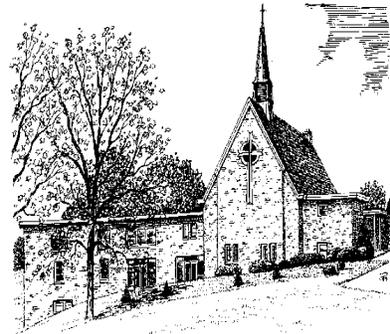


The King's Business

September 2017

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH VOL. 51, NO. 9



The Pastor's Page

Every few years, the same poll shows up in the news, and every few years the results are roughly the same: "Do you believe in heaven? Do you believe in hell?" Whether it's Barna doing the polling or Pew or Gallup, or some other research group, these two questions always manage to make headlines. Probably because the results always show two trends: 1) More people believe in heaven than hell, and 2) the number of people who believe in either is always less than the previous poll. According to last year's Gallup survey, 71% of Americans believe in heaven and 64% believe in hell, down from 81% and 70%, respectively, just 12 years ago.

Both trends are troubling. Not simply because they represent a growing departure from the most basic Christian doctrine. But because, as Christians, we cannot fight the good fight of faith if we don't know whom we are fighting against. St Paul spells it out for us: Our fight is not against flesh and blood on earth. It is against the spiritual forces of evil in hell. Reject hell, demons, and Satan himself, and you deny the very existence of our enemy. Imagine a war in which your fellow soldiers started shooting at rocks and trees and squirrels, and not the enemy soldiers advancing upon you. That's what Christianity has become.

This is yet another reason why it so important to understand what we confess in the First Article of the Creed: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And "heaven" is actually a pretty broad category. You may have noticed, for example, that I did a bit of a word swap when I paraphrased Ephesians 6:12 earlier. Those of you who know it well know that it reads: "the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places," or something similar, depending on your translation.

That's because "heaven" in the Bible can mean two different things. It can mean 'the spiritual domain of God, His angels, and the souls of His glorified saints.' Or it can simply mean 'the spiritual domain of all spiritual beings.' In essence, everything that is not 'earth.' It is this second definition that we confess in the Creed. We believe God has made all realms, physical and spiritual, and all the creatures within them, physical and spiritual. Which means we believe in heaven, God, and angels. And we believe in hell, Satan, and demons.

But contrary to popular perception, hell is not Satan's kingdom. It is his prison. Satan does not rule hell. He did not create it. He has no power over it. And while he may have a certain amount of influence over his demons, even there his power is limited.

Ultimately, God rules over all. As Paul tells us, "At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth." (Philippians 2:10). Heaven, earth, and hell. God reigns over all of it. He created it and He put all creatures in their place. Angels in heaven. Man on earth. Satan and his minions in hell. Not as their home, but as their punishment.

What's it like? We don't know for sure. The Bible describes it as a place of fire multiple times, so that's a common depiction. But even more than that, Jesus calls it a place of uncleanness and rejection. He refers to hell as "gehenna." Gehenna was a real place on earth. It was a valley outside of Jerusalem. At one time, a group of Israelites who had rejected the one true God in order to follow the false god Moloch had performed human sacrifices there of their own children. Thereafter, it was considered a cursed, unclean place, suitable only as a city dump. A place to burn your trash.

That's what hell is in God's eyes. A cursed, unclean place, where trash is thrown out, burned, and forgotten. And it is exactly where we belong to go. In our sinfulness, even our best works before God are unclean trash (Philippians 3:8). We deserve nothing but His rejection. To be lumped together with Satan and his demons as those who have rejected God's Law and then thrown in prison for all eternity.

Only by Christ's death on the cross can we hope to be free from this punishment. Only by His blood shed for you and me can we beg for God's pardon. Only by Baptism into His name can we claim an inheritance other than death and hell.

An inheritance of eternal life. Eternal life not simply in heaven, but on earth too. For heaven is not our eternal home. Heaven is a spiritual realm, and we are not merely spirits. We are bodies too. And it was so important to God that He save us in body and soul that He came down out of heaven and took on a human body. Died in a human body. So that, like Christ, we too might rise from the dead and spend eternity with our Creator in the exact place He always meant us to be: his good and perfect earth. Free from sin forever.

May God our Creator bless you as you await His return. Pastor Ketelsen

Copies of sermons are now available. If you missed a service, or just loved one immensely and would like a copy, they are now available on our church website, ImmanuelBoonvilleMO.church. You can also find hard copies in the red folder next to Portals of Prayer in the church Narthex. Please help yourself, and feel free to share with friends or shut-ins.

BIBLE STUDY

Adult Bible Study: Sunday Mornings at 10:15 a.m. adults meet for Bible study together with Pastor Ketelsen. We have begun a study of Holy Baptism.

Sunday School: at 10:15 in the downstairs class room.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study will begin on Tuesday, September 5th at 10:00 a.m. We will meet in the large classroom on the main level. We have chosen "Forgiveness (Received from God * Extended to Others) by Donna Pyle as our study for the Fall/Winter. Donna is a popular speaker and author and has written several

Bible Studies. When you and I get hurt -- emotionally, mentally, or spiritually -- we stand at a crossroads. This study is aimed at opening our hearts and minds to the life-altering, rich teachings that God's Word offers about forgiveness, the harm of harboring unforgiveness and how to extend forgiveness to others. Jesus taught that believers need faith to deal with unforgiveness. The **good news** is that if forgiveness is truly the desire of the heart, any person, through the power of the Holy Spirit, with even the tiniest measure of faith can command those roots of bitterness to shrivel up. Forgiveness is always personal. It's incredibly difficult to do. But it's never optional. Jesus said, "*Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light*" (Matthew 11:28-30). Through His life and sacrifice, we lean into this study to soak in His teaching, seek to understand His words, and move forward to embrace the freedom of forgiveness. Because that's what true forgiveness feels like. **Freedom. Our Freedom.** We look forward to resuming our Weekly Bible Study Class with a study of God's Word on the topic of Forgiveness! We hope to see you on the 5th! Class leaders are Mary Derendinger ([660-621-3070](tel:660-621-3070)) and Stefani Ketelsen ([314-341-8512](tel:314-341-8512)). P.S. This class meets from 10:00 - 11:00. Some like to go to lunch afterwards. All are welcome.

Thursday Breakfast Bible Study: 7-8:15 am, at the **Main Street Diner – 203 Main Street.** The class will resume on Thursday, September 7.

PRAYER WARRIORS

The month of August was full of family things for me. An uncle passed away this month. His death was a display of victory as his faith shined brightly during his days in hospice care. Another much younger family member began texting me with questions about godly choices in the tough world she must learn to navigate. And another young couple, not related by blood but by love, invited us to attend their church service as they were accepted as new members.

Family. What a most wonderful gift. How unworthy I am of the wonderful blessings God gave me through each of these events. How amazing it is to be a part of His family, sheltered in His love, and saved by His own precious blood. Thank God for His awesome gift of family – whatever that family is composed of – for those

related by blood, by marriage, by the bonds of friendship, or the ties of Christian faith.

As you remember the gifts God gives us through family, count Prayer Warriors among them. Immanuel's Prayer Warriors will support you in prayer. God has placed us where He needs us, and prompts us to be of service to Him and to you. If you have a request for prayer, please contact us.

Church Office: 882-2208

Pat Lenger: 882-5579 or 888-9739

Valerie Holley: 537-3987

Brenda Scott 888-2903

We welcome you to join the Prayer Warriors. To join, please contact the Church Office at the number above.

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

1001 Immanuel Drive, Boonville, MO 65233

Church Office: 660/882-2208

E-Mail: Immanuel.Boonville@gmail.com

Website: www.ImmanuelBoonvilleMO.church

Pastor Rev. Joshua Ketelsen

Pastor's Cell Phone: 989-306-2586

DCE Joshua Cromley

Preschool Director/Teacher Glenda Gerhardt

Preschool Teacher Assistant Samantha Derendinger

Kindergarten Teacher Linette Meller

Office Manager Patty Mangels

Custodians Gayle Linneman/Santa Fe Lawns

Production and Distribution of Newsletter -

Patty Mangels

Sunday Service- 9:00 am

Sunday School - 10:15 am

Fellowship Time - Fifth Sundays 10:15 am

Lord's Supper -

9:00 am – 1st & 3rd Sundays & Festivals

Midweek Services –

During Advent & Lent, Weds. 7:00 p.m.

Kindergarten

All Day Kindergarten

(Pre-registration required)

Preschool

3-5 year olds

Mon-Wed-Fri, 8-11am & 12-3pm (4 & 5 year olds)

Tues-Thurs, 8-11am & 12-3pm (3 year olds)

(Pre-registration required)

Dial-A-Devotion

660 / 882-5377

GREETINGS FROM THE DCE!

Welcome back to school! I know that this is an exciting time of year for parents and students alike. Students have the anxiety of starting something new, like a new grade, making new friends, learning new things at school, experiencing new stresses and time constraints that may not have been around last school year. For the parents, there are new clubs and activities to transport your children to, new things to support, and more importantly, the need for connecting with your child in a meaningful way that helps them grow up to be a good person, and to grow in their faith. This time of year has its ups and downs, the excitement of being involved in so many things, but then comes the realization that everything has become overwhelming, and some things will be cut out to give you some breathing room.

The real question is "what will get cut out of your life?" My hope for you as parents, is that Faith is something that will never get cut from your priorities. The day we had our children baptized, we promised to raise them in our Christian faith. This promise gives us the opportunity to learn more about our own faith and share it with the ones we love. God even gives us instruction on how and when to teach about our faith in God.

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." -Deuteronomy 6:4-9

When Moses is talking about using the Word of the Lord as frontlets on your eyes, it could be compared to putting blinders on a horse. God's commandments should be the things that narrow your focus, the things that guide your worldview. The Word of the LORD is what we use as our lenses to look through as we see the world. We look at the story of Grace that we are a part of, the story of God's love for His people, and more importantly the story of how through Jesus, we have been made His people. This new school year that we're entering will have its challenges, but when we look at our lives through the forgiveness that we receive, we can go through it with peace that surpasses all of our

understanding. We can pass our faith on to our children at home, in Confirmation, and even after Confirmation, because as I've been telling all of the students, "Confirmation is not Graduation." I know that Pastor and I are looking forward to seeing all of the students of God's Word this year. Just so you know.... You, yes you, are one of the students we're looking forward to seeing. Come, talk with us about God's Word, and how we can work together in teaching it to a younger generation.

In Christ,

Josh Cromley, Director of Christian Education

LYF Events

9/6 - Confirmation Meeting, 6pm

9/13 - Confirmation Begins, 6pm

9/17 - Youth Night, 4pm-6pm

9/24 - Church Picnic, 5pm

10/8 - Youth Night, 4pm-6pm

10/22 - Youth Night, 4pm-6pm

10/29 - Reformation Sausage Dinner, 5pm-7:30

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Did you enjoy the recent eclipse? The wonders of the universe are amazing. Sometimes, we get involved in our own concerns we forget about those around us. The Stephen Ministry is here to help those that are struggling with simple daily life skills. If you know of anyone who is in need of some spiritual support or just need to talk. Please contact the office or give one of us a call. We are here to "Put God's love in action".

Dee Thalgott, Stephen Leader

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

"..And Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had **trusted** in his God." Daniel 6:23. As I was reading a devotion entitled "Learning to wait on God, Trust" by Sue Monk Kidd, I began to wonder how many times I had forgotten to trust and let God take control. Many times when things start to look hopeless, we forget that God has control of the situation. Think of the 17 times each we are told in the Bible to trust and have faith. Often, we forget these passages.

Recently one of the issues I was dealing with was anger. That old green-eyed monster got me good. I found myself trying to make a major decision and God just **was**

not giving me an answer. Then I remembered God always has 3 answers, **yes; no; not now**. So, I have to wait a little longer to make that choice.

Getting our children involved in Sunday School and the youth Bible class and ourselves, should be an easy decision. However, we always have a tendency to **wait**. We find reasons to keep the children and ourselves occupied with other things. A good question to ask ourselves is "If I died tomorrow, would I go to heaven?" We are not perfect, we are human serving a perfect, patient and understanding God. He cares so much for us that He sent His Son to die for us. Doesn't He deserve some acknowledgement in return? Remember, an extra hour on Sunday morning is going to enrich your life much more than any worldly endeavors.

Dee Thalgott, BoCE Chair

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

July 18, 2017

Call to Order: President Tim Meller called the meeting to order.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Joshua Ketelsen opened with prayer.

Acceptance/Amendments of Agenda: Bob Schnetzler made a motion to accept the agenda that was seconded by Tim Derendinger. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: A motion by Tim Derendinger and seconded by Bob Schnetzler to approve the minutes from June 20, 2017 Church Council Meeting, with correction under the Board of Evangelism, correcting Lutheran Services to Lutheran Family & Children Services. Motion passed.

Pastors Report: Pastor Ketelsen stated there are 17 individuals attending the New Members class, about half of them are actual New Members, and the remainder is individuals just wanting to attend for a refresher or a bible study. Pastor is performing a wedding this week and has another on the September calendar, also there are two baptisms scheduled, one in August and one in September.

President's Report: Presented by Tim Meller. The four preschool rooms have had new flooring/tile laid.

Vice President: No report

Secretary: No report

Treasurer's Report: Suzanne Ayers was unable to attend. In her absence Tim Meller presented the printed Treasurer's report. Discussion regarding a line amount for the Memorials, although Memorials are included in

the summary below, the balances for individual Memorials are kept track of but not shown in this summary.

As of 07/14/2017

Citizen's Bank and Trust	\$ 7,907.96
LCEF	179,092.26
LCEF – CD's	175,000.00
Edward Jones	119,348.72
Edward Jones 2	<u>55,034.97</u>
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 536,393.01

(\$20,000.00 was taken from LCEF fund on 06/27/2017 the balance above does not reflect that withdrawal until statement from LCEF comes and is reconciled at that time in Treasurer's report, this information received from Suzanne Ayers after meeting)

Good Samaritan Fund \$ 987.57 current balance

Elder's Report: Elder's typed report presented by Bob Schnetzler, dated 07/02/2017.

Board Of Property: No typed report. Tim Derendinger had spoken with Billy Wells and just relayed several items that have and will be taken care of including weeds around church and playground, and the water problem at the window well.

Board of Christian Education: Josh Cromley gave verbal report. Josh stated that they had no meeting in July. Vacation Bible school was a success in the evenings. There were 20 adults and 43 kids in attendance. He stated the online registration was used. Next Youth night is August 20, 2017 from 4 - 6. There are six youth eligible for the National Youth Gathering in MN in July 2019. They have several fund raisers scheduled. There will be no "back to school picnic" in August, but the annual church picnic will be the last Sunday in September.

School Board: School Board Report dated July 11, 2017 was reviewed. A few items in that report include the following. The open house for preschool and kindergarten is set for August 13, 2017 at 3, 4, and 5pm. This coming school year is the 40th anniversary of our School, to commemorate this anniversary the 4 year old preschoolers will sing on the fourth Sunday in September.

Board of Stewardship: No written report. Tim Derendinger stated the board met on July 16, 2017. They are reviewing budgets. There was some discussion among the Council regarding the printing of financial information in the bulletin.

Board of Evangelism: Report presented by Valerie Holley. Pictorial Directory is complete.

First Plus One Meeting July 17, 2017 a follow up meeting to come. They discussed our churches vision, what we value, our mission statement, focus, assets of our members, and the demographics of this area.

Board of Fellowship: No report. Church Picnic will be September 24, 2017.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Pastor, President's, Officer's and Board's reports. The motion passed.

Unfinished Business: none

New Business: Concordia Plan (packet) was received and given to Bob Schnetzler to review with the Elders.

Announcements: None

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn by Valerie Holley and seconded by Josh Cromley. Motion passed.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Josh Ketelsen led the attendees in the Lord's Prayer.

Those in attendance included Tim Meller, Susan Templemire, Bob Schnetzler, Valerie Holley, Tim Derendinger, Pastor Josh Ketelsen, and Josh Cromley DCE.

ELDERS MEETING

August 6, 2017

Call to Order/Opening devotion and prayer –
Confirmation and Communion

Motion to accept the agenda as printed – approved
Previous minutes – approved

Pastor's Report – catching up on shut-ins and on new Sunday School subject

Monthly Reports – Review of purchase orders. Earl Mangels motioned to accept, 2nd by Wayne Atkins. Approved.

Quarterly Reports –

Elder Assignments (monthly)

September – Wayne Atkins

Elder Assigned Duties

1. Bob Schnetzler, Chairman
2. Tim Fahrenbrink, Secretary
3. Earl Mangels, secure ushers Sunday mornings
4. Wayne Atkins, ensure communion wine & wafers are stocked appropriately
5. Jason Linneman, special occasions

Old Business – Plan to order whole wheat communion wafers.

New Business –

- A. Quarterly financial reports will be placed in the mailboxes. Motion approved.

- B. The 2018 Concordia Plan for the Pastor was reviewed. Tim Fahrenbrink motioned for no change, 2nd by Earl Mangels. Motion approved.
- C. A review of worship service schedule/alternatives was tabled.
- D. Reviewed Elder list. Members will be contacted regarding worship schedule. Pastor Ketelsen will provide training for calls to assigned members.
- E. A request for volunteers to provide transportation for members unable to drive to services will be placed in the bulletin.
- F. A review of the wedding policy was tabled to give the Elders time to read over the handout.

Adjournment – the meeting was closed with all saying the Lord's Prayer.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

August 1, 2017

Call to order: The meeting was opened by Pastor with a prayer.

Previous minutes were reviewed. Minutes were accepted.

Purchase orders were reviewed.

Teachers presented their reports:

Glenda reported the new flooring has been installed in the preschool rooms. Church helpers moved things back in the rooms. Storage has been cleaned and sorted.

We have 60-62 kids enrolled for preschool. Open house for preschool is set for August 13. 3 year olds open house is at 3 pm, 4 year old preschool is set for 4 pm. The first day of preschool is August 16, 2017. Sam Derendinger and Glenda will go to Lakeshore on August 8 to make supply purchases for 2017-18 school year. The Tuesday/Thursday afternoon class has 10 students registered. If two more enroll a part-time aide will be needed.

Since the Open House date and graduation date has been set for Kindergarten, Linette will mail letters to the enrolled kindergarten families. Kindergarten Open House is set for August 13 at 5 pm.

Wanda and Eva will be at the open house to collect Debit information or promises to pay from parents.

There was a discussion concerning graduation ceremonies. A change is being considered. Handbooks will be changed to reflect the changes.

Tuition payments - Gayle reported that the auto debit system is a great help in collection of fees. The auto debit is also collecting past delinquencies. Gayle has contacted several families and is having success in collections.

Other Business

This coming year is the 40th anniversary of our preschool. The Board suggested that the 4 year old preschool sing at the 4th Sunday service in September to commemorate this anniversary and Glenda agreed that the 4 year olds can sing at that service.

Pastor has worked diligently to get the new school computers up and running. He worked with Microsoft to prove not for profit status to get Office 365 at no cost.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept 12, 2018.

Adjournment - All present joined in the Lord's Prayer.

Attendance: Gayle Linneman, Eva Weston, Glenda Gerhardt, Linette Meller, Wanda Derendinger, Pastor Ketelsen

Respectfully submitted, Eva Weston

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Immanuel's Kindergarten began the 2017-2018 school year with five students. Each child made the comment sometime during the first week of school that they were very excited to begin Kindergarten. One student told his mom that he was learning. I love to hear those comments. It's exciting for me as a teacher to hear and see the eagerness of this class to learn.

The first day of school we made the numbers one and two out of playdough, and soon we will shape more numbers and letters with playdough. We did our first handwriting page on Thursday; we put this paper in our Kindergarten Portfolio so that we can look at it at the end of the year to see how much our handwriting has improved. We played a game with yarn that helped us learn more about our classmates. We also learned how to play UNO Moo!

This game helps us practice taking turns. When we went outside to play on the playground, we all joined in a game of basketball. I guess you can tell that we had a lot of fun during our first week of school.

RUTH'S SERVANTS

After a L O N G (or some felt it was way too short) Summer Break, Ruth's Servants are ready to continue to "Serve the Lord with Gladness"! Our September meeting will be held in the Church Fellowship Hall on Thursday, September 7th at 7:00 p.m.

At our last meeting we focused on The Gift of the Spirit. We answered roll call with what we felt we were particularly good at doing. It was interesting to hear what others saw as a gift in each other. Glenda led in sharing how we serve the Lord in our daily lives with the gifts God has given us.

The normal business meeting was then held.

President Glenda Gerhardt reported that Ruth's Servants will host the Zone Fall Rally. We are planning on Saturday, October 14th. Mark this date on your calendars. We are planning an exciting and enriching program for the women of the Zone. Please plan to join us. LWML Sunday will be held in October.

Card Ministry Penny Cain, reported that she had sent 22 cards out during the month of March. She thanked Brenda Scott for volunteering to take over the sending out of cards to those we would like to encourage. We thanked Penny for her 6 years of service.

Treasurer Becky Ehlers, gave the treasurer's report and the Mite Box report.

Other Activities: We will participated in the Baby Bottle Boomerang held last May. We will select a month to collect items (clothing, etc., fresh produce) to be taken to St. Louis as a ministry to assist Seminary Students. Glenda asked for assistance in serving refreshment for the 3 Preschool Graduation dates in May. Ruth's Servants members volunteered so that two were there for each of the three nights.

Penny made a motion that a Saran Wrap holder be purchased for the kitchen. Brenda Scott seconded.

Motion carried. This proposal will be taken to the Council for approval.

Becky Ehlers will serve refreshments at our September 1st meeting. Glenda will give the devotion/program.

You are invited to join us. We welcome you. We would love to serve alongside of you here at Immanuel doing the work God would have us do!

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Derendinger, Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

LUTHER FILM TO AIR ON PBS SEPT. 12

"Martin Luther: The Idea That Changed the World," the full length feature film that premiered in select theaters in February, is set to air nationally on PBS on Tuesday, September 12 at 7 p.m. Central Time. Funded by Thrivent Financial, the film dramatizes the events that shaped Luther and examines the questions he wrestled with, such as "Who Am I?," "What is my purpose?" and "How do I get right with God?" Included are insights and commentary from LCMS theologians and historians. (From THE VOICE OF MISSOURI E-newsletter)

The annual church picnic will be on Sunday, September 24 at 6 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbia, MO is looking for singers for a Celebrating the Reformation Mass Choir on November 5, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. There will be a mass rehearsal from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on the 5th. For more information, call or e-mail Ken Greer at 573-234-1448 or winemanken@aol.com, or Carolyn Holste at 573-234-1325 or carolynholste@yahoo.com. There is a notice on the bulletin board.

Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Preschool & Kindergarten
1001 Immanuel Drive
Boonville, MO 65233

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Altar & Flowers

There are still dates available to sign up for altar flowers for 2017. The Flower Chart is located on the door across from the lounge. Dates available are **October 1, 15, 22; November 12, 19; and December 3.** If you would like to donate the flowers for a specific Sunday, please sign up on the chart and include a phone number where you can be reached. The Altar Guild member for that month will contact you for details.

A-Bow-K Floral supplies the arrangements for Immanuel. The cost for regular Sunday vases is \$35 (\$17.50 per vase) plus tax. That means they will use whatever flowers they have on hand for that week. If specific flowers or larger arrangements are requested, the cost will be more than the initial \$35. However, the donor can certainly use a florist of their choice. If this is the case, be sure to indicate this to the Altar Guild member when she calls. The Guild sincerely thanks all who have donated altar flowers to date for 2017. Your continued support is very much appreciated!