

Immanuel's Word

Immanuel Lutheran Church-LCMS Bossier City, Louisiana

Red River Reflections #2

May is already here! I felt called to become a pastor in 1988. From 1985 to 1988 God challenged me to think, speak, and act in ways that more accurately reflected a title I had worn my whole life, "Christian". As I passed through my mid-twenties, I was confronted with the fact that most of what I said and did looked and sounded just like everyone else around me, even those who said there was no such thing as God. Being a good sailor, I had learned that if you want to be good at anything you have to read and become very familiar with the instruction manual on that topic. So, I took God's challenge and began to make prayer and scripture reading a regular part of my daily life. In a three-year period, I read the Bible slowly and methodically cover to cover for the first time. In that same time frame, there took place in me a shift. my world view changed. I no longer felt that as a man I had no say in the protection of unborn life, instead I felt a strong desire to help preserve, protect and provide for life from conception to grave. I no longer felt that I was the product of millions of years of genetic mutations, which even from a scientific perspective did not make much sense to me. I was now convinced that God created the world in six days about six thousand years ago. When I started to look at the world around me through that lens, when I saw the Flood and the Tower of Babel as historic accounts not fairy tales, the miracle of plant, animal, and human life, along with the suffering caused by sin in the world, now all made much more sense to me. The eyes of faith had shown me divine purpose in everything, that had as its goal, working for the good of those who love Him.

(continued page 2)

*Dedicated to sharing the
gospel of Jesus Christ
with the people whose
lives we touch*

May Readings

May 1

Ezk. 34:11-16
1 Pet. 2:21-25
John 10:11-16

May 8

Isaiah 40:25-31
1 Pet. 2:11-20
John 16:16-23

May 15

Isaiah 12:1-6
1 Jas. 16-21
John 16:5-15

May 22

Num. 21:4-9
Jas. 1:22-27
John 16:23-30

May 29

Ezk. 36:22-28
1 Pet. 4:7-11
John 15:26-16:4



God then used most of the next 20 years to prepare me for ordination to serve as a pastor in His church in beautiful East Tennessee. An interesting side note, 2007 the year of my ordination was the 500 year anniversary of Martin Luther's ordination. And now, months before the 15th anniversary of my ordination I embark on a new chapter. I look forward with great anticipation and excitement to what God has in store for us in the coming years.

In preparation for this coming season in our lives together I would like to issue you all a challenge, similar to the one God put on my heart over 35 years ago. Let me begin that challenge with words from Saint Peter, ***1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.*** If daily time with God and his word are not part of your routine, it should be. Our church body provides many great daily devotional helps but start with Gods word and prayer. Then boldly share the Gospel throughout your day in word and deed as Peter says with gentleness and respect.

In Christ
Pastor Portier

Installation of
Reverend Robert M. Portier

Senior Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church
Sunday, May 8, 2022 at 3:00 PM
Potluck Meal Following Installation Service



FYI

Sunday Service Bulletins are printed Thursday mornings. If you have an item for inclusion, please have into the office by Wednesday afternoon. Thanks!

A photograph of hands clasped in prayer over an open book, with the text "Prayer Ministry" overlaid in a large, white, cursive font. The background is a soft-focus image of hands clasped in prayer over an open book, with the text "Prayer Ministry" overlaid in a large, white, cursive font.

You are invited to join our group for intercessory prayer for others. Prayer Ministry is an opportunity to serve Jesus and our congregation by lifting others in prayer when they have a need. If this appeals to you, or if you have any questions, please contact Shirley Fortune at 318-402-8940.

May Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1</p> <p>Divine Worship 9:00 AM</p> <p>Senior Recognition</p> <p>Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:30 AM</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Moms in Prayer 9:30 AM</p> <p>Boards of Education, Stewardship 5:30 PM</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Evening Prayer Service 7:00 PM</p> <p>Catechism 6:00 PM</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Divine Worship 9:00 AM</p> <p>Confirmation</p> <p>Pastor Portier Installation 3:00 PM</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Finance Board 5:30 PM</p> <p>Moms in Prayer 9:30 AM</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Evening Prayer Service 7:00 PM</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Board of Elders 6:00 PM</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Ladies Low-</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Divine Worship 9:00 AM</p> <p>Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:30 AM</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Moms in Prayer 9:30 AM LWML 10:30 AM</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Evening Prayer Service 7:00 PM</p>	<p>19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NEWS- LETTER DEAD LINE</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Divine Worship 9:00 AM</p> <p>Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:30 AM</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Moms in Prayer 9:30 AM Church Council 6:00 PM</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Evening Prayer Service 7:00 PM</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Sewing Mission Outreach</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Sewing Mission Outreach</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Divine Worship 9:00 AM</p> <p>Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:30 AM</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Moms in Prayer 9:30 AM</p>				



May Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Hank Turnage	2	3 Joe Morris	4 Jackson Pieper	5 David Ambrose <i>Jill & William Weiss</i>	6 Carolyn Neerman	7 Matthew Wright
8 Heather Kleinsasser	9 Dale Ward	10 Kristen Soelter	11 Landon Buggs	12 Vickie Kleinsasser <i>Arnold Young</i>	13	14 <i>Joanne & Roger Davis</i>
15	16	17	18	19 <i>Kathleen & Ken Krueger</i>	20	21 Sandy Jones <i>Brooke & Ryan Hutchison</i>
22 Pricilla Bogart	23 <i>Julie & Brett Allen</i>	24 Jack Derbonne Philip Moorehead, Jr.	25 Adeline Kirsch	26	27	28 <i>Karin & Ronald Grove</i> <i>Doris & Philip Moorehead</i>
29 Alexandra Soelter	30	31 Wesley Sisemore <i>Sara & Mark Robertson</i>				

In Our Prayers

Mary Ahrens · Delane Ahrens · Joanne Davis · Addison Gould
 Charlie Johnson · Todd Willis · Mary Jo Minks · Roger Davis
 Jack Derbonne · Gerry Meche · Robert Frederickson
 Norma Langston · Sophia Borghardt · Casey Redman · Glenda Juneau
 Pastor Kunz · Pat Stevenson · Duane Kimball · Cheryl Carroll
 Lisa Kimball · Mary Lou Tonjes
 Laura Leshner · Jack Russell · Hannah Frobel · Earl Tonjes
 Edwin Coyner · Peggy Young · Carol Buther · Kathy Sorenson

RENESTING NEEDS

Bath Mats (neutral colors)
 Razors
 Large Mixing Bowls
 Mouth Wash
 Toasters
 Alarm Clocks
 Band-Aids (all sizes)
 Curtain rods (28"-48"; Walmart has best price)



Board of Fellowship

We will be having a potluck dinner following the installation of Pastor Portier on May 8. Please contact Margaret if you are able to help. Sign-up sheets for food will be posted April 10.

Ministering Among Us In May

ALTAR GUILD	<i>Diane Derbonne, Cathy Ward, Tammy Szekacs, Christi Walters</i>
USHERS	<i>Hunter Clemons, Dylan Russell</i>
GREETERS	<i>Cathy Ward, Dale Ward</i>
ACOLYTES	
<i>May 1</i>	<i>Matthew Wright</i>
<i>May 8</i>	<i>Karlie O'Neal</i>
<i>Installation May 8</i>	
<i>May 15</i>	<i>Lawson Deblieux</i>
<i>May 22</i>	<i>Elisabeth Huhn</i>

May 29	<i>Evan Morgan</i>
POWERPOINT	
<i>May 1, 15, 29</i>	Charlie Johnson
<i>May 8, May 22</i>	<i>Sloane Engle</i>
Sound	
<i>May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29</i>	Lee Anderson
ELDERS	
<i>May 1</i>	<i>David Langston, J. D. Varilek</i>
May 8	Jim Owens, Harley O'Neal
<i>May 15</i>	<i>Bob Gernand, Mark Wright</i>
May 22	Scott Broberg, Paul Jones
<i>May 29</i>	<i>Jimmy Cox, Justin Lacy</i>
May 4, 11, 18, 25	Mike McKim, Jimmy Cox (May 25)

Financial Report For May 2022 Newsletter

Budget status as of 31 March 2022.

Actual Income \$116,144

Actual Expenditures \$79,465

Budgeted income and expenditures \$113,818

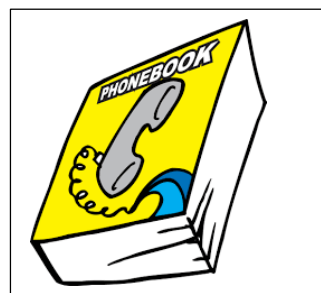
Net Income (Actual Income minus Actual Expenditures) +\$36,679

2022 Budget- The various boards, Council, and Voters agreed on a budget of \$454,766 for 2022. The Finance Committee believes we have a realistic and achievable budget for 2022. A copy of the 2022 budget is hanging on the bulletin board by the kitchen. If you have any questions or suggestions about a budget item, please see someone in the responsible board or a Finance Committee member.

Maintenance Update- Most of the flood repair work has been completed and paid for by the insurance company. The last major repair is replacing the carpeting in the sanctuary. This will be accomplished very soon. If you would like to help defray campus repair and update costs, you may contribute to the Building Fund. The Building Fund is always a good place to contribute anything extra you would like to offer. Thank you in advance.

Financial Secretary Position- Tammy Szekacs was appointed by the Church Council as the new Treasurer. She has been training for the last year as assistant and is doing a great job. A great big *THANK YOU* Tammy! Again, Welcome Bill Turnage, Ken Krueger and David Mosteller to the Finance Committee. Charlie Johnson will be the BOF Chairperson and secretary. Thank you all for showing your interest in the financial affairs of the church. If you have any questions or concerns about church finances, please talk to a committee member. Now, we are looking for a person, or team, to train with our Financial Secretaries, Glenda and Earl Kroll, to aide them and to possibly assume the position in the future. Their position receives the weekly donations, deposits funds in our bank, and reports to the congregation. Pray for congregational solidarity, our pastors and all church workers, for the missions of the church, world peace, government agreement, for those involved with and suffering from the Covid, other world disasters, and for those in need.

There are five copies of the proposed Immanuel telephone directories throughout the campus. Would you please review your information? If it needs correcting, please provide the corrected information in one of the five copies. Thanks!



Looking Down The Road...

May

Senior Recognition May 1

Confirmation May 8

Pastor Portier Installation May 8

July

VBS July 5-8

NYG July 10-13



Our LWML is scheduled to meet May 17, 2022, at 10:30 A.M. at church. This will be our last meeting until Fall. As in previous years, we will not have a guest speaker or in-gathering at this time; however, after a short business meeting, we will go to lunch. All ladies are invited.

May's 5th Sunday Collection



Our 5th Sunday Collection will go the Lutheran World Relief specifically designated to aid the people of Ukraine. For more information, please visit <https://lwr.org>

Please make plans to join us for a special opportunity to enjoy each other's company and have someone else prepare the food and wash the dishes. 😊

Thank you,
Shirley Fortune