

Dear Disciples,

Did you ever notice that Paul starts his letters (Galatians, Ephesians, 1&2 Corinthians etc...) in almost the same way every time? Each one has a very simple greeting it seems. Take for example, the first verse of 2 Corinthians which reads, "From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the church of God that is in Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia." I must confess that many times reading this, I would tend to do a quick skim here and not pay much attention to Paul's way of introduction. Today, however, I pause to take special notice that there is more here! The beauty of Paul's words is that in every letter there are three important reminders to prepare the reader for the work ahead. The first is a reminder that Paul is not working alone, but rather is constantly surrounded and supported by friends and messengers as he writes. The second is that Paul's journey and the church which he writes to are founded in Jesus Christ. The third is that together they are called by God to keep moving forward. (That's a lot packed into one sentence!) As I begin to serve God with you all this July, I suppose this serves as one way of introduction. It is with great joy, excitement, and passion for the amazing things God is up to in the world that I join the journey many of you have been on for years in Oxford. Much like Paul, I am sure we will face opportunities as well as challenges, but I confidently remind you all that the church is founded in Christ who calls us into the world to be disciples. As God calls new people together into new places, the Holy Spirit sustains us along the way.

As I write these monthly memos I like to end each one with a monthly "buzzword" and a question to help bring us through the season. I hope the buzzword is something that sticks with you for the month, maybe you use it as a hashtag on your social media, maybe you notice it pop up in your daily life and share with friends at coffee hour, you might hear it in a sermon or see it on my own social media, maybe it challenges you to do something different (the possibilities are endless!) The question I hope is one that sparks conversation. I love to receive e-mails, texts, or have conversations about what people are thinking in response, so don't hesitate to share.

Now, to start things off, here they are:

**Buzzword** - "greeting" (In the next few weeks I will be #greeting and meeting each of you. Also, we see how Paul packed a lot of meaning into his greeting.)

**Question** - How are you #greeting people? Who could use an extra note, card, hello, or other #greeting from you this month? What does it mean to be engaged in #greeting our neighbors?

Pastor Niki

It is with great joy and blessings that Immanuel Lutheran Church *welcomes* Pastor Nicole Harvell!

Pastor Niki's ordination is on  
**July 1st, 10:00am**

at St. Mark Lutheran Church,  
248 Broadway, Norwich CT.

All are welcome to this celebration.

Anyone interested in attending or bringing a dish for this celebration, please **CONTACT** Jeanmarie at 203-592-3943 or [jmullen22@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmullen22@sbcglobal.net)

**Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>:** Pastor Niki will officially join us.

**Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30am** she will preach and commune her first service at Immanuel.

**Ecumenical Church Service**  
**Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am**  
**Trinity Episcopal Church**  
**91 Church St., Seymour**

**There will not be a church service on this date at Immanuel. Summer schedule will continue on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

### *July Jubilee Yum!*

**2** Ice Cream Social

**9** Apple Pancakes

**16** Ecumenical Service

**23** Cake & Fruit

**30** Egg Sandwiches

## Immanuel's Blessings!

*Thanks go out to Rick Steckert, Randy Cormack and Russ Errickson for staining the outdoor chapel*

*Big shout out to Randy Cormack for saving us here in the office from the heat! (installing our AC units)*

## Happy Anniversaries

3 Megan & Taylor Field  
7 Dorothy & Edward Stockman  
11 Betty & Jerry Lower  
15 Christine & John Miller  
17 Diane & Dale Peters  
26 Martha & Jeremy Parkins  
30 Deb & Rick Steckert

## Happy Birthdays

1 Lois Hummel	16 Jeananne Urbanowicz
4 Sierra Cripps	Jillian Andes
5 Cynthia Harrison	Christopher Burton
9 Andrew Napomiceno	Carter Nossal
10 John Enquist	17 Frederick Kilburn
12 Logan Haight	20 Judy Pelletier
13 Joshua Napomiceno	22 Kelly Cormack
14 Ed Urbanowicz	25 Edward Stockman
Carol Isberg	26 Keith O'Neil
Ava Helen Hummel	Samantha Fletter
15 Cassidy Marcinczyk	30 Mattus Neumann
	Marc Neumann
	Emily Harrison

## The Food Bank Corner

### Canned Meats

### Spooner House Meal

**Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>**

***Thank you, Ellen & Bill Fritz  
for this month's meal.***

Kitchen help is not needed.

**New baby?** Let Karin Schidat know so a rose can be placed on the font in their honor.  
203.888.5946

## Prayers: Deb Steckert (203.888.1218) Donna Figoras (203.734.0249)

Aaron & Jessica	Kathy Corrigan	Linda Kunecki	Florence Pawlak	Dorothy Stockman
Joe Abate	Mary Ann Croves	Sarah Leventhol	Gary Petitti	Ed Stockman
Ann Marie Lisa	Elizabeth Dicapua	Norbert Lorenzen	Dorothy Prillip	Alexa Terrell
Helen Ahearn	Ruth Edgren	Richard LoRizzo Sr.	Joanna Rooney & children	Ron Thompson
Bob Ancefsy	Francis	Wilma Luft	Rose	Dee Voccola
Art Gillette	Fred	Ava Nebbia	Lynne Ross	Chelsea Wheeler
Elaine Ault	Millie Grele	Tacia Neumann	Joyce Sauer	
Barbara	Gloria	George Officer	Debby Simko	
Shirley Bernardo	Sebastian Estrada	Tyler Otis	Krista Snyder	
Alan Burton	Jerry Hickman	Olivia	Margo Steckert	
Patrick Burton	Illiana	Olivia Grace	Stephen	
Jean Coddington				

Dear Friends,

My, how time flies! You and I have invested six months of our lives and ministry together. And now you're ready to embark on a journey with a newly-minted pastor who is eager to lead and serve you well. As you get ready for Pastor Niki to come to Immanuel, I have some suggestions for you about the proper care and feeding of pastors (especially new ones).

1 – Be kind to your pastor. Remember how you like to be cared for and do the same for her. If you hear someone say something supportive or critical of her, strongly encourage them to speak directly to the pastor. Pastors are not mind readers and we need to know what you're feeling so we can walk this faith pathway together.

2 – Respect your pastor's time commitments and healthy limits. It is not unusual for a pastor to invest 20-30 hours a week in study, prayer and preparation for her sermons. New pastors usually take a bit longer to write, adjust, edit and practice the presentation of the message God is asking them to share with you. In addition, she must attend council meetings, committee meetings, Christian education meetings and oversee youth and children's activities. That said,

3 – Encourage her to achieve a work/play balance that will keep her healthy and strong physically, socially, mentally and spiritually. It's very easy for pastors to feel indispensable to a congregation and place undue burdens on themselves as they try to be all things to all people. Make sure she is taking her days off and scheduling adequate vacation time. She will also need continuing education to improve her skills and renew her spirit. Don't let her shrug these off because she feels she's needed here.

4 – Let her know of your support. Come out and attend events and programs. Volunteer your time and talents in worship, on a committee, or at least in prayer. Sundays are often hectic, so if the pastor says or does something that you think is good for the congregation or good for her, dash off quick note or email to let her know.

5 – Encourage your pastor to feel free to serve the community and the wider church. Take her with you when you go to Spooner House or the Food Pantry. Introduce her to the leaders there. Help her find a way to serve locally or synod wide that will feed her passion for ministry. And,

6 – Remember, your pastor is human. Just like you, we don't have the answers to every question. We sometimes put our foot in our mouth. We forget important-to-you dates and events. We don't mean to offend you and these slip-ups are not intentional. Please communicate your expectations to her. She may not be able to meet all the expectations of nearly 200 adults and children at Immanuel, so work with her. After all, you and she are part of the priesthood of all believers.

It has been my honor and joy to serve as your transition pastor. You have warmly welcomed me and worked alongside of me to bring in the Kingdom. You have reaffirmed my sense of call to ordained ministry with your caring, compassionate ways. I pray that the Lord will continue to bless you each day as you continue your journey together. Thanks.

~~~*Transition Pastor Linda Kraft*

| July Ministry                           |      |                                   |                     |                  |                                      |                    |
|-----------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Ushers                                  |      |                                   | Assisting Minister  | Lector           | Acolyte                              | Coffee Hour        |
| 2                                       | 9:30 | Deb & Tom Solomon                 | Wendy Cegelka       | Vicki Napomiceno | Josh Napomiceno                      | Ice Cream Social   |
| 9                                       | 9:30 | Sandra & Dave Andes               | Andrew Napomiceno   | Paula Otis       | Sophia Bogle & Ethan Andes           | Apple Pancakes     |
| 16                                      | 9:30 | Betty & Jerry Lower               | Julie Cormack       | Janet Edgren     | Sean Ruggerio & Samantha Seres       | Ecumenical Service |
| 23                                      | 9:30 | Charlotte Tottenham & Rick Kaeser | Jeananne Urbanowicz | Hunter Cripps    | Samantha Fletter & Jayden Urbanowicz | Cake & Fruit       |
| 30                                      | 9:30 | Dave Ahearn & Judy Gulish         | Ellen Fritz         | Lynn Nesshoever  | Lauren Burton                        | Egg Sandwiches     |
| Altar Guild: Deb Steckert & Jan Cormack |      |                                   |                     |                  |                                      |                    |

