

Immanuel Lutheran Swea City

May/June Newsletter



The Holy Spirit.

(cont. pg 6)

How often do you really think about this third person of the Trinity? If the answer is something along the lines of, "Actually, not very often at all," never fear, you are not alone. The simple reality is that the Holy Spirit is harder for us to relate to than the other two parts of the Trinity. We understand the concept of a Father, even if our own relationship with our earthly father has been less than ideal. The story of Jesus is front and center with Christmas and Easter each year. But the Holy Spirit? How do we relate to and connect with a spirit?

During Lent this past year, we dove into a Bible study focusing on deepening our understanding of the Holy Spirit and their role in our faith. I know for me personally, I can get too easily get caught up in the charismatic teachings regarding the Holy Spirit and focus on spiritual gifts along with miraculous healings, speaking in tongues, and hearing special messages from God. And while I do believe those can be legitimate examples of the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the Church today, I don't believe they are meant to be the main focus or goal.

So what is the purpose of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer today? The answer is found in the Apostle's Creed:

*I believe in the Holy Spirit
The holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting.*

This isn't a random list of things that didn't fit in well earlier in the creed which the writers wanted to be sure they stated before wrapping up with "Amen." Rather, it gives us a roadmap for the work the Holy Spirit does in our lives as we strive to follow the teachings of Jesus. The Holy Spirit provides the wisdom and knowledge needed to find unity with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, the grace and patience needed to live in community with one another, the strength needed to forgive one another and seek forgiveness when we have sinned, the fortitude required to do the physical work of sharing God's love with our neighbors, and perspective of looking towards eternity instead of being trapped in our moment.

In short, the Holy Spirit is the person of the Trinity who enables us to be sanctified, to become Holy. It is through the work and power of the

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Sunday, May 17th

North Union Graduation

Sunday, May 24th

Pentecost Sunday

Monday, May 25th

Memorial Day

Saturday, June 20th

Sunshine Market

Camp Events

May 31

Ingham Ice Cream Social

June 1-2

Spring Elderversity

July 31-Aug 1

Scandinavian Feast and Quilt Auction



Council Meeting Highlights

March Highlights

Wednesday programs are continuing with the Youth Group starting a study on the life of Peter. Pastor Sara is also working to finalize the details for Holy Week services.

There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday with the last class of the school year scheduled for May 3rd.

JOY Camp will be the mission of the month for April.

After reviewing quotes for church insurance coverage, it was decided we would be switching to a company called Guide One. Paul will plan on making an announcement to update the congregation on Easter Sunday.

Use of the social hall for the Park and Rec Spaghetti Lunch will be moved from March 15th to April 26th.

April Highlights

Holy Week services are wrapped up with good attendance on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday but lighter attendance on Holy Thursday and Good Friday. A lot of school aged families reported evening conflicts this year.

Mighty Warriors and Youth Group will be wrapping up the first week in May.

Team Jesus brought in \$97 and the mission of the month for May will be IOLBC.

We will have a church clean up day on April 16th starting at 4:30 for all who are able to help.

Due to Senior Recognition Night and Baccalaureate being on the 2nd Wednesday evening in May, the May council meeting will be Sunday, May 12th after the service.

Sunshine Market

in Swea City, Iowa

Saturday, June 20, 2026
9am-2pm

Bring the entire family for a fun-filled day!

In memory of Dylan "Mr. Sunshine" Stevens

Proceeds help fund the Mr. Sunshine Scholarship which goes to a North Union graduating senior who has demonstrated great kindness towards others.

Mark your calendars, invite some friends and family, and get ready for lots of fun including a craft and vendor show, carnival games, the happy train, a petting zoo, face painting, balloon art, and food vendors.

To volunteer, pass along a vendor name, or for questions contact Tifani Stevens.

Mission Of The Month

April

JOY Camp

www.facebook.com/joy.camp.507/

Held at Camp Okoboji, JOY camp exists to provide individuals with developmental needs an enrichment experience in which they engage in fun activities, are built up in Christian Community, and grow in faith.

There are two sessions scheduled for this year: June 4-7 and July 9-12. If you are interested in getting involved and volunteering, talking with the Steven's family would be a GREAT first step!

Amount Raised: \$691

May

Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps

www.okoboji.org

At IOLBC, the mission is simple, "To Know Jesus Christ and to Make Christ Known to All." Everything we do—from camp programs to staff interaction to outreach and relationships—is done with this in mind. Our prayer is that everyone who comes into contact with IOLBC will have a real experience of the Lord Jesus Christ which stays with them for many years to come.

Amount Raised: TBD

June

GoServ Global

www.goservglobal.org

Co-founded in 2011 in the wake of a devastating earthquake in Haiti, GoServ Global provides essential humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable in communities, sharing God's love by delivering hope globally.

They respond to natural disasters; having served the communities of Kentucky after the massive tornado destruction that hit in 2021, and they also sent medical resources for months in the aftermath of Haiti's recent earthquake in 2021.



It was so much fun to have some special visitors come and share about JOY camp in April! If you are interested in getting more involved with their program, Joel and Laurie Stevens are great people to talk to! They will be sure to get you in touch with the right person!

CHILDREN'S Sunday School

We have wrapped up Sunday School for the year and will be taking a break during the summer months. Thanks to all who helped make a great program for our children! See you in September!

Mighty Warriors Kids



Some pics from our last lesson time and our end of year bowling party! Thanks for a great year everyone!



YOUTH MINISTRY

That's a wrap on a great year! Check out some highlights from the last couple of months. We are tentatively planning a June 15th activity so if you know anyone who is going to be in grades 6-12, let Pastor Sara know so they can alerted when details are available.





Oh the things that can get started rolling around in a pastor's head when they mention their dream of someday having a live donkey for someone to ride in on as part of Palm Sunday celebrations! While not a live donkey, a special shout out to Brody for being willing to jump into an inflatable costume and be a close second! You certainly made Palm Sunday real and memorable this year for some of our young (and not-so-young) members!



Thanks to all who were part of our Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday services. A special thanks to those who joined Dawn and Mary in making music on Easter Sunday to our service together. He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

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Holy Spirit that we are able to do the work of going out into the world and speak the words of faith and salvation to others as God has called us to do in the Great Commission.

Yes, sometimes that work is done through some pretty unusual, notable ways such as speaking in tongues or a miraculous healing. If that is the best way to ignite the flame of faith in one's life, that is how the Spirit will work. But more often, the Spirit is working in the prompting to reach out to friend who is going through a hard time so they are reminded that they are not alone. It is in gathering boxes of cereal to be sure school kids have something to eat during the Christmas holidays. It is leaving judgement up to Jesus and welcoming the sinner to be part of our congregation just as they are because we know that we ourselves are far from perfect, and all too often, stuck in our own sinful ways.

The Holy Spirit invites us to embrace the process so much more often than they dramatically create instant change. It guides us through the process of growing up and maturing in our faith just as a parent guides their child through their years of growth and development. And when you consider that the Holy Spirit is also called our comforter, counselor, advocate, the one who convicts us of our sin, our guide, intercessor, teacher, and the revealer of truth, his role as the one to bring us through the process of becoming holy, of helping us grow into adult Christians, begins to feel a lot less mysterious and much more relatable.



Pentecost Sunday

Sunday, May 24th

It was during the Feast of Pentecost that the disciples first experienced the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in their own lives when it came upon them and it looked like tongues of fire hovered above their heads. Suddenly, in the midst of a huge festival which pulled people from all over the known world into Jerusalem speaking numerous different languages, they found themselves able to share the message of the Gospel in languages they did not know and had not studied. The result? People from all over the world believed and what we know today as the Christian Church was born as the number of those following Jesus exploded. We celebrate this day 50 days after Easter as this is historically believed when the first Pentecost Sunday took place. It is traditional to wear red on this Sunday in honor of the flaming tongues.



Monday, May 25th

As you enjoy the long weekend, grill the hamburgers and hot dogs, and kick off summer, we encourage you to take a few moments and to remember and honor those who have died in battle fighting for our rights and freedoms as Americans. Take in a service, visit a grave, perform an act of service, or choose some other way to remember those who paid the highest price.



Brylie Deim will be graduating from North Union High School on Sunday, May 17th.



Kayla Thompson graduated from nursing school with her RN degree on May 8th.

Congratulations to these two young ladies as they celebrate graduation and look forward the adventures the next chapter will bring for both of them in life. May God go before you and lead you as you discover all life has waiting for you to experience.



Sunday, June 28th

Mark your calendars for Church in the Park with our fellow brothers and sister in Christ from the other Swea City congregations.

In case of bad weather—Service will be held at Immanuel.

More details coming soon!



Upcoming Camp Events

Summer is a great time to check out what is happening at IOLBC
(and stop in to say hi to Pastor Sara at her other job!)

Ice Cream Social & Pie Auction	Sunday May 31st from 4 to 6pm	at Ingham Lake
Eldersversity Camp	June 1st and 2nd	at Okoboji
Scandinavian Feast	Friday July 31st from 5:30 to 7:30	at Okoboji
Quilt Auction	Saturday, August 1st at noon	at Okoboji
Golf Tournament	Saturday, August 15th at 1pm	at Okoboji View
Hog Roast & Pie Auction	Sunday, August 23rd from 4 to 6pm	at Ingham Lake

Additionally, if you find yourself in the Okoboji area on a Sunday morning, stop by the Okoboji location for Sunday morning worship by the lake at 9:30am followed by a free will offering brunch in the main dining hall. Camp services begin Memorial Day Weekend and go through Labor Day Weekend.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
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**The Immanuel Lutheran
Church Newsletter**

TO:

