

# THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

VOLUME 34, ISSUE 10



JULY 2020

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
501 Glad, PO Box 27, Schleswig, Iowa 51461

## From Your Pastor

The racial unrest and the resulting, violent, lawlessness has revealed some of the terrible sins of our country. It is easy to say “I’m not racist” and simply retreat to watch from a distance. That is akin to saying “I’m a Christian” and not striving to daily follow Christ. Words without action are empty.

This past week Chris pointed me to an interview of Care Net President and CEO Roland Warren. *Care Net* is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that empowers women and men considering abortion to choose life for their unborn children and find abundant life in Christ. Roland Warren is a Christian, African-American man, but first of all, Roland is a Christian man. Christians seek to be primarily defined by their life in Jesus our Savior. As he was wrestling with how to think and respond to the racial unrest in our country. Warren turned where Christians turn to learn what God has to say—he turned to the Bible, and he read in Joshua 5.

Joshua was leading God’s people who were just beginning the God-given task of taking control of the land promised to their forefathers. The first obstacle was the heavily walled city of Jericho. Joshua 5:13–14 (ESV) tells us, “When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man was standing before him with His drawn sword in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, ‘Are you for us, or for our adversaries?’ And He said, ‘No; but I am the Commander of the army of the LORD. Now I have come.’ And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to Him, ‘What does my Lord say to His servant?’”

It is clear from the context that the “Man” who stood before Joshua was the Lord Himself! But what kind of answer was this to Joshua’s question: “Are You for us or for our enemies?” What kind of an answer is “No!”? Warren points out that the question Joshua was asking of the Lord was actually the question the Lord was asking of him! The

Lord was asking Joshua “Are you on My side, or are you on the side of My adversary?” The adversary of the Lord is Satan.

Warren points out that we are being confronted with the questions “Are you for Black Lives Matter” or are you for “All Lives Matter”? “Are you for the Republicans or for the Democrats?” Actually, Warren says, there is a third way—the right way. The particular question we should be asking as Christians is not the question the culture is asking. The question we Christians should be asking is “Am I on God’s side as I think about and respond to this issue?”

What is God’s side? God’s side is the side of justice. We are to seek God’s justice to make things “just” or “right”. We are called to protect the vulnerable. At the same time to be on God’s side is to be people of mercy and forgiveness. God wants us to approach the racial divides in our country with both justice—what is right—and forgiveness. We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Each of us needs to approach the topic of racism by examining our own hearts in terms of justice and mercy.

Satan is the greatest racist. He hates the human race. Satan seeks to divide us and drive us to hate one another. Our God of grace calls us to live righteous—right—lives in terms of our conduct, character, and conscious. As a follower of Christ my thinking, my being, and my action toward all others are called to be in line with our beautiful Savior, the Savior of the entire, singular, human race.

“O Lord, grant us all Your forgiveness and strength to think, be, and live for Your glory! In the name of Jesus. Amen.”

Your fellow-servant for Christ,

*Pastor Mahuken*

Note: the link to the Warren interview is <https://www.care-net.org/abundant-life-blog/life-chat-roland-warrens-thoughts-on-racial-reconciliation>



## Justice and Mercy

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

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Jesus said, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

Matt. 5:6-7

## Weekly Saturday Evening Worship Begins June 27 at 6:00

We are providing another worship opportunity by adding a weekly, Saturday evening worship at 6:00. This will allow us the opportunity to more easily maintain social distancing as we sit in our church. In addition, each week, Holy Communion will be part of our Saturday worship. As on Sunday, the entire service will be printed, in order to limit physical contact with as many surfaces as possible. Offerings will be placed in the plates in the Narthex. Worshipers will be served Holy Communion in their seats.

### Portals of Prayer

The new, July-September, edition of *Portals of Prayer* is now available in the Narthex or the adult library across from the office.

## Sunday Morning Bible Class Resumes Sunday, June 28

"The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing. Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD" (Psalm 34:10-11).



For a long time we have waited to gather around God's Word in Bible Study together! Please join us as we come together in our Sunday Morning Bible Class which will resume on June 28. We will have plenty of room for appropriate distancing in our Fellowship Hall. The wearing of a mask is encouraged (but not required), as our health professionals remind us the wearing of a mask in public places is still very important to minimize risk of infection. The speaker issues in our Fellowship Hall have been resolved and the sound is great! These past weeks have been the longest I have ever gone in my whole life without Sunday School or Sunday A.M. Bible Study! If you are well and if you are comfortable, please join us! Please also keep on reading your Bible at home and keep on praying: "Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long. Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old" (Psalm 25:6-7).

## Quilters To Resume Their Service

Immanuel's quilters are planning to meet again on Thursday, July 30 at 9 a.m. Everyone is welcome! You may wear a mask, however, please don't feel that you have to come if you are uncomfortable.

## Pastor Mahnken's Health Update

You may remember from last month's Newsletter, that all my initial results following my surgery showed the cancer was contained and had not spread. After six weeks I was to have a blood test to see if any cancer had remained. My appointment for June 12 was postponed by my doctor until June 16 (Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord"! Psalm 27:14). The results of my blood test were excellent! The number which could indicate a presence of cancer was so low, it was not even detectable by the test done in the lab! Praise God! I will have another blood test in three months as we follow up. I thank God for His blessings by which He provides healing and I thank God for all of you and your prayers on my behalf! He has mercifully answered "Yes," and I continue to look to Him and pray His will be done and that He may be glorified in my life.

## Our New Pressure Mister Helps Us to Keep Our Gathering Space Safer!

While not all are in agreement as to how the Corona Virus is spread, we are told that after 72 hours the virus is no longer infectious on surfaces. To assist us in making our gathering spaces as safe as we can, we have purchased a power mister—pictured here. We use this mister to disinfect the surfaces in our building after everyone is gone. The process is completed quickly. The machine was developed in response to the coronavirus, and is used in many applications. Other churches in our area also have purchased this model. We think the Preschool could benefit from it as well!



**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

- 1: Madison Beeck
- 2: Ashley Beeck
- 3: Bruce Namanny
- 4: Zachary Rohlf
- 5: Don Clausen  
Curtis Korner  
Seth Pingel  
Tim Stoppel  
Carter Weiss
- 6: Garrett Beeck  
Dennis Kline
- 7: Randy Martinson  
Stratton Stoppel  
Julie Teut
- 8: Barb Moeller  
Brandy Porter
- 9: Stacey Dimig  
Gary Meseck  
Dr. Dayton Schmidt (97)
- 10: Theodore Aldag  
Trevis Beeck  
Avery Fink  
Ezden Hargens  
Duane Jacoby  
Emily Segebart
- 11: Haley Ernst  
Whitney Ernst  
Henessey Harm
- 12: Stephanie Gierstorf  
Stefan Wunschel
- 13: Laura Beeck
- 14: Edna Mae Johannsen
- 15: Kristin Henning  
Charlie Rohlf  
Lowell Teut  
Ross Wood
- 16: Eileen Hennings  
Clayton Stoppel
- 17: Kyler Bruhn  
Bryli Bubke  
Madison Cruz  
Leroy Hight  
Carol Otto  
Eric Schneider
- 18: Jordan Richardson
- 19: Janette Clausen  
Harry Riessen
- 20: Pastor Kurt Kaiser  
Gavin Schneider
- 22: John Hennings  
Katie Hennings  
Cathy Namanny
- 23: Kyle Jepsen
- 24: Andrew Bachman  
Dennis Gierstorf
- 25: Kathy Korner

- 26: Lukas Bornhoft  
Adrienne Infanger  
Angela Korner
- 27: Guenter Detlefsen  
Alyssa Dimig  
Adam Nahnsen  
Brock Schneider  
Renae Schneider
- 29: Matthew Riessen  
Andres Velasquez
- 30: Grace Langholdt  
Adam Schoenfeld  
Kyle Schultz
- 31: Lori Bumann  
Donavon Gierstorf  
Ava Jacobson  
Lori Segebart

**JUNE ANNIVERSARIES**

- Madison & Francisco Cruz  
~July 6, 2019~  
John & Janice Hennings  
~July 6, 1996~  
Devin & Kelsi Jepsen  
~July 10, 2010~  
Jerry & Grace Langholdt  
~July 12, 1964~  
David & Lisa Jepsen  
~July 13, 2002~  
Kenneth & Brittnie Namanny  
~July 13, 2019~  
Austin & Heather Aldag  
~July 15, 2018~  
Loren & Janice Jepsen  
~July 15, 1967~  
Jason & Tiffany Schneider  
~July 16, 2005~  
Brad & Monica Detlefsen  
~July 17, 1999~  
Jason & Carrie Bubke  
~July 19, 2008~  
Brad & Diane Riessen  
~July 20, 1996~  
Deanna & Adam Ullrich  
~July 23, 2005~  
Mark & Theresa Beeck  
~July 25, 1992~  
Kevin & Michelle Richardson  
~July 28, 1984~  
Bruce & Cathy Namanny  
~July 30, 1988~  
Jeramie & Jaime Streck  
~July 31, 1999~

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Correction: Jerry & Barb Ernst's anniversary date was June 21, 1975.

*If your birthday or anniversary date is incorrect or omitted, it may not be in our computer. Please let the office know. Thank you.*

***...Let's Stay Connected ...***

**Immanuel's Website:**

www.immanuel Schleswig.com

**Follow our Services On Line On.....**

Facebook or You Tube

**Immanuel Prayer Chain:**

Grace Langholdt, 676-3899 or e-mail: immansch@iowatelecom.net

**"Thy Strong Word":**

Every Mon.-Sat. 6:25 a.m. KDSN-FM, 104.9

**"The Lutheran Hour"**

6:30 a.m. Sundays:  
KDSN-FM 104.9 Denison 10:30 a.m.  
KDSN-AM 1530

**Camp Okoboji**

www.campokoboji.org

**Mission Central. . .**

www.missioncentral.us

**Lutheran Family Service:**

www.lfsiowa.org

**If You'd Like to Receive**

*The Messenger* by email, please call the church office, 712-676-2235 or email us at: im-mansch@iowatelecom.net.

**Immanuel's Adopt-A-Student:**

Tim Barber, wife Amber. His vicarage is at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Warner Robins, Georgia. Email: barbert@csl.edu

**The Messenger Staff:**

**Special Articles:** Pastor Merle Mahnken; **Coordinator—Typist:** Marlene Hight; **Printer:** Val Teut  
**Collators:** Mardella Andresen, Guenter & Joyce Detlefsen, Nancy Kline, Donna Meeves, Rachel Mentink, Marie Peters, Marcella Petersen, Marilyn Petersen, Gloria Schmidt, Norma Schoenfeld,

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***From the Church Record Book***

***Deaths: "I am the Resurrection..."***

**Arliss A. Schultz**, age 84, died June 6, 2020, and was buried June 10, 2020 in the Morgan Township Cemetery, Schleswig, Iowa.

## COVID-19 HAS BEEN GOOD FOR YOU

Repenting of our idols and returning to the Living God

By Robert Wurst Jr.

*“Let not your hearts be troubled.*

*Believe in God; believe also in me.” (John 14:1)*

Of course, Jesus wasn't talking about pandemics, was He? Untroubled heart? Do not be anxious? Who is He trying to kid? Our of an abundance of caution, the government confined us close to our homes to stop the spread of COVID-19. Ordinary life changed quickly. Some people could work from home; others lost their jobs and the stability that comes with them. Teachers scrambled to teach their students remotely. It seems that we live at the whim of others. No one seems to know how it will end.

Our Lord knows. He knows our sinful hearts are troubled. He knows that we greatly fear disease and death. He lives in our flesh and knows what afflicts us. He bids us to life our eyes to Him and to believe He is good and gracious. He draws you in and says, “Believe in Me.”

But our Old Adam is stubborn and self-reliant and does not want to look to Him. Where do we look instead? We curve in and look to ourselves. The chill of “what if I'm next?” has settled like a cold fog on minds and hearts. Perhaps this mask, this pill, this technique will save me. Surely staying away from my neighbor will save me. Let them help themselves! With our fear unrelieved and unbelief bubbling in our hearts, we become frantic in our efforts to help ourselves. O sinner you are looking in the wrong place.

COVID-19 has forced you to face eternity. What are the answers to this calamity, this pandemic? Where have you run seeking peace? Have you sought your solace in the incessant drone of news about infection rates, mortality probabilities, body counts and morgue space? Did the federal stimulus check comfort you? Did the steady stream of scientific experts calm you? Did any politician of whatever stripe relieve your deep fears? If so, you are looking in the wrong place.

Perhaps you have found—maybe to your great surprise—that you trust too much in the things of this earth. You found yourself taking comfort in your work, in the things that money buys, in the government that you thought could make all things well, in your health. Perhaps you have found that you have idols.

Idols. Sometimes, it shocks us to know that we have sin and idols in our hearts. Luther's Large Catechism says, “The confidence and faith of the heart alone make both God and an idol”. Our faith and confidence have been found wanting.

What makes COVID-19 good for us? Suffering, fear and anxiety are not good. The death any pestilence brings is surely not good. God preserve and help us! What is good about COVID-19? This pandemic has revealed that we trust in the wrong thing. Our fretting, fear and panic reveal our faith and confidence in things that we see and touch. COVID-19 has helped us see that our fear has roots in idolatry. It is good to have our idols revealed so that they may be cast down. COVID-19 serves to turn our hearts and minds to repent and fall upon the mercy of God.

When the apostle Peter tells us that we are called to suffer (1 Peter 2:20-21), he speaks of suffering for the faith. In this pandemic, we have suffered for the faith in addition to bodily ills and mental angst. Governments have ruled against churches and worshipers. Neighbors express their scorn for Christian assembly and inform on Christians who gather to worship. COVID-19 has brought a measure of persecution of the faith. That, too, is good for us. It has caused us to hunger and thirst for the Word of God and the Sacrament of the Altar.

Yes, in all this, dear brethren, in illness, fear, suffering and persecution, entrust yourself to Him who judges justly. Look to the Father who laid on Jesus the iniquity of us all. Look to Jesus, the Author and Perfector of your faith. He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. He bore our fear, our shame, our unbelief, our idolatry in His body on the tree. Look to Him for your salvation, your hope, your peace, your life.

In all these things see that you are being turned. . . . You are being turned from fear to confidence, from corruption to incorruption, from death to life, from suffering to joy. Jesus' stripes bring forth your healing. His resurrection is your life. He has returned you to the washing of Baptism. You have now returned to the Shepherd and Bishop of your soul.

Having returned to your Shepherd and Bishop, do not forget your neighbor. They need refreshment for their souls, their minds, their bodies. Comfort them with the comfort with which you have been comforted. Jesus has the words of eternal life. He speaks, and life is given. . . .

Our God loves the world. He loves you. You have everything—house, food, goods, health—by His gracious provision. Our eyes are turned upward, to our Lord, to our life. He knowing that we need His life and comfort, provides His body and blood in the breaking of the bread. It is, as early church father Ignatius wrote, the “medicine of immortality and the antidote which prevents us from dying.” Thus, we can suffer illness, deprivation and persecution because our life is from Jesus. He is the risen One. Death, the devil and all their wicked tools lie crushed under His heel.

If Christ has not been raised, then this suffering would all be futile. He is risen from the dead. We do not hope in Christ just so this life is pain and fear free. We hope in Him because He is our forgiveness, our health, our food, our restoration. He is our life, our brother, our Good Shepherd, our Captain in the fight. Lift up your heads, brethren, hearken to the living voice of Jesus: *“I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)*

Do you see? In God's gracious way, COVID-19 has been good for us. We are driven to repent of our many sins, turned to our Lord Jesus Christ, who shelters us in His life-giving wounds. Jesus has overcome all these things and graciously gives us His life.

*Reprinted from the June/July Lutheran Witness*

## From Your library . . . “Have we got a book for you!”



Your church library has many books written by Lori Wicks that have either been donated or purchased and she is one of the most versatile Christian authors on the market today. Her works include English and contemporary novels and pioneer fiction.

A recent book added to our library is entitled *Just Above A Whisper*, a fictional tale that takes place in Tucker Mills, Massachusetts, in 1839. It involves an indentured servant, Reese Thackery, who is bound to the Tucker Mills bank and its controlling manager. Though it is difficult, Reese vows to serve her remaining two years with a willful heart.

Reese’s plans go awry when the bank owner and president, Connor Kingsley, comes to town to audit the books. Even though she is now bound to

serve the Kingsleys in the family mansion and Connor shows Reese nothing but kindness and gentleness, she is haunted by the memories of another master. When the manager of the bank turns vengeful, Connor and Reese must become allies and Reese has to see beyond her place as a servant and trust that God has a larger plan for her future. It has been very quiet at the library because of the Covid virus and social distancing these past few months, but with many prayers and God-given patience the members hope to return to work at the library in the very near future. We have much weeding to do in the children’s library to make room for the many wonderful, brand spanking new books that have been donated by Dylan Teut. And there are many new books waiting to be processed and entered into inventory in the adult library.

The adult library is always open during church office hours – readers are always welcome to check out a book or two. ~ Submitted by Karen Wood

### AFRICAN RADIO MINISTRIES – NEWS

June 2020

Dear Friends,

It is heartbreaking to see the prison children without all basic human necessities except for two: Their mother’s love and the love of their heavenly Father. Ethiopia’s prison women are allowed to bring their children with them into prison when they have no family to care for them. The alternative would be to leave them outside the prison gates to beg and steal to survive on the city streets.

An important part of radio Pastor Mengistu’s work is to inform churches of the hardship’s facing those inside prison walls and to remind believers of the Words of Jesus who teaches taught us in Matthew chapter 25 to visit the sick and those in prison, and about clothing and feeding those in need. Local Ethiopian churches are responding and even some U.S. churches have sent clothes tailored for the little ones and money designated for sandals, food and medicine. A portion of your donations also goes toward Bibles (in Oromo and Amharic) for the prisoners who have completed the instruction classes. Thank you for making Rev. Mengistu’s prison and village evangelism ministry possible.

The number of COVID-19 cases in Ethiopia is still relatively low, 1,200 cases, but more cases are being reported. The government has placed restrictions on some activities and prison wardens are not allowing family members to visit inmates. This creates an ex-

tra psychological burden for the inmates and they miss the food and medicine that loved ones bring them. Pastor Mengistu was allowed to bring soap for prisoners in Wolkitta Prison and he, with members from Dessie congregation, brought clothes and shoes to the eight children in Dessie Prison.

Many people are turning to worship with the ARM programs because some of the churches are temporarily closed. Normally in one month three to five radio village “house churches” call in to the office to tell Pastor Mengistu that they are worshipping under his leadership. In May a record twelve new groups called! Gimbichu 22 people, Lima 14 people, Haro Lebu 44 people, Jebat Demo 17 people. The other eight locations have about ten people each.

During this dark period your support enables the light to shine into places where only radio can go. Thank you.

Your partners in the harvest,

John and Kathy Duitsman, Missionary Linda Kurtz and the entire ARM team

Funds can be sent to:  
FAITH COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ARM c/o Linda Kurtz  
3505 S Town Center Dr.  
Las Vegas NV 89135

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**TO EVERYONE IN THE HOME OF:**



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Office Phone: 712-676-2235  
Home Phone: 712-676-2242  
Assisting Pastor: Kurt Kaiser  
Phone: 712-269-8452

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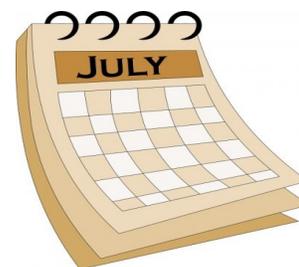
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### Worship Opportunities:

Saturday Worship every week at 6 p.m.  
Sunday Worship at 9 a.m.  
Communion—1st & 3rd Sat. & Sun.  
(With Social Distancing at this Time.  
You may also view the services live-streamed on Facebook and You Tube.)

Office: Marlene Hight and Valerie Teut  
Preschool: Leslie Gustafson  
Organist: Marlene Hight  
Janitor: Jolene Whiteing  
Snow Removal and Lawn Care:  
Ryan Jepsen;  
Loren and Janice Jepsen



**2020**

**OUR MISSION  
STATEMENT:**  
"Together in Christ,  
we grow through the  
Word and  
Sacraments, serving  
our Lord and  
sharing His saving  
grace with all  
people."