



Immanuel's Story

April 2024

Gather & Grow & Go

Volume 39 Issue 4



SCRIPTURE READINGS April

April 7	Psalm 133; John 20:19-31
April 14	Psalm 4; Luke 24:36b-48
April 21	Psalm 23; John 10:11-18
April 28	Psalm 22:25-31; John 15:1-8



Not resuscitation — resurrection!

“Peace,
BE WITH YOU!”

In the early years of the U.S. space program, a small but powerful rocket was supported by a metal framework. This “escape tower” was bolted to the capsule in which astronauts awaited takeoff. If disaster occurred, the escape tower was to carry the capsule up and away from the main rocket. A parachute would then float the astronauts safely to earth.

Jesus’ resurrection is more than a great escape. If he had merely eluded death, that would be akin to resuscitation. By God’s power, Jesus didn’t merely survive death but conquered it, once and for all. On Easter, Jesus returns to life not for his own sake but for the sake of all humanity. He reassures the disciples — and us — “Peace be with you.”



- 1 Marv Hayes
- 2 John Houck
- 3 Sabrina Ballard, Rock Gunter
- 4 Iris Christenson, Michael Jola, Molly VanHorn
- 7 Jim Bloedel
- 8 Ron Mogen, Audrey Wittnebel
- 9 Rick Koop
- 10 Olive Bourgeois, Sam Perpich, Jack Schubert, Isabelle Thompson
- 11 Steve Heins
- 12 Carter DeCent
- 13 Skyler Faulkner
- 14 Jay Hunter, Shirley Meyer, Mary Nagorski
- 15 Lucy Christenson, Tucker Pederson, Barb Rhodes, Nick Zillmer
- 16 Fred Van Krevelen
- 18 Cindy Albrecht
- 19 Judy Christenson
- 20 Steve Freese, Eric Nelson
- 22 Trey Jacobs, Jon Wittnebel
- 23 Denny Davis, Audrey Jacobson, Ryan Kovatovich, Kevin Reinhart
- 24 Mike Patrick, Dan Ustipak Jr.
- 25 Garry Nelson, Sandy Twigg
- 26 Wendy Flannigan, Mick Lindert, Bruce Oliphant
- 27 Michelle Hage, Marek Koop, Connie Rinde
- 28 Pam Klopfleisch
- 29 Joyce Kallestad, Linda Peterson, Mary Peterson, Noah Reinhart
- 30 Wendy Chirhart, Judy McKanna

Anniversaries...

- 6 Ken & Sandy Johnson (1968)
- 8 Don & Judi Hendrickson (1995)
- 10 Randy & Amy Stanfield (1990)
- 13 Paul & Jill Mattson (1985)
- 18 Steve & Erica Perpich (2009)
- 20 Hal & Judy Kirchoff (1968)
- 25 Brian & Kim Marquardt (1992)
- 27 Steve & Laura Heins (2001)
- 28 Don & Sue Rasmussen (1973)
- 29 Jason & Paula Kovatovich (2006)
- 30 Jeff & Kelly Klein (2005)

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

March 3	9:00	108
	10:30	55
	Total	163
March 10	9:00	99
	10:30	55
	Total	154
March 17	9:00	84
	10:30	30
	Total	114

FUNERAL

Steven "Choik" Perpich

*The following students completed communion preparation and communed with their families on Maundy Thursday: **Kensie Chamberlin, Kynsley DeCent, Sawyer Holmes, Sierra Laffin, Chloe Perpich***

Jill DeCent, Family Ministry Coordinator

Spring is in the air! There's nothing like that first sixty-degree day of the season, it just refreshes our souls-much like the season of Lent.

I asked God many times in the past to use me, in any way that he saw fit. I wanted to fully surrender my life and all that I do to him. Well-He heard my prayer, and I feel so thankful to be able to assist in many areas of the church, the ministries, and wherever I can use my God given gifts and skills. I encourage everyone in our congregation to do the same-Lord, where can I serve you more? Is it in the church? In the community? At home? Let us all be the church.

Our Confirmation students have entered the season of Lent and continue to enjoy soup suppers and services with their faith mentor. Following services, students and their mentor engage in a "Faith Talk" where they connect in the word of God together, as well as get to know each other on a more personal level. It's truly a blessing to see these relationships develop, with the intention that they last much longer beyond Lent. Regular confirmation class will resume on Wednesday, April 3rd.

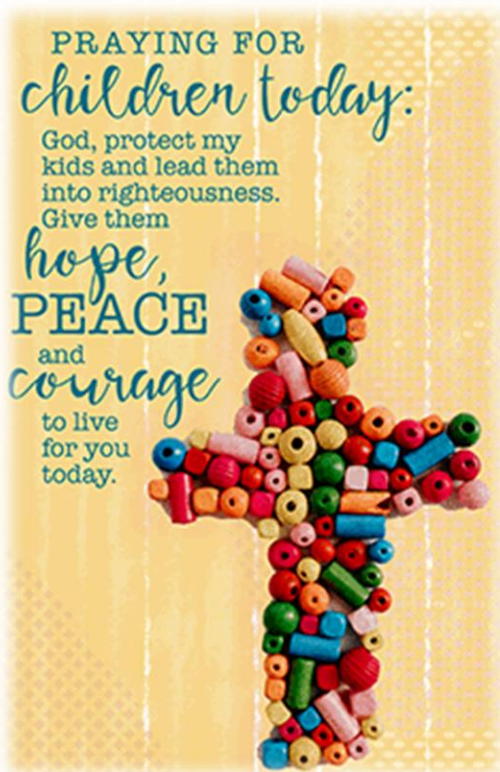
Youth Group will resume on Wednesday, April 10th. We are looking for volunteers to provide the meal for our Youth on the following Wednesdays- April 10th, 24th, and May 8th. Let Jill DeCent know if you or your group would like to provide a meal!

A Meal with a Mission was had on Sunday, March 10th, benefiting our Youth programs. THANK YOU to everyone that came and graciously helped put this meal on. It would NOT have happened without you!

Sunday School meets on Sundays during the 10:30 service. Children are learning through stories of the New Testament. Palm Sunday is on March 24th. Prior to Sunday School, children will perform a short "Palm Parade" around the sanctuary. As a reminder, there will be no Sunday School on Resurrection Sunday, or Sunday March 31st.

And to close with the bible verse that has taken me through many seasons-Jeremiah 29:11 *"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"*.

Isn't that comforting? Rest in the Lord!



PRAYER

Submitted by Elaine Karel

Psalm 121:1-2 *“I lift my eyes to the hills where my help comes from. My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.”*

I am so grateful that I know I have a place where I can go and find help and be heard. I cannot imagine living without this ever-present heavenly Father. I am sharing today just a few biblical references to prayer that comfort and keep me in my daily faith walk.

Romans 8:26-27 *“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.”*

Isn’t that awesome?! When we can’t express it ourselves, the Spirit intercedes for us and knows our every need.

Thessalonians 5:16-18 *“Be joyful always, pray continuously: give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

This is one of my favorite verses. As we go through our days, we can have continuing conversation with our heavenly Father; sharing with him both our concerns and our joys. This is God’s will for us.

Ephesians 6:18 *“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”*

We are blessed as a praying church to be reminded each week of those among us who need our prayers. The apostle Paul is admonishing us to pray for each other and then goes on with another request in 6:19 *“Pray also for me that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given to me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.”* Remember our pastors in our prayers.

Psalm 4:11 *“Answer me when I call to you, oh my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.”*

Many of the Psalms are Psalms of prayer as David calls on the Lord. We too can find comfort in thee prayers and can read through them as prayers for ourselves.

(cont. on page 6)

Philippians 4:4-7 *“Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Amen & Amen. God hears our prayers. He knows our hearts.

There are so many Bible references and helps about prayer. Matthew chapter 6 gives us the Lord’s prayer as a model for how to pray.

God bless and keep you all; continue with praise and prayer. Your heavenly Father hears you and loves you.



!!! Save the Date !!!

Women’s Salad Luncheon
Saturday, May 4, 2024 12-2:00 p.m.

~Bring a friend and a salad or dessert to share~

Immanuel Lutheran Church
600 4th St SW
Crosby MN



We know pastors face a lot of pressure every day. Many are faced with far more stress than we could possibly imagine. We must stand tall and fight against the enemy with the power of the Holy Spirit to strengthen their faith and to give them hope! We must protect our pastor and his family, now more than ever. I ask you to pray that our pastor stands against the temptations of Satan. If Satan was able to tempt Jesus, you better believe he is attacking the men that proclaim the Gospel of Jesus! Satan knows that as the pastor goes, so does the church. If he can destroy our pastors, then he can ruin our churches. As never before, pastors are under attack spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Satan is doing everything possible to take down our pastors across the nation.

Our pastor's ministry is only as effective as the prayers that fuel it!



Give him strength and the energy to fulfill the work you've called him to do, Lord. Give him victory over every attack against him. Cover his mind, body, and spirit with your powerful protection.

Pastors are human - they face the same challenges that their people do, and so much more! They grow tired, are tempted to sin, and may find it difficult to balance their many roles and responsibilities. Pray that he will continue to use discernment. God, we ask that you guard our pastor with your armor. So that he may be strong in you, Lord, that he may be able to stand against all schemes of the devil. Ephesians 6:10-11

Give us, the congregation, the wisdom to know how to pray for our pastor and his family. Giving us spiritual understanding so we can see ahead of time the trap the enemy has laid out. Give us the wisdom to use your Word as our weapon of defense.

Lord, we thank you for our pastor, Pastor Paul J. Mattson! Equip him with your Word to help grow his faith each day, and to be a man who is above reproach. Teach him to be humble and full of grace, for he is LOVED by His Creator and Savior! Amen.

Apostle Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 "We ask you, brothers and sisters, to give recognition to those who labor among you and lead you in the Lord and admonish you, and to regard them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves."

*Lovingly & Faithfully
Sally Oren, Member Ministry Coordinator*



If you do not designate on your offering envelope where you would like your donation to go it will go into the General Fund. Please keep the following ministries in mind when filing out your offering: Youth, Sunday School, Quilters, Milestone Ministry, VBS, Family Investment Plan (to name just a few of them). If you have any questions on the different ministries or would like to know more, please give us a call in the office.

Also, your mailbox number is your offering envelope number as well. If you have not picked up your offering envelopes they are in your mailboxes.

Blessings,

Deb Eatros, Financial Manager

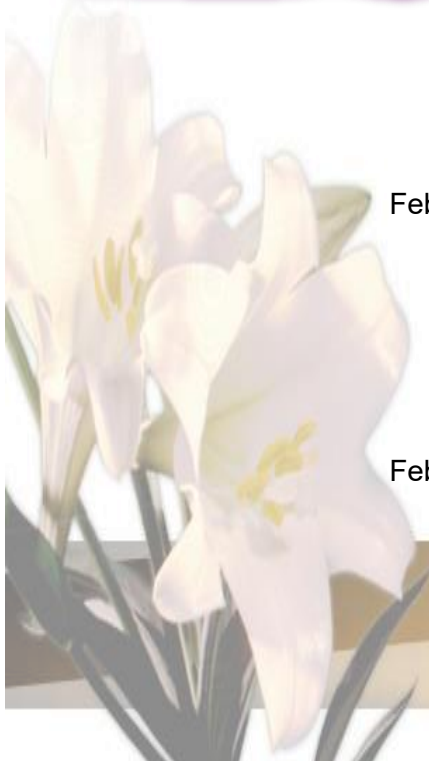
General Operating Budget Report

	<u>Feb 2024</u>	<u>Feb 2023</u>	<u>YTD2024</u>	<u>YTD2023</u>
Budget	37,553	38,309	75,106	76,618
General Fund Giving	36,793	31,399	66,888	62,953
General Fund Expense	33,043	35,835	68,627	77,094
Net Income	3,750	-4,436	-1,739	-14,141

Major Capital Improvement Fund

02/29/2024

February 1, 2024	Balance:		\$53,820.11
	Deposits:	\$948.53	
	Reserve:	\$250.00	
	Withdrawals:	\$0.00	
February 29, 2024	Balance:		\$55,018.64



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 19, 2024
6:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jerry Decent, Box 50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Pastor Paul Mattson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Char Kinzer, Box 104 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Nixon, Box 07 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deb Koop, Box 114 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Nordell, Box 222 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bonnie LaPierre, Box | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Pundt, Box 295 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Martini, Box 213 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paula Traylor, Box 145 |

CALL TO ORDER: 6:35 PM

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA: Motion made by Paula and seconded by Peter to accept the agenda with the additions of NB 3-5. Motion carried unanimously.

READING OF THE VISION STATEMENT & MISSION STATEMENT

CELEBRATING THE JOYS OF IMMANUEL: Deb Koop for her abilities to support the congregation; Char Kinzer did great at last week's services; Jill Decent for assisting with the services; Pastor Ian for stepping in with no hesitation until April 21st; Church staff are doing an awesome job!

DEVOTIONS:

This month: NA

Next month: Bonnie LaPierre

PRAYERS

COUNCIL BUSINESS

DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS ON THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 2024-Approved by email in Feb.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND DISCUSSION- Reviewed, no changes or concerns.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. COMMITTEE REPORTS: PERSONNEL-** Interviewed three people for the custodian position. Offered and accepted by one of the candidates this evening. Manna for Malawi- Next meeting at the end of April
- 2. GOALS-STAFF TO WORK WITH PERSONNEL:** Council members to brainstorm any goals they would like to see set for office staff and bring ideas to April's council meeting.
- 3. COLUMBARIUM-** Group will meet to discuss feasibility later this spring and bring ideas back to the council.
- 4. WAGES- COMMUNICATION-** At the beginning of each fiscal year the Financial Secretary will give all church employees a statement with their rate of pay and starting date of that rate.

5. PASTOR PURSUIT NEXT STEPS- DAVID: David will contact the NALC to find out the next steps in calling a new pastor; this will include a timeline and the support they will give us moving forward. We plan to develop committees in May or June.

NEW BUSINESS....

1. PULPIT SUPPORT – CURRENT PLAN AND ONGOING FEE: Pastor Ian will conduct all services through April 21st. Motion made by Kevin and seconded by Peter to pay Pastor Ian’s salary and expenses from the Sabbatical fund in addition to the Pulpit Supply fund as needed. Motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Peter and seconded by Bonnie to raise the rate of the ministerial substitute to \$200.00 per service. Motion carried with one abstention.

2. SEMINARIAN CD: Motion made by Kevin and seconded by Peter to roll the Seminarian CD into an already existing money market fund. If this is not possible due to needing Pastor’s signature, we will put it into our savings account and revisit this next month. Motion carried unanimously.

3. INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP: Peter, along with Denny and Sandy Davis, are forming a group to have prayer meetings at church. The first meeting will be held April 14th at 7 pm. They are expected to last about an hour. All are welcome to attend.

4. MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES: There is an issue with our Tech computer projecting onto our screens. Jeremy is aware of the issue and will look at what is going on. Our new insurance plan will begin at the end of this month. Pastor Ian is communicating well with the church.

5.COMMUNION CONSECRATION: Pastor Walth will come in to consecrate the communion elements whenever we have lay ministry conduct services.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS FOR MAY

Copy assignments and place in the Ministry Coordinator office mailbox.

2024	9:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	<i>(notes/special occasion)</i>
May 5	Peter Nordell	Bonnie LaPierre	
May 12	Paula Traylor	Char Kinzer	
May 19	Kevin Martini	Tom Nixon	
May 26	Open	Jerry DeCent	

THE LORD’S PRAYER; ADJOURNMENT 8:10

Next meeting set for April 16th, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Koop, Recording Secretary

Memorial Gifts Given By...

The following memorials were given in loving memory of Gordon Jacobson by:

- † Hal & Judy Kirchoff for Milestone Ministry
- † Paul Fairchild for Good Samaritan Ministry
- † Lynn & Shelly Harker, undesignated
- † Adrian & Jean Olson for Milestone Ministry
- † Jim & Mary Ellen Stolle for the General Fund
- † Jim & Meredith Bloedel for Malawi Orphan Care
- † Sylvia Graff for Malawi Mission
- † Jeff & Marsha Olson for the General Fund

Easter Lilies were given by...

- † Orv Nelson, in memory of: Avis Nelson, Sylvie Melin, Sylvia Nelson, Sally Erickson
- † Mary Carlson, in memory of Donald Carlson
- † Bruce & Mary Oliphant, in memory of Jeff Oliphant
- † Ken & Barb Moe, in honor of Brady, Ally & Shae
- † Dan & Delores Beseman, in memory of parents
- † Gary & Sandi Erickson in honor of First Responders
- † Stan & Mary Nagorski, in memory of C-I students who passed before their time
- † Stan & Mary Nagorski in honor of our parents, children and grandchildren
- † The Cronk family, in memory of departed family and friends
- † The Nixon family, in memory of grandparents
- † Sally Oren, in memory of Linda Kreller, and in memory of Brian Oren
- † Marv & Shannon Loidolt, in memory of parents
- † Marian Segersten, in memory of her parents



The women of Grace Lutheran Church in McGregor invite women of all ages for lunch and Christian fellowship on Saturday, April 13th, 11am-2pm. The event will include lunch, sweet treats, tea, music and great speakers.

Please RSVP gracelutheranlogchurch@gmail.com

Manna for Malawi



We are looking for silent auction items for our event on August 18th. These are some of the items donated last year. If you can donate again this year it will be appreciated. Our next planning meeting is April 28th at the Bridge Tavern at noon. Please join us if you would like to help plan (our 10th) event.

A house united

When President Lincoln declared in 1858, "A house divided against itself cannot stand," he was echoing Jesus. Scribes thought Jesus was casting out demons by Satan's power, so Jesus responded, "How can Satan cast out Satan? ... If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand" (Mark 3:23-25, NIV). There are countless modern examples: Civil wars. Families torn apart. Business partners going separate ways. Even churches splitting.

Jesus used the "house divided" image to point out the nonsense of the scribes' words. It takes someone *other than* the "strong man" (v. 27), or demon, occupying a space to cast that demon out. Evil can't drive out evil. Sin isn't stronger than sin. Hate doesn't solve hate. Violence doesn't end violence. Two wrongs don't make a right.

Jesus came to "bind" evil with goodness, conquer hate with love and teach us the same. Throughout the gospels, Jesus treats *all* people with love — even those who oppose him — so that, in the end, we all will be a house *united* by God's goodness.

