 9:15-5:15 LCMC mtg 9:30 OA 3:30-5 Girl Scouts	6 9:00 CF Quilters 6:00 Boy Scout Leaders	7 4:30 Women's Bible Study 5:00 Education Committee 5:30 Confirmation	8 6:00 MOPS	9	10 5:00 Worship
11 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Bible Class	12 9:30 OA	13 9:00 CF Quilters 5:30 Worship Comm. 6:30 Executive Board 7:00 Church Council	14 9:30 WOW 4:30 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Confirmation	15 7:00 Ladies Homestead Gathering	16	17 8-6 4-H Fellowship Hall 5:00 Communion
18 9:00 Communion 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Bible Class	19 9:30 OA 3:30-5 Girl Scouts	20 9:00 CF Quilters	21 4:30 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Confirmation	22 Newsletter Deadline	23	24 10:00 Rehearsal 5:00 Worship
25 9:00 Worship/Confirmation 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Bible Class	26 9:30 OA 1:30 Mission Quilters	27 9:00 CF Quilters	28 4:30 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Confirmation	29 Assemble Newsletter	30	31 5:00 Communion

WOMEN OF THE WORD EXEC BOARD September 9, 2020

Due to the ongoing COVID19 pandemic, June, July and August Board meetings were not held. Following CDC (Center for Disease Control) guidelines of social distancing, the WOW Executive Board did meet September 9 in the narthex. Present were Sandy Nelsen, Kathy Block, Janet Johannsen, Sharon Daberkow, Myrna Havick, Sally Nairn and Julie Vorm. Chair Sandy called the meeting to order at 9 AM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes from the last meeting in March were reviewed. There being no corrections, Kathy moved to accept the minutes. Myrna seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The WOW Lenten supper potato bar Mar 11 was the last Lenten service before the U.S. shutdown. Fifty-two people were served. Several people purchased the leftover food. Thanks to all who assisted in any way or donated money for expenses. The potato bar income was \$197.05. Receipt of \$192 for quilting a quilt. Kathy reported the March ending balance at \$2569.86.

In August a donation was received from the Verda Larsen family. Due to the Harvest Bazaar being canceled it was decided to request donations through a Bakeless Bake Sale event. Suggested donation was for an amount normally spent purchasing/baking goods and items at the Harvest Bazaar. \$975 was donated by 22 individuals noted in the August Treasurer's Report. Another \$270 by 7 individuals has been received but not yet deposited so will be in a future report. Funeral lunch/meals are not being served by the church women during this pandemic. Bill of \$15.90 paid to Fareway for ingredients for tossed salad for Jacobsen funeral. August ending balance is \$3543.96.

CORRESPONDENCE: A Thank You was received from parents of a child who received assistance from the funds provided to the "Kids At Risk" program. A Thank You also received from the Pattison's for the cards sent by WOW members. Others reported phone calls from those receiving cards as well. Thank You's on narthex bulletin board.

KITCHEN: The mats in the kitchen need to be cleaned again. Since no activity in the kitchen for months, the dishwasher and sink drains need to be flushed out to eliminate odor.

COMMUNITY: Sharon reported we should continue the WOW cards being sent. Fall "Goodie Bags" were discussed. It was decided to have prepared bags at the Oct 14 WOW Gathering and deliver afterwards leaving on doorsteps.

MISSION QUILTS: Will be meeting Monday, Sept 28 at 1:30. Social distancing will be followed. Material cutters needed if you don't quilt.

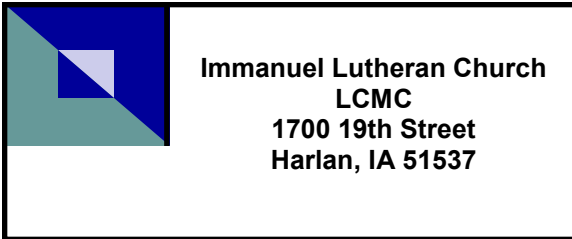
OLD BUSINESS: **Harvest Bazaar is canceled.** Donations are still being accepted and can be given to any WOW Board member or left at the church office. **Christmas Tea is canceled.** At this time it's uncertain when Confirmation will be held. Flowers will not be purchased. Janet will remain the Secretary following unanimous decision.

There being no further business, Sally moved to adjourn with a second by Sharon. Ayes all. No WOW Board meeting in October.

WOW GATHERING

WOW met with 13 attending. Social distancing and masks in place. Sally N. served a delicious dessert. Thank You's read by Sharon and Sandy. Sharon had list of people to send notes to and encouraged us to continue sending them. No program so time was spent updating on illnesses and happenings. Prayers to all those suffering or have lost loved ones. WOW Gathering will meet Oct 14 at 9:30 social distanced. Kathy will serve refreshments. We closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Janet Johannsen, Secretary



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Staff:

Pastor Phil Nielsen

Music Director: Heidi Thies

Office Manager: Joan Wehr

Custodian: