



**IMMANUEL**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# *The Image*

March 2023



## **Immanuel Lutheran Church**

**3214 Golf Road**

**Eau Claire WI 54701**

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“So do not worry about tomorrow’s troubles. It is enough to trust Creator to give you the strength you need to face today.” -Jesus, *Matthew 6:34 The First Nations Version*

In the sermon on the mountain, Jesus points to the natural world to help us be grounded in daily presence. In the First Nations version of Matthew, Jesus points to the wildflowers, the winged ones, and the wildgrass to illustrate this truth. Jesus directs us not to worry about what we will eat or drink, or what we will wear. In short, our daily needs. We are to trust God for our daily needs. After all, God cares for us even more than the natural world in all its beauty and majesty. Jesus urges us to “make the Creator’s good road your first aim.”

What would a life without worry look like? Some spiritual words come to mind such as surrender, trust, and faith. I don’t think we will ever escape worry in our lives. It’s quite a human thing to do. But I think Jesus urges us to focus on the present moment and current day rather than wasting our energy on worrying about things that are out of our control. When there is a task in front of us, we should certainly face that task and do what is necessary. Yet, when “what if” scenarios play in our minds, we can choose to turn them off and focus on the good road of loving God and our neighbor.



Mindfulness practice would teach us to notice the fear and worry when they arise. In your mind you can speak directly to the emotion. ‘Oh hello worry, my old friend. I don’t need you today.’ After you have acknowledged the feeling you can let it go. Bring your awareness back to what is in front of you. Breathe. Adding the perspective of our Christian faith, you can choose to think differently. Perhaps you could repeat the words: *I chose to trust in my Creator.*

As spring approaches, we can look to the natural world to guide our spirituality. As Lent continues and the days lengthen, we anticipate the coming of spring and the celebration of Easter. We remember that every day and every season comes and goes with little effort on our own part. Somehow God and the mysterious rhythms of the universe take care of us.

May the little things keep you grounded this month like the bud of a leaf, a touch of green, and the return of the birds. In stopping to notice, we can replace our worry with trust in our Creator.

*Mantra and Prayer for March:*

I let go of worry. I am focused on today. I trust in my Creator. Holy Spirit,  
be my guide as I seek to walk the good road. Amen.

Sincerely,  
Pastor Jamie Brieske



**Sundays at 9 am**

March 5

March 12

March 19

March 26

If you would like to provide snacks, please sign up [HERE](#) or call the church office. Thank you!



**Join us on Wednesdays during Lent:**

**March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

5 pm - Soup Supper begins

6 pm - Holden Evening Prayer

6:45 pm - Learning/SHYN

7 pm - Choir rehearsal

**NOTE:** Pastors from five local ELCA churches will rotate through the congregations bringing a new perspective on what it means to be in community with one another, with creation, and with God.



Starting in Lent, we will offer a simple soup supper meal with time for fellowship. We will offer the soup supper for as many Wednesdays as we have volunteers or groups to do it. The first few weeks are already covered! Sign up [HERE](#) if you'd like to participate by bringing your favorite soup. Check the weekly E-blast, Facebook, and website for up-to-date and weekly information and ways that you can volunteer.



April 2 - Palm Sunday Worship at 9 AM

April 5 - Holy Wednesday at 6 PM

April 6 - Maundy Thursday at 7 PM

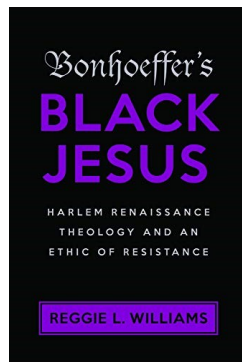
April 7 - Good Friday at 1 PM and 7 PM

April 9 - Easter Sunday at 9 AM



*Preparing for Easter*

**HHH** (Holy, Happy and Healthy) looks forward to reading and discussing Bonhoeffer's *Black Jesus* by Reggie Williams, starting in March. This is a book about how Bonhoeffer's theology was shaped by his time in the US worshipping in Harlem during the Harlem Renaissance.



Please join us either Mondays 6:30 - 8 PM OR Tuesdays 9:30 - 11 AM. There is so much to learn about our faith journeys.

**Youth and Family Ministry**  
Alyssa Engedal - [familyministry@immanuelec.org](mailto:familyministry@immanuelec.org)



## REGISTER FOR SUMMER!



Summer planning is underway! Immanuel loves sending kids to **Luther Park Bible Camp!** Our Trust Fund has, again, offered to provide a 50% scholarship to anyone who registers for camp this summer. Enter this code at registration to receive the discount rate: ILCEC23. Talk to Alyssa if you have any questions about how this works, or are in need of a larger scholarship amount. Overnight camp opportunities are available for those finishing grades 1 – 12, and day camps are offered for younger kids. Camp is a fun way to grow in your faith and meet new friends! More info can be found [HERE!](#)

**Middle School Ministry:** All incoming 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade students (current 5-7 grade) are invited to participate in SUMMER STRETCH this summer! Summer Stretch will happen the week of July 10. This fun and meaningful program involves a service project each morning, and a just-for-fun event in the afternoon. Watch for more details and registration information on the table in the Narthex as well as the bulletin boards in Luther Hall. Outgoing 8-12 grade students are invited to participate as counselors (leaders) in this program.

**Vacation Bible School** will be the week of June 19, and will be led again this year by leaders from Immanuel. VBS will be for kiddos ages 3 years old - 5th grade. Older kids can participate as helpers - talk to Alyssa to find out more and register [HERE](#).



Start that spring cleaning! The 2023 Summer Trip team will be partnering with the Immanuel ZIP team again this year to have a thrift sale. Drop off will be June 5-7, and the sale will happen on June 8 and 9.

## JONAH heading to Madison April 27

Every other year JONAH, with the entire WISDOM network, heads down to Madison to connect with legislators and to share the stories of those who are marginalized in our community. Our issues are important! Where the state spends its money can change lives! This event is known as Madison Action Day (MAD). We will take a bus down, have a large educational event, a rally on the steps, and learn a lot about civic engagement from each other. This is a great, supportive event for a person newer to this grassroots organizing. Attendance cost is still coming, and we welcome contributions to sponsor someone to attend and are happy to offer sponsorships for those who cannot afford to go.

To prepare for this event, WISDOM is offering trainings:

Thursday March 9, 6:30 pm Telling your Story

Thursday March 23, 6:30 pm: Working with Legislators

Thursday April 13, 6:30 pm: Madison Action Day Orientation

To register for any of these trainings: [WISDOM 2023 Spring Trainings](#)

To register for April 13: [Madison Action Day Orientation and Preparation](#)

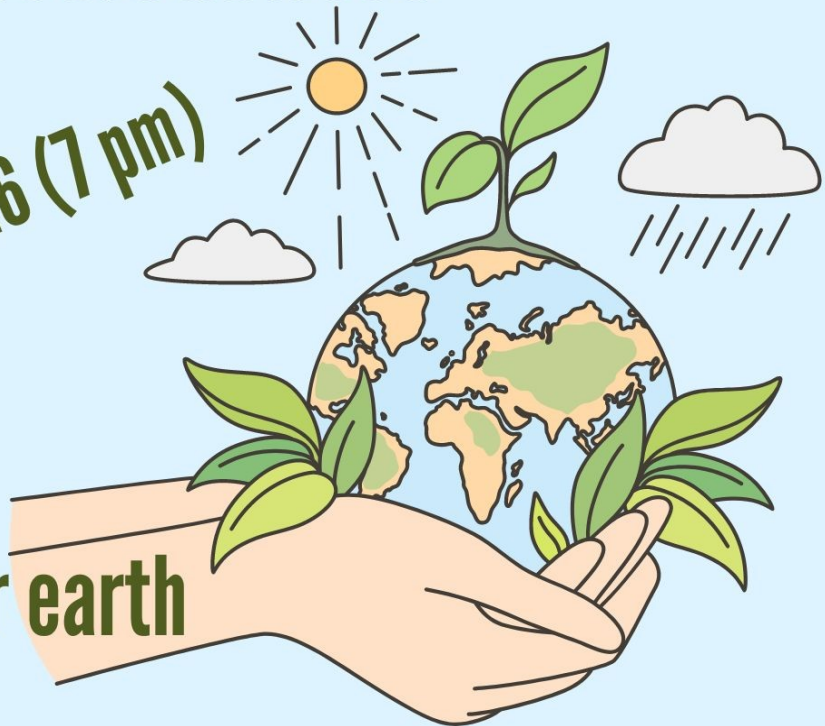
To register for [MAD itself with JONAH](#) (earlier registration helps us prepare better):

**Green Team Event:** Bring your questions to this panel of local sustainability experts:

# UUC FORUM: "Making Changes with Environmental Consciousness"

Thursday, March 16 (7 pm)

let's save our earth



**SPEAKERS:** Regan Watts, Eau Claire County  
Recycling & Sustainability Coordinator and  
Erin LaFaive, Herbalist author of the *Learning  
Herbalism Workbook*

*On Facebook Live:*  
*"Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Eau Claire"*  
*In Person: UUC Sanctuary (421. S. Farwell St., EC)*

## Offering Envelopes



Wondering where your offering envelopes are? The company that prints our envelopes was hit with supply issues during Covid. They have been able to rectify the problem and hope to be back on schedule sometime in March. In the meantime, there are envelopes near the sanctuary doors. Thank you for your patience and continued support of our programs.

**Beacon House Week March 26 - April 1** - Unitarian Universalist and Immanuel Lutheran Churches will provide evening meals from Sunday, March 26 through Saturday, April 1. Volunteers are welcome to serve and to share meals with the residents. Your coordinator will give you a count of adults and children that we can expect; 12 to 15 residents is typical. Meals are served at approximately 5:30 pm. Please plan to deliver meals shortly beforehand. You can sign up [HERE](#) to prepare the main or side dish. Thank you!

### **Eucharistic Ministry News: "Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community."**

**Anthony J. D'Angelo**

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Caring Ministry Coordinator. I will be stepping down from this position as of the end of February. I took this position because I believed in this important ministry and I still do. One of my goals was to share the belief that we ALL are called and able to care for one another. I hope this was conveyed. Though I will be stepping down as the coordinator, I will continue to participate in the Eucharistic Ministry. Over the next few months, Immanuel will be looking to hire someone for this position. Please inquire if you are interested.

Blessings, Deb Kavanagh

## NEWS FROM IMMANUEL



Council members for 2023 were re-elected/elected at the February meeting: President: Jennifer Dean

Vice-President: Becky Ivey Co-Secretaries: Becky Carter and Lang Jacobson  
Continuing members Pastor Jamie, Campbell Dean, Mia Evergreen, Sandy LaValley, Molly LoRusso, Bill Schwengel, Ryan Stilp, and Sue Waits welcome new member, David Schaffer.

A big Thank You to Bob Wilcox for his thoughtful commitment and service to Immanuel. Also, thank you to Jennifer Dean for outstanding service as President, Becky Ivey as Vice President, and Sandy LaValley as Secretary. Your time and thoughtful commitment to serving Immanuel is appreciated!

02 Austin Schumacher  
03 Faly Rakotomahenina  
03 Becky Wilcox  
03 Donovan Tucker  
04 Jill Chapman  
05 Alizah Felling  
07 Toni Wahlstrand  
08 Arlo Ray-Stanke  
11 Bridger Carlson  
11 Sonja Franko  
11 Violet Pederson  
11 Joanna Prissel  
12 Adam Anderson  
14 Sue Koch  
15 Karina Barquist  
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  
26 Joel Woletz  
27 Ron Waits  
27 Tyler Hansen  
28 Chris Ludwig  
28 Ella Peterson  
28 Lillian Schuch  
30 CJ Haas  
31 Keith Hanson



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

# March 2023



If you shop on Amazon, log into Amazon Smile.

We receive \$ from your purchases.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-0990139>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10 AM Bible Study  5 PM Soup Supper 6 PM Holden Evening Prayer 6:45 PM Learning/SHYN and Mentor Meeting 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	2 Noon - 4 PM Material Witness Quilting	3	4
5 9 AM Worship 10 AM Fellowship & Learning AND ZIP Mtg	6 1 - 3 PM Knit Together  4 - 5:30 PM Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM - H3	7 9:30 AM - H3	8 10 AM Bible Study  5 PM Soup Supper 6 PM Holden Evening Prayer 6:45 PM Learning/SHYN 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	9 Noon - 4 PM Material Witness Quilting	10	11 <b>Daylight Sav-            ings starts -            set your            clocks ahead            1 hour</b> 
12 9 AM Worship 10 AM Fellowship & Learning and Green Team Mtg	13 1 - 3 PM Knit Together  4 - 5:30 PM Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM - H3	14 9:30 AM - H3  6 PM CAW Board Mtg 7 PM Council Mtg	15 10 AM Bible Study  5 PM Soup Supper 6 PM Holden Evening Prayer 6:45 PM Learning/SHYN 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	16 Noon - 4 PM Material Witness Quilting	17	18
19 9 AM Worship 10 AM Fellowship & Learning	20 1 - 3 PM Knit Together  4 - 5:30 PM Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM - H3	21 9:30 AM - H3	22 10 AM NO Bible Study 5 PM Soup Supper 6 PM Holden Evening Prayer 6:45 PM NO Learning/SHYN 7 PM Choir Rehearsal  Immanuel serves at Community Table	23 Noon - 4 PM Material Witness Quilting	24	25
<b>EAU CLAIRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT (AND IMMANUEL PRESCHOOL) ON SPRING BREAK</b>						
26 9 AM Worship 10 AM Fellowship & Learning	27 1 - 3 PM Knit Together  4 - 5:30 PM Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM - H3	28 9:30 AM - H3	29 10 AM Bible Study  5 PM Soup Supper 6 PM Holden Evening Prayer 6:45 PM Learning/SHYN 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	30 Noon - 4 PM Material Witness Quilting	31	

## 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,

### Katy LoRusso

Director, Create-A-World Preschool  
[createaworldpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:createaworldpreschool@gmail.com)

### Grace Olson

Ministry Coordinator  
[office@immanuelec.org](mailto:office@immanuelec.org)

### Sandy LaValley

Communications Administrator  
Food Pantry Ministry Coordinator  
[Immanuellutheranec@gmail.com](mailto:Immanuellutheranec@gmail.com)

### Pastor Jamie Brieske

[Jamie.brieske4hope@gmail.com](mailto:Jamie.brieske4hope@gmail.com)

### Alyssa Engedal

Family Ministry/Camp Create  
[familyministry@immanuelec.org](mailto:familyministry@immanuelec.org)

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*Dated Material—useless if delayed*



**IMMANUEL**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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