

The Tower Chimes

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Special Dates in May 2024

Ascension of Our Lord — May 9, 2024

Mother's Day — May 12, 2024

Day of Pentecost — May 19, 2024

Trinity Sunday — May 26, 2024

Memorial Day — May 27, 2024

PASTOR'S PEN

He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature.

~ 2 Peter 1:4 ~

Dear Saints and Friends of Immanuel,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ who is blessed forever. Amen.

The Ascension of our Lord (always on the Thursday 40 days after Easter, May 9th, this year), is no minor festival. The Ascension of our Lord is one of the four chief festivals of Christ, the other three being Easter, Epiphany, and Christmas. The Ascension is the coronation of Jesus as King of kings and Lord of lords, as St. Paul preaches that, “God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name.” That name is “Lord”.

This truth, that the Lord Jesus is risen from the dead and ascended to the right hand of God defines our faith as much as Him dying for our sins defines our faith. There is no “more important” doctrine about Jesus – it is all important! The virgin-birth, His miracles, teachings, His death, resurrection, and ascension – it’s all of equal significance! That doesn’t mean, of course, that we, finite and limited as we are, can always think of all of it all the time in every way. Rather, it means that when we think on it, or when it comes upon us – whether it’s considering the Lord’s death or His parables – we are thinking on the most significant thing we can think of.

To us there may be a hierarchy of significance. It may seem to us that Jesus healing the blind man in John 9 is not as significant as His resurrection. This is expected because we are, as said above, limited and finite. We cannot fathom the fullness and depth of the mystery of Jesus. We tend to approach everything in an academic way, as though learning facts and methods is what really constitutes faith or heavenly wisdom. We feel like we have to explain Jesus’ sayings such as, “I am the resurrection and the life.” But we can no more explain that than we can explain how the bread that we break is a participation in His body and that the cup that we bless is a participation in His blood (1 Corinthians 10:17). We say of this that it is His word! Amen! So, then are all of His teachings, and so, too, are all of His works because He is the Word of God.

So He says to His apostles when He commissions them and gives them their mission, “Teach them to obey all that I have commanded you.” This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God. What does the Word of God teach? What does Jesus teach?

Much! We might say. Yes, He teaches much. That is, there are a lot of words and a lot of stories and miracles. But what He teaches is in every one of those words and miracles. What He teaches is in every Holy Communion service and in every baptism. He teaches God's love for us. I am not prone to be one who says things like, "The whole Gospel is contained in John 3:16," but it sort of is. Of course, it does us no good to read or hear that God loves this world in this way, that He gave His only-begotten Son, if we do not gather to Him in His holy convocation and receive what God gives.

The Gospel is not a formula or a propositional truth such as two plus two equals four. The Gospel is a way of life. In fact, the Gospel is the Way because Jesus is the Gospel, He is the good news from heaven! So the angels sing, "Glory to God in the highest and peace toward His people on earth!" When He said to the synagogue in Luke 4, that the Spirit of the Lord is upon Him to preach good news to the poor, the sermon He preaches is Himself. This is why He says that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He is the resurrection. He is the firstborn of all creation (Colossians 1:15). In Him is life and salvation.

What this means, of course, is that if we walk in the Way and believe on the Truth and participate in the Life, then we, too walk in the Gospel. So St. John says that we love because He first loved us and that no one who does not love the brothers does not love God. To love the brothers is to lay down our lives for them – for one another, to defend one another and speak well of one another, to bless rather than curse, to speak kindly rather than tear down, and to always, always, always live the truth rather than just speak the truth. So St. James says, "Be doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." Love for love's sake is not love at all, love for the sake of the beloved is true love.

And this is His commandment, that you love one another.

His virgin-birth, teachings, sayings, miracles, His death, resurrection, and ascension are all His commandment that we love one another. For this, His yoke is easy and His burden is light. We celebrate these feasts not to keep some law of rituals but because He is our feast and He is our ritual. We "do this" not merely because He said to, as though it is a new law, but because we can do no other since we are in Him who redeemed us from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Our gathering together is our love for one another, which covers one another's sins and speaks a better word than the blood of Abel, a word of peace – peace with God and man. This is what it means to partakers of the divine nature.

Peace be with you all.

+Pastor

Dear Members of Immanuel:

Through your generous gifts, we sustain, grow, and pursue excellence in worship. We are also able to maintain our facility, which is a blessing to our congregation. We are so very grateful for your past generous support, not only towards the Annual Work Plan, but also toward a number of additional funds which we refer to as our "Dedicated Funds". The Stewardship Committee has been asked to provide the congregation with an updated list of Dedicated Funds.

Should you choose to make an additional gift, in addition to your normal tithe, to one of these Dedicated Funds, it is important that you make a notation in the "Other" section of your offering envelope. In the absence of a notation your gift will be directed toward the Annual Work Plan.

Please be aware that this list of available Dedicated Funds will change from time-to-time as the need, or circumstances change.

Currently, the list of Dedicated Funds is below:

- Organ Fund
- Sacred Embellishments
- Love Fund
- Education Fund
- Immanuel Church Missions
- Youth Fund
- Property Improvements Fund

Yours in Christ,

The Board of Stewardship

Contribution Statistics		
<i>Needed Each Sunday to meet Workplan: \$5,882</i>		
Year-to-Date Through April 21, 2024		
Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under Budget
\$94,105	\$104,906	\$10,801
Total Offerings Received* Year to Date through April 21:		\$118,330
<i>(*Includes Dedicated Funds, Workplan offerings, and property insurance reimbursement)</i>		

BOARD OF PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Security/Safety: Everyone who needs to arm or disarm the church alarm should now have their new codes. The FEMA Grant application for upgrading our security is due in late May, and Rob Smith is working on this daily. If approved, we will be able to upgrade the camera system, alarm system, intercom system, and access control system... and have them all integrated and talking to each other. Also “Riot Glass”, a polycarbonate that would replace the glass in the south and east doors, is in the application. This “glass” looks no different than what you see now, but is virtually impenetrable. School safety is the primary reason for this product.

CAW purchased and installed a 4-channel wireless microphone system. It was first used at their banquet on April 19.

The HVAC System has just been converted to Cooling for the educational building. The majority of vandalism repairs were handled back in February, but we waited to recharge the system with the very expensive coolant until absolutely necessary.

The railings and gutter projects are delayed but still planned for May. We could use some more help when it comes time to mount those rails.

Rob received an estimate of about \$25,000 for installing reflective solar film on all 52 east-facing windows in the educational building (both floors). Since replacing all the existing single-pane windows with double -pane products was quoted at about \$250,000, we need another alternative to fixing the heat/cold issues in the classrooms, conference room, church offices, and the Sunday School rooms. This film can cut summer radiating heat into the building by over 50%, and similarly, retain heat in the winter, and would have a very positive effect on the electric bill. These funds would come from the Property Improvement Fund, which needs more donations to make this happen.

This past month Kevin Stuewe evaluated a leak in the kitchen dishwasher and repaired a leak in the upstairs hallway water cooler. That cooler was installed in 2006, had major interior corrosion, and may need to be replaced in the next year. Kevin also changed several lightbulbs around the facility.

More volunteers are needed for the mowing team. It is about time to be mowing and trimming weekly around the church property. Last year too few people participated in this venture, which put a burden on them. Yardwork is generally scheduled with teams of two for Thu-Sat depending on helper availability, and involves about 90 minutes of mowing, trimming, and cleaning up. Won't you consider joining this church mission?

BOARD OF EVANGELISM

Greetings to all of you in Christ.

For the Sake of the Elect, Immanuel's mission this summer, will get under way the week of May 19. Zigmas Kisielius, Hunter Kinnison, and Gabriel Hallock (along with wife Analise and children Jacob and Madelynn) will be with us from Saturday, May 18 through Sunday, June 30 (or, if desired, they may leave earlier in that weekend). An art student intern, Penny Bachelor, and another young man interested in the ministry, Isaiah Gill, will also be with us for a shorter period this summer.

Two of Immanuel's youth, Hayden Brown and Emma Dafforn, will be participating in the Rite of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th. A reception will be held to honor them and also to welcome the vicars and other participants to Immanuel for the Sake of the Elect.

Coming up in June, we will hold a potluck and ice cream social on June 23, as well as recognizing and receiving feedback from the vicars.

Peace be with you!
Eric Stuewe
Board of Evangelism



Carolyn Ferguson

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW)

Deaconess intern - Immanuel Lutheran Church -
Wichita

You may have heard or seen that Pastor Lovett is overseeing an internship for a deaconess student!

Carolyn Ferguson is interning under Pastor Lovett and is overseeing the publication of the new publication, *Fides Quae*, a quarterly journal of theology for Kansas pastors.

Mrs. Ferguson lives in Wisconsin, so will not be here at Immanuel, but do keep her in your prayers as she completes her requirements for deaconess certification.

Women Better Together and Men's Gemütlichkeit

Immanuel has two social opportunities for her members. Both groups meet monthly and are for the purpose of encouraging our members to get to know their church family better. There is no set schedule for these groups, just time for fellowship.

Women Better Together is for women of all ages. They meet at Spangles the first Friday of each month at 5:30 pm. In May this is Friday, May 3rd. Come and get to know your sisters in Christ! Karen Woodward is heading this group, so ask her to tell you all about it.

Men's Gemütlichkeit meets on the second Friday of each month at Immanuel at 7:30 pm. Again, no agenda, no study. Come discuss all things great and small with your brothers.



Immanuel's Annual Rummage Sale **July 11-13**

Start cleaning out those closets!

Remember, one man's junk is another man's treasure.

We will start collecting donations for the sale after May 5.

We will also need volunteers for the sale set up the week prior, and help during the sale. Please let Becky know if you can help, even if it's just for a few hours.

Tentative May Music Rehearsal Schedule

Sunday, May 5

8:30 am Choir (Choir Room)
Noon Bells

Thursday, May 9—Ascension

5:30 pm Choir (Choir Room)

Sunday, May 12

8:30 am Choir (Sanctuary)
Noon Bells

Sunday, May 19

8:30 am Bells
9:00 am Choir (Choir Room)

Sunday, May 26

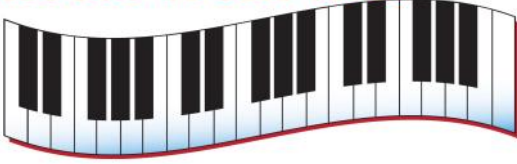
TBD Choir (Sanctuary)



After Memorial Day and ending the day before CAW is back in session, the church office will be open from 9am - 2pm, Monday - Friday.

Summer Matins will be held at 9am and Vespers will be moved back to 3:30pm.

Notes from the:



I am finishing up “contest season” during April. For those of you who don’t know what that means...middle school and high school students have the opportunity to learn pieces and perform them for a judge. I get to play the piano for many of them, which is really neat to watch their progress as they learn and improve their playing. Why talk about contest season, you ask? Well, I have been practicing for hours in preparation for the different festivals. As I was thinking about the hundreds of times I have played that ONE measure that just doesn’t sound right, I was thinking about how practicing is in so many parts of our lives. Practicing is doing the same thing over and over to make it better. We practice walking and talking when we are toddlers. We practice reading and math in school (and outside of school.) Eventually, we start to practice driving and countless other things in our lives. Do we ever think about practicing in regards to our prayer life? I have never thought about it like practicing, repeating things over and over to get better, but why not. I am going to start “practicing” by reading the Word more regularly, repeating prayers such as the Psalms and Luther’s book of prayers, and being more consistent with my time in conversation with the Lord.

Thank you to all our musicians at Immanuel. I appreciate your dedication and willingness to help whenever needed.

Musically Yours in Christ,
Becky

*Mother's Day
is Sunday,
May 12th!*





Serve the Lord with Gladness...Psalm 100:2

Greetings,

Since I have my right wing clipped, this will be short and sweet. Thanks for all the prayers and cards and transportation from the members of Immanuel. They were much appreciated.

We will be meeting on 5/14 for quilting and LWML and on 5/28 for quilting only at 9:30am. Bring a lunch.

Enjoy the spring season.

Yours in Christ,
Phyllis Ioerger

?? Bible Quiz ??

What two rivers that we still know today are named in the Creation account in Genesis 2?

- A. Nile
- B. Yangtze
- C. Jordan
- D. Tigris
- E. Ganges
- F. Euphrates



Answer: D & F (See Genesis 2:10-14)



Concordia Academy

Dan Snyder, Headmaster

Reflecting on the Meaning of Life

This week, the fifth week of Eastertide, features a trip to the opera ‘Candide’ for the students and families at Concordia Academy. There are many good reasons to attend the opera in Wichita, as well as other performing arts that our city has to offer, not least of them being that it is simply enjoyable. Most of the time, when we take time to acquaint ourselves with the heritage of arts and letters that we enjoy in our civilization, we learn new things and have the opportunity to reflect on older things. We call this truth. We also are renewed in our spirits and broadened in our horizons, and we call this goodness. Occasionally, we are moved in our souls in awakened love for something called beauty. Truth, goodness, and beauty are on offer. But what about Candide?

Voltaire’s novel about the problem of evil, written in 1759, was banned upon its publication for its sarcastic criticism of religion, philosophy, civilization and authority. What would a classical school that proposes to study and strengthen these ideas in its students have to do with such a scandalous work? The stance of the work is somewhat like Monty Python’s “Meaning of Life”, with plenty of ridicule for those who think there is any meaning at all in life. Followers of Christ would find this attitude to be strange indeed, and would not gather at the feet of those who sit in the seat of scoffers. Candide is one of those classic works of the Western canon that always brings up the question “why listen to these ideas at all ?”

Some people and moments in history are like a message in a bottle, washing up on our shore from a distant hand. The example of the French enlightenment and its spirit should remind us of the book of Ecclesiastes, where the preacher’s theme is vanity. Life does appear to be senseless when the possibility of divinity and divine purpose is removed. The problem of suffering has a long history in our literature, beginning with ancient Sumerian and Egyptian writings puzzling over good people undergoing bad things, and the book of Job is the fountainhead of all subsequent works concerning the question of God’s justice, his power, his knowledge and his goodness. Without God speaking from the whirlwind, from the very center of the problem of pain, the book of Job would seem like a sadistic parody. Later authors, like Cicero, Marcus Aurelius, Boethius and Dante would confirm the outlook of Job, that the divine plan is in effect, and that divine order rules in the Cosmos. The philosopher Leibniz, a co-discoverer of calculus along with Sir Isaac Newton, wrote his ‘Theodicy’, in which he claimed that our world was as good as

it could be due to the wisdom, power and goodness of God despite our fallen state. Voltaire mocked this idea with many instances of cruelty or despair as evidence.

Logically speaking, he was ‘begging the question’, as the point of the argument was that if indeed God existed, this world of ours was his domain. Voltaire believed that the life of Christ was a fable, and so without the very mediator, he was cut off from Grace. Life would indeed appear very different to such a person. Taking his proposition seriously, that the God of Leibniz couldn’t exist because Voltaire was unhappy with his world, we can see a man who did not believe in the essential goodness of mankind, unlike Rousseau, but like Rousseau, believed that the best we could do was to simply ‘get along’. We finally agree with the author of Ecclesiastes, and with Voltaire, that if there is no God, then nothing makes sense, and that all is vanity. This is true, the contemplation of it is good, and the struggle of man in this world produces beauty in its immense scope and consequence. The French Revolution was a mighty effort to make the world better under the assumption that God was a fable. Common sense produced uncommon monstrosities, and the world is still reeling with the results. God has turned the immense tragedies of the revolutions and wars that followed into a time that challenges each person with a personal confrontation, the conscience of each person with the gospel now commonly known. We should take the arguments of the lost seriously, and communicate the love of the Savior to those who are captives.

Evening of Music

May 3rd at 7 pm at Immanuel

Students, staff, and families of CAW will be performing in this annual musical evening. All are invited!

Student Finals—May 16th-20th



**Concordia Academy
Graduation Ceremony &
Thesis Presentation**

Saturday, May 18th at 10 am at Immanuel. All are welcome to celebrate CAW’s first graduate, Ella Filipek.

Last Day of School!

May 22nd is the last day of the 2023-2024 school year and the completion of the second full year for CAW.

May 

Upcoming Events at Immanuel



Ascension Divine Service & Dinner

Service starts at 6 pm with Beer 'N Brat dinner following. Please bring a side and/or dessert to share!

Confirmation Day falls on Pentecost!

May 19th

Wear red for Pentecost Sunday and stay for a reception for our confirmands, Hayden Brown and Emma Dafforn, after the service.



FOR THE SAKE OF THE ELECT

The three summer vicars will be arriving the week of May 20th!

Please watch for opportunities to help with hospitality for these students while they are here.

They will be living in Wichita while worshipping and studying at Immanuel for six weeks.

Mark your calendars! Lutheran Confessions Series will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Wichita, on Saturday, June 1st.

Silas Carpenter	5/6
Ken Loesing	5/9
James Wright	5/11
Brenda Muller	5/21
Renee Horning	5/26
Bev Giammasi	5/29
Pastor Mark Lovett	5/29
Emma Dafforn	5/31



Harley & Kena Alderson	5/1
Eric & Brenae Stuewe	5/22
David & Lisa Bromlow	5/30

Official Acts during April 2024

Aubrey Critchfield was brought into membership through transfer from Frist Lutheran Church in Ponca City, Oklahoma on Sunday, April 28, 2024.

May's Acolyte Schedule

Sunday, May 5: Kristopher & Clark
Thursday, May 9 (Ascension @ 6pm):
 Hayden, Kristopher, Rylen
Sunday, May 12: Hayden, Kristopher, Clark
Sunday, May 19 (Confirmation/Pentecost):
 Kristopher & Rylen
Sunday, May 26 (Trinity): Kristopher, Emma, Rylen

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