Immanuelite

Parish Newsletter of
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Mediapolis, IA
"Praising God and Serving People"
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Phone #:319-394-3600
Email: Immanuel@Mepotelco.net
Website: https://www.immanuelmepo.org
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

February Happenings

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Women of the ELCA

Through various program areas, Women of the ELCA's community of women provide services in their churches, communities, and even the world.

We engage in ministry; we take action through advocacy; we promote healing and wholeness, and we support one another in our callings.

We offer anti-racism training; address domestic violence, commercial sexual exploitation, and human trafficking; and support families with special needs.

We assist participants in their desire to discern God's call in their lives and to discover their spiritual gifts through workshops, retreats, resources, scholarships, and global education.

We offer grants to not-for-profit organizations, both domestic and international, that support healing and wholeness for women of all ages through the affirmation and advancement of women's emotional, physical, and spiritual health.

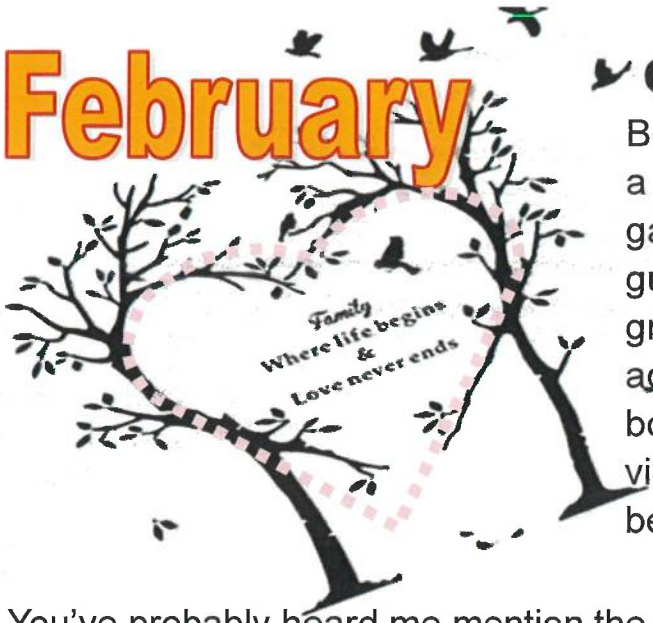
Join us as we make a difference in the world.

50th Annual RAGBRAI - Bishops Ride for Hunger

The three Iowa bishops, Bishop Current, Bishop Halaas, and Bishop Jones are training to ride the 50th annual RAGBRAI to be held July 22-29, 2023. The three ELCA Iowa Bishops will ride 50+ miles a day in the 50th bike ride across Iowa lifting up 50+ ways that Lutherans in Iowa fight against hunger and hope to raise $50k+ for ELCA World Hunger.

The bishops need you to join the team!
Riders: registering to ride? (for a day or for the week) register with the team "ELCA Bishops Against Hunger"
Physical and Financial Support: We need your support! (cars, food, rest) We're raising $50k to fight hunger through ELCA World hunger!
Spiritual Support: Pray for all involved!

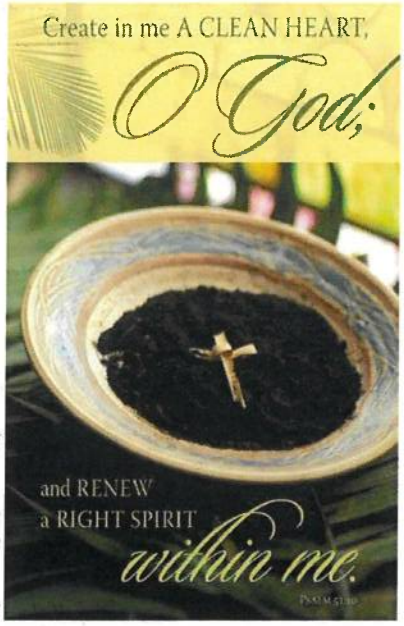
Join us! Fill out the interest form to stay connected and get more information: **https://bit.ly/bishopRAGBRAI**



Clear as a Bell: "LOVE WINS!" Rob

Bell wrote a beautiful book of Grace in action that turned a segment of the church including his own large congregation against him. As we studied God's Love Languages for Advent, I suggest we see how great God's grace and love is for us and ponder why it's so hard to accept it—even as Christians… this Lent. Besides the book there are 24 powerful 15 minute stand-alone videos called "Nooma" that are available on-line and can be viewed at home as well as together at church.

You've probably heard me mention the "CHOSEN..." enthusiastically. But it's as if I was saying "eat your healthy vegetables--" they're good and they're good for you." I avoided the series myself until I was flat on my back, sick. I've been that way twice this last year and watched CHOSEN all the way through twice and am even more excited about the Third season. Please try it!

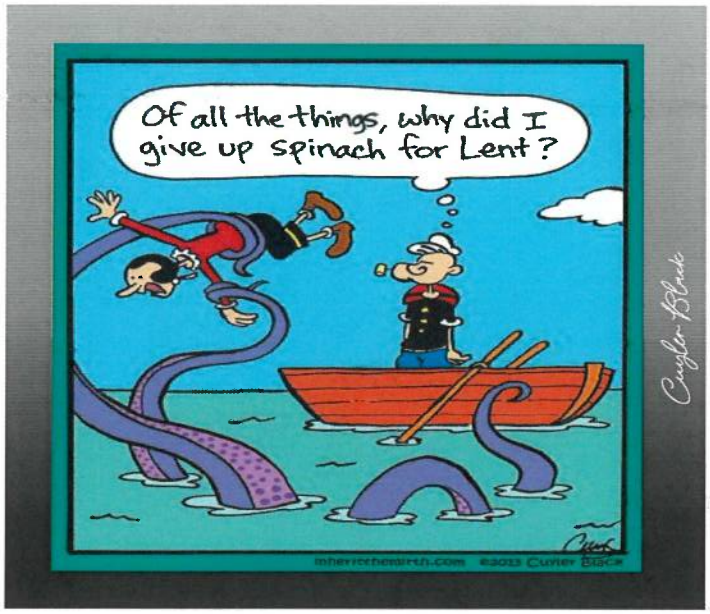


LENT's coming—Get your **ASH** in church—Wednesday February 15th! The synod has a Lenten program developed for this year. Nancy ran into three different fascinating Contemporary Drama sets that Jerleen must have gotten. And in the midst of these diverse opportunities I have an interview that came out of the blue for the Chaplain's position at Clallam Bay Correction Center where I was a clergy volunteer for ten years in Washington state. As I commented at the Annual Meeting, this surprise call has gotten me to look at my life and career and give thanks for how you here at Immanuel have wrapped up my parish ministry with a fulfilling, satisfying, rewarding two years leaving a sweet taste in my spirit for which I am deeply grateful and would [will] delightedly prolong. Nancy and I warmly thank you for your welcoming us and will joyfully continue if that's God's will. Stopping and considering that I have unfinished business with prison ministry can be addressed here by reinvolving myself with Brothers in Blue as the pandemic grip loosens. If, however, I am offered the position, they will give us a month to relocate and get started. We plan to rent or lease our Anamosa home so we can return to our Iowa friends if that's where God leads us. Jack LaFayette and I attended a workshop for updating Immanuel's Profile for the synod. Ashes are for grieving and Lent is about examining our mission and lives in preparation for Holy Week and the year(s) ahead. Lots to **PONDER**, pray and celebrate! PJC

February Happenings

NO WELCA in February

Immanuel gives our Thanks and Appreciation to Deb Walker for serving on the Council and as serving as President for the last two years.



Congratulations, Sunday School!
You did an amazing job collecting coins to send so many useful gifts to families around the world!
God Bless You.
Gloria Lehmann

Dear Immanuel Church, I thank you for your Christmas donation. I am loving and enjoying the two pairs of sweat shirts, sweat pants, and thermal top/bottoms. They have kept me warm and cozy and I am very appreciative of your generosity. Again thank you very much.
Appreciatively, Andrew

Thank you to Our Family at Immanuel for the generous gifts that were given to us during the Christmas Season. You are all a Blessing in our lives and we thank God for you!
Pastor Jerry and Nancy

Book Corner

Drops Like Stars by Rob Bell We plot. We plan. We assume things are going to go a certain way. And when they don't, we find ourselves in a new place---a place we haven't been before, a place we never would have imagined on our own. It is the difficult and the unexpected, and maybe even the tragic, that opens us up and frees us to see things in new ways. Many of the most significant moments in our lives come not because it all went right but because it all fell apart. Suffering does that. It hurts, but it also creates. This book is an exploration of the complex relationship between suffering and creativity, driven by the belief that there is art in the agony.

In Good Time: 8 Habits for Reimagining Productivity, Resisting Hurry, and Practicing Peace by Jen Pollock Michel Whether we're trying to find time, save it, manage it, or make the most of it, one word defines our relationship with the clock: *anxiety.* Yet is productivity really the only grid for the good life? Have you ever imagined a life without hurry, relentless work, multitasking, or scarcity? A life that is characterized instead by presence, attention, rest, rootedness, fruitfulness, and generosity? This is the kind of life we are meant for, says Jen Pollock Michel. But if we want to experience freedom from time anxiety, we have to reimagine our relationship with time itself. In the pages of *In Good Time*, she invites you to disentangle your priorities from our modern assumptions and instead ground them in God's time. Then she shows you how to establish 8 life-giving habits that will release you from the false religion of productivity so you can develop a grounded, healthy, life-giving relationship with the clock.

Worship/Stewardship

Hymns for February

2/5—Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Gathering – Gather Us In ELW #532
Sermon – God, Whose Almighty Word ELW #673
Sending – Christ, Be Our Light ELW #715

2/12— Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Gathering – Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling ELW #582
Sermon – One Bread, One Body ELW #496
Sending – Healer of Our Every ILL ELW #612

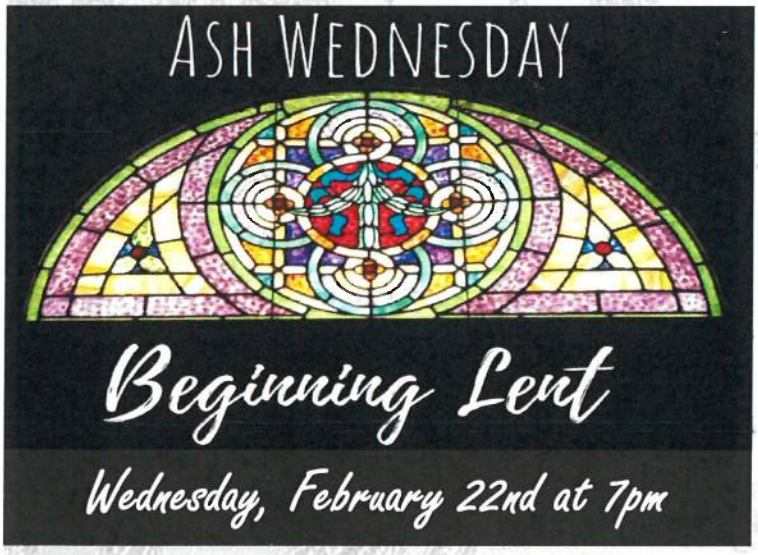
2/19—Transfiguration of Our Lord
Gathering-Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise ELW #834
Sermon – Love Divine, All Loves Excelling ELW #631
Sending - How Good, Lord, to Be Here ELW #315

2/26 — First Sunday in Lent
Gathering - A Mighty Fortress, Is Our God ELW #504
Sermon– Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer ELW #618
Sending- Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word ELW #517

February Collection
Immanuel Lutheran

The Collection for January and February will be for Immanuel. Some of the items needed are:

9 volt batteries
Stamps
Kleenex
Paper Towels
Toilet Tissue
Air Freshener (bathroom)
White Envelopes #10 (Peel and Stick)
Paper for Copier
Trash bags (Drawstring 30 or 33 gallons
Large Kitchen Trash Bags (Drawstring)
Ice-Melt
Large Paper Clips



During the Lenten Season every Wednesday
6pm for Soup
And Worship at 7pm

Praying for Konnor, Alexia, Brynn, Emma, Jaxon, Charlie and Konnor Jr. as the family continues to support Konnor as he continues treatments for his cancer.

Surprising Facts About Lent:

Lent is often known as an event that lasts 40 days and 40 nights, it's technically 46 days in total. Why? Because Sundays aren't considered fasting days, but rather regarded as "mini-Easters."

The word "Lent" derives from the Old English word "lenten," which simply means "spring season." It also might derive from the same root as "long," a reference to the lengthening days of the season. Furthermore, it wasn't until the 11th century that the word was embraced by the Church.

During some Ash Wednesday services, the minister will use ashes from palms that were blessed on the previous year's Palm Sunday to draw a cross on worshipers' heads. Although historically in Jewish-Christian scripture, ashes symbolize mortality and repentance, here their meaning has evolved somewhat to include the idea of purification.

Abstaining from meat during on Ash Wednesday and Lenten Fridays is a penitential practice, although it has evolved over time from not eating meat from any warm-blooded animal to simply not eating meat. The interpretation of cold-blooded animals has led to some interesting exceptions to the definition of "meat" including puffin, alligator, and beaver.

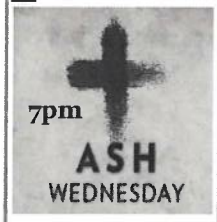
Youth Activities

February MCYG schedule:

2/1/2023	6:15pm-7:45pm 8pm-9:15pm	Wednesday	JH MCYG @ Presbyterian Church HS MYCG @ Presbyterian Church
2/8/2023	6:15pm-7:45pm 8pm-9:30pm	Wednesday	JH MCYG @ Presbyterian Church HS MYCG @ Presbyterian Church
2/12/2023	11am-1pm	Sunday	Immanuel Lutheran Church | MCYG's Kentucky Mission Team will be holding a soup supper to raise funds for their upcoming trip this July. All are welcome to come support them at this free-will donation lunch. The menu will include: soup, salad, homemade breadsticks, cookies and lemonade. ALL proceeds will go directly to the students attending the trip. We hope to see you there!
2/15/2023	6:15pm-7:45pm 8pm-9:30pm	Wednesday	JH MCYG @ Presbyterian Church HS MYCG @ Presbyterian Church
2/22/2023		Wednesday	Ash Wednesday | No Youth Group| MCYG encourages students to attend Ash Wednesday services with their families
2/24/2023— 2/25/2023	6pm Friday— 7:30pm Saturday	Friday– Saturday	30 Hour Famine |Presbyterian Church | Students should start fasting at 12:30pm, after lunch at school then come to the church at 6pm. We will get a small taste of what it is like to live in and impoverished country.

As you hopefully have heard, MCYG will be going on a mission trip to Kentucky in July of 2023. The trip will cost $650/person so students will be seeking funding. MCYG will be assisting them with this process by putting on a couple of extra fundraisers. Please be on the lookout for these events in upcoming newsletters, bulletins or on MCYG's Facebook page. I am personally thankful for your support and I know the students are as well.
In His Service, Jenny McGhee

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 JH MCYG 6:15pm Presbyterian Church HS MCYG 8pm Presbyterian Church	2	3	4
5 5th Sunday after Epiphany 9am Sunday School 10:30am-Worship/ Communion	6	7 Food Pantry	8 JH MCYG 6:15pm Presbyterian Church HS MCYG 8pm Presbyterian Church	9 Girl Scouts 4:00pm	10	11
12 6th Sunday after Epiphany 9am Sunday School 10:30am-Worship	13	14 Food Pantry 1pm	15 JH MCYG 6:15pm Presbyterian Church HS MCYG 8pm Presbyterian Church	16	17	18 On Saturday 6pm
19 Transfiguration of our Lord Council Mtg 8 am 9am Sunday School 10:30am-Worship/ Communion 12 pm- Mepo Ministerial Association	20 	21 Food Pantry 1pm	22 	23	24 	25 MCYG 30 Hour Famine 6pm Friday - 7:30pm Saturday
26 1st Sunday in Lent 9am Sunday School 10:30am-Worship	27	28 Food Pantry 1pm				© BlankCalendarPages.com

Helpers for January

Asst. Minister– Jeff Erickson Lector–Kathy Gerling
Communion Prep–Traci Gerling Altar Guild– Angie Kline and Kathy Erickson
Greeter–Angie Kline Usher–Kathy Erickson