

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CLARA CITY



Second  
SUNDAY  
IN  
LENT

+++++

HAPPENINGS FOR THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL (February 28 – March 7)

Today~ 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion  
 10:00 a.m. Sunday school  
 7:00 p.m. A.A meeting in conference room  
 Tuesday ~ 1:00 p.m. Quilting  
 7:00 p.m. N.A. meeting in conference room  
 Wednesday ~ 7:00 p.m. Midweek Lent Service with Communion  
 Saturday ~ 7:30 a.m. Yoga  
 Sunday ~ 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion  
 10:00 a.m. Sunday school  
 7:00 p.m. A.A. meeting in conference room

+++++

SUNDAY (February 28)

NEXT SUNDAY (March 7)

**Acolyte:** Emersen Tatge  
**PowerPoint:** Peyton Schlaegel  
**Lay Reader:** Gary Meyer  
**Ushers:** LuAnn Kruger, Rose Berghuis

Jase Dirksen  
 Breanna Dirksen  
 Laurie Dieken  
 Summer Kabisch, Callie Jaenisch,  
 Cadence Rosendahl, Emersen Tatge

+++++

*Reminder:* If you'd like Pastor Joel to visit you or your family member, you just need to let him or the church office know. We are always available for you in bad times, good times, anxious times. Please call...

**The January, February, and March Noisy Offering** will be going to the Green Lake Bible Camp.

**Generous Reflections:** Jesus had just told his disciples about his impending death when talk of self-exaltation caused dissension among them. Jesus, ever patient, *“called them together,”* and talked to them about humility, about what makes us great, and how to be Number One. “Be a servant,” he said, *“just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many”* (Matthew 20:28).

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
 PO Box 236 ~ 204 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
 Clara City, MN 56222  
 Church’s email: [ilc236@hcinet.net](mailto:ilc236@hcinet.net)  
 Office Fax (320) 847-2120

Rev. Joel Gueningsman  
 Pr. Joel’s Cell Phone: (952) 807-3330 or 847-3449 (home)  
 Pr. Joel’s email: [jgueningsman001@luthersem.edu](mailto:jgueningsman001@luthersem.edu)  
 Custodian Tim Sabe (320) 212-5773  
 Secretary Michelle Jaenisch @ Office (320) 847-2138

Immanuel’s WEBSITE: [www.ilc-ClaraCity.org](http://www.ilc-ClaraCity.org)

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Closed on Fridays!

+++++

This morning’s **Radio Broadcast** has been sponsored in memory of my husband Henry, my sister’s Doris, Carol, Vida and brother Sonny given by LaFern Stegeman.

*Many dates are open for 2021. \$100 to sponsor, call the office at 320-847-2138.*

**Worship services are now broadcast over Cable Channel 8 and 117.2, FM radio 93.9, and AM 1460 or view the livestream of the service at Immanuel Lutheran’s facebook page.**

+++++

Tri-Community **AA Meetings** will be held every Sunday evening at 7 p.m. in our Upper Parish Hall Conference Room. Contact Todd Osthus (320) 212-8676 for more information.

**FEBRUARY 28, 2021**

**2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

**(SPOKEN BY PASTOR)**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

***(Silence for reflection and self-examination)***

Fountain of living water, pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are + forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. Amen.

**HYMN: IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY (SONG LEADERS)**

1. In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sacred story, gathers around its head sublime.

2. When the woes of life o'er take me, hopes deceive and fears annoy; never shall the cross forsake me, lo it glows with peace and joy.

3. When the sun of bliss is beaming, light and love upon my way, from the cross the radiance streaming, adds more luster to the day.

4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified; peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**KRYIE (SONG LEADERS)**

1. Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer. We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

2. Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin. Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

3. Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart. Renew us with your saving power, create in us new hearts.

**HYMN OF PRAISE: (SONG LEADERS)**

1. Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth. Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth; we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

2. Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love. Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heaven above; on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Hear our prayer, restore, forgive us, in your promise firm we stand.

3. Holy One we now acclaim you, Lord alone to you we call; Holy One in faith we name you, God most high yet near to all. Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright; for the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (SPOKEN BY PASTOR)**

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**CHILDRENS' SERMON**

**FIRST READING: GENESIS 17:1-7, 15-16**

<sup>17</sup> When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. <sup>2</sup> Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." <sup>3</sup> Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, <sup>4</sup> "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. <sup>5</sup> No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. <sup>6</sup> I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. <sup>7</sup> I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

<sup>15</sup> God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. <sup>16</sup> I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her." The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 22:23-31**

<sup>23</sup> You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! <sup>24</sup> For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. <sup>25</sup> From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows. <sup>26</sup> The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the LORD will praise him—may your hearts live forever! <sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, <sup>28</sup> for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations. <sup>29</sup> All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—those who cannot keep themselves alive. <sup>30</sup> Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. <sup>31</sup> They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it! The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**SECOND READING: ROMANS 4:13-25**

<sup>13</sup> It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. <sup>14</sup> For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, <sup>15</sup> because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. <sup>17</sup> As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not. <sup>18</sup> Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." <sup>19</sup> Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. <sup>20</sup> Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup> being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup> This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup> The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, <sup>24</sup> but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. <sup>25</sup> He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** (SONG LEADERS)

We are turning, Lord to hear you, you are merciful and kind; slow to anger, rich in blessing, and with love to us inclined.

**GOSPEL: MARK 8:31-38**

<sup>31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." <sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life<sup>[a]</sup> will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels." The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** RISE UP, O SAINTS OF GOD! (SONG LEADERS)

1. Rise up, O saints of God! From vain ambitions turn; Christ rose triumphant that your hearts with nobler zeal might burn.

2. Speak out, O saints of God! Despair engulfs earth's frame; as heirs of God's baptismal grace the word of hope proclaim.

3. Rise up, O saints of God! The kingdom's task embrace; redress sin's cruel consequence; give justice larger place.

4. Give heed, O saints of God! Creation cries in pain; stretch forth your hand of healing now with love the weak sustain.

5. Commit your hearts to seek, the paths which Christ has trod; and quickened by the Spirit's power, rise up O saints of God!

**APSOSTLES CREED** (SPOKEN BY PASTOR)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heave and earth?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (SPOKEN BY PASTOR)

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD'S PRAYER** (SPOKEN BY PASTOR)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

**COMMUNION & POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BLESSING**

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you + that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. Amen.

**SENDING HYMN:** LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS (SONG LEADERS)

1. Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure. Through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure. Onward in his footsteps treading, travelers here our home above, full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Savior's bidding. Faithful Lord, with me abide, I shall follow where you guide.

2. Let us suffer here with Jesus, and with patience bear our cross. Joy will follow all our sadness, where he is there is no loss. Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy; all discomforts that annoy, shall give way to mirth hereafter. Jesus, here I share your woe, help me there your joy to know.

3. Let us gladly die with Jesus, since by death he conquered death. He will free us from destruction, give to us immortal breath. Let us mortify all passion that would lead us into sin; and the grave that shuts us in, shall but prove the gate of heaven. Jesus here with you I die, there to live with you on high.

4. Let us also live with Jesus, he has risen from the dead; that to life we may awaken, Jesus you are now our head. We are your own living members, where you live there we shall be; in your presence constantly, living there with you forever. Jesus let me faithful be, life eternal grant to me.

**DISMISSAL**

God in peace. Share the good news.

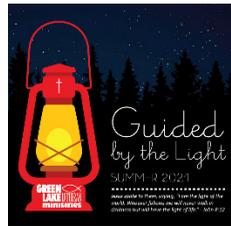
+++++



**Our Community meal is next Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>** serving from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. On the menu: Beef Commercial, Vegetables and Dessert. We will be serving to go orders in the church alley way. Please comment on the Church’s Facebook page or call the office at 320-847-2138 with the number of meals you are wanting.

**Feeling Lonely?** If you are feeling isolated and need to connect with somebody, volunteers are available to have a friendly chat! The Conversational Phone Line for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities is open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. 1-866-777-0250. CarrisHealth CentraCare with support from the Willmar Area Community Foundation.

**The Parkinson’s Support and Education group** continues to meet the first and third Monday of every month from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Because of COVID and social distancing, we have been meeting virtually every Monday via ZOOM platform. Anyone who is affected by Parkinson’s Disease, is encouraged to attend our virtual meetings! To learn more about this group and/or obtain log in information, please contact Lori Petersen at 320-321-8241 or 320-226-2343. This support group is free and is sponsored by CCM Health in Montevideo.



The Green Lake Bible Camp theme for 2021—“Guided by the light.” Come explore how the love and light of God has guided people through joy-filled as well as challenging situations in the Bible and TODAY!

Online and paper registration will open on January 25, 2021. Registrations received before March 1, 2021 will get \$40.00 off of each registered program. You may pick up a brochure in the office or back of the church if interested.

**COVID-19 Vaccine Update:** Countryside Public Health is currently vaccinating our phase 1A populations. When we move forward with vaccine rollout to our 65+ populations, we will communicate via: Radio, Newspaper, Countrysidepublichealth.org, Social Media pages, and our local partners. We understand these are very uncertain times and we wish good health upon all of you. Please continue to social distance, wash your hands, wear a mask, and stay home when you are ill other than seeking medical care. If you have more questions, please reach out 800-657-3291. Thank You, Countryside Public Health