



The Church Exists to Multiply

Thoughts from Pastor Scott

Why does the church exist? Is it to entertain us? Is it to provide programs for us to be involved in? Is it to teach our children how to be good people? Is it a place to just baptize, marry and bury?

The church is on this earth for three reasons: 1) to glorify God, 2) the instruction of the saints, and 3) the evangelization of the world. We could sum it up this way: upward, inward, outward. The church exists to bring glory to God.

That's not only true of us in a worship service, but it's also true of us in life. Whatever Christians do, they should be able to bring glory to God – in their jobs, in their marriages and in all the choices they make in life. The church was created to bring pleasure to God and bring glory to his name.

The church also exists for the edification, or building up, of the saints. That is why the Bible and Bible study is important for us at Immanuel. Not only does the edification of the saints include Bible study, but it also consists of encouraging one another, building up one another and serving one another.

Finally, there is the evangelization of the world, which is really the outgrowth of the first two. As believers are glorifying God and being built up in the church, they evangelize the world and fulfill Jesus' Great Commission (see Matthew 28:18–20). Our church does this by supporting Aaron and Rebekah Wade as Wycliffe Bible translators in Papua New Guinea (check out their website at goteamwade.com). We have that opportunity to invite others we work with, go to school with and live near to come be with us at Immanuel and become a part of our church family.

In the Bible we find the words of Jesus to a sick church that wasn't fulfilling its purpose. This church, the church of Sardis, had a great reputation, but no reality (see Revelation 3:1-2). This wasn't a lazy or inactive church. They weren't slackers. This church probably was humming with activity. There was no shortage of money or talent or manpower. Outwardly there was every indication of a church on the move. But a problem was developing that only Jesus could see: they were not fulfilling their purpose. Jesus told the church of Sardis they were dying, but they didn't realize it. People who are dying spiritually usually are the last to know. They think everything is fine. They think they are doing just great. They can rationalize every decision they have made, even when those decisions are wrong. They say they are doing fine when, in reality, they are dying.

A church can do all the right things outwardly and still be spiritually dying. It can have great music and musicians, it can have good programs, its members can notes on

sermons and its members can even know their Bibles quite well. But there can be a spiritual deadness to it all. It is possible to be in the church and not really believe. And in effect, Sardis was a non-believing church.

I am all for reflecting on what God has done, but I refuse to live in the past. As God's people we need to be in the present. We always need to be planning for the future. The problem in the church today is that sometimes we are flexible where we need to be inflexible, and we are inflexible when we should be flexible. We should be inflexible on the essentials, which are the teaching of the Word of God, the worship and glorification of God, and evangelism. These are the essentials. We need to be inflexible there.

But we also need to be flexible with nonessentials, and by that I mean style. People get hung up on styles of music, embracing new technology and all kinds of things along those lines. Let's be flexible where we can be flexible. Don't change the essentials, but be flexible with the way they are expressed.

Jesus reminds us that we need to wake up. In other words, we need to recognize something is seriously wrong. Then we need to strengthen the things that remain. The word strengthen means to stabilize that which is frail. Jesus is, in effect, saying, "Stay with me, church. Don't give up now."

Beginning this month, we will spend the next months studying the Book of Acts as a church. It's an amazing story of how the early church grew 2,000 years ago as it allowed God's Spirit to move people to share His good news with the world. God is preparing us for some great opportunities to be the church in the years ahead. This month come worship, come grow and go in the love of Christ.

God is with us... Pastor Scott



OUR NEXT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) PLANNING MEETING WILL BE MONDAY, MAY 10th AT 7 P.M. ONLINE ON ZOOM.

We had our last meeting of the Ceresco Area Vacation Bible School planning group on April 26th. This year, we are picking up on last year's planning and moving ahead with our "In The Wild" theme. We are hoping to have a large tent on the church lawn as part of our VBS program this summer. **The dates for VBS will be Monday, July 19th through Thursday, July 22nd** and open to all area children who are in pre-school through completing 5th grade. Registration information will be distributed through the Ceresco and Valparaiso elementary schools and local preschools later this month.



We are back to worshipping and gathering in person at Immanuel. Our mask mandate has changed and masks are optional now. If you are feeling ill, please stay home until you are feeling better so that others may remain healthy.

We will continue to offer worship online by Zoom at 9:30 a.m. as we've been doing for the past months.

Our permanent online Zoom link is <https://zoom.us/j/8780165113>

OUR SUMMER SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM REMAINS THROUGH LABOR DAY WEEKEND.



**Remembering
Our Homebound Members**

Please remember Immanuel's homebound members in your prayers:

Barb Basel (Barb is living with her daughter and son-in-law)

27765 County Rd. 14 – Hooper NE 68031
402.719.4596 (Home) 402.480.2582 (Cell)

John Christiansen

1509 County Rd. B – Ceresco, NE 68017
402.429.6475

Marie Johnson

2425 Folkways Blvd, #336 – Lincoln NE 68521
402.438.5618 (home) 402.417.9537 (cell)

Dale Rexilius

c/o Tabitha GracePointe
4620 Randolph St, #203 – Lincoln NE 68510 402.484.9318



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY WAS APRIL 18

Sunday, April 18th we celebrated nine teens affirming their faith in Christ at Immanuel. We had 104 people gather at the church building and over 20 household online. What a great day to share together!

Those being Confirmed this year were:

Ninth graders: Kyle Peterson and Joe Weaver

Eighth graders: Jace Badberg, Kory Ball, Owen Kreikemeier, Taylor Oldfield, Reid Otto, Ashlyn and Hunter Sykes.

IMMANUEL'S BASEMENT REMODELING



This summer, Immanuel's basement kitchen and main area will be undergoing renovation. Eastmont, in Lincoln, is selling some of its newer cabinets which we may use. Watch for information in upcoming church newsletters and the church's entry area for more information about the ideas shared and the progress being made. We are looking to make the basement kitchen user friendly for youth events and adult study groups.

Please share your ideas or suggestions about how we can best renovate the main basement area, the kitchen and a bathroom space. You can share your ideas with any of our Church Council members: Justin Badberg, Janis Bible, Jamie Fredrickson, Jared Hedges, or Lisa Kaiser.

Thank you to Jared Hedges for heading up the church basement's kitchen renovation!

Immanuel's global missionaries – The Wade family

Serving Bibleless people in Papua New Guinea (PNG)

with Wycliffe Bible Translators

HEADING BACK

Friends, just a quick note to let you know that we have headed back to Papua New Guinea on April 27th and arrived at our house in Ukarumpa on the 30th! We'll do 2 weeks of quarantine there, and then it will be back to normal life. Those are our plans, anyway, which we lay before the Lord in willing surrender. Please pray with us that His will would be done and His name honored in our every step.



We hope to get out to Sivauna village for a short visit between the end of quarantine and the beginning of rainy season. We'd like to spend a week or so meeting with the translation team and language committee, hearing from them how we can be supporting their work. Another big desire we all have is to show the newly-finished JESUS Film in Mamusi in Sivauna and in as many villages as we can get to! We're thrilled to have the completed film in hand and in time to carry it back to PNG with us. We'd like to make the film available to people to play on their devices as well, and the best way to do that in PNG is to sell micro SD cards with the movie file pre-loaded. Please let us know if you'd like to be a part of providing this opportunity to our Mamusi friends.

Please pray with us over the next few weeks as we settle back into ministry in PNG and that we'd see clearly the next steps that the Lord has for us.

May 2021 Immanuel Calendar

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
2 9:30 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Coffee and Fellowship time	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 9:30 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Coffee and Fellowship time 7 pm Immanuel Church Council meets online	10 7 pm Vacation Bible School planning – online meeting	11	12	13	14	15
16 9:30 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Coffee and Fellowship time	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 9:30 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Coffee and Fellowship time	May 24 th through 29 th IMMANUEL YOUTH BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE TRIP IN NORTHERN MINNESOTA					
30 9:30 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Coffee and Fellowship time	31 MEMORIAL DAY	REMEMBER... THE CRESCO AREA COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS THIS SUMMER ON JULY 19TH THROUGH 23RD AT IMMANUEL				



Save the date for Friday, September 24th and Saturday, September 25th for photos to be taken at Immanuel. The Huskers have an “away” football game with Michigan State that weekend so mark these dates on your calendar and

watch for more information as we get ready to have a new church directory for Immanuel. Universal Church Directories will be working with us on this project. We had to postpone the directory photography last year due to the pandemic.

Prayer List

Christie Bevington (Health – member)
Matthew Weaver (Health – member)
Barb Basel
Judy Nord (cancer)
Remos Kuntz (Health)
Bill Bohling (Cancer/Heart - Crystal's Dad)
Nancy Lind-Olson (Pneumonia – Olson)
Gary & Rhonda Westendorf (Health – Wischhof)
Amanda Ray (Cancer – Hedges)
Lani Swanson (Covid – L Pearson)
Makena Garrison (17 yrs old – Neurofibromatosis – Bevington)
Belinda Basel (Cancer – Otto)
Lora Robinson (Health – Fran's sister)
Mike Hnizda (Health – Fran's brother)
Jo Ann Koepke (Health & Safety – Janis' sister)
Andrea Christensen (Health – J Christensen)
Rob Bonow (Throat Cancer – Otto)
Heather Lucht (Health – Hanson)
Ron Weltruski (Bone cancer – Hedges)
Kim Pearson (Health – L Pearson)
Joyce Miller (Health)
Larry Russel (Health)
Sydney Kenning & Family (Strength & comfort)
Health & Protection of Everyone

May Ushers & Lectors

MAY USHERS

May 2 - Justin & Kristy Badberg
May 9 - Fran Freeman
May 16 - Jon & Janis Bible
May 23 - Leroy & Barb Hanson
May 30 - Jodi Boden

MAY LECTORS

May 2 - Kristy Badberg
May 9 - Fran Freeman
May 16 - Aaron Haake
May 23 - Donna Hanson
May 30 - Jodi Boden

**May
Food Pantry
Canned Vegetables**