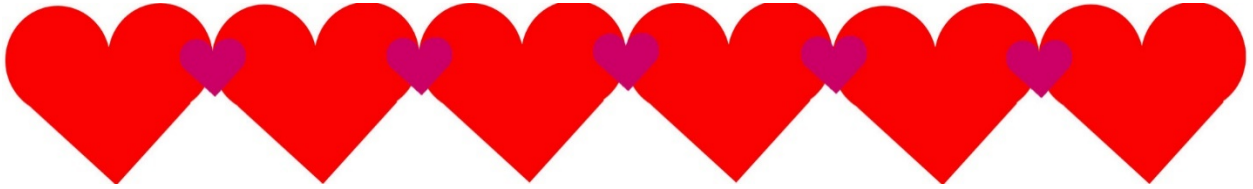


IMMANUEL SPEAKS
FEBRUARY 2023



Sisters & brothers in Christ,

Attention everybody!!! It is February, and you all know what that means. On the 14th it will be Valentine's Day!!! Now is the time to get out and get those gifts for your spouse, fiancé, or significant other to show them how much you love and appreciate them. Looking back, I remember one Valentine's Day in particular when I was in eighth grade. Being a teenager I thought I had found the girl of my dreams and so as Valentine's Day rolled around I showered her with gifts. When she got to school in the morning there was a necklace in her locker. During first period she received some carnations. Later on during the day she found a huge teddy bear in her locker. After lunch the local florist came with more flowers and one of the biggest heart balloons I have ever seen. Looking back, I have to laugh at all of the ways I tried to show this girl that "I loved her".

Valentine's Day is a wonderful day to remind one another of that love that we have. But it is also a day on which we can also reflect on God's great love for us. What is love? John in his first letter to the early church would write this, "In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins." As we celebrate Valentine's Day and we thank one another for the gift of love, John reminds us of the Greatest Valentine's Day gift we will ever receive, our Lord and Savior!

On February 22nd we will once again begin our Lenten journey. Beginning with Ash Wednesday and throughout the 40 days of Lent we will see the height and depth of God's love for us and creation! God loves us so much that Jesus sets his face to Jerusalem knowing full well what is going to happen there. Rejected, Jesus continues to proclaim God's love. Upon the cross Jesus speaks words of forgiveness to those who persecuted him. To a dying convicted criminal, Jesus promises paradise. And as John the Baptist foreshadowed early on, at the cross we behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world; who rose again destroying the power of death so that we may have eternal life.

My friends, out of all the Valentine's Day gifts we receive; the cross is the greatest gift of all. And so, as we go about our shopping and trying to find the perfect gift to show those special people in our life how much we love and appreciate them; remember the greatest Valentine's Day gift that God has given you. Remember his great love for each and every one of you!

In His name,

Pastor Joel

January 10, 2023

1. Pastoral Acts

- 15 in person/phone visits

2. Worship

-Christmas Eve & Day moved to virtual due to weather

-Thank you to all the readers for the Christmas Eve Service

3. Education/Youth

-Confirmation still waiting on finishing the final lesson on 10 commandments; barring another snow storm confirmation will finally resume Jan. 11th.

-Lock-in in the works for older youth

-Sunday school resumed Jan. 8th; transitioning from Old Testament to New Testament stories.

4. Congregational life

- Nothing to report at this time

5. Mission & Outreach

- Thank you to everyone who participated in the fill a box for a family; purchasing a gift for a local maccray youth, and the ELCA good gifts program (God's global barn yard).

- Served community meal Jan. 8th; next community meal either Feb 5th

6. Wider Church

- Nothing to report at this time.

7. Continuing Education/Pastoral Self-Care

-Nothing to report at this time.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 10, 2023 7:00 P.M.

Present: Andrea Prekker, LuAnn Kruger, Mike Pankratz, Jim Jaenisch, Ross Pederson, Isaac Gosseling, Michele Shubert, Pastor Joel, Katherine Schwitters-Treasurer

Absent: Jane Niemeyer, Harold Goedgedrag

Devotions: By Pastor Joel, Matthew's account of the Baptism of Jesus.

Meeting called to order by LuAnn Kruger. The agenda was M/S/P.

Secretary's Report: November was reviewed and M/S/P.
December was reviewed and M/S/P.

Treasurer's Report: November – As of November 30, 2022 the checking account was \$27,587.93. The savings account was \$161,233.01. M/S/P.
December – As of January 7, 2023 the checking account is \$43,188.81. The savings account is \$80,942.69. The Fair Rental value of parsonage for 2022 and 2023 is \$9000.00. M/S/P.
2023 budget discussion and budget was M/S/P with changes.

Committee Reports:

Congregational Life – donated \$250.00 to Ridgewater Campus Ministry and \$250.00 to Hawk Creek Animal Shelter. Looking for Subcommittee Members to help with events. Hosting a Potluck dinner following Annual Meeting. Serving Lenten Supper on March 15th.

Pastor's Report: See Attached.

Old Business: Work on furnaces begin the week of January 9th.
Heartland Security will begin working on doors February 20th.
WCI tryout went well so they will be contracted for a year to do church cleaning. Randy Grussing will do maintenance work through spring.
Discussion of snow removal/Butch Hasbrook.

New Business: Money Counters – January - Jane Niemeyer, Isaac Gosseling
February – Mike Pankratz, Michele Shubert
Member-at-Large – Discussion of adding youth/intern council position.
Council helping pack MACPAK on January 17, at 6:30 p.m.

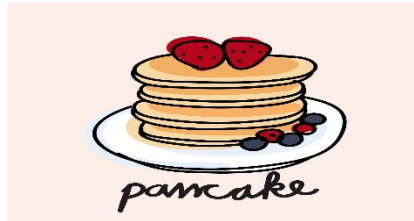
No further business offered.

Next meeting is Tuesday, February 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michel Shubert
Council Secretary

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION PANCAKE SUPPER
Tuesday, February 21st from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

The Annual Pancake Supper, put on by the Lutheran Men in Mission, will be held on Shrove Tuesday, February 21. Pancakes, French toast, sausage and beverage will be served. The cost is \$8.00 for adults, \$4.00 for school age, and preschoolers are free. Everyone is welcome! A work schedule will be sent out to all workers!



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Join us for midweek worship during the season of Lent. Like the past few years beginning on Ash Wednesday (February 22nd) we will gather for a meal beginning at 5:30, have some Bible jeopardy and friendly feud at 6:30; followed by worship at 7pm. If you or a group would like to prepare one of the meals please contact the office. The dates needed for meals are: March 1st, 8th, 22nd, & 29th.

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LOCK-IN FOR GRADES 7-12
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10 – 8:00 P.M.

7-12 grade Lock-in is scheduled for Friday, February 10th from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. on Saturday. Each Immanuel youth is welcome to invite one friend for this event. Each Immanuel youth and their friend must sign up and sign the waiver to participate. You will find these forms on Immanuel's Facebook page. **Parents: we are looking for volunteers to chaperone this event. Please contact Carissa Pederson is you can help!!**

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NAPHTALI TRIBE UP FOR MARCH 2023

Below we have printed the Tribe Membership for March 2023. The Chairperson(s) will be calling you in the near future asking you to help serve Immanuel in some way. Start thinking today what you can volunteer to help with... oh, and please say yes! If everyone takes one job, the "needs" list will be filled. Thank you!

Naphtali Tribe – Up for March 2023

- Cody and Trista Rand
- Larry and Jane Niemeyer (Tribe Leaders)
- Glen Miller
- Curt Knapper
- Darcie Meyer and Family
- Rodney and Tammy Jaenisch
- Marvin and Judi Boike
- Lonnie and LuAnn Hansen
- Rose Berghuis
- Isaac Gosseling

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OPEN RADIO BROADCASTS FOR 2023

We have many open radio broadcasts for the 2023 year. If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast during this year, please contact the church office at 847-2138, or stop in the church office, or talk to Kathy. The cost is \$100 for each broadcast. The following dates are still available.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| March 5 | August 6 |
| April 23, 30 | September 3, 17 |
| May 21, 28 | October 15, 22, 29 |
| June 4, 11, 18, 25 | November 5, 19 |
| July 2, 9, 30 | December 3, 24, 31 |

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 5: PowerPoint/Acolyte: Breanna Dirksen
Lay Reader: Ken Beyerl
Altar Guild: Carissa Pederson

Sunday, February 12: PowerPoint/Acolyte: Sam Miller
Lay Reader: Laine Rieger
Altar Guild: Judy Gosseling

Sunday, February 19: PowerPoint/Acolyte: Peyton Schlagel
Lay Reader: Gary Meyer
Altar Guild: Char Pankratz

Wednesday, February 22: PowerPoint/Acolyte: Gavin Gueningsmand
(Ash Wednesday) Lay Reader: Cindy Meyer
Altar Guild: LuAnn Kruger

Sunday, February 26: PowerPoint/Acolyte: Alivia Strommer
Lay Reader: Michele Shubert
Altar Guild: Ken and Jan Beyerl

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ARE YOU WILLING TO HELP PLAN AND SERVE A LENTEN MEAL?

Lent will soon be upon us, and we are planning to have Lenten Suppers before the Lenten Services. If you or a church organization would like to provide a Lenten Supper for one of the following Wednesday nights, please contact Kathy or Pastor Joel 320-847-2138 to reserve it for you. The meal is served from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Please let the church office know what you will be serving so it can be put in the bulletin and newsletter. The following dates are open:

- Ash Wednesday, February 22 – Spoken for
- Wednesday, March 1
- Wednesday, March 8
- Wednesday, March 15 – Congregational Life Committee
- Wednesday, March 22
- Wednesday, March 29

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OFFERINGS FOR JANUARY 2023

Sunday, January 1	\$2085.00
Sunday, January 8	\$1626.00
Sunday, January 15	\$2231.00
Sunday, January 22	\$1492.00
Sunday, January 29	\$4199.08

ENJOY GOD'S CREATION – EVEN IN THE WINTER TIME!!
TUBING FOR ALL AGES!!
Monday, MARCH 6TH, 2023
Free!!

We are going tubing on Monday, March 6th from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The bus is leaving from Immanuel at 8:00 a.m. and returning at 2:30 p.m. Bus and tubing are covered, so it is free! Your only cost are concessions available at Powder Ridge and a meal. The bus will stop at 1:00 p.m. for lunch at a place to be determined.

Parents you must sign a waiver for you and your children. They can be done on line at the Powder Ridge Website. Click on tubing, then group tubing, scrolling to bottom for release. You can also get the waiver by contacting LuAnn Kruger. Elementary students and under should be accompanied by an adult.

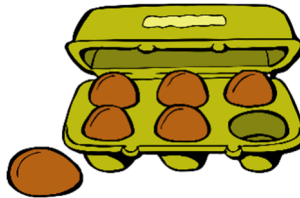
Please contact LuAnn for questions, inform her of your attendance, and your desire to ride the school bus (320) 905-4195. There is a limit of 50 on the bus.



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FREE COMMUNITY MEAL – FEBRUARY 5
5:00 – 6:00 P.M.

Out next Community Meal is February 5th from 5:00-6:00 p.m. On the menu is: egg bake, muffin, and fruit. We will be serving to go orders in the church alley and also serving in the church basement. Please comment on the Facebook page or call the church office at 847-2138 with the number of meals you are wanting. Everyone is welcome and the meal is free!



February

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	2	3	4
5 9:00 Worship/Comm 10:00 SS/Fellowship Hour 5:00-6:00 p.m. Community Meal	6	7 1:00 p.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting	8 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	9	10 8:00 p.m. Lock- in for Grades 7- 12 till 8:00 a.m. Saturday	11 8:00 a.m. Lock- in Ends
12 9:00 Worship/Comm 10:00 SS/Fellowship Hour	13 1:30 p.m. Joy Bible Study	14 1:00 p.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting	15 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	16	17	18
19 9:00 Worship/Comm 10:00 SS/Fellowship Hour	20	21 1:00 p.m. Quilting 5:00-7:00 p.m. Pancake Supper 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting	22 5:00-6:30 Lenten Supper 6:30 Bible Trivia 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service/Comm No Confirmation	23	24	25
26 9:00 Worship/Comm 10:00 SS/Fellowship Hour	27	28 1:00 p.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting				

