



IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Image

March 2020



Lent

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“I have called you by name”

These words appear on our new banner displayed in the sanctuary, thanks to our worship arts team! Along with the words, you will see a shell and water. The banner is a baptismal banner reminding us that we are God’s beloved in baptism. We are washed in the waters of grace and recognized as God’s beloved children.

Baptism has an old connection with Lent. In the early church, when there were mostly adult converts and entire families joining faith, the forty days of Lent were used as forty days of preparation to learn the catechism and basics of the Christian faith. Then there would be a group baptism done on Easter vigil and a celebration the next morning on Easter.

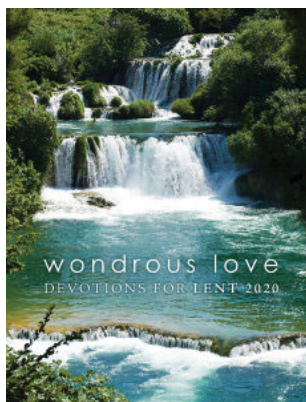
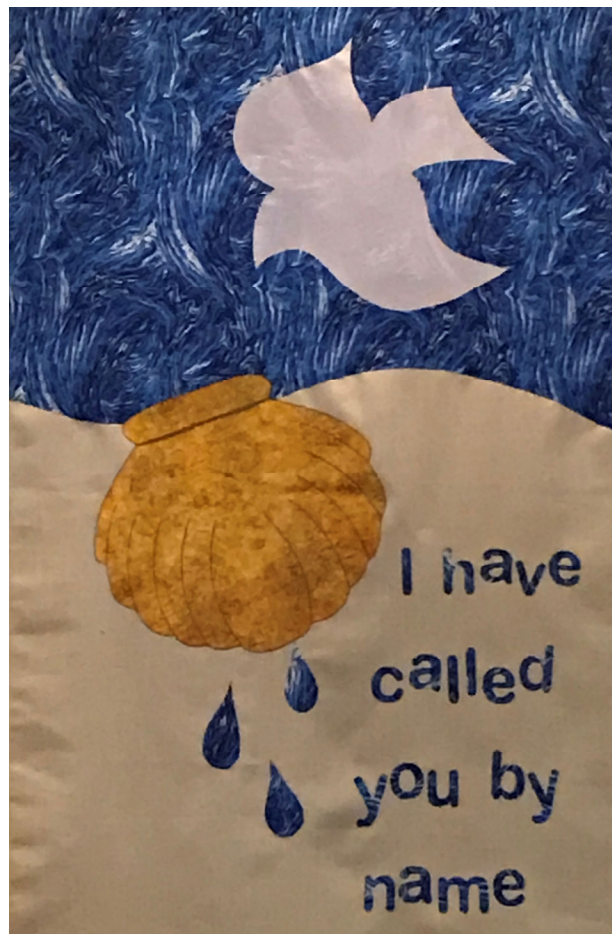
Although we don’t use that same format to teach the faith in our church today, the symbolic meaning is still present. Lent prepares us to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and all of the wonderful promises we find in our baptism. This Lent in particular, there are many connections to baptism in the assigned lectionary readings, prayers, and liturgy.

Make sure to check out all of the baptismal connections this Lent! We may even have a baptism or two to celebrate. Hopefully paying attention to the theme of baptism over these forty days will prepare us to celebrate in full with joyful spirits on Easter!

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. Isaiah 43:1

In God’s love,

Pastor Jamie Brieske



Lenten Devotional

Pick up your *Wondrous Love* Lenten devotional in the narthex.

LENTEN *Schedule*

Wednesday, March 4, 11, 18 & 25 and April 1:
5:30 PM soup supper
6:00 PM learning for all ages
7:00 PM worship (Holden Evening Prayer)
7:45 Choir Rehearsal

Dive Deep this Lent!

Wednesday evening adult learning

If you are looking to grow deeper into your Lenten practice consider joining the small group study with Pastor Nate Aaseng. Pastor Nate will explore the topic *Lent: What is it and how do we do it?* This study will help you to grow in your understanding of Lent. It can also guide you into a deeper practice of Lent this year! The group will meet in the Community Room on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-6:50 p.m. during Lent starting on March 4th. No need to reserve a spot - all are welcome!

Soup Serving Schedule

February 26 – Youth

March 4 - Council

March 11 – H3

March 18– Choir

March 25 – Volunteer, for anyone who would like to make a pot of soup!

April 1 – ZIP (Zomba Immanuel Partners)



Hoping against hope, he believed.

~Romans 4:18

Rough Translations

Hope nonetheless.

Hope despite.

Hope regardless.

Hope still.

Hope where we had ceased to hope.

Hope amid what threatens hope.

Hope with those who feed our hope.

Hope beyond what we had hoped.

Hope that draws us past our limits.

Hope that defies expectations.

Hope that questions what we have known.

Hope that makes a way where there is none.

Hope that takes us past our fear.

Hope that calls us into life.

Hope that holds us beyond death.

Hope that blesses those to come.

Jan Richardson, *Circle of Grace*

Youth and Family Ministry

Summer planning is underway, and Immanuel loves sending kids to Luther Park Bible Camp! Our Trust Fund has, again, offered a 50% scholarship to anyone who registers for camp this summer! (100% scholarships are also available for anyone who needs them.) Talk to Alyssa for scholarship information. Overnight camp opportunities are available for those finishing grades 1 – 12, and day camps are offered for younger kids. Luther Park has added several new opportunities this year – truly something for everyone!

Middle School Ministry: all INCOMING 6-8 th grade students (current 5-7 grade) are invited to participate in SUMMER STRETCH this summer! Summer Stretch will be the week of August 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. It's lots of fun! Save the Dates!



This summer we will be welcoming back staff from Luther Park Bible Camp to help with Vacation Bible School! Our awesome week of VBS will be August 3-7. There will be lots of opportunity for involvement by the entire congregation – watch for details in the coming months.



This year's XYZ (that's X-tra Years of Zest, or 85+ year old) Milestone blessing will be on Sunday, March 29. To celebrate, we will also enjoy a time of Cross+Gen fellowship following worship on that day.

Middle School youth are invited to participate in Christ Jam on Saturday, April 18. This is a one day, fun, engaging learning event aimed at those in grades 6-8 and will take place at Spirit Lutheran in Eau Claire. Registration forms are available from Alyssa or on the shelf in the Narthex.



Steward your soul for a fuller life

Jesus teaches, “What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?” –Mark 8:36, 37 (NIV)

Instead of the superficial “How’s it going?” a wise colleague asks friends, “How is your soul?”

The question requires effort. To answer it I must plunge deep inside – below the constantly churning waters of everyday joys, hopes, ambitions, desires, anxieties and disappointments. These are so strong, especially our desires and ambitions, that if we are not careful they can absorb all our time and energy.

Jesus repeatedly warns us not to let our desires and our worries overwhelm us, keeping us from paying attention to the soul. Our soul is where we connect with God, the source of our greatest strength and truest identity. Without attention, our soul can wither like a plant without water. As with all the treasures God has given us, we must be stewards of our souls.

The mystics of old and modern prophets (such as Richard Rohr, Marjorie Thompson, and Howard Thurman) teach us to employ prayer, holy silence, and other spiritual disciplines to tend our souls and keep worldly worries and desires from drowning us.

This month, begin a daily practice of caring for your soul. You might begin with five minutes of spoken prayer followed by five minutes of silence. Or reflect deeply on a Scripture passage. Or try prayerful yoga. (Your pastor might be able to give you some resources or ideas.)

With a little practice and attention, you can become stronger, more centered, and more spiritually resilient.

How is your soul?

--Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2020, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as an assistant to the bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com.



Have lunch after church March 15 at the annual chili cook-off! Many Immanuel chefs hope that you will vote that their chili is the best. Taste each chili, vote for the one you think is the best, and if you are still hungry you can have a big bowl of your favorite! The free-will donations will support travelers to Immanuel from Malawi in 2022. The event is by our ZIP group (Zomba-Immanuel Partnership), which works to keep the ties between us and our Malawi companions strong. Join us in Luther Hall for this fun event.

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 8!

Recently one of our volunteer coordinators "resigned," and it's caused me to take a step back and ask myself if there's a better way! The church runs on volunteers, but at times it can be challenging and/or frustrating to fill all the spots.

I'd like to bring a group of people together to brainstorm possible solutions and explore ways to recruit volunteers other than "the way we've always done it." Anyone and everyone is invited to participate! We will meet following worship on Sunday, March 8. If you have thoughts, comments, ideas, etc. but can't make the meeting, please share them with me - I'm in the church office weekday mornings, or feel free to call or send an email (office@immanuelec.org).

Dee Schlieve
Ministry Coordinator



During Lent we are going to take some intentional time to learn about the sacrament of Holy Communion. This learning will happen during regular Journey of Faith class times and will culminate with a special Milestone Blessing during worship on Maundy Thursday - the night in which we celebrate the Last Supper Jesus' shared with his disciples - 7:00 PM on April 9.

These classes will be geared towards elementary school aged children.

Week 1 options are Sunday, March 1 & Wednesday, March 4.

Week 2 options are Sunday, March 8 & Wednesday, March 11.

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes, January 21, 2020

Members attending: Al Ludwig, Emilie Anderson, Pastor Jamie, Lang Jacobson, Jennifer Dean, Curt Carlson, Bill Schwengel, Peggy Blumenberg, Becky Ivey, Keith Martin

Guest: Mary Bischel, Casper Haas

Absent:

Meeting called to order at 1900

Devotion: Emilie gave a devotion from Rich Church Poor Church Chapter 10

Thank You Notes: Middle and High School Youth, AMMPARO team for work on presentation, paintings

Prior Meeting Minutes: Bill moved to accept with corrections, Peggy seconded, passed unanimously

New Business

Council Nominating Committee: Curt and David reported. Sandy LaValley, Bob Wilcox have expressed interest in joining Council. Jennifer reported Calvin Dean and Natalie Forrest are interested in joining as youth members.

Lenten Soup Supper: Council will provide first soup supper, Wed March 4th.

Insurance deductible: Last property claim was 2012(until roof claim in 2019). Could lower annual payment by \$552 by raising deductible to \$2500. Would make sense if we only made a claim every 3.5 years. Currently we have \$500 deductible.

2020 Budget: Casper Haas presented updated budget. Written report submitted, in the share drive. 2019 final budget was \$259K. 2020 projected, \$269,500. Giving up in 2019 by 7.5%. David moved to present budget to congregation at annual meeting, Keith seconded, passed unanimously.

Old Business

Projection/camera delay: Due to network slowing as everyone's phones connect on Sundays. There is a switch to fix it, estimate pending.

Care Ministry: Structure is in place to support our elderly. Referrals should be made to the Church Office. We no longer have a parish nurse. Council previously voted to have a care coordinator. Eucharistic partners visit in home, report to Janet Carlson. Pastor Jamie does emergency visits and visits on request.

Reports

Finance: Covered under budget discussion above.

Property: ReStore picking up 6 tables. Updated estimates pending on painting and water damage to ceiling in area of organ and walls in sanctuary. Estimated at \$8K in 2017.

Stewardship: Did not meet

Pastor's Report: Written report submitted to share drive. Multiple funerals, hospital visits in January.

Pastor Jamie ended with prayer

Peggy moved to adjourn, Emilie seconded, passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 18th at 7pm

Getting to Know Our 2020 Service Trip Team

Hi, my name is Maddy LoRusso! This year I'm a freshman at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. As of right now, I'm undecided in a major, but am enjoying a variety of classes as well as improv and club soccer in my spare time. I also love to draw, hike with my dogs, and go out for coffee with my friends. This will be my 6th trip with the church and I'm looking forward to participating as a leader rather than a youth this summer! I'm also very excited to be a part of a mission trip this year, as those have been my favorite types of trips in the past.

Hi, my name is Grant Johnson. I am excited for the 2020 mission trip because I have yet to go on one, and would like to have the opportunity to. I am also looking forward to a growth in faith while doing God's work

Hi, my name is Klair Hanson. I am a junior at Elk Mound High School. I like snowshoeing and indoor rock climbing. I have been on mission trips before and I'm excited for this one!

My name is Kailey Hanson and I am in 8th grade. I love cats and dogs. I want to go on this trip because I want to get to know people better and I've never done a trip like this before. It sounds like a lot of fun, and I am looking forward to the experience.

My name is Rayna Felling. I am in 8th grade. I like to read and draw, and I play 5 instruments. This is my first time going on a trip like this.

I'm Luke Rosenberger. I am in 12th grade, and am excited to go on this trip.

I'm Mercedes Isham. I am in 10th grade and have been on 2 other church trips. I am looking forward to this wonderful opportunity!

Hello! My name is Jaiden Ivey, I am a junior at Memorial High School. I play soccer and hockey. I have been on 2 other church trips, I went to the National Youth Gathering and the Adventure Trip to Colorado. I am very excited to go on the Mission Trip because it will be my first one. Thank you for helping me take this amazing trip with so many great opportunities.

Hi, my name is Aidan Tarpinning and I am a sophomore at Memorial High School. I will be participating in the 2020 youth trip to provide service to those in need in Nashville, Tennessee. I want to go on this trip because it's always fun to explore new areas and have new experiences as well as help those in need. I am a super energetic person who can work hard when handling hard tasks. On behalf of our team, thank you so much for sponsoring and supporting our trip.

I'm Calvin Dean and I'm a junior at Memorial. I am on the swim team and the tennis team. I have learned and grown so much over the course of the 2 previous trips I've gone on. On this trip I hope to learn how I can use my faith to help others and spread God's love. Thank you for the opportunity for this life changing experience!

My name is Campbell Dean and I am in 8th grade. I'm looking forward to the trip to get closer with friends and God. Some of my hobbies are playing soccer, being active, and hanging out with friends.



Hi, my name is CJ Haas. I am a sophomore at North High School. I enjoy Cross Country, Basketball & Baseball. I am excited about the trip because I love helping others, I would like to expand my faith, and spend time with my brothers and sisters in Christ.

Hello, my name is Natalie Forrest and I'm a junior at Memorial High School. I've been on 4 church trips and I look forward to them every year. They're exciting and life changing!

Hi, my name is Carter Chapman and I am a freshman at North High School. I want to be on this trip because I had a great experience on the last one.

Help Feed My People fill Empty Bowls

Support local children, families and seniors who struggles with hunger by attending Feed My People's Empty Bowls event on Thursday, March 5, from 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM at The Florian Gardens. Tickets are available at Feed My People or at the door.



Thank you to our Weekend Kids Meal Volunteers!

Recently we received the following note from Amanda at Feed My People:

“Happy New Year! It is hard to believe 2020 is here and the school year is halfway through. Already your congregation has delivered 1,080 bags of food to students struggling with hunger at Meadowview Elementary - an accomplishment we couldn't achieve without you. Your kindness is not something we take for granted. Thank you for taking action against local childhood hunger and delivering weekend kids meals. We look forward to the rest of the school year.”

Thank you to our volunteers who deliver these meals to Meadowview almost every Friday of the school year. If you would like to help, please contact Dee in the church office!



March

BIRTHDAYS

- 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
- 12 Adam Anderson
- 14 Sue Koch
- 15 Marit 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 Wick
- 23 Brett Fey
- 26 Joel Woletz
- 27 Ron Waits
- 27 Tyler Hansen
- 28 Chris Ludwig
- 30 Walter Bille
- 30 CJ Haas
- 31 Keith Hanson



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



	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Assisting Minister	Dave Lehmkuhl	Mary Bischel	Janet Carlson	Nathan Schlieve	Janet Carlson
Lector	Sharon Lehman	Grant Johnson	Marianna Gilbertson	Barb Hokanson	Bob Wilcox
Ushers	Brian & Mary Bischel	Please volunteer	Please volunteer	Please volunteer	Please volunteer
Greeters	Chad, Bennett & Brandt Brieske	Steven & Karen Thompson	Nathan & Amy Schlieve	Michael & Sanae Stacy	Please volunteer
Counters	Sue Luthy & Bill Schwengel	Sue Luthy & Bill Schwengel	Sue Luthy & Bill Schwengel	Sue Luthy & Bill Schwengel	Sue Luthy & Bill Schwengel

March 2020

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 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Learning & Fellowship	2	3 6:30 PM Knitting	4 10:15 AM Sr Bible Study 5:30 PM Soup Supper 6:00 PM Learning 7:00 PM Worship 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:45 Mentor meeting	4 9-11 AM Food Pantry open 10:00-2:00 - Material Witness quilting	6 9-11 AM Food Pantry open	7 8:30 AM Men's Group Daylight Savings starts - set your clocks ahead 1 hour
8 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Learning & Fellowship; Book Group meets	9	10 9:30 AM H3 6:30 PM Knitting 7:00 PM Wholly Yoga	11 10:15 AM Sr Bible Study 5:30 PM Soup Supper 6:00 PM Learning 7:00 PM Worship 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	12 9-11 AM Food Pantry open 10:00-2:00 - Material Witness quilting	13 9-11 AM Food Pantry open	14
15 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Learning, Fellowship, Chili Feed 3:00 PM Inclusive Ministry (IM) Church @ Lake Street Methodist	16 5:30-6:30 PM Food Pantry open 6:30 PM - H3	17 9:30 AM H3 7:00 PM Council Mtg	18 10:15 AM Sr Bible Study 5:30 PM Soup Supper 6:00 PM Learning 7:00 PM Worship 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Mission Trip meeting	19 9-11 AM Food Pantry open 10:00-2:00 - Material Witness quilting	20 9-11 AM Food Pantry open	21 8:30 AM Men's Group
22 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship No JoF	23 5:30-6:30 PM Food Pantry open 6:30 PM - H3	24 9:30 AM H3	25 Immanuel serves @ Community Table 5:30 PM Soup Supper 6:00 PM Adult Learning (no JoF) 7:00 PM Worship 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	26 9-11 AM Food Pantry open 10:00-2:00 - Material Witness quilting	27 9-11 AM Food Pantry open	28
29 9:30 AM Worship, XYZ Milestone 10:30 AM Intergenerational Learning & Fellowship	30 5:30-6:30 PM Food Pantry open 6:30 PM - H3	30 9:30 AM H3	1 10:15 AM Sr Bible Study 5:30 PM Soup Supper 6:00 PM Learning 7:00 PM Worship 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	2 9-11 AM Food Pantry open 10:00-2:00 - Material Witness quilting	3 9-11 AM Food Pantry open	4

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
Eau Claire, WI 54701
Address service required

PLEASE
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Dated Material—useless if delayed



IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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