

IMMANUEL SPEAKS

MARCH 2022





Sisters and brothers in Christ,

On Wednesday, March 2nd, we enter the season of Lent. During this season of Lent we are invited into the discipline of Lent: self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love as we journey to the cross with Jesus.

Our first spiritual practice of Lent is self-examination and repentance. Lent is very clear about the truth of humanity's problem. We have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We were created from the dust of the earth and because of sin; death has entered into the world and to dust we shall return. The Lenten season is also very clear about God's love for us. Yes we are dust and to dust we shall return, but God speaks another word to us. A word of life. Through the cross and resurrection of Christ our sin is forgiven and death is defeated and we are given the gift of eternal life.

One way to practice this spiritual discipline of self-examination and repentance is to use a catechism or hymnal as most contained some order of confession and absolution/forgiveness. Luther provides an order of confession and an absolution. I invite you to use that order within your house or among a group of friends.

Our second spiritual practice of Lent is prayer. So often we can take God for granted. Our schedules are so full it seems like there is never any down time. And yet one of the remarkable things we see about Jesus during his life, is that he was never too busy to stop and pray to his Father. We too have that invitation to grow deeper with God each day. Luther in the small catechism would write, "Our Father who art in heaven. What does this mean?"

God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father, and that we are His true children, so that we may ask Him confidently with all assurance, as dear children ask their dear father.”

So how do we do this? A daily devotional doesn't have to be an hour, it can be if you want. Mine is normally between 5-20 minutes depending upon the day. So what can we use to deepen our prayer life? Once again we can go to a catechism, hymnal, or devotional material. If you do the morning and evening prayer, and have some kind of prayer at your meals, you would pray 5 times a day. Or another option would be to use one of the devotionals at your church or God's pause from Luther Seminary: <https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/>, or our daily bread: <https://odb.org/> or something similar on the internet. The point is how might we grow in deeper relationship with God in our lives just as Jesus did in his.

This brings us to our final Lenten spiritual practice: fasting and sacrificial giving and works of love. Notice I have these two together. The practice of fasting especially not eating red meat during Lent was directly tied to almsgiving to the poor. Christians would spend less on things like fish and take what they didn't spend and give it to the poor, as a reminder that Christ has compassion on all people especially the ones in need.

So how do we do this? Well, what would you like to give up for Lent? Pick something and then keep the money that you would have spent on it and use it for the benefit of others. We could also extend this to just more than money. How could we fast in terms of our time and talent from our regular schedules and use our time and talents in service to someone else?

Lent is a journey to the cross as we hear the old old story, of Jesus and his love. But it is more than a story. This season continues to remind us of how Jesus calls us to pick up our cross and follow him so that we might continue to grow in love of God and love of neighbor. May we all walk in the way of the cross!

Pastor Joel

Pastoral Acts

- **29 in person/phone pastoral visits; presided 3 baptisms: Bennett Ryan Miller, Finn Miller Goedgedrag, & Mac Myles Mandery**

Worship

- **Ash Wednesday March 2nd**
 - Meal at 5:30pm, worship at 7pm
- **Mid-week Lenten worship**
 - Every Wednesday beginning March 9th to April 6th
 - Meal at 5:30pm, worship at 7pm

Education/Youth & Family

- **Confirmation**
 - Completed 2nd unit of New Testament; final unit covers the early church & letters of the New Testament.
- **Valentine's day dance February 12th**
- **Tubing Event Feb. 28th at Powder Ridge**

Mission & Outreach

- Community meal 2/6/2022 served 130, next meal scheduled March 6th
- LMM Shrove Tuesday pancake Supper on Tuesday March 1st

Wider Church

- Conference assembly was Sunday February 6th. Approved budget for the conference was \$250.00

Continuing Education/Pastoral Self-Care

- Nothing to report at this time

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting
February 8, 2022

Attending: Gary Meyer, Jim Jaenisch, Ross Pederson, Michele Shubert, Isaac Gosseling, Harold Goedgedrag, Andrea Prekker, Jane Niemeyer, Michael Pankratz, Pastor Joel, LuAnn Kruger

Others: Duane Jaenisch, Treasurer

Pastor Joel led devotions and prayer.

Gary called the meeting to order and welcomed new council members: Andrea, Mike and Jane. The agenda was reviewed with a few additions to old business. The council then approved the agenda and with those additions.

Minutes from our meeting on January 11th were reviewed. No changes were made; minutes were M/S/P.

Duane provided a verbal treasurer's report. Because information is not available to him until the 7th of each month, he did not have time to prepare a written one. Current balance in checking remains approximately \$75,000 with savings remaining at \$93,000. The only outstanding bill remains for painting the church (approximately \$24,000) and payment to Cronen Construction for egress window installment. Counters for last Sunday indicate a significant deposit was made to general fund (specifics not available). Council members accepted the verbal report from Duane.

Committee Reports:

-Sunday School committee has met and selected VBS curriculum. VBS will have an entirely different look this year. It will be held on a weekend, May 21 and 22, with sessions starting at 10:00 a.m. and finishing at 3:00 p.m. with a noon meal each day. The day will include 2 rotations each day. A concert will follow for the congregation on the 22nd at 2:00 p.m.

-A tubing day has been planned for February 28th at Powder Ridge near Kimball. A school bus has been rented. Bus and tubes are paid the only costs to families will be concessions and a meal at the Dairy Queen in Spicer.

Pastors Report:

Written report was available. Find the report attached to the newsletter.

Old Business:

-Gary asked for a motion to destroy the ballots from the recent elections from the annual meeting.

Several council members were involved in the count and are known to be accurate. Seeing no concerns, council M/S/P the ability for ballots from the annual meeting to be destroyed.

-Because of the addition of new council, the quarter of money counters was not completed previously in order to offer opportunity for training to new members. It was decided that February money counters will be Harold and Andrea and March will be Jane and LuAnn.

-Gary spoke with Dan Cronen. Dan agreed to settle for only the cost of materials and labor. Council M/S/P to pay Cronen Construction for that amount, approximately \$1500 less that original bid.

-Gary agreed to approach D and C Signs in Montevideo for completion of new signs on County Road 2 and Highway 7.

-Isaac has received prices on the cost of braces for the flag and will pursue that.

Church Council Minutes Continued:

New Business:

-With the start of a new year, council officers were selected tonight. They will be President: LuAnn; Vice President: Ross; Secretary: Michele. Because the executive board is small, council agreed to add an Executive Officer at large this year. The member will be Isaac.

-Council then divided committee assignments as follows:

Youth/Sunday School: Harold, LuAnn

Property Management: Isaac, Mike

Endowment: Andrea, LuAnn

Media: Ross

Congregational Life: Michele

Cemetery: Jim

-As this was Myron Bluhm’s last year on the Endowment Committee, Gary suggested that Cody Rand be offered the position on that committee. Council M/S/P his appointment for a 3 year term on that committee.

-As stated previously, Duane has resigned his position as congregational Treasurer. Gary stated that Katherine (Hovda) Schwitters has asked about the position. Because of her involvement in maintaining records and payroll for their farm, the council agreed she would be a good fit for the position. In the past, other treasurers have been started out at \$200 per month for their work. Council agreed this would be a good starting point. Duane felt the work involved was approximately 5 to 10 hours per month. Council voted and unanimously agreed to offer the position to Katherine Schwitters for \$200 per month. Although, Duane has not wanted in the past to be paid for his work, Gary suggested a payment for all his work to move everything to the Quick Books system. Duane has been treasurer for 10 months. Council M/S/P that Duane be paid of sum of \$200 per month for each of his 10 months, a total of \$2000.

-It is again possible for Immanuel to offer to Pastor Joel the 2nd of a potential 5 year student loan reduction – a total of \$5250. Council again M/S/P that to be offered. Gary will contact the Endowment Committee as they also paid for last year.

-Next Council meeting is on March 8th scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

No further business was offered. Meeting was adjourned M/S/P.

Respectfully Submitted, Jim Jaenisch

+++++
Open Radio Broadcasts For 2022

We have many open radio broadcasts for the 2022 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 100.00 for each broadcast. The following dates are still available:

May 8 (Mother’s Day), 22, 29

September 4, 18, 25

June 5, 12

November 6, 20, 23 (Thanksgiving Eve)

July 3, 10, 24, 31

December 4, 11, 18

August 7, 14,

+++++

Below we have printed the Tribe Membership for April 2022. 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!

Tribe Membership for April 2022

Manasseh Tribe

- Loren and Nancy Gosseling – Tribe Leaders
- Michael and Char Pankratz
- Joe and Sandy Scanlon
- Rod and Barb Miller
- Adela Fuls
- Kathy Speiser
- Duane and Michele Shubert
- Ken and Joyce Klaassen
- Myron and Vonnie Bluhm

+++++

Community Meal – March 6th

Our next Community Meal is Sunday, March 6th from 5:00-6:00 p.m. On the menu is: hamburger gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetable, and dessert. We will be serving to go orders in the church alley way 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!

+++++

Immanuel Lutheran LMM Pancake Supper

On March 1 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, March 1. Pancakes, French toast, sausage, and beverage will be served. The cost is: \$8.00 for adults, \$4.00 for school aged, and preschoolers are free. Everyone is welcome! A work schedule has been sent out to all workers.

Lenten Suppers

Lent will soon be upon us, and it is time to plan the Lenten Suppers. If you or a church organization would like to provide a Lenten Supper for one of the following Wednesday nights, ahead of the church service, please contact the church office, at 847-2138, or talk to Kathy or Pastor Joel to reserve it for you. Please let us know what you will be serving so we can print the menu in the church bulletin. Dates open are March 9, 23, 30 and April 6.

+++++

Ash Wednesday Supper

We will be serving a supper ahead of Ash Wednesday services on March 2nd, serving from 5:00-6:30 p.m. The menu is: cheeseburger soup, crackers, cheese sticks, and cupcakes. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy this free meal!

+++++

Ash Wednesday Service with Communion
Wednesday, March 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday begins the observance of Lent. This year’s series paints a stunning portrait of Jesus through the eyes of those whose interactions with Jesus lead us to meditate on His Passion as recorded by St. John in his Gospel. Our overall theme is “Witness to Christ: People From His Passion.” John tells us he wrote his Gospel: “so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name” (John 20:30-31). This Lent, our life in Christ will be strengthened as we hear the witness of those who were present as part of Jesus’ journey to the cross. Along the way, we’ll meet villains, such as Barabbas and Pontius Pilate, followers of Jesus, such as Peter (who denied Jesus three times), Mary Magdalene (who was possessed by seven demons), and Judas Iscariot (who betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver); as well as others.

Come and join us this Lenten Season. Lenten Services are Wednesday: March 2, March 9, March 16, March 23, March 30 And April 6 starting at 7:00 p.m.

+++++

First Communion Classes

Immanuel will be offering First Communion classes at the end of March. If you are interested for yourself or for your child, please talk to Pastor Joel by March 9th. Come and explore the grace that God gives to us, in the meal of Holy Communion.

+++++

2022 Offerings Collected for the Month of February

Sunday, January 30	\$2390.00	Sunday, February 20	\$1465.00
Sunday, February 6	\$17,409.37		
Sunday, February 13	\$1340.00		

Updates Needed on Congregational Members

If you have an address change, a phone number changed (this includes if you have had your landline disconnected), or an e-mail change, PLEASE LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW. We are updating our records and need your current and correct information! Thank you (ahead of time) for giving Immanuel your information updates! **You can call us at 847-2138 or email us at ImmanuelLutheran236@gmail.com**

+++++

Immanuel Lutheran Church
PO Box 236
Clara City, MN 56222