

**NEWSLETTER OF IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
VIROQUA, WI OCTOBER, 2017**

...where in Jesus Christ, God gathers all generations to serve in, witness to, and pray for our church, our community, and the world.

PASTOR'S COLUMN

"God has so arranged the body...that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it." From 1 Corinthians 12

Grace and peace to you, those who are the body of Christ at Immanuel. For years, we have struggled with the question of how we could "Open God's House To All," especially as we struggled with the issue of handicap accessibility. Many ideas were suggested, deemed impossible, and frustration grew. But now...a few weeks ago, staff members joined me on a walk from the hallway to the sanctuary to the offices, on the one side, and to the kitchen and fellowship hall, on the other side, ON FLAT GROUND OR GENTLY SLOPING RAMPS! I have found myself actually weeping for joy, and so excited for the future, thinking about how our space will better serve our ministry in Christ's name and with his love in our hands and feet and hearts.

So please take a moment to rejoice and offer a prayer of thanks! We are far from finished with the project, and we have lots of money to raise, our regular budget to support, and volunteers to encourage. Still, this is an answer to prayer. We will start one last Sunday School year in the downstairs classrooms - but the contractor tells us that the classroom hallway will be the first area to be ready and open, so we will look forward to making a joyful transition during the school year. We have a great staff of new and returning teachers and helpers who will have the privilege of teaching our children AND

ALSO will see the new wing of classrooms become a reality. And then the kitchen area and fellowship will follow, and we will have the joy of cooking and eating and celebrating together again in that renovated and enlarged area. Thank you SO MUCH to all of you who are making this happen, by God's grace and the hard work of many people. ~ *Pastor Kathy Ingbritsen*

Trunk or Treat So Others Can Eat will be on Wednesday October 25th after school. Contact Pastor Kathy, Elise, or the church office if out want to participate by decorating your vehicle and giving out treats! THIS WAS A VERY FUN TIME LAST YEAR – so let's do it again!

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

The Vernon County Fair has finished for the year, and, while this is sad news for many, I find myself excited about this news. That is because it means we're kicking off a new year of IGS (Immanuel-Good Shepherd) Youth and Family Ministry, and this year we have many reasons to be excited.

We're registered to go to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas from June 26-July 2, 2018. We have two opportunities for our High Schoolers to gather and deepen their faith at Immanuel through Donuts and Devos before school on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month and Digging Deeper after school on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. The Middle Schoolers will be putting the Good Shepherd Youth Room every 2nd Friday of the month for games and Bible Study. IGS Family Ministry will be putting together a variety of family events during the year, starting with Trunk or Treat So Others Can Eat on Wednesday, October 25.

One activity we are starting this year is IGS Nights. These nights are games, performances, concerts highlighted for Immanuel and Good Shepherd folks to come support and get to know our youth. If you are able to attend the IGS Nights, I encourage you to find me (Elise) to receive a list of our IGS youth who are involved in the activity, so you can cheer extra

loud for them, and, depending on the event, we will highlight a certain place to meet and sit for part of the night. We'll be sharing this information as each night comes up. If you are unable to attend, please consider picking up the list of youth from the office and praying for them during that night.

IGS Ministry Dates

High School: Digging Deeper will be on October 4 and October 18 at Immanuel Lutheran Church from 5:30pm-6:45pm. Dinner will be provided.

Donuts and Devos will be on October 11 and October 25 at 7:30am at Immanuel Lutheran Church. A light breakfast will be provided.

The Middle School Youth Group (6th-8th grades) is October 13 from 5-6:30pm in the Youth Room at Good Shepherd.

Join us for Trunk or Treat So Others Can Eat at Immanuel Lutheran Church on October 25 (the Wednesday before Halloween) from 4:30-6:30pm for decorated trunks, treats, and a chance to raise food and funds for hunger ministries. Invite your neighbors and friends and/or volunteer to decorate your car or help with the event.

IGS Night

October 3 - Girls Volleyball at Viroqua High School Gym JV game will start at 6pm and Varsity starts at 7:30pm

Elise will be wearing a pumpkin hat and sitting on the right side of the bleachers (near the door) on the home side of the gym.

Thrivent Teams

If you are a Thrivent member and would like to help our congregation by leveraging up to \$500 a year by registering for team activities, please talk to Pastor Kathy, Elise, or Chentel. Teams are needed in October for Trunk or Treat.

OCTOBER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

DATE	AM	USHER	READER	FELLOWSHIP
1 st	8:30	Laabs	Tim Lee	OPEN
8 th	8:30	Mithum	Beth Lee	OPEN
15 th	8:30	Mithum	Kari Amrhein	OPEN
22 nd	8:30	Laabs	Alice Olson	OPEN
29 th	8:30	Laabs	Dan Solverson	OPEN

*Communion assistants and basket holders- please volunteer!
Acolyte list will be posted and sent out in early October.*

NOTES ON WORSHIP

~Worship will continue one worship service at **8:30 am**, with Sunday School beginning at **9:45 am**.

~On October 1st, we will sign and card and share gifts for the Sheppard family (our former Pastor, Chuck Sheppard, and his wife Annette had major flood damage from Hurricane Harvey in Houston). Gifts are also welcome for Lutheran Disaster Response. Gift Bibles will be shared with 3rd graders. Communion, choir.

~October 8th is **God's Work, Our Hands: Team Immanuel**. Communion, PS150. Projects will happen in the gardens and inside through the Sunday School hour and beyond. **WEAR YOUR FAVORITE TEAM OR SERVICE T-SHIRT!** Bring food gifts for the foodshelf for our Social Second Sunday

~October 29th is Reformation Sunday, WEAR RED! We are celebrating the 500th year of the start of the Reformation. Study Bibles will be given to our 7th grade confirmands.

OFFICE HOURS

See below – and please note that office hours are subject to change with the different types of construction happening around the building. Feel free to call ahead if you would like to make sure the building is open 637-3983.

~Chentel: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 am until 2:30 pm. Late afternoon Wednesday some weeks.

~Pastor Kathy and Elise: Hours are posted on office doors (Pastor Kathy is now in the library where her office is under construction, will also be doing some work at home but can be called there 637-3010).

OCTOBER MEETINGS:

Personnel: 15th at 10:45 am
Council: 23rd at 6:30 pm
(a week later than usual)

COUNCIL MINUTES

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Council Meeting August 14, 2017

Present: Vicki Anderson, Shelley Dobbe, Emma Grinde, Pastor Kathy Ingbritsen, Dick Iverson, Troy

McKay, Scott Rood, and Rondi Solverson. Absent: Karen Laabs, Dan Solverson, and Paul Woodward

The meeting was called to order by Emma at 6:35pm. Pastor Kathy shared the reading from Sunday 8/13: Ephesians 6:10-20 about the Armor of God. At the service on 8/13 the High School Youth who attended the Boundary Waters trip shared about their experiences: the students had to get out of their comfort zone and rose to every challenge. Through collaboration between Immanuel and Good Shepherd in sharing a Youth Director, through VBS, Sunday School, Confirmation, and the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst we are equipping our young adults to live lives of faith.

Secretary's Report: Vicki moved to approve the secretary's report, Troy seconded. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Vicki will set up some time with Chentel to collaborate on refining the way that accounts are reported for clarity. After statements went out in July we did see an increase in giving, we hope this continues. The Council agreed to pay the Bethel Home and Vernon Manor Activity Benevolences as budgeted. The birch tree

behind the building needed to be removed, the cost was \$300 and was charged to the building fund as it was moved to accommodate construction. Fred from the James Company will be coming to talk about transitioning from a construction fundraiser to a debt reduction plan for Immanuel long term. Shelley moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Scott seconded. The report was approved.

Pastor's Report: In July there was 1 joint worship at Good Shepherd. On July 11 there was a campfire worship in the Outdoor Sanctuary. Pastor Kathy assisted with planning and leading VBS. At the end of July she attended Continuing Education at Luther Seminary called Rethinking Church.

Youth and Family Ministry Director's Report: Elise attended the Boundary Waters trip with 5 youth and 1 other adult leader. They shared about their experience at the 8/13 worship service.

- ◆ **Education:** Sunday School is starting September 24
- ◆ **Music and Worship:** considering worship times
- ◆ **Property:** need to discuss how the basement Sunday School rooms will be used after construction on the new Sunday School rooms is completed
- ◆ **Stewardship and Finance:** will meet before the next council meeting at 6pm.
- ◆ **Personnel:** continuing to work on changes to Immanuel time benefits, employee policies, and job descriptions
- ◆ **Faith Formation/YFMD:** met August 9 and had good discussion about social media boundaries

Other Teams:

- Building Design Team: *Tom Dobbe is doing a great job of keeping things on task*
- Capital Appeal Team: *needs for the building are continuing to come together*
- Garden/Outdoor Sanctuary: *plants are growing and produce is being donated to Community Hunger Solutions*
- Fund-raising: *BBQ's and Pie fundraiser raised over \$1000 dollars, possibly a rummage sale this fall*
- Nominating: *will meet in the fall*

- Social Concerns: *Fortney meal in September, a team leader is needed*
- Welcoming: *plans for hospitality and possibilities in the new building*
- Sound and Projection: *wiring infrastructure being installed, need to meet with Lifelines AV again*

New Business

- Rondi moved to re-covenant for the YFMD position with Good Shepherd for another year (will re-covenant each year). Vicki seconded. The motion was approved.
- The old vacuum was traded in and a generous anonymous donation was given to cover the rest of the cost of the new vacuum.
- Dick moved to have the school year worship schedule be 8:30am, Sunday School at 9:45 am, and only second service for special events for the 2017-2018 school year: reassessing this schedule after construction to be evaluated at the Annual Meeting. Vicki seconded. The motion was approved.

Emma moved to close the meeting, Vicki seconded, the motion was approved. The Lord's Prayer was shared. The next meeting is scheduled for September 18th.

BUILDING PROJECT CAPITAL ACCOUNT UPDATE

Gifts and pledges: \$ 437,345
91 families

Building Fund Balance: \$42,991

Left to be paid on pledges: \$120,710

Paid in full for James Co. contract:
\$24,000

Paid to architect so far: \$45,885
(95% of contract)



MEMORIALS

August 21st- September 16th

Building:

Sue Stephen \$50

Kitchen:

Sue Stephen \$50

Total:

\$100

Thank you for your generous response to our capital campaign! However...WE ARE FALLING BEHIND IN SUPPORT OF OUR REGULAR BUDGET!

Please stay regular with your weekly or monthly giving. Use a form of electronic giving if that would be helpful to you; even consider paying ahead a month in order to ease the "summer slump." It is such an exciting time for ministry at Immanuel, and support of the building project has been wonderful. Our regular work goes on too – help to keep that strong as well!

Mission Support Update

Regular Income for September thru the 17 th :	\$8,924
Actual Expenses as of 9/18/17	\$8,214
Estimated end-of-month payroll & bills:	\$5,081
Estimated total expenses:	\$13,295

Line of Credit used: **\$11,225**

2017 Budget as of 9/18/17

Income:	\$127,540	Expense:	\$137,880
		Year to date +/-:	-\$10,340

Thank you for your support of Immanuel's ministry!

PS150

Wednesday 9/27 - welcome back practice at 7:40pm

Wednesday 10/4 - practice at 7:40pm

Sunday 10/8 - band leading music worship, gather at 8:15am to run through songs

Wednesday 11/8 - practice at 7:40pm

Sunday 11/12- band leading music worship, gather at 8:15am to run through songs

Wednesday 12/6 - practice at 7:40pm

Sunday 12/10- band leading music worship, gather at 8:15am to run through songs

CHOIR

Choir will be practicing all Wednesdays in October at 6:45 pm. Choir will sing at worship on Sundays, October 1st and 29th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will be held every Sunday at 9:45 am. 3rd graders will receive their Bibles on October 1st.

CONFIRMATION

7th/8th grade confirmation will meet all Wednesdays at 3:30/4:30 pm. 9th grade will meet Wednesday, October 11th at 5:45 pm. October 25th Trunk-or- treat will take place from 4:30 – 6:30 pm. Plan for flexibility this fall when it comes to food, meeting places, service projects and fundraisers.

CIRCLES & QUILTING

- Circles will not meet in October.

- Quilters will tentatively meet October 2nd and 16th at 9 am.

PROPERTY BROTHERS & OTHERS

This group will be meeting on Wednesdays the 4th and 18th at 7:30 am for coffee and donuts, with work time starting at 8 am. All are welcome!

BOOK CLUB

Book Club will meet Monday, October 2nd at 6:30 pm.

RUMMAGE SALE

Rummage Sale October 5th - 6th during citywide. Please bring items for the sale. All seasons children's clothing, Adult clothing (fall/winter only), household, home décor, toys, games, books, blankets, sheets, etc. NO TV's, VHS or Cassettes, computers or out dated electronics. Small furniture items / large items would be accepted if you put your name on it and pick it up if it doesn't sell. Easy to carry tables are needed to set items up on. Thanks!

PEP FEST - THE SYNOD'S REFORMATION CELEBRATION

Sat., Oct. 21, noon - 3 pm at the American Legion, Tomah
German meal includes: authentic German brat, plus another brat option, hot German potato salad, spaetzle and sauerkraut. Children can also choose a cheese infused frankfurter. Beer and root beer will be available for purchase. German dessert provided by Peace Lutheran Church. Pre-registration is required for this meal through the synod office; payment can be made the day of the event.

WHAT ARE CHRISTIANS CALLED TO DO ABOUT RACISM? Let's learn and discuss together!

It can be uncomfortable to talk about race, racism, and racial injustice, and yet engaging in this conversation is important. Emma Grinde will be leading a discussion in 4 parts using "On Behalf of Our Children: Wisconsin's Racial Disparities and the Call of the Gospel," a resource from the Wisconsin Council of Churches to begin to unpack the hidden power of race and God's call to us in the midst of it. Join us at Good Shepherd in Viroqua for 4 one-hour sessions on Tuesdays 9-26, 10-3, 10-10, and 10-17 at 7 pm. All are welcome. For more info contact: Susan Frank 608-606-6401.

CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARDS

Please remember to check the bulletin boards when you come to church – we don't always have room in our bulletins & newsletters to fit info about all the community events that take place in Viroqua & surrounding areas. If you want an event included in our publications, please share the information in writing well ahead of the event with all details. There are sign-up sheets on those boards as well for readers, fellowship sponsors, bulletin and flower sponsors and ushers!

STAY CONNECTED

Check out our Facebook page, Immanuel Lutheran, and our website, www.immanuel-lc.org, for updated information and photos!

FUNDRAISING FOR SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP

A volunteer is being sought for leading the fundraising for Sugar Creek Bible Camp campers this school year. The first project is usually Butter Braid sales, and then there is generally a project for Super Bowl Sunday and a brat sale at the Agri-Center in late April. Please contact the office or talk to Pastor Kathy or Elise if you are willing to take on this important task!

BETHEL HOME

Saturday, October 14th from 10am – 2:30pm: Maplewood Quilt Show, 620 Garfield Street, Viroqua. Admission is \$3. Includes two workshop presentations, a silent auction hosted by the Vernon County Piecemakers Quilt Guild, and a variety of beautiful quilts and wall-hangings on display. To register a quilt, please contact Amanda Warthesen at (608) 637-6358, email awarthesen@bethelhome.org, or drop off/mail information to Bethel Home & Services (Attn: Amanda W), 614 South Rock Avenue, Viroqua, WI 54665. All proceeds go to resident needs at Maplewood Terrace Assisted Living. Lunch will be available for a nominal fee.

Narrative Lectionary 2017-2018 Readings for Year 4

During the fall, Old Testament texts are the primary vehicle for proclaiming the Biblical story. The gospel readings (mostly from John) become primary texts starting on the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

October 1: God's Name Is Revealed

Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17

God's name is revealed: "I Am." Moses is a reluctant messenger, but God uses him to deliver Israel.

October 8: God Provides Manna

Exodus 16:1-18

People complain, God provides manna. Manna requires faith in what God gives.

October 15: God Calls Samuel

1 Samuel 3:1-21

God calls Samuel in the night. He says, "Speak Lord for your servant is listening." Told to warn others of sin in Israel.

October 22: God Calls David

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14

God does not look on outward appearance but on the heart; create in me a clean heart.

October 29: Solomon's Temple

Reformation Sunday

1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13

Solomon's temple – a place of sacrifice and divine presence.