Immanuel

 Church 129

 Shining God’s light for 129 Years

 **Immanuel Church Newsletter July 2021**

**Pastor Pete’s Pen**

**First Responder, Firefighter and Paramedic, Appreciation**

It was late Sunday afternoon. People were coming home from a weekend of recreation. Vi and I were sitting in a parking lot, enjoying an ice cream treat, when we heard the sound of a distant siren. It’s our habit that when we hear a siren or see an emergency vehicle responding to a call, we pray God’s blessing and protection for these first-responders. We offered our prayer and continued to enjoy our ice cream. To our surprise the big fire truck was racing toward us, going around the corner nearest to us and continuing on its way. Watching the expertise of the driver was amazing, handling his rig while negotiating his right-of-way through traffic without compromising their urgency to respond in a timely manner. We knew that inside the truck were professionals who were racing toward danger to provide assistance while placing themselves in danger to just get to their destination. **Next time I’m in the path of an emergency vehicle, I’ll stop sooner and give a wider path for safety.**

Sure enough, in about two minutes the ambulance was also responding to the call. We asked God’s help for these responders and those needing assistance. And we continued to enjoy our ice cream.

I’ve thought about that juxtaposition—eating ice cream while others are placing themselves in harm’s way in their endeavor to provide protection, safety, and a quality of life. Our culture, me included, takes for granted. It isn’t fair.

**Thank you First Responder Professional, for your service to the people of our community!**

Thank you to you men and women, wives and husbands, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, moms and dads, to everyone who serves as a first responder and provider of emergency help. You train so your reaction to any need is the proper response. You keep yourself in physical shape so that nothing will impede your performance. Your working hours take you away from your family—time and events. **Thank you for willfully placing yourself in a position to protect, help and give safety to us, even when we do not make safe choices.**

 I have read stories of your heroism. Running into a fire or an unsafe place in search of someone that needs aid or a rescue from calamity. Your decision to respond with boldness is not made at the time of your reaction to the crisis, but is a purposed decision of the heart, perfected from the time of choosing this profession of giving safety and honed through years of training and service. **Thank you for your desire to selflessly serve others.**

 Physically you take risks that I cannot imagine. But I know that most of your acts of courage are never recorded, never appreciated and never mentioned. **Thank you for being a humble hero.**

 Thank you to your spouse, family, greater family and friends who serve with you by standing with you. Their generous sharing of their loved one, their encouragement, understanding and gift of time is beyond reward. **Thank you, Lord, for the families of firefighters and paramedics who give so generously and receive so little.**

Lord, give wisdom, safety and protection. Grant them your favor and blessing and provide abundantly for those serving you through the ministry of firefighting and medical assistance, according to your sovereign will,

 In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

**Guiding Light Ladies – July 6 – 6:30pm – Fellowship Hall**

Please join us for Guiding Light Ladies on July 6 at 6:30 pm. Sally Buchholz will present a program on

“The Happiness Advantage” and how discoveries in the field of positive psychology can help us to be

more resilient, creative, and better able to overcome life’s challenges. Vi Schroeder will bring treats.

Dear Immanuel Church Friends, Warm greetings to you all!

July!

For 20 years I worked in elementary schools as a Speech Language Pathologist, and I remember

my teacher friends saying once you reached the Fourth of July the summer is essentially over. I

felt that way too. July 5th meant back to school preparations began in earnest and it was time

to focus on getting prepared for the new school year.

But from a kid’s perspective there was still half of summer vacation left You still had plenty of

time to play ball, ride bikes, go swimming, run through the sprinkler, eat watermelon, toast

smores, shoot fireworks, and go to the outdoor movie with your family.

For a kid, it was “summer time and the living is easy”. I am sure it was never as idyllic as it

seems in my memory, but it was a pretty special time in my life. I think it may have been the

case in your life as well.

Speaking of life, Dean and I were just talking about how time has sure flown by. We just

celebrated our 43rd wedding anniversary, and how the Lord has blessed us. Like everyone we

have experienced joy, sorrow, sickness, health, good times and loss. Life is all of those things.

But it has been wonderful to know our Heavenly Father isn’t surprised by any of the things we

have encountered, and to recognize how He has blessed us.

Church News: The Guiding Light Ladies have resumed meeting. Yea!! We had our first meeting

in over a year, Tues June 1st. Our President Susan Corey led a discussion of what we might like

to do for the remainder of the calendar year.

Many great ideas came out of our brainstorming session. The church picnic was tentatively

planned for September. Celebrations like Christmas and Thanksgiving were discussed as was

the “Donuts for Dads” event that was held before church on Father’s Day. I hope you were able

to attend this fun time and will join us for future events.

We had a program that focused on weddings and the Book of Ruth. The ladies brought pictures

of themselves in weddings as flower girls, bridesmaids, brides, and mother of the brides. Some

brought wedding pictures of their mothers and grandmothers as well.

We learned about the Biblical concept of the Kinsman Redeemer and how Boaz (Ruth’s

husband) and Jesus fulfilled these roles. It was a wonderful and edifying time. We would like

to invite all Immanuel women to join us on the first Tuesday evening of each month. It is a

great time of fellowship.

Finally, I’d like to wish a Happy Birthday to this great country of ours. as we celebrate our

independence this month. Please pray for our country and our leaders. While it is easy to

become discouraged by what we see happening in the news, the Lord is still in control. I pray

we remember that, call on His name, turn from our wicked ways and He will heal our land.

God bless America!

Sherry Pawelko

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Heritage Club – Nothing has been planned for July to date, but keep an eye on the

bulletin for updates.

Sunday School-

Children’s Sunday School- 9:15am lower level of the Church

Adult Sunday School- There is no Adult Sunday School until further notice.

Bible Study:

Lamb’s Club (Ram’s welcome) Tuesday 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. Currently is

not meeting.

Adult Bible Study- Tuesday 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to

attend via Zoom, you can contact Joe Jensen for details on how to do that.

Prayers

Marie Green

Virginia Rekart

Tim Hardt

Esther Burback

Donna Day

Becky Schenaman

Don &amp; Vemmy Nielsen

Harry &amp; MaryAnn Schneider

Birthdays

2 Vangie Brehm

4 Mary Pat Loos

4 Roger Morrow

6 Nancy Edmunds

8 Don Crosby

8 Cyndee Loos

9 Jeff Grasmick

13 Jeff Loos

16 Kelly Hubbard

23 Tim Hardt

23 Beck Brock

23 Christy Funcke

28 Allison Brock

30 Kyla Kelley

Anniversaries

2 Stephen & Nancy Loos

23 Toby & Sonya Rekart

**Lord, please hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us.**

**Bless them and their families for their selfless acts they perform for us in our time of**

**need.**

**Please keep Immanuel’s Military and Law Enforcement Personnel and Families in**

**your prayers. Let me know if I left anyone out, please.**

**Toby Rekart-Law Enforcement Kyle Kelley-Military Dustin Skinner-Military**

**Chance Huck- Military Terry Wagner-Law Enforcement**