

# The Lutheran Beacon

## Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

304 Spruce St., P.O. Box 466, Tower, MN 55790

April 2022



Happy Spring Immanuel and friends!

This time of year can be most challenging as we have spring fever and want to get outdoors, and yet the weather keeps us indoors. There is hope that spring and summer will come again as we welcome more and more daylight each day, hear the birds chirping and feel the heat in the sun when it shines!

Hope can be deceiving and yet it is hope in which we cling during times of difficulty, tragedy, the changing of seasons, medical tests, and so much more. I have wondered daily what hope the Ukrainians cling to these last five weeks and even what hope the Russians who are suffering at the hand of their "leader" whose selfishness and narcissism is daily killing them as well.

Is our faith deep and strong to offer us a hope that is also deep and strong and enough? What has this Lenten season shown you, taught you, enlightened you about?

I was ready for my ankle to be repaired. I have suffered with pain and the inability to be physically active for a few years now and so I was indeed ready! But I was not really "ready" at all. Not ready mentally or physically and perhaps not even spiritually ready. How does one prepare to be idle, dependent, at the mercy of others help for nearly three months?

It has only been two weeks and while I find myself humbled by the assistance, love and care shown by you, Immanuel, my family and friends, I also find myself frustrated, bored, depressed, inadequate and a lot more. So I cling to the hope of a full recovery. The hope to be able to walk and run again. The hope to be back to full strength to serve alongside all of you, for you and with you. The hope that God is teaching me something in the days I am frustrated as well as in the days I am happy and content.

And then there is the guilt that I am really not suffering or struggling at all. I do not have cancer, I am not hiding in the basement with my family praying the bombs don't find us, I have food and shelter and the love of so many people.

And then God whispers hope and assurance in my ear to not compare, to be still, to accept the things I cannot change and to love myself in the place in which I find myself today and that is enough!

How do we find hope in the midst of pain and suffering whether it be personal, communal or worldly? Where do we turn for such hope and assurance?

We turn to the Lord. We cling to the promises of God who named us and claimed us before we were even born. We find respite and repair in the one who knows suffering more than anyone of ever can or will.

As we look to the end of our Lenten journey and turn our face with Jesus toward his triumphant entry in Jerusalem, we are reminded as we approach Holy week that while the world grows dim as Jesus is hung on the cross left to die.... We know as Easter people that death does not have the last word. We know as Easter people that the light of the world is our hope and assurance and resurrection and salvation are real!

As you prepare your hearts and minds and imaginations for Holy Week and look with hope toward Easter, may you be blessed with assurance, with grace, with love that real and known from our

God who is the true hope of all hope in a world that feels quite broken right now.

Peace this Holy Week and hope to you in the Eastertide!

Pastor Liz



April 4	Richard and Kay Hanson
April 10	Richard and Nancy Wagner
April 14	Daryl and Cheryl Lamppa
April 18	LeRoy and Nancy Forstrom
April 13	Eric and Carol Noberg

### *Happy Birthday*

April 2	Les Hujanen
April 3	Carol Norberg
April 7	Peggy Fry
April 9	Penny Jackson
April 10	Amber Zak
April 11	Zack Cheney
April 11	Hudson Cobby
April 12	Bradley Carlson
April 13	Bennett Mosher
April 14	Terry Mosher
April 15	Harper Cobby
April 15	John Jesme
April 17	James Hanek Jr.
April 17	Richard Hanson
April 17	Vivian Leno
April 17	Donna Frank
April 20	Tayah Stellmah
April 23	Nash Lenci
April 23	Donna Mosher
April 24	Kylee Zobitz
April 25	Gretchan Neimiste
April 28	Art Dale
April 30	Lois Mauslof

### Offering & Attendance

Date	Attendance	Offering
February 27	46	\$ 2,310
March 2 (Ash Wed)	7	\$ 210
March 6	40	\$ 3,035
March 13	54	\$ 2,550
March 20	43	\$ 910
March 27	50	\$ 1,950
Direct Deposit		\$ 2,323
Noisy Offerings-March		\$ 79

#### Income & Expenses

March 2022

Income: \$ 13,640	Expenses: \$ 19,487
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Piano purchases-\$4,652.45 from Memorial Fund  
 Window repair-\$2,133 from Building Fund  
 Frozen pipes-\$900 from general account

March 2021

Income: \$ 12,157	Expenses: \$ 12,078
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### April Volunteers

*We are in need of volunteers-if you are able to help the church, there is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. Thank you.*

#### USHERS

April 3  
 April 10

April 17  
April 24

### **COMMUNION PREP**

April 3  
April 10  
April 17  
April 24

### **LECTORS**

April 3	Cathy Carlson
April 10	Jim Carlson
April 17	Lynn Scott
April 24	Muriel Scott

***We sincerely appreciate our Volunteers!  
Thank you***

## **Council and Meeting**

The council met on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 9 AM. The council motioned to remove mask recommended sign, after-service coffee to be resumed downstairs and communion at the railing to be resumed.

Clavanova (Piano) update-the new piano has been paid in full and is expected to arrive in the next few weeks. Great news!!

Sunday school is steady with 9 in attendance.

Was noted that Pastor Liz will have ankle surgery on March 15<sup>th</sup>, we all want to wish her a speedy recovery.

The next council meeting will be held at 9 AM on Wednesday April 13<sup>th</sup>.

A full copy of the Council Minutes is on file with the church secretary if interested.

## **Here a committee there a committee...**

Did you know that Immanuel has 12+ functioning committees, teams or working groups. Below is a list of our committees and other active groups. Perhaps you have been thinking about getting involved at Immanuel and one of the following would be of interest to you. The list also includes the chairperson or the council liaison that you could contact for more information or meeting dates.

**Audit Committee** – One opening  
**Christian Education** – Pastor Liz or Marit Kringstad  
**Evangelism/Social Ministry** (Gospel Connections) - Angie Gurius or Nancy Wagner  
**Finance Committee** – Cindy Zollar  
**Health Ministry** - Parish Nurse Faye Mobilia  
**Hymn Selection Committee** - MaryBeth  
**Immanuel Women of the ELCA** - Cheryl Lamppa  
**Memorial Committee** – Eric Norberg  
**Personnel Committee**- Eric Norberg or Lynn Scott  
**Property Committee** – Jim Carlson  
**Stewardship** – Pastor Liz  
**Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry** – Need 2 delegates  
**Worship Team** – Pastor Liz or MaryBeth

## **WELCA**

WELCA News for March

The women of Immanuel met on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022

WE CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO DROP YOUR CASH, AND COINS, INTO THE NOISY OFFERING BUCKETS and PENNY JAR. Noisy offering goes towards world hunger. Also the penny fund jar now through the end of April for the hunger coalition in International Falls.

Thistledew camp is a rehabilitation facility, for men. To be a blessing for those residents we are asking for our congregation to write Easter cards with a special message to these men. There is a basket, in the narthex, with cards. You can take cards from the basket, or purchase your own, write an encouraging message and place them in the basket by April 10<sup>th</sup>. The WELCA will take care of the addressing and shipping costs.

Our church is in need of a thorough deep clean. We decided on April 23-30 as the week to clean. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex by April 10<sup>th</sup>. Please help put the sparkle back on our building by using your time and talents to clean. Sign up, supplies are furnished by the church, and clean at your convenience, the week of April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We also decided to start a Toiletry Kit project for convention. We will have the months of April and May to complete, as many as we can, of the below listed items. We will have a basket in the narthex for dropping off your collected items for

this great project. Start collecting now and continue to fill the basket.

Large bottles of Shampoo  
Large bottles of Conditioner  
Large bottles of Lotion  
Deodorants (womens or mens)  
Bars of Soap  
Package of Feminine Pads  
Shaving Creams and Packages of Razors  
Toothpastes  
Combs

(NO HOTEL OR TRAVEL SIZES, all full size)

The Sunshine committee continues with sending cards to remember many who we hold dear. Easter will be another time that a special card is sent. The quilters work each Wednesday and are doing a wonderful job to help warm the heart and body of many throughout the world.

Coffee fellowship has started and there is a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall if you would like to serve.

We would also like to say a huge "thank you" to Lloyd McIntire for all the work he has done in the church. What a blessing.

The monetary gift our WELCA supported in March was the Tower Food Shelf.

We hope to see you at our April 21st meeting. Blessings to all.

## Thursday Book Study

The Thursday Book study group (10 AM) will be starting a new book on April 21st. All are welcome to join our faithful, deep and Spirit filled conversations each week. Come when you can! The book we will be reading next is called If God is Love, Don't Be a Jerk by John Pavlovitz. Pastor Liz will be placing a book order on April 6th if you would like her to order you one please let her or the office know before the 6th.

## Confirmation Classes

Our Confirmation classes for this year will be concluding until Fall with April 27th as our last class time together. The confirmation students will be helping with the Maundy Thursday

worship service and have classes on April 6, 20 & 27th.

## Holy Week Worship Opportunities

**Sunday, April 10th** is Palm Sunday with worship at 10AM as usual. **Thursday, April 14th** Maundy Thursday worship at Immanuel 6PM. Good Friday Tenebrae worship with the Community Choir at St. James at 7pm **Friday, April 15th**. Hope you can join us this Holy Week. All services will be live streamed on Immanuel's Facebook page.

## Parish Health Ministry

Our Parish Health Ministry cabinet members are the following and can be contacted with any suggestions for the health ministry. If any of you have family or friends that the ministry may be able to assist in some way, please do not hesitate to contact any of these cabinet members:

- \* Cathy Carson 753-3885
- \* Muriel Scott 410-4543
- \* Barbara Rinne 753-2091
- \* Kay Hanson 218-248-0198
- \* Shelly Padgett 228-780-3192
- \* Ilene Rice 719-331-3447
- \* Faye Mobilia, Parish Nurse 753-6708
- \* Marit Kringstad, Council representative 1-612-280-9195

Please note there is a Resource Book/Binder in the church office for your convenience.

## ADVANCE CARE PLANNING-FREE ONLINE CLASSES

What if a sudden illness or injury left you unable to speak for yourself? Who would you want to speak for you? What would you want them to know about your values and wishes?

Join us at one of our free online webinars for a thought-provoking conversation to help make your wishes known as well as:

- Learn vocabulary
- Reflect on your values
- Explore goals for treatment
- Choose a healthcare agent
- Take steps towards completing a healthcare directive

To register for one of the upcoming virtual classes, please visit our website: [www.essentiahealth.org](http://www.essentiahealth.org)

- Click on "Classes & Events"
- Select "Advance Care Planning"
- Click "Advance Care Planning Online Classes" and choose one of the upcoming classes:

Wednesday, April 13, 2022 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

or Tuesday May 3, 2022 9:00 AM-10:00 AM

## Quilting

The Immanuel Quilters continue to meet every Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall. We start around 9 am and work on quilt projects until coffee break time and wrap up around noon.

During our time together we do a lot of talking, laughing and learning from each other. So even if you know nothing about quilting, we are more than willing to show you how we do it. We are always looking for new friends with new ideas. Come and have fun with us.

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Penny Jackson at 651-238-3732 (leave a message and I will return your call) or just show up and join the fun!

## Contact Us

Church Office: 753-2378  
[ielctower@gmail.com](mailto:ielctower@gmail.com)  
[www.towerlutheran.com](http://www.towerlutheran.com)  
[www.facebook.com/ImmanuelTower](http://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelTower)

### OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 – 1:00

### STAFF

**Pastor:** Rev. Liz Cheney  
**Office Manager:** Donna Frank  
**Minister of Music:** MaryBeth Reller  
**Custodian:** James Urick

## Ecumenical Good Friday Worship

You are invited to join with the Tower-Soudan ministerial and the Tower-Soudan Area Singers for a "Service of Darkness" by Hal Hopson on Friday, April 15th at 7:00 pm at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower. This Tenebrae service is appropriate for Good Friday as it takes us through the final hours of

Christ's life through song, scriptures, readings and prayer. Candles are extinguished throughout the service that portray the diminishing light of the world as Christ died on the cross. We invite you, the communities, our neighbors and friends, to join us on Friday, April 15th for this moving Good Friday service.

## Members Who Are Homebound

**Jim Charles** (Birthday May 5)  
4559 Shoreline Drive, Apt #406  
Spring Park, MN 5584

**Carol and Bob Burgess**  
705 17<sup>th</sup> St. N. Apt #304  
Virginia, MN 55792

**Ron Hujanen** (Birthday November 25)  
Cook Hospital & Nursing Home Room S-204  
10 5<sup>th</sup> St. S.E.  
Cook, MN 55723

**Tim Rice** (Birthday March 11)  
Edgewood Vista  
705 17<sup>th</sup> St  
Virginia, MN 55792

**Eileen Swanson** (Birthday July 11)  
Vermilion Senior Living  
Tower, MN 55790

**Ralph Christopherson** (January 16)  
Edgewood Vista  
705 17<sup>th</sup> St.  
Virginia, MN 55792

## Scripture readings for the month of April

### April 3

Isaiah 43:16-21  
Psalms 126  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
John 12:1-8

### April 10

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Luke 22:14-23:56

### April 17

Acts 10:34-43  
Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15:19-26  
Luke 24:1-12

### April 24

Acts 5:27-32  
Psalms 118:14-29  
Revelations 1:4-8  
John 20:19-31



304 Spruce St.  
PO Box 466  
Tower, MN 55790



IMMANUEL

CARE. SHARE. WELCOME. ELCA.

**In Person Worship** 10:00 am Sunday with Holy Communion  
Find us online:  
**Facebook:** Immanuel Lutheran Church of Tower

**Contact Pastor Liz Cheney at**  
218-780-8907  
[lizcheney44@gmail.com](mailto:lizcheney44@gmail.com) (personal & private)  
[ielctower@gmail.com](mailto:ielctower@gmail.com) (public)