
IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

20 Monterey Circle, Lakewood NJ 08701 ~ 732.363.1599

visit us at: www.ilutheran.net & find us on Facebook



The Lantern

...I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of the life." John 8:12

Volume 5

2018

Greetings from the Pastor

April showers bring May flowers!

Easter's early arrival will bring an equally early Pentecost. Pentecost often referred to as the birthday of the Church sets us up for the longest season of the Church year, referred to by the Roman Church as ordinary time. However, there is nothing ordinary about the Sundays after Pentecost or any Sunday for that matter. All Sundays are little Easters days when what God has done for us is celebrated. On Pentecost the gifts of the Holy Spirit are bestowed upon Jesus' disciples, the days following put an emphasis on how we are called to respond. How will we respond, will our lives continue as they have, nothing out of the ordinary...or will they truly reflect what God has done and is still doing in our world?

The times in which we live are far from ordinary. The world is changing perhaps more rapidly than at any time, at least in recent history. Despite some who would deny it the climate is changing, lands that once produced crops will not get the rain they need, other areas more than they need or want. The threat of war is loud and real. The values so long held by the vast majority are threatened. The Church's influence on society seems to diminish each day. Without the teaching of moral values by the Church or even secular moral values in our schools, what is to control or constrain future generations?

All major religions have had to face threats to their true teachings and beliefs, both from within and without. We often seem to be at war with ourselves. In such a world the need for a strong foundation and the ability to bridge the chasm between the factions seems essential. We need to know what we believe. If the trials of today are going to yield to the bright future all humanity desires.

Pastor James McKinley

Wurffel Fund College Loan/Scholarship

Applications are available now in the church office.

These are due back no later than JUNE 15.

(For more information, please see pages 3 & 4.)

Pastor ~

Rev. James McKinley

Phone: 732.608.7063 (h)

201.281.6989 (cell)

Pastor's Email:

jem.mckinley@gmail.com

Church Secretary ~

Roxanne Rossano

Phone: 732.363.1599 or

732.363.3555

secretary@ilutheran.net

Church office hours:

Tues.~Thurs. 8AM~12 noon

MAY SERVING SCHEDULE

DATE	LAY ASSISTANT	USHERS	ALTAR	ACOLYTES	LECTOR
6TH	Roberta McGilvery	Lana Hyer & Eva LaBrozzi	Donna Palzer	TBD	Roberta McGilvery
13TH	Terry Stahlhut	Carole Hepp & Sharon Rollier	Donna Palzer	TBD	Sharon Rollier
20TH	Kris Calabro	Roberta McGilvery & Millie Martin	Donna Palzer	TBD	Kris Calabro
27TH	Todd Engle	Scott & Kim Brown	Donna Palzer	TBD	Todd Engle

BIRTHDAYS

7 ~ Todd Engle
 8 ~ Eva LaBrozzi
 10 ~ Clayton Engle
 12 ~ Shannon Brown
 17 ~ Marion Fossum
 19 ~ Millie Martin
 19 ~ Markus Calabro
 29 ~ Ava Engle



ANNIVERSARIES

28th ~ Robert & Marion Fossum

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Service Times:
Saturday Evening 5:30 PM
Sunday Morning 10:00 AM

PENTECOST
May 20, 2018



PASTORAL CARE VISITORS NEEDED

Recently we have lost a few Homebound Communion or Eucharistic Ministers due to relocation or illness. We would like to recruit and train a team of pastoral visitors by maintaining contact and visitation with our increasing homebound and institutionalize members. If you desire to serve in this ministry, please contact

Pastor McKinley either after the church service or
 call him at: 201-281-6989

**NEW JERSEY SYNOD**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*God's work. Our hands.*1930 Highway 33 Hamilton Square, NJ 08690 609-586-6800 FAX 609-586-1597 www.njsynod.org

March 2018

TO: New Jersey Synod Parish Pastors**FR:** Bishop Tracie Bartholomew**RE:** Wurffel Fund College Loan/Scholarship Information

Enclosed with this memo please find two copies of the Wurffel Fund College Loan applications for the 2018/2019 academic year. I am asking parish pastors to help us to administer this loan/scholarship fund by providing applications to those who truly need this assistance and by helping us to prioritize the requests.

While the norm should be one or two applications per congregation, in places of greater need, there could be as many as five. If there is a pastor who would have great difficulty staying within the limit of five, simply write a letter to the Office of the Bishop and explain the circumstances. We will make every effort to adjust the number for your congregation accordingly.

Secondly, when you send your pastoral recommendation for each application, we will ask that you prioritize each of them:

“A” for EXTREME hardship

“B” for CRITICAL need

“C” for MODERATE need

This would very much help us to make those decisions. Your priority recommendation is confidential, of course. We will also ask that you verify that the student is/continues to be enrolled and is maintaining a “C” average. You may take their word for it.

At the end, given the enormous cost of college, we are providing just a small amount, usually somewhere between \$250 and \$600. But for those who need it and receive it, it is help that would have to come out-of-pocket or as part of a loan to be repaid (and our loans, remember, are repaid by remaining an active member in their ELCA congregation).

Thank you for your help with this! Lois Parrett is providing administrative help in this process (send all application paper work to her) and she and I will provide oversight for the Wurffel Fund distribution.

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March 2018

WURFFEL COLLEGE LOAN FUND INSTRUCTIONS

A limited amount of financial aid for Lutheran college students is available through the Karl, John, Elizabeth Wurffel Memorial Fund. The aid will be provided in the form of student loans; however, the terms for the loans will be very beneficial for the recipients.* Eligibility is as follows:

Any member of a New Jersey Synod, ELCA congregation, planning to attend or enrolled in a matriculated program of study in an accredited 4-year or 2-year college or university may apply. Loans are for undergraduate study only.

Priority of consideration is given on the basis of financial need and activity in the life of the church, as described by the recommendation letter of the applicant's pastor. Further, priority is given first to students attending any ELCA Lutheran College or University, and then to any accredited 4-year or 2-year college or university.

Assistance is provided on a one-year basis, with the possibility for applicants to reapply annually up to five years. A new application must be submitted each year.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

The Application Form (two pages) and Letter of Recommendation Form (one page) should be completed and **returned to your Pastor** who will add her/his recommendation letter, and send to the Synod office. Applicants **must** have at least a "C" average to be considered. Incomplete applications will not be given consideration. All applications must be **postmarked (or e-mailed to lparratt@njsynod.org) no later than JUNE 15**. Applicants will be notified of the decision concerning their applications as close as possible to the middle of July. Distribution of funds will be made upon completion and return of a "Promissory Note – Loan Form", which will be provided with the letter of decision.

*Funds are made available as a loan; **however, the entire loan may be satisfied or forgiven on the basis of being an active member of a congregation of the New Jersey Synod, ELCA.** The details of this loan program are provided on the "Promissory Note – Loan Form", completion of which will be required of each person who is to receive loan funds.



"Leading the Purple Church":

New Jersey Synod candidacy retreat

Nearly a dozen candidates for ministry and their partners met at Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center for prayer, worship and workshops during New Jersey's annual candidacy retreat.

Candidacy is the process that helps forms pastors and deacons. Rooted in Ephesians 4:15-16 ("Speaking the truth in love, we must grow every way into him who is the head, into Christ ..."), this year's retreat was "Leading the Purple Church."

According to a 2014 Religious Landscape study by the Pew Research Center, the ELCA is almost divided down the middle in regards to political party leanings. As partisanship increases in our neighbors and communities, what is the role of the pastor and deacon? And for this new generation of ordained church leaders, how is Jesus calling them to promote "the body's growth in building itself up in love"?

The retreat began with food, devotions and fun-filled icebreakers. Bishop Tracie Bartholomew shepherded faith-filled conversations, inviting candidates and church leaders to reflect on their experiences. Videos, discussion groups and one-on-one interactions facilitated honest conversations. Pastors, deacons, candidates



Candidates and members of the Candidacy Committee meet at Camp Cross Roads for the annual candidacy retreat on Jan. 25.

and lay leaders from a variety of contexts and backgrounds prayed with and for each other. By getting to know each other, candidates and the Candidacy Committee learned how to build each other up for the joys and challenges ahead.

God works in the life of every person. We all have a baptismal call for ongoing discernment of God's activity in the world, in the church and in one's life. Are you discerning a call toward ministry? Have you thought about being at our next candidacy retreat? Visit njsynod.org/candidacy to learn more about what the process toward ordination is all about. ☞

Houston here we come! ELCA Youth Gathering June 27-July 1

Just a few final notes as you prepare for the ELCA Youth Gathering:

- 1. Do you still have questions you need to ask?**
Post them on the NJ Houston 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering Facebook Group at facebook.com/groups/1471723126416147.
- 2. Have you heard of the NJ Synod Day?** Each synod spends part of the Gathering worshipping, praying and studying together. Our day is Friday and the theme is "Grace Abounds." The event will be in our synod hotel, with doors opening at

11:30 a.m. Make sure your group has a big breakfast/brunch beforehand!

- 3. There's still time** to get your group reading with the ELCA Youth Gathering's "Prepare" material. Visit elca.org/YouthGathering/details/get-ready to download the resource.
- 4. The in-kind offering this year is books!** We're lifting up literacy in Houston. Our partners with the Houston Independent School District have a list of books they need. Visit elca.org/Resources/ELCA-Youth-Gathering and search for "Blast Off For Books" for the list.

We'll see you there! ☞

Get involved in advocacy during the summer

Plants are growing. The days are longer and ice cream shops are open later. It's almost time for school to let out for the summer and everything seems to be winding down, including Sunday school, weekly Bible studies and other regular church activities.

But the work of advocating with our neighbors for policies that alleviate hunger and promote the care of creation can't pause after Pentecost Day! There are many ways to live out your faith and stay informed about issues you care about throughout the summer months.

Dive deep into one issue

Use the summer to engage with one particular issue. One of ELCA Advocacy's top priorities this year is to encourage governmental leaders to support a strong 2018 Farm Bill. We believe that advocacy for good policies in the Farm Bill provides a means to express God's unending love in a way that will contribute to the well-being of God's people and creation and to a just world where all are fed.

Learn more about hunger in your community and throughout the United States by inviting leaders to join you for an educational gathering and asking questions about what ideal feeding programs would look like. Sara Lilja, director of Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry (LEAMNJ), or advocacy leaders in your area can lead discussions on how to get involved in effective Farm Bill advocacy and why it's important to engage as people of faith.

Get involved locally

Advocacy and community service efforts are a "both/and" combination. Often they directly relate and strengthen understandings of how to be God's hands, feet and voice in the world.

Take the time to explore opportunities with ministries serving your community, in addition to getting involved in advocacy efforts. Does your



church support a feeding program like a lunchtime ministry or pantry? Reach out to the director or volunteer coordinator and bring your family, youth group or adult ministry to get involved. Be open to learning more about the work being done and listening to others who gather in that place. Does your churchyard have space to cultivate a garden that could provide fresh fruits and vegetables for members of your community? To begin, consider specializing in just a few crops and grow from there. Send messages to community members who may be interested, including students, scouts, retirees and agricultural workers, and organize efforts to garden and grow together!

Most importantly, take time to reflect on experiences of direct and indirect service and how they motivate or inform your faith and advocacy efforts. Community reflection and prayer remind us that a day's work is greater than just those hours of weeding, washing dishes or cooking a meal.

Engage all ages


As we saw with the youth-led marches for gun reform earlier this year, young adults and children

can be our greatest teachers and partners in advocacy. Invite youth and young leaders to take part in (and even lead!) advocacy efforts. Coordinate letter-writing campaigns, explaining how to contact legislators, write about a topic they care about, and share their knowledge with others. If you host an educational gathering, create a youth track that brings the topic to a level they will be able to engage with.

It's not too late to consider using the ELCA's "Taking Root" vacation Bible school overlay (download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Taking_Root_Curriculum_VBS_Overlay.pdf) to help children understand the causes of hunger and imagine a world where all are fed. As the introduction to the curriculum states, starting with advocacy at a young age "fosters a deep commitment to solutions for hunger."

Stay informed

Starting in February 2017, LEAMNJ (leamnj.org) began a weekly email correspondence to our partners all over the state. "Weekly Witness" begins with a short reflection connecting the lectionary reading with a justice issue and ends with an "advocacy ask," which provides information on how to get involved in urgent pieces of legislation. This is a great resource for delving into the Scripture reading from a justice angle and for keeping up on the progress of important issues. Sign up for the email at leamnj.org/weekly-witness.

Though the "Weekly Witness" primarily focuses on local issues in New Jersey, the ELCA Advocacy office in Washington, D.C., sends out advocacy alerts for federal issues. Sign up to become a member of the ELCA e-Advocacy network at elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Advocacy. You can find other resources on their website for staying up-to-date on advocacy work in your state and around the country. 


Summer at Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center

There's still time to register your child and family for an amazing experience this summer.

Children encounter God in nature, in worship and in relationships during youth camp. Cross Roads' certified staff members provide a safe and loving space for each camper. At camp:

- Faith formation is strengthened through activities, song and worship.
- Healthy, homemade, delicious food is provided.
- Weeklong experiential and active programming is offered.
- Positive adult role models are available.
- Lasting friendships and connections outside of the electronic world are made.

With weeklong camps and events designed for youth from third through 12th grades, Camp Cross Roads and Retreat Center is an amazing experience right in your backyard. Through in-depth and exciting age-appropriate activities, kids discover God's love for them firsthand. Campfires, woods, a pool, low and high rope courses, and more provide opportunities for kids to stretch their boundaries in a safe and loving environment.

Visit crossroadsretreat.com/summer-programs for more information. And make plans to visit the camp's open houses on May 19 and June 2 to see how summer camp can fuel your child's faith for life. 


CROSS  ROADS
CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

Grace Abounds! Indeed it does. We will be living out this theme at our New Jersey Synod Assembly on May 11-12. As we go to press, the agenda is being finalized, worship opportunities are being put together, reports are being written, and our synod is preparing to tell again the story of how we proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

During the assembly we will welcome Mikka McCracken as our churchwide representative. She is director for planning and engagement



Finally, our LoveStruck team will lead us in an experience in diversity on Saturday morning. They will lead a similar experience at the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston this summer. Under the leadership of youth and adults from some of our urban congregations, the LoveStruck team will show us how wildly God is in love with each and every one of us—in our glorious diversity.

Grace Abounds! is not only our theme for the assembly, but the reality of our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. Join us as we bask in that priceless grace together at our 31st assembly. 





2018



Food Pantry

Thank you . . .

Thanks once again for the donations for the Easter baskets. Scott Brown was able to make 21 baskets. Thank you to each of you who continue to donate to food pantry on a regular basis. Without your support the food pantry would not be around.

A continued thanks to the few volunteers who continue to be faithful servants. I am looking for someone to pick up bake goods at 9 AM the second and fourth Thursdays of the month and bring to the pantry. If you are able please contact Janice Henry.

Janice Henry

Special summer needs: Mustard, ketchup, relish, mayo, BBQ Sauce, and pickles. These items can be found sometimes less expensive at the Dollar Stores, Aldi's and sales in Shop-rite. Thank you for your generous and continued support!
Thank you,
Scott Brown



Pantry Hours & Dates
May 10th & 24th
10:00 AM to 12 noon

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