

The Lutheran Beacon

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

304 Spruce St., P.O. Box 466, Tower, MN 55790

May 2022



Christ is risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Easter greetings friends!

I have to be honest, I wasn't ready for Easter to come this year. I was tired. I am in the midst of healing from surgery. I felt like I wanted, needed, or just couldn't move out of Good Friday. It was tough to get ready that morning and get myself here.

Have you ever had those mornings where you just weren't ready to face the day? Where you just wanted to stay home and not see anyone?

I think it is safe to guess that we all have those days. Well Easter Sunday there was no choice but to get up and get going! I needed to be here. I needed to lead worship and the words Christ is risen! So I came and in the midst of a 50-60 minute worship service something happened inside me....

I without even realizing or able to pin point the exact moment transformed from Good Friday to Easter. Part of that transformation was all of you! You showed up Easter Sunday! 150 people packed into Immanuel's sanctuary on Easter morning and children filled the little spaces between grandparents, siblings and family members.

It was just what my soul needed. YOU! People! Worship! Praise! Prayer! And Jesus...alive dwelling here among us!

I didn't know how badly I needed to be here on Easter Sunday and am so thankful for that experience. For that awakening and transformation from Good Friday to Easter.

It feels as though we live in a Good Friday world day after day with the state of the world. And so Sunday mornings can bring a sense of peace. An opportunity to be present with others. To engage in confession and prayer and singing.

My deep yearning soul on Easter morning reminds me that it is ok to not be ok and that sometimes we have to force ourselves to get moving, to participate to leave the house, and at the same time it's also ok to share with others that we are not ok.

May is mental health awareness month and it is so important for all of us to pay attention to our own mental health and be sure that we are checking in with not only ourselves, but our spouses, partners, children, neighbors and friends.

How are you taking care of yourselves now that we seem to be transitioning back to a more normal existence than what the pandemic has brought to us the last two years?

It is important to take time each day to check your mental health status and know that you are not alone and there is help and resources available. Mental health stigma is hard to overcome, but it can begin when we ourselves can become vulnerable to sharing and talking about our own struggles and checking in with our loved ones to make sure they are ok too!

Know that you are loved and valued beyond measure!

Pastor Liz

Greetings!

I'm Eric Norberg, President of the Immanuel Church Council. I'd like to introduce an item that the Council has been discussing, promote your thoughts and input, and encourage your attendance at a May 22 Congregational Meeting.

Certainly in recent years society has grappled with many diversity topics---disability rights, race, sexual orientation, etc. The Church is not immune from these debates. The ELCA Synod leaders have prayerfully researched the biblical references and interpretations relating to gender/sexual identity. Pastor Liz can point you to readings from various lenses and viewpoints. As you are aware, the ELCA largely leaves it up to individual congregations to develop positions relating to gender and sexual identity.

It is healthy for Immanuel to periodically update our policies on various items. As we have done with other topics, the Council does research, seeks input, considers alternatives, recommends a path---and then we can bring to the Congregation to ensure acceptance and transparency.

With encouragement from Members, the Council believes that Immanuel should have a **Diversity and Welcoming Statement**, perhaps for eventual display in the Narthex and use in our communications. We want to make sure that ALL indeed feel welcome at Immanuel.

So here is our draft of Immanuel Principles on Diversity (a summary statement for display would follow):

1. Immanuel seeks to minister to all regardless of race, disability, age, wealth, sexual or gender identity, or national origin.
2. Immanuel welcomes all to fully participate in and have access to worship, fellowship, sacraments, membership, funerals, weddings, and any other activity or event.
3. Immanuel seeks to encourage diverse participation in all ministry opportunities including leadership.

We encourage your thoughts, prayers, and input as we consider a Welcoming Statement. The next Council meeting is May 11, and we look forward to a Congregational discussion on May 22. In the meantime, feel free to contact me, Pastor Liz, or other Council members. Thanks in advance for your thoughtful consideration! Eric



May 4	LeAnn Bystrom
May 4	Faith Mickle
May 5	Lincoln Challey
May 5	James Charles
May 5	Nancy Larson
May 7	Chuck Bystrom
May 9	Brian Zak
May 11	Cathy Carlson
May 11	Scott Peitso
May 11	Valerie Turnbull
May 15	Jack Mausolf
May 16	Brylee Turnbull
May 18	Carol B. Burgess
May 18	Samuel Harsyn
May 20	Lily Russell
May 20	Lynn Scott
May 21	Paul Buettner
May 21	Barbara Rinne
May 22	Thomas Stellmach



May 8	Seth and Kathy Leino
May 19	Duane and Darlene Kittelson
May 21	Ryan and Whitney Cobby
May 22	Keith and Angie Gurius

Offering & Attendance

Date	Attendance	Offering
April 3	46	\$ 1,597
April 10	63	\$ 1,800
April 14	20	\$ 355
April 17	150	\$ 2,275
April 24	41	\$ 2,275
Direct Deposit		\$ 2,323
Noisy Offerings-April		\$ 45

Income & Expenses

April 2022	
Income: \$ 11,814	Expenses: \$ 13,361
April 2021	
Income: \$ 9,677	Expenses: \$ 10,994

May Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers-if you are able to help the church, there is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. Thank you.

USHERS

May 1
May 8
May 15
May 22
May 29

COMMUNION PREP

May 1 Diane Meehan and Doris Mosher
May 8 Diane Meehan and Doris Mosher
May 15 Diane Meehan and Doris Mosher
May 22 Diane Meehan and Doris Mosher
May 29 Diane Meehan and Doris Mosher

LECTORS

May 1 Jarri Ankrum
May 8 Penny Jackson
May 15 Faye Mobilia
May 22 Howard Ankrum
May 29 Greta Tuominen

*We sincerely appreciate our Volunteers!
Thank you*

Congregation Meeting

There will be a Congregational meeting held at 11 AM on May 22nd, after worship. Please mark your calendar and attend your input is important!

Council Meeting

The council met on April 13th, 2022 at 9 AM. Reported that 8 children in Sunday School. Vacation Bible School will be held August 1-5th. Confirmation is being held at the end of April.

The copy machine will be replaced, we will be leasing a new machine. The church is set to be deep cleaned April 23-30th.

Congregation meeting proposed for Sunday May 22nd

The next council meeting will be held at 9 AM on Wednesday May 11th, 2022.

A full copy of the Council Minutes is on file with the church secretary if interested.

WELCA

It was a small group that met on April 21st, but we feel a lot was accomplished.

The report from quilting is that it is doing quite well. The room so very organized and the new blinds prevent fabric fading.

The sunshine committee reported that they have sent two get well, one sympathy, and seven Easter cards to remember and embrace those in need.

The service committee has been quiet and nothing to report from parish nursing.

The volunteers on the sign up sheet for helping with the church cleaning has been a blessing but still a few areas need to be addressed. Check with Cheryl, Cindy, or Jarri on what you can do. A lot was accomplished the last week of April.

The women provided 16 Easter baskets for the women at Katherine's house. (Substance rehabilitation facility in Eveleth). The gifts from the WELCA and the beautiful cards made and donated by Nancy Wagner were so appreciated.

The penny jar proceeds were sent to the spring gathering in International Falls. Thank you for helping to provide a gift of over \$75.00.

The women also coordinated an Easter card event for Thistledeew camp and 60 cards were sent to remind the recovering men that Easter provides a new beginning.

Thank you to all who donated for the Toiletry Kits. Approximately 20 kits will be brought to the summer Laurentian convention.

May will be the last spring meeting of the WELCA. It will be held on Thursday, May 19th at 2 pm. Please join us.

Social Ministry/Evangelism Committee

The Social Ministry/Evangelism Committee provided a semi-annual birthday party and Easter Celebration at 2 PM on Wednesday, April 13th at Vermillion Senior Living. Birthday cards and gifts were presented to the residents who had birthdays from January through June. Cakes, fruit cups and treats were also provided. Each resident received an Easter gift.

The Committee also set up Bingo for the residents. We had a good turn out and all the prized were won; some won more than others!

Easter lilies were sent to our congregational members residing in other senior living facilities.

Thursday Book Study

The Thursday Book study group (10 AM) started a new book on April 21st.

All are welcome to join our faithful, deep and Spirit filled conversations each week. Come when you can!

The book we are reading is called If God is Love, Don't Be a Jerk by John Pavlovitz,

Parish Health Ministry

Our Parish Health Ministry cabinet members are the following and can be contacted with any suggestions for the health ministry. If any of you have family or friends that the ministry may be able to assist in some way, please do not hesitate to contact any of these cabinet members:

- * Cathy Carson 753-3885
- * Muriel Scott 410-4543
- * Barbara Rinne 753-2091
- * Kay Hanson 218-248-0198
- * Shelly Padgett 218-780-3192
- * Ilene Rice 719-331-3447
- * Faye Mobilia, Parish Nurse 753-6708
- * Marit Kringstad, Council representative 1-612-280-9195

Please note there is a Resource Book/Binder in the church office for your convenience.

Quilting

The Immanuel Quilters continue to meet every Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall. We start around 9 am and work on quilt projects until coffee break time and wrap up around noon.

During our time together we do a lot of talking, laughing and learning from each other. So even if you know nothing about quilting, we are more than willing to show you how we do it. We are always looking for new friends with new ideas. Come and have fun with us.

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Penny Jackson at 651-238-3732 (leave a message and I will return your call) or just show up and join the fun!



Vacation Bible Camp

Save the dates - August 1-5. For anyone interested in being involved, here are a few things we need:

- * People to lead groups of children to each session
- * Decorating crew
- * Registration table each day from 8:30 - 9:30 (Monday) and 9:00 - 9:30 (T-Fr)
- * Clean up crew on Friday

If you can help in any way please let Pastor Liz know.

Members Who Are Homebound

Jim Charles (Birthday May 5)
4559 Shoreline Drive, Apt #406
Spring Park, MN 5584

Carol and Bob Burgess
705 17th St. N. Apt #304
Virginia, MN 55792

Ron Hujanen (Birthday November 25)
Cook Hospital & Nursing Home Room S-204
10 5th St. S.E.
Cook, MN 55723

Eileen Swanson (Birthday July 11)
Vermilion Senior Living
Tower, MN 55790

Ralph Christopherson (January 16)
Edgewood Vista
705 17th St.
Virginia, MN 55792

Scripture readings for the month of May

May 1

Acts 9:1-6(7-20)
Psalms 30
Revelations 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

May 8

Acts 9:36-43
Psalms 23
Revelations 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

May 15

Acts 11:1-18
Psalms 148
Revelations 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

May 22

Acts 16:9-15
Psalms 67
Revel 21:10,22-22:5
John 14:23-29

May 29

Acts 16:16-34
Psalms 97
Revelations 22:12-14,16-17,20-21
John 17:20-26

Contact Us

Church Office: 753-2378
ielctower@gmail.com
www.towerlutheran.com
www.facebook.com/ImmanuelTower

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 – 1:00

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Liz Cheney
Office Manager: Donna Frank
Minister of Music: MaryBeth Reller
Custodian: James Urick

304 Spruce St.
PO Box 466
Tower, MN 55790



IMMANUEL

CARE. SHARE. WELCOME. ELCA.

Contact Pastor Liz Cheney at
218-780-8907

lizcheney44@gmail.com (personal & private)
ielctower@gmail.com (public)

In Person Worship 10:00 am Sunday with Holy
Communion
Find us online:
Facebook: Immanuel Lutheran Church of Tower

