

Immanuel Lutheran Church

"Image" Newsletter

February 2021



I know we're just rolling into February, but I'm starting to feel hopeful - the kind of hopeful I usually feel when I am confident that Spring is just around the corner. Perhaps it helps that the sun is out today (I'm writing this nearly two weeks before you'll read it so forgive me if the weather has been nothing but terrible since I wrote this.) I just feel that things are looking up.

In-person worship will start up again on February 7th (covid restrictions are still in place - mask required, use the front door only, keep socially distanced, etc.), hopefully for good this time. Youth activities are beginning to happen again here at the church. Small meetings and gatherings are starting to happen. It just feels good to see some life in the building once again.

I received a phone call just a little while ago from the synod office. They wanted to thank Immanuel for their generosity. The people of Immanuel have given a good sum of money to Lutheran World Relief and World Hunger. People of Immanuel have also designated \$5,000.00 to Ewalu. Things are looking good right now.

The phrase '*looking good*', however, is a relative term. To what are we comparing what we now consider good? 2020? It doesn't take much to be better than 2020. From where are we getting the hope that the future might be better? The past? Again, it doesn't take much to be better than 2020.

You might argue that, as Christians, our hope in the Lord also comes from the past and I understand that. However, the year 2020 is only a moment in time. The pandemic has a beginning and an end. It has no power other than the power we allow it to have.

Jeremiah (29:11) puts it like this, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." This hope that Jeremiah spells out for us is not a moment in time but a moment in eternity. This same moment in eternity is played out in the crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 14), the Battle of Jericho (Joshua 6), and the raising of Lazarus (John 11). It is the same hope we celebrate at Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. And this is the same hope we proclaim in our funeral liturgy.

Our hope is based on a promise not a feeling. It's more than sunshine and enthusiasm. It's more than good reports and encouraging outlooks. Our hope is God's love. Our hope is God's plan. Our hope is the future as God has already written it. And I think it's looking pretty good!

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." (Romans 15:13)

Rev. Greg DeBoer
pastor@immanuelindee.com
Home: (319) 332-1225

Church Office
Telephone: (319) 334-2511
Fax: (319) 334-4596
Office Hours:
9:00 am- 4:00 pm
Monday-Friday

Immanuel Servant Leaders:

Congregational President:
Aaron Losey 319-929-0896
Congregational Vice-President
Bill Isham 210-602-3816
Congregational Secretary:
Emily Cahalan 319-231-1331
Congregational Treasurer:
Daryl Johnson 319-334-6310

Council Members:

Brea Bader 319-269-2628
Travis Mestad 563-210-4072
Paul Bachman 319-961-0829
Craig Coffman 319-327-0264
Linda Kress 319-334-6519
Dana Mikel
We're here to serve you.

Staff:

Gina DeBoer
Youth Director
youthdirector@immanuelindee.com
Nicole Schmitz
Preschool Director/Teacher
weecare4@immanuelindee.com
Olivia Wolf
Associate Preschool Teacher
Ashley Even
Preschool Teacher
weecare3@immanuelindee.com
Lanette Simons
Associate Preschool Teacher
Julayne Muller/Roberta Hinman
Secretary/Bookkeeper
office@immanuelindee.com
Charlie Conklin
Custodian
Jody DeBoer
Organist/Pianist
Amanda Fisher
Jr. Choir Director

To receive a digital copy of
this newsletter, e-mail the
church office at
office@immanuelindee.com

Lent Practices 2021

This past year has been anything but normal. Our world, our traditions, and our routines have been uprooted and changed. Even now, when we begin to see a turn back to “normal”, things are very different. But that’s ok. God likes different. Sometimes He even intentionally turns things upside down for our good. The cross looks like defeat, but it is actually victory. Baptism looks like water being poured out, but it is actually salvation.

Normally Lent is a time where people choose to give something up to remember what Christ gave up for us (His life). In the spirit of 2020 (now into 2021), let’s turn things upside down for Lent. Instead of giving something up, we have listed a suggestion of something you can add to your life. Keep in mind, God works through us to turn the world around (sometimes even upside down) and wants us to look back to Him for direction, especially in these uncertain days and changing times.

- **2/17 - Ash Wednesday** – Worship with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at **6:30 pm**
- **2/18** – Wear something differently- put your watch on the other wrist, wear your socks inside out, put your belt buckle on the other side. As this item feels strange all day, think about how Jesus’ work in the world changes everything. We get so used to everything that sometimes we forget it’s all been made new in Christ.
- **2/19** – Pray for someone who you feel doesn’t deserve it (maybe even you?) – Jesus came to free us and call us to look at the world, others, and even ourselves differently.
- **2/20** – Create a donation box in your home, reminding you of how much God gives to us each day. We are asked to share what we have with others. Ideas to fill the box will come throughout Lent.
- **2/21** – *Worship* with us on-line or in person – **9:00 am**
- **2/22** – For every sink you have in your home, add a bottle or bar of soap to your donation box. Reminding us we are made clean in Christ each day.
- **2/23** – Jesus fasted in the wilderness – What can you fast from today to turn your focus back to God? Social Media? Chocolate? Netflix?
- **2/24** – *Mid Week Worship* – **6:30 pm** – Travel to Bethany
- **2/25** – Jesus was tempted with food – For everyone in your home who ate breakfast today, add a box of cereal to your donation box.
- **2/26** – Jesus was tempted with riches – Buy a friend’s lunch or give a restaurant gift card to a healthcare or emergency worker.
- **2/27** – Jesus was tempted with power – Pray for God to lead the leadership in your community. Thank a leader today.
- **2/28** – *Worship* with us on-line or in person – **9:00 am**

Watch March newsletter for more daily upside down ideas...

In the community

Valentine’s Day Drive Thru Dinner

Relay for Life Buchanan County will host a **Drive Thru Valentine’s Dinner on Sunday, February 14th from 3:00-6:00 pm** at the Immanuel Lutheran Church (back parking lot with the canopy). The Pork Producers will supply Pork Burgers and the menu will include baked beans, potato salad, and a cookie. The cost is \$5 per meal, or you can also purchase a rose to give to your sweetheart with the meal for \$8. We plan to accommodate 60 meals every 15 minutes, so please call ahead to place an order. **We will only be taking orders for meals now through Wednesday, February 10th at noon.** Please call Don Mumm at 319-334-3888 or 319-334-8459 to place your order. We will have people directing traffic, taking money at your car, and delivering your meal to your car as you come at the scheduled time. Please have exact amount ready as you drive in and stay in your car to have your meal delivered to you. Relay for Life of Buchanan County wants to wish everyone a safe and happy Valentine’s Day!



2020 Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Totals

Thanks for your partnership in Operation Christmas Child this year. We praise the Lord for 9,113,853 million shoebox gifts worldwide, 7,809,410 domestically and 415,403 built online! Only God can orchestrate this during a pandemic!

Youth Happenings...

SWAG - 5th & 6th Grade

⇒ Wed, Feb 3, 10, & 24, 3:30-5:00 pm, in person

BLAST - 7th & 8th graders

⇒ Wed, Feb 3 & 10, 6:30-8:00 pm, in person

⇒ Wed, Feb 24, 7:00-8:00 pm, in person

⇒ Thurs, Feb 26-Fri, Feb 27, Quake Lock-in

FORCE - High School Students

⇒ Sun, Feb 14 & 21, 7:00 pm, FORCE, in person

⇒ Thurs, Feb 26-Fri, Feb 27, Quake Lock-in

TEENSERVE Mission Trip

FORCE students and Upcoming FORCE students (Class of 2021-Class of 2025) can now sign up to attend a week long mission trip this summer. We will be traveling to Plainwell, Michigan to work together building and/or restoring a home. We will work during the day and "camp" at night. The cost of the camp is \$425, BUT Immanuel will be paying \$200 for each youth attending. This cost includes transportation, food while on site, lodging, service opportunities, and evening activities. Covid guidelines will be enforced. Registration and a \$75 down payment is due by Feb 17th. Please contact Gina DeBoer at youthdirector@immanuelindee.com if you have any questions.

QUAKE Lock-in for BLAST and FORCE

When: Fri, Feb 26, 7pm until Sat, Feb 27, 5pm

Where: Immanuel

Cost: FREE

What: We will participate in Virtual QUAKE, play games, eat too much, talk faith, and have a ton of fun together.

Details: Social distancing and masks will be required. If you want to participate in activities but sleep at home, that is ok too. Please indicate that on your sign up sheet.

Deadline to sign up: Wed, Feb 17, 2021



NEXUS INSTITUTE

NEXUS is a free, week-long, on-campus experience for high school students grades 9-12 at Grand View University in Des Moines. This summer's theme is *All Things New* and runs from July 11-17. May 1st is the deadline to apply, but space is limited so apply today! Please stop by the office or see Gina DeBoer if you have any questions.



Youth - Is EWALU for you?

Early registration for EWALU church camp is at the end of February. Immanuel wants to help you experience the love of God at church camp! Please complete the campership application and EWALU registration form and turn into the church office, with your \$50 deposit, **BY February 28th**. Campership amounts will be awarded in March. If you have questions about which session to register for or what a difference church camp can make, please talk to Gina DeBoer.

CORNER...

YOUTH DIRECTOR'S

Love is in the air. Love thy neighbor. I love spaghetti. I love snow days. I love you. I would love to go shopping.

With so many different uses for the English word love, it can be hard to understand how we are called to love each other. By definition love can be a noun; a person can have an "intense feeling of great affection (her heart was filled with love) or a deep interest in something (I love pizza)." Love also can be a verb; a person can "feel deep affection for (I love my husband) or enjoy very much".

I much prefer to think of love as an action/verb. It is more than a feeling, it is a doing. "Love is *patient*, love is *kind*, love is not envious, boastful, or arrogant, or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in truth. It *bears* all things, *believes* all things, *hopes* all things, and *endures* all things." (1 Cor 13:4-6) These actions of patience, kindness, bearing, belief, hope, and endurance take work. They can be overwhelming tasks. Love is not easy.

So, how can we live out our love for each other on a normal day?

L – Listen to each other. Don't just hear them, listen to them. What can I learn about my friend/neighbor today by listening to him? (Not by stalking him on Facebook or Instagram)

O – Offer to help or support each other. Walk with your friend, not before them or after them, but next to them. Share your blessings with others. Encourage each other. What can I offer my friend today?

V – Validate each other's feelings. You don't have to agree with your friend/neighbor, just acknowledge how he/she is feeling and remind her it's ok to feel however she does. Feelings by themselves are not wrong (the response to the feelings is where things get tricky).

E – Express your care through actions. Hold open the door. Communicate calmly. Say thank you. Wash the dishes. Shovel the sidewalk. Send a card. Show your love through what you do, not just what you say.

"We love because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19)
Christ's action of love for us was sacrifice. What will your action of love be today in response to Jesus' love for you?

Gina DeBoer

New this year!

All students entering or in Confirmation are invited to attend EWALU Confirmation Camp as a class. Gina will spend the week of July 11-16 at EWALU with the students while they learn about their faith, worship together, build each other up, and have fun together! Immanuel will provide a generous scholarship to any student who signs up by **February 28th**. A registration form and scholarship application have been sent to your homes, there are extras in the office. Contact Gina with any questions.



Prayer Concerns

January prayers for: Deana Miller, Carrie Erickson, Amy McFadden, Monette Colton, Janet Leverington, Adah Schminke, Brody Bevans & family, Sandy Schneider, Judy Harland, John Moran, Nancy & Steve Elliott, Tami Fenner, Jemma Tadevosian, Connie Brown, Tom Maximovich, Kathy Olsen, Jason Recker, Dan Martinson, and the Independence community.

Military:

- ◇ Paula Jones, 611 Stealth Lane, Box Elder, SD 57719
- ◇ Sergeant David & Ashley Clark (daughter of John & Kathy Tegler), 16 McWilliam St., Cameron, NC 28426
- ◇ PFC Tyler Ficken (grandson of Gene & Janny Budzine & Gene & Michelle Ficken), H Company 1-222d, Aviation Regiment, 699 Anderson Place, Fort Eustis, VA, 23604-5422

Congratulations to:

- ◇ Le & Jeanne Tonn on their 40th wedding anniversary on February 27th.

Sunday School News

February Sunday School

February Sunday School Kits are being assembled by the Parish Ed Committee. They will be available for pick up at the church February 7th.

In person Sunday School will start up again on February 21st from 10:00—10:45 am. Students will gather in the fellowship hall. Additional information will be shared in the weekly announcements.

Opportunities for you?

- Help keep our worship online: contact Pastor Greg
- Donate snacks (individually packaged) or juice bags for SWAG and BLAST
- Send Valentine's to college kids- contact Gina for more information
- Lead a small group during Sunday School hour; starting back in person on Feb 21 - Contact Brea Bader or Gina DeBoer
- Donate to Camperships
- Volunteer an hour or two of time during the BLAST/ FORCE lock-in on Feb 26th
- Be a Baptism Buddy: Contact Gina for information
- Help with music during worship: Contact Jody DeBoer or Pastor Greg

Updated Scrip Process

- ◇ Scrip orders for cards we have on hand will be filled weekly by Thursday afternoon
 - ◆ Example: If you order February 9 and we have the cards on hand, your order will be filled by the afternoon of February 11
- ◇ Scrip orders for cards not on hand will be ordered on the next Sunday and filled by the following Thursday
 - ◆ Example: if you order February 9 and we don't have the cards on hand, your cards will be ordered February 14 and filled by February 18
- ◇ If you would like to set up online ordering for Scrip, please contact the church office

Wee Care Preschool

Thank you to all that donated to our "No Fuss" fundraiser. We were able to raise a little over \$1,800! The preschool still has Casey's pizza (\$15 for 10 punches- buy a large specialty, get a medium single topping free) and donut (\$10 for 10 punches- buy 6 donuts, get 6 donuts free) cards. If you are interested, please contact the church office. Cards can be sent in the mail for contactless orders! Our spring fundraiser is Scratch cupcakes. We will be selling from February 15-March 3 with delivery on March 25 in time for Easter! More information will be posted when available. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Registration will begin this month for the 2021-2022 school year. More information can be found on Wee Care Preschool's Facebook page and in next month's newsletter.



Nicole Schmitz Director/PK4 Teacher,
Wee Care Preschool
weecare4@immanuelindee.com

Upcoming...

Save the Date

Immanuel's VBS will be August 1st-5th. Climb aboard for mountains of fun at "Rocky Railway"! If you would like to volunteer, please let Rebecca West, Erin Burmeister, or Gina DeBoer know.



Campership Season

Are you able to help faith formation in our youth? A week at church camp can make a substantial difference in the faith development of youth. We believe youth get to know themselves and our God through the ministry of church camp. A week at camp costs about \$475 per student. Immanuel's goal is to provide each one of our students, who desire to attend camp, a campership cutting this cost by about \$200. If you are able to donate financially to the campership fund, please place your labeled donation in the offering plate or select the campership option on our electronic giving options list. If you have any questions please contact Gina DeBoer.

Birthdays & Wedding Anniversaries - February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 John Williams Sr.	2 Allan Oline Jerry & Teresa Kopf (36)	3 Linda Dillon Christopher Johnson Anita Putz	4 Wendy Hersom Robert Muchmore	5 Viona Davis Lee Winters	6 Heather Thimmesch
7 Gene & Janny Budzine (34)	8 Kathy Hemsath Justin O'Loughlin	9 Allison Johnson Madyson Ristvedt McAllister Sweeney	10 Cassidy Bendickson Susan Harder Susan Palmer	11 Rebecca Gissel Adaline Schares	12 Meghan Callahan Craig Coffman	13 Mary Ann Crawford
14 Craig Ortner	15 Max Berns Jody DeBoer Spencer Giddings Debra Klotzbach Marina Meyer	16	17 Kenneth Oline Susan Thimmesch	18 Ellie Burmeister Alyssa Jensen Marcia Main	19 Kenneth Turner	20 Jennifer Beatty Kreslyn Dennie Judy Oline Makenzie Schroeder
21 Judy Erickson	22 Ron Giddings Zoey Jensen Kevin Klotzbach Lauren Meyer Melanie Ruehlow Adrian Yonkovic	23 Casey Allen Michael & Dorene Hulseberg (36) Don & Dawna Smith (36)	24 Rachel DeBoer	25 Janet Ankerstjerne Connie Brown	26 Aimee Leisinger Daryl Roberts	27 Kristine Shonka Le & Jeanne Tonn (40)
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Immanuel Lutheran Church - February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:30 ATM	3 3:30 SWAG 6:30 BLAST	4 7:00 Preschool Board	5 9:00 Bible Study	6
7 9:00 Worship	8 7:00 Property	9 6:00 Parish Ed	10 3:30 SWAG 6:00 Council 6:30 BLAST	11	12 9:00 Bible Study	13
14 9:00 Worship 7:00 FORCE	15	16 6:30 Worship & Music	17 ASH WEDNESDAY 12:00-12:30 Drive Thru Imposition of Ashes NO SWAG 6:30 Ash Wednesday Worship 7:30 Youth Board NO BLAST	18	19 9:00 Bible Study	20
21 9:00 Worship 10:00 In Person Sunday School Resumes 7:00 FORCE	22	23	24 3:30 SWAG 6:30 Mid Week Lenten Worship 7:00 BLAST	25	26 9:00 Bible Study QUAKE LOCK-IN: BLAST & FORCE	27
28 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School						

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
512 5th St. N.E.
Independence, IA 50644**

Contact Us:

Phone: (319) 334-2511
Fax: (319) 334-4596
Email: office@immanuelindee.com

Visit our webpage:
www.immanuelindee.com

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Immanuel Lutheran Church-Indee

Worship With Us:

Sunday: 9:00 am In Person & Facebook
Worship Service

**Ash Wednesday
Worship - February 17**

**12:00-12:30 pm:
Drive-thru Imposition
of Ashes in the North
Parking Lot**

**6:30 pm:
Online & In Person
Ash Wednesday
Worship Service**

