

## *Quarterly Caller 2025* *May, June & July Issue*

### **"Safely Through the Fire"**

There was a legend in ancient times about a bird called a phoenix, which lived in the Arabian desert. In this legend the phoenix would build its nest and live in it for 500 years. At the end of that time, the sun's hot rays would set the nest on fire. The phoenix would flap its wings and be burned up in the flames. However, out of the fire, the phoenix would come alive again. It would rise from the ashes with a renewed and refreshed body to live a new life.

Now even though the phoenix is of course only a legend, it became for the early Christians an important symbol of some very real things in which they believed. The phoenix pictures the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Christ went through many fiery trials; He suffered hell for us on the cross and was subjected to the flames of death. But His stay in the tomb was short-lived. For on the third day He rose from the grave as the Lord of all creation, with a body that was renewed and that cannot die any more. The phoenix therefore also pictures what will happen for us who belong to the risen Christ. Though we too must be subjected to the flames of death because of our sinfulness, our Lord has promised that we will be raised from the ashes and saved from hell by the power of His resurrection. Our bodies, and those of all believers in Christ, will be made new, just as His was.

In the Old Testament book of Daniel the story is told of three faithful men of God, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, faced some very literal flames of death. They got into trouble when they refused to bow down to a huge idol that the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar had set up. When they refused to obey, even after having been brought before the king himself, they were sentenced to death. They were thrown into the blazing furnace.

Jesus Christ Himself also got into trouble when He refused to give homage to the idols of His day. It was not a golden image which He was pressured to bow down to but ones such as the devil laid before Him, the idol of glory without suffering or the cross. He was sentenced and crucified on Good Friday.

We too can get ourselves into trouble when we refuse to bow down to the idols of our day. We're not pressured to give homage to a gold statue either, but to other "deities" of our age—things like the "god" of the human spirit, which ascribes to people unlimited potential and goodness, and which therefore denies our inborn sin and rebellion against God; things like the "god" of self-fulfillment, which says that the most important thing in life is for a person to find pleasure and happiness for themselves; things like the "idol" of tolerance, which says that we should be inclusive of all religions and beliefs and lifestyle choices, and which therefore rejects Jesus' claim that He and His words are the only eternal truth and that He is the only way to eternal life. The reality is that being faithful to God and refusing to fit in with the world's system will bring various difficulties and even persecutions. It may not be a fiery furnace or the prospect of being burned at the stake, as some early Christians were; but difficulties and mistreatment do certainly come to the faithful. And the fact of the matter is that in the end we all face a sentence of death. For we all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. And the Scriptures declare that to be a crime deserving of the fiery furnace of judgment.

It is into that reality that Easter breaks in with its awesome words of deliverance and new life. Jesus willingly succumbed to death's flames for us on the cross. Jesus put Himself into the furnace for us, just as He did for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He went into the place of death and the grave in order to save His people. At Calvary, He literally suffered the anguish of hell that we deserve in our place, being scorched by sin and Satan and death. But that was far from the end of the story. For His body did not decay in the tomb. Instead, He conquered death and the devil by rising from the grave triumphantly on the third day. Just like the three men, He came out of the tomb unharmed as the victorious Ruler of all. Jesus put Himself into the furnace of death in order to protect us from its blazing heat and to deliver us from it eternally.

Dear children of God, you are like a phoenix, for your Lord is like a phoenix. Because Jesus came alive again, you and all believers in Him will surely also come alive again when He returns. Let us therefore resolve this day to be faithful to our gracious God, just as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were, trusting in Him to the very end. For Christ gives you this promise, "Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life."

Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!!! Alleluia!  
Pastor Reed

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**Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Brownton**  
***First Quarter Voters' Meeting for the year 2025***  
***Sunday, April 27, 2025, in the church basement***

47 members present.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kevin Miller.

Pastor Reed opened the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting agenda was approved, MMSC to accept.

**The Secretary's** minutes of the January 19, 2025, Voters meeting, written by Kathy Nordby were reviewed. MMSC to approve the minutes.

**Board of Education report** presented by Brittney Buxcel. Recent activities include, Lenten meals, Bake Sales and the Children Palm Sunday Walk. Upcoming event will be VBS. Dates and theme will be determined in the near future.

**Treasurer's report** was presented by Don Albrecht. See attached report. Specifically highlighted was the \$5600 (German Dinner) transfer from Preschool to General fund. Also noted that the dollars listed under Cemetery on the report will be moved to the cemetery account.

**Trust Fund report** was presented by Kevin Miller. See attached report. Current interest earned dollars balance = \$77,545.56. Line items identified to be paid from this include: Hjerpe \$12,800, Electrical for lights \$10,600, Missions \$15,000 and Tuition \$6,000. Remaining balance ~\$33,000.

**Board of Trustee's report** presented by Dean Zimmerman. Dean reported that the lighting project is partially complete. A Security System is being investigated with Bradley Company. New Custodian – Ashley Benson. Current discussions with MNClean to do a deep clean (carpets, stripping floors, windows, appliances, preschool room). This cleaning to take in June. Roof on Education building needs repair. Dean is working with GSM to do the patch job for ~\$3200 (vs full repair not yet necessary).

Recommendation from the Council is to hire Jason Buxcel to complete the balance of the landscaping (rock and grass-\$1600), cement the boulevard in front of the church (handicap area - \$7600) and repair classroom ceiling (\$2000). MMSC to approve. Jason updated on the tray under the coffee pot. Dean will be asking for a quote for window cleaning.

**Board of Deacon's report** was presented by Pastor Reed. One new member transfer in – Noreen Moran. More transfers expect. Service in the Park will be July 15<sup>th</sup>. Pastor will celebrate 30 years in the ministry in June and 20 years at Immanuel Lutheran in December. Coffee will be served June 25<sup>th</sup> after church to commemorate this accomplishment.

**Office Manager's Report** was given by Mona Geier. March and April have been very busy with Lenten services and 2 upcoming funerals. 2646 bulletins were printed during these two months. The month of May should be less active. Mona will look for a new display board for the confirmation class photos. Missing pictures from two classes.

**Old Business** – Nate Zimmerman gave an update on the organ. Due to shipping and family health issues the completion date was pushed out. All necessary parts have now arrived and assembly has begun. A lift will be used to place the organ

back onto the balcony. The projection equipment may need to be temporarily moved to accommodate the placement of the organ.

**New Business** presented by Kevin Miller and Pastor Reed. A recommendation from the Council to designate funds for missions from the Orlin Knick estate— Concordia Seminary Students & Missionaries. Donate \$10,000 to Mission Central and \$5,000 to seminary students. And Religious Education tuition reimbursement - \$6000. MMSC to approve this designation.

Ideas on how designate the interest earned from the Orlin Knick estate funds are requested. Ideas shared at this meeting include: Possible new sign outside the church, new kitchen closures over the counter, cleaning project. Kevin asked the congregation to document their ideas with possible options and hand them into the church office prior to the next council meeting .

There being no further business, Kevin Miller as for a motion to adjourn the meeting. MMSC to adjourn the meeting. Pastor Reed closed the meeting with a prayer.

**Respectfully submitted, Secretary, Sheila Bussler**

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## LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Stewardship Newsletter article

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship) Stewardship Thoughts – May 2025

*Stewardship in the Body of Christ*

Baseball season is upon us. The southern images of spring training give way to the pageantry of Opening Day. On that day, the hopes and dreams of every major league team, player and fan focus on doing whatever it takes to get to the Fall Classic, the World Series. Baseball is a secular way that so many of us confess that hope “springs” eternal.

With all of this in mind, baseball can also teach us a new perspective about stewardship. Think about the game itself.

Baseball is a team game with many smaller units at play. Without all those smaller units working together and achieving their tasks, the team will lose.

Romans 12 puts our stewardship of the Gospel in a similar setting. The church is certainly described as a team, if you will.

Verse 3: *“For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”* This is where the Body of Christ is really seen as a team. No one member of the baseball team can win the game by themselves. In the same way, no one part of the Body of Christ can accomplish stewardship of the Gospel alone. The pastor cannot. The congregational chair cannot. The lead soprano in the choir cannot. But each of these individuals have been added to the local congregation to be built into a team that can win the victory with Jesus.

Verses 4–5: *“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”* In baseball, the pitcher pitches. The catcher catches. The hitter hits. When a pitcher attempts to hit, the result is usually not very pretty. Catchers often do not excel at running the bases. The hitter usually does not do well when they are sent to the mound to pitch. Every member of the Body of Christ has a unique set of abilities and functions. Not everyone preaches. Not everyone leads. Not everyone sings well. Yet when the congregation assembles together as a team, it can succeed in ways unattainable by the individual.

Verses 6–8: *“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one*

*who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.*” Each member of the team has a role to play. Abilities and opportunities are entrusted to the individual members of the Body of Christ to be used for the ultimate purpose of stewarding the Gospel for the glory of God and the benefit of the neighbor. The one preaching is no more or less important than the others. The one serving or the one teaching, the leader or the merciful one — all are equally important in the faithful stewardship of all that the Lord has entrusted to the Body of Christ. All this stewardship is for the sake of the other!

A baseball team can have five All-Star pitchers but cannot win if the hitters do not hit. The best lineup in the league will struggle if the pitchers cannot get anyone on the other team out. Pitchers need the defense behind them to play well. Coaches need to lead well. When they all work together, you have a winning baseball team. When the Body of Christ has all its members faithfully stewarding the unique individual talents that have been entrusted to them, the victory goes to Jesus! This is the goal of faithful stewardship! It is all about Jesus!

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## **WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR CHURCH OFFICE**

March & April has been a busy month — with Ash Wednesday, Lent, Palm/Confirmation Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, two Easter Sunday services, our Wednesday afternoon service, regular Sunday worship and including two funerals coming up. Just keeping all of that straight was a task in itself! In total, we printed 2,646 bulletins — thank the Lord for our folding machine!

Looking ahead, May should be a breeze (famous last words!) — no big office projects on the calendar... at least not yet!

**Immanuel:** It’s time to renew **The Lutheran Witness** subscription for 2025. The cost is **\$24.97 per year** (\$2.08 per issue).

If you would like to receive the issues this year, please:

- ✓ Make your **check payable to Immanuel**
- ✓ Include your **name and address**
- ✓ Place it in an envelope labeled “**Lutheran Witness**” % of **Mona Geier**
- ✓ Drop it off at the **church office** or in the collection plate. **Deadline: May 30<sup>th</sup>**

Thank you!

That’s it for now. Until next time!

Blessings,

**Mona Geier**

Immanuel Office Manager

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# Special Happening at Immanuel

Worship Service is on every Sunday at 9:00am.

Holy Communion is on the 1<sup>st</sup> and Last Sunday of the Month.

## May

May 13<sup>th</sup> | 6:30 pm-Deacon's Meeting

May 21<sup>st</sup> | 1:30 pm- Afternoon Worship Service  
with Holy Communion

## June

June 1<sup>st</sup> | 9:00 am – Sunday Worship/Holy Communion/Honoring or  
Graduates

June 10<sup>th</sup> | 6:30 pm Deacon's Meeting

June 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> | Pastor and Al Buckentin at Conventions

June 18<sup>th</sup> | 1:30 pm- Afternoon Worship Service with Holy Communion

June 21<sup>st</sup> | Mathwig and Norem Wedding



## Stay Updated!

*Always check the website for the most current events and announcements.*

## A Message of Hope heard on The Lutheran Hour

A Message of Hope on The Lutheran Hour

Hear the Good News of the Gospel on the Lutheran Hour each Sunday at 9:00 am on KDUZ  
1260 AM Radio. During the month of May, you will hear the following program topics on the 9:00 am broadcast:

**May 4** & quote; An Old Place, A New Beginning & quote; with Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola. Gods the Searcher Who will not stop looking for us. In our lonely hiding place, He says, & quote; I knew I would find you here. & quote; (John 21:1-19)

**May 11** & quote; How to Be Happy & quote; with Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Lasting happiness is found in surrender, rather than control. (John 15:11)

**May 18** & quote; Truth That Takes Us In & quote; with Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Jesus is the Truth Who will take you in to live like He lives, planted in God His Father's love. (John 15:9)

**May 25** & quote; What's Your Story? & quote; with Guest Speaker: Rev. Gregory Manning. Our difficulties often become the backdrop against which God reveals His faithfulness. Each challenge is an opportunity for Him to display His power. (John 9:1-11)  
Our Mission

Help us spread the Gospel message in the KDUZ Radio listening area. The KDUZ Radio

Lutheran Hour broadcast is a congregational outreach ministry supporting 38 congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in the KDUZ listening area by inviting listeners (at the end of each broadcast) to attend a “Church of the Lutheran Hour” in their area. It is independently funded by generous Christians, church groups and congregations who want to spread the pure and powerful message of the Savior’s love in their communities.

#### 2025 Sponsor Campaign Report

As of April 20, the 2025 Sponsor Campaign has received \$5,154.00 and passed our goal of raising \$4,888 for the 52 broadcasts in 2025. We thank God for blessing this broadcast with faithful supporters and listeners. Thank you for your support!

Additional funds received this year will be saved in a rainy-day fund and will also be used for expenses to host the “Our Voice for Christ Weekend” on Sep 27-28 at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Glencoe. Rev. German Novelli, Speaker for the Spanish Lutheran Hour “Para el Camino”, will be our guest presenter and speaker.

You are Invited to become a KDUZ Lutheran Hour Broadcast Supporter. Any gift amount helps. Send your gift (payable to KDUZ Lutheran Hour Broadcast) to: KDUZ Lutheran Hour Broadcast Supporters, % First Lutheran Church, 925 13 th Street East, Glencoe, MN 55336. Questions? Contact / text Rich at 320-779-0123, or email richstreufert@embarqmail.com . Thank you!

***And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.  
Galatians 6:9 ESV***

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# **Board of Education**

## **Sunday School Year in Review**

We had another successful year of Sunday School, meeting every Sunday and learning through our *Life of Jesus* Dig In curriculum. Highlights from the year include two well-supported bake sales, a joyful Christmas Eve program that our kids worked hard to prepare, and multiple opportunities to sing during worship services. We wrapped up the year with a fun-filled party featuring snacks, Bible Bingo, and prizes!

Stay tuned for upcoming dates and details about this summer’s Vacation Bible School—including the theme announcement!

***Board of Education: Anna Draeger, Britt Buxcel, Brittany Glaeser, and Jackie Schueler***

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# Noah's Ark Preschool

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700 Division St. P.O. Box 147 Brownton, MN 55312 320-328-5325

## Preschool Highlights

### Noah's Ark Big Ticket Raffle — May 14th

The drawing for the Big-Ticket Raffle will take place on May 14th. Winners will be announced during the Preschool's Spring Program, which begins at 7:00 p.m. (You do not need to be present to win.) **Thank you for supporting Noah's Ark Preschool!**

### Great News!

Noah's Ark Preschool recently applied for a grant from McLeod Co-op Power and their patrons — and we received \$1,000! The funds will be used to purchase additional items for our multisensory letter and number activity tables.

**A big thank you to McLeod Co-op Power and their patrons for supporting our preschool!**

### Preschool Update

Things are going great here at Noah's Ark Preschool as we head into the final weeks of the school year!

**Thank you all for the wonderful support you've given us throughout the year — we truly appreciate it!**

Vicki Herrmann  
Noah's Ark Preschool



Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church  
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
Pastor: Rev. R. Allan Reed  
700 Division St., P. O. Box 147  
Brownton, MN 55312-0147

## May, June, & July Issue

**A Monthly Newsletter of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church**

700 Division St. P.O. Box 147, Brownton, MN 55312-0147

[www.immanuel Lutheran brownton.org](http://www.immanuel Lutheran brownton.org)

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### **Mission Statement of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Brownton**

*"Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church is a fellowship of believers in Jesus Christ seeking to nurture individuals and families in their Christian faith, teaching them a caring ministry to each other, our community, and the world by sharing the message of Jesus through word and deed."*