



IMMANUEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Image

May 2020



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YouTube—Immanuel Church Eau Claire—https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7e6ZI_wxM5RXqIJ5bHEwGQ

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

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



Dear siblings in Christ,

I write to you on a rainy morning in April as a rainbow peaks through some clouds. The image of the rainbow is a biblical sign of God's covenant with all of creation in the story of Noah's ark. The rainbow after the rain also reminds us of new life and the promise of resurrection during this Easter season. God is committed to creation. God is faithful to the promise spoken through the risen Christ, *"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* (Matthew 28:20). It may be rainy today, but as they say *"April showers bring May flowers."* The rain will hopefully nourish the soil so that new life can grow this month. I pray that God will be with you in the showers of this season, so that you can enjoy the flowers and sunshine to come this May!

The community of Immanuel wants to remind you that we are here for you, even when we are apart. Though we can't yet be together at church, we are connected and sustained together by God's Holy Spirit and the promises of Easter.

I am excited to announce the many ways that we are bringing church and learning into your homes. Yet in doing so I realize that it can all be a little overwhelming! All of the new ways of communicating, watching, listening, and participating can come with a steep learning curve. If you are still not sure of the best way to worship or learn during this season, don't hesitate to reach out by calling our office or my cell phone. We are happy to walk you through it and see what would work best with your setup. In addition to online options, our Zoom fellowship and classes allow people to call in by phone. Our Eucharistic ministers can visit via phone, and we could also mail a manuscript of the sermon to your home if you need that option. We don't want to leave anyone out, so if there is anything we can help you with- please let us know!

As we head into the summer months we are offering a few extra options for online learning including a May Meditation group, a summer Bible study via Zoom, and a virtual "women's retreat" in May. If you have creative ministry ideas that you would like to be a part of at Immanuel, we would love to hear them!

We don't know exactly what the way forward looks like right now, but we know the Spirit is walking with us. The council has done an excellent job during this challenging season by leading the congregation in vision, mission, and stewardship. We received a small business loan through the Payroll Protection Program. We are continuing to serve our neighbors by keeping our Food Pantry open. Immanuel volunteers are continuing to serve at the Community Table. Immanuel continues to live into its vision to be the Church without Walls. We are blessed with leaders, staff, and people of the church who are committed to serving others. Thank you for all of the ways you are living out your faith at home.

Easter hope and joy!
Pastor Jamie Brieske

Volunteers are the **HEART** *of our church*



Wednesday Video Devotions

Our WoW worship has come to an end for the learning year, but we still want to provide you with some midweek inspiration! We are looking for volunteers to put together a short video devotion to be posted on our YouTube channel and Facebook page. Perhaps you will give a short accounting of your faith journey or tell a story about God's presence in your life. Consider telling us about your favorite Bible story or verse and how it has impacted you. You could also record a special song and share why it is meaningful to you. The Immanuel community will be encouraged by your devotion! Consider 4-7 minutes in length. Contact Pastor Jamie or [sign up on our website](#) (Get Involved > Volunteer)!

Readers Needed

Are you willing to read scripture for our virtual services? You can simply do an audio or video recording of yourself reading and we will add it to our Sunday worship video. We are happy to help assist you with AV questions! Email the church office or [sign up on our website](#) (Get Involved > Volunteer)!

Video Editing Help

Do you have iMovie software and like to play around with it? Immanuel is currently using this Mac software to create our Sunday worship services. We are looking for people to help do some video editing for services. Contact the office if you are interested in helping.

Immanuel Food Pantry

Are you looking for a way to serve God and your neighbor? Immanuel's food ministry program continues to operate as an essential service during this time of "safer at home," and helping distribute food to our guests is one way we live out our calling to be a "church without walls."

The Food Pantry is open on Monday evenings from 5:30—6:30 PM and on Thursday and Friday mornings from 9:00—11:00 AM. If you can help, please [sign up on our website](#) (Get Involved > Volunteer) or contact the church office.

The Community Table

The Community Table serves hot meals 365 days each year to those in Eau Claire needing food. They completely rely on volunteers from the community to prepare and serve the hungry. Immanuel has a team that serves the 4th Wednesday of each month from 9:00 AM—2:00 PM (split up into two groups). [Sign up here to help.](#)

If your schedule doesn't permit volunteering with the Immanuel team, you can also volunteer as an individual.



Council Notes

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council
Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2020

Members attending: Pastor Jamie, Lang Jacobson, Jennifer Dean, Bob Wilcox, Becky Ivey, Keith Martin, Natalie Forrest, Calvin Dean,

Online Attending: Peggy Blomenberg, Bill Schwengel, Karen Betzig-Lundberg
Absent: Emilie Anderson, Al Ludwig

Meeting called to order at 1900

Devotion: Lang shared with us a connection from Rev. Eden. In a reference to the 1527 plague throughout Europe, Martin Luther wrote to emphasize the duty to care, use caution for neighbors, and the role of church and hospital. He encouraged the use of medicine and reason and through his writing, reminds us to trust the Lord.

Thank You Notes: A thank you to Dee for accompanying the choir as a need presented itself.

Prior Meeting Minutes: Moved to accept Feb. minutes with corrections by Bob, seconded by Keith, passed unanimously

New Business:

Infectious Disease Precaution - Using the current precautions given at the state and national level, Lang is recommending we vote to move services online moving forward. Lang and Bill propose moving forward with online worship services indefinitely. Clarification was made that those leading the service will be in attendance and those not involved will not attend, including the choir. The service will be a bit more limited under these circumstances with special music incorporated when possible. A link will be given for video from FB and audio is available. A YouTube link is something that may be considered in the future. Karen shared that the online experience from last Sunday was a comfort and she and her husband enjoyed the service. The motion was been made by Lang to move to online services until the next council meeting. Seconded by Bob and approved by council.

Covid-19 Council Planning/letter - Pastor Jamie shared a draft of a letter to the church body to outline changes that will be in place with the new developments. Virtual visits to members in need, such as those in a hospital setting, can still take place to provide support as needed. There are steps being put in place to help recruit volunteers to assist members who are in need of supports during this time. Discussion involved how to best get the word out that volunteers are needed or those in need may find a volunteer. The possibility of emailing or calling members was discussed. In discussion of the letter itself, the office hours will be limited to Thurs and Fri to correlate to the Food Pantry days with phone messages and email being responded to as staff will continue to work remotely. Providing a small gate or barrier to help limit proximity was discussed as well as the best possible ways to pre-pack food pantry items and allow for pick up with limited interface. The message will communicate clearly that Kim will be thoroughly cleaning the entire church. Dee will take the lead on the council suggestions for food pantry distribution. Discussion was made around the language and policy for funerals services to limit numbers and public involvement. Communication from tonight's meeting will be distributed in the monthly newsletter, Facebook, email, and on the church voicemail.

Electric Bill -

Lang and Dee worked together to analyze energy cost based on billing during the previous year. Focus On Energy found that 20 - 25% of the electric bill has been linked to a space heater in the back hallway. Lang has reduced the output from the heater for now. Bill and Kim will look into any concern of water pipes being affected if the space heater is off/lowered. LED lights are another recommendation for a savings of energy. Lang will look into a Thrivent grant to help assist in replacing the lights. One water heater from 1985 is not as efficient. There is a \$250 voucher for replacement if there is an interest in doing so down the road along with the possibility of a programmable or user sensitive thermostat. Peggy asked if the building heat can be reduced for the duration while the space is not being used as usual. The furnace is over 25 years old, so that is not as efficient and may need to be considered down the road. Buying renewable energy (1/3 of our use) is a possibility either by month or 5-year commitment as it would support environmental stewardship. Lang moved to make a 5-year commitment for \$1500 (\$26/month) for investment in renewable energy. Jennifer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. It will be communicated to the church that the council is committing to positive energy usage by taking this course of action.

Peggy's term: Sandy LaValley was on the ballot for council and would like to serve. Peggy wishes to step down from finishing her current term. Peggy moved to approve Sandy to the council, Lang seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Lang will officially welcome Sandy and be in contact with her as she will serve at the next council meeting.

Bill recommends a virtual council meeting or email to review the situation as updates to Covid-19 continue to develop.

Next month — cemetery John - request a written proposal

Old Business

Lang has obtained a \$10,000 grant from the trust fund to support the projection project.

Reports

Finance: Lang reviewed the finance report and will submit it to the shared drive. The finance reports will wait for the next council meeting to be approved. We will also discuss how to communicate to members regarding giving in these unusual circumstances. We will look for ways to monitor the giving as well as the increase/decrease of giving and expenses may fluctuate.

Property: Bill submitted the report to the google drive. The claim is not yet finalized, but more information is being gathered on the claim as well as the ceiling being looked at with an assessment to see if there is further damage.

*A motion was made to approve the Property report and Pastor's report by Lang, seconded by Bob, and approved unanimously.

Stewardship: Did not meet

Pastor's Report: Written report submitted to share drive.

Pastor Jamie ended with prayer

Adjourn: Natalie moves to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Calvin, and passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: Tues., April 21st

PPP Announcement

The council voted to apply for a grant from the Paycheck Protection Program through the federal government to cover the cost of payroll for two and a half months for the church and preschool staff. We were awarded a PPP grant that will go toward payroll and necessary expenses for April, May, and part of June. If you have questions please see the Q&A on the NWSWI website or contact Lang Jacobson, council president, or any other council member.



Need some peace in your life? Need to get your week started right? Monday mornings in May, Pastor Jamie will be offering a live time of meditation from 7:00-7:30 a.m. through a Facebook group. If you are interested in joining the meditation group, email Pastor Jamie or [sign up on our website](#) (Worship > At Home Worship page), and we will invite you to join the Facebook group.

You can also participate by committing to meditate for 30 minutes each Monday morning on your own! Let us know if you are participating.

Our women's retreat for April was canceled, but that doesn't mean we can't get together and hang out digitally! Pastor Jamie and Alyssa will be leading an *Untamed* Book Group to provide space to talk, laugh, and process your lives. They will take turns reading their favorite passages from *Untamed* by Glennon Doyle, and you can share your favorites too or just join in the conversation. This is a safe space where it is okay to not be okay!

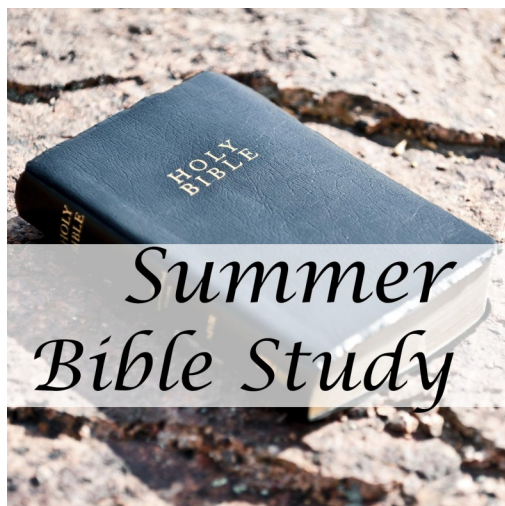
If you are interested in joining the group, email Alyssa at familyministry@immanuelec.org and she will send you an invite to our Facebook Group. We will meet a couple of times in May as people's schedules allow.



The Four Gospel Journey, a 6 Session Film Series on The Path of Transformation with Alexander John Shaia

How do we face change? How do we move through suffering? How do we receive joy? How do we mature in service? Spend some time with Alexander J Shaia as he uses the great map of the four Gospels, just as the Christians used, to guide us on the Christ journey - one of love, growth and transformation. See a preview at *The Work of the People*.

https://www.theworkofthepeople.com/film_series/the-four-gospel-journey



Are you interested in joining a Bible Study for the summer? We will do a study via Zoom on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 10 am in June, July, and August. If there is enough interest for a group to meet at another time/date, we can add another session. Email the office or [sign up on our website](#) (Worship > At Home Worship page).

MINISTRY UPDATES

Zomba Immanuel Partnership

At the ZIP meeting on April 19th, 2020, our team discussed the fearful messages coming from our Malawi friends during the onset of COVID-19. Many are worried about a lack of income and access to food if the country is shutdown. According to several news sources¹ Malawi's 21-day lockdown, due to start April 18th, was blocked by the High Courts for seven days due to fears of starvation. According to our contacts in the ELCM, large group worship is shut down along with other small businesses in Malawi. We discussed using our savings to help the ELCM as the staff, Pastors, Evangelists and workers are currently without pay. Food stations are also in need of funds, so we will be sending the ELCM \$2000 quickly to help with these needs. We have pledged to use our remaining \$5000 as a "matching" gift to encourage other congregations in the ELCA's NW Synod to donate to the long term need of hunger that will be exacerbated by COVID-19. Please contact a ZIP team member if you would like to help in any way.

Holli Jacobson

¹<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/04/malawi-high-court-blocks-coronavirus-lockdown-200417184430403.html>

Food Ministry

Our Immanuel Food Pantry has continued to operate, following our normal schedule, since the church building was closed on March 15; however, it looks very different (for starters, it's located in the narthex!).

Pantry guests are not allowed to enter the building—they are greeted outside by the volunteer du jour (thank you to all those who help with this ministry!) who also delivers a box (or two) of pre-packaged food.

Activity at the pantry varies from week to week—as you can imagine, we have more guests visiting since the safer-at-home orders forced businesses to close—on average we are serving 10-12 families per week. All who come are very grateful, and appreciate our "no questions asked" service. Please prayerfully consider a donation of time or money to this ministry. Thank you!

Dee Schlieve

Youth & Family

May greetings from my home to yours! I can't help but comment on how our lives have changed over the past months in ways we never could have imagined. Who would have thought that my May calendar would be virtually empty!?! May is usually an incredibly busy month for many

people, myself included - sports, dance, school activities, last minute field trips, planning for graduations and end of year celebrations. We grieve collectively for the loss of things that would have been, and yet know that our priority must be health and safety for ourselves and others.

However, there are "silver linings" to be found, as well. I, like most of you, I'm sure, am learning many new ways to use technology! I have discovered awesome resources I had no idea existed, and am enjoying getting to test them out! The high school youth & I meet weekly for "SHYN online" using Zoom to play games, check in, and pray together. We are all finding this time together to be valuable, and have decided to continue meeting frequently online (versus being done for the summer as usual in May) until it is safe for us to meet in person. Pastor Jamie has been leading the middle school youth in confirmation class online, as well, and their last class session is scheduled for this week. Beginning next week, I will also get to "hang out" with the middle school youth via Zoom and am looking forward to trying some new games with them!

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to purchase some custom water bottles using funds from Thrivent. I had lots of fun delivering them, with a note, to the homes of each of the middle & high school youth and leaving them on doorsteps. It was so special to get out and spread a little joy! This week was scheduled to be our annual Youth Led Worship service, so several families and I have been working hard to put together a virtual service -- watch it at 9 AM on Sunday, May 3, or anytime after!



Looking forward, many plans remain uncertain. But we are certain that we will continue to be loved by God, and that we will be the church together until we can *really be together again!* ~Alyssa Engedal

Worship in May

May 3
Youth Sunday

Join us in worshipping at home led by our Journey of Faith youth!

May 10
Litany of Thanksgiving and Intercession for Mother's Day

Mothers come in many different forms, and today we celebrate them all!

Mothering God, we draw on the image of you as one who nurtures, who gathers, who protects.

We pray for those women who have nurtured us as mothers and who are no longer with us and whom we miss dearly.

We reflect upon those women who have influenced our own lives in so many ways, and we give thanks.

We pray for the women around the world who are working long days and nights to raise their children right now. We pray for the mothers around the world.

We pray for mothers who have fled violence and difficult situations, including refugees, and who have been separated from their children, or experienced the tragedy of the death of a child. We pray for mothers living in uncertainty and facing the unknown.

We pray for all the women who are expecting, but aren't quite mothers yet! Thank God for the soon-to-be-mothers.

We pray for families where a mother's illness has led to an early death. We pray for those who step in to help with the care and nurture of the children, including extended family, and we especially for children in Africa who take on the role of mother when they themselves are still only children. We pray for the women who took in others' children

through adoption and foster care. We give thanks for these mothers with hearts so big.

We pray for those women who have lost a child to death and must carry on. We pray for strength and courage for the mothers who have faced grief and loss.

We pray for women whose children have grown and whom they now seldom see. We pray for mothers who are at a distance from their children.

We pray for all the women who have desperately wanted to have children of their own, but chose instead to mother everyone else. We thank God for the mothers in spirit.

We pray for women leaders in Aboriginal communities who seek to provide a protective environment for children, and whose commitment is to work for a healthy place for children to live and grow.

We pray for those troubled by the prospect of motherhood, perhaps too soon, or too few resources to care for a child.

Mothering God, we offer these prayers to you this day. Hear the prayers of our own hearts.

A silence is kept.

~ adapted from Peggy Emerson. Posted on <http://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/?p=403#more-403>

May 17 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Prayer of the day

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Thursday May 21 Ascension of our Lord

Prayer for Ascension
(inspired by Acts 1:9-11)

Lord of life,
We do not know the face of the future,
any more than your disciples did.
Like them, we have many questions:
how to live
how to bear witness.
Like them, we thirst for the spring waters of the Spirit
to inspire us in our living
to give us a heart language in our testimony.

You have been raised in glory
that we might rise with dignity
You live in power that we might live in peace
You are present everywhere
that we might be fully present in our own lives
This we believe
This we step out on.

~ originally posted on the *Monthly Prayers* page (now **Weekly Worship**) of the *Christian Aid* website.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/churches/weekly-worship>

May 24 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Stay, A Blessing for Ascension Day by Jan Richardson

I know how your mind
rushes ahead
trying to fathom
what could follow this.
What will you do,
where will you go,
how will you live?

You will want
to outrun the grief.
You will want
to keep turning toward
the horizon,
watching for what was lost
to come back,
to return to you
and never leave again.

For now
hear me when I say
all you need to do
is to still yourself
is to turn toward one another
is to stay.

Wait
and see what comes
to fill
the gaping hole
in your chest.
Wait with your hands open
to receive what could never come
except to what is empty
and hollow.

You cannot know it now,
cannot even imagine
what lies ahead,
but I tell you
the day is coming
when breath will
fill your lungs
as it never has before
and with your own ears
you will hear words
coming to you new
and startling.
You will dream dreams
and you will see the world
ablaze with blessing.

Wait for it.
Still yourself.
Stay.



— John Furry, a minister in Woodstock, Ontario, Canada
From *Sacred Seasons*, Seeds of Hope Publishers.

May 31 Day of Pentecost Benediction for Pentecost

Get on out of here, little children,
for you and we
and all the people of the world
are God's children.

Get on your way,
brothers and sisters together,
and of all people,
because of Jesus who names and claims us all
as his beloved siblings.

Get yourself out of this sacred place,
pushed by the spirit who blows when and where she will,
making all places sacred.

Go and do some more singing and talking,
laughing and crying,
hugging and holding,
by which you are strengthened
to be tellers of truth,
bearers of justice, offerers of resistance,
so becoming part of the great cloud of witnesses.

Go also to do some sleeping and resting,
anticipating tomorrow,
which will be another Easter day
of God's wonderful surprises
and God's true successes.

Go now, people of faith.
Amen!

Find all of this information on our website www.immanuelec.org

Sunday worship 9 am on Facebook or YouTube
(You can watch it anytime on our YouTube channel!)

Sunday Zoom Fellowship 10-11 am
This is an informal time to say hello!

Wednesday Evening Devotions posted by 6 pm
WoW is officially completed for the year, but we will continue to post devotional videos or livestreams each week. We are looking for Immanuel people to lead these!

Bible and Book study opportunities

We are offering several Bible/book study options to appeal to a variety of people this spring and summer. We are also open to other small group suggestions.





01 Steve Mikelson	20 Grant Johnson
01 Holli Jacobson	22 Rosemary Boyea
02 Tim Bowman	23 Sonja Thomsen
03 Julie Renz	23 Disa Wahlstrand
04 LeRoy Johnson	26 Hemant Hegde
06 Abby Pickett	26 Allisa Hansen
06 Sara Hegde	27 David Schaffer
07 Frankie LoRusso	27 Erin Kavanagh
08 Cooper Schumacher	28 CJ Woletz
08 Jaxson Bentley	29 Jackie Johnson
13 Tom Zimpel	29 Logan Strehlau
17 Pam Woletz	30 Chad Brieske
19 Mark Helland	30 Nathan Hagstrom

05 Jerry & Brenda Hagen
 17 Paul & Kim Bowman
 23 Thom & Barb Hokanson
 25 Marty & Vicki Fankhauser
 26 Kelly & Deb Kavanagh
 26 Mark & Lauri Malnory
 27 Loren & Emilie Anderson
 28 Steve & Brenda Johnson
 28 Todd & Julie Pickett
 50 JonPaul & Jessica Dragseth

Virtual Pastoral Care

Set up a virtual pastor care call with Pastor Jamie!

Pastor Jamie is looking forward to connecting with you this month. You can set up a visit in several different ways! Pastor Jamie is available via: phone call, Zoom, Google Hangout, or Facebook Messenger. During our virtual visit we can check-in and share prayer requests. Please email, text or call to set up a time for you or your family to visit with Pastor Jamie.

pastor@immanuelec.org

715-563-3145



We would like to express our thanks to all of our Immanuel family and friends who are working hard during this time. We appreciate all of our health care workers and essential staff. We pray for you daily! If there is any way we can support you, please be in touch. If you would like to share your stories or updates with our community, we can feature them in next month's newsletter or on our Wednesday evening devotions.

worship
WITH US

from home

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. | facebook.com/immanuelec

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

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IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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