

Immanuel Lutheran Church May 2024 Newsletter

Our secular neighbors know two holidays in the month of May: Mother's Day and Memorial Day. Mother's Day always falls on a Sunday, and we thank God for our mothers, but Mother's Day is not on the church's calendar. Also in May, Memorial Day always falls on a Monday; citizens of this nation pause to remember those who died while serving in its military. As Christians, we have another memorial day on November 1: All Saints' Day, when we may pause to remember the faithful who have gone before us and rest peacefully in Jesus.

The three biggest days on the church's calendar are Christmas (focused on the Father's gift of his only Son to be our Savior), Easter (marking the Son's victory over death), and Pentecost (celebrating the outpouring of the Spirit on the church). Easter has a movable date that varies by about a month from year to year, so the church's calendar from Ash Wednesday to Pentecost will shift forward or backward as well. Since Easter was rather early this year, the great fifty days of the Easter season will come to an end in May. One week later, on Holy Trinity Sunday, will mark the fiftieth anniversary of Immanuel's organ.

But there's another Christian holiday that is too often neglected if not entirely forgotten. It always falls on a Thursday, forty days after Easter, during a busy time. Farmers are in the fields, or they want to be, and others are mowing their lawns, tending their gardens, and firing up their grills. Athletes and fans are at ball games or track meets (or on their bicycles). People are planning for graduations. Graduates are moving on to whatever comes next in their lives. In the middle of all these things, Ascension Day is easily neglected or forgotten.

Yet we know that forty days after he rose from the dead, our Lord Jesus ascended into heaven. 20th century Lutheran hymn writer Jaroslav Vajda puts these prayers to our ascended Lord Jesus on our lips: "Now for us before the Father as our brother intercede. Send Your Spirit, promised guide" (LSB 491:2, 3). Medieval theologian Bede the Venerable left us this prayer: "Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, and be our future great reward" (LSB 493:5). From Ascension Day until the Last Day, the church waits. It's a long wait, yet it's a hopeful time. LCMS pastor and author William Weedon has written, "The visible presence of Christ has withdrawn into his invisible presence in Word and Sacraments. We join the ages in the long wait for Jesus' final appearing yet are comforted by his constant nearness" (*Celebrating the Saints*, CPH 2016). Come, Lord Jesus!

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH MAY 2024 CALENDAR

Wednesday, May 1 st	12:15 Chapel – Pastor Eichhorn
Saturday, May 4 th	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, May 5 th	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
Monday, May 6 th	Teacher Appreciation Week – May 6-10 Conference Track Meet
Tuesday, May 7 th	SID Spring Pastoral Conference at Holy Cross, Collinsville
Wednesday, May 8 th	8:15 p.m. - Chapel – Pastor Wood
Friday, May 10 th	All day – K-8 Highland Rec Center
Saturday, May 11 th	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service Lutheran School Track Meet
Sunday, May 12 th	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
Monday, May 13 th	Grades 5-8 Trip to Chicago May 13-15 7:30 p.m. - Elders Meeting
Wednesday, May 15 th	Last day of 3 yr. old pre-school
Thursday, May 16 th	8:15 a.m. - 4 yr. old Pre-School Graduation 7:00 p.m. - 8 th Grade Graduation
Friday, May 17 th	8:15 a.m. - Kindergarten Graduation 12:15 p.m. Closing Chapel Service – Pastor Wood Awards Program following Chapel Last Day of School – Dismissal at 2:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 18 th	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, May 19 th	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class (Last Sunday for S.S.) 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
Monday, May 20 th	Institute Day – Teacher Attendance
Tuesday, May 21 st	Institute Day – Teacher Attendance
Wednesday, May 22 nd	6:30 p.m. – Parochial Board of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, May 23 rd	7:00 p.m. – LWML Meeting
Saturday, May 25 th	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service
Sunday, May 26 th	9:00 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal (No Bible Class) 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service including Organ Anniversary Celebration

From the Principal's Desk

ILS is searching for a certified preschool teacher for the 2024-2025 school year to begin August 1. The candidate should hold an Early Childhood certificate issued by the Illinois State Board of Education. Contact Ed Bower at 618-243-6142 with recommendations.

Congratulations to this year's Valedictorian, Katelyn Gogolek and Salutatorian, Clayton Hermanns. They will present their speeches at the graduation service on May 16.

Upcoming school dates:

- May 6 Conference Track Meet
- May 10 Highland Rec Center Swim - All School
- May 11 Lutheran School Track meet
- May 13-15 5-8 grade Class Trip to Chicago
- May 15 3-year-old pre-school last day of attendance
- May 16 4-year-old pre-school graduation 8:15 am
8th grade graduation 7:00 pm
- May 17 Kindergarten Graduation 8:15 am
Chapel and awards 12:15 pm
School Dismissed for the year 2:30 pm

More Than a Negative

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without *technically* lying. You tell *just enough* of the truth to skate on by.

We often play the game of seeing *how close* we can get to sinning without *technically* going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people — we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to each of you who has a birthday in May. If we have overlooked someone, or have the incorrect date, please contact the church office and the records will be corrected.

1. Laney Hundelt, Alexa Rennegarbe, Cora Schmidt, William Strasburg
2. Danielle Eggemann, Gene Frederking
3. Jose Eggemann, Cindy Kuhlengel
Matthew Bolam
4. Earl Weeke
5. Victoria Woods
6. Elizabeth Guest, Saxon Cantrell
9. Kylie Hasheider
13. Kelly Heckert
14. James Hasheider
19. Pam Wienstroer
20. Evan Perry
22. Bill Frederking, Lauren Elliott, Jonathan Kraus
24. Lisa Teter, Riley Clark
26. Wendy Streuter, Kera Harre
27. Stacy Friedrich, Verdell Unverfehrt
28. Levi Traub, Owen Hevner
29. Douglas Bening
30. Blakely Glynn, Leonard Hemminghaus
31. Kristal Jacobs, Maylen Kramper, Kermit Muelken, Piper Langenfeld

VISITATION COMMITTEE

Carolyn Rennegarbe

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Laura Obermeier and Malinda Weeke

ACOLYTES

- Saturday, May 4th – Nolan Langenfeld
Sunday, May 5th – Dylan Seaton
Saturday, May 11th – Rex Obermeier
Sunday, May 12th – Tyler Storck
Saturday, May 18th – Landan Kraus
Sunday, May 19th – Lily Gass
Saturday, May 25th – Emmerson Hasheider
Sunday, May 26th – Kooper Suedmeyer

ORGANISTS

- Saturday, May 4th – Nora Wood
Sunday, May 5th – Sharon Krueger
Saturday, May 11th – Nora Wood
Sunday, May 12th – Barbara Croessman
Saturday, May 18th – Barbara Croessman
Sunday, May 19th – Sharon Krueger
Saturday, May 25th – Nora Wood
Sunday, May 26th – Pastor Eichhorn

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

- Saturday, May 4th – Kent Helbig
Sunday, May 5th – Jonathan Schneider
Saturday, May 18th – Mike Jacobs
Sunday, May 19th – Dennis Pruehsner

USHERS FOR MAY

- Saturday –
Sunday –

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 5-5 Steve & Charlene Elliott
5-6 Leonard & Lois Obermeier
5-8 Jason & Dana Obermeier
Norbert & Betty Hasheider
5-10 Tyson & Anna Long
5-16 Jeff & Laura Obermeier
5-28 William & Charlotte Durham
5-31 Steve & Tina Horvath

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School students will be singing on Mother's Day and will make surprises for mom during Sunday School that day.

Sunday School will break for summer after May 19th. We have begun planning for VBS June 17th-21st - Celebrate the Savior! Contact Erin Kurtz, Allison Dunn or Krissy Schnieder if you'd like to volunteer.

New Member

Marita Hemman recently joined Immanuel. She is a lifelong Lutheran, originally from Iowa, retired from the banking business, and previously lived in St. Charles, MO, and most recently at Lake Ozark, MO. We welcome Marita to Immanuel.

MEN'S CLUB

No Men's Club meetings will be held in the months of May and June. They will resume in July.

LWML NEWS

Thank you to all who contributed for the LWML collection for the Concordia Seminary Food Bank! We will deliver all of the items soon.

The April LWML meeting was cancelled due to stormy weather. We will next meet on Thursday, May 23 at 7pm in the church basement. Pat Quinlan will have the devotion, and Adeline Blumhorst will have the topic. Please join us!

Organ Anniversary Celebration

Immanuel's pipe organ turns fifty this year! Since its dedication back on Holy Trinity

Sunday, June 9, 1974, it has accompanied congregational singing of hymns and liturgies, choir anthems and solos, and school chapel services; provided beautiful music to suit all church year seasons, weddings, funerals, and graduation ceremonies, and an occasional concert or recital; and felt the touch of many fingers and feet of beginners and veterans who sat on the bench (which unlike in many sports is where all the action happens!).

In thanksgiving to God for this musical instrument and the many ways it has served to bring his Word into the lives countless people who have come and gone at Immanuel for half a century, we will recognize this milestone on Holy Trinity Sunday, May 26, 2024. Pastor Art Eichhorn will be our guest organist. This year also marks the 500th anniversary of the first Lutheran hymnal and the 300th anniversary of Bach's St. John Passion – both major developments in church music. The Holy Trinity Sunday service will sample from the past five centuries of Christian hymnody at approximately fifty-year intervals. We'll sing some hymns, but we'll also listen to hymn texts being quoted and hymn tunes being played.

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

The Alumni & Friends will host a yard sale at the school again this year. Funds are raised for the school. It supports a community event and helps area families. This project is a lot of work and the Board needs as much help as we can get this year. Many thanks to the teachers and students of Immanuel, who have helped move tables to the gym over the years! This in itself is a big job and the kids make quick work out of something that would take our small group hours to accomplish. This task is planned for May 17th. Donations may be taken to the gym after school is out for the year. We plan to work as often as is necessary to get the donations displayed and priced. Items are taken to the area where they will be sold and the pricing is completed later. This creates a more consistent pricing process and opens the opportunity to volunteer to a much broader group. Thank you to everyone who has donated in the past or plans to donate this year. Last year close to \$3,000 was raised through your donations! For the past two years, sale hours were held during two weekends (Thursday, Friday and Saturday). We are trying to schedule sale dates and times. However, we need to see when volunteers are available before final decisions are made. During sale days, volunteers will be needed for

bagging, occasional straightening of items and cashiers. There will be a sign-up sheet at church or you can speak with any Alumni and; Friends board member. At this time, we are looking at the following dates: May 30 and 31, June 1, 6, 7 and; 8. Refreshments will be available for volunteers. Last year, after the sale was over, we opened the school on Monday night so that people could come and take what they could use. It was well attended and benefitted several low-income families even more! Others came and gave donations for things they found. This worked out very well and there was a smaller amount of items than we have had in past years that we moved forward to another group to use. Please consider volunteering for this project. Any amount of time helps! Thank you in advance!

EASTER LILIES

The Altar Guild again thanks the following for purchasing lilies to decorate our Altar for the Easter season. The Lilies came from the following: Adeline Blumhorst and family in memory of Roland Blumhorst; Gene and Sharon Frederking in memory of parents, Edwin and Erna Frederking and Virgil and Ruby Hoelscher; Eula Haier in memory of husband, Fred Haier; Ruth Harre in memory of husband, Duane, grandson Brody, parents William and Eileen Auld; Henry and Verdell Harre; brother-in-law Ken Harre and Jim Blair; Bob and Donna Kraus (2 lilies) one in memory of parents Carl and Arlene Kraus, sister Connie; the other in memory of LaVern and Hazel Dick; Larry and Cindy Kuhlengel in memory of parents Rufus and Flora Kuhlengel and parents Ray and Lorine Schuette; Kyle Martens and Donna Roseman (2 lilies) one in memory of Kyle's late wife, Kim Martens and father-in-law, Roger Canada and one in memory of parents, Jack and Lil Haenel and brother, Mark Haenel; Jeff and Laura Obermeier in memory of Laura's parents Joe and Ann Wojtowicz; Leonard and Lois Obermeier in memory of son-in-law, Keith Wienstroer and parents John and Ella Obermeier, and Henry and Verdell Harre; Gene and Carolyn Rennegarbe to the Glory of God; Verdell Unverfehrt in memory of husband, Alfred Unverfehrt; Earl and Ruth Weeke in memory of parents, Albert and Esther Weeke, Elmer and Loraine Hasheider, and brothers and sister, Wayne Hasheider, Elroy Weeke, and Cheryl Oeltjen. Also, a lily was donated by Campagna Funeral Home. Thank you everyone!

New Member Class?

Pastor Wood hopes to have a new member class this summer. Please help him get the word out to anyone who might be interested in finding out more about what Lutherans believe.

SCHOOL NEWS

School Registration Immanuel Lutheran School registration is on-going for Pre-School, 3 and 4-year-olds, and K-8. Registration is open enrollment for everyone. If you have any questions, please call 618-243-6142 or 243-6216.

If you know of anyone interested in our programs, please let the school office know.

THANK YOU

A special thank you to the following:

Prayer Pals sponsored by Immanuel LWML for providing Easter treats for the Pre-school through Grade 8.

The OHS Honors Society who sponsored an Easter Egg Hunt.

Eighth Grade Graduation is scheduled for Friday, May 16th at 7:00 p.m..

Graduates are as follows: Jonah Banks, son of Gabriel Banks; Lane Borrenpohl, son of Steven and Kelli Borrenpohl; Katelyn Gogolek, daughter of Chad and Stephanie Gogolek; Clayton Hermanns, son of Brad and Cyndi Hermanns; Michael McCarthy, son of Lee and Lena McCarthy; Rex Obermeier, son of Jason and Dana Obermeier; Dylan Seaton, son of Eric and Jennifer Seaton; Tyler Storck, son of Kenneth Jr. and Ashley Storck.

Kindergarten graduation – Friday, May 17th

8:15 am: The following will graduate –Evelyn Bourget, daughter of Angela and Chris Bourget; Cruz Grissom, son of Christopher and Kristina Grissom; Aubrie Koerkenmeier, daughter of Chris Koerkenmeier and McKenzie Downes; Benning Sauerhage, daughter of Benjamin and Sara Sauerhage; Brayden Wienstroer, son of Danny and Kristy Wienstroer.

Pre-School Graduation – Thursday, May 16th

8:15 a.m. The following will graduate: Cruz Barkau, son of Beau and Christine Barkau; Violet Bergmann, daughter of Willie and Stephanie Bergmann; William Bergmann, son of Willie and Stephanie Bergman; Gus Borrenpohl, son of Kenny and Beth Borrenpohl; Poppy Borrenpohl, daughter of Kenny and Beth Borrenpohl; Rhet Borrenpohl, son of Steven and

Kelli Borrenpohl; Everett Bourget, daughter of Chris and Angela Bourget; Auggie Buss, son of Brad and Jamie Buss; Andi Carrico, daughter of Steven and Melissa Carrico; Lilly Dunn, daughter of Scott and Allison Dunn; Byer Haas, son of Adam and Melanie Hass; Troy Heck, son of Ryan and Tiffany Heck; Isabella Karch, daughter of Jarrett and Bethany Karch; Crew Koepke, son of Lauren Keith and Steven Koepke; Henry Kohnen, son of Brad and Melissa Kohnen; Carson Kolweier, son of Brett and Lauren Kolweier; Adalynn Kurtz, daughter of Cole and Courtney Kurtz; Memphis Lange, son of John and Olivia Lange; Noah Lange, Neil and Kerri Lange; Ruby Nobe, daughter of Nathan and Cindy Nobe; Bretsyn Paul, son of Skylar and Paige Paul; Avery Rabenort, daughter of Lance and Christine Rabenort; Corbin Rednour, son of Tyler and Amber Rednour; Daxton Rhymer, son of Dustin Rhymer and Janessa Rhymer; Kolten Steinkamp, son of Jared and Dawn Steinkamp; Aiden Weeke, son of Jeremy and Sylvia Weeke.

HERITAGE HOUSE SPONSORED CARRY-OUT DINNER

The Heritage House Museum Association is sponsoring a carry-out dinner for Sunday, May 5, 2024, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Carry-outs can be picked up at the food stand building behind the Schlosser Complex property along West St. Louis Street.

The menu will include roast beef or roast pork, beef and noodles, homemade mashed potatoes, gravy, seasoned green beans, candied carrots and buttered corn. A dinner includes an entrée and 2 sides for \$13.00. Additional beef and noodles is available for \$10.00 a quart. Extra sides are also available for \$2.00 per serving. We will also have a great selection of homemade pie, cake, and various desserts for \$3.50. "All food is homemade". Proceeds will benefit the Museum Association and help pay for the maintenance and the perseverance of the museum properties that are major attractions for the town of Okawville.

For more information, call Jackie at 618-243-6213 or 618-541-7708. Leave a message with a phone number.

**WEEKLY WORSHIP RESOURCE
LISTING**

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 4 & 5, 2024

First Reading: Acts 10:34 - 48

Epistle: 1 John 5:1-8

Gospel: John 15:9-17

Order of Service – Divine Service Setting One

Hymns: 465 Now All the Vault of Heaven
Resounds

597 Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying

481 Scatter the Darkness, Break the Gloom

651 I Love Your Kingdom, Lord

655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word

480 He's Risen, He's Risen

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 11 & 12, 2024

First Reading: Acts 1:12-28

Epistle: 1 John 5:9-15

Gospel: John 17:11b-19

Order of Service – Prayer and Preaching

Hymns 553 O Christ, Our Hope, Our Hearts'
Desire

564 Christ Sits at God's Right Hand

701 Draw us to Thee

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

May 18 & 19, 2024

Old Testament: Ezekial 37:1-14

Second Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Gospel: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Order of Service – Divine Service Setting One

Hymns 650 Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

500 Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid

768 To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray

808 O Sing to the Lord

816 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

700 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

THE HOLY TRINITY

May 25 & 26, 2024

Old Testament: Isaiah 6:1-8

Second Reading: Acts 2:14a,22-36

Gospel: John 3:1-17

Order of Service – Responsive Prayer Two

Hymns 818 In Thee Is Gladness

733 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

796 When in Our Music God Is Glorified

953 We All Believe in One True God

780 O Lord, Hear My Prayer

505 Triune God, Be Thou Our Stay

940 Holy God, We Praise Thy Name