

THE MESSENGER

The monthly newsletter for members of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Forest City, Iowa - April 2020

Our Current Worship Life at Immanuel

We are glad that the response has been so great to the online services we have created for Immanuel. Worship of God is, after all, our first priority as God's people, and it is gratifying to see your participation and valuing of this as a congregation! Here are some fun numbers:

Wednesday 3/18 - 337 watched entire service, with many per screen, likely at least 500!

Sunday 3/22 - 712 views between YouTube, Facebook and our website

website streaming 3/22: 43 listened

Sunday 3/29 - 547 views

KIOW 107.3 FM 11:00 am broadcast 3/22 No figures available

We appreciate all the efforts of our volunteers and staff putting these services together. It has been a big learning opportunity for everyone, lots of work, but a very satisfying result.

If you need technical assistance accessing on-line worship, please call the church.

Wonderful Online Worship Music for Holy Week and Easter:

Palm Sunday 4/5, 9:15 am Prof. Cory Schmitt, (Waldorf, FCHS) trumpet; Karen Post, organist plus the Immanuel Band.

Maundy Thursday 4/9 6:30 pm Zach Feldt, award-winning tenor from Waldorf, will lead the hymns and sing a beautiful arrangement of the spiritual, Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child. The service will include footwashing and the stripping of the altar.

Good Friday 4/10, 6:30 pm Online Service

Easter Sunday 4/12, 9:15 am Our brass group, songleaders, Karen Post on organ and special guests Dr. Melanie Harms Espeland, soprano, and Prof. Melissa Phillips, pianist will share Handel's "Let the Bright Seraphim" from MESSIAH.

What's the story of Holy Week have to do with my God Story?



Pastor Zech Anderson

Previously on my story...I promised you a continuation of my God Story, specifically how it ties into Holy Week. Now I know some people may think, hey this guy just shared part of his God Story so why is he doing it again? Well, the simple answer is no one's story is only one chapter long. And my story sure isn't only one

chapter long. I hope you have taken a couple of notes throughout Lent about your God Story. I know the Wednesday Night services have helped me keep track of some of the parts of my story that I need to remember and I will share these in the third and final installment on my God Story. But this month, it's all about Holy Week and the place this AMAZING part of God's Story, has in my God Story.

It still surprises people no matter how many times I mention it, so I'll mention it again. I am a PK, a Pastor's Kid. So of course, God's Story was a part of my life. But there is one time a year that I ALWAYS looked forward to, and I still do even though it's a crazy time of year as a pastor, Lent and Holy Week. There is just something about this time of year that is different and exciting. Those that know me know I go nuts at Christmas, but spiritually I go nuts during this time of year. I don't know if it's the opportunity to look at my life in a different way, a time to slow down, maybe it's the musical shift, or D, all of the above plus more. From a very young age, in my picture Bibles, comic Bibles, you name it, I always wore out the passion story of that book. I would trace the photos of Jesus on the Cross and the photos

of the empty tomb. In worship I would doodle a cross, an empty cross, sometimes in 2D sometimes in 3D. And of course, with the empty cross comes the empty tomb. Funny thing is I still do this today at different times. Whenever I watched a Jesus movie, I would be disappointed that Holy Week was so short. During Holy Week when family came to visit, we would re-enact the passion story. A dog was used for riding into Jerusalem, we would use bread and grape juice to share in the Last Supper, a play set with a cross bar or even a volleyball pole was used for the crucifixion, and the slide or play house was used for the tomb. And no matter what the tomb was always empty by the end. The story of Holy Week is so engrained in my God Story, and I can't think of a better part of God's Story to be stuck in my head. If you ever stop by my office, you will notice images of Holy Week all around my office.

I love each service from Holy Week. Some think it's a crazy week to be a Pastor, and it is, but I love it. I love to tell God's story through the words of the Gospels. For me, without this part of the story, I would be lost. So, this year, I encourage you to hear this part of God's story which is a big part of our God story. And if you cannot watch online or listen on the radio to the weekly services read one of the Gospels telling of the events of Holy Week. For me, I would fear a lot more in life, if I didn't hold onto the Risen Christ. "For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a Resurrection like his." (Romans 6:5) Come hear the story, the whole story about how "God So Loved the World that He Gave His Only Son." (John 3:16) Maybe you are in the same place as me and this is a big part of your God Story. But I know I cannot tell my God Story without Holy Week. "It is Finished!" (John 19:30) "At the moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two" (Matthew 27:51) "HE IS NOT HERE! He is Risen from the Dead!" (Mark 16:6)

When we get back to 'the normal', hope to see you in worship—for now, on the web and radio!



2ND QUARTER (APR.-JUNE) MISSION EMPHASIS: MISSIONARY KAREN ANDERSON

Immanuel received word from Karen that all long-term ELCA global missionaries were being called back to the states as soon as possible. Karen and her daughter left March 18 from Santiago, Chile to Minnesota to a family cabin for a 15-day quarantine. Key in her decision for returning was that her mother turns 100 on April 6th and although the party is cancelled, she will at least get to see her.

Karen writes, "Even during the darkest days of the military dictatorship, I never considered leaving; I didn't sleep thinking about all the variables involved in possibly leaving."

The EPES [Popular Education for Health] office has closed and the staff 100% supports her decision and will continue to connect with them and the community health promoters through the internet.

Here at Immanuel, we will continue to pray, love and support Karen as our ELCA Global Missionary and continue our financial covenant to her work in Chile.

Keep Updated!

Best way to keep updated with the temporary schedule is through the immanuelfamily.com website and the Immanuel Lutheran Church Facebook page. If that isn't possible, call the church office (585-3152), or stay in-touch with other Immanuel family members.

Please care for yourselves and one another during this time!



Blessings & Prayers

Baptisms

March 15 Field Dean Anderson, son of Adam & Lindsey (Bartleson) Anderson

March 18 Thomas Alan Moklestad, son of Erik Moklestad & Anna Moklestad

Prayers

Ray & Joan Beebe and family in the loss of brother-in-law, Bob Kramer of Dallas, TX

Ron & Donna Kvale and family in the loss of daughter, Melissa Kerr of Durham, NC

Betty Soderling and family in the loss of husband, Jack Soderling of Forest City

John & Linda Holland and family in the loss of mother, Winifred Holland of Forest City

Former members Margie Markusen, and Jessica in the loss of husband/father, Leonard Markusen of Moorhead, MN (longtime Immanuel organist)

Know anyone who needs a meal?

Immanuel's Wednesday Meals have been suspended until further notice but want anyone in need of a meal or two to contact the church (585-3152) to help out. We have frozen square meals along with canned fruits to offer. Don't hesitate to ask as we don't want this to be a burden to anyone.



Flowers & Broadcasts

Radio broadcast dates available for \$100 sponsorships are: April 19, May 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, July 5, 12, 19

Sunday broadcasts are played each week at 11 a.m. over K10W, 107.3 FM. This includes the pre-recorded worship services that we are doing these weeks.

The Ministry Continues...



Even though we are not worshipping together physically, please consider supporting the mission and ministry of Immanuel by going online to immanuelfamily.com and click on the giving tab. Under Online Giving, you'll see a "Give Here" button. Fill in your information and you're set! Mailing in your donation is another way to support the mission and ministry here at Immanuel. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the church office at 585-3152. Thank you!

Kim Severson

Treasury's Report | Immanuel Lutheran Church FY February 2020

	February Actual 2020	Monthly Budget	Year-to-date Actual	Annual Budget	Percent of YTD Budget 16.67%	February Actual 2019	YTD Actual 2019
Income							
Regular Offerings & Envelopes	37,055.15	43,044.50	76,339.40	516,534.00	14.78%	32,605.88	62,629.07
Other Income	5,367.87	7,469.17	6,410.08	89,630.00	7.15%	1,320.91	2,394.80
Total Income	42,423.02	50,513.67	82,749.48	606,164.00	13.65%	33,926.79	65,023.87
Expense							
Staff Support	29,764.62	32,814.83	60,325.71	393,778.00	15.32%	29,964.13	60,732.58
Administration	12,983.65	10,498.00	18,649.79	125,976.00	14.80%	9,789.77	16,247.80
Ministry Areas	6,058.99	7,200.84	12,480.74	86,410.00	14.44%	5,352.88	11,412.76
Loan re-payment/contingency	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00
Total Expenses	48,807.26	50,513.67	91,456.24	606,164.00	15.09%	45,106.78	88,393.14
Income Less Expense	(\$6,384.24)	0.00	(\$8,706.76)	0.00		(\$11,179.99)	(\$23,369.27)