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## .... in Prayer Ministry

WHY? Why do we pray? When do we pray? Are we continually praying? Why not ?

Are our thoughts really prayers, and we are not even aware of this communication with God?

Why are our thoughts important? Do I think of good things or bad things? Why? Am I thinking of wishes for my own pleasure, maybe a new movie , new clothes, maybe a new dream home? Or am I thinking of others who maybe need these things (clothes, shelter, food) maybe I can help?

Why would I want to do a thing like that? Why? Just maybe, it is the Holy Spirit within us urging us (He intercedes when we are uncertain of how or what to pray).

Jesus Loves us so much he gave his life for us! For our sins to be forgiven!!! WOW! Why? It is beyond my comprehension.

With Easter coming and Lent here, can we share this 40 days together praying for each other?

By Eileen Patrick

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## IMMANUEL'S STORY In Scripture & Study for Worship

<i>Sunday, March 1</i> <i>Psalm 32</i> <i>John 4:1-11</i>	<i>Sunday, March 15</i> <i>Psalm 95</i> <i>John 4:5-42</i>	<i>Sunday, March 29</i> <i>Psalm 130</i> <i>John 11:1-45</i>
<i>Wednesday, March 4</i> <i>John 13:21-30</i>	<i>Wednesday, March 18</i> <i>Luke 22:47-51</i>	
<i>Sunday, March 8</i> <i>Psalm 121</i> <i>John 3:1-17</i>	<i>Sunday, March 22</i> <i>Psalm 23</i> <i>John 9:1-41</i>	
<i>Wednesday, March 11</i> <i>Matthew 27:11-26</i>	<i>Wednesday, March 25</i> <i>Luke 22:54-62</i>	



Lent is upon us. As Winter gives way to Spring, Death gives way to Resurrection.

During this season we “Fast” as a symbol of denial, as we purge what we believe to be “of this world” and prepare our bodies for resurrection.

Catholics have a tradition of a meatless Friday, which is why we see so many Fish Fry’s in restaurants during this season.

Most are under the impression that “fasting” is about food, but it is about denial of something in our lives that separates us from God. We, in essence, allow to die in us something that keeps our focus off of “Him”.

Traditionally, the lack of food would be replaced by extra prayers and study in the Word.

But, in reality, my grumbling stomach just focuses my mind on my grumbling stomach.

Last year I denied myself Television for the season, replacing it with a reading schedule that included “The History of the Christian Church, vol. 4, the Dark Ages” and J. L Packer’s “Knowing God”. The first made me grateful that I am a Protestant Evangelical Christian. The hatred and power struggles in the church and nations showed me no love as Christ showed us and only showed me man’s inhumanity to man. But there were also great individuals throughout the age, humbly seeking the Lord and glorifying His name, spreading it through most of Northern Europe.

The second showed an abundance of God’s love for us and the nature in which we can find it all around us if we only seek it.

I am uncertain as to what I will deny myself this Lenten season, but I am sure that I will try to replace it with repentance, prayers, praise and study of His word.

Joel 2:12

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with **fasting**, with weeping, and with mourning;

Blessings, Karlin

### General Operating Budget Report

	JAN 2020	JAN 2019	YTD thru 1/31/20	YTD thru 1/31/19
Budget*	31,844	30,073	31,844	30,073
General Fund Giving	23,279	26,486	23,279	26,486
General Fund Expense	35,828	29,137	35,828	29,137
Net Income	-12,549	-2,651	-12,549	-2,651

Budget figures reflect approved annual budget divided by 12 months. Actual figures on a monthly basis will vary depending on giving patterns and seasonal expense variations.

Thank you for your faithful giving!

### .... in Donations

**When considering Memorial/Honorarium Donations, please prioritize these ministries and needs:**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

MILESTONE MINISTRIES

GENERAL ACCOUNT

**Other Ministry Donations that you may also consider are:**

Milestone Ministries, Scholarship Fund is a sub account of the Memorial Savings Account. The current balance of Milestone Ministries is -\$45.00. Milestone Ministries is used to support all Baptism and Confirmation

**BUILDING FUNDS/ MAJOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT**

**Building Fund Savings Balance: 1/31/2020**

**\$1,514.15**

**Major Capital Improvement/Maintenance**

**Balance 1/31/2020**

**\$99,875.64**

... in Pastor's Perspective

"Crossroads"

Tom Hanks is one of my favorite actors. Through the years it has certainly been impressive to see him grow and develop and mature as an actor, taking on some very challenging roles in the movies he has been in.

One of the movies he stars in is "Castaway." Maybe you have seen the movie? Remember how it goes?

Hanks plays a FedEx employee, whose plane goes down in a storm over the ocean. He survives the crash and ends up on a remote tropical island in the middle of nowhere.

The movie is about how he survives for a number of years on the island, eventually leaving the island on a makeshift raft, and finally being rescued by a passing freight ship.

Upon returning home, he finds that much has changed. The woman he had hoped to marry, is now married with children to another man.

The movie ends with Hanks standing in the middle of a dusty and desolate rural intersection—a crossroads—wondering which of the four roads to take, a decision which will greatly determine his future.

**Crossroads**

"At the Crossroads" is the name of our Wednesday evening Lenten worship series. Many of those involved in the story of Jesus betrayal and death on a cross, came to a crossroads and had to decide which way to go.

Some chose well, some did not, and the stories of each of these experiences at various crossroads help us know what to do and what not to do when we encounter similar crossroads in our own lives. In the end, each character we will meet will reveal in some way how Christ and his cross lead us to decide the right path of God's will for our lives.

David, Judas Iscariot, Pontius Pilate, Peter, Jesus—we will hear their stories—at the crossroads. And isn't that where we live life each day—at the crossroads? In light of the cross of Christ, which path do we choose to follow in our daily lives?

At the crossroads, we can listen to, and follow God's Word:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and do not lean unto your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths

With you at the crossroads—Pastor Paul



Pastor Paul J. Mattson  
218.546.6010  
pauljm@immanuelcrosby.org



... Council Officers Installation & New Council Members



Council Officers: Casey Kannel, President, Nancy Evans, Vice President and Deb Koop, Secretary  
New Council Members: Sue Schubert, Kevin Martini and Peter Nordell.

... in Children's Ministry

February was another great month in the Immanuel Children's Ministry! We implemented Sunday School attendance charts so children may have an interactive and visual way to see their Sunday School attendance—and be rewarded for attendance! We believe this will be a nice way to create more excitement for children to attend Sunday School and encourage the whole family to come to church. We also will begin celebrating birthdays in Sunday School on a monthly basis. I continue to encourage all families that attend the 10:30 service, to stay and enjoy a meal together as church families on "Meal with a Mission" days after the service. There will be a short time of family activities as well, so that we may gather and enjoy fellowship together. All are welcome! March and April will bring the first day of Spring, as well as First Communion preparations for our fifth graders. April will certainly be a busy time, as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, and teach our children the meaning of Easter. Thank you all for your continued support in the Children's Ministry at Immanuel!

Jill DeCent, Children's Ministry

...Manna for Malawi Silent Auction

Our sixth annual Manna for Malawi fund raiser is June 28th this year. Do you know the Johnny Holm Band will be playing again? Is there something you can donate for the silent auction? You can donate a new (but never used) item such as a gift that didn't fit or just wasn't something you could use. You can donate a craft item that you made. If you have questions, call or email me.

Terri Wisniak  
Phone: (218)546-2863  
Email: [terriwisniak@gmail.com](mailto:terriwisniak@gmail.com)



### ... Guess What's Coming Soon??

Rummage & Bake Sale on ... Friday, April 24 @ 8am-4pm (NEW DATE)



### ... GO PAPERLESS

Due to high costs of printing and mailing the monthly newsletter, we wanted to give the congregation the option to either view on-line or keep receiving paper copies in the mail. Please let the office know your preference so we can make any changes to your record. Your help is appreciated. Contact the church office: office@immanuelcrosby.org or call: 218/546-6010. Thank you.



### ... FYI

If anyone is purchasing something for the church, please contact Brenda in the church office so she can order and save on the tax charges being we're tax exempt. Thank you.



### ... in Souper Bowl Sunday

Clanging of the kettles on Souper Bowl Sunday was again very successful. Thanks be to God!

Donations given were \$888.12 and will be distributed to the Cuyuna Range Food Shelf Team.

Thanks to Immanuel for giving from the heart.

Bob & Pat Neros

### ... in Special Milestones!



#### March Wedding Anniversaries

Marvin & Robin Holmwig	03/03/1984
Chad & Michelle Hage	03/07/1998
Dennis & Bonnie Rasmussen	03/10/1990
Fred & Diane Van Krevelen	03/11/1967
Jim & Donna Radinovich	03/12/1993
Maurice & Lisa Slepica	03/30/2002

#### March Birthdays

03/01	Chloe Kovatovich, Jacob Johnson
03/02	Tim Hummel
03/03	Megan Meyer
03/04	Ruth Ann Exsted, Amber Ogle
03/06	George Erickson
03/07	Kynsley DeCent, Aviyah Hoyt
03/08	James Hake, Jayda Wager, Bryan Johnson, Eleanor Lubovich, Alan Booth
03/10	Vonda Bongs, Jon Souhrada
03/11	Daniel Beseman, James Stolle, Judi Hendrickson
03/12	Jill Leonard, Phyllis Martin
03/16	Debra Kreller, Miranda Sicora, Harper Tilbury, Isaiah Rono
03/17	Grant Gibson, Kim Johnson
03/18	Colter Popkes
03/19	Elizabeth Bourgeois
03/20	Lori Ostrowski, Harlan Miller
03/21	Bernita Harrison
03/22	Brody Kovatovich, Jeff Olson
03/23	Lyric Aulie, Mattie Kovatovich
03/25	Tason Ceplecha
03/27	Brad Miller
03/28	Kaitlyn Risnes, Lindsay Freese, Jacqueline Holmwig, Lilly Peterson
03/29	Bonnie Finnerty
03/30	Glen Kompelien
03/31	Nancy Jann, Lois Landborg



**.. in Seder Supper**

Our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Seder Supper is being held on Wednesday, April 8th at 5:30pm in the fellowship hall at Immanuel Lutheran Church. All are welcome and our First Communion students and families are invited as special guests. Any questions, please TEXT Susan Bushard at 218-820-8675 or email [susan@lakeshorebroker.com](mailto:susan@lakeshorebroker.com). A sign-up sheet will be located by the Bookstore in the Fellowship Hall. Remember there is limited seating, so sign up soon. Thank you!



**... Meal With a Mission for the Youth, raised \$973!**



**... in Attendance**

<u>Sunday, January 19, 2020</u>	
9:00am	86
10:30am	<u>111</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>197</b>

<u>Sunday, January 26, 2020</u>	
9:00am	79
10:30am	<u>94</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>173</b>

January 2020 Total **714**

<u>Sunday, February 2, 2020</u>	
9:00am	85
10:30am	<u>105</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>

<u>Sunday, February 9, 2020</u>	
9:00am	91
10:30am	<u>91</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>182</b>

<u>Sunday, February 16, 2020</u>	
9:00am	120
10:30am	<u>149</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>269</b>

February 2020 Total-to-date **641**

**The Joy of Church Attendance**



## ... Calling all Woodworkers!

Woodcrafts usually sell well at the "Spirit of Christmas Bazaar" held each year in November at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Woodcrafts come in many shapes, sizes, and kinds. If you like working with wood and either hand or machine tools, we hope you will consider making and donating woodcrafts to the bazaar. Smaller items sell well on the main sale floor. Larger items do well in the raffle.

Not everyone has the tools needed to work with wood which is why we have been promoting the idea of crafting groups. Maybe one person has a bandsaw or scroll saw for intricate cuts while another loves to do sanding, finishing, painting, etc... Wood itself can be expensive, but one person might have barn wood or pallets to donate for rustic crafts and another might have a stack of oak to donate to a furniture builder. We need to ask around and get the right people in touch with one another. Maybe postings can be made to the church Facebook page or notes tacked to the bulletin board at church.

I'll bet there are young people interested in learning to work with wood. If you have that skill and would be willing to share what you know, consider checking in with the Youth Crew to see if one or two teen boys or girls would like to assist you on a project or two.

For woodcraft ideas, check the local library for woodworking magazines, or use Google to help you find ideas online. Sample search terms to get you started:

- Woodcrafts | Christmas wood crafts | DIY wood projects | Holiday signs | Wooden toys
- Recycled furniture | Wood pallet crafts | Primitive wood crafts | Thrift store makeovers

Excellent websites for woodcrafts are: **Pinterest!** [www.pinterest.com]; **Etsy** [www.etsy.com/search?q=woodcrafts]; **Lumberjocks** [http://lumberjocks.com/projects]



## ... in Memorials & Honorariums Given in January & February 2020:

### For the Area of Greatness Need:

In honor of Lester Rono Jr. by Linda Rono.  
In memory of Jim & Ralph Albie by Irma Ganon.

### For the Milestone Fund:

In memory of Linda Rono's son, Lester Rono Jr. by Dennis & LuAnn Henrichs.  
In memory of Sam Nagorski's brother by Adrian & Jean Olson.  
In memory of Ken Landborg by Dennis & LuAnn Henrichs.



TOTAL \$220.00

## ... in Faith Webbing

Our vision is to wrap our children and youth in a web of faith so loving and caring that they will know Christ and always be a part of a local congregation.

The goal is to enelope our children and youth with as many people of faith of all ages as possible-people whose faith they can admire and emulate.

Who's in your "faith web" ?

### My Faith Web

