

JULY 2024 AT IMMANUEL GEORGE

Sundays:

9:00 a.m. - Worship (communion is served the 1st & 4th Sundays)

July 7 | Worship in George W/Communion

July 14 | Worship in Rock Rapids

July 21 | Worship in George

July 28 | Worship in Rock Rapids W/Communion

Mondays:

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Pastor Matt Office Hours, George

Wednesdays:

July 24 | 5:00 p.m. - Monthly Bread of Life Food Distribution



JULY/AUGUST WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SOUND/POWER POINT	GREETERS	READERS	ACOLYTES
7/7: Richard Heidloff & AJ Landis	7/7: Clay & Deb Hansmann	7/7: Lexi Landis	7/7: Leo Ver Steeg
7/14: Fred Landis & Leo Ver Steeg	7/14: Dick & Glenda Heidloff	7/14: Richard Heidloff	7/14: Isaiah Sandbeck
7/21: Greg Ver Steeg & Sosie Ver Steeg	7/21: Mark & Mary Behrens	7/21: Julie Ver Steeg	7/21: Khoryn Funk
7/28: Richard Heidloff & AJ Landis	7/28: Lynette Kruger & Kevin Herding	7/28: Mark Behrens	7/28: Jack Denny
8/4: Fred Landis & Leo Ver Steeg	8/4: Bev Strenge & Marilyn VanGelder	8/4: Darlene Woelber	8/4: Bennett Jorth
8/11: Greg Ver Steeg & Sosie Ver Steeg	8/11: Fred & Kristy Funk	8/11: Angie McConnell	8/11: Cullen Funk
8/18: Richard Heidloff & AJ Landis	8/18: IdaMae Kruger & Dale Garlic	8/18: Sosie Ver Steeg	8/18: Leo Ver Steeg
8/25: Fred Landis & Leo Ver Steeg	8/25: Lawrence & Dorene Funk	8/25: Cathy Huff	8/25: Isaiah Sandbeck

IMMANUEL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The purpose of Immanuel Lutheran Church is to use our faith to share God's love and grace to all.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MATT

¹⁻² God, God . . . my God! Why did you dump me miles from nowhere? Doubled up with pain, I call to God all the day long. No answer. Nothing. I keep at it all night, tossing and turning.

We are all familiar with Psalm 23, more than likely just mentioning the Psalm you probably think of God's promise to be with us in the good times (green pastures) and bad times (shadow of valley of death) and you probably think of funerals of loved ones. But how many of us know Psalm 22? Psalm 23 is only six verses long; it is a beautiful and brief. While Psalm 22 is not so beautiful...it is full of lament, in verse 6 the Psalmist says that they are an earthworm being crushed! It is also 31 verses long!

We are in familiar uncharted territories. We've had another huge amount of rain and flooding like 2014, yet different in its own way. We've seen other communities like Spencer and Rock Valley destroyed and devastated as well. We are probably closer to the Psalmist in Psalm 22 than the Psalmist in Psalm 23. We often want to be at Psalm 23 and feel the need for that, that God will be disappointed or upset at us if we are not always happy with God....

But here is the truth...we miss a lot of the lament Psalms in our lectionary we follow for our Scriptures on Sunday's for worship. God is BIG enough for our emotions and in fact God welcomes us to come to God when we are upset. The Psalms are our model for that, there are often a lot of yelling at God, wondering about God's existence, mad about what is happening in their life or world, there is doubt, and there is authenticity with how they are really feeling and what they are experiencing.

However, the Psalms seem to have a rhythm. They are upset, wondering if God exists, and yet circle back to affirming God's existence and that God is there for them. In our English version of the Bible, it is broken up into chapters and verses which is helpful, but the original manuscripts don't have that. The Psalms are just one big section. You may not be at Psalm 23 level of assurance of God yet. You may be at Psalm 22 level of doubt and frustration. That is okay, and there is no rush on your journey, but please know God is with you during this time and is waiting readily for you. I want to leave you with some lyrics from the song "Hallelujah Anyway" by Rend Collective.

Even if (even if) my daylight never dawns
 Even if (even if) my breakthrough never comes
 Even if (even if) I'll fight to bring You praise
 Even if (even if) my dreams fall to the ground
 Even if (even if) I'm lost, I know I'm found
 Even if (even if) my heart will somehow say
 Hallelujah anyway (Hallelujah anyway)

Again, you may not be there yet, but God is with you on this journey. Holding you in prayer, in God's love, and God's support.

Pastor Matt

Pastor Matt Polsdofer may be reached through email at pastormatt001@gmail.com, or on his cell phone at 641-590-4049. He holds office hours on Mondays in George from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fellowship! During our joint services fellowship will follow worship. If you would like to help with that there is a sign up sheet in the narthex.

BREAD OF LIFE! The item of the month is toilet paper. Donations may be left by the pantry door. The next distribution is Wednesday, July 24th.

JULY CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries

11 – Blair & Jennifer Hansmann
11 – Tom & Lauri Starr
12 – Jeremy & Jackie Stueven

Birthdays

1 – Ashley Stueven
3 – Renae Thornton
8 – Dan Ahrenholtz
10 – Sara Luenberger
12 – Lawrence Funk
15 – Dawn Gisolf
18 – John Sandbeck
18 – Richard Schmidt

21 – Christopher Hansmann
25 – Jim Bathke
27 – Elise Sandbeck
29 – Judy Busse
30 – Karen Wibben
31 – Matthew Matuska

PLEASE LIFT IN PRAYER

Bev Kaster, Brad Sandbeck, Clay Hansmann, David Perlick, Darrell Ver Steeg, Doug Hilbrands, Isaiah Sandbeck, Rich Ahrenholtz, Rita Hilbrands, Ruben Stueven, Wanda Parker, Wendy Smith, flood victims, and Military Families.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Council met Sunday, June 9 after worship.
Present: Craig Denny, Angie McConnell, Marla Ahrenholtz, Mark Dickmann, Ryan Funk, Clay Hansmann and Pastor Matt.
President Ryan Funk called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

Devotions: Pastor Matt shared a short discussion from Mark 3:27.

Pastor's Report: Pastor gave us his financials for April and May. He reported that our joint services end July 31 for now. He will be gone August 4th so asked that if we would do a joint service that it be in George. Pastor Wolf will be preaching that Sunday. All agreed. Pastor asked if we should set up a joint council meeting for July. A date will be set for that. Pastor Matt will be gone July 13th through July 20th for the youth gathering in New Orleans. Next months' discussion question is: What are we ready to let go of as a church?

Secretary's Report: Angie reported minutes approved by email.

Treasurer's Report: Craig went over April's financials. Motion made to approve by Mark D and seconded by Marla. Approved.

Evangelism and Worship: We set the date for Worship in the Park for August 18th. Time to be determined.

Property and Stewardship: Angie will check with Byron Krull on the electrical project. Ryan will check with Dave Huff on the air conditioning. Ryan will also visit with our renter Mr. Holloway and get an update on the parsonage. Jim McConnell sent a letter to the Council for us to review our insurance package. Angie will check with him on getting a new quote.

Education and Youth: There are a couple kids planning on going to camp. The Council will discuss what we can do with some of the Summa money. We have \$10,000 to give out for the year.

Old Business: Reminder to the congregation that there is a sign up in the narthex for setting up an auto-notification system for the church.

New Business: None at this time.

Next meeting: July 21st after church. Motion to adjourn made by Angie and 2nd by Craig. Motion approved. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.