

# Immanuel Lamplighter

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**“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”**

**Psalm 119:105**

# JULY

## 2020

“I can say anything that I want to.” “I have a right to my opinion.” “If they don’t like it, too bad.”

Today’s world has become downright ugly. Between the press, demonstrators, Facebook, TikTok, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, etc., people have voiced their opinions in the past months, audibly and visibly, whether accurate or not. The subject matter has varied, depending on what’s stuck in your craw at any given time. Obviously, I’m not here to debate one’s constitutional rights. Our very first amendment guarantees that: **Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press.**

We are blessed to live in a country where everyone has the right to be heard, AND the right to practice our religion, which is protected by that same amendment.

However, sadly, many have attempted to exercise that same right within the body of believers. The stress of the Coronavirus has had a devastating effect on people of all ages. It has tended, at times, to bring out the worst, in respect to how we “speak” to others. Some have tried to apply that “right to speak my mind” to our relationships within God’s family. What we need to remember, is that God, in his Word, does not grant us that same right. Admittedly, during these months of uncertainty, it has become increasing difficult to maintain our Christian love toward one another. We all would like to have answers to what’s happening right now AND what’s coming down the road. Now, more than ever, we ought to practice patience, especially when our thoughts and words are mere opinion.

**We would do well to remember the words of James 3:6, “The tongue is a fire. It is set among the parts of our body as a world of unrighteousness that stains the whole body, sets the whole course of life on fire, and is set on fire by hell.” Basically, James is warning us that we are breaking God’s law, (5th and 8th) when we wish to exercise our freedom to speak, by using hurtful words through our opinions. This is habit that needs to be curbed. Paul reflects on this in his words to Timothy, “At the same time, they also learn to be ... gossips and busybodies, saying things that they should not say.”**

1 Timothy 5:13.

Our God loves us so much, that he not only protects His good name (2nd), he protects ours (8th). This doesn’t mean that we need to be silent. God has given us the ability to speak with reason. He guides us with his Word. He’s clear in what he says. Again, James says, “Be people who do what the word says, not people who only hear it. Such people are deceiving themselves.” **James 1:22**

Our loving Lord and Savior has gone to the cross to forgive all those times that we have hurt others within the family of Christ. He encourages us, at all times, to strive with one another as we move toward our heavenly goal. Peter wrote, “Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another. Show sympathy, brotherly love, compassion, and humility.”

How long is this disease going to plague us? Only our Lord knows. While we continue to struggle in the present, and into the future, may we follow our Savior with an ever increasing resolve.

Pastor Seelman



## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Our adult Bible Study meets Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in our fellowship hall normally during the “school year” and then break for the summer months. However, this year has not



been normal! We will continue to meet during the summer to study God’s Word. This is an informal/open discussion format for everyone. Stop in and join us.



## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC

Our outdoor church service & picnic is **tentatively** scheduled for Sunday, August 2nd here at IMMANUEL depending on the current Covid-19 circumstances. There is no picnic meeting scheduled at this time. “We” will continue to update this information. Please continue to watch our weekly bulletins and Lamplighter for updates on this event.

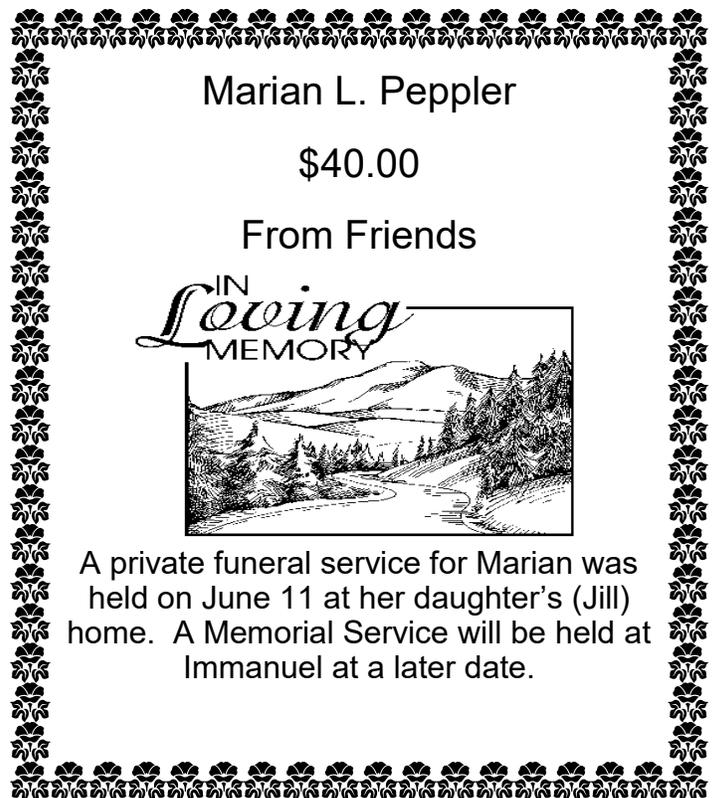


**If or when a date is determined, the outdoor Service and picnic will be held at Immanuel.**



## COUNCIL CORNER

- Pastor will be initiating a series of letters to our Immanuel “inactives.” This will be done over several months.
- Immanuel church picnic is sort of on-hold. It has been decided to wait and see how things progress with the Covid-19 issue. If we proceed, the picnic will be held here at Immanuel in August or September.
- Council approved hiring Stanley Steamer to professionally clean all our upholstered chairs.
- A new computer has been purchased for our church office.
- Pastor is willing to try Monday 5:00 p.m. Worship Service instead of Saturday 5:00 p.m. Service. Saturday didn’t seem to be very popular. The Monday Service would run thru Summer to Labor Day weekend.
- We are exploring ideas of what type of worship material format we will use going forward. Hymnal vs. bulletin vs. screen?
- Next Council meeting is scheduled for August 5 at 5:30 p.m.



Marian L. Pepler

\$40.00

From Friends

IN  
 *Loving*   
MEMORY



A private funeral service for Marian was held on June 11 at her daughter’s (Jill) home. A Memorial Service will be held at Immanuel at a later date.

## Ellevive Marie Stokes Weber

Infant daughter of Nicholas Weber and April Stokes was baptized in a private ceremony here at Immanuel on June 11, 2020.



## Monthly Report of Offerings 05-29-20 through 06-27-20

General Fund	
Plate Offering	
Lenten Offering	
Memorials	
Improve./Maint. Fund	
<b>Total</b>	

## THRIVENT CHOICE

Thrivent Choice is the charitable grant program of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Eligible benefit members of Thrivent Financial can choose where Thrivent Financial distributes a portion of their charitable funds through Choice Dollars, part of the organization's Thrivent Choice charitable grant program. You are invited to direct your designated amount of Choice Dollars to our congregation. Thank you to those that have already contributed to Immanuel!



## HOSPITALIZATIONS

If you know of a member who has been hospitalized, please contact Pastor Seelman and he will be happy to visit them at their home, **IF** the member is comfortable with a home visit. This continues to be important to members during this *unusual time*. Pastor does have a mask if it is necessary to wear one.

We are not always notified by the hospitals when a member has been hospitalized. Occasionally, the hospital inadvertently notifies the other *Emmanuel* in town of the hospitalization. Sometimes it is because they have come through the emergency room or were hospitalized on a weekend. Sometimes it has been because the patient did not inform the hospital that they wanted to be visited by their pastor or the question was not properly asked by the admittance office. To be sure that members that desire a visit are contacted, a call to Pastor's cell phone (920)495-3259 would be appreciated.



## Stewardship

Date	Attendance	Communion	Tuesday Bible Class	Total Offerings
05-31-20	30	N/A	9	
06-07-20	45	N/A	11	
06-14-20	39	39	8	
06-21-20	39	N/A	11	

Christ hath made us free.



Galatians 5:1

## HELPFUL AIDS

Do you have trouble reading the small print in our hymnal? Are you sitting silently in church wishing you could sing the hymns like you once did? We are here to help you enjoy our worship service to the fullest extent.

As you enter our church you will find, on the registration desk, our complete worship service reprinted in LARGE PRINT, including all hymns, for your use. Take a copy with you to the pew and after the service you can either return it to the registration desk or leave it on the pew where the ushers will pick it up after the service.

Are you having trouble walking long distances? Do you have a "handicap" sticker for your vehicle? Again we are here to offer assistance. We have a small parking lot in the rear of the church for those individuals that have difficulty walking. Four stalls are reserved and marked for handicapped parking. We respectfully ask that our parking lot be reserved for those that need it most.

Do you suffer from severe back pain or you may be recovering from recent surgery such as knee or hip replacement and find it difficult to sit for long periods of time on hard pews. We offer soft foam filled chairs for your comfort located in the rear of the church. We also provide ample room in our fellowship hall for those individuals that have walkers, wheelchairs or mobile carts.



Do you have trouble hearing our worship services? Do you have a hearing aid but it still does not help? A "hearing loop" was installed in our church to help those who have trouble hearing our services. A hearing loop is a single strand wire that is installed in the ceiling of our church that is connected to our sound system. This wire serves as an antenna much like your TV antenna that picks up sound waves and transmits them to your TV set. This antenna will transmit the sound from our speaker system directly to your hearing aid. Please speak to Pastor or one of our ushers prior to church service for assistance with this system.

## UPDATES...

As our world continues to evolve in our day-to-day activities, we will attempt to keep all our members and friends abreast as to how we "expand" with our church activities.

\* **Worship times:** Sunday 9:00 a.m. and Sunday 10:00 a.m. and Monday at 5:00 p.m. We have begun to increase numbers in attendance. Please continue to call (920-233-1379 or 920-495-3259) so Pastor is aware of how many are coming. Social distancing will prevail, with members sitting a couple of rows apart in the front half of church.

\* **Lord's Supper:** Communion will be served to you by "walking by" the pastor and assistant to receive the bread and wine. Pastor and Assistant will be wearing a mask. In keeping with the practice at WELS churches, Pastor will not be wearing a mask during the remainder of the Service.

\* **Offerings:** We will continue to have an offering plate in the back of church. Simply drop off your envelope there to avoid all of us handling the same plate.

\* **Bible Class:** Tuesday morning Bible Class will continue through summer. Once again, we will maintain social distancing in our Fellowship Hall.

\* **Website:** [immanuel-oshkosh.org](http://immanuel-oshkosh.org): If you are not seeing website updates, please go back to your search engine (sort of like looking for the first time) and enter [immanuel-oshkosh.org](http://immanuel-oshkosh.org). There have been revisions made to our website recently that may require you to execute the above process to get you to the newest site.

If you prefer to wear a mask, please feel free to bring and/or wear it for any or all of the above listed gatherings.



Immanuel  
Lutheran Church

338 N. Eagle Street  
Oshkosh, WI 54902

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Oshkosh, WI 54902

**Address Service Requested**



**Altar Guild and Usher Schedule for July 2020**

**SUBJECT TO WORSHIP SCHEDULE(S)**

Date	Altar Team	Color	Usher Team	Asst.
July 5	Dave & Judy Zarter & Jan Zellmer	Green	Karl Luft, Dave Leatherman & Timothy Krause	
July 12 Communion	Dave & Faye Leatherman & Ruth Reiter	Green	Jeff Reiter, Jacob Reiter, Jessie Reiter & Ruth Reiter	Jim Daubert
July 19	Barb Luft, Ann Gosdeck & Julie Treichel	Green	Mark Andersen, Mady Andersen, Tom Gregory, Randy Montgomery & Amy Montgomery	
July 26 Communion	Rachel Freerking, Kay Kohfeldt & Edie Nieman	Green	John Hornig, Matt Fink & Larry Stowe	Volunteer?