



# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.*

Immanuel Informer

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## Spiritual Discipline for the Season of Lent

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

In the beautiful rhythm of the church year, here we are again. It's Lent, a time to reflect and repent, to pray and to praise, to recall and rejoice in our Lord Jesus as he moves humbly toward the cross and powerfully in victory from the grave. Lent leads us to Easter. It's a time for blessing, as we wait for the return of our Savior Jesus.

The Season of Lent is a time of preparation to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. Therefore, I would like to suggest some practices and disciplines to help you achieve that goal.

Let's look at the practice of "fasting." Fasting has been around as an act of God's people since the beginning, although throughout Scripture and Church history, we find the act of fasting being used for the wrong reasons. An outward sign of one's faith, to punish oneself, or as a way to earn merit before God. Luther teaches us that,

*"True fasting consists in the disciplining and restraining of your body, which pertains not only to eating, drinking, and sleeping, but also to your leisure, your pleasure and to everything that may delight your body... and to do so only as a means of curbing and humbling the flesh."*

Fasting can be a great blessing to you as a way to focus on the message of the season. To continually turn yourself to the work of the Lord on His path to the cross and to give us the chance to deeply reflect on our own lives of service to God and neighbor. Here are a few ideas to implement fasting in your life this season.

Learn more about fasting. It is often misunderstood by Christians. We assume it's only related to the Old Testament, Pharisees, or current Muslim practice. Fasting can be a great tool to focus on Jesus. For example, some practical everyday things such as giving up foods for specific times or even specific foods. Avoid interacting on social media platforms or not playing a certain game. Altering sleeping habits or denying the pleasure of some leisure activities. When you are fasting and are prompted to interact with that device or program or have that certain food, and you resist, that should motivate you to refocus and spend time with Jesus.

Remember, the act of fasting isn't to gain favor with the Lord, instead it's a tool for us to seek Him out within our daily lives. Be sure to take the devotional, Portals of Prayer, provided by the Men's Ministry, to use in those moments. Devote time to reading the Scriptures. Here are some suggestions: Psalm 51, Isaiah 58:6-12, Joel 2:12-13, Matthew 4:1-11, Matthew 6:1-18, and Romans 6:1-4.

I would also like to encourage you to share your stories of fasting. Share your Jesus focused moments with me or anyone for that matter. I would love to hear how you struggle with the fast and how it worked to point you to Christ. So, take some time to see what you can give up this Lenten Season.

Finally, giving up your time and pleasure to gather around God's Word for midweek worship. This year we are following a series of sermons titled, "You Meant It For Evil, But God Meant It For Good." It is here that we practice spiritual discipline together. Please join me for this weekly blessing to help prepare you for the Resurrection Celebration on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

In the Fellowship and Love of God,

Pastor Steve Deombeleg

# Lenten Sermon Series & Services

Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

**YOU MEANT IT FOR EVIL,  
BUT GOD MEANT IT FOR  
GOOD: SERMONS BASED  
ON LUKE 22:1-24:12**



## Holy Week Services

**9:30a.m. - Palm Sunday Service and Cantata**

**7:00p.m. - Maundy Thursday Service**

**with Holy communion**

**7:00p.m. - Good Friday Tenebrae**

**9:30a.m. - Easter Sunday Worship**

**followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids**

Join us each Wednesday in Lent for supper before 7:00 p.m. service. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00p.m. Suppers will be hosted by a different group each week with the first supper being a potluck, soup supper.

COLORFUL SPRING FLOWERS CAN BE ORDERED FOR OUR EASTER CELEBRATION. PLEASE CONSIDER A PURCHASE FOR YOUR OWN ENJOYMENT OR AS A GIFT FOR FAMILY OR FRIENDS. PLEASE COMPLETE A FORM & MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO IMMANUEL ALTAR GUILD. AN ENVELOPE WILL BE ON THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX WHERE YOU MAY PLACE YOUR ORDER. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CALL BARB ARNDT AT 630.655.0797.



## Trust Prompts Giving

Jesus tells an amazing story about a poor widow who places all of her trust in the Lord. The Gospel of Luke (also in Mark) records Jesus' observing a poor widow putting two small copper coins into the temple collection box. At the same time, He saw some wealthy individuals giving large amounts of money. Jesus said something surprising when He said that the widow *"has put in more than all of them."* (Luke 21:3). We are told that the wealthy *"contributed out of their abundance."* (verse 4). These people made a show of their wealth by dropping large coins in the box so others could hear as well as see their giving. The rich gave abundantly, but their giving didn't cost them that much, because they still had plenty left over for themselves. The poor widow's giving witnessed to her trust in God and in His ability to care and provide for her. With her trust and faith in her heavenly Father, she gave everything she had with joy and confidence. She didn't have money for her next meal, but she gave willingly. In a sense, she was giving herself. She knew that God would supply the provisions that she would need.

When is the last time, you've given your entire pay check to God through your church, or when is the last time you've given away all of your savings? Most of us would say that this has never happened. While God may not be calling most of us to give all that we have away, He does want us to give regularly and generously of all we receive. Why do many of us fail to give in proportion to what we earn to the Lord through our church and other Christian organizations? Each of us has different and unique circumstances, but the one common element that keeps most of us from giving freely and generously is fear. We hold tightly onto our money because we are afraid that the money we've accumulated may not be enough. We allow the money and stuff that we accumulate to become our security. The poor widow had little, but, if she had any fear, she overcame it. She gave all that she had out of trust in the Lord.

Jesus spoke a lot about giving because giving is an important part of our lives as God's people. Whether we have little, like the poor widow, or much, like the "wealthy" we read about in Luke, God calls us to give regularly and generously. Giving expresses our gratitude to God for Who He is and what He has done for us especially through His Son, Jesus. Everything that we have has come from the Lord. *"What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?"* (1 Corinthians 4:7). By grace, God gives each of us life, and He provides everything we need for our lives. All that we are and have are gifts from God. Giving is one of the many ways that we express our thanks and our worship of Him.

May God help us place our trust in the Lord and demonstrate that trust through our generous giving.

**AS WE PROVIDE FOR THE  
NEEDS OF OTHERS, GOD'S  
LOVE IS SEEN IN AND  
THROUGH US.**

"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me"  
(Matthew 25:40).



## Stewardship Corner

The Bible teaches that God made us, body and soul, for Himself—for the present and for eternity. Even when we wander away from God and deny that we are His stewards, we still are! God has spoken in and through creation. Vitally important for our understanding of the meaning of life is that God has spoken through the redeeming, re-creating, new-life-giving work of His Son; through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah, the Savior, we are restored to new relationships with Almighty God. It is a grace-filled response to say, "I am an adopted child of God" and also to say, "I am God's steward!" It is a privilege to be loved and valued highly every day of life.

# IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Teach God's Word Diligently

Valerie Winston

This month our school will celebrate Lutheran Schools Week. The week is designed to focus on Lutheran education and celebrate the work being done in Lutheran schools. Being a product of a Lutheran elementary school, high school and college, as well as being a Lutheran school educator, I have first-hand knowledge of the joy of being part of a Lutheran school. I have had and worked with many dedicated Lutheran teachers for at least 50 years. One of the best things I have experienced is that sense of belonging and that sense of family. And for some reason that sense of family has been a mainstay whether I've been a student or teacher and in every school setting.

It has been a tradition in most instances where the church has established the school in order to provide a religious education for the children of its congregational members. There are some instances, like Immanuel, where the school was established first. But for the most part, the school has been a ministry of the church. That ministry has also become a mission in many cases as more and more students are non-members.

During the course of our Religion studies, I came across a reason why Christian congregations not only operate schools, but provide Sunday Schools, Bible classes and other similar programs. We have been studying the Exodus of the children of Israel and we came to a point where it was the last days of Moses leadership. He speaks to the people one last time and exhorts them to follow God's commands. One of the questions in our workbook asks for a statement in Moses' exhortation that gives a reason for the educational ministry of our churches. Moses tells them to keep the instructions that he gives them in their hearts and tells them to teach them diligently to their children.

We know from God's commandments that we are to gladly hear and learn His word. We know how important it is to share His word and His gospel with others. I know that I and so many others have been blessed and continue to be blessed to be a part of the family of Lutheran schools. As we look forward to celebrating 170 years of Immanuel's ministry, I pray that we are able to continue to share in the preaching and teaching of His Word.





Thank you for participating in this year's baby bottle drive. Our bottles and checks are on their way to Caring Network. Your donation will assist them in this life affirming ministry. The following is a note of thanks from Caring Network for our fundraising efforts in 2021.

As always, we truly appreciate your partnership with us. I would like to leave you with this word of encouragement. In 2021, your church's partnership with us enabled our counseling team to provide over **500 ultrasounds** to women at risk of aborting their babies. **438 of them chose life!** We have an awesome God! We simply could not serve our clients in this way without your support. Blessings to you and your church family. - Tracy Kerr, Caring Network

Cash & Online Donations: \$275.00  
 New Grants Written: 2  
 Pending Grant Applications: 2  
 New Distribution Partnerships: 1  
 Shower Up Ministry

**PYHT Food Distributions & Activity:**

**In-Kind Food Donations Received: 51,000lbs** Sysco, Costco, Jet Blue, Delta, National Food Group, PRC, EYFP.

PYHT Pop Up-Pantry Families Served: February 12: 113  
 PYHT Pop Up-Pantry Individuals Served: February 12: 406  
 Food Distribution Events-Ministries in Need: 10 events

**PYHT Food Relief Agencies-Ministries Served:** Hope Chicago Church & Academy, Inner City Impact, Youth Crossroads, Westchester Food Pantry, Lyons Church, St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen, Immanuel-DesPlaines, St. Paul-Oak Lawn, BEDS Plus-LaGrange, Housing Forward, Food Rescue US, Breakfast with Baby-Carol Stream, LaSalle Street Church, Fight2Feed, Village of Hillside, Chicago Heights Pantry, Chicago, Holy Trinity-Burbank, Leyden Township, Elmwood Park Community Pantry, Downers Grove Public Library, Christ the King-Chicago, Elmhurst Food Pantry, Downers Grove FISH, Shower-Up Ministry, Lutheran Church Charities.

Volunteer Hours: 275  
 Mobile Food Pantry Events: 9  
 Total Families Served this month: 1,270  
 Volunteer Stipends Paid Out: \$400, \$200

**NEWS:**

\* This has been a month of high-volume donations as well as Pass-Through Donations, allowing us to serve many other ministries which in turn impacts neighborhoods we're unable to reach. A pass-through donation happens when we accept a food donation but goes directly to another agency. Many of the available donations are not suitable for our pantry or the timing does not coincide with our pantry dates. The first two weeks of February yielded over 50K lbs of donated food, over half of which was diverted.

\*On Tuesday, Feb 15<sup>th</sup> Jayne Siou did a live presentation on Food Rescue & Relief on behalf of Food Rescue US/PYHT for Downers Grove Public Library, one of newest distribution partners. The presentation was part of a month-long focus on hunger in our communities and presented along with other free online courses offered by DGPL. The library has recently removed books from shelving units and turned it into a little free pantry. Many patrons are using online books and putting the shelving to use in this way was a brilliant idea.

It was a great opportunity to share our story and impact with others as well as garner support and volunteers to further our mission and Glorify God.



Daylight Saving Time begins on **Sunday, March 13, 2022 at 2:00 A.M.**

Next Pantry Date  
 March 12, 2022  
 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

*Everything written in the Scriptures was written to teach us, in order that we might have hope through the patience and encouragement which the Scriptures gives. Romans 15:4*

### **Getting the Most Out of Your Daily Bible Reading**

As you read the Bible each day, allow the Scriptures to speak to you. This daily “dialogue “ between you and the biblical text will reveal new understandings about God, and about yourself.

## **MARCH**

1 John 9:24-41	16 Mark 7:1-23
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	17 Mark 7:24-37
2 Mark 1:1-13	18 Mark 8:1-21
3 Mark 1:14-28	19 Mark 8:22-38
4 Mark 1:29-45	<b>Third Sunday in Lent</b>
5 Mark 2:1-17	20 Mark 9:1-13
<b>First Sunday in Lent</b>	21 Mark 9:14-32
6 Mark 2:18-28	22 Mark 9:33-50
7 Mark 3:1-19	23 Mark 10:1-12
8 Mark 3:20-35	24 Mark 10:13-31
9 Mark 4:1-20	25 Mark 10:32-52
10 Mark 4:21-41	26 Mark 11:1-19
11 Mark 5:1-20	<b>Fourth Sunday in Lent</b>
12 Mark 5:21-43	27 Mark 11:20-33
<b>Second Sunday in Lent</b>	28 Mark 12:1-12
13 Mark 6:1-13	29 Mark 12:13-27
14 Mark 6:14-34	30 Mark 12:28-44
15 Mark 6:35-56	31 Mark 13:1-23

**Set aside time** to read the bible on a daily basis.

**Find a quiet place** to read and reflect on each day’s reading.

**Begin with prayer**, asking God for guidance and blessing.

## **A Month of Prayer**

The fellowship of prayer consists of caring people who pray daily for members in the church. Members and their families will be listed in alphabetical order each month. Please pray for both their known and unknown needs.

1. The Hempel Family
2. Violet Horn
3. Sandra Houle
4. The Iacovetti Family
5. Dorothy Ivers
6. The Karpierz Family
7. Clyde & Omie Lane
8. Becky Lelingis
9. The Lepe Family
10. The Mannella Family
11. The Mazanek Family
12. Virginia Mazanek
13. Lloyd & Toni Mooney
14. Ed & Karen Mulvihill
15. Heidi Murphy
16. Kathy Nelson
17. Lynda Nickl
18. Mike & Carol Northcutt
19. Phyllis Ondrovic
20. Mindy Ondrovic
21. Pena Family
22. Perez Family
23. Annelies Pitz
24. Lynn Rand
25. Susan Redis
26. Gloria Rubietta
27. Joan Rundgren
28. Karen Sierawski
29. Jayne Siou
30. Rose Slagle
31. Daniel Stallings

### **For the Record - Deaths**

Len Bettin - January 29

Lois Boese - February 20



## **March Birthdays**

<b>6 - Karen Sierawski</b>	<b>20 - Valerie Winston</b>
<b>6 - Harold Zedler</b>	<b>22 - Hortencia Perez</b>
<b>7 - Bob Brown</b>	<b>23 - Lynne Hempel</b>
<b>7 - Tom Czubernat</b>	<b>24 - Teagan Bozzi</b>
<b>11 - Carol Northcutt</b>	<b>26 - Leonard Sierawski</b>
<b>11 - Sandra Houle</b>	<b>28 - Aissa Perez</b>
<b>13 - Heather Hempel</b>	<b>31 - Bud Boese</b>
<b>15 - Rose Slagle</b>	<b>31 - Tannah Bozzi</b>
<b>16 - Kari Fencel</b>	

# March 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
6 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Bible Study	Indoor Skating Begins	1 - Indoor Skating	2 - Indoor Skating Ash Wednesday 8:15 Chapel 6pm Lenten Supper 7pm Service with imposition of ashes	3 - Indoor Skating 7am Prayer Meeting 6pm Stewardship Meeting	4 - Indoor Skating 7pm - Adult Volleyball	5 - School Skating Party at Lombard Roller Rink 1pm - 3:30pm
6 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Bible Study	7 - School Book Fair	8 - School Book Fair	9 - School Book Fair 8:15 Chapel 6pm Lenten Supper 7pm Midweek Service	10 - School Book Fair 7am Prayer Meeting 7pm Elders Meeting	11 - School Book Fair	12 PYHT Food Pantry 11am - 1pm
13 - Scrip Orders Due 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Bible Study	14 Lutheran Schools Week Spirit Week 8th Grade Graduation Picture Retakes	15 Lutheran Schools Week Spirit Week	16 Lutheran Schools Week Spirit Week 8:15 Chapel 6pm Lenten Supper 7pm Midweek Service	17 - St. Patrick's Day 7am Prayer Meeting Lutheran Schools Week Spirit Week	18 - Half Day of School Lutheran Schools Week Spirit Week 7pm - Adult Volleyball	19
20 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Bible Study	21	22	23 8:15 Chapel 6pm Lenten Supper 7pm Midweek Service	24 7am Prayer Meeting	25	26
27 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Bible Study	28	29	30 8:15 Chapel 6pm Lenten Supper 7pm Midweek Service	31 7am Prayer Meeting		

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**RETURN REQUESTED**

**POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL**

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**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,  
as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10*