

# CONNECTIONS

Newsletter April/May 2015

*All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals including the Lord's Supper, and to prayer.*

- Acts 2:42

## Mark Your Calendar

**APRIL 8, 9**

Congregational Meeting

**APRIL 12**

Annual Meeting

**APRIL 19**

Reel Faith

**APRIL 26**

TV Sending Joint Service

**MAY 3**

Newcomers Gathering

**MAY 10**

Reel Faith

**MAY 22-23**

Spring Retreat

**MAY 30**

Women's Brunch



**IMMANUEL CHURCH**  
EQUHENIAKYRKAN IN STOCKHOLM

[www.immanuel.se](http://www.immanuel.se)  
Kungstensgatan 17, Stockholm

# From the Pastor

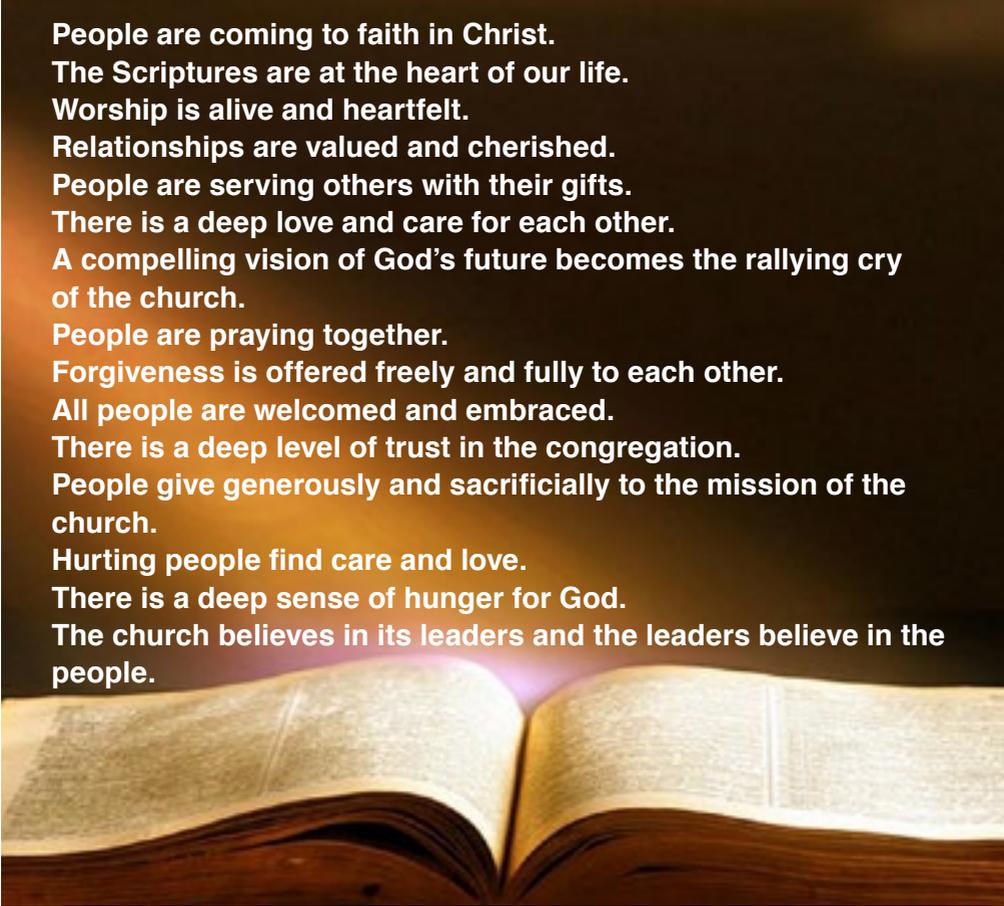
## HEALTHY and MISSIONAL

In the ministry of Congregational Vitality among Covenant churches in the United States the goal is for all of our churches to be healthy and missional. By “healthy” we mean pursuing Christ. By “missional” we mean pursuing Christ’s priorities in the world. The health and missional nature of the church is more important than growth or income or the number of programs or the size of the facility. So what is it that makes a congregation ‘missional.’ When we think of ‘missional’, we are thinking about the entire mind-set of the congregation being focused on joining with the Triune God, the LORD of all creation, in His mission. God is a missional God. He has a plan that embraces all of creation, a plan to reconcile all things and all people to Himself. He invites us, calls us, and implores us to be part of that mission.

The vitality movement among Covenant churches identifies 10 marks of a healthy and missional church. We believe that when these marks are lived out in a congregation regardless of size or locale the congregation will be healthy and missional. I’m going to list them and ask you to slowly ponder how these marks are lived out in your life and in the life of our church.

1. The centrality of the Word of God (*2 Timothy 3:16*)
2. Life-transforming walk with Jesus (*John 3:3, 30; Phil. 1:6*)
3. Intentional evangelism (*Matthew 28:18-20*)
4. Transforming communities through active compassion, mercy and justice ministries (*Micah 6:8*)
5. Global perspective and engagement (*Acts 1:8*)
6. Compelling Christian community (*Acts 2:42-47*)
7. Heartfelt worship (*Psalms 138:1a; John 4:23*)
8. Sacrificial and generous living and giving (*Romans 12:1-8*)
9. Culture of godly leadership (*Hebrews 13:7*)
10. Fruitful organizational structures (*Exodus 18:13-26; Acts 6:1-7*)

I pray that these marks will describe the life and ministry of Immanuel International. As these marks are lived out in the life of any church the results will be that:



**People are coming to faith in Christ.**  
**The Scriptures are at the heart of our life.**  
**Worship is alive and heartfelt.**  
**Relationships are valued and cherished.**  
**People are serving others with their gifts.**  
**There is a deep love and care for each other.**  
**A compelling vision of God’s future becomes the rallying cry of the church.**  
**People are praying together.**  
**Forgiveness is offered freely and fully to each other.**  
**All people are welcomed and embraced.**  
**There is a deep level of trust in the congregation.**  
**People give generously and sacrificially to the mission of the church.**  
**Hurting people find care and love.**  
**There is a deep sense of hunger for God.**  
**The church believes in its leaders and the leaders believe in the people.**

The list could go on, but this gives us much to ponder and to pray over. Immanuel International has a marvelous history of health and mission. Now we are called to carry on this mission, to give ourselves to the Lord’s work so that our fellowship is healthy and focused on the mission of God. At our Spring Retreat we will look more deeply at what it means to be healthy and missional. See page 13 for details on the Spring Retreat.

Blessings,  
Steve Armfield  
Pastor Immanuel International Fellowship

# Preaching Schedule

April/May

## APRIL 12 What Easter Means to Me

Philippians 3:10,11

Pastor Steve Armfield preaching

**Theme:** We might choose to build our life on performance or nationality, or passion, or education, or status, but Paul threw all that aside and built his life on the cross and empty tomb.

## APRIL 19 The Mission of Jesus

John 20:21

Pastor Steve Armfield preaching

**Theme:** Jesus' mission was central to everything He did. He was compassionate toward all, and it cost Him everything ... Now He gives that mission to us.

## APRIL 26 JOINT SERVICE - upstairs sanctuary at 11.00

TV-Recording

See page 6 for information.

## MAY 3 A Missional Church

Luke 10:1-24

Pastor Steve Armfield preaching

Communion

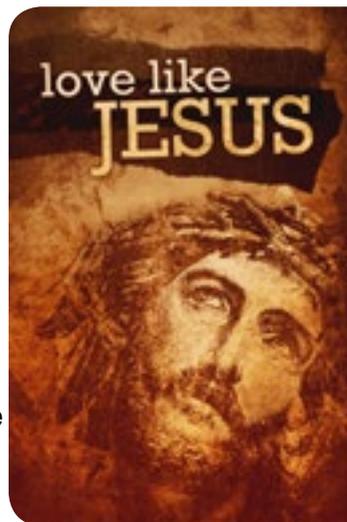
**Theme:** Jesus sends His followers on a mission ... they go without money, supplies, or experience, and proclaim the Kingdom of God.

## MAY 10 I'm Changed

1 John 3:2

Pastor Steve Armfield preaching

**Theme:** God's great goal for you is to change you to be like Jesus.



## MAY 17 Vision

Isaiah 6

Pastor Steve Armfield preaching

**Theme:** When we see who God is, we see who we really are, and in turn, we can see what we are to do in the world.

## MAY 24 Clarity

Revelation 4 & 5

Pastor Steve Armfield preaching

**Theme:** The hosts of heaven give us a clear picture of ultimate joy and fulfillment.

## MAY 31 Unity

John 17:20-23

Pastor Steve Armfield preaching

**Theme:** There is a unity in the church that transcends all barriers. An amazing diversity that unites in Christ to form a unique and powerful family.

## Congregational Meetings

### Wednesday, 8 April

18.00 // Immanuel Church  
Shareholders meeting.

### Thursday, 9 April

18.00 // in Congressen  
Information concerning the  
Annual Report 2014.

### Annual Meeting - Sunday, 12 April

13.00 // Immanuel Church

Everyone is welcome to these meetings!

At the Annual Meeting,  
you must be a member to vote.

# Immanuel on TV!

**On any given Sunday**, about 700 people meet for worship in Immanuel church. In May, considerably more will have the possibility of being with us, because Sveriges Television (SVT) will be broadcasting four worship services from our church: on 10, 17, 24 and 31 May. Johannes Söderberg, SVT's production manager responsible for Sunday service broadcasts, says that usually there are about 100,000 people watching each week! So it will be an exceptional opportunity for those of us in Immanuel to meet a large number of visitors via their TV sets.



**Johannes also says** that there are different groups watching the broadcasts. As expected, there are those who would want to attend in person, but are unable to do so for various reasons, and therefore choose to watch from their sofas. But there is a significant group of visitors, who are not used to attending worship services, and who sneak in and take a peek. Watching on the quiet, says Johannes.

**Whoever happens** to be watching, the TV-services in May will reach considerably more people than normal. Those of us used to worshipping in Immanuel will probably not feel completely at home in these services, however, we hope that as much as possible will seem familiar. We do hope that our TV guests will feel welcome, and that some of them might get in touch with us in the future. We will need to help each other by being open and hospitable, keeping our eyes open for any new visitors wishing to take part in one of our fellowship groups.

**You who are** a member, friend, or regular worshipper, are of course extremely important in all of this. Many will be taking part in word, in music, or in other ways. **Please write 10.45 am on Sunday 26 April in your calendar! Everyone needs to be present that day to participate in singing and praying in a large-scale musical worship service! Recording will start at 11.00 o'clock! Everyone is needed!** There will be a break for fruit and drinks in the middle of the recording, and it will should be over by 13.15 pm. More details about that particular Sunday will

be sent out, but the idea is that all the congregational singing and a few other items will be recorded then.

**This is how** it will work: four services will be recorded in three days. They are being put together by different groups together with Johannes Söderberg. In the middle of week 17 the equipment will be brought in – a major task, which means that all recording will take place in the main sanctuary. On Friday the readings, sermons and other spoken items will be recorded. On the Saturday, choirs and music groups will do their bit – and on the Sunday we will ALL take part! The services will be characterised by the traditions of our different language groups, and one of them will be a joint service for all groups.

**Please pray** for this! At the end of the day, the Gospel is what we want to share in these worship services. Pray that the love of God, the freedom of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit will be present in the meeting between our congregation and those participating, both in Church, and – in May – via SVT.

## Prayer Counselors For Communion Sunday



On Communion Sundays, the Prayer counselors will meet at 10.00 in one of the small conference rooms across from the fika area. There will be both teaching on praying the Word, and a time of prayer for the service. Anyone who wants to learn more about praying the Word of God is welcome to join us. A time for personal prayer needs will be held during the communion and after the service.



**FAITH BUILDERS**  
**Sunday School for ages 12-14**

**Faith Builders:** Each Sunday during the worship service, Faith Builders gathers in the youth room to dig into God’s Word, share from our lives and have fun! Youth in this group will stay in the service until we finish the praise and worship time. They are then invited to leave the service through the main exit and make their way to the youth room which is located directly behind our sanctuary. Class will finish no later than 12.30.

During this spring, we will be looking at some of the big questions that we often face about God, and learning practical lessons to help us live fruitful lives for Him. We will ask questions such as What does God think about war? Can it be proven that God exists? Why does the bible contradict itself at times?

**CLUB 24**

**Fortnightly Friday evening ministry for ages 12-14**

We meet every other Friday evening or Saturday afternoon for combined events with Digging Deeper. The aim of this ministry is to seek to grow in relationship with each other and with God. Youth are informed by SMS when and where we are meeting. There will be a light snack before the main event starts. Speak to Ben to get onto the SMS list.

**DIGGING DEEPER**

**Weekly Friday evening ministry for ages 15-19**

Digging Deeper meets at 18.00 on Friday evenings. We will share a meal together, followed by a time of getting to know each other through fun games, and exploring the word of God while learning how to apply our faith into our daily lives. The evening ends at 21:00. On alternate Fridays, we will join with Club 24 for joint planned events.

**DIGGING DEEPER & CLUB 24 SCHEDULE**

**APRIL**

- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Digging Deeper  
*Games Evening*
- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Club 24 & Digging Deeper  
*Stockholm Scaveganza!*
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> NO YOUTH EVENT (TV broadcast recording)

**MAY**

- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Club 24 & Digging Deeper  
*Crazy Golf*
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Digging Deeper  
*Dinner & Discussion*
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Club 24 & Digging Deeper  
*Summer Party! Grill & Express Yourself Café*

**SUMMER CAMP - at Holsby Brunn, Sweden**



**Summer Camp is happening this year** from Sunday, 28 June to Saturday, 4 July. We welcome all youth aged 12-15 to sign up. This truly is a highlight of the year for our youth ministry.

Please note that this year, Summer Camp has been extended by one day. We will be having lunch at church after the Sunday service, and leaving for camp shortly afterwards at 14.30.

**COST:** 2,000 (or 3,200 for two children in a family)

**DEADLINE for sign ups and payment is Sunday, 24 May.** See Ben Tatlow for more information. Sign up forms are available at the welcome desk.

# Children's Ministry



*Sunday School is a wonderful place for our children to grow in their faith as they grow in stature.... A place where they can learn more about who Jesus is and experience the love of God in creative ways.*

As spring approaches with its many changes, we seek to keep pace with the great strides that our children make each week in their Sunday School classes. From the brand new 2-year-old discovering what it means to be part of a Sunday School group for the first time...to the older 11 year olds who enter their last term in Children's Ministry. Each one at very different stages in their faith experience in Children's Sunday School, and yet each experiencing God in very real ways. Our very committed staff of teachers and helpers continue to give of their time and love, so that our children will know that they have a home here at Immanuel International Fellowship, and that God truly loves them for who they are. Our aim is that they will have a true understanding of the fact that Jesus wants to have a personal relationship with them, and that He will never leave them. That they would understand that God equips them to share the Good News to those around them.

As we celebrate Easter, the children will focus on the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross, and how we can have new life in Him. The children will then learn how to relate to Jesus through many different stories in the Bible, and how God related to His people. During this first unit of the Spring Quarter, our youngest children will learn that Jesus is the King, Jesus is alive, and He is always with us. During the second unit of the Spring Quarter, the little one's will hear the story of Paul and Silas praying in prison and the story of Peter's friends praying while Peter was in jail. Kids will learn that we can pray to Jesus anywhere and anytime. The children will also learn through hearing the stories of Noah and Jonah that God wants us to obey.

Our 6-8 year olds will hear how Daniel remained faithful to God even when faced with some difficult situations. The children will learn about obedience, faith, behavior, and trusting in the power of God. Following this series, the children will learn about the calling of the Twelve Apostles. It will help children understand that Jesus is also calling them, and He wants them to tell others about the Good News of Jesus.

Our oldest children will hear how Jesus understands the troubles that we go through and that He will compassionately help us through difficult times. They will hear how Jesus not only understands our troubles, but also that He will help us get through the difficult times in our lives. Children will learn that difficulties, although not pleasant, help us grow and mature in our walk with Jesus. Jesus is there, lovingly helping us through these times of refinement. The children will learn that there are a lot of ways that children can help others in the community, whether it be at home, school or church.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this wonderful ministry to children, please don't hesitate to contact Geri.

Blessings,  
Geri Lindberg  
Children's Ministry Director

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## Music



Singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts.

- Ephesians 5:19

### International Worship Music Team:

The Worship Music Team is scheduled on a rota basis. The team for each Sunday meets to rehearse on Wednesdays at 18:00 and then again on Sundays at 9:00. If you are interested in joining the worship team, please contact Anita Tatlow at [anita.tatlow@immanuelsskyrkan.se](mailto:anita.tatlow@immanuelsskyrkan.se)

# Weekly Events

Wondering where you can plug into a smaller group for fellowship and learning? Take a look at these groups that are meeting regularly and find the place where you belong!

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

This group is open to all women who would like to join. You can drop in anytime. All women are welcome and bring your friends!

**Tuesday Mornings at 10.00 in the Youth room on K1.**

We gather at 09.45 for coffee and tea, and start the study at 10.00.

**Contact** Geri Lindberg: geri.lindberg@immanuelskyrkan.se

## MOMS IN PRAYER

We are a group of moms who meet for one hour every week to intercede on behalf of our children and schools through prayer.

**Tuesday Afternoons at 12.30 in the Youth room on K1**

**Contacts:** Susan Fries: susanfries@yahoo.com and

Erin Person: erin.person@ymail.com

## YOUNG ADULTS BIBLE STUDY

This group is geared for students and young professionals in their 20's & 30's. We gather for a meal followed by a Bible study. Suggested donation for the meal is 20 kr.

**Tuesday Evenings at 18.00 in the Youth room on K1**

**Contact** Nienke Kuipers: kuipers.nienke@gmail.com

## MEN'S MINISTRY:

Men's Ministry will meet on Tuesday, 7 April at 18.30 at Pastor Steve's apartment on Tegnégatan 4. All men are welcome! For door code call Stephanie at 587 503 62.

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP THROUGH EXERCISE

Any woman can attend who is interested in fellowship through exercise. You do not have to be well trained. All women are welcome to join this gathering.

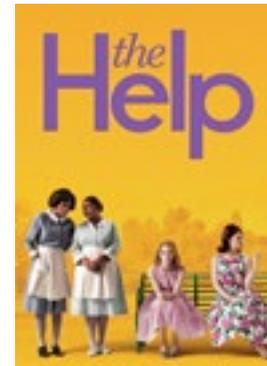
**Friday Evenings at 18.00 in the small gym on K3**

**Contact** Hannah Akuffo: h.akuffo54@gmail.com.



"Reel" Faith is a Sunday afternoon of exploring meaningful theological themes revealed in film. This winter we are offering a new learning experience pertaining to life and faith in Christ using some outstanding films that address core issues that Christianity speaks to. On the third Sunday afternoon of each month we will feature a film for adults (no cost, but no child care either!) that will allow the participants to engage in meaningful discussion concerning the theological themes that were raised.

## Here's the schedule for the upcoming months:



**Sunday, 19 April**

13.30-16.30 **The Help**

An aspiring author during the civil rights movement of the 1960s decides to write a book detailing the African-American maids' point of view on the white families for which they work, and the hardships they go through on a daily basis. This film is for anyone over 13 years of age. (2 hours for the film/1 hour for group discussion.)



**Sunday, 10 May**

13.30-16.30 **The Book Thief**

While subjected to the horrors of World War II Germany, young Liesel finds solace by stealing books and sharing them with others. In the basement of her home, a Jewish refugee is being sheltered by her adoptive parents. This film is for anyone over 13 years of age. (2 hours for the film/1 hour for the group discussion.)



**Newcomers Gathering**  
 Sunday, 3 May 2015 | 14.00 - 15.30

All newcomers to Immanuel are welcome to Pastor Steve’s apartment on Sunday, 3 May at 14.00. A light snack will be served. Come with questions, meet other newcomers, as well as established members and enjoy a warm afternoon of fellowship.

If you would like to attend, please send our secretary Stephanie an E-mail: stephanie.vonohain@immanuelskyrkan.se or text message: 0704 80 71 46 by April 29<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to meeting you more personally so please, join us! Address is Tegnérsgatan 4 and the door code will be given to you when you RSVP.



# Spring Retreat - May 22-23

Location of the Retreat is at Kårsögården on the beautiful Lake Mälaren. **Registration will be available** on April 19, May 3, 10 & 17 near the Café.



## Congregational Vitality .... An Invitation to Adventure!

*“I will put breathe in you and you will come to life.  
 Then you will know that I am the Lord.” Ezekiel 37:6*

When we think of vitality we think of something that is alive, healthy, strong, and growing. Vitality in the church will be the theme of our Spring retreat. We’ll look at what it means to be part of a church that is strong and vigorous. Vitality in a church begins with God. It does not begin with systems, strategies, or structures but with repentance, prayer and the power of the Spirit. Vitality is often accompanied by a true sense of desperation and brokenness before God.

It centers in the mission and message of Jesus, and is cultivated by a sense of mystery and a conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit. It is based on reality, and requires an honest assessment of where we are before God. We often say “There is no vitality without reality. “

Vitality often comes with a measure of conflict and opposition. So preparing for this challenge requires courage, hope, perseverance, wisdom, and graciousness. It is not a quick fix but rather a life-long journey. It’s a great journey to take together. Please consider being part of this journey as we come together as a church at our Spring Retreat. During the adult sessions, children and teens will be having their own sessions.

The cost is 350 kr for ages 12 and older, 150 kr for kids 2-11. Under 2 are free.



**FREE CONCERT**  
**MAY 26 ■ 19.00**  
**IMMANUEL CHURCH**

The Yale Alley Cats, is a fourteen-person all-male a cappella ensemble. They have been spreading music around the world since 1943. They find their roots in jazz, but their repertoire has grown to include Motown, pop, classical, and many more genres.

**A free will offering will be taken to help with their expenses.**



Kungstengsgatan 17 • Stockholm • T-bana Rådmanngatan

**Women's Brunch**  
**- Saturday, 30 May at 11.00**

*"My frame was not hidden from You when I was being formed in secret; intricately and curiously wrought, as if embroidered with various colors as a beautiful tapestry while hidden in the darkness."*

*- Psalm 139:15*



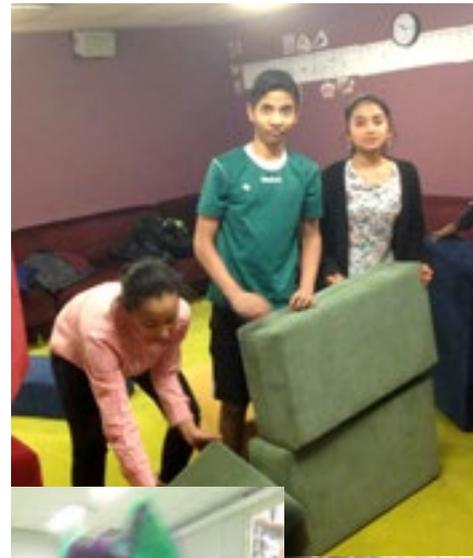
Jesus gave us two "new commandments" - **Love God with all your heart**, and **love your neighbor as yourself**. What most of us tend to overlook is, the "as yourself" part.

All women are invited to a brunch on Saturday, 30 May at 11.00 in Waldenströmsalen. We will explore together what it can mean if we do not love ourselves. Women are known to be caregivers and caretakers for others, often times at the expense of their own emotional and/or physical health.

Come share in this nurturing time where we'll enjoy good food and fellowship as we learn more about how to consciously love ourselves.

**Tickets cost 50 kr and will be on sale**  
**Sundays May 10, 17, and 24 after the worship service.**

# LOCK-IN MOMENTS



If you are interested in giving your offering via post-giro, please use the following information:  
Immanuelskyrkan Plus-Giro 9 21-7 or  
Bank-Giro 181-0936. Always indicate that it is for the **International Fellowship**. Thanks.