

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

Immanuel Lutheran Church
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Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Volume 5 Issue 5

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Mission Statement

Our Mission is to Honor God, by sharing His love, living in Christ, and serving our community.



*The place to be happy is here,
The time to be happy is now,
The way to be happy is to make others so*

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"I Will Send a Helper"

Just before he ascended into heaven Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem "until you are clothed with the power from on high." (Luke 24:49). In a couple of weeks we will celebrate the coming of that 'Helper,' the Holy Spirit, on the Day of Pentecost. The paraments will be red that day representing the Holy Spirit when he descended upon the disciples in Jerusalem. Much to the surprise of everyone present that day, the disciples, with the help of the Holy Spirit, began to speak in the many languages of those gathered in Jerusalem from around the then-known world.

In the third article of the Apostle's Creed we confess, "I believe in the Holy Spirit, . . ." The new Catechism devotes 9 pages, asks 14 questions and cites more than 80 Bible references to help us understand who the Holy Spirit is, what he does and how he helps.

The vast majority of prayers I hear are addressed to God the Father and to Jesus the Son but few Lutheran petitions are addressed solely to the Holy Spirit. So as a life-long Lutheran I have to wonder if we Lutherans are ignoring the Holy Spirit, the work he does and the help he offers. I am not sure just why that is; if you know I'd be interested in your thoughts.



So what thoughts come to your mind when you hear name of the third person of the Trinity? How *does* the Holy Spirit work? How does he speak to us? Are we listening for his guidance and asking for his help? Might we be resisting his offers to help? Are we so comfortable that we are not interested in his offer to help? What would be the outcome for those who might resist or ignore the Holy Spirit's help?

Is the Holy Spirit at work at Immanuel? I think he certainly must be. **But why?** Congregations our size don't usually survive difficult times, but we have. Congregations our size don't survive because they can't afford a pastor, but we have. Congregations our size don't survive financially, but we have. **Why might that be? What is it that God the Holy Spirit has in mind for us? What is his plan for us? Why is he keeping us alive in Christ?**

Please pray that we be open to whatever it is that the Holy Spirit has planned for us!

Deacon Larry Oliver

Scripture Readings For May

| Season | Date | Festival | First Reading | Psalm | Epistle | Gospel |
|------------|--------|---------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| | May 6 | Sixth Sunday of Easter | Acts 10:34–48 | Ps. 98 | 1 John 5:1–8 | John 15:9–17 |
| | May 10 | The Ascension of Our Lord | Acts 1:1–11 | Ps. 47 | Eph. 1:15–23 | Luke 24:44–53 |
| | May 13 | Seventh Sunday of Easter | Acts 1:12–26 | Ps. 1 | 1 John 5:9–15 | John 17:11b–19 |
| PENTE-COST | May 20 | The Day of Pentecost | Ezek. 37:1–14 | Ps. 139:1–12 (13–16) | Acts 2:1–21 | John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15 |
| | May 27 | The Holy Trinity | Is. 6:1–8 | Ps. 29 | Acts 2:14a, 22–36 | John 3:1–17 |

May Serving Schedule

| Dates | Elder | Greeter | Reader | Server | Altar Guild |
|--------|--------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 6-May | Keith Moore | Jim & Nita Marshall | Debbie Graham | Debbie & Priscilla | Fran Jacob & Karen Bischopink |
| 13-May | Keith Moore | Tom & Priscilla Stratton | Ann Oliver | Gary & Sharon Yon | |
| 20-May | Keith Moore | Ann Oliver | Linda Tedisch | Linda Tedisch | |
| 27-May | Jim Marshall | Don & Jeanne Butler | Jim Marshall | Dave & Connie Engel | |



May Birthdays

Jackie Cegavskie 5/3
 Marv Jacob 5/13
 Linda Anderson 5/23
 Luke Rogers 5/24
 Joanne Secrest 5/27

May Anniversary

Ralph & Debbie Graham 5/17



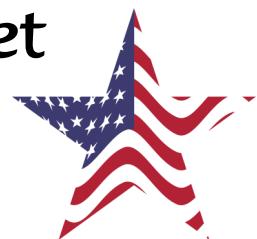


Memorial Day, Lest We Forget

The following tributes are taken from the book,

THE WALL

Images and Offerings from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial



Dear Bill,

Today, I come to this memorial, this black wall. I come to put flowers and a letter, not because it's a special day, like your birthday or Memorial Day. But just because it's Tuesday, and just because I love and miss you so and want the whole world to know.

The other day I saw a picture of Elvis Presley on a poster in a music store window. Under his picture it read, "Remember I lived, forget I died." I stood looking at this for a long time, wondering how you could possibly forget that someone you loved so much had died.

Yes, I remember that you lived. I remember our laughter together and our tears when your rabbits died and especially when your grandparents died. I remember when you would get mad at me because you had to do the dishes or carry out the trash or be in bed at a certain time on school nights.

But I can't forget that you died. I will never forget the day I heard of your death. I will never forget the long days of waiting for your body to be returned from Vietnam. I will never forget the millions of tears I have shed. And I can't forget the terrible hurt because you are not with me and never will be again.

I have cried many, many tears since you left us because I saw no reason for you to die then and I see no reason now.

But this I do know, you are happier with God in heaven than you could ever be on earth. So, forgive me, my son, my Billy, when I cry because most of my tears are for me, I guess, because you are not with me and I miss you so.

Mom



Although I only met you on a couple of occasions, you were a hero to me. In your uniform, you were the embodiment of an army hero to a seven-year-old child. Little did I know that a few months later you would be killed serving your country. Without men like you, we couldn't enjoy the lifestyle that we do. Harry, you gave your life for us, 21 years old and in your prime. How can we repay you?

We all love you and will always remember your sacrifice.

You are among the giants of our time.

It's that time of year again for me to say my special hello. I feel so close to you when I am here at the "Wall." When I see, feel, and touch your name on the black granite wall, panel 23W, line 57, I feel such pride for having known you for so many years.

Many times, I ask myself why you died and left me behind. But I will always have the good memories, like the homecoming dance of '65 when you fell on your behind trying to impress me with what a good dancer you were.

Remember they called you, me and Jerry Lynn the three musketeers because when you saw one, you saw all three. Well, Jerry's name is down on panel 22E, line 46. You two always did stick together. But you guys left me out this time.

I know you are not lonely in heaven. You have Jerry and the 58,476 other brothers and sisters whose names are on the wall with you.

Remember till next year I love and miss you.



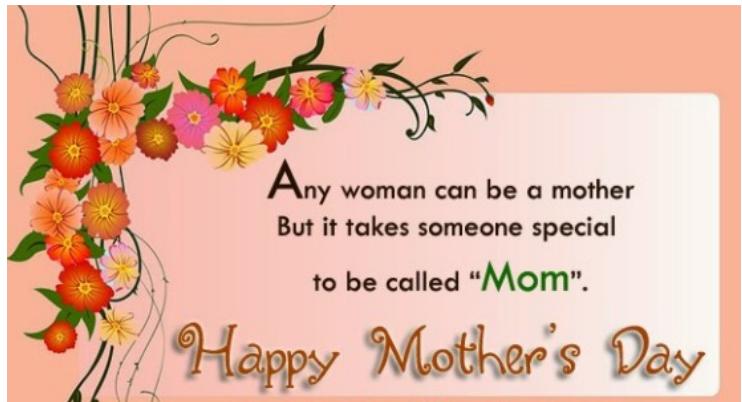
May 2018

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|--|-----|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | 1 Ladies Potluck 6:00 pm | 2 | 3 Ladies Bible Study 10:00 am | 4 NA Meeting 7:00 pm | 5 Men's Meeting 9:00 a.m. |
| 6 | 7 | 8 Elder's Mtg. 5:30 pm Council Mtg. 7:00 p.m. | 9 | 10 Ladies Bible Study 10:00 am | 11 NA Meeting 7:00 pm | 12 |
| 13  | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Ladies Bible Study 10:00 am | 18 NA Meeting 7:00 pm | 19 |
| 20 Congregational Meeting | 21 | 22 | 23 | 26 Ladies Bible Study 10:00 am | 25 NA Meeting 7:00 pm | 26 |
| 27 | 28  Memorial Day | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

"God grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, the courage to change the one I can and the wisdom to know it's me."

ONGOING MEETING DATES:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Men's Monthly | 1st Sat. 9:00 a.m. |
| Ladies Guild | 1st Tues. 1 p.m. |
| Elders | 2nd Tues. 5:30 p.m. |
| Council Meeting | 2nd Tues. 7 p.m. |
| Ladies Bible Study | Thurs. 10 a.m. |
| NA Meeting | Friday 7 p.m. |



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We're on the web!

Immanuelalbany.org