



# *The Image*

September 2020



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Eau Claire, WI 54701  
[immanuelec.org](http://immanuelec.org)  
715-832-7832

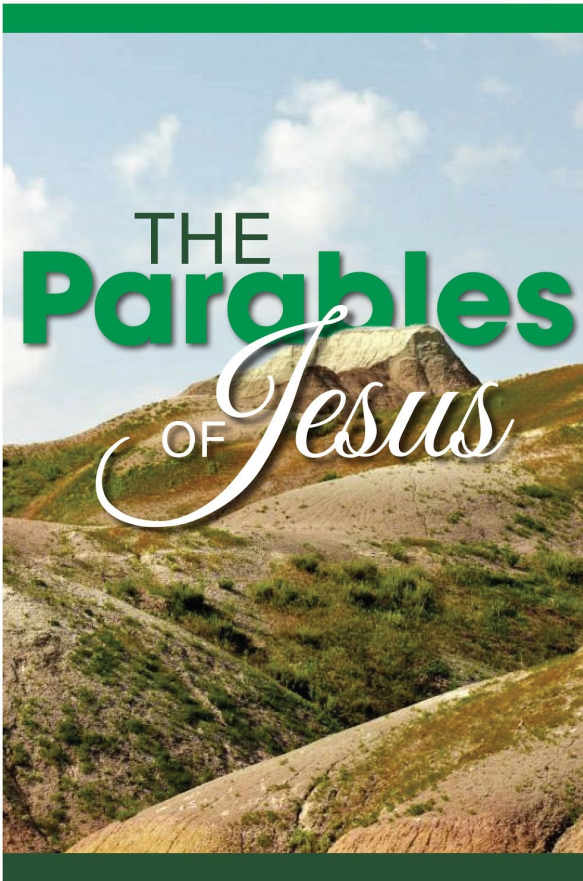
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## Puzzles, Parables, and the Unknown



Fall looks a little different this year. Our schedules are more like puzzles than the usual instruction manuals. Parents try to figure out their work and school routines. Kids try to learn new ways to learn through in-person and virtual classes. Businesses try to change and adapt to provide the safest environments for their customers and workers. Older adults living at home or in nursing homes try to figure out ways to stay in contact with their loved ones and connected with the world. Scientists work against the clock to find a vaccine. This fall, COVID19 has made a puzzle out of our lives.

Making peace with the unknown seems to be the first spiritual response we need in this uncertain time. There are too many questions and not enough answers. Yet, in the midst of our confusion and unknown, God meets us. The peace that we have in God never changes. The Holy Spirit never stops working, even when it is difficult to see how she is working. Even when only half of the puzzle is visible.

I think Matthew's gospel can give us hope this fall. For the next month or so we will be reading many teachings of Jesus from Matthew chapters 18 through 22 in our lectionary cycle. In these teachings, there are many

parables. For the most part, these parables are not allegorical, meaning there is not one clear interpretation where each part has a specific meaning to be unlocked. Rather the parables invite us to imagine a different way of being. The parables invite us into the hidden or unknown side of the mystery of God. Some of these parables seem difficult to understand. They are a bit of a puzzle. Some have fiery endings. And yet, Jesus invites us into this deep mystery. Through story, Jesus draws us into a world where it can be difficult to see how God is at work. Jesus provides lessons for us that don't always have easy answers.

Jesus teaches us through stories and puzzles and through his own life. Jesus goes to the cross and suffers, making it seem for a moment that maybe God has been defeated. And yet, even in the silence, we know that God is not absent. Jesus lived the most painful and tragic parts of this life so that we would never have to face it alone. By the end of Matthew's gospel, the earth quakes and the veil is torn and the saints rise up from the ground. In great joy and fear the women see the empty tomb. Jesus meets with his disciples and gives them the great commission and his everlasting promise, "I will be with you until the end of the age."

In all the questions and puzzles of your life, Jesus meets you. The promised grace remains with you even in uncertain times. Find hope in the Parables of Jesus this fall!

*Pastor Jamie Briske*





**Sunday, September 6**—Livestream at 9:00 AM on Facebook or YouTube

**Starting Sunday, September 13—Weekly Outdoor Worship!**

Livestream at 9:00 AM on Facebook or YouTube

Outdoor Worship at 10:00 AM

Sunday, September 13     *A parable of forgiveness, Matthew 18:21-235*

Sunday, September 20     *The parable of the vineyard workers, Matthew 20:1-16*

Sunday, September 27     *A parable of doing God's will, Matthew 21:23-32*



**WoW is back!**

Worship with us outdoors on Wednesday, September **16th**, **23rd** and **30th** at 6 PM in the Immanuel parking lot. Stay tuned for October dates!

Are you having trouble finding our online worship?  
If you need technical help or need a device to watch our worship, please contact the Immanuel office so we can help you!

**Tech Support  
Available!**



# Youth and Family



Join us on **September 13** for our Back to School Blessing. We will offer the blessing both during our Livestream worship at 9 am and during our outdoor worship at 10 am. Feel free to bring your backpack along!

Camp Create is excited to begin our fifth year! We can't wait to resume classes after our year was cut short last spring. We do have very limited spaces still available if you know of someone who might be interested. Camp Create is a great way for two year olds to begin a school-like setting, in a warm, engaging, Christian atmosphere. Our motto is "Play, Learn & Grow in God's Love," and we spend each day doing just that! We have put many extra precautions, cleaning and safety measures in place, and appreciate your prayers for a safe and healthy school year. Talk to Alyssa if you have questions or would like to learn more.



Middle & High School Ministry opportunities – Pastor Jamie and Alyssa are looking forward to offering monthly small group in person gatherings for those in middle and high school. Watch your email for more details!

Cross+Gen and family fun! All are welcome to join us for a brief devotion & fun at the Carson Park Birch Pavilion on **Sunday, September 27** beginning at 3 pm.





*Lifetouch* is putting the finishing touches on our directory! We will have an opportunity for one final proofing before it goes to print, so this is the last call! If you have a picture you would like to submit or need to update your address, phone numbers or email address, please contact the church office.

We have taken safety measures, and we are looking forward to welcoming students back on September 8th! We have a full three year old class and openings in our four year old class. Jennifer Larson and Katy LoRusso will be back as teachers, and we are excited to dive into an ocean themed year!



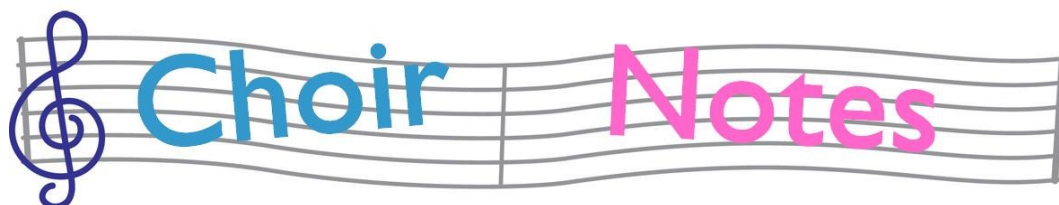
#### Attention Parents!

Immanuel members Lauri Malnory and Katy LoRusso, along with 18 other community members, are now providers for a parenting resource called Triple P. The Triple P – Positive Parenting Program® is an internationally recognized program that gives parents the skills they need to raise confident and healthy children, build strong family relationships, manage misbehaviors and prevent problems from happening in the first place. Contact the Family Resource Center for more information.

Phone: 715-833-1735

Email: [frcec@frcec.org](mailto:frcec@frcec.org)

Website: <https://www.frcec.org/>



[Click here to read Tammie's full letter to the choir.](#)

#### **Upcoming Events**

Socially distant outdoor social gathering - Sunday, September 13, 5:00 - 5:45 PM at Immanuel  
Hymn Sing  
Lessons & Carols for Advent/Christmas

#### **Opportunities to use your gifts! Contact the church office if interested!!**

Sing hymns for our livestream worship services  
Provide special music - either live or pre-recorded

# *Join us for*

## **“God’s work. Our hands.”**

A dedicated day of  
service in our community.



Together in Jesus Christ we are  
freed by grace to live faithfully,  
witness boldly and serve joyfully.

**Sunday, September 27, 2020**

Like most things, God’s Work Our Hands (GWOH) will look different this year but it will go on! GWOH is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor. We do acts of service to deepen our experience with our community and to play a critical part in addressing community needs. There are several ways you can participate, and ***you can start now!*** We are collecting donations at the church for the following:

- Sleep in Heavenly Peace—twin bed sheets, pillows and comforters, fleece blankets for twin size bed
- Campus Harvest—leggings for female college students in need
- Cloth masks to donate to Lutheran World Relief and local places in need

We will celebrate GWOH during our livestream worship service, and there will be virtual and in-person service opportunities available that weekend, including:

- Serve at the Community Table on Sunday, September 27, 2:45—5 PM
- Did you know that Immanuel is part owner of the Lutheran Cemetery on Omaha Street in Eau Claire?! You can support our investment by helping to clean up the property.
- There will also be clean up opportunities along various highways, bike trails and roadsides.
- Immanuel will host a livestream event between 12:30 and 2:30 featuring a presentation by Lidixe Montoya.
- Provide meals for Beacon House, September 27—October 3

***Contact the church office to sign up for any of these events.***



**Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP)** is an American nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that builds and delivers beds to children who don't have beds to sleep in. Luke and Heidi Mickelson founded SHP in 2012 in Twin Falls, Idaho. As of 2019, the organization has 150 chapters around the United States (one is in Osseo, WI) and has built over 4000 beds.

When Luke Mickelson was a youth group leader at his church, the group built beds for a member family of the church that was in need. He then built a bed with his family and offered it for free on Facebook. When people in the community heard about the effort, many donated bedding items, which encouraged Mickelson to move forward with the project. The organization grew at such a pace that Mickelson decided to leave his job and run SHP full-time.

Every bed is handcrafted and constructed by volunteers, and **no experience is necessary**. Each bed is delivered to an appreciative home, complete with mattresses, pillows and bedding.

The SHP mission is *No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in our Town!* For more information, visit their website, [shpbeds.org](http://shpbeds.org).

The SHP event will take place at Hope Lutheran Church, and there are two volunteer dates:

Saturday, September 26, 1:00—5:00 PM. Every piece of wood needs to be sanded, so many hands are needed!

Sunday, September 26, 12:30-4:00 PM. The various pieces of the beds are drilled for hardware, assembled and stained.

**We will make 40 beds for kids in need!** To volunteer, please call Hope Lutheran at 715-832-1414. The minimum age to participate is 14 years old, per the national SHP organization.



All donations for these God's Work Our Hands service opportunities can be dropped off at the church during regular office hours, Monday—Friday, 8:30 AM—12:30 PM.



## **Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Minutes for August 18, 2020**

**Council Members:** Emilie Anderson, Karen Betzig-Lundberg, Sandra LaValley, Pastor Jamie Brieske, Jennifer Dean, Becky Ivey, Lang Jacobson, Al Ludwig, Keith Martin, Bill Schwengel, Bob Wilcox. \*Casper Haas joined the council meeting to discuss the finance reports.

**Absent:** Calvin Dean and Natalie Forrest

### **Gathering**

Devotion - Becky shared her faith journey from a different church/synod to Immanuel and ELCA synod.

Thank you notes - We would like to thank Bill for the extensive work he and the property committee have done on the proposals and follow up needed for the repairs and work to the church sanctuary.

### **Minutes**

July 2020 - Review & Approval: Lang moved to approve the July minutes with corrections to spelling, seconded by Jennifer, and approved unanimously by the council.

### **Old Business**

Sanctuary Repair - Congregational Meeting to be held August 23, 2020: Lang gave a short summary of the history for the roof leak/damage and then the follow up with the insurance company and the restoration/painting services who reviewed the work. On Sunday, August 23rd, a congregational meeting will take place to request support to approve funding to cover costs over the standard budget for the building. A vote with a majority will be needed for the plan to move forward. A motion was made by Bill to hire Metzenbauer Painting to fulfill the restoration and painting contract up to \$10,000 above the 2020 budget. This motion was seconded by Keith and unanimously approved by council.

Additional Notes: November is the tentative start date with an approximate timeline of one to two weeks. Bill, with the support of the council, will complete a contract with the company to provide a guideline for limiting costs based on a time and materials contract not to exceed \$16,500; a combination of the insurance proceeds and congregation allotment.

Worship - The first in person, outdoor service went smoothly and if possible more of these services may continue. The next in person, outdoor worship will be Aug. 30th. Dee will be training volunteers to assist with services, both outdoor and virtual. As outdoor services are held, there will still be live-stream services, which helps in case of a weather cancelation. Lang moved to hold weekly in person, outdoor services from Labor Day through October, as weather conditions allow. This was seconded by Keith and unanimously passed by the council.

### **New Business**

Council Minutes - It was discussed that the council consider having the minutes be printed or shared in the Image each month, especially as news and information may not be shared among congregation members due to less in-person contact recently. Currently there has been a delay as the previous month's minutes are approved at the following council meeting. In the interest in keeping information transparent for the congregation and to be consistent and timely moving forward, council minutes will be approved and shared by the Monday following each council meeting and available in the Image that same month.



## Reports

Pastor - The Pastor's report can be found in the council folder for review.

Property - This update was discussed within old business. Al and others/volunteers have been mowing and Mary B. has continued to maintain the property beautifully; all who have our appreciation.

Finance - Casper joined tonight's meeting to discuss the finance information.

Lang moved to accept all of the reports, Karen seconded the motion, and the council approved the reports unanimously.

**Closing Prayer** - Pastor closed the meeting in prayer.

**Adjournment** - Lang moved to adjourn, Becky seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by the council.

**Next Meeting: Tues – September 15, 2020 - 7:00 PM**

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## Minutes for the Special Congregational Meeting

August 23, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Lang Jacobson, Church Council President, with a quorum of 30+ members via Zoom.

Lang explained that the meeting today is necessary as the council is asking for an expenditure that exceeds the budget for the building and requires a meeting and approval by the congregation. He also gave a brief history of the original water damage to the roof and the needs that followed regarding work done to the ceiling and walls in the sanctuary. Bill Schwengel and the property committee worked to develop the best plan in moving forwards. This work has included obtaining \$9,200 from the insurance company from the previous roof damages, reviewing estimates and reference from 3 area contractors, and an agreed upon a \$15,600 time and materials contract with Metzenbauer Painting.

### **Church Council presented to the congregation of Immanuel the following motion:**

- Whereas damage to the sanctuary has occurred due to water damage from a leak in the roof, and
- Whereas the sanctuary ceiling and walls have deteriorated and require repair and painting, and
- Whereas Church Mutual Insurance Company provided an insurance claim settlement of \$9253.21 to help with this repair, and
- Whereas the Immanuel Lutheran Church Council and the Property Committee obtained proposals from three area contractors, examined the proposals, reviewed references on these contractors, and selected Metzenbauer Painting of Chippewa Falls to contract for the repairs and painting, and
- Whereas additional funding is required to complete the above sanctuary repairs and painting, therefore Immanuel Lutheran Church Council recommends approval of no more than \$10,000 beyond the fiscal year 2020 budget in order to complete the above sanctuary repairs and painting.

This motion was made by the Property Committee, was seconded by Peggy Blumenberg, and carried by congregation members present.

Sue Koch motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Steve Mikelson, and approved by the council at 10:22 am.



01 Melody Dragseth  
02 Lois Helland  
02 Bill Schwengel  
03 Linda Hedding  
03 Thomas Fey  
04 Steve Johnson  
04 Jodi Buchholz  
04 Madeline LoRusso  
05 Sue Waits  
05 Deb Balts  
06 Sue Luthy  
08 Kaleb Engedal  
09 Robert Schaffer  
10 JonPaul Dragseth  
10 Grant Benware  
11 Ed August  
11 Scott Magnuson  
11 Linda LaFave  
11 Heather Hedges  
12 Barb Lundeen  
12 Lauren Likkel  
15 Doug Olson  
16 Casper Haas  
16 Brianne Leibham  
16 Fletcher Gilbertson

17 Robin Gullicksrud  
17 Chris Redetzke  
18 Hattie Hungerholt  
19 Levi Felling  
19 Graham Kuhn  
20 Gary Hedding  
20 Kira Novakosfski  
20 Andrew Carlson  
21 Amy Schlieve  
22 Griffin Fey  
26 Diane Christopher  
26 Renee Strehlau  
27 Betty Gertner  
27 Marc Likkel  
27 Todd Fox  
28 Brian Bischel  
29 Marilyn Pospishil  
30 Trapper Carlson

03 Darrell & Joy Becker  
04 Levi Felling & Sarah Aiken-Felling  
08 Keith & Alison Martin  
15 Erv & Linda LaFave  
16 Ray & Sue Koch  
17 Andy & Alyssa Engedal  
18 Scott & Gwen Magnuson  
19 Gary & Joan Pospishil  
21 Brent & Carol Sue Carlson  
23 Matt & Kelsey Coyle  
26 Faly & Lalao Rakotomahenina



#### **Food Pantry Schedule Change**

Beginning Monday, September 14, the Immanuel Food Pantry will be open to serve guests from 4:00—6:30 PM. Thursday and Friday hours are being discontinued.

With this change, one guest at a time will be allowed to enter the building (with a mask) and choose the food they would like from our pantry. Two volunteers are needed each Monday night. Can you help? If so, please use [SignUp Genius](#) or contact Dee in the church office.

# September 2020

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
30 9 AM Livestream Service  10 AM Outdoor Service*	31 5:30 - 6:30 PM Food Pantry open	1	2	3 9 - 11 AM Food Pantry open	4 9 - 11 AM Food Pantry open	5
6 9 AM Livestream Service	7 Food Pantry Closed	8 Create-a-World & Camp Create classes resume	9	10	11	12
13 9 AM Livestream Service  10 AM Outdoor Service*  Backpack blessing at both services  5PM - Outdoor choir gathering at Immanuel	14 4:00 - 6:30 PM Food Pantry open  6:30 PM H3 meets	15 9:30 AM H3 meets	16 10 AM Bible Study with Pr Jamie on Zoom  6:00 PM WoW Outdoor Service*  6:45 PM Outdoor orientation for Middle School & High School	17	18	19
20 9 AM Livestream Service  10 AM Outdoor Service*	21 4:00 - 6:30 PM Food Pantry open  6:30 PM H3 meets	22 9:30 AM H3 meets	23 10 AM Bible Study with Pr Jamie on Zoom  6:00 PM WoW Outdoor Service*  6:45 PM Middle School & High School small groups	24	25	26
27 9 AM Livestream Service  10 AM Outdoor Service*  3 PM Cross+Gen @ Birch Pavilion, Carson Park	28 4:00 - 6:30 PM Food Pantry open  6:30 PM H3 meets	29 9:30 AM H3 meets	30 10 AM Bible Study with Pr Jamie on Zoom  6:00 PM WoW Outdoor Service*  6:45 PM Middle School & High School small groups	1	2	3

\*Outdoor worship services are subject to weather and health recommendations.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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***Home of Create-A-World Preschool and Camp Create***

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a congregation of all ages and backgrounds gathered to worship God, walk with one another in our faith journeys, and reach out to the community with compassion. We welcome people new to our faith community and invite them to share our ministry.

Our roots run deep in the community, yet we seek to respond to our constantly changing culture. From our worship services to our preschool, we are dedicated to spreading God's word and living lives to reflect God's love for the world.

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*