

**IMMANUEL SPEAKS**  
**MARCH 2024**



**Siblings in Christ,**

**On Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, we entered the season of Lent. During this season of Lent, we are invited into the discipline of Lent: self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love as we journey to the cross with Jesus.**

**Our first spiritual practice of Lent is self-examination and repentance. Lent is very clear about the truth of humanity's problem. We have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We were created from the dust of the earth and because of sin; death has entered into the world and to dust we shall return. The Lenten season is also very clear about God's love for us. Yes, we are dust and to dust we shall return, but God speaks another word to us. A word of life. Through the cross and resurrection of Christ our sin is forgiven and death is defeated and we are given the gift of eternal life.**

**One way to practice this spiritual discipline of self-examination and repentance is to use a catechism or hymnal as most contain some order of confession and absolution/forgiveness. I invite you to use that order within your house or among a group of friends.**

**Our second spiritual practice of Lent is prayer. So often we can take God for granted. Our schedules are so full it seems like there is never any down time. And yet one of the remarkable things we see about Jesus during his life, is that he was never too busy to stop and pray to his Father. We too have that invitation to grow deeper with God each day. Luther in the small catechism would write, "Our Father who art in heaven. What does this mean? God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father, and that we are His true children, so that we may ask Him confidently with all assurance, as dear children ask their dear father."**

**So how do we do this? A daily devotional doesn't have to be an hour, it can be if you want. Mine is normally between 5-20 minutes depending upon the day. So what can we use to deepen our prayer life? Once again we can go to a catechism, hymnal, or devotional material. If you do the morning and evening prayer, and have some kind of prayer at your meals, you would pray 5 times a day. Or another option would be to use one of the devotionals like God's pause from Luther Seminary: <https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/>, or our daily bread: <https://odb.org/> or something similar on the internet. The point is how might we grow in deeper relationship with God in our lives just as Jesus did in his.**

**This brings us to our final Lenten spiritual practice: fasting and sacrificial giving and works of love. Notice I have these two together. The practice of fasting especially not eating red meat during Lent was directly tied to almsgiving to the poor. Christians would spend less on things like fish and take what they didn't spend and give it to the poor, as a reminder that Christ has compassion on all people especially the ones in need.**

**So how do we do this? Well, what would you like to give up for Lent? Pick something and then keep the money that you would have spent on it and use it for the benefit of others. We could also extend this to just more than money. How could we fast in terms of our time and talent from our regular schedules and use our time and talents in service to someone else?**

**Lent is a journey to the cross as we hear the old old story, of Jesus and his love. But it is more than a story. This season continues to remind us of how Jesus calls us to pick up our cross and follow him so that we might continue to grow in love of God and love of neighbor. May we all walk in the way of the cross!**

**Pastor Joel**

February 11, 2024

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### 1. Pastoral Acts

- 37 pastoral visits
- 2 baptisms: Raya Kailani Ruhland; Tucker John Freese
- 1 funeral: Myron Prekker

### 2. Worship

- Clara City Care center
  - Led worship on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>
- Ash Wednesday/Lent
  - Ash Wednesday worship @ 7pm. ELCA Youth Gathering fundraiser meal before worship.
  - Midweek Lenten worship @ 7pm;
    - Wednesdays: Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>
    - 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. 24<sup>th</sup>) @ 9am; Maundy Thursday with 1<sup>st</sup> Communion (Mar. 28<sup>th</sup>) @ 7pm; Good Friday Tenebrae (Mar. 29<sup>th</sup>) @ 7pm; Easter (Mar. 31<sup>st</sup>) @ 6:30am & 9am

### 3. Education/Youth

- Sunday School
  - First Communion Classes
    - Wednesdays: Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> @ 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 28<sup>th</sup>)
  - No Sunday school on February 18<sup>th</sup> (Presidents Day weekend).
- Confirmation
  - Completed second unit. Confirmands have journeyed from Genesis through the book of Ruth. After Lent will conclude the Old Testament entering into the kingdom era of the OT.
  - Confirmation game night at Clara City Care Center on Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Hunger meal on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>

**-Youth Gathering**

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

**4. Mission & Outreach**

**-Community meal Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>; turkey commercials**

**-Received thank you note from Lutheran Campus Ministry**

**5. Continuing Education/Pastoral Self-Care**

**-nothing to report at this time**

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**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR SUNDAYS IN MARCH 2024**

Sunday, March 3: Acolyte/PowerPoint: Grant Meyer  
Lay Reader: Judi Boike  
Altar Guild: Ken & Jan Beyerl

Sunday, March 10: Acolyte/PowerPoint: Emersyn Pederson  
Lay Reader: Duane Dieken  
Altar Guild: Sara Sabe

Sunday, March 17: Acolyte/PowerPoint: Kailee Rosendahl  
Lay Reader: Michele Shubert  
Altar Guild: Michele Shubert

Sunday, March 24: Acolyte/PowerPoint: Eva Swenson  
Lay Reader: Ken Beyerl  
Altar Guild: Carissa Pederson

Sunday, March 31: Acolyte/PowerPoint: Kresson Bratsch (6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service)  
Lay Reader: Daryl Niemeyer  
Altar Guild: Judy Gosseling

Sunday, March 31: Acolyte/PowerPoint: Leia Colby (9:00 a.m. Easter Service)  
Lay Reader: Carissa Pederson  
Altar Guild: Judy Gosseling

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*Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>*  
*Palm Sunday Worship Service/Communion - 9:00 a.m.*

*Maundy Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>:*  
*Supper from 5:30-6:30 p.m.*  
*Watch Bulletin for Menu*  
*Maundy Thursday Worship Service/*  
*First Communion -7:00 p.m.*

*Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>:*  
*Good Friday Worship Service - 7:00 p.m.*

*Easter Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>:*  
*Easter Sunrise Worship Service/Communion - 6:30 a.m.*  
*Easter Worship Service/Communion - 9:00 a.m.*

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**COMMUNITY MEAL**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 3 FROM 5:00-6:00 P.M.**

The Community meal on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> is from 5:00-6:00 p.m. The menu is: scalloped potatoes, ham, corn, and a homemade cookie. We will be serving to go meals in the alley way and in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up on Immanuel’s Facebook page or call the church office at 847-2138, with number of meals you need.

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**SIMEON TRIBE UP FOR APRIL 2024**

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

Simeon Tribe

- Corrie and Kathy Swenson
- Larry and Jane Niemeyer
- Gary and Cindy Meyer
- Curt Knapper
- Keith Harms
- Steve Sunderland
- Duane and Michele Shubert – Tribe Leaders
- Ken and Jan Beyerl

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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO PACK MACPAC**

Have an hour to spare? MACPAC is looking for volunteer packers from Immanuel for the evening of May 14<sup>th</sup>, at the high school. If you can help, please contact Laine Rieger at 320-894-6649.

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**ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS**

Please remember to designate your Thrivent Choice dollars to your congregation. Each Thrivent member can apply for two action grants of \$250.00 each year. Any questions, please contact your Thrivent representative.

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**1<sup>st</sup> 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, March 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. If there are any questions, contact Pastor Joel.

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## 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. We gather for a meal starting at 5:30 p.m., then meet in the sanctuary for Bible jeopardy and friendly feud at 6:30 p.m.. The Lenten Worship Services with Communion will start at 7:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, March 6:** 5:30-6:30 p.m. Lenten Supper  
Lutheran Hotdish, Jello, Homemade Bread and Egg Coffee  
6:30 p.m. Bible Jeopardy  
7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Service/Communion

**Wednesday, March 13:** 5:30-6:30 p.m. Lenten Supper  
Cold Sub Sandwiches, chips, pickles, cookies  
6:30 p.m. Bible Jeopardy  
7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Service/Communion

**Wednesday, March 20:** 5:30-6:30 p.m. Lenten Supper  
Soup and hot sandwiches  
6:30 p.m. Bible Jeopardy  
7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Service/Communion

**Maundy Thursday, March 28:** 5:30-6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Supper  
**First Communion**  
Menu to be announced.  
6:30 p.m. Bible Jeopardy  
7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship Service/Communion

**Good Friday, March 29:** 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship Service

**Easter Sunday, March 31:** 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Easter Service with Communion  
9:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service with Communion

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### **OPEN RADIO BROADCASTS 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 talk to Kathy or Pastor Joel. The cost is \$100.00 for each broadcast. The following dates are still available:

May 26	September 15, 22, 29
June 16, 23, 30	October 13, 20, 27
July 7, 21, 28	December 1, 8, 22, 29
August 4, 18	

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 11, 2024, 10:00 a.m.**

Present: Andrea Prekker, Pastor Joel, Cheryl Colby, Randy Grussing, Katherine Schwitters (Treasurer), Laurie Dieken, Michele Shubert, Derek Rand, Jane Niemeyer

Absent: Ross Pederson, Gabby Rognlie, Terry Noble, Addisyn Pederson

Meeting was called to order by President Michele Shubert.

Reports: Secretary's Report: M/S/P to approve.

Treasurer's Report: Online giving is set up. M/S/P to approve report.

Committees: Endowment: Andrea reported no changes.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Joel gave report for past month.

Old Business: Church Locks: No report.

Lenten Supper: Church Council will serve supper on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Menu is BBQ's, coleslaw, chips, and bars.

Election of Officers: President: Andrea Prekker  
Vice-President: Laurie Dieken  
Secretary: Jane Niemeyer

Committees: Cemetery: Randy Grussing  
Youth: Cheryl Colby, Gabby Rognlie  
Media: Derek Rand  
Congregational Life: Laurie Dieken, Jane Niemeyer  
Endowment: Andrea Prekker

New Business: Money Counters: March – Derek Rand, Laurie Dieken  
Janitor: Hourly salary for now. Will decide on annual salary next month.

M/S/P to adjourn meeting.

Next Church Council Meeting is March 10 at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jane Niemeyer  
Council Secretary



**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOR IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
JANUARY 28, 2024 10:00 A.M.**

Council President Michele Shubert called the Annual Meeting of our congregation to order. It was determined there were enough members present to establish a quorum.

Pastor Joel opened with the Annual Congregational liturgy and prayer.

Michele asked for a review of agenda for the meeting.  
M/S/P to approve agenda.

Old Business: None brought forward.

Secretary's Report: Reviewed and M/S/P to approve report.

New Business: Ann Hovda is asking for new ideas for new ways to do business to serve.  
Suggestions: Focus groups or maybe do a survey.

Budget: Katherine Schwitters (Treasurer) gave a presentation on online giving. M/S/P to approve budget.

Council: Three positions open: Terry Noble, Derek Rand, Gabby Rognlie to fill these terms.  
Addisyn Pederson will also be a Council Member for one year to replace Mike Pankratz.

M/S/P to approve ballot.

M/S/P to adjourn meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jane Niemeyer  
Council Secretary

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# 3 Ways to Give Online-NEW to Immanuel!

**Safe, Secure, and Convenient!**

**1. Download the FREE Vanco app to your phone.**

- Search **Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement** on your app store.
- Search for **Immanuel Lutheran Church of Clara City.** (Make sure you choose **CLARA CITY**-there are many different ILC's)
- You will need to sign up to create a login. Then, you can give from the app anywhere...anytime!



**\*\*\*\*\*OR\*\*\*\*\***

**2. Scan the QR code below** with your phone camera to give to General Fund, Building Fund, Sunday School kids, or Youth (7th-12<sup>th</sup>) Fund.

- Scroll to choose your desired fund.



- You can give once or set up recurring gifts. You may use credit/debit card (3% charge that you can choose to pay or take off of your offering) or via your bank account at 1% charge.

**\*\*\*\*\*OR\*\*\*\*\***

**3. Church Website.** (NOT FACEBOOK). Visit us at: <https://www.ilc-claracity.org/>

- Click '**Online Giving**' at the top of the page and choose your desired fund. Follow the instructions online.

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**We want to make church giving convenient for you. If you have any questions, please contact Kat Schwitters at (320)-894-2658. Please consider giving to Immanuel in order to continue the work we do here.**

# March

# 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 SS/Fellowship 5:00-6:00 Community Meal	4	5 1:00 Quilting 7:00 NA Meeting	6 5:30-6:30 Lenten Supper 6:30 Bible Jeopardy 7:00 Lenten Service/Communion	7	8	9
10 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 SS/Fellowship 10:00 Council Meeting	11 1:30 Joy Bible Study	12 1:00 Quilting 7:00 NA Meeting	13 5:30-6:30 Lenten Supper 6:30 Bible Jeopardy 7:00 Lenten Service/Communion	14	15	16
17 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 SS/Fellowship	18	19 1:00 Quilting 7:00 NA Meeting	20 5:30-6:30 Lenten Supper 6:30 Bible Jeopardy 7:00 Lenten Service/Communion	21	22	23
24 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 SS/Fellowship	25	26 1:00 Quilting 7:00 NA Meeting	27 2:30-3:30 Coffee for Gals	28 5:30-6:30 Lenten Supper 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service/Communion/First Communion	29 7:00 Good Friday Worship Service	30
31 6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service/Communion 9:00 Easter Service/Communion	<b><i>HE IS RISEN!!</i></b>					

