



MESSENGER

Immanuel
Lutheran Church

A community growing in Christ, living in grace and serving in love.

February 2021

Volume 24, No. 2

In This Issue:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Lent | 2 |
| Soup Recipe | 3 |
| Children, Youth & Family | 4 |
| Youth Silent Auction | 5 |
| Worship & Music | 5 |
| JCART Events | 6 |
| ILC History | 7 |
| Thank You | 8 |
| Council Updates | 9 |

FROM THE PASTOR

Again & Again

Each year, in the week before Ash Wednesday, we burn palms from the previous Palm Sunday to smudge on foreheads at the beginning of Lent. This year was no different. I gathered up the dried palms from the church attic, bundled up against the cold, took a large metal bowl full of dried palm leaves out in the snow of my back yard, and lit a match. The palms went up fast—curling, blackening, and sending up smoke that smelled like, well, like a plant that has recently been legalized in several states. In just seconds palms raised in praise 2 years ago were now smoldering gray-black ash.

Remember you are dust and to dust you will return. Whenever I burn the palms I remember how quickly and easily those palms become ash. And it's especially poignant this year. Remember last March when we all were making plans for Easter and the summer, and suddenly ... our plans turned to ash? I consider all of the lives lost or forever changed by the virus. The jobs and businesses and dreams ended. The events and celebrations canceled.

Remember you are dust, and to dust you will return. The ashes remind us that we are human, and fragile, and we live in a broken world. We come as a community on Ash Wednesday to face the loss and change and grief of the past year. It is as close as the ash on our foreheads.

"Why," you say, "would we want to remember the grief? Why remember that we are fragile and broken—aren't we faced with that every day already?" Yes, we are. But Ash Wednesday takes it further. We are fragile and broken, AND we are not alone. God reminds us, "I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to newness."

We need to hear that we are both broken and beloved. And we need to hear it over and over. So this year, we will center our Lenten practices

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Worship

Join us for live, virtual worship Sunday mornings at 10 am. Go to Immanuel's website, ilcsp.org, and click on "Worship with us online." You'll also find recordings from the past few Sundays.

Holy Communion

We'll share Holy Communion during our service on the 2nd Sunday, February 14.

Sunday Coffee Hour

Gather online after Sunday worship (10:30ish). Find the link in News and Notes or at the end of worship.

Continued on Page 2

FROM THE PASTOR (continued)

around the theme “AGAIN & AGAIN: A Lenten Refrain.” Again & again, we fail. Again & again, God lifts us up. Again & again, we doubt. Again & again, God calls to us. Again & again, we grieve for our world. Again & again, God offers us a new way forward.

I hope you will join with the community on Ash Wednesday and the 40 days of Lent. Below you can find resources to help you remember that you are both broken and beloved, and Again & Again, Easter will come.

— Pastor Cindy

Lent 2021

Ash Wednesday (7 pm online)



February 17: AGAIN & AGAIN, we're invited in

Before Ash Wednesday, you will receive in the mail a package of ashes to use for the day. You can use them during our evening worship together, or with the enclosed reading and prayer anytime during the day. Look in News & Notes for the worship link.

Choristers, Confirmation and Bible study will not meet on the 17th. You are invited to worship instead.

Sundays in Lent (10 am online)



Lent 1 – February 21: AGAIN & AGAIN - God meets us

Lent 2 – February 28: AGAIN & AGAIN - We are called to listen

Lent 3 – March 7: AGAIN & AGAIN - We are shown the way

Lent 4 – March 14: AGAIN & AGAIN - God loves first

Lent 5 – March 28: AGAIN & AGAIN - We are reformed

Daily Devotions (Sign up [HERE](#) for devotions)



Two opportunities for daily reflection and prayer are available:

A Daily Word: A single word to reflect on during your day. The word (along with links to a Bible reading, a question, and a prayer) can be emailed, texted, or if you wish, a set of word cards can be prepared.

A Devotional Booklet with four reflections each week including commentary, poetry, visual art, coloring, and written reflections. The booklet is available for download, or it can be mailed to you (just call the church office.)

Wednesdays in Lent



Worship – Gather together in a Zoom meeting on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm for a time of group and personal reflection and prayer. Click [HERE](#) to join or find the link in News & Notes. *Confirmation and adult Bible study will meet after worship.*

Soup Suppers – Although we can't be together to share a meal on Wednesdays before worship, watch News & Notes each week for a favorite soup recipe to have your own Lenten soup supper. We'll post the recipes to our website, too.

LENT (continued)

Soup suppers for Lent

Lent and winter are good times for soup. Lent, because it calls for simplicity—simple meals invite us into reflection and prayer. Winter, because a warm soup is great for a cold day. This year we can't gather for soup on Wednesday nights as is our tradition. So, we're doing the next best thing—providing you with a great soup recipe for each Wednesday. Watch News & Notes for recipes submitted by our community. Here's the first one, a favorite from past Lenten suppers provided by Steve Mundt in time for Ash Wednesday.

If you have a recipe you'd like considered, send them to [Kim Thompson](#).

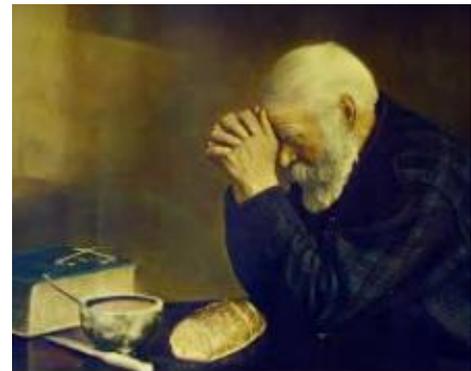
Soup suppers during Lent have also served as a way for Immanuel to raise funds for Keystone, our local food shelf. The net income each week was added to the March Food Share collection. If you would like to make a donation this year to help the Keystone food shelf, please send a check to the church with "Keystone" in the memo line or go [HERE](#), then under "donations" choose "other" and type in "Keystone." As we all enjoy hot soup, we can provide meals for others.

Curried Carrot Soup

2 Tbsp. olive oil
1 ½ pounds peeled carrots, cut into 1" chunks
1 large onion, diced into large pieces
1 Tbsp. butter
1 pinch of sugar
3 cloves garlic, thickly sliced
2 Tbsp. curry powder
3 cups chicken broth
1 ½ cups half & half
Salt & pepper to taste

1. Heat oil over medium high heat in a large, deep sauté pan until shimmering.
2. Add carrots and onions, sauté, stirring very little at first, then more frequently, until vegetables start to turn golden brown, 7-8 minutes.
3. Reduce heat to low and add butter, sugar and garlic; continue cooking until all vegetables are rich spotty caramel color, about 10 minutes.
4. Add curry powder; continue to sauté until fragrant, 30 seconds to 1 minute.
5. Add broth; bring to a simmer over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to low and simmer, partially covered, until carrots are tender, about 10 minutes.
6. Using an immersion blender or traditional blender, puree until very smooth, 30 seconds to 1 minute.
7. Add half & half. Season with salt & pepper to taste.

— Steve Mundt



"Grace," 1918 photo taken by Minnesotan Eric Enstrom and later colorized by his daughter.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

New! Sunday worship challenge to keep kids engaged

Are your kids OVER watching worship on Zoom? Or do they start out OK but lose interest? As we look toward moving back into the sanctuary sometime in 2021, we may wonder how our kids will make the transition from the freedom of in-home worship to the confines of the pew. (Expect grace upon grace from the rest of the congregation, by the way. Everyone gets it. We're walking around during worship, too.)

Starting February 14, we will issue a weekly challenge or suggest an activity to invite kids to follow along during worship. A video description will go out with News & Notes and on Facebook each Saturday, and instructions will be shown during the worship prelude.

On Feb. 14, the challenge will be two-fold:

Count how many Alleluias were said, sung or shown and report your tally in the chat

Hide an Alleluia picture at your home (see [Worship article](#) for more)

| Confirmation Schedule | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Feb 3 | 7-8 pm |
| Feb 10 | 7-8 pm |
| Feb 17 | No class—attend Ash Wednesday service |
| Feb 24 | 7-8 pm |
| High School Schedule | |
| Feb 7 | Book Club 7-8 pm |
| Feb 14 | No meeting (President's Day Weekend) |
| Feb 21 | High School Check-In 7-8 pm |
| Feb 28 | Book Club 7-8 pm |
| All classes and meetings held online | |

Family faith time: Moving into Lent

Join Ms. Emily for another Thursday Zoom from her car on **February 11**. Thank you, God, for technology that lets us connect under so many circumstances! We'll talk about Jesus's Transfiguration and the transition to Lent on Ash Wednesday. Click [HERE](#) to join at **6:15 or 6:30 pm**.

Last month we talked about Jesus's baptism and used water to make the sign of the cross on our foreheads. Parents, bath time is a great opportunity to talk about baptism and make the sign of the cross again. Isn't it wonderful to snuggle with a freshly washed kid? No gunk, no funk between you. God loves us, dirt and all, but our relationship is much better when our hearts are free of sin's icky residue. Baptism is a reminder that God claims each of us as God's own freshly washed child.

It's time to think about summer day camps

Immanuel's Building Reopen team has given us the go-ahead to start planning summer programs, so save **the weeks of July 12 and August 9** for some God-centered fun! This year is going to look different as we implement COVID safety measures, but the core missions will stay the same. We are hopeful infection rates will decline as more people are vaccinated. However, if local pandemic conditions warrant cancellation, we'll fully refund registration costs. We do not plan to move these events online.

God-Centered Day Camp (aka VBS)—July 12–15, 9 am–noon or 9 am–4 pm: Our VBS is a collaboration with Pilgrim Lutheran and brings in kids from our congregations, the neighborhood and beyond. It's a high-energy week that blends a Bible lesson with fun activities. With the theme, "Who Is My Neighbor? Part 2," we'll introduce some of our faith neighbors and talk about how to love God and love others. Registration opens in March.

Immanuel's Music And Arts Camp—August 9–13, 9 am–3:15 pm: This day camp is for children who have completed **K-8th grades**. **Registration opens February 28**. We are lining up a great slate of electives, and our theme is "Love Is" Save the dates and tell your friends and neighbors! More information at ilcsp.org/IMAC.

Virtual Silent Auction



In support of Immanuel Youth

Please start thinking of ideas of things you could donate.

Maybe you started a new crafty hobby this year.

Or you want to support local business by buying a gift card to donate.

We will need more items donated by you. Because COVID-19 negatively impacted local businesses, we will not seek direct donations from them this year.

Save the Date: April 16, 2021

The youth will be staying local this summer because of the many unknowns—but we still want to have funds for day trips and events once it is safe to do so.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

February 14: Transfiguration of Our Lord and “Farewell to Alleluia”

Each year, at the end of the service on Transfiguration Sunday, Immanuel’s children join Pastor Cindy to say, “Farewell to Alleluia.” The children take the Alleluia banner and hide it somewhere in the church. When Easter comes, the excitement to find the hidden banner, sing and say, “ALLELUIA!” for the first time in five weeks is pure joy! This year the practice of bidding “Farewell to Alleluia” will have to be virtual. Thanks to Chillon Leach, you can color and hide an “Alleluia” in your home! Look for a link to this coloring sheet in the News and Notes emails that will come on Saturday, February 6 and 13. Print a copy and have it ready for worship on February 14.

Virtual choir recordings planned for Holy Week

Middle C and Cantorei singers, look for two virtual choir opportunities coming your way! Marlene Johnshoy has agreed to work her magic, once again, for our Good Friday and Easter Sunday services. Many of you participated with the last recording and it was beautiful! If you are not a member of one of our choirs but would like to participate, please [contact Chris Cherwien](#).

JCART events

The four neighborhood churches of JCART (Joint Church Antiracism Team) invite you to participate in two coming opportunities to learn more about Native Americans.

“Rez Road 2000” from The History Theatre

The History Theatre is presenting an online one-person production* of “Rez Road 2000” from **February 22 – March 7**. It is written and performed by Jim Northrup, an Anishinaabe storyteller. With humor and biting wit, Jim takes on the “cultural clash” that makes up the American and Native American landscape. Journalist Lydia Howell says, “He takes us from government forced boarding school to marine boot camp, shares silly dog stories and harrowing war stories, shows the journey from ‘gaining warrior experience’ to being a grandfather raising the world’s oldest 9-year-old boy.” Click [HERE](#) to read more.

JCART has purchased a group ticket to the event, making it free to all who register through [THIS LINK](#). We will send you the event link on or around February 20. The performance can be watched anytime during the run of the play, as many times as you wish. The streaming production run time is 110 minutes.

We will also provide an opportunity for small-group discussion on “Rez Road 2000” on **Sunday, March 7, at 4–5 pm** on Zoom. You can sign up for the discussion at the same time as you register for the performance.

* Performance contains strong language.

Book study group during Lent

JCART is organizing a small-group study, listening to the voices of Native peoples. The small groups will use a curriculum resource called On This Spirit Walk, “which offers to its readers the opportunity to hear voices typically drowned out by the dominant culture.” The commitment would be to meet with the same small group (4 to 6 individuals) 4 times during March and April. There would be self study and reflection required to prepare for each session. Topics may include values, worship, justice, and repentance, but there will be an opportunity for each group to set their own direction based on interest areas of the group.

If you are interested, register [HERE](#), and JCART will contact you to create groups and coordinate times.

Talking About Race discussion group

White supremacy and racial prejudice continue to fill the news. You are invited to talk about issues of race at the monthly “Talking About Race” discussion. Articles and podcasts are suggested as homework, then we gather for a discussion on the **fourth Tuesday** of the month at **2 or 7 pm**. This month, on February 23, Peg Wangenstein will lead a conversation on bias—can someone be prejudiced without even knowing it? To receive the homework and Zoom link, contact Peg Wangenstein or Pastor Cindy.

The story of Donald Smith, a Native American boy “adopted” by Immanuel

In 1942, Immanuel’s women’s group, the Loyal Workers, adopted an 8-year-old boy, Donald Smith, who was a member of the Ho-Chunk tribe, referred to as Winnebago at that time. “Adoption” was a type of sponsorship where the women’s group agreed to send him clothing each year. Donald was a student at the Bethany Indian Mission School at Wittenberg, Wisconsin. His family did not live on a reservation but in a community close to the school near many other Native American families. It is easy to imagine that Immanuel’s women’s groups were reaching out to a child in need of support for his educational and spiritual growth.



The Bethany Indian Mission Boarding School in Wittenberg was started in 1884 by the Norwegian American Lutheran Church. It operated as a boarding school for Native American children until 1933, sometimes in partnership with the Federal Government. When the Boarding School closed in 1933, Native children were encouraged to attend nearby public schools. Some families were reluctant to send their children

to public school because their children did not have adequate clothing. The adoption program was started to provide summer and winter clothing to a child, which allowed him or her to attend public school. To maintain eligibility for this adoption program, a Native child had to attend both the public school and the Bethany Summer Lutheran Bible School.

Donald was baptized as an infant in Wittenberg in 1934. His sponsors were Professor and Mrs. Axel Jacobson. Mr. Jacobson had been a teacher and superintendent at Bethany School since 1888 and dedicated his life to the Indian children and their families, doing home visits and providing supplies for families. This outreach was not typical for most government boarding schools. The history of the Bethany Indian Mission School as written by the staff shows much compassion for the Native American students and their families. They actually had a waiting list of families who wanted to send their children to the school.

Immanuel received photos and thank you letters from Donald from 1942 to 1949. After his confirmation at Wittenberg in 1949, there is no record of further contact with him. We know from letters written by Bethany Indian School staff that Donald’s family was very poor and that his life was difficult.

— Ann Derr

THEN AND NOW

In December, JCART presented a virtual lecture on Indian boarding schools created in the late 1800s through federal policy. The policy forced the assimilation of Native Americans into the mainstream U.S. culture by removing Native children from their homes. While they were taught English, reading, arithmetic, and vocational skills, they were also kept away from their families for years, prohibited from speaking their native language, and forbidden any Native spiritual or cultural activities. Significant social and emotional damage occurred.

Indian boarding schools were established in partnership with various Christian denominations including the Lutheran Church. Through our work this year with JCART, Immanuel will be considering how we can engage in repairing relationships with our Native American brothers and sisters. Together we are learning the history of Native Americans to help us understand our colonial history and to better serve God’s vision of healing and justice. When the Norwegian Lutheran Church was debating the possibility of starting an Indian boarding school, they prayed together around the parable of the Mustard Seed. This year in our discernment we are reflecting on the parable of the Good Samaritan.

THANK YOU

Dear Immanuel Friends,

Once again, the 2020 donation to Children's Hospitals and Clinics through Christian's Toy Box was a big success! With so many families falling on hard times during an extraordinary year with the Covid-19 pandemic, your contributions made an even greater impact than usual toward providing care, Christian love, and light to many families with children needing all of that, and more.

We were told by our Child Life Team contact at St. Paul that Christian's Toy Box is one of the top three each year which they look forward to and rely on for supplying wonderful, good quality gifts for their patients during the holidays.

What a tribute that is to all of you who make it so exceptional each year! We are grateful and tremendously thankful for your support of Christian's Toy Box!

God is good!

— The Osen Family



Thank you to everyone who donated Christmas gifts to the Wilder Foundation. The families were very grateful!

— Wilder Child Development Center staff

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Offering envelopes waiting for pickup

2021 offering envelopes have been mailed to those who regularly use them. The rest are awaiting pickup in the hallway outside the administrator's office. Please call the church office (651-699-5560) if you wish to stop and pick yours up (with mask on) during office hours: M–F, 9 am–4 pm. You may also request that we mail you your offering envelope booklet.

Giving From Home

Ministry is still happening, and we need your help. Your financial gift helps us continue to share God's message of hope in new ways. Here are some ways you can give:

Mail a check to the church.

Give online through our website at www.ilcsp.org/give. You can make a one-time gift or set up recurring donations from your checking/saving account or credit card.

If you have questions, please contact Church Administrator Deanna Hesse at 651-699-5560.

COUNCIL UPDATES

January 2021 Council Meeting Summary

In keeping with Minnesota's social distancing guidelines, the meeting took place online. The meeting opened with a reflection on how Christ calls us to follow a singular way. As a community, we should and must follow Jesus' way of love as the way of life for us all.

We continue to be inspired by the generosity of our congregation. Whether it be in offertory pledges, capital campaign pledges, or donations to Wilder and Christian's Toy Box, we show our gratitude for the gifts God has given us by enriching those around us. The finance committee has worked hard on creating a thoughtful budget for the next year, and it will be presented at the annual meeting (January 31 on Zoom). There will also be a budget meeting January 24.

Reopening is at the fore of everyone's mind, and all teams and staff are working to figure out how to start up activities again. While we plan for a return to in-person gatherings, we would like to maintain some of the virtual programming we have been offering this past year. That way we can offer more options for community connections in the future. Based on the recommendations of the Building Reopen Committee, ILC will remain closed through March 27.

The meeting was adjourned and closed with a prayer.

The complete version of official minutes of each Council meeting can be obtained at the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Alquist, Council President, or any Church Council member. The Council meets monthly, usually on the third Tuesday. Meetings are open to the public, and all are welcome. Currently the Church Council is meeting by video conferencing. If you would like to attend, contact any Church Council member.

| Church Council/Team Chairs | | |
|---|---|--|
| Deb Ahlquist , Council President | Ross Robey , Financial Secretary | David Alstead , Worship & Music |
| Paul Mattessich , Past President | Dave Alstead , Asst. Financial Secretary | Gay Bartholic , Stewardship |
| Jeff Schmidt , Vice President | Nick Consoer , Member at Large | Mary Gwen Thompson , Children, Youth & Family |
| Martha Hansen , Secretary | Sue Klevan , Member at Large | Harvey Jaeger , Property |
| Mark Thompson , Treasurer | open , Member at Large | David Hansen , Membership |
| Jackie Hippen , Asst. Treasurer | Lee Bjerke , Finance | Christine Danielson , Social Action |

| Immanuel Staff | | |
|--|--|---|
| Cindy Bullock Pastor cbullock@ilcsp.org | Chris Cherwien Director of Worship & Music ccherwien@ilcsp.org | Julie Lindorff Organist julielindorff@gmail.com |
| Emily King Children & Family Ministry eking@ilcsp.org | Michelle Stillwell Youth & Family Ministry mstillwell@ilcsp.org | Deanna Hesse Church Administrator dhesse@ilcsp.org |