



June 2023 Volume 1, Issue 6



happy
Father's
Day

Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA
631 Grand Street, Allegan, MI

Happy June Birthday to:

Tammy Reed - June 3

Dottie Steffey - June 7

Marie Kutz - June 23



Happy June Anniversary to:

Dan Jr. and Jessica Doornhaag - June 7

Russ and Joyce Davis - June 1

Ivan and Shjelley Busfield - June 12

Neal and Joy Winger - June 15

Rev. Dan and Susan Ward - June 16



June Activities

The Mandala group will meet on Saturday, June 3rd at 1pm at the church.

Hearts and Hands will meet on Monday, June 12th at 1pm at the church.

Bible and Brew will meet on Monday evening, June 12th in Hamilton.

Coffee for Vets will be held on Tuesday, June 13th from 9:00-11:00am. All veterans and active duty personnel are welcome to attend.

Bible Study meets every Wednesday morning at 10:00am.

The Church Council meets on Monday evening, June 19th at 6:30pm

Book Group meets on Monday, June 26th at 1:00pm here at church. The book selection for the month is entitled "A Man Called Ove" by Frederick Bachman.

First Backpack Ministry fundraiser will be held on Saturday, June 10th as a participating vendor in BridgeFest 2023.

On Saturday, June 17th Jim and Sandie Horwath will be hosting a get-together at their home on Ely Street in celebration of both Mother's and Father's Day. There will be a sign-up sheet on the round table. It is requested that you bring a dish to pass and your own beverages, along with a folding chair. The timeframe will be posted on the sign-up sheet.

****The retreat that was scheduled in March and cancelled due to inclement weather, has been rescheduled to Saturday, October 14 at 9am at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Portage. The title is "Nourishing Your Soul". The sign-up sheet will be available in September.**



Worship Volunteers for June

June 4

- Assistant - Jim Horwath
- Reader - Linda Havens
- Flowers - Open
- Counters - Joyce Davis and Linda Scott

June 11

- Assistant - Donna Preisler
- Reader - Joyce Davis
- Greeters - Jim and Marie Combs
- Flowers - Lori Querback
- Counters - Laura Compton and Pam Hopkins

June 18

- Assistant - Joyce Davis
- Reader - Michele Radke
- Flowers - Laura Compton
- Counters - Joyce Davis and Linda Scott

June 25

- Assistant - Mike Fusillo
- Reader - Ken Kingsbury
- Greeters - Jim and Marie Combs
- Flowers - Open
- Counters - Laura Compton and Jim Combs

If there is anyone who would like to serve as a Reader, Assistant or Greeter, please see Pastor Chris or Pam Hopkins.

Pastor's Page-June 2023: Promotion

Pilate therefore said to [Jesus], "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above..."

- John 19:10-11a

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities ; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God.

- Romans 13:1 (Paul goes on through verse 7)

Through civil rulers, as through our own parents, God gives us food, house and home, protection and security, and he preserves us through them.

- Luther, the Large Catechism, Explanation of the 4th Commandment (Book of Concord, page 407).

"What does it mean that pastor's been selected for promotion?"
Great question!

First, I give thanks that the US Army Reserve enables my ministry here at Immanuel. Had I not been selected for promotion, I would most likely have to leave the Army and that would have made my position at Immanuel...less secure.

Since June 2020, I've been an instructor at the US Army Institute for Religious Leadership at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. I thought I would have to find another position in January 2023, but they've asked me to stay through the end of this calendar year. So, I will teach two more times: 30 July - 12 August and 22 October - 04 November.

However, this is a major's job, so after November, I will have to find a new position. This will probably be a chaplain at the division or command level, and while I'm hoping that I'll find one in Indianapolis or Chicago, I might have to look farther from home.

But I won't move. Reservists rarely move. We're not like active-duty Soldiers, who move every time they change assignments. We have civilian lives (families, careers, etc.), so our Army positions do not require us to leave behind what we do outside of the Army.

I will probably be gone more, and with less predictability. Chaplains at this level (usually) have two levels of chaplains below them and (usually) a few thousand Soldiers. I'll probably travel more, training, visiting subordinate chaplains, etc. I might even spend 6 to 12 months overseas on a mission for my command.

But I will still be the called pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church. That doesn't depend on the Army. That depends on you and me.

All of this assumes that we don't find ourselves in an armed conflict in the coming months. If we're in some kind of "police action" or we send "peacekeepers" or even an actual, all-out (declared) war, all of this goes out the window. In that case, the law says that a reservist can spend 24 months out of every 60 overseas (2 years out of every 5 - and even that can be interpreted...)

But even if that happens, I will still be the called pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

I cannot see the future. I have no idea where, exactly, my Army career will take me. But I do know that the Army won't directly impact my call to serve as the pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church. That comes from the Holy Spirit through the congregation, So what does it mean that I've been selected for promotion? I'm still your pastor.

SDG,

Pastor Chris

Luther Quotation of the Month: The office of the sword is in itself right. It is a divine, useful ordinance that God does not want us to despise, but to fear, honor, and obey under penalty of punishment, as St. Paul says in Romans 13[:1-5]. For God has established two kinds of government among humans. The one is spiritual - by the word and without the sword, through which people are to become good and righteous, so that with this same righteousness they may attain eternal life. He administers this righteousness through the word, which he has commended to the preachers. The other kind is worldly government - through the sword - so that those who do not want to be good and righteous to eternal life by the word nonetheless be forced to become good and righteous before the world. He administers this righteousness with eternal life, nonetheless, he still desires that peace be maintained among humans and he rewards them with temporal blessings.

- Martin Luther, "Whether Soldiers, Too, Can Be Saved," in *Christian Life in the World*, vol. 5, The Annotated Luther(1526), p196-197.

A note about what we do in worship:

One Sunday a month (depending on our schedules), I invite Maryann to the front of the sanctuary during worship (after we distribute communion but before you stand) to bless her communion kit. For Lutherans, lay people from a congregation take Holy Communion to their home-based members as an extension of the congregation's celebration of Holy Communion. So, it's important to remind all of us what Maryann is doing on our behalf and to send her with our love, support, and blessing.

Backpack Ministry Update

As we ramp up for our backpack ministry this year, the principals have made requests for their students' backpacks. As always, you are welcome to give directly to Immanuel and designate your offering for backpacks. If you would like to buy the items directly, we ask that you keep to the specifications (color, brand, ruled, etc.) so that each student receives essentially the same items:

Paper Folders

Black dry erase markers

Loose leaf paper filler, 150 pack, wide-ruled, 3-hole punched

24 pack Crayola pre-sharpened color pencils

Blue Bic stick pens, medium point

Black marbled Composition books

Meade spiral notebooks (wide-ruled)

24 pack of Crayola crayons

Ticonderoga Yellow Wooden Unsharpened #2 pencils

Purple glue sticks

You can also buy from the Amazon list that Alison has posted to our Facebook page.

We're working toward greater organization this year than we had last year, and part of being more organized means giving ourselves more time; so we request that all money and donations be in by 15 July.

