

Immanuelite

Parish Newsletter of
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Mediapolis, IA

“Praising God and Serving People”

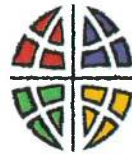
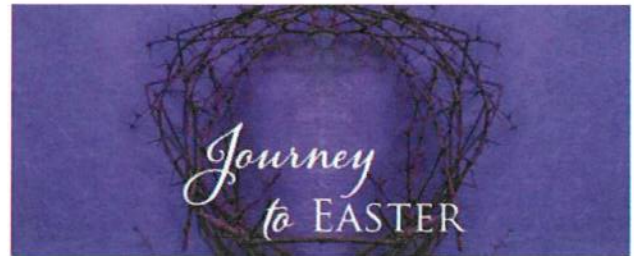
Issue: March 2023

Phone #: 319-394-3600

Email: Immanuel@Mepotelco.net

Website: <https://www.immanuelmepo.org>

Like us on: Facebook



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

March Happenings

Table of Contents

- March Happenings.....Pg. 1, 3
- Birthdays/Anniversaries....Pg. 3
- Calendar.....Pg. 6
- Pastor's Ponderings.....Pg. 2
- Stewardship.....Pg. 4
- Worship Notes.....Pg. 4
- Youth activities.....Pg. 5



"I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words" PSALM 17:6

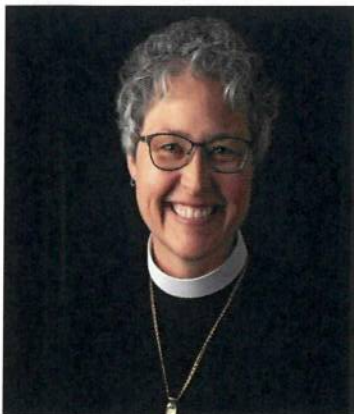
Additional Ways to Give

Checks or money orders can be sent to:

Lutheran Disaster Response
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Give by phone at 800-638-3522 or online.

disaster@elca.org



Bishop Amy Current
of the Southeastern
Iowa Synod will be
celebrating
Palm Sunday, April 2
with us
at 10:30am
at Immanuel Lutheran
Church, Mediapolis

Dear friends, This week we woke to the news that two powerful earthquakes had hit Turkey and significantly impacted neighboring Syria. The first was a magnitude 7.8 earthquake in south central Turkey, followed hours later by a magnitude 7.5 quake in the southeastern part of the country. The two quakes have devastated Turkey and Syria, collapsing thousands of buildings and damaging infrastructure. Over 2,000 people have been killed and thousands more have been injured, yet search-and-rescue efforts are only in the early stages. A cold and snowy weather system now moving through the region complicates the response efforts.

Lutheran Disaster Response and its partners are prepared to accompany our neighbors impacted by these earthquakes. One hundred percent of your gifts to "Middle East Crisis" go to supporting earthquake survivors and other people affected by disasters in the region.

Lutheran Disaster Response has been active in this region for several years, partnering with ACT Alliance, the Lutheran World Federation and the Middle East Council of Churches to accompany Syrian refugees and internally displaced people with food, water, shelter, health services and sanitation support. The epicenter of one earthquake lies near Turkish provinces that host hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees, which will only exacerbate the refugee crisis in the region.

Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to supporting ACT Alliance and other partners in responding to these earthquakes. Even as the sun was rising on the first earthquake, ACT Alliance member organizations began distributing emergency supplies, including medicines, bedding and other relief items. A comprehensive response will be coordinated as the full extent of the impact becomes clearer.

The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



FROM OUT OF THE BLUE!!
 A call to be the Chaplain of Clallam Bay Correction Center in Pacific Northwest Washington State! I was volunteer clergy there 10 years before coming to Iowa. Back to mountains and beaches and family! I report Tuesday March 21.

Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6 Faith's response to anxiety...

PRAYER... Thank you all for praying with us to discern God's will! And now we pray for safe winter travel across 5 states, preaching resources for Immanuel, and the joy and victory of Easter for us all! In God's love...!

PETITION... May our mutual Lenten worship with Pastor Jon Evans and the Presbyterians be fulfilling. May God's peace and wisdom guide us through this transition! May the roads west be clear. May our paths cross again and our love stay vibrant!

THANKSGIVING... You have brought peace and healing into Nancy and my life and welcomed us into your hearts and families. This Chaplaincy may allow me to close off my Prison Ministry on a fulfilling positive note as you did my Parish ministry! Thank you!

LENT 2023 continues our year-long LOVE theme: **LOVE WINS!** A controversial book by **ROB BELL** and 24 videos in his Nooma series that can be accessed at home by googling "Rob Bell Nooma #1,Rain." Find a YouTube video that's between 10 and 15 minutes long—1 minute long ones are trailers. Below are the titles. Soup at 6, Service at 7pm Wednesdays March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. Bless your shared Easter preparation!

- 001 | Rain: "Things don't always work out the way we want them to."
- 002 | Flame: "What's up with the word love?"
- 003 | Trees: "Do our lives really matter?"
- 004 | Sunday: "Why do we do the things we do?"
- 005 | Noise: "Why is silence so hard to deal with?"
- 006 | Kickball: "Why can't we always have what we want?"
- 007 | Luggage: "It isn't always easy to forgive."
- 008 | Dust: "Does God believe in us?"
- 009 | Bullhorn: "Can we separate loving God and loving others?"
- 010 | Lump: "A lot of us have done things in our lives we are ashamed of."
- 011 | Rhythm: "What does it mean to have a relationship with God?"
- 012 | Matthew: "Suffering the loss of someone we love can be the most difficult thing in life to deal with."
- 013 | Rich: "Maybe God has blessed us with everything we have so we can bless and give to others."
- 014 | Breathe: "Our physical breath is actually a picture of a deeper spiritual reality."

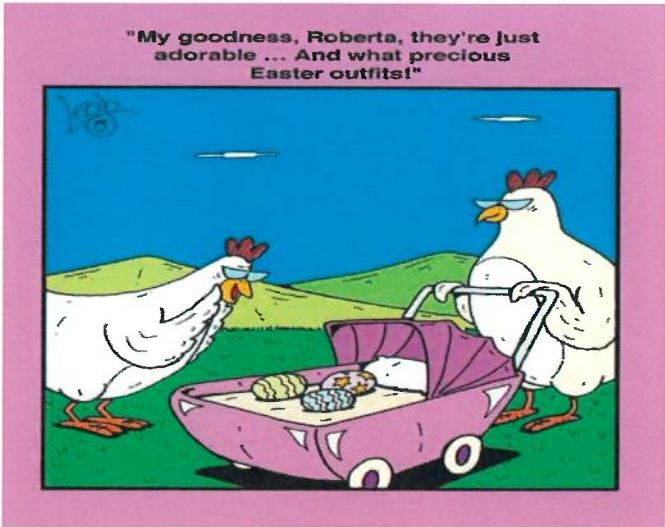
- 015 | You: "Some of the central claims of the Christian faith are the source of many discussions and heated debates. But are we always debating the right things?"
- 016 | Store: "We all get angry about things from time to time."
- 017 | Today: "How much time and energy do we spend wishing things were how they used to be?"
- 018 | Name: "Why are we so concerned with what other people think, say, or look like?"
- 019 | Open: "What if there's more to prayer than just God listening and answering?"
- 020 | Shells: "What are we really doing with our time?"
- 021 | She: "When we omit the feminine, are we missing a very fundamental part of God's nature?"
- 022 | Tomato: "Do we try so hard to live the perfect life that we miss out on how to truly live?"
- 023 | Corner: "Why is it that often when we get what we want, we still feel empty?"
- 024 | Whirlwind: "What do we do when there aren't nice, neat answers?"

Holy Week begins with **PALM SUNDAY**, April 2nd led by Bishop Amy Carrant, **Maundy Thursday** at Mepo Methodist with a living Last Supper, and **Good Friday** with the Presbyterians—all at 7pm. *May the LORD bless you and protect you. May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you. May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.* (NLT) Nancy and I love each one of you dearly and will miss you and hold you in our prayers! With His winning love, Pastor Jerry.

March Happenings



**NO WELCA
in March**



Thank You

From: Savanna Wahlers
To: My Sisters and Brothers
at Immanuel Lutheran
Church


Thank you for remembering
my baptism! Sorry I haven't
written until now, the days have been getting away
from me. But I pray happy days for all of you!

How lucky I am
to have something
that makes saying goodbye
so hard.

- A.A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh

*Thank you for making us a part
of your family here at
Immanuel! Your support and
love are gifts that I will treasure
for the rest of my life. My heart
is breaking to think that I might
not see some of you again for
awhile, but I will keep you in my
heart forever.*

God be with you till we meet again! All my Love, Nancy



Praying for Konnor,
Alexia, Brynn, Emma,
Jaxon, Charlie and
Konnor Jr. as the family
continues to support
Konnor as he continues
treatments for
his cancer.



Wrestling
Cheerleaders:
Brooklyn Fenton
Lauren Detken
Kenzie West
Photo by: Mediapolis News

Book Corner

Easter Love Letters from God, Updated Edition: Bible Stories by Glenys Nellist Are you looking for a way to teach your child about Holy Week and Easter? What if your child could also read a personal letter from God to make the lessons come alive? *Easter Love Letters from God: Updated Edition*, contains seven beautifully illustrated Bible stories, each accompanied by a special Bible verse and an encouraging letter to your child.

Easter Love Letters from God is part of the *Love Letters from God* series written by Glenys Nellist. Unique features include:

- Seven letters from God
- Endearing text that applies each Easter story directly to your child's life and helps grow their faith
- Gorgeous, bright illustrations by Sophie Allsopp
- The wondrous stories leading up to Jesus's resurrection on Easter Sunday
- is perfect for ages 4-8
- is great for Easter baskets or as an addition to your child's home library.

Easter Stories: Classic Tales for the Holy Season Everyone who believes Easter is about more than bunnies and eggs will be grateful for this new collection of short stories that shed light on the deeper meaning of the season. Selected for their spiritual value and literary quality, these classic tales capture the spirit of Easter in a way that will captivate readers of all ages. Parents and grandparents will find that children love to hear these stories read aloud, year after year. *Easter Stories* includes time-honored favorites from world-famous storytellers such as C.S. Lewis, Leo Tolstoy, Selma Lagerlof, Oscar Wilde, Elizabeth Goudge, Maxim Gorky, Ruth Sawyer, and Walter Wangerin as well as many you've never heard before. Illustrated with original woodcuts."

Worship/Stewardship

Hymns for March

3/5—Second Sunday in Lent

Gathering – Lift High the Cross ELW #660
 Sermon – How Firm A Foundation ELW #796
 Sending – All Who Believe and Are Baptized ELW #442

3/12— Third Sunday in Lent

Gathering-Come ,Thou Fount of Every Blessing ELW #807
 Sermon – As the Deer Runs to the River ELW #331
 Sending – Guide me Ever, Great Redeemer ELW #618

3/19—Fourth Sunday in Lent

Gathering-Dearest Jesus, at Your Word ELW #520
 Sermon- Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound ELW #779
 Sending - Be Thou My Vision ELW #793

3/26 — Fifth Sunday in Lent

Gathering - What Wondrous Love is This ELW #666
 Sermon- Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing ELW #886
 Sending- Beneath the Cross of Jesus ELW #338

March Collection

The Mediapolis food Pantry

Food Items	Non Food Items
Peanut Butter	Paper towels
Jelly	Toilet Paper
Boxed meals	Facial Tissue
Caned meats	Dish Soap (Dawn)
Tuna fish	Laundry Detergent
Soups	
Canned fruit	
Canned Vegetables	
Macaroni & Cheese	
Baked Beans	
Cereal Pancake mixes	
Pancake Syrup	
Most kinds of food	

Dear Friends in Christ,
 Greetings from Frankfurt am Main! As you may know, Frankfurt is celebrating the 175th anniversary of the historic St. Paul's Church Assembly this year, which recalls the beginning of democracy in Germany! Many activities are being planned to commemorate the groundbreaking democratic movement of 1848/49! <http://www.frankfurt-tourismus.de/en/Discover-Experience/Art-and-Culture/Democracy> Through the years, I have discovered that a number of St. Paul's Churches in the U.S. – particularly those founded by German immigrants during the middle of the 19th century – were named after the “mother church” in Frankfurt. Our own “St. Paulsgemeinde” in Frankfurt am Main would be most interested in learning whether there might be a direct connection between “our” St. Paul's Church here in Frankfurt and your St. Paul's Church on the other side of the Atlantic. As you may know, the democratic movement in this part of God's world led countless people to leave Old Germany in search of greater freedom and opportunity. Many of these people, who were referred to as the “Forty-Eighters”, came to the United States to begin a new life; some of them started new churches along the way. Though badly damaged in World War II, the St. Paul's Church in Frankfurt was rebuilt after the war and is used today for special civic and cultural events, and as a memorial to the history of German democracy. Our own congregation – still called the St. Paulsgemeinde – has been at home in the neighboring “Alte Nikolaikirche am Römerberg” since 1949 (<http://www.paulsgemeinde.de>). During the past years, we have discovered other churches, e.g. the St. Paul's Church (UCC) in Belleville, Illinois, which trace their historic roots directly to the “Paulskirche” in Frankfurt. Perhaps your church is among them? Should you have more detailed information re: the beginnings of your church in connection with the Paulskirche/Frankfurt, we would be most interested in learning more about this shared history. “Vielen Dank” in advance! With best wishes for your ministry and God's gracious leading for the new year at hand –

Jeffrey Myers

P.S. I am an American pastor – originally from Kansas City, and still a member of Philadelphia Presbytery. Now retired, I served the German-speaking St. Paul's congregation (evangelisch / Lutheran) in Frankfurt for over 20 years. Pfarrer Dr. Jeffrey Myers Saalgasse 17 60311 Frankfurt am Main GERMANY <mailto:Jeffrey.myers@ekhn.de>



During the Lenten Season every
 Wednesday in March 1,8,15,22,29
 6pm for Soup Worship at 7pm



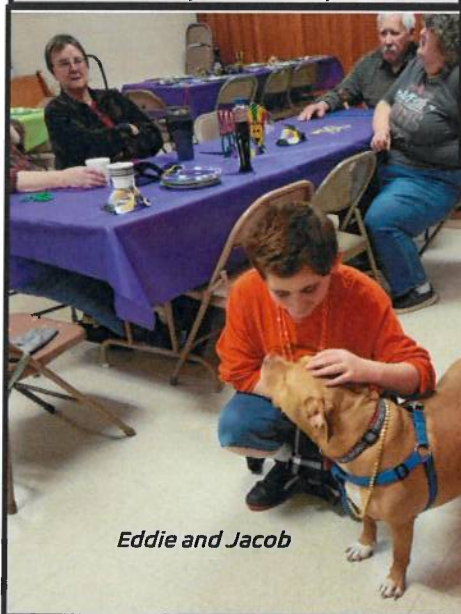
Youth Activities

March M CYG schedule:

3/1/2023	6:15pm-7:45pm	Wednesday	JH M CYG @ Presbyterian Church HS MYCG @ Presbyterian Church
3/8/2023	6:15pm-7:45pm	Wednesday	JH M CYG @ Presbyterian Church HS MYCG @ Presbyterian Church
3/10/2023	7pm-9pm	Friday	M CYG Game Night (Board or card games) @ the Lounge
3/15/2023	6:15pm-7:45pm	Wednesday	JH M CYG @ Presbyterian Church HS MYCG @ Presbyterian Church
3/22/2023	6:15pm-7:45pm 8pm-9:30pm	Wednesday	JH M CYG @ Presbyterian Church HS MYCG @ Presbyterian Church
3/29/2023	6:15pm-7:45pm 8pm-9:30pm	Wednesday	JH M CYG @ Presbyterian Church HS MYCG @ Presbyterian Church

First of all, THANK YOU, to all who came out for our Soup Supper Fundraiser. Thanks to you 14 of the mission trip attendees each got \$55 taken off of their total. These students did a great job of serving! We are looking forward to seeing them in action this summer and also seeing how God will grow them. If you were unable to come to one of our fundraisers but would still like to support one of the students, please contact me at MediapolisCommunityYouthGroup@gmail.com. We have several students that are not yet fully funded that would appreciate your support. In His service, Jenny McGhee, M CYG Director

To Immanuel From: JACOB MULLINS
thank you for
 your love
 your support
 your generosity
 Shrove Tuesday on Saturday Pancakes



Eddie and Jacob



King Sean







ELCA National Youth Gathering

2024

New Orleans
ELCA YOUTH GATHERING
JULY 16-20, 2024

MARCH

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 JH MCVG 6:15pm Presbyterian Church HS MCVG 8pm Presbyterian Church Soup 6pm Worship 7pm 	2	3	4
5 2nd Sunday in Lent 9am Sunday School 10:30am-Worship/ Communion	6	7	8 JH MCVG 6:15pm Presbyterian Church HS MCVG 8pm Presbyterian Church Soup 6pm Worship 7pm 	9	10	11
12 3rd Sunday in Lent  Council Mtg 8 am 9am Sunday School 10:30am-Worship	13	14	15 JH MCVG 6:15pm Presbyterian Church HS MCVG 8pm Presbyterian Church Soup 6pm Worship 7pm 	16	17	18
19 4th Sunday in Lent 12 pm- Mepo Ministerial 9am Sunday School 10:30am-Worship/ Communion	20	21	22 JH MCVG 6:15pm Presbyterian Church HS MCVG 8pm Presbyterian Church Soup 6pm Worship 7pm 	23	24	25
26 5th Sunday in Lent 9am Sunday School 10:30am-Worship	27	28	29 JH MCVG 6:15pm Presbyterian Church HS MCVG 8pm Presbyterian Church Soup 6pm Worship 7pm 	30	31	

© BlankCalendarPages.com

Helpers for March

Asst. Minister- Lori LaFayette Lector-Carolyn Gerling
 Communion Prep-Angie Kline Altar Guild- Carolyn Gerling & Kathy Gerling
 Greeter-Kathy Gerling Usher-Kathy Erickson