Immanuelite

Parish Newsletter of
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Mediapolis, IA
"Praising God and Serving People"
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

MAY HAPPENINGS

Pentecost

Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world.

Sundays and Seasons 2021

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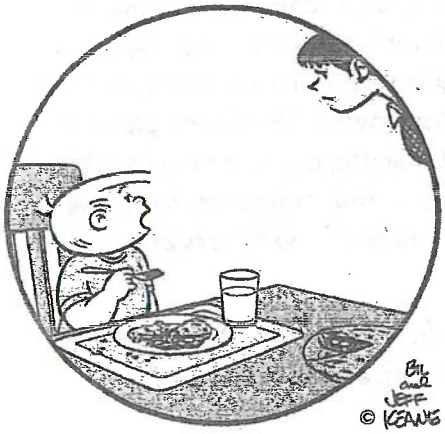
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"If an apple a day keeps the doctor away, how many days do I get for an apple pie?"

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
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Summer Schedule Changes

The starting time for Sunday morning worship will shift to 9:30 am beginning on June 6 – the week following Memorial Day.

The last day for Sunday School will be on May 16. Sunday School will resume after Labor Day.

An Easter prayer

"Amazing God, send ripples of joy through all our days. Bring smiles and laughter. Birth hope and create opportunity. Make sweet melody in all our words, and dance in our lives. Amen."

– Rev. Larry Peacock
retired Methodist pastor
Milwaukee, OR

Pastor's May Ponderings...

Peace be with you... A 14 year old granddaughter holds the hand of a 5 year old greatgranddaughter at their 20 year old cousin's funeral while the extended family grieves... A 70 year old homebound retired teacher prays for them from her living room while a librarian at work and a doctor in her office and the pastor's wife—the 14 year old's confirmation mentors—wonder how to help her live out a strong faith in the midst of all this. Mother/grandmother can't attend the funeral as she's at the ICU with her husband recovering from a lung cancer operation. ***God with us—Immanuel!*** Children of God working together. An 80 year old ex-member in an adjoining state dies in a nursing home two days before her daughter's first visit after a year's covid separation... and the family wants to bring her back to her home church where she grew up, to be buried. And our mother/grandmother volunteers to play the piano for the ex-member's memorial service—she went to school with the woman's children. God's children being family together... ***And they'll know we are Christians by our love...***

"We're small but mighty" I've heard several times at Immanuel. And it's true.

Open Doors ELCA grant is requesting proposals. After a traumatic year of church doors being closed due to the Corona virus pandemic, we're being invited to creatively reconnect with our community, intentionally meeting new people and inviting them join us in worshipping God together. Do you have any ideas on how we might do this in Mediapolis? People must be hungering for community after a year's social isolation—how can we safely offer them something new? I'm considering getting us technically able to have a weekly video presence on the MTC cable station, airing our worship service followed by an interview with a non-member commenting on what they saw. A lot of folks say they don't know what a Lutheran is—just that they aren't one. I don't know how big the audience would be but at least we would meet one new person or even group a week. The first interviews might be with Methodists, Presbyterians, then Catholic, Baptist and Apostolic leaders before we move to librarians, local business folks, and the "man-on-the-street." What do you think?

The great Pacific Northwest! Nancy and I are taking her mother, Joyce, back home to Idaho after this Sunday's service. We'll be celebrating her 90th birthday with family in Washington state. We've got reservations on the Oregon coast for two nights with Joyce and Noah, our son. We go right by the base of Mt. Rainier coming from Idaho to Washington. We'll send pictures on FB messenger to folks who have it. Marilyn Perry and Lori Lafayette, our long time worship assistants will be leading May 2nd and 9th worships presenting my sermon transcripts for those Sundays. I'll be back for worship and council meeting May 16th. June 6th, the Sunday after Memorial day we'll move to Summer 9:30am worship times.

Jesus, the Christ, is **really** present at Immanuel ["God with us"] in Mediapolis! May His PEACE that passes all understanding be with you and may you share it with all you meet!

Lovingly, your Pastor Jerry.

WELCA

The women of Immanuel will resume their meetings and Bible Studies on Thursday, May 13, 2021. The meeting will be held at the church at 2:00 p.m. Marilyn Perry will be the hostess. The Bible Study will be from the May *Gather* magazine. Copies will be provided. All are welcome.

Thank You to –

- all those who shared lilies for Easter.

- Gabe Janssen, Wyatt Waterhouse, Holly Mullins, Jake Mullins, Abby Mullins, and Lauren Oetken for their program during Easter Sunday worship.

From Hospice House:

Thank you so much for your large donation of paper products, household items, food, and cash. We truly appreciate your generosity and support.

Sincerely,
Kathy Johnson

To the children of Immanuel Lutheran Sunday School:

I have enjoyed my Holy Week necklace. My birthday was April 1st. What a nice birthday gift. I was 93 years old.

Thanks you for remembering me.

Love to you all,
Virginia Robu

Immanuel Sunday School:

Thank you for the colorful necklace you made reminding us of Holy Week.

I am proud to wear it.

God bless you,
Gloria Lehmann

Bloopers that gnash the teeth

Malapropisms – words mangled by speakers – reported by author Richard Lederer:

- "I am privileged to speak at this millstone in the history of the college."
- I don't want to cast asparagus at my opponent."
- "We have to deal seriously with this offense as a detergent to others."
- "Too many Americans lead a sedimentary life."

Reader's Corner

Kathy Gerling

Let God Fight your Battles by Joyce Meyer. "Base on her bestselling book, *The Battle Belongs to the Lord*, Joyce Meyer delivers practical advice and Biblical wisdom to help you triumph over any obstacle you ace. By learning to lean on God's pow you'll be able to leave your fear behind and develop life-changing sense of confidence. This compact edition is perfect for taking God's assurance with yo everywhere you go. (Amazon)

A Prairie Girls' Faith: The Spiritual Legacy of Laura Ingalls Wilder by Stephen W. Hines. "With her extraordinary God-given pluck, the creator of th epic Little House series survived the harshness of frontier life – from the heartbreak of sudden crop losses to murderous storms to unrelenting lonelines Yet in every season, Laura found strength through h relationship with God.

Now several generations later, Laura's insights about work and rest, trust in the face of hardship, and the value of faith are more relevant than ever. Through Laura's discerning newspaper pieces as an early advice columnist, inerviews with people who know her personally, and extensive investigation by Stephen Hines, we witness an authentic faith that comes not from pretending all is well but from growing through difficult times." (Amazon)

"Jesus promised his disciples three things: that they would be completely fearless, absurdly happy, and in constant trouble."

– G.K. Chesterton
via Joseph Basehart
Aurora, CO

Hymns for May

May 2
Gathering – Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather – ELW 530
Sermon – Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen – ELW 377
Communion – Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death – ELW 452
Sending – Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing! – ELW 389

May 9
Gathering – Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee – ELW 836
Sermon – Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love – ELW 708
Sending – What Wondrous Love Is This – ELW 666

May 16
Gathering – Praise the One who Breaks the Darkness – ELW 843
Sermon – I Come with Joy – ELW 482
Communion – One Bread, One Body – ELW 496
Sending – Son of God, Eternal Savior – ELW 655

May 23 - Pentecost
Gathering –God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind – ELW 400
Sermon – Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading – ELW 401
Sending – O Day Full of Grace – ELW 627 (v. 1-4)

May 30
Gathering – Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty! – ELW 413
Sermon – Come, Join the Dance of Trinity – ELW 412
Sending – Holy God, We Praise Your Name – ELW 414

Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly

The 2021 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly will gather virtually on Friday, May 21, and Saturday, May 22, 2021 under the theme "Baptized and Set Free." The assembly will be held in a manner similar to the 2020 assembly with voting members gathering via zoom and visitors invited to view the event via livestream. The production will again take place thanks to the ministry and hospitality of Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines.

Registration is $40 per voting member. Online registration ends Wednesday May 12th at noon. There will be no later registrations accepted and no refunds allowed after that date.

If you would like to serve as a delegate to Synod Assembly, please talk to Traci Gerling or Pastor Jerry immediately.

Donations

Thank you for all the donations for the Anim Shelter. Our furry friends thank you.

During the month of May, we will turn our attention to women and children in need, collecting supplies for the Domestic Violence Shelter in Burlington. A list of needs is below.

Top Needs:
Gift cards – Hy-Vee or Walmart
Used phones
Laundry soap
Deodorant
Toothbrushes & toothpaste
Silverware – plastic or durable
Pots, pans & utensils
Cleaning supplies, brooms & mops
Coffee
Diapers – size 4
Spring/summer PJ's – size 4t-5t – boys & girls

Attendance

March –	3rd – 13	7th – 24	10th – 11
	14th – 27	17th – 11	21st – 27
	24th – 11	28th – 31	
April –	1st – 29	4th – 40	11th - 31

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"If so many people get hurt in war, why do they keep playin' it?"

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
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MCYG Update

In April, Junior High MCYG completed an Easter series called Undefeated. Throughout this series we learned that Jesus defeated several things: separation, sin, and death. The gospel message was presented and at least one student accepted Christ! Hallelujah! Next, we did a one week lesson on media. We looked at the pros and cons of all types of media and how it affects us. The bottom line was that ALL media needs a filter. We should be mindful of what we are taking in and if we are making media an idol. 1 Corinthians 6:12 summed it up nicely: "You say, "I am allowed to do anything" – but not everything is good for you. And even though 'I am allowed to do anything,' I must not become a slave to anything."

Senior High MCYG finished up an apologetics series. These lessons included:

- The Resurrection: Why did Jesus have to rise again?
- Unbending truth: How do I know what is true?
- Testimony: What is my faith story & why is it important to share?

This series really got the students thinking and some friendly debates were even held (which they loved). We are hoping to continue with more apologetics in the fall.

Both groups wrapped the year with a Rewards Auction where students were able to "spend" the points they earned throughout the year by bidding on different items in a Survivor style auction. They earned these points by attending MCYG, by participating in devotionals on the Bible App, and by memorizing verses. We are ending the MCYG year on May 5th with a 9 Square Pizza & Floats Party.

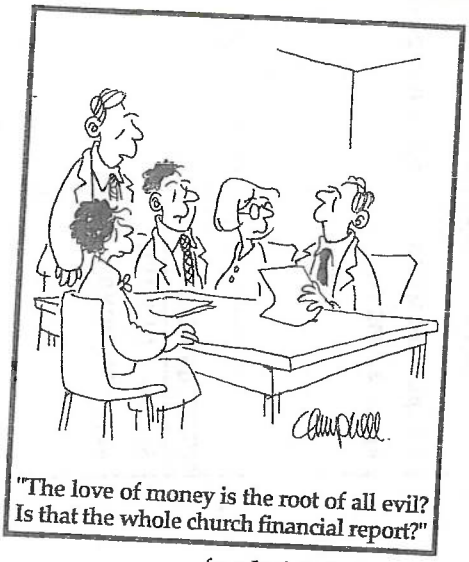
Even though this is the end of our youth group year, a summer Bible study is in the works to keep the students engaged and growing in their relationship with Christ.

Jenny McGhee, MCYG Director
mediapoliscommunityyouthgroup@gmail.com
(319) 752-7008

Sunday School

Our Sunday School classes are coming to a end. Despite the obstacles from COVID, we had ha good year. Thank you to all who have participated make our children an important and integral part our mission at Immanuel.

At this time, we are hoping to have a one-d vacation Bible school at the end of the month. Sinc plans are still uncertain, stay alert for further information.



"The love of money is the root of all evil? Is that the whole church financial report?"

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A woman was visiting a church one Sunday. The sermon seemed to go on forever, and many in the congregation fell asleep.

After the service, she turned to a very sleepy-looking gentleman sitting in a nearby pew, extended her hand in greeting, and said, "Hello, I'm Gladys Dunn."

Without a moment's hesitation, the man replied, "You're not the only one, ma'am, I'm glad he's done, too!"

– via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft
Dover, DE

Sign outside Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Dedham, MA:
"Thou Shalt Wear a Mask.
Hygenesis 24:7"

– via Rev. Harry Mahoney
Dedham, MA