



IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS

March 2022

LENT IS HERE



Lutherans love Lent. Perhaps it's because so many Lutherans live in the Upper Midwest and Lent means that winter is coming to an end. Perhaps it's because we Lutherans love to focus on the cross of Jesus. Perhaps it's because we love the build up to Easter. The imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday has become especially popular among Lutherans. It creates a profound moment to stop and reflect on the shortness and fragility of our lives.

This year we are reviving our tradition of a simple meal before our Wednesday evening Lenten services. There will be no meal on Ash Wednesday which is a traditional day of fasting. Our Ash Wednesday worship will begin at 6:30. We will be finished by 7:30. That is important to families with young children.

Then on the next 5 Wednesdays of Lent there will be a simple meal served from 6:00 to 6:45. The Tanzania Team will host a pancake supper on March 9. On the other 4 Wednesdays, we are asking members of Immanuel to sign up to bring a gallon of soup of any kind. We hope to have a variety of tasty soups to enjoy.

Then we will gather at 7:00 for a brief (45-minute) worship service. The theme of our Midweek services is "Justice".

- March 2 – What Is Justice?
- March 9 – Justice and Life
- March 16 – Justice and Marriage
- March 23 – Justice and Race
- March 30 – Justice and Poverty
- April 5 – Justice and Creation

Worship in March

March 5-6 Lent 1	"Light of the World" John 9:1-12	Communion Bells
March 12-13 Lent 2	"Eyes Wide Open" John 9:13-41	
March 19-20 Lent 3	"The Abundant Life" John 10:1-10	Communion
March 26-27 Lent 4	"The Good Shepherd" John 10:11-21	



Dear Friends in Christ,

There is a lot of debate in our society about what justice is and how we work toward justice. Justice is essential to our world and yet justice has become controversial. God's Word has a lot to say about justice. From Genesis to Revelation, God is revealed as a God of justice and God calls his people to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him (Micah 6:8). So how do we do justice? This Lent, I would like to invite you to join me in thinking about doing justice in our complex and conflicted world.

There are different kinds of justice, but justice itself is simple. Justice is giving the proper value to people and giving them what they deserve whether good or bad. The complication comes in when we have competing ideas about life, marriage, race, poverty, and creation. But God has spoken very clearly to us about justice in each of these spheres.

Because God has spoken through the prophets and through Jesus, the Church is called to speak out for justice in our world. It may not be popular. It may be controversial. But to ignore God's call to justice is to support injustice. We are not going to solve every problem in our world, but we can bring some clarity and courage to do justice in our conflicted and unjust world.

Ash Wednesday will look at what justice is and how God does justice by justifying sinners. Then we will consider justice and the various conflicts in our world. How do we respond to questions about bioethics, abortion, and assisted suicide? How do we respond to questions about sexuality, marriage, and family? How do we respond to questions about race and prejudice? How do we respond to questions about poverty and resource inequality? How do we respond to questions about the environment and climate change? Each of these topics are politically charged. But the question is not about what we think. The question is about what God has said.

Can we find common ground on these controversial issues? Or are we hopelessly polarized? I believe that as Christians we can find common ground in what God has said about justice. Because politics and legislation are blunt instruments, we may not always agree on how to act politically. There is room for differences of opinion about how to most effectively legislate justice in our complicated world. But if we find our common ground in Christ, we can work together even when we have differences of political opinions.

Yours in Christ, Phil Nielsen

FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The Immanuel Church Council met February 8 with 11 of 12 members present. John Taggs shared devotions from C.S. Lewis. Faith is not an escape from suffering but brings peace in suffering. Steve Allen will have devotions in March.

John Taggs, Derek Chapman, Ivy Nielsen, Steve Allen, Scott Shannon, Peg Haas volunteered for schedule of council persons on duty.

Treasurer: January income was \$24,250 and expenses were \$19,710. There is \$79,377 in the General Fund (including \$25,994 Ted Williams bequest) and \$53,986 in Capital Savings.

Outreach/Stewardship: Food Pantry donations at 140 pounds. TZ Soup Supper/Auction set for March 26. The TZ committee is working with 2 private donors to drill 2 more water wells in the Kidugala area.

Property: Two new benches have been donated and placed at the fire pit in memory of Marian Riessen by her family. Still having issues with the programmable thermostats.

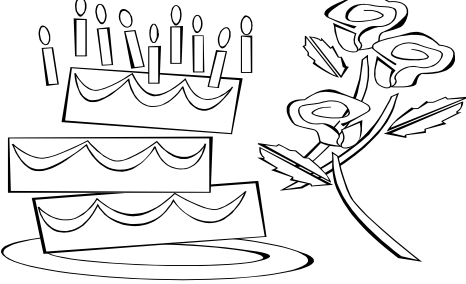
Executive: Pastor has worked on reconciling our membership database with our current membership number. It seems our membership numbers are still off. There are people who think they are members but are not in our database. And there are people who think they are no longer members but are still listed as members in our database. We don't really remove anybody unless they ask to be removed. Pastor presented the idea of a renewal or refreshing of our membership roster, inviting members to update their membership information and to indicate if they prefer to serve as active members or just participate as associate members. Council tabled the discussion to put together a proposal.

Pastor: Council approved Linda Norgaard for membership. Council approved Jared Walters preaching again for Pastor. Council approved pastor's mileage to represent LCMC at the invitation of area congregations. Pastor is working on a Mime drama of the Passion for Good Friday.

WORSHIP & GIVING

	<u>Attendance</u>					<u>General</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Total</u>
January 29-30	18	+	92	=	110	\$ 5,036.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 5,056.00
February 5-6	26	+	105	=	131	\$ 5,759.50	\$ 75.00	\$ 5,834.50
February 12-13	26	+	101	=	127	\$ 6,344.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 6,369.00
February 19-20	16	+	83	=	148	\$ 5,162.75	\$ 25.00	\$ 5,187.75

Birthdays &



Happy Birthday to the following:

Doris Rasmussen will be 92 on March 6.

Dolly Burgin who will be 84 on March 7.

Happy Anniversary to the following:

Lavon & Nancy Christensen who will be celebrating their 59th anniversary on March 10.

Ron & Kathy Block who will be celebrating their 50th anniversary on March 20.

Anniversaries

Thank you to the family of Marian Riessen for the donation in memory of Marian of park benches for our east lawn fire pit.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Jim Chipman at his death of his mother, Jeanette who died on January 30th. And to the family of Bev Burmeister at her death on February 11th.

Worship/Evangelism: We are planning a mime drama of the Passion of Jesus for Good Friday on April 15. We are looking for about 15 young-at-heart people and theatre types to help us. And we hope everyone will invite folks to come and join us for this unique presentation of the Passion of Jesus.

Fellowship/Education: Now is the time to make plans for the summer. Each of our camps offers great programming for children, youth, and families. Check them out at riversidelbc.org and oko-boji.org. We have enough funds to send anyone to camp who wants to go.

Stewardship/Outreach: Our February Mission Partner was Salem Lutheran Homes. Our March mission partners are our 2 camps at Riverside and Ingham/Okoboji.

Meals on Wheels: Immanuel has been asked to deliver meals for the month of March. If you are looking for a deliver partner, call the church office. We might have someone else who is looking for a delivery partner.

2022 Offering Envelopes have arrived. The boxed sets for February 2022 through January 2023 are available for pick up in the church office.



ON OUR PRAYER LIST: George Applegate, Nancy Gessmann, Donna Hansen, Lois Troll, Jean Whitfield, Connie Schwieso, Judi Pedersen, Twyla & Charles Grabill, Jeanette Kroger, Harry Priest, Nancy Christensen, Connie Benson, Sandra Farr (mother of Cora Chapman), Bonnie Mitchell (friend of Roger and Joann Christensen), Becky Bartels (niece of Cheryl Nielsen), Catherine Glenn (mother of Sharon Kroger) and Camden King.

Please Pray for:

LIBRARY LINES

Have you visited Immanuel's library recently? Do you know where it is? There are a few new items but I'm sure there are many DVDs for families and children and books you would enjoy. Check it out. Suggestions are always welcome.

New additions:

Ordinary Grace by William Kent Kruege

Aftermath a mystery by Terri Blackstock

I Walked in the Darkest Valleys to Freedom by (our own) Dave Pedersen

365 Thank Yous by John Kralik

The Year a Simple Act of Daily Gratitude Changed My Life

Fight Like a Girl by Leslie Krummel

*An author from Walnut, IA shares her battle with ALS
and her stronger relationship with God*

Children's Books:

Proverbs for Kids Ages 2-7

Thoughtful: Discovering the Unique Gifts in Each of Us Ages 4-8

A Boy's Guide to Making Really Good Choices Ages 8-12

A Girl's Guide to Making Really Good Choices Ages 6-12



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LCMC Heartland District is focusing on beginning discussion about planting an LCMC congregational ministry in Lincoln, Nebraska. A group met in Lincoln in February to begin discussion. A second meeting will be held March 13 at the Anderson Library main floor conference room, 3635 Touzalin Avenue at 2 p.m. If you know someone in Lincoln who might be interested, give them an invite.

Join Us Live for Worship: If you are unable to be physically present with us for worship, we invite you to join us by computer. We are live streaming all of our worship services on our public Facebook page. You don't have to have an active Facebook account to access the live stream. Just go to <https://www.facebook.com/ilcharlan/>. Also, you can find past worship services there and also at our website (harlanimmanuel.org). We are also grateful to HMU and FMCTC for carrying our worship programs. HMU (channel 15) broadcasts us at 9:00 a.m. Sundays 6:00 p.m. Sundays, Mondays, and Wednesdays. FMCTC (channel 48) broadcasts us at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.



WOMEN OF THE WORD EXEC BOARD

February 9, 2022

The WOW Executive Board met in the All-Purpose room February 9, 2022 with Sandy Nelsen, Kathy Block, Janet Johannsen (by phone), Sharon Daberkow and Myrna Havick present. Chair Sandy called meeting to order at 9:10 AM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The January minutes were reviewed. Sharon moved to accept the minutes as presented and Kathy seconded. Ayes all.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Checks were written for our 2021 Distributions totaling \$4000: West Central (meat certificates check to Fareway of \$1500), Salem Home (activities) \$500, Riverside Bible Camp \$500, Ingham Okoboji Bible Camp \$500, Foster Care Program \$500 and Feed My Starving Children program \$500. The Thank Offering total monies of \$945 check was written to Kris Olson-Harmon for the Kids at Risk program. A griddle was purchased at Target for \$53.49 to add to the kitchen. Donations of \$350 were received from the Della Holdsworth and Lowell Howe families and an individual donation of \$20 also received. Ending January balance is \$1571.98.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank You notes were received for serving at two funerals and also from Salem Home for the Christmas gifts for four of their residents. Notes are posted on the narthex bulletin board. Maggie Hatcher has donated to Immanuel a picture of Jesus at 12 in the temple which was given to her for Christmas at age 5 from her grandparents. Thank You Maggie.

HOSPITALITY: Twenty-two Valentines were sent out.

MISSION QUILTERS: Four lap quilts and 3 large quilts completed plus several others were assembled and ready for binding. A Care and Concern quilt was given to Jeanette Kroger. The Mission Quilters continue to receive good community help by sewing blocks together and binding quilts which is very much appreciated.

OLD BUSINESS: Kitchen: The kitchen will be cleaned today following WOW Gathering. Kathy purchased an electric griddle at Target which had been requested to add to the kitchen.

New Directory: Thanks to Jan Applegate who updated the directory which is on the table in the narthex.

NEW BUSINESS: Lenten meals will start March 9 with soup being served each week in Lent. A sign-up sheet will be available for each week for several people to donate a gallon of soup.

WOW GATHERING

Women of the Word met with 14 attending. Joyce Folley served a delicious coffee cake and gave each person a treat bag of candy and Bible verses that represented each Valentine treat. She then presented an interesting program entitled "My Heart Story". She shared the journey she and her husband, diagnosed with Parkinson's, have been on, the challenges they've experienced and some research she has done. At some point as a caregiver you have to give it to God and acknowledge that God is our caregiver. Joyce ended her program with the group singing "Jesus Loves Me" and a prayer. Several people stayed to help clean the kitchen---Thank You!

Upcoming Events: February 28 - Mission Quilters at 9 AM

March 2 - Lenten services begin (no meal this week)

March 9 - WOW Board meeting 9 AM and Gathering 9:30 AM

Janet Johannsen, Secretary

TANZANIA SOUP SUPPER AND AUCTION

The competition is on, who will be the winner this year of the best soup at Immanuel.

When: Saturday, March 26, 2022

Where: Immanuel Fellowship Hall

Time: Doors open at 5:45 for supper and auction immediately follows
All the soup you can eat, Beverage, Desserts and Homemade Ice cream

Free-will donation

Fun and Fellowship for the whole family



The Auction

Lots of wonderful items, find some special item you can't live without

All Proceeds Go To Immanuel's Tanzania Mission

Sponsoring over 161 primary school orphans

Plus 151 secondary school orphans

200 confirmation students with bibles

Evangelists' bikes, bibles and hymn books to help with their ministry

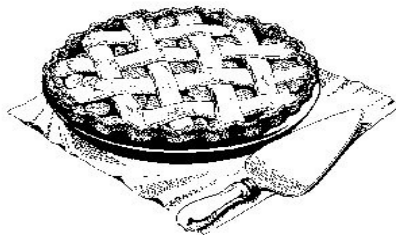
Micro loans for the people of Kidugala

Demonstration plots of corn and beans

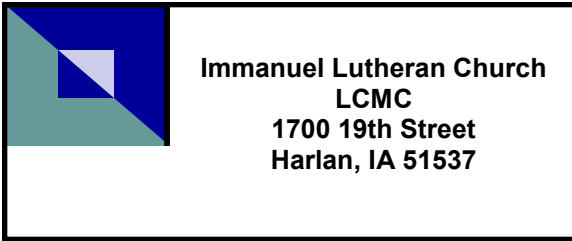
How can you help?

Make your favorite soup, decorate your table and compete for the honor of The Judge's Choice Best tasting Soup, People's Choice Best tasting Soup or Crowing Rooster Award (Best Decorated Table)

We are also looking for Auction items. This can be as simple as a pie, baked item. Month, gift certificates, services/labor, tickets to an event, homemade treasurers. The sky is the limit.



PIES ARE STILL AVAILABLE: The Tanzania Team still have 10 rhubarb pies for \$12 each. They are available at the church during office hours or after church on Saturday and Sunday. All proceeds go to fund the orphans in Kidugala to attend school. Immanuel is currently funding 170 primary school orphans and over 80 secondary school orphans. Thanks for your support.



**Immanuel Lutheran Church
LCMC
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Harlan, IA 51537**

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Office Email: ilc@fmctc.com
Pastor Phil's Cell Number: 712-579-2098
Home Number: 712-766-3178
E-mail: peacephillip@gmail.com
www.harlanimmanuel.org

Staff:

Pastor Phil Nielsen
Music Director: Heidi Thies
Office Manager: Connie Boysen
Custodian: Slava Aleev

MARCH 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:15 Adult Bible Class 7:00 Boy Scouts	28 9:00 Mission Quilters 3:15 Girl Scouts	1 9:00 CF Quilters 6:00 Boy Scout Leaders	2 Ash Wednesday 3:30 Grow 4:00 Women's Bible Study 5:15 Confirmation 5:30 Bells 6:30 Worship	3	4 12:00 Boy Scouts Camp-in at ILC	5 Boy Scouts Camp-in at ILC 5:00 Communion
6 9:00 Communion/JAM 10:15 Adult Bible Class 7:00 Boy Scouts	7	8 9:00 CF Quilters 6:30 Executive Board 7:00 Church Council	9 9 WOW BD 9:30 Gathering 3:30 Grow 4:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Bells 5:15 Confirmation 6:00 Meal 7:00 Worship	10	11	12 7:30 - 2:00 Piano Festival 5:00 Worship
13 9:00 Worship/JAM 7:00 Boy Scouts	14 3:15 Girl Scouts 4:00 4-H	15 9:00 CF Quilters	16 3:30 Grow 4:00 Women's Bible Study 5:15 Confirmation 5:30 Bells 6:00 Meal 7:00 Worship	17 Newsletter Deadline 3:00 4-H 6:30 Ladies Homestead	18	19 5:00 Communion
20 9:00 Communion/JAM 10:15 Adult Bible Class 7:00 Boy Scouts	21	22 9:00 CF Quilters	23 3:30 Grow 4:00 Women's Bible Study 5:15 Confirmation 5:30 Bells 6:00 Meal 7:00 Worship	24 Assemble Newsletter	25	26 5:00 Worship
27 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:15 Adult Bible Class 7:00 Boy Scouts	28 9:00 Mission Quilters 3:15 Girl Scouts	29 9:00 CF Quilters	30 3:30 Grow 4:00 Women's Bible Study 5:15 Confirmation 5:30 Bells 6:00 Meal 7:00 Worship	31	1	2 5:00 Communion

Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule

	March 19-20	March 26-27	April 2-3	April 9-10	April 14 7:00 P.M.
Acolytes	Gavin Sisson Donovan Smith	Emeri Smith Kori Smith	Angel Stern Katie Stern	Carly Torneten Gabe Arkfeld	Grant Chipman Harrison Kjergaard
Saturday Greeter/Usher	Connie Behrens	Karen Brasch	James Burmeister	Lavon Christensen	
Sunday Greeters/Ushers	Linda Peterson Bruce & Rita Pfannkuch	Jon & Jill Plagman Doug & Mary Renkly	Roger & Pam Rust Deb Schechinger	Mark & Nancy Schmitz Lee & Brittany Schoof	Phil & Jane Smith Al & Sally Simdorn
Sunday Reader	Hertha Haas	Mary Johnson	Sharon Daberkow	Elaine Miller	Kayla Jacobs
Saturday Altar Guild	Sandy Nelsen		DeAnn Nielsen		
Sunday Altar Guild	Stacy Torneten Kari Palmer		Sharon Daberkow Erin Hastert		Donna Nelson Cora Chapman
Sun. Communion Servers	John Boato Rick & Cheryl Chipman		Jim & Becky Chipman		Richard & Sharon Daberkow
Sunday Coffee Fellowship Hosts	Jesse & Jenna Rudolph	Kate & Kenny Schechinger	Craig & Sandy Sisson	Bob & Lavera Stern	
Sound	Kayla Weis	Kayla Weis	Gaige Lytle	Gaige Lytle	Gaige Lytle
Video	Rick Chipman	Rick Chipman	Mark Schechinger	Mark Schechinger	Mark Schechinger
Projection	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)
Council Person	John Taggs	Peg Haas			