

IMMANUEL SPEAKS
May 2024



Dear friends in Christ,

As we enter the month of May, we enter a time of transition in the life of the church. On May 12th we will celebrate Ascension Day and then on May 19th we will celebrate and enter into the season of Pentecost. We have heard the good news; now we called to live it and share it. Like Jesus' original disciples, we who have been called into relationship with God have been filled with the Holy Spirit and sent to be Jesus' witnesses here in our hometowns, Chippewa County, Minnesota, and to the ends of the earth. So, what exactly does that witness look like? Here is my answer. We tell God's story & our story and we live out God's story.

First we tell our story. In Acts chapter 17 the apostle Paul is in Athens sharing the good news. As he prepares to speak to the people he takes a tour of the city and notices how religious the people of Athens are. He notices all of the different temples, shrines, and altars to different gods. Then he comes upon an altar to an unknown god. Paul then sees an opportunity. This unknown God, whom the people of Athens worship, Paul knows. And so, what does Paul do??? He shares his story and experience of God, of Jesus with the people of Athens.

What does it mean to be a witness? We tell our story like the apostle Paul. We share our experience of God with others. 15 years ago, when I was in Seminary in my intro to preaching class one of the first assignments was to tell our faith story. The professor described the situation as an elevator speech. You are on an elevator with another person, and you have 30 seconds to share your faith, what would you say. It was a helpful exercise 15 years ago and is still helpful today as it continues to remind me that I have a story to share. Like the apostle Paul we are called to simply share our experience with God so that others might come to know God's amazing love, grace, forgiveness, and compassion. We can all tell a story can't we? Then guess what, we all have an elevator speech, a story, a witness to share!

Secondly, we live God's story. So, what does that mean? I think we can answer those questions with one little yet very great and powerful word: LOVE. In John 13, on the night before Jesus was crucified he would give his disciples a new commandment; "I give you a new commandment, that you love another. Just as I have loved you, you should also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

As Christ has loved the world to the point of and beyond death itself; we are called to follow that example. So, what in the world does that look like? In Matthew 25 Jesus tells the parable of the sheep and goats and we hear the call to: feed, provide drink, welcome, clothe, care for the sick, to visit the prisoner. It is all about loving our neighbor as we love ourselves.

Every night as we sit down to dinner as a family, we pray the prayer "Come Lord Jesus be our guest..." But did you know there is a second verse to this common table prayer. It goes like this, "Blessed be God who is our bread; may all the world be clothed and fed." The second verse continues to remind me that we have a calling to fulfill. As our gracious God showers us abundantly with all we need for this body and life, our call is to also be generous and abundant with what we have so that all the world might have their basic needs met and know God's love for them.

My friends, we are in a time of transition: from the season of Easter to the season of Pentecost. We are reminded that like those first disciples and those who have gone before us, we are called to be witnesses to God and God's amazing grace. We have a story to share in both word and deed! Go, be witnesses here in Clara City, Raymond, Maynard, and Chippewa County! Go, be witnesses at the lake or ball field. Go, be witnesses throughout Minnesota, the U.S. or wherever the Spirit & your travels may take you!

In Christ,

Pastor Joel

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Pastor's Report to Council (Mar. 11, 2024 to Apr. 14, 2024) **Rev. Joel Gueningsman**

April 14, 2024

1. Pastoral Acts

- 73 pastoral visits**
- 1 funeral: Alice Jaenisch**

2. Worship

- Clara City Care center**
 - Led worship on March 13th, 27th, & April 10th**
- Holy week Schedule**
 - A big thank you to all the all of those who donated their time and talents to our Holy Week Services! Thank you for another meaningful Holy Week and Easter!**

3. Education/Youth

- Sunday School**
 - First Communion MT**

-6 youth: Kasen Ross Peterson, Linkoln John Bristle, Brenzlee Sarah Schwab, Morgan Marie Rognlie, Blake Mae Rognlie & Taelynn Joy Bluhm. Welcome to God's Table! May you taste, see, and experience the love of Jesus, given for you! May you always know the peace of Jesus, the light of his love, and the joy of his life within you!

-Thank you to the Sunday school for the excellent job leading the Easter processional and for your singing!

-Confirmation

-Youth bowling outing to Melody Lanes in Montevideo, April 10th.

-Started final unit of the Old Testament: The united and divided kingdom/s of Israel.

-Youth Gathering

-Raised right around \$1,000 from Lenten meals and groups that donated their meal to the youth. Thank you!!

-Spring Bake Sale (10am to 2pm) & Luncheon (11am to 1pm) on Saturday April 20th.

-Thank you in advance for the baked goods and donations as the youth make the final push to New Orleans!

4. Mission & Outreach

-Community meal April 7th; next one May 5th

-Game show battle rooms April 28th at 2pm sponsored by congregational life

5. Continuing Education/Pastoral Self-Care

-Festival of Homiletics, May 13th-16th

-Faith+lead (Luther Seminary) courses

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
APRIL 14, 2024 10:00 A.M.

Present: Laurie Dieken, Andrea Prekker, Katherine Schwitters (Treasurer), Terry Noble, Randy Grussing, Addisyn Pederson, Gabby Rognlie, Derek Rand, Jane Niemeyer, Cheryl Colby, Pastor Joel

Absent: None

Meeting was called to order by President Andrea Prekker.

Reports: Treasurer's Report: M/S/P to accept report.
Secretary's Report: M/S/P to accept report.

Committee Reports:

1. Cemetery Committee – to put up a new shed. M/S/P to accept their choice of a stick building. M/S/P to use money from Building Fund for new shed and replenish Building Fund from CD when it comes due.
2. Congregational Life Committee – will be having Bean Bag Tournaments.

Pastor's Report - Reviewed.

Old Business: 1. Door Locks. M/S/P to install four emergency lock boxes at a cost of \$3500.00.

New Business: 1. M/S/P to have West Central Industries do janitor work while Brandea is out following surgery.
2. Endowment Committee - Kathy Speiser, Tammy Jaenisch, and Ben Peterson have agreed to second terms.
3. Lighting – An assessment will be done regarding switching to LED.

Next Council Meeting is Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Niemeyer
Council Secretary

EPHRAIM TRIBE UP FOR JUNE 2024

Below we have printed the Tribe Membership for June 2024. The chairperson will be calling or texting you in the near future, asking you to help serve Immanuel in some way. Start thinking about what you can volunteer to help with! If everyone takes one job, the “needs” list will be filled.

Ephraim Tribe

- Loren and Nancy Gosseling – Tribe Leaders
- Josh Schmaedeka
- Brenda Kabisch
- Jim Fischer
- Dave Johnson
- Robert and Pasty Rand
- Trudi Friedl
- Aaron and Amanda Strommer
- Brian and Ronda Kimpling
- Derek Rand

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OPEN RADIO BROADCASTS FOR 2024

We have a few radio broadcasts open for sponsorship for 2024. If you would like to sponsor any of these, please contact the church office, or talk to Pastor Joel or Kathy. The cost is \$100.00 for each broadcast. Thank you for continuing to support this ministry outreach!

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| June 30 | September 22 | December 1, 22, 29 |
| August 18 | October 20, 27 | |

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COMMUNITY MEAL, SUNDAY, MAY 5

The Community Meal is Sunday, May 5th from 5:00-6:00 p.m. The menu is: hotdogs, chips, cowboy beans, and angel food cake with strawberries and whipped topping. We will be serving to go meals in the alley way and in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up on Immanuel’s Facebook page or call the church office with the number of meals you need.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR SUNDAYS IN MAY 2024

- Sunday, May 5: Acolyte/PowerPoint: Andy Rand
Lay Reader: Annette Rosen
Altar Guild: Michele Shubert
- Sunday, May 12: Acolyte/PowerPoint: Grant Meyer
Lay Reader: Duane Dieken
Altar Guild: Carissa Pederson
- Sunday, May 19: Acolyte/PowerPoint: Brielle Niesen
Lay Reader: Judi Boike
Altar Guild: Judy Gosseling
- Sunday, May 26: Acolyte/PowerPoint: Emersyn Pederson
Lay Reader: Ken Beyerl
Altar Guild: LuAnn Kruger

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MOTHER'S DAY IS SUNDAY, MAY 12TH AND WE ARE CELEBRATING!!!

We will be celebrating all Moms at Immanuel on Mother's Day! We will have a special gift for each of you! After the worship service we will be serving parfaits, coffee, and juice for Fellowship Hour, and a photo booth will be available for pictures! We invite all of you to come to Fellowship Hour and also, take a family picture with your Mom!!

LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION

The last day of Sunday School will be on Sunday, May 5th. Thank you to everyone who helped with the Sunday School program this year! Remember: The Sunday School will be singing during worship, on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12th!

The last time we will meet for Confirmation is Wednesday night, May 15th!

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SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY

MAY 19, 2024 9:00 A.M.

Immanuel will be recognizing our graduating seniors on Sunday, May 19, at the Sunday Worship Service, at 9:00 a.m. A reception will be held in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service. Please keep these graduates in your prayers as they start a new journey in their life!

Congratulations to the following seniors: Summer Kabisch, Greta Meyer, Jack Miller, Domonic Neville, and Emerson Tatge.

“As you graduate, may God’s blessings be your constant companion, guiding you in every decision.”

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May

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 Confirmation	2	3	4
5 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 SS/Fellowship Hour 5:00-6:00 Community Meal	6	7 1:00 Quilting 7:00 NA Meeting	8 6:30 Confirmation	9	10	11
12 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Fellowship Hour Happy Mother's Day!	13 1:30 Joy Bible Study	14 1:00 Quilting 7:00 NA Meeting	15 6:30 Confirmation	16	17	18
19 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Fellowship/Church Council Meeting Senior Recognition Sunday!	20	21 1:00 p.m. Quilting 7:00 NA Meeting	22 2:00-3:30 Coffee for Gals 8pm Youth Gathering Meeting	23	24	25
26 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Fellowship Hour	27 Happy Memorial Day!	28 1:00 Quilting 7:00 NA Meeting	29	30	31	