

Dear Friends of Immanuel,

"But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you..."

~ 1 Peter 3:14-15a

Peter was a man who knew about fear, hopelessness, and suffering. It was Peter who, upon seeing Jesus walking on the water toward him and the other disciples on the Sea of Galilee hopped out of the boat to meet his Lord, only to fall prey to fear as the wind and the waves crashed violently around him. It was Peter who, three times, denied even knowing Jesus out of the fear of what might happen to him if he should be known as one of His associates. It was Peter who, upon racing to the tomb of the Lord after hearing the unbelievable story from the women, felt hopelessness upon seeing it just as empty as it had been described to him. It was Peter who was drug in before the council for preaching in Jesus' name, beaten, and threatened with death, along with the other disciples.

Peter was a man well acquainted with the trials and tribulations of which he writes in his first epistle. Yet, Peter also assumes that there is a hope in those to whom he is writing. Make no mistake, to be a follower of Christ in the early days of Christianity was no easy task. Yes, there were great and numerous conversions taking place. Yes, the efficacy of the Word was seen in many and various ways. But the Jewish leadership sought to stifle the preaching of the Word at every turn, and persecutions were rampant. It kind of feels like that these days, too, doesn't it? Everywhere we turn, there are subtle jabs at the faith that we espouse and hold dear to our hearts. Just this past week the Illinois

legislature voted to expand abortion rights in our state. In the coverage of the passing of this bill, it has been celebrated as a step toward ending the "war on women", which is the terminology oft used to shut down any religious zealots who dare speak out against the murder of the unborn. Dare to speak up on behalf of the unborn and you will likely be labeled a misogynist or part of the "patriarchy". You will be told that you hate women and, if you are a man, that you have no right to speak about abortion.

With all of the subtle, and not so subtle, attacks on our faith how can there be any hope? There can be hope because we do not put our hope in the kings and princes of this world. Like the disciples, we have a far greater hope to which we look. We have the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ who overcame our enemies of sin, death, and the devil in His death on the cross. While the tempests of this world rage on, our hope remains secure in Him who overcame the world and who makes us inheritors, with Him, of a kingdom far greater than any this world has ever known. I am reminded of the great hymn "Built on the Rock" in which we sing the words; "Built on the Rock the Church shall stand even when steeples are falling." We hope, because we build our hope on the True Rock of the world, Him upon whom our salvation rests, Him who promises that our souls have been won from hell by the shedding of His blood.

This is the hope we have, no matter what happens in this life. No matter how often we are criticized for our faith, looked down upon, and mocked, we always have an answer for the hope that is in us. Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. May this hope guide you in your days as His children, and may you always be ready to give an answer for the hope that is in you!

In Christ,
Pastor Callahan

SPECIAL DATES IN JUNE:

- Special Voters' Meeting, **June 2**
- Pentecost, **June 9**
- Flag Day, **June 14**
- Trinity Sunday, **June 16**
- Father's Day, **June 16**
- Miraculous Mission VBS – **June 17 – 21**
- First Day of Summer, **June 21**



HELP US CARE FOR YOU: *Your well-being is important to us and we want to pray for you!* When you or a family member is hospitalized, we want to serve you with prayers and visits. Unfortunately, we are no longer notified by the hospital; please call the church office when you have any medical/surgical procedure or in any time of spiritual need at **217-442-5675**.



Prayer requests: we are certainly pleased to pray for your (non-member) family and friends alongside our Immanuel members. Please keep us informed of their needs.

SWADDLED IN GOD'S LAW OF LOVE:

Pastor John Edgerton tells of swaddling his 2-week-old baby to help her feel secure. She loved being wrapped tightly in a soft blanket and would lie quietly — until she managed to work a tiny arm loose. Then she'd scream until someone rewrapped her.

Edgerton likens that behavior to his own connection with God's law, given so people can live in peace. *"I know that I'm supposed to do the right thing, but I'm always wiggling out of it,"* he writes. *"And very quickly my life falls into a state of disarray."*

We've all experienced this. We know we are to love our neighbors as ourselves, yet we often ignore their needs. Jesus says to love our enemies, but we wiggle around it: *"That's too naïve for this day and age."* But then relationships crumble, life feels crazy and we recognize that, in large part, we've done it to ourselves. Over and over, we wiggle out of the soft swaddle of God's law of love, only to flail. Thankfully, like a loving parent, God wraps us up anew, holds us close and saves us from ourselves — again.

DIRECTORY UPDATES: We have had some contact information changes since the publication of our church phone directory. Please note the following changes in your copy: **Jerry and Janet Gale** have disconnected their home phone. Please use their cell phones. Jerry's cell number is 260-8922 and Janet's is 260-5954. Please contact Kim in the church office if your information changes or is listed incorrectly.

TALK IS CHEAP! Too many of us have a Christian vocabulary rather than a Christian experience. We think we are doing our duty when we're only talking about it.

– Charles F. Banning

FAITH COMES BY HEARING sent you this thank you, in response to our Lenten Mission to provide Military Bible Sticks to the men and women serving in our Nation's military:

"Thanks be to God for your congregation's generosity toward Faith Comes By Hearing! We are grateful for your gift of \$1,600.00! Because of partners like you, we provide God's Word to our service members and veterans via the Military Bible Stick program!"

I have heard that there is no better way to nourish the soul than to lift people up – and what greater way to do so than to share the light of the world? I believe we can and will complete the Great Commission, and you are a vital part of that. You, like the Corinthian church who gave to the people in Jerusalem, have stepped out in faith and continue to give the hope of Jesus Christ to those you have never even met. O the day when we will all get to worship together in heaven!

Together, with God empowering us, we can accomplish the vision to record scripture in every language that needs it by 2033. You can rejoice knowing that you are bringing the Word of God to people in their heart language so that these men and women may understand the full measure of Christ's love and have the assurance of eternal life. Thank you for sharing the Good News with our military and veterans!"

THANK YOU... Memorial Day commemorates our United States Service members who have died while on active duty. We also remembered with grateful hearts all who have served, their families and friends, and our own Immanuel and Trinity Lutheran saints departed. Thank you to all who participated and helped us to honor the fallen at our Memorial Day Service. To all those who courageously gave their lives, and to those who have fought or are still fighting today, to you, we say *thank you*. We don't know who all of you are, but we are grateful for each and every one of you. *"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."* (John 15:13)



People always assume that the church's primary business is to teach morality. But it isn't; it's to proclaim grace, forgiveness, and the free party for all. It's to announce the reconciling relationship of God to everybody and to invite them simply to believe it and celebrate it.

GIFT (SCRIP) CARDS: The next Scrip card order is due to the church office by 1 pm on **June 10** and will be available for pickup **June 16**. *How does this help Immanuel?* Each vendor gives us a percentage of the face value of the gift card which is our profit. This rate depends on the vendor and ranges anywhere from 1.5 – 14%. Right now this provides \$700 - \$1,000 of income annually for the church, but it could be much more if more people utilized this opportunity! Order forms are on the information table. Orders are not limited to the vendors listed on the order blank; a full vendor list is on the hall bulletin board. Write the name of the vendor, denomination of the gift card, number of cards wanted, and total amount on a blank line of the order form. Most of the local fast food/chain restaurants (with varying rates of profit), plus Meijer, Kohl's, Wal-Mart, and Big R have cards available **every Sunday** and in the office during the week.

CENTRAL IL DISTRICT MISSION STORY:

CID Pastor and Prison Chaplain Steve Southward conducted a Christmas service on Christmas Day at Pittsfield Work Camp. Nine inmates attended the service. Pastor Southward preached on the theme, "Lord, You Didn't Have to Do It, but Thank God You Did." The service included hymns and carols such as "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "The Little Drummer Boy," and "Joy to the World," and a Christmas lullaby that Pastor Southward had learned in his youth.

After the service, the men loved these songs so much that they kept singing them. The officer in charge asked if they wanted to sing these same pieces to the inmates eating in the cafeteria. They sure did! The members of this impromptu choir were excited to sing the Christmas Good News to those who were eating dinner.

As they started to sing in the cafeteria, Pastor Southward says, "a little Christmas miracle took place. The inmates quieted down and listened intently. It was as if the message of these carols hit home. And as a result, the men enthusiastically clapped in appreciation because of the Christmas joy they heard."

A member of the informal choir wrote Pastor Southward: "This Christmas season has been the happiest one I've spent since being incarcerated. Spending time singing Christmas carols and seeing the joy it brought to all the other inmates and even the officers reminded me of how much more there is to Christmas than just lights and decorations. It's about the love that is showed by God through His Son Jesus Christ and for that love which is passed down through this family of believers to people such as yourself."

The Lord has used your congregation's gifts to the Central Illinois District to put Pastor Steve Southward into Illinois prisons for more than a quarter-century. Thank you!

"I thank my God . . . because of your partnership in the gospel" (Phil. 1:3-5).

CAPITAL FUND DRIVE COMMITTEE:

We are replacing the windows on the west side of the school. We have \$13,850 already saved for the next west side phase. So far this year, fundraisers for the west windows (Super Bowl Subs, Valentine's sweets, PI day, rummage sale, 5 soup suppers and Men's Club Taste of Deutschland) have raised \$6,044! **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE INVOLVED IN MAKING THOSE FUNDRAISERS SUCCESSFUL!** The next phase will be the windows for the two west side classrooms, the music room and the cafeteria which will be \$26,960. *The music room curtains move when it's breezy!* We are on Arrow Glass' schedule to have these replaced this summer; the starting date they gave us is July 1. These new windows will also help lower our heating and air conditioning bills since they are energy efficient. If you or a group of members would like to sponsor a window by raising the money for it, please contact Jo Van Hoveln or Wayne Mann. Prior generations worked and sacrificed to build the school/church building, and it is up to us to preserve and improve our church home just as we would our own household's. There is a cost breakdown for the windows on the Capital Fund bulletin board; please stop by and check it out.

It's not too late to donate to the Capital Fund Drive. All donations from small to large are equally appreciated. Envelopes for this purpose are on the ushers' desk and the Capital Fund Drive bulletin board between the mailboxes and the coat room. If you have any questions, please contact Jo Van Hoveln.

Our next meeting is **July 9** at 6:30 pm. Members of the congregation are welcome to join us!

HOG ROAST PLANNING MEETING: We will continue planning for the 7th annual Community Hog Roast on **July 9** at 6:30 pm. Please help us put on a successful event; volunteer and dessert signup sheets will be the chapel hallway starting **June 30**. We will also have tickets to sell—please consider selling them out in the community. If you have (or know someone who has) an interesting vehicle, please consider entering the vehicle in the car show. It's another fundraising part of our Hog Roast; plus, you might win a unique trophy for first place or ribbon for second and third places! Save the Date – the Community Hog Roast is **July 27** from 4 – 7 pm. In case of rain, it will be held in the gym (no car show). *See you there!*



"One thing I really love about God is: He'll bring you out of situations that you got yourself into, and He won't hold it against you"

- Tullian Tchividjian

LUTHERAN EARLY RESPONSE TEAM:

On May 22, 2019, over 45 tornadoes struck the United States. Here in Illinois, Watseka had 85 mph winds that caused severe damage or destroyed approximately 100 trees. Over 30 utility poles were also downed. The Central Illinois District LERT certified chainsaw members, along with Lutheran Church Charities chainsaw teams, deployed to Watseka on May 25th. We were able to complete over 14 work orders for the owners, saving each family thousands of dollars. Many LERT members stayed and worked on Sunday as well. We want to thank all the chainsaw volunteers who were able to deploy. Volunteering is hard work, especially in disaster response. We would also like to thank all of our LERT volunteers who made the decision to be trained and certified beforehand. Without you, the members, LERT would not be able to make the impact that it does in times of disasters. Thank you!

Want to help? Learn how to respond to disaster with Christian care at the next basic training on **July 20** at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Charleston, IL. You must take this basic training class before you can sign up for the chainsaw training. Sign-in begins at 8:30 with class from 9 am – 2:30 pm. There is a registration fee of \$35.00, which includes your training manual, vest, certificate of completion, ID badge, breakfast, and lunch. Preregistration is appreciated, but not required – walk-ins are welcome! Call the church office for more information and to request a registration form.



CREATION MUSEUM BUS TRIP:

Trinity is hosting a bus trip to the Creation Museum in Kentucky on **July 29**. The trip is open to all Trinity, Immanuel, and Good Shepherd members and guests. Get ready for a day filled with fellowship and fun! We plan to leave at 7 am from Trinity and return at 8:30 pm. Watch for reservation forms soon. The cost, which includes bus, gratuity, and Museum admission is \$85 for adults 18-59; \$80 for seniors 60+; \$70 for youth 13-17; \$60 for children 5-12; and \$45 for children 4 & under. Reservations and payments are due by **June 30** to Trinity's church office.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: The last Sunday that we will meet before summer break is **June 16**. Have a safe and fun summer – we'll see you in the fall!

CID LWML MITE BYTES:

The LWML CID is overjoyed to announce our mission goal for 2019-2020 of \$104,800 with \$78,600 for district grants and the remaining funds to national mission grants. As funds become available throughout the year, the mission grants will be paid in full in the following order (as voted upon at the LWML CID convention in April 2019). Updates are available at www.lwmlcid.org. Praise the Lord for His blessings!

- Student Aid for Church Workers - \$30,000
- 22 Dinners- Kare 9 Military Ministry in Auburn, IL - \$3,600
- Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C. - \$5,000
- Bibles for Critically Ill Children & Teens in Springfield, IL - \$1,000
- Internships for Concordia University Chicago Churchwork Students - \$17,000
- "With God's Little Ones" in Ankepaka, Madagascar - \$2,500
- Tie - Lutheran Laymen League Booth at Illinois State Fair - \$5,000
- Creating a Lutheran Library for East African Pastors - \$5,000
- Crossing the Gap Prison Ministry - \$2,000
- Providing "Connect to Disciple" Workshops - \$7,500

MIRACULOUS MISSION VBS

is coming **June 17 – 21**! Each day from 9 – 11:30 am, children will discover God's miraculous mission to save you, me, and the whole world! It's not too late to volunteer – a few more helpers are needed; see Diana Pratt. A donation board is in the hallway for snack and craft items. New tags are added each week. Registration forms are on the table also. Pick one up for a friend! Please pray for our upcoming VBS, that many children will be reached with the Gospel message!



PROPERTIES: Once again, we will work the concessions at the Danville Dans Stadium and we need your help on **June 11, 15, 28, and July 2 & 9.** Sign up to work a shift on the event bulletin board. *It's not all work – we'll have FUN, too!*



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Seventeen women participated in Women's Bible Study on Tuesday mornings. The class will not meet during the summer months, but will resume in September with the study of 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus. Ladies, if you would like to order a study book for the fall session, contact Carol Johnston at 442-4523. We'll order the books in late August and put them in your church mailbox upon arrival. The cost of the book will be collected at the first class meeting. Have a blessed summer!

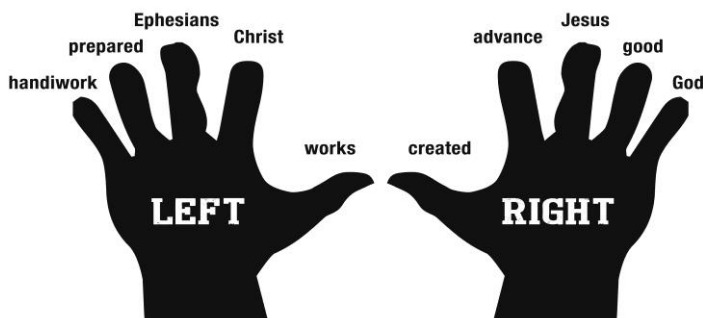
WOMEN'S GUILD takes a break from meeting in the summer, with our next meeting in September. The summer survey will be coming to your mailbox. Please take the time to fill it out and return it, as it will help us with planning the upcoming year. Watch your Sunday bulletin for possible summer trips or work days. Have a great summer!



Handiwork to do good works

God has a special plan and purpose for each of us.

Directions: Use the finger-position clues under the blanks below to complete Ephesians 2:10, NIV.



For we are God's _____, _____ in
 L pinky R thumb
 _____ to do _____,
 L pointer R middle R ring L thumb
 which _____ in _____
 R pinky L ring R pointer
 for us to do. _____ 2:10, NIV
 L middle

Answer: handiwork, created, Christ, Jesus, good, works, God, prepared, advance, Ephesians

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear members of Immanuel,

As I announced after worship service on Sunday, 26 May 2019, on Sunday, 19 May 2019, the Immanuel Board of Directors and the Trinity Church Council met to discuss a recent vote by Trinity Lutheran Church. In their last Voters' meeting, the Trinity Voters' agreed to withdraw from the Inter-parish Agreement for the Operation of Danville Lutheran School.

The reasoning behind their departure from the agreement was a notably increasing divide between the congregations, most centered around the operation of DLS. It was Trinity's hope that a separation of concerns for the school would preserve the relationship between the churches and prevent any further harm to the community perception of Christ and His Lutheran churches in Danville.

The Immanuel Board of Directors has discussed the impact of the withdrawal during our most recent board meeting. We are attempting to gather the information required and prepare a number of proposals for operational details. This will all be discussed in a special Immanuel Voters' meeting to take place next week on 02 June 2019, immediately following the service. In that meeting we will cover the proposals for how Christian Education could be operated here at Immanuel.

Regardless of the proposal selected, it will require Immanuel Lutheran Church to unite in a way that it will require us to respond to these changes quickly. That will require us to place our trust in God and the leadership. Many who have expressed concerns in our last Voters' meeting for the operation of the school. I would ask that these same people, some with education or administration experience, lend their talents through direct participation in any accepted proposal.

Please continue to pray for Immanuel congregation and our congregational path ahead for supporting a Christian Education program.

Respectfully,
 Dwain Dixon
 President, Immanuel Board of Directors





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June 2019

June 2 (Acts 1:1-11)

“What Are You Doing Here?”

By Rev. William Mueller, Suburban Bethlehem Church~Fort Wayne, IN

The disciples of Jesus stood in amazement at the ascension of Jesus. They saw Him ascend into Heaven. They were bewildered, confused, and simply dumb-founded. “What are you doing here?” the angels asked them. Jesus will return! In whatever situation of life we find ourselves, the same question needs to be asked of us – what are you doing here?

June 9 (John 14:31)

“Let Us Go!”

By Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer, Holy Cross Lutheran Church~Fort Wayne, IN

Two thousand years after He walked the earth, Jesus continues instructing and living among His people. Bringing the voice and presence of Jesus to His disciples is the work of the Holy Spirit. This work is celebrated through the celebration of Pentecost.

June 16 (John 8:51-59)

“Before Abraham Was, I Am”

By Rev. Dr. Walter A. Maier III, Concordia Theological Seminary~Fort Wayne, IN

Christ’s statement, “Before Abraham was, I am,” gives us wonderful assurance that the Triune God is the God of our salvation. Jesus’ words also lead us to think of the various ways in which he can be described as our Savior.

June 23 (Luke 8:38-39)

“How Much God Has Done”

Rev. Thomas Eggold, Emmanuel Lutheran Church~Fort Wayne, IN

In today’s reading, after Jesus drove demons out of a man, He told him, “Return home and tell how much God has done for you.” Christ crossed the lake to restore this man, not only so that the man would be “dressed and in his right mind” but so that this once ostracized and isolated outcast could go home, could be reunited with his family, could rejoin his community and could carry with him a message of “how much God has done” for him. This is what Christ has done for us as well.

June 30 (Luke 9:51)

“To Jerusalem!”

Rev. Shayne Jonker, Faith Lutheran Church~Roanoke, IN

“When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, He set His face to go to Jerusalem.” Jesus purpose, His mission was to go to Jerusalem and be crucified for the world’s sin, rise from the dead, and ascend into Heaven. He came to be taken up, and to take us up together with Him.



Elders

June	2	John Albers
	9	Don DeMoss
	16	Don DeMoss
	23	Ken Kuhn
	30	John Albers

Communion Assistants

June	2	David Ammermann, Wayne Mann
	16	Don DeMoss, Roger Dahlenburg
	30	Josh Christensen, <i>Volunteer needed!</i>

Ushers

June	Team "F"
	Tom Farrell, Dwain Dixon, John Albers and Al Julian.

Lay Readers

June	2	Jerry Young
	9	John and Terri Albers
	16	David and Tina Ammermann
	23	Bruce Burton
	30	Susan DeMoss

Greeters

June	2	Narthex	John & Marcy Heeren
		Chapel	Kitty Lee
	9	Narthex	Charles Vollmer family
		Chapel	Charlotte Schendel
	16	Narthex	Bill & Joyce Martin
		Chapel	Marlon & Marian Heideman
	23	Narthex	Gary & Sarah Stuhr
		Chapel	Carol Johnston
	30	Narthex	Deneen Schendel Family
		Chapel	Dianne Seibert, Roger Seibert

Acolytes

June	2	Noah Christensen
	9	Rhylie Beauvois
	16	Josey Clem
	23	Quentin Alblinger
	30	Hannah Christensen

Altar Guild

June	Juanita Rottmann, Sharon Glossinger
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Money Counters

June	Team "C" Mary Powell, Dianne Seibert
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Check Signers

June	Marilyn LePere, Jo Van Hoveln
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Official Acts Funerals

Karen Kuntz
Harry 'Max' Purviance



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Bible Quiz

Which follower of Jesus preached to the crowds after receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost?

- A. John
- B. Peter
- C. Mary Magdalene
- D. Paul



Answer: B (See Acts 2:14ff.)



"I'll come to VBS, but can you take the word 'school' out of it?"

TO ALL
IMMANUEL
DADS:



Happy Father's Day!

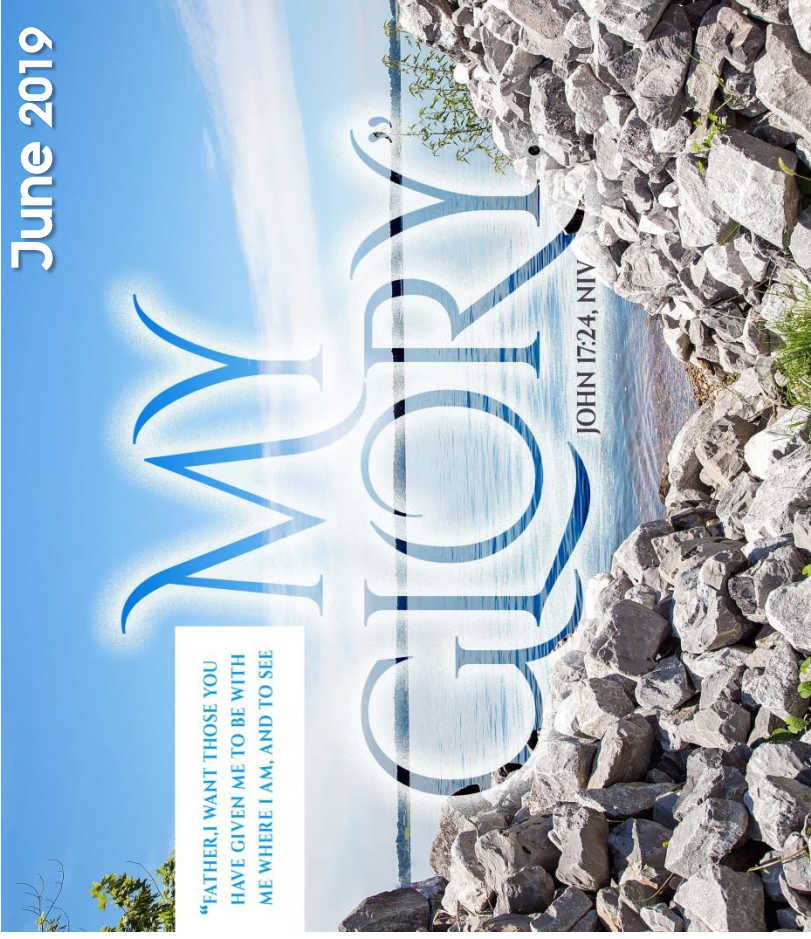
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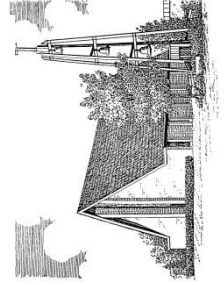
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GOD WITH US



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Worship Schedule

Sunday Mornings
June 2, 9, 16, 23
& 30
8:30 am

Evenings
June 5, 12, 19 & 26
at 5:00 pm

Worship

Communion Schedule

June 2, 16 & 30
8:30 am

June 26 at 5:00 pm

