



Immanuel Wisconsin Synod Lamplighter



2020

Rev. John E. Seelman, Pastor

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“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” Psalm 119:105



James 1:12 Blessed is the man who endures a trial patiently, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life, which God promised to those who love him.

We have begun another season of Lent. This past week we observed Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of our journey, with Jesus, on the way to the cross. Unlike the painful path that our Savior had to endure, ours is far preferable. Although Lent, a season of reflection, carries little significance to some people, it must remain an important time to focus, not just on what Christ did, but on what we have done.

However, it would seem, examining our inner thoughts and motives, along with our outward words and actions is unpleasant. Our preference, at best, is to look at others (the people that do things we never would) and make comparisons. Of course, that's our sinful, natural, corrupted flesh that we would rather ignore. Far be it from us to actually admit that we are wrong. Over and over. Day after day.

Additionally, we would rather be applauded for what we have done. All our efforts should count for something. God should be looking with a favorable eye towards our attitudes and actions. And if something does go wrong, it is surely someone else's fault. Perhaps, even God's.

Yet, James reminds us that there will be trials. There will be temptations that fly at us from every direction. Instead of looking at our lives, straining to avoid the unpleasantness, work through them, one by one, with patience. But, where does that patience come from?

Check out our Lord. Our theme for Lent is, “The Son of God Goes Forth to War”. Jesus went in our place to battle the devil. He heroically fought and defeated death. He championed over sin by paying the debt, wiping out the guilt, and suffering the punishment. It was a struggle through which he endured physical pain, mental mockery, and rejection by all, including his own Father. Yet, in the face of such adversity, he was the victor.

And so are we. That crown of life that we are promised, came at a cost. Not at our expense, but Jesus'. God wants so much to bless us, wants so much to live with us forever, that he sent Jesus to fight and win the victory for us. May the Holy Spirit grant us the strength to endure our brief trials and tests through the one who was strong for us.

Pastor



Volunteers Needed

On the Wednesdays of Lent, a **SOUP SUPPER** fellowship hour will be held in our fellowship hall **PRIOR to our church service** at 5:30 p.m. Soup sign-up sheets are located below the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Why not make your favorite soup and share with your Immanuel Family? It's fun and delicious!

Italian Night Follow-up

On Friday, February 14, forty-five members and friends thoroughly enjoyed good food and good friends! We came together with a wide variety of Italian cuisine including appetizers, salads, main courses, desserts and wine. A great time was had by all in attendance. Our generous free-will offerings covered all the expenses of this event!

Looking ahead...we could start thinking of something special for May 1 a.k.a. Uno de Mayo. Does a Mexican meal sound good to you? It was great fun to experiment with Italian desserts. How about Mexican desserts this time? Put your thinking caps on! What should we do next? Comments and suggestions are welcome to our church office. Let's keep the fellowship rolling along.

Our Thrivent Choice Dollars will be used for such events (if necessary to cover costs). A church family is so much more than just saying "good morning" on Sunday. We are a community of Believers connected by God's Love.

Let our light shine by coming together with food and fellowship with our church family and let's try to reach-out

Immanuel Constitution Update Team ...

Our "current" constitution is dated 2004. Needless to say, it is outdated! If you would be interested in joining a team to review and amend our Constitution, please let Pastor or our church office know.

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors"

Think Spring and look ahead to April 18 when the women from Immanuel congregation have the opportunity to join their sisters-in-Christ at the LWMS Spring Rally. It will be held at Riverview Lutheran Church, located at 136 W. Seymour Street in Appleton. The day's activities begin at 8:00 a.m. with registration and refreshments followed by the opening devotion at 9:00 a.m., business meeting and mission updates. The speaker, Emily Com, will be sharing experiences on her mission trip to Russia. After the wrap-up business meeting and closing devotion, lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m.

A sign-up sheet is provided and anyone interested in attending the rally should register by March 29. That is also the deadline for the mission offerings. The box is on the guest register desk and this year the offerings will again be divided between both World and Home Mission projects. In Africa, which has four times the land area of the United States, WELS missionaries currently service five of its 54 countries, and we are in fellowship with nearly 60,000 Lutheran brothers and sisters. An additional nine African countries have reached out to us for fellowship and theological training, and our gifts will help African nationals become qualified pastors, teachers and lay leaders in their respective church bodies. The Home Mission Project focuses on Hmong Evangelist Training. God has opened many doors into the Hmong community. As the Lord gathers people in Christ, He is raising up leaders who want to be equipped to serve as evangelists and perhaps continue their studies to become pastors. Our gifts will support the ongoing expenses for study materials, instructors and assistance to the students.

All women of the congregation are members of LWMS and are encouraged to pray for our missionaries, attend a rally or convention to learn more of WELS mission work and to support these worthwhile projects.

Joan Radtke
LWMS Reporter



Council Corner

- ◇ Installation of new CC members will be Sunday, February 23. Randy Montgomery (President), Mark Juedes (Vice President One-year), Luke Mittelstaedt (Treasurer), and Timothy Krause (Buildings & Grounds Chairman).
- ◇ Immanuel's Constitution is outdated. Church Council members have been encouraged to review.
- ◇ Parsonage inspections: HVAC and plumbing will be performed in May.
- ◇ Organ replacement was briefly discussed.
- ◇ A new front entry door/window combo. and new kitchen window were installed in February at the parsonage. Thank you to a generous member for covering this expense.
- ◇ Donna Immel *transfer to Living Water*.
- ◇ Clair & Shirley Kentopp *transfer to Grace Lutheran*.
- ◇ Next CC meeting is scheduled for March 10 at 5:30 p.m.

Altar Flowers During Lent

It is customary, in some churches, to keep the altar area clear and solemn during the Lenten Season. Therefore, we will not be displaying altar flowers during Lent. If someone has a special occasion and would like to sign-up for altar flowers, please feel free to do so. They will be displayed in front of the Lectern and Pulpit. We look forward to the glory of Easter morning to see our Risen Savior and His beautiful array of Spring flowers adorning our altar.

Stewardship

Date	Attendance	Communion	Sunday School	Sunday Doctrine Study	GriefShare	Total Offerings
Feb. 2	83	N/A	4	8	N/A	
Feb. 9	65	59	5	N/A	N/A	
Feb. 16	84	N/A	3	9	12	
Feb. 23	85	72	6	11	8	
Feb. 26	53	51	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Remember.....
Daylight Saving Time
begins on **March 8th**.

Don't forget to change
your clocks!



Immanuel
Lutheran Church

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Newsletter

Altar Guild and Usher Schedule for March 2020

Date	Altar Team	Color	Usher Team	Communion Assistant
March 1	Barb Luft, Ann Gosdeck & Julie Treichel	Purple	Jim Daubert, Mark Juedes, Mike Juedes & Pam Juedes	
March 4 Lent	Rachel Freerking, Kay Kohfeldt & Edie Nieman	Purple	Dave Schroeder, Gary Troudt & Dennis Troudt	
March 8 Communion	Dave & Judy Zarter & Jan Zellmer	Purple	Karl Luft, Dave Leatherman & Timothy Krause	Need Volunteer
March 11 Lent	Dave & Faye Leatherman & Ruth Reiter	Purple	Jeff Reiter, Jacob Reiter, Jessie Reiter & Ruth Reiter	
March 15	Barb Luft, Ann Gosdeck & Julie Treichel	Purple	Mark Andersen, Mady Andersen, Tom Gregory, Randy Montgomery & Amy Montgomery	
March 18 Lent	Rachel Freerking, Kay Kohfeldt & Edie Nieman	Purple	John Hornig & Matt Fink & volunteers	
March 22 Communion	Dave & Judy Zarter & Jan Zellmer	Purple	Jim Daubert, Mark Juedes, Mike Juedes & Pam Juedes	John Nieman
March 25 Lent	Dave & Faye Leatherman & Ruth Reiter	Purple	Dave Schroeder, Gary Troudt & Dennis Troudt	
March 29	Barb Luft, Ann Gosdeck & Julie Treichel	Purple	Karl Luft, Dave Leatherman & Timothy Krause	