



Immanuel's Newsletter

1000 Wisconsin Ave, Kewaunee, WI 54216
www.immanuellutherankewaunee.org

Pastor Michael P. Sullivan
388-2592; 388-6009 (H)

April 2014

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday

(April 17th)

6:30pm w/Holy Communion

Good Friday

(April 18th)

1:00pm & 6:30pm w/Holy Communion

Easter Sunday

(April 20th)

7:00am & 9:00am

Easter Breakfast served between Services

THE IMPORTANCE OF EASTER

By Pastor Sullivan

Jesus' resurrection is often called the cornerstone teaching of the Christian faith. But why? St. Paul tells us:

If Christ didn't rise, our preaching means nothing, and your faith means nothing. Also, we are found to be men who lied about God because we testified about God that He raised Christ. . . if Christ didn't rise, your faith can't help you, and you are still in your sins. Then also those who have gone to their rest in Christ have perished. If Christ is our hope only for this life, we should be pitied more than any other people. (1 Corinthians 15:14-15, 17-19 AAT)

The entire Christian faith is built on the teaching of Christ's resurrection. But if Jesus didn't rise from the dead, it would mean that his sacrifice was not enough to pay for our sins. We would still be under God's curse. Hell would be our future. Our lives would be empty of all purpose and meaning.

I shutter just at the thought of how hopeless life would be, if Christ didn't rise from the dead

But, thankfully, we know that Jesus did rise from the dead, and this gives us great comfort. Why? Because the wages of sin is death; and if death has been defeated, so has sin. Christ's resurrection declares that God has accepted Jesus' payment for all our transgressions. We are free and forgiven. All of us who look to him in repentance and faith will receive eternal life. We will rise from the dead on the last day to live a new and glorified life with Christ in the eternal paradise he is even now preparing for us.

Jesus' resurrection not only gives us a wonderful hope for the future, but it also gives our present lives purpose and meaning. Think about it for a moment: if there was no life after death, what purpose could our lives have? Absolutely none. Our existence would be meaningless.

But the fact that Christ rose from the dead reveals that there is life after death. Christ's resurrection offers forgiveness, renewal and hope for all who have sinned. It gives our lives purpose: to glorify God in this earth through our words and actions, sharing the message of Christ with others so that they too might, through repentance and faith, have the same hope we have. And how do we do this? By using the time, talents and treasures that God has given each of us to show love for Christ by loving our neighbor, praying for him, and helping him out how ever we can. The greatest act of love we can show our neighbor is telling him about Christ. Why?

The love of Christ compels us because we're convinced One died for all and so all have died. He died for all that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him Who died and rose for them. (2 Corinthians 5:14-15 AAT)

The resurrection of Jesus truly is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. The message of Easter gives us profound hope and comfort for whatever we may face in life: be it standing beside the sick bed of a loved one, or hearing our own doctor tell us we have cancer. Because of Jesus' resurrection we don't have to be afraid of death. We don't have to be afraid of life either, because we know that God will keep his promise to *rescue [us] from all the evil that is done and will save [us] and take [us] to His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever. Amen. (2 Timothy 4:18 AAT)*

President's Letter

I'd like to address some financial and service problems that we are facing here at Immanuel. I didn't want our Pastor to have to talk about finances. He is called for something else. I know some people do not like any talk about money associated with church, but, as your President, I feel I must keep the congregation informed.

In my last letter I listed our ministries of Manitowoc Lutheran HS, St. Paul's Elementary School, Student Aid, and WELS Congregation Mission Offerings and mentioned our own evangelism programs. We also need to remember our own Christian education programs. I also asked you to remember to budget for the Lord's work in the upcoming year when you plan your household budget so that we can continue our ministries, as well as pay the electric and heating bills.

Well, we are not starting off this year too well. We are almost at the point of having to dip into a line of credit (like taking out a loan) to pay our bills and meet our ministry commitments. Please prayerfully consider where you stand with first fruits giving. In your end of year statements you received a table to help you determine where you were at in giving back to the Lord a part of your income. I think we all need to ask ourselves whether we are *grudgingly* taking a few dollars out of our wallets on Sundays, or are we *joyfully* returning part of the Lord's financial blessings to strengthen and expand His kingdom? When the Lord said the love of money (worldly possessions) is the root of all evil he really hit the mark didn't he? It is hard to earn a certain amount and not want to live, or base your life's activities, on that entire amount. First fruits giving is taking a cut off the top and then living on the rest, trusting God to care for us and give us what we need with the remainder; just as if that is all we earned in the first place. And that amount shouldn't depend on the

number of church services we attend because we don't give contributions to "pay" for a sermon. Instead we are giving back to support the kingdom of God and the spread of the Gospel. Let's all think *and talk* about this issue and ask for the Lord's guidance and blessings. Thanks.

Perhaps some of you get the devotion pamphlets put out by Time of Grace ministries. I'd like to mention the one from 17 February, which was titled, "An Attitude of Service". Please don't be afraid to serve in some capacity if asked, or to volunteer. I'm sure we have much untapped talent in our congregation. The devotion says that perhaps our attitude should be like that of our Lord, who said, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." What better model to follow than the Lord?

Do you have some feedback for me? Always feel free to give me a call or send me an email at glennbrunner1@yahoo.com).

Your brother in Christ,
Glenn Brunner

Membership Changes

Baptism: Paxton Chaudoir

Transfer In: Pastor Ken & Diane Kratz

Received by Profession of Faith: Keith Schmeling

Adult Confirmation: None

Release: None

Loss to Eternal Life: None

Elders Board Report

Members from our congregation recently attended the Spring Seminars for Christian Service in Appleton. This annual event draws people from all over Northern Wisconsin to get information on service in the church. One of the seminars was "Empowering Women in the Congregation." This subject will be discussed and explored by the Elders board and a women's committee on how we can define and encourage women to serve in different types of service, in light of God's Word.

Recently Dan and Mari Fager attended the WELS Marriage Enrichment event in Green Lake. These events are sponsored by the WELS Adult Discipleship, or info is on www.wels.net/events. The theme was "Marriage is a profound mystery." By studying God's Word and discussing what marriage is, it becomes clear what the secret to a great marriage is. Couples are certainly encouraged to look at this great opportunity.

The 150th Anniversary committee is hard at work to develop some dates and events to commemorate Immanuel's milestone. If there is anyone interested in participating in the planning or researching of our history, please contact Dan Fager or watch the service bulletin, for announcements of committee meetings.

Property Board Report

Ladies and gentlemen, spring has arrived? The snow banks are slowly growing smaller and soon the air conditioner will be running instead of the heat. It won't be long now, the frost will leave the soil and we can quit running water in an attempt to prevent the underground water pipes from freezing. The Church seemed to weather the winter pretty well, until a day this week, when suddenly a large piece of ice broke from the roof. Shock of the landing resulted in a broken window to the Fellowship Hall. The broken window needs to be fixed by a glass repair company. Those efforts are under way.

Your hard working board has been planning our repair projects for this year. The restroom remodeling has been studied and is ready to begin. You can expect to see the men's and ladies restroom next to the Fellowship Hall, the Mother's room and Pastors office have a little different and a more comforting appearance, especially designed for the user.

We are working with a program called "Focus on Energy". This program provides a free assessment to identify opportunities for energy efficiency here at Immanuel. Those involved with the program can point out outdated lighting, unwrapped pipes and install free energy saving products. The energy evaluation can bring information on energy saving tips as well as savings to our electric bill.

The board expects the stained glass window repair to continue this year. Any trim in need of repair will be replaced and receive a new coat of paint.

Your hard working board has many other smaller projects in the works and will be too numerous to write about without hogging all the space of this newsletter. This board can assure the members of Immanuel that progress is being made.

Make sure you change your batteries in your smoke alarms.

The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Your hard working Property Board,

Steve Ihlenfeldt, Gary Hardtke, Fred Steffen, Jeff Christian, Jason Karnopp, Greg Hlinak

Planned Giving Committee

Planned Giving Really Works!!!

At about this time last year in March we had a Stewardship Sunday. For this special event the Planned Giving Committee invited Rev. Dennis Kleist, WELS Northern Wisconsin District's Christian Giving Counselor, to give the sermon and also provide a presentation to interested members of our congregation on deferred gifts and Christian estate planning. Because of that presentation we have had members work with Rev. Kleist to put in place plans that work both for them and also benefits our congregation.

Are you interested in creating a financial plan that uses God's gifts to benefit Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church and, at the same time, possibly provide you with a lifetime of income?

Please contact **Rev. Dennis Kleist** for more information.

Phone: 920-740-5899

Email: Dennis.Kleist@wels.net

In each quarterly newsletter the Planned Giving Committee posts a **Planned Giving Table**. The table was developed to let the congregation know about projects and items that need funding. The table is not just a "wish list", but it also includes desperately needed projects and items that our yearly church budget might not cover. Anything on the table listed in **BOLD** is high priority.

If you wish to contribute something on the Planned Giving Table, simply put your contribution in an envelope and write on it the project or item it is to go toward. Place the envelope in the alms box or give it Julie Siegmund.

For more information on the Planned Giving Table or planned giving in general, please contact any member of the Planned Giving Committee.

Lou Richard
Charlie Novak
Larry Schnieder

Manitowoc Lutheran High School (MLHS) Delegate Report

Welcome to Chris Richard who has volunteered to be a delegate to MLHS! His daughter Dana is participating in the Lakeshore Lutheran Schools choir and hopes to attend MLHS some day.

Jared Muench (Immanuel, Manitowoc) is the 2014 Valedictorian. Emily Unke (St. Paul's, Howards Grove) is the Salutatorian.

In 2013 our resale store in Manitowoc, Repeat Performance, provided over \$10,000 to MLHS for tuition and the general fund. Please remember Repeat Performance when shopping or if you have good will donations.

Have you considered an endowment in your financial planning? The endowment program at MLHS generated \$48,506.69 in tuition assistance, worker training and in support of the operating budget.

In the coming year we will need to consider whether we want to participate in the Wisconsin school voucher program in 2015. (A final decision was delayed one year.) This gives us more time to decide. On one side of the issue it brings in students and money. The program would open the possibility for some lower income WELS families to get their children to MLHS. However the state program requires selection based only on family income and residency, so it depends on the number of applications received verses seats available and ultimately the family need (income level). Children qualifying under the Parental Choice program may not be WELS or even Christian and do not have to participate in religion classes, etc. Because of this, some people are concerned the school's education program and school "atmosphere" could be affected. It is reported by other Parental Choice WELS schools that the latter concern has not been a problem. Let Chris and I know how you feel about this issue to help guide us in our vote.

A new administrative position titled "President" to which two directors, the "Principal" and the "Director of Mission Advancement" will report is now in place. Several calls have been made to fill the office of President. A call to Rev. John H. Boggs; presently serving at Winnebago L.A., is pending. Principal Steinbrenner is planning on retiring after this school year. Mr. Ryan Rathje (presently teaching math/science) has accepted the call to fill the principal role under the new administrative structure. Teacher Scott Reinhard will take on the role of Director of Mission Advancement.

Congregational support has dropped over \$70,000 since 2010, but the cost of running a school has gone up. MLHS is facing significant budget shortfalls with the subsequent need of raising tuition. This takes Christian HS education out of reach of some of our children. Have we forgotten why our ancestors established Christian schools? Our young people are leaving the church at alarming rates. Would Christian schooling alone stop that, of course not? Only our emphasis as parents (our focus on what is important in life) can make the difference. But lack of financial support for Christian schooling, lower enrollments, and the falling away of young people from our own synod is likely a reflection of us. Perhaps they are all tied together. Even though some of us do not have our own children or no longer have children at home, we all have children to consider, the children of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Please consider this issue and consider providing additional support to Christian education. Do you have HS age or soon to be HS age children? What do you want them taught?

Don't forget SCRIP is available from MLHS. Your purchase of SCRIP from MLHS is a simple way for you to support Christian education. You can put money into an account for future Immanuel HS students if you designate it to Immanuel's account.

Glenn M. Brunner
MLHS Lead Delegate

Announcements & Etc.

Voters Meeting Agenda: April 27, 2014

- A. Approve minutes of last meeting.
- B. Approve membership changes.
 - C. Board Reports.
 - D. Unfinished Business.
 - Organ repair/upgrades.
- E. New Business / Recommendations of the Church Council.
 - Review and approve update to Planned Giving Table.
 - “Come Follow Me” – WELS Walking Together Sunday in May.
 - Greeter Program.
 - Altar Flowers.
- F. Elections/Ratification of Appointments. None scheduled.

Easter Concert The MLHS Music Department will present their Easter Concert on Wednesday, April 16th, at 7pm. The high school choirs, band, and the Lakeshore Lutheran Youth Choir will present songs of worship to our Risen Savior.

Confirmation & Examination Service Three young men and women have successfully completed their study of Luther’s Catechism and are now ready to be confirmed in their faith. They will be given the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, May 4th during the 9:00am service. Please join us as we bear witness to the work of the Holy Spirit. *A special Examination Service will be held on Monday, April 28th at 7:00pm.*

Altar Flowers There is a flower chart in the Narthex on the bulletin board. Provide flowers in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a birthday, anniversary or other occasion; or for no particular reason at all other than to ensure flowers grace our altar. It doesn't need to be a large expensive bouquet; whatever you can afford is fine. It's wonderful to see our altar decorated with the love of a member. Thanks.

Thank You! A huge thank you to the members and many non-members of Immanuel that helped us with our pizza fundraiser on March 15th. The total profit for this fundraiser is \$5,165.50 and will be used to help pay off the loan for the Family Life Center. To God be the glory!

Fireside Dinner Theater Trip **Seats Still Remain...** Come and join us for a day of FUN as we travel to the Fireside Dinner Theater at Fort Atkinson on Thursday May 1st to see “Fiddler on the Roof.” The cost is \$86 per person, which includes the dinner show ticket, coach bus transportation and refreshments. The bus will leave Immanuel parking lot at 7 a.m. and return about 8 p.m. Reserve your seat by calling Mari Fager at 388-2841.

Thrivent Financial Kewaunee County

Chapter Bingo Party and Ice Cream Social on Sunday, May 4th from 1:30—3:30

St. John Lutheran Church

700 Heritage Rd, Luxemburg

any questions please call Randy R. Busch F.A. at 920-388-2400. Members & guests invited

Daily Devotions

Pastor sends out daily devotions via email. They consist of a bible lesson, brief commentary and prayer. If anyone wants to receive these devotions, they should send Pastor their email address. Send the addresses to: navilluspm@gmail.com

Sunday School

Sunday School meets from 7:45am to 8:50am each week. If you know of someone who would like to send their children to our Sunday School program please have them call Pastor.

Little Lambs

Little Lambs is meeting again on Tuesday's at 10:00am. This free playgroup is for babies through preschoolers and their caregiver. For more information or to register please call Laura Sullivan at 388-6009 or check out the Little Lambs page on the church website. If you know anyone who might be interested in the program, feel free to give them my number. Personal invitations are really the best way to get people to join our group and is a super easy way for you to help with this awesome ministry at Immanuel.

Hospital Visits

The church office was recently informed that Hospitals will no longer be calling Pastor Sullivan when one of our members is admitted. If you would like Pastor to know you are hospitalized and/or you would like a visit, please give him a call. Thanks!

Address Updates

In an effort to stay in communication with our members, please keep the church office updated on your current address and telephone number. Thanks for your help!

Ink Cartridge Recycling Program

Please donate your old ink and toner cartridges to Immanuel. Office Max has a recycling program that earns us "points" towards future purchases (like paper). They will even take copy machine toner! A collection container is located in the 1st classroom by the copy machine. Please contact Julie Siegmund with questions.

Automatic Transfer Available for Church Offerings

Immanuel participates in a program called Simply Giving that will automatically transfer funds from your bank account to ours either Weekly, Semi-Monthly, or Monthly. There is NO cost to you. This is a great option for many reasons. It encourages regular giving, eliminates the need to write a check (which saves you money) and saves Immanuel money on purchasing church envelopes. Please contact Julie Siegmund at 388-4541/juliesiegmund@charter.net if you are interested in this option. You would also cancel or change your authorization directly with Immanuel.

Use of Immanuel's Facilities

It is Immanuel's policy that anyone wanting to use the Fellowship Hall or any of the classrooms should contact **Greg Hlinak** or indicate the use on the calendar in each room. Requests for rooms should be made at least one week in advance. **Chair and table rental should be coordinated through Greg Hlinak and the Property Board**. Please only call Paul Nimmer with questions related to the Family Life Center.

Find the Ideal Confirmation Gift Confirmation is an important milestone of faith that provides the opportunity to celebrate and encourage each child of God to walk with Christ—daily. Northwestern Publishing House has many great books and gifts to congratulate, support, and inspire confirmands, both now and in the future. For more information or to order, call 1-800-662-6022 or shop online at www.nph.net.

The Synod Page

Meditations Available Electronically

Meditations, a collection of daily Scripture-based devotions and prayers published by Northwestern Publishing House (NPH) for almost 60 years, is now available as an Apple app and as an e-book.

"Both the e-book and the app make it easier for people on the go and using mobile devices to access the devotions no matter where they are," says Rev. John Braun, NPH vice president of publishing services.

Printed quarterly in correlation to the church year, *Meditations* currently reaches almost 70,000 subscribers through its booklet format. With the addition of electronic media, NPH gives WELS members another way to access this popular publication as well as reaches an even broader audience. "With the app we hope that people outside our fellowship will find the content and the format interesting and they will use it," says Braun.

More than 2,200 people have already downloaded the app, which was released March 1. One reader writes, "I have been looking for a nice devotional app that isn't too cheesy and has specific topics and Bible chapters to cover. This one is perfect. I love it!"

The iOS app, available through the [Apple App store](#), offers a daily devotion as well as Scripture readings, daily prayers, and special occasion prayers. After a two-week free trial, buyers can continue receiving devotions through a 30-day subscription for \$1.99 or a yearly subscription for \$12.99.

Meditations has been published as an e-book since December 2013 and is available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Meditations isn't the only publication that NPH is delivering electronically. According to NPH president, Mr. Bill Ziche, more than 100 new, bestselling, and classic NPH book titles are available as e-books. This year, NPH also began offering a digital version of the synod's magazine [Forward in Christ](#) in celebration of the magazine's 100th anniversary.

"God's Word is constant and unchanging, but the ways to reach people with his Word are always changing," says Ziche. "Looking forward, Northwestern Publishing House will continue to explore new ways to reach and meet the needs of those we serve—in places and ways that are relevant to them."

Learn more about Northwestern Publishing House and its products at www.nph.net.

WELS National Worship Conference

Registration is now open for the seventh triennial WELS National Worship Conference, being held July 22-25 at Carthage College, Kenosha, Wis.

The conference has something for everyone interested in worship. Rev. Bryan Gerlach, director of the Commission on Worship, says, “The primary audience is those who plan worship—pastors, musicians, and worship committees, and those responsible for making sure there’s good worship in the churches—but one of the things that’s made our event so successful is that we deliberately plan things so that there’s something of interest to laypeople in every time slot.”

The conference workshops cover topics from choir directing, teaching children music, graphic design, church architecture, and art. Other highlights of the conference include a festival choir of more than 120 voices, a high school honor choir, a children’s choir, and a 40-piece orchestra. In addition, four new compositions have been commissioned for the conference.

To register online, go to www.wels.net/2014worshipconference. Lodging is available either in campus dorms or a nearby hotel. Rates vary based on accommodations and days attending.

Gerlach encourages anyone interested in worship to attend, saying the event is as much inspirational as it is educational. “It really is a mountaintop experience,” he says.

More information about workshops, lodging, fees, and registration can be found online.

LWMS Convention

Registration is going on now for the 51st annual Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) convention, being held June 26-29 in Dallas, Texas.

"You will be my witnesses," based on Acts 1:8, is this year's convention theme. "Not only will we have an opportunity to listen to missionaries witness about their called work in the field preaching and teaching others God's Word, but our pastoral advisors also will conduct workshops on how we can all be witnesses in our daily lives," says Jeanne Martin, LWMS president.

Martin says keynote addresses will include a focus on East Asia and Thailand for world missions and cross-cultural ministry and a new mission start-up for home missions. Attendees will also have opportunities to attend workshops on topics such as campus ministry and East Asia as well as how to be witnesses in the United States today. Another highlight, says Martin, is that attendees will be able to meet and talk with the missionaries in attendance at the conference.

“Listening to the missionaries talk about their work, both at home and around the world, and the challenges they face is amazing,” she says. “How the Lord guides them, gives them the strength to endure hardships they may encounter, and blesses them by opening the hearts of those that have not had opportunity to hear and know his Word—it makes you truly appreciate how the Lord has blessed our lives and how much we take for granted.”

Martin says they are expecting about 800 people to attend this year’s convention.

Last year, LWMS celebrated 50 years of supporting mission work in the United States and Canada and around the world with its prayers and offerings. Members of LWMS and children through the kids c.a.r.e. program gave more than \$187,000 to support mission projects.

To register for this year’s convention, go to www.lwms.org. The registration fee is \$170 through May 1.



FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM SEMINAR

Led by Pastor Ken Kratz

Saturday, May 10th

9:00am to Noon

Fellowship starting at 8:30am

“Countless people are living and dying without Christ and you probably know some of them. You want to tell your friends and family about Jesus, but how? What do you say?”

At this seminar we will attempt to answer the questions and concerns you might have about witnessing Jesus with others.

Remember God’s promise: *Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.*

(James 5:20 NIV84)”