

April showers bring May flowers

By Pastor Nancy Larson
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I'm sure you've heard this saying many times over the years, and I have found it to be quite true. As I listen to the rain on the roof of my sun porch, it seems that I can watch the grass turn green before my very eyes. Then I think of the pot of dry dirt sitting in my garage with very dead sticks of palm trees shooting from that dirt. This pot sat in my living room for quite a long time and as you may have already surmised, I forgot to water it for a long, long, long time. The palm trees could not survive the human-imposed drought, and they died.

We came into the month of April on the heels of celebrating the Easter Good News, with all the joy and excitement still fresh—*He is Risen, He is Risen indeed*. Now we come into May and ask what next, what now? Do the April showers of grace and new life now translate into a May filled with generosity and service? Does the incredible victory of Jesus over sin, death and the power of evil mean something real in our life and in our world?

*"He is risen! He is risen indeed!
Live in the promises of God!"*



As the "April showers bring May flowers" adage goes, it is a statement of cause and effect. Something happening causes something else to happen. May flowers don't appear by accident. As we live in the beauty of God's power over death and evil and sin, we are prompted to live as we believe—reflecting the effect, blooming with mercy and joy and generosity.

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Live in the promises of God!

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Event marks anniversary of immigration raid

Congregations of the Northeastern Iowa Synod are asked to remember the May 12, 2008, immigration raid in Postville, Iowa.

A public gathering commemorating the fifth anniversary of the raid will begin at 12 noon Friday, May 10, with a remembrance ritual in front of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa, 111 7th Ave. SE in Cedar Rapids. This location was chosen because of the court's role in the raid and the significance of the event to the on-going national conversation about immigration. A "Walk for Justice" at 12:30 p.m. to Immaculate Conception Church, 857 3rd Ave. SE, will follow. An interfaith prayer for reconciliation and a call for reform of immigration policies will take place at 1:15 p.m.

The gathering is being planned by a wide coalition of those involved in the response to the raid and those affected. It will include immigrants affected by the raid, church representatives who ministered to the immigrants and their families, attorneys, and others concerned about

immigration reform.

The 2009 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly passed a resolution that designates

May 12 as a Day of Prayer for Immigration reform and encourages synod congregations to observe this day, or a Sunday close to it, with prayer for those who continue to be affected the by raid.

For more information about the fifth anniversary commemoration and resources for organizing events to coincide with this commemoration, contact Rockne Cole at rocknecole@gmail.com or (319) 358-1900 or Sister Mary McCauley, BVM, at mmccauley@bvmcong.org or (563) 583-8989.

