

Immanuel Newsletter May 2024

Words from Pastor Joe



A new month, May, is almost upon us. The days are longer and warmer. Recently such changes have brought on some very volatile weather which while tragic in many cases is also common for those of us who live on the prairies of the upper Midwest. Part of volatile weather is the wind. If I can be honest, and I hope that is occasionally clear at least, the wind is beyond my control in any sense. Jesus said as much long ago when talking to his friend (?) Nicodemus. Even without ever going to meteorology training, Jesus stated, "The wind blows where it will, and you hear the sound of it but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going." I have good friends who say that the wind is indeed beyond our control but we can learn to trim our sails and so make the wind work for us so we can accomplish our goals. I guess that's fine if you happen to be in a boat and the wind is what you call "Fair". I am not a good sailor but in order to keep the wind at bay I have lived and worked in houses and buildings. Mostly they do a pretty good job at keeping the outside out. I met a family today whose house had been trustworthy for over fifty years. They watched many storms pass by from the safety of their living room and kitchen. Friday the wind was more threatening than usual and four of them hid in a closet in the basement, under a stairway. When they came out, the only thing standing was the closet. The rest of their trusty shelter had disappeared from around them. Sails would not have gained them any advantage regardless of their skill. They praised God who is master of the wind for it obeys his command. Just ask Jesus' disciples who despaired of their own sailing skills and begged for his help on the sea. "Who is this? That even the wind and waves obey him?", they exclaimed.

The winds that have carried me to adventures that I could not have anticipated have nevertheless been commanded by a faithful Master. And I have been blessed. Growing up I have lived in four towns in Iowa – Dike, Bode, Anamosa and Clear Lake. Dad was a teacher and school administrator. Mom was a teacher and stay at home mom. One older sister and two younger brothers were also along for the ride. My parents did all the sail trimming in those years and I shared their adventure and met the circumstances of the moves and the towns and my age that presented themselves. During one particularly stormy day a man lost control of his car and hit our '59 Chevy station wagon head on in the middle of a bridge. My mother was killed in the crash and the rest of the family was hospitalized. I thank God that even at eight years old I had an awareness of the faithfulness of Jesus and his authority to hold his children safely in his hands whether they lived or died. In Jesus, life wins and I could claim his promise, "Whoever lives and believes in me – will never die." That was in Anamosa. A few years later, Dad remarried and set sail for Clear Lake, Iowa – where I actually learned a lot about boats and wind on the water – and most importantly about Jesus!

I suppose, if you continue deepening your relationship with Jesus through the ministry of Immanuel Lutheran in Ceresco, you will also get to know me and my family better. I am hoping the converse is also true. That I will also get to know Jesus better through this ministry. And I will also get to know you and your families. Please, come and worship and study and share God's peace and eat and drink at his table. Learn what it is to have confidence in the true master of the wind. This month we will celebrate with our graduating seniors and those sisters in the faith who are called to be mothers. On Pentecost Sunday, famous for a rushing and mighty wind – totally out of any human control – we will celebrate with Julia and Will as they confess publicly that faith. Jesus says that is the foundation upon which he builds his church. It is our common heritage to be carried by this wind as Jesus reminded Nicodemus, "So it is with everyone who is born(e) of the Spirit."

**Come. Be blessed by all God has intended for us – in fellowship with each other. Bring the kids!
See you at worship this week!**

Pastor Joe



**Remembering
Our Homebound Members**

John Christiansen
1509 County Rd. B – Ceresco, NE 68017
402.429.6475

MAY WORSHIP TIME CHANGE

We start our Summer schedule, May 5th with no Sunday School and our service will be at 9:30 AM. This Sunday we will be honoring our graduates Katie Fisher, Kyle Peterson, Jacob Shultz, & Joe Weaver. Join us for coffee & cake after the worship



CONFIRMATION MAY 19TH

May 19th we will be honoring our confirmands, Julia Shultz and Will Verileck. Please join us for cake & coffee after service to congratulate our confirmands.



ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Scholarship program was founded by the congregation of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Ceresco, Nebraska. Immanuel Lutheran Church established this special scholarship program to benefit students of the congregation.

ELIGIBILITY

- Eligible candidates must be members of Immanuel Lutheran Church and must be attending, or plan to attend, an accredited institution of higher education (academic, technical or vocational).
- Candidates may reapply in successive years for scholarships available from this program.

Application available on our website: <https://immanuelceresco.org/>
Deadline is July 15th, 2024

UPDATING CHURCH PHOTOS

We are updating the congregational picture board. If you would like your picture taken or updated please contact Jennifer Schultz at (402) 202 – 7055.

MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee and Fellowship						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee and Fellowship honoring Graduates HAPPY MOTHERS DAY						8:00 am Church Council
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30 am Worship and Confirmation 10:30 am Coffee and Fellowship honoring Confirmands	6:30 pm VBS Mtg					
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee and Fellowship						

PRAYER LIST

Christie Bevington (health – member)
Pastor Joe Lambert (heart condition)
Pastor Dennis (knee operation)
The Wade family (Mission family we support)
Lora and Randy Rohde (recovery and healing – Hedges)
Gracie Wilcox (blood disorder – Bevington)
Heather Lucht (health – Hanson)
Ron Weltruski (bone cancer – Hedges)
Benedikte Ehlers (bone cancer – Fran)
Zack Emerson (FCA mission)
Dawn Buss (neck & back pain– Fran’s daughter)
Roger McGinnis (Health – Countryman)
Steve Martz (stroke – Bevington)
Rene and Sharon Remilard (health – Hanson)
Jayson Boden (Jodi’s son)
Tammy Morse (cancer – Fisher)
Kim Pearson (health - L. Pearson)
Adam Johnson (convincing proof)
Shannon Maly (health)
JoAnn Koepke (cancer – Bible)
Judy Koepke (health – Bible)
Prayers for Grace Lutheran Church in Walton
Prayers for the people in war torn areas
Prayers for the youth in the Alpha Experience
Prayers for all the Christian Martyrs around the world
Prayers for health, safety and Protection for All
Prayers for our VBS Planning committee



I urge you, first of all, to **pray** for all people. Ask God to **help** them; **intercede** on their behalf, and give **thanks** for them.

1 Timothy 2:1 NLT

MAY USHERS

May 5 Leroy & Barb Hanson
May 12 Justin & Kristi Badberg
May 19 Kerry & Deb Meyer
May 26 Fran Freeman

MAY LECTORS

May 5 Isaak Fredrickson
May 12 Kristi Badberg
May 19 Kory Ball
May 26 Fran Freeman

May Food Pantry

Canned Veggies
Corn, beans, carrots, peas, beets, etc