



May 2023 Volume 1, Issue 5



Happy
Mother's
Day



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

May Activities

Our quarterly All-Committee meeting will be held Monday, May 1st at 6:00pm

Hearts and Hands will meet on Monday, May 8th at 1:30pm

Bible and Brew also meets on Monday, May 8th at 6:00pm in Hamilton.

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

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

Restaurant of the Month will be held on Saturday, May 20th at 5:30pm at Russo's in downtown Hopkins. The sign-up sheet is located on the round table in the fellowship hall.

The Church Council meets on Monday evening, May 15th at 6:30pm.

Book Group meets on Monday, May 22nd at 1:00pm here at church. The book selection for the month is entitled "The Caves of Steel" by Isaac Asimov.

Our Annual Rummage Sale will be held on Friday, May 19th, from 9am to 5pm and Saturday, May 20th, from 9am to 12pm. The sign-up sheet for workers is now on the round table. Please feel free to bring your donations to the sale anytime now and you may deposit them in the quilting room. All proceeds from the sale will be applied to our Backpack Ministry for this year.

Pastor Chris will be participating again this year, on Sunday, May 21st with Allegan High School's Baccalaureate Service. If you are willing, please bake cookies for the students and families who attend this year's service. Please bring them to Immanuel by noon on that Sunday. Pastor Chris will ship any leftover cookies to a soldier who is currently overseas.

Happy May Birthday to:



Bill Cronkhite - May 4
Donna Preisler - May 7
Marie Combs - May 8
Mike Fusillo - May 14
Betty Howard - May 18
Mike Melms - May 19
Betty Jeffries - May 21
Nancy Brauer - May 27
Lyn Kingsbury - May 30



Happy May Anniversary to:

Dan and Dawn Doornhaag - May 5
Trevor and Mallory Horwath - May 26
Denny and Meri Gorr - May 29



Worship Volunteers for May

May 7

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

May 14

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

May 21

- Assistant - Joyce Davis
- Reader - Michele Radke
- Flowers - Pastor Chris
- Counters - Joyce Davis and Pam Hopkins

May 28

- Assistant - Mike Fusillo
- Reader - Ken Kingsbury
- Greeters - Jim and Marie Combs
- Flowers - Ken & Lyn Kingsbury
- 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 - May 2023: Plan Ahead

***For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
- Ecclesiastes 3:1***

First, since death marks a farewell from this world and all its activities, it is necessary that we regulate our temporal goods properly, as we wish to have them ordered, lest after our death there be occasion for squabbles, quarrels, or other misunderstandings among our surviving friends.

- Martin Luther, "A Sermon on Preparing to Die," in Pastoral Writings, vol. 4, The Annotated Luther (1519), page 290

You are going to die. Probably not today or tomorrow. But you are going to die. Do I have your attention?

Lorraine knew that she was going to die, so she planned ahead - she wrote down what she wanted for her funeral/memorial service, and she discussed it with her daughters. This was a huge relief to Leanne and Julie when the time came, because they didn't have to worry about what Mom wanted - they simply carried out her wishes.

So I am going to recommend that you, also, should plan ahead.

I understand that there was a time when funeral planning sheets were given to members of the congregation, but I'm going to do it again, just in case you didn't get one or didn't fill it out or lost it or whatever. I have adapted two older forms (the one Immanuel received several years ago and one I've been using for the last 12 years) and included in this newsletter - I have made it as encompassing as I can, so not all of it will apply to every person (skip the parts that don't apply to you.)

I encourage you to fill it out. You can return it to Immanuel or give copies to your loved ones or just use it to discuss with your loved ones what you want.

(There are ways to make estate plans, preplan funerals with crematoria/funeral homes, but I'm a pastor, so I'm sticking to what I know.

Since I, too, will die someday, so I will fill out my own sheet and hang it up on the rotating announcement board.

I hope you will too. Because when I'm dead. I want to make sure Rachel and my mother do not have to worry about what I want at my funeral.

SDG,

Pastor Chris

Pastor's Page - Continued

Luther's Quotation of the Month (continues from the above tract):

Second, we must also take leave spiritually. That is, we must cheerfully and sincerely forgive, for God's sake, all those who have offended us. At the same time we must also, for God's sake, earnestly seek the forgiveness of all those whom we undoubtedly have greatly offended by setting a bad example or by bestowing too few of the kindnesses demanded by the law of Christian brotherly love. This is necessary lest the soul remain burdened by any concerns here on earth.

Third, since everyone must depart this earth, we must turn our eyes to God alone, to whom the path of death leads and directs us.

- Martin Luther, "A Sermon on Preparing to Die," in Pastoral Writings, vol.4, The Annotated Luther (1519), page 290

Upcoming Events

We are again ramping up for our backpack ministry, and this year our goal is 450 kids (a 50% increase over last year!) Our first major event will be BridgeFest on Saturday, 10 June, where we will again give away "strawberry shortcake." Again, we will ask you to donate frozen strawberries, whipped cream, and shortcake/pound cake/angel food cake/whatever cake-like substance you believe will hold strawberries and whipped cream. If you want to make pound cake, Pastor Chris can publish the recipe again - or you can buy it, whichever works best for you. Joyce will organize volunteers for the day itself (she will publish a list and put it on the round table.)

Laura Compton will host our annual church picnic after worship on Sunday, 13 August. There will be more details to follow.

We will have a blessing of the pets sometime around Sunday, 04 October.

If you have questions about major or unusual events in the congregation, please check the annual calendar. We won't put everything on there (Zumba, midweek worship, etc.), but things that float or are out of the ordinary will go on the calendar.

