



**IMMANUEL**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# *The Image*

May 2022

## *May Blessings*



### **Immanuel Lutheran Church**

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# A Message from Pastor Jamie



## *Continued Easter Blessings!*

Dear Church,

Christ is risen! We continue to celebrate Easter throughout the month of May. We have a lot of beautiful services in store for you including a Youth Service on Mother's Day, and Church Music Sunday on May 15th. What a blessing it is to worship God together. As I sit here now we are indeed experiencing April showers, so I hope that May brings us many flowers and some sunshine!

As we look forward to the summer, Immanuel is excited to be participating in Praise in the Park at Phoenix Park on Sundays at 10 a.m. again from June through August. This service was a wonderful addition to our ministry last summer and we are thrilled to be participating again and to have Tammie and the Immanuel Praise Team leading two Sundays. We will also worship indoors and on [YouTube](#) at 9 a.m. at Immanuel on the Sundays we are not leading PitP.

I will be taking a planned sabbatical over the summer. (See below for what that means!) I know you all will continue to be the *Church without Walls* in my absence. I am excited to see what God has in store for me during this time of sabbath rest. I plan to meet with a spiritual director and engage in some intentional spiritual practices during this time. Overall, I don't have much planned for my sabbatical other than resting and spending time with family, but I will definitely share the highlights with you when I return in September.



Blessed Easter and Happy Spring!  
Pastor Jamie



## **Learn about Sabbatical Time for Pastors**

### **What is Sabbath?**

To rest or cease as God did on the seventh day of creation and as the people of Israel were instructed to do in their life together.

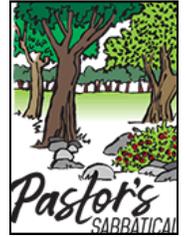
### **What is a Sabbatical?**

In line with the biblical tradition of resting every seven days and giving greater rest to land and society after seven years, a sabbatical is an extended period of sabbath and renewal for the purpose of continued service in the ministry setting.

## Sabbatical continued...

### What do you do?

There are different kinds of sabbaticals. The original purpose is rest and renewal. Yet, some sabbaticals are geared towards learning a new skill or another form of enrichment. Pastor Jamie will be taking a sabbatical for renewal. In taking this sabbatical, she covenants with Immanuel not to seek another call for a minimum of one year.



### Who recommends it?

Our Bishop Larurie Skow-Anderson and Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

### From the 2022 Compensations Standards NWSWI

“To encourage the congregational health that comes with longer tenured leaders, congregations should grant a sabbatical leave after at least every seven years of service, a minimum length of three months in the seventh year.”

### Who funds it?

Congregations budget and save in designated funds for Sabbaticals. Immanuel budgeted for extra pulpit supply money and also set aside a designated sabbatical fund for Pastor Jamie that was funded by unspent continuing education money over the pandemic.

### What will we gain?

The congregation should also see the time of sabbatical as a period of reflection and growth. The congregation is encouraged to continue with worship services and ministry as it normally would, but be creative in finding a combination of lay leaders, supply preachers, and other Christian public leaders to serve the church in the absence of the rostered minister. Hopefully the sabbatical will bring rest and inspiration to their pastor so that they can continue in ministry together in God's future.

### When will it be?

Pastor Jamie will be on Sabbatical over the summer months of June, July, and August. Pulpit supply and emergency pastoral care coverage is currently being arranged. In the event of a pastoral emergency, call the office phone and listen for instructions.



### New Member Opportunities:

New Member orientation, open to all: Sunday May 1st after worship and Wednesday May 4th 5-6 p.m. (Please email [office](#) if you are interested in the Wednesday class.)



### Worship Opportunities in May

- Sunday, May 8 at 9 am - Mother's Day and Youth Sunday
- Sunday, May 15 at 9 am - Church Music Sunday
- Sunday, May 22 at 9 am—New Member Blessing
- Sunday, May 29 at 9 am - Worship with Holy Communion



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## Easter Message from Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson - April 2022

*2 Corinthians 5:17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!*

Dear Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! This is the good news of Easter. By God's power death is reversed and Christ is raised from the dead. Jesus' resurrection from the dead changes everything! Everything is made new. Change is good news after two years of a pandemic, right? We are ready for a change. But are we really? Do we want everything to become new like we read in 2 Corinthians 5 or do we want the change to be a return to the old and familiar?

If Jesus' resurrection from the dead changes everything, then what has changed in your life? What difference does Jesus make in your life?<sup>1</sup> What has Jesus made new?

- What difference does Jesus make to my 35 year old nephew whose brain tumor came back, faces radiation treatments and is struggling with his ex for visitation of their three year old son?
- What difference does Jesus mean to our siblings in Malawi who are often threatened by drought, flood and famine or to Ukrainians whose homes were destroyed by a Russian bomb?
- What difference does Jesus make to a stable congregation deciding what their next most faithful step might be or to a declining congregation wondering if their next most faithful step is to close?

As Lutherans we believe that we are baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, we go under the water as a sinner and we are resurrected with Christ, lifted out of the water, a saint. We are changed for sure and we are reborn children of God! Theologically that's beautiful, but in real life, what difference does Jesus make in your life?

As human beings, Christ's resurrection from the dead challenges us to live into that change. As broken sinful humans, whose lives are "messed or mangled"<sup>2</sup> we live into Easter reality that Christ is present and daily working in our lives. Jesus challenges and changes us. Those of us who doubt our faith and question its relevance are challenged by Easter's promise to see and know God in the transformed lives around us.

Friends we know that Jesus changes our weeping into laughing, our mourning into dancing, our despair into hope, our winter into spring and our death into life. Jesus changes things and makes all things new. We are challenged to see the transformations around us and in us. We are challenged to be the change, evidence of the transformation, for the world to see and know God through us.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 - So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself,<sup>[a]</sup> not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Kaleidoscope

*Change Happens at the Speed of Trust*

<sup>1</sup> Challenge: In 24 words or less, answer this question, "What difference does Jesus make in your life?"

<sup>2</sup> Inspired by the Hymn, *Christ has Risen While Earth Slumbers*, vs 4. *All Creation Sings* #938, *ELW Supplement*, Augsburg Fortress, 2020.

### *Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers*

Christ Has risen and forever lives  
to challenge and to change.  
All whose lives are messed and mangled,  
all who find religion strange.  
Christ is risen, Christ is present  
making us what he has been:  
evidence of transformation  
In which God is known and seen.

# Youth & Family Ministry News

Alyssa Engedal—[familyministry@immanuel.org](mailto:familyministry@immanuel.org)



## Mark your calendars for summer!

**Luther Park Bible Camp:** Registration is available now, and Immanuel's Trust Fund is offering 50% Sponsorships! Use the code "ILCEC" at checkout to apply the discount. Camp information can be picked up at church or found online at [lutherpark.org](http://lutherpark.org).

**Immanuel VBS:** Immanuel will lead Vacation Bible School the week of June 27! Registration forms are available in the Narthex or on our website: [immanuelec.org](http://immanuelec.org) - Faith Formation - Children & Families.



**Youth Trip:** About 20 high school and young adult youth will be participating in our trip at the end of July. We will spend a few days with our Synod and two others at a Gathering, then head to South Dakota to camp & explore God's creation for a few days.

**Summer Stretch:** This Middle School Ministry, full of fun and service, will be offered during the week of August 8. Registration forms are available in the Narthex, or on our website: [immanuelec.org](http://immanuelec.org) - Faith Formation - Youth.



**Thrift Sale:** Get ready for Immanuel's Thrift Sale on June 9 and 10! Start your spring cleaning and save your donations for drop off on Sunday, June 5 - Wednesday, June 8. If you are in need of help or other drop off times, please contact the church [office](#).



**Youth Sunday (on Mother's Day):** Join the Immanuel Youth on Sunday, May 8, at 9 am as they lead us in worship! Special music is planned!

**Congratulations High School Graduates:** On Sunday, May 15, we will bless and recognize our high school graduates. Join us in rejoicing with Lauren Fey, CJ Haas, Nathan Hagstrom, Sara Hegde, Mercedes Isham, Lukas Olson, Aidan Tarpensing and Ava Weber.



**Brat Barn Dates: May 21 and 22:** Who doesn't love a great brat! The Summer Trip Team will be grilling brats at Festival Foods on Mall Drive, so bring your appetite for some tasty food and support our summer trip!



## Malawi Update by Holli Jacobson, ZIP Coordinator

Earlier this year, ZIP members found out that a May trip to Malawi would be postponed due to Covid. We decided to use those funds along with a grant from the Trust Fund to support various needs in Malawi, including technology for the Virtual Pastors' Academy, orphanage support, additional wells and motorcycles for Pastors. We will continue our fund raising this summer and fall in hopes of visitors from Malawi in 2023!

Please keep in mind the following dates/fundraisers and opportunities to volunteer. Your time and talents are always welcome and appreciated! Please reach out to Holli at [hcpitsch@gmail.com](mailto:hcpitsch@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer for any of these events.

**Thrift Sale:** Are there items in your home or garage you no longer need? If so, drop off your cleaned items between June 5 and June 8. The sale will happen indoors on Thursday, June 9 and Friday, June 10. Please consider donating household items that can generate donations!



**Daylily Dig:** This will happen on Friday, July 22 and Saturday, July 23. Much help is needed beforehand including digging, weeding and prepping the gardens. Any help in June or July is appreciated as we anticipate a huge crowd again this year. It is hopeful to break the previous year's record of \$8,000. This is one of our most lucrative fundraisers for Malawi and spending time outdoors surrounded by these beautiful flowers, is a plus! (Email Greg Kauffman, [gkauffmann@nswi.org](mailto:gkauffmann@nswi.org), if you'd like to help out starting in May!)

**Chili Cookoff:** October is our tentative month for the chili cookoff. Please consider cooking a pot of your favorite chili or taste testing! As the war in Ukraine threatens to cut off supplies of wheat and corn to Malawi and other parts of Africa, please pray for the health and safety of our Malawi friends.

**Thank you for your support of the  
Zomba Immanuel Partnership!**



### Wholly Yoga Stretch Offered in May



Join Sandy LaValley for Wholly Yoga Stretch - offered four Mondays in May:  
May 9th and 23rd at 7 PM and May 2nd and 16th at 1:30 PM  
Dress in layers, bring a mat if you have one and a pillow (for sitting on).  
This will be a low key stretch class focusing on areas of tightness and bringing a sense of calm and contentment.  
All levels are welcome!

## MINUTES of Immanuel Lutheran Church Council - March 15th, 2022



Council Members Present: Pastor Jamie Brieske, Becky Carter, Jennifer Dean, Campbell Dean, Becky Ivey, Molly LoRusso, Sandy LaValley, Bill Schwengel, Ryan Stilp, Sue Waits  
Absent: Olympia Evergreen, Lang Jacobson, Bob Wilcox

**Thank You Notes:** Thank you to Diane Kaufman for her work as the Afghan Refugee Coordinator.

**Gathering, Devotions by Sandy:** Sandy shared a Guided Meditation.

### **New Business**

**Staff Connection Goal** - At the January meeting, Rev Erin Nelson and members worked on establishing three SMART goals for council. The second goal, Staff Connection, will pair a Council and staff member to meet in person, virtually or by phone. The intention is to connect with staff one or two times to discuss job responsibilities and learn how Council can best support them. Feedback will be shared at the April and May meetings. Pairings are below:

- Becky Carter with Alyssa Engedal, Faith Formation Ministry
- Sue Waits with Kim & Suzi Sturz, Custodians
- Jennifer Dean with Grace Olson, Office Administrator
- Becky Ivey with Deb Kavanaugh, Caring Ministry Coordinator
- Lang Jacobson with Erika Albano, Food Ministry Coordinator
- Bill Schwengel with Dee Schlieve, Treasurer
- Ryan Stilp with Sue Luthy, Financial Secretary
- Bob Wilcox with Leroy Johnson, Accompanist
- Sandy LaValley with Tammie Delveaux, Choral Director, WoW band leader

**Longings and Losses Goal:** This goal was tabled to the April meeting.

**Immanuel Committees:** Pastor shared committees that require Council representation. Serving on those committees are: Bob Wilcox - Finance Committee and Trust Fund Board, Jennifer Dean - Preschool Board and Bill Schwengel - Property Committee.

**Other committees:** ZIP (*Zomba Immanuel Partnership*), Faith Formation, AMMPARO, Afghan Resettlement group, and Food Ministry.

**Immanuel Active Groups:** H3, Quilters, Wednesday Bible Study, HS Youth, Confirmation, JOF (*Journey of Faith*), Wine & Wisdom, Eucharistic Ministers, Worship Arts. Non-active groups at this time are Stewardship and Men's Group.

**Service Groups:** Community Table, Beacon House, and Weekend Backpack meals through Feed My People.

### **Old Business**

**COVID Protocol Update** - Good news was shared that Eau Claire is officially in the "green" which means CDC Community Level is low (link: <https://www.eauclairewi.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=32975>). The WI Council of Churches has deemed masks can now be optional, however, it is encouraged to use the verbiage "Mask Affirming," meaning those who choose to wear a mask should feel comfortable doing so. No mitigations are needed at this time. Immanuel will continue to practice safe boundaries for sharing the peace, and offering plates will remain at the back of the church. The plastic bread/wine cups will be used until gone, which should carry us through Easter.

**Cemetery Update:** Leroy Johnson shared the history of this 13.5 acre cemetery investment that started back in 1878 as Eau Claire Lutheran Cemetery Association. Representatives from Grace Lutheran, Immanuel Lutheran and Spirit Lutheran recently attended a reorganizational meeting to recruit board member replacements and discuss the financial future of this property. Up to this point, the cemetery had been self-sustaining with the sales of lots, casket and cremation burials, and interest. Current lots are \$350; burial charges are \$775 for a casket and \$325 for cremains.

## **Council Minutes continued...**

The city is planning street improvements on Omaha Street that could involve a \$31,000 special assessment to the cemetery association, however, Attorney Tom Guelzow is working to get that waived, free of charge. Mowing expenses are \$7500 a year, previously covered by the cemetery association, but going forward this will be divided between the three churches. Both Spirit and Grace Lutheran have agreed to donate \$2500 for these expenses. Last year, an anonymous donor paid a total of \$47,000 to have the roads within the cemetery redone. A storage shed was refurbished and new signage and brick pillars were added at the Entry and Exit driveways.

Steve Mickelson has agreed to serve on the cemetery board as Immanuel's representative (two are encouraged from each church). Bill Schwengel is acting as interim and offered to take the first term, however, if anyone would like to serve, please contact Bill. Initial term lengths could be two or four years. Bill and Steve will both attend the next cemetery association meeting to discuss bylaws. Immanuel's financial donation will be discussed in closed session.

A company called Lazarus has approached the cemetery association to do aerial mapping showing all of the plots available. This could be updated yearly for a fee. Bill plans to share a cemetery update with members after Sunday service, and answer any questions. Council thanked Bill and Leroy for their time and information.

**Organ Update:** Leroy Johnson reported that Dan, who has been working on the organ, has come to the end of his expertise. Five members from the factory visited last week to examine and work on the organ, coming to the conclusion that there isn't enough air getting into the pipes. More updates to come.

**Cross+Generational Conversations:** Council members shared their positive thoughts and experiences from the services that incorporated Cross+Gen Conversations. The first one held, Circle of Generations, described the 7 living generations. Those that attended this past Sunday felt it was a very spiritual morning with the reading of Marv Kauffman's book, and sadly, his passing shortly after leaving church.

**Afghan Refugee Resettlement:** Peg Schwengel has stepped into the role as Afghan Refugee Coordinator. She is busy acclimating the two men assigned to Immanuel with getting to know Eau Claire, finding housing, seeking employment, and other activities! They speak limited English. Immanuel is teamed with the Quakers for sponsorship. Both men have families and hope to bring them here in the future.

## **Reports**

**Pastor Report:** Pastor shared updates on Lenten worship, Cross+Gen, Afghan refugees, Hannah Olson's upcoming Ordination on April 3 and Easter Sunday on April 17. The council decided to keep one Easter service at 9 am followed by outdoor fellowship snacks/coffee and an egg hunt!

Through Immanuel's Caring Ministry, several trained Eucharistic persons have been paired with homebound members to offer communion during monthly visits. This model was approved seven years ago by Council. Pastor continues to visit those in the hospital and end of life visits.

**Property Report:** Bill reported the dishwasher strip was retested and is back in use. Several boulevard Ash Borer infested trees will be disposed of by the City of Eau Claire. New trees will be planted following removal.

**Finance Report:** Jennifer and Pastor shared an email from Casper stating that although we're operating at a loss right now, it's still early in the year and we will review this next month. This is partly due to low attendance/giving in January and February because of an uptick of Omicron cases. Expenses are a little over budget but not significantly.

Stewardship was discussed. Typically, we send out an estimate of giving and a thank you card or an invitation to E-give, but not recently. Sue Luthy, Financial Secretary, is willing to work on this as she sends out the statements and notifies Pastor of any large donations or if a member has discontinued giving.

It was suggested to send the cemetery report to the Finance Team to discuss. There is a line item for the cemetery, but nothing budgeted. The Trust Fund could be an option for this year and then look at adding to the line item in next year's budget. We do have money under the Memorials Fund and could move that or designate it to something else.

A motion by Becky Ivey to accept all reports seconded by Bill Schwengel and unanimously approved. February minutes were previously approved via email.

The Northwest Synod of WI Assembly will meet at Trinity or via Zoom, on April 30, with pre-assembly Zoom forums April 21, 24 and 25 at 7 pm. Please let Pastor know if you are interested in representing Immanuel. We will approve the representative at the April meeting.

Closing prayer by Pastor Jamie; meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. - Submitted by Sandy LaValley, Council Secretary



## **VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEART OF THE CHURCH**

### **LECTORS/READERS NEEDED**

Help lead worship by reading the lessons and the Prayers of the People during the indoor and/or outdoor service. [Click here](#) to sign up or contact the church office.



### **USHER/GREETER**

Welcome people as they enter the building for indoor worship and help them find a seat. Click [here](#) to sign up or contact the church office.

### **LAWN MOWING**

Help keep the church property looking good! We're looking for a few people to take turns mowing the lawn over the summer months. The church has a mower or you are welcome to use your own. Please contact the church office if you can help! [Email](#) or call 715.832.7832. Thank you!



Thank  
you 



**Thank You  
Bill and Peg  
Schwengel  
for graciously  
bringing your  
donkey to church  
on Palm Sunday!  
He was loved  
by all!**





## Happy Anniversary!

- 23 Thom & Barb Hokanson
- 26 Kelly & Deb Kavanagh
- 26 Mark & Lauri Malnory
- 27 Loren & Emilie Anderson
- 28 Steve & Brenda Johnson
- 28 Todd & Julie Pickett
- 30 JonPaul & Jessica Dragseth

## Happy Birthday!

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 01 Steve Mickelson | 19 Mark Helland    |
| 01 Holli Jacobson  | 20 Grant Johnson   |
| 01 Molly Sorvaag   | 22 Rosemary Boyea  |
| 03 Julie Renz      | 22 Rose Reck       |
| 04 LeRoy Johnson   | 23 Sonja Thomsen   |
| 06 Abby Pickett    | 23 Disa Wahlstrand |
| 06 Sara Hegde      | 26 Hemant Hegde    |
| 07 Frankie LoRusso | 26 Allisa Hansen   |
| 08 Jaxson Bentley  | 27 David Schaffer  |
| 10 Maya Cox        | 28 CJ Woletz       |
| 11 Emily Johnson   | 29 Jackie Johnson  |
| 13 Tom Zimpel      | 30 Chad Brieske    |
| 17 Pam Woletz      | 30 Nathan Hagstrom |

### Virtual Event with Nadia Bolz-Weber - May 2 at 6:30 PM at Immanuel

Join us for a virtual evening with Nadia Bolz-Weber! Nadia is a New York Times best-selling author and ELCA minister, "whose authenticity of faith and willingness to look at the raw and unvarnished challenges head on still helps us find a word of promise." We will meet at Immanuel at 6:30 PM for snacks (provided by members of H3) and a brief fellowship. Nadia is scheduled to speak at 7 PM. All are welcome!

### Praise in the Park Returns! Summer 2022

Immanuel is excited to announce Praise in the Park will return this summer! Held at beautiful Phoenix Park every Sunday at 10 AM during June, July and August, this opportunity offers outdoor worship with a rain location at the Brewing Projekt.



**Mark your calendar:** Immanuel will lead Praise in the Park on July 10 and August 7.  
NOTE: No indoor service will be held on these Sundays at Immanuel.

Praise in the Park is a combined ELCA summer worship between: Spirit Lutheran, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Trinity Lutheran, Immanuel Lutheran, and University Lutheran with Breaking Chains Praise Band.

**Sundays, 10:00 am at the Labyrinth at Phoenix Park  
June 5th - August 28th**

# May 2022



If you shop on Amazon, log into Amazon Smile. We receive \$ from your purchases.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-0990139>

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue   | Wed  | Thu  | Fri       | Sat  |
|--|---|---|--|--|-----------|--|
| <p>1<br/>9 AM Worship<br/>10 AM Learning and Fellowship<br/>New Member Orientation</p>   | <p>2<br/>4-6 PM Food Pantry open<br/>1:30 PM Wholly Yoga<br/>6:30 PM - H3 Virtual Event with Nadia Bolz-Weber</p> | <p>3<br/>9:30 AM—H3</p>                               | <p>4<br/>10 AM Sr Bible Study<br/><br/>5 PM New Member Orientation<br/><br/>7 PM Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>5<br/>Noon-4 PM - Material Witness Quilting</p>                                    | <p>6</p>  | <p>7</p>   |
| <p>8<br/>9 AM Youth Worship<br/>10 AM Fellowship</p>  | <p>9<br/>4-6 PM Food Pantry open<br/><br/>6:30 PM - H3<br/><br/>7 PM Wholly Yoga Stretch</p>                      | <p>10<br/>9:30 AM—H3</p>                              | <p>11<br/>10 AM Sr Bible Study<br/><br/>7 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>                                     | <p>12<br/>Noon-4 PM - Material Witness Quilting</p>  | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p>  |
| <p>15<br/>Church Music Sunday<br/><br/>9 AM Worship - Blessing High School Graduates<br/><br/>10 AM Fellowship</p>                     | <p>16<br/>1:30 PM Wholly Yoga<br/><br/>4-6 PM Food Pantry open<br/><br/>6:30 PM - H3</p>                          | <p>17<br/>9:30 AM—H3<br/><br/>7:00 PM Council Mtg</p> | <p>18<br/>10 AM Sr Bible Study<br/><br/>Interfaith Service at Trinity</p>                            | <p>19<br/>Noon-4 PM - Material Witness Quilting</p>  | <p>20</p> | <p>21<br/>Festival Foods Brat Barn Youth Fund-raiser</p> |
| <p>22<br/>9 AM Worship - New Member Blessing<br/><br/>10 AM Fellowship<br/><br/>Festival Foods Brat Barn Youth Fundraiser</p>          | <p>23<br/>4-6 PM Food Pantry open<br/><br/>6:30 PM - H3<br/><br/>7 PM Wholly Yoga Stretch</p>                     | <p>24<br/>9:30 AM—H3</p>                              | <p>25<br/>10 AM Sr Bible Study<br/><br/>Immanuel serves @ Community Table</p>                        | <p>26<br/>Noon-4 PM - Material Witness Quilting<br/><br/>Ascension of the Lord</p>  | <p>27</p> | <p>28</p>  |
| <p>29<br/>9 AM Worship<br/><br/>10 AM Fellowship</p>   | <p>30<br/>Memorial Day<br/>Office Closed<br/><br/>No Food Pantry</p>  | <p>31</p>   |  |  |           |  |

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PLACE  
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**IMMANUEL**  
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*A congregation of the  
Northwest Synod of the ELCA of Wisconsin*