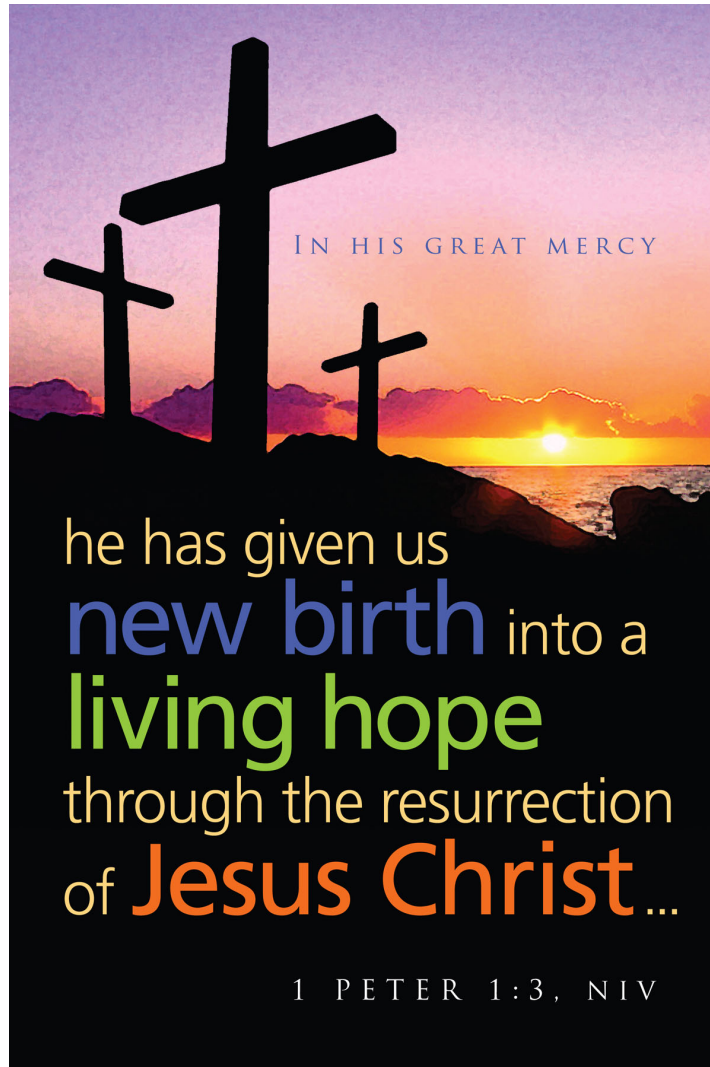




# *The Image*

April 2020



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# Holy Week in the time of self-isolation

Dear people of Immanuel,

I know many of us are saddened that we will not be gathering in person for Holy Week services. Even though we are apart, we are still together in spirit. Holy Week represents Jesus' journey to the cross. Perhaps this year, more than ever, we can walk the journey to the cross. We can meditate on the love of Christ poured out in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We can take time for Sabbath rest and prayer. In doing so, we remember that we are joined together in the communion of saints that stretches across time and space.

We are including some parts of the liturgy for Holy Week from *Sundays and Seasons* so that you can keep it close to your hearts and minds. Never forget, we are walking this journey together! Keep the faith friends.

## Palm Sunday

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

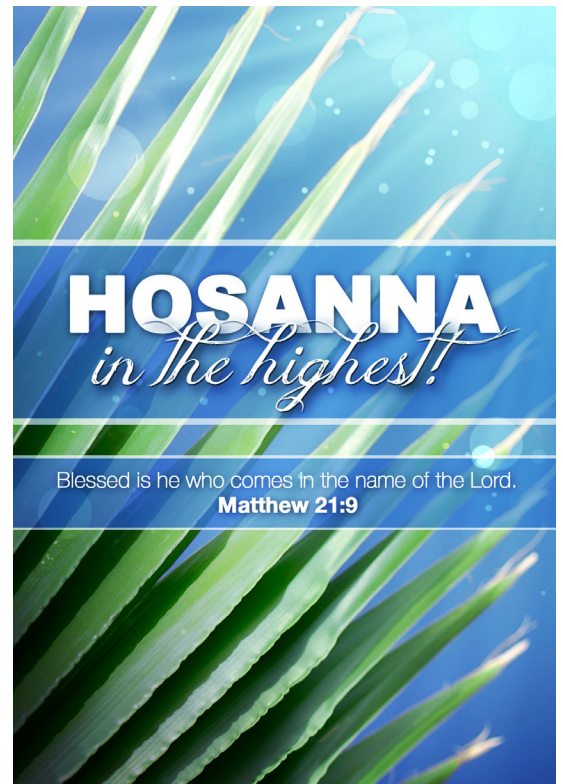
*The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,*

*"Hosanna to the Son of David!*

*Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!*

*Hosanna in the highest heaven!"*

*When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee." -Matthew 21:9-10*



## **Prayers of Intercession**

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of mercy, awaken your church to new proclamations of your faithfulness. By your Spirit, give us bold and joyful words to speak, that we sustain the weary with the message of your redemption. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, quiet the earth where it trembles and shakes. Protect vulnerable ecosystems, threatened habitats, and endangered species. Prosper the work of scientists, engineers, and researchers who find ways to restore creation to health and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, drive away fear and anger that cause us to turn against one another. Give courage to leaders who seek liberation for the oppressed. Bring peace and hope to those who are in prison and those who face execution. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, send your saving help to all who suffer abuse, insult, discrimination, or contempt. Heal the wounded. Comfort the dying. Bring peace to those suffering chronic or terminal illness. Tend to all who cry out for relief. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, we pray for all who will prepare and lead worship in this Holy Week. In all things, show us the ways that you call us to die to self, to live for you, and to give of ourselves for the sake of others. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, when we breathe our last, you raise us to eternal life. With all your witnesses in heaven and on earth, let us boldly confess the name of Jesus Christ, our resurrection and our hope. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

## Maundy Thursday (cont.)

Most merciful God,  
we confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.  
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us.  
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we may delight in your will  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us  
even when we were dead in sin,  
and made us alive together with Christ.  
By grace you have been saved.  
In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are  
forgiven.  
Almighty God strengthen you with power  
through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.  
Amen.



*"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*  
John 14:31b-35

### Prayer of the Day

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **Good Friday**

Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.



*Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. -John 19:26-27*

Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.  
**O come let us adore him.**

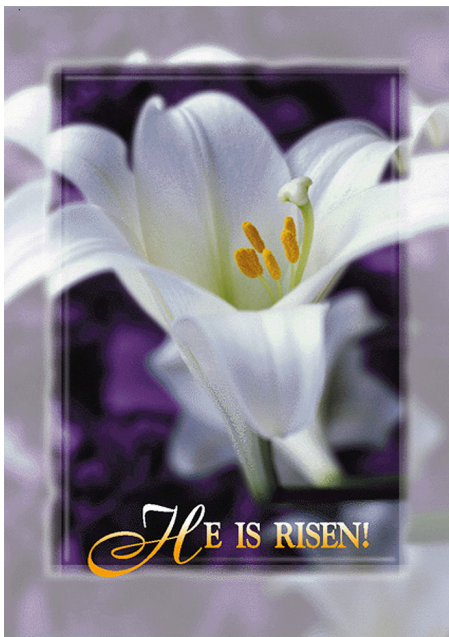


### **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**Amen.**





## **Easter Sunday**

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, "God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34): Christ's resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.

### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism. Perhaps grab some water!*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We give you thanks, O God,

for in the beginning you created us in your image

and planted us in a well-watered garden.

In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,

and you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way,

you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.

At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,

and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water,

for the water in this font,

and for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.

Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise

through Jesus Christ our Lord

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. -Colossians 3:1-4*

### **Prayer of the Day**

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Blessing**

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead  
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,  
and turn your mourning into dancing.  
Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

Christ is risen, just as he said.  
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **Easter Joy!**

Dear people of Immanuel,

Happy Easter! The Easter story is the heart of our faith- Jesus lived, died, and rose for us! Truly, every Sunday of the church year is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. Disciples gather early on the first morning of the week to remember what Mary and Mary discovered— the tomb is empty! Jesus is risen!



And I can't think of a year when we have needed Easter more! Amidst the chaos of our world, our spirits are yearning for Easter. The beauty of the gospel is that even in the presence of sickness and death, we can find new life. We can see the living hope God gives us in Jesus Christ. So even if we are apart, dear church, I pray we can celebrate Easter together as God's people in the great communion of saints.

### ***Christians are Easter people.***

Easter is the heart of our faith— and also the heart of each of us as children of God. God longs for us to know the joy of the risen Christ in our midst. God longs for us to experience resurrection in our own lives. *Resurrection moments* find us when we least expect it. We may see it in the sidewalk chalk message from our neighborhood kids. We may find it in the care of a nurse. We may discover joy in the virtual worship with our Immanuel family. God shows up!

### **What is your *resurrection moment*?**

In these moments, joy sneaks up on us! Joy is something that we cannot force. It is quite illusive. But when we are open to seeing God in the world, it tends to find us more and more often. When we open our hearts to see the beauty and presence of God in other people—we live a life of wonder. When we open our hearts to recognize the divine within, we know the Holy Spirit is never far. The *Book of Joy* by Abrams says, “Ultimately, joy is not something to learn, it is something to live. And our greatest joy is lived in deep, loving, and generous relationships with others.”

Easter season leads us into joy. Maybe this Easter we will practice joy as a spiritual discipline. No matter what church, God's joy is for you. Be open to resurrection moments however small. We can be a beacon of joy in this world that needs it desperately.

Love and Joy!

Pastor Jamie Brieske

## Cookie Cutter Jesus: An Easter Message

I visit a different church in our Synod nearly every Sunday. This Sunday I discovered a 15 foot cookie cutter outline of the figure of Jesus hanging high above the altar.<sup>1</sup> I kept staring at the shape during the first hymn thinking about the outstretched arms of Jesus and realized this as an *Easter* cookie cutter. This is the resurrected Jesus who showed the wounds of the nails in hands when he appeared to Mary Magdalene and



the other women. These are the women who became the first witnesses to announce that Jesus had risen from the dead to the other disciples.<sup>2</sup> I was still thinking about the cookie cutter shape of Jesus when the last hymn was sung. After worship I visited with a long time member of that congregation, Shirley.<sup>3</sup> I remarked how I appreciated the 15 foot cookie cutter Jesus above the altar. Shirley smiled and then told me this story: The church sanctuary was built in the 1970s. Everyone was so excited for the first worship service. The construction workers were busy putting the finishing touches on the sanctuary. The metal shape of Jesus was lying flat on the floor in the church waiting to be hung above the altar. At the time Shirley's daughter, Kari was about 3 ½ years old. Shirley and little Kari were checking out the progress in the sanctuary. Kari, a normal curious child, stepped into the cookie cutter frame and stood in the middle of the Jesus shape. Kari said to Shirley, "Look mommy, I'm standing in Jesus' hand." It was a sweet memory of that long ago moment. Shirley then went on to finish that story. She told me that her daughter Kari died of complications

from cancer treatment two years ago. She was only 46. Shirley said that she finds comfort in knowing that her daughter is now resting forever "in Jesus' hands." She often thinks about Kari when she sees the shape of Jesus above the altar. She envisions her daughter in Jesus, resting in Jesus. This Easter, remember we are "in Jesus." We have been baptized into his death and resurrection. We are people who believe "in Jesus."

Friends, as I write this I realize that we are living in complicated times, COVID-19 frightens, cancer kills, politics are ugly, wars rage, immigrant and refugees suffer, racism, gun violence, sexism, climate change, drug abuse are real concerns and yet here we are standing "in Jesus." During this season of Easter, no matter where you on your spiritual journey, know that the resurrected Jesus reaches out his nail scarred hands to us all, appearing to us in our grief, in our scariest moments, in our despair. This Easter Jesus walked on the road to Emmaus with the two grieving disciples. This is the resurrected Jesus who appeared to the terrified disciples in the locked room and said "peace be with you." This is the resurrected Jesus who ascended into heaven and says to us all, "Go and make disciples of all nations and remember I am with you ALWAYS to the end of the age." You are "in Jesus." Go in peace and share this Easter good news with the world.



Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

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<sup>1</sup>I bake and decorate hundreds of rolled out cookies every year and have a collection of old cookie cutters.

<sup>2</sup>The women at the tomb were the first witnesses to the resurrection. 2020 is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ordination of women pastors in the United States. Save the date, November 7, 2020 is the Synod's Day of Celebration for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Luther Park's new ministry center.

<sup>3</sup>Thank you to Shirley Bostrom for giving me permission to share this part of her story.





# FAMILY

## MINISTRY NEWS

Hello, Immanuel family!

This is usually the place I throw out all the events that I am busy preparing and planning for, but these past few weeks have made for some unexpected changes and required some fast thinking and creativity. However, this time has also caused (or allowed) me to slow down

and be still. This virus has certainly disrupted our lives in every aspect, yet it brings me hope to see people coming together even while they are apart. I feel hopeful when I see the photos shared on Facebook of people hanging butterflies in their front window for neighbors & passers by to enjoy. I feel hopeful when I see companies jumping in and helping - whether it's expanding copyrights so we can read aloud and show pictures from children's books & Bibles online or car companies making ventilators instead of vehicles. I feel hopeful when I see people at the store being extra kind to the employees while also maintaining a safe distance. And, I feel hopeful that when the virus passes and we are able to resume our "normal" lives, we will have a renewed appreciation for one another and our time together.

Pastor Jamie, myself, and other church staff and volunteers have been working hard (from our homes) to learn and grow in our use of technology to connect with all of you! Beginning this week we will be offering even more ways to engage with us and each other, and we hope that these opportunities will be valuable to you.

Watch for the following:

- \* Worship each Sunday & Wednesday (find links on our Facebook page or website)
- \* SHYN online! SHYN will continue to meet weekly via Zoom. There is also an Instagram account set up for our high school youth— <https://www.instagram.com/shyn.ilc>
- \* Faith Formation - families with elementary students will receive packets from me in the mail with timely activities to engage in faith discussions & activities at home. (If you don't receive one by Palm Sunday, please contact me!)
- \* Middle School Confirmation students - Pastor Jamie will lead class via Zoom, and I will be sending an email with a fun, virtual Passion Play activity for you! (Check Facebook during Holy Week for the final product!)
- \* Check out the Family Ministry page on Instagram for family-friendly devotions & video stories— <https://www.instagram/familyministry.ilc>
- \* 9th graders will continue to meet with their confirmation mentors & work on their Faith Statements in preparation for Affirmation of Baptism.

There is, of course, much that is still unknown regarding what these next days, weeks and months will bring. I look forward to being back together in person again! In the meantime, however, I hope that all of you are doing your best to stay home & stay well. Please know that you can reach out to myself, Pastor Jamie, or the church office if there is any way we can support your family during this time. (Whether it is for prayer or spiritual support, food resources, or just needing to chat with someone who doesn't live in your house!)

I am praying that each of you is finding ways to both stay busy and be still, to move your body and to rest, to listen to the nudges of the Spirit and allow yourself to do and be whatever it is that you need to do and be in this time.

In God's peace,  
Alyssa



## Virtual Pastoral Care

Set up a virtual pastor care call with Pastor Jamie!

Pastor Jamie is looking forward to connecting with you this month. You can set up a visit in several different ways! Pastor Jamie is available via: phone call, Zoom, Google Hangout, or Facebook Messenger. During our virtual visit we can check-in and share prayer requests. Please email, text or call to set up a time for you or your family to visit with Pastor Jamie.

[pastor@immanuelec.org](mailto:pastor@immanuelec.org)

01 Marty Gullicksrud  
 01 Greta Gullicksrud  
 02 Lang Jacobson  
 04 Paige Hedges  
 04 Erik Jacobson  
 06 Charlotte Kuhn  
 07 Konnor Glynn  
 08 Jan Bille  
 09 Kyle Malec  
 12 Tom Bowman  
 13 Barb Hokanson  
 14 Lisa Calkins  
 14 Erica Olson  
 16 Bethany Fehr  
 16 Elsie Sorvaag  
 18 Josie Lietzke  
 18 Chris Eilts  
 18 Sophie Fey  
 18 Ella Glynn  
 19 Pauline Anderson  
 19 Renee Bogstad  
 19 Teckla Wahlstrand

20 Sabrina Hagstrom  
 22 Kristie Weber  
 25 Paul Bowman  
 27 Jerry Hanson  
 27 Justin Liebergen  
 28 Kali Strehlau  
 29 Loren Anderson  
 30 Julie Pickett



07 Steve & Patty Isaacson  
 11 Todd & Lynn Fox  
 13 Tyler & Carrie Hansen  
 26 Hemant & Karla Hegde

## Checking In

### PrepareEnrich Marriage Check-ups

Every marriage benefits from a periodic check-in. Parenting, career, family responsibilities, health, and just life in general impact the vibrancy of relationships. Over time, couples often lose the ability and desire to talk about their relationship. Reignite companionship, romance, and commitment with P/E Checkup.

Pastor Jamie is a trained PrepareEnrich facilitator. Not only does this program help couples who are planning to get married, it also helps couples do marriage check-ins to strengthen existing marriages or cohabitating partnerships.

You can do this assessment online for only \$35. Pastor Jamie will then hold a free video conferencing session with the couple to discuss the results, find couple exercises, and set goals to strengthen your relationship. Or if you plan it over the summer, Pastor Jamie will hopefully be able to do in-person sessions. This is a completely confidential session that will benefit your marriage and life!

To participate, email Pastor Jamie and she will send you a link to the survey and set up a virtual conference.

Learn more at [www.prepare-enrich.com](http://www.prepare-enrich.com)



Are you looking for a way to serve God and your neighbor? Immanuel's food ministry program continues to operate as an essential service during this time of "safer at home," and helping distribute food to our guests is one way we live out our calling to be a "church without walls."

The Food Pantry is open on Monday evenings from 5:30—6:30 PM and on Thursday and Friday mornings from 9:00—11:00 AM. If you can help, please sign up using the link below or call or email the church office (715-832-7832 or [office@immanuelec.org](mailto:office@immanuelec.org)).

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E4BAFA828A7FC1-food2>



Several members have asked how to handle their church offerings during this time when we can't worship together in person. Thank you for remembering Immanuel with your gifts—monetary and otherwise!

You can continue to support Immanuel's ministries monetarily by giving online or mailing your offering to the church.

- Online: Go to [www.immanuelec.org](http://www.immanuelec.org); click on "Who We Are" and then click on "E-Giving." You can do this one-time or schedule your regular giving to be made online weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, etc.
- Mail: 3214 Golf Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701.

Blessings,  
Dee Schlieve



The company producing our church picture directory, Lifetouch, is closed due to the coronavirus. At this point we don't know when the directory will be printed, but there is some good news! This means if you haven't submitted a picture for the directory, there is still time! You can email a picture to the church office, [office@immanuelec.org](mailto:office@immanuelec.org). Also, if you've recently moved or changed phone numbers and haven't notified the church, please do so; we want to ensure that the directory is as accurate and up-to-date as possible. Thank you!

## Staying Connected

Website—[www.immanuelec.org](http://www.immanuelec.org)

Facebook— <https://www.facebook.com/immanuelec>

High School SHYN Instagram site—<https://www.instagram.com/shyn.ilc/>

Faith Formation family ministry Instagram site—<https://www.instagram.com/familyministry.ilc/>

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
3214 Golf Road  
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**IMMANUEL**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A congregation of the  
Northwest Synod of the ELCA of Wisconsin*