



ImmanuelNews

The newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greeley, Colorado

JUNE 2021

Pastor Daren: Opening Up and Opening Out. Where do we go from here?

Years from now, we will look back at this time in disbelief and wonder: disbelief that we could be caught in the grip of a virus that has crossed every border, and over time will infect everyone on the planet; wonder that we have in an unprecedented time, developed vaccines designed to teach our body's immune system how to fight this virus and its variants.

Almost as miraculous, thousands of churches across the world have adapted and even thrived as they have modified worship services and offered access to communal online worship. Last week, I was on a Zoom meeting of pastors discussing how we might move toward changes in our worship with the astounding success of vaccines in tamping down virus outbreaks. In a nutshell: What do we do in this in-between time before our young people have full access to the vaccines? What changes in this year do we reverse and what changes do we keep?

There are habits that we ache to come back in terms of our worship and fellowship together. There is a hunger to be more physically connected whether through communion at the altar, a hug at the door, or the sharing of Christ's peace. The desire for physical touch varies from person to person with some relieved that they didn't have to share the peace, to those who wonder how they've lasted so long without a good hug.

Then, there is singing. Ironically, singing has been one of the most dangerous activities of the pandemic as it sends the virus out in contagious, virus-filled aerosols. With our three worship options of inside, outside, and online, we've had a mixture of opportunities to sing as loud as we want in our pickup truck or our home, while those inside the sanctuary have joined in humming or simply listening. Again, depending upon who you are, singing out loud may or may not be a big deal.

One of the items that church leaders have been talking about is the profound consequences of worshipping online, and in particular, distributing communion as a virtual act beyond the boundaries of church walls. Suddenly, those who aren't able to make it to church due to poor health, frustration over a hearing loss, illness, travel, or moving to another state—are now able to worship with their beloved community. For many congregations, online participation has grown the numbers of worshippers, givers, and members to the point that it is inconceivable of going "off-line."

Learning from this pandemic, one reality is evident: Over time, everyone on earth will be exposed to this virus and their bodies will have to fight it, vaccinated or not. The question is not will we get Covid, but when, how severe, and what will the long-term health effects be? The vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna are 95% effective and are successfully being tested on younger people. Like the school-ready vaccines children receive for mumps, measles, chickenpox, etc., Covid vaccines will become a standard part of essential healthcare. Unlike many previous vaccines, Pfizer and Moderna are not disabled or weak versions of a virus, but simply vaccines that teach our body to make a protein that mimics the shape of the virus so that our bodies create immunities without any exposure to a real virus. When we inevitably get the virus, the vaccine assures us that we will have a significantly lesser version of Covid.

With the hundreds of millions of vaccines successfully given throughout the world, this is a God-send. If you love the people around you, please ask them to consider vaccinating themselves and their children so that they may not face the capricious and sometimes permanent effects of Covid-19 such as blood clots, respiratory problems, and even death. With the variants of Covid continuing to emerge and spread throughout the world, vaccination boosters will likely become an inevitable part of our standard healthcare.

At a personal level, I received the Pfizer vaccination at the Sunrise Healthcare Center in Greeley. I had little to no effects with the first shot and was a bit achy and feverish after my second shot for about half a day. Others have experienced something similar from feeling slightly tired to feeling out of it for perhaps a few days—but nothing like Covid symptoms and its potential life-long effects. I share this experience because I know some folks are fearful about the vaccinations or consider them unnecessary or unnatural. Let me simply share with great love that you will feel unbelievable freedom and sense of peace after being vaccinated. Knowing that you and the people around you are profoundly safer is priceless.

Frankly, the wide use of vaccination among our congregation is what will return us to a more normal sense of worship and fellowship. Until our youth are vaccinated and a higher percentage of the general adult population is vaccinated, we will need to take varying measures to keep people safe—and depending upon local outbreaks we will wisely adapt social-distancing measures and masking if necessary. If you are feeling overly tired or off, maybe you should consider wearing a mask or using the online or outside worship options. If you are sick, stay home and watch the service online. If you've been exposed to someone sick, consider others before you hug or shake their hand. This is not just common sense, it is loving and caring about people beyond our inconvenience or sense of embarrassment. It is Christ-like and profoundly Christian.

You have been gracious and loving as we've navigated this past year with Covid. Thank you! As we discuss options for opening up our worship and opening out our hearts to the Greeley community in mission to our neighborhood and beyond, let us stay focused on who Christ is in our lives and where God is leading us.

Take care and God bless you!
Pastor Daren

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Spring Benevolence Campaign



Members of Immanuel Lutheran Church— we will be working with two local organizations to support their efforts during the Mother's Day through Father's Day benevolence campaigns. These organizations walk individuals and families through services that heal, strengthen, and provide hope! Both organizations have a local presence in Greeley and in Northern Colorado so we will be helping members of our larger community beyond our church walls.

Funds will be split evenly between Lutheran Family Services of Rocky Mountains and the Resource Center. Collectively, these organizations provide critical resources for issues ranging from adoption, foster care, and family support and education.

Simply designate your special offering during this period by noting *either* "L.F.S." or "Resource Center" in the memo line on checks or special offering envelopes.

Thanks for your generosity and prayerful consideration.

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EFTF –Endowment Foundation Trust Fund

The Endowment Foundation Trust Fund (EFTF) uses interest earned on the donations in the trust fund to support special needs and work of the church that is not covered by the church budget. If you have a special need in mind, please submit a request for fund disbursement. The EFTF Committee considers requests quarterly. Please see an EFTF Committee member if you have questions or pick up a request form from the EFTF mailbox in the church office.

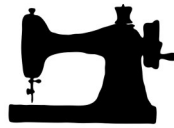
Committee members: Cindy Thompson, Jacqui Larson, Bev Peterson,
Melissa Hawkins, Janet Johnson



WELCA

Love and Priscilla/Ruth Circle
will not be meeting in June

Please call the church office, 352-3003, for additional information



Sewing Group

Please join us...

Sewing dates for June are:
Tuesday, June 1 &
Thursday, June 17 at 9:00 am

June Birthdays

- 1 Daren Erisman
- 10 Kendell Carlson
- 11 Richard Hay
- 13 Amy Herold
- 14 Lona Holbrook
- 17 Kathryn Mussman

June Anniversaries

- 1 Mike & Amy Herold
- 2 Cullen & Tina Stoodly
- 13 Stan & Julie Elmquist
- 17 Brandon & Emily Clum
- 21 Jerry & Brenda Turnwall

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please call the church office so that we can update the records



Tied in Faith

9 am—Noon
June 16th

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Council Highlights

- Thank you for the generous donation to purchase an organ for Immanuel.
- Council is working on a list of projects needed to be completed around Immanuel.
- Outside worship is scheduled for June 27.
- Council is continuing to re-evaluate worship and distancing requirements.

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Join us for our next meeting on
Tuesday, June 15, 2021
at 6:30 pm
in the Fellowship Hall.

COVID Worship Options

You have the option to worship in person, in the parking lot or on-line.

Inside, social distancing is designed to exceed the 6 feet distancing recommendation, masks must be worn at all times, and congregational responses and singing will be strongly discouraged.

In the parking lot, you will tune in to 90.9 FM to hear and participate in worship. Communion will be provided for those worshipping in the parking lot. And, on-line, the worship service will be live-streamed. You will be able to worship at home at the same time with those worshipping inside the church and in the parking lot.

Thank you for responsibly choosing the worship option each week that will work best for you and your Immanuel family members during this health crisis.



Committees & Council Meeting is changed To Tuesday, June 15th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

ASAP Team has been praying for you since 2008.

For Prayer Requests, contact Pastor at 352-3003 or any member of the prayer team.

*Roma Arithson
Dianna Fuller
Shirley Marine*



*Don Peterson
Diane Filipe
Janet Willis*

Our Immanuel Family

Please notify the church office of births, deaths, marriages, address changes or other news and events.



We will start our summer worship schedule on Sunday, June 6. Worship will begin at 9: 30 whether you are in the church, in the parking lot or joining on line.



Immanuel Organ Fund Still Seeking Donations

Wow! What a generous donation given to Immanuel that will enable us to purchase a new organ. The organ fund, however, will still be receiving your donations. These gifts will help implement the changes needed as we answer these and many more questions regarding Immanuel's future.

- ◆ What will worship at Immanuel look like in the next 5 to 10 years?
- ◆ What type of instrument will be needed to accommodate that vision?
- ◆ How can this investment reach out to the community?

Council has begun to look into these questions and has started searching for options that are available. We will be looking for the congregation's help and opinions as we answer these questions. Thank you for your support of this project.



To all of you who helped with landscaping around the church, especially on the west side of the building, thank you for your hard work! Upkeep is never ending, and the time you give to Immanuel is much appreciated.



**IT'S TIME TO ARMOR UP
with Vacation Bible School
at Immanuel Lutheran Church!**

**Knights of North Castle
June 21 – 25, 2021
Dinner at 5:30pm
& VBS from 6-8pm**

**Plan to Attend & Invite a Friend!
To register, volunteer or inquire
about VBS, please contact**



**Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power –
Ephesians 6:10**

IMPORTANT VBS DATES

- Sunday, June 6, 2021 (following worship service):** Vacation Bible School Informational Meeting!
- Sunday, June 20, 2021 (following worship service):** Set Up/Prep for a fun VBS week!
- Monday, June 21-24, 2021, 5:30-8pm:** Vacation Bible School
- Friday, June 25, 2021, 5:30-8:00pm:** Knight Night Festival at Immanuel (VBS Party)!
- Sunday, June 27, 2021:** Outdoor Worship & VBS Video Presentation During Church Service!

CURRENT VBS Helpers/Leaders:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Dinners: Katy Sickles & Molly Ward | Music/Opening/Closing: Janet Willis |
| Storytelling: Pastor Daren & Julie Elmquist | Craft Station: Connie Deines |
| Snack Station: <u>HELP NEEDED</u> | Recreation Station: <u>HELP NEEDED</u> |
| Science Station: <u>HELP NEEDED</u> | Photographer/Videographer: Aidan Herold |
| Knight Guides: Youth of Immanuel | Coordinator: Amy Herold |

Feeding Pastor Daren & the Students at Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry

**Sunday, August 15, 2021: Katy Sickles will provide main dish!
Need volunteers for side dishes & dessert!**

Sunday, September 19, 2021: Meal will be provided by Diane Filipe!

Sunday, October 17, 2021: Meal will be provided by The Herold Family!

**Sunday, November 21, 2021: Katy Sickles will provide main dish!
Need volunteers for side dishes & dessert!**

December 2021: Christmas Party/Break: Meal Not Needed

If you can provide a meal, please contact Amy Herold at 970.978.0870 or email her at herold_amy@hotmail.com.



THANK YOU!

Scrap Happy & Paper Crafts - 2021 Schedule

Do you like scrapbooking, making cards, or creating other paper crafts?
Join us once a month to work on your fun paper projects!

Saturday, July 10, 2021
Saturday, August 7, 2021
Saturday, September 11, 2021
Saturday, October 2, 2021
November 6, 2021
December 4, 2021



Location: Immanuel Lutheran Church – 1865 14th Avenue, Greeley
Hours: 10 am – 4 pm Cost: FREE

Bring your lunch, a water bottle, a snack to share and your craft supplies.
Your RSVP to [herold amy@hotmail.com](mailto:herold_amy@hotmail.com) is appreciated. Hope to see you there!



chibird.tumblr.com



GIA Clothing Bank

Several Greeley-area churches are sponsors for and help operate the Greeley Inter-faith Assn. Clothing Bank, located at 228 N. 9th Avenue in Greeley. The hours open are 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays (and some Saturdays). The Clothing Bank accepts gently used items of clothing and then sells them to the public at a reasonable cost. Proceeds of the sales cover operating expenses and then go toward community scholarships.

Some Immanuel members have committed to being on duty on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month. The Clothing Bank is following CDC guidelines for COVID-19 (masks, limiting the number of customers, etc.). Donations can be dropped off at the Clothing Bank during the hours of operation.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact Julie Elmquist, Katy Sickles or Cindy Thompson.

As Immanuel continues to live stream and record services, we are in need of additional people to help with this process. Following is a job description for this media position. If you are interested in this position or have questions, please contact Pastor Daren, 352-3003, or any council member.

MEDIA POSITION IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

- **We are looking for...**
- Someone to help in the video recording of services and the updating of the church website to enable access to those services.
- **Training:**
- The Media person will be trained by Pastor Daren with website work gradually transitioned to them.
- **Responsibilities:**
- Record worship services through the video camera and live-streaming through the computer.
 - ◇ Set up the video camera and be prepared to live-stream at least 15 minutes before the service.
- Regularly update the worship service links on the website.
 - ◇ Create the video and bulletin links for each service a few days before the service is live-streamed and recorded.
 - ◇ Upload the recorded version of the video to YouTube and change the corresponding link on the website sometime after the service (preferably by that evening).
- Help with sound as needed.
- **Commitment and Compensation:**
- Training and supervision will be provided by Pastor Daren.
- Time required - approximately four (4) hours per service, which includes the worship service and website work during the week.
- Compensation will be \$60 per service.





PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

This is a ministry of prayer and love for those in need. Prayer shawls are usually given in a time of transition in life, illness, emotional or spiritual upheaval, or for a time of celebration like birth or a marriage. The shawl serves as a tangible reminder to each person that they are covered in God's love each time they wear the shawl.

Prayer Shawls have their origin in the Old Testament. In Biblical times, the Jewish men wore the prayer shawl at all times, not just at prayer. Prayers shawls have been made informally and silently for centuries. As it is being made, the maker will offer prayers asking God to bless and comfort whoever will receive the shawl. Most prayer shawls will incorporate the number 3, to represent the Trinity.

This ministry is intensely private and prayerful, a gift of love and concern. They are universal, they comfort and enfold, they wrap and warm, they shelter and beautify. Those who receive a shawl and those who make a shawl are loved and blessed. But most important are the prayers that go with it. Prayers to let the recipient know that someone on earth cares for them and that God is always there.



Stitched in Prayer – Given in Love

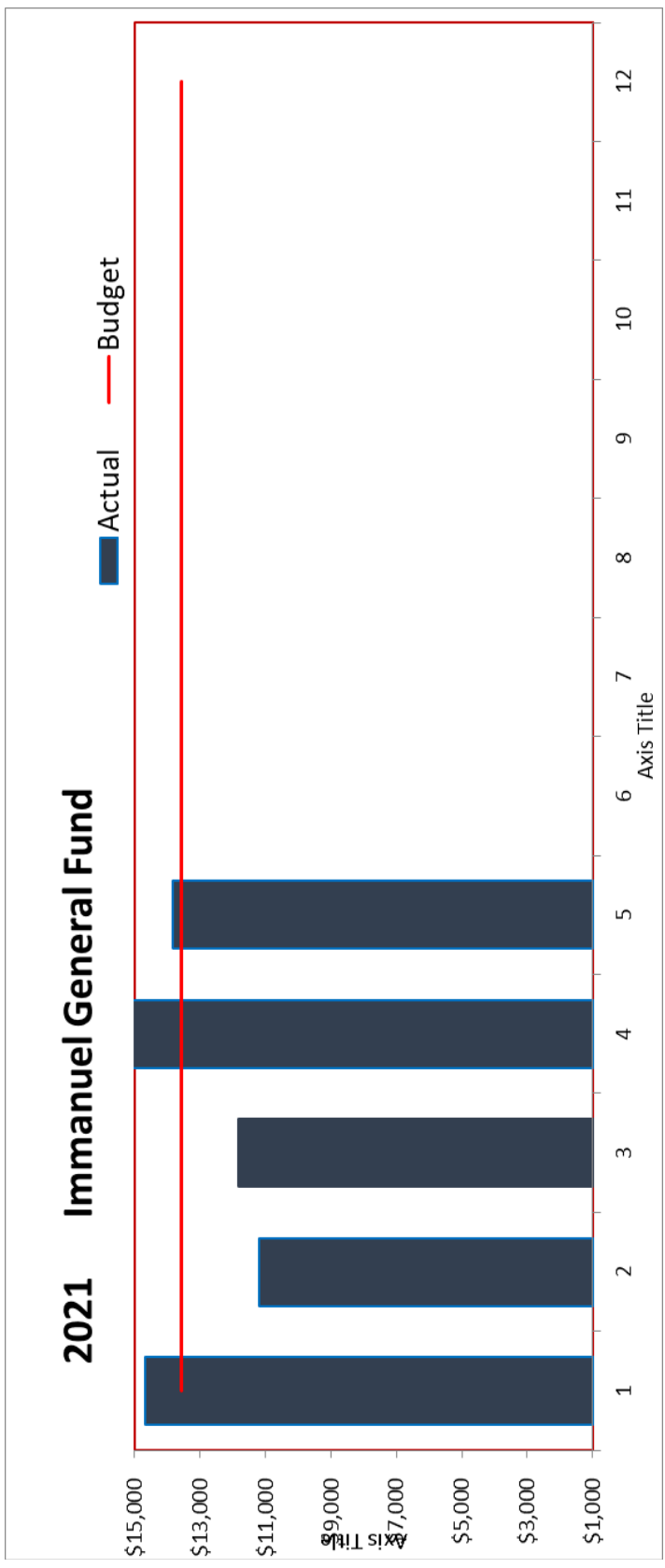
The ASAP team has been given a few completed prayer shawls that need a good home. If you know of someone who is in need of such a gift, please contact Janet Willis, 970-356-6046. If you would like to learn to make a prayer shawl, need yarn, or a prayer shawl in certain colors, please contact Susan Truchses, 970-356-5227.

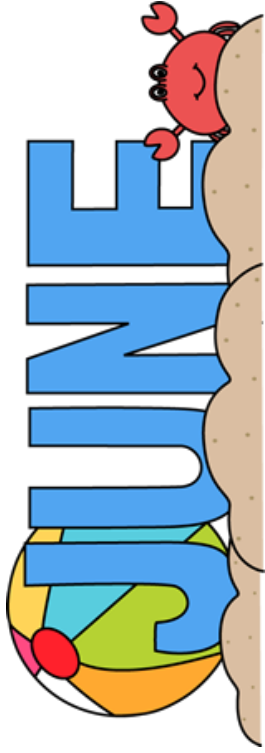
Financials thru May 2021

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS







IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

| DESCRIPTION | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Budget | 13,579 | 13,579 | 13,579 | 13,579 | 13,579 | 13,579 | 13,579 | 13,579 | 13,579 | 13,579 | 13,579 | 13,579 |
| Actual | \$14,675 | \$11,205 | \$11,821 | \$16,339 | \$13,853 | | | | | | | |
| (Over) / Under | (1,096) | 2,374 | 1,758 | (2,760) | (274) | Over | | | | | | |
| Year to Date | (1,096) | 1,278 | 3,036 | 276 | 2 | Under | | | | | | |





2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|-----|
| | | 1 9:00 am-Sewing & Lunch | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 9:30 am—Holy Communion VBS Meeting following Worship  | 7 Common Sense Cleaning Church Building | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 9:30 am—Holy Communion | 14 9:30 am—2:00 pm ILC Members at GIA Clothing Bank | 15 6:30 pm-Committees & Council | 16  Tied in Faith 9-Noon | 17 9:00 am-Sewing & Lunch | 18 | 19 |
| 20 Happy Father's Day! 9:30 am—Holy Communion 10:45 am—VBS Set Up | 21  Common Sense Cleaning Church Building | 22 Vacation Bible School-June 21-24 Dinner at 5:30 pm, VBS from 6-8 pm | 23 | 24  | 25  VBS Party 5:30-8 pm | 26 |
| 27 9:30 am—Holy Communion Outdoor Worship & VBS Presentation  | 28 9:30 am—2:00 pm ILC Members at GIA Clothing Bank | 29 | 30 | | | |

Thanks to our Volunteers!

June 2021

June 6:

Greeter: Julie Elmquist
Ushers Indoor: Ron & Cindy Thompson
Ushers Outdoor: Matt & Molly Ward
Assisting Minister: Marcia Hutton
Communion Setup: Cindy Thompson
Tellers: Marvin & Connie Deines

June 13:

Greeter: Julie Elmquist
Ushers Indoor: Vera Sylvester
Ushers Outdoor: John Johnson & Sally Stewart
Assisting Minister: Janet Willis
Communion Setup: Cindy Thompson
Tellers: Vera Sylvester, Brenda Turnwall

June 20:

Greeter: Janet Willis
Ushers Indoor: Ron & Cindy Thompson
Ushers Outdoor: Tim Adams & Shirley Marine
Assisting Minister: Julie Elmquist
Communion Setup: Cindy Thompson
Tellers: Linda Sample, Janet Johnson

June 27:

Greeter: Vera Sylvester
Ushers Indoor: Katy Sickles & Vera Sylvester
Ushers Outdoor: Matt & Molly Ward
Assisting Minister: Janet Willis
Communion Setup: Cindy Thompson
Tellers: Clarence Carlson, Janet Crespin

CONTACT INFORMATION

Secretary: Denise Pollard Stricker 970-352-3003
Office Hours: M, T, Th 8:30 am to 1:00 pm
W 8:30 am to 12:00 pm
F 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Daren Erisman 760-814-5171

Executive Council:

Lelyn Larson 970-371-0307
Janet Crespin 970-397-5104
Janet Willis 970-356-6046

Treasurer: Connie Deines 970-378-1475
Financial Secretary: Bob Morse 303-359-5919

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

PURPOSE STATEMENT

*IMMANUEL IS CALLED TO PROCLAIM THE
LIFE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF
CHRIST; TO PROVIDE PLACES AND
OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP AND
FELLOWSHIP; AND TO BE THE SPIRIT OF
CHRIST IN THE WORLD.*

We welcome and encourage submissions for our newsletter. Please make all submissions in writing. We prefer that the material be submitted in electronic form, if possible. All material is subject to editing for content, clarity and style, as needed. The deadline for the newsletter is the **15th** of every month.

Please forward your submission by mail to 1865 14th Ave., Greeley, CO 80631, by fax to 970-352-7096, or by email to office@immanlutheran.org

Immanuel Lutheran Church
1865 14th Avenue
Greeley, Colorado 80631

Return Service Requested

June 2021