

AUGUST 2024 AT IMMANUEL GEORGE

Sundays:

10:30 a.m. - Worship (communion is served the 1st & 3rd Sundays)

August 18 | Worship in the park

August 18 | Backpack blessing

Mondays:

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

Wednesdays:

August 28 | 5:00 p.m. - Monthly Bread of Life Food Distribution



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SOUND/POWER POINT	GREETERS	READERS	ACOLYTES
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 & Kristi Landis	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 & Norene Funk	8/25: Cathy Huff	8/25: Isaiah Sandbeck
9/1: Greg Ver Steeg & Sosie Ver Steeg	9/1: Ryan & Kristy Funk	9/1: Kristi Landis	9/1: Khoryn Funk
9/8: Richard Heidloff & AJ Landis	9/8: Mike Hoing	9/8: Mary Behrens	9/8: Jack Denny
9/15: Fred Landis & Leo Ver Steeg	9/15: Angie McConnell & Betty Hansmann	9/15: Marla Ahrenholtz	9/15: Bennett Jorth
9/22: Greg Ver Steeg & Sosie Ver Steeg	9/22: Grant & Marla Krahling	9/22: Glenda Heidloff	9/22: Cullen Funk
9/29: Richard Heidloff & AJ Landis	9/29: Dick & Glenda Heidloff	9/29: Julie Ver Steeg	9/29: Leo Ver Steeg

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

“The church is dying.... the church is dead...the church has no future...”

Have you ever found yourself wondering or worrying about the future of the church? Many of us have memories of the “good old days”. When pews were full, Sunday school rooms were filled to the brim, and giving and mission were going strong. It is hard to see something we love so much becoming smaller and smaller, feeling less and less viable as well. The future seems bleak. In 2019 a seminary professor garnered much attention and became a viral hit with an article he wrote “Will the ELCA be gone in 30 years?”.

SPOILER: he said yes.... I don't have a crystal ball, nor does my seminary professor. He could very well be correct that the ELCA will be gone in 30 years. BUT all he did was look at how the church membership had been declining and continued that, so really all he did was math. He did not consider that the people that have left are maybe church hoppers or the people that are staying are more dedicated to being Lutheran. There are many variables he did not consider. One thing that was clear is he made sure to let those of us under 40 know that we will need to be bi-vocational, meaning that the church won't be able to sustain us for full-time ministry financially.

In bringing this conversation to a more local scale. I don't know what the future holds for Immanuel Rock Rapids or Immanuel George, nor am I arrogant enough to pretend to me. I know at both churches we have this conversation and there is that same wondering...what will the future bring for OUR church (locally, nationally, etc).

Again I don't know what the future holds, but one thing that I do know is that God will be with us whatever we face. Churches may come and go but that does not mean that God abandons us. We sometimes confuse God's presence with the building, but the building doesn't bring God's presence. It reminds me of King David wanting to build a house for the Lord, sometimes we want to do a good thing, but we have the wrong motivation. God reminds David that he has dwelt in a tent and that God cannot be contained.

All of what I have written is to get me to this point. THE CHURCH IS NOT DEAD!!! I have found myself cynical at times throughout my church attender times and ministry times. What my time in New Orleans with the ELCA Youth Gathering reminded me that the church is alive...God has created us to be EXACTLY who we are and we can trust that bold promise. 16,000 youth and adults worshiping the Lord together was AMAZING! Hearing the stories of God at work in people's life each night was amazing. Seeing HUNDREDS of volunteers going to NOLA to volunteer their time for the week, take time off of work, and why? Because they love the Lord and they love our youth. It is truly amazing what God can and continues to do!

God's peace,

Pastor Matt Polsdofer

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

Worship in the Park! Join us at the train depot for an outdoor worship service August 18th. (Bring a lawn chair)

Backpack Blessing! Bring your school bag to worship and get a special blessing from Pastor Matt on August 18th before heading back to school.

BREAD OF LIFE! The item of the month is oatmeal. Donations may be left by the pantry door. The next distribution is Wednesday, August 28th.



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Council met Sunday July 21st after church.
Present: Craig Denny, Angie McConnell, Mark Dickmann, Ryan Funk, and Clay Hansman.
Absent: Marla A and Pastor Matt

Devotions: None

Pastor's Report: None

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

Treasurer's Report: Craig gave the report. Mark D. made a motion to approve and Clay seconded. Motion approved.

Evangelism and Worship: Sunday August 4th will be joint worship in George at 9:00 am. Pastor Matt will be gone. Pastor Wolf will provide pulpit supply. Starting on August 11th we will go back to 10:30 am services. On August 18th we will have church at the Depot at 10:30 with Potluck to follow.

Property and Stewardship: Byron Krull will start on electrical work this week. Volunteers tore out carpeting in the parsonage basement and tore out half way up the wall because of water damage. We will leave it like this at this time. Ryan will get a new written rental agreement for Mr. Holloway to sign. We agreed to raise the rent to \$900/month. Both the East and West doors on the church need to be replaced. Ryan will check into this. We need to install a new light switch in the attic.

Education and Youth: Pastor is working on this.

Old Business: Jim McConnell gave us a quote for our insurance package and we will check into this to see if it will be a better fit. Angie will talk to Mary Behrens about the insurance we have now and compare quotes.

New Business: None

Next meeting: August 11th after 10:30 service. Motion to adjourn made by Mark D and 2nd by Clay. Motion approved. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries

3 – Dick & Glenda Heidloff
3 – Jack & Wendy Smith
3 – William & Kelsey Kruse
10 – Todd & Kim Dykstra
11 – Jim & Kay Bathke
13 – Kevin & Collen Trei
16 – James & Sandy Luenberger
20 – Dave & Cathy Huff
25 – Dan & Dawndralee Gisolf

Birthdays

2 – Keaton Funk
3 – Jack Smith
5 – Darcy Hansmann
8 – Jamie Schmidt
11 – Tal Ver Steeg
12 – Colin Phelps
12 – Sydney Bender
14 – Helen Fijhr
17 – Mike Dickmann

23 – Greg Ver Steeg
24 – Allison Sandbeck
24 – Matt Matuska
25 – Aiden Bathke
25 – Dave Huff
27 – Colleen Trei
27 – Dan Gisolf
28 – Ruth Hansmann

PLEASE LIFT IN PRAYER

Bev Kaster, Brad Sandbeck, Clay Hansmann, Doug Hilbrands, Isaiah Sandbeck, Rich Ahrenholtz, Rita Hilbrands, Ruben Stueven, Wanda Parker, Wendy Smith, Flood Victims, and Military Families.