

# IMMANUEL SPEAKS

## MAY 2022



Dear Friends in Christ,

I always enjoy the way the apostle Paul begins his letters in the New Testament. After the initial greeting, Paul in one way or another gives thanks to God for the churches to which he is writing. As we enter the month of May we find there are also a lot of things for which we can give thanks to God for.

Winter has passed, and spring is here. Thanks be to God! The grass is getting greener, we are preparing to plant gardens and flowers, and the farmers are busy planting. It is always amazing to see the changing of the seasons and to see how God brings life back to that which was dormant. An old hymn says it well, "For the beauty of creation, thanks be to God. For these gifts to every nation, thanks be to God. For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth's safe keeping, thanks be to God." As a side note I also give thanks to God because it is finally warm enough to get the kids outside so they stop messing up the house.

Still there are other things this month for which we can give thanks to God for On May 8<sup>th</sup> we as a congregation will celebrate Senior Recognition Sunday as we give thanks to God for the life of our young adults as they have completed one part of their life journey and begin another. Also on May 8<sup>th</sup> we will give thanks to God as we celebrate the blessings we have been given in our mothers, grandmothers, and other women who have had and who do have a profound impact on our lives.

But wait there is more! On May 15<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the end of our program year with an outdoor party as we give thanks to God for all we have learned in Sunday school, Confirmation, & Bible study. On May 9<sup>th</sup> we as a congregation will celebrate Senior Recognition Sunday as we give thanks to God for the life of our young adults as they have completed one part of their life journey and begin another.

But wait there is more! On May 30<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate Memorial Day. We will stop and give thanks to God for the men and women who have served our country. We will give thanks to God for these men and women who have protected us, defended us, and in some cases have laid down their lives so that others may live free from tyranny and injustice.

But wait there is more! I am sure there will be other moments in your life this month where you will all give thanks to God.

As we travel through this month of May there are many things to be thankful for. There is one more reason that I would like to add. As a church we continue to move through the season of Easter. According to our secular calendar Easter is only one day. However, the season of Easter begins on Easter Sunday and runs for 50 days until Pentecost. During this season as we gather, we will continue to hear the good news of the resurrection. We will hear that Christ has risen, he has risen indeed! Amidst the fears of this life, amidst the trials, amidst the presence of sickness and death; we will hear the good news that Christ has conquered all that seeks to separate us from life with him both now and forever. The message of the Empty tomb resounds throughout these 50 days that Christ has arisen, is present with us, and has promised to go before us into the joys and sorrows of this life. And he does so with the promise that nothing in all of creation will separate us from his love.

My Friends, there is a lot to be thankful about in the month of May. As we journey through these 50 days of Easter and as we celebrate these different events, let us all take a moment to give thanks to God for the blessings that he has given us.

In Christ,

Pastor Joel

**Pastor's Report to Church Council (March 9<sup>th</sup> to April 12<sup>th</sup>)**  
**Rev. Joel Gueningsman**  
**April 12, 2022**

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**Pastoral Acts**

- **42 in person/phone pastoral visits; presided at 1 funeral: Walter Bluhm & 1 baptism: Eden Jo Bleick**

**Worship**

- **Mid-week Lenten worship**
  - **Every Wednesday beginning March 9<sup>th</sup> to April 6<sup>th</sup>**
    - **Meal at 5:30pm, Bible Jeopardy/Friendly Feud 6:30, worship at 7**
    - **Lenten focus: Each Wednesday we will explore a person who gives witness to Jesus in the gospel of John**

- **Holy Week Schedule**

- **Palm/Passion Sunday worship, youth activities, & Easter egg hunt**
- **Maundy Thursday with first communion at 7pm. 6 first communion students.**
- **Good Friday Tenebrae service at 7pm**
- **Easter Sunday at 630am & 9 am.**

**Education/Youth & Family**

- **Confirmation**
  - **Class to resume April 20<sup>th</sup>. Final night of class May 4<sup>th</sup>.**
- **7-12 bowling on May 1<sup>st</sup> in Montevideo**
- **End of the year Sunday school celebration on May 15<sup>th</sup>**
- **Graduate recognition & Mother's day May 8<sup>th</sup>**
- **VBS May 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Mission & Outreach**

- **New TV purchased for the care center.**
- **Wonderful turn out to April 3<sup>rd</sup> community meal. Next meal May 1<sup>st</sup>.  
On the menu: pulled pork, cheesy hash browns, California blend veggies, & desert.**

**Wider Church**

- **Synod Assembly, online, Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 6pm**

**Continuing Education/Pastoral Self-Care**

- **Sabbatical from May 30<sup>th</sup> to Sept 5<sup>th</sup>**

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
April 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**

Attending: LuAnn Kruger, Jane Niemeyer, Michael Pankratz, Andrea Prekker, Harold Goedgedrag, Ross Pederson, Isaac Gosseling, Michele Shubert, Pastor Joel and Kat Schwitters (Treasurer)

Absent: Jim Jaensich

Pastor Joel led devotions and prayers, John's account of Maundy Thursday, Chapter 13, "Jesus loved his disciples to the end".

The agenda was reviewed and M/S/P.

The Secretary's report was reviewed and M/S/P.

The Treasurer's report: As of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, checking account is \$27,992.48 (after paying remainder of painting bill). Savings account is \$93,779.35. Council discussed for future construction and large

projects around the church, there needs to be a written summary of additional charges that is brought to the council to be approved.

Committee Reports:

Property and Management Committee Members: Ken Beyerl-Chairperson, Larry Niemeyer, Tami Prekker, Steve Kruger, Tim Sabe, Mike Pankratz and Isaac Gosseling (Council Representatives).

Sunday School/Youth: VBS, May 21 & 22, Bowling Event for 7-12 Graders on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Congregational Life: Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> immediately following church, Family Fun Day at the Clara City City Park – coffee, cookies, kickball and lunch. Stingers event, Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. We will be selling “Be the Light” Immanuel Lutheran Church t-shirts as a fundraiser for Congregational Life Committee events. Bean Bag evening on Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> by the Lions Playground/Care Center. Green Lake Boat Cruise on Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Pastor Reports: See Report attached to Newsletter

Old Business:

Property Update:

1. Gary Meyer has given pictures to the people making new signs outside of town, waiting for them to complete them.
2. Isaac Gosseling ordered flag brace should be in the end of the week.
3. The shed has been completed and will be delivered when the ground dries up.
4. The fans in the sanctuary have been installed.
5. The courtyard door has been fixed.
6. Butch Hasbrook will clean up the mess made in the courtyard from the egress windows being put in the parsonage and seed the lawn.

New Business:

1. Council serving Maundy Thursday meal 5:30-6:30. Pizza, salad and cake.
2. Looking for church members to join a new Visitation Committee in our church.
3. Pastor Joel will be on Sabbatical, May 30– September 6. Pulpit supply has been filled except for June 12<sup>th</sup>. Communion and children’s sermons will continue every Sunday.

Next Council Meeting will be Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

No further business was offered. Meeting was adjourned. M/S/P.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michele Shubert  
Council Secretary

**SENIOR DAY AT IMMANUEL  
SUNDAY, MAY 8**

We will be celebrating our graduating Seniors on Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at the 9:00 a.m. worship service with coffee and treats afterwards in the fellowship hall.

The following seniors will be honored: Jasmine Colby, Kylee Kimpling, Wyatt Miller, and Hailey Wilkens.

May God bless and guide you during this new journey in life!

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**TRIBE MEMBERSHIP FOR JULY 2022**

Below we have printed the Tribe Membership for July 2022. The chairperson(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! If everyone takes one job, the "needs" list will be filled. Thank you so much!

Issachar Tribe

Chuck and Bec Hinderks  
Jesse and Andrea Prekker  
Tami Prekker  
Keith Harms  
Dave Rosendahl  
Bob and Sharon Jaensich  
Jim and Lori Schmaedeka  
Bob and Alice DeGrote  
Tom and Diane Pieper  
Brian and Becka Bratsch

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**OPEN RADIO BROADCASTS FOR 2022**

Listed below are the open radio broadcasts for the rest of 2022. If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast, please contact the church office at 847-2138 or stop in the church office, or talk to Kathy. The cost is \$100.00 for each broadcast. Thank you to all of you who have supported this outreach of Immanuel Lutheran Church!

July 3, 10, 24, 31  
August 7  
September 4, 18

October 30  
November 6, 20, 23 (Thanksgiving Ever Service)  
December 4, 11, 18

**ATTENTION: ALL WOMEN OF IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

We will be getting together again on **Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-3:30 p.m.** Come to Immanuel and gather in the fellowship hall for laughter, coffee, treats and sharing. Come and enjoy each other's conversation! Hope to see you all there!

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**2022 OFFERINGS COLLECTED FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL**

Sunday, April 3	\$2511.00
Sunday, April 10	\$2798.29
Thursday, April 14	\$720.00
Friday, April 15	\$370.00
Sunday, April 17	\$4455.00
Sunday, April 24	\$2144.80

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**COMMUNITY MEAL ON SUNDAY, MAY 1**

Our next Community Meal is Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:00-6:00 p.m. On the menu is: pulled pork sandwiches, California medley vegetable, cheesy hashbrown potatoes, and angel food cake with strawberries and whipped cream. We will be serving to go orders in the church alley way and also serving in the church basement. Please comment on the Facebook page or call the church office at 847-2138 with the number of meals you are wanting. Everyone is welcome and the meal is free!

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**TABLES FOR SALE**

We have 8 foot tables for sale that were used in the church basement years ago. If you would like any or all these tables, we are asking for a free will donation. You can talk to LuAnn, Tim Sabe, or call the church office at 847-2138.

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**THANK YOU FROM THE CLARA CITY CARE CENTER**

“This thank you feels small in comparison to the incredibly generous donation of the 75 foot smart TV you gave to the Clara City Care Center. We are still in the process of setting it up to be placed safely in the West Dining Room for the residents weekly movie and popcorn, along with viewing worship, and Dvd’s. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for thinking of us and for knowing our need. Thank you!” Kris Nelson-Jensen Activity Director of the Clara City Care Center.

(This donation, made to the Clara City Care Center, was made from the free will offerings that were taken for Lenten suppers. So thank you to all of you who gave on Wednesday nights to make this awesome project happen!)

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**GOD’S GOOD CREATION VACATION BILBE SCHOOL**  
**Saturday, May 21 and Sunday, May 22**

Vacation Bible School will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 21 and 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. These 2 days we will have skits, crafts, games, missions, and of course, lunch and snacks! Sign up is even easier this year, check out Immanuel’s website or their Facebook page, click on the VBS announcement for registration, answer a few questions, and you are done. Volunteers can do the same. Our concert will be held on Sunday, May 22 at 2:00 p.m. Encourage family and friends to attend!!

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**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR MONTH OF MAY**

- Sunday, May 1            PowerPoint:    Emersyn Pederson  
                                 Acolyte:        Wyatt Swenson  
                                 Lay Reader:    Laine Rieger
  
- Sunday, May 8            PowerPoint:    Kylie Prekker  
                                 Acolyte:        Breanna Dirksen  
                                 Lay Reader:    Annette Rosen
  
- Sunday, May 15           PowerPoint:    Kailee Rosendahl  
                                 Acolyte:        Sam Miller  
                                 Lay Reader:    Cindy Meyer
  
- Sunday, May 22           PowerPoint:    Eve Swenson  
                                 Acolyte:        Peyton Schlagel  
                                 Lay Reader:    Michele Shubert
  
- Sunday, May 29           PowerPoint:    Leia Colby  
                                 Acolyte:        Jase Dirksen  
                                 Lay Reader:    Duane Dieken

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# HAPPENINGS AT IMMANUEL!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**SUNDAY, MAY 15: Family Fun Day!** Right after worship service we will be going to the Clara City Park for coffee, treats, kickball, and then lunch! This is the last day of Sunday School! Everyone is welcome! Please come!

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MAY 21 AND 22: Vacation Bible School!** From 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will have skits, crafts, games, missions, and of course, lunch and snacks! Sign up on Immanuel's Facebook page. The concert will be held on Sunday, May 22 at 2:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 25: Coffee for Gals!** From 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. All women of the church are invited to come for fellowship, laughter, and coffee and treats. Bring a friend! Can't wait to see you!

**MONDAY, JUNE 6: Stingers Game!** We will again be going to a Stingers game in Willmar! 6:00 p.m. there will be a meal and the game starts at 7:00 p.m. We will let everyone know when the tickets are available to purchase.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15: Bean Bag Evening!** We will meet at the Lions Playground by the Clara City Care Center to play bean bags. More information to follow on this!

**SUNDAY, JULY 31: Green Lake Boat Cruise!** Immanuel will be going on a boat cruise around Green Lake in Spicer. It is so fun to get on the boat and relax as you cruise all around Green Lake. Of course, there will be food and beverages! Watch for the sign up information in the bulletin!

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17: God's Work, Our Hands!** We will once again have a Food for Kidz packing day, and everyone from 5 years old to 100 years old is invited to help. There is a Giving Tree set up in the back of the sanctuary to pay for the ingredients we pack. Please grab a tag or donations in any amount are appreciated!

**T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE:** "Be the Light" t-shirts will be available to purchase at Immanuel Lutheran Church, as a fundraiser for Congregational Life Committee Events. Details coming in bulletin on how to order and cost!



To all the Mothers,



Grandmothers,



Aunts, Sisters

and other women

in our lives that care for



us and love us

unconditionally,



*Happy Mother's Day!*