

IMMANUEL SPEAKS
APRIL 2024



Dear friends in Christ,

Out of all the resurrection accounts, the Gospel of Mark's resurrection story has always been my favorite. I also think it happens to be the oddest. The women arrive at the tomb on Sunday morning with spices to prepare the body of Jesus for burial and they ponder who will roll the stone away for them. They come to the tomb and find that the stone has been rolled away. They are met by an angel who tells them not to fear for the Lord Jesus has risen. The angel then tells them to go and tell the disciples that Jesus goes before them and will meet them in Galilee. So far so good. Jesus is risen and will meet his disciples in Galilee. But then in one verse everything changes. We come to the final verse of Mark's gospel, and hear that the women leave the tomb and say nothing because they are afraid.

What an odd ending! The women say nothing because they are afraid. And this is where Mark leaves us! There are no resurrection appearances in Mark like there are in Matthew, Luke, and John. Compared to the other resurrection accounts, Mark is odd, the story doesn't seem complete.

However, it is still my favorite. The reason for this is because the ending is left open, with Christ going before for his disciples to Galilee. There is fear at the end of Mark, and yet there is hope. Jesus is alive and loose in the world with a promise. Jesus promises to go before and meet his disciples in Galilee. Jesus will meet them in their fearful and chaotic world with his love and peace. Despite their fears, the promise is that the risen Savior will meet them and he will calm their fears and wipe away their tears.

Like the women at the tomb and the disciples who barricaded themselves away from the world for fear of suffering the same fate as Jesus; we too continue to experience fear in our life. For some it may be failing health or a bad medical diagnosis or maybe it is the fear of death. The list of things we can fear in this world can go on and on. And because of those fears we can feel alone and abandoned. We can feel like there is no hope.

However, the message we hear this Easter is that Jesus has risen, he is with us, and will go before us in the world. We are not left alone to face the trials of life by ourselves. Our Savior who conquered the power of sin and death has promised to be with us now and always. Our Savior is with us with the promise that there is nothing in all of creation that will separate us from life with him. The popular Easter hymn *I Know that My Redeemer Lives* would put it this way, "He lives to silence all my fears, He lives to wipe away my tears, He lives to calm my troubled heart, He lives all blessings to impart."

My friends in a world of fear, the angel at the empty tomb continues to proclaim to us do not be afraid for God is Immanuel, God with us, now and always! Christ has risen! He has risen and continues to walk with us! Alleluia!

Happy Easter,

Pastor Joel

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

Present: Laurie Dieken, Andrea Prekker, Katherine Schwitters (Treasurer), Terry Noble, Randy Grussing, Addisyn Pederson, Gabby Rognlie, Derek Rand, Jane Niemeyer, Pastor Joel

Absent: Cheryl Colby

Meeting was called to order.

Reports: Treasurer's Report: M/S/P to accept.
Secretary's Report: February Meeting – M/S/P to accept.
Annual Meeting – M/S/P to accept.

Committees: No Reports.

Pastor's Report: Reviewed.

Old Business Church Locks: Currently all working.
Janitor: Will decide on salary after Brandea returns to work following knee surgery in April.

New Business: Money counters:
April: Andrea Prekker, Gabby Rognlie
May: Randy Grussing, Terry Noble
June: Jane Niemeyer, Addisyn Pederson

Noisy Offering for 2nd quarter will go to Lutheran World Relief.
Proceeds from Council Lenten Supper given to the youth for convention expenses.
M/S/P to give \$250.00 donation to MACCRAY After Prom.

Next Council meeting is April 14th at 10:00 a.m.

M/S/P to adjourn meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Niemeyer
Council Secretary

March 10, 2024

1. Pastoral Acts

- 34 pastoral visits
- 1 baptism: Makayla Rae Pietig
- 3 funerals: Edna Kleene, Larry Jansen, & Evangelina Thole

2. Worship

-Clara City Care center

-Led worship on Feb. 14th

-Ash Wednesday/Lent

-Midweek Lenten worship @ 7pm;

-Wednesdays: Feb. 21st & 28th, Mar. 6th, 13th, 20th

-Lenten theme: "Bread for the Journey." Some of the most powerful memories are associated with the sense of smell. In Biblical days one of the things, you would smell on a daily basis was bread. Bread also appears at key times in salvation history. Themes of hospitality, generosity, sufficiency, and trust are like slices in the loaf of bread being served each week.

-Holy week Schedule

-Palm/Passion Sunday (Mar. 24th) @ 9am; Maundy Thursday with 1st Communion (Mar. 28th) @ 7pm; Good Friday Tenebrae (Mar. 29th) @ 7pm; Easter (Mar. 31st) @ 6:30am & 9am

3. Education/Youth

-Sunday School

-First Communion Classes

- Wednesdays: Feb. 21st & 28th, Mar. 6th, 13th, 20th @ 6pm in fellowship hall

-All baptized youth wanting to take communion are invited for instruction. First Communion will be on Maundy Thursday at 7pm (March 28th)

-6 first communion students so far!

-Confirmation

-assisting with worship during mid-week Lenten service

-Youth Gathering

-Fundraising continues. Thank you to everyone for all the support!

4. Mission & Outreach

-Community meal March 3rd; next one April 7th.

5. Continuing Education/Pastoral Self-Care

-Festival of Homiletics, May 13th-16th

-Faith+lead (Luther Seminary) courses

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Asher Tribe Up For May 2024

Below we have printed the Tribe Membership for May 2024. The chairperson will be calling or texting you in the near future, asking you to help serve Immanuel in some way. Start thinking about what you can volunteer to help with! If everyone takes one job, the “needs” list will be filled. Thank you.

Asher Tribe

- Patty Rand – Tribe Leader
- Bruce and Carol Soine
- Darcie Meyer
- Tom and Diane Pieper
- Bryon and Melissa Jaenisch
- Matt and Jennifer Niesen
- Paul and Brenda Tuve
- Tim and JoEllen Rosendahl
- Jim Jaenisch
- Logan Nilsen and Bailey Kruger

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Open Radio Broadcasts for 2024

If you are interested in sponsoring a radio broadcast during the year, please contact the church office at 847-2138, or talk to Pastor Joel or Kathy. The cost is \$100.00 for each broadcast. The following dates are still available:

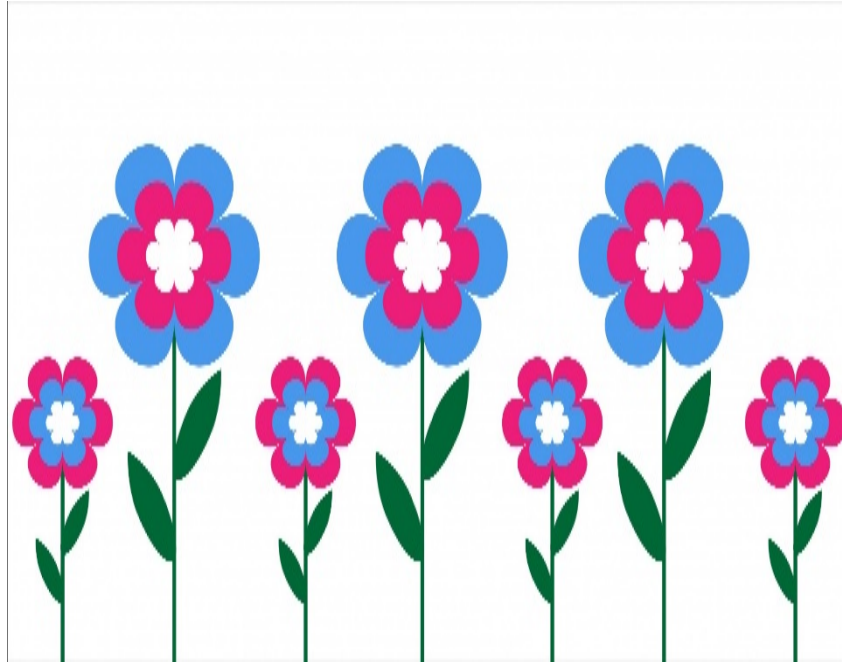
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| June 23, 30 | October 13, 20, 27 |
| August 4, 18 | December 1, , 22, 29 |
| September 22 | |

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Community Meal on Sunday, April 7
5:00-6:00 p.m.

The Community Meal will be served on Sunday, April 7th from 5:00-6:00 p.m. The menu is: meatloaf, cheesy potatoes, green beans, and pineapple fluff. We will be serving in the Fellowship Hall and the alleyway. Please sign up on our Facebook page or call the church office with the number of meals you will be needing. The meal is free and everyone is welcome!

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Worship Assistants for Sundays in April 2024

Sunday, April 7: Acolyte/PowerPoint: Kailani Hansen
Lay Reader: Gary Meyer
Altar Guild: Ken and Jan Beyerl

Sunday, April 14: Acolyte/PowerPoint: Logan Jaenisch
Lay Reader: Ken Beyerl
Altar Guild: Nancy Gosseling

Sunday, April 21: Acolyte/PowerPoint: Gavin Gueningsman
Lay Reader: Cindy Meyer
Altar Guild: LuAnn Kruger

Sunday, April 28: Acolyte/PowerPoint: Alivia Strommer
Lay Reader: Michele Shubert
Altar Guild: Sara Sabe

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Do you love gameshows and the gameshow network, then do we have an event for you! The congregational life committee is sponsoring a trip to the Golden Valley Game Show Battle Room on Sunday, April 28th at 2pm. If interested please let one of the congregational life members know or email pastor at jgueningsman001@luthersem.edu. When reserving the room, we were told the more the merrier. If interested let us know as soon as possible so that we can look into possibly renting a bus so that we can all travel together.

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ELCA National Youth Gathering Luncheon & Bake sale on Saturday, April 20th, from 10am to 2pm. The Youth will be serving a baked potato bar & ice cream bar and of course all those yummy baked goods. Thank you all again for your support as we enter the home stretch of our fundraising!

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