



June 2025

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Caring For Our Community Through Christ

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

New life.

We are currently in the season of spring. Everywhere you look you see it around you. You also feel it in the changing of the weather. I was reminded of spring recently myself.

You see, at our home, we have baskets hanging on the front porch. These hanging baskets (along with a few other areas of our home) are prime real estate so to speak for robins who love to build their nest there. This year has been no different. Several weeks ago, as we sat out on the front porch, we noticed a female robin building a nest then a few weeks later we heard them, the baby birds, mouths opened, longing for a juicy morsel of worm from their parents. And we watched in awe as one of the parents would swoop down, scoop up a worm (from where I do not know) and fly into the nest and feed the babies. Now, the baby birds have "flown the nest" so to speak. They are still around because they can't fly a lot just yet and you can still see them out on their own, pecking the ground for something to eat.

Why do I share this story with you this month? As I thought about the building of the nest, the laying of the robin blue eggs, and the birth of the babies, I was reminded that May brings with it the divine announcement of new life.

It does so first because we are still in the season of Easter. Yes, easter is not just a one day event. Rather, for us, it lasts eight (weeks) from the Sunday that we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and lasts until June 8 when we will celebrate Pentecost. Praise the Lord that we get to celebrate this most glorious season all these weeks.

But what does Easter have to do with new life? Another good question. Folks, Easter reminds us of the new life that we are given when Jesus stepped out of the tomb on that first Easter morning. In death, your sins were put to death. In burial, you were asleep with Him, and His resurrection is your resurrection because He lives for you and has overcome death, hell, and the grave. His victory over them tells you that the old Adam that likes to rear it's ugly head is dead, and you are a new creation in the Lord.

Though we celebrate new life on Easter with the resurrection of our Lord, we also physically see it in Holy Baptism. How is that so? Because in baptism, the sins you are born with, that is original sin, and the sins you've committed up until that moment, are washed away in the water combined with the Word of the Lord. For it is God's Word that saves us. The Gospel according to St. Mark tells us, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved..." (Mark 16:16). Every time we make the sign of the cross, we are remembering our baptism and the new life that is given to us there.



Continued on page 2...



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church– Missouri Synod

Caring For Our Community Through Christ

REV. DAVID CASEY-MOTLEY, PASTOR

PASTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

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Email pastordavid.immanuel@gmail.com

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.; and by appointment

BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS

The office is normally open Mon.—Thurs. from
9am to 1pm. Please remember that the admin. assist. may
be away from the office running errands during this time.

Administrative Assistant &

Newsletter Editor.....Raechl Cannon

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CHURCH OFFICERS — 2025

President.....Richard Wheatley

Secretary.....Sheri Rodriquez

Financial Secretary.....Janice Isenberg

Treasurer.....Carol Frase

Evangelism Chair.....Cathy Baker

Trustee Chair.....Rick Clendaniel

Stewardship Chair.....Linda Jefferson

Board of Education Chair.....Rene Langwost

Elders Chair.....Rex Rosebrock

Continued from page 1...

Friends, we are new life Christians. We are new in Christ because of what He has done for us. This new life is a life that will be continued even after we fall asleep in the Lord because when Jesus comes again, we will live this new life in heaven and better still, the scriptures tell us that there will be a new heaven and a new earth. Heaven is our home. There we will live as new life Christians in the place where joy will never end. Amen.

Before wrapping up my ponderings this month, I just wanted to say I hope all the mothers out there had a Happy Mother's Day. It's not an easy vocation you live. God never said it would be. But He is with you each and every day as you do the very best you can to be the mother, He created you to be in raising the gifts He's given you in your children. For those of you who have miscarried or have lost a child or have not been able to conceive at all, know that you are wonderfully made, and God loves you all so very much. He's not forgotten you nor abandoned you and you are not less of a person because you are without child. For you are God's child and you always will be. God bless you!

Lastly, as we just celebrated Memorial Day, I encourage you to take a moment to remember the men and women of our armed forces who have paid the ultimate sacrifice and have lived out the verse, "no greater love has any man than this than a man who lays down his life for his friend." To their families, God knows your hearts, He sees you and hears you and promises to be with you always. And God always keeps His promises.

That's it for this month beloved. I pray that your month of June will be blessed and that each and every day you grow in your faith and your walk with the Lord. Keep the faith!

With a shepherd's heart,

Pastor David



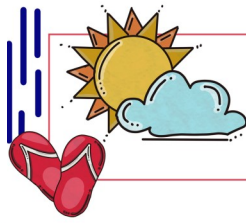
Attendance at
Immanuel Lutheran
Nursery School's
closing ceremony
was 223!

SPECIAL FUNDS

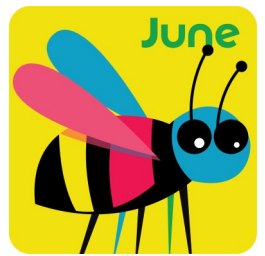
Care & Compassion Fund

WinGS

Caraballo Property Mgmt., LLC



HELLO summer



Spend time with God this summer

SUMMER
SUMMER
HOURS

Starting the week of June 16th the
church office hours will be:

Tuesday—Thursday

9:00 AM—1:00 PM

June 1, 2025



Sunday 6/1 is the last day of
Sunday School.

Join us for PIN awards and
ice cream!

Sunday school students—
please bring your sashes!

June 8, 2025



June 15, 2025

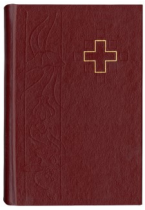


When on vacation

When on vacation,
be with us in spirit.
The rest of the summer,
be with us in person.



[https://www.facebook.com/
immanuellutheranpreston/](https://www.facebook.com/immanuellutheranpreston/)



LSB

941

HIMN FOCUS



“We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God” - LSB 941

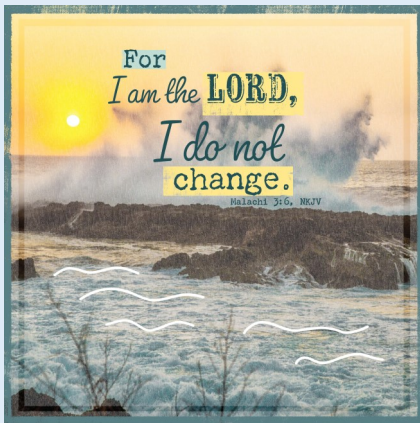
Way in the back of the Lutheran Service Book (LSB), in the Biblical Canticles section is a gem of a hymn titled, “We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God.” The hymn is likely new to most of us at Immanuel but certainly is worthy of your attention.

You may be familiar with the term *Te Deum laudamus*, which means simply We Praise You, O God in Latin. The *Te Deum* is a song of praise to God and lists all who are singing and praising God along with the many reasons that we all should do so. Traditionally, the *Te Deum* is sung during the *Matins* service and you can still find it on page 223 of the LSB. The hymn, LSB 941 takes the wording of the traditional *Te Deum* and places it in a hymn style, also called a *versification* -- make into verses or stanzas.

For LSB 941, Lutheran hymn writer Rev. Stephen P. Starke (b. 1955) took the words and concepts of the *Te Deum* and rewrote them as poetry to fit a 20th century tune. The hymn tune is known as THAXTED. It was composed by Gustav Holst (1874-1934) and is based on a melody from his symphony that was popular in the 1920's. The tune is melodic and a fitting song of praise for such majestic verbiage.

You are invited to join with the Senior Choir during June services to sing and become familiar with “We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God.” - LSB 941.

“We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God” Text: copyright Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House.
Tune: THAXXED by Gustav Holst, Public Domain.



Constant and unchanging

Summer's arrival feels positive to many people but may not be smooth for all. Families who rely on regular school meals for their children must stretch grocery dollars further. Heat poses risks for elderly people who lack air conditioning. Work can be difficult to find in the summer months, and uncertainty looms for recent graduates.

Meanwhile, concerns such as wars, natural disasters and health problems don't take a summer break.

St. Teresa of Avila (1515–1582) prayed, “May you be blessed forever, Lord, for being constant and unchanging, amidst all the changes of the world.”

Her prayer is as appropriate today as nearly 500 years ago.

When all around us is unstable and unreliable,

God's love and faithfulness are constant and trustworthy.

The joy of generosity

He who has received much should also give much. It is essential to give a goodly part of what God has allowed us to accumulate. Otherwise greed and miserliness will seize our hearts and minds. Furthermore, by not giving generously, we will miss the many joys that generosity brings to us. Let us not cheat ourselves of those blessings.



You will be enriched
in every way to be
generous in every way,
which through us will
produce thanksgiving
to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11



Immanuel Lutheran Nursery School



May God bless you with wisdom, courage, and a heart full of love as you embark on your next adventure!

Congratulations on your preschool graduation! We're so proud of you!

On one of the last days of school Mrs. Jamie asked her pre-k students what they wanted to be when they grew up and here are the results!



Marti Grace Cheesman
The Mayor!

May
God Bless
ILNS's
Graduates

Mattox Newberry
I want to be 64 and
a Cowgirl!



Andee Harding
A Police
Department
Cowgirl!



Logan Phillips
A Zookeeper
Cowgirl!



Grant Lord
A Farmer!



Delaney Higgs
A Nurse and a
Cashier!

Paxton Ruf
A Police!



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A note from the SED!

**Southeastern District
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
2025 SED Convention**

This can be found at:

<https://se.lcms.org/resources/sedconvention25/>

*Thank you to those who joined the Convention! The 40th Convention of the Southeastern District has concluded, and we give thanks to God for the time we shared together. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the delegates who faithfully represented their congregations, as well as to the guests and exhibitors who joined us throughout the week. Your presence, participation, and prayerful discernment were a vital part of this gathering. As we look ahead to the next three years, we are excited to continue our partnership in ministry—supporting one another as churches, schools, and ministries across the district. Together, we move forward in our shared mission: **to connect people with Jesus so that lives are transformed and God's kingdom grows.***



SED Convention 2025
Richmond, VA – May 8-9

*Notes from Ruth Thomas,
Lay Delegate in attendance*



- President William Harmon was re-elected as President of the SED.
- Registration 339 present on Friday; 128 lay delegates; 121 pastoral delegates
- LCMS President Matthew Harrison attended and asked for prayers for unity in the Church. He will stand one more time for re-election, then stand down. If not elected, he is okay with that. The travel is getting harder.
- Rev. Lloyd Gaines was re-elected as N. Region VP and 1st VP.
- Communion statements are OK to have, but you should always ask visitors to speak to the Pastor.
- Church planting – 70 in process (15 in our District); also 25 more in the European Union. More young families and young men are coming to worship. There are 33 million people now living with the SED.
- Each congregation is encouraged to develop at least one new outreach ministry tailored to the needs of its immediate neighborhood (e.g., after-school programs, community gardens, senior care initiatives).
- The SED is encouraging congregations to create opportunities for youth-oriented service projects.
- Costs are up 40%, but the Synod has 120 million in cash or investments, with 60 million of those funds designated.
- Over 1 million was donated for hurricane relief, and all related grants were fully funded.
- Churches with Pastors are asked to sponsor a vacant church and support its congregation. There are still many vacancies.
- There was lively discussion about whether to support hybrid or online educational opportunities for pastoral candidates. The consensus was that residential programs are best, although Specific Ministry Pastors are taking advantage of the online offerings.
- Recruitment is challenging, and it was resolved to set a goal for each congregation of having at least one person, every three years, commit to and start training in a church work vocation. I asked President Harrison whether the LCMS was doing enough through digital ads and podcasts toward recruitment. He paused and said, No, not enough. He said he would do better to reach younger men through these methods.
- There were multiple Resolutions passed regarding Wellness for church workers. Every congregation is encouraged to establish a Congregational Church Worker Wellness Team. The SED will provide guidance and training. Congregations are also encouraged to participate in completing the SIMPLE Congregational Well-Being Assessment to evaluate and enhance their ministry wellness.
- Congregations are encouraged to establish a formal sabbatical policy with available resources from the SED (not sure whether that means funding or just examples).
- Foundation grants of \$5,000 for church workers will be a future offering.

Handling grief

Trust in the LORD
with all your heart,
and do not lean
on your own
understanding.

Proverbs 3:5



When a Southern Christian woman became a widow, several people asked what she was going to do. She always answered by saying, "I'm going to do Proverbs 3:5-6 and Philippians 4:4-7."

Both passages provide wonderful doses of strength and encouragement. (If you aren't familiar with the verses, look them up to see for yourself.) When we completely trust in God for guidance and peace, he not only sees us through difficult times but allows us to rejoice rather than worry.



Christian symbol



RIVER — In the Bible, rivers (and other bodies of water) often represent deliverance, salvation, freedom and cleansing. The Jordan River is especially prominent: The Israelites crossed it to enter the Promised Land after God delivered them from slavery, and John baptized Jesus (and many other people) there. The image of crossing the Jordan River has long been a metaphor for death — crossing from earthly to heavenly life, from worldly struggles to the bliss of God's kingdom, from physical ailments to the wholeness of a resurrection body.

"Help Me Not Fear"



Father, dear Father, help me not fear, for you are my shield and great reward.

Father, dear Father, help me not fear, though briars and thorns are all around.

Father, dear Father, help me not fear. With you I stand firm. The battle is yours.

Father, dear Father, help me not fear. My heart is not troubled. I rest secure.

—MaryAnn Sundby

What is a father?

Being a male species does not make a man a father, for a dad is a special blend of hero; disciplinarian; a friend; someone to look up to; someone to model ... someone with a touch of the "mother" in him; someone who is big enough to say, "The fault was mine" ... someone who lives the kind of life that makes you want to say, "I, too, shall follow him!"

—Alton Kaul



Thoughts for Father's Day

A careful man I ought to be; a little fellow follows me;
I do not dare to go astray, for fear he'll go the self-same way.

I cannot once escape his eyes; whate'er he sees me do, he tries —
Like me, he says, he's going to be, the little chap who follows me.

He thinks that I am good and fine, believes in every word of mine:
The base in me he must not see, the little chap who follows me.

I must remember as I go, through summer's sun and winter's snow,
I'm building for the years to be, for a little fellow follows me.

—Author unknown





HAPPY
Birthday
FROM YOUR
CHURCH FAMILY

Robert Karge Jr.	6/1	Holly Beebe	6/14	Lauren Gounraj	6/22
Jeffrey Frase Jr.	6/3	Joseph Headley, Sr.	6/14	Katie Northam	6/22
Samuel Wittemen	6/4	John Lyons	6/14	Kayla Dilworth	6/23
Richard Engle	6/5	Erin Andrew	6/15	Thomas Greenage	6/25
Hunter Cannon	6/6	Annalee Ayers	6/15	Holden Dutton	6/28
Michael Greenage	6/6	Gina McConnell	6/15	Juliette Frase	6/28
Gary 'Webb' Hubbard	6/8	Robert Beebe III	6/17	Garvin Gounraj	6/28
Charles Frase	6/9	Corliss Wright	6/17	Jonathan Frase	6/29
Linda Frase	6/9	Grayson Gillis	6/18	Georganne Dutton	6/30
Amy Ruark	6/11	Carrie Swieczkowski	6/18		
Victoria Schanken	6/13	Brittany Andrew	6/20		



David & Kathy Schmidt	6/2	Todd & Darlena Butler	6/14
Craig & Rene Langwost	6/5	Joshua & Lindy Ayers	6/16
Michael & Samantha Fisher	6/6	Carl & Phyllis Frase	6/16
Jamie & Chase Smith	6/8	Chuck & Sherry Braband	6/22
Rosemarie & Robert Stacey	6/11	Shelby & Kyle Rector	6/25
Jessica & Brent Marine	6/12	Jason & Jessica Wittemen	6/26
Richard & Irene Wheatley	6/12	Ronald & Barbara Andrew	6/27
Jessica & Fred Gullion	6/13	Dawn & Paul Gencel	6/29
		Wade & Nikki Morris	6/30

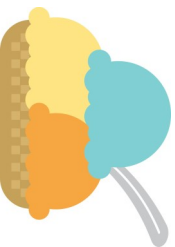
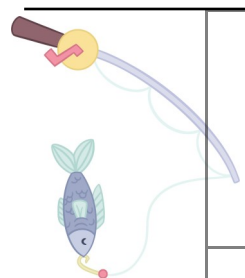




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:15a Sunday School 10:30 Divine Service 7:00pm AA Meeting	2 7:00pm Elders Meeting	3	4 7:00 pm Senior Choir	5	6	1 8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast
8 Pentecost 10:30am Worship Church Council Mtg. 7:00 pm AA Meeting	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Trinity Sunday Father's Day 10:30 Divine Service 7:00pm AA Meeting	16	17	18 7:00 pm Senior Choir	19 Juneteenth	20 First Day of Summer	21 4:00p Frase/Theuerl Wedding
22 10:30am Worship 7:00 pm AA Meeting	23 5:30-6:00 pm Dinner 6:00 - 8:00 pm VBS	24 5:30-6:00 pm Dinner 6:00 - 8:00 pm VBS	25 5:30-6:00 pm Dinner 6:00 - 8:00 pm VBS	26 5:30-6:00 pm Dinner 6:00 - 8:00 pm VBS	27	28
29 10:30am Worship 7:00 pm AA Meeting	30					

THOSE SERVING IMMANUEL JUNE 2025

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Assisting Elder</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Sound System</u>	<u>Camera Operator</u>	<u>Kids Worship</u>	<u>Head Tellers</u>
June 1	Ron Andrew Mark Frase	Rex Rosebrock	Mikayla Clark	Anthony Clark	David Schmidt	Janice Isenberg	Rene Langwost	Janice Isenberg Shelly Kapitan John Crampton
June 8	Ron Andrew Mark Frase		Cathy Baker	Shyann Gillis	David Schmidt	Jennifer Phillips	Rene Langwost	Karen Lyons Jennifer Phillips
PENTECOST								
June 15	Ron Andrew Mark Frase	Rick Clendaniel	Desi Casey-Motley	Mikayla Clark	Rex Rosebrock	Shelly Kapitan	Rene Langwost	Dee Lambert Glen Plutschak Linda Jefferson
TRINITY Sunday								
June 22	Ron Andrew Mark Frase		Glen Plutschak	Grayson Jackson	Jim Harris	Ruth Thomas	Rene Langwost	David & Kathy Schmidt Julie Farnell
June 29	Ron Andrew Mark Frase		David Casey-Motley	Coltyn Bowman-Pinder	Jim Harris	Shelly Kapitan	Rene Langwost	Mark & Carol Frase



Tucker Wright
1232 Tamm Avenue #A
St. Louis, Missouri 63139

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P.O. Box 39
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Concordia Seminary

Grace, peace and mercy to you in our risen Lord Jesus Christ! It's so hard to believe that may is already here. Two weeks ago, we had call day where many of my brothers and sisters in Christ received their assignments for their respective offices of Ministry. There is one aspect to all of this that is hard for me to comprehend and that is the fact that in one year I will get my orders for my next chapter in my book of Ministry. Three years have gone by so quickly but this one has been wonderful on a whole new level.

My vicarage assignment in St Charles has been an eye-opening experience. The wonderful people at Our Savior Lutheran Church have been such a blessing to me and my wife. I truly have a wonderful illustration of what ministry is and how it affects the community and the people in the church. This experience has given me wonderful examples of communication and fellowship. There is also a wide variety of worship styles and liturgies not to mention funerals and special services, so I feel like I am being utilized and taught at the same time. This is truly a blessing.

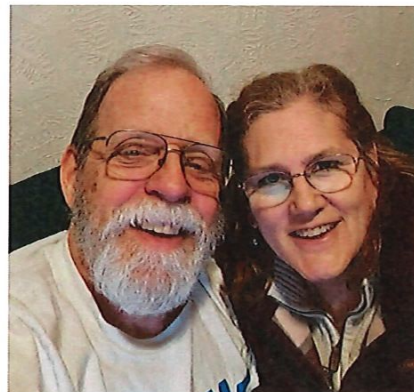
My academics continue weekly with language labs and they consist of Greek and Hebrew grammar and vocabulary. These labs provide deeper theological content within Holy Scripture that open new doors in the Word of God. As the Holy Spirit reveals new understanding in The Word, my anxiety for going back to school lessens.

In just a few short weeks I will complete my assignment here and go back to campus life as a 4th year seminarian. I love ministry and I love working in the ministry field, but it will be good to get back in the classroom and get additional training and education. All these things are only possible because of your generosity and your blessings on me and my family. Thank you so much for everything you do and all the financial support. You are truly a gift to the company of Heaven. Again, Thank you!

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

Vicar Tucker Wright

Our Savior Lutheran Church
2800 Elm St.
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804-426-3440
<http://www.oslcecc.org>





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 23–26

5:30 to 6:00 dinner

6:00 to 8:00 VBS



Join us on an Epic Australian Adventure this summer!

Register online at:

<https://vbsmate.com/events/ilcprestonmd/30509>

or just show up for the adventure!



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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