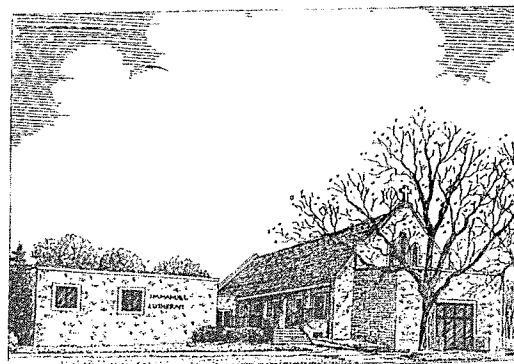


**IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Alliance, Nebraska

762-4663

Senior Pastor: Rev. Richard C. Mueller
email: doulos63@gmail.com
Assistant Pastor: Rev. Martin T. Schnare
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Head Teacher: Mrs. Jill Mueller
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IMMANUEL
Yesterday,
Today,
and Forever
God with Us

June 2020

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

June 2020

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

LSB 761

Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure:
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

2 Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Text: Public domain

3 Nothing in my hand I bring;
Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;

The painting “Rock of Ages,” wonderfully expresses Christian security. The painting by Johannes Oertel, shows a woman in the midst of a terrible storm. She tightly hangs onto the cross. Her face attests that she knows the cross will hold her securely in spite of the violent sea around her.

During this COVID 19 pandemic we may have

questions about the security of our lives. Is God here with us we might ask. It seems as if we experience cataclysmic events throughout our lives, our country and world all the time. And I think we also know that we are living in a world of almost unbelievable change. Old values and old truths are not only being challenged, they are being uprooted and discarded. The whole family structure is being tossed about on a surging sea of uncertainty. We are suffering more mental disorders, nervous breakdowns and frightening stress every year. We have not been able to have services at church with the members of the congregation present and having to teach our children at home. This has been hard for the parents and also the teachers and staff of our school. These have been stressful times.

To what can you hold in time of stress, in this time of uncertainty? We do well to follow the example of St. Paul. In spite of opposition, persecution, and afflictions, he was able to write his young understudy, Timothy: "I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me" (2 Timothy 1:12). He also encouraged Timothy to "Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 1:13).

It is important to recognize the pronoun in Paul's words. He does not say, "I know *what* I have believed," but "I know *whom* I have believed." The supreme object of Paul's faith was Jesus Christ. He entrusted his life to the Good Shepherd, Whom he knew and loved as the One who said, "I lay down my life for the sheep" (John 10:15). He could say with confidence the Shepherd's promise: "[My sheep] will never perish, and no one is able to snatch them out of my Father's hand" (John 10:28).

We can be calm in the midst of calamity and troubles! We can entrust ourselves to the Lord, who said, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1). And so, in every circumstance, we can proclaim: "I know *whom* I have believed." Behind that pronoun stands the power, the love, and the mercy of Him who has promised to see us through whatever life may hold in store for us. Behind the

pronoun stands Almighty God Himself. "For nothing will be impossible with God" (Luke 1:37). He has pledged Himself to be with us all the way. You can't find a greater source of security than that! May God bless and keep you in His care. Turn to Him in His Word to find comfort and peace for these trying times.

At the writing of this newsletter article the Board of Elders have decided to start having in person services at Immanuel starting the weekend of June 7th. We are still waiting to see if more of the restrictions will be lifted or what is going to happen with COVID 19 in our area.

At this time we are planning to have services Saturday evenings at 6:00 pm and Sunday mornings at 10:30 am, our regular times. There are a number of guidelines we need to follow to have these services. I pray that you will be patient as we figure this all out.

We are to practice social distancing at our services. We can have 18 household units at a time for services. Only those living in the same house can sit together. Because we can only have 18 household groups we are asking you to call in to the office to reserve your spot. You can call in to the office and talk to Samantha or myself so that we can mark you down. We are doing this so that those who drive into town may know for sure if there is room. So please make sure you talk to someone in person and not just leave a message. If a service is full we will let you know and tell you if there is room at the other service. If there is a need, we will add another service on Sunday morning. So please call to let us know what service you plan to attend.

If you feel that you are at high risk, please do not come. The state's guidelines suggest that the

- elderly
- people with underlying medical conditions
- family members who live with elderly people or those who are at risk
- people who have access to those at risk in nursing institutions
- people you have upper respiratory or flu-like symptoms
- people who live with someone with upper

- respiratory or flu-like symptoms
- people with COVID-19 or live with someone with COVID-19
- people who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19

These are the ones who should stay home and not attend services at this time.

We also need to keep social distancing when you come into the church and when you are dismissed. So please listen to the directions of the Elders and the ushers who are on duty for the service.

Communion distribution will take place on the Sundays we are scheduled to have communion. Here again we will need to follow social distancing and will not have as many people coming up to the altar at one time.. Each household will come up together and will keep social distancing in place. The pastors will be practicing hand sanitization practice during the time of communion.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

The sin of the world is paid for. God's Law has been kept perfectly on our behalf. The prophecies have all been fulfilled. Jesus Christ has finished it all! And that, dear Christians, should fill us with complete confidence in our salvation. Since Jesus has finished all these things in His self-sacrifice, we can be fully certain our sins are forgiven, and we have everlasting life!

St. Paul wrote: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (Rom. 12:1)

We hear the same teaching in 1 Peter. "As you come to him, a living stone, rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves, like living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:4-5)

It's the very thing Malachi foretold of the Lord, that He would come and purify His priestly people, that they may offer to Him an offering in righteousness.

The offering plate will not be passed during the service, it will be placed at the entrance of the nave.

We will also not be able to use our hymnals. You may bring your own if you have one. We will be printing the whole order of service out for you to pick up as you come in for the service.

We pray that more and more of the COVID 19 restrictions will be lifted as the weeks go by. So please be watching the church's website for more information.

Again, I ask that you be patient as we figure this all out. We ask that you continue to pray for our congregation and God's Church on earth that we may continue to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If you have any questions please give me a call or call one of the Elders.

God's blessings,
Pastor Mueller

(Mal. 3:3)

So, what does this mean? In view of God's mercies – that is, because Jesus sacrificed Himself to make us pure, giving His entire self into death – Paul said that we are to sacrifice ourselves entirely to God, offering Him our whole lives. For our Savior did not give Himself for us in part. So, we do not give back to Him in part.

We don't offer ourselves to God just on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, for example. Rather, we give Him our whole selves, all the time. We understand that offering ourselves to God as living sacrifices involves the giving of our time. It requires us to be faithful stewards of the time He has given us. Yes, it means we devote to our Savior all our time. Otherwise we are not sacrificing our whole lives.

You see, God both teaches us, and has graciously qualified us, to present ourselves to Him as living sacrifices – to live as His holy priests, who offer Him acceptable sacrifices through Jesus Christ, all day, every day, in our various callings.

In the passages from Romans and 1 Peter, we hear several examples of Christian self-sacrifice: serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing mercy, living peaceably with others, submitting to governing authorities and those over us in the workplace, wives submitting to husbands, husbands honoring wives, showing compassion, and suffering patiently in doing good.

In all these things, and in all our other everyday activities, we sacrifice ourselves by using our time, not just for our own benefit, but also and especially for the well-being of others. Work time, school time, exercise time, study time, mealtime, chore time, recreation and relaxation time, even sleep time – it's all God's gift to us to use for purposes that please and

honor Him.

This challenges us to think about the way we spend our time, how we utilize our talents, and the way we spend our treasures. Whatever it is I'm doing, am I doing it "for the Lord"? (Col. 3:23) Am I presenting God a living sacrifice? Am I conducting myself as a holy priest, whose sacrifice is acceptable to God?

Because our Lord sacrificed Himself wholly for us, we offer ourselves wholly to Him as living sacrifices. This is following Jesus in self-sacrifice. By His saving mercy, yes, our sacrifice is acceptable to God. For the sake of Jesus' finished work, God is pleased with us.

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY ACTION has a food pantry and emergency services available in Alliance and multiple other locations in the Panhandle. Please go to the website at ncap.info, go to the bottom of the page and click on the COVID-19 Updates page for the latest information. Here is the direct link <https://www.ncap.info/programs-and-services/emergency-and-community-services/covid-19-updates.html> There is a simple inquiry form to click on for food or services. Once we receive it we will reach out to that family. Our mission is to alleviate poverty and our staff is working hard to reach those in need.

JC PLAY ZONE is a Lutheran Hour Ministry Program on line for children. There are games, music, crafts, Bible stories, devotions, recipes, card making and coloring pages. Go to : JCPlayZone.com

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: VBS will not be held this year. Due to the uncertainty of the virus here in town and the fact that many of our helpers are considered high risk, I felt it necessary to cancel. We are saddened that this is the decision we had to come to, but want to keep everyone's health as a priority. We hope and pray you are all staying safe and healthy and cannot wait to share this program with you and your children in June 2021.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: The Board of Parish Education is beginning to plan for next year's Sunday School and we would like to invite your children to join us! We are also looking for one more Sunday School teacher. We will start up Sunday school again beginning on September 13th. Sunday school begins at 9:00 with opening devotions and concludes at 10:15. If you would like more information, please contact Samantha Steinman, Tammy Lore, or Jennifer Foster.

CONTACT INFORMATION: We are working on updating our system with everyone's current contact information and preferred method of contact so that we can communicate more efficiently with our congregation. If you have not been contacted, or received a message on your answering machine/voicemail, please call our church secretary to confirm or update your information. She can be reached between 8 and Noon, Monday thru Friday at 762-4663.

RETURN TO SENDER: A reminder to notify the church office of any address changes. *We are required to pay a fee for undeliverable mail.*

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES. . .

Adult Bible Study - Sundays, 9 am Fellowship Hall.

Hemingford Bible Study - Mondays, 2 pm Hemingford Care Center

MONTHLY LWML BIBLE STUDIES:

RHODA CIRCLE - Wednesday, June 24th at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

LYDIA CIRCLE will meet again starting in September

MARTHA CIRCLE will meet again starting in September

TABITHA CIRCLE will meet again starting in September

QUILTERS meet the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 9:30 am.

Quilters 2019 Report:

31 quilts were given to the Orphan Grain Train

34 quilts were included in Christmas Baskets

1 quilt was given to a fire victim

Your gifts of fabric, bedding, and sewing notions, plus the hours to assemble and distribute make this project of love and compassion possible!



Monthly Coffee Schedule

June	7 - Cindy Brown
	14 - Jennifer Foster
	21 - Tara Stanec
	28 - Jill Mueller

ONGOING MISSION PROJECTS: Used bedding is needed by the quilters. Canceled postage stamps are needed for mission projects. Old eye glasses and outdated hearing aids are useful to others. Bedding may be left in the quilting room. Other items can be left in the cupboard under the guest book.

RAISING DISCIPLES total receipts to date as of may 27th, 2020 are \$559,806.79.

GREETING CARDS: If you plan to send greeting cards for any occasion please consider cards from our LWML. We have birthday, get well, sympathy, anniversary, thinking of you and others. **There's a brand new selection of cards that include graduation cards and money holder cards, confirmation cards, congratulations on your achievement cards that may be used as retirement cards, and a new baptism card suitable for an adult.** These are nice and all have Scripture text. Check them out in the lower level of the narthex of the church.

25TH BIENNIAL WYOMING DISTRICT LWML CONVENTION Celebrating our 50th anniversary: This event has been changed to a virtual event in June. Please watch the LWML District Facebook page or the website, wyolwml.org, for more information on this virtual convention.

WYOMING DISTRICT - LCMS FATHERS & SONS RETREAT June 26-28, 2020

"Confessing the Christian Faith in a Culture Increasingly Hostile to the Truth."

CALLING ALL MEN! CALLING ALL FATHERS! CALLING ALL SONS! Please join us for a great retreat of learning, bonding, and having fun at the fantastic Lions Camp on Casper Mountain! Besides learning from a great seminary professor, we will have great food (plenty of bacon!) and great activities you can enjoy, such as hiking, shooting, archery range nearby, mountain biking, and most definitely a corn hole tournament!

Our speaker is Rev. Dr. Peter Scaer from Concordia Theological Seminary. We will be learning of the opportunities and challenges of confessing the faith within the three estates of Church, family, and government. *"We are living in uncertain times. I do not mean COVID 19, but the seismic shift in our nation's values. Abortion has been our national holocaust for half a century. Marriage has been redefined and undefined. We are confused about what it means to be male and female, and the gender revolution has led us to confusion in nearly every aspect of our lives. Faithful Christians are sometimes misled, others are confused, while still others are afraid. During our time together, we will talk about basic issues of creation, the God who made us male and female, and who gave us marriage and children. We will discuss how these are not simply social issues, but touch upon the very heart of our faith in God as creator and Christ as the Groom who laid down his life for his Bride, the Church. We will speak about courage, and the role of Christians in time of persecution and chaos."* Our study sessions will be Friday evening and Saturday morning. Saturday afternoon and evening is free time, and Sunday morning church is at Mount Hope in Casper with Dr. Scaer leading bible study afterwards.

Registration is now open via this form and is also available online at www.wylcms.org/fsretreat2020/. Cost for registration is \$100 per family unit. The Lions Camp has bunk bed cabins and nice showers and indoor plumbing but bring your own bedding, towel, and toiletries. Campsites are available nearby if desired. Registration costs cover all food as well, beginning with dinner Friday evening and ending Sunday morning. Finally, if any family needs financial assistance please let us know. We want fathers and sons to be able to come! As always, **please encourage** as many people to come! **You are our best recruiter!**

Fathers & Sons Retreat Registration Form

Make check payable to: Wyoming District—LCMS (Please print clearly)

Name: _____

Sons & Ages: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Home Congregation: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Emergency Phone: _____

Retreat: \$100 Per Family (if financial assistance is needed contact Jeff

AMOUNT OF CHECK ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Additional Important Information (diet, health, etc. we'll try to accommodate)

If you have further questions or need directions please contact Jeffrey Snyder at the District Office at (307) 265-9000, or visit our website and register online at WYLCMS.ORG/FSRETREAT2020/

We would like to congratulate all of the high school seniors graduating this year and recognize the following:

Noah Freeze
Devin Garcia
Payton Gomez
Kysen Harris
Cooper Heusman
Hunter Klinkerman
Tabetha Stanec.

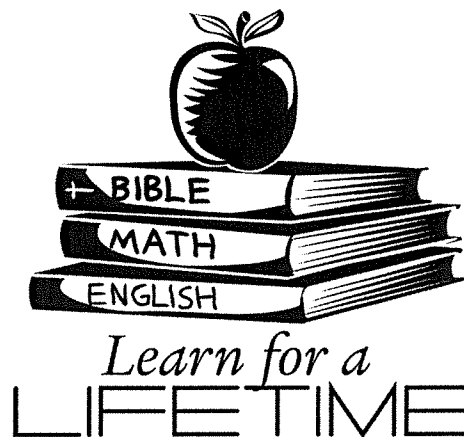
Also congratulations to the 8th graders at IELS.

Aiden Bolek
Tallen Ackerman
Ellie Kimmel
Mason Lunbery
Carlie Schneider.



SCHOOL TIDBITS

IMMANUEL EV. LUTHERAN SCHOOL ALUMINUM CAN DRIVE is an ongoing year-round fund raiser. This helps fund the operational costs of our school. Please ask everyone to collect and save all aluminum cans and bring them to the east side of the school and place in the bins that are labeled "Aluminum Cans." We appreciate your help in this ongoing effort.



8th Grade Questionnaire

The Board of Christian Day School sent the graduating 8th grade students a questionnaire. Here are the questions sent to the students

1. What is one memory of your time at IELS?
2. What is one thing you are excited about at AHS?
3. Do you have any sports or activities you are planning to do next year?
4. What is one piece of advice you would give our incoming 8th graders?
5. What is your favorite food, movie, and/or TV show, and favorite song?

Response from students:

Aiden Bolek

1. Friends and good times and learning
2. New classes, friends, routine, and opportunities
3. Football, golf, and 4H
4. Study religion
5. Food: Chicken Alfredo, Movie: Fast and Furious, and music is most all country songs

Grace, mercy and peace to you from our Savior, Jesus Christ! Whew! What a school year! Please join me in praying that we never have to do anything like that again! That being said, I was so proud of the teaching staff at IELS! They all rose to the occasion and worked very hard for each of their students! NONE of them were comfortable with the mode of learning and teaching that had to be done, but they did their best and knocked it out of the park!! What a blessing they all are to me and to our school! Another huge blessing to IELS was that of our students and their families. They too worked hard with the teachers to do the best for the students. We are already working hard to plan for next year and get a few trainings in place. Inventory and order placing is also high on our priority list.

Scrip is still available at the church office Monday through Friday all summer long. If you need something outside of times set aside, just give me a call.

A huge thank you all for your help at the flower sale! We made approximately 4500.00! And sold out! A huge thank you to Stephany for the ordering and to all of the teachers and paras that helped unload!

We ask that you continue to keep the staff and families in your prayers this summer. Pray for their safety as well as direction in the search for a 3rd grade teacher. God's richest blessings to you all. As always, if I can be of assistance, please let me know. In Him, Miss Jill

As Pastor Schnare and I prepare to say farewell, we have been reflecting on the memories and events of life shared with you here at Immanuel. Of course, the highlight of recent years has been the starting of our school. Many blessings will continue in the lives of the children who have been touched through this ministry. In this school, students learned Latin hymns and prayers, figurative language, reading and comprehension skills, diagraming sentences, art, science and math concepts, and the history of God's work from the beginning of time.

In this school, children grew together into a little family that could play, work and worship together. We studied, we laughed, and we prayed together.

The children learned the books of the Bible, sang an endless number of hymns, memorized the Catechism, cherished the stories from God's Word, learned how God blesses His people, practiced forgiveness, and learned how precious their Savior is and some were baptized into God's family as a result of this knowledge.

In this school, we learned that Martin Luther wrote in the explanation to the second article, ".....that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness." The Holy Spirit, working through the generosity and prayers of our church, has touched the lives of these young people and teachers that I have grown to love. We have heard of the righteousness of Christ and blessings that come from knowing Him.

This school belongs to God. He established the mission here. He has moved us to support the school through our generous gifts and through our prayers. He worked the faith in the hearts of the students through the Holy Spirit. He gave them academic growth and a certainty that Jesus loves them.

God be with you, my friends, as you strive to continue the ministry through the school. He will most certainly guide you as He has promised. Deo Gratias!!

Diane Schnare

dschnare.ielschool@gmail.com

Doce me semper adoro te.

Teach me always to adore you.



6-1 - Dirk Seidler
6-1 - Vickie Henton
6-2 - Cheryl Sheldon
6-3 - Misty Evert
6-3 - Madison Gibson
6-3 - Tad Prella
6-3 - Shawn Kelly
6-3 - Betty Bush
6-3 - Cassie Palmer
6-4 - Ian Gomez
6-4 - Bailey Gorsuch
6-4 - Jeff Herian
6-4 - Starla Endsley
6-5 - Remmi Anders
6-5 - Lucas Weber
6-5 - Jacob Schwanke
6-5 - Jessica Grant
6-6 - Joyce Galyen
6-11 - Gene Nerland
6-12 - Thane Lore

6-12 - Jeremy Dean
6-13 - Callin Foster
6-13 - Kim Wills
6-14 - Jerry Underwood
6-15 - Ryder Hoppes
6-16 - Railey Wills
6-18 - Brad Schnell
6-19 - Emily Moore
6-19 - Mark Fritzier
6-19 - Aaron Tiensvold
6-19 - Bradley Benzel
6-20 - Mikayla Seebohm
6-20 - Kaitlyn Messersmith
6-20 - Tallan Ackerman
6-20 - Mackenzie Freeze
6-21 - Aaron Korth
6-21 - Daylynn Loomis
6-21 - Sheena Yearling
6-22 - Roy Leibbrandt

6-22 - Kevin Wilson
6-22 - Jackson Chasek
6-22 - Olivia Wilson
6-22 - Steven Lehl
6-23 - Tate Smith
6-23 - Hilary Gomez
6-24 - Ashley Rose
6-24 - Ron Mischnick
6-26 - Lori Swedeen
6-26 - Jake Eggers
6-27 - Lance Yearling
6-28 - Larry Galyen
6-29 - Caleb Korth
6-30 - Conor Schnell
6-30 - McKenzie McCarty

Baptism

6-1 - Owen Weber
6-1 - John Lore
6-2 - Kelsey Bridge
6-2 - Melanee Veach
6-3 - Shirley Rief
6-3 - William Rowley
6-3 - Robert Scherbarth
6-4 - Mason Holmes
6-4 - William Ireland
6-4 - Darren McCune
6-4 - Tim Narjes
6-4 - Leighton Korth
6-4 - Janey Krebs
6-5 - Leyton Schnell
6-5 - Wiletta Dye
6-5 - Brenda Schnell
6-7 - Julie Wilson

6-7 - Corey Parkhurt
6-7 - Vickie Small
6-7 - Vickie Smith
6-8 - Logan Vogel
6-12 - Jake Eggers
6-12 - Jett Eggers
6-13 - Jose Ramirez
6-13 - Anthony Wilcox
6-15 - Allan Fritzier
6-16 - Ron Brown
6-17 - John Small
6-17 - Harper Boness
6-17 - Grace Rose
6-17 - Dale Vaughn

6-18 - Judy Dye
6-19 - William Steinman
6-21 - Bart Endsley
6-21 - Mara Foster
6-21 - Brooke Vaughn
6-22 - Roy Leibbrandt
6-22 - Louie Leisy
6-22 - Emily Moore
6-22 - Tyler Weber
6-25 - Cassie Palmer
6-27 - Ezra Ray
6-27 - Eban Lore
6-27 - Steve Banks
6-27 - Bradley Benzel
6-27 - Braxten Bruhn
6-29 - Heather Wilcox
6-30 - Callin Foster