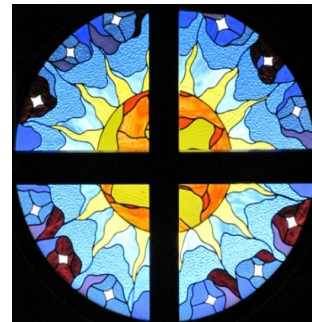


# Immanuel Lutheran Church

Hear Love. Eat Love. Share Christ's Love.

## August 2020 Newsletter



### Weekly Services and Communion

9 am Live  
Streaming

8/2 and 8/23  
Outdoor worship 7  
pm

8/23 Car Hop  
Communion

### Office Hours

Call for appointment

### Inside this issue:

Monthly updates p. 2

Birthday & Anniversaries p. 3

Thank yous p. 4

Church Happenings p. 6-9

*His will.  
His way.  
My Faith.*

JEREMIAH 29:11

“Everyone Who Calls Upon the Name of the Lord Shall Be Saved.”  
by Peter J. Weller

All of the New Testament lessons for August are from the book of Romans, and this month's column will look specifically at the 10th chapter. Paul wrote, “Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that ‘the person who does these things will live by them.’ But, the righteousness that comes from faith says, ‘Do not say in your heart, “Who will ascend into heaven?” ’ (that is, to bring Christ down) or “who will descend into the abyss?” ’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

“ ‘The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith which we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. the scripture says, ‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, ‘Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ ” (Romans 10:5-13)

In verses 5-7, Paul paraphrases Moses' writings in Leviticus 18:5, “You shall keep my statutes and my ordinances; by doing so one shall live: I am the LORD.”, and in Deuteronomy 30:11-14, “Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ Neither is it beyond the sea that you should say, ‘Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.”

What Paul is saying is that we do not need to search in heaven or in the depths to find God and the word of faith. Paul writes that God is not far away, remote, distant, and hard to reach. Rather, God “is near you, on your lips and in your heart.” Paul assures us further that “If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)

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Find us on Facebook at Immanuel Lutheran Washington Iowa or online at [luthwash.org](http://luthwash.org).

Email us at [luthwash@hotmail.com](mailto:luthwash@hotmail.com)

Come visit us at 1226 East Washington Street, Washington, Iowa 52353

Church ~ 319.653.3950

Pastor Howard ~ 319.333.7758 (Home)

Monthly Updates (Month to date)

Account balances as of 7-23-20

General Fund ~ \$14,882.03

Savings ~ \$0

Building/Visions ~ \$4,796.19

Endowment ~ \$3,299.42

Community Assistance ~ \$3,822.54

Mortgage ~ \$70,549.17

Attendance

No Wednesday evening worship  
Due to COVID-19

Sunday, June 28 ~ 9 am ~  
Live Streaming 462 views

Sunday, July 5 ~ 9 am ~  
Live Streaming 234 views

Sunday, July 12 ~ 9 am ~  
Live Streaming 220 views

Sunday, June 19 ~ 9 am ~  
Live Streaming 408 views  
Car Hop Communion ~ 59  
Outdoor ~ 28

**Christian Sympathy**

We extend our deepest Christian  
sympathy to the families of

+Phyllis Hagensick

+Richard Davidson, April Six's Grandpa

may their families find comfort and peace  
in the promise of the resurrection of Christ.

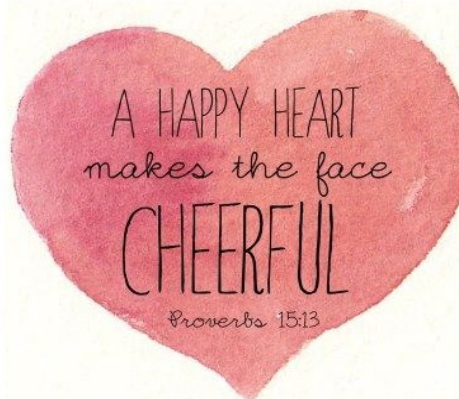
**In Christian Joy**

We extend our Christian Congratulations

**Gehrig Joel Widmer** was born June 11th (6 lbs, 10 oz, 19.5" long)  
to Maddie and Blaine Widmer. Gehrig's proud grandparents are  
Joyce and Marty Westen.

**Kennedy Rose Striegel** was born July 6th (6 lbs, 7.8 oz, 19.5"  
long) to Kelsey and Ben Striegel. Kennedy's excited big brother  
is Bentley.

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15



**Immanuel's Golden Nuggets**

As a people of God, the following are the identifying, non-negotiable characteristics of  
Immanuel Lutheran Church.

- 1) God's Word and Sacraments (Baptism and Holy Communion) are paramount in the life of Immanuel.
- 2) We are an inclusive congregation; ALL are welcome.
- 3) As disciples of Christ, we live in service to God and others.
- 4) We are an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) congregation.

As discerned by the 2019 Council.

## Birthdays for August

3- Rose Lloyd  
8- Kristin Jones  
9- Rachel Quigley  
12- Judy Venzke  
12- Claire Wubbena  
15- Mikaila Matheson  
15- Mary Chmelar  
15- Joyce Westen  
17- Rachel Peterson  
18- David Croft  
19- Alan Rebling  
19- Thomas Lueck  
21- Bev Crandall  
29- Maggie Baker  
31- Mike Jewell



## Anniversaries for August

1- Jack & Margaret Quigley  
5- Jim & Linda Six  
7- Rod & Julie Hill  
7- Scott & Michelle Bartholomew  
9- Peter & Sandy Weller  
9- Bill & Molly Zywiec  
10- Grant & Diana Wubbena  
12- Erin & Tracy Almelien  
18- Brad & Tricia Kroll  
28- Neil & Julie Giesmann  
29- Bob & Betty Warren  
30- Dennis & Sherry Ives



Dear God,  
if today I lose my hope,  
please remind  
me that your  
plans are better  
than my dreams.

## HACAP

Your dollar buys more when HACAP orders food,  
consider sending a few dollars to:

### HACAP

2175 Lexington Blvd # 1

Washington, Iowa 52353

Help your local families during this difficult time.

Thank you, DeAnn

## Washington School Kindness Closets

Each month we will spotlight items needed for the clothes closets at our schools.

August- underwear all sizes, boys and girls

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Faith Formation: Wednesday, July 29th, 11 a.m.

Finance: Thursday, July 30th, 6:30 p.m.

Council: Sunday, August 2nd, 10:30 a.m.

Worship and Music: Wednesday, August 5th, 10:30 a.m.

Faith Formation: Wednesday, August 5th, 2:30 p.m.



## Luther League

**When:** TAKING AN AUGUST BREAK

**Where:**

**Why:**

**Who:** 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Graders

**Time:**

**Lunch:**

**Leadership:** Steve Vetter and Pastor Howard

## Don't Forget Immanuel Lutheran

During this time of social distancing, we continue to give God our thanks and praise through our tithes and offerings of thanksgiving for the mission of the church including the care of those in need. We continue to receive your tithes and offerings by: mailing your checks to Immanuel Lutheran (1226 E. Washington St., Washington 52353), call the church (653-3950) to have the automatic withdrawal (Simply Giving) enrollment form mailed to you, or give online through Immanuel's website ([luthwash.org](http://luthwash.org)). We are grateful for your continued generosity to God through Immanuel Lutheran during this time of separation. The ministries of Immanuel Lutheran do not stop because we are in "safety/separation mode" due to COVID-19.

# THANKS

## FOR

# BEING AWESOME

**THANK YOU Yaro and Mary Chmelar** for bringing your hay rack to be used as the chancel for Worship on the East Lawn on Sunday night, July 19<sup>th</sup>. It was exactly what we needed and worked out perfectly!

We would like to thank everyone who sent us cards, letters, and notes and that called us on the phone while we haven't been able to have services. We hope that you and all of your families are doing well at this difficult time.

Evelyn and Gary Brown

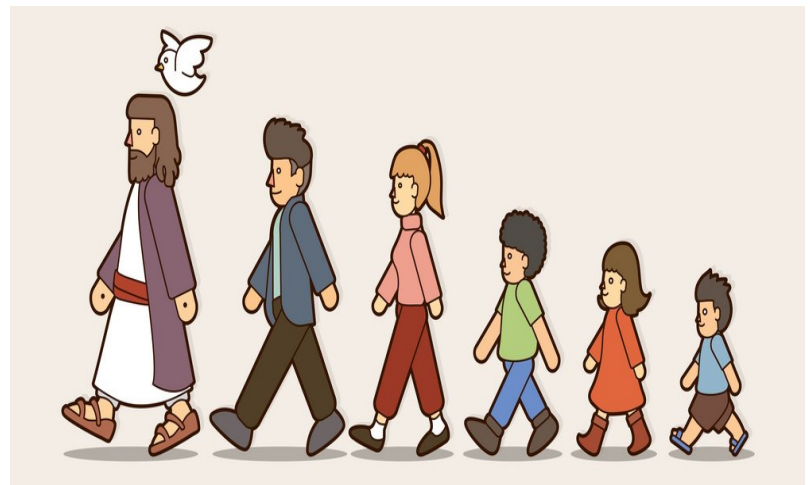
**THANK YOU Doris Moore, Pam Johnston, and Deb Shepherd** for providing homemade face masks to be given to people who do not bring one to the outdoor worship services. We have a wonderful supply through your generosity.

My heartfelt thanks to the dear friends from Immanuel Lutheran who sent cards and/or called me to express their sympathy and prayers at the loss of my closest friend, Phyllis. It was an unbelievable shock and I am still reeling from it. Even though we were social distancing and hadn't seen each other for four months, we were in daily contact by phone to visit and be sure we were both OK. I will miss her so very much. I know that she is now with her Savior, Jesus Christ and I take comfort in that. We will all miss her presence in church when we can once again safely worship together after this deadly pandemic ends. May God continue to watch over us and bless us all now and always.

Vi Kruse

### God's Blessings upon a New Academic Year

As we begin the new academic year in this COVID-19 pandemic, we turn to God to ask for God's blessings of wisdom and knowledge upon all people involved in education: administrators, faculty, staff, and students. On **Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>**, during the 9 a.m. live stream service and the 7 p.m. worship on the East lawn, Pastor Howard will hold a blessing for all those beginning a new academic year. Regardless of your role in education and whether you are a preschooler or Ph.D. student receive God's blessings upon your new academic year.





## August 2020, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Back to School Month School is right around the corner! This year's back-to-school time feels a little different than usual for all of us, but imagine what it would be like to be a child or teen with an emotional or behavioral disorder. For the last several months, their routine has been turned upside-down and they've learned to adjust to a new way of life. Moving back into a school year structure can be particularly stressful and it can be difficult to concentrate and cope. Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) provides mental health services to children and families across the state. It's our job to relate to children who might feel alone or misunderstood. Our therapists provide virtual telehealth therapy sessions with children while our Behavioral Health Intervention Services team collaborates with families virtually or in a community setting to help them develop skills like anger management and healthy decision-making. LSI also provides 24-hour mental health care at the Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers in Waverly and Ames to empower Iowa's most vulnerable children and teens. We thank you for your support of LSI's mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service! We know there are more Iowa children in need of this critical care. If you would like to learn more about how you can give a gift to support these crucial services, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org).

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

**We are Still Here:** LSI's Therapy Services When LSI's workforce began working remote as a COVID-19 precaution, therapist Andrea knew she would need to adjust to a new way of providing therapy to the clients she serves. In particular, one individual she met with struggled with anxiety on a daily basis. With the pandemic, however, her anxiety deepened and she spiraled to levels she hadn't encountered in years. And she was afraid she would no longer be able to see Andrea and receive the weekly therapy she'd relied on. But that wasn't stopping Andrea. She set up a home office where she could provide telehealth virtual therapy sessions to all her clients in need of the same consistent care they were used to. Andrea used this time to work with her client on self-care strategies, coping skills, and mindfulness to help her client stay grounded when she felt anxious. Andrea's client now has the tools she needs to handle the difficult days through this crisis, and Andrea is able to continue providing life-changing serves to Iowa children, adults, and families in her community.

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Continued from page 1

How does one come to know God? Martin Luther wrote in his Small Catechism: "I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins—mine and those of all believers. On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true."

Luther's commentary, above, tells us that knowing God and his son, Jesus, is not an intellectual exercise. It has been my experience that God is not found or experienced through the senses. God is not seen with the eyes nor heard with the ears. Rather, God is experienced through the heart—not the biological heart, of course, but the spiritual heart. There have been times in my life when I have truly believed that God has been in the room with me, that God has even spoken to me, though I did not hear God with my ears. I truly believe that one will know when God is speaking to them. It will be unmistakable. Therefore, it is important that while in prayer and in communion that we listen for God's voice.

Referencing Isaiah 28:16 and Joel 2:32, Paul concludes, "[T]he scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'"

Paul S. Berge, Emeritus Professor of New Testament, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, wrote in *Working Preacher*, "The confession, 'Jesus is Lord . . . God raised him from the dead,' is the word that saves and justifies. Attending this is the promise of scripture: 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame' (10:11). Paul cites the second half of Isaiah 28:16, to proclaim that God's promise of salvation is for all. There is only one promise, one people, one Lord: 'There is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him' (10:12).

"'Jesus is Lord,' is the earliest Christian confession. The promise that attends this confession is now expressed: 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved' (10:13). To believe in Jesus Christ as Lord (10:11) and to call on the name of the Lord (10:13) continues the confessional focus of these verses."

## **The 2020 Synod Assembly will be ONLINE ONLY**

The Southeastern Iowa Synod Council approved a plan to move the 2020 Synod Assembly to a format that is entirely online. The Synod Council made this decision on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>.

This meeting of the synod assembly will be convened at 4:00 pm on August 5, 2020, and again at 9:30 am August 7, 2020. The primary business of this meeting will include the adoption of the 2021 budget, and the elections of a new synod bishop, a new synod vice president, several synod council and committee members.

Immanuel's voting members are Ron and Char Andersen and Pastor Howard. Margaret Stangohr was initially elected, with Ron, at Immanuel's 2019 Annual meeting. Prior to the knowledge that the meeting would be held virtually, Margaret told council that she was removing herself as voting member due to COVID concerns. Council elected Char Andersen, as Margaret's replacement, during the July Council meeting. Anyone who is not a voting member will be able to watch the assembly online on the synod's website <https://seiasynod.org/> or Facebook page.



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### **August Bulletins**

Immanuel will be using a different bulletin during the month of August. To fully participate in live streaming or conference call of worship download the August bulletin from Immanuel's website, [luthwash.org](http://luthwash.org). The bulletin is located at the "August Bulletin" tab. The August bulletin has different hymns, the weekly scripture texts, the blessing of educators and students liturgy (August 23<sup>rd</sup>), Baptismal liturgy (August 23<sup>rd</sup>), the Holy Communion liturgy (August 23<sup>rd</sup>).

A different bulletin will be used for our outdoor worship on Sundays, August 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7 p.m. The bulletin for the outdoor service will also be available at Immanuel's website [luthwash.org](http://luthwash.org) for you to download. No bulletins will be printed and available for you during this evening worship.

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### **Car Hop Communion: Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Pastor Howard will be serving Holy Communion on **Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.** under the portico in the church's parking lot. 59 people were nourished with the presence of Christ at the Car Hop Communion on Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Howard will consecrate the elements (wafers, wine, and grape juice) during the live stream/conference call worship, 9 a.m. Pastor Howard will be wearing a face shield when consecrating the elements and during distribution. The common cup will not be available only individual, plastic cups. Cars will enter the parking lot through the North entrance and exit through the West entrance. Pastor Howard will give you Holy Communion while you remain in your cars. You will then drive to the garbage can and throw away your plastic cup(s). However, if you chose not to participate in this meal opportunity, fasting is still an appropriate option.



### Story Time with Pastor Maureen, 10 a.m., ON BREAK

Pastor Howard will be on vacation during August and will not be live streaming Story Time with Pastor Maureen. She will resume story time on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10 a.m., with stories of the Old Testament. Enjoy past readings anytime you like as they remain on Immanuel's Facebook. These stories are NOT just intended for children, adults are learning the stories of the Bible too!

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### LIVE Streaming of Worship or Conference Call options

Until further notice, Immanuel is live streaming our Sunday worship at 9 a.m. Streaming is going to Immanuel's Facebook page: Immanuel Lutheran Washington Iowa. Brian Lueck is also putting it on Immanuel's website: [luthwash.org](http://luthwash.org). You may go back to these locations and the video will still be available. We are reaching people across the country who are choosing to worship with us!

If you choose not to use the streaming of worship, you may conference call in. Call this number: (319) 656-2663 and it will ask you for a participant code 344238#. Then you will be connected to the church phone and Pastor Howard will have it next to her during worship. This phone line will be opened at 8:50 a.m. on Sundays and it will end at the conclusion of worship. **HOWEVER**, when you use the conference call option, know that all talking you do is heard by the other participants on the conference call. If you begin talking to other people in your home, then all the people on the phone hear your conversation and not the worship service.

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### LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF REPORT

There was no delivery of our LWR offerings (quilts, school kits, baby kits, etc) last April because of the pandemic shut down. Therefore, we have an over run of many School kit items. This is "School Kit Season," when we always ask the congregation to help us collect school supplies for children in Third World countries who do not have basic school supplies. This year we have an abundance of the supplies that we usually collect except for



### CHILDREN'S SCISSORS BALL POINT PENS CRAYONS

We have enough of the other items, but we need large numbers of scissors, pens and boxes of (24) crayons. We are OUT of these items. Now is the time when the stores have an abundance of these items at reasonable prices. Won't you help us by providing these items for our school kit delivery in October? You can drop off your donation at the church. If you would like the HOPE workers to do your shopping, you can leave a cash offering in the jar provided in the Narthex.

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**SOCIAL DISTANCING DOES  
NOT APPLY TO OUR  
RELATIONSHIP TO GOD**  
*Draw near to God and He  
will draw near to you.  
(James 4:8)*

## **Faith Formation Daniel and the Lion's Den and Jonah and the Whale Bike Rodeo**

**WHERE:** Immanuel Lutheran Church Parking Lot

**WHEN:** Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

**WHO:** All current Immanuel youth & families and those interested in joining in the fall Are WELCOME!

**WHAT:** Bring your bike, trike or other age appropriate outdoor toy and helmet for an evening of fun and fellowship

**WHY:** Learning, fun, and getting WET!

**RSVP:** None needed, come and enjoy!

Parents are encouraged to bring lawn chairs/blankets and sit around the perimeter of the Immanuel parking lot which will be blocked off. We ask that if you are feeling unwell, please stay home. We can't wait to see you!

### *How can parents help?*

-Bring your child, bike, and helmet to the event.

-Spend time at home talking about these exciting stories of the Old Testament.

-Pray for Faith Formation as we make plans in a COVID-19 sensitive manner for the year and prepare for the unknowns that may come.

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## **Immanuel's OUTDOOR Summer Worship**

We will have two more outdoor worship services in August on Immanuel's East lawn **Sundays August 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7 p.m.** The COVID-19 virus has not yet been eradicated from our lives, so worship will be celebrated with COVID-19 precautions. Being together is safer in the outdoors rather than inside, thus an outdoor worship service. Knowing that this is summer we will worship in the evening, 7 p.m., on the East lawn where shade will be plentiful. Ushers will seat you on the lawn, keeping distance between worshipers. The bulletin (a different bulletin from the Sunday morning live stream services) will be on the church website for you to use via your phone or print and bring for yourselves (no bulletins will be provided for you). Passing of Christ's Peace will be extended by remaining at your seats and bowing to one another. Four offering plate stations will be available for the receiving of your tithes and offerings of thanksgiving. You may deposit your monetary gifts to God upon arrival or departure from worship (offering plates will not be passed). At the conclusion of worship, the ushers will dismiss you, by family unit, to return to your vehicles and leave worship. Please note, that our "new normal" live stream and conference call of worship at 9 a.m. will still take place on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. The same sermon will be preached at 9 a.m. as 7 p.m.

**Why:** Worship our Triune God!

**Who:** Entire congregation of Immanuel Lutheran, Family, Friends, and Seekers

**When:** Sundays, August 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Time:** 7 p.m.

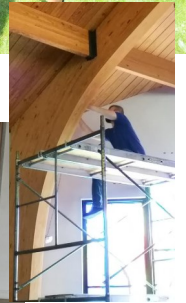
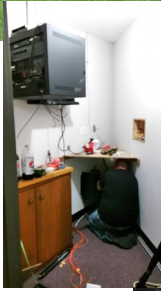
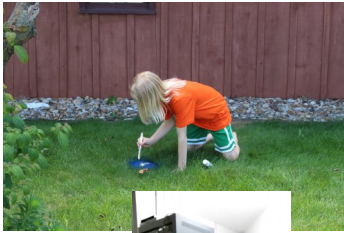
**Bring:** Mask (adults), lawn chair(s)/blanket, hat, sunscreen, bug spray, bulletin(s)

**Raining:** Cancelled only if it *IS* raining. Cancellation notice will be on Facebook, phone message, and website





**YOU ARE the Church!**



**Look at what's going on at Immanuel!!**

# God is with us

S D W M D P W M U B K H Z L C M Y M I T G C W V  
 U I G P X R J C R Y W A D W L N V I D V Y L Q R  
 V P E Q M J O Q S T A J J L I S X K V C O V J O  
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believe	blessed	christ	church
cross	dignity	faith	father
forgiven	god	grace	hallelujah
happiness	healing	holy	jesus
joy	lord	love	magnificent
mercy	peace	praise	redeemed
shepherd	strength	trust	wisdom
worship	worthy		