



THE VOICE OF IMMANUEL

May 2017

It hardly seems possible that the Season of Easter and May are here already. The self-reflective nature of Lent, the chaos of terrorism, wars, the casualties, the political rhetoric, declining church membership has been steadily gnawing on many of us. I for one am glad the season of Easter is long. While the stress of the world weighs on my mind, it does not consume it. Hope confronts us in the words, "He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" There is so much comfort to be found in these words. The chaos stills at the sound of His Word. Take the two men walking to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). The chaos of the last couple of days clouds their mind, it consumes them. So much so that when Jesus stands in the midst of them, engages them in conversation, walks with them, teaches them, and eventually dines with them they do not recognize it is him. But then he blesses the bread, breaks it, and gives it to them and then they see. This in breaking of Christ into their lives brings hope and recognition. They recognize the sacrament and they realize that their hearts recognized Christ when he spoke to them. The chaos was tempered by hope.

There are many instances of people living out the phrase "He is Risen!" The Coptic church in Egypt comes to mind. In the midst of chaos and slaughter, I watched a video taken that day of a street full of Christians, clinging to hope and faith, confess the words of the Nicene Creed. And again in an article from Christianity Today, dated April

20, 2017, titled "Forgiveness: Muslims Moved as Coptic Christians Do the Unimaginable." The web article talks about an Egyptian television talk show host watching another a colleague's interview of the widow of the guard at St. Mark's Cathedral in Alexandria. He is the one who sent the suicide bomber to the metal detector gate.

"I'm not angry at the one who did this," said his wife, children by her side. "I'm telling him, 'May God forgive you, and we also forgive you. Believe me, we forgive you.' ... "You put my husband in a place I couldn't have dreamed of."

Stunned by her statement the interviewer continued...

"How great is this forgiveness you have!" his voice cracked. "...this is their faith and religious conviction."

The article talks about the martyrdom of the 21 on the beach in Libya as a turning point as well as the witness of the families forgiveness of what Islamic State had done to their loved ones. When chaos and the world comes at us, what will it meet? Hopefully a Christian with a grip like steel on the words "He is Risen!" and a ready word of mercy, forgiveness and hope.

R. Cindy

HEALTH NEWS**May – Women's Health:**

"Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me!" Luke 10:40 NLT

Are you a Mary who is eager to sit back and learn new things or a Martha who worries about the details of a job and is upset when others can't multitask? Throughout the ages women have been taught to be organizers, nurturers, and caretakers for others while neglecting their own needs and desires. Even today you are expected to be superwomen and excel in the roles of wife, mother, daughter, volunteer, employee, caretaker, protector, and businesswoman. Unfortunately while accomplishing these tasks, women forget the most important tasks of a healthy life – balance and self-care.

You probably intellectually understand the importance of annual checkups and health screenings but often find excuses to ignore health issues because of the belief that caring for others is more important. In order to have the energy to care for others, it is important that you practice wholistic self-care. This means taking the time to rest, enjoy friends, and care for self.

Caring for the mind, spirit, and relationships through hobbies, meditation, morning devotions, lunch with friends, date or family night with a spouse or family will establish balance and stability. These activities will result in lower blood pressure, peace of mind, greater enjoyment of family, and renewed energy to tackle the difficulties of life and are just as important as medical appointments and screenings where health issues can be found before they become serious issues.

Being too involved in your work allows very little time for other things in life so take a look at how your day is spent and ask yourself how you can re-prioritize your activities. Plan ways to add personal time to your day and practice those changes. By balancing the work and fun in your life, you will experience immediate benefits of greater joy and fewer headaches.

(Source: National Women's Health Resource Center www.healthywomen.org)

MAY STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

The Stewardship project for May will be collecting and assembling Lutheran World Relief "Health Care Kits". The items included in the kits are:

- ✓ 1 light-or medium weight bath-size towel (approximately 52" x 27") dark color recommended
- ✓ 2 bath-size bars of soap (4 - 5 oz.), any brand
- ✓ 1 adult size toothbrush
- ✓ 1 sturdy comb
- ✓ 1 metal nail clippers.



There will be a basket in the church breezeway to place your items.

WOMEN OF IMMANUEL

Thank you so much for your generosity in supporting the Family in need for health expenses through the Multicultural Center. The money collected will go a long way in helping this family in their time of need.

Also, Don't forget to put your water bottles filled with coins in the cooler in the breezeway.

"Plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11b

The study for the Women of Immanuel is titled, "Hope and a Future" which is written by Donna Pyle. This study talks about the plans God has for our future. Please join us, all women are welcome! The study is available in the Women's mail box slot in the hallway by the fridge. Hope to see you on May 23rd.



Church Council met on April 11, 2017.

Pastor's Report

The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation will be held on October 31st.

Parish Education –

Next meeting is May 16th at 7:00 p.m.

Property –

The boiler is now fixed. Work day on April 8th went well with about 20 people in attendance.

Unfinished Business –

The Great Rivers Mission District Retreat is May 18-21 in Springfield, IL.

New Business –

The discussion was made about Mission Festival speakers. Pastor will be in contact with those people. Freese Scholarship Deadline is May 15, 2017. Pastors Dennis and Sally Meyer are willing to come to Immanuel and give a class based on their experiences with cults and their book, "Ordinary Sarah." Dates are being discussed. NALC Disaster Preparedness training will take place at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Altona. There is a registration fee of \$25. The class is April 22 & 23, 2017.

Date of next meeting: May 9 @ 6:00 p.m.

HYMN SING & DEVOTIONS

We will have a hymn sing at Country Health on May 28th, at 1:30 p.m. Pastor Busboom will have a devotional service following the Hymn Sing at 2:00 p.m.

OSTFRIESIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Ostfriesian Heritage Society will gather on Sunday, May 21, at 1:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome to join us.

GERANIUMS



Help beautify our worship services for Pentecost by ordering Geraniums. Cost of each plant is \$4.50 and an order sheet will be posted on the bulletin board across from the church office. The last day to order is Monday, May 22nd.

HOLY COMMUNION



We will celebrate Holy Communion at Brookstone on Thursday, May 11th, at 10:00 a.m. and at Country Health on Thursday, May 11th, at

1:30 p.m. We invite you to join us even if you do not have a loved one living there. All are welcome.

ALTAR GUILD FOR MAY

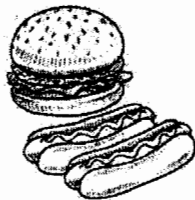
Wilma Suits (Chair)	893-9398
Karon Currie	643-6825
Mary Quinlan	643-7958
Marie Reitmeier	377-3763
Elaine Busboom	694-4738
Amy Jones	778-4672

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The newsletter deadline for June will be Wednesday, May 17, 2017. You may mail or bring your newsworthy items to the church office or email them to flatvillesecretary@wigi.us.

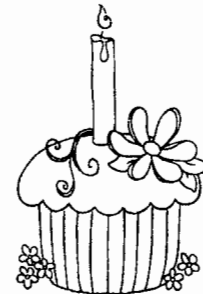
JOY SPRING FLING

All members of JOY please join us for our Spring Fling on Saturday, May 13th from 5-9:00 p.m. at Karsten & Colin Wayland's house. We will be doing a Mother's Day craft, watching a presentation you won't want to miss and having a bonfire cookout. Weather permitting please join in on the fun!



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Our warmest wishes for a blessed birthday are sent to you on your special day!



- 5/5 Edgar Hovel
- 5/5 Norma Reitmeier
- 5/6 Lowell Johnson
- 5/11 Darlene Uken
- 5/14 Dorothy Fruhling
- 5/15 Donna Flessner
- 5/24 Dennis Huls
- 5/27 Darlene Johnson
- 5/28 Margarita Lambert
- 5/31 John Blue



GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will be publishing the names of our 8th Grade, High School and College graduates in the June/July Newsletter. Please call the church office and let us know if you have a son or daughter who will be graduating and from what school or college.

EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

Join in the fun on the third Sunday of each month. All levels of expertise are welcome. We also play other games or you can bring your own. The next tournament will be on Sunday, May 21st, beginning at 3:00 p.m. in Diers Hall. Please join in the fun and fellowship.



ATTENDANCE FOR APRIL

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sat.</u>	<u>Sun.</u> <u>8:00</u>	<u>Sun.</u> <u>10:15</u>	<u>Totals</u>
3/29	Lenten Service			88
4/2	24	107	60	191
4/5	Lenten Service			84
4/9	75	145	126	346
4/13	Maundy Thursday			88
4/14	Good Friday			47
4/16	Easter Sunrise Service			110
4/16	25	302	144	471

THANK YOU

The Historical Committee would like to thank everyone who helped with the Confirmation Reunion. A special thank you to the cooks, Florene Ackerman, Luella Busboom, Janet Mennenga, LouAnn Mennenga, Bev Wolken, Sandy Maury, Carol Martin and Janice Siuts for preparing the meal. A special thank you to Dirk Harms for the meat. We would also like to thank all those people on the Historical Committee for helping with everything. A special thank you as well to the members of the Confirmation Classes who attended. A good time was had by all as they reflected back on their Confirmation days.

KFC

KFC will be having a scavenger hunt on May 21st from 11:15 a.m. -12:30 p.m. We will have a pizza lunch following the scavenger hunt. All 3rd-5th graders are welcome!



CALL THE PASTORS

You may be sure of this: your pastors are willing to come to the hospital or your home, the jail, the street corner, or anywhere at any hour of the day or night when they are needed. Call them if you need them. Otherwise they will not know of your need until it is too late. Do not trust the grapevine to get the message to them. "Everyone already knows" is seldom true and the messages coming through the grapevine are often incorrect. Call the pastors. It is better that they receive the same message several times than to not know of the need at all.



EMMA LORAINE BERGMAN

Emma L. Bergman completed her baptismal journey on April 16, 2017, at Country Health Care & Rehab, Gifford, IL. Her funeral at Immanuel was on April 19, 2017, officiated by Pastor James T. Lehmann, STS, and Pastor Cynthia A. Bisser, STS. Committal was at Beckman Cemetery.

MAY 2017 CALENDAR-IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 8:30 a- LWR Sewing	2	3 6:00 a- Mens	4 8:30 a- LWR Sewing	5	6 5:00 p- Worship & Holy Communion
7 8:00a- Worship & Holy Communion 9:15a-SS/AdultSS 10:15 a- Worship & Holy Communion	8	9 9:30 a- Pastors' Study & Worship 6:00 p- Council	10 6:00 a- Mens Bible Study 7:00 p- Choir	11 10:00 a- Communion at Brookstone 1:30 p- Communion at Country Health	12	13 5:00 p- Worship 5:00 p- 9:00 p- JOY at Wayland House
14 8:00a- Worship 9:15a-SS/AdultSS 10:15 a- Worship	15 8:30 a- LWR Sewing	16 9:30 a- Pastors' Study & Worship 7:00 p- Parish Ed	17 6:00 a- Mens Bible Study Newsletter Deadline	18 8:30 a- LWR Sewing	19	20 5:00 p- Worship & Holy Communion
21 8:00a- Worship & Holy Communion 9:15a-SS/AdultSS 10:15a- Worship& Holy Communion 11:15 a- KFC 1:00 p-Ostfriesian 3:00 p- Euchre	22	23 9:30 a- Pastors' Study & Worship 6:30 p- Women of Immanuel	24 6:00 a- Mens Bible Study	25	26	27 5:00 p- Worship
28 8:30a- Worship 9:15a-SS/AdultSS 1:30 p- Hymn Sing at Country Health 2:00 p- Devotions	29	30 9:30 a- Pastors' Study & Worship	31 6:00 a- Mens Bible Study			

MAY 2017



Date	Acolyte	Lay Readers	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers
Sunday, May 7, 2017 5:00 pm 8:00 am 10:15 am COMMUNION	Austin Cotter Colin Wayland Josh Burkhardt Lindsay Suits	Angie Sage Judi Studer	5:00 Lois Harms 8:00 Adam Crites Robyn Camp 10:15 Amy Jones Sharolyn Worley	Andy & Missy Buhr Emilie Steffey Julie Wilson & Callie Heidbreder Bev Lehmann	May: 8:00am Derek Harms (Captain) Judy Kopmann Darla Rubarts Blake Hedrick
Sunday, May 14, 2017 8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Anna Crites Brayden Karlson	Keith Sjuts Nicole Wolken		Scott & Jana Sage Lois Harms Jason Stalter Family Edgar & Sharon Hovel	May: 10:15am Kyle Ramm (Captain) Gene Schmidt Kale Goff Rodney Bergman
Sunday, May 21, 2017 5:00 pm 8:00 am 10:15 am COMMUNION	Tyler Scott Grace Flessner Jessica Palmer Kyle Meccoli	Shari Hovel Shirley Wyatt	5:00 Sharon Emkes 8:00 Diana & Rylee Sjuts 10:15 Callie Heidbreder Hailey Braden	Rick & Jodi Wolken Casey Flesner JoAnne Mennenga Mary & Devin Wolken	
Sunday, May 28, 2017 5:00 p.m. 8:30 a.m.	Hallie Harms	Denise Wolken		Julie & Jamie Hedrick Marie Reitmeier & Danny Roelfs	

June



Date	Acolyte	Lay Readers	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers
Sunday, June 4, 2017 5:00 pm 8:30 am COMMUNION PENTECOST	Denley Heller Rylie Huls	Kim Wood	5:00 Bonita Kopmann 8:30 Mike Stark & Joyce Romine	Lloyd Duitsman Bev Heiden	June: 8:30 am Kyle Johnson (Captain) Adam Crites Dave Wolken Thomas Wolken
Sunday, June 11, 2017 5:00 pm 8:30 am COMMUNION HOLY TRINITY	Brett Brown Cain Buhr	Elaine Wilson	5:00 Lois Harms 8:30 Julie Hedrick & Jamie Hedrick	Larry & Carol Johnson Darla Rubarts	
Sunday, June 18, 2017 5:00 pm 8:30 am COMMUNION	Karsten Wayland Mason Conner	Amy Jones	5:00 Sharon Emkes 8:30 Bev Lehmann & Matthew Lehmann	Leon & Mary Ann Schmidt Bob Tuller	
Sunday, June 25, 2017 5:00 pm 8:30 am	Josh Burkhardt	Mike Stark		Jeff & Shari Hovel Elaine Wilson	

JUNE 2017

MARCH 2017 TREASURER'S REPORT

Fund Balance Information

GENERAL FUND				BUILDING FUND			
Fund Balance	2/28/2017		\$ 161,610.79	Fund Balance	2/28/2017		\$ 98,295.95
Offerings		\$ 18,317.26		Offerings		\$ 7,159.75	
Dedicated & Other Fund Receipts		2,460.71		Other Receipts		0.38	
	Total Income		\$ 20,777.97		Total Income		\$ 7,160.13
Pastoral Ministry		\$ 18,443.11		Building Repair		\$ 570.00	
Worship & Service		2,168.09		Insurance		4,776.50	
Our Church Home		3,583.10		Utilities		2,247.74	
Dedicated Fund Expenses		1,657.76			Total Expenses		\$ 7,594.24
	Total Expenses		\$ 25,852.06				
Total Fund Balance	3/31/2017		\$ 156,536.70	Total Fund Balance	3/31/2017		\$ 97,861.84
Less Dedicated Fund Total			68,293.23	Total Unobligated Balance			\$ 87,856.80
Total Unobligated Balance			\$ 88,243.47	<i>Building Fund Invested as:</i>			
				<i>Money Market</i>	<i>\$10,005.04</i>	<i>Checking</i>	<i>\$ 87,856.80</i>
<i>General Fund Invested as:</i>				Other Fund Balances			
		<i>Checking</i>	<i>\$ 567.95</i>	Endowment Capital	\$ 60,119.34	Memorial	\$ 24,431.60
<i>Money Market</i>	<i>\$1,949.72</i>	<i>CD</i>	<i>\$ 42,447.09</i>	Endowment Common	\$ 34,989.13	Endowment Interest	\$ 171.80
		<i>CD</i>	<i>\$ 111,571.94</i>				

Offering & Attendance March 2017

By Category

General	\$ 18,317.26
Benevolence	11,852.78
Building	7,159.75
Total	\$ 37,329.79

March Attendance

832
208

Benevolence Offering Includes

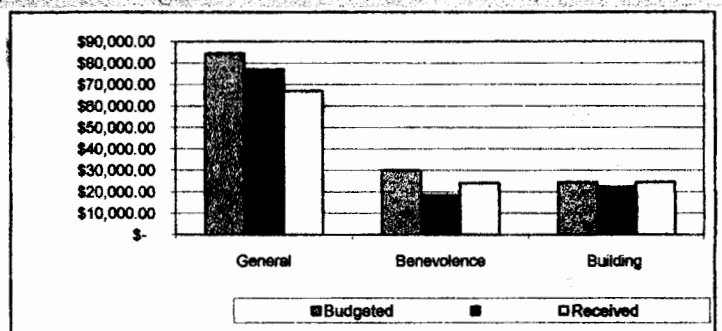
Gen Benevolence	4,825.75	Lutheran CORE	40.00
Rantoul Food Bank	290.00	NALC Seminary	817.00
Multicultural Comm Ctr	1,235.00	Lent	4,545.03
Lutheran World Relief	100.00		

Additional Offerings Received

Sunday School	368.65	Parking Lot	400.00
LYO	25.00	Altar Flowers	175.00
Radio Broadcast	210.00	Initial Offering	44.00
Lutheran Brotherhood	20.00		

Stewardship Progress Year to Date

	Budgeted	Received	Ahead/(Behind)
General	\$ 84,444.00	\$ 66,971.00	\$ (17,473.00)
Benevolence	30,000.00	24,193.86	(5,806.14)
Building	24,525.00	24,588.08	63.08
TOTAL	\$ 138,969.00	\$ 115,752.94	\$ (23,216.06)
	Expenses	Ahead/(Behind)	
General	\$ 77,039.03	\$ (10,068.03)	
Benevolence	18,368.83	5,825.03	
Building	22,413.09	2,174.99	
	\$ 117,820.95	\$ (2,068.01)	



Immanuel Lutheran Church
2498 County Road 2100 E
Thomasboro IL 61878-9699

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Immanuel Lutheran Church, Flatville
Pastor James T. Lehmann, STS
Associate Pastor Cynthia A. Bissler, STS
Pastor Barbara Busboom, Pastor Emeritus

Telephones (Area Code 217)

Church Office 694-4156
Dial-A-Devotion 694-4711 Fax 694-4155E-Mail: flatville@wigi.us
Web Site:www.flatvillechurch.com

Church Officers

Robyn Camp, Pres.
Blake Hedrick, V. Pres.
Casey Flesner, Sec.
Derek Harms, Treasurer

Congregation Council

Brenda Barr
Rodney Bergman
Robyn Camp
Casey Flesner
Derek Harms
Blake Hedrick
Stacey Huls
Ryan Sage
Scott Sage

Cathedral Choir Director Charlene Bergman

Cathedral Choir Co-Directors Marilyn Buhr/
Darla Rubarts

Cathedral Choir Pianist Lois Harms

Bell Choir Director Laveda Clem

Youth Choir Directors Erin Siuts

Organists: Irene Buhr, Janice Siuts, Brenda
Anderson, Linda Pein, Laveda Clem, Shirley
Wyatt

**Parish Education
Committee**

Judi Studer - Chairman
Missy Buhr
Casey Flesner
Audrey Harms
Edgar Hovel
Nathon & Amy Jones
Ben Lehmann
Marie Reitmeier
Jennifer Wayland
Denise Wolken

Building & Grounds

Kiel Rulon
Evan Suits
Daniel Wilson

Youth Committee

Audrey Harms
Nathon & Amy Jones
Jennifer Wayland
Denise Wolken

**Vacation Bible
School Committee**

Amy McElroy
Darcy McMahan

Sunday School Staff

Ben Lehmann, Supt.
Missy Buhr, Asst. Supt.
Leo Studer, Treas.

Custodian/Groundskeeper:
Darren Ramm

Church Secretary:
Katie McKinney
flatvillesecretary@wigi.us

Financial Secretary:
Jo Ann Duitsman
flatvillefinance@wigi.us