

IMMANUEL SPEAKS

FEBRUARY 2024



Sisters & brothers in Christ,

Attention everybody!!! It is February, and you all know what that means. On the 14th it will be Valentine's Day!!! Now is the time to get out and get those gifts for your spouse, fiancé, or significant other to show them how much you love and appreciate them. Looking back, I remember one Valentine's Day when I was in eighth grade. Being a teenager, I thought I had found the girl of my dreams and so as Valentine's Day rolled around I showered her with gifts. When she got to school in the morning there was a necklace in her locker. During first period she received some carnations. Later on, during the day she found a huge teddy bear in her locker. After lunch the local florist came with more flowers and one of the biggest heart balloons I have ever seen. Looking back, I have to laugh at all of the ways I tried to show this girl that "I loved her".

Valentine's Day is a wonderful day to remind one another of that love that we have. But it is also a day on which we can also reflect on God's great love for us. What is love? John in his first letter to the early church would write this, "In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins." As we celebrate Valentine's Day and we thank one another for the gift of love, John reminds us of the Greatest Valentine's Day gift we will ever receive, our Lord and Savior!

This year on Valentine's Day, we will once again begin our Lenten journey. Beginning with Ash Wednesday and throughout the 40 days of Lent we will see the height and depth of God's love for us and creation! God loves us so much that Jesus sets his face to Jerusalem knowing full well what is going to happen there. Rejected, Jesus continues to proclaim God's love. Upon the cross Jesus speaks words of forgiveness to those who persecuted him. To a dying convicted criminal, Jesus promises paradise. And as John the Baptist foreshadowed early on, at the cross we behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world; who rose again destroying the power of death so that we may have eternal life.

My friends, out of all the Valentine's Day gifts we receive; the cross is the greatest gift of all. And so, as we go about our shopping and trying to find the perfect gift to show those special people in our life how much we love and appreciate them; remember the greatest Valentine's Day gift that God has given you. Remember his great love for each and every one of you!

In His name,

Pastor Joel

January 14, 2024

1. Pastoral Acts

- 42 pastoral visits
- 1 baptism: Emryn Lee Bleick
- 1 funeral: Opal "Kit" Colby

2. Worship

- Clara City Care center
 - Led worship on Dec. 20th, Jan. 3rd & 10th
- Sunday school Christmas Program Dec. 17th @ 9am
 - Wonderful job by the kids and all the teachers who helped to tell the story!
- Christmas Eve worship Dec. 24th @ 5pm
 - Service of lessons and carols
- Christmas Day worship Dec. 25th @ 9am
- Hanging/taking down of the greens
 - Thank you to everyone who helped decorate for the Advent and Christmas season!
 - Thank you to the ladies for putting everything away!
- Ash Wednesday/Lent
 - Ash Wednesday worship @ 7pm. Youth fundraiser meal before worship.
 - Midweek Lenten worship @ 7pm with meal before hand. Wednesdays: Feb. 21st & 28th, Mar. 6th, 13th, 20th

3. Education/Youth

- Sunday School
 - No Sunday school Dec. 24th & 31st for Christmas break; first Sunday back Jan. 7th
- Youth
 - Confirmation
 - One class left in 2nd unit. Confirmands have journeyed from the book of Genesis and after the next class will be through the book of Ruth.
 - No Confirmation Wednesday Dec. 27th for Christmas break.

-Youth Gathering

-A lot of fundraising: popcorn, cups, cupcakes, quilt raffle, and plenty of meals: Chili & Soup on Jan. 28th, and menu to be determined for Feb. 14th Ash Wednesday meal.

4. Mission & Outreach

-Community meal Jan. 7: chili, cornbread, carrots and a cookie. Served around 175+.
-Received thank you notes from both the Legion Auxiliary & the school for the gifts and items you gave this past Christmas season.

5. Continuing Education/Pastoral Self-Care

-nothing to report at this time

+++++

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Minutes
January 14, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

Present: Michele Shubert, Ross Pederson, Randy Grussing, Cheryl Colby, Laurie Dieken, Andrea Prekker, Pastor Joel, Harold Goedgedrag, Katherine Schwitters (Treasurer)

Absent: Mike Pankratz, Jane Niemeyer

Secretary’s Report: M/S/P.

Treasurer’s Report: M/S/P to approve \$.67/mile.

Fair rental value of parsonage for 2024 is \$9000.00/year.

M/S/P to approve report.

Committees: Cemetery – Discussed putting in a columbarium, needing a new storage shed.

Pastor’s Report: Reviewed.

Old Business: Church locks – will follow up with Property Management Committee.

Budget – reviewed and discussed. M/S/P to approve 2024 budget.

New Business: One year position for Council will be added to the ballot.

Meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Prekker

+++++

Free Community Meal – Sunday, February 4
5:00-6:00 p.m.

Our next Community Meal is Sunday, February 4th! On the menu is: turkey commercials, and a dessert. We will be serving to go orders in the alley and also serving in the Fellowship Hall. Please comment on the Facebook page or call the church office at 847-2138 with the number of meals you are wanting. Everyone is welcome and the meal is free!!



+++++

Lutheran Men in Mission Pancake Supper
Tuesday, February 13 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

The Annual Pancake Supper, put on by the Lutheran Men in Mission will be held on Shrove Tuesday, February 13. Pancakes, French toast, sausage, and beverage will be served. The cost is \$9.00 for adults, \$5.00 for school age, and 4 and under free. Everyone is welcome! A work schedule has been sent out to all workers.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC

+++++

Lenten Services and Suppers

Lenten Midweek Worship theme: “Bread for the Journey” Bread is present throughout the pages of the Bible, but especially at key times of salvation history. Themes of: hospitality, generosity, sufficiency, and trust are like slices in the loaf of bread being served each week. Come and be fed by the Bread of Life as we travel through Lent to the resurrection and new and abundant life!

Join us for midweek Worship Services and suppers during the Lenten season. Beginning on **Ash Wednesday, February 14, we will gather for a meal starting at 5:30 p.m. The meal is a free will offering. Then at 6:30 p.m. we will meet in the sanctuary for some Bible jeopardy and friendly feud. The Lenten Worship Services with communion will start at 7:00 p.m.**

This is the schedule and menu for the Lenten meals:

Ash Wednesday, February 14: Spaghetti and meatballs, chicken alfredo, breadsticks, salad, cheesecake
Youth going to National Youth Gathering in New Orleans preparing.

Wednesday, February 21: Taco in a bag, Sunday School preparing.

Wednesday, February 28: Church Council preparing, watch bulletin for menu.

March 6: Open

Wednesday, March 13: cold sub sandwiches, chips, pickles, and cookies. Congregational Life preparing.

Wednesday, March 20: A variety of Lutheran hotdishes. Youth going to National Youth Gathering In New Orleans preparing.

Mundy Thursday, March 28: Pastor Joel and his friends preparing, watch bulletin for menu.

If you would like to plan and prepare the meal on March 6th, please contact the church office. Thank you to everyone in advance, for volunteering to help with these meals!!

+++++



1st Communion Instruction—Kids, would you like to receive Holy Communion? Parents, are your child/children interested in receiving Holy Communion? There will be four first communion instruction sessions this year. They will be Wednesday Feb. 21st, & 28th, & March 6th & 13th at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. If there are any questions, contact Pastor Joel.

+++++

Judah Tribe Up For March 2024

Below we have printed the Tribe Membership for March 2024. The chairperson 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! If everyone takes one job, the “needs” list will be filled. Thank you.

Judah Tribe

- Jim Kluver
- Harvey Durham
- Rhodney and Cindy Wilkens
- Dwight and Jan Mulder
- Dean and Judy Gosseling
- Dave and Ann Hovda – Tribe Leaders
- Al and Sharon Satre
- Robbie and Rachelle Dirksen
- Pam and Peyton Schlagel

+++++

Tubing At Powder Ridge

We are planning on going tubing on Monday, February 26th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Weather Permitting)!! Watch for more details in the upcoming weeks or contact LuAnn Kruger at 320-905-4195.



+++++

Worship Assistants for February 2024

Sunday, February 4: PowerPoint/Acolyte: Kresson Bratsch
Lay Reader: Carissa Pederson
Altar Guild: Carissa Pederson

Sunday, February 11: PowerPoint/Acolyte: Leia Colby
Lay Reader: Daryl Niemeyer
Altar Guild: Judy Gosseling

Wednesday, February 14: PowerPoint/Acolyte: Kailani Hansen (Ash Wednesday Service – 7:00 p.m.)
Lay Reader: Gary Meyer
Altar Guild: Char Pankratz

Sunday, February 18: PowerPoint/Acolyte: Logan Jaenisch
Lay Reader: Laine Rieger
Altar Guild: LuAnn Kruger

Wednesday, February 21: PowerPoint/Acolyte: Gavin Gueningsman (Lenten Service – 7:00 p.m.)
Altar Guild: Nancy Gosseling

Sunday, February 25: PowerPoint/Acolyte: Alivia Strommer
Lay Reader: Cindy Meyer
Altar Guild: Nancy Gosseling

Wednesday, February 28: PowerPoint/Acolyte: Andy Rand (Lenten Service – 7:00 p.m.)
Altar Guild: Ken & Jan Beyerl

+++++

Open Radio Broadcast for 2024

We have many open radio broadcasts for the 2024 year. If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast during this year, please contact the church office at 847-2138, or stop in the church office, or talk to Kathy or Pastor Joel. The cost is \$100 for each broadcast. The following dates are still available.

February 25	August 4, 18
March 3	September 15, 22, 29
April 28	October 13, 20, 27
May 12, 26	December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
June 9, 16, 23, 30	
July 7, 21, 28	

+++++

February

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 SS/Fellowship Hour 5:00-6:00 Community Meal	5	6 1:00 Quilting 7:00 NA Meeting	7 6:30 Confirmation	8	9	10
11 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 SS/Fellowship Hour/ Church Council Meeting	12 1:30 Joy Bible Study	13 1:00 Quilting 5:00-7:00 LMM Pancake Supper 7:00 NA Meeting	14 5:30-6:30 Lenten Supper 7:00 Ash Wednesday Worship/Communion	15	16	17
18 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 SS/Fellowship Hour	19	20 1:00 Quilting 7:00 NA Meeting	21 5:30-6:30 Lenten Supper 7:00 Lenten Service/Communion	22	23	24
25 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 SS/Fellowship Hour	26 8:00-2:30 Tubing at Powder Ridge	27 1:00 Quilting 7:00 NA Meeting	28 2:00 Coffee for Gals 5:30-6:30 Lenten Supper 7:00 Lenten Service/Communion	29		