
ITEMS

A newsletter for the family and friends of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church

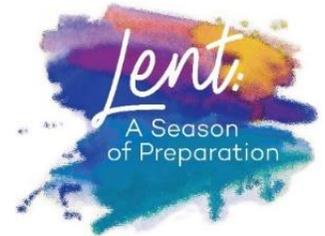


Volume 63 No. 3

March 2021

LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesday Lenten services are a meditation on Lenten hymns and songs. They will be posted online only, with no in-person component. You can find the services on our Facebook page, YouTube channel or on our [website](#).



Pastor Aaron is continuing his discussion on [Prayer: 40 Days of Practice](#) each morning (except Sunday) at 10 a.m. on Facebook Live. Join us for a short five-minute discussion each day during Lent.

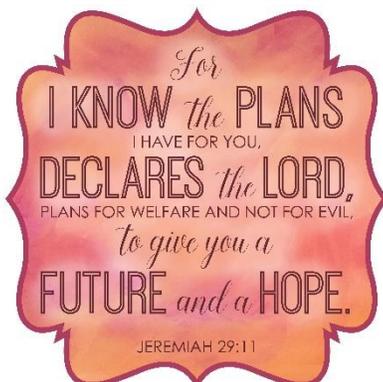
SPRING FOOD DRIVE

By Sarah Bechtel

We will once again support the Frankfort Township Food Pantry with a spring drive. This year's collection dates are March 20th through 28th – please look in the lobby for the collection boxes. Any non-perishable food items or paper products are welcome donations, but here are the items that their website lists as most needed:



- Bags (food storage-quart & gallon; garbage-full size & kitchen)
 - Canned Meats (beef stew, hash, Spam)
 - Canned Pasta (Chef Boyardee brand)
 - Cleaning Products
 - Cooking Oil
 - Foil & Plastic Wraps
 - Hair Care Products
 - Kleenex
 - Laundry Products
 - Mayonnaise
 - Toothpaste & Brushes
 - Paper Towels & Napkins
 - Salad Dressings
 - Salt & Pepper
 - Soap (liquid & bar)
 - Spices (ex: garlic powder, cinnamon, parsley flakes, cloves, celery salt, etc.)
 - Syrup
 - Toilet Paper
 - Tomatoes (canned, whole, diced, etc)
 - Taco Shells & Seasoning
 - Vinegar
-



SEE HOPE by Doreen Pomykala

SEE Hope! Send
Encouragement
Everyday

Please continue to share the hope you have in Jesus with others around you. Share a kind word, a card, a meal, a smile, etc.

Post your story online with the hashtag: #SeeHope



CONVERSATION STARTERS FROM THE PASTOR

A View from Inside & Outside

Which way does the church face? Taken one way, this is mainly the provenance of those

who practice geography, cartography, architecture, and the like. Does it face toward the main road? East, west, north, or south? With the sun rising to throw light through the stained glass window in the morning? These and other questions like it deal with which way the physical structure of the church building faces.

But to me, this question has resonated in a different way as of late. Which way the church faces is not about a direction on the compass. Rather, it is an expression of which way the church faces **relationally**: inwardly or outwardly. How is the church positioned in relation to the community? What does the community outside look like through the doors and windows of our church building? From the safe places where we gather and find comfort in the word of God? And on the other side, what do people see when they see it from the outside? How do they perceive us? More importantly, how does it represent the King we serve, Jesus?

I think it's easy to admire the outside world from the places that we know are safe. Here's a picture of the area outside my office window from inside.



I'm comforted and encouraged by the beauty of the stained glass hanging there, and the symbols lead me to remember the things that are most important. The Triune God who created, redeemed, and grows me. The amazing, sacrificial love of Jesus that saves me. The ship that reminds me that God

has placed me in the holy ark of His church to be transported through the flood of this life to eternal life with Him. To me, these symbols are comforting.

But how do those things appear to those outside the church? Do they bring them comfort and hope? Do they point them to God? Or do people outside the church see a place where they won't be accepted or understood, where they won't understand what is going on, or where they will be judged for whatever choices they've made that don't meet the standards and approval of God and his people? Here's a picture from outside my office window, looking in.



I often think about the contrast between these two views of the church: from inside and from outside. It's the same thing, the same building, the same symbols, but it means two different things to two different groups of people. This leads me back to the initial question: which direction does the church face? Does it face inward and look mainly to its own interests? Or does it face outward to the world and look for ways to love the community, people broken by sin (just like us!), and draw them closer to the heart of the father?

We've talked quite a bit in the past year or so about the 1-2-3's here at Immanuel, what's going to be important to us as we move forward. 1 Mission: making disciples. 2 Places where it happens: Temple spaces and Table spaces. And we're called to engage in 3 Key Relationships: with God (UP), with people who know and love Jesus (IN), and with those who don't yet know how much He loves them (OUT). In His ministry, Jesus spent time with His Father (when He could sneak off for a few brief moments), but He spent a great deal of His time with people.

With regard to people, Jesus faced both inwardly toward His disciples, spending a great deal of His

time and energy with them, and outwardly, loving and feeding and healing the crowds, proclaiming the Kingdom to them. Matthew 13 is a beautiful expression of this dynamic. Jesus tells the crowd the Parable of the Sower (OUT), then spends time unpacking it with His disciples (IN). He was facing both inwardly and outwardly.

My point is this: if we're going to be faithful followers of Jesus, we also must be both inward-facing AND outward-facing. To neglect one over the other is a terrible error, and the history of the church is littered with the wrecks of those who didn't hold them in faithful tension. My prayer is that we always find comfort in the Temple spaces God has given us, and encouragement and inspiration to keep following Him. But I also pray that the time we spend there helps us see those outside in a new light. As people for whom Jesus died. As dearly loved by Him, even though they may not know it yet. As eternal beings made in His image, being called closer to Him. Which direction does the church face, inward or outward? The answer is BOTH. And when we embrace and even enjoy that tension, we can find delight in the fact that...

Adventure is out there!
Pastor Aaron



HELP NEEDED WITH STREAMING!

Did you know that we only have three members currently helping stream our services?

The Elders are

looking for two or three more members to help with the Streaming during church Services. Very minimal computer knowledge is needed. We will teach you everything you need to know. Please contact Jerry Vrshek at (815) 469-5059.



Preschool will be reopening in Fall 2021!

Registration begins April 1. Check out the [preschool webpage](#) for a virtual tour and more information.



Women of the Word

We've resumed meeting using Zoom. If you would like a link to be invited to our virtual Women of the

Word, please send an email to Leeann at dceleeann04@yahoo.com. We will continue looking at the Sermon on the Mount. Newcomers are welcome! **Meeting Dates:** March 8 & 22



Men of the Word

We are studying the book of Mark, The chapters will coincide with the sermon of the week. If you would like a link to the online meeting,

contact Pastor Aaron.

Meeting Dates: March 1 & 15 @ 7pm

GOD'S KIDS CLUB NEWS

The dedication that our families have shown to make sure that their kiddos are participating in our crazy mixed up Zoom world is inspiring and worthy of being celebrated. For Valentine's Day we asked our families to consider making Valentines for some of our "not as young" members. Our staff was so proud of the level of participation and, as a result, were able to mail out 66 loving Valentines. For those of you who may not have received one, we want to celebrate with you too. You are officially the YOUNG MEMBERS!





Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 1 Paul Dillberg
- 1 Marc Golembiewski
- 1 Melissa Lipscomb
- 1 Nolan Marnul
- 3 Richard Belanski
- 4 Tyler Kaiser
- 4 Marty Olsen
- 6 Ted Fenn
- 6 Rachel Greenspan
- 7 Marita Navratil
- 8 Lisa Bartnik
- 8 Millie Shepich
- 8 Michael Sneideraitis
- 9 Randy Besse
- 9 Marlene Cupp
- 9 Don Snedden
- 9 Jill Strilich
- 10 Ted Fuka
- 10 Blake Lopez
- 10 Morris Threewitt
- 11 Barb Malm
- 13 Randi Krol
- 13 Keith Maranto
- 13 Susan Schuh
- 16 Ronald Berger
- 16 Julia Welzen
- 17 Susan Olsen
- 18 Mandy Baker
- 18 Ashley Pomykala
- 19 Sara Bell
- 19 Jodi Klode
- 20 Lucas Wojno
- 21 Hannah Burdette
- 21 Katie Krol
- 23 Barbara Belanski
- 23 Lou Dawn Howard
- 24 John Cosich
- 25 Becky Bouck
- 25 Gail Compagnoni
- 25 Ruth Welzen
- 26 Cindy Anderson
- 29 Laura Strobel
- 30 Herbert Teske
- 31 Jackie Hansen
- 31 Lauren Tustin

Anniversaries

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| 2 Dave & Marcia Prosken | 31 years |
| 11 Wayne & Kathy Temple | 48 years |
| 15 John & Leslie Cosich | 46 years |
| 17 Gary & Judy Smith | 59 years |
| 21 Mike & Laura Saltzman | 25 years |
| 26 James & Beth Loucks | 33 years |

We wish God's blessings on all these people celebrating a birthday or anniversary. If we have forgotten anyone's special day or it is in error, please contact the church office.

Altar Flowers By Barb Belanski

We have two Sundays open in March if you would like to sign up for Altar Flowers. Please contact Barb Belanski, (773) 704-1416 or sign up in the Opportunity Book by the church office. Each bouquet is \$20. Checks should be made payable to the Ruth Society and placed in the offering plate or lockbox by office entrance. Be sure to write Altar Flowers on the memo line. The Ruth Society would like to thank all those that have ordered flowers in the past and for honoring the Lord.

Ways to Submit an Offering

- **Drop off** a check (or cash in sealed envelope with your name) in the secure black lockbox by the church office entrance door.
- **Mail** a check to the office: 10731 W La Porte Rd, Mokena, IL 60448
- **Electronic Giving** – go to the website, www.immanuelmokena.org, and click on Electronic Giving under the Giving menu. Fill in the secure form with either credit card or checking account information to submit offering.
- **Joyful Response:** many members already use this service which automatically debits their checking account at a specified interval (weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, etc.) for a specified amount. The form can be found on the Electronic Giving page on the website – just fill it out and drop off or mail to the church office.

Faith at Home Options

How to find the Vlog and Live Streaming Worship Services...

- www.immanuelmokena.org – Go to Connect, Select Faith@Home or Live Stream
- Facebook – Follow us @ImmanuelMokena
- YouTube – Our channel is Immanuel Lutheran Mokena (you can subscribe to the channel to be notified when new videos are posted)



Sunday Morning at 8:00 AM on Chicago's CW station WPWR channel 50 (Comcast 184)

Tel: (260) 471-LOVE (5683) | Toll-Free: (888) 286-8002

www.worshipanew.org (Sermon Summaries)

Email: info@LMMinc.org

Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. 5 Martin Luther Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46825-4996
Chicago and Northwest Indiana

March 7, 2021 – Third Sunday in Lent

Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 2:13-22

“The Power of the Cross” - Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 1:18 - Rev. Thomas Eggold

The cross destroys our excuses and is the end of our sin. And as we die to sin, the cross is the beginning of a faith that saves.

March 14, 2021 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Psalm 107:1-9, 19; Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-21

“Look on Jesus” - Sermon Text: John 3:14 - Rev. Shayne Jonker

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him would have eternal life.” Jesus foretells His own death on the cross and its benefits. He is the *serpent* on the wood, lifted up for the life of the world. All who look on Him through the eyes of faith have eternal life.

March 21, 2021 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Psalm 119:9-16; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Mark 10:35-45

“What God Doesn't Remember” - Sermon Text: Jeremiah 31:34b - Rev. Shoemaker

We love to remember stories about fun times, joyous occasions. God also remembers how we are His beloved children, forgiven because of Jesus' sacrificial death and glorious resurrection. The prophet Jeremiah reminds us that God chooses to not remember our sins. Join us as we talk about what God doesn't remember.

March 28, 2021 – Palm Sunday

Psalm 118:19-29; Zechariah 9:9-12; Mark 15:1-47

“Crucify the King” - Sermon Text: Mark 15:6-20 - Rev. William Mueller

Palm Sunday brings such a day of emotion: the triumphal entry, the rejoicing crowd, the humble King – all this will be poured into the anguish of Good Friday. Yet what was Jesus' driving theme behind all of this? Why does Scripture give us such detail? It's because He has done this for us!