



Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Vol. 89, No. 5

Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin

May, 2014

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

But these are written so you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

~John 20:31 (ESV)

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! By now you have heard these words spoken at every worship service since Easter Sunday and will continue to be spoken all the way through the season of Easter which takes us into June. By then some may actually be tired of hearing or saying it, but not me. I never tire of hearing that Christ is alive, that He is risen and remains at present in a risen state. I never tire of reading through the Scriptures and discovering God promises for my life, because it is in those words that I discover God's love for me and my sure salvation.

This world however would have us believe otherwise. This world is constantly trying to steer us away from God and His Word. Why? Because God's Word speaks against what society says is true. To believe in Jesus Christ is to also believe in His Word and abide by it. What you believe and confess on Sunday should be what you believe and confess on Monday, and any other day of the week for that matter. Our faith is always a present context, not something of the past. Even now as I write this, I am plagued by the infamous grammar and spell check which would have me change the word "risen" to "raised."

But truth be told Christ is risen, though perhaps not proper English does speak a Biblical truth. Christ is alive, He is risen and as a result of His rising He remains in a risen state. Furthermore, those who hear His Word and believe in Him will also be raised to new life and will never truly die, but instead have eternal life in Christ. When we were baptized into Christ, we were buried with Him and raised to new life all at the same time. So when we proudly declare Christ is risen, we also proudly declare our new life in Christ.

We also boldly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord of my life. That means, regardless of what society might say, God's truths as revealed to us through His Word is what is our guiding light in this life. God's Word for our life, His plan for us is to be applied to all facets of our life without exception. It will often times contradict what society has deemed acceptable and cause you great distress as you become torn as to who to follow. Do you obey God or do you obey man? "But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29)

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I implore you, obey God! The greatest sin ever committed in the history of the world resulted from eating a piece of fruit from the wrong tree. No sin since has been greater...no sin since has been less great. All sin stems from disobedience to God's Word and can have everlasting consequences. For those who abide by the Word of God, they are held firm in the faith in Jesus Christ and can be assured of the forgiveness of their sins. Those who wander away from His Word risk losing faith in Jesus Christ and the eternal life He gives.

Christ is risen indeed, may He remain alive in you this day and forevermore! Amen.

In the Name of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ!

Pastor Tim Ritter

“Truth of the Day: My belief determines my behaviors! (or does it?)”

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Hallelujah! These are words the early Christians spoke boldly and intentionally as they greeted each other. Peter tells us where his boldness came from in 2 Peter 1:16-21 which in essence says: *“For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were **eyewitnesses** of His majesty. ...And we have the prophetic Word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts...holy men of God spoke as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit!”* Yes, the Scriptures record how the empty tomb changed the lives of the disciples—changed their behaviors forever. What does the empty tomb mean for you and me in our lives and in our behaviors?

Today, I address you as faithful Christians—Have you heard of the term “compartmentalize”? In short, this means that we are able to separate different parts of our lives (Conversations and Behaviors) from the other parts of our lives and are able to justify those behaviors even if they’re inconsistent with our beliefs. We are able to leave our work behaviors at work and home behaviors at home and our social life behaviors to when we socialize. Right and wrong is defined not by the action but by the area of my life it happens. This kind of behavior is evident in our community as well as in our church. An article I read, called this compartmentalization “Atheism”. In this case the article was speaking about our Christianity being left behind in different areas of our lives. The author said that when our behaviors are in conflict with our Scriptural teachings then we are acting like nonbelievers—atheists. Financial Atheism; Work Atheism; Time Atheism; Sexual Atheism; Family Atheism; others? This hit me right between the eyes as it sounded pretty bold—We are liking to be our own authority, instead of submitting to God’s authority—This made more sense—We’re sinners! For the Christians, the Scriptures give us a clear path about our beliefs and our actions with the authority being God’s Word even when our way sounds and feels more exciting.

“Come on Pastor,” he or she said, “Calling our sin atheism is a bit strong, don’t you think?”

Well, my answer to that today is the Lutheran answer is yes and no. Yes if we strive to walk in God’s plan and we fail—and we do—we readily and humbly seek God’s forgiveness. No, if we have decided we’re going to intentionally live an area of our life in conflict with God’s plan and not do anything about it??? This is spiritually dangerous.

God has a solution for this, both yes and no—it’s called confession and absolution! Remember, from the catechism preparing for the Lord’s Supper? We promise to change our lives with the help of the Holy Spirit—to repent and turn 180 degrees from our sin—to distance ourselves from sin and sinful behaviors. This solution was gained for us through the work of Jesus Christ—the empty tomb—the same one that changed the disciples so they were able to become consistent in their thoughts, prayers, and actions for God. No more compartmentalizing—no more being our own authority. We are covered in the blood of the Lamb of God!

What do we do when we run into this kind of compartmentalization in the people around us? As God’s men and women, as fathers and mothers, as youth and children, as pastors, teachers and DCEs and as loving brothers and sisters—we must keep our heads clear and acknowledge God’s authority in our lives. We must do our work in the midst of this attack on the body of Christ and trusting God for His results. We must faithfully minister to those caught in this trap and continue to love them. We must graciously call out to Christians who are borrowing trouble by their intentionally compartmentalization and sin against God and others in the process. We must be willing to confront ourselves and others with the loving transparency of the Scriptures, which reflects God’s love and wisdom. What does the empty tomb mean for you and I in our lives and in our behaviors? We will look at this more closely in the weeks to come as we dive into “Resurrection Realities!” I pray you chose to be here the next several weeks.

A Fellow Eyewitness of His Majesty!
Pastor John Grohs

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There have been many Christian (and pseudo Christian) movies coming out lately: *Son of God*, *God's Not Dead*, *Noah*, and most recently *Heaven is for Real*. There are also a variety of Christian Artists making it to popular radio these days (Skillet, Toby Mac, Family Force 5, Relient K, Amy Grant, Five Iron Frenzy, Owl City, and the list goes on). It may be strange for people to see things so closely associated with faith spill over into other areas of life. But should it?

We often hear people talk about finding balance in life. We need the proper balance between work and play, between responsibility and the ability to relax, between spending and saving, and more. Some will also say that it's important to balance time for God in and amongst everything else. I wholeheartedly disagree! Now, before you rush to the elders to go over my call documents, let me explain *how* I disagree:

Finding a **balance** when it comes to time with God is a dangerous thing, because that implies that He would be separate from every other area of your life. That simply cannot be the case. We live in a world of compartmentalization and boundaries. Here is my job, here is my family, here are other relationships, here is recreation, and we try our hardest to keep them all separate and "balanced." How can we possibly separate God and our faith from any part of that? We certainly cannot separate God from our careers, because He is the One who gave us the skills and passions necessary to do what we do. It's impossible to separate God from any of our relationships, but many Christians do just that by ignoring God's commands concerning how we interact with those around us. Marriages crumble every day when the focus is on ourselves rather than striving to follow the example Christ set with the Church as His bride (Ephesians 5:22-33). Once we remember that all we have is from God it's pretty silly to try to separate Him from our finances – but how many of us find it difficult to give even 10% back to God's work on earth after "we've worked so hard for it." [It may be easier to think of it this way: It's sort of like someone handing you \$1,000 on a regular basis with the instructions to give \$100 away – that's \$900 that you get to keep!] What about recreation, hobbies, and entertainment? Please understand – I'm not asking you all find a little Christian corner to crawl under a Christian rock and never come out (now **that** would really be silly), but please remember, we are in this world, **but not OF this world** (John 18:36, Romans 2:12)! We are heirs to something much greater!

I'm sure those of you who have seen *Noah* noticed pretty quickly that the director was much more interested in his own expression, and his own desires (whether they were creative, financial, or both) than he was in the actual biblical account. There are many that find it easy to accept that because "of course that is a freedom of expression thing, not disrespect to God's inherent Word." Again, I must disagree – How can God's desires be separated from any portion of this World that He gave us and continues to maintain for us?

In *God's Not Dead* our protagonist Josh Wheaton was asked to confess (for his professor's sake) that "God is Dead." By not agreeing to this man's demands he chooses what is referred to as "academic suicide", risking his grade and possibly his future to stand up for his faith. It would have been very easy for him to convince himself and others that he could sign the sheet because that area of life was separate – but he understood that this simply isn't the case. God is with us through everything, and we need to trust that He will bring us through everything that may come with standing firmly with Him!

I know that I'm not alone in confessing that I have separated my faith from other areas in life, but in this Season of Easter I pray that you would join me in focusing on the New Life that we are given in Christ. With that New Life comes a fresh start every single day – an opportunity to be in God's presence and be seeking His guidance through EVERY aspect of life! (Praise God for a fresh start because we need it *desperately and every day!*) We are going to fall, we are going to fail, it's in our (broken) nature, but we have the promise of salvation through the work of Christ. This does not depend on how well we follow the rules. It is accomplished through Christ alone, and offered to use through faith. The question becomes: Do we put our faith in God alone, or in our understanding? There are many opportunities to allow the proverbial rubber to hit the road on this journey of faith (You might even find a few in this newsletter!). I pray that God grants us all the courage to take them!

He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!!

In Christ,
Tara Barrett, DCE

Immanuel Lutheran School

May 2014



Heroes of Faith

The theme for this school year is Heroes of Faith which comes from Ephesians 2:20 "Build on the foundations of apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the Cornerstone." During the month of May the school will focus on personal heroes in one's life. As you ponder on your own life who are the people who were "Heroes" in your life? Who are the faith builders that have provided guidance in your life? One of the heroes in my life is my parents. They provided a foundation in my life through supporting my development as a Christian. I am sure that many people can look at their parents as their hero. Another person who is a hero in my life would be my wife, Wendy. God has blessed me with a spouse that supports and encourages me in all that I do to be the best husband, father, and Christian leader. As you can see we all have heroes in our life that help us in our journey of life. You are welcome to join us for Chapel on Wednesday mornings at 8:50 to learn more about the heroes in our lives.

Volunteers-THANK YOU

On May 1 Immanuel Lutheran School staff is hosting a dinner to thank all the people that have supported Immanuel through their volunteer effort. No matter how small or large your impact on the students and educational ministry is great. You are all "heroes" to Immanuel and all of Immanuel says THANK YOU!



Culver's Night

Have you had a butter burger lately? You have another opportunity for a great meal and to support Immanuel on Tuesday, May 27, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. 10% of the proceeds from our Immanuel families will be donated back to the school. Thanks for your support to Immanuel Lutheran School.

2014-2015 School Registration

Immanuel is also looking for any new families to have the opportunity for Christian Education. If you know of a new family in our community that could benefit by a Christian Education please guide them to the Website at www.immanuelrapids.com or call the school office and provide a name and phone number contact so we may provide them with the information about the benefits of Immanuel at 715-423-0272.

National Lutheran School Accreditation

Immanuel Lutheran School is going through the NLSA process of reaccreditation. This is a rigorous process in which the school conducts a self study to look at 11 standards to determine the successfulness of the school. The staff has been working hard to go through this process and involved parents and school board members as well. There will be a visiting team verifying the work and documentation at the school May 7-8. Thanks staff and board for your work to get us to this point and we continue on with the next set of on-going improvement goals to make Immanuel Lutheran School a School of Choice.

WI Parental Choice Program

Thanks to everyone who has filled out the application to help Immanuel grow the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program. The application window is now closed for this program and we wait to hear the results of which schools will add more students to the program. I will keep you updated as more information is available regarding this program.



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Board Of Director's Meeting
March 10, 2014

Pauline called the meeting to order at 6:35.

Pastor John opened with devotion and prayer.

Tony Belanger reported for the Ministry of Stewardship on the Inspired Initiative. Over 100 Commitment Cards have been received to date for an approximate 37% increase in that group's giving. Four cards were from first time givers. More than a quarter of commitments included a stored resource gift. It appears we are on the way to meeting our Inspired 2 year goal.

Approval of Minutes from February 10, 2014: Motion to approve by Tony Belanger, second by Carol Huf. Motion carried.

No Official Acts to approve this month.

Pastor Grohs' and Pastor Ritter's reports are available.

Pastor Ritter has been invited to be the Pastor of the week at Camp Luther during the week June 14-June 20th, 2014. The Board of Director's gave their approval for Pastor Tim to accept this opportunity to support the ministry at Camp Luther.

Treasurer and Financial Secretary's reports are available.

Principal's Report, Ministry of Day School March 3, 2014 meeting minutes and Child Care Report and Budgets are available. Brian Betts reported the school currently has 45 applications for the Wis. Parental School Choice Program. Open Enrollment is February 3, 2014 thru April 21, 2014; please tell anyone you know who might be interested in attending Immanuel through this program. The school has also begun work on the budget for the 2014-2015 year.

Caitlin reported for Ministry of Discipleship – She continues to work to find Greeters.

No Old Business:

New Business:

Work needs to begin on the 2014-2015 Operating Plan to have it ready for Board approval and ratification by the congregation in June.

Meeting dates need to be scheduled for discussion on proposed changes to the Constitution.

A motion was made by Brian Betts, second by Carol Huf to appoint Brian Hanson, Merlyn Koopman, Dennis Martin, John Sawaska and Irvin Vollert to join Cliff Starr as Elders for Immanuel Lutheran Church. Motion carried. These appointments will be presented for congregational approval at the next voter's meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Brian Betts, second by Pauline Szelagowski. Motion carried.

Members Present: Pastor Grohs, Pastor Ritter, Tim Sullivan, Brian Betts, Tony Belanger, Lois Gellerman, Carol Huf, Caitlin Shuda, Paul Vollert and Pauline Szelagowski.

Members Absent: Dale Dix, Dave Frater, Michele Kaja, Ron Karnatz and Diane Reetz.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pauline Szelagowski, Recording Secretary

ITEMS FOR JUNE/JULY NEWSLETTER

Items from the various organizations and committees need to be ready and handed in by **THURSDAY, May 15, 2014**, for the **JUNE/JULY 2014 NEWSLETTER**. You may send or bring your articles to the church office, 111 11th Street North, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494, call 715-423-3260 or email them to sriedel@immanuelrapids.com. Thank you.



Address
Changes

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you have a change of address, please phone the church office immediately at 715-423-3260 or let us know by mail that you are moving or have moved. We pay for **each newsletter that is returned for change of address** from the post office. They **DO NOT FORWARD BULK MAIL**.

For those of you who have email please call the church office with your email address as we are moving towards emailing your newsletter to reduce our costs of printing and mailing. Thank you in helping us. We will still send out to those who do not have an email.

The Renaissance and Harmony House

Pastor John and Pastor Tim will have a Bible Study/Chapel Service May 8 at Harmony House (2 p.m.) and The Renaissance (2:45 p.m.). If you or a family member is a resident at these places, we invite you to attend.

Note of Thanks

Dear Friends in Christ!

Thank you and bless you for all the birthday wishes and encouragement that I received from all of you. Thanks to those who were able to stop by the house as I was blessed to spend time with you, my extended family. Gifts went to

the Guatemala effort of our confirmation. Thanks again.

In Christ, Pastor John



Pastor
Appreciation



Ladies Aid

Ladies Aid Ladies will meet on Wednesday, April 30 at 11:15 a.m. at Olympic II Restaurant. Hostesses are LaVerne Habeck and Leona Dhein.

Evening Guild May Dinner

All ladies (members, guests and anyone else who would like to join us) are invited to our Evening Guild eat out dinner at Perkins Restaurant at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13. Meal selection will be from the menu. Reservations can be made by calling Jeanette Hilgard at 715-423-2989 or Diane Lieber at 715-423-9559 by Friday, May 2.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING



Blood Pressure Screenings are being offered the second Sunday of the month by our nurses, who are members of our congregation. They will be available in the narthex of the church on May 11 following the early service and before the 10:30 a.m. worship service to check your blood pressure. Thank you for helping in this worthwhile project for our members.

CASUAL GET-TOGETHER LUNCH

The Casual Get-Together Lunch will meet on Monday, May 19 at 11:30 a.m. (restaurant to be determined at the April meeting on April 28) for those who have lost their spouses. Invite friends and other members, who have lost their spouses to come and join us for a brief devotion and great time of fellowship and lunch. If you have questions please call Lenora Fletcher at 715-423-7994.

Confirmation Information

Confirmation pictures and rehearsal will be Saturday, May 3 at 8:30 a.m. at church. Please pick up your confirmation gowns by Friday, May 2 so you will have them for the weekend. Confirmation service will be on Sunday, May 4 at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.



National Day of Prayer



Every year Christians all over the U.S. come together on the first Thursday in May to pray for our nation, our world, our schools, and our congregations. Please join your brothers and sisters of Immanuel in lifting all things up to the Lord! We will have prayer services at 12:15 (for those of you who can get away on your lunch break), and at 5 p.m. The sanctuary will be open between those times with many resources and stations to guide your prayer time. If you are not able to join us physically, please set aside some intentional time to join us that day from wherever you are. Tara Barrett will be collecting prayer requests (inserted in your newsletter) to be compiled for that day, and would be happy to share materials with anyone who cannot attend. Please contact her at tbarrett@immanuelrapids.com or 715-423-3260 with any requests before Tuesday, April 29.

IMMANUEL PRAYER GROUP



The Immanuel Prayer Group meets every Sunday from 10 – 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary of the church and we need you to join us too! Come and pray for our church, our community, our country, and your special needs. Come and go as you are able! God CAN do immeasurable more than all we can ask or imagine! Ephesians 3:20.

2014 Offering Envelopes

The 2014 Offering Envelopes are available at the Church Office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Joyful Response forms are available at the church/school office.

"Joyful Response"



I missed church this weekend! But, the Lord will receive my Offering! How? Through an Electronic Funds Transfer program called "Joyful Response".

And, I still get a box of envelopes, to make extra offerings. Come, join me with Joyful Response! See Sharon, Church Secretary or by giving her a call and she will send you a form.

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

Board of Directors Meeting – April 14, 2014

Our Mission Statement

"Immanuel Lutheran Church and School exists to share the love of Jesus Christ, grow in faith and serve community."

Our Vision Statement

"Immanuel Lutheran Church and School seeks to be a joy filled, Christ centered family, equipped, encouraged and empowered for acts of love as we honor God throughout the community."

The Board of Directors Minutes from April 14, 2014 is included in this newsletter.

Officers of the Congregation

President, Tim Sullivan	715-347-7697
Vice-President, Dale Dix	715-424-1409
Treasurer, Carol Huf	715-323-0082
Recording Secretary, Pauline Szelagowski	715-423-0767
Financial Secretary, Michele Kaja	715-424-2840

Directors Of Ministries

Ministry of Christian Day Sch. Paul Vollert	715-570-6455
Ministry of Discipleship, Caitlin Shuda	715-424-3170
Ministry of Human Care, Lois Gellerman	715-421-5829
Ministry of Outreach, Dave Frater	715-712-0830
Ministry of Parish Ed. (Vacant)	
Ministry of Property, Dennis Hall (Temporary)	715-569-3995
Ministry of Stewardship, Tony Belanger	715-325-5038
Ministry of Worship, Ron Karnatz	715-421-5691
Ministry of Youth, Scott & Diane Reetz	715-424-2824

Board of Elders

Cliff Starr (2014)	715-424-2614
Elder Vacant (2015)	
Elder Vacant (2016)	

Auxiliaries

Evening Guild, Diane Reetz	715-424-2824
Ladies Aid, LaVerne Habeck	715-423-4092
Men's Club, Charles Karnatz	715-423-6471

Professional Staff

The Rev. John K. Grohs, Senior Pastor	715-423-3260
The Rev. Timothy M. Ritter, Associate Pastor	715-423-3260
Tara Barrett, DCE	715-423-3260
Mr. Brian Betts, Principal	715-423-0272
Mr. Ted Voelker, Athletic Director	715-423-0272
Church Office Number – 111 11 th St. N.	715-423-3260
School Office Number – 111 11 th St. N.	715-423-0272
Church Phone Number – 160 8 th St. N.	715-423-5190
Pastor John's Phone Number	715-410-4160
Pastor Tim's Phone Number	715-558-4054
(Land lines must dial "1" first for both Pastors' Phone Numbers)	

REMINDER NOTE TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Please have your reports emailed or brought in to the Church Secretary by Wednesday, May 7 to be included for the Board Meeting on Monday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m.



LADIES QUILTERS

The Lady Quilters meet Tuesdays from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. (with snacks following) in the church fellowship hall. Come and join them in the fellowship and making of quilts to help those in need. You only have to know how to tie a knot. Your help is appreciated even if you can only come 1 or 2 times a month. Or you can help by sewing tops/backing at home. Material is available. Stop in and you will be given directions. The ladies are always in need of clean material for batting or liners of mattress pads, old blankets, and non-working electric blankets, fabric and colored sheets are needed. Please bring to the lower level of the church and mark for "QUILTING".

To make at home these are the quilting directions: Recommended fabric: cotton, cotton blends, twill, corduroy, fleece, and bamboo. Finished size: 62 X 82. Seam allowance: ½ inch or more. Tops/backing can be made from whole pieces of fabric or any type of patchwork pattern of smaller pieces: examples are twelve 21-inch squares; forty-eight 11-inch squares; or use rectangles or create your own. (Make sure there are no stains or holes in the fabric).

Project Compassion

If you are reading this and are not a member of our visiting team to homebound, do consider joining this ministry. You'll not be disappointed in the joy you receive in giving. Call me. We presently have 40 homebound on our list, and 25 visitors.

For those of you in this ministry: Before summer arrives I'd enjoy seeing ALL of you Tuesday, May 20th. Please be prepared with a recent report concerning your person or persons.

Pastor Mueller who assists our pastors with the homebound visiting and communions will lead us in a devotion at 11:30 a.m. in the Conference Room. Then you and he can share visiting experiences. It will be good to hear any recommendations he can present to us. We're always open to new insights.

Some of you work during the day so please come to our home anytime between 6:30-8 p.m. with your visiting news. I need to hear from you to be assured that our people are being cared for.

If unable to come on May 20th at 11:30 or 6:30 make certain that you contact me by putting a note in the Project Compassion box in the narthex or phone me at 715-424-2614. Our address is 230 5th Street North. In Christ, Nancy Starr

Resurrection Realities

Please join us as we follow Peter and the implications for our own lives through the season of Easter, beginning April 23rd/27th. Peter's life was forever changed by Christ's empty tomb. The reality of the resurrection hit him on Easter morning when John outran him to our Savior's tomb—When Peter was with the other apostles on Easter evening and Jesus came and said, "**Peace be with you.**"—On the next Sunday as Peter watched Thomas see Jesus and confess "My Lord and my God."—When Christ appeared on the shore of Galilee and Peter, fishing with his friends, jumped out of the boat and swam to Jesus who was cooking breakfast for the disciples—When Jesus asked Peter, "**Do you love Me?**" Peter was an eyewitness to the risen Jesus and he shares with us and others what that means in our lives. Around 65 AD, with the help of Silas, Peter composed his first letter and it explodes with resurrection joy and power. During this joyful Eastertide our eyes are upon 1 Peter—"Resurrection Realities." Come and let the words of resurrection shatter your darkness and be assured of an everlasting glory.

- ✚ April 23/27 – "Resurrection Realities on Suffering" (1 Peter 1:1–13)
- ✚ April 30/May 4 – "Resurrection Realities on Lifestyle" (1 Peter 1:14–2:3)
- ✚ May 7/11 – "Resurrection Realities on Identity" (1 Peter 2:4–10)
- ✚ May 14/18 – "Resurrection Realities on Satan" (1 Peter 5:6–11)
- ✚ May 21/25 – "Resurrection Realities on Relationships" (1 Peter 2:19–25)
- ✚ May 28/June 1 – "Resurrection Realities on Outreach" (1 Peter 3:13–22)

Greeters Needed

Immanuel has been a family to me, a place of support and encouragement from so many of you. I am currently organizing volunteers to be greeters before the church services on Sundays and Wednesdays. We have so much warmth and friendliness in our congregation that we want to extend our welcomes beyond our regular pews. As a greeter, you could volunteer alone, or with a friend or family. If you are interested in greeting our members and visitors as they come to worship, please email me your interest and availability. Thanks! Caitlin Shuda: cqshuda@gmail.com(715) 459-7570.



"Take Me Out To The Ball Game"



Brewers Baseball has begun and the annual Immanuel Brewers game is scheduled for Saturday, May 31 this year at Miller Park to watch the Brewers take on the Chicago Cubs. Game time is 3:10 p.m.

and as last year we will have a designated tailgate area with most of the food provided. Cost to attend this year is \$60 and includes game ticket to a Terrace Box seat in section 433, transportation and the pre-game tailgate. Sign up in the church office or contact Pastor Tim.

MEN'S Fishing/Golf Retreat

The men's Fishing/Golf Retreat will be at Camp Luther May 13-16, 2014. Hopefully the ice will be gone, the water warm and the fish hungry. It's always a good time of fishing, golf, Bible study, good food and great fellowship! The group gets larger each year and the first applicants get the cottages. Cost this year is \$115 – a real deal! Contact Cliff Starr at 715-424-2614 for registration forms or questions.

Wounded Warriors Project

Immanuel, St. John and St. Luke's Churches will be collecting monies for the "Wounded Warrior Project of America." We will collect gifts the next several weeks and will be ending on Memorial Day, May 26, 2014. If you are inclined to donate, please write "Wounded Warriors" in the memo line of your check or put in an envelope, marking it as "Wounded Warriors". If you already have given to WWP, don't feel obligated to do this.

"Live Your Faith Live"

"Live Your Faith Live" Concert will be Friday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center, Wisconsin Rapids. Featured Artists will be Comedian, Daren Streblow and Christian Singer, Jason Gray (on his "With Every Act of Love" tour). Tickets are \$5.00 per person and may be purchased at the church/school office until Thursday, May 1. Sponsored by Immanuel, St. Luke's and Trinity Lutheran Churches. Other sponsors are Thrivent and area businesses.

Ascension Day Services



Our annual joint Ascension Day worship services will be Thursday, May 29 at 6:15 p.m. at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 2011 10th Street South. The choirs will combine forces for this joyful worship from St. John, St. Luke's, Trinity and Immanuel. Following the service there will be refreshments in the fellowship hall. Set this very special evening aside and come and celebrate the Ascension of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Mark your Ascension Day Offering Envelope for Immanuel.

Lutheran Laymen's League

The Lutheran Laymen's League Zone 17 meeting will be **Friday, May 9 at 6:00 p.m.** at St. John Lutheran Church, 1165 County Road D, Almond. Roast Pork dinner will be served. Lynne Johnson will speak on her sewing mission trip to Costa Rica. Make your reservations with Duane Steinke at 715-423-2716 by Tuesday, May 6.

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRY

Lutheran Hour radio program will no longer be heard on WFHR 1320 AM. The Lutheran Hour will be on the following radio stations on Sunday: WAXX 104.5 FM at 6:30 a.m.; WDLB 1450 AM at 8 a.m.; WDUX 92.7 FM at 8 a.m.; WSAU 99.9 FM at 8:30 a.m.; WCWI at 9 a.m.; WRVM 101.3 at 10 a.m.

May 4 – **"Live Life, Traveling Well"** (Based on 1 Peter 1:17-25) – When God makes a way possible where there is no way, you can trust Him that you will finish the journey well.

May 11 – **"Doing Good"** (Based on 1 Peter 2:19-25) – God calls us to be good-doers, rather than do-gooders.

May 18 – **"God's Presence + God's Promise = God's Peace"** (Based on John 14:1-14) – God's presence in Christ plus God's promises through Christ equals God's peace with Christ, forever.

May 25 – **"Remembering"** – As we remember those who died to preserve Why didn't Jesus' enemies produce a corpse and nip this new faith in the bud?

Congregation Vote

Congregation vote is scheduled for May 7th and 11th for the Board of Directors is recommending the parsonage/teachorage at 140 10th St North be removed and converted to green space/playground. Cost estimates are \$18,000 or less which include the restoration and fencing. Designated funds are available. There may be an interested party to purchase and move the garage as well. The City has scheduled sewer replacement and road work on 10th Street beginning in June and so timing is important. Informational meetings will be held on April 30 and May 4 following the worship services and congregation vote will take place at the end of each service May 7 and 11. The BOD is also recommending approval for our new elders that include: Brian Hanson, John Sawaska, Dennis Martin, Irv Vollert and Merlyn Koopman.

BETHESDA THRIFT SHOP

It's May and summer is almost here. Check out the Bethesda Thrift Shop in the Rapids Mall for a wide variety of spring and summer clothing, swimwear, and other summer odds and ends. Bethesda also carries a nice variety of NEW furniture, mattresses and frames, bed sheets, socks etc. Special sales include the weekly (Wednesday) Senior and Veterans discount days and a 50% off BLUE TAG sale on clothing and shoes from May 5 through 17. Please come in and support our mission to enhance the lives of intellectually and physically disabled people. Thanks for shopping at Bethesda.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED at the Bethesda Thrift shop to help sort and price donated items or be a cashier or helper at the front desk. Try to get a group of 3-4 together to help us out once or twice a month for a 4-hour shift. It's fun and you will be blessed. It won't take a lot of your time, but a few new groups would help us tremendously. We need you! Please call Chuck ([715-421-3477](tel:715-421-3477)) or stop at the store.

Bingo



St. Vincent de Paul Parish has Bingo every Monday evening. Doors open at 5 p.m. with games beginning at 6 p.m. The church is located at 820 13th Street

South

Incourage Community Foundation

Incourage Community Foundation purchased the former Daily Tribune building with the intent that residents would decide its future use. Join us on April 29 as we reveal the plans imagined by over 500 community participants. Meeting details are as follow: 5:30 p.m. at Centralia Center, 220 Third Avenue South, Wisconsin Rapids. Pizza and soda will be provided. For help with child care or transportation, call Incourage, 715-423-3863. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate in decision making to create a space designed by the community.

Spring Salad Luncheon

St. Luke's will be hosting their Spring Salad Luncheon and Bake Sale on Tuesday, May 13. Bake Sale will be from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the luncheon served at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Adults - \$7.00; Children 12 and under – free. Carry outs - \$7.00. There will be a fast line for workers on their lunch hour.

Cultural Festival

The 2014 Portage County Cultural Festival will be Saturday, May 10 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at SPASH, 1201 North Point Drive, Stevens Point. Six stages of entertainment; over 30 ethnic art demonstrations; hands-on crafts for children of all ages; delicious international cuisine; crafts from around the world. Free admission.

Ruby's Pantry

Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution takes place the third Saturday of each month (May 17) at East Gate Alliance Church, 2203 East Becker Road, Marshfield, WI. The food distribution is available for anyone regardless of financial income or place of residence. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and food distribution begins at 9:00 a.m. until approximately 10:30 a.m. Please bring two large boxes or baskets to put the items in. The cost is \$20 per share to cover the transportation cost of the food. You will receive approximately 72# of food stuff which vary each month that are donated directly from manufacturers: bread, chicken, potatoes, onions, cereal, milk, yogurt, pizza, etc. Questions please call 715-387-3654.

Camp Luther News

Start Training Now for Camp Luther's "Happy Camper 5K" – Saturday, May 24 this event is a 5K trail run, 1 mile walk, & kids fun run. It is a beautiful and challenging course through the trails of Camp Luther, just north of Three Lakes. All proceeds after event costs will benefit the Camp Luther Campership Fund, established to provide financial aid so that every child can have the opportunity to experience camp.

Workbee Weekend (May 16-18) – Volunteers have always played a major role in keeping Camp Luther clean, beautiful, and in good condition. Individuals or entire families can help get Camp Luther ready for the summer by participating in various work projects. The weekend is FREE and camp provides all meals, as well as time for fellowship and devotions. Projects vary, but there is something for everyone. Check out our workbees under the "Get Involved" tab at www.campluther.com.

Memorial Day Family Retreat (May 23-26) – Join in on any or all of the staff-lead favorite summer activities or do your own thing as a family in this very flexible schedule. A guest pastor leads the Adult Bible study while staff teach the kids in age appropriate groups. More information on our website.

Camp Luther Golf Challenge – June 6 – Start gathering your team for the 2014 Camp Luther Golf Challenge at Rhinelander's Northwood Golf Club. This is an outstanding event with great prizes, great food, and great fellowship. Our goal is to raise funds each year to pay down the mortgage on the Camp Luther Retreat Center. We look forward to another great event and hope to see you there!

"U.P. Kayak and Hike Camp" – (June 15-18) – This new camp for children in grades 3-6 and their parents. Campers will travel via bus to Watersmeet, Michigan for a 4-5 hour Kayak on the Ontonagon River. Next we travel to the Porcupine Mountain State Park for camping. The group will hike a beautiful path along the Presque Isle River concluding on the shores of Lake Superior.

"Guitar Camp" – (July 13-18) – New in 2014...Camp Luther is adding a camp geared for the guitar enthusiast. Each day campers will spend 3-4 hours in instruction, practice, and group jamming. A special performance will be planned for the entire camp at the Thursday night variety show. Guitar camp participants will participate in the Trailblazer program during the remainder of each day. Grades 5-8

Health Events at Riverview

In Our Hearts Forever – A grief support group for those who have experienced a pregnancy loss, stillbirth or newborn death, will meet Tuesday, May 6 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the lower level conference center at Riverview Medical Center. In Our Hearts offers support during a difficult time. The group consists of people who have suffered the same losses and wish to encourage and comfort one another. During meetings, attendees share the physical, emotional and spiritual struggles felt during the loss of a child. There is no pressure to participate in the discussion. The privacy of all attendees is respected. The support group has no religious affiliation; however religious beliefs and values may be discussed. No fee or registration required and the group asks that no children attend.

Arthritis Support Group will meet Tuesday, May 6 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the lower level conference center of Riverview Medical Center. The meeting will feature "Food and Nutrition: Does It Impact Arthritis?" by Jessica Hutchinson, RD, Registered Dietitian with Riverview Medical Center. Attendance is free and no registration is needed. New members and support persons are always welcome. For more information call 715-421-7501.

Men's Cancer Support Group will meet Tuesday, May 13 at 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. in the lower level conference center. There is no cost to attend and no registration needed. New members are always welcome. May meeting will feature "Don't Fear Palliative Care," presented by Kay Shawbitz, nurse practitioner and palliative care coordinator with Riverview Hospital. Light refreshments will be served.

Women's Cancer Support Group will meet Monday, May 12 from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. in the lower level conference center of Riverview Medical Center. Meeting will feature "Chiropractic Care," presented by Missy Cook with Cook Family Chiropractic. Light refreshments will be served. The Women's Cancer Support Group is open to all women who are battling or surviving any type of cancer. Meetings are free and no registration is required.

Freedom from Smoking – The eight-session program will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on May 27, June 3, 10, 17, 19, 24, July 1 and 8. All sessions will meet at Riverview Medical Center's second floor board room 3. The instructor is JoLynn Winkels. The program fee is \$60 per person. Individuals who cannot afford the fee may apply for funds through Riverview Medical Center's

financial assistance program. In addition, many health insurance or employee wellness programs provide some reimbursement for smoking cessation courses. Registration and payment is being accepted through May 20. To register call 715-421-7500.

Senior Home Safety Program

This program is designed to help lower income homeowners over the age of 60 to live more safely in their own homes. Some additional eligibility qualifications may apply. We work closely with qualified volunteers to make simple safety related home repairs or modifications at no charge to the homeowner. We also have temporary wheelchair ramps available to rent to adults over the age of 18 for up to 6 months at \$15 per month. These resources are available to those not enrolled in IRIS or Family Care. If you or someone you know could use this program, please call a Resource Specialist at the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin toll-free at 1-888-486-9545 or 715-421-0014 in Wisconsin Rapids.

Helping Adolescents Cope With Loss

The 21st Annual National Living with Grief Program will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2014 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Nekoosa High School Auditorium, 50 S. Cedar Street, Nekoosa. Registration is free, however advanced registration is appreciated. To register, or for more information, please call Ministry Home Care-Hospice, toll free at 800-397-4216. Wisconsin Rapids, Sandi Kahler, Bereavement Coordinator.

NUTRITION PROGRAM

Are you 60 or over and struggling to cook for one or two people? Are you getting enough protein as an older adult? Are you staying in touch with your community on a regular basis? If you are 60 and over, Aging and Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin wants to invite you to the Senior Dining Program with locations: Centralia; Huntington House; 10th Avenue and delicious

meals served at 11:45 a.m. Monday through Friday. Come for socialization opportunities and planned events. Suggested meal contribution is \$3.30 a meal (no one is turned away if unable to contribute). Call 715-421-0014 by noon the day before to make a meal reservation.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We also have an immediate need for volunteers to transport hot and cold containers from our Centralia Dining Site – 220 3rd Avenue South to the Chula Vista apartment complex at 1200 Huntington Avenue. This does not require distributing the meals, just transporting the containers each day, Monday through Friday at approximately 11 a.m. Mileage reimbursement is available, call ADRC-CW for details at 715-421-0014.

The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin is in need of volunteers to deliver hot meals to homebound seniors. You can volunteer as little or as often as you would like, every meal makes a difference. Mileage reimbursement is available call 715-421-0014 for details.

We also need volunteers to help with the meal program in our Centralia location (220 3rd Avenue South) Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 715-421-0014 for details.

Summer Soccer Academy

Concordia University Wisconsin will be having Summer Soccer Academy for the following dates in June 15-17 – CoEd – Ages 12-14; June 19-21 – CoEd – Ages 9-11; June 22-24 – CoEd – Ages 12-14; June 26-28 – CoEd – Ages 14-17 (High School); June 29 – July 1 – CoEd – Ages 14-17 (High School). For more information contact us at cuwsocceracademy@live.com or go to our camp website: <http://cuwfalcons.com/cuwsa>.



MAY

Birthdays

Heidi	Wadnal	5/1	Abrietta	Hartjes	5/11	Jacqueline	Gumz	5/20
Randall	Henke	5/1	Kyle	Dallman	5/11	Carrie	Nikolai	5/21
Chris	Stensberg	5/1	Lucille	Keuntjes	5/11	Kerry	Pruss	5/21
Lenola	Taylor	5/1	Alexandria	Rich	5/11	Jessica	Machon	5/21
Abigail	Stoflet	5/1	Tracie	Bosch	5/11	Mae	Kester	5/21
Alexa	Cour	5/1	Dorris	Havlik	5/11	Allison	Kaja	5/21
Ann	Ciriacks	5/2	Michael	Huber	5/11	Wilha	Kissingner	5/22
Cody	Sawyer	5/2	Amethyst	Smith	5/12	Audrey	Greeneway	5/22
Judith	Konichek	5/3	Emily	Zenz	5/12	Janice	Zager	5/22
Melissa	Glodoski	5/3	Korey	Zellner	5/12	Kassie	Saeger	5/22
Marge	Gellerman	5/3	William	Halbur	5/13	Larry	Ott	5/22
Taylor	Hauke	5/3	Marilyn	Maeder	5/13	David	Pruss	5/23
Sarah	Williams	5/3	Lisa	Weller	5/13	Kaylee	Kirst	5/23
Michael	Sanger	5/3	Tyler	Kohlman	5/13	Jada	McDougall	5/23
James	Hawke	5/3	Isaac	Bretl	5/13	Kaylee	Olson	5/23
John	Steinke	5/3	Rosetta	Ziegler	5/13	Chelsea	Stensberg	5/23
Timothy	Grover	5/3	Irene	Jensen	5/13	Richard	Maeder	5/23
Joan	Smoodie	5/3	Kathryn	Murphy	5/13	Debra	Geister	5/24
Edward	Hilgard	5/4	Marilyn	Killian	5/13	Timothy	Brandt	5/24
Avery	Schneider	5/4	Hunter	Geishart	5/13	Debra	Lindeman	5/24
Lydia	Karnatz	5/4	Brenda	Nigh	5/14	Martin	Claussen	5/24
Dana	Wolf	5/6	Jared	Lindeman	5/14	Lillian	Cornwell	5/24
Juris	Repsa	5/6	Delbert	Wittenberg	5/14	Calvyn	Rogers	5/25
Barbara	Kassien	5/6	Karen	Falk	5/14	Nathan	Voit	5/25
Dorothy	Halbur	5/6	Dale	Dix	5/15	Dalton	Petersen	5/25
Kaylee	Schroeder	5/6	Tina	Huber	5/15	Scott	Sabota	5/25
Hannah	Van De Loop	5/6	Zachary	Weigand	5/15	Norma	Haske	5/25
Samuel	Hamin	5/6	Todd	Twait	5/15	Jerry	Repta	5/26
Jean	Merriman	5/7	Orvel	Utech	5/16	Steven	Nieman	5/26
Brittney	Vruwink	5/7	Samuel	Kundert	5/16	Debra	McMiller	5/26
Joshua	Rusch	5/8	Fay	Herman	5/16	Barbara	Bengsch	5/27
Molly	Larson	5/8	Shirley	Johnson	5/16	Emily	Plowman	5/27
Garth	Schanock	5/8	Vaughan	Kukler	5/17	Mark	Rusch	5/28
Wallace	Albert	5/9	Garry	Krueger	5/17	Heidi	Jensen	5/28
David	Kersten	5/9	Christian	Stromley	5/17	Benjamin	Hofer	5/28
Kaiden	McDonald	5/9	James	Van De Loop	5/18	Wilbert	Pruss	5/29
Alice	Sprafka	5/10	Daila	Goldamer	5/18	Kenneth	Fredrick	5/29
John	Daven	5/10	Jean	Panko	5/19	Patrick	Hanson	5/29
Matthew	Herman	5/10	Judy	Nelson	5/19	Keith	Hafermann	5/30
Debbie	Moon	5/10	Brian	Campbell	5/19	Dorothea	Culver	5/30
Colton	Janz	5/10	Jacob	Gillett	5/20	Jane	Schooley	5/30
Katie	Rasmussen	5/10	Timothy	Williams	5/20	Joann	Zvara	5/30
Oaklynn	Grohs	5/10	Linda	Haefner	5/20	James	Mortenson	5/30
Jeanne	Christenson	5/10	Kaitlyn	MacPherson	5/20	Rachel	McElroy	5/31
Andrew	Jennings	5/11	Tonya	Hawke	5/20	Keierra	Habeck	5/31

