

IMMANUEL

**MAY 2024
EDITION**



CELEBRATING PENTECOST

Our Front Page

Celebrating the events on Pentecost, as narrated in Acts chapter 2, is to celebrate the beginning and the relevance of the church of Jesus Christ.



This month, our magazine is dedicated to this great event. It is significant to recognize the church's spiritual, moral, and social value as we support its goals to share God's law and serve others through the grace of the Triune God.

The representation above should catch our attention that a woman is in the middle of what is supposed to be the disciples. This is supposed to be Mary, the mother of Jesus, who, according to the Bible, was one of the people who received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

As we celebrate that the church was formed in the Jewish celebration of Pentecost, the fact that such celebration is the Harvest festival could be seen as an open invitation to all of us to experience the church as a place where fruits are expected and encouraged as Jesus' disciples.

So, the body of Christ (us) is called through Pentecost to be the proper harvest for a broken society and to bring a new harvest into Christ's church as we get more people into our midst. Let us be willing to be empowered by the Holy Spirit among us to keep preaching the good news that Christ is our Lord.

The Food Pantry Ministry is Thriving

Please plan to be together as one church in Christ to serve our community through the La Vernia Christian Food Pantry, a La Vernia Ministerial Alliance ministry.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this ministry, please get in touch with the church office or our new Coordinator, Mr. Kris Tripp.



FEED THE HUNGRY

During 2024, our next day of serving is June 15. Then the next serving days are August 24 and November 2.

Come to the Adult Sunday Bible Study

We want to keep sharing an open invitation to Adult Sunday Bible School. As a church grounded in the word of God, we must insist that we all ensure that we are fed in the truth of God. The topic for the first five months 2024 is the Old Testament Prophets. You only need your Bible and a genuine interest in growing in the Lord. Our classes are from 9:15 am to 10:15 am. Pastor Eric M. Miletti is the instructor for the adults. Enjoy this blessing in Christ!



**Sunday Morning
Adult Study**

Editor and Graphic Artist
Pastor Eric M. Miletti

Contributing Writers (this edition)

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From the Pastor's Desk



Celebrating Pentecost

*"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.
Suddenly, a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came
from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting."
Acts 2:1-2*

One of the most significant consequences of the narrative of Acts 2 was how the Holy Spirit enabled disciples and sympathizers of the Jesus movement with the supernatural capacity to speak different languages. This phenomenon is essential because it is at the heart of the birth of the Christian church. This capacity is called "xenoglossia" (from the Greek *xenos*, foreign and *glossa*, tongue). It differs from "glossolalia" (speaking in an apparently unknown language), which some mistakenly place in Acts chapter two. The coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts is about the capacity to preach the good news of Christ to all nations in their native language (vv. 5-12).

Among other theological considerations, we can say that the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts chapter two is about embracing diversity through languages. In this way, the Holy Spirit empowers the church to appreciate and sustain those who talk, walk, and think differently than us, coming from diverse cultural backgrounds. This also means that every culture is respected and shared as equal in the true church of Christ. Under this understanding, the Christian church is a safe harbor for outsiders (not living in Jerusalem at the time of the coming of the Holy Spirit), foreigners (Parthians, Medes, Elamites, Mesopotamians, etc.), and newcomers (none of the audience was part of the original groups of disciples and sympathizers). That is why a Christian church must accept everyone at the banquet of God's grace.

Furthermore, the Holy Spirit's coming seems to be the biblical reverse of the Tower of Babel story (Gen.11). In this story, people were trying to reach God as they built a tower, and their languages were "confused," so they could not get their goal (Gen. 11:6-7). In Acts is the contrary; people do not have to work to reach God because God, through Jesus, has already got them. More importantly, while language was the disrupted element in Genesis, it is God's sacred tool to unite all kinds of people in Acts. God embraces diversity through languages with one coherent message: Jesus Christ is the only Lord and Savior.

As we celebrate Pentecost, we celebrate that God constantly invites us to be united despite our differences. Let us celebrate the Holy Spirit's empowerment of the church all year long as people of hope for all.

God Bless Us All,
Pastor Eric M. Miletti

women^{OF}faith™

On April 20, eight ladies participated in the South Texas Mission District meeting in Three Rivers. We enjoyed food and fellowship as we heard about the nine fruits of the Spirit, and heard about different ideas to get more ladies



involved in our Women of Faith group here at Immanuel. We offered to host the meeting next year, so get ready to volunteer and help us make the meeting a success!

May brings a variety of activities and ways that you can be involved at Immanuel Lutheran Church!

We begin the month by coming together at our annual Sisters in Christ banquet on Friday, May 3 at 6:30 pm. The theme for this year will be based on favorite gospel hymns, and we plan to have lots of fun singing some old-fashioned favorites! The Men of Immanuel will prepare and serve the meal; I look forward to seeing you and hearing your voices on that evening.

On Sunday, May 5, there will be one service as we celebrate our annual church picnic at 10:00 am here on the church grounds. Come out and worship with your fellow church members that "go to that other service!"

We continue into the month by celebrating Mother's Day on May 12. Some of us are fortunate to still have our mothers with us; others have memories.

2 Timothy 1:7 reminds us, "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." Happy Mother's Day to all of the women at Immanuel!

On May 19, we will honor our graduates with a brunch between services in the Parish Hall. Let me know if you would like to provide food for that day.

Finally, at the end of the month our country celebrates Memorial Day, remembering those who have gone before us and given their lives so that we can live free in the greatest country on Earth. It's also the unofficial start of summer, so if you are traveling, stay safe!

In Christ's blessings,
Darla Buccigrossi

Pictured are: Darla Buccigrossi, Terri Gibson, Shirley Stanush, Amy Wagner, Karen Campbell, Esther DeHaven, Gloria Kipp and Laura Baumann.

JOIN US!
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
SEWING CIRCLE

9:00 A.M.

TUESDAY, MAY 21ST

Meets 3rd Tuesday of Every Month



Immanuel Lutheran Church would like to thank these women for the work that they do. They have been sewing for our church for 30+ years. They have made quilts for 4H groups, disaster relief, homebound & shut in members, auction items, and many other occasions. This is a beautiful and dying art. Thank you ladies for all that you have done and continue to do.

Anyone interested in joining this group is welcome. All that you need to know how to do is tie a knot. Everyone can do that. They meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 9:00. They hope to see you there!

Pictured are Annie Coldewey, Sharon Poarch, Pastor Eric Milette, Donna Jefferson and Carroll Dorsett.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting
March 18, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm. Members present were Rebe Penshorn, Wendie Roser, Becca Reeves, Chrystal Coble, Jana Clarke, Pastor Eric Miletti, Mark Buccigrossi, Kurt Smith, Will Scull, Joyce Miller, and Larry Wahl.

The opening devotion was done by Wendie.

Public and Parishioners to be Heard: Larry Wahl – gave report on minor repairs needed around church and property; requested to restripe pastor's parking spot.

Correspondence: Wounded warrior, Upbring (Foster & Adoptive Parent assistance)

Secretary Report: Motion to accept the Secretary report by Mark and seconded by Wendie. Motion passed. Minutes accepted to records.

Treasurers Report: After reviewing the report, a motion was made by Rebe to accept the report and seconded by Mark. Motion passed. Treasurers report accepted to records.

Pastors Report - Actively looking for a house, ministerial alliance meeting at 8:30am Tuesday, pastoral visits to two parishioners, PR mission trip going well, added Tanner Maxwell and Hilary Martin. Sunday bible study attendance has increased, Wed and Thurs bible studies going well also. Going well at NALC, weekly bible studies posted on social media. Meeting with Shirley about updating content with digital partners. NALC checks the sites frequently. Lenten services are going well, the last one this Wednesday. Palm walk is next Sunday starting at parking lot. Newsletter is running smoothly, and pastor will continue editing monthly. Prefers content to be submitted ready to copy and paste into newsletter.

Presidents Report: None

Other Program Reports:

- **Men in Mission:** Ramp project this Saturday.
- **Festival:** Secured May 4, 2025, date with C of C.

Council went into executive session 6:47

Executive session ended 6:49

Old Business

- A- Building Project Update:** Rebe reported for the building committee. Taping and floating, sheetrock up, storage room walls done next Friday and then we can move pods contents back in. Waiting on garage and other doors to get here before framing will be done for that and speaker boxes in sanctuary. Then paint and finishes will be done. Bathrooms will be same paint, finishes and color in as other section. Kitchen cabinets will be stained and Ronnie will send a link to the council to select colors. Checking to see if there is a design service we can use for the offices and public spaces to create a more professional aesthetic.
- B- PODS:** PODS were extended to the middle of May. Since the storage room is not insulated and we are waiting on shelving design approval, council decided to extend the rental of the Pods for 1 more month (through May). Ronnie will contact Jesse about bringing a proposal to the council for storage room organization.
- C- Organ Update:** Organ is set to deliver here onsite next Monday or Tuesday. Will remove existing organ and install new one. Andrew is working with Dexnar for perforated screens.
- D- Computer Replacement for Office:** On hold until new office is done.
- E- Internet Provider:** Need to assess our future technology needs moving forward. Team formed to create a needs assessment.
- F- Classrooms in Parish Hall:** Settled

New Business

- A- **New Building finish Out:** Sub committee was formed (Jana, Rebe and Chrystal)
- B- **Keys:** Keys needed for new council members
- C- **Cell Phones in Church:** Gentle reminder in announcement slides
- D- **Constitution Committee:** Request volunteers at June semi-annual meeting (Mark B will be the point person and pastor will be a member as well)
- E- **Member Directory/Photo updates needed:** Will be scheduled in 2024

Chrystal will lead the next devotion at the meeting on **Monday, April 22, 2024, at 6:00pm** .

Motion made by Mark to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Wendie. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jana Clarke



Men of Immanuel Lutheran Church

If you are a man and are either a member, visitor,
or a friend of ILC,
do not miss our meetings:



Where: At the Parsonage Building at Immanuel Lutheran Church Complex
When: Second Saturday of every month at 8:30 am
What we do: Breakfast together / Study the Bible / Prepare and Plan how to support our church

"Have I not commanded you to be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Kayla Ann Martin
- 3 Bryson Coleman
- 4 Barry Warren
- 5 Cameron Clark
- 6 Nathan Pianfetti
- 6 Juan E. Baez
- 7 Lauren Prater
- 7 Marlin Tanneberger
- 8 Patricia Koepf
- 9 Monica Coldewey
- 9 Bill Roser
- 11 Larry Schulze
- 12 Darlene Reeves
- 15 Debie Cone
- 16 Emma Scull
- 19 Matt Koepf
- 20 Dwight Koepf
- 20 Micah Coldewey
- 20 Ilene McInvale
- 21 Phil Corbin
- 21 Brenda Willeford
- 21 Charlotte Markgraf
- 22 Henry Karnei
- 22 Colton Davis
- 23 Shelley Witte
- 24 Tatum Lahodny
- 25 Wes Walker
- 29 Brent Recker
- 29 Sheldon Shed
- 31 Braden Recker

ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Wanda and David Kramer
- 14 Shirley and Kevin Stanush
- 15 Bill and Wendie Roser
- 16 Deedra and Craig Lahodny
- 20 Jeff and Tina Homeyer
- 22 Travis and Whitney Hild



YARDWORK SCHEDULE

- 05/06 - 05/11 Brad Bales
Betty Maltsby
- 05/20 - 05/25 Mark Buccigrossi
Ronnie Haug

MAY FLOWER CHART

- May 5 Altar Joyce Miller
Piano Heather Bales
- May 12 Altar Rebecca Reeves
Piano Wanda Mabry
- May 19 Altar Will & Renee Scull
Piano
- May 26 Altar
Piano

We Serve a Mighty God!

As everyone knows, **Wanda Mabry** has been on our prayer list for some time now. She called the office this week to thank everyone for their prayers and support. She told us that she is feeling so much better and her health has improved tremendously. She asked that she be taken off of the prayer list and said how grateful she was for her church family. God is good!!

I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.
Psalm 9:1

END OF SCHOOL
PAINTBALL
 PARTY

YOUTH GATHERING

All Ages 10 & Up
 Paintball Knights
 \$20.00

Thursday, May 9th
 7:15 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Pizza & Drinks

Call Office to RSVP by Thursday, May 2nd

VBS 2024
VOLUNTEER & PARTICIPANT
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!
 CLICK HERE OR
 GO TO WEBSITE TO REGISTER
 Monday, July 8th – Thursday, July 11th
 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

MATTHEW
 14-22-33

YACHT CLUB

Young Adults Church Team

UPCOMING EVENTS

NALC
 CONTINENTAL
 YOUTH GATHERING
 Boerne, Texas
 June 30th – July 5th

WE BELONG!

SUNDAY EXPERIENCE

May
 12th, 19th
 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

OUTREACH
 COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sunday, May 5th
 Church Picnic
 Games Host

MEETING DATES

Monday, May 6th
 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Church Parsonage
 meal served

Thursday
 Thursday, May 9th
 Paintball Gathering



**GRADUATION
 RECOGNITION**

Sunday, May 19th
 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Reception in between Services
 Hosted by the Women of Faith

If your loved one is graduating,
 please contact the Church Office
 so a form can be provided for
 completion to properly recognize
 and honor the graduate. Form must
 be returned by Thursday, May 9th.



dive into oceans of fun!

VBS 2024
 RECYCLED VOSS WATER BOTTLES NEEDED



...or any other clear flat wide mouth
 plastic bottle

DROP OFF BOX IN PARISH HALL

More to Come in June!

MAY 2024 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

May 5



Ushers
Readers
Acolytes
Altar Guild
Facebook Live
Multimedia
Tellers

Picnic

Travis Wayne Mabry
Mark Buccigrossi
Bill Roser
Kase Morrison and Lillie Faglie
Darla Buccigrossi
Shirley Stanush
n/a

Chrystal Coble and Rebe Penshorn (on Monday)

May 12



Ushers
Readers
Acolytes
Altar Guild
Facebook Live
Multimedia
Tellers

8:00

Chrystal Coble
Kathy Volkmann
David Haass
Matthew Stanush
Paige Haass
Joyce Miller

10:30

Tim Ferguson
Suzan Ferguson
Esther DeHaven
Henry Scull
JoElla Heinsohn
Jeanette Bailey
Suzan Ferguson

Joyce Miller

Joyce Miller and Darla Buccigrossi

Patrice Goodman

May 19 (Pentecost)



Ushers
Readers
Acolytes
Altar Guild
Facebook Live
Multimedia
Tellers

8:00

Phyllis Coldewey
Randall Richter
Chrystal Coble
Kaden Morrison
Chrystal Coble
Amy Wagner

10:30

Charles Stork
Candy Stork
Karen Campbell
Abigail Clarke
Charles Stork
Candy Stork
Jana Clarke
Jackson Faglie

Brent Recker

Jana Clarke and Karen Campbell

May 26



Ushers
Readers
Acolytes
Altar Guild
Facebook Live
Multimedia
Tellers

8:00

Darla Buccigrossi
Amy Wagner
Mark Buccigrossi
Kimber Hild
Karen Campbell
Toni Smith

10:30

Lillian Kosub
Gary & Yvonne Beran
Gloria Kipp
Henry Scull
Patrice Goodman
Laura Baumann
Bill Roser
Eddie Willeford

Billy Bunton

Mark Buccigrossi and Brenda Willeford



Luther's On the Bondage of the Will

In December 1525, Dr. Martin Luther (Nov. 1483 – February 1546), priest, theologian, professor, and Augustinian friar, founder of Lutheranism and Protestant reformer, published his book *On the Bondage of the Will* (*De Servo Arbitrio*). This book has made people theologically uncomfortable since its publication. It is Dr. Luther's answer to Desiderius Erasmus Roterodamus (October 1466 – July 1536), a Dutch Christian theologian and famous humanist.

Because Dr. Luther publicly insisted that salvation belongs to God and that there is nothing we humans can do to achieve it, Erasmus wrote a book against such a theological posture. Erasmus's book, **Of Free Will: Discourses or Comparison** (*De Libero Arbitrio Diatribe Sive Collatio*), argued 1) against God's foreknowledge of events, and 2) affirmed that repentance, baptism and conversion doctrines rely exclusively on the existence of free will concerning salvation. He sustains the doctrine of synergism that proclaims that human cooperation is necessary for salvation.

On the other hand, Dr. Luther, responding to Erasmus in the book discussed here, argued that because humans' original sin carried into all humans (Rom 3:10-11; 23/ Rom 5:12/Rom 7:18, 8:7/ Ephesians 2:3), we are entirely incapable of any cooperation in salvation (Total Depravity Doctrine). Therefore, regarding salvation (things from above), there is no free will (Monergism). In biblical words, *"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."* It does not depend on human desire or effort but on God's mercy (Rom 9:15-16).

This explanation does not mean that humans are puppets of the divine. Luther recognizes that regarding human endeavors, we can decide what to do and when; earthly things are susceptible to human free will. Nevertheless, Lutherans acknowledge that salvation is God's gift (John 3:16-17), but rejecting salvation is totally a human choice (Heb. 2:3/2 Peter 2:20-22).

Join Our Bible Studies!



Sundays

9:15 am **Adults & Young Adults**

Wednesdays

10:00 am **Women**

6:30 pm **Families**

Thursdays

10:45 am **Day Time Adults**

7:00 pm **Women**

Everyone is welcome!

MAY 2024

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|--|--------------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|
| | | | 1 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Adult Meal / Bible Study 6:30 Youth Night & Confirmation | 2 10:45 Weekly Daytime Bible Study 7:00 Ladies Bible Study | 3 6:30 pm Sisters In Christ Banquet | 4 |
| 5 Sixth Sunday of Easter 10:00 Worship & HC Church Picnic On Our Property  | 6 | 7 | 8 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Adult Meal / Bible Study 6:30 Youth Night & Confirmation | 9 10:45 Weekly Daytime Bible Study 7:00 Ladies Bible Study | 10 | 11 8:30 Men's Breakfast 10:00 -2:00 Mission District Convocation |
| 12 Seventh Sunday of Easter 8:00 Worship & HC 9:15 Coffee Fellowship Adult Bible Study Youth Sunday Experience 10:30 Worship & HC  | 13 | 14 | 15 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Adult Meal / Bible Study 6:30 Youth Night & Confirmation Puerto Rico Mission Trip | 16 10:45 Weekly Daytime Bible Study 7:00 Lay Minister Mtg Puerto Rico Mission Trip | 17 Puerto Rico Mission Trip | 18 Puerto Rico Mission Trip |
| 19 Day of Pentecost 8:00 Worship & HC 9:15 Coffee Fellowship Adult Bible Study Youth Sunday Experience 10:30 Worship & HC Women of Faith Luncheon/mtg Senior Recognition Day  | 20 Puerto Rico Mission Trip | 21 9:00 Sewing Circle Puerto Rico Mission Trip | 22 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Adult Meal / Bible Study 6:30 Youth Flag Placement @ Cemetery Puerto Rico Mission Trip | 23 10:45 Weekly Daytime Bible Study 7:00 Ladies Bible Study | 24 | 25 |
| 26 Holy Trinity Sunday 8:00 Worship & HC 9:15 Coffee Fellowship Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship & HC | 27 Memorial Day | 28 8:30 am (PH) LV Ministerial Alliance Mtg 6:00 Council Mtg. | 29 | 30 | 31 | |