

# THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

APRIL 2017

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### WHO WAS MARTIN LUTHER?

#### PART 3

#### 2017 the 500 Anniversary of the Reformation

Martin Luther wasn't even 22 years old when he approached the monastery door in Erfurt. But he'd made up his mind. He knocked on the door of the Augustinian hermits. Martin asked the prior—the man responsible for running the monastery—to admit him.

Then Luther turned his back on a career in law, his father's expectations, and his friends' concerns. He allowed fear to drive him into a cloistered life. But why?

At the end of the winter semester in 1503, Martin traveled home to Mansfeld. On the way, the ceremonial dagger (a popular affectation amongst students at that time) Luther wore at his side stabbed him in the leg, probably in the femoral artery—a very dangerous, often fatal wound. A friend who had travelled with him ran to fetch a doctor, since they were still in sight of the city walls. While Luther laid there, propped against a tree, feet pointed toward the heavens, he prayed to the Mother of God: "Oh, Mary, help." But that wasn't the event that drove him to seek out the Augustinian hermits in Erfurt. It was, however, the beginning of the end of his law studies.

The second life threatening event, the one that finally drove young Martin into a monastery, happened on July 2, 1505. Caught in a thunderstorm, Luther believed he was about to die (again), and as fear overwhelmed him he cried out, "Help, St. Anne, [and] I will become a monk!" Family and friends tried to talk Martin out of his decision, but it was no use. Two weeks after the storm Luther threw a "going away" party for his friends. The next morning, he went and knocked on the monastery door. "You see me today and never again," he said. He thought that was the last he'd see of the world. But it wasn't to be for Luther. As he later remarked, "To the world I had died till God thought it was time." Some of his friends, like Crotus Rubeanus and Johannes Nathin, compared Luther's conversion to that of St. Paul. But, Martin didn't see it that way, and neither did the Augustinian hermits.

Upon entry into the monastery, he was first questioned: Why did he want to join the order? Was his call truly "from God." What happened during the storm near Stotterheim? Was he filled with fear and trembling about eternal life? Only after the order decided whether his answers were honest and true, was Luther admitted into the monastic life. He was informed of their decision when, as he lay face down at the prior's feet, the prior prayed: "Oh, God, who kindles the hearts of those who have been converted from the vanity of the world to the victorious prize of the heavenly calling... May they recognize that the grace of their conversion has been granted gratuitously... Amen."



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Luther had come to the monastery for one purpose only. After two near-death experiences, overcome by fear and driven to question everything he'd done up to that point, what Luther wanted more than anything, what he ached for more than money, fame, or his father's approval, was to find the merciful God.

### **The Young Monk**

Later in life, Martin Luther remarked that he had entered the monastery in search of a gracious God. He was driven, he said, "by trembling and fidgeting." He was worried, after two near-death experiences, that God would not allow him to enter into Paradise.

Reflecting on his time in the monastery, Martin said, "I did not think about women, money, or possessions; instead my heart trembled and fidgeted about whether God would bestow his grace on me... for I had strayed from faith and could not but imagine that I had angered God, whom I in turn had to appease by doing good works."

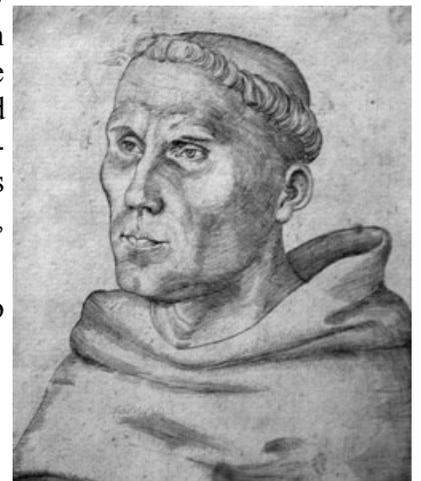
Luther was taught that his sanctification, his holiness in relation to God, came by works. On the one hand, all monks believed their entry into a monastic life was a divine call and they had been ushered into the monastery by God's grace. On the other hand, they believed if they didn't fight the good fight of faith they would never achieve the prize of forgiveness, life, and eternal salvation. For Luther, and all monks, grace was both gift and obligation.

But Luther was also taught it was not his responsibility to walk alone into the Last Judgment. On the way, he would receive help from the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary and St. Augustine, and other saints. All of them who had gone ahead of Luther into heavenly glory were always ready to help him in his fight against temptation, sin, and the devil. The only question for him was, "Will you accept their offer and rely on them to direct you to your final, heavenly goal?"

It wasn't until later, after he'd been shown the Gospel, that Luther recognized the devil's pre-occupation with good works. But, for Martin, the devil, by attacking him in this way, had actually helped the young monk to rediscover the Gospel. Luther said, "I became a monk by driving my head through the wall: against the will of my father, my mother, of God, and of the devil."

This "driving his head through the wall," for Luther, is what eventually caused him to collide with the practice of selling indulgences. Also, after wearing the monk's cowl for fifteen years, Martin was prepared to speak knowledgeably and articulately about life for a generation of monks and nuns. As he was drawn closer and closer to Gospel freedom, the burden placed on himself and his fellow monastics became an unbearable weight. It broke his back, and caused him to cry out, not to St. Anne this time, but to God, and in that he received the answer he had long searched for: good news about a merciful God—a God who was for him and was the One who led him to confess: "Christ is different than Moses, the pope, and the whole world. He is not just different, he is far more than our conscience...When the conscience attacks you, he says, 'Believe!'"

Next time, we will look more at Luther's life in the monastery, his trip to Rome, and his increasing conflict with the sale of indulgences.





**April Baptismal Birthdays**

Jonah Marquardt—4/06  
Alan Stuart—4/06  
Charlie Stuart—4/06  
Roslyn Stuart—4/06  
Erin Kirby—4/09  
Linda Herbert—4/12  
Elyse Mehaffey—4/18  
Lauren Mehaffey—4/18  
Luke Kirby—4/21  
Abigail Marquardt—4/23  
Jaden Engelking—4/30  
Jake Zara—4/30



**April Birthdays**

Luke Kirby—4/03  
Kathy Gerken—4/06  
Melody Jorgensen—4/07  
Paul Jaeck—4/11  
Patricia Amato—4/20  
Margarete Ortmanns—4/25



**April Anniversaries**

Robert & Maria Kost—4/07

## **A WORD FROM WENDY**

This month at Open Arms we are serving 122 children and their families. Registration to our current families occurred last month and now registration is open to the community. It looks like our classrooms are really full for the fall and our summer program as well. Our infant rooms are bursting with babies. If you would ever like to come and rock babies and lend a helping hand we would LOVE it!

During this next month the children will begin cleaning up around our playground and planting in our flower pots. Are you wondering how you can help? We are looking for donations of flower seeds, pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds, potting soil, a watering can or 2 and a rake or 2. We could also use some bubbles and sidewalk chalk. If you would like to donate any of these items please let me know. We appreciate your help, thank you!

The Open Arms Ministry Board, staff, Pastor, Ann, Kathy, Beth and I are knee deep into our **National Lutheran School Accreditation process**. This year long process is a study of various areas in our school. We look at relationships, curriculum, staff, facility, finance, etc.... all with the purpose of improving. We hope to have the sections completed by the end of the summer. Then, the final part of the process is an on-site visit by other Lutheran educators from our district. At this time we could use your prayers as we go through each section. As it gets closer to the time of our site visit I may ask for more specific help. We will provide meals and snacks for the team when they are here for the visit. I know we have so many great cooks and bakers in our congregation and that will be a huge way you can help us. I'll keep you informed.

On **Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>** is our annual trike-a-thon to support **St. Jude Children's Research Hospital**. If you would like to come and help, make cookies, pour lemonade or just come and cheer the children on we would love it. Come and show your support! If it is a nice day we will be outside.

**Please mark Thursday, June 8th at 6:30pm for Open Arms Kindergarten Graduation.** It is right around the corner and I would love it if you would attend. This year we have 17 graduates! Nine of our graduates have attended Open Arms since they were infants. It will be so strange around here without them.

Wendy Pritchard, Director

**Kat's Corner – April 2017**

In my February edition, I noted that Immanuel has always had a heart dedicated to Christian education. While I was searching for something at work, I came upon an article from The Glenview Times, dated Thursday April 29, 1976 titled “**Lutheran School Gets N. Central Accreditation**”. It was accompanied by a photo of Bob Moll and Gerry Schalk, Principle & Assistant Principle. As I sat and read the article, I realized that as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader, accreditation didn't mean much. As I read on, it noted that Immanuel was the first accredited elementary school in the Glenview/Northbrook area, the first parochial elementary school accredited in the state and the first Lutheran elementary school accredited in the 19 state area served by NCA. Wow, as a student, I didn't get it. I had some of the greatest teachers in Bob and Gerry and certainly didn't realize they would be two of my greatest mentors in life. I may not have realized it then, but as I look back, I learned so much from them and all my teachers at Immanuel, not just from the books, but about faith and about life in general.

So now it's Open Arms turn to shine. Our leaders, teachers, classroom assistants and all support staff are helping to mold and mentor the lives of the families and children we serve every day. Some days are harder than others to feel like we're making a difference, but we're planting seeds for the future. As we work through this tedious job of evaluating our performance, self-study, and constantly look in to how we can serve our mission field better, **please keep us all in your prayers**. National Accreditation is a big deal for the families and children, even if they don't realize it today. Years down the road, we hope to have alumni that will look back and say...”they were great mentors” just as I did. THANKS to all who share the love of Jesus!

Are you thinking about sponsoring a new **Lutheran Service Book**? It's not too late! Simply place your check in the offering plate or mail it to the church office with a note such as In Memory of..., In Honor of..., etc. Hymnals are \$22.50 each. We hope to have the new hymnals out for Easter.

**Portals of Prayer for April – June** are available in the narthex. Feel free to take one for a friend or a stranger. You never know who may be touched by the words inside that little devotional.

<b>Contribution Snapshot for February:</b>	Feb Budget for Envelope Offerings:	\$27,000.00
	Feb Actual Envelope Offerings:	\$24,835.75

**Special Thanks** to all the prayer warriors who have been praying for my mom, Marion Gerken as she faces the reality of her stroke. Life is definitely different, but our God is GREAT! She's now in a new mission field and still listening to Moody and loving her Prayer Shawl. Continued prayers and cards of encouragement are greatly appreciated. As for my arm...it's mending nicely.

In light of the recent storms that ripped through Ottawa, **April Mission of the Month** is Lutheran Church Charities specifically the **Lutheran Emergency Response Team**. They were out there immediately helping, serving, witnessing through action. The devastated small town will not be receiving any funds from FEMA. The LERT is supplying all kinds of assistance for free to the residents.

Easter Blessings to ALL! Kathy Gerken

## A NOTE FROM ANN

### Board of Directors' Report

March 13, 2017

Our Board of Directors met on March 13. Our meeting was chaired by the Vice Chairman, Debra Zara. There remains a vacancy for the Chairman of the congregation.

Our March meeting had been dedicated to reviewing the Constitution. Immanuel had started the process of updating our Constitution several years ago and it was stalled out by the District committee. (They were missing members and did not get it reviewed.) We went through the Constitution to make sure that we still agreed with the revised version. Once again the Constitution will be sent to the District Polity Committee to be reviewed. The District Polity Committee makes sure everything is correct theologically. When it is approved, copies will be made available to the congregation for review. Then it will come to the congregation for discussion. Once the wording has been approved by the congregation and the District, a vote for approval will be taken.

The Board of Directors members are:

Chair- Vacant (Contact us if you are interested in serving)

Vice- Debra Zara

Treasurer- Kathy Christiansen

Financial Secretary- Brian Mehaffey

Secretary- Alan Stuart

Open Arms- Jeanene Dueber

Family Life- Mike Snodgrass

Pastor David Barber

Wendy Pritchard-Director

Ann Barber- Director

Kathy Gerken- Business

Tom Amato: Head Elder

### A Word about Hospital Notifications

Immanuel staff would like to remind all of our members that hospitals no longer alert churches when members have been admitted as patients. Because of the privacy laws that have been enacted, hospitals are no longer free to release the names of current patients. Even if you identify Immanuel Lutheran Church as your home church, we are not given that information. No longer can we make a phone call to area hospitals to receive a list of our members who have been admitted.

If you or a loved one is scheduled for surgery, a hospitalization or time in a nursing facility, please alert us here in the church office (847-724-1034). The alert needs to come from you. If you do not notify us, we have no way of knowing where you are. Thank you for understanding this change that has come with the new laws.

### Lenten Midweek Schedule

Prepare for Easter by joining us in Wednesday night worship. There is a dinner available from 6 – 6:30 PM before the service.

Wed., 4/5    Midweek Service            7 PM  
                  Supper: Soup and Sandwich    6 PM




### HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Palm Sunday**                                    **April 9**                                    **10 AM**  
**Maundy Thursday**                            **April 13**                                    **7 PM**  
**Good Friday**                                    **April 14**                                    **7 PM**  
**Easter Sunday**                                    **April 16**  
                  **Breakfast**    **8:45 – 9:30 AM in the gym**  
                  **Worship**        **10:00 AM**

### Easter Lily Orders

**Deadline April 9**



Use the order forms in the church bulletin to place your order for an Easter Lily. The deadline is Palm Sunday. The cost of flowers for Easter is \$15/Easter Lily.



**THE ART OF LIVING BY FAITH**

This year's Lenten Sermon Series is, "The Art of Living by Faith." The structure and sequence of the series is shaped by the theological contributions of two catechisms of Martin Luther. The selection of this topic is timely for 2017.

As you may be aware, 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Fewer and fewer people are aware of the Reformation's contribution both to the church and to the larger society. This sermon series accents the theme of faith, as justification by faith was the joyful message of the Reformation. No better text brings this message home for people in the pew than does Luther's Small Catechism that, in the sixteenth century, earned the well-deserved title, "The Layman's Bible."

Week 1: The Christian Life Is the Art of Living by Faith (an overview of the shape of life described by the catechism).

Week 2: It is Impossible for Us to Live without Faith (focus will be on the all-important first commandment and will draw on Luther's brilliant explanation of it in the Large Catechism)

Week 3: Created to Live from the Inexhaustible Life of God (focus will be on the first article and what it means to be a creature of God).

Week 4: Justification by Faith Restores Us to Life as God's Creatures (who are now also adopted as his children).

Week 5: Lord and Giver of Life (focuses on the Spirit and gift of life, both temporal and eternal).

Week 6: The Battle Cry of Faith (the art of living by faith leads us into battle against the forces of unbelief that would draw us away from God).

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday: God's Lightning Rod

Easter: The Dawn of the New Creation

## Lutheran School Accreditation

The Open Arms faculty and Ministry Board are in the process of completing the self-evaluation portion of the Lutheran Schools Accreditation process. The purpose of this process is to improve the quality of our program by comparing it to national standards for Lutheran child development programs. The first standard we looked at was our Mission and Vision Statements. I've included them in this newsletter and encourage you to look for them posted in the building. In the next few months I'll introduce you to other steps in this process.

Jeanene Dueber, Chairman Open Arms Ministry Board

## Mission Statement

The members of Immanuel Lutheran Church are committed to providing children and families with an exceptional early childhood learning environment through Open Arms Christian Child Development Center where children and their families experience God's unconditional love, inspiring them to grow, mature and thrive within a community of fully-devoted Jesus Christ followers.



## Vision

It is our Vision...

- To nurture every aspect of a child's development, while reaching out to the family and community as a whole.
- To value each child as a unique and special child of God, encouraging his/her individuality and promoting his/her self-esteem.
- To provide a balanced program that meets the spiritual, social, emotional, intellectual and physical growth of the child.
- To value a child's play experience as an avenue of learning and provide a developmentally appropriate program for all children of any race, creed, nationality or ethnic background.
- To provide a safe, stimulating, hands-on environment for children to interact with others and to increase in ability and knowledge within a small group experience.
- To nurture the spiritual and professional development of our staff; thereby enriching their lives.

# April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Confirmation 6:30 pm	5 Men's group 9:30 am Midweek sup- per 6:00 pm Midweek ser- vice 7:00 pm	6	7	8
9 Palm Sunday service 10:00 am	10	11	12 Men's group 9:30 am	13 Maundy Thursday ser- vice 7:00 pm	14 Good Friday service 7:00 pm	15 Easter set-up 9:30 am
16 Breakfast 8:45-9:30 am Easter egg hunt 9:30 am Easter service 10 am	17	18 Confirmation 6:30 pm	19 Quilting 9:00 am Men's group 9:30 am Parenting workshop 6:30 pm	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Men's group 9:30 am	27 Mom's group 7:00 pm	28	29
30						

*Please refer to your weekly worship bulletin for any changes or additions to the calendar.*

Immanuel Lutheran Church & Open Arms Christian Child Development Center

1850 Chestnut Avenue, Glenview, IL 60025 Church: 847-724-1034 Open Arms: 847-724-6092 Fax: 847-724-1038 E-mail: [info@immanuelglenview.org](mailto:info@immanuelglenview.org)

Church: [www.immanuelglenview.org](http://www.immanuelglenview.org) Open Arms: [www.openarmsglenview.org](http://www.openarmsglenview.org)

**Every Sunday (except when noted):**

Sunday School 8:45 am / Teen & Adult Bible Study 8:45 am

Parent & Me Class 9:00 am / Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 am

Immanuel Lutheran Church & Open Arms  
Child Development Center

1850 Chestnut Avenue  
Glenview, IL 60025  
847-724-1034  
Fax: 847-724-1038

Email: [info@immanuelglenview.org](mailto:info@immanuelglenview.org)  
Website: [www.immanuelglenview.org](http://www.immanuelglenview.org)

Immanuel's Mission Statement:

We serve the Lord with joy and gladness through loving others as He loved us, by serving others as

IMMANUEL'S STAFF

PASTOR

REV. DAVID BARBER

DIRECTOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY

WENDY PRITCHARD

DIRECTOR OF FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

ANN BARBER

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

KATHY GERKEN

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

TIM MARQUARDT

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

BETH NEAL

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP EVERY SUNDAY.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL (AGES 3-6TH GRADE): 8:45 AM  
YOUTH BIBLE CLASS: 8:45 AM  
ADULT BIBLE CLASS: 8:45 AM  
WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION: 10:00 AM

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**March—Upcoming Events**

Tues. 4/4 Confirmation 6:30 pm  
Wed. 4/5 Midweek Supper 6 pm and Service 7 pm  
Thur. 4/13 Maundy Thursday service 7 pm  
Fri. 4/14 Good Friday service 7 pm  
Sat. 4/15 Easter breakfast set-up 9:30 am  
Sun. 4/16 Easter breakfast 8:45 am, Easter egg hunt 9:30 am, Worship 10 am  
Tues. 4/18 Confirmation 6:30 pm  
Wed. 4/19 Quilting 9 am  
Wed. 4/19 Parenting workshop 6:30 pm  
Thur. 4/27 Mom's Group (at Funtopia) 7 pm

*Wednesday mornings-9:30 AM—Men's fellowship—Coffee at Panera Bread (Waukegan and Willow)*