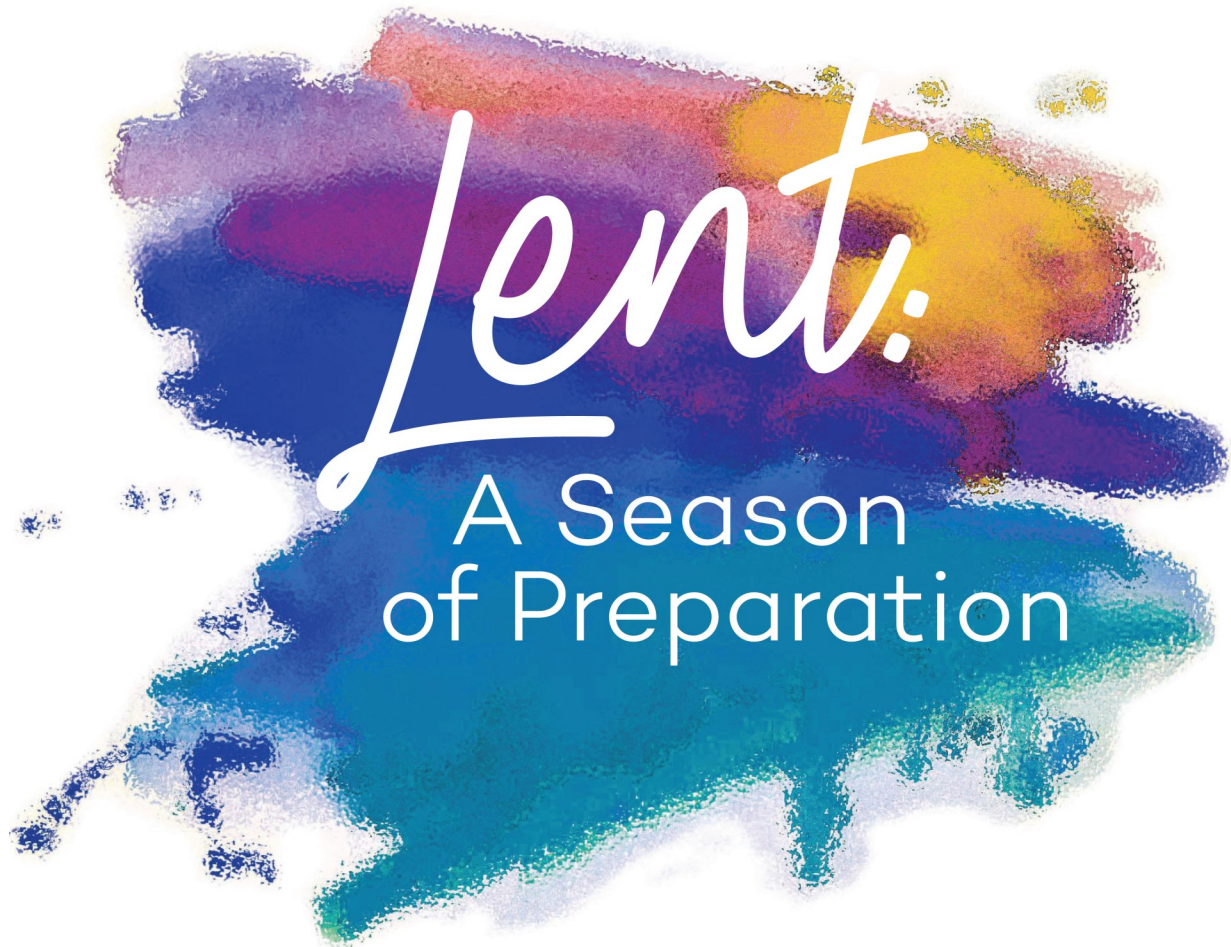




IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Image

March 2021



Lent:

A Season of Preparation

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God's Promises



The Bible is filled with promises that God makes to us as God's beloved people. From creation to resurrection, God's promises of love and grace are eternal. When I studied the Bible in Seminary, I was blessed to study the Pentateuch, or the first five books of the Bible, with Dr. Terence Fretheim, a renowned Bible scholar who sadly passed away last year. Dr. Fretheim's knowledge of the Hebrew Bible was unrivaled, and yet it was his kind and relational spirit and the way he prayed before the start of every class that changed so many of his students' lives, including my own.

Dr. Fretheim loved to lecture about God's promises found in the form of covenants. A covenant is of course a promise, but it is also much more than that. A covenant is like a treaty. There were two equal sides that would typically agree to this form of agreement in the ancient world. Sometimes it was sealed with a sacrifice or a gift. Dr. Fretheim would marvel at how God desired to make a covenant with creation and later the descendants of Abraham. God loved creation so much God wanted to be in relationship with us, not just a one-sided dictatorship. God has always desired that humans be co-creators and co-liberators in this world.

What a gift to each of us! We are not only God's beloved creation, we are charged with the important work of being divine agents in this world.

This Lenten season our Hebrew Bible readings follow along with the promises God makes to God's people in the form of covenants. We will hear these wonderful promises in our children's messages in our Sunday morning virtual worship. They include God's universal covenant made through Noah and the rainbow, God's covenant with Abraham and Sarah and their descendants, God's covenant at Sinai with Moses and the Hebrew people, and God's covenant with David.

As Christians we believe God once again makes a universal covenant with the world through the person of Jesus Christ. In Lent we look to the resurrection of Jesus on Easter so that we can celebrate that wonderful covenant that is ours in Christ! Jesus loves you and claims you as a part of the beloved community. Jesus promises to be with you always and to the end of the age. These promises are true for you!

~Pastor Jamie Brieske



LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE

Worship in Lent on our YouTube Channel

Sundays at 9 AM

Wednesdays at 7 PM (Holden Evening Prayer)



Immanuel is excited to resume outdoor worship when spring weather returns! The service will be at 10 a.m. in the parking lot and the livestream service will continue at 9 a.m. indoors. Stay tuned!



Middle School Confirmation will be meeting at church on the following Wednesdays:

March 3, 10, & 24, 6:00-6:45 p.m.

April 7, 14, & 21, 6:30-7:15 p.m.

A Zoom option will also be available.

Outdoor WoW & Celebration
April 28, 6:00-7:30 p.m.



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 13!



Home Appointments

Pastor Jamie is now making in-home pastoral visits to parishioners. Communion is available if desired. You can call the office or text her phone to schedule an appointment for Pastor Jamie to visit.

Church Appointments

Pastor Jamie is now hosting in-person office visits for people in need of pastoral support. Call the office or text Pastor Jamie to schedule an appointment.

Hospital Visits

Pastor Jamie is available for hospital visits depending on the policy of the hospital.

Youth and Family Ministry

Although it is only March, I know that many of you (like myself) are looking forward to a summer that we hope will offer opportunities for many of the beloved programs that we missed last year! Here are a few highlights for your calendars:



Luther Park Bible Camp -- Registration is available now, and Immanuel's Trust Fund is offering 50% Sponsorships! Use the code "Immanuelec2021" at checkout to apply the discount. Luther Park has updated information in regards to camp opportunities & COVID19 precautions on their website: www.lutherpark.org.



All INCOMING 6-8th grade students (current 5-7 grade) are invited to participate in **SUMMER STRETCH** this summer! Summer Stretch will be the week of August 9.



Immanuel will lead Vacation Bible School the week of June 28!



About 20 high school and young adults will be participating in an outdoor adventure trip the week of July 18. ***Stay tuned for opportunities to financially support this trip!***

We will have our very first meeting on Wednesday, March 10 at 7:30 PM via Zoom. It's not too late to sign up! Get in touch with Alyssa ASAP and she will send you the Zoom link!

Immanuel Lutheran Church ~ Council Minutes ~ February 16, 2021

Council Members: Emilie Anderson, Karen Betzig-Lundberg, Pastor Jamie Brieske, Becky Carter, Calvin Dean, Jennifer Dean, Brittney Evergreen, Natalie Forrest, Becky Ivey, Lang Jacobson, Sandra LaValley, Bill Schwengel, Bob Wilcox.

Gathering

Devotion - Council reviewed the Covenant document, the shared agreement of council members in the shared work and vision of the council.

Election of Officers

A motion to approve a 2nd term as Council Secretary for Becky I. was made by Karen, seconded by Bob, and approved unanimously.

A motion to approve a 2nd term as Council Vice President for Jennifer was made by Sandy, seconded by Bill, and approved unanimously.

A motion to approve a 2nd term as Council President for Lang was made by Bob, seconded by Karen, and approved unanimously.

Minutes

January minutes were approved via email and submitted for publication in The Image.

Thank You Notes

Council would like to thank Keith and Al for their years of service to the church and congregation.

New Business

Approval of Lauren Likkel to the Trust Fund Board: Lauren has submitted to the Council her interest in joining the Trust Fund Board and her experience in this area of work. Her appointment would be to replace Gay Fehr at the end of her term. A motion to approve Lauren to the Trust Fund Board was made by Bob, seconded by Sandy, and unanimously approved.

Finance Committee: Council is in need of a representative to join the Finance Committee. Anyone interested should reach out to Lang, Casper, or Pastor Jamie.

Reports

Pastor: Pastor's report is in the shared drive. Pastor Jamie has been serving virtually in many capacities, but looking forward to moving to some inbuilding meetings soon. Pastor Jamie is looking for two congregation members for an opportunity to participate in Synod Assembly; the theme is justice advocacy. Walking Together is happening in February and is also justice themed and a learning experience. Sandy and Brittney are interested in the Synod Assembly. A motion to approve Pastor's report was made by Becky I. seconded by Jennifer, and unanimously approved.

Property: There are no new property projects or updates since the last meeting.

Finance: The report is in the shared drive for review. A motion to approve the January financial report was made by Bob, seconded by Becky C., and approved unanimously.

COVID Planning Committee Report: The reports/documents are in the shared drive. The main focus tonight is on the indoor worship protocols for returning to in person service at some time in the future. The protocol for indoor worship is in process and will be a working document as we move closer to approval of indoor worship. There was discussion around key components for return to worship. A return to worship would include a hybrid approach that includes three service opportunities: virtual with livestream, a limited attendance for indoor worship, and when weather permits, an outdoor service. A graduated approach for changes will be based on what each month shows in data.

Considerations: What are other pastors/leaders finding has worked or what is going well? What has the WCC or county shared? The best practices are being used from what these groups have shared. What information do we have or should we consider regarding factors such as ventilation, vaccinated attendees, super spreader events that put data a month out, or a new variant of the virus in our area? We recognize that indoor worship is not intended for everyone, that there is more risk and it excludes more people than an outdoor service, and that we want to ensure worship and activity are equitably advocated for all. There are differing beliefs and acceptance of tolerance of risk in activities, such as those involved in the return to indoor activities like worship. Essential to the indoor worship is the communication needed beforehand with expectations and plans for accessing worship, clarity for whom this option is intended based on CDC and health department recommendations, and the training of volunteers needed to assist in enacting the protocols for seating and such during worship.

Question for council: Is council open to participating in a plan/committee to suspend or modify processes quickly and efficiency when/if needed?

Immanuel Lutheran Church ~ Council Minutes ~ February 16, 2021 (cont.)

Discussion: Has the ELCA recommended to have/not have services indoor at this time? No specific guidelines have been given at this time; no word from the bishop. It has been advocated to choose wisely within your council and church.

As a part of this Pastor Brieske presented a detailed return to worship plan, this is also submitted to the share drive. This was discussed in detail.

Council - What can we do to help? Volunteer ourselves or help train volunteers, help craft the communications and procedures still needed to be attended to, and have at least one executive council member on the COVID team for immediate and urgent decision making efforts.

A decision/vote to return to indoor worship has not been made tonight, but will be addressed at the next council meeting.

A motion to accept the COVID team's report was made by Becky I., seconded by Bob, and unanimously approved.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. in prayer led by Lang.



- 02 Austin Schumacher
- 03 Faly Rakotomahenina
- 03 Becky Wilcox
- 03 Donovan Tucker
- 03 Roxanne Albano
- 04 Jill Chapman
- 05 Alizah Felling
- 06 Patty Isaacson
- 07 Toni Wahlstrand
- 11 Sonja Franko
- 11 Bridger Carlson
- 11 Joanna Prissel
- 14 Sue Koch
- 17 Dagen Rassbach
- 17 Bennett Brieske
- 19 Ray Koch
- 19 Ryan Stilp
- 19 Emma Calkins
- 20 Gwen Magnuson
- 20 Gale Murty
- 21 Chris Johnson
- 22 Sarah Malec
- 23 Brett Fey
- 26 Joel Woletz
- 27 Ron Waits
- 27 Tyler Hansen
- 28 Chris Ludwig
- 30 CJ Haas
- 31 Keith Hanson



- 08 Al & Chris Ludwig
- 14 Troy & Marianna Gilbertson
- 16 Gary & Linda Hedding
- 23 Shiv & Gale Murty
- 23 Jack & Marit Barquist
- 28 Tom & Jodi Buchholz
- 28 Jason & Tammie Rubenzer
- 29 Dan & Shelley Borreson

2021 Annual Congregational Meeting

February 7, 2021

1. Call to order 10:00

The annual congregational meeting was called to order by Lang Jacobson with approximately 37+ members joining virtually.

2. Review/approval of 2020 minutes 10:00 -10:05

The minutes from the 2020 annual congregational meeting were shared and reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Sandy LaValley, seconded by Jennifer Dean, and unanimously approved by the congregation.

Election of New Council Members 10:05 - 10:20

3. Immanuel Church Council has four positions open for election today. Lang Jacobson and Sandy LaValley, current council members, will run for a second three-year term. Newly nominated to church council are Brittney Evergreen and Becky Carter.

Brittney Evergreen and her family have been members at Immanuel for a few years; finding the congregation to be a welcoming space and supportive community. Brittney participated in the RIC team and church choir and is interested in participating on church council to see the workings of the church and help to continue the welcoming work of the church.

Becky Carter and her family joined Immanuel a few years ago upon moving to Eau Claire. Becky participated in the RIC team, bookclub, and is interested in working with the council to continue the work Immanuel is doing for the community.

The meeting is open to additional nominations at this time (during the meeting).

With no additional nominations made, Greg Kaufmann moved to approve the four nominees to church council (Lang Jacobson, Sandy LaValley, Brittney Evergreen, and Becky Carter). Karen Betzig-Lundberg seconded the motion and the nominations were unanimously approved.

The Immanuel congregation and Church Council would like to thank Keith Martin and Al Ludwig for their years of service on church council as their time on council comes to a close.

4. Pastor's Report 10:20 - 10:30

Pastor Jamie gave an oral report. An important highlight is how strong Immanuel's congregation has remained during this challenging year. This is a reason to give thanks for this congregation.

COVID Planning Committee Report 10:30 - 10:40

5. New to Immanuel this year is the development and work of a new committee to serve the church and community related to COVID. Karen Betzig-Lundberg shared that the congregation has embraced new ways to be involved and serve, especially via technology. Emilie Anderson, Karen Betzig-Lundberg, Pastor Jamie, and Kitty Rahl are members of this team. The goal is to be safe and healthy and assist in infection control through monitoring public health updates, working with staff and leaders to provide protocols, expert consultations and educational materials. The expertise and experience in public health provided by Kitty Rahl is extremely valuable. The report, team plan, service request form (assess factors, research, use best practice standards, etc), and protocol (documentation for the event/usage; developed and shared with the leader/staff of the event in a collaborative means) have been submitted and shared.

In conclusion, Karen expresses her thanks for the support, patience, and sacrifice to benefit and care for yourself and others. In extending trust and faith as we work for a common good, there is so much to be thankful for and so much hope.

Questions: Does preschool fall under this team? Yes, the COVID team works with the preschool and continues to support the program in an ongoing manner.

A motion to accept the team's reports was made by Don Schlieve, seconded Greg Kaufmann, and passed unanimously.

6. Property Report 10:40 - 10:50

The property report was submitted by Bill Schwengel. There were a few small electrical and plumbing projects completed. Mary and Brian Bischel and Al Ludwig continued to support the outdoor work on the grounds with landscaping care, including one work day that was implemented in the fall. The biggest event was the sanctuary repairs and painting. As of January 5, 2021, the sanctuary work has been completed. A slide show of the sanctuary was shared. The property committee is very pleased with the work done by Metzenbauer Painting. The committee would like to thank all of those who helped with additional work in cleaning during/after the painting and moving of furniture. The last bit of work to be completed is the return of the organ pipes to the sanctuary. A motion was made by Greg Kaufmann to approve the property report. Eric Lundberg seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Financial Report and 2021 Budget 10:50 - 11:00

7. The financial report has been submitted and Casper Haas shared a summary of the reports. The general fund giving for 2020 was similar to 2019; only down by 1.17%, which is pretty phenomenal for the year we had. In the 2021 budget the expenses budgeted will be an increase from 2020's actual expenses, but quite similar to the 2020 budget and 2019 actual expenses. The savings in 2020's actual expenses were mainly a result of utilities and maintenance being down due to minimal building usage during the COVID closure. A few new funds were created for 2021. One is a sabbatical fund started with unused 2020 funds for professional learning for Pastor Jamie to be used in 2022 for a sabbatical year. Another is an iPad fund which was created from a grant awarded to assist members with technology needs that have come up due to virtual worship/COVID procedures. Overall, the 2021 budget is not very different from the 2020 budget. *No questions.

Council has made a motion to approve the 2021 budget. The motion was seconded by Gay Fehr and unanimously approved.

Questions, comments

- Lang Jacobson shared that each council meeting includes a discussion of the current situation regarding COVID and when we can return to in person services. The COVID team will assist in planning and monitoring any future plans to meet for in person worship.
- The Trust Fund approved an AV upgrade which will support the current virtual sermons as well as provide many other benefits to in-person sermons and other events. This will improve seamless switching of screens/projectors and other benefits. Along with thanking the Trust Fund committee for this support, Dee & Don Schlieve, Chad Drier, and Alyssa Engedal have done a lot behind the scenes to assist in providing the best virtual experience for our congregation. Thanks is extended to everyone for their support.
- Greg Kaufmann thanked Dee Schlieve for keeping our church office going during this unusual time; along with thanking Alyssa and Pastor Jamie as they worked to continue ministry in this virtual, technology-based format.
- Pastor Jamie thanked Lang Jacobson for his leadership during this past year.


8. Closing prayer - Pastor Jamie closed the annual meeting in prayer.

9. Adjournment - A motion was made by Dee Schlieve to adjourn the meeting, Greg Kaufmann seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

March 2021

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9:00 AM Worship	1 4-6 PM Food Pantry open 6:30 PM - H3 (via Zoom)	2 9:30 AM—H3 (via Zoom)	3 10:00 AM Sr Bible Study 6:00 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Worship	4	5	6
7 9:00 AM Worship	8 4-6 PM Food Pantry open 6:30 PM - H3 (via Zoom)	9 9:30 AM—H3 (via Zoom)	10 10:00 AM Sr Bible Study 6:00 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Worship 7:30 Youth Trip meeting via Zoom	11	12	13 Daylight Sav- ings starts - set your clocks ahead 1 hour 
14 9:00 AM Worship	15 4-6 PM Food Pantry open 6:30 PM - H3 (via Zoom)	16 9:30 AM—H3 (via Zoom) 7:00 PM Council Mtg	17 10:00 AM Sr Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship	18	19	20
21 9:00 AM Worship	22 4-6 PM Food Pantry open 6:30 PM - H3 (via Zoom)	23 9:30 AM—H3 (via Zoom)	24 Immanuel serves @ Community Table 10:00 AM Sr Bible Study 6:00 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Worship	25	26	27
28 Palm Sunday 9:00 AM Worship	29 4-6 PM Food Pantry open	30	31 10:00 AM Sr Bible Study	1 Maundy Thursday	3 Good Friday	3

Immanuel Lutheran Church

At Immanuel we recognize that every person has a valuable story that carries infinite worth. We are called by Jesus to love expansively and make this unwavering pledge to welcome all people, without exception. We affirm the image of God in people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, relationship status, physical or mental ability, health status, and



cultural or ethnic identity. In our church family we welcome all regardless of socioeconomic situation, addiction, imprisonment or anything else that too often divides us.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
3214 Golf Road
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*A congregation of the
Northwest Synod of the ELCA of Wisconsin*