

Quarterly Caller 2024 *February, March & April Issue*

Lent -- It Takes Your Breath Away!

Some events can only take your breath away as you marvel at the implications and consequences of those events. Such is the case when we consider the true meaning and repercussions of the great love that God has for us in Good Friday and Easter Sunday. That is the purpose of Lent.

We begin the Lent journey on Ash Wednesday (February 14th, Valentines Day). We gather together for worship to remember how the life of the Child born on Christmas turned out. He died on the cross for our sins, which we commemorate with ashes upon our forehead – ashes that symbolize our sin, the death sin brings, and the grief that settles upon our souls as the result. But we do not stay there. We remember with joy the wonder of new life found in the resurrection of Jesus – a resurrection victory shared in the Sacrament of Holy Communion through forgiveness of sin.

And then the journey continues. Each week we explore a new aspect, a new insight, a new detail that flows from the implications and consequences of the events of Good Friday and Easter. It is an old, old story. Yet there is something ever new, ever more profound, ever more hopeful for us as we remember and share with each other.

The Lent journey comes to a staggering climax in a three-part worship experience from Maundy Thursday through Easter Sunday, a worship event with a classic three-part structure. Maundy Thursday ends with a hopeful start as the church celebrates a meal established by Jesus that has been continuously celebrated ever since. Then comes the subdued and overwhelming end of the second part – Jesus dies on a cross and is buried, presumably having lost all. Yet there is an air of hope as Jesus proclaims in a cry of victory, "It is finished!" We celebrate what He finished on Easter morning – when we sing of the end of sin's reign of terror, the demise of Satan, and the upending of death through the resurrection of the Son of God.

Lent is a special time of the year for you. A time to repent. A time to grow. A time to recharge. It is a time for self-examination. A time for honesty. A time for a renewed start. It is a time filled with peace in the cross, forgiveness in the nail-scarred hands of the Savior, and life through an empty grave. The Lent journey is your time with God and with His church.

Christ's richest blessings to you!!!
Pastor Reed

ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING, SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024 @10:30 am
IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, BROWNTON, MN

67 members present.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Mathwig.

Pastor Reed opened the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting agenda was approved, MMSC to accept.

New Business:

The church officers' ballot was distributed and approved, MMSC to accept.

Officers elected are Treasurer Apprentice-Angie Radke, Deacons-Joe Schuch and Jerry Zaske, Assistant to Head Usher- Ryan Zimmerman, Trustee-Myron Schuette, Cemetery Board-Doug Schuette, Financial Secretaries-Barb Zaske, Carol Graupmann, Diana Klabunde, Board of Education-Brittany Glaeser.

The salary adjustment ballot for church staff was distributed and approved, MMSC to accept. The congregation voted to raise the Pastor's salary by 5%. The Preschool teacher, church Secretary, and custodian salaries will increase by 3%.

The Secretary's minutes from October 22, 2023, written by Kathy Nordby, were distributed, and reviewed. The minutes were approved, MMSC to accept.

The Treasurer's report was given by Janel Zimmerman. It can be found on pages 3-4 of the Annual Report. There was discussion about our offering envelopes. Those members who use the online giving option would like to discontinue using the paper envelopes.

The Treasurer's report was MMSC to accept.

The Trust Fund Treasurer's report was given by Lori Cacka. The report is on pages 4-5 of the Annual Report. There were 2 CDs that were due on December 1 and were moved to the Security and Trust Bank of Brownton, the other was moved to the Lutheran Church Extension fund.

The report was approved, MMSC to accept.

The Board of Deacons report was given by Pastor Reed. It is found on page 1-2 of the Annual Report.

Membership changes are Carolyn Westphal transferring to Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Paul, MN.

KDUZ radio station has extended an invitation to sponsor a broadcast of the Lutheran Hour to our church and our members. It is \$96.00 a program, broadcast on Sunday mornings at 9:00. The Deacon's report was approved, MMSC to accept.

The Board of Trustees report was given by Dave Geier. The Trustees report on building projects is listed on page 6 of the Annual Report. On-going and future projects include Skylight in the Narthex needs repair or replacement, wiring of the church lights, wireless smoke detectors, water softener, roof repair on parsonage, and the removal of a pew for better handicapped accessibility. This report was accepted, MMSC to approve.

The Board of Education report was given by Brittney Buxcel. The report can be found on page 7 of the Annual report. The report highlights Sunday school classes, Vacation Bible School, the Christmas program, and activities throughout the year of 2023. The report was approved, MMSC to accept.

The Audit Committee report was given by Kay Husfeldt. All records are complete and correct. MMSC to approve the report.

The Noah's Ark Preschool report was given by teacher Vicki Herrmann. The report is found on page 8 of the Annual report. Currently there are 22 students enrolled. The biggest highlight of the year was the Outdoor Classroom addition. Many thanks for the financial support from Orville and Lucille Rickert, and thanks to Zak Fahey and volunteers for installing the fence.

Registration for next year will begin soon. Donations for the Big-Ticket Raffle are being accepted now, and a reminder to use your Thrivent actions cards if you are a Thrivent member.

The Preschool report was accepted, MMSC to approve.

Old Business:

1. The new pew cushions have been installed, with more cushions to be ordered, so that the project can be completed.
2. An organ repair update was given by Alan Buckentin. The Century Organ Company is behind schedule, so the start date for repair is delayed.

3. There was discussion concerning the Immanuel Youth Group, and how to revive this group and keep it active.

New Business: (continued)

1. The Ladies Aid is replacing the dining tables in the church basement. There was a discussion on what to do with the old tables, sell, donate, or give away.
2. The summer park church service is planned for July 10, 2024, at 6:30pm.
3. The Congregational Mission Intent form needs to be completed. It was decided to give \$10,000 to Missions this year: \$7,000 to the Synod and \$3,000 to Noah's Ark Preschool. This decision was approved, MMSC accepted.
4. Doug Fegley, member of the Nominating Committee, reported on different options of how to fill the church's officer's positions. Possibilities are having people volunteer themselves or simply asking them to hold an office. The present process is costly and time-consuming.
5. There was a motion to destroy all ballots from the officer's election and the salary adjustment voting, MMSC to approve.

There was a recess of the Voters meeting for the Cemetery Board meeting. Chairman Kevin Nordby opened the meeting. The Cemetery Board report is on page 9 of the Annual report. It was reported that the CDs have been renewed. LuVerne Becker will continue to be the cemetery's caretaker this year. The Cemetery Board meeting was adjourned.

There was a motion to reopen the Voters meeting. MMSC to accept.

There was no further business. Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting. Pastor Reed closed with a prayer and the table prayer. A potluck dinner, with chicken was served in the church basement.

Respectfully submitted, Secretary, Kathy Nordby



LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article

Caring for My Neighbor

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, “you shall not murder,” goes much deeper — down to the heart.

You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21–22)

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every “do not” in the commandments also includes a “do this:” “We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need” (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So, when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church's work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church's alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR CHURCH OFFICE

I will be writing a Newsletter for the caller on what's going on here in the church office. It's a good way to let everyone know of all the changes that will be coming to my role and any new changes in the office.

Let's start off with Thank you's. To the Deacon's for all the support they have given me in my 1st year as the Church Office Manager. To Julie Ziemann for making my transition a smooth one so coming into this position she had everything set up and ready for me to take over. To Diane Harbarth for helping me when I asked for help. You have a lot of knowledge to give out so thank you. To Janel Zimmerman for all your guidance during the past year. You kept me on my toes, and I didn't realize how much you did until I got this job so thank you for all you did the past years for Immanuel. You will be missed by me for sure so thank you. To the Trustee's especially Dave Geier for always checking in and fixing things ASAP (It does help that he's, my husband.) especially trouble shooting the folding machine and ordering parts, so it runs well. Best piece of equipment this office has, so thank you to whoever gave memorials to purchase that. It's a life saver. To Cindy Linderman for training me on the Online giving and data entry which I took over starting in January. To Pastor Reed for being patience with me and catching all my mistakes. Every day I go home with some more knowledge of how our church operates so Thank You! Finally, to Immanuel for all your support and encouragement this past year. It was much appreciated.

Now about my job and what I do. I was hired as the Church Office Manager and my hours were given to me and are Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 9-12 but can go up to 19 hours per week. I average around 12-15 hours per week but busy weeks I might get close to 19 hours but that only happened a couple times in the last year. This role is different than previous years. I have more responsibilities. I do the every week duties like getting bulletins ready for Sunday's worship and midweek services, answering emails, phones, prepare funeral/memorial service bulletins when needed, get Baptism service bulletins, prepare the Caller, Monthly Calendar. Can't forget the year end stuff and everything that goes with that. So that stayed the same as the past years.

The new responsibilities that were added were weekly data entry for Sunday offerings, data entry for online giving, data entry for Noah's Ark Preschool, prepare the Annual Report at the end of the year which Janel has graciously help with the last couple of years. So, you can see I keep very busy.

So, looking ahead for this coming year I want everyone here at church to realize that Pastor and I work way ahead for things like the Calendar for insists. If you want to get things on the calendar, we would like to see that info no later than the 3rd Wednesday of the month for the next month. Example February info will need to be in NO later than January 17th because I print the February calendar on Wednesday so the afternoon group that comes in for worship service can pick up their copy, I post it on the website and Sunday you can pick up a copy. If you give me info after that 3rd Wednesday some people won't see it because it's not on the calendar, they picked it up already. If you would like to see something different in the bulletin's or anything, feel free to come in and let me know. Until next time.

Immanuel Office Manager
Mona Geier

Special Happening at Immanuel

Worship Service is on every Sunday at 9:00am.

Holy communion is on the 1st and Last Sunday of the Month.

February

February 1-12 | Pastor on vacation.

Sunday's February 4th and February 11th |

Pastor Bob Alsleben will be guest Pastor.

February 14th | Ash Wednesday starts.

NOTE Change | **Moved 1:30 pm Afternoon**
Service/Holy Communion to February 14th.

February 21st & 28th | Lenten Supper at 5:30pm
with Lenten Service at 6:45pm

March

March 6th, 13th, & 20th | Lenten Supper at 5:30pm with
Lenten Service at 6:45pm

March 24th | Palm Sunday/Confirmation Sunday

March 28th | Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30pm.

March 29th | Good Friday Service lead by the Youth Group at
6:30pm

March 31st | Easter Sunrise/Holy Communion service at
6:30am following Easter Breakfast & Easter Service at
9:00am.



A Message of Hope heard on The Lutheran Hour

February 2024

February 4

"Nature Abhors a Vacuum"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

(Ephesians 4:32)

February 11

"What Is Evangelism?"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

(Mark 9:7-8)

February 18

"TBD"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

February 25

"TBD"

Guest Speaker: [Rev. Dr. John Nunes](#)

Noah's Ark Preschool

700 Division St. P.O. Box 147 Brownton, MN 55312 320-328-5325

Feb 2024

Updates from the Ark

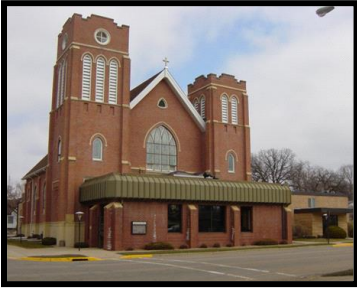
Greetings from the Ark! Things have been going really well at the preschool and the children have been really excited about the outdoor classroom and the beautiful fall we had. This spring I am hoping to define areas by mulching areas close to the fence to make it easier to mow and give them places to dig and grow plants. We also look forward to finding our "buried treasure" (flower bulbs) we planted this fall!

Hard to believe but registration for the next school year will begin at the end of February! Forms are available on the website, in the Caller and in the preschool entry.

We are in the process of gathering donations for the **BIG-TICKET RAFFLE** and are especially in need of handcrafted items so share those hidden talents! Please let Vicki know by March 1st if you have a donation. Items are needed at the preschool by May 1st.

Thanks for your support of Noah's Ark Preschool!

Vicki Herrmann
Noah's Ark Preschool



Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
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A Monthly Newsletter of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church

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Mission Statement of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Brownton

“Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church is a fellowship of believers in Jesus Christ seeking to nurture individuals and families in their Christian faith, teaching them a caring ministry to each other, our community and the world by sharing the message of Jesus through word and deed.”