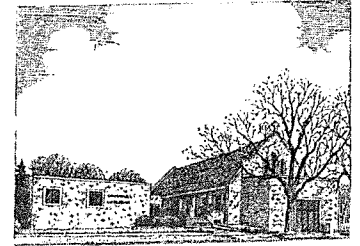




**IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
1024 Box Butte Avenue
Alliance, Nebraska
762-4663



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Pastor's email: doulos63@gmail.com
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February 2021

Newsletter Article

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory” *LSB 427*

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

Text: Public domain

How can something so bad be so good? Usually we ask, how can so many seemingly good things be so bad—things such as rich food and the like? But at this time of the year, Lent, we can ask that question in a different way.

The bad, I'm asking about, is the cross. How can a disgustingly horrible instrument of death be such a symbol of good for us? So good, in fact, that the hymn writer has been inspired to write, “In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.”

The answer is given in those very words. That terrible instrument of death is a symbol of the greatest good because it “towers over the wrecks of time.” We are the “wrecks of

time” until God comes to rescue us. He does so through Christ and His cross. There on the cross Christ cleanses us as Scriptures says, “The blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin.”

During Lent we remember the cross, but with our eyes and ears wide open. For Christians, the victory of Christ's cross does not lull us to sleep about the seriousness of our rebellious natures nor about the easy temptations that can lure us away from Him.

In Lent we remember, and want to remember the cause of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. We want to sharpen our consciousness of rebellion and faithlessness in our lives. In order that we, in repentance, despair of any hope of salvation from within ourselves and claim Christ only as our Savior.

When we recognize the terrible cause of Christ's death on the cross, and trust the complete victory He won for us, the cross is glorious. We can join the hymn writer in singing, “in the cross of Christ I glory.”

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. The theme for the Midweek Lenten Services is *RETURN TO THE LORD*.

In the Book of Joel, the prophet paints a vivid picture of the coming judgment of God, the Day of the Lord. The imagery is bold and terrifying: hordes of locusts swarming over the land and decimating everything. Joel's prophecy has teeth even today as wars rage, natural disasters threaten and destroy, and our culture seems to be unraveling. But right in the middle of this frightening portent, we find a tender invitation from the Lord: “Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster” (Joel 2:13).

God's invitation and promise finds its fullness in Jesus Christ, who personifies and accomplishes all that God declares. During this season of Lent, we will consider the theme "Return to the Lord" and examine how the call to return played out in practical ways for the people who walked alongside Christ as He demonstrated and carried out God's grace and mercy on our behalf, taking God's wrath upon Himself, setting the stage for God to "turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him" (Joel 2:14).

Each midweek service will focus on a particular event in the Passion, with a special focus on the people involved in the event. Studying the events and people helps us to connect with our own sinful nature, to emphasize how we have turned away from the Lord, and to reinforce and rejoice in God's call for us to return to Him with all our heart.

Midweek Lenten services will be at 6:00 pm.

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, "A Call to Return" Imposition of Ashes and the Lord's Supper.
Midweek Lent 1 - Feb. 24, "Return to Prayer"

Stewardship Corner

"I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:8-9).

Without commands or even arm-twisting, St. Paul encourages, even challenges, the Church in Corinth to demonstrate the sincerity of their faith by their generosity in giving. He does this because giving generously is a gift of the Spirit given to us through the Gospel.

St. Paul wrote: "But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:7). In other words, just as we grow in faith and speech and knowledge of eternal things by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, so also do we grow in giving from the same Spirit through the same Word.

The problem is that the grace of generosity often grows cold in us. It's not so much that we stop giving, but we don't put it first. We treat it like all the other bills that must be paid. It becomes a chore, just one more thing to check off a list of things to do. That empties it of its spiritual

Midweek Lent 2 - March 3, "Return from Betrayal"
Midweek Lent 3 - March 10, "Return from False Witness"
Midweek Lent 4 - March 17, "Return from Denial"
Midweek Lent 5 - March 24, "Return to the Kingdom of God"
Holy (Maundy) Thursday - April 1, "Return to the Table"
Good Friday - April 2 - 12 Noon
Good Friday Chief Service
6:00 pm - Tenebrae - "Return to Truth"
Easter Sunrise - April 4 - 6:30 am, "Return to the Church"
Easter Divine Service, 10:30 am, "Return and See"

My prayer is that through listening to God's Word, the power of sin within us will be exposed, like St. Paul, we be led to despair, and by the enlightening of the Holy Spirit, that we return to the Lord, claim Christ alone as our salvation. Then when Easter comes the victory that we hail with joyous song will be Christ's victory and its results for us, eternal life.

God bless and keep you!
Pastor Mueller

power and robs us of the joy that Christ and the Scriptures assign to it.

On top of that, since this generosity is linked to faith and knowledge of divine things, a lack of excelling in giving is sure sign that our faith and knowledge of God are under attack as well.

Thus St. Paul points to the foundation of generosity: the generosity of Christ Himself. Even though He was rich, He became poor so that we who are poor might become rich. Thus, the incarnation, suffering, and death of our Lord on the cross is the reason, source, and driving force for our generosity in giving to the church.

And since Christ who was rich became poor so that we might be rich in His grace—of which generous giving is part—so we also who are rich in His grace can excel in pressing His grace into service toward the gracious work of the church.

Pay attention to what you give to the church so that you may excel at it. And if you find that your heart has grown cold or indifferent toward it, immerse yourself in God's Word. Read it at home. Attend Bible Class. Hear and listen to it preached in the Divine Service. Be reminded of what Christ has done for you in His incarnation, suffering, and death. For this will strengthen your faith and knowledge. And where that excels, so will the grace of giving excel also.

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.

February Duty Roster

Ushers:

Saturday: Mr. Kenny Mount & Mr. John Aguallo
 Sunday: Mr. George Clear & Mr. Tyler Foster

Elders:

Saturday: Mr. Brad Stewart
 Sunday: Mr. Jim Henton

Date	Acolytes	Coffee Duty	Counters
February 6 th February 7 th	Mr Josh Aguallo Miss Ayla Foster	Deb Grant Virginia Dennison	Feb 8 th Deb Grant
February 13 th February 14 th February 17 th	Mr. Zach Childers Mr. Jett Herian Miss Avenell Soriano	Vicki Henton Tessa Oestman	Feb 15 th Deb Moore
February 20 th February 21 st February 24 th	Miss Keera Stanec Mr. Logan Vogel Miss Rozlyn Wills	Tara Stanec Becky Herian	Feb 22 nd Starla Endsley
February 27 th February 28 th March 3 rd	Miss Paige Jensen Mr. Banyn Stark Miss Ayla Foster	Deb Moore Virginia Dennison	March 1 st Karen Kelly

GREETING CARDS: If you plan to send greeting cards for any occasion, please consider purchasing them from LWML. Our great selection includes birthday for both adult and children, anniversary, wedding, get well, thinking of you, encouragement, congratulations, thank you, sympathy and other cards to let someone know you're thinking about them. Be watching for individual Easter cards that will be available soon. If you have any suggestions for a certain selection of cards please call Becky Herian at 762-2417.



Larry & Mary Ring
 Kenton Dietrich
 Don Banks
 Maxine Fox
 Patty Seidler
 Ian Gomez
 Jack Evert
 Lorelee Young

Lue Nerland
 Wiletta Dye
 Pierce Sanchez
 Merlin Ring
 Dean Tucker
 Richard Furley
 Alexandra Clear
 Shane Dye



Bill & Cody Boness
 2/5/2010
 Roger & Teri Schledewitz
 2/12/1994
 Evert & Judy Smith
 2/12/1967



Bible Studies

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES...

Adult Bible Study - Sundays, 9 am Fellowship Hall.
 Bible Break - Thursdays, 9:30 am, Fellowship Hall

MONTHLY LWML BIBLE STUDIES:

Lydia – This will be planned on a month to month basis due to the ongoing virus.

Martha – Monday, February 8th at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. Jill Mueller will lead devotion. Pastor Mueller will lead the Bible study.

Tabitha – Monday February 22nd at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. Pastor Mueller will lead the Bible Study.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: We are looking for someone to be the coordinator for VBS this following June. We are also starting to look for teachers for VBS. VBS is the first full week of June, June 7th thru the 11th. VBS week is so fun for the children! We cannot do this without volunteers to help teach. Please think about volunteering to help! Thank you. Any questions, please contact Samantha Steinman or Jennifer Foster.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: We are beginning to plan the 2021-2022 Children's Sunday School year and we are in need of teachers. The Board of Parish Education is seeking help with the Sunday School program as one teacher is retiring and will be moving. We would also like to add an additional teacher to keep the groups smaller. Please contact Samantha Steinman or Jennifer Foster if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

BIRTHDAYS

2-1 - Jared Fero
 2-2 - Zane Hinman
 2-2 - Clint Kruckenberg
 2-3 - Nancy Scherbarth
 2-4 - Saundra Peterson
 2-5 - Tanya Klinkerman
 2-5 - Wyatt Walker
 2-6 - Wiletta Dye
 2-6 - Dion Gibson
 2-6 - Kallista Berg
 2-7 - Chris Camp
 2-7 - JoElla Fritzier

2-7 - Connie Seidler
 2-7 - Megan Heath
 2-8 - Bill Boness
 2-9 - Ayla Foster
 2-10 - Tabetha Stanec
 2-11 - Chris Romick
 2-13 - John Lore
 2-14 - Cassandra Wood
 2-16 - Raquel Grant
 2-16 - Darren McCune
 2-18 - Jazlyn Hart
 2-20 - Judy Dye

2-20 - Alice Smith
 2-23 - Payton Gomez
 2-25 - William Ireland
 2-25 - Bryce Vaughn
 2-25 - Lucas Maynard
 2-26 - Tonia Kruckenberg
 2-26 - Diane Mitchell
 2-27 - Mary Ring
 2-27 - Darius Jensen
 2-29 - Preston Pohlman

BAPTISMS

2-1 - Earl Bush
 2-1 - Kathryn Barth
 2-2 - Ida Mae Drabbels
 2-3 - Whitney Hall
 2-3 - Starla Schmidt
 2-5 - Sheila Seidler
 2-5 - Kelby Softley
 2-6 - Dani Bixby
 2-6 - Lee Fritzier
 2-6 - Clint Kruckenberg
 2-8 - Andrew Shannon
 2-9 - Merlin Drumheller
 2-10 - Amy Nielson
 2-10 - Hunter Klinkerman

2-10 - Dahliah Pfeiffer
 2-11 - Tabetha Stanec
 2-11 - Karen Kelly
 2-12 - Robyn Jensen
 2-12 - Ford Swanson
 2-13 - Michael Eggink Jr.
 2-13 - BreAnna Holmes
 2-14 - Jennifer Hinman
 2-14 - Jody Meer
 2-16 - Emma Freeze
 2-17 - Jeffery Kaiser
 2-17 - Mardella McFall
 2-17 - Caleb Softley

2-17 - Ryan Nagaki
 2-17 - Courtney Turner
 2-19 - Casper Brixius
 2-19 - Stephany Hausmann
 2-20 - Michael Odell
 2-21 - Lois Iossi
 2-22 - Kory Kling
 2-24 - Debra Neeley
 2-25 - Chris Camp
 2-26 - Bridger Mischnick
 2-26 - Karena Soriano
 2-26 - Shane Dye
 2-28 - Jeffrey Heusman



February! Yay, we made it!! We are so thankful that the school continues to be blessed with health and safety during these uncertain times. As the rest of the world celebrates Valentines Day, we are reminded just how much Jesus loves us! He loves us SO much that HE gave up His life for us!! In response to this love, we have a responsibility to thank, serve, praise and adore Him!! We spend every day at the school reminding the students of this fact. This obligation! All we have is truly a gift from Him! At morning devotions with the students today, the message was that of the blessing that they have through their teachers. We truly take this wonderful gift of loving, Christian teachers for granted. They work hard with the students and pray constantly for the students and their families. Please continue to pray for our teachers and their families. February will bring Parent/Teachers Conferences on the 10th and the 11th. We have incredible parent support and have almost 100% attendance from parents. This is such a rarity in schools today and is such a blessing for the staff.

We were able to have a wonderful celebration for National Lutheran Schools Week. Several special dress up days and hot lunch were on the agenda. Also, a talent show was held on Thursday and it was great to see all the God given talents put to such good use. The students also worked hard to create a special art project for our shut ins and residents of the Care

centers and packed lunches and decorated bags for the wonderful Community Table program.

February will bring our final Dimock Cheese order for the year. If you haven't tried this cheese, you really need to! It is the best!! We will also be hosting the greenhouse fundraiser in March.

As always, if you ever have any questions, feel free to give us a call. Thank you so much for the opportunities you give us through this school. It truly is our honor to be part of this mission.

Miss Jill

Hello! Miss Horn report for kindergarten. We will celebrate our 100th day of school on January 29. The kids are so excited! We have learned 59 phonograms so far. My kindergarten reading groups are working toward a Pizza Hut certificate each month! Other items we are working on are handwriting, spelling words, counting to 100 by ones, fives and tens, counting pennies, nickels, and dimes! We only have one more book of the New Testament to learn! These kids are amazing! Lutheran Schools Week was January 24-29 and we did fun activities/dress up days each day. One of the most exciting activities was a talent show! Another great activity was a virtual field trip to Thailand.

Third grade jumped into a new year with lots of enthusiasm for the second semester. Learning to write in cursive is an exciting part of 3rd grade. Students are working hard to qualify for their "cursive license", proving that they have honed their skills and can do their homework in cursive.

We made a banner to display on the front door of the church for National Lutheran Schools Week. We are also exploring Thailand through the Lutheran Hour Ministries program. Students are learning about Thai customs, language, food, and how kids just like them living in Thailand carry their faith with them through day-to-day life.

We are excited to see when Pastor Mueller brings postcards to our class mailbox. This month we received postcards from Sweden, France, Northern Ireland, Germany, Ohio, New Mexico and, of course, Nebraska! The students are having fun sending postcards as well. You are welcome to join us in sending or requesting a postcard at: 3rd Grade Class c/o Miss Dye, PO Box 715, Alliance, NE 69301. You can also join "Miss Dye's 3rd Grade Postcard Project" on Facebook to follow our project.

Miss Dye

The middle schoolers of IELS have been hard at work this wintery season. In addition to reading challenging and educational literature (the 5/6 grade class has been reading *The Aeneid*, the 7th and 8th graders have been reading *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*), they have been very diligent about getting their latest book reports written. The curriculum at our school allows for a wonderful array of reading and writing opportunities. In History, we have been focusing on the 100 years or so surrounding the Reformation of the church. Perfect timing for Lutheran Schools Week! The kids love learning about King Henry VIII, and all of his wives. It is so fun to see them get excited about the content they are reading. More important than anything else these kids are learning, is the redemption they have received through Christ Jesus. The man about whom we learn, whose name we speak, to whom we pray, and worship every single day at school. Praise the Lord!

Mrs. Soriano

Are you out of Dimock Dairy Cheese? The school has another Dimock Dairy Cheese fundraiser running this month and we've added some cheese spreads to the order! Here are the products that are available from any student or on the order forms in the Narthex. Cheese arrives February 25th.

NEW Cheese Spreads: Aged Cheddar, Cheddar, Habanero, Horseradish, Jalapeno, Prairie Heat, Ranch, Smoked Cheddar and Nacho Dip.

1 lb Blocks: Cheddar, Colby, Colby Jack, Monterey Jack, Bacon & Onion, Black Pepper, Chipotle, Dill, Garlic & Parsley, Garden Medley, Peppered Colby Jack, Pepperjack, Pepperoni, Ranch, Salsa, Smoked Cheddar, Tomato Basil, Wild Italian, Ghost Pepper, Prairie Heat, Habanero, Horseradish, Aged Cheddar, Blue Cheddar, and Raspberry Jalapeno.

The school will also be holding its annual **Greenhouse fundraiser** again. We will special order hanging baskets and rose bushes again and then have a greenhouse at the school on May 7-8th.

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church & School
Alliance, Nebraska
Treasurer's Report

	8/1/20 through 1/11/21		8/1/19 through 1/13/20		07/31/20
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	TOTAL
General Fund Account--January 1		\$ 29,487.26		\$ 2,819.43	\$ 2,819.43
Receipts:					
Current Offerings		89,297.63		89,383.05	220,448.39
Mission Offerings		9,635.00		10,965.00	21,130.00
Other receipts		12,344.97		34,198.01	81,226.31
Total Accountable Funds		\$ 140,764.86		\$ 137,365.49	\$ 325,624.13
Disbursements:					
I. Board of Elders	\$ 185,787.00	\$ 48,057.25	\$ 155,957.00	\$ 70,793.99	\$ 170,661.30
II. Board of Parish Ed	11,300.00	1,628.64	11,300.00	2,392.59	3,199.85
III. Board of Missions:					
Missions	20,000.00	10,265.00	20,000.00	5,097.00	26,227.00
Other Mission Board	6,260.00	1,780.00	6,260.00	1,894.00	2,716.34
IV. Board of Trustees	73,197.00	22,979.98	70,197.00	24,372.37	50,714.72
V. Board of Stewardship	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	263.49	263.49
VI. Administration	18,500.00	6,268.14	18,500.00	7,107.72	13,377.80
Non-budget disbursements	0.00	9,540.00	0.00	22,717.04	15,215.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 316,544.00	\$ 100,519.01	\$ 283,714.00	\$ 134,638.20	\$ 282,375.50
General Fund Account Balance--		\$ 40,245.85		\$ 2,727.29	\$ 43,248.63
Less Accountable Funds		0.00		0.00	
Less Pending Checks		0.00		0.00	
Net Checkbook Balance		\$ 40,245.85		\$ 2,727.29	
New School Fund--January 1		\$ 27,226.22		\$ 163.49	\$ 163.49
Receipts		296,370.06		289,227.13	607,687.30
Disbursements		(265,299.78)		(293,971.80)	(581,674.57)
School Operations funds		\$ 58,296.50		\$ (4,581.18)	\$ 26,176.22
Raising Disciples Campaign Offerings		\$ 0.00		\$ 550.00	\$ 1,050.00
Raising Disciples Offerings Disbursed		0.00		0.00	0.00
Raising Disciples funds		\$ 0.00		\$ 550.00	\$ 1,050.00
New School Fund Account Balance--		\$ 58,296.50		\$ (4,031.18)	\$ 27,226.22
Less Raising Disciples funds to be disbursed		0.00		2,150.00	
Less Pending Checks		0.00		9,216.00	
Net Checkbook Balance		\$ 58,296.50		\$ (15,397.18)	
School Building Payment Account--January 1		\$ 48,479.41		\$ 71,946.47	\$ 71,946.47
Receipts		49,043.29		281.90	540.19
Disbursements		(12,000.00)		(12,000.00)	(24,007.25)
School Building Payment Account--		\$ 85,522.70		\$ 60,228.37	\$ 48,479.41
Building Fund--January 1		\$ 13,851.71		\$ 15,935.54	
Receipts		2,826.21		1,180.33	
Disbursements		(14,415.63)		(4,400.00)	
Building Fund--		\$ 2,262.29		\$ 12,715.87	
Memorial Fund Bank Account		\$ 21,785.52		\$ 19,545.71	
Endowment Fund		\$ 275,421.09		\$ 241,212.03	
Debts Owed					
Internal debt (Net checkbook balance - General Fund)		\$ 0.00		\$ 0.00	
District/Synod Support owed		(630.00)		10,965.00	
Internal debt (Net checkbook balance - School Fund)		0.00		15,397.18	
District/Synod Support owed prior year		0.00		0.00	
Owed to Special Funds Account		0.00		43,400.00	
First National Bank - Operating loan		0.00		6,158.10	
First National Bank - PPP loan (thru SBA)		Forgiven		0.00	
Ralph Hoxworth - Skateland Building (School)		34,000.00		58,000.00	
Total debt		\$ 33,370.00		\$ 133,920.28	