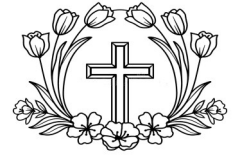


IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS

March 2024



LENT and HOLY WEEK 2024

At the center of our Christian faith is the death and resurrection of Jesus. The cross is where human sin and God's stubborn love collide. Easter is where we see the ultimate victor of that collision. In the weeks of March, we will read through the Gospel of John leading up to that fateful collision.

Then on Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday we will celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem and remember the bitterness of the cross. On Maundy Thursday we will remember Jesus' last will and testament given to his followers the night before his death. On Good Friday we will meditate on the cross from the perspective of John's gospel. And finally, Easter morning we will celebrate the hope of the Gospel in the resurrection of Jesus.

Pastor had talked about having home groups on Maundy Thursday, but that will not happen this year. Instead we will gather together at the church on Maundy Thursday.

Each Wednesday evening, we will gather for worship after a soup supper. There is a sign-up list at the church to bring soup and to serve at the suppers. On Easter morning there will be a breakfast served at 8:00 a.m. We are looking for volunteers to bring breakfast casseroles and also to serve at the breakfast. A sign-up list will be available in the church office.

Daylight Savings Time



Daylight Savings Time begins on March 10th. Set your clocks forward one hour!



Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies to decorate the sanctuary can be ordered March 2/3 and March 9/10 before and after church services. Orders can also be made in the church office. The cost of each lily plant is \$15.



Dear friends in Christ,

We live in challenging times. Although the number of atheists seems to be growing, still by far the majority believe in God. I suspect one reason there are more atheists today is because so many people are cut off from the witness of creation. They spend too much time indoors, in manmade environments, and in front of electronic screens. They don't get out and smell the roses or ponder the starry sky.

Creation does do a better job than the Church of communicating God's power and divine majesty. Romans 1:20 says, "Ever since the creation of the world, God's eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things God has made." Romans 1:20 is a good reason to go camping and to send our children to church camps.

However, there are large numbers of people who believe in God but want nothing to do with the Church. They believe in God, but they either feel no need for the Church or they just don't believe that God would use the Church for anything good. They believe that God speaks to them better through creation. They experience the glory of God more clearly through a sunrise than through a worship service. They experience the presence of God in the night sky more powerfully than through a Bible study.

However, although creation does a better job than the Church in bearing witness to the power and majesty of God, creation does not do such a great job communicating God's love and mercy. Creation's law is the survival of the fittest. There is no mercy, grace, or salvation for sinners there. When it comes to speaking of God's love, the Church does a much better job than creation because the Church is the only one telling the story of Jesus. John 1:17 says, "The Law was given through Moses. Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

The Church is the only one sharing the story of God's love and grace in Jesus. The Church may not always do a great job telling the story, but there is no one else telling the story of Jesus for children, for those who've never heard, and for those who know it best and yet are hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.

Some have been turned off by the Church. Ironically, some judge the Church for being judgmental and hate the Church for being "haters." Those who expect the Church to be perfect are disappointed to find that the Church is made up of sinners.

A former church member said, "I don't go to Church anymore. The Church is full of hypocrites." How should we respond to such a statement? Maybe one response is to admit that such a charge hurts and to seek clarification. "Are you saying that all church people, including me, are hypocrites? Do you mean a majority are hypocrites? What percentage would you judge to be hypocrites?"

Another response is to say, "It seems that you have been hurt by the Church. As a member of the Church, I am so sorry. Do you want to talk about what happened?"

When someone says, "I can worship God better without the Church," I want to ask, "What does that look like?" I have always found worship on my own to be pretty lonely. I find I need the Church. Without the Church, I miss hearing God's word of forgiveness and grace.

I am so grateful for God's gift of the Church and for all of you in particular. Thanks for being the Church for me, for each other, for our community, and for our world.

Yours in Christ, *Phil Nielsen*



Happy Birthday to the following:

Warren Grummert will be 80 on March 1.
 Elizabeth Hughes will be 103 on March 31.
 Doris Rasmussen who will be 94 on March 6.
 Dolly Burgin will be 86 on March 7.
 Darlene Hess will be 81 on March 7.
 Linda Wigness will be 80 on March 21.

Jerry Strissel who will be 82 on March 22.
 Judi Pedersen will be 80 on March 25.

Happy Anniversary to the following:

Lavon & Nancy who will be celebrating their 62nd anniversary on March 10.

Ron & Kathy Block will be celebrating their 53rd anniversary on March 20.



OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Patricia Kumm who died Friday, February 2. Her funeral was at Immanuel February 7.



OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Greg & Donna Nelson in the death of Greg's father. The funeral was in Atlantic on Saturday, February 10.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Margaret "Marg" Olson who died on February 15. Her visitation and funeral were at Immanuel on February 19.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Vernon Brue. His funeral was at Immanuel on February 22.



WORSHIP SERVICES at Immanuel are streamed on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ilcharlan) Sunday mornings. They are also recorded for viewing on HMU channel 15 (9:30 a.m. Sunday and 5:00 p.m. Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday) and on FMCTC channel 48 (4:00 p.m. Wednesday). Our worship is also posted on www.harlanimmanuel.org/sermons.html.



WORSHIP IN MARCH

March 2-3 Lent 3	"Failure or Faithfulness" John 12:34-50	Communion	
March 6 Midweek	"Washing Feet" John 13:1-17	6 p.m. soup supper 7 p.m. worship	
March 9-10 Lent 4	"Betrayal" John 13:18-30		
March 13 Midweek	"The New Commandment" John 13:31-38	6 p.m. soup supper 7 p.m. worship	
March 16-17 Lent 5	"Don't Let Your Hearts Be Trou- bled" John 14:1-7	Communion	
March 20 Midweek	"Powerful Promises" John 14:8-14	6 p.m. soup supper 7 p.m. worship	
March 23-24 Palm/Passion	"The Pain, the Sorrow, and the Joy of God" Mark 14-15	Palm Procession Choir Anthem	
March 28 Maundy Thursday	"Remembering" 1 Corinthians 11:23-26	7 p.m. Communion	
March 29 Good Friday	"The Lamb" John 18-19	7 p.m. Service of Shadows	
March 31 Resurrection Day 7 a.m. and 9 a.m.	"Easter Surprise" Mark 16:1-8	Breakfast Choir and Bells Communion	



A BIG THANK YOU to all the Thrivent members who directed Thrivent Choice dollars to Immanuel. Immanuel thanks you. This past year Immanuel received \$1,181 from Thrivent. If you have not directed your 2023 Thrivent Choice dollars yet, you have until March 31 to direct those dollars before they disappear.

ON OUR PRAYER LIST: Kay Koos, Vicki Strissel, Arlynn Gittens, Ken Vorm, Lorene Thiede, Kayla Weis, Sandra Haney, Connie Benson, Bill Broveak (son-in-law of Ed & Sheila Mills), Wade Mills (son of Ed & Sheila Mills), Julie Duval, Grace Pauley, Margie Schenck, Melvin and Helen Allen (Steve Allen's parents), Megan Leslie (Steve Allen's niece), Ken and Audrey Joannsen (Seth Johannsen's parents), and Jim Halagarda (friend of Kirk Jacobsen).



MARCH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The Immanuel Church Council met February 13 with all members present. John Taggs led devotions from John 15:13. March devotions will be led by Joey Hansen.

John Taggs asked for nominations for officers. Vicki moved and Joey seconded the election of the following officers: John Taggs as president, Dave Greve as vice-president, Vicki Strissel as secretary, Joey Hansen as treasurer, Craig Olson and Amy Kaster for Worship/Evangelism Committee, Eric Chipman and Scott Shannon for Fellowship/Education Committee, Rich & Barb Furst and Trent Svendsen for Outreach/Stewardship, and Ken Nielsen and Todd Madsen for Property. Motion carried.

Vicki Strissel, Joey Hansen, Dave Greve, Craig Olson, John Taggs, Eric Chipman, and Rich & Barb Furst volunteered for Sunday morning deacon duties.

Treasurer's Report: January income was \$25,179.69 and expenses were \$24,795.02 leaving a net income of \$384.67 for the month. General fund is \$88,225.55 and Capital Savings is \$68,154.78. Executive Committee recommended to move the remaining balance of the pipe organ project fund into the General Fund for future tuning of the organ. Motion carried.

Worship/Evangelism – Seth Johannsen was able to obtain the hotel/motel tax grant which will reimburse the \$1000 spent on publicity for the organ dedicatory recital. Potluck was attended by about 70 with lots of great food. Recital was well attended by almost 200 people. The committee is still discussing candidates to recruit for music director position.

Fellowship/Education – LYO had a lock-in overnight at the church after the Ash Wednesday with Pastor and Scott Shannon as adult supervision. Thanks to Ken Nielsen for taking down outdoor decorations. Soup suppers will be served beginning Feb. 21. Volunteer sign-ups are posted. Immanuel's Got Talent will be put on hold until next year. Planning an April 14 Old Fashioned Game Night for Immanuel's 110th Anniversary. May 5th will be Senior Baccalaureate Sunday and breakfast will be provided by our committee for seniors and their parents.

Outreach/Stewardship – Mission Partner for March is the local Salvation Army Fund. Food pantry donations for West Central is at 98 pounds for the year so far. TZ Auction is set for March 23rd. Larry Haas and Dave have been busy with the cans and would like to see if there are others who can help. Sharing cupboard is still drawing a lot of traffic to the church. Thanks to Hansen House for their donations.

Property – Plumber has been called for some problems. Garbage Disposal is working but needs to be run occasionally.

Pastor's Report -- Recommended Tony and Taylor Hansen for membership at Immanuel. Still working on the membership directory, updating information and developing photo directory.

	Attendance		Total	General	Building	Total
Feb. 3-4	35	+ 116	151	\$5,424.67	\$25.00	\$5,449.67
Feb. 10-11	22	+ 159	181	\$5,419.00	\$	\$5,419.00
Feb. 14, 21	63	+ 25	88	\$690.00	\$240.00	\$930.00
Feb. 17-18	26	+ 111	137	\$2,239.00	\$50.00	\$2,289.00
Feb. 24-25	21	+ 114	135	\$4,253.00	\$	\$4,253.00



ILCW

The ILCW Executive Board met Wednesday Feb 14 in the church library. Present were Sandy Nelsen, Kathy Block, Janet Johannsen, Sharon Daberkow and Julie Vorm as Sandy called meeting to order at 9 AM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: No minutes for January as meeting was canceled due to weather. The December 2023 minutes were reviewed. There being no corrections, Julie motioned and Kathy seconded to approve. Ayes all.

TREASURER'S REPORT: On January 4 funds from our 2023 charitable giving were distributed to 7 organizations totaling \$5000 and \$885 to Kids at Risk. Income on Jan 22 of \$125 from a funeral leaves the January balance at \$1694.31.

CORRESPONDENCE: A Thank You was received from Kris Olson-Harmon for the Kids at Risk donation of Thank Offering money. Riverside Bible Camp, Ingham Lutheran Bible Camp, West Central and New Hope Village also sent Thank You's for monies from our 2023 distribution.

COMMITTEES: Hospitality – Cards sent in Jan/Feb are 13 get well, 3 anniversary, 1 birthday and 32 Valentines.

Kitchen – Sharon reported that several carafes were found dismantled and unable to be assembled again to hold any liquids. They were discarded. Sharon moved to purchase 10 new carafes. Janet seconded. Ayes all. Jean will order more printed napkins.

There was discussion on use of cloth tablecloths. IF ANY CLOTH TABLECLOTHS ARE USED, THEY NEED TO BE CHECKED THOROUGHLY IF LAUNDERING IS NEEDED. DO SO, THEN REPLACE TO THE HANGERS ON WHICH THEY ARE KEPT.

NEW BUSINESS: Easter – Sally will check into Easter lily orders.

Funerals - Jan Applegate has formed a group that will be setting up the fellowship hall for all funeral luncheons unless told differently.

We adjourned to the Fellowship Hall.

ILCW GATHERING

Eighteen were in attendance. Sandy opened the meeting at 9:30. She passed a sign-up sheet for serving refreshments or presenting a program for the upcoming ILCW year. Sign-up sheets were also displayed for volunteering to bring soup, serve or cleanup for Lenten evening suppers. She read the Thank You note from Kris Olson-Harmon for the Kids at Risk donation and how this donation is so greatly appreciated for the "needs" of the kids. Ilene Nelson served delicious Valentine-themed refreshments. Joyce Folley presented a program on "Hands." She read many writings of what Mother's hands, Father's hands, Grandfather/mother's hands have done. Have you ever REALLY LOOKED at someone's hands and wondered what they have done, where they have been and even children's hands—what will they do someday. Hands are a Gift of the Lord—although all are different and might not all be beautiful, they reflect ones' dynamic life story. Hands hold immense power of love, gratitude and peace. Next time you really look at someone's hands you can wonder what all they have done. Great program. We ended with all joining hands repeating the Lord's Prayer.

UPCOMING EVENTS: March 13 – ILCW Gathering 9:30

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 23, 2024

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

Micro loans for the people of Kidugala

Demonstration plots of corn and beans

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



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.



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LCMC
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Staff:

Pastor Phil Nielsen
Office Manager: Rachel Block
Custodian: Slava Aleev

MARCH 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 5:00 Communion
3 8:00 Choir 9:00 Communion/JAM 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	4	5 9:00 CF Quilters 6-9:00 Boy Scouts Dist.	6 4:00 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Supper 7:00 Worship	7	8	9 7:00-1:00 Piano Festival 5:00 Worship
10 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Boy S Leaders	11	12 9:00 CF Quilters 2:00 Bunco 6:30 Executive Bd 7:00 Church Council	13 9:00 ILCW Bd Mtg. 9:30 ILCW Gathering 3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible S. 5:15 Confirmation 6:00 Supper 7:00 Worship	14	15	16 5:00 Communion
17 8:00 Choir 9:00 Communion/JAM 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	18	19 9:00 CF Quilters 7:30 Fellowship/Ed.	20 1:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible S. 5:15 Confirmation 6:00 Supper 7:00 Worship	21 Newsletter Deadline 3:30 Clover 4H 6:30 Ladies Homestead	22 Set up TZ Soup	23 TZ Soup Supper 5:00 Worship
PALM SUNDAY 24 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	25 1:00 Mission Quilters	26 9:00 CF Quilters 2:00 Bunco 6:00 Worship/Ev.	27 3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible S 5:15 Confirm 6:30 LYO	28 Assemble Newsletter 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday	29 7:00 Good Friday	30 5:00 Worship
EASTER 31 7:00 Communion 8:00 Breakfast 9:00 Communion/JAM	1	2 9:00 CF Quilters	3 3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible S 5:15 Confirmation 6:30 LYO	4	5	6 5:00 Communion

Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule

	March 9-10	March 16-17	March 23-24	March 31 @ 7 am	March 31 @ 9 am
Acolytes	Zoey Olson Maggie Petersen	Trinity Haas Gavin Herbst	Drake Nippert Trevor Herbst		Aubrey Petsche Katie Stern
Saturday Greeter/Usher	Rick & Cheryl Andersen	Roger Andersen	Connie Behrens		
Saturday Altar Guild		DeAnn Nielsen			
Sunday Greeters/Ushers	Mitch & Kate Petersen John & Gaylen Petsche	Bruce & Rita Pfannkuch Lonnie & Connie Pitts	Shane & Liz Pitts John & Jill Plagman		Doug & Mary Renkly Jesse & Jeanna Rudolph
Sunday Altar Guild		Janet Johannsen Cora Chapman		Donna Nelson Vicki Strissel	Jan Applegate Stacy Torneton
Scripture Reader (Sunday)	Sandy Nelson	Donna Nelson	Verne Nelson	Phil Nielsen	Craig Olson
Communion Servers (Sunday)		Gary & Nancy Jahn		John Taggs	Elaine Miller Verne Nelson
Coffee Hosts (Sunday)	Art & Linda Anderson	George & Jan Applegate	Ken & Vicki Carstens	Volunteers	Volunteers
Sound	Seth Johannsen	Seth Johannsen	Seth Johannsen		Seth Johannsen
Video	Grant Chipman	Grant Chipman	Grant Chipman		Grant Chipman
Projection	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Donna Nelson	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Teri Johnson	Teri Johnson
Council Person	Joey Hansen	Craig Olson	Eric Chapman	John Taggs	Rich & Barb Furst