

The Lutheran Beacon

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

March 2022



Dear friends,

As we approach Lent and Ash Wednesday is just a few days away (March 2), I share with you a short reflection and poem from a favorite poet, artist and theologian of mine... Jan Richardson.

Let me hear joy and gladness.
—Psalm 51.8

It is a strange anointing, this cross that comes to mark us as Lent begins. Ashes, dust, dirt: the stuff we walk upon, that we sweep away, that we work to get rid of, now comes to remind us who we are, where we are from, where we are bound.

How terrible. And how marvelous, that God should feel so tender toward the dust as to create us from it, and return us to it, breathing through us all the while. Even after releasing us from the blessed dust at the last, God continues to breathe us toward whatever it is we are becoming.

Blessing the Dust *A Blessing for Ash Wednesday*

All those days
you felt like dust,
like dirt,
as if all you had to do
was turn your face
toward the wind

and be scattered
to the four corners

or swept away
by the smallest breath
as insubstantial—

Did you not know
what the Holy One
can do with dust?

This is the day
we freely say
we are scorched.

This is the hour
we are marked
by what has made it
through the burning.

This is the moment
we ask for the blessing
that lives within
the ancient ashes,
that makes its home
inside the soil of
this sacred earth.

So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.
Let us be marked
not for false humility
or for thinking
we are less
than we are

but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made,
and the stars that blaze
in our bones,

and the galaxies that spiral
inside the smudge
we bear.

-Jan Richardson

May your Lenten journey be marked by truth telling
and claiming what God can do with your dust!

Blessings,
Pastor Liz



- 2 Curtis and Sheila Barsness
- 7 Mr. and Mrs. Joan Lamppa
- 28 Arne and Phyllis Hall



Happy Birthday

- 1 Steven Burgess
- 2 Judith Majerie
- 3 Dan Mobilia
- 9 Muriel Scott
- 10 Aaron Mayo
- 11 Aaron Niemiste
- 11 Timothy Rice
- 12 Clint Hughes
- 15 LeRoy Forstrom
- 15 Ella Visger
- 16 Jessi Zobitz
- 16 Faye Mobilia
- 21 Edith Eidelbes
- 21 Brielle Hujanen
- 28 Corliss Bremer
- 31 Michael Anderson

Offering & Attendance

Date	Attendance	Offering
January 30	33	\$ 2,365
February 6	46	\$ 1,895
February 13	33	\$ 1,365
February 20	38	\$ 1,430
February 27	not recorded until March 1, 2022	
Direct Deposit		\$ 1,565

Income & Expenses

February 2022

Income: \$11,818 Expenses: \$12,545

*income includes annual contribution of \$2,500 as well as Parsonage payment of \$500

February 2021

Income: \$10,352 Expenses: \$7,887

March 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

- March 6
- March 13
- March 20
- March 27

COMMUNION PREP

- March 6 Nancy Wagner and Shelley Padgett
- March 13 Nancy Wagner and Shelley Padgett
- March 20 Nancy Wagner and Shelley Padgett
- March 27 Nancy Wagner and Shelley Padgett

LECTORS

March 6	Faye Mobilia
March 13	Laurie Anderson
March 20	Rolf Anderson
March 27	Elaine McGillivray

*We sincerely appreciate our Volunteers!
Thank you*



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday March 13th, yes Spring is on the way!!

Council and Finance Meeting

The first council meeting of the year was held on February 9th, 2022. Eric Norberg was elected as the new President, Jim Carlson was elected as the Vice President. Lynn Scott was elected as Secretary and Cindy Zollar was elected as Treasurer.

The Pastors report consisted of three funerals, fifteen plus member visits. Pastor Liz will be attending ELCA Network Extravaganza in Minneapolis February 11-14th. Sunday School remains steady with 9 in attendance.

The next council meeting will be held at 9 AM March 9th, this meeting will be via Zoom.

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

2022 Church Council

President – Eric Norberg
Vice-President – Jim Carlson
Secretary – Lynn Scott
Treasurer – Cindy Zollar
Angie Gurius
Marit Kringstad
Nancy Wagner

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 -
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



World Day of Prayer March 4th, 2022

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join them in prayer and action

for peace and justice. World Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March.

The theme in 2022 is taken from Jeremiah 29:11. For I know the plans I have for you, "declares the Lord," plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

In review, in Hebrew, PROSPERITY is shalom (which means peace). Peace brings completeness, wholeness, harmony, and fulfillment in our relationship with God and others.

Please consider taking time, from 12:00-1:00, or anytime that day, to come before God, in prayer, for our world to bring spiritual healing, fellowship, understanding, and action.

Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

E C C L E S I A S T E S 3 : 2 0

Ash Wednesday March 2, 2022

Ash Wednesday worship with imposition of ashes and Holy Communion will be held at 4:00 p.m. Worship will be live streamed on Facebook Live as well.

For those not comfortable attending worship in person quite yet, but would like to receive Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes, Pastor Liz will be available in the sanctuary March 2nd from 10:30 – 12:30 come and go as you wish.

Mid-Week Lenten Services

Wednesday, mid-week Lenten worship, will be pre-recorded and made available each Wednesday of Lent on Immanuel's Facebook page as well as on YouTube.

The sanctuary will also be open and available each Wednesday during Lent from 10 – 1 for meditation, personal prayer time or prayer with the use of written prayers of intercession.

Faith Stories.... What's yours?

We all have a story to tell. We are all part of God's story. And all too often our faith story and God's story meet at a crossroads somewhere along the way. Sometimes that crossroads is in the form of a lightning bolt, or a summer storm, maybe a blizzard, or perhaps you were born into that crossroads and you've always walked the road less traveled. However your faith has seen you through to this place it is precisely where you are to be. This all leads me to this question:

Would you be willing to share a bit of your story, your faith story with us this Lenten season? 3-5 minutes of sharing any piece of your story you would like. Not sure where to start? How about by answering these questions:

Did you grow up attending worship? Which denomination or church? Do you remember your baptism or confirmation? Who has been a faith mentor in your life? How do you live out your faith?

If you would be willing to share a part of your story with us, please see Pastor Liz. These stories would be recorded and then used as part of our mid-week worship services each week. So ultimately we are looking for 6 people. You can record yourself at home or Pastor Liz will meet with you and record you at the church.

WELCA

WELCA News for February

The women of Immanuel met on Thursday, February 17th at 2:00 p.m.

There was a short devotion and reports from the secretary and treasurer.

The quilters are busy and are such a blessing.

The sunshine committee continues to reach out with cards.

The spring gathering will be held on April 23rd in International Falls. Our penny jar collection will be brought at that time to help support the hunger coalition in International Falls. PLEASE FILL THAT PENNY JAR OVER THE NEXT TWO MONTHS.

WE ALSO WANT TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO DROP YOUR CASH, AND COINS, INTO THE NOISY OFFERING BUCKETS. This collection goes towards world hunger.

It was approved to allow up to \$200 for Easter gifts for the residents of Katherines House. We will also send cards to the residents of Thistledeew Camp at Easter. It was also approved to send a \$100 gift to LSS for the homeless in Duluth.

Our church is in need of a thorough deep clean. We decided on late April so that we can clean windows, as well as, the interior church. We will either be calling for your help, or putting out a sign up sheet for areas. Watch March's and April's newsletters for details.

We also decided to start a Toiletry Kit project for convention. We will have the months of March, 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)

Thank you for contributing to this kit and your consideration to become a part of WELCA. A vital part to the foundation of the church.

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.

Quilting

The Immanuel quilters are meeting every Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00-11:00. This group of wonderful women enjoy assembling large pieces of fabric into beautiful quilts. Almost all the fabric and supplies have been and continue to be donated for this project. We truly appreciate your donations.

If you are interested in joining or finding out more about us, please contact Penny Jackson at 651-238-3732 (if no answer please leave a message).

Contact Us

Church Office: 753-2378

ielctower@gmail.com

www.towerlutheran.com

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

Members Who Are Homebound

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

Carol and Bob Burgess
705 17th St. N. Apt #304
Virginia, MN 55792

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

Tim Rice (Birthday March 11)
Edgewood Vista
705 17th St
Virginia, MN 55792

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

Ralph Christopherson (January 16)
Edgewood Vista
705 17th St.
Virginia, MN 55792

Scripture readings for the month of March

March 2 Ash Wednesday

Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 6

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
12,17-18
Psalm 91:1-2,9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

March 20

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

March 13

Genesis 15:1-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

March 27

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

304 Spruce St.
PO Box 466
Tower, MN 55790



In Person Worship 10:00 am Sunday with Holy Communion
Find us online:
Facebook: Immanuel Lutheran Church of Tower
Website: www.towerlutheran.com

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



IMMANUEL
CARE. SHARE. WELCOME. ELCA.

