

Sermon: "To Make a Long Story Short" Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60
Saturday, May 2 & Sunday, May 3, 2026
Immanuel Lutheran Church & School
Okawville, Illinois 62271
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

WELCOME TO IMMANUEL

We gather on the Lord's Day knowing that "Christ being raised from the dead will never die again" (Romans 6:9). Welcome, visitors who have joined us today. If we can help in any way, please call: Church 618-243-6216 or School 618-243-6142.

Pastor Eric Wood

Phone: 618-243-2846

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Principal Kelli Borrenpohl

Phone: 618-243-6142

Email: principal@immanuelokawville.org

Immanuel Website: Immanuelokawville.org

Saturday: 15 Sunday: 70

Bible Class: 9 Sunday School: 9

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Prayer concerns to be included in our public prayers may be shared with Pastor Wood and/or the church office. Prayers may be for particular individuals or concerning wider issues. Let us pray!

- All members of Immanuel including:
 - At home –Norbert Hasheider, Kellee Helbig, Martha Schneider, Linda Schuetz, Jackie Schwankhaus, Stanley Schwankhaus, Crystal Strasburg, Mike Strasburg, Nancy Weeke
 - At Brightly in Mascoutah – Leonard Hemminghaus
 - At Bethesda Gardens in Loveland, Colorado – Carol Wennemann
- Non-members: Lisa Arbogast-Eilers, an ILS graduate; Betty Markowski, sister of Charlotte Durham; Crystal Hasheider, wife of Matt Hasheider; Tim Schnitker, son-in-law of Sharon Storck.
- That the Lord would continue to provide for his work in this place through generous giving, willing workers, and wise stewardship.
- The staff, faculty, and students of Immanuel Lutheran School
- The educational mission of Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School
- All who work or study in West Washington County Schools
- John Trinklein, second-year student at Concordia Seminary
- Reverend Rafael & Deaconess Jamielynn Flores, serving in Chile
- The mission work of the Southern Illinois District, including...
 - ...all congregations, schools, and district leaders
 - ...rural and small-town congregational support
 - ...urban ministry (neighborhood renewal and Unity school) in East St. Louis
 - ...campus ministry and international student outreach at SIU-C and SIU-E
 - ...prison and jail ministry in many locations
 - ...partnership with seminary in Dominican Republic
 - ...disaster response ministry (LERT)
 - ...Advocates for Life

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Order of Service - Divine Service Setting One

633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing (stanzas 1-6) (Sunday)

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

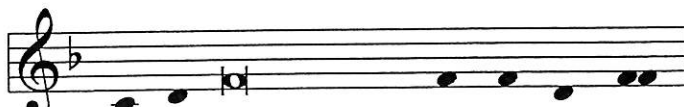
Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 30:1-5; antiphon: Psalm 149:1

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a | new song,*
his praise in the assembly of the | godly!
I will extol you, O LORD, for you have | drawn me up*
and have not let my foes rejoice | over me.
O LORD my God, I cried to | you for help,*
and you have | healed me.
O LORD, you have brought up my soul | from Sheol;*
you restored me to life from among those who go down | to the pit.
Sing praises to the LORD, O | you his saints,*
and give thanks to his | holy name.
For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a | lifetime.*
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the | morning.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a | new song,*
his praise in the assembly of the | godly!

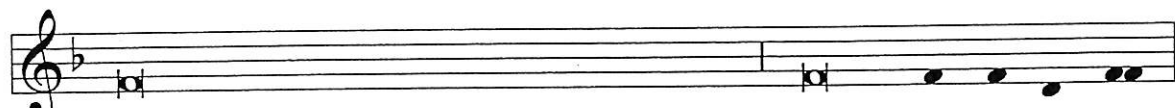
Kyrie



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



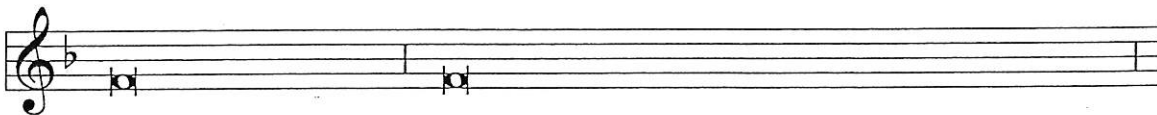
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



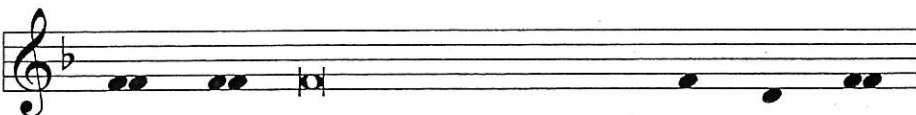
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

This Is the Feast

Refrain

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb _____ who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

First Reading

Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.

³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

²And Stephen said:

“Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

⁵¹You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous

One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Christ has risen | from the dead.*

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor.
He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;*
he has put all things un- | der his feet.

Epistle

1 Peter 2:2–10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

⁸and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

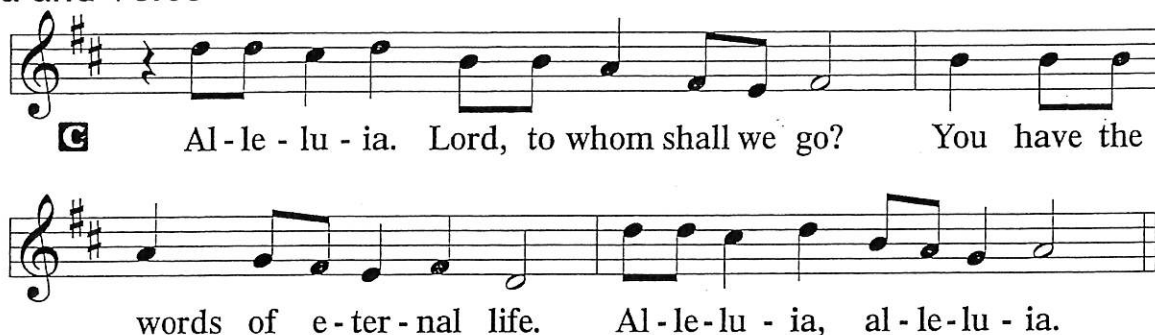
⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

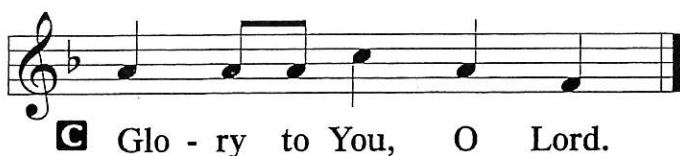


C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 14:1-14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

661 The Son of God Goes Forth to War

Sermon “To Make a Long Story Short”

Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

Stand

Nicene Creed

G I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,**

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).

Sit

Offering

Stand

Offertory



G What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface



P The Lord be with you.



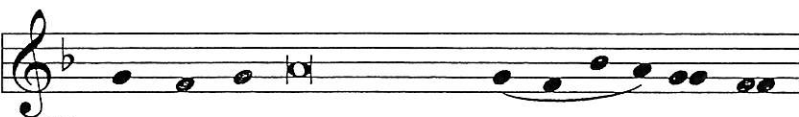
G And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



G We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



G It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus

Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



G A - men.

Agnus Dei



G Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

465 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

526 You Are the Way; through You Alone

861 Christ Be My Leader

Stand

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

C Amen.

Thank the Lord



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

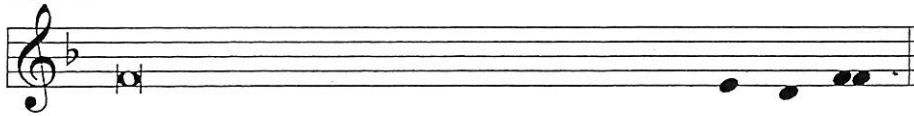
A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benediction



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing (Sunday)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Pastor:	Eric Wood
Pianist: (Saturday)	Sophia Wood
Organist: (Sunday)	Sharon Krueger
Acolytes: (Saturday)	Landon Elliott
(Sunday)	Maylen Kramper
Readers: (Saturday)	Jeff Obermeier
(Sunday)	Carolyn Rennegarbe
Communion Assistants (Saturday)	Kent Helbig
(Sunday)	Mike Jacobs

Birthdays, 3rd Jose Eggemann, Cindy Kuhlengel, Matthew Bolam, 4th Earl Weeke, 5th Victoria Woods, 6th Elizabeth Guest, Saxon Cantrell, 8th Elsie Guest, 9th Kylie Hasheider

May Ushers – Saturday – _____
Sunday – _____

Saturday service at 5:30 p.m.

Bible Class at 9:00 a.m. Topic is "Christ Is Risen Indeed".

Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.

Chapel this Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. with Pastor Wood

Adult Instruction Opportunity: If you or someone you know would be interested in learning more about what Lutherans believe, please talk to Pastor Wood. He hopes to start an adult instruction class soon.

Extra copies of the May newsletter are available on the table in the narthex. Please feel free to take one for yourself or someone else.

Voter's Meeting: Immanuel held their quarterly voter's meeting on Sunday, April 26. 28 were in attendance. The next scheduled quarterly voter's meeting will be held on Sunday, July 26, 2026, following the 9:00 a.m. worship service.

Finance Committee – We are wanting to remind everyone to please make note on your giving envelope which fund your donation should be applied to.

The Alumni & Friends Association Board has decided to host the yard sale again in June. We had planned to stop, however, there were so many requests to continue, we are going forward with the project again this year. This will be decided on a year-to-year basis and will depend on the level of volunteer help that is received. Donations will be accepted after school is dismissed for the year. This project benefits in so many ways. Please consider sharing some of your time for set up or sale hours. Sale dates that we are considering will be June 4, 5, 6 and 11, 12 & 13. Final dates and hours of the sale will be decided in May.

SCHOOL NEWS

**Now Enrolling Preschool through 8th Grade Students for 2026/2027 School Year
at Immanuel Lutheran School, Okawville.**

If you know of anyone wanting to enroll their child in school to provide them with a Christian education, please share this information with them. Please call the school office at 618-6142 to set up an appointment to enroll.

May 5th - Kindergarten field trip to the zoo

- 1st – 4th grade field trip to Silver Lake Park & Marcoot Jersey Creamery

May 6th – May 8th – 5th – 8th grade field trip to Camp Wartburg

May 7th – 7th & 8th grade field trip to Perry Co, MO

Immanuel Wee Care is looking for a **daycare worker & custodian** to help a few days or more per week. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Cheri Kurtz at 618-243-6161.

GENERAL NOTES

Life Thoughts in the Church Year: Today we remember Philip and James the Less/Younger (not the brother of John). These two men were among the original twelve disciples and apostles of Jesus. But Scripture speaks nothing more of this James, and only a handful of times and in minor roles about this Philip. Still, they are no less a part of the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Neither one's accomplishments nor popularity, nor size, nor age determines one's value in the household of God. Every stone has its place in God's holy temple—even you! (Ephesians 2:19-22).

Life Quotes: "When Jesus returns, all who believe in Him will be raised up from death to live in His presence forever. That is the promise of His enduring, steadfast love: 'I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ' (Philippians 1:6). The purpose of God for us will be fulfilled!" *Dr. Carol Geisler, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Stewardship: 1 Peter 2:9 – "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." God has called us to be His own. He has chosen us out of love, out of mercy, out of sheer, divine joy. The apostle Peter says that God chose us so that we might share in His glory and "proclaim the excellencies of Him" who has made us His own. And truly, this is our delight! His joy brings joy to our hearts as well.

Lutheran programs on Radio & TV on Sundays – 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. 850 AM Radio KFJL Lutheran Worship from a Lutheran church; 9:00 a.m. 104.7 FM Rev. Mueller, New Minden Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. TV Station "TCT" "Lutheran Worship." These are not a replacement for being in church and Bible class. These are for times when we are unable to attend in person.

COMMUNITY NOTES

Heritage House sponsored carry-out- dinner

The Heritage House Museum Association is sponsoring a carry-out- dinner for Sunday, May 3, 2026, beginning at 11:00 a.m. and serving till 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, roast pork, or beef and noodles with applesauce and the choice of 3 sides – homemade mashed potatoes, gravy, seasoned green beans, candied carrots and buttered corn. A dinner that includes an entrée, 3 sides and applesauce is \$15.00. Additional beef and noodles are 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 618-541-7708. (leave a message with a phone number)

FINANCIAL REPORT

The offerings for Saturday, April 11, Sunday, April 12, Saturday, April 18, Sunday, April 19, Saturday, April 25, and Sunday, April 26 were as follows: Current \$2,340.00, Home Use \$9,793.00, Loose \$729.00, Cemetery \$1,010.00, and Easter \$1,500.00.

Expenses for the week: \$36,172.46

Thrivent Choice: If you have not contacted Thrivent Choice recently, please call 800-847-4836 to see if Thrivent has money set aside for you to designate to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Immanuel Lutheran School or another designation of your choice. Money is available through the Thrivent Choice Program. This is not a donation coming out of your investment.

Reminder: Bunker's Restaurant (Golf Course) will give 10% to Immanuel Lutheran Church if you show your bulletin from church when eating on Sundays. Thank you for your support!!
RBM Golf Course.