



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWSLETTER
JULY 2020

- ***LETTER FROM PASTOR CASTENS***

Not Just What, but With Whom and For Whom

The title of this article probably seems a little vague and abstract. So, let me clear things up a bit. Have you ever reflected on the tasks that the Lord gives you from day to day? They are many and various, aren't they? We should rejoice (but don't always) in the service the Lord grants us to do. However, have you ever found yourself falling short and not looking beyond the task?

Churches often pride themselves in programs and busyness. Now there is nothing wrong with programs and busyness, but sometimes these things can take our focus away from that which we are participating in. So, what is the point?

Let us rejoice in the honest work that God gives us to do. Remember Ephesians 4:28, "Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need." Do you see the two parts in this verse?

Let us rejoice that the Lord raises His sun over our lives each and every day, and causes it to set that we might rest. Thank the Lord that in those in between hours He uses the works of our

hands, and when done according to His good and gracious will, we can look at the day's work and also say, "It is good." At the very same time let us never forget the second part of this verse. The Lord has put us into action in His daily service with and for others.

You are not alone in this world. God has put people in your life around you to serve in His kingdom with you. You share in the burden and share in the joy with others. Just as important, we are given the Word from our Lord "to love our neighbor as yourself." Each callous on your hand is a sign of God's service through you to others. Never forget the depth and the joy of this truth.

So, enjoy this day my friend. Pray the Lord that He give you joy in the busyness of your life. Pray that He give you focus on the person next to you in the trenches of His kingdom, and to love and serve those to whom He calls you.

Pastor Castens

- ***TREASURER'S REPORT***

The Lord's Offerings as of June 15, 2020

Offerings of 5/18, 6/1 and 6/15/20 **Year to Date**

Budget Requirement	\$11,754.33 (per opening)	\$129,297.63
Actual Offerings Received	\$30,411.48	\$115,838.57
Ahead/(Behind)		(\$13,459.06)

Total Income & Expenses thru 6/16/20

Total Income:	\$111,304.20
Total Expenses:	<u>\$ 78,466.74*</u>
Income Less Expenses:	\$ 32,837.46*

*As you remember, we received \$34,900 from a PPL Loan. These funds have been used to pay salaries and some utilities during the last 8 weeks. Accordingly, because our accounting program is a budget based program, and the expenses of salaries and utilities were paid from funds in a designated account, and not posted under the budget categories as usual, the above expense figure is lower than usual and accordingly, Income Less Expenses is higher than usual. This will adjust itself as the PPL money has been used and all expenses will be posted normally to their budget accounts. This money enabled Immanuel to pay its employees and be able to continue its Mission of bringing Christ's message to our members and those in the community.

The 8 week covered period for use of the PPL has expired and I will be preparing the Loan Forgiveness Application received from Commerce. I have not yet completed all of the calculations on the Application as of this date, but do anticipate that the entire loan should be forgiven.

The final installment of stewardship thoughts - - The Giving Christian Gives Globally by Rev. John Heckmann:

The promise of Jesus is sure as He says in Luke 6:38, *“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”* With those thoughts, I would like to share with you the fifth and final thought in our series dealing with the fact that the giving Christian gives **globally**.

The work of Christ on our behalf on the cross of Calvary is an all-encompassing deed carried out to touch everyone, everywhere.

We read in John 3:16, *“For God so loved the **world** that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

“For God so loved the world ... “ The world of people – that is every person of every period of time throughout history.

“For God so loved the world that He gave ...” God’s love for us motivated Him to give, and not just to give leftovers or a little, but to give His best as He offered His own Son, His only Son as our substitute on the cross to pay for our sins and be our Savior.

God loves and God gives **globally**, and this is our inspiration for giving. The giving Christian gives **globally**, eagerly supporting the worldwide work of Christ. The most spiritually alive Christians I know are those who have a passion for world missions and who back up that passion with generous gifts to the Lord’s work.

When Jesus sent out His disciples to declare the Good News of the Kingdom, He told them in Matthew 10:8, *“Freely you have received, freely give.”* And that is exactly what they did, freely giving all that they could in His name. Today, 20 centuries later, that is still the priority as followers of Christ sow the seeds of His truth in order to reap an eternal harvest.

Submitted by,

Beverly House, Treasurer

- ***BOARD OF EDUCATION***

- Sunday School June packets should have been received by families with children. If you don't have, please contact Debbie Sevier. (573) 535-1268 or debbie.sevier@yahoo.com
- Each Saturday afternoon a video is placed onto the web page and Facebook page that corresponds with the weekly lesson.
- Families are encouraged to post their child/ren completed color/worksheets on the Friends of Immanuel Facebook page for all to see.

- ***VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL***

- We are sad to announce that VBS 2020 is going to be cancelled. Any questions, please contact Janet Miller or Kadie Tauser.

- ***RALLY SUNDAY...***

SEPTEMBER 13TH – MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

- ***GRACE DAY UPDATE***

As you know, as a church family, we have assisted with Grace Days for the past 2 years.

Due to CV-19 issues, there are some changes to the format and our participation level for this year's Grace Day.

There will be no photos this year due to social distancing concerns. Based upon this we were asked to step-up and handle the bookbags. We were blessed this year by Eydie and Doug Thurman joining our Immanuel church family. They transferred from Zion Lutheran Church where they were the coordinators for the book bags last year!! We used Thrivent cards and budget money for the bags.

We will be meeting up with Zion-Pevely to fill the book bags with the school supplies. There will be about 1,000 bags we will be filling. We are planning on making this a fellowship event and have a light meal as we gather to work together on this task. We are tentatively shooting for July 11th, but waiting to make sure that date works for both churches. We will then let all of you know the date and time, as well as the location, If you would like to volunteer for this, please let myself or Eydie Thurman know: emhardman@outlook.com or thurmaneydie@festusedu.com. We feel the need for six to ten volunteers for this fun event.

Also, Grace Day will also be different this year. The whole day will be more of a drive through event, so at this point we are not sure if we will need to provide volunteers for the day of the event. I will let you know as things develop.

Eric Hardman

LWML Calendar of Events

July

5—LWML Meeting (IF ELDERS
HAVE APPROVED MEETINGS)
23—Priscilla Circle

August

28—Priscilla Circle

September

13—LWML Meeting
19—Soup & Salad Luncheon
24—Priscilla Circle

October

3—Quilt set up in sanctuary
4—LWML SUNDAY
Blessing of the quilts
Dapper Day: 1890 fashion
22—Priscilla Circle

November

8—LWML Meeting
26—Priscilla Circle
Candidate Nominations

December

5—Reason for the Season
13—LWML Christmas Party
Installation of new officers
Priscilla Circle TBD



Updates:

Quilters: Several members took projects home to work on. Have plenty of materials, may be behind in yearly goal (which is to be expected since the closings and is absolutely ok). Anyone wanting to help the ladies with your talents would be appreciated.

Face Masks: Approximately 230 masks have been made by the Women of Immanuel and have been distributed amongst the following: Festus Rest Home, My Place Residential Care, Sunny Hill, Magnolia Home, Festus Manor, Keaton Staff, Autumn Ridge (Ms Virginia is there sewing with materials we provided as well), Mt. Carmel Senior Living, & Crystal Oaks.

Thank you to Ms Ruth, Ms Gidget, and Festus Walmart for funding the efforts of the team. Thank you Ms Jenn for acquiring the Thrivent shirts for use in stage two. And thank you to the sewing team!! Even if you tried, your efforts are appreciated and felt.

Shirts, interfacing, and elastic is in the bin at the FLC for ANYONE (young, experienced, woman, or man)

that would be interested in making the next phase of masks.

LWML Sunday
Sunday, October 4th is marked as
LWML Sunday.
This year we want to mark this
special occasion with a day to
dress up in fashions of 1892, the
year our beautiful church was
founded.
If you would like to participate in
this FUN Dapper Day, please
begin working on your beautiful
outfits for yourself and your
family!

Preschool Graduation:

A huge THANK YOU to Norma McKee, Linda Lewis, Janet Schaefer, and Joyce Budt for your work making and filling bags for the graduating preschool students at the Immanuel Daycare & Preschool.

The ladies collected items, made the bags, and filled them with items for the students as they progress to kindergarten.

Priscilla Circle

*A group of women
meeting in faith and
fellowship the fourth
Thursday of each
month. Please join
us!*

Contact: Karen

2020 Officers:

President:

Kadie Tauser,
jktauser@gmail.com

Vice President:

Norma Burgess

Treasurer:

Janet Miller,
janmiller_98@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Lynn Hoff,
Lhoff6@gmail.com

- ***FROM THE CHURCH RENOVATION COMMITTEE***

I want to thank all those who helped get the church ready for the new flooring. It was a lot of hard work, and we couldn't have done it without you!

The new carpet/flooring will be installed the week of June 29th. Our plan is to start putting things back in the church on Monday, July 6th, and start moving the pews back on Saturday, July 11th.

All and any help with putting things back together will be much appreciated, so mark these dates on your calendars. Call Mike Wehner at (636) 208-6360 with questions or if you are able to help in any way.

Mike Wehner,
Renovation Committee Chairman

- ***CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES***

Tubs are available in front of the FLC for you to place your food donations. These foods will be distributed to either the Ozark Regional Food Pantry or United Methodist Food Pantry.

The tubs will be available at the FLC between 9am - 2pm Monday - Thursday.

Everyone can drop off their donations using best self-distancing practices. These foods will be distributed to the pantries bi-weekly or sooner if the donations warrant. If you are unable to donate food, please consider mailing a donation:

Ozark Food Pantry (mail them a check)

Sunset Park, Festus, MO 63028 636-933-9974 (or call Gary Davidson to drop off)

Methodist Church Food Pantry (mail them a check)

113 Grand, Festus, MO 63028 (Tuesday 8:30 - 11:30 if you want to drop off goods)

Any questions, please call Debbie Sevier - 573-535-1268 debbie.sevier@yahoo.com