



Immanuel News

The newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greeley, Colorado

May 2026

Hi, Immanuel Gang,

Here we are in May, nearing the end of Spring (did we have a spring?), in the final weeks of our Easter celebration (Alleluia, Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!). We close the month with the celebration of Pentecost and school ending, heading to Summer break and vacations.

May is also Mother's Day (the 10th), National Day of Prayer (the 7th), and Memorial Day (the 25th this year). With our war against Iran challenging the world and our own armed forces, we will have, sadly, some very contemporary memorials to share. I think I will find it hard to maintain the joy of May.

I find hope in May, too, because we will celebrate, with our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world, two significant feast days: Ascension Day (the 14th) and Pentecost (the 24th).

Ascension Day has never been well celebrated in my experience, unless your congregation happens to be named Ascension Lutheran Church. It is Jesus leaving after his resurrection, going back to heaven, and leaving promises – and some work orders, which may be the problem with Ascension Day. Jesus, who has been doing all the work up until then, now shifts the responsibility of building the “kingdom of heaven” (as Gospel writer, Matthew, likes to name it) to us.

It is Luke's Gospel that gives us the story in chapter 24, verses 44-53. Jesus does say, “*And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised...power from on high.*” (Lk 24:49) We certainly celebrate this promise on the Day of Pentecost (sounds of wind and visions of tongues of fire; apostles speaking all manner of languages) as the beginning of the church. And it is a joyous, and significant day, and we do have fun with sounds and sights in our worship. It begs the question, however, why does God send us the “power from on high”? That answer is in the two sentences of Jesus that come just before the promise.

“Thus it is written,...that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in [Jesus'] name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.” (Lk 24:46-48)

It is hard to imagine that repentance and forgiveness of sins will be proclaimed from Jerusalem these days, but it doesn't take us off the hook as “witnesses” around here to God's compassionate love in Jesus life, death and resurrection.

I was fortunate to be able to participate in our Synod's assembly last month. It was fun, but serious. The focus was on “Life in Christ” with an emphasis on 'vocation': where our gifts from God that inspire joy in us meet the needs of the world around us. I think vocation fits with our work to be witnesses to “all nations”.

The challenge is, certainly, to identify those gifts from God that, when we use them, bring us joy, inspiration and fulfillment. Then the challenge is to clear our eyes of prejudice, fear and past failures to see the needs around us that God invites us to address with our gifts. Martin Luther said vocation is God working in us, where we are at (mother, soldier, teacher, child, baker...), with the intention we use our gifts there to build the kingdom of heaven there.

Nor is it only individuals who have vocations, but congregations as well. What are Immanuel's gifts and how might they connect with the needs of its people, the neighborhood, city, state and beyond.

In a month that holds both Mother's Day and Memorial Day, may we recognize and renew our vocation, and witness anew to the compassionate love of God in Christ Jesus.

WORSHIP

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 3 — *Fifth Sunday of Easter*
May 10 — *Sixth Sunday of Easter*
May 17 — *Seventh Sunday of Easter*
May 24 — *Day of Pentecost*
May 31 — *The Holy Trinity*

Bible Study

Adult Sunday Bible Study group
is using the Luther Seminary series "God Pause."
We meet at 9:15 am in the Library (room next to kitchen).
If you would like to receive the emailed study,
please contact Paula Powell at ppowell76@gmail.com

The Worship and Music Committee has heard your requests and comments regarding worship and is considering some changes.

To help the Committee, on March 1, April 12 and May 3 we will be using a Worship & Praise Liturgy on a trial basis. This is a more upbeat setting and will include changes in wording and music choices. After the trial, we will be asking for your opinion regarding this liturgy; likes and dislikes. Your opinions will help us shape worship at Immanuel in the future.



Time of Transition and the Call Process

Pastor William "Bill" Embree continues to serve as a Bridge Pastor.

The Call Committee met by Zoom on April 9 with Pastor Sara Wirth (Synod liaison) and the potential candidate. We discussed responsibilities and expectations of the candidate and also of the congregation. We asked questions of the candidate and the candidate asked questions of us. After discussing next steps and a potential timeline, Pastor Sara and the candidate left the Zoom meeting and the Call Committee continued discussion. We unanimously agreed to go to the April 14 Council meeting with a recommendation to call the candidate.

At the April 14 Council meeting, the remaining Council members met the candidate and Pastor Sara Wirth during a Zoom meeting. Prior to the meeting, Council members had received the candidate's profile, the Immanuel list of part-time pastor responsibilities, and the Call Committee's recommendation to Council.

YOUTH & FAITH FORMATION



FIRST SUNDAY YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, May 3rd (1st Sunday of month)

SCHEDULE:

- 9:00am – Snacks Together in Annex Youth Room
- 9:15am – 5th Grade & Younger (Youth Room)
- 9:15am – Middle School & High School (Annex - Upstairs)
- 10:00am – Back Together for Fun & Games in Youth Room

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! Sign up to help with Youth Group!

We need two (2) volunteers each month to sign up to help with the young group for First Sundays Youth Group, February, March and May. If you are available or have questions, please contact the office (970) 352-3003 or Julie Elmquist (970) 371-2734. Resources are available for lessons!



Save the Dates! Vacation Bible School June 15-18, 2026

11:30 a.m.—12 noon—Lunch

12 noon—3:00 p.m. Vacation Bible School

With Staff from Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp!

Additional helpers/volunteers needed:

3-4 Youth volunteers (age 12 and up)

4 Adult volunteers (assigned to a group of children)

Craft coordinators (purchase supplies, set up & monitor craft area)

Lunch coordinators (purchase food/supplies, set up, prepare & serve lunch)

Snacks coordinators (purchase food/supplies, set up, prepare & serve)

Registration/Publicity (collect registration forms, monitor sign-in/sign out daily)

2-3 Hosts to provide housing/breakfast for 4 Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp staff

Hosts to provide nightly dinners for 4 Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp staff

Please contact the church office (970) 352-3003 or Julie Elmquist (970) 371-2734 if you are able and willing to help in any way!

GIVING & SERVICE

Free Little **Red Barn** Pantry

Please consider bringing shelf-stable, non-perishable food items to place in the barn each Sunday so our pantry will stay stocked and continue to be a blessing for our neighbors in need! Please just make sure your donations are not past their expiration date.

Travel-sized shampoo & conditioner, toothbrushes, and bars of soap are also appreciated.



Let's work together to **FILL THE BARN!**

LUTHERAN EPISCOPAL CAMPUS MINISTRY

Support Campus Ministry: Bring a Meal to Sunday Dinner Church

Support campus ministry and students in Greeley for the spring semester by signing up to bring a meal for our Sunday evening Dinner Church gatherings. These meals are a weekly anchor in our community, and students look forward each week to eating together. Your help providing the food for these meals makes this time together possible. Thank you! Find more details and open dates on our Meal Train page:

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/ynk9ey/updates/lm0dw6>

If you are able, please plan to eat with us!



PRAYER & CARE



Always Say A Prayer Team

The Prayer Team is here for you. If you have a request, you can fill out a prayer card and leave it in the box at the back of the church or contact anyone on the prayer team or call the church office with your request. We are keeping you all in prayer, especially during this time of transition.

Roma Arithson Connie Deines
Sharrol Bernahl Diane Filipe
Janet Willis



Congratulations to our High School Graduate!

Madilyn Shamburger will graduate from Thompson Valley High School, Loveland, this spring.

Maddie is the daughter of Kristi Deines and the granddaughter of Marvin and Connie Deines.

To celebrate Maddie, please bring a card or your well wishes to the church by May 17. There will be a basket on the table at the back of the Nave.



Recorder Concerts

- ◆ May 9—2:30 pm at St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, 7520 S Boulder Road, Boulder
- ◆ May 10—2:30 pm at Shepherd of the Hills, 1200 S Taft Hill Road, Fort Collins

Both concerts are free and donations will be accepted.

CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION

Audio/Visual (AV) Committee

An audio/visual (AV) committee was formed to determine how best to leverage the grant our congregation received. Committee members include: Pete Budde, Matt Denman, Stan Elmquist, John Larson, and Lelyn Larson.

To date, the committee has met twice to outline several goals of the project, including:

- Leverage the existing AV equipment we already have
- Improve sound quality of live stream and recorded services
- Display select visual content to the entire congregation in the sanctuary
- Explore range of solutions potentially including mounted cameras, mics, and TV monitors/screens in the sanctuary
- Eliminate waste in printing (hardcopy) materials, e.g., bulletins
- Potentially replace existing speakers (more aesthetic and subtle)
- Add presentation capabilities in the Fellowship Hall

There is progress on receiving bids from a number of vendors to meet the above requirements. All estimates will consider the recurring maintenance & staffing costs in final proposals. Next step, after the holiday season, is to summarize options and present them to the congregation for consideration.

Please reach out to Pete Budde if you have any questions in the interim.



There will be a Coffee Hour discussion on Sunday May 31st at 10:00 am outlining the UE Productions Proposal approved by Council for audio/visual upgrades at Immanuel.

CHURCH COUNCIL



NAME	COMMITTEE
Budde, Cindy	Secretary
Clausen, Cheryl	
Crespin, Janet	
Elmquist, Julie	President
Johnson, John	Vice President
Larson, John	
Sickles, Katy	

EFTF – Endowment Foundation Trust Fund

The Endowment Foundation Trust Fund (EFTF) uses interest earned on the donations in the trust fund to support special needs and work of the church that is not covered by the church budget. If you have a special need in mind, please submit a request for fund disbursement. The EFTF Committee considers requests quarterly. Please see an EFTF Committee member if you have questions or pick up a request form from the EFTF mailbox in the church office.

Committee members: Janet Crespin, Amy Herold, Elaine Holbrook, Janet Johnson

GIA Clothing Bank



Several Greeley-area churches sponsor and help operate the Greeley Interfaith Assn. Clothing Bank, located at 228 N. 9th Ave., Greeley.

The hours open are 10:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m., Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

The Clothing Bank accepts gently used items of clothing and sells them to the public at a reasonable cost. Proceeds of the sales cover operating expenses and then go toward community scholarships and grants.

Volunteers are always needed. Volunteers sort clothing, price the clothes, place on the racks, and check out customers at the cash register. Volunteers also receive a discount for clothing purchases when they work.

See Julie Elmquist, Cindy Thompson, Brenda Turnwall or Katy Sickles for more information. Love to see you there.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Council Highlights

- Council approved a proposal from the AV Committee for UE Productions
- Summer worship hours begin June 7th
- Vacation Bible School will be held Monday, June 15-Thursday, June 18 with lunch @ 11:30 am and activities from 12-3 pm

Please join us for our next meeting on
Tuesday, May 12th @ 6:30 p.m.

Tied in Faith...

Will meet on Tuesday, May 5,
Thursday, May 21 &
Saturday, May 30




Women ^{of the} ELCA

Our logo—with the cross, water and a white lily—identifies women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as children of God; baptized, forgiven, adopted into God's family, full of grace and hope in eternal life. It is a reminder of the growth, beauty, and vitality that rises out of that life-giving baptismal water. It is also a reminder of the mission of the church to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).



MAY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1		2
3 9:00 am-Youth Group 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am-Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am- Holy Communion	4 Common Sense Kleaining—Church	5 9:00 am—Tied in Faith	6	7	8	9
10 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am-Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am- Holy Communion 11:30 am-Prayer Team	11 Common Sense Kleaining—Annex 9:30 am—2:00 pm—I LC at GIA Clothing Bank	12 6:30 pm—Council Meeting	13	14	15	16
17 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am-Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am- Holy Communion	18 Common Sense Kleaining—Church	19	20	21 9:00 am—Tied in Faith	22	23
24 Day of Pentecost 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am-Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am- Holy Communion	25  Church Offices Closed	26 Common Sense Kleaining—Annex	27	28	29	30 9:00 am—Tied in Faith
31 The Holy Trinity 10:00 am-Coffee Fellowship AV Discussion 10:30 am- Holy Communion						

Thanks to our Volunteers!

May 2026

May 3:

Greeter: Vera Sylvester
Ushers: Ron & Cindy Thompson
Assisting Minister: Janet Willis
Lector: Luke Larson, Jack Larson
Communion Setup: Cindy Thompson
Tellers: Marvin & Connie Deines

May 10:

Greeter: Janet Willis
Ushers: Matt & Molly Ward
Assisting Minister: Julie Elmquist
Lector: Molly Ward
Communion Setup: Molly Ward
Tellers: Vera Sylvester, Brenda Turnwall

May 17:

Greeter: Vera Sylvester
Ushers: John Johnson & Sally Stewart
Assisting Minister: Cindy Budde
Lector: Janessa Padilla
Communion Setup: Sue Morse
Tellers: Linda Sample, Janet Johnson

May 24:

Greeter: Julie Elmquist
Ushers: Katy Sickles, Juan Cruz
Assisting Minister: Janet Willis
Lector: Janet Willis
Communion Setup: Linda Cruz
Tellers: Janet Crespin

May 31:

Greeter: Julie Elmquist
Ushers: Katy Sickles, Vera Sylvester
Assisting Minister: Cindy Budde
Lector: Pete Budde
Communion Setup: Cindy Thompson
Tellers: Bob & Sue Morse

CONTACT INFORMATION

Bridge Pastor: Pastor Bill Embree
Secretary: Denise Pollard Stricker 970-352-3003
Office Hours: M —Th 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
Offices closed on Fridays

Executive Council:

President: Julie Elmquist
Vice President: John Johnson
Secretary: Cindy Budde
Treasurer: Connie Deines
Financial Secretary: Bob Morse