



# Immanuel News

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
5838 STAUNTON ROAD  
EDWARDSVILLE, ILLINOIS 62025  
633-2277



WINTER 2021

REV. DANA SCHINDLER



## THE JOURNEY OF LENT



Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. Lent is the 40 days of preparation (excluding Sundays) for Easter. It is a time to reflect on our lives, confess our sins and ask forgiveness. In ancient times, it was also a time of fasting. As we prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter, it may indeed feel like a journey. Often, when we prepare for a journey, we pack. But for this journey, I would like to

suggest we **unpack** instead. Let's get rid of the "stuff" we've collected, get rid of the baggage that simply weighs us down. Let's lighten the load. Let's look at material goods we no longer use or need. Could they help someone else or should they be pitched. That much loved shirt that has buttons missing or the sweater stretched out of shape or the one glove we've held on to simply because we know we'll find the other one any day now. As Elsa would say "let it go!"

Are there habits and rituals we should let go? Are there things we've always done that used to serve a purpose, but we don't even remember what the purpose was? "Let it go." I get it. Change is hard. But if things are no longer useful, if the things we've always done no longer serve our purposes, hanging on simply because they are comfortable, simply weighs us down. So let's evaluate our stuff. Let's evaluate the things

we do. And let's unpack the bag that is far too heavy. Let's make some room for things that will bring us renewed joy and vitality and a chance to grow. May the journey bring each of us and all of us renewed hope and joy!

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11*

Blessings,  
Pastor Dana



## COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL OUTREACH...



We now have a texting system we can use to quickly communicate with the congregation event reminders, cancellations, and other matters. It can also be used in conjunction with our Facebook page and our website. To sign up with your iPhone:

Go to your texting app  
Enter the phone number  
618-268-1394

Text the word "Connect"  
(without the quotation marks)

You will receive a reply and a link to a form to complete. You must complete the form.

Add this phone number to your contact list as the church so you will know who is texting you.

## IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES...

At our last council meeting it was decided to wait to resume in-person worship services. We will certainly be re-considering at our next meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our decision was based on current recommendations of the conference, infection numbers, and concern for the health of our people. We are all eager to resume gathering together in the sanctuary, but the last thing we want to do is risk anyone's life. We have safety protocols planned and in place so we will be ready as soon as we feel it is safe. In the meantime, we have worship on Facebook on Sunday mornings at 9 am, the sermons are posted to our website each week, a worship guide is e-mailed to all with e-mail addresses, and printed copies are mailed for those without internet access.

We have decided that we will continue Facebook livestreaming and posting the sermon to the website even after we are gathering in the sanctuary because those who are homebound, ill, on vacation can still worship with us. We have had

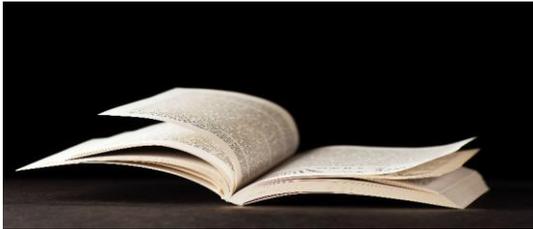
quite a few visitors while online. Some of these are members who have not been able to attend services for a variety of reasons and some are people who live too far away for them to be physically with us.

## FREE ADVERTISING!

Big companies pay a lot of money for advertising. One Super Bowl commercial costs over a million dollars. But we can get free advertising for our church. **ABSOLUTELY FREE. NO CATCHES.** If you have a Facebook account, simply log in and look for posts about the church. All you have to do is share each post on your timeline. Write something like "come worship with us." Then hit the "post" button and you're done. All your friends will see that you like your church enough to invite them to worship with you or come to an event. It only takes a minute, doesn't cost a dime, so why not? For worship services you could even start a watch party. Your friends will see that too. Give it a try! See who comes!

## BOOK STUDY...

Please come and join our book study on Zoom at 7 pm each Thursday. Using our discussion of the book *Autopsy of a Deceased Church and How to Keep Yours Alive*, we will consider the problems found in churches that are no longer open and discuss how these problems may be affecting Immanuel. We want to find ways to revitalize our church family so that we may survive and thrive. We hope that all will attend so that all voices may be heard.



## IMMANUEL LENTEN MISSION PROJECT....

The Deaconess Nurse Ministry is led by Rev. Donna Smith-Pupillo, Executive Director. Rev. Donna has preached at Immanuel on a "Bless the Backpack Sunday" a few years ago. She was kind enough to bring a backpack filled with school supplies to be donated to

Hamel school. Recently, Immanuel received a letter from Rev. Donna telling of a lady (let's call her M.D.) living in St. Louis that the Deaconess Nurses helped. This is the note telling M.D.'s story.

"M.D. is the mother of 3 adult daughters and a 17 year old daughter. M.D. is the grandmother of 7. During the Covid-19 crisis, her family decided to stay with her so they all could be safe. However, her adult daughters were all laid off from their jobs, and the children are all out of school.

This meant there were 13 people living in M.D.'s house. M.D. found out that she had cancer on top of having suffered a stroke and seizures. In May, she fell through her back porch causing severe lymphedema in her right foot.

In August, the kitchen cabinet and air vent fell on her head resulting in hospitalization and rehab for about 2 months. She came home from the hospital but uses a wheel chair and walker and is unable to do stairs. She sleeps on the couch. In addition to that, her landlord put a hole in her basement wall to get rid of mold and

has not repaired it, so all manner of rodents come into the house. Needless to say, there are a number of house repairs needed. During all this time, Deaconess Nurses has been by her side, helping her with medical problems and getting support on food & household items from various resources. In December, Deaconess Nurse Ministry worked with food pantries, United Way and "100 Neediest Cases" to get help for her family with food, clothing, rent, utilities and Christmas gifts. M.D. now had to find a new place to live. The Deaconess and anonymous donors helped M.D.

find a new house and pay utilities that were months behind. M.D. and her family members are so grateful for Deaconess Nurses. She preaches the benefits of working with the Deaconess Nurses.

Immanuel's Lenten Mission Project is to make a "noisy coin collection" to be given to Deaconess Nurses. We are asking that you make this your Lenten Mission. A green metal bucket will be placed in the Fellowship area for your coin donations. The bucket will be available thru Easter Sunday.

Let's make a noisy, joyful noise to praise the Deaconess Nurses for their continuing work helping those needing assistance.

Immanuel Church Council

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## SAVE THE DATE!!



October 3<sup>rd</sup> Immanuel UCC of Hamel will celebrate it's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Conference Minister, Rev. Shana Johnson will be with us for the Sunday morning worship.

A lunch will be served following the worship service.

The Anniversary Committee is making plans for other activities to mark this milestone. We are considering planting a tree in front of the church. If all goes as planned, we could dedicate this tree during the morning worship

service. We believe that this tree will symbolize new growth for Immanuel. We will be publishing an updated directory of members. If any of your contact info has changed, please let the committee know.

In the past, we have contracted with a photography company to take pictures of each family.

Considering the cost and difficulty scheduling every member, we are asking that each family/member submit a photo to be used in the directory. More details will be announced as we continue to make celebration plans surrounding this time for Immanuel.

If anyone has questions or suggestions, please contact one of the committee members.

Anniversary Committee  
Allen & Lynn Reiter  
Kathie Rigler  
Lori Kruckeberg  
Ruth Klenke  
Elaine Kalish

## Connection Point...



Mark your calendar for March 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 1pm! Connection Point will be hosting an Easter themed scavenger hunt! We have at least 12 stops in the area that have hidden canned goods/eggs that we must find. The canned goods will be donated to the food pantry. Along the way there may be road blocks to complete in order to get your next clue!

This event involves driving so a parent is needed to participate. This can be an entire family activity. If your child has their driver's license they may participate without a parent as long as they have your consent.

Prizes will be awarded for the first across the finish line, last across the finish line, and most creative decorated car. Additional prizes might be found along the way!

Social distancing will be practiced and no direct contact with the other teams will be observed. Face masks required. Please RSVP by March 21<sup>st</sup>!

## EASTER LILIES...



It is now time to order your Easter Lily. Cost is \$9.00. Make checks to Immanuel UCC. Contact Barb to order or a signup sheet will be at church.

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## SCRIPT GIFT CARDS...

Elaine will be placing the order for gift cards the first Sunday of each month. Please turn in your order no later than the Saturday before.

You can call, email, or text your order to Elaine. The cards will be ready for delivery later that week. Arrangements will be made for non-contact porch delivery. Remember Immanuel receives a percentage of the face value of the gift card.

Thanks for participating in this fund raiser for Immanuel.

## RECYCLE INK CARTRIDGES....



A few years ago, a program was started to recycle old ink cartridges and earn money for Immanuel. Many cartridges were mailed to a company for recycling. About  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the cartridges were refused because the company only accepted certain brands.

After many attempts to get paid, it never happened. Next, we went to Office Max to recycle cartridges. They also only accept certain brands.

They pay only one penny per cartridge and accept only 10 per month. So, Immanuel will not accept used ink cartridges for recycling.

Please do not put cartridges in the trash, **RECYCLE.**

One company accepting the cartridges is CJD E-cycling located at the old Klueters site on Route 157.

Their phone number is 618-659-9006 for information and hours. There are several ways to recycle the cartridges, just please choose one and recycle.

## CHICKEN DINNER...

March 21<sup>st</sup> is our Chicken Dinner. This year it will be drive thru only. Carryouts will include:  $\frac{1}{2}$  chicken, potatoes & gravy, green beans, coleslaw, and applesauce. No dessert. Cost is \$10.

We ask that all workers do not park in the parking lots as this will be our drive thru areas. Please park in grass off of the parking lot or by cemetery.

Setup and dry run thru will be Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. We ask that all come so we can go thru the process for this year.

Flyers can be found in the plastic tub outside of the office entrance.

Worklist is included in this newsletter.

Thanks in advance for your help!

## QUILT RAFFLE....

The raffle will be held at the Chicken Dinner but all tickets will be sold prior to that date. Check your mail for tickets. Contact Elaine for more details.

Immanuel UCC  
Annual Meeting  
January 17<sup>th</sup> 2021

The annual meeting met via zoom with Ruth Klenke opening the meeting. Reverend Dana Schindler followed with a prayer. Due to zoom our attendance was estimated to be around 40, including the confirmands. The attending members read the secretary's report from the annual report. Frank Harbison made a motion to accept the secretary's report as written; second by Joyce Towner. Motion carried. Barb Bloemker read the treasurer's report. Those in attendance read this report as she read. A motion to accept the report was made by Larry Rose, second by Julie Gusewell. Motion Carried. The 2020 Annual Report is attached and contains the reports. Rev. Schindler's report touched some of the highs and lows of the year. Due to the pandemic the church has been worshipping on line. This was a new experience for everyone and thanks to Dave Schindler for helping to set this up and Ruth Klenke for keeping everyone informed. We have had new friends that have "dropped in" to worship with us. The church has reached out to those without computers. There have been new services this year including the Tenebrae (Good Friday) service and Blue Christmas services were added. New activities added were Let's Talk, Trivia and Faith In Film. Confirmation classes are meeting with six members. The annual Pastor's report is attached. Committee reports listed with additions:

Apple Butter: There was apple butter that did not sell this year. The price was dropped and all that did not sell by Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> (29 pints) was donated to the Food Pantry.  
Cemetery Committee: Remained the same.  
Memorial Committee: Remained the same as the report.  
Chicken Dinner: Drive-thru: carry out only. Additions later in report.  
Vision Team: Christmas stockings were handed out to children through the Hamel school nurse. Hamel School contacted us for clothes and toys for children in need and were given through designated donations. The team did not receive a grant this year.  
Connection Point: Six gifts were purchased for children at Kindercottage this year.  
Faith Quest: Remained the same as the Annual Report.  
Bread of Life: Families in need for donations has increased due to the pandemic.  
Alhambra-Hamel Ministerial Alliance: Remained the same.  
Hitz Home: Same as in Annual Report.  
Hitz Home Board: Same as annual report.  
Building and Grounds: The bid for the wheelchair accessible wooden deck and ramp over the parsonage front steps was accepted and the work is in progress. Lateral replacement was needed.  
OLD BUSINESS:  
The Audio-Visual System: The wiring is installed on West side for two televisions. (One for the pastor and one for the organist) The rest can be installed when needed. We will stay with what we have with the possibility of more at a later date. The internet provider has been changed. Madison

Telephone will be the new provider. There will be a necessary increase in the bill.  
Southwestern Electric: Andy Grapperhaus voted for the church at Southwestern Electric and we will receive \$50.00 off next bill.  
Cleaning: More cleaning is needed for the educational wing, hall and kitchen.  
2021-150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: New ideas are always needed. Elaine announced that Rev. Shana Johnson will attend the celebration worship service if, at that time, it is safe to have in person services.  
NEW BUSINESS:  
Conference Delegates: Conference will be held virtual this year and the delegates will be Allen and Lynn Reiter.  
Wording in the Constitution: Wording needs to be changed due to the on line services and zoom meetings. This is to be added to Articles in Constitution. A motion to accept the change was made by Joyce Towner; second by Larry Rose. Motion carried. It was brought before the members to change the Annual Meeting from the second Sunday to the third Sunday. This change was due to the time crunch in receiving year end reports from committees. A motion was made to accept the change to the third Sunday for the congregational meetings by Allen Reiter, second by Andy Grapperhaus. Motion carried.  
The Anniversary Committee wants to make changes and additions to the church directory as the anniversary celebration approaches. Any additions or changes can be given to any member of the committee.  
Audit: Jamie Grapperhaus and Janet Wilkening audited all

books this year and all were found to be in order. Barb Bloemker presented the 2021 budget which is attached in the annual report. This was discussed with the realization that it would be an increase from the 2020 budget of \$99,862.00 to the 2021 budget of \$103,078.00. A motion was made by Allen Reiter to accept the budget as presented, second by Larry Rose. Motion carried.

The chicken dinner was discussed. It was decided that it would be a drive through only. The meal, itself, would not include a dessert, but it was mentioned that the slaw and gravy could be increased. The price would remain at \$10.00 for all carry outs. It will be necessary to see how many will be able to work at the dinner due to the pandemic. The dinner would be March 21<sup>st</sup> and it was decided to move forward with plans. Elaine Kalish made a motion for the chicken dinner, with changes listed to move forward, second by Frank Harbison. Motion carried. Ruth Klenke and Barb Bloemker have served their two terms and will be leaving the council this year. The new council will be Elaine Kalish, president; Lynn Reiter, vice president; Kathie Rigler, secretary; Larry Rose, treasurer; Lori Kruckeberg, financial secretary and Andy Grapperhaus is the head usher. The next quarterly meeting will be Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Secretary, treasurer and all 2020 committee reports are attached to this secretary's report. With no further business to come before the congregation Janae Merkle made a motion to adjourn, second by Joyce Towner. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted Kathie Rigler



#### March Birthdays

3 – Neal Sackett  
25 – Caryl Tune  
29– Bob Klenke

#### April Birthdays

1-Bonita Schwengel  
12-Sharon Stahlhut  
13-Nathan Wilkening  
13-Gary Wilkening  
14-Lynn Reiter  
20 – Lori Kruckeberg  
24-Ally Grotefendt  
26-Henry Lentz  
28-April Kampmann

March  
14<sup>th</sup> .....



#### March Anniversaries

19- Al & Janet Wilkening

#### April Anniversaries

13-Bill & Chelsea Kalish

If we have missed posting your special day, please let us know. Thank you

## March 21, 2021 Chicken Dinner Work List

Fryers	Slaw/Applesauce	Gravy	Potatoes/Green Beans	Kitchen Runners	Wash Dishes
Bob Klenke Mark Bloemker Brian Grotefendt Aaron Klenke Jeremy Kruckeberg	Deb Martin Lori Kruckeberg	Janet Wilkening Julie Gusewelle	Bill Kalish Al Wilkening Rick Schneider	Mark Kruckeberg David Schindler	ALL - as needed
Traffic	Tickets/Orders Outside	Bagging/Runners	Bagging/Runners	Floater	
Andy Grapperhaus  Brian Schmidt Frank Harbison	Dave Kalish  Tom Nelson Jamie Grapperhaus Larry Rose Steve Towner Maddie Grotefendt	Robyn Schmidt Andrea Grotefendt Marvin Grapperhaus Beth Terry Caryl Tune Charlotte Frisbee	Ally Grotefendt  Max Kalish Sam Kalish Haley Merkle Carissa Merkle Emmy Gusewelle	Barb Bloemker  Dave Tune	
Carry Out 1	Carry Out 2	Carry Out 3	Carry Out 4		
Elaine Kalish Karma Colbert Sheryl Hencke	Ruth Klenke Janae Merkle Mary Haarmann	Joyce Towner Gladys Nelson Cindy Schneider	Spare if needed will pull from other stations		

If you do not see your name or would like to work in a different area, please contact Barb Bloemker.

**Setup Sunday March 14th at 1:00 pm - all help needed**

**Clean up after dinner - all help needed**