



Journey Connection

Modified Journey Connection #2 APRIL 2020

Mission Statement of Immanuel Church

To be and to make Spirit-filled followers of Christ who shine the light of God's love to the world.

**YES...WELCOME TO IMMANUEL CHURCH,
EVEN THOUGH WE ARE CURRENTLY NOT GATHERING!**

We at Immanuel are on a **joyful journey** – with Jesus...regardless of the current situation, – to disclose His presence in the world...especially during this challenging time, - and His love for all people...whether they are acting irrationally or not. With humility, we invite **everyone** to join us - of course respectfully keeping your distance, **regardless** of their relationship with Jesus, and even if they doubt His reality; together we will get through this COVID-19 pandemic! And, we invite **everyone** to join us, **regardless** of race, culture, age, sexual orientation, family status, or the brokenness of their lives. Yes, even the closet hoarders are welcome! On this journey there are no judgments – just Jesus. Whoever you are, **you are welcome** to join us in Spirit!

If you desire a calming conversation during this time of hysteria or could use a peaceful prayer while wrestling with isolation, please contact Pastor Rich or Jenny Landowski at **262-334-2886**. You could also leave us an email message at pastor2112@gmail.com or immanuelwbministries@gmail.com; we would welcome a time to connect with you!

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.



A word from Jenny...

Dear Immanuel Church Family,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

My sincere hope is that this finds you all doing well, for to date the only church family member who we've heard of that came down with the Coronavirus was my daughter Olivia, who has now fully recovered and will be returning to work soon, nor has anyone notified us of any other health concerns. Praise the Lord! My prayer for you is God's mercies in body, mind, and spirit.

As we continue to maneuver through these uncharted times, it has been a joy to see how our church family, young and well, not as young, have continued to shine the light of God's love to the world. I truly hope you take the time to look through this 2nd modified edition of our Journey Connection to see some of the beautiful ways people have been serving! Although not pictured, but equally as important, are those who are reaching out to others with a simple phone call or a card, those giving above their regular contributions to help individuals who may be struggling financially, and certainly those who sit in solitude and pray for all our wellbeing. May the Holy Spirit work in and through you as you discern your roll in our world today.

A reminder that the church building continues to be open, although with modified hours and staff. If you are in need of pastoral care or other assistance, please don't hesitate to call; we are here for you.

In Joy, In Service,

Jenny

Staying connected through social media...

Website – <https://www.immanuelwestbend.org/>

Facebook – Immanuel United Church of Christ

YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/c/ImmanuelUCCWestBend>

Zoom with us if you'd like to chat face to face 😊



A word, or two, from Pastor Rich

Although we are all carrying the weight of this current crisis, I am grateful that your concern for my health and welfare remains strong. Here's an update on my Myelodysplastic Syndrome: My sister was tested as a potential bone marrow donor and to her dismay she was only a 50% match (she was really hoping she'd be a perfect match). However, there is good news. The nurse assigned to my case found a handful of potential 100% matches in the donor bank and then proceeded to contact them. A few days later, she called me to share the good news that I have three willing donors. She could not share much information, but told me that two of them are 21 and one is 19. These donors have been "earmarked" for me in advance, so that when it comes time for my bone marrow transplant, all the necessary pieces will be in place. Rejoice with me in this good news! And thank God for the generosity and sacrificial spirit of these young people.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued prayers, support, and love during this strange time. On Easter Sunday, Jenny brought me a basket full of cards from members and friends of Immanuel. Your comments and thoughts were so encouraging to me. It made me feel "the body of Christ" at work, even at a time when our hands and feet are somewhat limited. Thank you for kind and encouraging comments! You've brought great joy to my heart!

Well, that's it for now. Hopefully, we will see one another again sooner rather than later. And until then, may Christ's love, grace, and mercy be your stronghold, shelter, and foundation. We will get through this!

Grateful and hopeful,

Pastor Rich



Immanuel's Helping Hands

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way
you will fulfill the law of Christ. *Galatians 6:2*

Do you need assistance with shopping or running errands?
Are you feeling alone and in need of someone to talk to?
Could you use some financial aid?
Are you out of toilet paper?

We've got people and resources ready to help you!!
You don't need to struggle through this time alone,
we're a phone call away.

Whether you can help or in need of help, please contact Jenny at
immanuelwbministries@gmail.com or call 262-334-2886

**SCRIP cards are available for purchase if you would like
to use those to assist someone who is experiencing
financial hardships. Contact Jenny for details.**

A soft reminder as we enter a new week:

We (all of us) are currently going through a collective
traumatic experience. Trauma is often thought of as
"too much, too fast" ...which is exactly what's happening.

Of course you're exhausted. Of course you're afraid.

Of course you're overwhelmed. Of course you're clinging to certainty in
the midst of so much unknown. Of course you aren't as productive,
feeling foggy, or wondering how you can possibly go through so many
waves of emotions all in the same day. This all makes so much sense in
the context of our circumstances. Be gentle with yourself.

Have compassion for your process. Give yourself grace.

You are good, no matter how you are managing
this completely new experience.

Lisa Olivera

Immanuel Food Pantry

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Hebrews 13:16



Delivering ordered Easter Flowers



Thoughts from our Church Treasurer & Financial Secretary

We would like to thank our Immanuel Family for their continued support. Weather it comes in the form prayer, a simple action of love, or financial contributions, we feel blessed to be part of how Immanuel continues to shine God's love into this world. We realize that this is still very difficult for most of us and we appreciate that many are all finding new ways of being that light.

That being said, we are in the process of organizing conversations to make sure that the financial situations and operations of the church are in order. We plan to give a more detailed update in the not so distant future. Until then we wanted to extend our gratitude to a congregation who far exceeds expectations! We hope that you are staying healthy and safe and are able to find ways that help you continue to be fed spiritually and to shine God's light into this uncertain world.

We still need your support at Immanuel UCC and Joyful Journeys (India and Circle of Friends). Remember to indicate special donations, such as Benevolence, or Building, on your check or on your envelope. Because we are not meeting at church services, here are the alternative ways for Immanuel to receive donations:

- Mail donations to Immanuel UCC, 501 Walnut Street, West Bend, WI 53095
- Donate securely online by visiting www.immanuelwestbend.org or www.joyfuljourneys-inc.org and clicking on the “donate” link
- Contact Financial Secretary Cindy Komro at cindy@immanuelwestbend.org (she can set up online donations for you)
- Drop off donations at the church, and give to Jenny, Please call first. 262-334-2886

Thank you for your continued support.

Liz Ratzburg – Church Treasurer
Cindy Komro – Financial Secretary

Update on our Member in Discernment, Emma Landowski

Greetings Immanuel United Church of Christ,

As I sit here writing to you, I am in the process of preparing my final seminary sermon which will be preached at the end of the month, wrapping up the final 25 pages I need to write for my courses, and thinking about the fact that I only have two and a half weeks left of classes. Within all that, my heart is full of wonder, gratitude, excitement, and sorrow. It seems like just yesterday I was standing in the sanctuary surrounded by all of your love and support as you were blessing me on my journey down to St. Louis.

As your Member in Discernment, I just wanted to share an update on what that means for me now. I continue to work at St. Louis University Hospital as a PRN chaplain and have since started helping out at two other local hospitals since COVID-19 has started. This fall I will be starting a year-long Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Residency within the Sisters of Saint Mary's health system. I have not been assigned a location yet, but it will be here in St. Louis. Upon completing this residency in August of 2021, I will have all four units of CPE required for Board Certification, which will allow me to work as a full-time chaplain.

I am also on-track for ordination. My next step is completing the ordination paper which will then go to before the ecclesiastical council for approval. Because of the fact the residency is a temporary position where ordination is not a requirement, I believe ordination is at least another year out.

Thank you for all of your continued prayers and support, you are all greatly appreciated. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or simply want to chat. I'm always grateful when people check in.

Blessings and peace to you all,
Emma

My mailing address is
3826 A Shenandoah Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63110

My email address is...emmalandowski@gmail.com



Let there be Light!

We're out of the dark and into the light...well, at least as far as our parking lot goes! The lights in the small parking lot, adjacent to the church offices, have finally been repaired! Thank you, Dave Hammen, for your illuminating presence in overseeing this project!



Update on our Church Directory

Like many other businesses, Lifetouch, the company putting together our church directory, has temporarily closed down during the Coronavirus Pandemic. While we all anxiously await to get a copy of the coveted pictorial, we continue to appreciate your patience through this delay.

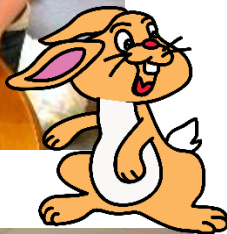
Think how fun it will be to see how we all used to look once we finally get it! 😊



Did Someone Say CHOCOLATE?

So, what do you say when you're asked if you'd like a shipment of Easter Goodies from a store that's going out of business...well that should be obvious; we'll take it!! This was the question that set the ball in motion. On March 23rd, Mr. Bob, from Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge, called and said that the World Market Store in Brookfield was closing and they offered him their whole stock of Easter treats, etc. if he would come and pick them up. He called and asked me if I had any thoughts. I said, "who turns down Easter candy?" He said, "there's a lot of it!" I said, "we'll figure it out, bring it to church!" On March 24th, he showed up with his whole trailer packed full of candy, baskets, candy, decorations, did I say candy...! Oh my, what had we gotten ourselves into? Now, under normal circumstances, I would have sent out an email to our amazing church family to come help us sort through it, however this was the very beginning of "social distancing" therefore that was not possible. Luckily, we did have a handful of helpers, and were able to tackle the task ahead of us. We managed to package up over **100 Easter Baskets** that Mr. Bob took down to handout to the community of people he serves in Milwaukee, **40 baskets were assembled to give to our J.A.M. Time Shine Brites**, and dozens of decorative eggs were filled and distributed by Immanuel's Easter Bunnies. Like rabbits, or loaves of bread and fish, the blessings from chocolate and eggs seemed to multiply uncontrollably as the bounty was shared! 😊

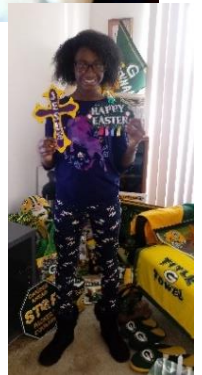




Spreading **LOVE** & **HOPE** to our community

How do we send a message of **HOPE** out to our community, during the Coronavirus, from an empty building? You have **JOY** filled children, decorate windows at church, to show everyone God's **LOVE** is alive! J.A.M. Time families were invited to take part in shining God's light in West Bend by either coming to church during a scheduled time to beautify a section of the windows by the main entrance near the front office, or they could make something at home and drop it off. Sophia Landowski did a thorough wipe down after each visit to help prevent the spread of germs. Then little by little the windows were transformed from clear sheets of glass looking into a deserted church, to works of art that extended the PEACE of Christ to all who gazed upon them. Thank you, J.A.M. Time families, for providing this gift to our community and thank you Sophie for helping to keep us sanitized!





April Showers bring May...duckies?!?!

That's right...we have a momma duck nesting in our church courtyard! She and her mate were first spotted on March 28th as they were scoping out the territory. Then on April 6th we discovered that she had laid a nest full of eggs!

She is definitely a "stay at home" mom as she never leaves her courtyard dwelling. 😊

The incubation period for wild ducks is about 28 days, so stay tuned for updates.

Humor for the day... What did one egg say to the other? "Your yokes crack me up!"



J.A.M. Time Family Resources...

Who knew about or expected this “new normal” everyone is living? One constant that we all share is the love and guidance found in God our Father. Being a parent is challenging...even more so recently! Who better to know about “parenting” than our heavenly Father? The link below is a resource for parents and families to explore. I pray that the podcast and biblical references are inspiring and provide you with a sense of calm. God has guidance and wisdom for EVERY situation.

Be well!

Rachel

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/family-bible-verses/>

A Child's Prayer



God watches over us all day.

At home, at school

And when we play.

And when the sun

(raise hands to show sun)

Has Left the sky

(bring hands down)

He watches us with a million eyes.

(put hand above eyes like you are looking)

(Whisper): "The stars!"



In our last issue of the Journey Connection, the Youth of Immanuel were encouraged to SHINE during this dark time by choosing a suggested Bible verses, act upon it and then share a photo of them doing so.

Here are some of our Youth in action...

Exodus 20:12

Honor your father and your mother so that you may live long in the land that Yahweh your God is giving you.

Kelton Kreis made a face mask for his dad.



Luke 3:10-11

“What should we do then?” the crowd asked. John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

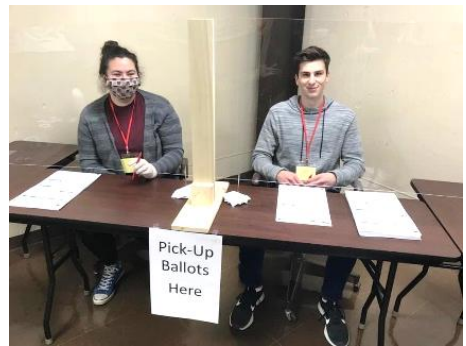
Austin Schmitt grilled dinner for his family.



Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Alec Komro & Sophie Landowski helped with the election.



Hebrews 13:16

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Harley & Molly Pieffle and Noah Kaye helped with yardwork.



John 15:12

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

Youth Group Director Johanna Landowski started sewing masks and selling them to raise money for Joyful Journeys India COVID-19 Relief Fund.



Well done thy good and faithful servants!! Let's try and keep this going and see how many other ways our Youth can keep shining! Choose from one of the verses above or pick a new one; here are some suggestions...

Romans 12:13

Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Matthew 5:42

Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

~Joyful Journeys, Inc.~

An outreach ministry founded and operated
by members of Immanuel Church.

OUR MISSION: *to establish and or operate programs and facilities that will assist impoverished and needy people whose lives are challenged by current life circumstances, by helping to provide for their immediate basic needs and to bring them hope and promise for a brighter future.*

Matthew 25:40 "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Circle of Friends News

Spring Cleaning at the Circle of Friends Shoppe

Since the COF Shoppe is currently closed due to the Coronavirus, Sandy Luft has been taking advantage of this time to thoroughly go through clothing items and organize our bounty. Sophia Landowski has been busy doing Spring cleaning at the Shoppe as well. Thank you, gals, for your extra work.



INDIA NEWS



Joyful Journeys India ~ COVID-19 Relief Fund ~

We all know that there isn't a person on this earth who hasn't been impacted by the spread of the Coronavirus, everyone's lives have basically been turned upside down in one form or another. For each of us, the dynamics look different and the circumstances may vary, however we have a pretty good idea of what our neighbors here are currently wrestling with. But how about in India? I've continued my regular Tuesday morning Skype sessions with Novahu and Manjula, therefore I'm getting weekly updates on what life looks like in the village of Madhavapatnam and how Joyful Journeys Ministry is being affected throughout this worldwide pandemic, but also how it continues to serve. Here are some things you should know...

~ The Marshall School, along with all schools in India have currently been shut down. Unlike here, the K-10th standard schools don't have the technology to do online schooling therefore the education system has temporarily stopped. Our teachers are doing the basics to wrap up grading for the school year but are doing it from their home. We are continuing to pay them as usual with sponsorship funding so that they can provide for their families throughout this difficult time. Their new school year begins in June, so their hope is to be able to open by then.

~ The Andhra Pradesh State Officials required all orphans in the Joyful Journeys Hostel to be returned to their "guardian" if they had one because the number of people residing in one building exceeded current regulations. 29 out of the 30 children have been temporarily sent away. Novahu is using the monthly funding paid by sponsors, to provide basic health and food provisions for each child and their guardian.

~ Oldsters continue to receive our assistance with food and medical help but are now also being supplied with soap and facemasks thanks to sponsorship pledges.

~ House Pastors are in desperate need as they try to provide for their own families as well as the needs of their communities. Monthly contributions by sponsors are being stretched to offer as much assistance as possible.

~ Since we were not able to hold the annual Children's Festival (a.k.a. Vacation Bible School) due to restrictions in gathering, it was decided to use that money to start a JJ India COVID-19 Relief Fund (JJI~CRF). Most of the people in Madhavapatnam are daily wage workers, which means they rely on miscellaneous jobs to support their families. Currently within this area of India, they are now on "lockdown", only being able to leave their homes from 8am-11am to take care of basic necessities like going to the well for water or going to the market (which is not adequately stocked at this point). Many families, not only of our Marshall School children, but in general, are suffering because the parents cannot go out to work. There is no unemployment, or paid time off. These impoverished people who we typically care for by offering an education, are now in need of food and life protecting hygiene products.

Together, with the village officials, our Joyful Journeys leaders have been putting together packets of rice, soap and facemasks to hand out to families in the village, sanitation workers (scavengers as they are referred to there), and the elderly community. **Here's how you can help...**

~ Please continue to fulfill your financial commitment by sending us your pledged amount. As you can see that money is still being used to support our staff, and our children in various forms.

~ Please consider making a monetary donation to our Joyful Journeys India ~ COVID-19 Relief Fund, so that we can show our support within this community by "Shining God's Love" to those in desperate need. Checks can be made out to Joyful Journeys, please designate JJI~CRF, and mailed to Immanuel Church, 501 Walnut Street, West Bend WI 53095. You can also make online donations through our secured Joyful Journeys Website: <https://joyfuljourneys-inc.org/>

~ Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Madhavapatnam. The struggle is real for all of us, but we will get through this if we continue to "give it up to Jesus" and trust in the power of His love through this dark time.

If you would like any more information on how you can help, or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email immanuelwbministries@gmail.com or by phone 262-334-2886.

God be with you!

Namaste'

~Jenny



Mask Maker, Mask Maker, make me a mask!

We have an opportunity to help Mr. Bob's friends down in Milwaukee, so I thought I'd reach out to you for assistance. There is a local company called REBEL that donated "disposable" face masks to Mr. Bob, however they need to be assembled. They come in rolls of 175. Putting them together is quite easy and truly doesn't require any special skills, just a desire to help. If you'd like to check out this link, it will show you three different options on how you can put them together.

<https://www.rebelconverting.com/>

We've already had members of our church family working on assembling them; they've made over 2,000 to date! Mr. Bob handed out over 500 this past Saturday to a very grateful community of people; he asked me to express his thanks to everyone who helped with the last load!! ❤️ Since they are disposable masks, this will be an ongoing need for...well, who knows how long. If this looks like a way you'd like to serve from your home, please let Jenny know and you can join our team of "Mask Makers"! 😊

Thanks for prayerfully considering this!!





Speaking of masks...

Immanuel also has seamstresses in our midst who have been busy sewing masks for Mr. Bob; a special “thank you” to that crew as well!

If you like to sew and would be interested in donating your masks,
please contact Jenny at Immanuel:
262-334-2886 or immanuelwbministries@gmail.com



Tending the Flock



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THOSE recovering from illness or injury and our friends who are shut-ins, as well as those grieving the loss of a loved one. To brighten up their day please think about visiting or dropping a card to one or more of them.

Shut-ins:

Mort Zulick, Bill Altschwager, Julie Pulda, Garnet Schneider, Shirley Dow, Jerry Kuckuk, Marge Bergemann, Marian Kachel, Judy Muelling, Doris Falter, Norm Fedderly and Vera Kuckuk.

Recovering from illness, surgery, or injury:

Pastor Rich, Robert Landowski, Bruce Kapanke, Norm Fedderly, Olivia Landowski and Roy Rusch.

Serving in the military:

Jackson Raad, Spencer Scheunemann, Rebecca Gerard Shanahan and her husband, David.

Continuing their education:

Emily Frederick, Rebecca Kempfer-Witt, Lexi McCrillis, Simon Uecker, Owen Vincent, Ella Gustafson, Julia Stier, Evan Patten, Carmen Vincent, Ana Komro, Kiley Komro and Austin Koehler.

Member in Discernment:

Emma Landowski

The Other Side of the Virus, An Opportunity to Awaken...

Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighborhood
so that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary.

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting.

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way.

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.

But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.

But there does not have to be disease of the soul

Yes there is even death.

But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic-

The birds are singing again

The sky is clearing,

Spring is coming,

And we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul

And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,

Sing.

~ Written by Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM, March 13th 2020

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Email address: immanuelwboffice@gmail.com

Immanuel Website: www.immanuelwestbend.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ImmanuelWestBend/

MINISTERS: All of us

PASTOR: Reverend Richard Vincent (Pastor2112@gmail.com)

PASTORAL ASSISTANT/DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES: Jenny Landowski
(immanuelwbministries@gmail.com)

ELDERS: Doug Stewart (President), Jan Nesladek (Vice President),
Mary Demmon, Elaine Radzinski

DEACONS:, Dave Hammen, Scott Gluck, Jane Kosednar, Alan Olsen,
Frank Miezio (Secretary), Liz Ratzburg (Treasurer), Tracy Halfman

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES: Rachel Gumm (excited4jam@gmail.com)

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Johanna Landowski (immanuelyg19@gmail.com)

YOUTH DIRECTOR: Chris Witt (immanueluccyg@gmail.com)

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ORGANIST/ BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Marlene Wondergem

SENIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR: Marlene Wondergem (studio_543@yahoo.com)

WORSHIP TEAM LEADER: Mark Uecker

CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR: Terry Christie (christieeric35@gmail.com)

CHILDCARE SUPERVISORS: Mindy Stein, Johanna Landowski, Maggie McCann,
Kendra Lepak

Sermons



An audio (mp3) copy of Sunday's sermon
will be available a few days
after presented at:

<http://www.immanuelwestbend.org>