



Immanuel Lamplighter

Wisconsin Synod



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

Website: immanuel-oshkosh.org

Don't you fear God, since you are under the same condemnation? We are punished justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for what we have done, but this man has done nothing wrong.” Luke 23:40-41

These past three months have been hectic, to say the least (and worsening every day). A word that we never heard before has become commonplace. In our news, the word impeachment has been discarded, replaced by something far more severe, “Coronavirus”. Time for panic? How bad is it? What are the odds of me getting it? If I get it, will it affect me for the rest of my life? Can the doctors or hospitals do anything for me? Will researchers find a vaccine soon? What will our economy be like when this finally subsides? And the one on every Wisconsinite’s mind...will the Packers be ready to play their regular season?!?

The stock market has tanked, children from age 3-23 have been sent home from their schools, millions of rolls of toilet paper are now safely stocked in hoarders cupboards, closets and garages, orders have been issued by the president, governor and CDC to stay safe and stay home. Why? What did I do wrong? I’m afraid of leaving my own home! I DON’T WANT TO DIE! Isn’t God going to do anything about this?

Okay. Let’s be reasonable. Please. First of all, although I believe that this pandemic is part of God’s plan, it is not meant to scare us. It’s not meant to hurt us. It’s not meant to drive us away. It’s meant to bring us closer. Personally, I feel God’s love more than ever in my life. Yes, in my life. Why? Because NOTHING like this has ever happened before in my life. You see, I look back at 61 years of God’s grace, and I realize that he’s never left me hanging before. And he’s not about to start now.

However, the man who was speaking in our Scripture reading was hanging. Literally, hanging. Death wasn’t just a probability, it was a reality. And what he realized was that he was deserving of death, and SO much more. From his cross, he looked around in his misery and certainty of his death and witnessed two opposite reactions. The man hanging next to him was calm. Not screaming insults, no, he was the recipient of insults. He showed no fear, almost as though he had been expecting it. Not angry. Rather, he was showing kindness to those who pounded the nails, his friends at the foot of the cross, and soon to him as well. Of course, on the other side was the ultimate critic. Instead of realizing his sin, he angrily insulted the Christ, whose very presence was assuring him of the forgiveness of HIS sins. Jesus, why aren’t you doing something? Stop this. Isn’t that what you’re supposed to be doing? Bringing an end to this mess?

That’s when he was interrupted. And it took someone who realized what started this whole mess in the first place. Me. I am so deserving of suffering. I am so deserving of death. I am so deserving of God’s judgment that says, “GO AWAY FROM ME, YOU SINNER.” And then Jesus steps in and reminds me of what HE did. The one who was deserving of our thanks and praise, took on our transgressions. He exchanged his holiness for our sins. He stretched out his hands and said, “I love you this much”, and he died. And his father approved. And then Jesus rose. So, all of my fears have been eliminated. There is nothing that can separate me from the love of my Savior. I pray for his continued comfort for me, and especially for you. May you see his love with 2020 vision as we celebrate his resurrection this **Easter**.

~Pastor

When this is over, may we never again take for granted a handshake with a stranger, full shelves at the store, conversations with neighbors, a crowded theater, Friday night ‘out’, a routine checkup, the school rush each morning, the stadium roaring, each deep breath, a boring Tuesday or life itself.

When this ends, may we find that we have become more like the people we wanted to be, we were called to be, we hoped to be and may we stay that way! Better than we were before.

IMMANUEL MILITARY MEMBERS

All active or retired personnel please provide your service information to the church office or email to pastorseelman@hotmail.com. Provide name, branch, rank and dates of service. We would like to publish a complete listing for our Memorial Day Service.

Additionally, if you have a family member that served and has been called home to their Lord and Savior, we would like to compile a list. This information would also be shared during our Memorial Day Service.

COUNCIL CORNER

- ◆ We will begin clearing out the office areas soon. Painting and new flooring is planned. Memorial monies will be used to accomplish this.
- ◆ An Immanuel Constitution review team is being formed to update our current constitution. A sign-up sheet for anyone interested is located in our Fellowship Hall.
- ◆ Parsonage HVAC and plumbing inspections are planned for this summer.
- ◆ Discussion continues regarding a new Immanuel pictorial.
- ◆ Next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21 at 5:30 p.m.

Did you know?...

- * Covid-19 (as of March 25) 19,793 people have died worldwide
- * Asian Flu (1957-1958) killed two billion people worldwide
- * Hong Kong Flu (1968-1969) killed one million people worldwide
- * HIV/AIDS pandemic (1920-present) has killed more than 32 million people worldwide
- * Spanish Flu (1918-1920) killed approximately 50 million people worldwide
- * Tuberculosis killed 1.5 million people in 2018 worldwide
- * Seasonal Flu affects 3-5 million people and kills 250,000-500,000 people worldwide
- * 150,000 people die everyday. How many without their Savior?!
- * Jesus is just a prayer away. Today, tomorrow & forever! Have a little "talk" with Him.

EASTER FLOWERS



Sign-up sheets for Easter lilies are posted. If you would like to sponsor a lily (\$12), please sign-up as soon as possible. Fifteen plants were pre-ordered weeks ago.

~~~Baptism~~~



Mira Juanita-Marie Austin

Infant daughter of Jordan & Alysha Austin was baptized on March 15, 2020.

We welcome this new little member to our church family.

LWMS

The Lutheran Women's Missionary Society Spring Rally scheduled for April 18 has been cancelled. Mission offerings for African and the Hmong Ministry will be collected until April 26.

Joan Radtke, LWMS Reporter

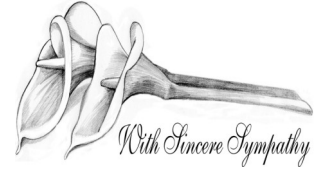
Uno de Mayo (tentatively)
May Mexican Potluck Supper
May 1, 2020 starting at 5:00 p.m.
Mark your calendars.... Mexican night delight!

If.....
 You want something to last a season.....plant a flower.
 You want something to last a lifetime.....plant a tree.
 You want something to last forever in someone's life
 that will never die.....
 plant the Gospel in their heart.

Janice "Jan" Nelson

October 9, 1951—March 21, 2020

Jan's funeral service will be held at a later date.



STEWARDSHIP

Date	Attendance	Communion	Soup Supper	Total Offerings (Budget & Non-Budget)
03-01-20	70	N/A	N/A	
03-04-20 Lent	46	N/A	25	
03-08-20	68	64	N/A	
03-11-20 Lent	44	N/A	29	
03-15-20	70	N/A	N/A	
03-18-20 Lent	26	N/A	N/A	
03-22-20	24	N/A	N/A	

Immanuel
Lutheran Church



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2020 Newsletter
April

April 2020 Altar Guild and Usher Schedule
***** SUBJECT TO WORSHIP SCHEDULE *****

Date	Altar Team	Color	Usher Team	Assistant
April 1 Lent	Rachel Freerking, Kay Kohfeldt & Edie Nieman	Purple	Jeff Reiter, Jacob Reiter, Jessie Reiter & Ruth Reiter	
April 5 Palm Sunday	Dave & Judy Zarter & Jan Zellmer	Purple	Mark Andersen, Mady Andersen, Tom Gregory, Randy Montgomery & Amy Montgomery	
April 9 Maundy Thursday	Dave & Faye Leatherman & Ruth Reiter	Purple	John Hornig, Matt Fink & Larry Stowe	Doug Zellmer
April 10 Good Friday	Barb Luft, Ann Gosdeck & Julie Treichel	Black	Jim Daubert, Mark Juedes, Mike Juedes & Pam Juedes	
April 12 Easter Sunrise	Rachel Freerking, Kay Kohfeldt & Edie Nieman	Ivory	Dave Schroeder, Gary Troudt & Dennis Troudt	
April 12 Easter Festival	Dave & Judy Zarter & Jan Zellmer	Ivory	Karl Luft, Dave Leatherman & Timothy Krause	
April 19	Dave & Faye Leatherman & Ruth Reiter	Ivory	Jeff Reiter, Jacob Reiter, Jessie Reiter & Ruth Reiter	
April 26 Communion	Barb Luft, Ann Gosdeck & Julie Treichel	Communion White	Mark Andersen, Mady Andersen, Tom Gregory, Randy Montgomery & Amy Montgomery	Randy Montgomery