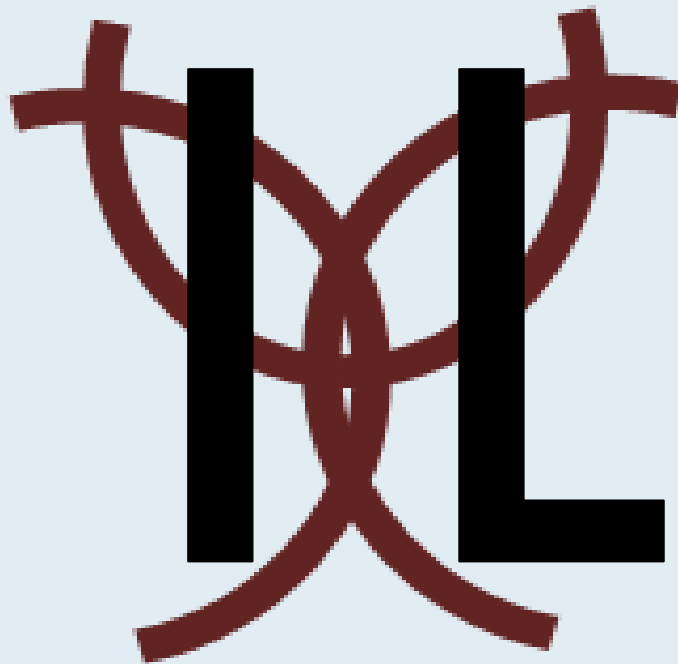


IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY NEWSLETTER 2023



**1002 Powell Avenue
Erie PA 16505**

814-833-4062

“WE WALK BY FAITH”



~ In this issue ~

- ◆ From the Pastor's Desk—Grace and Peace
- ◆ Affirmation of Baptism
- ◆ Thank You For Your Generosity
- ◆ Property Committee Happenings-New LED Lighting
- ◆ Fellowship, Outreach & Growth-Quarters Allocated-Election Day Book & Bake Sale
- ◆ Worship & Music– Music Sunday, May 21st
- ◆ Christian Education—Sharing the Good News
- ◆ Worship Leaders for May
- ◆ Prayer List
- ◆ Celebrations of Life & Love
- ◆ Pentecost Geranium Form
- ◆ Older American's Month
- ◆ Green Corner–Being Green
- ◆ May Calendar & Events
- ◆ Church Council & Staff



Grace & Peace From the Pastor's Desk

Psalm 139:13-15

For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Ephesians 1:4

just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be
holy and blameless before him in love.

1 Corinthians 6:17

But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

I'm sure you've heard the comment that you can't judge a book by its cover, but it has been proven that people do judge other people by first impressions. Do you know where the people get their information from? According to Leslie Zebrowitz, PhD, at Brandeis University people determine their first impression of you from your face.

Tests have shown that our brain reacts positively to certain faces. People find the most favorable traces of a face to be: having large eyes, short chins, round faces and large foreheads, in other words, having a babyface; how familiar a face looks to you; and, believe it or not, how healthy a person perceives your face to be will determine how they judge whether or not you are "likeable, intelligent, and capable" [Zebrowitz, L. A. (2017). First Impressions From Faces. Current Directions in Psychological Science, 26(3), 237-242. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0963721416683996>].

All our lives we will meet people who initially judge us on our outward looks, and for some of us we can find ourselves in a very difficult situation. Our face shape is determined at 4 weeks after conception, and we cannot control what our genes determine we will look like unless we go through plastic surgery.

Thank goodness that isn't how God judges us! The psalmist David tells us that God created us and that we were "fearfully and wonderfully made". Have you ever looked at a newborn baby? Isn't there a little bit of awe each time you see them? God made each of us to be exactly who we are.

If our appearance seems to be against us we can always remember that God created us in the image of God. When we become a follower of Christ we become one spirit with him. God sees us from the inside out. We don't have to worry that we will be misunderstood. When we become a follower of Jesus that is who God sees, a follower of Jesus, and he sees us with love.

So in the vast scope of things it makes no difference how the world perceives our outward appearance, God has us, God knows who we are on the inside, and that is what truly matters.

I'll be out of the office for 6 weeks from May 16-the end of June. I won't be available for the first few weeks, but if you need to speak with me in June feel free to phone me on my cell phone 724-557-2386.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Karen

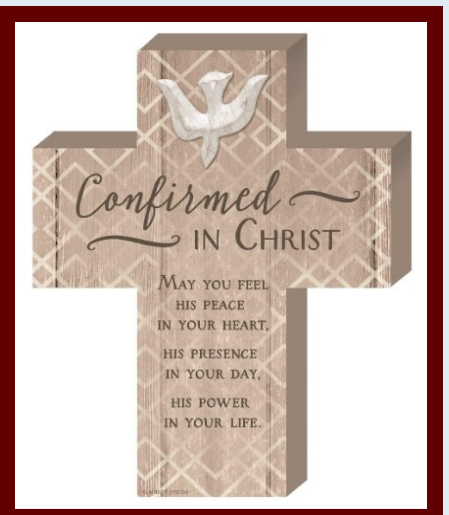
AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM



Brody Bonsell, Nathan Paternosh and Trista Paternosh were confirmed in Christ by Pastor Karen Kostur on Sunday, April 16th.

The three students have been studying with Pastor Karen and recently completed their requirements for confirmation. The Fellowship, Outreach and Growth Committee provided a confirmation tea after the service.

Congratulations to our new members, Brody, Nathan and Trista as you continue your journey of faith!



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Dear Immanuel Congregation,

Thank you so much for supporting my Confirmation! Also, thank you for spending the time to share some cake and for the beautiful crucifix!

Sincerely,
Brady Benschell

A big thank you to all for helping me celebrate my retirement but thank you as well for the team effort over these last seven years to support & encourage the ministry efforts at Immanuel. You all remain in my prayers!

Thank you!
Lori



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
643 West 17th Street + Phone: (814) 452-3518
Erie, PA 16502-1698 holytrinityerie@yahoo.com
Mr. Roland D. King, Pastoral Assistant
The Rev. Dr. Gary L. Harbaugh, Pastor Emeritus

April 5, 2023

Immanuel Lutheran Church
1002 Powell Ave.
Erie, PA 16502-1698

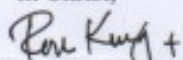
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Thank you so very much for your financial donation to Holy Trinity ministries. The \$420.00 from your "Souper Bowl of Caring" donation has been placed into our Food Ministries Program Fund. The Pasta/Soup Kitchen reopened the first week of September and has been slowly building in attendance. Beginning the first week of February we added a Thursday lunch using the food stuffs that are gathered from the Country Fairs and Giant Eagle on Thursdays. So that we now provide a dinner on Tuesday and a lunch Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, along with our free Clothes Closet on Tuesday and Saturday.

Currently we are serving people about 120 meals each week along with distributing approximately 20 food bags on Tuesday evenings. Holy Trinity members and the many volunteers from our ecumenical partners, offer loving hearts and helping hands, but only with the support of congregations such as Immanuel, through good wishes, prayers and financial support is it possible to fulfill God's mission with our neighbors in need.

Thank you again, and God bless.

In Christ,


Mr. Ron King
Pastoral Assistant

HAPPENINGS FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Brighter Tomorrows!

Maybe you've recently noticed a brighter appearance to our Educational wing hallway, main office, restrooms, kitchenette and lounge. That's because the Property Committee has made the decision to convert our older fluorescent light fixtures to LED. LED light fixtures are a low-cost and energy efficient lighting. Not only is there a better quality of lighting but a much longer life span. The committee has decided to concentrate first on key areas of usage.

A big THANK YOU to Rick Kuntz and Bill & Debbie Redditt for heading up this project and getting it started. If you are willing to lend a hand, please contact Rick or Bill...there are lots more lights to convert!



NEW VIDEO & SECURITY CAMERA



You may have noticed a new doorbell at the entrance to the educational wing door. To enhance the safety and security of our staff when they are working alone, they can now choose to keep the door locked during working hours, if needed. If you need access to the building when staff is available, simply push the round button at the bottom of the doorbell and wait for the staff to respond. Pictured is the view from the security camera.



Fellowship, Outreach & Growth



QUARTER FUNDS ALLOCATED

The Church Council approved to allocate the Quarter Sunday offerings from 2022, totaling \$220, to be used to purchase food for The Little Food Pantry. Thank you to Debbie Madurski for purchasing the food at Sam's Club and Aldi's and storing the items in the church office. The items will be distributed as needed.



LITTLE FREE PANTRY AT IMMANUEL

**IF IN NEED –
TAKE SOMETHING**

**IF YOU CAN SHARE -
LEAVE SOMETHING**

Feel free to bring items to church office & we will make sure they get in the pantry for you.



**COFFEE HOUR
1ST SUNDAY OF
EVERY MONTH.**

Stop by the lounge after church service.
The Eckman's will be hosting.

**SOUP-OFF
2023**

COOKBOOKS

Are available in the Lounge





CALLING ALL BAKERS Book & Bake Sale Fundraiser!



FELLOWSHIP OUTREACH & GROWTH
INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR
**ELECTION DAY
BOOK & BAKE SALE**

**Tuesday, MAY 16, 2023
7 AM – 7 PM**

Bake Goods needed!

**COOKIES, CUPCAKES, CAKES, PIES,
MUFFINS, CANDY, SNACKS, and More!**

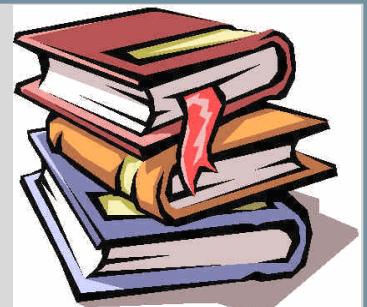
Drop off your bake goods Monday May 15th between 8 am – Noon
Please package and pre-price bake goods

Sign up on the bulletin board to work a shift.

WE NEED YOUR GENTLY USED BOOKS!

You still have time to Spring clean!

Bring in your unwanted books,
CD's and DVDs.



Worship & Music – In the news...



“GIVE ME THAT OLD-TIME RELIGION”

It's good enough for me...

OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

invites you to

MUSIC SUNDAY

MAY 21, 2023

9:30 AM

Listen and enjoy the beautiful, sacred prelude, hymns, anthems and organ music performed by Bryan Timm and Immanuel's Adult Choir.

LET US KNOW YOUR FAVORITE HYMNS!

It's time to share your suggestions for Summertime hymn singing... sign up on the bulletin board, email, drop-off or call your suggestions to the church office so we can have a nice list of hymns to choose from when our Worship & Music Committee meets. We'd love to have suggestions from the ELW "red" hymnal and from the "With One Voice" hymnal. We will also be using the "With One Voice" hymnal in July and August.



Please join us for worship each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. either indoors, or in our drive-in services.

Sunday School K-Adult at 10:30 a.m.

You can find Pastor Karen's latest sermons in print on our webpage here

<http://www.ilc-erie.org/worship-.html>

and the video is posted to our [Facebook page](#)

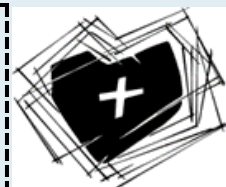
**CHOIR PRACTICE
THURSDAY NIGHTS
7:15 PM
Ending May 18th**

Christian Education ~Sharing the Good News~

All are welcome.

We are a church that belongs to Christ.
There is a place for you here.

Pastor Karen or an alternate will once again be offering
Adult Sunday School at 10:30
~~~~~  
Join us for a lively discussion.



Registration for Summer  
Camp 2023 has begun.

Please visit

**[www.lutherlyn.com](http://www.lutherlyn.com)**  
for dates, prices, details,  
and registration!

First time campers get \$100 off with  
coupon code "FIRST". Visit  
[lutherlyn.com/first](http://lutherlyn.com/first) for details.

For additional information, contact the camp  
office at 724-865-2161 or  
[registrar@lutherlyn.com](mailto:registrar@lutherlyn.com).



We are ready, willing, and able to  
lead your young children into the  
life of blessings & hope shared in  
Sunday School.

We feel this provides a firm founda-  
tion for the years ahead, both  
smooth-sailing & those that are  
challenging.

Our small classes are ideal for shar-  
ing, caring, and formative discus-  
sion. Sunday school for K-Adult  
starts after our 9:30 am worship  
- approx. 10:30 am.

Contact the church office for more  
information.

P: 814-833-4062



**MAY 2023 Worship Calendar for Immanuel Lutheran, Erie PA**

| Date                                   | Presider     | Assistant      | Lector        |
|----------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| 5/7/23<br>9:30 AM                      | Kostur       | Bob            | Cindy Eckman  |
| 5/14/23<br>9:30 AM<br>MOTHER'S DAY     | Kostur       | Debbie Redditt | Bob Redditt   |
| 5/21/23<br>9:30 AM                     | Music Sunday | Cindy Geddes   | Cindy Geddes  |
| 5/28/23<br>9:30 AM<br>MEMORIAL WEEKEND | Jen Kuntz    | Stan Holsopple | Barb Coughlin |



**Altar Guild:** Penny Maloney, Sue Pfeiffer, Sally Leubin  
**Counters:** Cindy Geddes & Barb Coughlin  
**Ushers:** Ushers as assigned by B. Dorler

If you are unable to fulfill your commitment – please find an alternate & notify the church office.

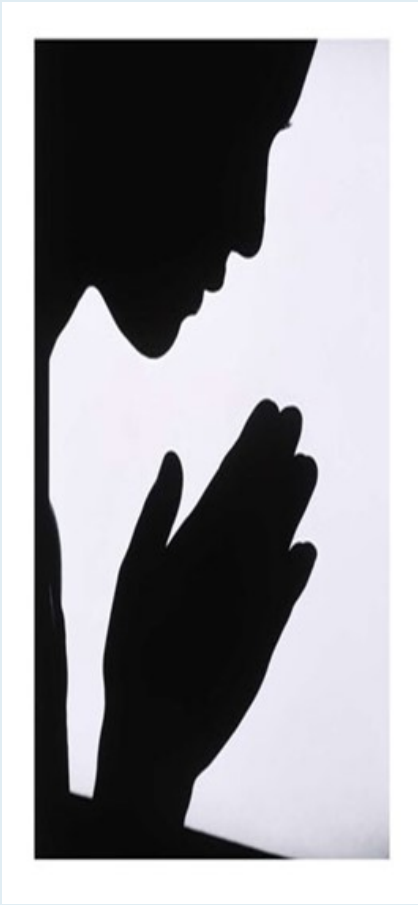


**Lectors:**

Remember to adjust microphone towards you & speak into it for all to hear.

**We continue to offer our services indoor or via drive-in service so if you can't be with us in person in the church, join us in our parking lots or in the immediate vicinity of the church and tune to 93.7 on your FM dial each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. You can also listen via speaker in our Nursery or Kindergarten Rooms.**





***If you are sick or in the hospital, please notify the church office.***

***If you would like home communion or a copy of our newsletter, please contact the office.***



*Please remember the members of Immanuel who are "shut in," or having some health challenges and cannot make it to service, you may want to offer them a ride, give them a friendly call, send them a card.*

*The current Shut-In Mailing List is available in the office.*

**KEEP IN PRAYER:**

The Botwright family  
Ian Byrne  
Connie Cooper  
Mary Hauser's sister - Alice Tillotson  
Jim & Lorraine Hornaman  
Lana Huhn - Denise Arnold's Sister-in-law  
Kyle Husted  
Carol & Gordon Ketchel  
Janet Gray – Pastor Karen's sister  
Leslie  
Patrick Lewis–friend of Sandy Kocur,  
Sandy's cousin - Scott Farr and Sandy's close friend's son-in-law-John  
Rick Kuntz  
Bishop Michael Lozano  
Diane McGranor  
Zach Middaugh  
Kathy – friend of Lori Nemenz  
Carole Rickrode  
Bob & Sharon Roemer  
All of our members & friends who are grieving;  
Who are in nursing homes;  
Who are serving on the "front line" during the COVID pandemic  
All who are ill at home

**We pray for those in the military:**

Scott Case– Navy, (C. Geddes nephew)  
Christopher Peterson – Navy (Grandson of the late Agnes & Chuck Peterson – serving stateside now per an update from Ann Neimann).

**Member Update:** Sharon Roemer is now a resident of Fairview Manor.  
Mailing address: 900 Manchester Road, Fairview, PA 16415  
Your prayers & cards are appreciated.

# Celebrations of Life and Love

## ALTAR FLOWERS AND SANCTUARY CANDLE SIGN-UP

WE ARE ONCE AGAIN POSTING OUR ALTAR FLOWER AND SANCTUARY CANDLE SIGN-UP SHEETS IF YOU WOULD CARE TO SPONSOR EITHER OR BOTH IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY OF SOMEONE -- IT WILL BE NOTED IN OUR WORSHIP BULLETIN.

PLEASE NOTE THAT CATHY'S FLOWER SHOPPE, WHO HAS BEEN PROVIDING THE FLOWERS FOR US FOR MANY YEARS HAS HAD TO INCREASE PRICES SO FLOWERS WILL BE \$36/WK - SANCTUARY CANDLE REMAINS AT \$5/WK. WHEN PAYMENT IS MADE, PLEASE INCLUDE THIS NEW AMOUNT IN YOUR PAYMENT STARTING IN JUNE.

YOU ARE ALSO WELCOME TO BRING IN YOUR OWN PLANTS/ FLOWERS FROM YOUR GARDEN, ETC.



## May Birthdays

2 Hannah Mays  
4 Lorraine Hornaman/Ray Kreger  
9 Diane Komisarski  
11 Diane McGranor  
20 Colleen Hetrick Montgomery/  
Dennis Rohan  
21 Larry Nemenz/Karen Sturgeon  
22 Rick Kuntz  
28 Carol Rickrode  
29 Jessica Guthrie



Everyone enjoys receiving a card!



**May Anniversaries  
Congratulations!**  
to those celebrating their  
Anniversary

4 Mike & Kim Lee  
18 Cindy & Larry Geddes  
19 Debbie & Ron Madurski  
29 Bob & Sharon Roemer

Did I forget you? Please e-mail me or call me with your birthdays, anniversaries or a special day you would like us to share.

## Ongoing Appeals **Capital Campaign - Boiler:**

Funds for the boiler campaign are currently  
**\$25,313.68**  
toward our goal of \$58,803.

## **Pennies for Poverty**

collection is an ongoing effort in support of the Women of the ELCA – donations welcome in the Donation Center canister.



## GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST

In celebration of Pentecost, May 28, 2023 you are given the opportunity to order red geraniums in memory/honor of loved ones. These will be on the altar on Pentecost Sunday and then planted outside the church.

Please fill out the form below and return it, with payment to the church office by **May 14, 2023.**

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ plants at \$7.00 each.

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of / or In memory of :

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**Help will be needed for planting - if you are willing to help with this task please contact the church office.**



Established in 1963, Older Americans Month (OAM) is celebrated every May. Led by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), OAM is a time for us to acknowledge the contributions and achievements of older Americans, highlight important trends, and strengthen our commitment to honoring our older citizens.

This year's theme, *Aging Unbound*, offers an opportunity to explore a wide range of aging experiences and to promote the importance of enjoying independence and fulfillment by paving our own paths as we age.

This May, join us as we recognize the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of OAM and challenge the narrative on aging. Here are some ways we can all participate in *Aging Unbound*:

Embrace the opportunity to change. Find a new passion, go on an adventure, and push boundaries by not letting age define your limits. Invite creativity and purpose into your life by trying new activities in your community to bring in more growth, joy, and energy.

Explore the rewards of growing older. With age comes knowledge, which provides insight and confidence to understand and experience the world more deeply. Continue to grow that knowledge through reading, listening, classes, and creative activities.

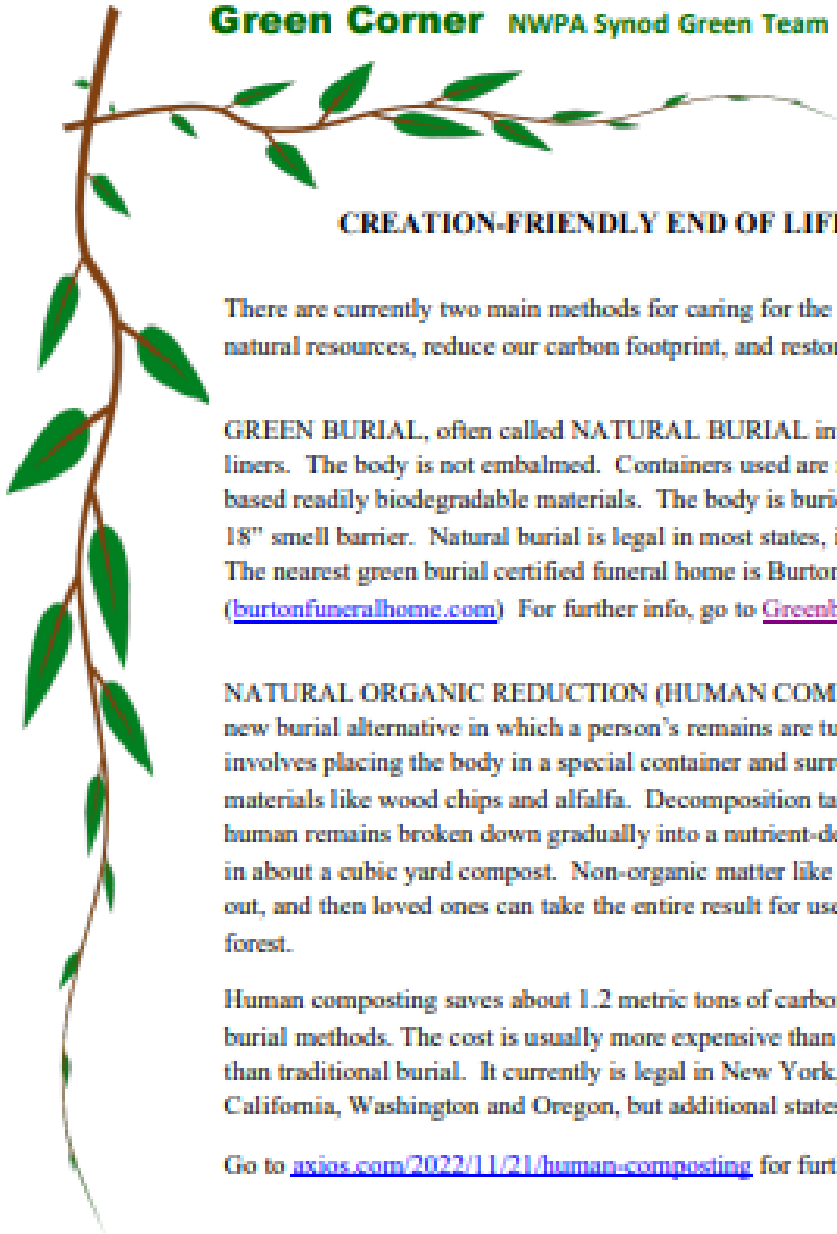
Stay engaged in your community. Everyone benefits when everyone is connected and involved. Stay active by volunteering, working, mentoring, participating in church, and taking part in activities in the community.

Form relationships. As an essential ingredient of well-being, relationships can enhance your quality of life by introducing new ideas and unique perspectives. Invest time with people to discover deeper connections with family, friends, and community members.

For more information, visit the [official OAM website](#), follow ACL on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), and join the conversation using #OlderAmericansMonth.

# BEING GREEN...Even When Dying

## Green Corner NWPA Synod Green Team



### CREATION-FRIENDLY END OF LIFE INTERMENT

There are currently two main methods for caring for the dead which use renewable natural resources, reduce our carbon footprint, and restore and preserve habitat.

**GREEN BURIAL**, often called **NATURAL BURIAL** involves no vaults or grave liners. The body is not embalmed. Containers used are made of natural or plant-based readily biodegradable materials. The body is buried at 3.5'-4' deep, with an 18" smell barrier. Natural burial is legal in most states, including PA, NY and OH. The nearest green burial certified funeral home is Burton Funeral Home in Erie ([burtonfuneralhome.com](http://burtonfuneralhome.com)) For further info, go to [Greenburialcouncil.org](http://Greenburialcouncil.org)

**NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION (HUMAN COMPOSTING)** is a relatively new burial alternative in which a person's remains are turned into usable soil. This involves placing the body in a special container and surrounded with natural materials like wood chips and alfalfa. Decomposition takes about a month, with the human remains broken down gradually into a nutrient-dense soil mixture, resulting in about a cubic yard compost. Non-organic matter like dental implants are sorted out, and then loved ones can take the entire result for use in a backyard garden or forest.

Human composting saves about 1.2 metric tons of carbon compared to traditional burial methods. The cost is usually more expensive than direct cremation but cheaper than traditional burial. It currently is legal in New York, Colorado, Vermont, California, Washington and Oregon, but additional states are considering it.

Go to [axis.com/2022/11/21/human-composting](https://axis.com/2022/11/21/human-composting) for further information.

Search for [NWPA Synod Green Team](#) on Facebook and also at this link:

<https://www.northwesternpasynodelca.org/nwpa-green-team.html>

All past issues of the "Green Corner" can be found at the following link:

<https://www.northwesternpasynodelca.org/the-green-corner.html>





# MAY

## 2023



| Sunday                                                                                                 | Monday                                                                 | Tuesday                                                                          | Wednesday                             | Thursday                                           | Friday           | Saturday |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------|
|                                                                                                        | 1<br>Quilters 9:30 am<br>Flagship City Chorus 7 pm                     | 2<br>AA Mtg. 7:30 pm                                                             | 3<br>Tops 9:00 am<br>AA mtg. 7:30 pm  | 4<br>Choir 7:15 pm                                 | 5<br>AA 7:30 pm  | 6        |
| 7<br>9:30 am Worship<br>10:30 Coffee hour<br>10:30am Sunday School<br><br>Quarter Sunday               | 8<br>Quilters 9:30 am<br>Flagship City Chorus 7 pm<br>Flute Choir 7pm  | 9<br>AA Mtg. 7:30 pm                                                             | 10<br>Tops 9:00 am<br>AA Mtg. 7:30 pm | 11<br>Choir 7:15 pm                                | 12<br>AA 7:30 pm | 13       |
| 14 <b>Mother's Day</b><br>9:30 am Worship<br>10:30am Sunday School<br>Council Meeting<br>After service | 15<br>Quilters 9:30 am<br>Flagship City Chorus 7 pm<br>Flute Choir 7pm | 16 <b>Election Day</b><br><b>Book &amp; Bake sale 7am—7pm</b><br>AA Mtg. 7:30 pm | 17<br>Tops 9:00 am<br>AA Mtg. 7:30 pm | 18<br>Choir 7:15 pm<br>Last practice—summer break! | 19<br>AA 7:30 pm | 20       |
| 21<br><b>MUSIC SUNDAY</b><br>9:30 am Worship<br>10:30 am Sunday School-Last Day till September         | 22<br>Quilters 9:30 am<br>Flagship City Chorus 7 pm<br>Flute Choir 7pm | 23<br>AA Mtg. 7:30 pm<br>Property Meeting 7:00 pm                                | 24<br>Tops 9:00 am<br>AA Mtg. 7:30 pm | 25                                                 | 26<br>AA 7:30 pm | 27       |
| <b>28 Pentecost</b><br>9:30 am Worship                                                                 | 29<br>Quilters 9:30 am<br>Flagship City Chorus 7 pm<br>Flute Choir 7pm | 30<br>AA Mtg. 7:30 pm                                                            | 31<br>Tops 9:00 am<br>AA Mtg. 7:30 pm |                                                    |                  |          |



**Immanuel**  
Church Office  
814-833-4062  
Hours: Mon-Thurs.  
8:00am-12:00pm  
**Welcome** [immluthch@verizon.net](mailto:immluthch@verizon.net)

### Staff

Pastor Karen Kostur 814-833-4062  
or Emergency #: 724-557-2386  
Pastor's Office Hours – Tues &  
Thurs.9:30am-2:00pm

Church Caretaker: Wally Coughlin  
Organist/Music Director: Bryan Timm  
Admin. Ofc.: Delani Kinzig

### Sunday School

Coord: Anita Byrne & Janice Kreger  
Teachers: Anita Byrne & Pastor  
Kostur

### Congregation & Church Council Officers

Pres:Debbie Redditt 814-449-1855  
VP:Bob Dorler 814-833-2719  
Sec.:D. Madurski 814-774-3590  
Fin. Sec.:C.Geddes 814-734-1286  
Treasurer: Bill Redditt

### Additional Council Members

Cindy Eckman, George Pfeiffer,  
Sally Leubin, Cindy Geddes, Mary  
Hauser



## Church Council Committees

*We invite all members of Immanuel to join any of these committees and/  
or offer your gifts where you can – many hands make light work!!  
Council usually meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month*

### Christian Education

Council liaison: Mary Hauser  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERED EVERY SUNDAY 10:30 A.M.**

### Communications

Council liaison: D.Redditt Committee Chair: vacant

Check out our website and "FRIEND" us on [Facebook](#)  
Did you miss church? Need to keep updated and want easy access to the  
church calendar, newsletter or annual report?  
Check out our website <http://www.ilc-erie.org/>

**WATCH FOR US ON FACEBOOK, GOERIE.COM, ERIE  
NEWS NOW AND IN PRINT IN THE ERIE TIMES  
NEWS**

### Fellowship, Outreach & Growth

Council liaisons: Sally Leubin & Cindy Eckman  
**COFFEE HOUR 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF THE MONTH**  
**ONGOING COLLECTION FOR LITTLE FREE PANTRY**  
**SOUP COOK BOOKET AVAILABLE**

### Finance

Council liaison: George Pfeiffer  
**ANNUAL AUDIT**

### Property

Council liaison: Bob Dorler Committee Chair: vacant  
**FACILITY MAINTENANCE –OUTSIDE OUTLETS IN-  
OPERABLE, RENTAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE –  
BATHROOM UPDATE POWELL AVE.**  
**ONGOING BOILER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

### Stewardship

Council liaison: Cindy Geddes

### Social Ministry Committee

Council liaison: Debbie Madurski – Committee chair: Debbie Madurski

### Worship & Music

Council liaison: Debbie Redditt Chair: Sue Pfeiffer  
**W&M COMMITTEE MTG: 5/10 6:30 PM**  
**DRIVE-IN AND INDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES 9:30 A.M.**