

THE MESSENGER

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

NEW BEGINNINGS

It was a pleasure to welcome Ann Hunhoff to Immanuel's staff team on 19 July, 2020. Ann comes to us with a good amount of church camp experience as well as a couple years of experience working with kids in church programs as a volunteer. It's clear that she has a desire to impact youth in faith and life. Ann's skill set and personality fit well what we were hoping to find in a Youth Ministry and Missionary Coordinator. If you have not yet met Ann, make a point of it next time you stop in or come to worship.

With Ann's arrival we not only add to our staff but to our responsibilities. Beginning August 1st Immanuel staff will begin serving Bethany Lutheran in Thompson. On August 2 we will officially launch this ministry as Ann, Pastor Zech and I will travel to Bethany following worship at Immanuel for an outdoor worship service in which we'll be introduced and share pre-packaged meal following that worship. We ask for your prayers and your blessings as we begin this ministry together.

Pastor Rod

WE WELCOME ANN HUNHOFF, YOUTH MINISTRY & MISSION COORDINATOR



Ann Hunhoff is originally from small-town Bloomfield, Nebraska. She and her family were members of the local Catholic church until they found a church family that helped them grow in their faith in new and exciting ways and became members of Bloomfield's ELCA congregation, St. Mark's, when Ann was about 8 or 9. At age 6, Ann's family began attending family camp at Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp, which was instrumental in her faith development. She graduated from Bloomfield High School in 2017. That fall, she moved to Des Moines to attend Drake University where she began studies in accounting and religion.

Ann got her first taste of formal ministry when she joined summer staff 2018 at IOLBC as a senior counselor. This set a fire within her that spurred her continuous involvement in the church. She started leading a small group of confirmation students at her church in Ankeny and volunteered at camp when she could. She returned to IOLBC summer 2019 as a day camp leader. Fourth of July week, she got to be a family camp counselor once again (since there are no day camps scheduled during the fourth of July) and created a close bond with her assigned family, who were her first connection to Forest City. In the fall of 2019, she realized she could no longer ignore her deep passion and call toward ministry. In a whirlwind of trials and joys (Ask her more about this! She loves sharing her journey to ministry.), she transferred to an online program through Grand Canyon University. She is earning her degree in Christian studies with an emphasis in youth ministry. Spring of 2020, Ann was living in Des Moines, working and interning at Lutheran Church of Hope in Ankeny. This summer, Ann was set to return to IOLBC as a program director, but she is glad to have gotten to take this time to job search and relocate for this new adventure God has placed before her!

Ann has six siblings and a full-time job as a proud auntie. (She WILL share photos and videos entirely unprompted.) Her siblings are strewn about the nation, so she is hopeful that we can continue committing to wearing masks and social distancing so she can go visit her nieces and nephews as soon as safely possible! Ann enjoys painting, reading, comedy, and running (not fast). She loves outdoor adventures like hiking, kayaking, and hammocking. Social justice is very important to Ann, and she is passionate about representing God's love and grace in culture. Ann loves to share good coffee and conversation.



Letter from Pastor Rod Outdoor Worship Continues

Previously Immanuel leadership had announced that we would worship together outdoors at the Waldorf pond through the end of July. So far the weather has been fantastic and God has blessed us with an amazing sanctuary not made with human hands in which to worship. We thank Waldorf for sharing their space.

I'm happy to announce that we will continue outdoor worship though August 16 at the Waldorf pond. We anticipate by August 23 having our livestreaming equipment installed and ready for use, and so we've set August 23 as a target date, if not much changes, for moving inside to worship.

The task team continues to meet discussing topics such as: how to offer the sacraments, how to implement fall programming, what are best practices for inside worship and how to implement them, and what matrix should serve as triggers to pull back from plans or shut down if the need arises. Your Church Council meets the second Monday of August so watch for a more complete re-opening road map following that meeting. Thanks for your partnership and faithfulness.

God's Peace,

Pastor Rod

Women's Bible Study

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY recently started meeting on Thursdays, 8:30am, gathering at the courthouse gazebo (bring your own chair). They study and discuss the scripture lessons for the upcoming Sunday. Anyone is welcome to join in!

*Note this group is practicing social-distancing.

Worship on the Radio

Immanuel's Radio Broadcasts each Sunday has been such an important ministry reaching those known and unknown with our weekly worship service. Thank you to all who help with this ministry by gifting a specific broadcast to honor a loved one/celebrate a milestone/or just because. Some of these are given year after year at specific times of the year, or some for when we have openings. The gift costs \$100.

Would you like to consider giving towards a radio broadcast—the schedule has openings Aug. 30 – Oct. 11. Just call the church office (585-3152) to reserve a date.

And, thank you to Forest City's local radio station/and world-wide on the web, KIOW 107.3FM for faithfully working with us airing this important ministry!

Blessings & Prayers

Prayers

Marilyn Soto and family in the loss of brother, Dennis Von Hagen of Faribault, MN

Ruth & Gary Gernetzke, Joel & Dorothy Bartleson and families in the loss of Ruth & Joel's brother, Eric Bartleson of Winona, MN

Sandy Jenkins, Joleen Midtgaard, Ben; Jody & Kevin Harmon, Mitch, Paige, Ashley, Tyler; Jeanna & Chad Bina, Mady, Kenna, Kiara; Mark & Jen Jenkins, Dylan, Carter, Ellie, and families and friends in the loss of husband/father/grandfather/step-grandfather, Lanny Jenkins of Forest City

Elizabeth & Dan May and family in the loss of Elizabeth's grandmother, Alice Hedin-Manternach of Sioux Falls, SD

Mavis Hess and family in the loss of brother, Russell Buss of Buffalo Center

Gloria Kearney, Rich & Joni Miller, Marissa, Jenna, family and friends in the loss of husband/Rich's stepfather/grandfather, Larry Kearney of Forest City

Family and friends in the loss of Chad Koester of Arlington, MN

Pat Nessa and family in the loss of daughter, Sherry Mercier of Kingman, AZ

Sandy Lillquist, Steve & Cari Lillquist, Zach & Ryleigh, Mike Lillquist family, and friends in the loss of husband/father/grandfather, Tom Lillquist of Forest City

Mike & Linda Smith, Jeff & Elizabeth Smith, Caleb Barker, Megan & Phil Porter & family, Matt Smith, family and friends in the loss of mother/grandmother Frances Smith of Forest City

Parish Council

Linda Ferjak

Council met on June 8 via Zoom with ten members present and one absentee. Pastor Rod and Pastor Zech were present.

Pastor Rod reported on his multiple Zoom meetings. He will be taking a couple of days off for a family vacation. Pastor recommends that Zech be given time for a much-needed vacation in July due to the overload of work he has done with the online services.

Pastor Zech reported that he has been working with the ongoing technology and continues to push the boundaries. He is putting together plans for the Fall will three options for confirmation. He has completed continuing Ed., feeling that it helped him to assist in developing new habits.

Several options were discussed in relation to reopening church operations. No resolution was made and a Task Force was appointed to present procedures. The Grief Group was given permission to meet in the church with guidelines for social distancing and sanitizing.

Executive Committee presented a motion to proceed with the Video Streaming. Discussion followed concerning funding. Motion was approved by council.

Council met on July 13 via Zoom with seven members present and two absentees. Pastor Rod was present. Pastor Zech was on vacation.

Pastor Rod reported that he will be attending a ministerial meeting with Superintendent Darwin Lehmann to discuss decision on school opening in the Fall and how it will affect our Fall programming. He also shared that the new Youth Director, Ann Hunhoff has moved into her apartment.

Kathy Leuwerke reported on the June financials and the Payroll Protection Program. All of it will be used by the end of August.

It was reported that the Livestreaming System is to be installed in late July/early August.

Discussion was held on the starting date for our Bethany partnership. August 1 was the date approved to begin the partnership.

Outdoor worship is going well, however there is a need for additional volunteers. Reopening indoor worship was discussed with the question of "what metrics are to be used with a COVID resurgence?" The task team will continue its' work to establish guidelines.

Trustees' Notes

Bink Keller

The Board of Trustees met on July 13, 2020 by Zoom communication from home sign on and at the church. June income was \$41,016.86 and expenses were \$44,476.96 with a \$3,460.10 deficit. YTD Actual is (\$32,470.43) for June compared to 2019 YTD of (\$23,864.28). Of the \$67,400 in grant payments from the Federal Pandemic (Payment protection plan) payments have been made in May and June. A balance of \$10,251.92 remains in the account. Payment was deposited at MBT May 7, 2020. 40% can be used for utilities, 60% for salaries and benefits.

Endowment: Omega Organ and Audio for live steaming capabilities were paid out at \$5,346.75, and Epic scholarships of \$100 to Augustana College and \$200 to Wartburg College were paid out with \$23,517.33 remaining for possible distribution.

Property Committee: The carpet cleaner pump went out and is scraped. \$1,100 to \$1,400 will be requested as capital improvement to replace it.

Personnel Committee: Ann's pay package was presented and approved.

Old Business: Bethany Lutheran Staff sharing: Ann will start July 20th and be prorated 10 days. Bethany plans to start worshipping August 2. Immanuel will continue worshipping at 9:15 at Waldorf Pond, weather permitting.

GOOD GRIEF GROUP

GOOD GRIEF GROUP started meeting in July in the fireside room at Immanuel. The group meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays each month. This support group provides help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend using Grief Share video and workbook. A time to travel through grief with others confidentially. For more information call the church (585-3152), or come check out a meeting.

*Note this group is practicing social-distancing.

Treasury's Report | Immanuel Lutheran Church FY June 2020

	June Actual 2020	Monthly Budget	Year-to-date Actual	Annual Budget	Percent of YTD Budget 50.00%	June Actual 2019	YTD Actual 2019
Income							
Regular Offerings & Envelopes	34,427.25	43,044.50	213,994.02	516,534.00	41.43%	38,837.72	233,850.88
Other Income	6,589.61	7,469.17	24,198.87	89,630.00	27.00%	5,037.22	25,528.62
Total Income	41,016.86	50,513.67	238,192.89	606,164.00	39.30%	43,874.94	259,379.50
Expense							
Staff Support	29,571.77	32,814.83	178,984.98	393,778.00	45.45%	27,928.68	178,249.12
Administration	10,361.25	10,498.00	55,829.44	125,976.00	44.32%	6,406.79	59,368.83
Ministry Areas	4,543.94	7,200.84	35,848.90	86,410.00	41.49%	7,151.00	45,625.83
Loan re-payment/contingency	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00
Total Expenses	44,476.96	50,513.67	270,663.32	606,164.00	44.65%	41,486.47	283,243.78
Income Less Expense	(\$3,460.10)	0.00	(\$32,470.43)	0.00		\$2,388.47	(\$23,864.28)