



# Immanuel

Lutheran Church

*Love. Serve. Repeat.*

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**October 2020**

## Fall Blessings!



Pastor Bauman's weekly sermons as well as pastoral letters are emailed to those who have given us their email addresses, and sent to others by regular mail. The emails contain a link to a video of the sermon on YouTube. Please be sure that the office has your latest contact information. Thank you!



It was a stunningly beautiful day. The temperature in the 60's, a pleasant breeze, and the sun setting in the west as I rounded the church on my walking laps around the parking lot. And what an overwhelming sight it was!

Not that I looked directly at the sun, but its rays were shimmering over the recently cut lawn, bringing out a glorious spring-green color. Shadows from the big pine trees were long and slender. Skies were blue, with fluffy active clouds. The hearty yellow marigolds in front of the church were still in full bloom, as were the multi-colored pots of impatiens by the parsonage door.

And to add to the moment, the church bells rang out the tune to "Morning Has Broken."

Much of the day's news had been about natural disasters-- hurricanes, wild fires. But there is sunrise and sunset every day. And sky and clouds and stars. And rain and harvests. And wildlife too. Astonishing, the T. V. reports of all that regularly goes on in the animal kingdom. So much wonderfully complex and coordinated behavior from flocks of birds and sea creatures and wild animals to tiny bugs.

"I believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth."

One little sentence in our Creed. But words packed and bursting with meaning.

We tend to be Second Article people. The center of our theology and preaching and teaching is Jesus Christ. That is as it should be, but not at the expense of missing out on the holy awe which belief in God as our Creator brings to our hearts and souls.

And as I saw the birds and some scampering squirrels, I also thought of how important pets are to families. My own family has most always had a dog-- and I recalled how when I was a boy growing up in the country, Bruno was in effect my best friend.

While I was writing this, a program was playing on cable about the moon. Now there's something we take for granted. But without it, our bountiful earth would be a very different, especially in its climates and seasons, and a much less probable place for human life to exist. The ocean itself would likely be stagnant like a smelly swamp without the tidal waves created by the moon.

Yes, there are wild fires and hurricanes-- also in our personal lives. The Holy Scriptures attribute the reason for that to sin. Sin brought thorns and chaos into creation. The New Testament describes creation as "groaning" until the coming of the new creation, when the One through whom all things were first created as "very good" will return in glory.

And that brings us back to the Second Article of the Creed again. The work of Christ in creation is explicit in the Nicene Creed-- "by whom all things were made." In the New Testament books of Colossians and Hebrews we are told that

"For by Him all things were created in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,.... and in Him all things hold together." - Colossians 1:16-17

and "He upholds the universe by the word of His power." - Hebrews 1:3

But, again, let's not shy away from being First Article people too. The Creator of heaven and earth is one with our Lord Jesus, who teaches us to call His Father OUR Father. Recall the words of our Catechism, which does so well personalizing what so easily and quickly rolls out of our mouths. The explanation to the First Article of the Creed:

"I believe that God has made ME and all creatures; that He has given ME my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

"He also gives ME clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides ME with all that I need to support this body and life.

"He defends ME against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

"This is most certainly true."

My mother's letters to me used to be filled with reports of the squirrels and rabbits and birds that she observed through the window of her home in the foothills of the Ozarks. At the time, I thought that the number of pages she used to send those detailed reports on nature was a little strange. Now when I am about the age she was when she wrote many of those letters, I think I am beginning to understand.



*Pastor Bauman*

## NEW MEMBERS



We welcome with thanksgiving new members to our congregation!

They are: The Reverend Dr. Dean Pittelko, Cory Phalp, Britt-Marie Lee and her children Theodore and Vincent, who will be baptized on September 27. We also welcome husband and father William (“Bill”) to Immanuel!

We receive these new members as blessings for us. Let’s pray that we will also be blessings for them as sisters and brothers in Christ. Please do be sure to welcome them personally and become acquainted.

## HOW THINGS ARE GOING

Since we re-opened our building for worship on the last Sunday of August, it has been uplifting for those who have come to be together in worship again.

Things ARE different, Still no congregational singing, or coffee-and after the Service with masks and social distancing. Alternate pews are roped off and places marked for receiving Holy Communion.

Thank you to those who have helped with carefully sanitizing the church and with checking people in, taking temperatures and giving needed directions!

Attendance has not been back to pre-pandemic normal. We did not expect that it would be, or should be for that matter. While those who have returned are comfortable with the precautions we are taking, many of our members are still understandably hesitant to return at this time. Let’s keep respecting one another’s concerns and judgments.

We will continue to send videos of Sunday sermons along with printed texts of those sermons for the foreseeable future. In addition to our members who are not yet returning to church, there are a good number of people outside our congregation who have been receiving them with appreciation.

Let’s all be together in praying for relief from the pandemic and for the day to come when we can all gather again without the cloud of COVID 19 still hanging over us.



## Treasure's Report

Hello members and friends of Immanuel.

My faithful old computer never made it out of the “computer hospital” and now I have to learn how to operate all the bells and whistles that I have BUT DON'T NEED NOR DO I LIKE THEM. I believe the COVID-19 pandemic is easier to live with. Anyhow . . . life goes on.

### Finances

Offerings for September (to date with one more Sunday remaining) were \$7,972 compared to \$8,311 for September 2019, thanks to several members mailing in their offerings, even though they may still remain skeptical of returning due to COVID-19.

Immanuel's expenses for September 2020 were \$8,265 compared to \$11,602 for July 2019.

The difference is again primarily due to the Interest Only mortgage payment and lesser utility charges for this past month.

As a summary to date since Immanuel's closing for in-house services in mid-March due to the pandemic, our Income has been \$58,349 vs. Expenses of \$59,989.

### Controlling expenses

**Waste Service** – Groot has been willing to allow Immanuel to maintain vacation status without a monthly service charge, allowing Immanuel to arrange a pickup on an as needed basis, continuing savings of \$160 to \$170 per month, and charging \$116 per pickup which we've been able to stretch to once a month currently.

**Fox Valley Fire and Safety maintenance repair estimates.** Terry Kainz is still awaiting a resolution and response as discussed in the August Newsletter. I'm keeping this at the forefront because at some future date, we will need to have the necessary repairs completed.

We're simply trying to negotiate a better cost with Fox Valley.

**Mortgage** –Our agreement with LCEF to pay Interest Only payments on Immanuel's mortgage are coming to an end after October. This arrangement has saved an expense of about \$2,000 per month over a period now totaling 6 months to date. Thank you Lutheran Church Extension Services (LCEF).

**Paycheck Protection Program** – Immanuel had completed the submission of paperwork in mid-July for this government program which provides funds to employers to continue or be reimbursed for payroll expenses due to shutdowns due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We have since been advised that this Program closed mid-July. We are looking into another similar Federal program and I'll provide further details next month.

**Staying busy – Volunteers**

**Bob, Dick and John** – Lawn mowing continues and these guys are looking forward to the end of October.

**Dick and Bob** – Weeding and watering the flower garden in front of the church continues until heavy frost.

**Cleaning up for reopening Immanuel for in-house services** - Prior to reopening, several housecleaning chores needed to take place.

\*We arranged to have the church carpeting professionally cleaned. We had initially scheduled this work for Easter cleanup. Need I say more?

\*The upper level restrooms were thoroughly washed down, and floors were scrubbed and waxed.

\*Bev Bayes and helpers washed down and disinfected pews, which work continues prior to each service. In addition, Christ the Rock Church also disinfects the pews both before and after each of their services.

**Thank you Immanuel Volunteers!**

**And . . .** Don't forget about our members and friends at Clare Oaks. Take a moment to drop them a note and see how they are doing. Please refer to the May Newsletter where names and address to send a note was provided. I have heard from some of our folks there and they really enjoy receiving notes from some of Immanuel's members. I'll let you know when any of these folks are able to return to Immanuel for Sunday services.

**Words to live by:** *2 Corinthians 9:7*

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

Blessings to all.

**Bob Brinkman**  
**Treasurer**

**October Birthdays**

10/02 Bill Bayes  
10/03 Gale Schroeder  
10/07 Noah Guerra  
10/07 Lynn Zillmer

10/10 Mike Ongchangco  
10/16 Sally Hover  
10/25 Cassandra Murray-Verley  
10/30 Emily Alford

## A TIDBIT FROM OUR CONGREGATION'S HISTORY



From an anniversary bulletin in 1959:

### Why Our Church Ought to Appeal to You

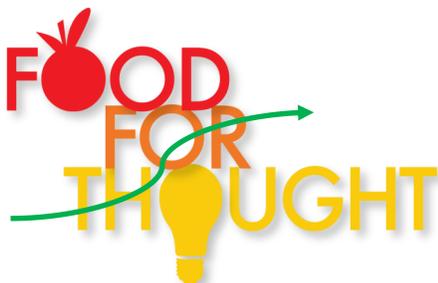
1. Because it is as broad and narrow as the Bible.
2. Because it shuns sensationalism and practices plain Gospel preaching.
3. Because its services do not aim to entertain but to lift up the heart to God.
4. Because it proclaims to man, without fear or favor, the whole counsel of God.
5. Because it leads you to know your sin and your Savior from sin, Jesus Christ.



Keep using the AmazonSmile icon for your Amazon purchases,  
Once again, the link is <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-6414746>.

Or go to our website and click on the AmazonSmile icon.

Remember: Every little bit adds up!



**I can do all things  
through Christ who  
strengthens me.**

**Phil 4:13**

**From Rev. Dr. Dean Pittelko, BCPC,CARS, CBTP**  
**Our “Resident” Board Certified Pastoral Counselor at Immanuel**

A FEW WORDS ABOUT ONLINE COUNSELING OR E-THERAPY

Dear Friends in Christ,

Online counseling has become a necessity during the Covid 19 Pandemic and most therapists have gone to using it at this point. At first I thought it would be awkward and impersonal but it has proven to be just the opposite. In many ways the comfort level for client and counselor increases more quickly and the session is more focused and less distracted. For the months I have been doing only online counseling, the clients I have asked have been very satisfied with the process. All of them have been involved in one-on-one, in-person counseling previously. That speaks well of e-therapy!

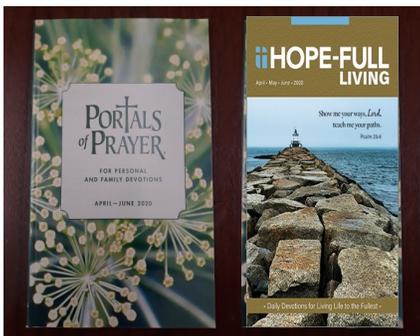
To move beyond my own practice, the Berkeley Well-Being Institute found online therapy to be as effective as face-to-face therapy for clients with depression and/or anxiety. It is also extremely successful in marriage counseling, drug and/or alcohol use, abuse or addiction counseling, work with anger issues, therapy for Obsessive Compulsive Disorder [falls under anxiety], family counseling and mediation.

While I am not an expert in every area, my classroom education and clinical training are pretty broad and wide. Online counseling works very well for general mental health care – teaching relaxation and mindfulness techniques, help with any stress disorder, learning how to identify triggers and how to handle them so you can cope is important no matter who you are. Life can be hard, and too much stress can make your everyday problems difficult to handle.

When the Covid 19 Pandemic is finally under control [?], I still plan to offer online counseling as the first line of support in working with my clients. With the driving times in the Chicago area, especially in bad weather, it only makes sense to continue using it as a tool to help people. The software I use is HIPAA compliant and 100% confidential, does not require any software on the client’s end and is extremely easy to use. It can be used with a computer, tablet or smart phone, as long as the device can log on to the internet and has a speaker and a camera. My fees run from \$40 down to \$25, based on the client’s ability to pay. The average cost of a therapy session in the U.S. for an equally qualified counselor is \$65 to \$200 depending on where you live and where the clinician’s office is located. I am not in the business of business though. I am in the business of Jesus’ ministry of helping people, Jesus who said: ***“I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.”*** [John 10:10 NIV] Give me a call at 844/244-8560 or email me at [dr.deancounseling@gmail.com](mailto:dr.deancounseling@gmail.com) so we can talk. You will be blessed if you do!

With peace and joy in Jesus,

*Dr. Dean*



## *Portals of Prayer/Hope-Full Living*

*Portals of Prayer* has been a favorite devotional of generations of Concordia Publishing House readers, a timeless daily source of strength and comfort since 1937. In addition to the *Portals of Prayer* quarterly print publication, CPH also

offers it as a digital app. A new resource CPH is introducing this fall is the *Portals of Prayer Devotional Bible*, which weaves more than 700 devotions into the entire ESV translation of Scripture. Learn more at [cph.org/portalsbible](http://cph.org/portalsbible).

*Hope-Full Living* is a newer devotional booklet with daily devotions and especially written for older adults. Many who have used it report finding it very helpful.

The latest edition of *Portals of Prayer*, also in large print and *Hope-Full Living* are available in the church narthex or to be mailed to you by calling the church office at (630) 837-1166.



## **Join Us for a Study of The Beatitudes**

What are you doing Sunday mornings at 10:30? You and your family are cordially invited to join us in the Study of the Beatitudes. It's safe, can be done at home, and we meet with God. We meet both physically and virtually. We would be happy to send you an invitation to join our meeting at home. Please just drop me an email with your e-address and I will include you in Sunday's Study. You may email me at:

[shover2004@yahoo.com](mailto:shover2004@yahoo.com). You will be so happy you did! It's a wonderful feeling to see your

friends at Immanuel. *Sally*

# October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>Iglesia Apostolica Cristo La Roca (CTR)- Every Sunday 12-5 Every Tuesday 7-9 Every Friday 7-9</i>		1	2	3 8:00-10:00 a.m. Church Properties
4 9:30 a.m. Worship Service (HC) 10:45 a.m. Bible Class	5	6	7	8	9	10 8:00-10:00 a.m. Church Properties
11 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Bible Class	12	13	14	15	16	17 8:00-10:00 a.m. Church Properties
18 9:30 a.m. Worship Service (HC) 10:45 a.m. Bible Class	19	20	21	22	23	24 8:00-10:00 a.m. Church Properties
25 <sub>r</sub> 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Bible Class	26	27	28	29	30	31 8:00-10:00 a.m. Church Properties