IMMANUEL SPEAKS
MAY 2023

Beloved of God,

Spring is finally here!!! The grass is beginning to turn green, the birds are returning, trees are beginning to bloom, the ice is off the lakes so we will not have to ice fish for the opener like some of the previous years. New life will begin to spring up all around us as farmers and gardeners prepare to work the soil.

Spring truly is one of my favorite seasons of the year; and the reason for that is because spring is a season of rebirth and new life as everything that was dormant comes to life once more. With all of the new life and new beginnings happening around us during spring; we are reminded me that as Christians we are people of the spring. Or in church language we are an Easter people. We celebrate the fact that even when death comes, God's word of life has the final say.

As a church as enter into the month of May we continue to celebrate this wonderful gift of rebirth and new life. We continue to walk through the Easter season and hear the glorious message that Christ has taken away our sin upon the cross and rose again on Easter conquering and vanquishing the power of death.

Amidst the fears of this life, amidst the trials, amidst the presence of sickness and death; we hear the good news that Christ has conquered all that seeks to separate us from life with him both now and forever and has given us the gift of new life, of eternal life with him both now and forever.

In many ways life after the first Easter was not so much different than it is today. Like Jesus' original followers we know pain and hardship. Like Jesus' original followers we know the sting of death and the tears that come with it. Like Jesus' original followers we know what shattered dreams feel like. Like Jesus' original followers we know what it is like to feel all alone, with nowhere or no one to turn to.

However, these things will not have the final say as Jesus continues to meet us as we gather around word and sacrament in Christian community. Amidst all that life brings Jesus calls out to us: to hear, to look around us and see, to touch, to taste, and to experience again his boundless love for us. Jesus calls to us to receive again the promise that God is Immanuel, with us every step of the way, and that we are God's own beloved children.

My friends, spring is the season of new life. As you experience all of the newness of life in creation this spring, may it remind you of the message of Easter and the Easter season: Christ has come and is with you, Christ comes to you day in and day out to give you new life!!!

Pastor Joel

Pastor's Report to Council (Mar. 15th to April 11th) Rev. Joel Gueningsman

April 11, 2023

1. Pastoral Acts

- 58 pastoral visits

-1 funeral: Rita Broers (April 8th)

2. Worship

-Holy week

-Palm/Passion Sunday (April 2nd) @ 9am

-Sunday school assisting with worship & singing

-Maundy Thursday (April 6th) @ 7pm; with first communion

-Two first communion students: Teagan Bluhm & Quinn Simons

-Good Friday (April 7th) @ 7pm

-Easter Sunday (April 9th) @ 6:30am & 9am

-Completed Lenten Series "Journey of Stones". Stones engraved with a cross where purchased for congregation as a reminder that God's love is stronger than anything in all of creation.

-Care center

-Led worship on March 22nd

3. Education/Youth

-Confirmation

-With Lent complete, classes will resume on Wednesday, April 12th at 6:30.

-Due to winter weather one final lesson on Apostles Creed and then transition to the Lord's Prayer and the Sacraments to close out the year

-Sunday school

-March 26th & April 2nd celebrated the story of God's love through the stories of Holy week along with crafts and other activities. Sunday school extended to 11:30 on Palm Sunday to finish up final Holy Week craft.

-Assisted with worship and led in the congregation via song on Palm Sunday.

-Maundy Thursday: two first communion students, Teagan Bluhm & Quinn Simons.

-No Sunday school on Easter Sunday

4. Mission & Outreach

-Community meal on 4/2: meatloaf commercials, next community meal May 7th.

5. Wider Church

- Nothing to report at this time.

6. Continuing Education/Pastoral Self-Care

-Will be in Rochester next Monday till Wednesday afternoon (April 17th to 19th)

-Festival of Homiletics (May 15th to May 19th)

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BENJAMIN TRIBE UP FOR JUNE 2023

Below we have printed the Tribe Membership for June 2023. The Chairperson will be calling you in the near future asking you to help serve Immanuel in some way. Start thinking today what you can volunteer to help with… please, say yes! If everyone takes one job the "needs" list will be filled. Thank you!

Benjamin Tribe
Mike and Cheryl Colby and Family
Tim and Sara Sabe – Chairpersons
Brenda Kabisch Family
Malinda Klaassen Family
Mark and Kim Miller and Family
Dean and Judy Gosseling
Wayne and Annette Rosen
Dennis and Donna Roberts
Bryan and Melissa Jaenisch and Family

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OPEN RADIO BROADCASTS FOR 2023

We have many open radio broadcasts open for the 2023 year. If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast during this year, please contact the church office at 320-847-2138, or stop in the church office, or talk to Kathy. The cost is $100 for each broadcast. The following dates are still available:

May 28
June 4, 18, 25
July 2, 9, 30
August 6
September3, 17
October 15, 22, 29
November 5, 19
December 3, 31

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
APRIL 11, 22023
7:00 P.M.

Present: Michele Shubert, Laurie Dieken, Jane Niemeyer, Andrea Prekker, Ross Pederson, Harold Goedgedrag, Pastor Joel, Mike Pankratz, Katherine Schwitters-Treasurer, Cheryl Colby

Absent: Randy Grussing

Meeting called to order by President Michele Shubert.

The agenda was M/S/P.

Devotions were given by Pastor Joel.

Ann Hovda gave an update on new computers, new printer and copier were installed.

Reports**: Secretary's report** reviewed. M/S/P.
President: Michele Shubert
Vice President: Laurie Dieken
Secretary: Jane Niemeyer
These positions need to be published for banking purposes.

Treasurer's Report: 3/23/23 – Checking Acct. was $37,188.58
Savings Acct. was $80,758.06
Report reviewed M/S/P.

Pastor Report: Received and reviewed.

Committee Reports:
Endowment Committee – Officers: President: Tammy Jaenisch
Treasurer: Ben Peterson
Secretary: Kathy Speiser
Land rent was received.
Farm lease signed with an agreement on tiling.
Payment made to Pastor Joel's school student loans.
$6000.00 given towards God's Work Our Hands Program.
CD was upgraded.

Congregational Life – Are working on upcoming events:
Barn Theatre "Matilda" on June 11.
Boat Cruise on Green Lake.
Bean Bag Tournament once a month – June 7, July 12, August 2, September 10.
Possible Mystery theatre in the future.

Church Council Minutes Continued:

Old Business:

Property Update: Wiring is done for doors. They will be open from 7:00 a.m.to 9:00 p.m. Sanctuary doors open on Sunday or special events.
Solar Garden: No report.
Custodial Position: Have hired Brandy Nelson. She will start on May 1. 10/15 hours a week. She will meet with Randy to review duties.
Treasurer Position: No applicants.
Member At Large: Confirmation students to attend council meeting,
Technical Improvement: M/S/P to purchase new computers for Kathy and Pastor Joel plus 24 inch monitors and DVD drives and one time implementation and configuration for computers. ` One time payment of $3280.67 to come out of general fund.

New Business:

Secretary's Week: To give Kathy gift card.
Family in Need: Pastor Joel working with a family. M/S/P to have Pastor contact President Michele Shubert for totals over $1000.00 from Crisis Fund.
Dishwasher Not Working: Ann Hovda will contact Tim to see about servicing.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Church Council Meeting will be on May 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Niemeyer
Church Council Secretary

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR MAY

Sunday, May 7:	PowerPoint/Acolyte: Kailani Hansen Lay Reader: Annette Rosen Altar Guild: Michele Shubert
Sunday, May 14:	PowerPoint/Acolyte: Logan Jaenisch Lay Reader: Judi Boike Altar Guild: Carissa Pederson
Sunday, May 21:	PowerPoint/Acolyte: Grant Meyer Lay Reader: Ken Beyerl Altar Guild: Judy Gosseling
Sunday, May 28:	PowerPoint/Acolyte: Brielle Niesen Lay Reader: Carissa Pederson Altar Guild: Char Pankratz

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FREE COMMUNITY MEAL – SUNDAY, MAY 7
5:00-6:00 P.M.

Our next Community Meal is Sunday, May 7th from 5:00-6:00 p.m. We will be serving to go meals thru the alley way and also serving in the Fellowship Hall. Please comment on our Facebook page or call the church office at 847-2138 with the number of meals you are wanting. The menu is: hotdogs, chips, cowboy beans and homemade bars. Everyone is welcome!!

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COFFEE FOR GALS
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24
2:00-3:30 P.M.

All women of Immanuel are invited to get together for some laughs, fellowship and lunch on Wednesday, May 24! Everyone is welcome and bring your friends!!

ATTENTION: PARENTS OF SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS!

The month of May will be a busy month for our Sunday School kids! Please mark your calendar with the all the activites listed below!

Sunday, May 7 – The **Sunday School will lead the 9:00 am. Worship Service** with Pastor Joel.

Sunday, May 14 – (Mother's Day) – The **Sunday School kids will be singing during the Worship Service**. Also, the Sunday School will be serving the Mother's Day Brunch after church.

Sunday, May 14 – Kim Miller will be taking **pictures in the church basement after worship for free**. We encourage you to come down and take a picture. This is for everybody! Families, kids, etc!! You will leave with your picture!

Friday, May 19 – We will have our **Sunday School End of the Year party**! We will meet at 6:30–9:00 p.m. Pizza for supper, movies, games and we will roast marshmallows! Kids from pre-kindergarten thru 6th grade are welcome! Parents are welcome but not required!

Sunday, May 14 – This will be **our last day of Sunday School**! **We can't wait to see you in the fall here at Immanuel!** Fun things are being planned already!

HAPPENINGS AT IMMANUEL!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Wednesday, May 3 - This is the **last day you can buy tickets** from Congregational Life Committee for the play "Matilda" which is being performed at the Barn Theater. The play we are going to is on Sunday, June 11th at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 7 - 5:00-6:00 p.m. **Free Community Meal**! Hotdogs, chips, cowboy beans and homemade bars. This is a free meal and everyone is welcome!

Sunday, May 14 - **Happy Mother's Day!!**
We will have a **Mother's Day Brunch** after the Worship Service. The menu is: yogurt parfaits, homemade muffins and punch. Everyone is welcome!

Photographs will be taken by Kim Miller for free, after the worship service in the church basement. Everyone is encouraged to have their pictures taken. Families, individuals, kids, etc. You will be able to take your picture with you!

This is the last day of Sunday School.

Friday, May 19 – **End of the Year Sunday School Party for Grades Pre-K thru 6th Grade!** The party starts at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 9:00p.m. We will have pizza for supper, movies, games, and end the night with roasting marshmallows! Parents are welcome but not required!

Wednesday, May 24 – **Coffee for Gals** from 2:00-3:30 p.m. Come for the fun!!

Quilting - Meets every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. Volunteers are always welcome and needed!