

The Visitor

Immanuel Lutheran Church



April 2018 * Volume 56 #4

He is Still Risen

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We frequently say these affirmations in the communion service as we “proclaim the mystery of faith”. This is what we believe, but do we live it?

It is easy to believe Christ was born and died. That is a historical fact. It is not so hard to believe Christ was risen from the dead. It sounds good, we say it all the time, and it has a certain hopeful ring to it. But do we really believe it? Does it really matter to us? I think it does matter and we can not only believe but live it.

Christ told his disciples he had to leave (ie, die on the cross), but that he would not leave us alone, that he would continue to be with us through his Holy Spirit. We receive that Spirit in baptism, and the Spirit of Christ continues to live in us, alongside us, and at work in the world around us to preserve us and continually give us new life in Christ.

How can you see the new, risen life that Christ has given you? Here are some possibilities:

- In the new life of Spring as trees, grass, flowers, and returning birds come back to life.
- In the new life of recovery from illness, addiction, or injury.
- In the new life of that energy you forgot you had, but which comes back to you some days, even if only briefly.
- In the new life of new people in your life, in your neighborhood, or in your circle of friends and acquaintances.
- In the new life you receive in the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion.

These are small, subtle, sometimes even imperceptible, but ever significant ways in which Christ has made himself present in your life. They are not Jesus himself in the same sense as when he walked the earth 2000 years ago, but they are the real presence of Christ and his Spirit in the world not just being with you but working in and through and all around you.

Christ is still risen. He is not only risen, he rises again to bring you new life every day.

Receive the risen Christ with joy. Live your life with gratitude as he rises each day to give you new life in him.

Peace,
Pastor Burgess

REMINDER: Please notify the church office either by *calling (203) 238-1248* or with a note placed in the offering plate when a family member is/will be hospitalized so the church can provide appropriate care and prayers for you and your family member. Thank you for your help.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Richard M. Burgess, Pastor: (860) 462-6545

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Diane Murphy, Administrator: (203) 238-1248

office@immanuelmeriden.org

OFFICE HOURS

9am-1pm Monday-Friday

THE NEXT VISITOR

Articles for the May Visitor will be due on April 23. Please get your articles in on time. Thanks, Diane

Weather Cancellations

In the event that regular Church Service is cancelled due to weather events, the following outlets will be available for notification.

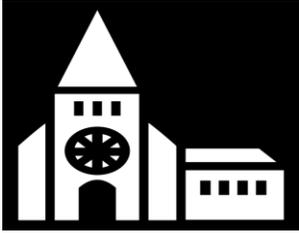
- #1 The Office Phone service - Status will be provided
- #2 NBC Channel 30 - Will be listed on their Station
- #3 Immanuel Lutheran Church Facebook Page
- #4 Members of Council.

In Memoriam

The Rev. Nancy J. Beckwith died peacefully on Monday, March 19, 2018, with her mother and sister at her side. She was 58 years old. Services were on March 23rd in Lynn, Mass. and the funeral service was March 24 at First Lutheran Church also, in Lynn, Mass.

The Word in Season

The new April/May/June issue of the daily devotional *The Word in Season* is available in the main entrance way. It has a bright red cover – which reminds us that Pentecost is coming. Celebrate Easter and grow closer to God with these simple devotions. Using the daily prayers located in the back of the booklet would be a great way to start and end your day!



Council Highlights – Joanne Gardner

*We are growing! We will be having 3 baptisms between Palm Sunday and Easter! Welcome to our church family: Jaylen Hodge, Shaylin Hall and Raiden Hesselstine.

*Council has asked that private users of the church, members and nonmembers, fill out a request form to submit to the church administrator for room availability and approval.

*Council will meet Thursday April 5th at 6pm for a second retreat time to consider creative ideas for ministry here at Immanuel. Any church members who have ideas or suggestions for a trial new ministry idea, please see a council member or leave your idea in the “STIR IT UP” container located in the fellowship hall.

*Town hall meetings will be held after church every second Tuesday during fellowship. There will be a brief committee presentation, plus council members to respond to your questions or suggestions.

* Thank you to Pastor Burgess, Father Mike, Andrew Hopko and all attendees for Wednesday night Lenten Dinner church! The fellowship was heart- warming and the dishes were always tasty. I pray it enriched your Lenten practices!

****Coming Events****

Please check the sign-up board for calendar additions

3/25 - 10:45am (Back by request) Butter Lamb craft for your Easter dinner table

4/22 - 5:30pm Confirmands and Council meetup for Game Night

5/05 - Martin Messengers plant sale

5/05 - May property workday- look for details and help us rake up!

5/06 - 2-4pm Mothers and Others Tea Party with All Saints. Christian Women’s speaker and special music

5/13 – First Communion

5/20 – Pentecost + Confirmation. Sunday school Sending

Finance

The Finance Committee will be hosting fellowship after worship on April 8th. Please plan on attending to meet the committee members, hear what we do, and ask any questions you might have about church budget & finances.

Mothers and Others Tea Party Sunday **May 6th**, 2018



Grab your Auntie, Mother, daughter, friend !

When: May 6th @2pm-4pm

**What: Tea and delights, Christian Speaker,
Music, Surprizes**

Wear your tea party hat for a prize!

Bring your favorite tea cup if desired!

April Celebrations



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Beth Ann Crawford	4/02
Justin Barnes	4/04
John Gade	4/08
Dianne Gardinier	4/13
Joyce Chrzanowski	4/13
Jeff Peterson	4/14
Christian Poleshek	4/14
Robert Fredericksen	4/16
Joshua Perzanowski	4/16
Janet Gordon	4/20
Charlotte Gardinier	4/20
Aidian Fox	4/22
Jim Freeman	4/25
Rita Bates	4/30
Lorna Ayers	4/30



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

John and Cindy Zuber	4/18
Diana and Brian Clancy	4/22
Pam and John Adamski	4/24
Wendy and Mark Becker	4/28

Women of the ELCA's Spring Gathering on May 5th at Zion Lutheran Church in Southington

Our theme is "**It's better to build a longer table than a taller fence**" and is based on the words written in **Romans 12: 9-21**.

Pastors Stephanie Pope and Pastor Joanna Hertzog Betkoski will present a work shop called "**Love in Action**" based on these passages and **IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services)** from New Haven will also host a workshop so it will be a lively event! This event is open to all women and their friends and family, even if your church does not have a formal Women's Group! Please register by April 30th, 2018. **Cost: \$20** - Includes morning coffee, refreshments, fellowship, a luncheon, two workshops and the closing worship service. Registration forms are in the office.

Property Clean-up Schedule

The Property committee has scheduled two clean-up days on Saturdays, May 5th and 19th from 8:30am to 11:30am. All youth and adults are invited to participate in this fun and rewarding activity. We will weed, rake leaves, trim bushes and generally have some good time sprucing things up. Contact Charlie Gardinier or Paul Olson if you plan to participate, thanks.

