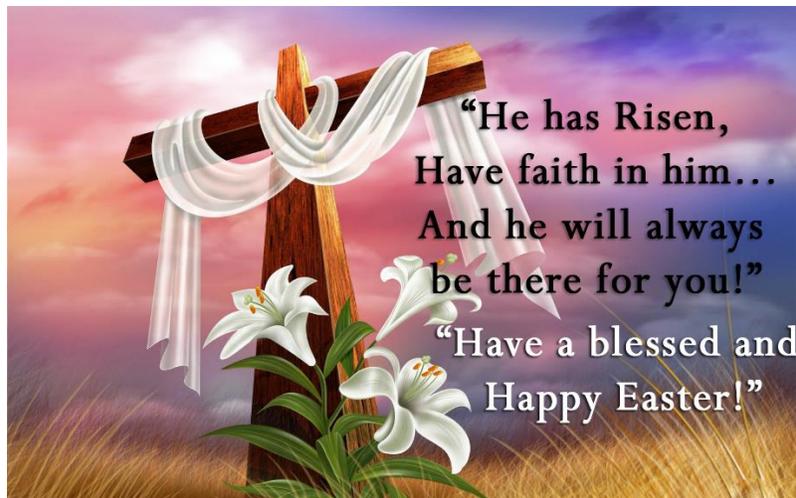


IMMANUEL SPEAKS

APRIL 2020



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Immanuel Lutheran Church, PO Box 236, Clara City, MN 56222

Dear Sisters and brothers in Christ,

It is starting to look like spring as sprung! With temperatures rising: the grass is getting greener, the birds have returned, farmers are beginning to gear up for planting, and many of us are ready to get out and enjoy our favorite activities. Spring has sprung, and with it we see signs of new life. And yet at the same time, this spring feels different doesn't it. As I write this we are all too well aware of what is going on in the world around us. Our youth are at home and some of you are there also as we have received an order to remain at home to help bend the curve and slow the spread of the covid-19 virus.

In many ways, while spring has sprung and new life has begun once again, it almost feels like we live in a world filled with death. Whether it is physical death, or the small deaths that are happening all around us: our youth not being at school, people not being able to go to work, worry and stress about finances, worry and stress about the safety of our loved ones, and the list can go on and on; in one way or another we all have been or will be affected by what is happening.

In the opening verses of Ecclesiastes 3 the author of that book really hits the nail on the head, "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die". These are two things we can count on as being certain, life and death. And as I said we have all experienced both the joys and sorrows that come with living and dying. Whether we like it or not life is constantly changing and evolving for good and for ill. Nothing is certain, and at times it is easy to let that uncertainty, our fears and worries dominate and control our life. It is easy to lose hope, and feel like we are all alone.

However, my friends as people of faith we need not fear, we need not let our worries and fears dominate of life, for Easter is coming and we are an Easter people. In Matthew's account of the resurrection the women themselves receive the good news from Jesus himself, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me" (Matthew 28:10). Death could not stop Jesus from being with his disciples! This is the promise we have also; there is nothing, not covid-19, physical death, the little deaths we experience daily, nothing in all of creation that can change the fact that we have been called and claimed as God's children, now and for all eternity. Easter is coming, out of the death around us God can and will bring new life!

Sisters and brothers in Christ, I am not sure the next time we will meet face to face and gather like we are accustomed to. As of right now the council is still planning on doing a drive-in style Easter worship at 10:30 am Easter Sunday (if the shelter in place order is not extended). I continue to touch base with many of you via the telephone and would encourage you if you are in need of anything to contact me. I would also encourage you all to live as Easter people. As I have said many times before, during times like this it is scary and uncertain and so we tend to think about ourselves. And yet as people of faith, we are an Easter people, people of the resurrection; who believe that God is at work in the world bringing healing, wholeness, and compassion. In the midst of all that is happening right now ask yourself, how might we be a part of God's healing work? How might we be his hands and feet in the world? Who are those people to whom God may be calling us?

My friends, Easter is coming! God is with us now and always! Let us go and proclaim this good news!

Pastor Joel

Council Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2020

Attending: Pastor Joel; Ross Pederson; Kathy Fritz; LuAnn Kruger; Isaac Gosseling; Duane Jaenisch; Jim Jaenisch

Absent: Gary Meyer; Josh VanDerPol; Sandy Scanlon

Meeting was called to order by President Ross Pederson at 7:30 p.m.

Pastor Joel led devotions from Luke 15. Jesus told the story of Father's son that spent his father's money and disappeared for a long time. As the son came back to his father; he was full of joy and had a huge celebration in his return of all years gone by.

Agenda: Additions were made to the agenda. Council then M/S/P to accept the agenda with those additions.

Reports:

Secretary Report: Minutes from the February meeting were reviewed. M/S/P to approve Secretary's report.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy provided council with treasurer's report. Checking account balance is \$38,096.83, Savings account balance is \$115,044.93 and CD has a current balance of \$35,362.50 with a maturity date of March 1, 2022.

-Kathy would like some guidance for money coming in for the many discrepancies of the donation preferences.

-Ross to call an Executive Committee meeting to make a plan for the many charts of accounts for the checking and savings accounts before the next church council meeting. M/S/P Treasurer's report.

Committee Reports: No committee reports were available.

Pastor's Report: See attached. Discussion was held about Green Lake Bible Camp and the misunderstanding of the anonymous donor's placement of fund to the camper's schedule. The next Community Meal is on April 5th.

Old Business:

-Darcy Schipnewski, the church Organist/Pianist salary was discussed. Kathy will discuss with her about the change. Council then M/S/P. Darcy's new salary \$725/month = \$8,700/year.

-Endowment committee appointments tabled till next month meeting.

New Business:

-Church Council serving the March 25 Lent supper. M/S/P to get 14 Pizzas from Donner's Truck Stop restaurant with Ranch dressing and Double Stuff Oreo Cookies.

-Women's Bathroom Remodel – tabled to the next council meeting.

-Community meal discussion was held as to make it a committee. Council believes it is valued to keep going. Council then M/S/P to develop a Community Outreach Committee for the community meals. Jim will tell Michelle to put an announcement in the bulletin for volunteers to the new committee.

-Kathy discussed the Equipping Congregation's information and policy's. The policies will be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting.

-Isaac will check with Clara City Farmer's Elevator for any donated unsold grain in Immanuel's name.

- The noisy offering has been discussed. In response of the Nashville, Tennessee tornadoes and other possible weather outcomes in Spring and Summer's violent weather. Council then M/S/P the Noisy offering of April, May and June to the Lutheran Disaster Relief.
- Bank account signers: Council President Ross Pederson, Council Vice-President Gary Meyer. Michelle Jaenisch, church secretary also a signer. Council then M/S/P to have dual signers for large checks from checking account for amounts \$5000.00 and over.
- A backup treasurer was talked about in case Kathy cannot perform her duties. Isaac Gosseling offered as he is familiar with Quick Book Software. With no additional salary to this position, council then M/S/P Isaac Gosseling as sub-treasurer with Isaac abstaining his vote.
- Discussion was held about Sandy Scanlon's position on church council. Ross will contact Sandy about her position.

Council M/S/P to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Jim Jaenisch

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**Church Council Coronavirus, COVID-19 Situation Meeting
March 22, 2020**

Attending: Pastor Joel; Ross Pederson; Sandy Scanlon; Gary Meyer; Jim Jaenisch; LuAnn Kruger; Kathy Fritz; Duane Jaenisch; Josh VanDerPol; Isaac Gosseling
Absent: None

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Talked about Drive-In Style Worship services/Communion style. PA system \$400/week rental.

- Duane will find equipment for drive-in style worship.
- Funeral services are on hold but Funeral Homes will do a full blown burial with gravesites procession.
- M/S/P to make an adjustable policy for funeral for gravesite services at time of death with family and friends and to do a church service at a later date when this COVID-19 situation is over.
- Do 2 services for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, 1 digital and 1 drive-in style unless the state puts into shut-in policy.
- Bishop Jon will do a conference call meeting on March 24 for congregational leaders. Pastor asked if any council members would join him if interested.
- Discussion was talked about offerings and how to deliver to church or do it direct deposit and also not to press the issue with people getting layoffs from unemployment.
- Discussion of reaching out to people to talk and help with anything. Childcare is a big issue if it is shut down from state policy.
- Gary will check with MACPAC to see if it is continuing deliveries.

M/S/P to adjourn meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Jim Jaenisch

Pastoral Acts

- 57 pastoral visits; presided at 1 funeral: Myles Lieser (Feb. 22nd)

Worship

- Worship/Bible Study @ CCCC Mar. 2nd & 9th
- Communion @ CCCC Mar. 3rd
- Lenten services began Feb. 26th with Ash Wednesday. Theme for Lenten mid-week services: the seven words spoken by Jesus from the cross.
 - Maundy Thursday with first communion April 9th @ 7pm. Dinner before and cake for first communion students
 - Good Friday: noon with Stations of the Cross, 7pm either traditional Good Friday or Stations of the Cross (TBD).
 - Easter Sunday: Sunrise 6:30am & then 9am.

Education/Youth & Family

- Led WELCA Bible study @ PPP on Mar. 4th
- Confirmation is breaking for Lenten Mid-week services. Completed final review of year's learning on Feb. 19th with final exams passed out, due on Palm Sunday (April 5th)
 - Confirmands assisting with mid-week Lenten services
- Mission trip fees have been paid to serve boldly.
 - Additional fundraiser ongoing to help cover the other costs of the mission trip.
- Up to 8 youth registered for camp at Green Lake.
 - have roughly raised 1,000 from fundraisers throughout the year. Is the council interested in assisting financially like last year???

Mission & Outreach

- Community meal Mar. 1st, next one scheduled for April 5th: Grilled chicken breast, mashed potatoes, veggies, & desert
- Lutheran Disaster Relief in Tennessee; with spring coming we will also see flooding in parts of the country. What a wonderful way to serve our neighbor through LDR.

Wider Church

- Equipping congregations day @ Vinje in Willmar on Feb. 29th
 - Key note speaker Davie Lose touched on reading scripture, especially how you don't need a religious degree to do so.
 - Key note speaker Bishop Jon touched on congregational vitality, becoming a church that participates in ministry rather than spectates.

Pastoral Care

- Nothing to report at this time

The Unchanging Creator is For Us
Daily Devotional – Max Lucado

Everything is changing! Flight schedules are changing. The economy is changing. The school schedule is changing. Changes, everywhere.

But what hasn't changed? God's love for us. The four most welcome words in the Bible are *God is for us*. GOD is for us—the unchanging Creator is FOR us. His love for us is constant and unchanging. He's not plotting to take us down. He wants to build us up. He hasn't turned away from us. He has turned toward us and is inviting us to run to him for peace and strength.

Among all the changes in this season, find comfort in this steadfast promise from Christ. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (John 14:27). Turn to Him today.

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Easter Is Really for Jesus

Easter is not just for the Bunny,
With goodies and treats that he brings,
Easter is when we must celebrate
And alleluia is the song that we sing!

Easter is really for Jesus,
Who died and then rose from the dead.
We must always remember the love Jesus showed
And all of the things that He said.

So, remember this Easter when you go to Church,
And this message you tell everyone.
That Easter is all about Jesus,
The Bunny and treats are just fun!



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Volunteers Needed!!!

*The Community Meal was discussed at the March council meeting and they believe that it is valued to keep going. Council approved to develop a **Community Outreach Committee** for our Community Meals. If you would like to volunteer for this new committee, please talk with a council member.*

2020 Offerings collected for the month of March: \$4,099.00

2020 Offerings needed for the month of March: \$20,650.16

Date	Attendance	Offering
Sunday, March 1	121	\$1,913.00
Wednesday, March 4	70	\$540.00
Sunday, March 8	103	\$1,391.00
Wednesday, March 11	69	\$255.00
March 15, 18, 22, 25, and 29		

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Below we have printed the **tribe's membership for May, 2020**. The chair person (s) will be calling you in the near future asking you to help serve Immanuel in some way. Start thinking today what you can volunteer to help with...oh, and please say yes! We have been having a lot of trouble filling the few jobs we need help with each Sunday and if everyone takes one job, the 'needs' list would be filled. Thanks!

Tribes up for service in May 2020

Chairperson: John and Kathy Fritz

- Allen Dieken
- John and Kathy Fritz
- Randy and Traci Grussing
- Lonnie and LuAnn Hansen
- Keith Harms
- Dale and Diane Koenen
- Cody and Trista Rand family
- Jim and Lori Schmaedeka
- Jack and Donna Sparks
- Josh and Cindy VanDerPol



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God's blessings to these couples on their special days:

- Wayne and Annette Rose 52 years on April 2
- Tom and Rose Berghuis 43 years on April 14
- Mark and Amy DeBoer 29 years on April 6
- Kevin and Bonnie Hauser 28 years on April 11
- Dennis and Donna Roberts 27 years on April 24
- Randy and Julie Pieper 18 years on April 13
- Jim and Michelle Jaenisch 17 years on April 5
- Mike and Angie Huizel 13 years on April 28
- Jordan and Krista Ellingson 11 years on April 25
- Allan and Emily Dieken 9 years on April 9
- David and Sunshine Devine 4 years on April 16
- Michael and Katie Hanna 3 years on April 1

