

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CLARA CITY



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HAPPENINGS FOR THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL (February 17-21)

Today ~ 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service
Sunday ~ 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
10:00 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship
7:00 p.m. Tri-Community AA Meeting in Conference Room in Upper Parish Hall

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TODAY (February 17)

NEXT SUNDAY (February 21)

Acolyte: Jack Miller
PowerPoint: Brielle Janssen
Lay Reader: Judi Boike
Ushers: Keith & Sarah Rand

Domonic Neville
Sam Miller
Carissa Pederson
Keith & Sarah Rand

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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.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
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Rev. Joel Gueningsman
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Pr. Joel's email: jgueningsman001@luthersem.edu
Custodian Tim Sabe (320) 212-5773
Secretary Michelle Jaenisch @ Office (320) 847-2138

Immanuel's WEBSITE: www.ilc-ClaraCity.org
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Closed on Fridays!

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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.

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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.

The assembly gathers in silence.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PSALM 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then you will delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(SPOKEN BY PASTOR)

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through 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: EXODUS 12:1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight.

⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-27

²³For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: PG. 205

(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.

The holy gospel according to St. Luke the 22nd chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 22:1-13

Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. ²The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people.

³Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; ⁴he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. ⁵They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. ⁶So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

⁷Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, 'Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it.' ⁹They asked him, 'Where do you want us to make preparations for it?' ¹⁰'Listen,' he said to them, 'when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters ¹¹and say to the owner of the house, "The teacher asks you, "Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" "' ¹²He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there.' ¹³So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: THE UPPER ROOM; A PLACE FOR YOU AT THE TABLE

HYMN OF THE DAY: YOU ARE MINE#581 (SONG LEADERS)

1. **“I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear. You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be still and know I am here.”**
2. **“I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see. In the shadows of the night, I will be your light. Come and rest in me.”**

(Refrain) **“Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.”**

3. **“I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame. All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and all will know my name.”**

(Refrain) **“Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.”**

4. **“I am the Word that leads all to freedom, I am the peace the world cannot give. I will call your name, embracing all your pain. Stand up, now walk and live!**

(Refrain) **“Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.”**

INVITATION TO LENT

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus’ passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God’s mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of lent—to self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great three days of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

CONFESSION OF SIN (SPOKEN BY PASTOR)

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our eyes to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you. Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people we confess to you. Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you. Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you. Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgements, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you. Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you. Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us. Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

PRAYER AND IMPOSITIONS OF ASHES (SPOKEN BY PASTOR)

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life, in Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

(THE ASSEMBLY IS INVITED FORWARD FOR THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES)

Let us pray...Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation, that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior, bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection. Amen.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. We pray for the church. Turn our lives toward you in repentance. Turn our hearts toward our neighbors in love. Turn our actions toward the world in mercy. Renew us in faith, in prayer, and in compassion. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for the world. Teach us to treasure the earth as your beloved creation. Provide plentiful and healthy homes for all creatures. Bring new life from decay and repair what has been damaged from misuse or neglect. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for the nations. Empower leaders to resist the use of power for personal gain or selfish interest. Teach us to build communities where all can live in safety and peace. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for those in need. Protect those who are victimized by crime or injustice. Unburden those who are weighed down by guilt or shame. Assist those who are unemployed. Comfort those who mourn, and heal the sick, especially those we love to you now...lord in your mercy...

We pray for this assembly. Deepen our faith. Empower us to see the needs of our neighbors and to care for the least of these in our midst. Lord in your mercy...

With thanksgiving we remember all who have died in the faith. Bring us with them to the promise of unending life with you. Lord in your mercy...

Trusting in your everlasting mercy O God, we lift our prayer to you, through your son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER (SPOKEN BY PASTOR)

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of light, strengthen you on your Lenten journey to life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

SENDING HYMN: O LORD THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS (SONG LEADERS)

1. O Lord throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast; inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.
2. Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind above; so teach us to deny ourselves that we may know God's love.
3. Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days, that when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.

DISMISSAL

Dear friends, go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.