



MAY 2024



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Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA
631 Grand Street, Allegan Michigan

UPCOMING EVENTS

Quilting Group meets every Tuesday in the Quilting Room at 9am.

Bible Study Group meets every Wednesday at 10am

Praise Team Practice meets every Wednesday at 4pm.

Zumba meets in the Fellowship Hall every Wednesday at 6pm and every Saturday at 10am.

Pastor Chris will be fulfilling some of his Army Chaplain duties at the Rock Island Arsenal from Monday April 29th through Sunday May 5th. The emergency pastoral contact for this period will be Pastor Julia Humenik at the United Methodist Church of Allegan. Worship services for Sunday May 5th will be led by Pastor Chrisy Bright, Assistant to the Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod of the ELCA.

The All Committee Meeting will be held Monday evening May 6th. It will begin with a light dinner at 6pm after which we will break off into our respective committees for discussion. If you have never attended one of these meetings this is an excellent way to become involved and informed in the ongoing mission of our church. There is a signup sheet on the round table. Our current active committees are: 1) Christian Education, 2) Mission and Outreach, 3) Property - Building and Cemetery, 4) Stewardship and Finance, and 5) Worship and Music.

GOD'S GARDEN GROUP: This is a new project for us to gather for ONE hour on the first and third Tuesday of each month to tend to some landscaping around the church. We will begin at 10am and then end with coffee and fellowship at 11am. For this month we will meet May 7th and May 21st. Bring rakes, gloves, and other necessary tools.

EVENTS CONTINUED:

The Annual Assembly of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod will be held via a ZOOM meeting this year on Saturday May 11th. Pastor Chris plans to have this set up in the sanctuary for those that wish to participate. Please talk to Pastor Chris if you want to view this event.

The Hearts and Hands Group will meet Monday May 13th at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Bible and Brew will meet at the Trestle Stop in Hamilton on Monday May 13th at 6pm.

Coffee for Vets will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday May 14th at 9am.

Our Annual Rummage Sale will take place Friday May 17th (9am to 4pm) and Saturday May 18th (9am to NOON). Set up for this event will be on Thursday May 16th and we need your help. Tables will need to be set up and all the items must be brought out from the quilting room. A signup sheet is on the Round Table. Please participate.

Dinner Nite Out will be Saturday May 18th at 5:30pm. The place this month is TBD. We need a host for the evening which means you would choose the restaurant and let them know the number coming. The signup sheet is on the round table.

The Church Council will meet Monday May 20th at 6:30pm.

The Book Club will meet Tuesday May 21st at 1pm this month. The normal meeting day is the last Monday of the month which is a special holiday. The book for this month is *Worry* by Alexandra Tanner.

Save this Date: We are planning to attend the White Caps Game on Saturday August 24th at 7pm. Please reserve your seat now by signing up at the Round Table. Tickets are \$16 each. Signup deadline is July 14th.

EVENTS CONTINUED:

The Student Baccalaureate Committee asks Immanuel Lutheran Church if we would provide cookies for the Baccalaureate on Sunday, May 19th at 3pm again this year. They request chocolate chip and Pastor requests oatmeal scotchies.

Binder Park Zoo Trip on Saturday June 22nd sponsored by Hope Lutheran Church. There will be some very special events especially arranged for this tour group. Information and the signup sheet are on the Round table. The deadline for signing up is Friday May 29th.

HOLIDAY EVENTS FOR MAY

Holland Tulip Festival has a multitude of events beginning Saturday May 4th through Sunday May 12th. Be sure to check online for a full description of these events and for the city drive through map.



MOTHER'S DAY May 12th. The celebration of mothers can be traced back to the ancient Greeks. Later in the United Kingdom and parts of Europe it was celebrated on the fourth Sunday in Lent as a time when the faithful would return to "Mother Church". Prior to the Civil War in the United States Ann Reeves Jarvis formed a *Mother's Day Work Club* to teach local women how to properly care for their children. After the war (1868) she organized *Mother's Friendship Day* at which time she gathered former Union and Confederate mothers to promote reconciliation. After the death of Ann Jarvis in 1905, Anna Jarvis (her daughter) promoted a *Mother's Day* as a way of honoring the sacrifices mothers made for their children. Finally President Woodrow Wilson established the second Sunday in May as **Mothers Day**.



ARMED FORCES DAY May 18th. Established August 31, 1949 by secretary of Defense Louis Johnson and due to the efforts of President Harry S. Truman. This would replace the separate days for the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force. It is a day specifically honoring active-duty military personnel. They are men and women who have sworn a solemn oath to defend our country with their very lives if necessary to secure and maintain our freedom.



Today there are around 1.3 million Americans that are actively serving in the United States military. The painting seen here is on the wall of the first floor waiting room of Bronson Hospital.

MEMORIAL DAY May 27th. It seems to have originated shortly after the Civil War when in May of 1865 a group of freed slaves gathered to commemorate fallen Union soldiers buried locally in Charleston, South Carolina. Later the United States Congress would declare in 1971 that Memorial Day be celebrated on the last Monday in May of each year.



PENTECOST SUNDAY May 19th





Lincoln Vance - May 1
Bill Cronkrite - May 4
Donna Preisler - May 7
Marie Combs - May 8
Mike Fusillo - 17
Betty Howard - May 18
Mike Melms - May 19
Nancy Brauer - May 27



Dan & Dawn Doornhaag - May 5
Pr. Chris & Pr. Rachel Laughlin - May 23
Trevor & Mallory Horwath May 26
Denny & Meri Gorr - May 29

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR MAY

May 5

Assistant - Mike Fusillo
Reader - Linda Havens
Counters - Laura Compton & Linda Scott
Flowers - Rogers Family
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs

May 12

Assistant - Donna Preisler
Reader - Linda Scott
Counters - Joyce Davis & Mike Aksamit
Flowers - Open
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs

May 19

Assistant - Joyce Davis
Reader - Michele Radke
Counters - Laura Compton & Linda Scott
Flowers - Dawn Doornhaag
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs

May 26

Assistant - Mike Fusillo
Reader - Ken Kingsbury
Counters - Joyce Davis & Jim Combs
Flowers - Linda Scott
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs

The flower signup sheet is on the round table. A single vase is \$16 or both are \$32. Check it out and reserve your flowers today.

We encourage you to serve as a Reader, Worship Assistant, Counter, or Greeter. If you are interested, please talk to Pastor Chris or Ken Kingsbury.

Christians in the World

But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority.

Acts 5:29

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. Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.

- Romans 13:1-2

First, a little expectation management: People much smarter than I have written volumes on this topic, so I seriously doubt that I will be able to cover it adequately in this article. 😊 However, it seems ... timely... to cover this topic, if only briefly, so I'll try to hit some high points:

Some American Christians seem to think that we should be subject when our guy (or team) is in power and we should obey God (and not the government) when the other guy (or team) is in power.

Think about that a moment. Really, these Christians are just cherry-picking Scripture verses to apply in way that they think benefit them.

In "On Secular Authority: To What Extent It Should Be Obeyed," Luther writes this:

the soul is not under the authority of Caesar; he can neither teach it nor guide it, neither kill it nor give it life.... But with respect to body, property, and honor he is indeed to do these things, for such matters are under his authority. (TAL, v5, p113)

Luther contends that we must obey secular authorities when it comes to all external matters: body and property (yes, even taxes, which Luther and Paul both mention) but not when it comes to spiritual matters. He goes on to say that secular authorities should not try to teach the Faith – that responsibility belongs to priests (pastors) and bishops. (Reread the last two sentences... 😊)

I would add only two things:

There have been times when Christians have been quiet in the face of great evil – the easiest “recent” example of this, of course, was the “German Christian” Church of Nazi Germany, when Lutherans looked to Luther, whom they read (wrongly) to obey secular authorities. What did we learn from that? If an evil is so egregious, we must speak out and resist (and prepare, as Luther warns, to be persecuted). However, I would also warn that it’s easy to label what we disagree with as “evil,” and that we are currently not murdering people by the millions in gas chambers (so we should stop calling people Nazis).

Which leads me to my second point: Christ commanded Christians to live in love. I do not see this in our political arena (or even when we talk to one another), even (and perhaps especially) by folks who claim the title “Christian.” Maybe we Christian should focus on being loving?

I close with this reminder from Jesus (in Matthew 22:21):

Return, therefore, to Caesar the things of Caesar, and to God the things of God’s.

SDG,

Pr. Chris



ILC WINDOW PROJECT

On April 14th the congregation approved the project of replacing 38 windows in the church. This was deemed as a need as the old wood windows were falling into disrepair and either did not open or close, displaying rotting wood trim, were very energy inefficient, and were exposing the eight stained glass inserts in the sanctuary to possible damage from the elements. The areas for replacement are the eight stained glass windows in the sanctuary, eighteen windows in the quilting room, and twelve windows in the Sunday School rooms.

The congregation voted to approve the council selected bid from the Window Center located in Holland. Their proposal included computer designed replacements that will allow for full view of the eight stained glass inserts located in the sanctuary and will utilize Andersen brand windows with the full Andersen warranty.

The Installation time is based on our date of down payment but is expected to begin in mid to late summer.

If you wish to make a donation to the windows fund you may do so using the **Donate** tab on the church web site or by indicating it in the notes on your check. For those interested in information regarding the stained glass windows, there is an updated color brochure on the table under the by the Sacramental Stained Glass Window.

