



The Image

August 2021



Immanuel Lutheran Church

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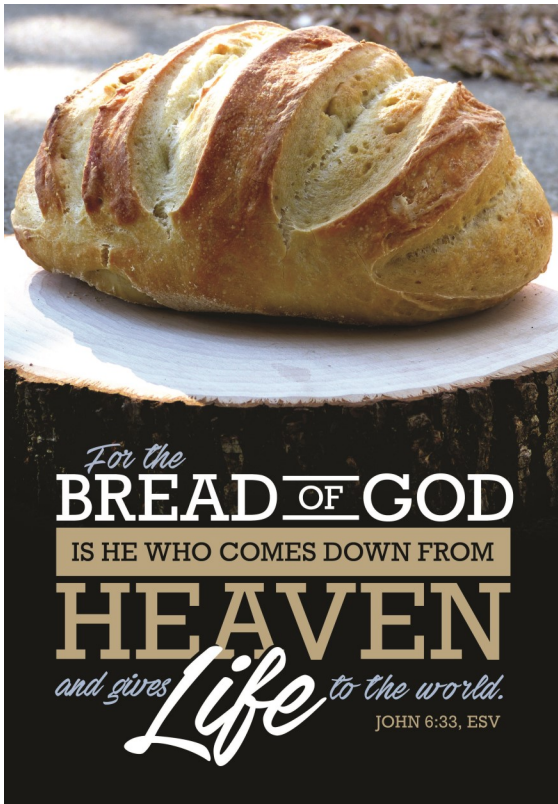
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Bread of Life

"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." ~Jesus

Every three years in the lectionary readings we have 5 weeks of the Bread of Life theme from John. (*See chapter six of John*) For these weeks in August we dig into the sixth chapter of John and immerse ourselves in it. We hear the story of Jesus feeding the 5000. We listen to the teachings of Jesus and hear him proclaim, *I am the bread of life*. We remember how God feeds and sustains us as followers of Jesus today in the church and in our personal lives.

Perhaps this message feels a little different to us this year in light of what we have been through. ***In what ways are you needing sustenance right now?*** Perhaps you are experiencing burnout and need refreshment. Perhaps you are craving community and need companionship to strengthen your soul. Perhaps your body or mind is in need of healing. Whatever situation you are in, you can come to Jesus, the Bread of Life.

You can find bread for your journey in the gathered community.

Whether you will be worshipping online, indoors, or out at Phoenix Park, each week Jesus will proclaim, *I am the bread of life*. Each week we will be fed by God's word and by Jesus' presence in communion. This weekly proclamation is a great reminder of our true source of sustenance. Jesus feeds us and sustains us always. God gives us spiritual bread for this journey, whatever it might be.

This month, let this wisdom of Jesus be your mantra. *I am the bread of life*. Let it soak into your hearts and minds and spirits. Trust in the living bread who gives eternal life.

In God's abundant love,

Pastor Jamie Brieske

September Save-the-Dates

- September 8:** Confirmation Orientation meetings, grades 6-9.
Stay tuned for more details in your email inbox & home mailbox!
- September 12:** Rally Sunday & Backpack Blessing.
Bring your backpack to church for a special blessing & gift, find your classroom, meet your teacher, and reconnect with your Immanuel family.
- September 15:** Worship on Wednesday (WoW) & Wednesday learning begins:
6 PM - Worship
6:30-7:30 PM - Learning
- September 19:** Welcome to Journey of Faith!
Milestone blessing for 3 year olds during worship and first day of JoF classes.

Youth & Family Ministry News



Camp Create is excited to be welcoming back our two-year-old friends this September! We offer two class sections, with up to 10 children in each section. Limited openings remain in our Tuesday/Thursday section for this school year! If you or anyone you know has a 2-year-old who'd like to join the fun, talk to Alyssa to find out more. Information & registration forms are also available on our website.

Summer Stretch is almost here! Summer Stretch is a middle school ministry where we spend our mornings doing service projects around the community and spend our afternoons doing a top-secret fun activity. We will end our week with a long-awaited in person Christ Jam (middle school youth gathering for kids from our Northwest Synod of WI.) I am so excited to get to participate alongside our middle school youth!



FALL PLANNING!

It's hard to believe it's already August...but that means it's time for fall planning! We are hopeful to be able to offer a more traditional year of learning this year, and have planned a full schedule of learning and fun. Of course, all of our planning is subject to change based on the evolving COVID situation - we will follow guidance and direction from the local health department as well as the Eau Claire Area School District, and will make adjustments as needed.

We are planning to offer Journey of Faith (JoF) classes in person after worship on Sunday mornings. Classes will be offered on Wednesday evenings if we have enough interested students and teachers. Please consider which learning section would work best for your family, and plan to register accordingly. Registration will open at the end of August and continue through Rally Sunday in September. If your family prefers to continue with JoF at home learning, please contact me - I would be happy to send home the same lessons we will be studying in person.



SHYN/High School Ministry

SHYN is planning to meet Wednesday nights at 6:30, as well as offer attending the Godstock Retreat and the National Youth Gathering. In addition, we will fundraise for the Youth Gathering and have monthly meetings. We may choose to add additional on or off site gatherings and service projects throughout the year, as well.

Confirmation/Middle School Ministry

Confirmation classes will meet in person on Wednesday nights from 6:30 - 7:30 PM. We will also participate in some service projects and fun nights throughout the year.

WoW

Worship on Wednesday will be offered in person at 6 pm on Wednesday evenings and will follow any precautions we are using on Sunday mornings. We are not planning to serve a Wednesday evening meal this year.



Alyssa Engedal: This past week, Andy & I were able to spend 5 days exploring the Porcupine Mountains in Michigan's Upper Peninsula with 15 youth from Immanuel, ranging in age from just finished 8th grade through graduating seniors. A few months' ago, while we were in the beginning planning stages of this trip, the kids decided they wanted to focus on themes of calm and rest as we are coming out of a year that often felt chaotic and beyond our control. Little did we know that the worship theme on the day we left would also focus on the importance of rest and time in nature! It was the perfect kickoff to our week, and set the tone for the next few days. While we were in the "Porkies" we camped at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, and spent much of our time hiking and also spent one day in the nearby town of Ontonagon,

where we hit the beach and tried our skills at kayaking, canoeing and paddle boarding on a wavy Lake Superior! It was a much needed break from our devices and the stresses of everyday life, for all of us. The gift of creation, time around a campfire, laughter, and sharing messages of God's love through devotions and discussions are best found while in nature and all those things were abundantly present on this trip. As you will read in the reflections from the youth members, this trip was an amazing experience and truly allowed our team to bond and reconnect with one another after being apart for so long. We thank you for your financial and spiritual support of our team!

Ava Weber: I learned that God really is showing each of us the beauty of the world. My faith was strengthened through getting to know the amazing people who were on this trip with me. God showed me the beauty of the earth and that there are truly kind people in the world.

Karina Barquist: During this welcoming week I captured reassurance that I've been longing for. The time we spent in the Porcupine Mountains was extremely relaxing and time well spent! With wonderful waters, eye opening views, and captivating characters. I learned a lot about not only others, but myself, just from our enchanting Earth.

Aidan Tarpenning: During this trip I saw God through the amazing views and the purity of Lake Superior. This trip was full of adventures and crazy extremes like sports, swimming and hikes which gave us God's intended experience with amazing friendships.

Grant Johnson: The 2021 Immanuel Lutheran Church Youth Adventure trip was an amazing experience! During the trip I got closer to everyone in our youth group and was able to take a break from my stress and responsibilities at home and really relax and connect with God. The hikes through stunning nature and beach days really reminded me how beautiful God's creation really is. The camaraderie of our youth group really reminded me of how lucky we are to have such a good group of people to travel with. I can't wait for next year's trip!

CJ Haas: On this trip I felt much more connected to God. We were able to rest, as we learned about in worship the day we left. The beautiful trees and amazing lake were both perfect things to feel much more connected to God.

Keiran Tarpenning: It was a very great trip and has taught me a lot about nature and how to respect God's creation. Thank you for supporting us so we could take this wonderful trip.

Carter Chapman: The trip was important to me because I got to get closer with some of my friends from church. My favorite part of the trip was sitting in the hammocks and have conversations with other students. My faith was impacted because I got closer with people from church. I'm really happy I went on the trip.

Molly LoRusso: The 2021 Michigan trip taught me a lot about the importance of coming together and making friendships stronger, especially our friendship with God. Coming into the trip I did not expect to feel so connected to not only those around me but to nature and God. After the isolation that covid caused it became so much more apparent how God's love is fostered through connections with other people. I really enjoyed coming together in a group focused on God and our faith journeys. My favorite part of the trip was sitting around the fire talking and doing devotions.

Maddy Rosenberger: I had a very good experience on our trip to the Porcupine Mountains! It was very nice to be able to see all the other youth group members after not being at church for so long. I think taking a break to spend time in nature helped my faith grow as well. Being able to swim in the lake and be outside was a great experience for me.

Kaelyn Hansen: This trip was my very first trip, it was really fun. I grew my faith through this trip by prayer and hiking through nature. Our last night of devotions was my favorite, I related to it the most.

Allisa Hansen: I found that this trip was a great way to unwind and connect with God. Spending time in his creation made me feel closer to him than ever before and really strengthened my connection with both Christ and my peers.

Natalie Forrest: The trip was an amazing experience for me to just relax and be with everyone. It was awesome to spend those 5 days just out in nature exploring God's creation. Although we didn't do much I felt so much closer with everyone and God when I got back. It was a super awesome experience!!



Jaiden Ivey: I had an amazing experience during our trip to Michigan. I got to experience God's beautiful creation hiking and spending time with our group outside at the beach, having fires, or playing games. My favorite day was when we hiked to the lake of the clouds, the view was incredible. This week I was able to grow in my faith with the experiences and through all the amazing people that went with me.

Although we just got back from this year's trip, it's also time to start planning for next year and our trip to the ELCA National Youth Gathering! Students who are in grades 8-12 this fall are eligible to participate in this amazing experience. Begin considering whether or not your child is interested in attending, and stay tuned for more information and a kick off meeting coming soon!

August 2021

If you shop on Amazon, log into Amazon Smile.

We receive \$ from your purchases.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-0990139>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 AM Indoor Worship 10 AM Praise in the Park - Immanuel Praise Band leads!	2 4-6 PM Food Pantry open	3	4	5 Noon-4 PM - Material Witness Quilting	6 Office closed	7
8 9 AM Indoor Worship 10 AM Praise in the Park	9 4-6 PM Food Pantry open	10 Summer Stretch	11	12 Noon-4 PM - Material Witness Quilting Summer Stretch	13 Office closed	14 Christ Jam
15 9 AM Indoor Worship 10 AM Praise in the Park	16 4-6 PM Food Pantry open	17 7 PM Council meeting	18	19 Noon-4 PM - Material Witness Quilting	20 Office closed	21
22 9 AM Indoor Worship 10 AM Praise in the Park	23 4-6 PM Food Pantry open	24	25 Immanuel serves @ Community Table	26 Noon-4 PM - Material Witness Quilting	27 Office closed	28
29 9 AM Indoor Worship 10 AM Praise in the Park	30 4-6 PM Food Pantry open	31	1	2	3	4



A big thank you to all for your ongoing support of ZIP, and the 11th annual daylily dig for Malawi. We smashed the previous record of \$6000 set in 2019. This year we have raised \$8000 to date. Monies raised in the past have been used to help feed hungry kids in Malawi, assist with their COVID relief activities, and of course, help build our relationship with Zomba Parish.

You can watch the interview on WEAU which aired on Friday and brought many first-time visitors and buyers to the farm: <https://www.weau.com/2021/07/23/11th-annual-daylily-dig-fundraiser/>. You may also have seen information about the dig in Volume One and various Facebook posts.

We also smashed the record for number of volunteers who helped out in various ways. A huge shout-out to these folks who braved the heat and humidity to make this dig a success:

Bev Deuchel
Tim and Gay Fehr
Marianna Gilbertson
Gary and Linda Hedding
Mark and Lois Helland
Holli Jacobson
Greg and Diane Kaufmann
Roberta Liebergen
Lauren and Marc Likkel

Bob and Linda Lodahl
Katy LoRusso and her parents-in-law!!!!
Carla Lothe
Vic and Jan Lothe
Sue Luthy
Mindy Rosenberger
Kalista Kaufmann-Willi
Lauren Willi
Pete Willi

A big thank-you also to Thrivent Financial Services for their Action grant which enabled us to buy supplies for the dig, provide beverages and cookies for our guests, and feed our volunteers lunch!

There is plenty to do yet at the farm to prepare for next year's dig. Projects include digging up and lining out the reserved plants of each of the many registered varieties to increase their numbers. Let Tim or Greg know if you'd like to assist!

God's work.
Our hands.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

God's Work Our Hands is a day of community service in partnership with the other area ELCA congregations. ***Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 19!***

We are currently looking for an Immanuel representative to help coordinate this day of service. It would involve attending a couple meetings with the other churches to help plan the day and working with Dee in the church office to communicate details to the Immanuel congregation. **If you can help, please contact the office as soon as possible! Thank you!!**

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Minutes July 20, 2021

Council Members: Emilie Anderson, Karen Betzig-Lundberg, Pastor Jamie Brieske, Becky Ivey, Lang Jacobson, Bill Schwengel, Bob Wilcox, Becky Carter, Olympia Evergreen

Absent Members: Jennifer Dean and Sandra LaValley

Resignations: Council accepts the resignation of our youth members, Calvin Dean and Natalie Forrest. We appreciate the time and service they gave to Immanuel's council and wish them well as they move on in their post-high school experiences.

Gathering: Fellowship together via Zoom or in person.

Celebration of Current Ministries

Thank You Notes - Council would like to extend thanks to Alyssa for providing a wonderful VBS program, to Janet Carlson for her time supporting the caring ministry, Mary & Brian Bichel; Chad Drier; Becky Ihle of quilting group

Future Ministry Directions

Youth Council Members: With the graduations of Natalie and Calvin, council will be looking for anyone who may be interested in stepping into this position.

Caring Ministry - A document is in the shared drive for viewing in which the responsibilities are outlined for the caring ministry position. Discussion: The sharing of communion with homebound members is a big part of this ministry.

Motion: A motion for the caring ministry to continue as it has been established, advertise the posting to reach interested applicants, and that it be funded similarly as in the past is made by Emile, seconded by Bob and passed unanimously.

Ministry Support

Pastor's Report:

Pastor's report can be found in the shared drive. In addition, there is a proposal to consider closing the office on Fridays in August to help alleviate the responsibilities of office staff and accommodate for the additional time spent on Sunday worship. Discussion: A number of churches do this for the summer. This will not affect any current programs, such as the food pantry. Any change will be communicated via the e-blast.

Motion: I move to close the church office on Fridays for the month of August. This motion is made by Bill, seconded by Becky Carter, and is carried unanimously. This topic will be revisited next April in planning for the following summer schedule.

Pastor Jamie notified the Council that she will be on medical leave the month of August. Pulpit supply and on-call pastoral support has been arranged.

Property Report:

The Eagle Scout project is moving along well. Prioritizing was made for the picnic tables in the back and a Leopold-type bench near the front part of the church. Chips on the trail will be next and clearing of the pre-school trail and chips added will follow. A third priority will be cleaning, leveling, and additional work to the current fire pit area. If this part is not fulfilled at this time, it can be completed and continued at any given time.

The refrigerator went out last week and it overheated the outlet. An electrician replaced the outlet. On Thursday a technician will look at it.. Consideration will be given to replace the appliance vs repair it. Discussion: This unit was possibly purchased around 2005 (used) with a replacement compressor since then. Loud noise has been an ongoing concern. We may need to consider repair or replacement depending on usage. Once we know the price, we may need to make a decision. The food pantry fund, kitchen fund and

memorial fund may be able to support some funding for the replacement of the refrigerator. An email update may be sent out as more information is available. The possibility of an energy efficient replacement may be beneficial.

Tree removal: The ash trees in the boulevard are dying. The city is responsible for removal, but there are two ash trees closer to the church building and in need of removal on our part. There is a \$500 deductible for insurance to remove trees. Quotes have been acquired from two tree companies; ranging in cost from \$600 to \$1400 to take down, approximately \$340 in addition for stump grinding. The trees could provide wood chips for the walking paths. More information to be gathered before making a decision.

Discussion: How urgent is this project? There is not an immediate need. It could wait another year as the building is not in danger or anything. They may just look a little rough. Cutting the trees to coordinate with Eagle project by providing chips may be beneficial but chips may also be obtained by the Jeffer's Rd location. When cut and split the trees could provide wood for the fire ring. **Question:** Could the chips spread the disease or could burning spread disease? Not to our knowledge; the loading and transporting to other woods would be more detrimental than keeping the chips or wood here locally.

Lawn: Things are going fine and the limited rain has been helping.

Parking lot: In 2017 the parking lot was resealed for approximately \$4800. It is suggested that 3 -5 years is a good time to reseat the lot. One concern is the faded painted lines for parking spots vs the seal itself. Resealing would include filling cracks, resealing the lot, and repainting the lines. The process includes gummy caulk in the cracks and thick oil over it all. It then needs time to cure. Temperature can be critical in this process, so waiting too long may require us to wait until next year. Bids have been collected. **Discussion:** How do we pay for this? Do we ask for a special congregation vote or wait until next year's annual meeting as a budget item this year? Discussion was given around repainting the lines for driver and parking safety. Perhaps resealing can wait for a year/year and a half and possibly it would be better as a budget time. Another alternative would be to paint this year and then reseat/repaint in the future as an alternative to resealing this year. Some companies are already done this year in scheduling residential projects.

AC units: Hovland was at Immanuel this spring to discuss ventilation and check the ducts and furnace. They couldn't check the AC then. The AC checks for all units would cost \$700-1000 to check for potential problems. Things can be done to make the unit more efficient.

Discussion: Should we do it now with a few weeks left this season or wait until next year and get on a service company's schedule for the new season/year? **Suggestion:** Get it checked now and get recommendations for next year to figure into the next budget. This would be better to not be surprised by an unexpected problem. Bill will get the AC checked and use the current maintenance budget (\$1,330) to cover the service call.

Roof drains: It is important to continue to keep an eye on this.

A motion to approve the property report was made by Bob, seconded by Olympia Evergreen, and unanimously approved.

Finance Report:

The financial reports can be found in the shared drive. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Becky Carter, seconded by Emilie, and passed unanimously.

Minutes

No June minutes, May minutes approved by email

Closing Prayer by Pastor Jamie.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Emilie, seconded by Bob, and passed unanimously.



Indoor Worship at Immanuel 9:00 a.m.

YouTube livestream worship at 9:00 a.m. or anytime afterwards!

Praise in the Park 10 AM at Phoenix Park
(Immanuel Praise Band leads on August 1st)



At it's July meeting, the Immanuel Trust Fund approved a grant request to partially fund the purchase of a three octave set of handbells for the church! This is a matching request - the Trust Fund will match up to \$7,000 in donations received. ***Please consider making a donation to this new music ministry.***

Handbells will provide a new musical opportunity for both singers and non-singers, younger and older, to make a joyful noise at worship. We encourage you to consider joining the handbell choir! More information to come!

Caring Ministry Coordinator

After six years of dedicated, "caring" service, Janet Carlson has stepped down as Immanuel's Caring Ministry Coordinator. We thank Janet for her leadership and guidance in ensuring that Immanuel lives out its calling to be a caring congregation.

We are now accepting applications for a new Caring Ministry Coordinator. The primary focus will be on Eucharistic Ministry, a ministry that provides communion and fellowship to homebound members. The Coordinator is responsible for training the lay leaders who bring communion to these homebound members. Other responsibilities may include helping with healing services and coordinating circles of care (formed in response to specific short-term needs of Immanuel members).

This position is paid a stipend, and hours are flexible but are expected to be 20-25 per month. Included in these hours are worship attendance, meeting and training time with eucharistic ministers, and informal meetings with Pastor Jamie.

Please contact the church office if would like more information. You can apply by submitting a letter of interest to the church by August 16.





Birthdays

01 Ben Lashley
 02 Keiran Tarpenning
 02 Isaac Jacobson
 03 Claudia Barquist
 05 Molly LoRusso
 06 Marvin Kaufmann
 06 Joan Pospishil
 06 Elizabeth Johnson
 08 Steven Buchholz
 10 Maddy Rosenberger
 12 Vanessa Rassbach
 14 Sarah Aiken-Felling
 15 Peggy Schwengel
 15 Marissa Neidermire
 15 Cheryl Ulberg
 17 Lorraine Stenzel
 18 Trista Wickware
 21 Dave Lehmkuhl
 22 Dan Borreson
 22 Becky Ihle
 22 Deb Kavanagh
 23 Troy Gilbertson
 23 Alessa Eilts
 23 Bella Reuter
 24 Debby Petersen
 24 Curt Carlson
 24 Lauri Malnory
 25 Tyler August
 25 Sharon Lehman
 26 Benjamin Reuter
 28 Jan Lothe
 30 Karen Thompson
 31 Benjamin Fox
 31 Sheridan Fox
 31 Miles Hungerholt

Anniversaries

01 Brad & Becky Carter
 03 Tim & Gay Fehr
 03 Bob & Becky Wilcox
 04 Jim & Cheryl Ulberg
 07 Justin & Roberta Liebergen
 09 Frank & Katy LoRusso
 11 Casper & Melissa Haas
 14 Andy & Julie Benware
 15 Mark & Lois Helland
 16 Chris & Shauna Eilts
 15 Chris & Michelle Johnson
 21 David & Andrea Schaffer
 23 Bill & Peggy Schwengel
 23 Jim & Stephanie Fey
 26 Larry & Barb Lundeen
 31 Vic & Jan Lothe

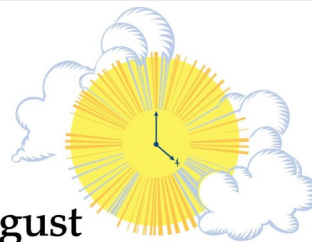
Biblical Justice Forum

Do you want to learn more about doing the work of Biblical Justice in your congregation, community, or the NW Synod? Do you have things to share about how you walk the walk of Justice in your faith journey? Are you interested in meeting others who take the call to "seek justice, do kindness, and walk humbly with God" seriously?

If you answered "Yes" to any of those questions, you may be glad to hear that the NW Synod of Wisconsin is organizing an in person forum that focuses on different aspects of Biblical Justice, including Creation Care, Racial Equity, and LGBTQIA+ people. Cindy Crane and Kyle Minden are also joining us for a listening session and to share perspectives on advocacy as the people of God.

The forum is on Saturday, August 14, at Luther Park in Chetek. For more information or to register:

<http://nswi.org/social-justice-advocacy/biblical-justice-forums>



August Office Hours

The church office will be closed on Fridays for the month of August. Office hours, therefore, are Monday - Thursday, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM.

Pastor Jamie will be on leave during the month of August. Should you need pastoral assistance, please contact: Dee in the office; Pastor Nate Aaseng, 515-326-5578, lsnkaaseng@gmail.com; or Pastor Gary Hedding, 319-464-7278, paddlegh@gmail.com.



There are many ways you can serve:

- Read the lessons at worship
- Food pantry greeter
- Assisting minister
- Sing in the choir or play handbells
- Usher/greet on Sunday morning
- JoF teacher
- Coordinate Immanuel's involvement in God's Work Our Hands

We need you! Contact the church office if you have questions or to sign up!

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Northwest Synod of the ELCA of Wisconsin*