

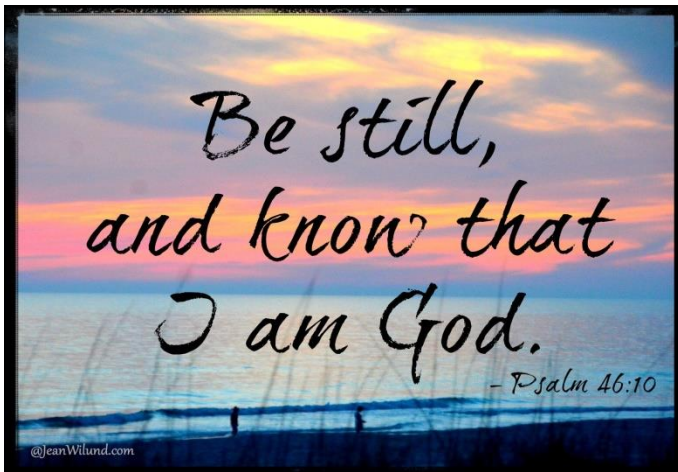
Immanuel Messenger

GOD WITH US



A Message from Pastor Callahan

May 2020



Dear Friends of Immanuel,

There certainly is a lot of “stillness” in our world these days, isn’t there? There is much less traffic on the roads, many fewer people walking the streets, and far fewer businesses for Americans to patronize in the midst of the global pandemic in which we find ourselves. But perhaps there is not quite as much stillness in our own hearts and minds. Perhaps, upon reading this, you are living with the fear of what an ongoing extension of these lockdown measures will mean for your small business. Maybe you are worried about the fixed income on which you depend being cut off because of an economic meltdown. Maybe you are concerned about the unalienable rights we as Americans are promised slowly being eroded right before your very eyes. Whatever the case may be, I think it safe to say that very many of us do not feel a stillness in our hearts and minds these days.

But this admonition from the Lord comes in the midst of a Psalm that I think is very apropos for us in our own day and age. Even if you have never read this psalm before, it is a psalm that you know well, because it is the basis for Luther’s hymn “A Mighty Fortress”. While I will not rehash the words of that beloved hymn here today, I would point each of you to this psalm, especially in these days of great tumult, in order to see what our Lord has to say to each of us in our time of fear and worry.

This psalm is full of terrifying images; the earth giving way, mountains being moved into the heart of the sea, waters roaring and foaming, mountains trembling at their swelling, nations raging and kingdoms tottering. These are images that strike fear into those who read these words and take them seriously, and they tell us a few important things about this life and our God. These words remind us that these terrible and terrifying things will take place. That is the truth of living in a sin

filled and fallen world. We will not be able to escape the wars, tumults, illnesses, and pandemics that can, and so often do, wreak havoc on our world and lives. But in the midst of it all, the Psalmist gives us a glimpse of the stillness and calmness that we as Christians have in this crazy, topsy-turvy world. “There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.” (Psalm 46:4-7)

In this world that is so full of terror and tragedy, unknown and unseen enemies that take our livelihoods, comforts, and even our lives, we have a God who stands in the midst of it all, calling us to hear His voice, rejoice and be glad! Our God is the Mighty Fortress about which Dr. Luther speaks, because He stands around us, guarding and protecting us from the assaults of the sin, death, and the devil. He wraps us in His arms through the waters of Holy Baptism, brands us as His own, and promises that He has won for us the victory over our enemies of the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh.

Our Lord does not just tell us to be still, but He gives us reason to be still. Because we know that He is our God, our hearts and minds are stilled by His grace and mercy. We are called to put aside the cares and worries of this world and hear the voice of our Good Shepherd, who calls us, leads us, and guides us to paths of Living Water, where He feeds us through His Word and Sacrament for the nourishment of our bodies and souls. We can be still, because our Savior, Jesus Christ, is risen from the dead! Because He lives, we also shall live.

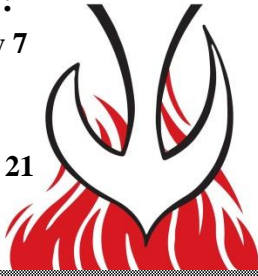
I love the refrain, repeated twice in this psalm, “The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.” The Lord who created the heavens and the earth, for that is what the term “hosts” means, never leaves us to fend for ourselves. He continues to provide for us, care for our needs of body and soul, and forgive our sins when we err and fall away from Him. He continues to be our solid foundation, our Mighty Fortress, in the good times as well as the bad, so that those who live in Him might have the ability to be still, because we know the promise that He is our God, and He will never leave us nor forsake us. May your hearts be uplifted, your spirits strengthened, and your souls nourished as you spend time in the Word receiving the peace that surpasses all understanding. May the Lord of hosts continue to bless and preserve you until we are able to meet again!

In the love of Christ,

Pastor Callahan

SPECIAL DATES IN MAY:

- National Day of Prayer, **May 7**
- Mother's Day, **May 10**
- Armed Forces Day, **May 16**
- Ascension of our Lord, **May 21**
- Memorial Day, **May 25**
- Pentecost, **May 31**

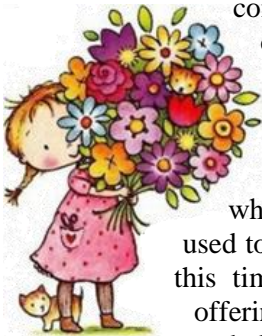


HELP US CARE FOR YOU: *Your well-being is important to us and we want to pray for you!* When you or a family member is hospitalized, we want to serve you with prayers and visits. Unfortunately, we are no longer notified by the hospital; please call the church office when you have any medical/surgical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

THANKS A BUNCH to the many of you that continue to be faithful with your contributions! We are working hard on our end, too! We are cutting expenses where we can and we have applied for the governments Paycheck Protection Program loan, which will be forgiven as long as it's used to maintain payroll and benefits during this time. You can continue to mail your offerings. We are checking the mail often and doing deposits weekly. If you would like information on setting up an Electronic Funds Transfer, please call the church office. Again, thank you for hanging in there!



OUR SPRING RUMMAGE SALE has not yet been rescheduled, but we will have our rummage and bake sale as soon as we are able to. Use this time at home to clean out your closets! Save your treasures for the sale. If you would like to drop off your donations at the school, please call Mike at 516-0085 or Sue at 516-0706 to set up a time.

CONGRATS! Students of all ages are graduating and moving on to the next step in their education and lives. To all grads, whether you are graduating from kindergarten, 8th grade, high school, or college - *congratulations!* We wish you the best of luck and success on your future endeavors! Friends, take a moment to say a special prayer for all grads.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." - Jeremiah 29:11

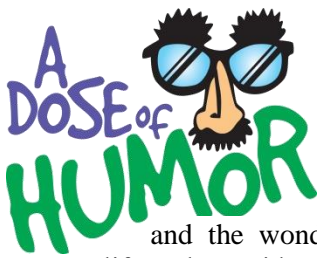
A KINDLED FIRE: *"I can worship outside among nature just as well as I can inside a church building."* That claim is especially common during the summer, when church attendance tends to decline. Certainly it's possible to worship and talk to God among his creation. In fact, George Washington Carver called nature *"an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in."* And Martin Luther said, *"God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars."* Yet corporate, or church, worship is still vital. Luther also noted: *"At home, in my own house, there is no warmth or vigor in me, but in the church when the multitude is gathered together, a fire is kindled in my heart and it breaks its way through."* When we're away from God's house, we miss blessings and opportunities including communion, fellowship and support. So this summer, spend time in nature but don't neglect "to meet together" (see Hebrews 10:25)!

- **The Newsletter Newsletter**

You might be wondering why I included an article that encourages us to gather together at a time that we are unable to do just that. Our building is closed, with pews and classrooms empty. Many of you have been able to gather with us online – what a blessing that has been! However, the technology that allows us to do that is not available to us all. To those of you that don't have computers or tablets to join us, I want you to know that you are very much still with us! We are thinking of and praying for you! If you are getting discouraged and don't feel that fire in your heart, please let us know. We can mail you sermons, Bible passages, bulletins, prayers, devotions, etc. Take time to worship individually and connect with God. If you are okay having a visitor, Pastor Callahan would be happy to visit and bring you Communion. Reach out to one another by phone and pray together. Need to talk? Just give us a call anytime! The fact that we are separated physically doesn't change a thing – we are still connected and gathered as one because we are brothers and sisters in Christ! We are truly looking forward to that joyous day we get to physically worship together once again – *what a day that will be!!*

PHONE DIRECTORY: Soon, we will begin updating our church Directory of Members and Friends. ***Please let us know if any of your contact information has changed or listed incorrectly.*** You can call Kim in the church office, or email ilcd.churchsec@gmail.com. We can add your email, cell numbers, etc. As a reminder, your information is for congregational communications only; it will not be distributed or used for any solicitation purposes. *Thank you!*

**Man's way leads to a hopeless end –
God's way leads to endless hope.**



THANKS, MOM! At his graduation, a young man tasked with giving a speech began reading from some notes. "I want to talk about my mother and the wonderful influence she had on my life," he said. "She's a shining example of parenthood, and I love her more than words can ever do justice." The graduate then paused, appeared to struggle a moment and looked up at the audience with a mischievous smile. "*It's really hard to read my mom's handwriting,*" he said.

A MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER: *Where would we be without our mother's love? Lord, bless our mothers with wisdom to teach and guide their children in a way that will help them to follow You and to become men and women who will be pleasing in Your sight. Give all mothers the patience to deal with the difficulties of their job and, most of all, give them a special blessing as they care so lovingly for the gifts that You have allowed them the honor of raising. Amen.*

To All Immanuel Moms:



GIFT (SCRIP) CARDS: There next Scrip order (hopefully) is due to the church office by 1 pm on Monday, **June 8**. If you want to order a vendor not listed, first see if it is available through this program by looking it up at www.shopwithscrip.com. 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. These orders will be available for pickup on Sunday, **June 14** or in the church office after that. Questions? Contact Jo Van Hoveln or Judy Creek.

CAPITAL FUND DRIVE: In the end of March, Arrow Glass started the west side school windows. The Board of Directors voted to use up to \$15,000 of the bequest funds for this project. When you see Wayne Mann, please thank him for all his hard work to get this project completed! This will pretty much deplete the money in our Capital Fund account so we will need to start fundraising efforts for our new projects. The Capital Fund Drive committee has selected the following to be our next projects: refurbishing the church sound system, new guttering on the school, and replacing the northern portion of the parking lot. This is not necessarily the order in which these projects will be completed. Properties will be getting bids for this work. The next meeting has not been scheduled since we don't know when the stay at home order will be lifted. When we are able to schedule the meeting, it will be followed immediately by an event planning meeting. Our Phase 2 pledge drive is underway, but it's not too late to pledge/donate to the Capital Fund Drive. All donations from large to small are equally appreciated! If you have any questions, please contact Jo Van Hoveln or any of the committee members.

CAMP CILCA NEWS:

- **Hog Roast, May 24:** You are invited to dine on delicious smoked pork sandwiches and all the trimmings. *Carry-outs* will be available for individuals or families. Thank you for your support for Outdoor Ministry at this annual event!
- **Summer 2020:** The summer program is moving forward and still accepting registrations! Of course, much depends upon the possible extension of government restrictions. CILCA will take every possible precaution to keep campers safe. Sign up today to spend some quality time in God's creation!
- **A message from Pastor Theilen:** I pray that you are all safe and healthy. Please know that the camp ground at CILCA is open if you need to get out of the house and take a socially distanced walk, go fishing, or have a picnic. This is your camp, and whatever comes of this summer I pray you will make good use of it. *God bless you all!*
- **For more information:** visit www.cilca.org, email camp@cilca.org, or call 217-487-7497.

HANDMADE FACE MASKS AVAILABLE:

In keeping with Governor Pritzker's official order mandating the use of masks in public and in hopes of keeping everyone safe, Immanuel members have opened their sewing machines and are making handmade masks. If you need one, please call Mary Ellen at 217-497-7196 to arrange delivery.

THANK YOU... Memorial Day commemorates our United States Service members who have died while on active duty. We also remember with grateful hearts all who have served, their families and friends, and our own saints departed. While we are not able to observe Memorial Day with a service at our Lutheran Cemetery as we have in the past, we honor and thank all who courageously gave their lives in service to our country. 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).



***In Loving Memory of
Immanuel Lutheran Church Saints Departed***

- † Betty Mann, June 14, 2019
- † Shirley Gunia, June 24, 2019
- † Clarice Wahlfeldt, June 26, 2019
- † Barbara Dawless, July 1, 2019
- † Russell Souza, August 14, 2019
- † JoAnn Osterbur, September 8, 2019
- † Enid White, November 17, 2019
- † Helen Jenkins, December 25, 2019
- † Dorothy Jones, December 25, 2019
- † Erna Vanderploeg, January 21, 2020
- † Wesley Kamplain, January 31, 2020



**CID LWML MITE BYTES: Mission Grant #10
Providing "Connect to Disciple" Workshops - \$7,500**

This grant will enable the CID to provide facilitators for "Connect to Disciple" outreach workshops in a total of 23 churches in 2019 – 2021. This congregational workshop is a part of a series of revitalization workshops made available by the Synod's Office of National Mission. Approximately 87% of CID churches have plateaued and/or are declining in overall membership. CID congregations need revitalization work. The funds would be used to pay for travel, meals, hotels, and small stipends for the workshop facilitators.

How can I help? Pray that God provides the "Connect to Disciple" facilitators strength, compassion, and knowledge to help revitalize our churches. Support this grant by donating to your church's LWML society mite fund.

PRAISE GOD! Finally, the window project is completed. *I want to thank each of you for your patience and support of the project.* A special thank you to Butch Buesing and Dave Creek for supplying equipment we needed to complete the project. I am grateful to the Properties Commission for their support and hard work. *Thank you!!!*

-Wayne Mann, Director of Properties



Dear ILS Families,

We would like to thank you for your patience and understanding during these unprecedented times. First and foremost we hope that all of you are healthy and safe.

There are some questions that need to be answered regarding the remainder of the school year. First, several of you have asked about tuition. The teachers have continued to serve the students with lessons and activities that you can cover at home while “sheltering in place”. We are responsible for the teachers’ salaries for the remainder of the school year and thus must continue to collect tuition in order to fulfill our obligation. Even though other private schools are charging full tuition during the pandemic, we will be reducing tuition by 25% for April and May in order to help out our families as much as possible. Please send your tuition payments to ILS as soon as possible so that Mrs. Wells can deposit them. Our mailing address is 1930 N. Bowman, Danville, Illinois, 61832.

School will officially end on Wednesday, May 20. We will be holding a drop off and pick up from 4-6 p.m. at the north cafeteria entrance. Please pull up to the entrance and a staff member will bring out your child’s supplies and personal belongings. They will also pick up any materials or text books from you that need to be returned to ILS. It is not the end of the year party we had planned but it is the safest way to take care of closing details.

We also need to know if you plan to attend ILS next fall. With school being closed by the Governor in early March all of our preregistration plans have gone awry. To date we have 21 students registered for next year. It is important that we have a better handle on enrollment so that we can effectively plan for the future. At this time ILS will be a preschool, early learning center next year as we have not had enough interest in the elementary grades to continue to offer classes. Please email either Mrs. Wells or Mr. Garner if you are planning on attending ILS next fall and have not preregistered at this time.

It is still our intention to offer Summer Camp for the months of June and July. The staff is in place and excited to work with the children again. Of course, this is contingent upon the Governor allowing us to open by then. Again, please email either Mrs. Wells or Mr. Garner if you are planning on attending ILS summer camp for ages 3 through 10.

Thank you again for your patience and understanding during these unusual times. All of us at ILS will continue to hold up all of our families in prayer as we navigate the uncharted waters. We miss the children and families, our lives seem less bright without your smiles and laughter. Please take care of yourselves and we will see you next fall when life gets back to normal.

Gail Garner

Director of Christian Education
Immanuel Lutheran School

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Locally Owned ... Gary & Sarah Stuhr

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

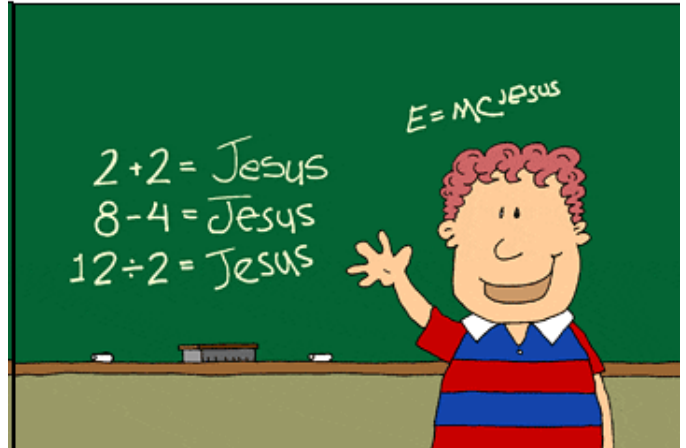
While 70 Israelite men were commissioned as prophets at the tent of meeting, two others, Eldad and Medad, were reported to have prophesied in the camp — not following “proper” protocols.
Who defended them?

- A. Moses
- B. Joshua
- C. Jethro
- D. The Lord



Answer: A (See Numbers 11:24-29.)

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Thanks to Gert-Jan van Heugten

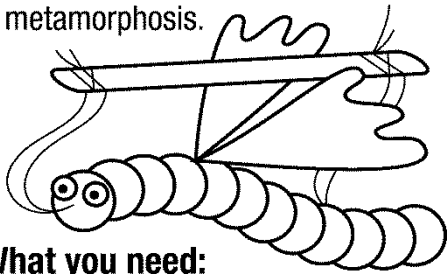
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**IN BIBLE CLASS WE LEARNED THAT JESUS
IS THE ANSWER**



CHANGED!

Make this cute puppet to show and tell the amazing story of metamorphosis.

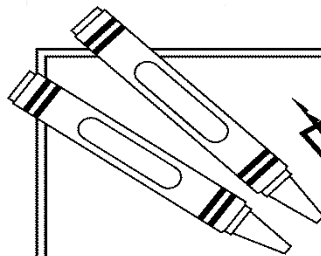
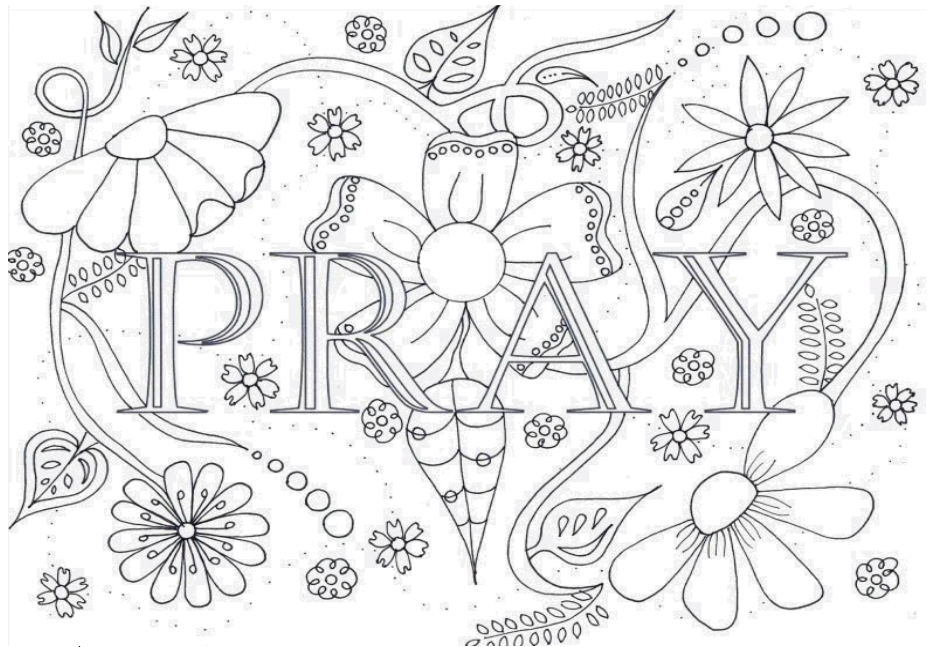


What you need:

- Needle and string
- 12 small pom-poms
- Wooden craft stick
- Scissors
- Googly eyes
- Glue
- Coffee filter
- Markers

What you do:

1. Sew pom-poms together to make a caterpillar body. Tie off that string.
2. Thread another string up through the first pom-pom, leaving 12 inches to dangle. Repeat with the ninth pom-pom, leaving two dangling strings.
3. Wrap those strings around opposite ends of the stick, adjusting their length to about 6 inches. Tie in place.
4. Glue on eyes.
5. Flatten the coffee filter and draw a symmetrical design on it. Pleat in the center to create wings.
6. Move the caterpillar puppet by holding the stick. Glue on the wings as you describe the transformation into a butterfly.



PUZZLE

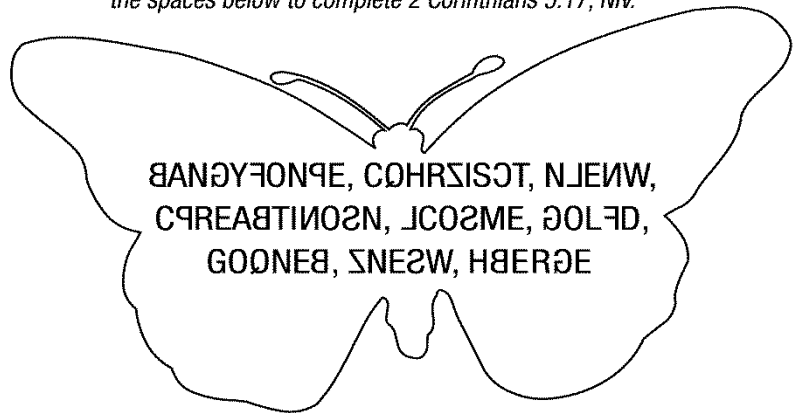
TransformationPOWER



Just as the caterpillar becomes a butterfly,
God transforms us from old to new.



Directions: Cross out the backward letters. Write the remaining letters in order in the spaces below to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.



Therefore, if _____ is in _____ ,
the _____ has _____ :

The _____ has _____ ,
the _____ is _____ !

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV



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May 2020

May 3 (John 10:1-4; 10-11)

“The Shepherd and His Sheep”

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

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He bestows on His sheep life – life in abundance. What is this life, and how do you know that you are a sheep of Christ?

May 10 (John 14:2-3)

“The One Person”

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

Today, as we hear the words of promise from God's own mouth...the promise of a place for us in the presence of our Lord and Savior is the greatest message we could ever hear. And there is no question that the one person who has done more for you than anyone in the world is Jesus. He went where we could not follow to make a way that we could never find on our own. By His death, your sin has been forgiven, and in His resurrection, your place has been prepared.

May 17 (John 14:16)

“Another Helper”

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

In His Ascension, Jesus has disappeared from our sight, but He has not left us. Remember He said, “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” And indeed He does, He comes to you in, with, and under the Word of God, the waters of baptism, and the Bread and Wine of His Supper. And He sends the Holy Spirit from the Father to be your Helper and Comforter in this in-between time of not-seeing yet believing and waiting for His glorious return.

May 24 (Luke 24:44-53)

“With Great Joy”

By Rev. Paul E. Shoemaker, Emanuel Lutheran Church~New Haven, IN

When Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples returned to Jerusalem “with great joy.” Why such joy since Jesus, their risen Savior, had just left them?

May 31 (Acts 2:1-21)

“Hear Love’s Language”

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

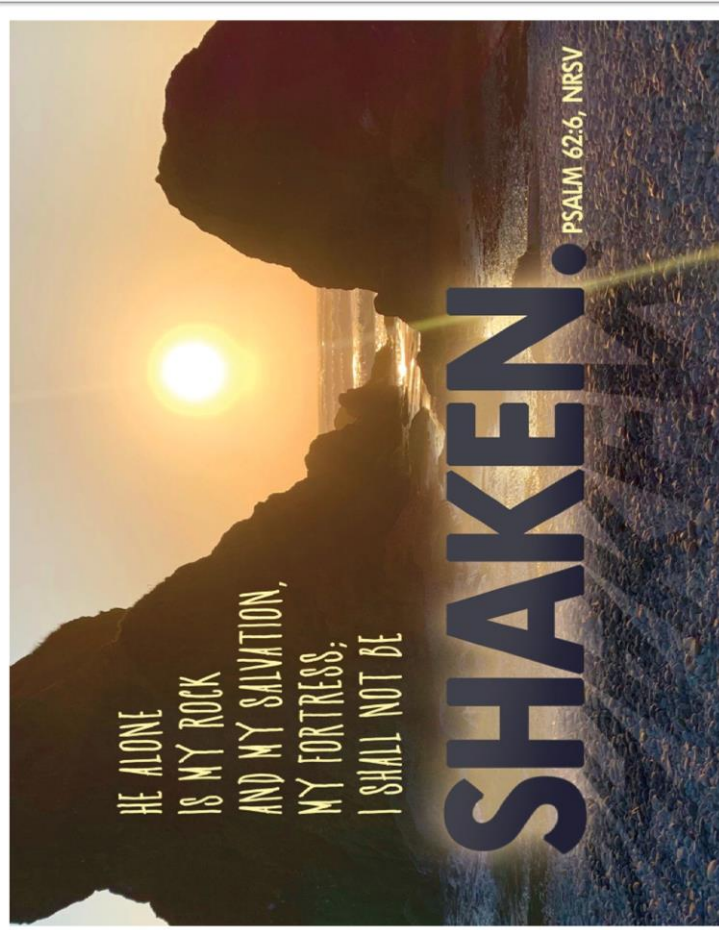
The Day of Pentecost is the birthday celebration of the Christian Church. The Holy Spirit miraculously moved the disciples of Jesus to speak in different languages so that people from around the world could learn more about Jesus. The same Spirit today moves and works among us so that we also hear the language of love!

This newsletter also available on our website:
www.ilcdanville.com

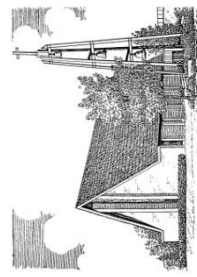
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Worship Schedule
Sunday Mornings
May 3, 10, 17, 24
& 31 at 8:30 am
ilcd_live on YouTube

*Worship
with us
from* **HOME**

Communion Schedule
There are no Communion
services scheduled during
May due to the ongoing
COVID-19 pandemic.
Please call the church
office if you would like
Communion.

