



THE IMMANUELITE

First Immanuel Lutheran Church

1816 NW Irving Street, Portland, Oregon 97209

*“A Welcoming Community Centered in Christ’s Love,
Joyfully Reaching Out Together”*

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Dear friends in Christ,

How could anyone not notice the signs of some significant work being done in the neighborhood around the church? Big orange signs, orange traffic cones and barrels, excavating equipment and work crews—they are all signs that the water and sewer infrastructure in the Northwest neighborhood has been needing some attention, and is finally getting it. It might be inconvenient to drive around the construction zones, winding up in traffic jams and encountering new detours, but it’s also an indication of something important happening.

I wonder if you’ve noticed any signs of God being at work. We are God’s construction zone, both as individuals and as a community. God is working to build spiritual maturity in our lives. What does spiritual maturity look like? As we grow in maturity, the qualities evident in Jesus’ life become more recognizable in our own lives—qualities like forgiveness, generosity and prayer, caring for each other and tending to the needs of those in trouble.

One thing you should know about God’s work is this: God is powerful, and sometimes that power can feel more than a little disruptive. For example, if God is working at building your capacity for forgiveness, you might discover that God is helping you see things you’d rather not see, such as a tendency to feel resentment or hold onto grudges. Or if God is stretching your capacity for generosity, you might discover that God is helping you recognize, not only how profoundly you have been blessed, but also how frequently you tend to your own needs, wants and wishes before considering the needs of others. Or if God is nurturing patience in you, perhaps you’ve noticed God helping you become aware of how often you hurry, feel frustrated, or become angry.

But even if God’s work can feel disruptive to our

carefully ordered lives (ordered with ourselves at the center, perhaps?), we need to remember that God exercises power to bring blessing and renewal. If God has been building your capacity for forgiveness, perhaps it is so you can be a force for reconciliation and restoration in your relationships and community. If God is stretching your capacity for generosity, perhaps it is so you can make a genuine difference in the lives of others, both near and far. If God is nurturing patience in you, perhaps it is so you can listen and recognize what is needed to bring hope and healing to someone who is part of your life.

What God is out to accomplish is nothing less than the transformation of our hearts and lives. Our renewed lives are part of the infrastructure God is building for a new human family. With our gifts and abilities, we share in God’s work of making all things new. Each of us is, at the same time, a construction zone where God is at work, as well as a coworker with God, building something beautiful.

Peace,

Pastor Aaron



Read through the New Testament this Year!



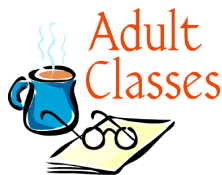
We meet Jesus alive in scripture, where we learn his way and receive his gifts. Join your friends at First Immanuel in reading through the New Testament this year. This month we'll finish reading Paul's letter to the believers in Rome, and then begin the *Gospel of Mark*, said by the early church to contain Peter's remembrances of Jesus. Each day we'll read a few verses, sometimes a chapter, and open our hearts for God to be at work in our lives.

1 Romans 7	16 Mark 3:1-19
2 Romans 8	17 Mark 3:20-35
3 Romans 9:1-29	18 Mark 4:1-20
4 Romans 9:30—10:21	19 Mark 4:21-41
5 Romans 11:1-24	20 Mark 5:1-20
6 Romans 11:25-36	21 Mark 5:21-41
7 Romans 12	22 Mark 6:1-29
8 Romans 13	23 Mark 6:30-56
9 Romans 14	24 Mark 7:1-13
10 Romans 15:1-13	25 Mark 7:14-37
11 Romans 15:14-33	26 Mark 8:1-21
12 Romans 16	27 Mark 8:22—9:1
13 Mark 1:1-20	28 Mark 9:2-50
14 Mark 1:21-45	29 Mark 10:1-31
15 Mark 2	30 Mark 10:32-52

ADULT FORUM: EXPLORING THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Sundays at 9 a.m. in Sodergren Hall Lounge

One of the most famous parts of Matthew's gospel is Jesus' **Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)**, a collection of memorable and challenging teachings on the topic of discipleship. Jesus is the new teacher who inspires a new way of viewing daily life, ethics, and the kingdom God is bringing forth. Like all good teachers, Jesus is often challenging and always sends us home with something more to think about. **Come climb the mount of wisdom with us each Sunday morning at 9 a.m.** Bring your favorite Bible and we'll go verse by verse. See you there!



in church this summer!

Summer is just about here—weather to the contrary! On Sundays from June 5 through September 4 (Labor Day weekend), the worship service will begin at 10 a.m. See you

Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday, June 12



Pentecost is the third great festival of our church year (following Christmas and Easter). It celebrates the gift of God's Spirit, as told in the Book of Acts. The color for the day is red, recalling the story from Acts, when tongues of flame appeared on the

heads of the apostles as the Holy Spirit, empowering them to be bold witnesses to Jesus. We invite you to wear red to worship on this special day.

We also look forward to celebrating the Rite of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday for **Nathan Couch**. Over the past two years he has been learning some of the essential building blocks of Christian faith and life—how to read the Bible, how to pray, how to worship. As Nathan affirms his baptism, we as a congregation will confirm him as ready to enter into a new and greater level of adult participation in the life and mission of the community of Jesus.

Congratulations, Nathan!



The Post-Communion Prayer

The Post-Communion Prayer follows the blessing, after distribution of Communion bread and wine. The prayer is both thanksgiving and petition. We give thanks to God for the gifts of Holy Communion, for Christ's presence, nourishing us with the "bread of life and cup of salvation." We pray for God's help in doing his will. We ask to be "made new" by God's grace, for strength to serve all in need and to make God's love "known through us."

Different church seasons influence the Prayer's content. During Advent, our Post-Communion Prayer anticipates Christ's birth; we ask God to "make us ready to welcome Christ into our hearts" and to tell others the good news. The Prayer during Lent is contemplative. We thank God for Christ in our lives and ask God to lead us to places where we will "be a blessing to others." At Easter, there is an emphasis on the risen Christ, and on renewal of creation. We ask God for power to proclaim his "saving love to the world." Whatever the season, the Post-Communion Prayer is a reminder of God's love and amazing grace, freely given to us, so that through us God's blessings might flow to all the world.



—Risë Johnson, Worship & Music Committee

Share Your Talents at This Year's Talent Auction on Sunday, June 5



SHARE YOUR TIME, TALENT AND TREASURES

Tutoring math, hosting coffee hour, baby sitting, and offering homemade pesto are just a few of the many, many talents that our congregation has. Because God has given us talents and

encourages us to share them, we at First Immanuel have created an annual Talent Auction. We'll have fun bidding on each other's talents during a silent auction that will take place after worship on June 5. The money that we raise will be contributed to the general fund of our congregation. Questions? Please talk to James Bash (503/282-1569, jdwbash@yahoo.com).

—Your Stewardship Team

STRAWBERRY "SHORTCAKE" SOCIAL Saturday, June 5, 1-3 p.m.

Gallagher Plaza, 2140 NW Kearney St.

Our annual Strawberry Social with our friends at Gallagher Plaza is always well attended. We hope you'll be able to join us on Saturday, June 5, to spend some time with our friendly neighbors as part of the Adopt-a-Highrise program. 'Tis the season for fresh strawberries! We'll bring the berries—**can you help by donating pound cakes and canned whipped cream? Items can be dropped by church ahead of time or brought to the event.** Just contact Pam Porter (503/241-4372, pamela.porter503@gmail.com).



—FILC Outreach Committee



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

OREGON SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The Oregon Synod will meet in Assembly **June 3-5** in Eugene. Among the important tasks for the Assembly will be adopting a budget for synod, electing members to serve on synod council, and voting on resolutions and memorials. Attending the Assembly for First Immanuel will be Pastor Aaron and voting members, Jim and Mary Laws. If you'd like to know more, talk with the pastors, or check out the Oregon Synod website at www.oregonsynod.org.

Here Comes *PANDAMANIA!* Vacation Bible School, June 20-23

First Immanuel invites you to join the fun at Vacation Bible School, Monday, June 20, through Thursday, June 23. We'll gather each evening in Fellowship Hall, beginning with dinner at 6 p.m. Kids experience Bible stories through an interactive combination of music, art, games, worship, and drama! Activities for children ages 3 through 12 will last until 8:20 p.m. each evening. **Bring your children or grandchildren! Invite your friends!** Register online at www.firstimmanueluth.org.



If you can help, please call Pastor Aaron at the church office (503/226-3659). We're looking forward to a fun, exciting week of Vacation Bible School!

VBS Staff Training: Please mark your calendars for **THURSDAY, JUNE 16 @ 6 p.m.** for our staff training meeting.

FILC BOOK GROUP

Sunday July 17 at 6:30 p.m.

*Gather with other book lovers for great discussion and dessert!
Location to be announced.*

**July selection: *Cutting for Stone* by
Abraham Verghese**

Marion and Shiva Stone are twin brothers born of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon. Orphaned by their mother's death and father's disappearance, the twins come of age as Ethiopia hovers on the brink of revolution. Moving from Addis Ababa to New York City and back again, this novel is a story of love and betrayal, medicine and ordinary miracles—and two brothers whose fates are forever intertwined.



Need some summer reading? We are considering these for future selections:

***The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates* by Wesley Moore.** This was the 2011 Everybody Reads selection, so copies are readily available. This nonfiction work explores the journey of two boys who grew up on a Baltimore ghetto: one becomes a Rhodes scholar, the other goes to prison for killing a police officer.

***Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy* by Eric Metaxas.** The new biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran pastor and seminary professor who spoke out against the Nazis, comes highly recommended by members. It is 600 pages and well worth the read. Paperback is slated to come out in August.

MAY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Actual pledge giving: April: \$18,168
TOTAL FOR 2011: \$69,241

Budgeted pledge giving: April: \$20,369
TOTAL FOR 2011: \$81,476

Signage Update. The new signs for the glass cases on the corner will be ready shortly. Pastor Melinda also ordered a sign to designate a parking spot in the church parking lot for volunteer drivers on Sunday mornings.

Parking. Pastor Aaron reported on the regulations for purchasing on-street parking permits for staff members in order to free up more parking spaces in the church lot. The church is located in Zone K, and the number of permits we would be eligible to purchase would be equivalent to 75% of the total full-time staff equivalents. The cost is \$44 per year for each permit. It was decided that the costs would be prohibitive at this time.

Reports. Written reports from the pastors as well as the Worship and Music, Outreach, Endowment, and Executive committees were received. Tyrell Servo gave an extended oral report on the responsibilities and current activities of the Grateful Giving Task Force. The pastors gave additional details on the trip to U.S. Bank to examine the contents of the safe deposit box.

—Leslie Wong, Secretary

THOUGHTS ON GIVING...



Thou hast given so much to me. Give one thing more, a grateful heart.

—George Herbert, 1593-1633

NOW WE SPARKLE!



We are most grateful to several members of Temple Beth Israel who volunteered to deep-clean our church kitchen on Sunday, May 22. This was part of the congregation's *Mitzvah Day*, which translates as *service* or *good deed*. Thanks to their energy and dedication, the ovens now sparkle, the corner-grime is gone, and amazingly, even the kitchen fan has been freed from its layers of dust and grease just in time for the summer season when it is needed most. In all, eight volunteers, including Loaves and Fishes manager Kathy Buss, came together to work the transformation. THANK YOU!



Endowment News

What dreams do you have for First Immanuel's compassionate and outreaching work? The Endowment Committee invites you to prayerfully consider applying for an endowment grant to serve Christ's work in our neighborhood and our world. This fall we'll be awarding grants for a total of \$8500 to fund your ideas for serving God and our neighbors. \$4850 will be available from the **FILC General Endowment Fund**, designated for Evangelism Outreach, Social Ministry Outreach, and Building Improvements. \$3650 will be available from the **Doris Palmlad World Missions Endowment Fund**, designated for ministry and service activities outside the United States.

We ask our members and ministry groups to actively pray, plan ahead, and talk together about creative and faithful ways to use these funds. One-page grant applications and instructions are available in the church office. Please note that applications must be presented to a First Immanuel sponsoring committee by **September 1** to be reviewed and approved. The grant applications, ranging in size, will be awarded in November.

Please speak with an Endowment Committee member to learn more about the process.

—Your FILC Endowment Committee:

Joyce Clawson, Michelle Johnson,
Jim Laws, Linda Thom, and Pastor Aaron Couch

Special "Music Sunday" on June 19

On Sunday, June 19, the Choir will offer a number of musical selections during worship—all drawn from works that we have previously sung for the congregation this year. Included will be William Dawson's



arrangement of "Ain't a That Good News" and the beautiful anthem by Jonathan Adams, "This Still Room." Please come and support our choir before they take a well-deserved break for the summer.

Summer soloists wanted—all ages welcome!



Soloists
Needed

Do you (or someone in your family) play an instrument or sing? Would you like to play for the congregation this summer during worship? Please see Choir Director Ralph Nelson at

coffee or email him (Ralph.nelson@yahoo.com). We especially want to encourage students who have been studying instruments and/or voice to play or sing during the summer.



*Blessed with a car or driver's license?
Share what God has given you...*

WHAT WOULD YOUR LIFE BE LIKE WITHOUT CHURCH?

Share Your Car To Get A Lonely Neighbor Here

- Flexible schedule
- Drive someone to church -- or take them home
- Drive occasionally or regularly -- it's your call
- Use our new reserved volunteer parking space

Can you believe it? We have received **three requests** from brand new neighbors who want to worship with us but need a ride. **Right now we cannot accommodate them. We are not okay with that.** Let's get creative.

Here's how you can help:

- **You tell us when you can drive—we will work with you**—contact the Pastors or Bonny Groshong: 503/226-3659, office@firstimmanueluth.org.
- Attend a quick **Transportation Team brainstormer** at coffee hour Sunday, **May 29**.
- Consider driving the **NW Portland Ministries van** on Sunday mornings. The van and gas would be FREE, we just need drivers. Is this you? Do you know someone?

Respond today. Your gift of a ride could literally help someone come to know God. How much better can it get? **Your neighbor really needs you!**

—Outreach, Congregational Life, & Executive Committees

COMMISSIONING OF EDWIN ROURK

Serving our Oregon Synod to develop Soul Café web-based community

On Sunday, May 29, we welcomed special guest Pastor Glenn Chase of the Oregon Synod ELCA Staff to commission our own Edwin Rourk to a new position on the Oregon Synod Staff. Edwin has been enlisted to develop Soul Café, which is a new, web-based community you will be hearing much more about. This new ministry is supported regionally by Lutheran synods in Alaska, SW Washington, Montana and Oregon. It is designed to reach out to the faith community spanning the NW states. This is an exciting opportunity for our church, and First Immanuel is proud to be a part of this adventurous, cutting-edge effort. God bless you, Edwin!

Next time you're surfing the Internet, be sure to check out our super site...just go to www.firstimmanueluth.org.

*Thanks to our Web gurus, **Leslie and Richard Wong**, it's updated regularly to keep you in the know about what's happening at First Immanuel!*



SUPPORT OUR NWPM FOOD PANTRY

Did you know that **NW Portland Ministries** provides food for over 900 low-income residents each month? The **Emergency Food Pantry** is open 2 days a week on the lower level of FILC's Sodergren Hall. **Harvest Share** provides fresh produce once a month. The **Home Delivery Program** takes food boxes to homebound neighbors. The **Food for Kids Backpack Program** provides weekly weekend food for Chapman Grade School children and their families living in transitional housing. Because we are **affiliated with the Oregon Food Bank**, your cash donations purchase food at greatly-reduced rates.



FEED THE HUNGRY

Help fill up the food bin by the main church entrance, or place monetary gifts in the offering, clearly marked for NWPM food programs. The following items are particularly needed. Thanks for your help!

- canned meats (i.e., tuna, chicken, salmon)
- canned and boxed meals (i.e., soup, chili, stew, macaroni and cheese)
- peanut butter and other nut butters
- canned or dried beans and peas (i.e., black, pinto, lentils)
- pasta, rice, cereal
- canned fruits and vegetables
- 100 percent fruit or vegetable juice (canned, plastic or boxed)
- cooking oil
- shelf-stable milk
- healthy, low-fat and low-sugar products
- food YOU would appreciate receiving

Easter Traditions at First Immanuel

Our Easter Cross, once again covered with flowers on Easter morning, was built by a Portland Eagle Scouts troop a decade or more ago. After being torn down by vandals a few years ago, Howard Rasmussen and our Property Committee restored it with new supports, and the Easter Cross was "reborn."

Another Easter tradition is the ringing of our church bell, which first rang at our old location near 10th and W Burnside on Easter morning in 1900. This year, ringing the bell at 9, 10 and 11 a.m. were: Nathan Couch, son of Pastors Aaron and Melinda; Calvin Rasmussen, great-grandson of Pastor Carl Renhard; and Kent Fredrickson, great-grandson of Pastor William S. Skans, Sr.

I hope that we keep both traditions alive well into our future—a rich heritage for all.

—Les Wierson, Property Committee Chair



- | | |
|---|--|
| 2: Mia Barnett
Tym Otto | 27: Kate Carlson
Kella Carlson |
| 3: Honorene Lanning
Mark MacDonald | 29: Eric Rasmussen
30: Wolfgang Essink |
| 7: Ellen Anderson | |
| 8: Myrtice Haney | |
| 10: Isabella Colberg | 7: Ann & Steve Venn |
| 14: Kathy Truman | 11: Pastor Aaron Couch &
Pastor Melinda Wagner |
| 15: Derek Berg
Hannah Thom | 14: Heidi & Matt Vaughan |
| 16: Andrew Larson | 18: Don & Edith Larson |
| 18: Megan Borwieck | 21: Bonnie & Steve Borwieck
Margaret Ellison & Randy Wulff
Emily & Kris Pearlman |
| 22: Elsa Lind
Anna Riley | 28: Gary & Suzanne Nelson |
| 24: Jennifer Wall | 29: Becky Shoemaker & Bill Stack |
| 25: Betty Quanstrom
Tammy VanDeGrift | 30: Linda & Per-Olof Lund
Calvin & Maydoris Ritchey |
| 26: John Thom | |

Parking Changes in the Northwest Neighborhood



Parking

On the days when there are Timbers' soccer games at Jeld-Wen Field (formerly known as PGE Park), there will be parking restrictions for the NW neighborhood. The city wants to discourage thousands of soccer fans from parking their cars in the neighborhood around the church. The restriction zone is north of Burnside to Irving, and from 18th to 24th. Parking is restricted to 90 minutes for cars without zone permits, and begins 2 hours before game time and ends two hours after game time. Times and dates for upcoming soccer games include:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GAME</u>	<u>TIME PARKING RESTRICTION BEGINS</u>
Sun., May 29	2:00 PM	12 PM (tickets issued starting 1:30 PM)
Sat., June 11	7:30 PM	5:30 PM (tickets issued starting 7 PM)
Sun., June 19	7:00 PM	5 PM (tickets issued starting 6:30 PM)
Sat., July 2	8:00 PM	6 PM (tickets issued starting 7:30 PM)

Current Sunday Parking Options:

You may be aware that we recently lost the use of some handy parking spaces in the corner lot at 18th & Irving. However, your Outreach Committee is in the process of requesting permission for additional neighborhood parking on Sunday. We'll keep you updated on our progress. **For now, we have permission for Sunday morning parking in the following locations:**

- **Small real estate lot** across from the church on 19th—633 NW 19th Ave.
- **Mesher Tools** business lot at the corner of 17th and Johnson
- **Rogers & Block Law Firm** at the corner of 18th and Johnson

If walking is within your abilities, why not park a little farther off and enjoy the exercise?

You know you need a nametag when... ☺

- A senior moment strikes just as you reach to shake a hand
- You're having trouble telling Joan from Joyce today
- You're having trouble telling Sean from Luke today
- You'd like to introduce yourself but are too shy to ask a neighbor's name
- You are new to church and everyone is new to you
- You are looking for a friend in Christ

None of us needs a nametag to remember our own name (we hope!) but we wear them to help others get to know us, and help our community continue to be a warm and friendly place to newcomers. We are currently updating our nametags. If you need a new one, please sign the sheet inside the front door of church. This Sunday, why not clip yours on and make a new friend?

—Your Outreach Committee

FIRST IMMANUEL ON FACEBOOK



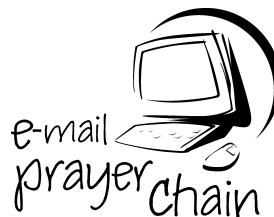
Here's one more great way to stay in touch. We're now set up with a fan page on www.facebook.com. Just search **First Immanuel Lutheran Church**. Indicate you "like" this page and you'll be in the loop for daily Bible discussions and other event notifications. You can even find our daily Bible passages listed in the "notes" section.

Podcasting from First Immanuel

We're reaching out with good news in a whole new way. Thanks to a grant from the Oregon Synod Endowment Fund, we are now able to digitally record the Sunday sermons and make them available for download on our website. Many thanks also to Todd Matthias for helping us purchase and install the recorder, and to Richard Wong for processing the audio files and posting them to our website each week. Check us out at www.firstimmanueluth.org.



Printed sermon copies are also available at the ushers' table each Sunday. Feel free to take one to help you follow along in worship, share with a friend, or remember a helpful thought.



Prayer is a powerful tool that God wants us to use always. If you want to join First Immanuel's e-mail prayer ministry, please send your e-mail address to Wanda Black at 2ugeebee@earthlink.net. Each Wednesday, you'll receive an updated

list of who we are praying for. During the week, you'll also receive additions and updates, so that those who need our prayers receive them as soon as possible. If you'd like to request prayer, simply note it on the back of your worship attendance card on Sunday, or contact a pastor (503/226-3659, office@firstimmanueluth.org).

June 2011 at First Immanuel

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		VBS, June 20-23!		1 11:30 AM L& F 6 PM Beati Chorum 7 PM AA	2 11:30 AM L& F 6 PM ACOA 6 PM Bell Choir 7 PM Choir	3 11:30 AM L& F OR Synod Assembly, Eugene OR (thru Sunday)	4 10 AM NWPM Class (Fellowship Hall)
5 9 AM Adult Class 10 AM Worship 11 AM Coffee Hr. 11 AM Talent Auction 1 PM Strawberry Social @ Gallagher Plaza 1 PM Choir Potluck @ Nelsons' 6 PM Beati Ch. 8 PM AA	6 11:30 AM L& F	7 11:30 AM L& F 1 PM FH Bingo 3 PM Congregational Life Committee 6 PM Executive Committee 7 PM Beati Chorum	8 8 AM NWPM Farmers' Market 11:30 AM L& F 6 PM Beati Chorum 7 PM AA	9 10:30 AM Women's Circle 11:30 AM L& F 6 PM ACOA 6 PM Bell Choir 7 PM Choir	10 11:30 AM L& F	11	
12 9 AM Adult Class 10 AM Worship 11 AM Coffee Hr. 6 PM Beati Ch. 8 PM AA Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday	13 11:30 AM L& F 1 PM Outreach Committee	14 11:30 AM L& F 1 PM FH Bingo 6 PM Church Council 7 PM Beati Chorum	15 11:30 AM L& F 6 PM Beati Chorum 7 PM AA	16 11:30 AM L& F 6 PM VBS Staff Training 6 PM ACOA 6 PM Bell Choir 7 PM Choir	17 11:30 AM L& F 	18	
19 9 AM Adult Class 10 AM Worship: Baptism 11 AM Coffee Hr. 6 PM Beati Ch. 8 PM AA Special Music Sunday 	20 11:30 AM L& F 6 PM Vacation Bible School	21 11:30 AM L& F 1 PM FH Bingo 6 PM Vacation Bible School	22 11:30 AM L& F 6 PM Vacation Bible School	23 11:30 AM L& F 6 PM Vacation Bible School	24 11:30 AM L & F	25	
26 9 AM Adult Class 10 AM Worship 11 AM Coffee Hr. 6 PM Beati Chorum 8 PM AA	27 11:30 AM L& F	28 11:30 AM L& F 1 PM FH Bingo 6 PM Worship & Music Committee 7 PM Beati Chorum	29 11:30 AM L& F 6 PM Beati Chorum 7 PM AA	30 11:30 AM L& F 6 PM ACOA 6 PM Bell Choir 7 PM Choir			