



THE MESSENGER

the newsletter of
Immanuel Lutheran Church



Vol. 28 No. 3

www.immanuellawrence.org

March 2024

2104 Bob Billings Parkway
Lawrence, Kansas
66049-2722

Church Office:
(785) 843-0620
Officemanager@
immanuellawrence.org
M-F: 11:00 am to 4:30 pm

Facebook:
@ImmanuelLutheran
ChurchLawrenceKS

Website:
www.immanuellawrence.org

Worship Service:
Sunday—9:00 am

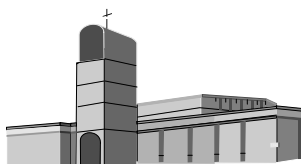
Sunday School and
Bible Study:
Sunday—10:30 am

Pastor:
Rev. Andrew Wehling

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Leslie Traylor
(785) 843-0620
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immanuellawrence.org

Messenger Editors:
Leslie Traylor and
Jan Leines

Mission
"To share God's love in
Jesus Christ by word and
deed with all people."



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Our culture underdefines sin:

"It's a sin only if you get caught."

"It's a sin only if someone gets hurt."

"It's a sin only if I believe it's a sin."

Our culture also underestimates the consequences of sin:

"Sin might cause a little hassle."

"Sin might distract me temporarily."

"I sin, but I'm basically a good person."

Misunderstanding sin means we also misunderstand our need for a Savior. If sin isn't that big of a deal, and if I'm not that much of a sinner, then I can pretty much solve most of my sin problem myself. I don't need a Savior.

So it can be a bit of a shock to walk into one of our worship services which begin with rather strong language about sin, like this:

O, almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner . . .

Wait a minute, *I'm* a sinner? And not just a sinner, but a *poor, miserable* sinner? Am I really that bad?

The Bible's answer to that question is a strong "Yes." Listen to the strong language of Romans 3: "No one is righteous, no, not one." And Romans 6: "The wages of sin is death." And Romans 8: "Those who are in the flesh cannot please God."

All we can say, therefore, before a God who is all-holy, all-knowing, and perfectly just, is "Yes, Lord, it's true, I am a poor, miserable sinner who deserves nothing from You but punishment, both now and forever."

But, here's something else you need to know about God. In addition to being all-holy, all-knowing, and perfectly just, God is also merciful. That is to say, He is full of pity, He is full of compassion. He sees us in our desperate condition of sin and punishment and He wants to do something about it. He wants to rescue, He wants to restore.

Which is why God gave His Son to receive your punishment in your place. Because of Jesus' death for you on the cross, God declares you to be holy and perfect.

Listen to the strong language of John 3:16 "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Listen as well to the amazing Good News expressed in Ephesians 2, "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."

So in our liturgy, having repented of our sins, we rejoice to hear the Good News that Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. Our sins have been removed. Our debt has been paid. We stand before God clean and holy and righteous in His sight.

And we live our lives, then, in thanksgiving, with our hearts, our words, our actions, our attitudes, thankful to the God who so freely and completely has forgiven us.

The Lord be with you!

Pastor Wehling

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2024, 6:00 pm

Mission: To share God's love in Jesus Christ by Word and Deed to all people.

Attendees: Pastor Andrew Wehling, Laura Carson, Mike Lewis, Dudley Karstensen, Chuck Peterson, Kristie Rock, Amy Lund.
Absent: Lisa Lahm, Joel Thaumert. **Guests:** Tim Hetzler, Caryn Scott.

Call to Order: Laura Carson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Opening Prayer/Devotion: Pastor Wehling opened the meeting with a devotion from the Large Catechism on the Lord's Prayer.

Caryn Scott would like to send a letter to the Police Chief to invite Lawrence police officers to use Immanuel's restrooms during office hours. The church would also have bottled water available for them. After discussion, **Mike Lewis made a motion to send the letter, and Chuck Peterson seconded it. The motion passed.** Caryn will deliver the letter to Myron Grady who will see that the Chief of Police and the Sheriff receive it.

Consent Agenda: Chuck Peterson moved to accept the agenda, and Amy Lund seconded it. The agenda was accepted.

- No items were removed from the agenda.
- The minutes from January 11, 2024, were submitted by Kristie Rock via email and approved as written.
- The Treasurer's Report was submitted by Amy Lund. Amy recommends we create a Thrivent fund account, using Thrivent choice dollars, to make the funds easier to track. **Chuck Peterson made a motion to create a Thrivent fund account, and Dudley Karstensen seconded it. The motion passed.**
- Chuck Peterson offered to donate two flat screen televisions to the church. They are not smart TVs. Pastor said the church would like to have one of them.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor thanked everyone for helping him and Miriam move to their new home.
- Pastor is looking for ideas for the LCMS Faith at Work community event in April.
- Pastor is aware of several prospective members who may be ready to join. He is considering establishing a Sunday in May to welcome new members.
- Lenten Dinners have traditionally been potluck. This year there is interest in having a different group sponsor each Wednesday meal. The Youth sponsored the Ash Wednesday meal with a taco bar. LWML will be sponsoring a meal on February 28, and the Council decided to sponsor a meal on March 6.

Old Business:

- Laura Carson completed the new Time and Talent Survey. It can be posted on the members only portion of the Immanuel website. Members can either fill out the survey online or print it out. Completed surveys can be emailed or dropped off at the church office.
- The church van has been donated to a grateful recipient.
- Immanuel's 100-year anniversary will be in 2028.

New Business

A discussion was held regarding programs and projects to prioritize, including the ideas submitted at the Annual Meeting. Many of the ideas are dependent on having a volunteer make them happen.

- After receiving several pickleball suggestions submitted at the Annual Meeting, Mike Lewis agreed to organize a month-long tournament for all levels of participants, from casual to competitive players. The pickleball Tournament will be held in the Activity Center where he thought three games could be played at the same time. This might also be a way to have the youth interact with college students. It should start Sunday afternoons after Easter.
- An alternative to the 9:00 am worship service was discussed. It was decided to wait until at least 200 people regularly attend the single service before adding an additional service.
- If anyone wants to sing or participate with an instrument during worship, speak with Dee Kaczor. Laura will post something in the bulletin.
- How to utilize the lower level. If the space were isolated it would not be ADA compliant.
- The driveway entrance drainage problem is currently being addressed by the Property and Grounds committee. The council recommends that it be fixed. Property and Grounds will be in touch with a contractor to hopefully remediate the drainage issue.
- A hearing loop system might be installed soon. It should cost around \$7,000.
- A sign on the southwest corner of the church, which would show the street address, may be discussed by Property and Grounds at its next meeting.
- A Deferred Maintenance fund will be set up. It will be funded by an amount equal to what was budgeted for the LCEF mortgage. Since the mortgage was paid off at the end of 2023, these monies, \$1,500 to \$1,600 per month, will be used for deferred maintenance (necessary repairs which have been postponed due to lack of funds).

Ideas for Special Offerings were discussed. Special Offerings may be given four times annually.

- Ash Wednesday Offering will go toward the Kansas District.
- Pentecost Offering will go toward the Payne family in Tanzania.
- July 4 Special Offering. We may not do a special offering on the date.
- Thanksgiving Offering. Giving this offering to a food bank seemed to be a good idea.

All ILC officers now have signatory authority on ILC bank accounts.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2024, but it will need to be rescheduled because Pastor will be unable to attend.

Closing Prayer Pastor Wehling closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Mike Lewis moved to adjourn, and Chuck Peterson seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristie Rock
Church Council Secretary



<https://www.lcms.org/payne>

Culture Bites

Here you will find a small sample, tiny nibble or little bite of some of the things we are learning about Tanzania.

The importance of Greetings. Have you ever read Paul's letters and marvel at his greetings he gives in them? In some cultures like Tanzania, it is very important to greet everyone you come across. They have so many greetings too. If you don't greet people, they will think you are being rude.

Some of our favorite greetings are: You say, "Salama" which literally means "peace or safe." They return that peace with "Salama." Also, you could say, "Mambo?" which means "how are things?" They say, "Poa!" which means "good!"



lcms INTERNATIONAL
MISSION
SPREAD THE GOSPEL PLANT LUTHERAN CHURCHES. SHOW MERCY.

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email to bryan.payne@lcms.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

Landing in Africa

Dear Friends and Family,

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Is 41:10).

The Payne family has arrived in Tanzania, Africa! We did indeed depart the USA on January 15th. Let us tell you about our

adventurous travels. We flew out of Dallas, Texas hoping for fewer flights and good weather in the South. The morning of the 15th we saw it had snowed overnight! We got to the airport several hours early, but our flight was delayed by 3.5 hours. So when we arrived in Detroit, we were rescheduled for another flight to Amsterdam that departed just 1 hour after we arrived there. We missed our connecting flight in Amsterdam by 1 hour. We tried to find someone to help us rebook our flights, but we could not find anyone to talk to. We did eventually figure out they had auto rebooked us but it wasn't directly to Nairobi, Kenya. They sent us to Dubai with a 6 hour layover there before we could continue on to Nairobi via Mombasa where we had to deplane and go through customs before reboarding and going on to Nairobi. The children did so good with all the travel to 4 different countries and 6 airports, but after 60 hours of traveling they were sleep walking! The lady in baggage claim asked if they were sick. I answered, "no, they just need some good sleep after 60 hours of traveling." We all got that needed sleep that very day because we all crashed before 5:30pm. And do not worry, our luggage did not arrive with us due to all the changes in flights, but it ALL arrived before we left Nairobi. Thanks be to God for our safe arrival to Africa!

We had a wonderful welcome from the LCMS Africa office, and we enjoyed meeting so many people our first week on the continent. Our mission work in Tanzania would not be possible (or would be much harder) without all the hard work of these dedicated missionaries in Nairobi. After a week of orientation, we loaded into a coaster bus with all our luggage and left for Tanzania! We headed towards Iringa, in the southeast of Tanzania. We picked up another LCMS Missionary, Jerry Mays, on the way. Jerry is a fellow Peace Corps volunteer like Keah and Bryan, but he did two stints of service. He was in Micronesia (1971–1973) and in Albania (2019–2020). He now lives in Moshi, Tanzania teaching English to seminary students and people in the community. He also has a love for playing the trumpet and teaches trumpet lessons to anyone that wants to learn. We all traveled to Iringa together, and Jerry introduced us to where we are to live and go to language school. We are



The Paynes about to take off from Detroit and go overseas to Amsterdam.



The Paynes at the LCMS Africa field office.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Our minds to comprehend the language of Swahili so we can better communicate for the mission set before us.
- Health as we are now traveling around Africa.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- Safe travels to Tanzania.
- The hospitality we have been shown throughout our travels.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The mission He gave us to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the people in Tanzania.
- The many congregations and individuals who pray for, encourage and support us in so many ways, such as you!



The Payne family with Jerry Mays traveling to Iringa, TZ.

here to learn Swahili so that we can better serve the people in Shinyanga.

We are all 4 doing our best to learn Swahili. The children are in a class together, and Bryan and Keah are together. For Bryan and Keah it feels like a bit of a refresher course from Chichewa, a bantu language they learned and spoke for three years as

Peace Corps Volunteers in Malawi. Although some words are shared between the two languages, some have very different meanings. For example *Kucheza* in Chichewa means “to chat.” We used that word often, yet in Swahili it means “to play!”

We will complete 12 weeks of language and cultural training before we move to Shinyanga, TZ. We are so thankful for all your prayers as we learn as much as we can while we are here.

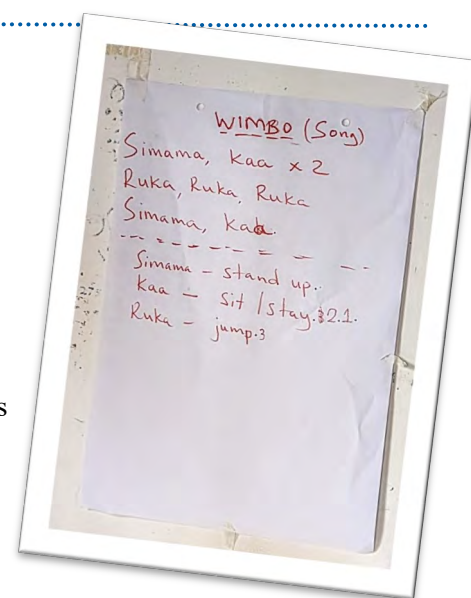
You can check out [our Facebook page](#) for more pictures and highlights. Also, don't forget to check out the podcast, “5 Minutes with a Missionary,” at this [link](#) or wherever you listen to podcasts. We will be in Season 6.

God's Peace,

Rev. Bryan, Dcs. Keah, Rory, & Dalton

Kids' Corner

Rory and Dalton are settling into the routine of language school and life in Iringa. Rory loves the rabbits the owners keep here, she makes sure to spend time with them every day. She also spends a lot of time chasing them around when they escape their enclosure. Dalton is loving all the boulders in the area and has the leg scrapes to prove it. In language this week they sang this song the teacher wrote out for them to help them learn Swahili.



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service.

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Rev. Bryan and Dcs. Keah Payne. Make checks payable to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR Mission Central
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

On the memo line include: Payne-Tanzania

Give securely from any device: lcms.org/givenow/payne

Call a contributor care representative: 888-930-4438

March 2024 Calendar

Every Sunday	8:00 am	Handbell Choir Practice
	9:00 am	Worship Service with Communion
	10:30 am	Sunday School-All Ages/Bible Study
	6:00 pm	Confirmation Class
	6:30 pm	Choir Practice
	7:00 pm	College Supper and Bible Study
Every Wednesday	9:30 am	Youth Coordinator Office Hours
Every Thursday	9:30 am	Women's Thursday Bible Study
Every Saturday	8:30 am	Men's Bible Study-Zoom

March 3		Red Wagon Sunday
March 5	6:30 pm	Property and Grounds +
March 6	6:00 pm	Lenten Midweek Supper followed by 7:00 pm Vespers *
March 10		Daylight Savings begins
March 12	6:00 pm	Church Council +
March 14	1:00 pm	Quilting for Orphan Grain Train
March 13	6:00 pm	Lenten Midweek Supper followed by 7:00 pm Vespers *
March 15	Today	Messenger articles for April 2024 due
March 19	6:30 pm	Elders +
March 20	6:00 pm	Lenten Midweek Supper followed by 7:00 pm Vespers *
March 28	1:00 pm	Quilting for Orphan Grain Train
March 28	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service*
March 29	12:00 pm	Good Friday Service*
	8:00 pm	Tenebrae*
March 31	9:00 am	Easter Worship Service *

* See the schedule of Lenten services on the back page.

Check our calendar for updates, online at immanuel.lawrence.org/calendar

+ Recurring monthly, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Tuesdays.

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Cason Dick	1	Vance Schwyhart	19
Cristi Hansen	2	Elise Hossler	20
Nicholas Maloun	2	Morgan Crabtree	20
Linda Lucas	2	Lauren Laubsch	21
Donna Kuhlman	5	Lucy Mwakatage	23
Carolyn Landgrebe	5	Dean Maples	24
Eric Studley	5	Jeff Kubota	27
Brian Klahr	6	Margaret Peterson	28
Deborah Klahr	8	Abbey Cothorn	28
Jill Ryan	8	Julie Harbert	31
April Parfitt	9	Michele Schaefer	31
Aaron Williams	10	Jacob Rigg	31
Samantha Galloway	12		
Kane Crites	14	John & Lauren Watson	3
Jackie Rector	16	Alex & Julia Rose-Weston	11
Brian Kubota	16	Steve & Maria Pope	18
Tim Hetzler	17	Jack & April Parfitt	21
Thomas Rigg	17	Mike & Beth Maloun	20



January 2024 Budget

General Offerings	\$29,580
Other Income	\$915
Total Gen. Receipts	\$30,495
Total Gen. Expenses	\$28,231
Income (Loss)	\$2,264

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

General	Designated
\$5,666	\$192
\$2,415	86
\$9,182	\$462
\$12,317	\$24
\$29,580	\$764

2024 Officers

Laura Carson / President
 Dudley Karstensen / Vice President
 Kristie Rock / Secretary
 Amy Lund / Treasurer
 Chuck Peterson, Mike Lewis, Lisa
 Lahm
 / At-large members
 Joel Thaemert / Head Elder
 Russ Dwyer, Mike Gear, Marty
 Couchman, Mark Crabtree / Elders

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*A monthly newsletter published
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"Every Servant a Loving Messenger"

March

March Lenten Schedule 2024

Lenten Midweek, March 6 —

Lenten Midweek, March 13 —

Lenten Midweek, March 20 —

Each Wednesday Evening,
Supper at 6 pm, Worship at 7 pm.

Palm Sunday, March 24 —

Service at 9 am with Communion.

Maundy Thursday, March 28 —

Service at 7 pm with Communion.

Good Friday, March 29 —

Service at 12 pm, Tenebrae at 8 pm.

Easter Sunday, March 31 —

Service at 9 am with communion,
Easter Breakfast served at 10:30 am.

