



Immanuel Messenger

“God With Us”

October 2022 – Volume 22 Issue 5

“Today’s Jesus” By Pastor Patrick Curley

Live in the moment. That’s the prevailing advice given today for those who seek an “authentic life”. It seems a little obvious. What else can we do but live in this moment of time? I think they mean that we are to pay more attention to what’s going on around us rather than have our minds elsewhere. Jesus said as much when He said, “Do not worry about tomorrow.” Also, when He taught us to pray for “our daily bread”. Not tomorrow’s bread but give us what we need, Lord, for today. Now that’s living in the moment.

While temporally we can only live one day- *indeed, one second-* at a time, we often find that we are living on either side of that passing moment. Either in the past or in the future. Moments are always moving. They are gone before we know it. It is hard to live within them. So, our minds are often ruminating about past mistakes or dreaming of a better future. We do that with Jesus, too.

If I were to ask you to think about Jesus, invariably you will probably think either about the past Jesus or the future Jesus. Did you think about Jesus on the cross, risen from the dead, or lying in a manger? Maybe you thought about Him doing one of His miracles? That’s the historical Jesus. And it is Biblically valid. Most of the Church’s worship focuses on the things Jesus has done to save us. Then too, you might have thought about Jesus when He returns in clouds of glory to gather the faithful for Heaven. Most Christians don’t think about this future Jesus as much unless they are close to dying. The Church has a few Sundays at the end of the church year and one in Advent to focus on future Jesus. But Christian, there is only one Jesus Christ. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

We need to think about the Jesus of today, the One who abides with us in this and every moment. Like living in the moment, believing in the moment isn’t easy either. But it is possible by God’s grace when we start paying attention. The evidence of God’s loving care is all around us each day. And in the Church’s worship, even though we are hearing about Jesus’ past deeds to save us, it is Jesus who is telling us of them again. He speaks through His sent servant, the pastor. This is true when the absolution is spoken after confession of sins. Christ forgives us there and then. Holy Communion? It is not a symbol of what Jesus once said and did. It is an immediate epiphany of His presence to His people.

Lutherans have a “now but not yet” approach to faith in the Jesus of today and the eternal life He gives us. In theology we speak of “proleptic eschatology”. Heaven is in the future but in the one Christ, we experience it every day in God’s grace. He is present. He protects and provides. He sustains life and is its source. He offers joy and peace. He encourages and gathers His people. He intercedes as our High Priest. He blesses. All this Jesus does today. In His ascended glory, He did not depart only to come back one day while now leaving us alone. He is now at the right hand of the Father ruling in all power and mercy and filling all things in heaven and on earth.

I think it is important to remind ourselves of the present Jesus who is now with us for we are a historical Church. We celebrate this month our 505th anniversary on October 31st. But our faith need not be stale. Nor do we need wait until we die until we enter into the joy of our Lord. Jesus rose over 2,000 years ago but to give us an eternal life that begins today and each day is renewed. *Sola fide*, “faith alone”, we say. This faith must be lived each day. It cannot be frozen in the past like some Mastodon awaiting to be thawed out in some future discovery. “Today you will be with me in Paradise,” Jesus said to the dying thief crucified next to Him. Today He is with you, our Immanuel.

Change to 10 AM or Leave It at 9 AM?

During my first year at Immanuel, more than a few have asked about moving our worship time to 10 AM. Presently, as you know, we have worship at 9 AM followed by Linger Longer and then Bible Class starting usually around 10:30 AM. This is a big decision affecting the whole congregation and so requires everyone's prayerfully rendered thoughts. We will discuss and decide the matter in our upcoming November Voter's Meeting.

Things to consider: those asking are both young and older, live near and far. Some younger ones have said Sunday is their one day to sleep in after a busy work week, but some older ones have also said it is difficult getting ready for 9 AM service. Changing times would probably affect our Sunday Bible Study. But we have a Wednesday class already at 11 AM and could add a monthly Saturday morning class that might have more regular participation than Sundays after church and Linger Longer. Less activity may encourage more participation. What would Linger Longer look like being so close to the lunch hour? Maybe it could evolve some weeks into a fellowship meal for members and visitors alike?

These and other considerations need our prayerful reflection. We will discuss this matter at our November Voter's Meeting (TBA) and render a decision. As for me, I'll be there any time you decide and simply want to maximize the greatest participation for our Sunday worship. In the meantime, I'll see you on Sundays at 9 AM!

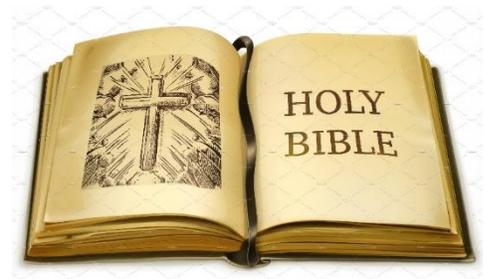
NEXT BOARD MEETING: October 16th, 2022, please consider attending these monthly meetings.

Bible Study Classes

Sunday Mornings at 10:30 AM on September 11 we are studying the book of **Ephesians**.

Our church will be offering another "Wednesdays at 11:00 AM" We are studying "**The Seven Churches of Revelation**."

We will meet in the classroom on the north side of the property between the sanctuary and fellowship hall. Please consider attending. Ask yourself... **why not?**



Financial Report: As of August 30, 2022, the General Fund had the following balances:

General Fund Checking	\$95,185.47
Dedicated Funds	\$19,992.69
Adjusted Balance	\$75,262.78

Total income for the month of August was \$20,466.00 and expenses of \$18,122.58.

Message from the Board of Directors

Below is a list of the projects, wishes, and wants that were created by the Board of Directors through many suggestions and ideas from congregational members. These projects listed below are NOT in any order of importance. However, we will be putting these adventures in chronological order to be completed over the next five years. So please let any board member know how you feel about these undertakings and what you feel is the most important for the growth and development of our Lord's House.

Immanuel Lutheran Church List of Future Projects – Five Year Plan

- Door Replacement Where Needed
- Door Lock and Hardware Replacement
- Painting of Outside Church Including Trim (Sanctuary First in 2022)
- Maintenance Service Contract on Current Airconditioning Units (Repairs as Needed)
- Sprinkler System Maintenance and New Timers (Stop Coverage of Lawn not in Use)
- Remove Lawn in Front of Fellowship Hall and Replace with Low Maintenance Plants
- Remove Lawn Around Basketball Court and Replace with Gravel
- New Window Installation (Double Paned)
- Widen Front Entry Walkway Including Handicap Ramp and Wider Walkway to Church Entry
- Replace Existing One-Sided Sign with Two-Sided Sign (North to South)
- Install Security Gate at The Entry to Patio from Parking Lot
- Install Security Gates at The Breezeway (Security Issues)
- Relocation Of Kitchen to Fellowship Hall (Temporarily Suspended)
- Additional Parking Lot at East end of Fellowship Hall
- Install Additional Gate Between Classroom Building and Fellowship Hall
- Move Communion Rail Two Feet from Alter Including Steps or Ramps on Either Side
- Update Security Camera System
- Plant New Trees Along Parking lot

Projects Completed or approved for 2022:

1. Roof Installation Scheduled for November on Fellowship Hall
2. Tree Removal at Front Entrance
3. Plants Removed from Front Stained-Glass Window
4. Front Entry Door Painted
5. Air Condition Replaced w/ducts at Rear of Church



The whole church watched with nervous anticipation as the visitors sat where the Martins have sat for 42 years.

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

Oktoberfest Highlights







Oktoberfest Observations

As you can see from the few pictures, I was able to fit into the Messenger from the many sent to me, Oktoberfest 2022 was a big success. Everyone had a great time. One long time member sent me the note, "Best Oktoberfest ever!" I can't speak to that as this is only my second one with Immanuel, but I can say it was bigger, better attended (approximately 100), and a whole lot of fun. So many people participated in making the event a success that saying "*Thank You*" seems inadequate. Monica Farrell, our church secretary, took point and did a great job enlisting help from others in the congregation. The food, the music, the games, body painting, raffle, bounce house, and much more were terrific additions this year. I personally can thank those who sent me pictures to share, Fred Coleman, Tina McGrath, and Gloria Bickley. I look forward to next year with great enthusiasm!

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. We will always be open to suggestions on how to enhance or improve the "Messenger."

Thank You,
Becky Cholcher, Editor

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 have not been forgotten.

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

I CAN DO WHAT I CAN DO
AND LEAVE GOD TO DO
WHAT ONLY HE CAN DO.



October Birthdays:

01 John Gilkinson
04 Clair Chen
05 Pastor Den Ouden
06 Becky Busso
07 Karen Thibodeaux
08 Billy Coleman
10 Benny Curley
12 Tim Kranawetter
15 Nancy Manning
16 Tim Rennegarbe



Anniversaries

07 Adam & Winnie Foelsch
09 John & Nyla Gibson
18 Bruce & Gloria Bickley
23 Tim & Vicki Kranawetter
30 Richard & Nancy Manning

