

### A Great and Joyful Challenge!

God's people coming alongside parents who desire a Christian education for their kids.

Lord knows there are many changes happening these days. Some of them are not good at all (we each have our own list), but some are good ... even very good. One of those very good changes is the increasing number of parents who are now expressing a desire for a Christian education for their children. We see this locally, both in the growing enrollment in our own Christian Day School (projecting an increase of at least ten students next year) and in the number of our graduating 8<sup>th</sup> graders who are electing to continue their education at one of the two Lutheran High Schools in our area --- Minnesota Valley Lutheran H.S. in New Ulm and Mayer Lutheran High School. In fact, all 5 of this year's ILS graduates are hoping to attend one of these schools. Together with ILS graduates of previous years, this will make 11 who will be attending a Lutheran High School next year.

As you're no doubt aware, this requires a significant investment of time, energy and dollars on the part of these families. To address the financial challenge, Immanuel has for many years operated a Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). This has made attending our school an affordable choice for all families regardless of their financial status. And, due to the generosity of many in our school and church community, we have always been able to meet this need; distributing between \$10,000 and \$15,000 annually. This help, however, has been restricted to elementary grades.

Recently, the Immanuel Board of Education and Church Council approved an extension of our TAP program to include the first two years at a Lutheran High School. This extension will allow families to apply for a maximum \$2000 subsidy for the first year and a maximum of a \$1000 subsidy for the second year. This expansion was made possible largely by the very generous participants of our annual spring fundraiser. In fact, sufficient funds are already on hand to fund this "joyful obligation" for the next two years. Praise God!

### The Barnabus Group

(Barnabus was a helper and companion to the Apostle Paul on his missionary journeys.)

Given the actual cost of tuition, however, the financial reality is that most families will need additional help beyond their own resources and our ILS Tuition Assistance Program. For that reason, other anonymous individuals from our congregation and community who recognize the great need to ground our children in a Christian view of the world, and who recognize how richly God has blessed them (so that they can be a blessing to others) have banded together to form a "Barnabus Group" ... an organization dedicated to helping meet this additional need.

With the growing number of families in need of our help, we are hoping that more individuals will consider joining us. If you have an interest in joining this group, or if you simply want to learn more about it, please consider joining us for an informational meeting at Church on Tuesday, May 16 at 7:00pm. Until then, please address any questions or comments to Pr. King.

With such a glorious challenge set before us, we can only pray that God will give us the faith and fortitude to rise to the occasion!

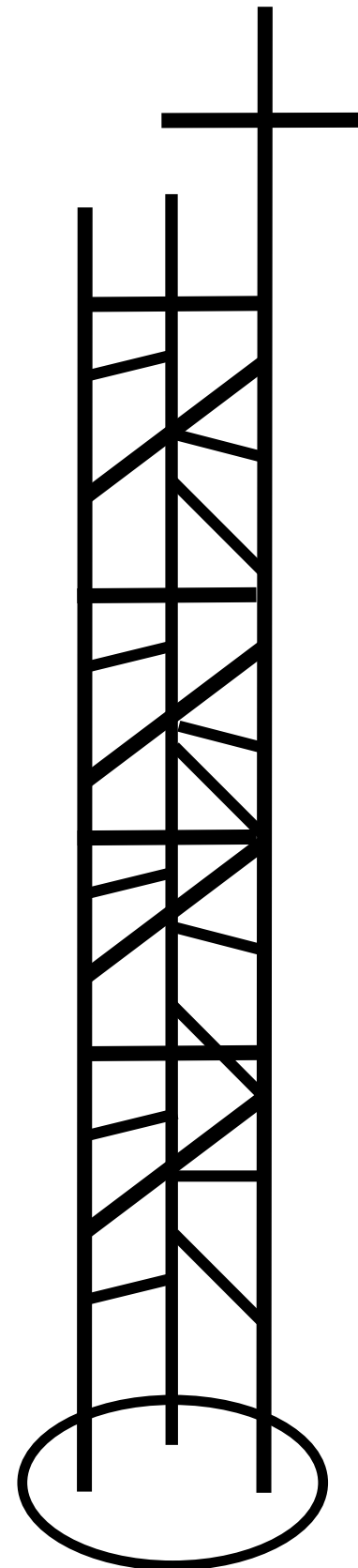
# The EXPRESSION–May 2023

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Website: [immanuelgaylord.org](http://immanuelgaylord.org)

E-Mail: [immluth55334@aol.com](mailto:immluth55334@aol.com)

Phone: 507.237.2804



"My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
No merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' Name.  
His oath, his covenant, his blood, sustain me in the raging flood.  
When all supports are washed away, He then is all my hope and stay.  
On Christ the Solid Rock I stand, All other ground is sinking sand."  
Lutheran Service Book, 575

As you celebrate Easter this year imagine yourself walking along with the three women - Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, as they went to anoint the body of Jesus. Do you feel like them? As you approach the burial cave early Sunday morning with Salome and the two Mary's, are you asking with them: "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

The big stone was far too heavy for the women to move - this stone which represented the finality of death and the heavy questions which faced Jesus' followers. What would happen now? Would the soldiers arrest them also? Would they end up on a cross themselves? Where should they go? What should they do? Every question was filled with hopelessness. We live in hopeless situations. We face death, sickness and despair each day. We have more than one stone to roll away, and so we ask: "Who will roll the stone away?" What can you say to a mother who has lost one of her children? What can you say to a man who has lost his job and cannot provide food for his hungry family? We cry out with the Mary's and Salome, "Who will roll the stone away?"

It is God who rolls every one of our stones away. It is God who gives us the beautiful truth that new life and hope await us in Christ our Risen Savior. This is our hope. It is because of Easter that we declare to the world that our only hope is in the Resurrection of our Lord. We absolutely refuse to succumb to hopelessness but will only look to our sure hope in the Living Lord. Just when we think everything is hopeless, it is exactly there that God is doing God's work most powerfully. When the two Mary's and Salome came to the tomb they were shocked and broken because they expected to see a closed tomb. And even if some people came to help roll the big stone away, they expected to see Jesus' dead body. But no! What they saw was the result of God's power, working in a totally unexpected way! Even with all the stones in place - even when we are feeling hopeless, it is God's hand and God's plan that are working for us.

Today our Risen Christ is able to work in you to change hatred into love, animosity into neighborliness, bitterness into trust. How can this happen? It happens when we confess our hatred and bitterness to God, when we confess that we cannot roll the stone away by ourselves. It is exactly then that God is working in us, working to roll the heavy stone away and to replace it with the joy of Easter, with the love of God.

The good news of Jesus' resurrection is just too good to keep to ourselves. God's Holy Spirit empowers us to shout forth the wonderful news - Christ is Risen! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Pastor King



## Immanuel Lutheran School

This last weekend of April has been a rollercoaster of weather and as I sit and type this the sun is shining. I jokingly said to the girls when we saw the sun today driving home from Duluth, "Hey, what's that big light in the sky?" It just seems like it has been so long since we have seen the sun consistently and it makes me so happy inside to see it shining today.

This made me think of the verse from Psalm 119 about God's Word being a lamp for my feet and a light for my path. How comforting and warm the sun feels today here in Minnesota, and God's Word is like that for us when we read it, warm and comforting. Daily, here at Immanuel, we have the joy of sharing that same Word with the children. The world, often cold and dreary, dark with no light for our path, unkind, or lonely is sadly real. So we are so blessed to be in a place with joy and a lamp for our path daily that God brings to us through His Word. Do you have a child you want to be on that same path with us? Or know someone who needs their path well-lit so they know His truths? PLEASE bring them our direction and we will let them know what we do here at Immanuel. I love when people see the change in their family because of God's work in their children, pouring into their whole family through ILS. It brings me light and warmth just like the sun, knowing we are doing God's Work here in this place is AWESOME!

May is here and the finish of our school year is quickly happening.

May 1-2	7th and 8th grade to Camp Omega
May 5	5th - 8th grade to the Capitol and Ft. Snelling
May 8-12	Teacher Appreciation Week and Daycare Provider Day
May 11	3rd and 4th grade to the zoo
May 15-16	1st - 7th grade Volleyball Camp @ ILS 3:30 - 5:30
May 19	Field Day at the City Park with Ice Cream at Bayside
May 25	Closing Service (Potluck Dinner 5:30 - 6:30 - Graduation and Closing Service 6:45)
May 26	Last Day of School - Awards 10:30 in Gym Family Picnic 11:30

**God's Blessings on your Summer!**

## Immanuel Lutheran Sunday School

As we enter the season of spring it's a beautiful reminder of our own rebirth, through the resurrection of our Lord!

In April, we focused on the journey to the cross. Last week, 5th-8th grade studied the Road to Emmaus. The 3-4th grade are taking a break from the catechism & doing parable themed escape room activities. They're having lots of fun! Pre-K and K-2 are finishing up their first year with new curriculum...It seems to be a hit!

The children will sing for the last time May 14 at the 9:30 service.

We will have our final day of Sunday School on May 21st. As in the past, everyone is invited out to our house following church, for a picnic meal. There will be burgers, salads, & all the fixings.

Congregation members please feel free to join us.

*Tyler & Julie, Directors*

## Spring has come to our church Kitchen.

Circle Co-chairs: The Spring-cleaning list of duties can be found in the Circle Information drawer. Mark as done when your circle has completed their task.

The coffee cups and dinner plates have been replaced and we are ready to clean out the old and make room for the new. If anyone would like a set of six (or more) of the old china dinnerware that has been used since the '60s, claim them soon. You may pick them up during the month of May or until all are gone.



### 2023 Confirmation Class

Front Row L to R: Kennedy Hahn, Wyatt Frauendienst  
Back Row L to R: Pastor King, Aiden Bauer,  
Ann Harris-Peterson, James Pikal

### The Lutheran Hour May 2023

#### May 7

"Sojourn"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler.  
Prosperity preachers promise health, wealth, and happiness -- but that's not what Christians should expect.  
(1 Peter 2:11-12)

#### May 14

"Reason to Hope"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler.  
(1 Peter 3:15)

#### May 21

"Responses to Suffering"

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler.  
(1 Peter 4:12)

#### May 28

"A Timely Invitation"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Hector Hoppe.  
(John 7:37-39)

### Youth Group

We pray for God's blessings on the four new confirmands Wyatt Frauendienst, Kennedy Hahn, Ann Harris-Peterson, and James Pikal from Immanuel and Aiden Bauer from Mountville and look forward to welcoming them all to youth group! We are so excited to have all of them join us for fun events and bible study.

The youth group had a very busy month in April. We would like to thank the congregation for their support of our

Egg Your Yard event as well as our Easter breakfast. The words of appreciation and encouragement we receive make the early morning for us on Easter enjoyable.

It's hard to believe another school year is coming to a close! We will have our last Bible Study before summer break on Sunday, May 7th and then host Donut Fellowship on Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

God's Blessings, Michelle and Jeana



**Watch for more information  
on VBS!**

**June 12-15th**

We will be asking for volunteers to help us clean the church:

Windows, Pews & Cushions, Upstairs  
Rooms-Shelves

Date & Time to be Determined Soon!

