

The Visitor

Immanuel Lutheran Church

June 2018 * Volume 56 #6



Thoughts on Job

This spring our Bible study groups have been studying the book of Job. (JOB, not jahb) Job was a man who had everything – good family, wealth, success, reputation, and righteousness. Suddenly and violently he lost it all for no apparent reason. He became bitter but remained faithful to God and continued to praise God. He lost everything but his righteousness.

The book of Job explores in great detail what it means that there is evil in the world. Job repeatedly proclaims his innocence, and while his friends question that he is without sin, they never bring forth evidence that he has sinned. Job was a good, righteous man, and God still allowed him to suffer greatly. Job asks, as we so often do, “Why do bad things happen to good people?”

Most, if not all, of us believe that if we do the right things, are faithful to God, and do not sin good will come to us and that evil will stay away, or at least evil will be greatly reduced. Job’s life is in stark contrast to this. God even bragged that Job was the best of the best, yet God still allowed Job to suffer intensely.

In studying the book of Job, we have hoped to learn why there is evil and suffering in the world. (And I think we have also hoped we could find a way to escape suffering ourselves.) The book of Job has not given any clear answers.

I don’t think the Bible, or even Jesus, intends to give us clear answers to why there is evil in the world. Sin does tend to increase the amount of evil that happens. Faithfulness to God does tend to decrease the amount of evil and increase the amount of good. But it is not a strict, predictable, cause & effect relationship.

The book of Job doesn’t give an answer, but it invites us to enter into a conversation with Job, Job’s friends, and ultimately with God and our deepest selves. There is no answer to why bad things happen to good people. But there is an ongoing conversation in prayer and meditation with God. God remains with us in our suffering. God does not see fit to explain suffering too us, but, God does remain with us in our suffering. God listens. God remains with us in God’s Word, in the community of the Church, in the sacraments, and in the presence of God’s Holy Spirit.

God does not tell us “why”. Neither does God tell us to stop asking “Why?” We are encouraged to remain in conversation with God through prayer and contemplation of the meaning of our lives in Christ. Not because God will give us a clear answer to explain it once and for all, but because God wants us to remain in relationship with God and each other.

Join us as we continue in our conversation about Job this summer. We meet Wednesday mornings at 10:00 at the Bradley home in Meriden and some Tuesday evenings as published in the calendar elsewhere in this newsletter.

Read the book of Job in your Bibles. Pray. Remain in the conversation with God.

Peace,
Pastor Burgess

REMINDER: Please notify the church office either by *calling (203) 238-1248* or with a note placed in the offering plate when a family member is/will be hospitalized so the church can provide appropriate care and prayers for you and your family member. Thank you for your help.

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OFFICE HOURS
9am-1pm Monday-Friday

THE NEXT VISITOR

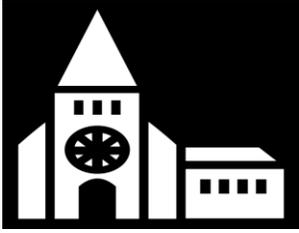
Articles for the July/August Visitor will be due on June 18. Please get your articles in on time. That way the Visitor can be in everyone's box by Sunday, June 24th so early July activities get promoted. Thanks, Diane

Another way to receive Immanuel's Visitor

If you wish to receive Immanuel's monthly newsletter via email, please email the office at office@immanuelmeriden.org using the email address you want the Visitor sent to. Please note "Visitor email listing" in the subject line.

HOLY SPIRIT FILL US





Council Highlights – Joanne Gardner

*Council discussed a focusing on unity, resolving conflict with Biblical guidelines and being led by the Holy Spirit to experiment in different ways to serve our church family and neighbors.

*Synod Assembly- Lynn Tozier, along with Pastor, will be attending this year's Synod Assembly. We are looking for a second voting candidate, preferably a male. Want to attend on just Saturday? Joanne Gardner will be driving up for one day only.

*We received a call from Bill Ludwig. He would like to take pictures of our labyrinth for a book he is writing about labyrinths in RI and CT. We will respond to set an appointment for further discussion.

*Charlie Gardiner will lead a task group on "Active Shooter Church Safety". He will provide the council with written recommendations.

*Jeff Peterson has resigned from his position as Council secretary. The council accepted his resignation with regret.

*Sports Day- for neighborhood kids is in formulation with Lelita McKetty taking the lead. Date TBD.

*Plant/Bake Sale was a success! Thank you, Jan Sprude and all bakers and helpers!

*Family Fun Study & Salad Pot-luck is June 26. More info is to come. Bring a salad item to add to the bowl and stay for a bible lesson, craft or game. For all ages!

*Joanne Gardner and Paul Olson are gathering information on a more visible church sign. We can use helpers and your ideas.

* Council discussed the "Taste of Immanuel" to be held in the fall, as a possible fund raiser for new boiler issues. The Outreach committee will host the three churches progressive dinner in September and the annual hot dog roast. More info to follow.

****Coming Events****

Please check the sign-up board for calendar additions

6/2 Martin's Messenger's Tag Sale

6/10 Christian Ed town hall after worship

6/17 Cars, Trucks, Bicycles, & Motorcycles blessing after worship

6/26 Family Fun Study & Salad Pot-Luck

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Once again, the delivery of the quilts took place on May 16 at Good Shepherd Church in Hamden. Unfortunately, the storm on Tuesday produced a tornado that completely closed down Whitney Ave., the street to which the quilts were going. We will hold on to the quilts until next May. We put together 6 quilts and we're shipping 2 boxes.

Our group still only has 3 quilters, Bev Lang, Carol Kania and myself. Because of the bad weather this past winter many of our meeting dates had to be cancelled. We are hoping for better weather next year. We are always looking for blankets, cotton material and of course new helpers. With God's help, next season will be a better year for us.

We meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 9 am to noon. Think about joining us. "Many hands make light work."

Marilyn Kronenberger



Camperships will be available to all Immanuel youth who attend the resident camp program at Camp Calumet in New Hampshire this summer. The campership is a reimbursement, paid after completion of camp, and typically covers about 45% of the registration fee for one week. To obtain the campership, an application form must be completed and returned to the church office or to a member of the Scholarship committee by July 1. After attending camp and no later than September 15, a follow up form needs to be submitted in order to receive the campership reimbursement. The campership application and reimbursement forms are available from the church office.

The cost for one week at resident camp will be \$645. If transportation is needed figure in another \$94. Family summer camping is also an option. To learn more about both these opportunities check out their website www.calumet.org Speak with Kim Freeman should you be interested in experiencing Calumet this summer!

Adult Study Opportunities

- *The morning group will be learning more about Job each Wednesday 6/6, 6/13, 6/20 & 6/27, 10am at the Bradley home.
- *The conversational group, Pub Theology, will meet at Sliders on 6/5 and 6/19 at 7pm.
- *The Bible study group that meets at Immanuel will meet on 6/12 at 7pm.
- *Our new Family Fun Study will meet at 5:30pm on 6/26, bring a salad to share.

Sunday Church School Scribbler

SCS had it's "Sending" on May 20th, which also happened to be Pentecost!

Students decorated the building, including the sanctuary with items that remind us of the presence of God's Holy Spirit. Now it is time to take what was learned this year in class about how much God loves everyone and share it with our communities. Share God's love and Jesus' examples of love and forgiveness with your school friends/co-workers, neighbors and new summer friends. Invite them to worship with us each Sunday morning and remember to come yourself. It is most welcoming when visitors see a familiar face.

We are in need of a coordinator and facilitators for the 2018-19 Sunday Church School ministry. The time to start planning for the next school year of learning is now. Prayerfully ponder how God is calling you to serve. Interested in sharing God's Word with children and families please speak with Kim Freeman as soon as possible.

The Christian Education Committee will be hosting a Town Hall Fellowship after worship on Sunday June 10th. Mark your calendars and plan to support the teaching/learning ministries of Immanuel. Come with questions and ideas but leave negative thoughts at the door. We need to plan a course of action for sharing Biblical knowledge with our members and community.

Everyone interesting in learning about the education ministries of Immanuel or helping out in any way, please attend our next meeting, June 21, 2018 at 7pm. Praise be to God!

Family Fun Study and Salad Pot-Luck

There will be 3 opportunities for families and friends to gather in a cool place for God's word, food and fellowship this summer. Join us on Tuesdays 6/26, 7/24 and 8/21 from 5:30pm -7:30pm. Bring a salad, of any kind, to share at a pot-luck meal.

June 26 th	Daughters' Healed	Mark 5:21-43
July 24 th	Two Signs of Jesus	John 6:1-22
August 21 st	Armor of God	Ephesians 6:10-20

See you in worship,
Kim Freeman

The Finance committee met last month and approved the 2017 end of year audit. That audit will be presented to council at their next meeting. We wish to thank the audit committee members Diana Clancy, Christian Poleshek, and Paul Olson.

We currently have an opening on the audit committee for the mid-year audit in July. Please contact Kyle Fohlin in you are interested in serving on this committee.

Martin's Messenger

First, I would like to thank everyone who helped with our recent Plant/Bake Sale. There is still money outstanding, but we covered our costs and raised approximately \$500.00 for our general fund. Our only expense was the plants and thanks to Kenney Stastaschke. He gave us a very good price on the plants; so we could make the most of this fund raiser. Per usual the congregation came through on the bake sale as you always do. You guys are the best bakers in Meriden. Thank you again so very much.

Okay, so we are on to our next fun event. On Saturday, June 2nd we will be holding a tag sale from 9am-1pm at Immanuel. You can drop off your items on Friday, June 1st between 9am and 1pm. We will be needing some help with tables on Friday. We will accept all items as long as they are clean and in good condition. Please stop by Sunday morning to check if your item was sold. We ask that you pick it up as it is extremely difficult to dispose of.

Again, thanks to all my little elves for helping. Many hands make light work.

God bless you all,
Jan Sprude
Martin's Messengers

Season of Blessings Update

Our next seasonal blessing will be Sunday, June 17 after worship when we will bless cars, trucks, bicycles, and motorcycles in the parking lot. This is an opportunity to consider the gifts God has given us to get around with and have them blessed. While billed as "cars, trucks, bicycles, and motorcycles" we could also probably bless walkers, wheelchairs, skateboards, buses, and maybe even boats or airplanes (if you can get them to the church ☺).

This is also an excellent opportunity to invite your family, friends, and neighbors who might not otherwise feel comfortable coming to more "churchy" events. You probably know someone who needs their vehicle blessed. Invite them and bring them along.

Here's the schedule for the rest of the "Season of Blessings":

Date	Time & Place	Blessing
June 17	After Worship Parking Lot	Cars, Trucks, Bicycles, Motorcycles
July 15	During Worship Inside	Blessing of Sanctuary and Augustana Hall
August 19	During Worship Inside	Back to School: students, teachers, backpacks, school supplies, & clothes
September 2	After worship Inside	Tools: work, home, lawn, school — wrenches, rakes, scissors, chain saws, computers, . . .
October 7	After worship Parking Lot	Pets & Animals
November 4	During worship Inside	Healing

June Celebrations



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Diane Mongold	6/01
Susan Uraco	6/03
Penny Beaudry	6/03
Darianne Wilson	6/04
Andrew Hopko	6/04
Kirsten Gade	6/06
Shelly Hemenway	6/06
Briana Hamer	6/07
Cheryl Tomassetti	6/08
Atreyu Jordan	6/08
Robin Black	6/09
Geraldine Francis	6/10
Koreen Sumpter	6/11
Carlene Gade-Fox	6/11
Kim Freeman	6/11
Edward DiPersio	6/11
Madison Clancy	6/12
Jamira Hodge	6/12
Clark Doehr	6/13
Alicia Mosier	6/14
Jaylen Hodge	6/15
Russel Contaras	6/16
Debra Lohmann	6/18
Braeden Newell	6/19
Thuy Tran	6/20
Dominic Yammarino	6/20
Rachel Uraco	6/22
Bruce Garbe	6/23
Brooke Ellis	6/23
Edward Schleicher	6/26
Madison LaValle	6/30
Elizabeth Garbe	6/30



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Jennifer & Jeffrey Silvernale	6/01
Shelly & Thomas Hemenway	6/07
Heather & Michael Sokolowski	6/08
Vera & Allan Luft	6/10
Betty & Jeff Peterson	6/17
Freddi & Dave Lindsay	6/24
Amy & Doug Schultz	6/26
Ruth & Edward Schleicher	6/26
Amber & Nicholas Ives	6/28
Kirsten & Bruce Garbe	6/28

Heartfelt thank yous to Katie Hall, June and Marilyn for the Mothers and Others Tea Party. It was a sell out! Katie transformed the hall with her china and decorations into a room full of color and delight. The hats were on and the donated baked goods and tea sandwiches were remarkable. Marilyn said we were waiting for the Queen's limo to arrive but alas we started without her. Thank you to Tito, who serenaded table by table with his guitar, to speaker Sonia Scott-James and our own ILC vocalist, Marianne Black, who had the attendees singing in refrain with her. It was a memorable event.



Property Clean-up THANK You

The Property committee wants to thank everyone who helped clean-up the grounds of Immanuel on Saturdays, *May 5th and 19th*. There was a lot of weeding, raking and trimming going on to spruce things up. Stewardship in action!

Thanks also to our sexton, Doug Gardner, who has been working to repair damage to the lawns caused by all that winter snow plowing.

There is always something that needs to be done both inside and outside. Anyone interested in helping out can contact Charlie Gardinier or Paul Olson to learn more details.

Thank you to the congregation and friends for saving the Box Tops for Education. Please continue to save the Box Tops. Below is an example of what they look like:



These labels are sent to the Navajo Lutheran Mission in Arizona. A collection box is attached to the bulletin board, outside Augustana Hall. Please continue to save these labels for this worthy cause.

Cindy McCarthy