

Dear Disciples,

This month we are blessed to be marking two important anniversaries! Together we celebrate 125 years of worship and ministry as Immanuel Lutheran Church, and as Lutherans we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Now 500 years ago, Martin Luther challenged the authorities of the church on their teachings. He was burdened by guilt and a sense of debt for his sins, feeling as if there was no escape to righteousness and restoration to God's kingdom. In addition to this, Luther was seeing people like Johann Tetzel selling indulgences in ways that were not in accordance with scripture and took advantage of the most vulnerable populations. But, as Luther read and studied the scriptures for himself, God's love broke through with a message of unconditional and abundant grace. Luther is of course known best for posting his 95 Theses which were points of disagreement with the Catholic Church (mostly regarding the sale of indulgences) and were meant to start a discussion, to reform the places of the church that Luther saw as broken and sinful. Now, 500 years later we are a Christian faith that has many divisions and denominations where some are deeply divided and others share more in common than they differ. 500 years later, we are Lutherans who still need to remember that life-changing grace of God that washes over us daily. 500 years later, we continue to reform and transform, to grow and change, to challenge and question, to build up and reach out.

It is this ability to see ways which we are always reforming, and the places where God is transforming our lives that has kept this ministry, this community, strong for 125 years. There will always be ways which we are called to reform, whether it be in our own live or in this church community. What I hope we never forget is that we have been given the gifts to do just that. We have been given courage, because to reform and transform requires risk. We have been given faith, because it requires our trust in where God is calling us. We have been given passion, because every journey of reformation and transformation requires passionate people who care for one another and care about this community.

This month I invite each of you to share your stories of faith with one another. It just may be that when you tell what your faith means, somebody will hear God through you, see Christ in you, and feel the Spirit because of you. I hope that you share these stories with me through social media, in person, or e-mail too! For me, **#MyFaithMeans** that I am never too broken to be made whole – I belong; and I am never too sinful to be loved by God – I am worthy.

Buzzword - **#MyFaithMeans** Share your story of faith

Question – What does your faith mean to you? Why faith? Why here?

† Peace & Blessings, Pastor Niki

Doodie Calls

Immanuel will be collecting Diapers/Baby Wipes & Monetary donations during the month of October to benefit the Seymour/Valley Diaper Bank.

Operation Christmas Child

Shoebox collection information will be available end of October, early November.

Start your Christmas shopping early!

Please remember to mark your shoeboxes for a boy or girl.

German Dinner

Saturday, November 4

5:00-7:00 pm

Fall Clean-up

Saturday, November 4

Pastor Niki's Office Hours

Mon: 9am- 1pm

Sat: @ Starbucks

9am-2pm

(Or by appointment)

For Pastoral care, please call

508.439.0439

Immanuel's Blessings!

Thank you to the person who donated the file folders and hanging folders. Much appreciated.

Also, thanks go to Ellen Fritz, Judy Adcox, Al Meyer and another anonymous donor for the happy stickers that we put on our shut-in mailings.

Happy Anniversaries

3 Jamie & Joseph Riofrio	19 Beth & Rich Alves
4 Norma & Richard Miles	20 Loretta & Joe Dempsey
Shirley & Ron Drummer	Michelle & Tom Schreyer
6 Ellen & Charles O'Neil	Linda & Dave Ahearn
8 Helena Anderson & Henry Rotzal	21 Janet & Lars Edgren
12 Tacia & Marc Neumann	Barbara & John Enquist
15 Diana & Gary Hupprich	26 Jeananne & Ed Urbanowicz
18 Fred & Jackie Kilburn	28 Karen & Russell Errickson
	29 Cindy & Bob Harrison

Happy Birthdays

2 Elija Vargas	16 Sandra Andes, William Fassbender
3 Catherine Gulish	17 Kelly Urbanowicz, Eddie Urbanowicz,
6 Leah Gaynor, Tom Schreyer,	Arlene O'Connell
Lisa Popielasz	18 John Miller, Janet Rippel
7 Callie Lynch	19 Mark Waggner,
9 Heidi Luft	21 Maritza Richmond, Ann Boyd
12 Sharon Konnik, Kelsey Parkins	22 Irma Beebe
13 Steve Betts, Vicki Wojcik	23 Bonnie Kaeser, Madeline Hupprich,
14 Christopher Nossal	Troy Adcox, Lynn Meady
15 Arleen Flach, Ernest Isberg III,	24 Robert Dow
Kathryn Burton, Karen Keenan	25 Anthony Lavorgna
	29 Jack Mullen, Robert Harrison
	31 Noel Pease, Marie B. Kuntz

Prayers: Deb Steckert (203.888.1218)

Aaron & Jessica	Alan Burton	Gary Grabowski	Chuck O'Neil	Lynne Ross
Joe Abate	Kathy Corrigan	Millie Grele	Dila Ostertag	Joyce Sauer
Amy	Mary Ann Croves	Jerry Hickman	Tyler Otis	Debby Simko
Ann Marie Lisa	Elizabeth Dicapua	Illiana	Olivia Grace	Margo Steckert
Helen Ahearn	Ruth Edgren	Ernest Isberg	Olivia Rose	Stephen
Bob Ancefsy	Sebastian Estrada	Linda Kunecki	Florence Pawlak	Dorothy Stockman
Art Gillette	Wes Falbo	Sarah Leventhol	Pat Ploch	Ed Stockman
Elaine Ault	Arleen Flach	Norbert Lorenzen	Dorothy Prillip	Alexa Terrell
Barbara	Francis	Wilma Luft	Joanna Rooney & children	JoAnn Virag
Shirley Bernardo	Gloria	Ava Nebbia	Rose	Dee Voccola
	Louise	Tacia Neumann		

The Food Bank Corner

Chunky Soups & Stews

Spooner House Meal Tuesday, October 24th

Thank you,
Diane & Dale Peters
for this month's meal.
No kitchen help is needed.

New baby? Let Karin Schidat know so
a rose can be placed on the font in their honor.
203.888.5976

Cantata Rehearsals begin Monday, October 2nd



Highlights from the September Council Meeting are as follows:

1. Treasurer Rick Parnoff withdrew \$10,000 from the Endowment Fund this month. That makes total Endowment withdraw this year at \$20,000. We may end up withdrawing another \$10 - 20,000 this year, but we will still doing better than the \$68,000 we budgeted.
2. Our payment on the boiler loan is \$890 each month. Members have contributed a total of \$350 towards the boiler fund this year. Your contributions to the Boiler Fund help off- set the remaining principle on the loan. Members are reminded to continue to contribute to the boiler fund to help pay down the loan sooner.
3. Chris Ed is looking for people/parents for occasional help with the Sunday School program activities. Let Julie Cormack or Vicki Napomiceno know if you can be available at 9:30 on a Sunday morning.
4. Social Ministry is sponsoring a Diaper Drive in October and Adopt a Family at Christmas. See Ellen Fritz for more information.
5. Fall Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, November 4 by Property Ministry.
6. Membership and Outreach is looking to expand the very successful Prayer Bear Ministry. Over \$600 has been contributed for bears.
7. Council is working on a revision to Immanuel's Constitution, to incorporate mandatory language from the most recent ELCA model and make changes to other provisions we believe should be in our Constitution. Details were discussed at a workshop we had on Sept 11. We plan to follow-up with an informational session for the Congregation after both Services, on Sunday, Nov. 5. This will be an opportunity for us to explain changes to the Congregation and hear your input and answer questions. We intend to have a vote on a final version at our Annual Congregational meeting in Jan 2018. See Rick Kaeser for more information.
8. A Safe Church workshop was held on Sept 14 with those of us that attended a training session earlier in the year. We are working on updating our Safe Church Policy based on what we learned at the training session. A vote on an updated policy is being planned for the Annual meeting.
9. We are informing our members that they can contribute to the ELCA disaster relief efforts using envelopes in the pews. The Flip side of the World Hunger envelopes in the pews have a box to check for Domestic and International Disaster Relief. The counters will make note of your instructions on the envelopes to ensure the money you contribute goes to your intended destination.
10. The report of the Financial Audit Ministry was accepted. There were no findings. See Rick Kaeser for more information.

Pastor's Hours: As programs and ministries begin again for the season, there is a lot to be done in the Immanuel community. You may have noticed that Pastor's designated office hours have changed. (See front page) These are certainly not the only times that Pastor Niki will be in the office, but these are the times you can be sure to find her here. As always, appointments can be made, or you are welcome to stop in whenever you see the pink car in the parking lot!

Pastor Niki will be out of the office the following dates:

Monday October 23rd – Wednesday October 25th to attend Bishop's Convocation

Friday November 3rd – Sunday November 5th (returning by 5pm) for a Continuing Education Conference

Rev. Allyson Glass, of Seymour Congregational Church, will be available for any pastoral care needs that may arise during these times. Please call the office and speak with Mauree to reach Rev. Glass, or e-mail her directly at pastorallyson.scc@gmail.com

Calling All Sleutheran Agents! This month begins our new and improved Confirmation Classes. Parents and students are invited to our first meeting on October 15th @6:30pm to learn more about the changes and get started for the year. There is no age limit, but typically 7th grade and above is best. Come join us as a Super Secret Sleutheran Agent to solve mysteries, crack codes, learn the Catechism, question tradition, and grow in faith!

October Ministry						
		Ushers	Assisting Minister	Lector	Acolyte	Coffee Hour
1		<i>One Service</i>	<i>Anniversary</i>	<i>Lynn Nesshoever</i>		
	10:30	<i>Kim Tupper & Rick Kaeser</i>	<i>Julie Cormack</i>	<i>Teresa Mentgen</i>	<i>Jack Mullen</i>	<i>The Mentgen family</i>
8	8:15	<i>Betty & Jerry Lower</i>	<i>Wendy Cegelka</i>	<i>Julie Cormack</i>	<i>Tori Alves</i>	<i>Deb & Tom Solomon</i>
	10:30	<i>Ellen & Charles O'Neil</i>	<i>Ellen Fritz</i>	<i>Vicki Napomiceno</i>	<i>Samantha Seres</i>	<i>Judy Adcox & Sue Borchert</i>
15	8:15	<i>Judy Gulish & Dave Andes</i>	<i>Ellen Fritz</i>	<i>Janet Edgren</i>	<i>Jainna Marcinyk</i>	<i>Diane & Dale Peters</i>
	10:30	<i>Vicki & Josh Napomiceno</i>	<i>Andrew Napomiceno</i>	<i>Karin Schidat</i>	<i>Brando Fletter</i>	<i>Karin Schidat & Jutta Firat</i>
22	8:15	<i>Sandra & Dave Andes</i>	<i>Jeananne Urbanowicz</i>	<i>Lynn Nesshoever</i>	<i>Ethan Andes</i>	<i>Paula Otis</i>
	10:30	<i>Beth & Rich Alves</i>	<i>Julie Cormack</i>	<i>Beth Alves</i>	<i>Stephanie Alves</i>	<i>Teri Mazza & Linda Laudano</i>
29	8:15	<i>Janet Edgren & Kelly Cormack</i>	<i>Ellen Fritz</i>	<i>Lars Edgren</i>	<i>Jayden Urbanowicz</i>	<i>Peter Wright</i>
	10:30	<i>Anne & Rob Dow</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>John Miller</i>	<i>Sophia Bogle</i>	<i>Kim Tupper</i>
Altar Guild:			<i>Debbie Steckert & Jan Cormack</i>			