



IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS MAY 2023



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

On Sunday, May 7, Immanuel will celebrate our members who are graduating from high school. They will be recognized during the 9:00 a.m. service. Before the service, the seniors and their families are invited to a breakfast in the Fellowship Hall hosted by the junior class. If you are interested in giving a card or gift to any of the senior students, gift/card bags for each senior will be at the church for the first 2 weeks in May. Our graduating seniors are:

- Victoria Chapman**, daughter of Derek and Cora Chapman
- Jason Hansen**, son of Joey and Jennifer Hansen
- Madison Kjergaard**, daughter of Brian and Paula Kjergaard
- Wil Neuharth**, son of Stephanie Ahrenholtz
- Keisha Nielsen**, daughter of Phil and DeAnn Nielsen
- Sheila Nielsen**, daughter of Phil and DeAnn Nielsen
- Ella Plagman**, daughter of John and Jill Plagman
- Eric Torneten**, son of Terry and Stacey Torneten
- Jared Walters**, son of Amber Jacobsen

Worship in May 2023

May 6-7 Easter 5	Visible and Invisible (Romans 1:18-25)	Communion Graduate Recognition
May 13-14 Easter 6	Justified by Faith Alone (Romans 3:19-28)	
May 20-21 Easter 7	The Gospel according to Abraham (Romans 4)	Communion
May 27-28 Pentecost	Welcome, Holy Spirit (Acts 2)	



May 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything.



Some would say that we live in a skeptical age, that people are prone to question authority and tradition. Others would say that we live in a gullible age where people fall for all kinds of ridiculous assertions they read or hear on the internet or in the media. It would seem that both are true. People distrust the Bible, but they regard the internet as more or less reliable. If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything.

What we believe about God and about the meaning of life makes a huge difference in how we experience life. Your faith becomes your glasses through which you see the world. If you have a faith that is grace based, you will see life as full of opportunities to discover and grow in faith, hope, and love. If you have a faith that is fear based, you will see the world as a dark and dangerous place.

The enemy has always tried to corrupt and distort our view of God. From the very beginning, the devil was trying to make us see God as harsh and demanding rather than as loving and gracious. So in the early years of the Christian era, all kinds of false beliefs were trying to work their way into the Church. And it hasn't stopped. But the best way to spot a counterfeit is to become very familiar with the genuine article.

That is why the Apostle Paul wrote the book of Romans, to encourage the Christians in Rome and elsewhere to think deeply about our theology or what we believe about God. He wanted Christians to understand what it means to trust in Jesus so that we would be able to identify the counterfeits around us.

Counterfeits include gnostic thinking that claims there is secret knowledge which enables us to escape the struggles of the world. This includes beliefs in conspiracies or predictions of the future or prosperity preaching. Romans reminds us that we are saved by faith in Christ and not by some secret knowledge.

Another counterfeit is "us vs. them" thinking that tries to identify differences between good people and bad people. Romans reminds us that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Even as followers of Jesus, we are still saint and sinner at the same time.

Another counterfeit is fundamentalism which is the attempt to find proof or an absolute authority. The Roman Church today tries to find it in their church hierarchy. Bible churches try to find it in their interpretation of the Bible. Pentecostals try to find it in a spiritual experience. But Romans reminds us that we live by faith in Jesus alone, and therefore we must always be humble about our opinions and ourselves.

Superficial theology leaves young people vulnerable to cults and false teaching. Romans invites us to dive deep into the truth of the Gospel and find our confidence not in ourselves but in Christ alone. I invite you to join me in spending a summer in Romans as we read our way through the letter that has helped so many Christians understand genuine Christian faith as opposed to the counterfeits of this world.

Yours in Christ, *Phil Nielsen*



ON OUR PRAYER LIST: Shirley Olson, Dan Jensen, Shelia Mills, Shirley Haner, Kayla Weis, Sandra Haney, Connie Benson, Bill Broveak (son-in-law of Ed & Shelia Mills and brother in law of Gaige & Sherry Lytle), Jerry Christensen (son of John Christensen), Jaya Fever (daughter of Pastor Kyle Fever), Rita Whiteley (cousin of Maggie Hatcher), Wade Mills (son of Ed & Shelia Mills and brother of Sherry & Gaige Lytle), Curt Olson (son of Sue Olson).



Happy Birthday to the following:

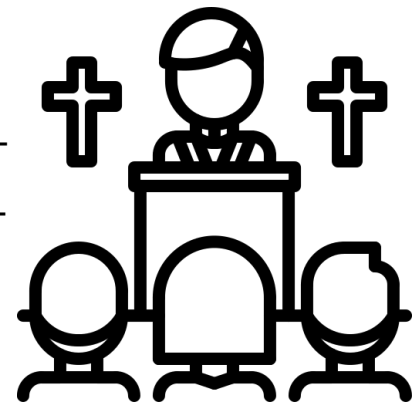
Loyal Moore will be 97 on May 1.
 Lynette Miller who will be 83 on May 1.
 Verna Christensen will be 85 on May 6.
 Donna Hansen who will be 89 on May 10.
 Bert Hillers will be 83 on May 12.
 Shirley Knudtson who will be 97 on May 16.
 Bonnie Grabill will be 87 on May 20.
 Lois Sick who will be 91 on May 22.

Happy Anniversary to the following:

Harry & Orvetta Priest who will be celebrating their 58th anniversary on May 16.
 Ken & Shirley Olson will be celebrating their 53rd anniversary on May 23.
 Bruce & Kay Havick who will be celebrating their 62nd anniversary on May 27
 Pat & Ruthe Pattison will be celebrating their 67th anniversary on May 27.

MAY MISSION PARTNERS

Everyone has noticed the shortage of workers after so many “boomers” took early Covid retirement. The labor shortage is probably only going to get worse as the rest of the “boomers” retire. And it looks like the Church will also experience this shortage. The average age of clergy has been rising for some time. In rural areas, congregations struggle to find qualified clergy to serve. There has been a new wave of congregations joining LCMC because they like the freedom of the LCMC call process. However, we are going to need a whole lot of new pastors in the near future.



This month Immanuel is providing support for the 3 seminaries that provide many of the new pastors for LCMC. Each of these seminaries (Luther House of Study, Institute of Lutheran Theology, and St. Paul Seminary) have been formed in the past 20 years to supply the need for pastors trained in Biblical and evangelical Lutheran theology. Our LCMC neighbors at Elk Horn Lutheran Church recently called a new pastor, Pastor Laura Webb, who is finishing up her studies at Luther House of Study. The future of LCMC depends on the quality of the future pastoral leaders of our congregations. So we are investing in our future.

****NOTICE TIME CHANGE FOR HMU EVENING PROGRAM****

WORSHIP SERVICES at Immanuel are recorded for viewing on **HMU channel 15 (9:00 a.m. Sunday and 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday)** and on FMCTC channel 48 (Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.). Our worship services are also posted on our website (www.harlanimmanuel.org/sermons.html) and on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ilcharlan).

The
Will of God
 will never take you
 where the
Grace
 of God
 will not protect you.



IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS



WEDNESDAY, MAY 10TH the ILCW Community Committee will be making "May Bags" for our shut-ins and Super Seniors. A basket will be placed in the back of the church if you would like to contribute. Useable items: snack bars, fruit snacks, wrapped treats, cookies, etc. Any donations are appreciated!



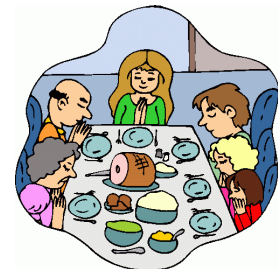
Thanks to all the singers and ringers who have blessed us with music this past year. And thanks especially to Taylor Peek and Linda Mosher who have led our ministry in music this past year as interim directors. We are looking for individuals and groups who will share gifts of music with us during the summer months. If you would like to sing or play an instrumental prelude, please sign up in the church office.

Thank you!! As the handbell choir ends its year, I'd like to thank all the handbell ringers and the wonderful substitutes that have stepped up this year! When I was asked to direct the handbell choir, I was a bit hesitant. Although I had directed church choirs and handbells for 39 years, I was not sure about coming back after several years of retirement, but what a joy it has been! These gals are dedicated! As a congregation, you need to know this, and Immanuel is blessed to have them all! For whomever takes over, the handbell choir will continue to add special music for years to come! Grateful to have had a part in the ongoing special group. *Linda Mosher*



Extra Bibles at your house? We are looking for them because we want to offer them up free to anyone visiting our entryway along with any donations of food you could provide in our **sharing cupboard**. Food for the body and food for the soul too! We will put a few at a time in the wire basket mounted inside the food cupboard along with a little note so if you have one or some to pass along, please give them to the church office or one of the Outreach and Stewardship committee members, (Steve Allen, Richard Furst, and Barbara Furst). Thank you!

The Easter Breakfast serving went as smooth as a Bunny's ear or tail, whatever. Anyway, so many of you were up early and cooking and bringing dishes. We had plenty and even enough for leftovers allowing for some being able to take plates home after. Jesus knows all your names and we are so very grateful for the generosity and joyful service of those who provided the food, and those who came to enjoy a wonderful variety of freshly prepared meals together on Easter morning at 8 o'clock!



The Food Pantry has these suggestions as requested items for children this Summer: individual lunch box sized potato chips packages, individual cups of jello and or pudding. Hamburger Helper, Kraft macaroni boxes, bathroom tissue, peanut butter and pop tarts. Please also, if possible to donate much needed items in our sharing cupboard in the front entry. Thank you for all your donations!



APRIL COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The Immanuel Church Council met April 11 with 12 of 13 members present. Eric Chipman led **devotions** reflecting on the Jesus Revolution Movie and Romans 12:2. Steve Allen will lead devotions in May.

Eric Chipman, Vicki Strissel, Scott Shannon, Rich and Barb Furst, Craig Olson, Steve Allen, John Taggs, Dave Greve, and Joey Hansen volunteered for Sunday deacon duties.

Treasurer: March income was \$27,703 and expenses were \$23,395. General Fund balance was \$70,005. Building Fund balance was \$57,955. Organ Project Balance was \$41,154.

Worship/Evangelism: Still working on recruiting a Music Director or directors. Thank you to John Taggs for the Organ Project Display. A Organ Project Fundraiser is planned for April 29. Guest preachers are lined up for April 15/16 (Evan Nielsen) and April 22/23 (Tom Eggum)

Fellowship/Education: Easter Breakfast was successful. Fellowship event at the Bowling Alley is April 16. High School Senior breakfast and recognition planned for May 7. We have several families and children signed up for church camp. VBS is July 24-27. A summer fellowship event is being discussed.

Outreach/Stewardship: 342 pounds donated to county food pantry. Carts will be out as visual reminder for first fruits giving to the pantry. Sharing Cupboard is progressing. Kris Olson-Harmon is overseeing it on our behalf. Fridge is in and awaiting signage. Shelving will be added to the left. April Mission partner is Hope 4 Kids (Tom Eggum). May Mission Partners are 3 of our LCMC affiliated seminaries: Luther House of Studies at Sioux Falls, Institute of Lutheran Theology, and St. Paul Seminary. Elk Horn's new pastor (Laura Webb is from Luther House of Studies). 9th well has been drilled and awaiting solar pump. Thank you to Megan Shannon for organizing the meal train for the Weis family.

Property: Ken Nielsen got the kitchen drains fixed. Ken Carstens and Rich and Sharon Daberkow have cleaned up the church yard. Wasp problem has been noted. Traps will be set out.

WORSHIP & GIVING

	<u>Attendance</u>				<u>General</u>		<u>Building</u>	<u>Total</u>
Mar. 29 Lent		62	=	62	\$ 405.00	\$		\$ 405.00
Apr. 1-2	36	+	131	=	167	\$ 7,325.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 7,425.00
Apr. 6 M.Thurs.		75	=	75	\$ 1,039.00	\$		\$ 1,039.00
Apr. 7 Good Fri.		?	=	?	\$ 445.18	\$		\$ 445.18
Apr. 9 Easter	67(7am)+(9am)			266	=	333	\$ 7,396.38	\$ 7,396.38
Apr. 15-16	24	+	106	=	130	\$ 4,050.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 4,060.00



ILCW EXECUTIVE BOARD April 12, 2023



The ILCW Exec Board met Wednesday, April 12 in the All-Purpose room with Sandy Nelsen, Kathy Block, Janet Johannsen, Sharon Daberkow, Sally Nairn, Julie Vorm and Jean Whitfield present. Sandy called meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Motion by Julie and seconded by Sally to approve the March minutes. Ayes all.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kathy reported receipts of \$360 for Easter lilies sold. No other income or expenses for March leaves balance at \$1712.71.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: **Hospitality:** 35 Easter cards were sent by Jonelle.

Community: Sharon put a basket in narthex for donations such as pudding cups, Jello cups, fun size candy bars, crackers, small bags of chips etc. The May goodie bags will already be assembled and will be distributed May 10 to be delivered after the meeting.

Mission Quilters: Julie reported 8 full size quilts and 4 lap quilts were completed by 7 quilters at the last meeting.

Kitchen: Jean reported kitchen cleaning date has not been set yet.

OLD BUSINESS: 23 Easter Lilies were sold @\$15 each. Treasurer's books were audited by Marge and approved. Napkins for funerals/special church events can no longer be printed by Concerned Inc. Jean reported finding Stone Printing in Carroll provides this service. These are 3 ply napkins with 1 line of foil printing. Kathy motioned to order minimum order of 1000 (\$250). Sharon seconded. Ayes all.

NEW BUSINESS: **Camp Requests:** We have 9 individuals and 1 family requesting funds from ILCW to attend camp. In the past ILCW has given \$100 to each individual camper and \$200 to each family that has 1 or more children attending camp. It was decided to extend invitation to the Gathering ladies to make a contribution to the ILCW Camp Fund if they wish. We encourage getting these kids to camp each year and are pleased with the number of applications. It is a GOOD THING! Deadline is June 1 to apply.

ILCW GATHERING

Seventeen were in attendance. Sandy extended invitation to make a donation to camper fund if they wish. Sharon informed the group that May Goodie bags would be distributed at the next Gathering and delivered to Super Seniors and shut-ins after the meeting. Dolly expressed her thanks for cards and bags she has received in the past. Hertha also expressed thanks for John receiving those as well. Linda served a delicious cheesecake dessert. We all moved to the quilting room where the program was turned over to Dolly Burgin and Hertha Haas on **Custom Hand Quilting by ILCW.** Pictures of the 200 quilts they have done were displayed on bulletin boards in the room. Make sure you check out this display. Dolly started quilting in 1982 and Hertha started in 1991. Hertha's favorite quilt is an Amish Country Brides quilt and Dolly's are Depression themed quilts. Fees for hand quilting were queen size \$60 and King size \$75. Making the quilt markings was \$25 and doing the binding was \$25. All money collected from quilting went into the ILCW treasury. The hours together quilting resulted in close friendships among the many women who met each week. **Thank you to all of them for their dedication to a lost art. You will be missed!**

Next: May 10--Marge Ahrenholtz--refreshments. Becky Chipman-program--Christian Education at Immanuel.

Bunko: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 2:00.

Janet Johannsen, Secretary



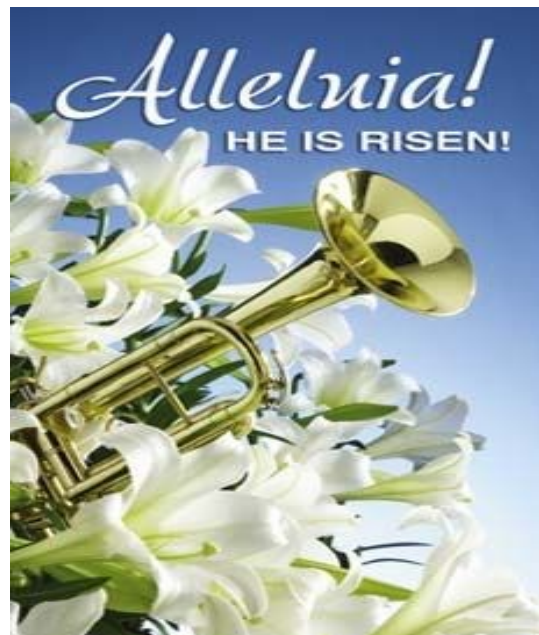
TANZANIA HAPPENINGS

Mission Trip to Kidugala, Tanzania

August 9-26 2023

You are invited to join members of the Tanzania Team to Kidugala. We will be visiting the orphans and the wells that Immanuel has sponsored. We will also visit schools, churches, preaching points and the health center at Kidugala. Visit with the pastors and staff along with the evangelists and many friends we have made over the years. We will be picked up at the airport by a dear friend/driver Pastor Wallace, then off we go on an adventure you will never forget. We love taking new people and introducing them to Tanzania and meeting our brothers and sisters in Christ. Please prayerfully consider joining the 2023 mission. If you are interested, please join one of the TZ committee members at coffee and rolls the next few Sundays for more information or feel free to call me, Cheryl Chipman 579-6211 or any of the other members of the team. Scholarships are also available to help offset some of the cost of the trip.

THANKS to Evan Nielsen for sharing a message with us April 15 and 16. Evan is preparing to go on a mission trip in New Zealand. If you would like to provide some financial support for his trip, you may give a check to Immanuel noted for Evan Nielsen and we will add it to other gifts.



THANKS to Eric Torneten for providing trumpet accompaniment on Easter Morning.



AseraCare Hospice needs volunteers in our area to provide support to our terminally ill patients and their families. Volunteers can visit, read to the patient, participate in a favorite activity, or simply sit alongside them in their journey. Volunteers are a vital part of our hospice care mission. They are provided with extensive training and continued support throughout their tenure. To sign up or find out more about this or other opportunities please contact Jen Vogt, Regional Volunteer Coordinator 402-943-6871, jennifer.vogt@amedisys.com.





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Office Email: ilc@fmctc.com
Pastor Phil's Cell Number: 712-579-2098
Home Number: 712-766-3178
E-mail: peacephillip@gmail.com
www.harlanimmanuel.org

Staff:
Pastor Phil Nielsen
Office Manager: Connie Boysen
Custodian: Slava Aleev

MAY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> 5-8 Shelby Co. University Women	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> 9:00 CF Quilters	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> 1:30 GROW 4:00 Women's BS 5:15 Bells 6:00 Choir 6:30 LYO	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> 7:00 Men's BS	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> 8-5 4-H Taggs 5:00 Communion
<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> 8:15 Grad Breakfast 9:00 Communion/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts 1-5 Jared Walters Grad.	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> 6:30 Garden Club	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> 8-12 Saunders 9:00 CF Quilters 2:00 Bunco 6:30 Executive Bd 7:00 Church Council	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> 9:00 ILCW Bd Mtg. 9:30 ILCW Gathering 4:00 Women's BS 6:30 LYO	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> 7:00 Men's BS	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> 12-8 Nelson 5:00 Worship
<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 11-7 Chapman	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> 5:30-8:30 Boy Scouts	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> 9:00 CF Quilters	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> 4:00 Women's BS 6:30 LYO	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> Newsletter Deadline 6:30 Ladies Homestead 7:00 Men's BS	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> 9-5 Eric Torenton Grad. Party 5:00 Communion
<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> 9:00 Communion/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> 9:00 Mission Quilters	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> 9:00 CF Quilters 2:00 Bunco 7:30 Fellowship/Ed.	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> 4:00 Women's BS 6:30 LYO	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> Assemble Newsletter 7:00 Men's BS	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> 5:00 Worship
<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> 9:00 CF Quilters	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> 4:00 Women's BS 6:30 LYO	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> 7:00 Men's BS	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> 5:00 Communion

Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule

	June 3-4	June 10-11	June 17-18	June 24-25	July 1-2
Acolytes	Grant Chipman Rex Swanson	Cade Neve Jace Palmer	Abbey Brue Katie Stern	Trevor Herbst Gavin Sisson	Collin Burchett Caden Herbst
Saturday Greeter/Usher	Kurt & Janelle Musfeldt	Sally Nairn	Carl Nielsen	Dory Nielsen	Sharon Oman
Saturday Altar Guild	DeAnn Nielsen		Maggie Hatcher		Sandy Nelsen
Sunday Greeters/Ushers	Jesse & Jeanna Rudolph	Pam & Roger Rust	Kate Schechinger Deb Schechinger	Mark & Nancy Schmitz	Lee & Brittany Schoof
Sunday Altar Guild	Sharon Daberkow Becky Brelje		Cora Chapman Erin Hastert		Mary Petersen Stacy Torenten
Scripture Reader (Sunday)	Becky Chipman	Rick Chipman	Sharon Daberkow	Vickie Errett	Rich Furst
Communion Servers (Sunday)	Verne Nelson Craig Olson		Judi Olson DeAnn Nielsen		Lindsey Vorm Scott Shannon
Coffee Hosts (Sunday)	Larry & Peg Haas	Rick & Cheryl Chipman	Richard & Sharon Daberkow	Duane & Vickie Errett	Lois Hansen Karen Plewes
Sound	Eric Torneten	Eric Torneten	Eric Torneten	Eric Torneten	Alan Ahrenholtz
Video	Eric Torneten	Eric Torneten	Eric Torneten	Eric Torneten	Alan Ahrenholtz
Projection	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)
Council Person	Eric Chipman	Vicki Strissel	Scott Shannon	Barb & Rich Furst	Craig Olson