

# IMMANUEL SPEAKS

JUNE 2020

Happy  
Father's  
Day

*Printed by*

*Immanuel Lutheran Church, PO Box 236, Clara City, MN 56222*

Dear friends in Christ,

As I write this just a day ago we celebrated Memorial Day, the unofficial/official start of summer. In many ways as we come to the end of May we are in a time of transition. School is out and the kids are home for the summer. The weather is getting nicer and nicer and as summer approaches it is time to have a little more fun isn't it? For many it means taking time away from work to enjoy: vacations, fishing, outdoor activities, gardening and the beauty and wonders of God's creation. After all, there are roughly 13 weeks before school starts and the weekly grind begins again.

As the month of May closes; in the life of the church it is also a time of transition. This past week we celebrated the ascension of Jesus and the 7<sup>th</sup> and final Sunday of Easter. Now on Sunday May 31st we celebrate the Festival and beginning of the season of Pentecost. On that Sunday we will hear those familiar words that Jesus spoke to his disciples, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 2:8). As we transition into summer life we are reminded that like Jesus' original disciples, we who have been called into relationship with God have been filled with the Holy Spirit and sent to be Jesus' witnesses here in Clara City, Chippewa County, Minnesota, and to the ends of the earth. So what exactly does that witness look like? Here is my answer. We tell God's story and our story and we live out God's story.

First we tell our story. In Acts chapter 17 the apostle Paul is in Athens sharing the good news. As he prepares to speak to the people he takes a tour of the city and notices how religious the people of Athens are. He notices all of the different temples, shrines, and altars to different gods. Then he comes upon an altar to an unknown god. Paul then sees an opportunity. This unknown God whom the people of Athens worship Paul knows. And so what does Paul do??? He tells his story about his encounter with God to the people. He shares his story and experience of God with the people of Athens.

What does it mean to be a witness? We tell our story like the apostle Paul. We share our experience of God with others. 15 years ago when I was in Seminary in my intro to preaching class one of the first assignments was to tell our faith story. The professor described the situation as an elevator speech. You are on an elevator with another person and you have 30 seconds to share your faith, what would you say. It was a help exercise 15 years ago and is still helpful today as it continues to remind me that I have a story to share. And the amazing thing about the message I and we all have to share is it isn't rocket science. Like the apostle Paul we are called to simply share our experience with God so that others might come to know God's amazing love, grace, forgiveness, and compassion. We can all tell a story can't we? Then guess what, we all have an elevator speech, a story, a witness to share!

Secondly, we live God's story. So what does that mean? I think we can answer those questions with one little yet very great and powerful word: LOVE. In John 13, on the night before Jesus was crucified he would give his disciples a new commandment; "I give you a new commandment, that you love another. Just as I have loved you, you should also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

As Christ has loved the world to the point of and beyond death itself; we are called to follow that example. So what in the world does that look like? In Matthew 25 Jesus tells the parable of the sheep and goats and we hear the call to: feed, provide drink, welcome, clothe, care for the sick, to visit the prisoner. It is all about loving our neighbor as we love ourselves. Every night as we sit down to

dinner as a family we pray the prayer "Come Lord Jesus be our guest..." But did you know there is a second verse to this common table prayer. It goes like this, "Blessed be God who is our bread; may all the world be clothed and fed." The second verse continues to remind me that we have a calling to fulfill. As our gracious God showers us abundantly with all we need for this body and life, our call is to also be generous and abundant with what we have so that all the world might have their basic needs met and know God's love for them.

My friends, we are in a time of transition: from spring to summer, from the season of Easter to the season of Pentecost. We are reminded that like those first disciples and those who have gone before us, we are called to be witnesses to God and God's amazing grace. We have a story to share in both word and deed! Go, be witnesses here in Clara City, Raymond, Maynard, and Chippewa County! Go, be witnesses at the lake or ball field. Go, be witnesses throughout Minnesota, the U.S. or wherever your summer travels may take you!

In Christ,

Pastor Joel

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### Council Meeting Minutes

*The May Council Meeting was cancelled.*

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A father is someone who explains how things work and makes you want to be as smart as he is.

A father is someone with extra pennies in his pocket, and extra warmth in his smile.

A father is someone who takes you places and makes those places special just because you're together.

A father is someone who doesn't cry or let you know when he's feeling bad; but he comforts you when you cry, and understands when you're feeling bad.

A father is someone who goes to work almost everyday, and take thoughts of you with him.

A father is someone who expects an awful lot of you, and thinks that trying hard is the most important thing.

A father is someone with a scratched face and a soft heart, and someone you always look up to no matter how tall you get.

A father is someone you share a special love with forever and ever.

Mary Dawson Hughes

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Below we have printed the **tribe's membership for July, 2020**. The chair person (s) 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...oh, and please say yes! We have been having a lot of trouble filling the few jobs we need help with each Sunday and if everyone takes one job, the 'needs' list would be filled. Thanks!

**Tribe up for service in July 2020**

***Chairperson: Ken and Jan Beyerl***

Ken and Jan Beyerl  
Myron and Vonnie Bluhm  
Mark and Amy DeBoer  
Harold and Megan Goedgedrag  
Dave and Ann Hovda  
Jesse and Andrea Prekker family  
Tami Prekker  
Jim and Linda Rhode  
Kathy Speiser  
Roger and Linda Wilkens



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**God's blessings to these couples on their special days:**

Lowell and Lila Wolff 70 years on June 7  
Lowell and Barb Anderson 64 years on June 9  
Jerry and Diane Holien 46 years on June 23  
Dale and Diane Koenen 45 years on June 21  
Chuck and Beci Hinderks 44 years on June 5  
Rod and Barb Miller 42 years on June 24  
Tim and JoEllen Rosendahl 41 years on June 9  
Jim and Lori Schmaedeka 41 years on June 16  
Duane and Laurie Dieken 39 years on June 6  
Curt and Holly Meyer 37 years on June 11  
Dave and Ann Hovda 37 years on June 19  
Dave and Pam Lieser 37 years on June 25  
Steve and Denise Miller 37 years on June 25  
Jack and Donna Sparks 32 years on June 4  
Byron and Pam Sulflow 30 years on June 2  
Wayne and Jonell Hoff 28 years on June 20  
Les and Nancy Feia 28 years on June 27  
Duane and Tania Jaenisch 18 years on June 22  
Keith and Sarah Rand 18 years on June 22  
Mike and Cheryl Colby 17 years on June 14  
Pastor Joel and Rachel Geuningsman 15 years on June 18  
Aaron and Amanda Strommer 12 years on June 14  
Keith and Teresa Johnson 10 years on June 19  
Kevin and Sarah Rosendahl 7 years on June 26  
Brady and Meghan Sunderland 6 years on June 21  
Austin and Amber Hilbrands 1 year on June 8  
Andrew and Nicole Niemeyer 1 year on June 22

