



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH - STEGER, IL

24 WEST 34TH PLACE

STEGER, IL. 60475

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Twin Spires

MAY / JUNE 2019 A+ D

Pastor's Message

The Breath of God

There are multiple times in this Easter Season through Holy Trinity Sunday where our Lord talks about the Holy *Spirit* almost interchangeably with the words “wind” or “breath” (Ezk.37, Jn. 3, Jn. 20, Acts 2). In the original Greek (the New Testament), all of these words are the same – *pneuma* (like our word “pneumatic”). In the original Hebrew (the Old Testament) they’re also the same word – *ruach*. Though in English “spirit,” “breath,” and “wind” all mean similar things, we still see them as more different than they did back then.

In the ancient world singing was especially an activity that involved breathing. Notice, for example, Ephesians 5:18-21: “...be filled with the *Spirit*, addressing one another in *psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody* to the Lord in your heart, *giving thanks always and for everything* to God the Father in the Name of Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

This passage capitalizes “Spirit,” referring to the Holy Spirit, in distinction to our own personal spirits. But the Holy Spirit, whom Paul exhorts us to be “filled with,” comes to us by God’s word and changes and fills our spirits, producing “...*spiritual songs*.” As we say in the Creed, the Holy Spirit “...proceeds from the Father and the Son,” and delivering His saving gifts and working new lives.

With this in mind, next in that verse from Ephesians Paul tells us to “address one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody...” That is to say, he exhorts us to not merely to speak, but to *sing* God’s word to Him and to one another.

Author Christopher Hoyt writes, “When one sings, one is resonated by the *pneuma*, the wind-breath-spirit. One becomes an instrument very much like play the flute or an oboe. The vibrations produced by the *pneuma* do not merely involve lungs and larynx. The entire human body serves as a resonance chamber for the voice, in much the same way as the body and bell of a clarinet enable its speech. And when one is singing in worship, this resonance extends beyond mere physical vibrations and into the metaphysical world as well.... *Pious singing unites all the human faculties in a single act, tuning man’s whole being to God.*”

For that matter, did you ever notice that church music has a certain kind of sound to it, distinct from typical worldly music? This is why. God’s Spirit has begun to change our spirits, and so our voices are tuned to sing reverently, recognizing His presence in and among us. The Scriptures tell us God Himself sings (Zeph. 3:14-17). He would so teach us likewise as He’s brought His salvation to us and dwells in us. Even so, our singing therefore should be done in a praise-worthy manner, even as the saints would in heaven with their whole being.

Note what Paul said in that verse above should be the content and common direction of this singing: “...giving thanks always and for everything *to God the Father in the Name of Jesus Christ.*” So, all of our hymns, all of our speech, indeed all of our lives should be in thanks to God, and directed to our Father in the Name of Jesus. To use one of those bigger theological words, they’re *doxological* – which means, in right praise to the Holy Trinity. But the verse also says, “submitting *to one another* out of reverence for Christ.” And so, while singing to God, our singing is also for one another - others whom God would join to Himself as well.

When this happens by each of us with our different voices and from our own unique stations in life it makes for a beautiful “harmony.” It’s like when you have a choir or symphony doing a piece of music. Each have different parts or instruments, and may be even performing different notes. But if their voices match and blend well, the same melody prevails. The harmonization of the different voices makes it all the more rich and beautiful. Of course, if someone’s out of tune or off key it doesn’t sound as good, and can even make it sound awful. You hope to have a clear, resonating melody. The Holy Spirit would lead us to have our words, voices, and entire lives blend harmoniously, making melody “to the Father in the Name of Jesus.” That’s what makes for a harmonious congregation.

This isn’t meant to be a critique of anybody in our congregation’s vocal abilities (God knows I could stand to improve!), but about our common confession of our Lord, albeit in song, and life together. Indeed, it does apply to whether we do sing. As bad as our audible voices may be, the Lord would still lead us to join in the church’s melody. It is our faith that He wants the most, and that faith would lead us to sing and blend in, even as His words are in us.

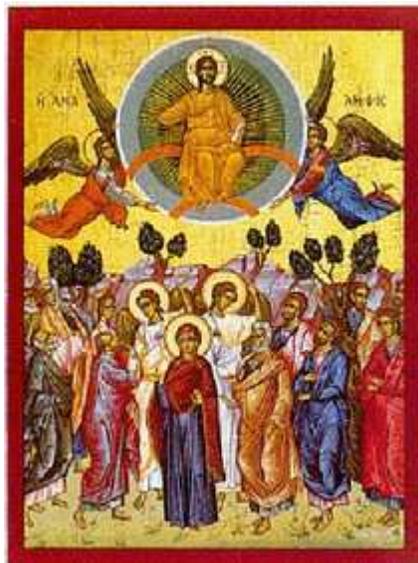
In all honesty, I think our congregation sings quite well compared to other churches I’ve been to. I’m very thankful for that. This is a good sign, because in the Bible, singing and music was associated with divine action and presence. Thanks be to God. Let’s continue in His word that it may be sung thru us all the more.

Pastor Meissner

Diapers and baby-needs Drive:

Once again, we're planning to collect diapers and baby-care items. These will be donated to either Swaddling Clothes or the new Aid for Women location in Flossmoor. Currently they have need for all sorts of baby-care items (diapers, wipes, clothes - new or gently used. Etc. Between Mother's Day and Father's Day (5/12-6/16). Please bring these items to the pack-n-play in the church basement.

ASCENSION DIVINE SERVICE



The Circuit is Coming!
(Thursday, May 30th)

As you know we've been observing on congregation's anniversary on Ascension Day over the last few years, token of the fact that by His Ascension the Lord hasn't left us, but is actually now with us ("Immanuel") closer than ever when He was locally present with others in "Bible times." Here we celebrate this and His coronation as King and Ruler of all, not just according to His divinity, but His humanity. "Man with God is on the throne" as they hymn puts it (*LSB* 494).

As our circuit was realigned last Summer, the other circuit churches asked if they could join us in observing this great high feast together. So, let's plan a warm Immanuel welcome for our visitors. Instead of a potluck, we'll plan to have refreshments in the church basement after the service.

CHOIR & BELL NEWS

LSB 491 Up through Endless Ranks of Angels

1. Up through endless ranks of angels,
Cries of triumph in His ears,
To His heav'nly throne ascending,
Having vanquished all their fears,
Christ looks down upon His faithful,
Leaving them in happy tears.
2. Death-destroying, life-restoring,
Proven equal to our need,
Now for us before the Father
As our brother intercede;
Flesh that for our world was wounded,
Living, for the wounded plead!
3. To our lives of wanton wand'ring
Send Your Spirit, promised guide;
Through our lives of fear and failure
With Your pow'r and love abide;
Welcome us, as You were welcomed,
To an endless Eastertide.
4. Alleluia, alleluia!
Oh, to breathe the Spirit's grace!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Oh, to see the Father's face!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Oh, to feel the Son's embrace!

This Ascension hymn was written in 1973 by Jaroslav J. Vajda. The text was originally written for the tune "Our Lady, Trondheim" by Ludvig Lindeman. This tune is not in Lutheran Service Book. The tune found in our hymnal is called "Ascended Triumph" and was written for the text by Henry V. Gerike. You will notice that the tune goes up and down according to the words of the text, especially following verse one. Henry Gerike formerly directed the Concordia Seminary Chorus in St. Louis, Missouri. He continues to write music for Concordia Publishing House.

LSB 507 Holy, Holy, Holy

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the
glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.
3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may
not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.
4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and
sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

This hymn was written for the Sunday of the Holy Trinity by Reginald Heber. He felt there was a lack of hymns in the Church of England and looked for hymns that were part of the liturgy, that complemented the sermon, and had a well-written text. He collected hymns based on this criteria and added 57 of his own hymns. The hymnal was published after his death about 1827. The tune is "Nicaea", written by John Dykes, and is similar to the German chorale. The tune name is appropriate for the text because of the history involved. In 325 A.D. about 300 bishops met in the town by this name to settle the controversy about the Holy Trinity. The bishops at this meeting wrote the Nicene Creed.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES

We are once again coming to the end of Sunday school for this year. The children were busy with their lessons and the two "Help Your Neighbor" projects they participated in. They collected a couple of trunk loads of food items for the Crete Pantry and have donated their Sunday school offerings from January 1 through Easter Sunday for LWR (Lutheran World Relief) livestock program. We are in the process of letting the children decide which animals they would like to purchase for people in developing countries. We would like to thank all of you for your help in these endeavors.



The children had a fun craft day Easter Sunday after breakfast. There were many different religious crafts for them to choose to make. They enjoyed the break from lessons and everyone had a good time.

May 19th is the last Sunday for Sunday School until fall and the children will be singing in church on that day. I ask that you continue to keep the children of the congregation in your prayers throughout the summer.

Elders Report

While Easter Sunday has passed, we are still in the Easter season. We will be celebrating Ascension Day with a Divine service on May 30 at 7:00 PM. In addition, this year Immanuel will be hosting this service for our entire circuit, so following the service we will also be having refreshments for everyone. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

We know that most people are aware, but we also want to mention that we have multiple other services during the week that you can attend if you're not able to come on a particular Sunday. On Thursdays we have a divine service at 6:00 PM, and Pastor also holds daily Matins services at 8:15 AM on Monday - Thursday and on Saturday.

We want to also remind everyone that starting the first Sunday in June (June 2) we will be changing to our summer schedule; the Sunday Divine service will be at 9:00 AM (instead of 10), and Sunday Bible Class will be at approx 10:30 AM (instead of 9). [There is no change to Monday's Bible Class; it remains at 9:30 AM]

Finally, our next Men's Club meeting is on Thursday May 2. We will be meeting at 6:30 PM at the Loft (above the Evil Horse) in Crete. It would be great to see a few more new faces. We combine great food and drink with good conversation, and get a really enjoyable time. Guys, please join us !!!

Respectfully Submitted
The Board of Elders

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

We want to thank the following people for selecting IMMANUEL for their "choice dollars".

Deborah D, Doreen M, Candy P, Roger P, Tommy R,
Beverly S, Steven S, Warren S, and Mildred Z

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Voter's Assembly meeting – March 24, 2019

Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer.

Tom Roberts thanked everyone for their thoughts, cards, and prayers while he was in the hospital, and asked if there were any new members which there were none. Tom asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes from the last meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was given by Greg Paul; seconded by Bonnie Roberts and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Bill McCarthy gave the Treasurer's report. Our income ***** REMOVED *****. Paul Sengstock asked about Pastor's health insurance. It was supposed to be less this year with the difference of about \$80.00 put in a health savings account. Billy Merrill made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report; seconded by Christine Meyer and passed unanimously.

Board Reports

Paul Sengstock gave the Elder's report. He reminded everyone we have the mid-week Lenten prayer services with refreshments afterward. The next Men's club meeting will be 5/2/19 at The Loft above Evil Horse at 6:30 p.m. We have a phone tree list and are looking into another, separate from the one for funerals and severe illnesses, for possible church closure, etc. Pat Stewart is currently updating the church directory.

Greg Paul gave the Trustees report. They have been working on the budget and reported that insurance rates will be going up drastically in the next few years. Roger Lemajeur said we need to make drastic cuts i.e. eliminating the mid-week service and mileage to ***** REMOVED *****. Pastor is looking into finding someone who can drive this person to a LCMS church and there are those who depend on the mid-week service, which doesn't really add a lot to utilities.

The Board of Education report was given by Candy Pfeifer. They are winding down and the last day of Sunday school will be 5/19/19. They will continue with the food drive till then and are using their Sunday school offerings for purchasing livestock through the Lutheran World Relief. ***** REMOVED ***** This helps the children understand they can help people besides those right here around them.

The Board of Stewardship report was given by Lois Genova. Everything is on hold for now but will be restructured. We will then be more in compliance with the Constitution.

Lois Genova made a motion to approve the Board reports; seconded by Bonnie and passed unanimously.

Committees Reports

The Altar Guild report was given by Lois Genova. They are few but mighty. They had a meeting 3/21/19 and reviewed procedure for Lent and Holy week. From February through April volunteers will be Barbara Coy, Candy Pfeifer, Diane Nasiatka, and Lois Genova.

Pastor's Report

Pastor had one official act; the wedding of Tim and Amy G. They are in catechism and not members yet, but since Amy was once a member he was able to marry them. Volunteers are needed to take the Twin Spires to shut-ins. See Pastor if you are interested. Pastor advised of some vacations days. Christine made a motion for Pastor to take off these days; seconded by Terri Yoder and passed unanimously. He plans on going to the Pastor's Conference from 5/21 through 5/22, and we will be collecting baby items again from Mother's Day through Father's Day. These will be given to Swaddling Clothes in Channahon. Items can be new or gently used and Christine suggested finding a place to donate which is closer to here. Pastor wants to start an email list for those wanting information on life affirming activities. If interested add your email to the list. Pastor Rock is copying our Men's group at Evil Horse and they may do a theology at the bar event sometime.

Old Business

None to report at this time.

New Business

Christine and Lois are heading up Easter breakfast. It will be pot luck and there will be a sign-up sheet. The time change for Divine Service will begin June 2nd and change back on September 1st.

There being no other business, Bonnie Roberts made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Greg Paul and passed unanimously.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Yoder

Happy Birthday



<u>May Birthdays</u>	<u>June Birthdays</u>
Abigail C	Candy P
Cody B	Deborah A
Donna S	Dennis M
Evelyn M	Iola M
Jeremy C	Roy S
Tom M	

Happy Anniversary

<u>May Anniversaries</u>	<u>June Anniversaries</u>
George & Yvonne N	Greg & Susan P
Tom & Bonnie R	Jeffrey & Kim S
	Larry & Mary Y

Happy Anniversary

MONTHLY INCOME & EXPENSES

******* REMOVED FOR PRIVACY REASONS *******

ASCENSION DAY



May 30th

7:00 PM - DIVINE SERVICE

IMMANUEL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
24 WEST 34TH PLACE
STEGER, IL. 60475
(708) 754-2345
ilcsecretary@comcast.net
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**NOTE: Some portions of the Twin Spires
(online version only) were modified and / or
removed for security privacy reasons.**

SCHEDULE:

(Summer Schedule: June - August)

Sunday:
9:00 A.M. DIVINE SERVICE
10:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASS
Monday:
9:30 A.M. BIBLE CLASS
Thursday:
6:00 P.M. DIVINE SERVICE
(Church)
Mon.-Thurs:
8:15 A.M. MATINS (Church)
Saturday:
8:15 A.M. MATINS (Church)

Ascension Day Service:
Thursday May 30th at 7:00 PM

VOTER'S ASSEMBLY June 2

**Please contact the church office or
webmaster with any questions.**

MAY 2019

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 8:15am Matins	2 8:15am Matins 9:30am Bd. of Ed. 6:00pm Divine Service 6:30pm Men's Club (Loft-Crete)	3	4 8:15am Matins
5 8:10-8:40am PC&A** 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Bible Class 10:00am Divine Service	6 8:15am Matins 9:30am Bible Class 7:00pm Bd. of Trustees	7 8:15am Matins	8 8:15am Matins	9	10	11
12 8:10-8:40am PC&A** 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Bible Class 10:00am Divine Service	13 8:15am Matins 9:30am Bible Class	14 8:15am Matins <i>Circuit – Trinity Lansing</i>	15 8:15am Matins 3:30pm Bd of Elders	16 8:15am Matins 9:30am Bd of Ed 6:00pm Divine Service	17	18 8:15am Matins
19 8:10-8:40am PC&A** 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Bible Class 10:00am Divine Service	20 8:15am Matins 9:30am Bible Class 7:00pm Planning & Coordinating meeting	21 8:15am Matins Pastor at NID General Pastor Conference	22 8:15am Matins Pastor at NID General Pastor Conference	23 8:15am Matins 6:00pm Divine Service	24	25 8:15am Matins
26 8:10-8:40am PC&A** 9:00am Bible Class 10:00am Divine Service	27 MEMORIAL DAY	28 8:15am Matins	29 8:15am Matins	30 ASCENSION DAY 8:15am Matins 7:00pm Divine Service		

* 19th is the last day of Sunday school until fall.*

4-25-2019

**Private Confession & Absolution

ELDER

Paul Sengstock, John Stachulak

USHER SCHEDULE

Erwin Hanck

JUNE 2019

PLEASE NOTE JUNE 2ND
VOTER'S ASSEMBLY

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8:15am Matins
2 8:10-8:40am PC&A** 9:00am Divine Service VOTER'S ASSEMBLY	3 8:15am Matins 9:30am Bible Class	4 8:15am Matins	5 8:15am Matins	6 8:15am Matins 6:00pm Divine Service	7	8 8:15am Matins
9 8:10-8:40am PC&A** 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Bible Class	10 8:15am Matins 9:30am Bible Class	11 8:15am Matins	12 8:15am Matins	13 8:15am Matins 6:00pm Divine Service	14	15 8:15am Matins
16 8:10-8:40am PC&A** 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Bible Class	17 8:15am Matins 9:30am Bible Class	18 8:15am Matins	19 8:15am Matins 3:30pm Bd of Elders	20 8:15am Matins 6:00pm Divine Service	21	22 8:15am Matins
23 8:10-8:40am PC&A** 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Bible Class	24 8:15am Matins 9:30am Bible Class	25 8:15am Matins	26 8:15am Matins	27 8:15am Matins 6:00pm Divine Service	28	29 8:15am Matins
30 8:10-8:40am PC&A** 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Bible Class						

****Private Confession & Absolution**

ELDER

Marty Boudreau

USHER SCHEDULE

Tom Metzger/Volunteer

3-19-2019