



Immanuel Messenger

“God With Us”

June 2022 – Volume 22 Issue 1

“First Edition”

By Pastor Patrick Curley

If you’ve ever shopped at a thrift store or garage sale and were lucky enough to find a first edition book of any renown, you know the joy of discovery. But wherein lies the excitement, in the monetary value of your good fortune (a first edition of *Gone With the Wind* signed by Margaret Mitchell can bring up to \$27,000)? Or are you joyful to have simply found a good book to read (I discovered Tolkien’s *Lord of the Rings* trilogy in the summer of 1980 having just graduated high school and couldn’t put it down)? Presumably, the shopper was in the book section to find something worthwhile to read but scoring a windfall is nothing trifling at either.

What about the Bible? Would it be more exciting if you had one of the 48 remaining Gutenberg Bibles (one sold this month for 5.39 million dollars at Christie’s auction house) or simply the one you got at your confirmation? I’d bet the one you received from your church or loved one means a little bit more than money. I sure hope it does, anyway.

The Word of God is a treasure, first edition or otherwise. It is a lamp unto our feet guiding the way to eternal life as it leads us to know God’s love and wonderful plan for our salvation. The Word is the primary means of the Holy Spirit to bring saving faith into the hearts of sinners. The Sacraments would be just water, bread, and wine if not for the Word. Thus joined, they carry the power to bestow and sustain faith in Jesus, too. Indeed, Jesus loves me this I know *for the Bible tells me so*. The Bible, God’s Word, is precious.

I think this is a good place to start as we resume our congregational newsletter, a “first edition” of a kind. It’s good as Immanuel tries to communicate clearly with its congregational members that we put first things first. So, know that we will continue to emphasize Bible teaching in our worship, study, and our mission under Christ at Immanuel. As the world constantly changes all around us, Scripture will be our constant. As you gather with us, you will learn about Jesus your Savior and His great love for you. As we serve side by side, you will know it is because Jesus has called us in His Word to love our neighbor. As we plan activities and annual budgets, it is by the guidance of Holy Scripture that we will seek our way forward. *Sola Scriptura* remains the formal principle of our congregation and the LC-MS.

Scholars don’t know when Johannes Gutenberg was born, whether he married or had children. Almost all the information about Gutenberg comes from legal and financial papers, and these indicate that the printing of his Bibles was a particularly tumultuous ordeal. According to one 1455 document, Gutenberg’s business partner Johann Fust sued him for the return of a large sum of money loaned to help in the production of his Bibles. Gutenberg lost the lawsuit, and the final ruling stipulated that he had to turn his printing equipment and half the completed Bibles over to Fust, who went on to peddle them along with one of Gutenberg’s former assistants, Peter Schoeffer. Gutenberg was driven into financial ruin.

Aside from any loss of revenue, I hope Gutenberg read the pages of his Bible as they were produced. For these were given by God to make us wise unto salvation. You can’t put a price tag on such wisdom. As the Word says, “What does it profit a man to gain the whole world but lose his soul?” -Mark 8:38

Chairman's Message

Hi Everyone!

As this is my first Chairman Message/Report, I am going to back track a few months to get everyone up-to-speed. So this last year we have had many changes as everyone has no doubt noticed. New Pastor, new Organist, new Secretary and coming soon new changes to our church grounds. You may have noticed some trees have been cut to give our building better visibility.

We had a Strategic planning meeting just a few weeks ago to lay out some near and far goals for our congregation. We decided first to increase communication with the members (thank you Becky, for doing this newsletter!) Our next goal (now to a year or so out) was to make our church more physically visible and to meet our current and future needs. It's hard to tell we are a church from our own parking lot! To address this, your Board has opened a committee to address the front of the church; and a second committee to address our fellowship hall. We plan to have another strategic plan meeting in a few months.

Lastly, as discussed at our congregation meeting in November, we are in the process of building a Cell tower on our property. As of right now, this is pending City approval and Attorney approval with the cell provider. This is just one way we can further generate Passive Income for the congregation to ensure our financial solvency for years to come.

I would like to thank all our Board members, committee members, guilds and volunteers and all of our members who make our church run and be successful in our mission for Christ. These changes the last 12 months would not have been possible without all our dedicated servants and volunteers.

God's blessings to all of you,
Jeff Peters

BOARD OF DIRECTORS As of 5/25/22

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

OPEN POSITIONS

Financial Secretary
Social Welfare
Synodical Relations
Stewardship
Evangelism
Education

***If interested in serving the Church on the board please contact the Board Chairman; Jeff Peters at 951-370-5609 or email at admin@immanuelchino.org**

Welcome to Our New Members

Andrew Acosta
Becky Cholcher-Marino
Bill Curley
Pastor Patrick and Lulu Curley
Analise Curley
Mike and Benny Curley
Richard and Sharon Fiel
Carol and John Gilkinson
Tim and Tina McGrath
Tom and Marie Merrill
Phyllis Tolliver
Robert and Pamela Vermons
Jerry and Lisa Vicario
Kenny and Laurie Wirtje

Did You Notice?



The front of our church is receiving a needed upgrade. The front doors that are to welcome people to join our services were completely blocked from view. There are more improvements planned to enhance the visibility and beautify our church. Fred Coleman is heading the project. We can't wait to see what's next!

Information and Opportunity for Daily Devotions

Kenny and Laurie Wirtjes would like to share some information with all of us about a daily Lutheran devotion that can be accessed on an I-phone. The devotions come from Lutheran Hour Ministries. Kenny explained how to go about getting the app on the phone and his instructions were great! Here's the info: Go to the app store and use the magnifying glass to find Daily Devotions by LHM. An icon that is green with a white cross is the correct icon and just select "get" to install it on the phone. This program is also capable of being viewed on-line via www.lhm.org and then select daily devotions.

Thank you, Kenny, and Laurie!

Pastor Curley Holds Two Bible Study Classes Each Week

Sunday Mornings at 10:30 AM a study on 1 Corinthians 3 gleaned principles for a healthy and growing congregation.

Wednesdays at 11:00 AM we will be studying the book of Ezra as a follow-up to our study on Habakkuk.



Mission Outreach Report

Immanuel recently voted to donate \$3000 of our \$16,000 mission budget to the Garuna Foundation. The mission of the Garuna Foundation is to support and encourage the proclamation of the grace, mercy, and compassion (garuna) of Jesus Christ to the peoples of Thailand, Cambodia, and surrounding countries. The newest Christian School (seen here) is in Phnom Penh and was completed in November 2021.



The Garuna Foundation focuses its ministry in Southeast Asia. Over 500 million people live in this region, with only 2% of the population who know Jesus as Savior. God has been blessing the ministry of sharing the Good News of Jesus with the children (Garuna Kids) and the families of those who attend a Garuna Christian School. Over 250 Garuna Kids have been baptized through the school ministry. Thank you for your help, prayers, and support.

May 15, 2022

To: Board of Directors

From: Darlene Brown

Subject: April Financial Report

Financial Report

- As of April 30, 2022 the General Fund had the following balance:

	February	April
General Fund Checking	\$ 82,532.94	\$91,079.76
Dedicated Funds	<u>21,262.15</u>	<u>20,293.44</u>
Adjusted Balance	\$ 61,270.79	\$ 70,786.32

- For the month of April income was \$17,587.60 and expenses of \$12,074.17.

- As April 30, 2022, the Building Fund at Citizens has the following balance:

	February	April
Building Fund Checking	\$88,669.63	\$88,676.91
Dedicated Funds	<u>15,200.48</u>	<u>15,200.48</u>
Adjusted Balance	\$73,469.15	\$73,476.43

- Care Fund balance as of April 30, 2022 was \$2,620.14.
- Balance of account at Capital One as April 30, 2022 was \$169,252.37.

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:



- 08 Bobbie Soohoo
- 12 Pastor Curley
- 18 Randy Fewins
- 20 Patti Coleman
- 21 Andrew Acosta
- 29 Analise Curley
- Linda Nelson



Happy Anniversary to:

- 08 Tim & Candy Cook
- 15 Tony & Jennifer Archer
- 16 Tim & Tina McGrath

Prayer Tree

The e-mail prayer tree was established as a quick and easy method to let our church members know about our prayer concerns and praises, as well as timely information pertinent to all of us. In order to ensure a member's privacy, items aren't sent out unless initiated by someone requesting prayers or reporting praises. Janise won't send out a prayer tree notice unless asked to do so or she has received permission. The prayer tree is a special way that we can share each other's burdens. It's also a special way to give thanks and praise, so, let's be sure to report the praises!!

If anyone knows how to set up a prayer tree distribution list that can be sent out via email on an I-phone, please contact Janise. Janise is using an older computer that is slow to load and would like to be able to use the cell phone. The list can be sent out on an I-phone by using a previously received email and hitting reply all and then deleting the old email information before typing in the new information. This is a bit cumbersome. So, any techies that know how to help, please contact Janise Davis at nvr218t@aol.com.

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. Please have articles or reports to me by the 25th of each month. 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