



May 2025 Newsletter



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Church Secretary: Ailene Buchtrup
Music Director: **Currently Vacant**
Pastor: **Currently Vacant**



This newsletter has many contributors. If you'd like to submit an article of interest or an announcement of an upcoming event, please contact Ailene Buchtrup, Secretary, in the church office via phone or email. For those with email, an electronic copy of the newsletter will be sent to you. For

those with no email or who would prefer to receive a paper copy, we will continue to mail the newsletters via U.S. Postal Services.

*To note in pastoral absence: Several pastors and other knowledgeable contributors offer great articles of interest all throughout the year, and in particular holy seasons. Until a new pastor is found for Immanuel, we will draw upon the knowledge and interesting perspectives of those pastors to provide readers with a section called, **From the Pastor's Desk**. We hope you will find these articles of interest and helpful in your spiritual journey.*



(Ascension Day this year is Thursday, May 29th.)

Recovering Ascension Day

By Christopher Seifferlein

This article originally appeared in the [May 2022 issue](#) of The Lutheran Witness.

One Sunday morning, my young daughter sat in the pew. "Please keep your clip in your hair!" my wife said firmly to her in the middle of the service. "But mom," she said, glancing to the statue of Jesus in front of the congregation, "Jesus isn't wearing a clip in His hair!"

Statues are not common in congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). Synod lore says that the liturgical finery sunk on the *Amelia*, the one ship that was lost at sea on the journey over from Saxony. Lutheran immigrant populations had limited funds and recalled the misuse of images throughout church history, and so statues did not top the list of things to include in a new church building with one important exception: the "Jesus statue" seen above the altar in many of our churches. The statue my daughter was looking at has been in the congregation for a century.

The Jesus of this representation, however, was not from any ordinary moment of Jesus' life. It portrays our ascending Lord. His hands are raised in blessing (Luke 24:50). His feet are planted on the orb, showing His ever-present rule over us. Our forebearers wished for us to keep central to our hearts the importance of the message of the ascension as it had first been passed down to them. They, too, spoke the Creed that climaxed with this statement about Jesus' life: "He ascended into heaven ... from thence He will come."

An ancient feast

Early Christians regarded the Feast of the Ascension as one of the major feasts of the Christian calendar. It was the final of the major festivals celebrating Christ's life. Ancient Christians celebrated the feast by taking part in celebrations and services in the open air, on a hill or in the countryside. Processions to those places imitated Jesus' journey with the disciples to the Mount of Olives. They celebrated the Feast of the Ascension with great joy even as the disciples were full of joy after Jesus' ascension (Luke 24:52). Joy does not seem so obvious after Jesus departed from them, but their hearts were filled with the messages of the ascension.

The ascension message proclaims that Jesus, who left heaven and came to earth, has returned to heaven having completed His mission. The visible presence of the Lord on earth may have ceased, but He does not cease to be with His earthly people in His flesh and blood sharing with them His divine life. His rule over all things has commenced as He sits at God's right hand on high. Christ, who forevermore lives in human flesh and blood, now reigns at God's right hand. He went there to prepare a place for us and will return in glory having put all our enemies, last of all death, under His feet.

In the first act of His rule, He sent His Spirit on Pentecost so that the apostles and pastors could be sent to preach His name to all nations, bringing to all people the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life that He won on the cross. The ascension also includes the promise that we will ascend over every sin, death and even hell itself, passing over one day to our glorious rest in heaven. The celebration of this feast works this teaching and joy in us.

In former times, the joy of the feast spanned from Ascension to Pentecost, a 10-day mini season known as Ascensiontide. The color white remains on the altar. Special joyous ascension hymns are sung. The paschal candle may be moved from the altar to its regular place by the baptismal font. Some congregations extinguish the light of this Easter candle after the reading of the Gospel, marking the beginning of the time when we apprehend Christ not by sight but by faith.

Suggestions

Ascension Day falls on a Thursday, and therefore many people neglect to attend the feast. This is strange since we do not miss Christmas services that normally fall during the week. Perhaps we neglect Ascension Day because we have failed to instill its teaching in our lives.

Some ideas for recovering this feast day might include:

- Learning an ascension hymn in the home.
- The local Amish community ceases from work and spends the day with their extended community. Why not take the day off and go to church at the end of the day?
- Have the children or adult choir sing for the service.
- Have the service on a hill or in the church cemetery, processing to the location with the cross leading the way, recreating Jesus' journey with His disciples to the Mount of Olives.
- Add to your weekly prayers a petition for "the joy of the ascension among us."
- Do a Bible class on the ascension and include a synopsis of it in your congregation's newsletter.
- Encourage your pastor to celebrate the ascension on Ascension Day. | Have a joint worship service with other circuit congregations.
- Schedule a potluck before the service or an ice cream social afterward.

In recent times, the Roman Catholic Church in America has almost given up celebrating the Feast of the Ascension on a Thursday, and instead transferred it to the following Sunday. Instead of following the path of least resistance, recognize that it has taken generations to lose this great feast in our congregations; its recovery will not happen overnight. Even if our church is not full of people on earth for an Ascension Day service, we rejoice that we worship our ascended and triumphant Lord with angels and archangels and all the saints of heaven. If all the company of heaven is there, then even in the smallest of churches, the attendance is without number.



In Our Prayers:

Homebound Ministry:

**Marian Brugh
John Curtiss**

**Ellen Plano
Jerome Dirst**

LONG TERM CONCERNS:

Rose Maxum , requested by Chuck and Amber Townsend	Susan & Gregory Fritz , Stephanie Beck's parents
Amy Stillwell , sister of Dave Reynolds	Mary Ann Massey , friend of Dotty Smith
Bob Perri , brother of Phil Perri	Craig Rennhack , requested by Bob & Maryalice Reck
John Blasko , requested by Elizabeth Blasko	Mindy Mitchell , sister of Shelly Reynolds
Kyle Reinbold Family , requested by Kyle's sister, Sonya DeVary	James Leo Brown , requested by Shelly and Dave Reynolds
Karen McDougall , requested by Sue Steuer	Jim Sabo , friend of Susan Steuer
Katie VerKow , former member of Immanuel, requested by Phil Roekle	Lucille and Lawrence Fritz , requested by Jonathan Fritz
Vicki Dille , requested by Christa & Phil Perri	Suzie Brink , Christie Sidwell's mother and Bill Brink , her brother
Joanne Cleason , Esther Cleason's daughter	Melissa , friend of Dotty Smith and daughter Laura
Marie Winberg , godmother of Bill Bennett	Hannah Bayer , requested by her father
Lisa and David Wentzel , Sue Steuer's cousins	Jerry and Sandi McKenzie , friends of Dotty Smith
Ware Washam , requested by Brian Long	Sandy Hale , requested by Stephen Presdorf
Caroline Barkow	Jeri Noneman
Gene Jennings	Kay Hecht , John Hecht's mother
Loren Gerber , Sue Anderson's father	Beth Mitchell
Alice Schley , Jane Schley's granddaughter	Charlie Miller , Marian Brugh's brother
Toni —Jane Schley's cousin	Jason , son-in-law of Sue & Craig Anderson
Sharon S. , requested by Dotty Smith	Karen Petersen , daughter of Cathy & Tom Mollet
Ruth Krueger	Justin Nickels , requested by Justin Beck
Deb , friend of Sue Steuer	Marilyn Borgeson , Annie Hecht's grandmother
Sophie Rose Verile , Brindley's grandniece	Lynne Partridge , friend of Christa Perri
Linda & Scott Spurlock , req. by Esther C.	Merry Linn , Sally Crawford's sister
Mae Westphal	
Kim N., Kim M., Emilie H., & Sydney B. , all friends of Kim Sharp; and River Lint , Kim's cousin's baby	
All Crossroads Prison Ministry students from all congregations around the country	
Immanuel members: Gail Stewart, Dolly Bryan, Shelly Reynolds, Tina Lauer, Jerome Dirst & John Miller	

If you would like the congregation to pray for you or your loved one, please contact the church office to have the name(s) placed on our prayer list.



May 6	Denny Patzer
May 7	Cailyn Hecht
May 8	Alberta Kyzyston
May 10	John Mandrick
May 11	Cheryl Brindley
May 12	Bonnie Arthur
May 14	Laura Mandrick
May 15	Sarah Lawrence
May 16	Mary Reynolds
May 18	Raya DeVary
May 18	Phillip Perri
May 24	Walt Eckert
May 24	Dave Mandrick
May 25	Chuck Townsend
May 26	Shirley Breu
May 26	Annie Hecht
May 26	Brian Long
May 27	Norah Lawrence
May 28	Leslie Salinas
May 29	Madison Hernandez Haw





Our Mission of the Month In May is: **Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries**



Thank-you for your faithful giving!! Your giving helps feed and shelter many needy individuals each day/night.

Proverbs 22:9 "Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor."

Matthew 25: 40 "The King (Jesus) will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

Matthew 25: 45 "He will (also) reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'"



KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES

ONGOING FOOD DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

Food donations are accepted
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday - Friday at
901 Portage Street (KLF)

Other donation locations are listed below:

Family Dollar
(Select Locations)

Kalamazoo First Presbyterian Church
321 W South St

Rollerworld
7491 Stadium Dr., Kalamazoo

Annual Immanuel Diaper Drive



In Honor of **Mother's Day,**
May 11, 2025 and
In Support of Alternatives of
Kalamazoo and
The Douglass Community Association

Help for Needy Mothers

Diaper Sizes Needed:
Infant, 2,3,4,5, and
Boys'/Girls' Pull-Ups

Bring your donations to the narthex
by 9:00am **May 12th**

Your donations to our Diaper
Drive are greatly appreciated!!
Thank-you to all of you who
have already given!! It's an
inspiring site to see all those
diapers in our narthex already!!



LUTHERAN
HOUR
MINISTRIES

The Lutheran Hour (LHM)

is broadcast every Sunday morning at 6:30 a.m. on 105.7 FM or accessible anytime on the Web at www.lutheranhour.org.

MAY SERMON SCHEDULE

May 4: "An Old Place, A New Beginning"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola

God is the Searcher Who will not stop looking for us. In our lonely hiding place, He says, "I knew I would find you here." (John 21:1-19)

May 11: "How to Be Happy"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

Lasting happiness is found in surrender, rather than control. (John 15:11)

May 18: "Truth That Takes Us In"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

Jesus is the Truth Who will take you in to live like He lives, planted in God His Father's love. (John 15:9)

May 25: "What's Your Story?"

Guest Speaker: [Rev. Gregory Manning](#)

Our difficulties often become the backdrop against which God reveals His faithfulness. Each challenge is an opportunity for Him to display His power. (John 9:1-11)



If you prefer more modern music with the Lutheran Hour message, a special broadcast has been developed for the AFN at www.lutheranhour.org/AFN.

You can also hear a message of hope *when you need it* by listening to your favorite LHM programs by downloading our Podcasts (audio files), free of charge, to your computer or portable devices.



Immanuel Tea Party

Mothers, daughters, granddaughters, and friends
(including those outside Immanuel):

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon tea on Saturday,
May 10, 2025 at 2:00 in the afternoon on the Garden Level!

We will be featuring a selection of teas, sweets and savories to tantalize the taste buds.

Sign up in the narthex!

Hope you can join us!

Sponsored by the Mary Martha Guild. Our mission is to be of assistance to our members with any spiritual, social or and/or charitable needs. We'd love your input.



May 2025

The Mission of the Month: Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC and online (Couch) 11:30am Children's Choir	5	6 5:30pm Mary/Martha 7:00pm Baumgarts' Bible Study @ ILC	7	8	9	10 2:00pm Mary Martha Tea Party 
11 10:00am 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC and online (Quardokus) 11:30am Children's Choir	12	13 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:00pm Baumgarts' Bible Study @ ILC	14	15	16	17 10-11am "Joy" Bible Study @ ILC
18 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC and online (lqbal)	19	20 7:00pm Baumgarts' Bible Study @ ILC	21	22  Newsletter Deadline	23	24
27 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC and online (Quardokus)	28 MEMORIAL DAY	29 7:00pm Baumgarts' Bible Study @ ILC	30	31		

Worship Assistants/Serving Schedule

	Acolytes	Altar	Usher	Lector	Worship Assistants	Coffee Hour
Sunday 5/4/2025	Maddie Hernandez & Elijah Lawrence	Vivian Westphal	Kim Sharp	John Hecht	Mark Miller & Andrew Lustila	Maryalice Reck
Sunday 5/11/2025	Cailyn Hecht & Norah Lawrence	Jane Schley	John Wagner	Andrew Lustila	Denny Patzer & John Quardokus	Sue & John Wagner
Sunday 5/18/2025	Linus & Ezra Mandrick	Sally Crawford	Ron Swinehart	John Krueger	John Quardokus & John Wagner	AnnMarie & Philip Miller
Sunday 5/25/2025	Elliora & Caviion Beck	TBA	John Hecht	Mark Miller	Larry Baumgart & Craig Anderson	Rita Clarke
Sunday 6/1/2025	Genevieve Miller & Adelaide Jefferies	TBA	Kim Sharp	Ninah Miller	Bill Stewart & Ron Swinehart	Shelly Reynolds
Sunday 6/8/2025	Maddie Hernandez & Elijah Lawrence	TBA	John Wagner	John Quardokus	Mark Miller & Andrew Lustila	Helen and Phil—coffee Dotty--snacks
Sunday 6/15/2025	Cailyn Hecht & Norah Lawrence	TBA	Ron Swinehart	Dave Mandrick	Denny Patzer & John Quardokus	Jane S—coffee Melanie B--snacks
Sunday 6/22/2025	Linus & Ezra Mandrick	TBA	John Hecht	John Hecht	John Quardokus & John Wagner	Amber & Chuck Townsend
Sunday 6/29/2025	Elliora & Caviion Beck	TBA	Ron Swinehart	Andrew Lustila	Larry Baumgart & Craig Anderson	Amber & Chuck Townsend
Sunday 7/6/2025	Genevieve Miller & Adelaide Jefferies	TBA	Kim Sharp	John Krueger	Bill Stewart & Ron Swinehart	TBA
Sunday 7/13/2025	Maddie Hernandez & Elijah Lawrence	TBA	John Wagner	Mark Miller	Mark Miller & Andrew Lustila	TBA
Sunday 7/20/2025	Cailyn Hecht & Norah Lawrence	TBA	Ron Swinehart	Ninah Miller	Denny Patzer & John Quardokus	TBA
Sunday 7/27/2025	Linus & Ezra Mandrick	TBA	John Hecht	John Quardokus	John Quardokus & John Wagner	TBA

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
3000 West Main Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49006

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(269) 345-8090
**Immanuel
Lutheran
Church**

Schoolyear

Schedule:

9:15-9:45am

Children's Sunday
School

**10: 00 am Sunday
Communion Service**

11:30am Adult Class

11:30am Children's
Choir Practice

NOTE:

All services will be
live-streamed on:
*Facebook and
YouTube*



The Season of Pentecost

On Pentecost, Christians
commemorate the special
outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In his explanation to the Third Article of the Creed, Luther
details the Spirit's work, giving us a very personal confession of
faith for Pentecost:

*"I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength
believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him;
but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel,
enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept
me in the true faith.*

*"In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and
sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and
keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.
In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives
all my sins and the sins of all believers.*

*"On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead,
and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.*

This is most certainly true."