



Immanuel Messenger

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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June-July 2018

A Word from the Pastor

Extending Vicar Caleb Douglas's Internship



Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Our Call Committee to call an Assistant Pastor has been working earnestly, methodically, and prayerfully. After much deliberation it seemed good to us that we should recommend to Church Council that Immanuel not call an Assistant Pastor for the coming year, but rather that we extend Vicar Caleb Douglas's internship for another year. Church Council supported that decision, and so we are set. We will enjoy the help of Caleb and Lynnae and their family for another year.

Let me review things. Six months ago our Voters' Assembly unanimously voted to establish a Call Committee to call an Assistant Pastor to our congregation. The idea was to work toward a solid and smooth transition in pastoral leadership when I retire, maybe three or four years down the road. There is nothing magical about being seventy years old, but that is the nice round number I am looking toward. In fact, I even have a farewell Sunday in mind: Reformation Sunday, October 31, 2021. Only God knows whether I will make that date, and he can be trusted. But if things go according to the hopes Carol and I have, my farewell Sunday will be that day. That is the closest Sunday to the date I was installed here at Immanuel—the start of a great blessing for my family and me. By then it would have been a thirty year blessing!

Our Immanuel constitution specifies our Call Committee: Chair of the Deacons (Barbara Chomko), Chair of the Trustees (Vicky Franzese), President of the Congregation (David Kiehl), and the Pastor (me). To prepare ourselves to interview candidates, we followed a standard NALC pattern: We held a "Profile Workshop" to record convictions from the congregation about what it wants in a pastor. We used the results of the workshop to write our congregation's profile,

and we turned it in to Rev. Dr. David Wendel, Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry and Ecumenism. We consulted with Dr. Wendel about the first candidate we had in mind: our own Vicar Caleb Douglas. Bishop John Bradosky and Dr. David Wendel know Caleb and know Immanuel and felt we could be a good match, and so we received their blessing to interview Caleb.

In the end, I feel that any Call Committee must pray and strive to use the sacred words of the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15:28: “For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us...” And so it was: It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us that Immanuel not call Vicar Caleb Douglas to be Assistant Pastor.

The main reason is one I bet you will understand: We believe that Caleb has a divine calling to serve as a theologian in the church. That means doctoral studies for Caleb. Someday we will be able to say of this theologian, “We knew him when he was young, when he was Vicar at our church!”

It is too late in the season for Caleb to be accepted into a doctoral program for this coming fall, and so he will aim for the following fall. That means he is available to serve a second year as Vicar among us. He makes us stronger in many ways, including his classes on “Theology and Culture” and “Christian Nurture,” leading us in Compline and on Sunday morning, sitting at the Pastor’s Booth, and through the special relationship he has with many people.

Meanwhile I have had some second thoughts about calling an Assistant Pastor. I believe that other members of the Call Committee are thinking along similar lines. An alternative way of working toward a smooth transition in pastoral leadership is to call an Associate Pastor, with the understanding that the Associate is to be my successor. Then we could work together for a couple months. I could introduce him or her to people, try to help him get ready to

take over, and then I could say Farewell and step aside. Typically the Bishop would recommend a seasoned pastor for this role. The Bishop would try to match his knowledge of our congregation with his knowledge of the clergy. He would do this with prayer and much thought. I think it is a good way to do things, and it means that we can set aside the question of calling an Assistant or Associate Pastor for a while, until I get closer to retirement.

Our Call Committee and Church Council will go on thinking about these things, aiming to share its thoughts with the Voters at our autumn Assembly.

As for me, I am awfully glad to have Caleb serve with us for one more year. He has always been respectful of my role as his supervisor, but also he is a dear colleague to me. We often walk back and forth between our offices, sharing what we have been reading, discussing theology and ministry. I am glad to be able to look forward to another year together and I am grateful to our Trustees and Church Council for supporting the plan.

In Christ,



Pastor Gregory P. Fryer

Compline

8 p.m., Sunday evenings during Easter

We continue to sing Compline, or Prayer at the Close of the Day, each Sunday evening throughout Easter. It is a lovely chanted service that entrusts the day behind into God's mercy, and the night ahead into God's loving care.

Vicar Caleb Douglas

Vacation Bible School 2018

Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus



Monday, August 20th through Friday, August 24th,
from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

First Mates Needed!

Adult and teen helpers are still needed. Helpers assist with crafts, games, snack and story time. If you are willing to help, please notify Sean in the office or speak to Karen Bazik.

Spring Bazaar Success, May 19th

A note from Kathy Jolowicz of the Board of Deacons

I want to thank all of you who worked on the setting up, selling, and donating of items to make our Spring Bazaar a success. In spite of the torrential downpours and the royal wedding that day, customers did come out, which helped us to a gross total of \$1,171.75 for our children's programs.

Thanks go to Maria van der Merwe for her delicious self-cooked menu of dishes, and the kitchen team, Thomas Wicks

and Maggie Schreiber. Thanks go to Elly Spangenberg for singlehandedly setting up the jewelry table and doing the tedious marking of the jewelry; and Sally Graudons for her hours of expert polishing of the beautiful, but heavily tarnished-blackened silver donations. Others who worked on the set-up and bazaar days included Karen Bazik, Hans and Kirsten Kibler, Frances Rascko, Monica Marquez, Priscilla O'Carroll, Louise Hansen, Louisa la Verde, Tamares Perez, Evelyn Junge, Ellie Watrous, Richard Schreiber, and Jazo Ichikawa. Appreciation too goes to David Michel, who volunteered just for set up day and organized the large book/electronics section.

A very special thanks goes to the most dedicated and ubiquitous Jean Fischer, who was everywhere on both days and was everybody's right hand man. We can also thank Jean for her personal funding of both our Christmas and Spring banners, which serve as our chief means of promotion. In addition, we could not have functioned without the perseverance of Kevon and Aristides, whose heavy physical work before, during and after, kept us all together; but of course, thanks also to Sean Curnyn for his behind the scenes help.

Working together, brings us together. Blessing to all.

In Our Prayers

Those who are sick or recovering from illness or injury: Dorothy Schussel, Carlos Opio, Carol Davis (Sally Graudon's friend), Bart Vesser (husband of David Kiehl's cousin), Amanda Montesdeoca (Diana's sister), Maria Van Der Merwe, Crystal Richardson, Ester Neubacher, Pastor Gregory P. Fryer, Rev. Dr. Thomas Nelson Green, Fr. Larry Bailey (friend of Pastor Fryer, Davida Goldman, Denise & Sean

Curnyn), Judith Marks (friend of Lynnae Douglas), Bishnu Panda (Sree's father), Marica Owcarzyova (Anna Stapaj's cousin), Ada Emilio and family (friends of Stephanie Sparvero), Kay Whiten, Manuel Pamulo (Michael's brother), Eniel Zamora (friend of Maria van der Merwe), Jack Pascoe (David Kiehl's brother-in-law), Erich Kiehl (David Kiehl's nephew), Elfriede Sachno, Hope Forrest (mother of Priscilla O'Carroll's friend), Phyllis & Larry Oglesby (Laurin Smith's parents), John Bazik (Karen's brother), Claudia Garcia (friend of Ester & Eric Neubacher), Stephen Bazik (Karen's father), Vanessa Westlake (Denise and Sean Curnyn's niece), David Bierman (Edna Szmodis' cousin), Emma Kaefer, Josephine Yao (Thomas Wicks' mother-in-law), Erich Learned Kiehl (David Kiehl's nephew), Vincent Marino (nephew of Irene Juhasz' friend), Jill Douglas (Vicar Caleb's mother), Barbara Beck (Carol Dittbrenner's friend), Hannah Smith (Denise Vaccaro's friend), Inge Michaelis (Michele's mother), Ann Siemer, Jeanne Plekon (friend of the Fryers), Stephen Fischer, Christopher Henderson, Clifford Rose, Steven Quirong (Vi's son), Dan Blumin (friend of Irene Juhasz), Asta Kibler (Hans' and Kirsten's grandmother), Taylor Cochrane (David Hahn's daughter), Helen and Joe Baker (Irene Juhasz' cousin and her husband), Ernest Lund Jr., Irene Juhasz, Kathy Jolowicz , Elizabeth Dorovich (Michele Michaelis' aunt), Anna Stapaj, Denise Du'Maine, Barbara Lewis, Edna Szmodis, Mary Masna (Wayne Masna's wife), Father Daniel Vitz (friend of Jim and Victoria O'Donnell), Jens Hewerer (friend of Deborah Meyer), Samuel Goldman (David's brother), Julie Kiehl (David Kiehl's niece), Valerie Kirchmann, Frank Zerbi (Denise Du'Maine's friend), Kenneth Held (Jeff Rudat's friend's brother), Buck Briggs (Joel Bussert's friend), Geraldine Bilus (Evelyn Junge's friend), Julia Galindo Marquez (Monica Marquez's mother-in-law, Lorraine Scharfenberg (Marion Molno's niece), Everett Stallworth and Ray Smith (Denise Du'Maine's cousin's father and husband),

Mike Spano (friend of the Wilson family), Lisa Pascoe Gallagher (David Kiehl's niece), Tristan Ramos, Marion Dietmann, Molly Sullivan and Jeff Sullivan (former members), Dan Westlake (Denise Vaccaro's brother-in-law), Robin Conway (Nancy Tepper's cousin), Louise Krone Ruprecht (David Kiehl's aunt), Dorothy Leung (Priscilla O'Carroll's aunt), Lyonel Laverde (Louise's husband), Emma Meyer (Deborah Meyer's mother), Linda Schulze, Rich Shedrick (Kim's husband), Tripp Stratton, Tricia Wells, Georgia Lind, Marion Molno, Voldo Lundre, President, Estonian congregation, Dorian Kuverua, Bonnie Cebry (Diana Robertson's sister), Julie Marable (Susan Singer's friend), Alicia Wood and family, David Young (Richard Schreiber's friend's father), Virginia Fay (Mary Nettleton's friend), Inga McConnico, Lisa Roberts, Joan Walter. Pray for your brothers and sisters when they are ill and give thanks when they are well.