

INSIDE IMMANUEL



Faithful to God's Word – we receive, celebrate and share Jesus Christ.

A Blessed Ascension Day

*And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.
(Acts 2.9)*

We've seen it all this church year. We waited in anticipation for the birth of the Christ during Advent. From the Old Testament prophecies to John the Baptizer's preaching we heard that the Christ was close at hand. We rejoiced on Christmas that the Father would send His Son in flesh for us. We marveled with the Shepherds and Magi during Epiphany at the incarnation. Our focus shifted during Lent to Jesus traveling to the cross to lay down His life for sinners. This we saw in sharp focus on Good Friday. We mourned on Holy Saturday as the Christ lay dead in the tomb. And on Easter we rose early to light the Pascal candle and rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord. We have heard those resurrection appearances during our Easter season.

But soon the festival half of the church year comes to a close. There is one final festival to celebrate. We gather on May 14 at 6.30 pm to celebrate the ascension of our Lord into heaven. Jesus ascends to the Father completing His work of redemption and showing His disciples that His resurrection appearances will end. No longer will Jesus be with them in the same way as He had been. There is a new, even better, way that Jesus will be with them.

The ascension of Jesus does not mean that He is no longer with His people. We know that Jesus is God. God is present everywhere. In time those divine attributes are given over to the human nature of Jesus that Jesus, all of Him (human and divine), would be present everywhere. But this isn't good enough. It is not good enough that God be present everywhere for this is of the law. Rather, we seek the gracious presence of God. And this we find in His sacramental presence.

Jesus is present for us in the sacraments- Baptism and the Lord's Supper. There Jesus comes to sinners and forgives our sins. He gives us Himself. In Baptism we receive the death that He died in our place. In the Supper we receive His body and blood. In both sacraments we receive all of Jesus; human and divine. We receive Him for the forgiveness of our sins. This is what Jesus desired to give to His people.

The disciples, and us, now look to the Sacraments for Jesus. There we find Him given in the simple water of Baptism and in the bread and wine of the Supper. Jesus has ascended to fill all things, but still delights to come to you, for you, in this simple means. He comes to you that your sins would be forgiven through Him and that your faith would be strengthened.

As the festival half of the church year comes to a close we gather again to receive what Jesus has done for us. We gather to remember the ascension of Jesus. It is to our benefit that He ascends into heaven for He sends the Holy Spirit on the disciples. He gives them Baptism and Supper. He gives them Himself. But not just them, us also. Jesus gives the Spirit to you. He gives you the gifts of the sacraments. So come and receive Him. He is the one who was born for you, died for you, rose for you, and ascended for you that you would receive Him and all He did for you.

In the Name of Jesus,
Pastor Boyer

G.L.U.E **“God Loves Us** **Eternally”**

Mark 4:26-29

The Parable of the Seed Growing

[26] And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. [27] He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. [28] The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. [29] But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.” (ESV)

Perhaps, Jesus should have been a farmer instead of a carpenter. The parable of the seed growing, is like the farmer spreading seed to grow for our nourishment. As the farmers nourish us with their crop production, so Jesus nourishes us through His Word. The parable relates the growing of the seed without the farmer’s knowledge (i.e., how the seed actually grows into a plant) to the mystery of spiritual growth. When the grain from the seed is ripe, the farmer gathers the harvest signifying the fulfillment of God’s work. The seed (God’s Word) grows through the power of God, not through man’s effort.

Just as the seed grows into a plant for harvesting, God’s Word nourishes us teaching spiritual growth in a natural and divine process reflecting the power of God in the lives of believers.

The growing and spreading of the seed (God’s Word) shows us that God Loves Us Eternally!

God’s blessings to all the farmers who grow and spread the seed for our nourishment. We praise God for sharing His seeds with us for our spiritual growth through Jesus’s love and the outreach of the Holy Spirit!

Jim Bratton

June/July Newsletter **Deadline:** **Wednesday,** **May 20, 2026**

Treasurer’s Report

MONTH OF MARCH 2026

Receipts	\$ 77,940.16
Less Expenses	- 76,258.68
Operating Income	1,681.48
Deficit Reduction	<u>1,150.00</u>
Net Income	2,831.48

CASH IN BANK & ON HAND

Petty Cash	100.00
Independent Checking	93,249.10
Independent Savings	30,0785.63
Ind Bank CD	167,355.31
Ind Bank CD	50,000.00
Ind Bank CD	25,000.00
Ind Bank CD	81,723.18
Restricted Savings	<u>-214,966.13</u>
Total	\$232,547.09

Official Acts

BAPTISM

March 29 **Vivian Noelle Gangler**, daughter of Seth & Crystal (Whittaker) Gangler, born January 21, 2026.

April 12 **Callen Walter Cuthrell**, son of Sawyer & Madison (Herman) Cuthrell, born February 26, 2026.

April 26 **Axel Ray Mowery**, son of Gweneth Hahn and Hunter Mowery, born April 10, 2026

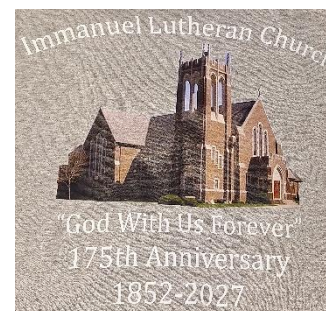
DEATHS

April 6 **James Brandenburg**

Voters’ **Meeting** **Sunday, May 17** *immediately following 9am worship*

PRAYER TIME AT **THE MUSEUM**

In observance of the National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 7, the Luckhard Museum will be having a “Prayer Time at the Museum” from 12-1pm, 3-4pm and 7-8pm that day. You are invited to stop by during these hours for individual and/or group prayers. Prayer materials and devotional aids will be available. Philippians 4:6 states “in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made to God.”



IMMANUEL SHIRTS

The 175th Church Anniversary Committee is now selling sweatshirts and T-shirts in various colors and sizes. Please, see the display in the Great Room to make your selection. Payment is due at the time of purchase by either check or cash. Turn-around time is approximately two weeks. At service times, someone will be at the display table to take your order. During the week, you can place your order with Traci in our church office.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

To the three gentlemen who have shared their skills and talents for woodworking with Immanuel. They have graciously used their skill to the glory of God:

1. Tom Eurich - Most of us are probably not aware of how time and usage took their toll on the hymnal racks in each pew. Tom created the wooden parts needed to repair these. Thank you, Tom.

2. Jaxon Kuhl - Since most of the individuals who play our orchestral chimes are students, risers of various heights are needed. Jaxon created a beautiful wooden riser 15" tall. Thank you, Jaxon.

3. Ken Engelhardt - When Immanuel began using our new Clavinova, two sections of wood had to be added in order to keep the music rack stable and keep the sheets of music from sliding into the instrument. Ken solved the problems. Immanuel has a conga drum which we have used several times. It was falling apart, and Herter Music would not repair it, so Ken refurbished the drum, which now looks beautiful and will be good for many years. The risers for the chimers are in sections. Ken made a wooden "cap" to stabilize the group of risers and keep the students safe as they get off and on them. Timpani head covers. Confirmation crosses each year for the confirmands since 2011 as well as the word *Jesus* in the shape of a fish for each high school graduate. The light on our organ was given by Ken in memory of his dear wife, Connie. Ken made a small wooden box to conceal the cord of the lamp that sits on the organ console. Thank you, Ken.

Council Meeting April 13

Elders: The 6 long banners that hang by the altar are being updated. The doors to the church will be locked, and a doorbell has been added by the west office door for guests to be let in. The inactive letter list is 144 names long, 15 have returned to church, 8 have asked for release, and the rest will go into self-exclusion. Elders have approved an increase in Sunday organist pay to \$75 a service and \$50 for Monday and Wednesday services. There is a \$9000 decrease in the budget. There are 2 seats open on the Elders Board ballot.

Trustees: Bell Tower update – to get a better estimate. There is an \$11,400 survey cost (which is put toward the cost of the project if we proceed). We are also looking into another option. The Heating project is expected to begin this summer. The school bathroom partitions/flooring projects are being looked into. There is still one seat available on the Trustees Board ballot.

Stewardship: The cookbook is complete and headed to the printer soon! The budget will remain the same for the coming year, and we have names to fill all vacant seats on the ballot.

Evangelism: We are collecting hygiene items for the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission in Bay City through May 9. A float is being planned for the Sugarfest Parade – see Ken Walz to help. We have names to fill all vacant seats on the ballot.

Youth: The Jr High lock-out hosted 20 kids. They bowled in Sebewaing, went to the arcade in Bad Axe, and returned to Immanuel for a candle lit devotional. The stonework in the Collide room has been completed! Come and see it. The Sr High MI District Gathering will be at Mackinac Island this summer. Upcoming receptions – May 3 and 10 for Confirmation, and May 17 for Graduate Sunday. We have names to fill the vacancies for the ballot.

School Board: A grant has been received for a greatest need project, and recruitment and student retention. Currently we have a 3rd-4th combined class. Next year we are planning on a 3rd-4th and 4th-5th hybrid schedule. There is still one seat available on the School Board ballot.

Principal's Report: Track season has begun. The CTK rummage sale brought in \$1400 for the scholarship fund. Mrs. Brink was awarded another sustainability grant for a compost area, as well as a Frankenmuth Credit Union grant for improvements to the greenhouse. Our 7th and 8th graders will travel to Washington DC April 14-18. Plans are being made for a developmental kindergarten class, allowing CTK to grow in new ways.

Pastor's Report: A big thank you for the new garage doors on the parsonage! Pastor attended a Circuit Visitors meeting today and will be gone to conferences May 13-14, May 19-20 and July 18-23.

New Business: Peter Boyer has asked for scholarship funds from the Scholarship Committee to attend Concordia Chicago. People are looking into this for him. More discussion was held to determine the best way we can help. The CD interest income is \$10,000 for the 2026-2027 budget.

**Next Council Meeting: Monday,
May 11 at 7:45pm.*

**Next Voters' Meeting: Sunday, May
17 after church (approx. 10:15)*

Our 175th Anniversary - February 2027

Our 175th Anniversary year is a time of celebration for Immanuel. We can think of the possibility of several events on different dates during the year, or we can think of just one celebratory service. What would you

like to see happen? How about a specific theme? Perhaps "gratitude" or perhaps "community outreach".

In preparation for the 175th, an anniversary committee is being formed. If you would like to be on the committee, please, let me know. I will serve as the chairperson.

Any ideas you have about a special activity for the 175th, please, let me know. If you see me in the hall or after Bible Class, feel free to speak with me, or if you'd like, write your suggestion on one of the white attendance cards and drop it into the offering plate. I've already been given a few suggestions but look forward to receiving many more.

In Christ we move forward with the planning of this special time, not only focusing on our past history, but also focusing on what role we want our church to take in the future of our community. Let your ideas and suggestions be creative and fresh.

In Christ, Barbara Bleck

Voters Meeting Sunday, April 19

Financial: Board Chair, Lorene Zagata. The Board of Finance budget will remain at \$950. The ballot of 6 names has been filled.

Stewardship: Board Chair, Alicia Truemner. The Board of Stewardship budget will remain at \$950. Four names have been submitted to fill the 3 vacancies on the ballot.

Trustees: Board Chair, Joel Fiebig. The Board of Trustees budget shows a proposed \$6,604 increase, primarily for insurance and energy costs. The ballot of 3 names has been filled.

Elders: Board Chair, Matt Bumhoffer. The Board of Elders budget shows a proposed \$13,168 decrease, primarily due to Pastor Kuhl's wages. There are still 2 names needed to fulfill the ballot.

School Board: Board Chair, Lori Kemp. The Board of Education budget shows a proposed decrease of \$18,948, primarily the difference from former teacher Matt Deneen's salary. There is still 1 name needed to fulfill the ballot.

Evangelism: Board Chair, Kim Fritz. The Board of Evangelism budget shows a proposed increase of \$460, primarily for float supplies. The ballot of 2 names has been filled.

Youth Board: Board Chair, Sarah Kemp. The Board of Youth budget shows a proposed increase of \$149 due to taxes. The ballot of 2 names has been filled.

Total Budget: The total budget proposed for the 2026-2027 church year shows a \$23,657 decrease.

Anyone with questions or concerns is invited to reach out to the board in question to get clarity. There are still open spots and opportunities to serve. Reach out to board chairs to be added to the ballot!

CTK School News

Greetings from CTK!

Our 7th & 8th graders had a wonderful 5 days in Washington, D.C. We are thankful they were able

to have safe travels and got to see so much around our nation's capital.

The school's greenhouse has arrived! We are excited to start using it for multiple educational lessons! It is located near the wooded area of the playground, at the Sebewaing campus! Thank you to Yvette, Kyle, and Caleb Brink for all their work that went into getting it ready! God has truly blessed us here at CTK!

The Preschool through first graders did a wonderful job at their Spring Concert and singing for the Lamb Sunday at St. Paul! Thank you for sharing your love of Jesus through the songs you sang!

Track season has begun! Best wishes to our track athletes as they compete in the upcoming meets! Go Knights!

Field Day is coming up on Friday, May 8. Events will begin around noon. We are excited to have the kindergarten and first graders joining the students at the Sebewaing campus for an afternoon of fun!

The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade handbell groups will be participating in the Music Festival. This event takes place at Valley Lutheran High School, in Saginaw, on Friday, May 15.

CTK Lunch Program: Are you interested in being a part of our Adopt Our Salad Bar for a Day program, but aren't sure what to do next? Pick up a brochure at the back of the church.

We are truly blessed here at CTK, to have all the continued prayers and support for the staff and students! We greatly appreciate all that our congregations do for our school! Thank you!

God's Blessings,
Jen Yoder
Principal



Memorial & Gifts

IMMANUEL GENERAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF HAROLD GREMEL

Don & Kathy Fiebig
Larry & Lois Dressler

IN MEMORY OF SUSAN REED

Larry & Lois Dressler

IN MEMORY OF RONNA GETTEL WILLHELM

Larry & Lois Dressler

IN MEMORY OF JAMES BRANDENBURG

Roger & Deb Bloomfield
Countryside Transportation
Sebewaing Sportsmen Club
Craig & Tami Gettel
Dale Bolzman
Rodney & Lois Bohn
Roger & Linda Engelhardt
Roger & Dorothy Gremel
Dustin & Brooke Gruehn
John & Dianne Schulz
Cynthia & Terry Volz
Pat & Kari Stecker
Beth Brown
Bill & Maxine Kauffold
Elizabeth & Mike McGee
Joanne Harder
Virginia Nitz
Rod & Carol Truemner
Kurt & Mary Kelly
Duane & LoAnn Rieman
Bruce & Joanne Bach
Bill & Cindy Lutz
Tom & Janice Sting – Debt Retirement
Mike & Lorene Zagata - Debt Retire.
Mike & Karen Flintoft – Ladies Aid
Mike & Cindy Wildner – Cap. Improv
Dan & Abby Wildner - Capital Improv
David Wildner – Capital Improvement
Mark & Sally Rummel

DECORATING FUND

IN MEMORY OF MARY KLEIN

Roger & Deb Bloomfield
Larry & Lois Dressler
Don & Pat Holland

ENDOWMENT

IN MEMORY OF HAROLD GREMEL

Dave & Janet Sharpsteen

IN MEMORY OF JAMES BRANDENBURG

Larry & Lois Dressler
Kristine Koch
Don & Brenda Hofmeister
Howard & Ginger Hoppe
John & Lori Kemp
Tim & Sandy Irion
Pat & Amy Gruehn
Ed & Lori Kemp
Floyd & Karen Winchell
Mary Stefanski
Roger Neuman
Charlie & Judy Schweitzer
Gary & Mary Wissner
Dale & Linda Volz
Jim & Mandy Armbruster
Timothy Beringer
Charlie & Deann Bumhoffer
Teri Grigg
Mary Jo Behrmann
Matt & Brianna Schultz
Richard Gremel
Joel & Gia Gremel
Wayne & Sheree Goebel
Ervin Haley
Ben & Lisa Wilson
Tammy Jubar
Jessica Schwartz
Wayne Nitz
Mark & Deb Krauss
Kendall & Deb Stoeckle
Troy Strieter
Robert & Jane Braem
Sandy Marxhausen

RADIO MISSION

IN MEMORY OF JAMES BRANDENBURG

Chuck Dutcher
Joyce Jahr

CEMETERY

IN MEMORY OF JAMES BRANDENBURG

Larry Kuhl

CHRIST THE KING

IN MEMORY OF SUSAN REED

Lou LaPrairie

IN MEMORY OF ELSON BAUR

Tim & Sandy Irion

IN MEMORY OF JAMES BRANDENBURG

John Volz

Jim & Carol Stein
Pat & Ryan Nitz
Roger & Gerry Vermeersch - sch.ship
Stoeckle Twins – scholarship
Mark & Deb Adam – scholarship
Sherry DeCaire
Ron Winter – athletics
Dale & Deb Hornbacher
Don & Mary Jahr
Kundinger Farms
Mike & Janet Horst
Dale & Alicia Truemner
Mr/Mrs Robert Becker
Larry & Suzanne Kohl – scholarship
Garrett & Katie Adam
Scott Adam – scholarship
Deanna Holland
Jim & Kathy Hofmeister – athletics
Steve & Patty Gremel
Otto & Heidi Schulz
Jim & Cindy Gremel
Mike & Erika Armbruster
Dan & Gloria Beringer – scholarship
Jack Buehler

COLLIDE

IN MEMORY OF MARY KLEIN

Kristine Koch

IN MEMORY OF ELSON BAUR

Warren & Connie Reithel

IN MEMORY OF JAMES BRANDENBURG

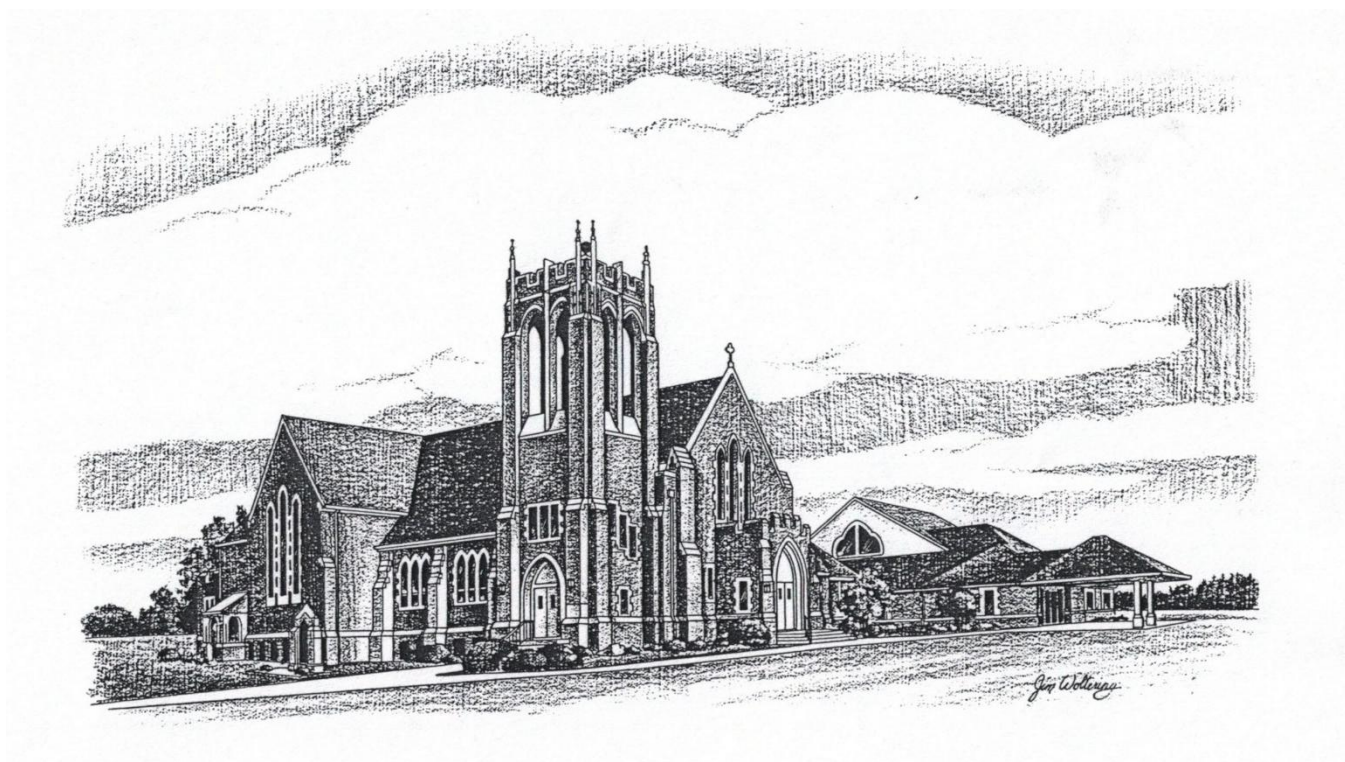
Warren & Connie Reithel



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED





May 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
Confirmation 3 7:15 Elders 9:00 Worship/C – 2 10:15 SS & BC	4 5:00 Finance 6:30 Worship/C	5 9:00 Quilting 10:30 Bay View Gardens Devotions	6 7:00 Men's Study 8:15 Chapel 9:30 Adult Bible Class 4:30 Evangelism	7 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 4:00 Mary Martha Guild	8	9
Confirmation 10 Mother's Day 9:00 Worship/C – 3 10:15 SS & BC 7:30 Youth	11 5:00 Finance 6:30 Worship/C 6:30 Trustees 6:30 Stewardship 7:45 Council	12 9:00 Quilting	13 8:15 Chapel 6-8 handbells play during chapel 9:30 Adult Bible Class	Ascension 14 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 4:00 MMG 6:30 Worship/C – 4	15	Armed Forces Day 16  ARMED FORCES DAY -UNITED STATES OF AMERICA-
Graduate Sunday 17 9:00 Worship/C – 5 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Voters Meeting	18 5:00 Finance 6:30 Worship/C	19 9:00 Quilting	20 8:15 Chapel 9:30 Adult Bible Class 4:00 Newsletter Deadline	21 12:00 Bulletin Deadline	22 CTK No School Church Office Closed	23
24 9:00 Worship/C – 6 10:15 SS & BC	Memorial Day 25 CTK No School Church Office Closed 5:00 Finance 6:30 Worship/C	26 9:00 Quilting 7:00 Board of Ed	27 8:15 Chapel 9:30 Adult Bible Class	28 12:00 Bulletin Deadline	29	30
31 9:00 Worship/C – 7 10:15 BC						Flower Chairman Lorene Zagata

May Birthdays

MAY 1

Cora Driscoll
Kristi Eurich
Ryan Kuhl
Tripp Payne

MAY 2

Mark Bauer
Stephanie Boyer
Garrett Kata

MAY 3

Steven Heidt
Mark Holland
Ethan Persons
Katie Rizzo
Joy Sprague

MAY 4

Dale Hornbacher
Jaxon Kuhl
Connie Reithel

MAY 5

Sarah Boyer
Rachel Kemp

MAY 6

Charles Dutcher
Thomas Eurich Jr
Kimberly Schulz

MAY 7

Brent Bowman
James Engelhardt
Sandra Neumann

MAY 8

Amanda Feehan
Linda Gerisch-Prosser
Avery Quinn

MAY 9

No Birthdays

MAY 10

Caden Finkbeiner

MAY 11

Taylyn Bill

MAY 12

Gia Gremel
Judy Kunisch

MAY 13

Carmen Dressler
Dustin Kuhl

MAY 14

Wyatt Kauffold
Jan Klaus
Tara Vermeersch

MAY 15

Madison Harper
Robert Kuhl
Larry Welther
Floyd Winchell Jr

MAY 16

Kayla Eremia
Rachel Hornbacher
LoAnn Rieman

MAY 17

Craig Rieman
Kyle Sonntag

MAY 18

Mary Demo
Terri Hornbacher
Edward Kemp

MAY 19

Drew Rievert

MAY 20

Dale Ewald
Gilbert Sprague Jr
Michael Zagata

MAY 21

Lynette Ballard
Jessica Marker
Virginia Nitz
Joshua Tietz
Grace Williamson

MAY 22

Layne Carson
Preston Eurich
Seth Gangler

MAY 23

Dalton Anderson
Laurie Baur
Ann Koch

MAY 24

Jacob Boyer
Diane Strieter

MAY 25

No Birthdays

MAY 26

No Birthdays

MAY 27

Rylee Dexter
Lennox Gettel
Randy Ewald
Whitney Schulz

MAY 28

Everett Feehan
Sandra Gross
Easton Konecny
Abigail Reithel
James Reithel

MAY 29

Janet Warack

MAY 30

Christopher Gangler
Scott Millerwise
Travis Renn

MAY 31

Michael Armbruster
Addison Kramer
Katelyn McDaid
Warren Reithel
Kenneth Rink
Crystal Wightman