

# THE VOICE OF IMMANUEL

May 2018

A friend of mine is the director of the choir at his church. He needed to notify the members of their schedule so he sent the following text: "Dear choir members: Remember there is no choir practice tomorrow, April 25. We will resume on May 2." Nothing too spectacular or noteworthy there – for anyone not in their choir. But it was very important to those who are. However, he accidentally included me on the group list. Now I know about their choir schedule. There is another "Jim" on his contact list who actually does sing in the choir. So, you could say that I was "accidentally called."

Jesus told his disciples, *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit.* There was nothing accidental about his call to the disciples. It was intentional. It was good. It was purposeful. We remember at the beginning of the gospels, Jesus called them. "Follow me. I will make you fishers of people." They did not volunteer. In fact, they didn't know what was in store for them. Had they known, they would have thought long and hard about agreeing. Now, at the other end of Jesus' ministry, they still don't really know. If the past three years was any indication, it would simply be a matter of following, watching, occasionally going out on their own, and returning. No problem.

But that was not what the future would hold. Jesus said this on the night of his betrayal and arrest. The next day would be his crucifixion. They would soon be on their own and would preach the message of Law and Gospel. But would they be alone? When they faced the question of authority, how would they answer? And even more fundamentally, was their faith authentic or was it something they imagined? The assurance is the same. It is Jesus who called them. It is Jesus who sent them. The Holy Spirit created their faith and

empowered their witness. That is finally all they needed.

Hear those same words of Jesus, spoken to you! *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit.* You did not simply stumble upon the faith. It was not some cosmic flip of the coin. It was not drawing straws and you got the short – or long – one. It was not a random or accidental pick from God's contact list. You have been chosen by our Lord. He used people; He used scripture; He used the Church. You do not have to worry that someone made up the faith and that you have been fooled all these years.

God is personally and intimately involved in your life. He has brought you to faith. He has nourished and nurtured you through the Sacraments so *that you should go and bear fruit.* God has created you to be a person. He has given you a place. He has given you a purpose. What tremendous assurance we have from the lips of Jesus himself.

When you wonder if you have any gifts or abilities that are useful in the kingdom of God, listen to Jesus. When you wonder if your life has any value, listen to Jesus. When you wonder if you can make any difference in the world, listen to Jesus. If you are old or young or somewhere in the middle, you are not alone. *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit.*

I am glad that I received an accidental text. It gave us an opportunity to chat and enjoy a few laughs. I am happy that choir practice will resume on May 2, even if I won't be there. ☺ But much more, I celebrate the fact that God has called, chosen, and sent you into the world with the saving Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Pastor Jim Lehman*

**PARISH NURSING**

God’s richest blessings on you and your loved ones this month! We can feel stress related to problems in our relationships, spiritual well-being of loved ones, finances and our health. This month I want to discuss the relationship between Stress and Spirituality and Ways to Reduce our Stress Response.

**Striking Stress with Spirituality: FROG**

Fully Rely on God: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus” (Php. 4:6,7).

Relax: close your eyes and slow down your breathing, scan your body for signs of stress, tense all muscles (starting with clenching your teeth & go down to your toes) as you take a breath in & slowly relax all with slow deep breaths using your belly rather than your chest. Repeat 4-5 times. Several other stress busters are: praying, diaphragmatic breathing, and meditating.

Observe: It is very important to be able to scan your body, mind and spirit in terms of where and how stress is affecting you. Try keeping a stress log.

God’s Peace: “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace” (Col. 3:15).

Ruth Dankanich Daumer  
Ed.D., M.S.N., A.R.N.P., B.C.  
Produced by Health Ministries I.C.A.R.E., Inc.  
Parish Nurse Project

**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.

Thank you for all your help on our past projects.

**WOMEN OF IMMANUEL**

Ladies mark your calendar for May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., as we finish our Bible Study, “In the Lutheran Household”, lesson 6, pages 38-43, “The Community of Marriage and Family.”

Thank you to everyone who “Showered” Merci’s Refuge with gifts of diapers, baby lotion, baby soap, bottles, pacifiers, bibs, etc.

Your gifts were greatly appreciated!



Church Council met on April 12, 2018.

**Pastor’s Report**

The Society of the Holy Trinity - Chapter II: A Life of Obedience to Jesus was discussed. It was recommended to insert a section of this chapter into the Sunday bulletin until the complete Chapter has been provided.

The following individuals were approved for Confirmation: Josh Burkhardt, Austin Cotter, Anna Crites, Denley Heller, Jessica Palmer, Brayden Karlson, Tyler Scott and Karsten Wayland.

**Evangelism** –

Ken Buhr reported that the new sign in front of the sewing house will be in place soon.

**Property** –

The quote for a new curtain in Diers Hall is to be provided by the vendor. A color will need to be selected. This expense was previously approved and will be paid from special projects.

A work day may be scheduled for June. All men, women and children are welcome.

It was decided to purchase 2 tables and 16 chairs to be marked “Pavilion” to remain in the Pavilion and available for use when it is reserved.

**Unfinished Business** –

An update on a possible Christian-Based After School program was discussed. Stacey Huls recommended a separate committee be formed and the idea will be discussed at the next Parish Ed meeting for their input.

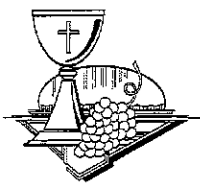
**New Business** –

An update on the Fire Alarm issues was provided. The current FE Moran contract is up in June, 2018. They were not found helpful in resolving recent issues. Proposals from other vendors are being reviewed.

A motion was made and approved for the LYO to hold a Bake Sale, Pie Auction, Talent Show (for entire congregation), Movie Night and Mother’s Day Corsage Sale for mission trip fundraising. A motion was made and approved to set May 15<sup>th</sup> as the deadline for Freese Scholarship applications.

Date of next meeting: May 15 @ 6:00 p.m.

**HOLY COMMUNION**



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

**HYMN SING & DEVOTIONS**

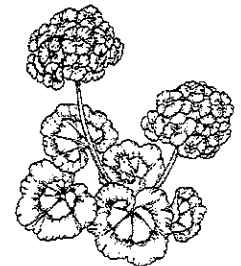
We will have a hymn sing at Brookstone on May 27<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 p.m. Pastor Busboom will have a

devotional service at Country Health at at 2:00 p.m. We welcome everyone to join us to sing. The residents love to see families, especially children.

**THANK YOU**

The Historical Committee would like to thank everyone who helped with planning and organizing the Confirmation Reunion. A special thank you to the cooks, Florene Ackerman, Luella Busboom, Janet Nicholas, LouAnn Mennenga, Bev Wolken, Lois Maury and Janice Siuts for preparing the meal on Sunday. A special thank you to Diane and Lewis Frerichs for the meat.

**GERANIUMS**



Help beautify our worship services for Pentecost by ordering Geraniums. Cost of each plant is \$5.00 and an order sheet will be posted on the bulletin board across from the church office. The last day to order is Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.

**ALTAR GUILD FOR MAY**

Toni Brown (Chair)	519-3402
Melissa Suits	595-5595
Nicole Crites	621-9110
Adam Crites	621-9110
Julie Kellogg	841-4863
Stephanie Vogelsang	202-3181

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

The newsletter deadline for June will be Tuesday, May 15, 2018. You may mail or bring your newsworthy items to the church office or email them to [flatvillesecretary@wigi.us](mailto:flatvillesecretary@wigi.us).



**GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We will be publishing the names of our 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

**OSTFRIESIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY**

The Ostfriesian Heritage Society will gather on Sunday, May 20, at 1:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome to join us.

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

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



- 5/5 ..... Edgar Hoveln
- 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

**EUCHRE TOURNAMENT**

Join in the fun on the third Sunday of each month. All levels of expertise are welcome. The next tournament will be on Sunday, May 20th, beginning at 3:00 p.m. in Diers Hall. Please join in the fun and fellowship.

On April 15<sup>th</sup> we gathered for cards, snacks and fellowship.

High Score: Lois Harms  
 Low Score: Julie Laich  
 Most Loners: Lois Harms  
 Most Pokes: Mervyn Olson

**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>
4/1 (Sunrise Service)				111
4/1	42	285	94	421
4/8	22	96	71	189
4/15	24	105	68	197
4/22	20	96	100	216



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

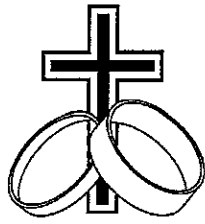
The Nursery - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School classes will be singing on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at the 10:15 a.m. service.

As a reminder, the last day Sunday School will be in session prior to summer break will be Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Since the summer worship schedule begins on May 27<sup>th</sup>, Sunday School will begin following the 8:30 Worship Service at approximately 9:30 and will dismiss at 10:15 on both May 27<sup>th</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup>.



**ERNEST ANTON SJUTS**

Ernest A. Sjuts completed his baptismal journey on April 4, 2018, at OSF-Heart of Mary, Champaign, Illinois. His funeral at Immanuel was on April 9, 2018, officiated by Pastor James T. Lehmann, STS. Committal was at Kopmann Cemetery.



Megan Busboom and Dale Brown were united in Holy Matrimony on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at Immanuel, officiated by Pastor James T. Lehmann, STS.

**FREESE SCHOLARSHIP**

The Freese Scholarship through the congregation will be due on May 15, 2018. All members of our congregation who are attending college are eligible. The forms are located on the bulletin board across from the church office. Please mail your form to the church or bring to the church office.

**SPECIAL DATES IN MAY**

- National Day of Prayer ..... *May 3, 2018*
- Ascension ..... *May 10, 2018*
- Mother's Day ..... *May 13, 2018*
- Armed Forces Day ..... *May 19, 2018*
- Pentecost ..... *May 20, 2018*
- Trinity Sunday ..... *May 27, 2018*
- Memorial Day ..... *May 28, 2018*



**SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

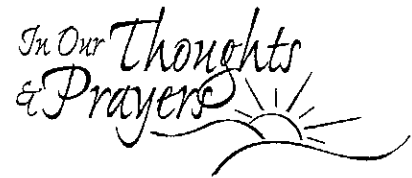
The summer worship schedule will begin on Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. Sunday worship will be at 8:30 a.m. Sunday School will begin after worship and end at 10:15 a.m. The last Sunday School before summer break will be June 3<sup>th</sup>. Promotion Sunday will be August 26, 2018. The Nursery I Parents Reception will also be held on August 26<sup>th</sup>, the same day as promotion Sunday.

**SHUT-INS**

Keep our homebound and shut-ins in your thoughts and prayers. They would all enjoy calls or visits:

**Brookstone Estates**

- Dora Ehmen
- Norma Flesner
- Lela Huls
- Emilie Steffey
- Wilbur Wilken



**Country Health Nursing Home**

- Dorothy Fruhling
- Esther Kopmann

**Holly Brook, Savoy**

- Bill & Norma Reitmeier

**Riverview Assisted Living, East Peoria**

- Donna Flessner

**Brookdale**

- Ann Duitsman

**Prestige Assisted Living, Arizona**

- Hilda Swanson

**Homebound**

- Gesina Erdman

**PAVILION USE**

The Pavilion is available for use by current church members. Please contact the church office if you are interested in reserving it and we will be able to provide you with a list of reservation guidelines.

**FAMILY OF GOD AT IMMANUEL**

There are no words to thank you enough for all the kindnesses you have shown me in these recent weeks. Your beautiful cards, calls, encouraging words, hugs and prayers have been a blessing to me. May our Lord bless each one of you!

I have finished eight treatments of radiation therapy to the tumor in my left lung. Now I wait.

Pastor Barbara

**GOLF CART SUNDAY**

Save the Date: Golf Cart Sunday will be July 8, 2018. There will be more details in upcoming bulletins and the next newsletter.

**LYO NEWS**

The LYO will be taking orders for corsages for Mother's Day. They are \$10 each and available in pink or red. Please sign up in the breezeway or contact Denise Wolken if you would like to order one 217-202-2663 or email denisewolken63@yahoo.com.

The LYO youth along with chaperones Alyson and Eric Suits will be going to Nashville June 17-22 for a week of hope. We are asking for prayers for these youth and chaperones as they go out into the mission field. Their theme is John 5:1-11. We are also asking if anyone would like to write an inspirational letter for their journey to do so and get these as well to Denise. They will have them to reflect upon on their journey.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - 2018**

“Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)

This year's theme is *“Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus.”* Kids 3 years old through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to attend. (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome as helpers.) Our students will learn that Jesus cares about them personally and rescues in life's toughest circumstances. What a gift to our children to give them this reassurance! Each day there will be a Bible point, a Bible story and a key Bible verse. Kids will rotate through stations for opening, Bible story, games, snacks, crafts, video, music, and closing to learn about the Word of God. We will also be collecting offering to provide families in Haiti with drought-tolerant seeds to bring long-term food security.

If you are able and willing to volunteer or if you

have any questions, please contact Amy McElroy, at 202-6837. God is truly at work in the hearts of our church's children this week and we would love for you to be part of it - even if it is just for one day of the week. Also, if you feel led to do so, there will be a sign-up for donations located on the bulletin board in the breezeway. You may leave donations in the breezeway as well. Please pray that VBS volunteers and students feel the Holy Spirit at work during this week.

VBS Schedule

- Sunday, June 10: VBS Kickoff  
During the Sunday School hour  
Approximately 9:30 - 10:30
- Monday, June 11 through Friday, June 15  
8:30 - 11:30
- Saturday, June 16 - Program Practice/Fun Day  
9:00 - 11:00
- Sunday, June 17 - VBS Program  
During the Sunday School hour  
Begins at approximately 9:30

Visit the church's Facebook page to see more information about our Bible School week and to share it with others who may be interested.

**RADIO BROADCAST AND ALTAR FLOWER DATES AVAILABLE**

There are still several openings for both altar flower flowers and radio broadcasts. Current dates available are:

- Radio Broadcast
  - May 27
  - June 10, 17 and 24
  - July 1 and 8
  - August 12, 19 and 26
  - September 9
  - October 7 and 14
  - November 4 and 25
  - December 9 and 16
- Altar Flowers
  - June 17 and 24
  - July 8
  - August 26
  - September 2 and 23
  - October 28

**MAY 2018 CALENDAR-IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 6:00 a- Men's Bible Study 7:00 p- Choir	<b>3</b> 8:30 a- LWR Sewing	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00 a- Lutheran Brotherhood 5:00 p- Worship & Holy Communion
<b>6</b> 8:00 a- Worship & Holy Communion 9:15 a- SS/Adult SS 10:15 a- Worship & Holy Communion	<b>7</b> 8:30 a- LWR Sewing	<b>8</b> 9:30 a- Pastors' Study & Worship	<b>9</b> 6:00 a- Men's Bible Study 7:00 p- Choir	<b>10</b> 10:00 a- Communion at Brookstone 1:30 p- Communion at Country Health	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 5:00 p- Worship
Diers Hall (reserved 12-4/Reitmeier) Pavilion (reserved 12-5/Kellogg)						
<b>13</b> 8:00 a- Worship 9:15 a- SS/Adult SS 10:15 a- Worship	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:30 a- Pastors' Study & Worship 5:15 p- Endowment 6:00 p- Council Freese Scholarship Deadline Newsletter Deadline	<b>16</b> 6:00 a- Men's Bible Study	<b>17</b> 8:30 a- LWR Sewing	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 5:00 p- Worship & Holy Communion

<b>20</b> <b>PENTECOST</b> 8:00 a- Worship & Holy Communion 9:15 a- SS/Adult SS 10:15 a- Worship & Holy Communion 1:00 p- Ostfriesian 3:00 p- Euchar	<b>21</b> 8:30 a- LWR Sewing	<b>22</b> 9:30 a- Pastors' Study & Worship	<b>23</b> 6:00 a- Men's Bible Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 5:00 p- Worship & Holy Communion
<b>27</b> <b>HOLY TRINITY</b> 8:30 a- Worship & Holy Communion SS after worship until 10:15 a 1:30 p- Hymn sing at Brookstone 2:00 p- Devotions at Country Health	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:30 a- Pastors' Study & Worship	<b>30</b> 6:00 a- Men's Bible Study	<b>31</b>		



# MAY 2018



Date	Acolyte	Lay Readers	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers
<b>Sunday, May 6, 2018</b> 5:00 pm 8:00 am  <b>COMMUNION</b>	Grace Flessner Lindsay Suits  Colin Wayland Cain Bulr	Sue Calhoun  Maynard Duitsman	5:00 Lois Harms 8:00 Adam Crites Robyn Camp  10:15 Amy Jones Sharolyn Worley	Robyn Camp Janice Duitsman  Edgar & Kay Busboom Joanne Mennenga	May: 8:00am Jeff Suits (Captain) Eyan Suits Ryan Sage Bob Clem
<b>Sunday, May 13, 2018</b>  8:00 a.m.  10:15 a.m.	Kyle Meccoli  Brett Brown	Adam Crites  Darcy McMahon		Leon & Mary Ann Schmidt Les & Debra Siuts  Mike Stark Leo & Judi Studer	May: 10:15am Ryan Rademaker (Captain) Ray Rademaker Judy Rademaker Kale Goff
<b>Sunday, May 20, 2018</b> 5:00 pm 8:00 am  <b>COMMUNION</b>	Halle Harms Cain Bulr  Rylie Huls Lindsay Suits	Karon Currie  Jennifer Wayland	5:00 Mike Stark 8:00 Diana & Rylee Sjuts  10:15 Callie Heidbreder Hatley Braden	Norman & Darlene Uken Betty Innen  Marie Reimeier Lester & Beverly Wolken	
<b>Sunday, May 27, 2018</b> 5:00 p.m.  8:30 a.m.  <b>COMMUNION</b>	Grace Flessner	Wilma Suits	8:30 Darla Rubarts	Elaine Wilson Shirley Johnson	

# JUNE 2018



Date	Acolyte	Lay Readers	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers
<b>Sunday, June 3, 2018</b> 5:00 pm 8:30 am <b>COMMUNION</b>	Halle Harris Madison Wolken	Robyn Camp	5:00 Sharon Hoveln 8:30 Ranae Buck Joyce Romine	Gene & Joan Schmidt Darla Rubarts/Mary Quinlan	June: 8:30 am Don Sjuts(Captain) Susie Sjuts Neil Silver Brandt Sjuts Jacob Ramm
<b>Sunday, June 10, 2018</b> 5:00 pm 8:30 am	Lindsey Suits	Bev Lehmann		Ray & Judy Rademaker Bev Lehmann/Bev Heiden	
<b>Sunday, June 17, 2018</b> 5:00 pm 8:30 am <b>COMMUNION</b>	Blake Learned Colin Wayland	Lloyd Duisman	5:00 Sharolyn Worley 8:30 Karon Currie Alicia Dowda	Julie Wilson/Callie Heidbreder Larry & Carol Johnson	
<b>Sunday, June 24, 2018</b> 5:00 pm 8:30 am <b>COMMUNION</b>	Kyle Meccoli Adam Wilson	Erin Suits	Sharon Emkes Julie Hedrick Jamie Hedrick	Gery & Lois Maury Barry & Sandy Maury	

Vacation Bible School  
**REGISTRATION FORM**  
(One Per Child)



Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Last school grade completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/caregiver's cellphone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Home email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home church: \_\_\_\_\_

Crew number or name (for church use only): \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other medical conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_



Return to church office or Sunday School teacher.