

NEWSLETTER OF IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

VIROQUA, WI SEPTEMBER, 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

"Behold, I am doing a new thing...." *Isaiah 43:19*

This is my theme Scripture right now! The office move is pretty much done – our secretary and bookkeeper Chentel is now in what was the pastoral office; her former office is now a pass-through hallway for the new ramp from the sanctuary to the offices as well as a book/work "nook"; and I am "camping out" in the library, where the back 2/3rd will become the permanent pastor's office and the front third will be a small library and meeting room. Until then I will be surrounded by lots of boxes! Elise's Immanuel office will stay where it is for now. **Thank you** for your patience with all the changes, and the temporary chaos – our facility is going to be a wonderful updated site for ministry when it's done! ***Watch for calls for volunteers....***

In the meantime, we will try to keep September as normal as possible, starting Sunday School right after the Vernon County Fair and confirmation soon after that. There will also be a great opportunity for adults to learn and discuss together about racism in four sessions over at Good Shepherd starting in late September (see more detail in and announcement on the last page). On September 3rd, Labor Day weekend Sunday, please bring a **coffee/tea mug or water bottle** that represents your work – at a paid job, or your work at home or as a volunteer. On September 24th, we will have a special "Opening Day" for Sunday School as we look forward to our new space being ready during this school year. Watch for more details! And watch for, and give thanks for, the new things God is doing among us!

~ Pastor Kathy Ingbritsen

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

During the week of July 27th - August 3rd, 5 youth from the Immanuel -Good Shepherd Youth Group and 2 adult leaders went on a 2-day service and 3-day canoe trip through the Boundary Waters. Here are two of the reflections written by the youth on the trip. The rest of the reflections will be posted on the church's website under the youth section.

While sitting in the canoe, you can't help but think to yourself how beautiful everything is. Looking at the water and seeing it sparkle just perfectly in the sunlight, feeling the sun just slightly warming skin or even looking into the horizon at the islands that are recovering forests or the very lush forests, all you can see is a creation of God. God has made everything so perfectly in our world, but humanity has been taking all of her beauty, but the Boundary Waters is a place that you can still see all of His perfect creations. Just being in the Boundary Waters made me feel so calm and peaceful. I felt so much closer with God just because I was able to relax and take the canoeing at my own pace and take in all the beauty around me. The one thing I will always remember about this trip is I realized how to relax. I am a person who needs to be constantly doing something every minute of every day. Now I know that I can go into nature and just take a break from my hectic, crazy life and just look around and see all of God's beauty around me.

-written by Jenna Harless, Good Shepherd

I was first shocked when we didn't have a Bible study the first three days because I was expecting the trip to be very religious. It occurred to me later in the trip while we were watching the sunset and writing in our books that God is not only present in Bible studies or church. God doesn't need His name called for Him to watch us and guide us through our fears. He is always there, and it was so easy to see that in pure nature. He was in the water and in the wind that helped our canoes go forward. I am now excited to try and see God everywhere I go, and not just wait for Sundays.

-written by Jillian Weston, Immanuel

THANKS, ELISE HYNEK AND BILL FORTNEY, for leading our youth (Immanuel and Good Shepherd) in this wonderful God-filled trip!

Important date for youth ministry:

September 10th is the registration deadline for the ELCA Youth Gathering to Houston, Texas.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

DATE	AM	USHER	READER	FELLOWSHIP
3 rd	9	OPEN	Tim Lee	OPEN
10 th	9	OPEN	Deb Clark	None
17 th	9	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
24 th	8:30	OPEN	OPEN	Cookies

Acolytes, communion assistants and basket holders- please volunteer!

NOTES ON WORSHIP

~Communion on September 3rd and 10th; "Sacraments" series also on those Sundays; sophomore confirmation at and additional 10:45 am worship service on September 10th. Then the Narrative Lectionary will resume on September 17th.

~Worship will continue at 9 am until September 24th, when it will return to one worship service at **8:30 am**, with Sunday School beginning at **9:45 am**. There will be additional services at a late morning time on September 10 for confirmation and in December for the Christmas program. We also plan to have a "GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS" Sunday on the second Sunday in October, watch for more info on time; and then an Advent activity in November at a date and time to be announced.

~We have been pondering our worship schedule for a number of years and after hearing from members, the "regular" school year time seemed like a better decision for simplicity and stability as we continue in our time of construction. We will have discussion around the time of the annual meeting, after the construction is done, to see how this time frame is working for Immanuel!

BUILDING PROJECT CAPITAL ACCOUNT UPDATE

Gifts and pledges: \$435,895 91 families
 Building Fund Balance: \$40,813
 Paid in full for James Co. contract: \$24,000
 Paid to architect so far: \$45,885 (95% of contract)



Matching fund challenge... Thanks for the great response of matching \$52,000/\$52,000!

Stock account... We have set up an account with Margaret Severson at Edward Jones for building gifts of stocks and other securities, please contact her or work with your own financial advisor in cooperation with her if you would like to make a gift.

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS:
 Council: 18th at 6:30 pm
 Capital Appeal: 17th after worship

COUNCIL MINUTES
Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting July 23, 2017
 Present: Vicki Anderson, Shelley Dobbe, Emma Grinde, Pastor Kathy

Ingbritsen, Karen Laabs, Troy McKay, Scott Rood, Rondi Solverson, Dan Solverson, and Paul Woodward. Absent: Dick Iverson

The meeting was called to order by Karen at 10:21am.

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

Treasurer's Report: Vicki noted that the line of credit was drawn from in July to cover payroll and bills. Karen noted that financial statements were sent out to all members in July, so we are hopeful that will help members reflect on their giving so far in 2017. Shelley moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Dan seconded. The report was approved.

Pastor's Report: In June Pastor Kathy led 2 funerals and did 38 visitations (8 on behalf of Good Shepherd while Pastor Yvonne was on vacation). In June there was a joint service at Good Shepherd with

music from the Dischords. At worship services in June Pastor Kathy lead a short sermon series on Galatians.

Youth and Family Ministry Director's Report: Elise is preparing for the High School trip to the Boundary Waters and is starting to work on preparing for the Youth Gathering meeting in August. Flat Jesus has been a hit and many members and families are sending in photos of pictures of themselves with Flat Jesus on their vacations. 14 kids and 3 adults are attending Sugar Creek's Explorer Day on Monday 7-24.

Education: VBS met at Good Shepherd 7-16 through 7-20, the committee needs to meet in August to discuss plans for Sunday School (starting September 24).

Music and Worship: assessing late service (attendance has been low): after much discussion the council decided to suspend late service except for special events (confirmation service, Sunday School Christmas Program) through the end of 2017 and then reassess at the 2018 annual meeting.

(Ed. Note: THE FOLLOWING DECISION WAS RECONSIDERED AT THE REGULAR AUGUST MEETING, WE WILL RETURN TO THE PREVIOUS SCHOOL YEAR SCHEDULE OF 8:30 AND 9:45 AM) Worship staying at the summer time (9am) and Sunday School at 10:15am through the end of 2017. This is for consistency and simplicity during construction.

Property: we will need a new vacuum after construction: due to all the dust settling into the building during construction.

Stewardship and Finance: re-covenanting meeting for YFMD position with Good Shepherd is scheduled for August 1

Personnel: continuing to work on changes to Immanuel time benefits, employee policies, and job descriptions

Faith Formation/YFMD: will meet August 9th

Other Teams:

Building Design Team: *The kitchen has been cleared out in preparation for construction, the offices need to be reorganized for construction*

Capital Appeal Team: *needs for the building are continuing to come together*

Garden/Outdoor Sanctuary: *plants are growing, worship in the Outdoor Sanctuary on July 11 was great*

Fund-raising: *BBQ's and Pie fundraiser is planned for 8/2/17 at Good*

Shepherd due to the Immanuel kitchen and fellowship hall being under construction.

Nominating: *will meet in the fall*

Social Concerns: *Lighthouse Baptist will take on the Thanksgiving dinner*

Welcoming: *plans for hospitality and possibilities in the new building*

Sound and Projection: *waiting for component review from Paul Woodward on bid from Lifelines AV out of Platteville*

Emma moved to close the meeting, Vicki seconded, the motion was approved. The Lord's Prayer was shared. The next meeting is scheduled for August 14.

Immanuel Lutheran Church Special Council Meeting August 6, 2017

Present: Vicki Anderson, Shelley Dobbe, Emma Grinde, Pastor Kathy Ingbritsen, Karen Laabs, Dan Solverson, and Paul Woodward. Absent: Dick Iverson, Troy McKay, Scott Rood, and Rondi Solverson

The meeting was called to order by Karen at 10:20am.

Paul moved that Terry is authorized to sell the excess appliances.

Shelley seconded. The motion was approved.

The current vacuum died, due to all the dust it has been picking up during construction. Vicki moved to authorize Terry to buy a new vacuum with an anonymous donation of \$500 and the trade in value of the backpack vacuum, which is in good condition. Paul seconded. The motion was approved.

The council discussed worship and Sunday School times. The council will talk with Immanuel members about what times work best for them. At the August council meeting we make a decision about worship and Sunday School times.

We also decided to accept the first part of a bid from Vernon Tel, brought to us by Paul Woodward, to install needed wiring infrastructure throughout the building before new areas are sheet rocked. (Emma's vote was received after the meeting since discussion on this continued after she left, before we realized we needed to make a definite decision.) This cost of @\$4000 will come from the building fund. an moved to approve the minutes from today's meeting and close the council meeting. Paul seconded. Motion was approved.

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 August thru the 21 st :	\$10,275
Actual Expenses as of 8/21/17	\$8,057
Estimated end-of month payroll & bills:	\$4,500
Estimated total expenses:	\$12,557

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

2017 Budget as of 8/21/17

Income:	\$115,614	Expense:	\$123,469
	Year to date +/-:		-\$7,885

Thank you for your support of Immanuel's ministry!

MEMORIALS

July 25th- August 20th

Building:

Ilene Rose \$100

Undesignated:

Betty Grundmann \$150

Total: \$250

CIRCLES & QUILTING

- Circles will not meet in September.
- Thank you Ruth Circle for providing fellowship for the second half of the summer.
- Quilters will not meet in September.

CONFIRMATION

Please note the family meetings for the 7th through 9th graders on the calendar for September (Wednesday the 20th at 6 pm, or Sunday the 24th at 9:45 am). We begin sessions for the 9th graders on September 27th and the 7th and 8th graders on October 4th. Plan for flexibility this fall when it comes to food, meeting places, service projects and fundraisers.

PROPERTY BROTHERS & OTHERS

This group will be meeting on Wednesdays the 6th and 20th at 7:30 am for coffee and donuts, with work time starting at 8 am. All are welcome! Thanks to this group which took the lead in tearing out the old kitchen and assisting with the office hallway as well, along with other projects.

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!

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