

Immanuel Messenger

“God With Us”

August 2022 – Volume 22 Issue 3

“Smaller is Bigger”

By Pastor Patrick Curley

I know you’ve heard “less is more”. Well, my version to breathe some life into this is “smaller is bigger.” Same idea. Jesus said it first, though, when He said, “One’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” So much of modern thinking has been built on the lie that having a lot of stuff, the more and the bigger the better, brings happiness. The opposite is true. Having too much stuff clutters one’s life and creates stress over maintaining, insuring, and protecting said stuff.

My wife and I had a real opportunity to experience the joy of less and smaller during some vacation time last month. With flight cancellations, lost luggage increases and the high price of gas we decided to stay home and put some time and money into our home. It was time to update our floors, all 1580 square feet. This required something, that had I thought it through first, I probably wouldn’t have done. Every piece of furniture had to be removed so that the house was empty. It was like moving. Every bed, chair, rug, lamp, couch, dresser and cabinet and everything within them had to be taken outside. It was like camping in our driveway. Thank God we had no rain.

But then as everything eventually was installed and dried, we had to put our stuff back in. This is where the joy entered in. Both because our energy was waning and we were amazed at how big our house looked all of a sudden being empty, we became very selective about what went back in. Our vetting process was very rigorous. Do we need this, do we use this, do we have more than one of this, do we even remember what this does or why we got this in the first place, is this too big? All our files were reviewed for out-of-date paperwork, too. Some happy things were discovered in the process but mostly we found we could do without much of what we had or needed to downsize in some way. So, we found new homes for some of the large or unnecessary furniture and gave the rest to charity.

I can say I don’t miss a thing. I even think I breathe better. Everything is in its place, and we have just what we need (*maybe a little more than that- downsizing is a process*). It’s kind of like fasting in a way. The less you are thinking or involved with food or with stuff, the more time you have for more important things. Things like family and friends. Things like faith in Christ and service to your neighbor. That’s why Jesus said to store up treasures in heaven and not on earth. Heavenly treasure doesn’t take up space or clutter our lives. It can’t be corrupted or stolen either. For where your treasure is, like your home, your heart will be also.

Start small. Give something away that you think someone else could use more. Then give something else away. Before you know it, those small investments of kindness will yield big dividends of God’s love and grace. Plus, you won’t have to dust them anymore.

Property Report

Thanks to Fred Coleman (Head Elder) for heading up Landscaping issues in addition to his other responsibilities at Immanuel. Another HUGE thank you to Tim Cook for fixing and improving the lighting behind the Altar and Narthex Stained Glass Windows. I never knew how beautiful the Altar one was. Now I need to sit and admire the one behind us. Another item off our list of improvements. Speaking of a list, the following are the items we spoke of at our last board meeting. Please email me any additions to this list.

PROPERTIES LIST:

Doors Church building
Electric panel update
Fencing of property
Kitchen in Fellowship
Landscaping
Linger Longer, more seating, maybe tables, leave out if area fenced.
Paint Exterior of all buildings
Parking east of Fellowship
Ramp ADA at Entrance
Roof on Fellowship, bid in,
Security of property, members during worship
Signage
Windows, Board opinion we can look at fixed windows, dual pane, more security, getting bids.

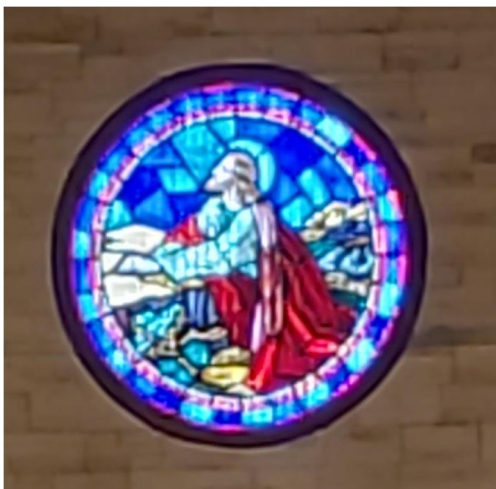
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman: Jeff Peters
Vice Chairman: John Gilkinson
Head Elder: Fred Coleman
Secretary: Bobbie Soohoo
Financial Director: Darlene Brown
Planning/Publicity: Randy Fewins
Publicity: Randy Fewins
Properties: Pam Vermons
Youth: Christine Cline
Pastor: Patrick Curley

In His Service, Pam Vermons

Awesome Stained Glass Windows.

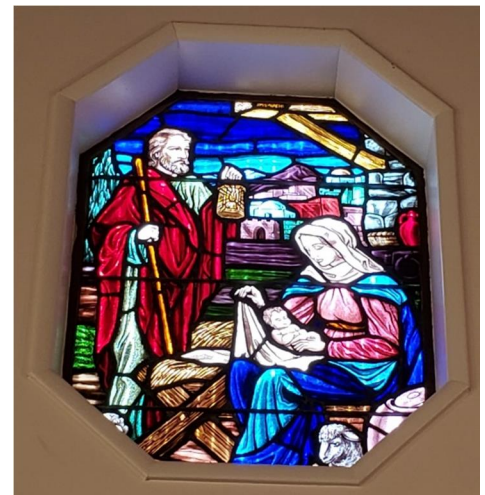
If you were not in church on Sunday July 24th you really missed something. Tim and Candy Cook have illuminated the stained glass above the altar and above the door leading out of the church with new LED lighting. All I can say is "WOW!" They were always beautiful but now are spectacular. John Gilkinson provided these pictures. Thank you!



The Gethsemane window was donated in 1956 by Irma & Mike Biedermann.

The Nativity window above the exit door was also donated in 1956 by Hans Sr. & Lya Bollinger.

We are proud to present these enhancements to their generous gifts.



Message from Fred Coleman - New Sign

We are planning on re-placing the existing welcome and information sign in front of Immanuel. The new sign would be seen from both directions (east/west) on Jefferson Avenue. The sign would be a little larger and there are many styles and configurations that are available. I will try to get some examples together. Permits and installation would be handled by a contractor.

If you would like to serve on the "Sign Committee", please let me know through e-mail (fcoleman@gte.net) or Sunday at Church Service and we will get it started. Once we have the committee in place, I will setup a meeting or conference call to start the process.

Bible Study Class

Sunday Mornings at 10:30 AM for the month of August, we will be discussing "What happens when we die?" As Christians, "Do we believe in Ghosts?"

Our church will be offering another "Wednesdays at 11:00" Bible Study opportunity in September.

Pastor keeps class to about one hour so you can plan your day. Please consider attending. Ask yourself... why not?



Support Our St. Louis Seminary Student

Immanuel has budgeted \$1000 this year to support a seminary student. For many years additional funds (outside the budget) were collected by putting change ("coins for Christ") in the offering plate. I would like to propose a slight change in this practice. It is time consuming to count and roll change for deposit. How about saving your change at home and periodically converting it and using the "Designated" envelope in our packet to support this worthy project. Darlene Brown is a quilter and has donated funds from quilt sales to this project in years past. Her dedication is noted and appreciated. Do you have a hobby or talent you could market to raise funds? Kyle Lewis is the current recipient, and he is in his last year at seminary. He and his wife Holly have two children. Let's surprise him with a big graduation gift. We know that the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod needs pastors. There are several congregations in our area that are actively calling pastors. More information is posted in the hallway to the kitchen.

Let's all get behind this worthy project!

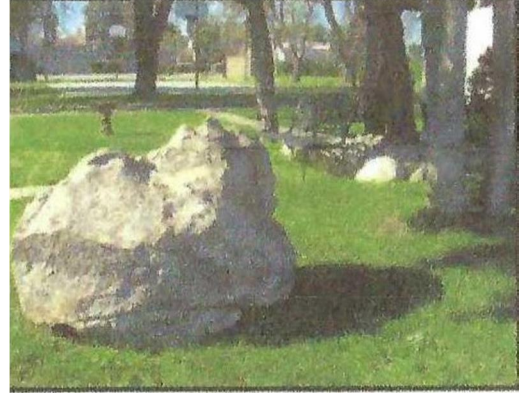


Did You Know?

Immanuel has many points of interest both on our grounds and in our buildings. When possible, the "Messenger" will feature these points of interest.

Biblical Garden by Bruce Bickley

The "Biblical Garden" is located on the north side of the church wall and was started in 1972. It was dedicated by Pastor Wolff on Oct 17, 2004. It faces east as the center of the garden walkway is made into a cross. The top of the cross is adorned with a crown of thorns plant. Many of the names of those involved are etched into the cement on the north sidewalk, it is designed that inside the square is to be biblically named plants only. In the center is an olive tree. My brother, Wayne Bickley, headed this project. He passed away in January 1976 in a motorcycle accident.



Not known when, the garden was forgotten until I resurrected it in the late 1990's or early 2000's. People like Janise Davis added a personal touch to the north side and Laura and Clarence Stube pulled weeds well into their 90's, until they no longer were able. My father, Virgil Bickley, located the big rock with a friend of his, both from Lucerne Valley (parents later moved back to Chino and Gloria and I cared for them in their later years), and placed the rock in the garden. I had a plaque made and the names placed on it in memory of Wayne, Helen Hesse (Janise Davis' mom), and others whose memorial donations helped pay to bring the Biblical Garden back to life. The bird bath and sundial were donated by the family of Helen Hesse. The benches were donated in memory of Marjorie Rosenberg Audrey Lensch's mother.

Getting to Know Each Other

Bickley Family History at Immanuel

My Parents (Shirley and Virgil) were not charter members of Immanuel but arrived about 2 years later. They were highly involved in the church. Dad was Property Director as he loved working on the grounds of the church, trimming trees, weeding, removing tumbleweeds, smoothing gravel parking lots with the help of his son's Bruce (myself) and Wayne. Gloria (my wife) and I also continued this work for many years. All four of us sang in the choir and served on the Board of Directors. Cleaning and flushing gutters was another task, but I retired that job when I fell off the roof luckily landing on the small overhang just outside the door near the organ. God saved me again!

A few other things around the church that our family has contributed to, is the wreath above the organ which was donated after my brother Wayne's death, the large metal nuts on top of the eternal candle were my dad's idea as the fixture would not stay down to replace the candle, and my wife, Gloria and Patti Coleman have put together the flowers for the altar for thirty plus years (with Patti doing them for many years before).

Shut-Ins

Pastor Curley visits those on this list, but let’s all remember them in our prayers. Maybe give them a call or drop them a card to let them know they are not forgotten.

- Pete Busso (Chino)
- Pat Cook (Chino)
- Richard and Sharon Fiel (Rancho Cucamonga)
- Nyla Gibson (Ontario)
- Gretchen Johnson (Butterfield Ranch)
- Bruce and Audrey Lensch (Rancho Cucamonga)
- Dick and Nancy Manning (Fountain Valley)
- Jane Pratt (Chino)
- Tim and Carolyn Rennegarbe (Rancho Cucamonga)
- Carol Gilkinson (San Dimas)



Volunteers Needed

Located in the narthex of the church is a sign-up sheet for Linger-Longer hosts and Sunday Lector’s. Please consider signing up for one or both duties. Your service would be greatly appreciated.



Message From the Editor

We will always be open to suggestions on how to enhance or improve the “Messenger.” Please don’t hesitate to contact me at trebleplus@yahoo.com. I would love to have articles submitted from fellow members on any subject (past or present) you believe would be of interest to us all. My goal is to send the Messenger to our secretary the 1st week of the month. I appreciate the opportunity to communicate with all of you and report the news at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Thank You,
Becky Cholcher, Editor

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

05	Chelsea Busso	
10	Janice Davis	
12	Katrina Foelsch	
20	Becky Cholcher	
21	Tyler Coleman	
24	Hepzibah Daniel	
27	Andrea Foelsch	

Happy Anniversary to:

06	Pete & Becky Busso
10	Fred & Patti Coleman
16	Dr. Bruce & Audrey Lensch