

IMMANUEL MAY NEWSLETTER

WORDS FROM PASTOR JOE

The season is upon us which is a type of Jesus' death and resurrection. He said to his disciples, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." People, like us all, are in our fields and gardens taking seeds that seem small and inconsequential as they come out of their bags or envelopes and dropped into shallow graves dug or drilled into the ground. We may have some reason, based on experience that this springtime activity will result in more grain and vegetables than we can eat or maybe even store for the coming winter. But what a testimony to Jesus' words. We who plant know that we can expect no harvest without planting. And we cannot expect to harvest anything except what we plant.

Stan Rogers has a song dedicated to the dry ground farmers of Saskatchewan and Alberta of several decades ago called "Field Behind the Plow". The second verse echoes Psalm 126:5-6:

Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!
He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy,
But maybe with a little more of a modern twist (say the 1960's or '70's)

And if the harvest's any good, the money just might cover all the loans
You've mortgaged all you own

Buy the kids a winter coat. Take the wife back east for Christmas if you can.

All summer she hangs on when you're so tied to the land.

However, everything depends on putting in the ground what cannot be held back if harvest is to be expected:

For the good times come and go, but at least there's rain.

So this won't be barren ground when September rolls around.

So watch the field behind the plow turn to straight, dark rows.

Put another season's promise in the ground.

Guy Clark, in 1981, also wrote a song about planting and harvest with a juicer twist:

Home Grown Tomatoes

**Plant 'em in the spring, eat 'em in the summer. All winter without 'em's a culinary bummer
I forget all about the sweatin' and diggin' Every time I go out and pick me a big 'un!**

Homegrown tomatoes, homegrown tomatoes; What'd life be without homegrown tomatoes?

Only two things that money can't buy and that's true love and homegrown tomatoes.

Back to Jesus! Of course he was speaking of his own death and resurrection. And he was speaking of the harvest of faith in lives of people in whom the Gospel is planted. And he was speaking of those who heard the good news and then went out and continued to plant words of truth so that those who hear may also be raised up to a harvest of Jesus' own righteousness. We are heirs of those who have planted! And now we are called to share the same true love that we have received. Jesus, the living word of God is the seed! Come, plant with us! Anticipate the harvest!

See you at worship this week!

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MAY

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1	2	3
4 9:00 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship Honor Graduates & Church Time Vote 11:15 am Graduates Reception	5 6:30 pm VBS Meeting	6	7	8	9	10
11 9:00 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Coffee and Fellowship Happy Mothers Day	12 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	13	14	15	16	17
25 9:00 am Bible Study 10:15 am Palm Sunday Worship 11:15 am Coffee and Fellowship	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to all of our May members celebrating their birthday this month! As we celebrate this special month, let's take a moment to enjoy the excitement that each of you brings to our Church family.

GRADUATE RECEPTION

We will recognize our class of 2025 graduates during the worship service on May 4th. This year's graduates are Jace Badberg, Kory Ball, Owen Kreikemeier, Taylor Oldfield, Reid Otto, Ashlyn and Hunter Sykes. Please plan to stay for fellowship. Cake and refreshments will be served after our worship service. Congratulations to all the Graduates!!!!

SPECIAL TIME CHANGE VOTE MAY 4TH

Some members of the congregation have expressed an interest in having a set time year-round for our worship service, while others would prefer to continue with alternating between a summer/winter schedule.

A formal vote by the congregation will take place on Sunday, May 4. The ballot will look something like this:

1) Continue the current summer/winter schedule which is worship service at 9:30 am during the summer and 10:15 am during the winter. Sunday school would start at 9:00 am during the winter and there will be no children's Sunday school during the summer.

OR

2) Change our worship service to a fixed start time (year round) of 9:30 am with Sunday school from 8:30 am to 9:15am.

COLLEGE 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.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

- Scholarship awards may be used only for educational expenses, including tuition, books, laboratory expenses, or other education-related expenditures that are approved by the Endowment Committee.

SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS

The number of scholarships awarded, the amount of the scholarship awards, and the selection of the scholarship recipients will be determined by the Endowment Committee.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Students who wish to apply to the scholarship program must complete an application. Applications can be found at: [www. https://immanuelceresco.org/](https://immanuelceresco.org/)

MAY USHERS

May 4 Jim & Roxann Countryman

May 11 Aaron & Crystal Haake

May 18 Kerry & Deb Meyer

May 25 Fran Freeman

MAY ACOLYTES

May 4 Blaine

May 11 Sarah

May 18 Ethan

May 25 Colton

MAY LECTORS

May 4 Kristi Badberg

May 11 Aaron Haake

May 18 Crystal Haake

May 25 Fran Freeman

MAY FOOD PANTRY

Canned Veggies

Corn, Peas, Beans, Carrots, Mixed Veggies, etc.