

Immanuel Lutheran Church



1002 Powell Avenue
Erie PA 16505



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Any information, photos
or other submissions for
the September Newsletter
must be received by
September 22nd.



Grace & Peace : From the Pastor's Desk

Colossians 3:2: "Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth,"

My mind is so filled with what is going on that I can't decide whether to write about forgiveness or apathy. For a few days I was considering writing about apathy, why people don't seem to care enough to act in ways that would be, in my opinion, good for the church. Then I happened upon an article in a secular magazine that spoke of forgiveness and how, with our medical advances, it has been proven that what Jesus taught about forgiveness is the key to ending

Now I'm considering that perhaps apathy and forgiveness may be related. Can it be that when something happens continually, is accepted as the norm, allowed to continue, that it can dull our senses, or even worse, it can block our forgiveness without our even realizing it?

First, let me expand on the article I mentioned about forgiveness. It was written by James Kimmel, Jr., who is on the staff of Yale University in the psychiatry department (Kimmel, J. Jr. (2025). *The Science of Revenge: Understanding the World's Deadliest Addiction—and How to Overcome It*. *Slate*. AppleNews). Brain imaging studies show that our brain reacts to injustice the way that it reacts to drugs; it becomes addictive. In general, addiction is a response to pain. Revenge, according to Kimmel, is our brain seeking justice which induces pleasure, but it is never enough, the initial pain returns. However, neuroscientists have discovered that when you forgive you deactivate the brain's pain network, and self-control is re-established. This does not mean that the offender is off the hook for their injustice, it means that violence is avoided as retribution or retaliation. The offender, (illustrated as a person who runs a dog-fighting ring in the article), is reported to the police, allowing proper authorities to deal with the culprit.

But what happens when forgiveness is continually given but no justice is seen or sought? Does the repeated infraction become trivial? And what happens when we are bombarded with triviality? Triviality numbs us to what is meaningful. And being numb to what is meaningful leads to apathy. So, forgiveness and apathy can be connected. Which leads to the question: How do we forgive without becoming apathetic?

I believe the way to true forgiveness is not through our own thoughts or actions. We forgive because we have been forgiven. Not forgiven by another person but forgiven through the actions of God through Jesus. And it is our faith in Jesus that keeps us from becoming apathetic. When we are faced with something painful one of the coping mechanisms is to retreat, to become apathetic. Apathy is a choice. To reverse that choice the first thing necessary is to rely on God instead of yourself. Then to purposefully put yourself into community, in other words, surrounding yourself with those who believe in God. And even though it may be the last thing you want to do, it is the most effective: help someone else. There is something powerful about stepping outside of yourself to help another person. Ubuntu... walking beside another and working alongside another. It isn't doing what the other person is meant to do, it is standing beside and helping the other person accomplish what is needed.

When we choose to walk beside one another in faith, actively seeking to do God's will, we discover that God will prevail. Perhaps not in our time frame, but in God's time. Galatians 6:9 tells us to persevere "So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up." Apathy is a form of giving up, and you, with the power given to you from Jesus, have the ability to overcome apathy. Forgiveness without apathy is possible. Let's do this together!

On another note: Because I am part-time and tend to focus on what is right in front of me, I tend to overlook some very important needs. I am asking you to please help me with this by getting in touch with me and keeping me in the loop. I'm in the office Tuesday afternoons from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. However I'm always available to you by my cell phone. 724-557-2386, please leave a message if I don't answer. We can either talk on the phone or arrange a time to get together and talk in person if you would like.



WORSHIP & MUSIC

***Sunday
Worship 9:30
AM***



**The Choir is always
in need of new
voices. If you are
interested in
sharing your
angelic voice,
please join us!**

*The first Sunday of the month
following worship.*

Coffee Hour

Make some time after
worship the first Sunday of
each month to stop in the
lounge to have a cup of
coffee and share in some
conversation with your
Immanuel Family.

We hope to see you there!

If you have some
spare quarters, please
bring them to church
with you the first
Sunday of the month
for "Quarter Sunday".



ERIE GIVES 2025
AUGUST 12TH

Ways to Give!

Online:

1



1. Visit ErieGives.org on August 12th starting at midnight!
2. Credit cards accepted: American Express, Discover, Mastercard, or Visa
3. Minimum donation = \$25
4. PLEASE NOTE: You will only be able to donate to 10 nonprofits at a time if you are giving online. You will need to complete multiple transactions.

By Phone:

2



1. Call The Erie Community Foundation at 814.454.0843 between 8 a.m.–8 p.m. on August 12th
2. Minimum donation = \$25
3. PLEASE NOTE: You can only donate to 10 nonprofits at a time if you are giving by phone. Our staff will need to complete multiple transactions.

In Person:

3



1. Bring your check & completed Check Form to The Erie Community Foundation between June 17th and August 5th
2. Write a single check payable to "The Erie Community Foundation," and we will distribute your gift(s) to your selected nonprofit(s)

By Mail:

4



1. Complete our Check Form
2. Mail your check to The Erie Community Foundation at 459 West 6th Street Erie, P.A. 16507 between June 17th and August 5th
3. Write a single check payable to "The Erie Community Foundation," and we will distribute your gift(s) to your selected nonprofit(s)

Gift of Stock or IRA:

5



1. Consult your advisor and initiate your stock transfer or IRA distribution to The Erie Community Foundation by Monday, August 11th.
2. Complete a Check Form
3. Mail check and completed Check Form to The Erie Community Foundation
4. Stock transfers or IRA distributions should match the amount on your Check Form



814.454.0843



459 West 6th Street Erie, PA 16507

ERIE GIVES CHECK CONTRIBUTION FORM

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR FAVORITE NONPROFITS ON ERIE GIVES! A **\$25 MINIMUM DONATION PER ORGANIZATION** IS REQUIRED.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM FOR CHECKS, STOCK GIFTS, OR IRA DISTRIBUTIONS. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE ERIE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND MAIL OR DELIVER TO 459 WEST 6TH STREET, ERIE, PA 16507 BY **TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025.**



First Name(s): _____

_____ Last Name(s): _____ Mailing Address: _____

_____ City: _____

Phone: _____ State (Abbreviated): _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

— To ensure a quick and accurate process, please clearly provide your email address — you will receive an emailed receipt for your donation.

Example: Jayne & John Doe | John Doe | Anonymous

Erie Gives Nonprofit(s) Name(s) from ErieGives.org	Gift Amount
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	
13.	
14.	
15.	
TOTAL	

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Received: ____ Mail ____ In-person ____ Verified ____ Entered ____ Stock ____ IRA ____



Did you know there are nine tiny homes at the Community Shelter? They are called the Kiwanis Family Village. They are in need of the following items to maintain these homes and support residents: New or gently used sheets in twin or twin XL, blankets, any type of cleaning product, clorox wipes, towels, washcloths, hygiene products, and toiletries.

We will collect items during the month of August. There will be a collection box in the hallway. If you would rather make a monetary donation, notate Community Shelter in the memo line of your check, and place it in the offering plate. The Social ministry committee thanks you for your support.

Wednesday, September 10th at 5 pm
Annual Immanuel Lutheran
Family Picnic

HEY EVERYONE!!!!

You are ALL invited to join in the annual festivities of our Family Picnic!!

The culinary experts who will be preparing your hotdogs and french fries are Dave Eckman and Stan Holsopple.

**There will be water and ice tea.
Your tableware will be provided.**

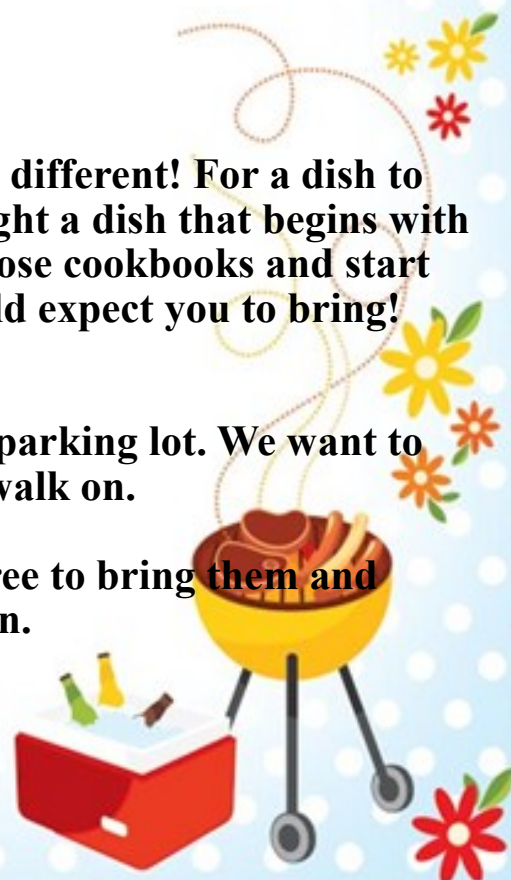
This year we are doing something a little bit different! For a dish to pass we thought it would be fun if you brought a dish that begins with the first letter of your last name. Get out those cookbooks and start looking for a creative dish that nobody would expect you to bring!

We will be meeting on the shady side of the parking lot. We want to be sure that everyone has a level service to walk on.

If you have any outdoor games please feel free to bring them and engage your friends in a friendly competition.

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

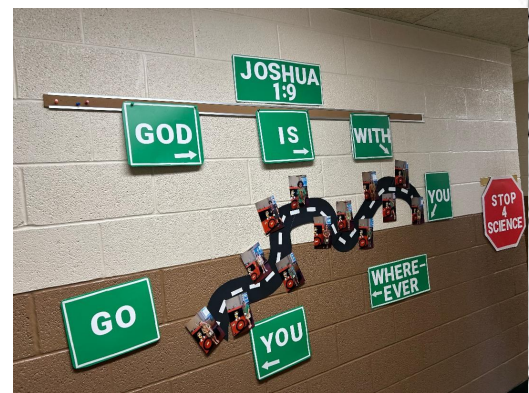
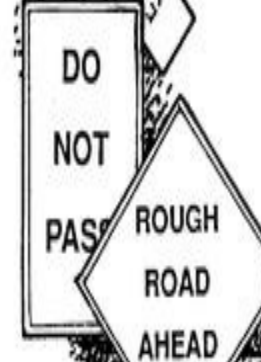
Rain date will be September 11th



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: ROAD TRIP

In mid-July, Immanuel hosted a “Road Trip” VBS during three consecutive evenings for thirteen children, ages 3 through 9 years. The program included an opening and closing which featured music videos, a bible story introduction, and an entertaining dialogue between the “Navigator” (Pastor Karen) and Scout the Dog Puppet (Joe Byrne). In small groups, the children visited learning stations that reinforced the bible story and scripture verse: Science (planned and led by Kathy Fisher and Anne Bortner from Lakewood UMC), Snacks (planned and led by Holly Middaugh and Stacy Kowalski), Story, (planned and led by Anita Byrne) Crafts (planned and led by Debbie Madursky), and Games (planned and led by Brenda Durst). Special thanks to our station leaders who donated not only their time and talents, but also the materials needed for their stations. Thank you to the seven teenagers who guided the groups of children around the church and assisted the station leaders: Ava, Addie, Alana, Abbie, Zoey, Bentley, and Gwen. Thanks also to the Durst’s daughters, Kristy Fetty and Angie Blasco. Angie donated many hours designing and creating the amazing decorations and car puppet theater. Ron Madursky delivered racing tires which really added to our car theme decor. Thanks to Ron Middaugh, Barb Coughlin, Brenda Matson, and Lori Nemenz who handled registration and assisted parents. Brenda Matson also worked on letters and advertising. Special thanks to Anita Byrne, who did everything the rest of us forgot and worked tirelessly on planning and set-up. Pastor Karen treated all of us to delicious homemade ice cream from Niagara Creamery on the final night of VBS. Our clean-up crew included Ava and Abbie Fetty, Pastor Karen, Brenda Durst, and Ron Middaugh (who did the heavy lifting!) Thank you to the Quilters for accommodating our schedule. We are so grateful to God for a successful VBS and the great kids who had a fun adventure into faith.





**Our Destination Road Trip VBS
that was held July 13-15. A
great time was had by all while
learning about Jesus.**

August Celebrations of Life & Love

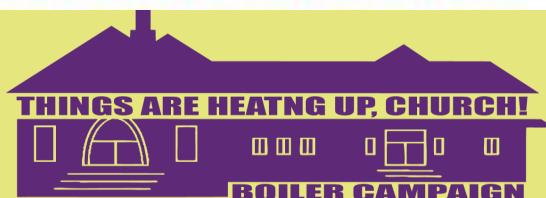


August 4	Jennifer Kuntz
5	Craig Casler
6	Kim Lee
15	Trista Paternosh
16	Janice Kreger
21	Mia Penpek
24	Wally Coughlin
29	Richard Feiler
29	Jonathan Redditt
30	Anita Byrne

August 1 Donna & Bob
Dorler

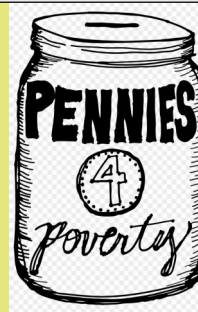
18 Hannah & David Mays

18 Bryan Timm & Michael
Patterson



Capital Campaign - Boiler:

Funds for the boiler campaign
currently show
\$35,642.38
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.



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.



Let's share some kindness to the members of Immanuel who are shut-in or having some health issues and are unable to make it to worship. But, how about going a step further and call to just say hi, drop them a cheery card in the mail to let them know you are thinking about them or bring a little sunshine to their day and drop off a bouquet of flowers, or a casserole you made with some of your garden veggies.

Better yet, make some time to sit and chat with someone who doesn't get much company and could use a smiling face. A little kindness and compassion goes a long way to brighten someone's day.

The shut-in address list is on the bulletin board.

***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 let the office
or Pastor Karen know.***

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Denise Arnold
Vince Belinski—Diane's Nephew
Karen Byrd
Rev. Bill Cox
Chick Crosby (Sally Leubin's
brother)
Janice Kreger
MaryAnn Long and Russ Long
Penney Maloney
Denise Arnold
The Botwright family
Connie Cooper
Jim and Lorraine Hornaman
Rich Hornaman
Kyle Husted
Carol Ketchel
Bishop Michael Lozano
Brenda Matson
Carole Rickrode
Bob Roemer
Alice Tillotson—Mary Hauser's
sister
Joel Whickham—Mary Hauser's
brother
Logan Wrisley —Brenda Matson's
son
All of our members & friends who
are grieving;
Who are in nursing homes;
All who are ill at home

We pray for those in the military.

Being cool the right way, can be cool!

Being “cool” can be both a description of our character, as well as our comfort with air temperatures. This Green Corner will suggest how we can be cool by maintaining cooler indoor temperatures in creation-friendly ways.

In the United States, mechanical air conditioning is often used to moderate summer interior temperatures, but there are less expensive means and more creation friendly ways of improving our indoor summer comfort. It is worth noting that in some countries one must now obtain governmental approval before installing air conditioning. That is partly a means of reducing the impact of electricity on our climate, but even without that kind of governmental restriction we can use less energy intensive strategies for cooling indoor spaces.

- Trees: As trees mature, they can become effective sources of shade for individual homes. On a larger scale, community planting programs for trees and other vegetation can reduce the “heat island” effect found in many urban areas.
- Open windows at night (night flush ventilation) and close them in the morning.
- Close window coverings, shades, or blinds during the day. There are a variety of designs and prices that will block heat to varying degrees.
- Exterior window shades, awnings, and shutters reduce the heating through the windows.
- Insulate and check for air seal leaks around windows and doors. This is the same strategy used to keep homes warm in the winter. It is especially important when mechanical air conditioning is used.
- Bake and wash clothes at night: Indoor cooking and clothes washing can generate unwanted heat. Grilling or other outside cooking may be feasible, along with planning meals that require less cooking. When cooking indoors, exhaust fans can control the cooking heat to some extent. While microwave ovens do generate some heat, it is usually less than for conventional cook stoves. Some electric companies provide discounts for using electric at non-peak times.
- Dry laundry outside. If indoor dryers are used, exhaust fans are essential.
- Use exhaust fans in bathrooms/showers and in windows.
- Ceiling fans should blow down during summer (counterclockwise when looking up).
- Use lighting that produces less heat – LED bulbs.

(1) <https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/heat-islands/heat-island-compendium .html>

(2) <https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/>

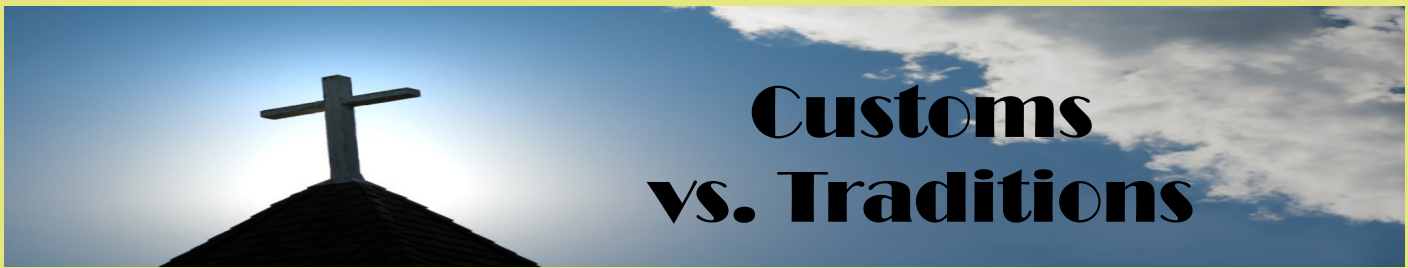
(3) <https://www.motherearthnews.com/sustainable-living/passive-cooling-ze0z1604znsp/>

(4) <https://time.com/6985139/how-to-use-fan-air-conditioning/>

The Green Team’s purpose is to “raise awareness of and advocate for the care of creation.” Our mission is to support and encourage creation care ministries, raise awareness, model creation care advocacy consistent with ELCA teachings in our faith communities and public life.

Like and follow us on Facebook: [Northwestern PA Synod Green Team – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.](#)

Contact us at: nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com



Did you know that most of what we call “traditions” are actually customs. Customs are particular to our own families. As our families grow and change with time, the customs we observe also change. Each generation shows changes in customs as families grow and go in their own directions.

Customs are important to us. Customs show us the way to do things. Customs may last for a generation or for several. The odds that you observe the same customs that your grandparents or great –grandparents did are slim. Are your grandchildren going to observe your customs? Most likely not. As families grow, change and combine, customs also grow and change.

True traditions, however have staying power! Traditions can grow out of customs; but while customs show us how to do things, traditions provide a broader context of why we do them.

It is difficult for families to have traditions, as most of us don’t have centuries of family history.

But the church provides us with traditions!

It is tradition in the Lutheran church to celebrate the Reformation on the last Sunday in October. By custom, red is worn and “A Mighty Fortress” is sang.

All Saints’ Day is a tradition that is observed the first Sunday in November . In the Lutheran Church it is customary to remember those who have passed way the previous year. It’s also customary to sing “For All the Saints.”

It is tradition to celebrate the birth of Christ at Christmas time. The customs associated with the celebration of the birth of Christ is to have a Christmas Eve Service and to sing “Silent Night.”

The customs of baptism we historically used to observe were actually hidden from view for generations. In the early churches baptismal areas were a prominent part of the architecture . They were frequently pools that were walked through during baptismal ceremonies. Centuries after Christ, baptism was so important that baptistries were created which were separate building to house the baptismal font or pool. They were typically used three times a year form mass baptisms by the bishop and sealed shut for the remainder of the year.

Customs around baptism and the font continue to change. More churches now start worship service gathered at the baptismal font, as a reminder that we are all brought to Christ through the waters of baptism.

Whatever customs the Church uses, the traditions remain solid. Customs come and go, but traditions stay. The word of the Lord is read during service. The meal of the Lord is shard. This is actually the way it has always been done,

The changes in custom are not a rejection of history, they are a reflection of the changes in our church as we welcome new people.

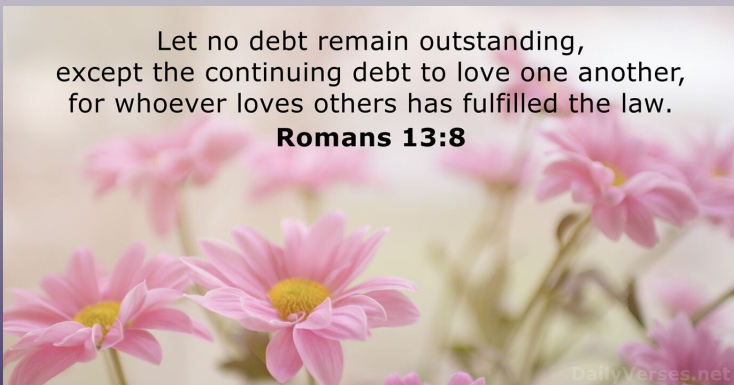
It is important to remember that customs don’t diminish traditions; they help for us to faithfully observe and understand the traditions.

August Worship Calendar

Date	Presider	Assistant	Lector
08/03/25 9:30 AM	Kostur	Bob Dorler	Bob Dorler
08/10/25 9:30 AM	Pastor Gail Zackinson	Bob Dorler	Bob Dorler
08/17/25 9:30 AM	Kostur		
08/24/25 9:30 AM	Kostur	Cindy Geddes	Cindy Geddes
08/31/25 9:30 AM	Kostur		Barb Coughlin

Let no debt remain outstanding,
except the continuing debt to love one another,
for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:8





August 2—3	Erie Blues & Jazz Festival	Frontier Park
August 15—17	Celebrate Erie 2025	Perry Square— Downtown Erie
August 21—24	Tall Ships Erie 2025	Dobbins Landing
August 22—24	Zabawa Polish Fest	Holy Trinity Church
August 24—30	Erie County Fair	Wattsburg
August 30—31	German Heritage Fest	St. Nicholas Grove
September 1– 6	Waterford Community Fair	Waterford



NWPA & SWPA

WOMEN OF THE ELCA RETREAT

at Lutherlyn

September 26th-28th 2025



Theme: Harvesting Hope

Bible Verse: Romans 15:13

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” NRSVUE

- PAPER registration (on table by the door) must be postmarked by 8/29.
- ALL CHECKS MUST be postmarked on or before 8/29.
- Make checks payable to: **SWPA-SWO/WELCA**
- Mail all checks and paper registration forms to:

Tracy Heutche
C/O WELCA
4113 Parade Blvd.
Erie, PA 16504

Grilled Peaches

Take my word for it, there is nothing as yummy as a ripe sticky-sweet peach! While you can just bite right in, cooking with peaches elevates them even more! You can eat them right off the tree, bake with them or grill them.

Peaches are so versatile! You can use the fruit in sweet or savory dishes. But the absolute best way to amplify a peach's natural flavor is to grill it.

Before grilling, be sure to choose the best peaches you can find. Take a peek at the top where the stem was: if it is golden or white and starting to wrinkle, it is ready to be devoured. If you want to grill a peach, softer peaches will caramelize too quickly on the grill and burn, so pick a firmer peach for grilling.

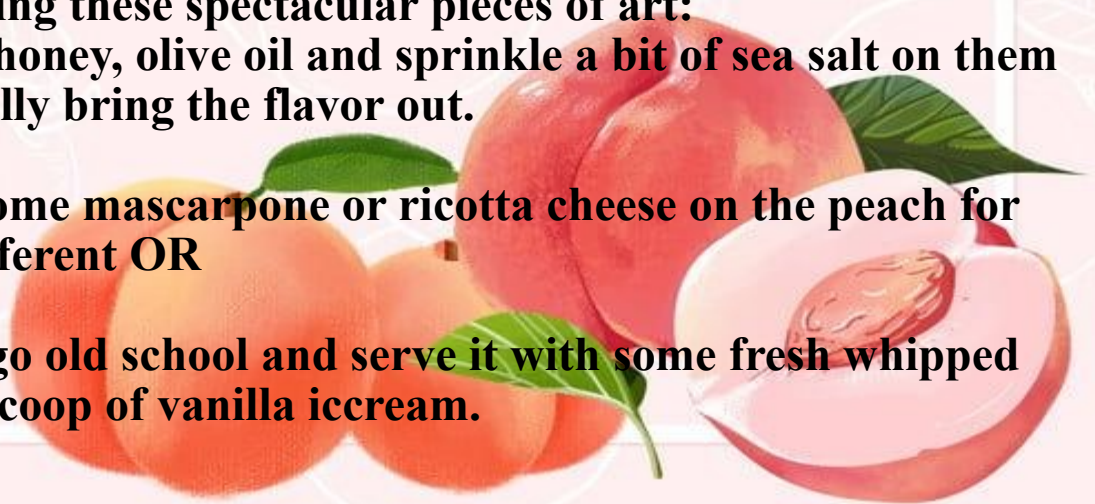
Turn your grill to a medium-high heat and use a high smoke point oil, like vegetable or canola. Brush oil on both sides of the pitted and halved peaches. Grill them cut side down for about 4- 5 minutes then flip the peaches on the skin side and grill for 4-5 more minutes (until they are almost falling apart).

TIPS for serving these spectacular pieces of art:

Drizzle some honey, olive oil and sprinkle a bit of sea salt on them and it will really bring the flavor out.

You can try some mascarpone or ricotta cheese on the peach for something different OR

You can also go old school and serve it with some fresh whipped topping or a scoop of vanilla icecream.



2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 AA pm Game Night 7 pm	2
3 Service 9:30 am Quarter Sunday Coffee Hour	4 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship Choir 7 pm	5 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	6 Tops 9 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	7	8 AA 7 pm Game Night 7 pm	9
10 Worship 9:30 am	11 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship Choir 7 pm	12 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	13 Tops 9 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	14	15 AA 7 pm Game Night 7 pm	16
17 Worship 9:30 am	18 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship Choir 7 pm	19 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	20 Tops 9 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	21	22 AA 7pm Game Night 7 pm	23
24 Worship 9:30 am	25 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship Choir 7 pm	26 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	27 Tops 9 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	28	29 AA 7 pm Game Night 7 pm	30
31 Worship 9:30 m						

Immanuel
Church Office
814-833-4062

Office Hours
8:30—12:30
Monday—Thursday

Staff

Pastor Karen Kostur 814-833-4062

or Cell#: 724-557-2386

Pastor's Office Hours – Tuesday 1:00-
3:00 Thursday, 9:30am-2:00pm

Church Caretaker: Wally Coughlin

Organist/Music Director:

Allan Slovenkay

Admin. Ofc.: Brenda Matson

Sunday School

Coord: Anita Byrne & Janice Kreger

Teachers: Anita Byrne & Pastor Kostur

& Brenda Durst

2025 Congregation & Church Council Officers

Pres: Rick Kuntz 814-572-3719

VP: Joe Byrne 814-397-7319

Sec.: Brenda Durst 814-873-0451

Fin. Sec.: Debbie Redditt 814-449-1855



So then, let us follow after things which
make for peace, and things by which
we may build one another up.
Romans 14:19

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 2nd Sunday of the month*

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

**COFFEE HOUR 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
ONGOING COLLECTION FOR LITTLE FREE PANTRY**

Finance

Council liaison: Zack Middaugh
ANNUAL Budget

Property

Council liaison: Rick Kuntz
Committee Chair: Debbie Redditt

**FACILITY MAINTENANCE
RENTAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
ONGOING BOILER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

Stewardship

Council liaison: Dave Mays

Social Ministry Committee

Committee chair: Debbie Madurski
Council Liaison: Brenda Durst

Worship & Music

Liaison to Worship: Joe Byrne

Christian Education

Council liaison: Mary Hauser