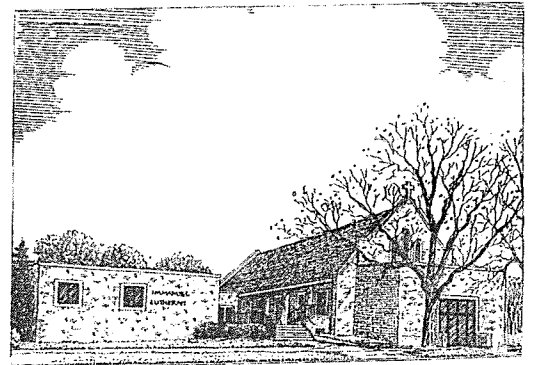
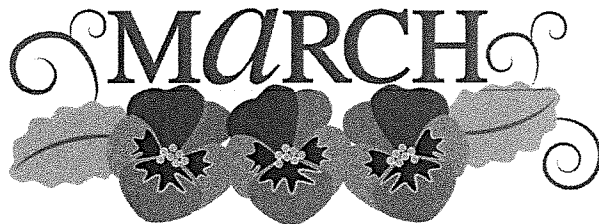


IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

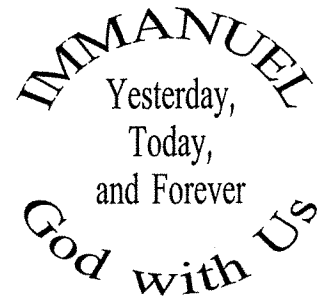
Alliance, Nebraska
762-4663



Senior Pastor: Rev. Richard C. Mueller
email: doulos63@gmail.com
Assistant Pastor: Rev. Martin T. Schnare
email: altarboylcms@gmail.com
Head Teacher: Mrs. Jill Mueller
School E-mail: office.ielschool@gmail.com
Church E-mail: immanuelevlcms@gmail.com



2020



NEWSLETTER ARTICLE
March, 2020

An Image of *Gravitas*, *Dignitas*, and *Pietas*

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

*let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our
salvation!*

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

—Psalm 95:1, 6

There he stood, right in the middle of the main aisle of the nave of my home congregation. He was there every Sunday he was assigned to usher. He stood like a soldier at attention, eyes toward the narthex, waiting for anyone whom he could help to locate a pew for the coming service. He was clearly a poor individual—his sport coat was out of date and far too small, and the rest of his clothing was clearly worn. But as I think back on that time, Mr. Schlegel was the epitome of the three Latin terms noted in the title of this article. While he was not a particularly memorable individual otherwise, the way he approached his service to the Lord and his church made a significant impression upon me. I

can still see him standing in the center of the aisle more than 50 years later.

An article I recently read in *Touchstone* (January/February 2020), highlighted these three terms as “A Vocabulary for Worship.” As I read, it struck me that these are concepts we have generally lost, or at least moved the margins of our worship practice. They need to be restored to the center of our understanding of our approach to the Divine Service.

Gravitas originally referred to something that was weighty or heavy. Its usage was then transferred to denote that which was *important* or *serious*. We get our English adjective *grave* from this Latin term. Our casual culture has taught us to be flippant about almost everything, including our presence in God’s house. As a child I was taught to enter the nave in silence, out of respect for the God into whose presence I was coming. It was a serious matter to stand in the presence of the holy God, especially in light of my own sinfulness. This is an

attitude we need to cultivate anew.

Dignitas is the term from which we derive the English noun, *dignity*. The Latin term referred to that which was *worthy*, something of *great value*. That attitude is also important when we speak of the Divine Service. Our time and presence in the Divine Service is something of great value. Here our Baptism is recalled by which God claimed us as his own dear children. Here we receive the gift of forgiveness renewed as the pastor speaks the absolution. Here the Word of God, both Law and Gospel, are delivered to us (the Word that declares and sustains our lives as God's people). Here we receive the precious body and blood of Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar which nourishes the new life God has given us as his people. This house to which God calls us each week is a place of great value, and we should certainly treat it appropriately.

The third Latin term, *pietas*, is the background for our English word, *piety*. The Latin noun "combines into a single sensibility the domains of worship, family loyalty, and patriotism" (from the article referenced above). Dan Sheffler (author of the article) further defines this term as it was understood by the ancient Romans:

[*pietas*] lives within a man as a trembling awareness of those claims placed upon his life by God, by his family, by his clan, and by his native soil—claims that require responsibility and sacrifice, and perhaps even martyrdom. On the one hand, this awareness contains a note of dread because it is an awareness of duty that a man must attend to all the way to death. On the other hand, however, this awareness brings a deep joy because it

roots a man in those bonds that make possible a fully human life.

Piety isn't an exclusively religious term, but its religious usage clearly stands in the forefront. In connection with the Divine Service (or any activity within the confines of the worship space of the church building), it "evokes an attitude of hushed reverence" upon entering the nave and participating in the liturgy of the service.

Sadly, it seems that these attitudes have been left behind, and in so doing, we have come to treat our God with a similar lackadaisical and irreverent attitude in the rest of our earthly lives. What we do or don't do in the Divine Service transfers to what we do and don't do in our daily lives. The attitude we demonstrate toward the Divine Service and the God who calls us to himself in that Divine Service is also the attitude we carry into our daily living.

Mr. Schlegel was a man who exemplified all three attitudes as he served in the Divine Service of my home congregation. His clothing (the best he had and the best he could afford), his demeanor (demonstrating how seriously he took his work), and his practice (a piety evident in how he conducted himself) all gave honor to the God whom he loved and the people of God he was privileged to serve. Mr. Schlegel taught me much about how to honor God and serve my neighbor. This Lenten season is a good opportunity for us to renew our practice if *gravitas*, *dignitas*, and *pietas*.

If you have read this article and would like to comment on these thoughts, please let me know via email (the address is on the cover of this newsletter). I would love to discuss this with you.

—Pastor Schnare

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

March, 2020

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God's grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus' work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God's Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn't just remind us of the sufficiency of God's spiritual gifts, the gifts that

pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God, those that pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a

way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

The easiest example of this is fasting. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. You have, though, learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above in order to do it.

There is another example of this. It is almsgiving. This is an increase in giving to the church and its mission during this time. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying “no” to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you’ve learned just how powerful your flesh is in leading you instead of you leading it. You’ve learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

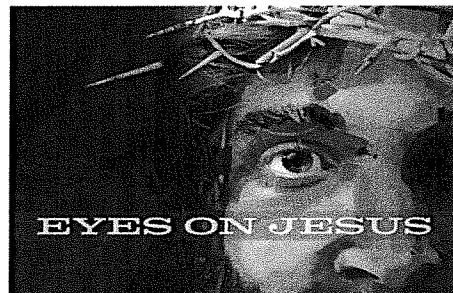
This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way:

“But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and[a] we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.” (1 Tim 6:6–10).

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.

Lent-Easter Season 2020

EYES ON JESUS



“O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfect of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Gradual for Lent, based on Hebrews 12:2)

When the characters in the Passion narrative look at Jesus, what do they see? In most cases people misunderstood who He is and what He was doing. In some cases, by faith, people recognized Him aright. Our Lenten series this year, based on the Gospel according to St. Mark, will examine how the various people around Jesus viewed Him—and how we should view Him. We will “fix our eyes” on what Jesus has done to save us from our sins by His holy, precious blood and innocent suffering and death, and celebrate what God sees on account of His work: our justification for His sake.

There will be a meal served at 6:00 pm before the Mid-Week Lent services (see more about the meals on the back).

Mid-week Lent Schedule:

February 26 - Ash Wednesday

“Misjudging Eyes”—Mark 14:1-9

March 4 - Midweek of Lent 1

“Betraying Eyes”—Mark 14:10-21, 32, 41-46

March 11 - Midweek of Lent 2

“Sleepy Eyes”—Mark 14:32-42

March 18 - Midweek of Lent 3

“Denying Eyes”—Mark 14:26-31, 66-72

March 25 - Midweek of Lent 4

“Murderous Eyes”—Mark 14:1-2, 53-65

April 1 - Midweek of Lent 5

“Worldly Eyes”—Mark 15:1-20

April 9 - Holy Thursday

More Than Meets the Eye”—Mark 14:22-25

April 10 - Good Friday

Noon - Good Friday Chief service

7:00 pm - “God’s Eyes”—Mark 15:21-39

April 12 - Easter

Easter Sunrise - 6:30 am - “Angel Eyes”—Mark 16:1-8

Easter Breakfast - 8 am

Easter Divine Service - 10:30 am

MID-WEEK LENTEN MEALS

Midweek Lenten meals will be served before each Midweek service at 6 pm, beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 26, and on each Wednesday for the next 5 Wednesdays. You are invited to attend these meals.

These meals are being prepared and served by the students and families from Immanuel Ev. Lutheran School who are going to be attending the Gathering of the Talents at Concordia University Nebraska in Seward. We ask that you give a free will donation for the meal. These funds will help offset the cost for these students to get to Seward to participate in the Gathering of the Talents.

The Gathering of the Talents is an opportunity for our students to present music, art and drama. They receive encouragement and input from the faculty at Concordia University. We have 20 students and their families attending this year.

Menu

Main course for the meals

February 26 - Chili/Soup

March 4 - Lasagna

March 11 - Breakfast Casseroles

March 18 - Sloppy Joes

March 25 - Walking Tacos

April 1 - Hamburgers

If you have any questions please call Miss Jill - 308.760.8219.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES...

Adult Bible Study - Sundays, 9 am Fellowship Hall.
Hemingford Bible Study - Mondays, 2 pm Hemingford Care Center
Highland Park Bible Study - Wednesdays, 9:30 am
Bible Break - Thursdays, 9:30 am, Sandhills Assisted Living
Men's Bible Study - Fridays, 6:30, Korner Grill

MONTHLY LWML BIBLE STUDIES:

RHODA CIRCLE - Tuesday March 3rd, 7 pm

LYDIA CIRCLE will meet Wednesday March 11th, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Deb Moore will be the hostess and the devotion will be prayer service and Pastor Mueller will lead the prayer service.

MARTHA CIRCLE will meet Monday March 9th, 2020 at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Jill Mueller will give the devotion. Pastor Mueller will lead the prayer service.

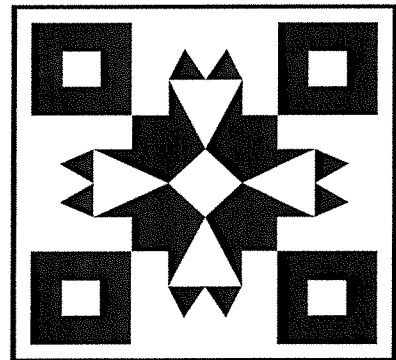
TABITHA CIRCLE will meet Monday, March 23rd at 6 pm in the fellowship hall. Pastor Mueller will lead the prayer service.

QUILTERS meet the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 9:30 am.

Quilters 2019 Report:

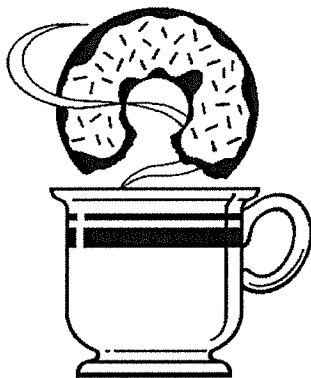
31 quilts were given to the Orphan Grain Train
34 quilts were included in Christmas Baskets
1 quilt was given to a fire victim

Your gifts of fabric, bedding, and sewing notions, plus the hours to assemble and distribute make this project of love and compassion possible!



Monthly Coffee Schedule

March 1 -- Marlene Stewart, Karen Kelly
8 -- Nancy Scherbarth, Samantha Steinman
15 -- Kara Aguallo
22 -- Deb Grant, Lori Swedeen
29 -- Deb Moore, Virginia Dennison



RETURN TO SENDER: A reminder to notify the church office of any address changes. *We are required to pay a fee for undeliverable mail.*

Greeting Cards: If you plan to send greeting cards for any occasion please consider cards from our LWML. We have birthday, get well, sympathy, anniversary, thinking of you and others. **There's a brand new selection of cards that include graduation cards and money holder cards, confirmation cards, congratulations on your achievement cards that may be used as retirement cards, and a new baptism card suitable for an adult.** These are nice and all have Scripture text. Check them out in the lower level of the narthex of the church.

Thank you Debbie Grant for making the outstanding quilted table runners for the greeting card table located at the bottom of the stairs in the narthex.

RAISING DISCIPLES total receipts to date as of February 24, 2020 are \$559,506.79.

2019 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS are now available and have been placed in your mailbox in the lower narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Dick Bloom.



2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES are in the narthex. There are several boxes that need to be picked up. If you would like a box and did not receive one, please contact the church office.

ONGOING MISSION PROJECTS: Used bedding is needed by the quilters. Canceled postage stamps are needed for mission projects. Old eye glasses and outdated hearing aids are useful to others. Bedding may be left in the quilting room. Other items can be left in the cupboard under the guest book.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: We are beginning to prepare for this year's Vacation Bible School and are looking for teachers. Currently we are looking for Preschool, Music, Games, and Craft teachers as well as adult helpers for preschool and crafts. Please contact Samantha Steinman if you would like to help or if you have any questions. 308 760-2833 or samantha.steinman@outlook.com

SCHOOL TIDBITS

IMMANUEL EV. LUTHERAN SCHOOL ALUMINUM CAN DRIVE is an ongoing year-round fund raiser. This helps fund the operational costs of our school. Please ask everyone to collect and save all aluminum cans and bring them to the east side of the school and place in the bins that are labeled "Aluminum Cans." We appreciate your help in this ongoing effort.



Out at the school we have hit that crazy busy time that makes everyone weary. We are so thankful that God has blessed us with such a loving and dedicated staff. These people are all top notch and have a wonderful servant heart for Jesus. We are reminded in Psalm 150:6, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!" It's during these crazy times that we are so thankful that God has allowed us to have this wonderful mission opportunity. He allows us daily to share the love of Jesus with so many students and their families.

We have been excited to have a student teacher in our building since after the Christmas Break .Danielle Gilliland is a student from Wayne State University. She will spend her first 9 weeks in 3rd grade with Mrs. Schnare and then her next 9 weeks in 1st grade. She has definitely been a huge blessing to our staff! We have been so blessed with a close knit staff. God has indeed smiled on us!

The Board of Day School continues to pursue many different avenues to fill the 1st grade position. We are also working on the alignment of classes and teachers for the Fall. Registration will begin for the 2020/21 school year. Members of the congregation and families already attending the school are able to enroll soon and in a couple of weeks we will open enrollment to the community. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Stephany at the school.

Dimock Cheese is now being ordered at the school. The following is a list of the kinds available: A new kind is raspberry habanero!

The blocks are approx 1 lb and the flavors are:

Cheddar \$8	Pepperoni \$10
Colby \$8	Ranch Salsa \$10
Colby Jack \$8	Smoked Cheddar \$10
Monterey Jack \$8	Tomato Basil \$10
Bacon & Onion \$10	Ghost Pepper \$10
Black Pepper \$10	Prairie Heat \$10
Chipotle \$10	Habanero \$10
Dill \$10	Horseradish \$10
Garlic & Parsley \$10	Aged Cheddar \$10
Garden Medley \$10	Blue Cheddar \$10
Peppered Colby Jack \$10	Raspberry Jalapeno \$11
Pepper Jack \$10	

Orders are due March 9 and cheese will be ready to pick up after school on March 26. Stephany will put order forms in the Narthex.

Greenhouse Fund-raiser --Sunshine Greenhouse flowers will be sold again this year. Pre-orders will be taken again for hanging basket, planters, and beautiful roses. These will be delivered for Mother's Day and LOTS more information will follow.

Scrip-Many of you may not understand what this program is and how it benefits our school. Basically it is like buying gift cards for purchases and the school receives a percentage of the monies back from them. For example if you buy a \$100 Cabela's card the school will receive \$11 back. On a \$100 Grocery Kart certificate the school will earn \$4.00. Every little bit helps our school. These Scrip certificates are available at the Church on Saturday night, Sunday morning and also every day out at the school. We have them for MANY local businesses as well as Walmart, Cabela's, etc...If you need any further information, please call the school at 629-1601. This is one way to help with purchases you are already making.

Plans are being made for our 8th grade Graduation Service. This Service will be held on Friday, May 8th at 6:00 P.M. We invite you all for this wonderful event! A reception will follow in the Church basement.

Ash Wednesday will be observed on during Chapel beginning at 2:15p.m. on February 26th. Please feel free to join us on this day or any time for Chapel.

--Miss Jill

1st Grade

Hello from the 1st grade classroom. In case some of you haven't heard, I have put in my letter of resignation for the end of the 2019/2020 school year. I would like to thank all of the amazing staff, parents, and students for becoming my family these past 6 years. I am hoping to stay in the teaching field. I can't imagine doing anything else. I would also like to thank the School Board for all of their support these past 6 years as well. 1st grade has been doing great with their phonograms and spelling words. They have also began talking about complete subjects/predicates in Grammar. We are only a couple weeks away from beginning 2nd grade Math. I am so proud of all the progress this class is making. Also, in March, we will be making Leprechaun Traps to try and catch that pesky little guy. This is an activity the kids always love doing. They usually ask if they can stay over at the school the night before and try to catch him. lol! Of course, we will soon be making our famous stepping stones and Easter baskets that will be up for auction. I hope you all have a great month!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Messersmith

Third Grade

Third grade at IELS has been blessed to have Miss Gilliland, our student teacher! In science they have been learning about igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks. The even had the experience to "mine" for chocolate chips in cookies. Miss Gilliland has been teaching all classes. Our third graders have learned many new concepts in math and grammar with Miss Gilliland.

Thank you, parents, for supporting our school during National Lutheran Schools Week. The students

enjoyed the hot lunches and dressing up. We had a door decorating contest. We were blessed to have the children sing in church. The M&M tubes full of quarters was a great success! Our school will be providing over 500 books to Lutheran Schools in Ethiopia! What a great blessing this will be for our Ethiopian brothers and sisters in the faith.

Third graders read *Boxcar Children* books and completed another book report on their book. They wrote these reports in cursive. In addition to reading outside of the classroom, we have been reading "The Wind and the Willows" together during reading class.

During religion class, the students are beginning to look up passages in their Bibles. They are now reading New Testament accounts and will soon be studying the passion of our Savior.

Students in grades 3 and 4 are marching forward learning new notes on their recorders. They played a hymn for chapel last week and will soon be ready to play another hymn.

Our hymnal is full of psalms, hymns, and prayers. The children at our school use their hymnals on a daily basis. Chapel is held on Monday morning and Thursday afternoons. The children sing the appointed psalm at each chapel. Singing psalms and hymns is one of the main ways that believers throughout history have learned the church's doctrines. These psalms, hymns, and prayers will stay with our students throughout their lifetime. Committing these to memory will be a blessing to them for many years.

dschnare.ielschool@gmail.com

Doce me semper adoro te.
Teach me always to adore you.

4th Grade

Hello from the 4th Grade Classroom! We have had an incredible January and February. We celebrated Lutheran Schools Week with daily devotions about our theme: Joyfully Lutheran. Monday we discussed how Joyful we are on Christmas morning, and that for Christians, every day is like Christmas because of God's love; Tuesday we thought about how Thankful we are on Thanksgiving Day and how we are thankful each day for our school and all those who support us; Wednesday we talked about our nation's holidays that celebrate peace, and that we can Peacefully work and learn together each day because of those who fought for our freedom, and because of God's overwhelming love for us; Thursday we talked about how we can Faithfully celebrate God's love because of the Holy Spirit coming to earth on Pentecost, and in remembering our Baptism where we received faith; and finally, on Friday, we discussed the joy of Easter and how we can live Hopefully because Jesus is alive. It was a fantastic week full of celebration of the amazing things our Lutheran School, and others around the country, do every day.

We also celebrated Valentine's Day. It is such a joy to watch the kids at our school show love and kindness to one another on that day and every day. We have started reading *Tuck Everlasting*, and are enjoying its interesting themes and mysterious plot. We have also started long division, which is a brand new skill and challenging, but we are working hard.

Thank you for your support of the work our school does. It is a special place.

Mrs. Oestman

3-1 - Harper Boness
 3-1 - Michael Thies
 3-2 - Dustin Thies
 3-2 - Tara Stanec
 3-2 - Sydney Klinkerman
 3-3 - Deborah Galyen
 3-4 - Jady Aguallo
 3-4 - Bart Endsley
 3-4 - Nel Furley
 3-4 - Marlene Stewart
 3-6 - Kendyl Oestman
 3-8 - Cheryl Kaman-Gantz
 3-10 - Paul Meier
 3-10 - Trista Dye
 3-10 - Brenda Schnell
 3-11 - Sandi Cassell
 3-11 - Couric Bartek
 3-12 - McKenzie Cassel



3-12 - Melanee Veach
 3-12 - Jessica Garcia
 3-12 - Aaron Meier
 3-13 - Rozlyn Wills
 3-13 - McKenzie Pfeiffer
 3-13 - Ryan Schledewitz
 3-15 - Blythe Boness
 3-16 - Kayla Kulas
 3-18 - Cameron Garcia
 3-18 - Doyle Conroy
 3-18 - Brooke Shoemaker
 3-20 - Nathan Grant
 3-20 - Jose Ramirez

3-21 - Jodi Freeze
 3-21 - Wayne Schledewitz
 3-23 - Steven Gerth
 3-24 - Betty Grubbs
 3-24 - Jerry Iossi
 3-24 - Janene Odell
 3-25 - Tad Drabbels
 3-25 - Connie Underwood
 3-26 - Michel Kolle
 3-26 - Matthew Luce
 3-27 - Steve Schnell
 3-28 - Lawrence Kaiser
 3-29 - Christian Soriano
 3-30 - Grant Freeze
 3-30 - Shaylee Messersmith

3-1 - Craig Iossi
 3-1 - George McFall
 3-1 - Saundra Peterson
 3-1 - Joan Schnell
 3-6 - Sean Stewart
 3-7 - Violet Colson
 3-7 - Bev Schnell
 3-8 - Ayla Foster
 3-9 - Brent Behm
 3-10 - Kim Wills
 3-11 - Jayla Grant
 3-12 - Mindi Foster



3-13 - Alexa Minich
 3-16 - Remmi Anders
 3-16 - Tuff Dubs
 3-17 - Aaron Meier
 3-17 - Gerald Seidler
 3-17 - Bryce Vaughn
 3-19 - Makayla Luce
 3-19 - Denise Koozer
 3-20 - Louise Fritzler
 3-20 - Colton Wilson
 3-20 - Neldagene Furley
 3-21 - Mary Ring

3-22 - Kellon Hall
 3-22 - Paige Jensen
 3-22 - Lawson Korth
 3-22 - Paul Meier
 3-24 - Diane Mitchell
 3-25 - Tammy Lore
 3-25 - Payton Gomez
 3-25 - Marlene Rose
 3-25 - Nancy Scherbarth
 3-26 - Patricia Seidler
 3-27 - Chris Romick
 3-28 - George Koester
 3-29 - Tad Prella
 3-31 - Cheryl Kaman-Gantz
 3-31 - Jessica Grant
 3-31 - Lori Folk