



Immanuel

Lutheran Church

Love. Serve. Repeat.

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June 2020



Thanks to *FLAGSUSA* for the United States Flags that were donated to our church for Memorial Day. (see Page 7)

Pastor Bauman's weekly sermons as well as pastoral letters are emailed to those who have given us their email addresses, and sent to others by regular mail. The emails contain a link to a video of the sermon on YouTube. Please be sure that the office has your latest contact information. Thank you!



“The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,
One is nearer God’s Heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.”

- Dorothy Frances Gurney

Beautiful words. But I have never really liked them. For me, they smack of heresy. We are closest to God at the places He has appointed for us to meet Him, where He is there FOR US-- in His Word and Sacraments, in the gatherings of His people.

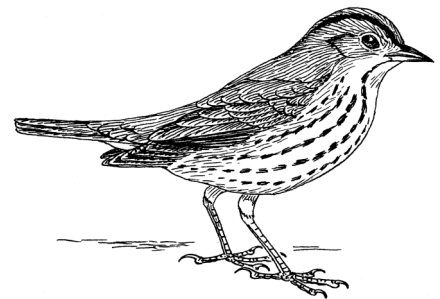
Yet on my walks in these days of pandemic, there is much that draws me closer to God, our Creator and Preserver.

It even begins before my walks. Through the open windows I hear the songs of the many birds announcing the dawn. Then, when I go outside, and begin a walk, my eyes gaze on

- the lush green grass of Spring,
- bushes and trees budding with leaves and color,
- blue skies and fluffy clouds,
- yellow and white and violet wild flowers no one ever planted,
- along with the other-worldly beauty of the first tulips, with the multi-colored flowers of so many different designs that also have been planted.
- And more birds singing,



NEW BIRD MOTEL AT PARSONAGE.



- with other wildlife making their lively appearances.

It all causes me to recall how Jesus pointed to nature in His teaching--

- to the tiny mustard seed
- to the barren fig tree
- to the flowers of the field
- and the birds of the air,
- and sheep too.

I'm also reminded of other Scripture. Psalm 19 speaks of nature PREACHING to us.

“The heavens are telling the glory of God; they are a marvelous display of His craftsmanship. Day and night they keep on telling about God. Without a sound or word, silent in the skies, their message reaches out to all the world.”

- Psalm 19:1-3 (Living Bible)

Our God is not left without witnesses even when our gatherings are restricted by the rules of the pandemic.

So it would be wrong to discount being close to God in a garden.

But it would also be wrong to think that is the only revelation which God gives us of Himself. In fact, nature gives us a mixed message. There are pandemics, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, death-- “natural” disasters in a creation disordered by sin.

Which brings me back to church again-- Word and Sacrament, the gatherings of God's people. There we are given faith in a loving God through the Gospel. It's faith bigger and stronger than the most painful contradictions we meet in nature. There we meet the Lord Jesus--

- one with the Father almighty, the Creator.

- Christ Jesus, whose love for us caused Him to give His life for us;

- Christ Jesus, risen again as the Victor over death itself and every evil.

There the Lord Jesus is present as He has promised-- again, FOR US.

In fact, He is beginning a whole new creation, perfect in every way, and it has already begun.

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

- 2 Corinthians 5:17

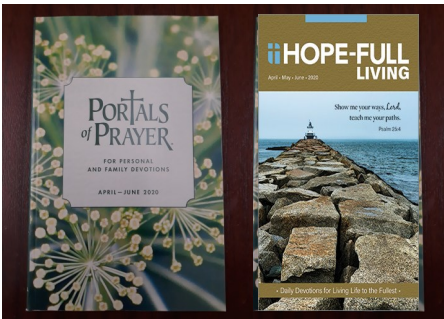
And we look forward to much more to be revealed. In the words of the hymn “Jerusalem, My Happy Home,”

“Thy gardens and thy gallant walks Continually are green; There grow such sweet and pleasant flow’rs As nowhere else are seen.”

- Lutheran Service Book #673

So there IS, after all, a LOT to finding spiritual help out there in a garden.

I strongly recommend spending time there-- but also to receive MUCH, MUCH MORE. Treasure and receive ALL THE GIFTS which the God who gives us the beauty of nature would provide FOR YOU as a beloved daughter or son!



Portals of Prayer/Hope-Full Living

Portals of Prayer has been a favorite devotional of generations of Concordia Publishing House readers, a timeless daily source of strength and comfort since 1937. In addition to the *Portals of Prayer* quarterly print publication, CPH also offers it as a digital app. A new resource CPH is introducing this fall is the *Portals of Prayer Devotional Bible*, which weaves more than 700 devotions into the entire ESV translation of Scripture. Learn more at cph.org/portalsbible.

Hope-Full Living is a newer devotional booklet with daily devotions and especially written for older adults. Many who have used it report finding it very helpful. The latest edition of *Portals of Prayer*,... also in large print and *Hope-Full Living* are available to be mailed to you by calling the church office at (630) 837-1166.

Treasurer's Report

June 2020



Hello members and friends of Immanuel. You deserve a break, so I'm going to attempt to not discuss COVID-19 this month (or at least hold any such comments to a minimum). I'm sure you already hear enough (or maybe too much) on television or radio.

Finances

As discussed last month, I will continue to discuss only income figures consisting of Offerings received from members and friends of Immanuel to show the impact of the closure for normal church Services at Immanuel due to the Stay at Home Order.

Offerings for the first five months of 2020 were \$36,464 compared to \$40,951 received for 2019. Considering Immanuel has not been able to conduct in-church services since mid-March, this is a very pleasant financial outcome. More importantly, Offerings for May were \$6,852 compared to \$5,859 for May 2019. That's \$1,000 greater than last May, thanks to 22 Giving Units (individuals, married couples and families are each considered as a Giving Unit). Our Giving Units have been increasing over the past three months. Thank you to all members and friends who have been mailing in or dropping off Offerings the past few months.

Immanuel's expenses for May 2020 were \$5,801 compared to \$11,157 for May 2019. However, this is an unfair comparison due to many factors.

- Mortgage payments have been approved by LCEF to be Interest Only (\$285/mo) since April continuing through July compared to the full mortgage payment of \$2,347/mo). That is a total savings on Immanuel's cash flow of over \$8,000, the impact of which is only a longer mortgage term.
- Starting on 4/1/20, I have elected a payment plan for Immanuel's insurance program renewal by paying the larger portion of the premium on a monthly basis at a very favorable interest rate compared to paying the entire premium on a quarterly basis.
- Since in-church services were discontinued since mid-March, we have been generating only minimal amounts of trash, so we have been able to defer the \$160 monthly charge for March until we resume pick up service once in-church services resume, saving \$160/mo for April, May and June, saving \$480 cash flow expense.
- NICOR and Com Ed have agreed to defer payments for April, May and June, offering to charge a monthly fee for either three or six months, adding a portion of past due amounts to the next 3 or 6 months charges. Depending on Immanuel's cash flow in June, we will be able to decide then which option best accommodates our needs.
- Lastly, due to the inability to hold in-church Services since mid-March, Immanuel's internal expenses for office supplies and weekly bulletins have been reduced.

Other more pleasant topics . . .

Of special interest to all is the question of when will the church be ready to open for in-church Services? The answer really is up to the Governor and then secondly upon Immanuel's Pastor and Board of Directors who are working on a plan to reopen the church.

As you may suspect, it likely will not be "business as usual" just as you see announcements from stores, restaurants and offices on the newscasts. There are many things to consider and to prepare for simply to keep our members and friends safe from being exposed to COVID-19. There will be rules to follow and how things were done in the past have to be either discontinued or modified for the safety of all.

As plans are developed, I'm sure they will be announced in weekly updates as sermons are continued.

And . . . Don't forget about our members and friends at Clare Oaks as discussed in last month's Newsletter. Immanuel has expanded its weekly newsletter and Pastor's sermons to these folks too and we hear from them how they enjoy the sermon videos.

And . . . Did you notice how beautiful the front of Immanuel's building and grounds look on the cover page of this Newsletter, all decorated with Marigolds and American Flags for Memorial Day and continuing with beautiful, colorful blooming plants through the Fall season?

Even though we have not yet been able to hold in-church Services yet, please know that our very own landscaping group consisting of John Moninger, Bob B, and Dick Zoellick (a former and longtime Immanuel member currently a member of Trinity Roselle, and longtime friend of Bob) have been caring for church landscaping and lawn mowing on a weekly basis so the church will be ready to welcome all of its people back.

Also since many of our members are homebound and may be looking for a reason to get out of the house for a little while, we could certainly use a little assistance in watering and caring for the plants around the church and maybe on some other projects. If you are able to pitch in, please call the office and leave a message. Someone will call you back quickly. Thank you.

And . . . A very special Thank You is extended to Kimberly Dacka, Sales Manager at *FlagsUSA* (just 1/2block down Devon from Immanuel) for donating all those beautiful American Flags waving in front of our church to celebrate Memorial Day. Thank You, Kimberly, for assisting Immanuel in honoring Memorial Day and all of the Bartlett area Veterans.

Blessings to all.

Bob Brinkman
Treasurer

FLAGS for the CHURCH

A really special Thank You to Flags USA for so graciously contributing the American Flags that are being displayed in front of Immanuel for our Memorial Day patriotic display of marigolds and flags.

Flags USA are a neighbor of Immanuel just two blocks west of the church. Neighbors like this are a true blessing.

May God truly bless the staff at Flags USA!



Join Us for a Study of Genesis

What are you doing Sunday mornings at 10:30? You and your family are cordially invited to join us in the Study of Genesis. It's safe, at home, and we meet with God. We meet virtually. We would be happy to send you an invitation to join our meeting. Please just drop me an email with your e-address and I will include you in Sunday's Study. You may email me at: shover2004@yahoo.com you will be so happy you did it's a wonderful feeling to see your friends at Immanuel.

Sally

June Birthdays

6/2 Doreen Dudesek
6/8 Marcia Johnson
6/9 Mike Tellin

6/20 Jimmy Miller
6/23 Mike Dailey
6/26 Becky Hedberg
6/30 Allison Kuehn

Services and meetings are closed until further notice. We are evaluating the government guidelines and our church body's recommendations to determine a re-opening date.

June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 8:00-10:00 a.m. Church Properties
7 The Holy Trinity 9:30 a.m. Worship Service (HC) 10:45 a.m. Bible Class	8	9 Board of Evangelism 7:00 p.m.	10	11	12	13 8:00-10:00 a.m. Church Properties
14 Second Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Bible Class	15	16	17	18 Board of Directors 7:00 p.m.	19	20 8:00-10:00 a.m. Church Properties
21 Third Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 a.m. Worship Service (HC) 10:45 a.m. Bible Class	22	23	24	25	26	27 8:00-10:00 a.m. Church Properties
28 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Bible Class	29	30			Iglesia Apostolica Cristo La Roca (CTR)- Every Sunday 12-5 Every Tuesday 7-9 Every Friday 7-9	