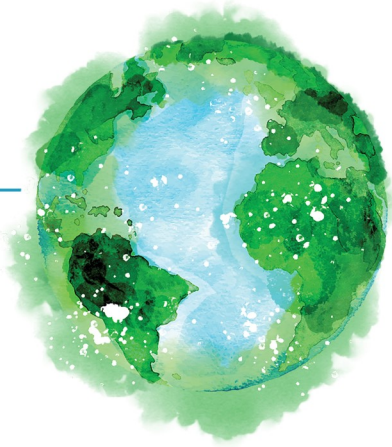




The Image

July 2020



In the world
you will have tribulation.

But take heart;
I have overcome the world.
John 16:33

Pastor Jamie Brieske
pastor@immanuelec.org
715-563-3145

Alyssa Engedal
Family Ministry/Camp Create
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Dee Schlieve
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Staying Connected

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Website—www.immanuelec.org

Facebook—<https://www.facebook.com/immanuelec>

YouTube—Immanuel Church Eau Claire—<https://www.youtube.com/>

High School SHYN Instagram site—<https://www.instagram.com/shyn.ilc/>

Faith Formation family ministry Instagram site—<https://www.instagram.com/familyministry.ilc/>

Dear people of Immanuel,

I hope you are enjoying some fresh air and sunshine this summer! I pray the summer months may bring you signs of new life and growth. God cares for you and invites you to marvel in creation during this time of green grass, blossoming flowers, and birds chirping. God notices you among this beautiful creation and marks you as loved and cherished.

The Immanuel Council met in June and wanted to share an important update with you.

The council has decided our congregation will go forward with a tentative planning of a monthly summer outdoor worship service. There is a worship planning team that is currently preparing this. We do so with great care and intention, because we know there is much at stake. Even though we will be offering an outdoor worship service, we recognize that it is not in the best interest of everyone in the congregation to attend. We each make these decisions not only out of self-care but also out of love for our neighbor. We will be sending out communication around one week prior to the service detailing what the service will look like, expectations for worshippers, and helpful discernment information on whether attending the service will be in your best interest and the best interest of the community.

Know that you are loved and valued by this community! Whether you choose to remain safe at home, or whether you are able to attend the outdoor worship, you are an integral part of the Immanuel Church family. We will continue to offer online worship every Sunday as well. We will also continue to offer monthly Zoom Communion. Even when apart, we are able to be the Church together. Even when gathered in limited ways, we are able to be Church together. God is uniquely calling each of us to care for our community and for the common good at this moment in time. Whatever your calling is, whether big or small, you are infinitely valued and loved in God's eyes.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Jamie Brieske

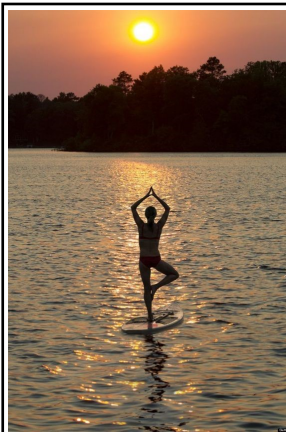




01 Samuel Pickett	17 Gunnar Carlson
03 Donna Armstrong	18 Falynn Hedges
03 Melissa Tarpenning	19 Vic Lothe
04 Suzi Sturz	19 Lalao Rakotomahenina
04 Kyle Neidermire	20 Alyssa Hegde
07 Jim Ulberg	21 Jim McCrady
07 Nate Aaseng	22 Bonnie Weber
07 Kyelie Engedal	22 Lorrie Feeney
10 Hailey Rassbach	22 Jack Barquist
11 Beth Jones	22 Maija Balts
13 Karen McCrady	25 Steve Thompson
13 Joseph Hedges	27 Elaine Schultz
15 Emilee Larson	28 Jerry Hagen
17 Jerrine Kjentvet	29 Alexis Drier
17 Lukas Olson	29 George Franko



01 Keith & Kris Hanson
11 Tom & Emily Prissel
14 Darryl & Debby Petersen
19 Dave & Donna Lehmkuhl
21 Joel & Pam Woletz
24 Steve & Karen Thompson
27 Jerry & Carol Hanson
27 Paul & Becky Ivey
30 Bob & Linda Lodahl



SUP Yoga Returns!

Mt. Simon @ 5:30 PM
 July 14 & 28
 August 11 & 25

To sign up, [click here](#) or
 contact the church office.

Suggested \$15 donation to
 the instructor, Sandy



Summer Trip:

As with most everything, due to the COVID-19 pandemic our youth summer trip to Tennessee has been cancelled. While we are disappointed to have to miss out on this opportunity, everyone on the team understands that the health and safety of our team as well as those we would serve in Tennessee must remain our top priority. However, because restrictions have been lessened and it is currently considered safe to gather in relatively small groups, we have decided to offer an alternative service experience! For those who are interested, Andy & I will be offering a Service Retreat at our cabin near Hayward, WI. We will participate in service projects that we can do at the cabin, then donate to places that would need them. (For example, tie blankets, make face masks, etc.) We will also participate in Bible study & discussion, as well as education and discussion about Social & Racial Justice issues. And, of course, we will also include time for fun & games, relaxation & fellowship together. While it is not the trip we had planned on, we are looking forward to getting to spend time together and serve others.

VBS & Summer Stretch:

These programs are both on hold at this time. I am considering offering some significantly modified options, but nothing has been finalized yet. Stay tuned!

Neighbor to Neighbor/Vecino a Vecino Latinx Ministry

Immanuel Lutheran Church has recently become a partner in an exciting new ministry created through the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. In our June council meeting, the Immanuel council voted unanimously to partner with the Neighbor to Neighbor ministry. In supporting this ministry, we contributed \$3,000 financially. Still, our support goes much farther than a financial commitment. Immanuel is also committing to allow our building to be a place that the new Latinx* ministry can meet. We will be promoting events from the ministry and hopefully attending events in the future! We are getting to know our neighbors of color which is something Immanuel has been committed to for a long time. It is an extension of the work we do through the JONAH Immigration Task Force and through our AMMPARO team. This is Immanuel working on behalf of God's mission for the world to become a more equitable, just, and connected world. All the ELCA churches in Eau Claire have verbally committed to be a part of this ministry and over the coming month they will all be making leadership decisions regarding how they will be involved in the ministry just as Immanuel has done. The Churchwide ELCA and the synod have also contributed financially to this ministry.

Read on to learn more about this new ministry in the words of Lidixe Montoya from her grant to get the project started:

The ultimate "purpose" for Neighbor to Neighbor: Together in Ministry/ Vecino a Vecino: Juntos en Ministerio is to boldly practice the gospel as we cultivate meaningful relationships between the Anglo ELCA congregations with the Latino American community in Eau Claire, WI and surrounding areas. We strive to form a beloved community that is inclusive and diverse, a space to know your neighbor, share the hope of the gospel with the community and a platform for the church to start the journey to explore social and racial justice in our context and communities.

The rationale/purpose for funding this SAWC (Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community) is to build upon the work of the ministry of the Proyecto de Bienestar/ The Wellness Project. This ministry began as a project seminary student and deacon candidate Lidixe Montoya did in the Eau Claire area during the 2019-2020 school year. Lidixe has been gathering a group of people from the Eau Claire Latino American Community to work together on pressing issues including health and wellness, community involvement, activism and justice issues. This group has been praying and worshipping together as well. Lidixe housed this community at one of the local ELCA congregations and began to recognize interest, involvement and crossover from the Anglo ELCA congregation. This began the germination for a ministry in the Eau Claire area that will strive to form a brand new community and connection between Anglo congregations and their neighbors.

...In the Eau Claire surrounding area the demographics of the population has shifted in significant ways over the last ten years. Our community has a growing, largely invisible, Latinx immigrant community employed in agriculture and the service industry. These neighbors live in fear because of the national anti-immigrant climate and our country's failure to pass fair and compassionate immigration reform. This fear results in our Latinx neighbors being isolated from other parts of the community. This isolation allows racism and stereotypes to be perpetuated and prevents the formation of a diverse and caring community.

In 2010 Eau Claire was 96% Caucasian, while in 2019 the city is 90.9% Caucasian. The Latino population has grown from 1% to nearly 5%. In neighboring small town of Arcadia 80% of school age children kindergarten to 6th grade speaks Spanish at home. In the last ten years the population living under the poverty line has increased from 13.6% to 17.4% (primarily 18-24 year old females with children). The population of Hmong Americans has grown as well. In some neighborhoods 30% of the residents are Hmong. In nearby small suburb Barron we are seeing an even more dramatic shift, with the population shifting from 97% Caucasian to 85.9% Caucasian over the same period.

However, while the Eau Claire community has shifted in its racial and economic makeup, we are not seeing our congregations making a similar shift in demographics. A ministry like Neighbor to Neighbor: Together in Ministry/ Vecino a Vecino: Juntos en Ministerio is needed to reach out to and walk with our congregations and their surrounding communities and help form new relationships.

In Eau Claire and surrounding areas, we will strive to help congregations reimagine what their role and voice and identity in their community is. We will strive to explore social and racial justice issues in our synod and to move our almost entirely all white synod to begin to connect with neighbors. We will explore worshipping together and commit to learning about our neighbors. This ministry has emerged as a re-imagined approach to living and sharing our faith in a rapidly changing society.

In addition to the work connecting the Anglo congregations in Eau Claire to their Latino community, Neighbor to Neighbor: Together in Ministry/ Vecino a Vecino: Juntos en Ministerio will also connect with every congregation in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin by providing racial justice training and opportunities for community outreach and partnership.

Thank you Immanuel for being a part of this amazing ministry. Lidixe Montoya will be using this ministry as her internship in her Deaconess ordination process. Thank you for supporting Lidixe over the years as a human being and as a future leader in the ELCA Church! We are excited to be learning in growing in racial justice and advocacy issues and we are excited to continue to get to know our neighbors and work toward a better community for everyone here in Eau Claire!



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
AS YOURSELF.

MATTHEW 22:39

**Latinx is a way to express the Latino and Latina community without using a gender specific term*



Save the date!

**Sunday,
July 26th
10 AM
Outdoor Worship
at Immanuel**

Greetings!

I hope this note will find this Immanuel family of faith doing well. Presently, I am well, I had my hours cut back in March at my job at Down to Earth but am now back to full-time. While I was home, I had the opportunity to work with Deb Kavanagh, Karen Betzig-Lundberg and Emilie Anderson to get the Calling Ministry up and running. The Calling Ministry is an effort to keep Immanuel connected until we can meet in person again.

Until we can meet in person at worship, the ELCA has continued to work on guidelines for worship, communion and other ministries like communion to the homebound. Going forward Pr. Jamie will be offering communion once a month virtually via Zoom. If you do not have the capabilities to participate, we have a team of Eucharistic Ministers ready to serve.



If you would like a Eucharistic partner, call either Janet Carlson at 715-456-0577 or the church office at 715-832-7832. You will receive a call from a Eucharistic Minister to set up a time and a method for receiving homebound communion. Safety is the ministries' priority. We will follow the guidelines from the ELCA and our county for physical distancing. You may receive communion via the phone, video chat or in person at a safe distance in an outdoor setting. You may use your own bread and wine or we can make up a kit for you. These discussions will take place with your Eucharistic Partner. Again, safety is a priority.

Please continue to stay safe and I look forward to when we can be together again!

Peace, Janet Carlson
Care Ministry Coordinator



Sunday, July 12th
Holy Communion Zoom
and
Fellowship at 10 AM

Weekly Worship
Online at 9 AM
Every Sunday on Facebook
and
on YouTube

We the People: Steward our democracy

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

Two sentences from the Declaration of Independence express the true hierarchy that orders our lives. At the top is God, our creator. Human beings are next, and we create government to secure our rights. So, the hierarchy is: God, people, government.

This marks a dramatic innovation in Western thought. For centuries monarchs had been understood to rule “by divine right,” so the accepted hierarchy was: God, monarchy (government), people.

We celebrate the Declaration’s signing day, July 4, 1776, with fireworks, family cookouts and parades. This year’s Fourth of July comes in the wake of Covid-19 and protests over the death George Floyd -- events that have brought to light many deep-seated problems.

Amid economic instability, rising inequality in wealth and healthcare, disparities in criminal justice and other issues, many are asking, “Who does the government *really* serve?” *The Declaration reminds us that we’re in charge, and we have the power to make changes to direct the path our government is on.*

It would be wise for God’s people to mark the Fourth of July, 2020, with deep reflection and renewed commitment to working to ensure a government that reflects our values and serves all of God’s people.

Why is this a stewardship issue? Christian stewardship is the discipline of taking care of and using wisely all that God has given us – whether it be money, health, relationships, or even governments. God has entrusted us with a vibrant democracy. It’s up to us to take care of it.

--Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2020, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as an assistant to the bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com





Thank you to all the Immanuel members who help serve meals to those in need at the Community Table!

Immanuel serves the 4th Wednesday of each month from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. You can also volunteer to serve at other times. [Sign up here!](#)

Contact the church office if you have questions or need assistance signing up.

The Community Table has made adjustments due to COVID-19, offering to-go meals only and utilizing smaller teams of volunteers. This picture was taken between shifts so doesn't capture all of our amazing volunteers!

Immanuel Lutheran Church
3214 Golf Road
Eau Claire, WI 54701
Address service required

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Dated Material—useless if delayed



*A congregation of the
Northwest Synod of the ELCA of Wisconsin*