



Immanuel's Story

March 2024
Gather & Grow & Go

Volume 39

Issue 3



Pastor's Perspective

“March Madness”

It's that time of year again – tournament time – also known as “March Madness.” In the coming weeks high school boys and girls will take to the court, rink and mat to participate in State Tournament competitions; in the college ranks, the same thing. As these events unfold in the coming days there will no doubt be compelling storylines of victory and defeat; intriguing stories yet to be written and told.

Here at Immanuel we tell the story, which is our own kind of “March Madness.” In the weeks to come, these too, are compelling stories of victory and apparent defeat.

Jesus is God's plan to get us back – to enjoy being in relationship and fellowship with God - today and for all eternity. In Jesus we see the length that God will go to get us back; he will go all the way to the cross to do so. Why? Because God is “mad” about you!

“For God so loved the world (you) that he gave his only Son, so that everyone (you) who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

“But God proves his love for us (you) in that while we (you) were still sinners Christ died for us (you).” (Romans 5:8)

To be clear, God is not mad AT you; but God is mad ABOUT you! From Webster's, the word “mad” can be understood to mean “carried away by enthusiasm or desire” or “frantic” or “wild” or “illogical.” And such is the love God has for you!

As much as sports tournaments are fun and exciting and enjoyable, may our journey through “March Madness” take on a new meaning be more profound as we keep our eyes on the cross, and listen again to the intriguing story of Father and a Son, together with the Holy Spirit, conspiring (madly) to get us back.

“Incline your ear, and come to me; listen so that you may live.” (Isaiah 55:3a)

Pastor Paul

Blessings – Pastor Paul



SCRIPTURE READINGS

March

March 3	Psalms 19; John 2:13-22
March 10	Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22; John 3:14-21
March 17	Psalms 51:1-12; John 12:20-33
March 24	Psalms 31:9-16; Mark 14:1—15:47
March 31	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24; Mark 16:1-8



The Joy of Jesus



The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*



- 1 Jake Johnson
- 2 Tim Hummel, Wyatt Rinde
- 6 George Erickson
- 7 Kynsley DeCent, Aviyah Hoyt
- 8 Alan Booth, Jim Hakes, Ellie Lubovich,
Jayda Wager
- 9 Karli Nixon
- 10 Vonda Bongs
- 11 Dan Beseman, Judi Hendrickson,
Jim Stolle
- 13 John Frahm
- 16 Debbie Kreller
- 17 Grant Gibson
- 19 Beth Bougeois, Coty Perkins
- 20 Lori Ostrowski
- 21 Bernita Harrison
- 22 Brody Kovatovich, Jeff Olson
- 23 Lyric Aulie, Mattie Kovatovich,
Bob Palmer
- 27 Sophia Midthun, Brad Miller
- 28 Mary Ellen Perry, Lily Peterson,
Kaitlyn Risnes
- 29 Bonnie Goshey
- 30 Glen Kompelien
- 31 Nancy Jann, Lois Landborg

Funeral

Gordon Jacobson

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

February 4	9:00	99
	10:30	40
	Total	139
February 11	10:00	123
February 18	9:00	79
	10:30	40
	Total	119
February 25	9:00	70
	10:30	47
	Total	117



- 7 Chad & Michelle (1998)
- 11 Fred & Diane Van Krevelen (1967)
- 12 Jim & Donna Radinovich (1993)

We are into the new year, and everyone should have received their 2023 statements, if you have not or if you have any questions on the statement, please contact me. The new mailbox/offering #'s transition has been going well, if there are any questions or concerns anyone has, please stop in the office, call, or email me.

Below is the General Operating Budget Report, this report is based on the Budget that was just passed at the Annual Meeting. Budget - is the amount we need to receive as well as the amount not to exceed for our expenses monthly. General Fund Giving is the amount we received for the month and the General Fund Expense is the amount we paid out in expenses for the month. Net Income tells us whether we received enough income to cover the expenses and if the number is negative, we did not. I hope this explanation helps any of you who were not sure how to read the report below.

Your Financial Manager,

Deb Eatros

General Operating Budget Report

	<u>Jan 2024</u>	<u>Jan 2023</u>	<u>YTD2024</u>	<u>YTD2023</u>
Budget	37,553	38,309	37,553	38,309
General Fund Giving	30,095	31,554	30,095	31,554
General Fund Expense	35,474	41,259	35,474	41,259
Net Income	-5,379	-9,705	-5,379	-9,705

Major Capital Improvement Fund

01/31/2024

January 1, 2024	Balance:	\$53,429.16
	Deposits:	\$940.95
	Reserve:	\$250.00
	Withdrawals:	\$800.00
January 31, 2024	Balance:	\$53,820.11

From Family Ministry Coordinator, Jill DeCent

In Youth and Confirmation...

Confirmation students are continuing to learn their way through The Ten Commandments, The Apostles Creed, The Lord's Prayer, and Worship. We have a great group of students and feel very blessed! Lent season is upon us, so Confirmation students will now transition to attending Lenten services on Wednesdays, joined with their Faith Mentor. Following each service, students and their faith mentor will engage in a "Faith Talk", where they will get to know each other better, as well as learn and grow in faith. During Youth Group nights, many of our same students have been learning through the books of Luke and Acts, via Youth Alpha. This has been an excellent learning tool for us, and the youth get to engage in active small group conversations.

In Sunday School...

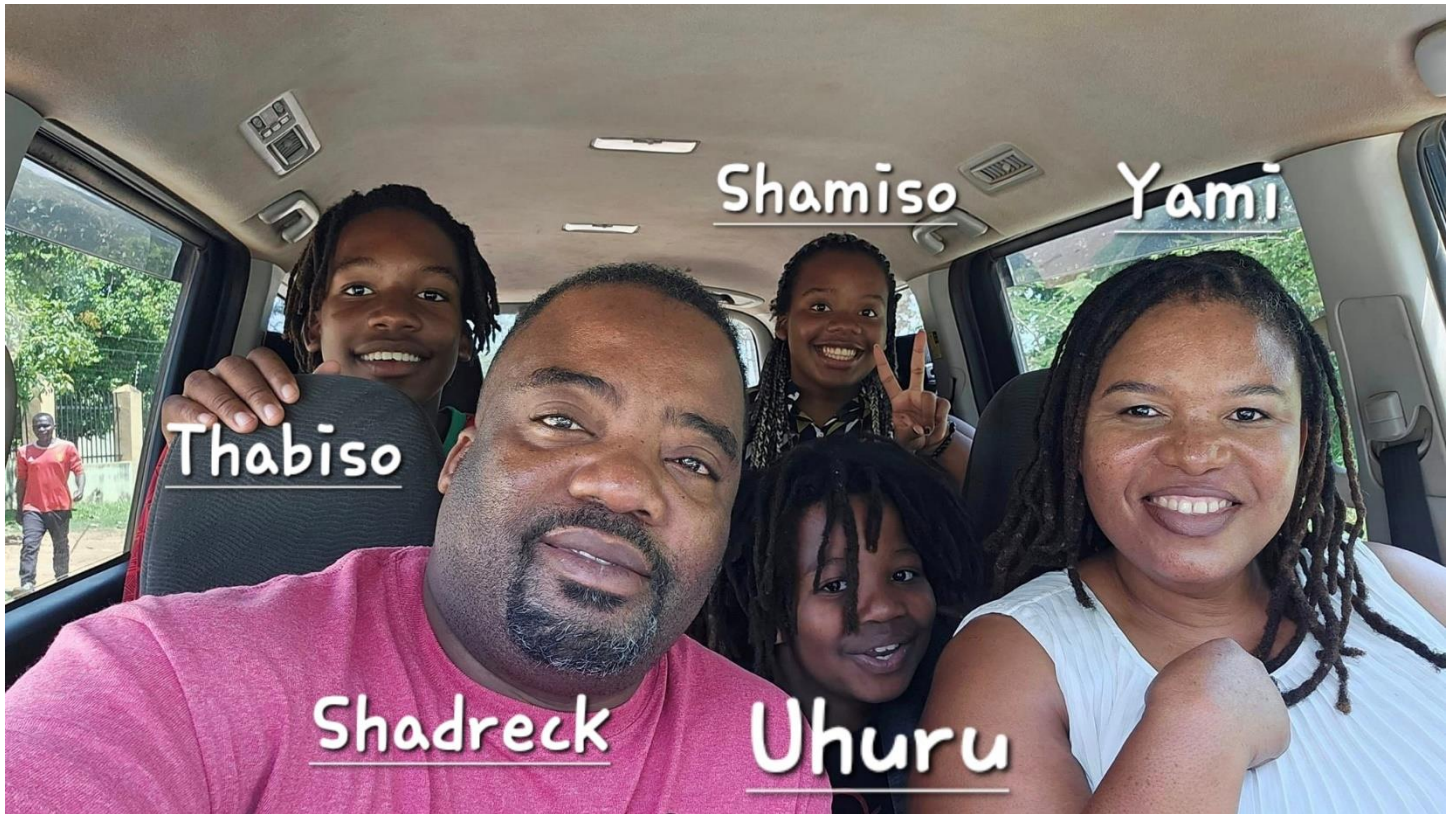
We are enjoying our new space! In our current curriculum, students are learning through stories of the New Testament. Each lesson includes a story, a short video, and a hands-on activity. The kids are really enjoying this time. Kids are also encouraged to attend with a new attendance chart-for every 3 stickers earned, they get to pick from the prize bin. Bring a friend to Sunday School!



Memorial Gifts Given By...

- † *Dennis & LuAnn Henrichs, in memory of Jean Olson (Sue Schubert's mother) for Milestone Ministry*
- † *Linda Rono, in memory of Lester Rono Jr, undesignated*
- † *Lynn & Shelly Harker, in memory of Jean Olson (Sue Schubert's mother) for Area of Greatest Need*
- † *Elaine Karel, in memory of Jean Olson (Sue Schubert's mother) for Area of Greatest Need*
- † *Dennis & LuAnn Henrichs, in memory of Orv Nelson's sister for Milestone Ministry*
- † *Addie Finck, in memory of Gordon Jacobson for Milestone Ministry*
- † *Virgil & Melva Panitzke, in memory of Gordon Jacobson for Milestone Ministry*
- † *Marian Segersten, in memory of Gordon Jacobson for Milestone Ministry*
- † *Dennis & LuAnn Henrichs, in memory of Gordon Jacobson for Milestone Ministry*

Manna for Malawi



We are so excited that the Chikoti family will be visiting during our event this year. Shadreck and Yami manage the project in Kanyenyeva. Our event is scheduled for August 18, 2024 at the Bridge Tavern from 2 to 6pm. The band will be Rumble Seat, a John Mellencamp tribute band. Our MWAM on February 18th was to help Shadreck and Yami with their airfare. It brought in \$1210. Thank you to all who helped with this fund raiser.

Please consider a donation to the Silent Auction that is held at the event each year. If you do a craft during these long winter months or have a new item you could donate, it will be appreciated.

God Hears Your Prayers.... by Judi Burson

In a recent teaching on PRAYER, Dr. David Jeremiah reminded us that we need to KEEP asking, seeking and knocking in our prayer life. But we also need to remember that sometimes God answers our prayers in unexpected ways. At times, we think we "know" how God might answer our prayer. Yet, God has all the pieces and He knows the plan for each life. And when God answers in an unexpected way, it is always the best way, and often one we would never have imagined. Dr. Jeremiah said, "It is always too soon to quit praying!"

It was Bernita, one of our members, that told our adult Bible Study group how she just had an ongoing conversation with her Lord as she went through each day. She made it so clear, and also so doable. God loves it when we seek to always be in His presence through an attitude of prayer. And we know, our days go much smoother once we center on God and invite Him to lead us through our day. We need to be PERSISTENT in prayer, in all things. We are God's children. Think of how your children are persistent in asking you for something. They are not embarrassed about asking, they keep coming back, they never give up on some important things. As God's children, we are encouraged to have that same persistence in approaching God. He does hear all our prayers. As Dr. Jeremiah put it simply... "all our PLEASE prayers, our I'M SORRY prayers, and our THANK YOU prayers!"

I have held onto a couple of one-liners from my parents during my growing up years. Daddy was always so patient to listen to our "tales of woe" and then he would say, "Honey, Honey, Honey, You need to worry less, and PRAY MORE!" And one day, feeling frustrated and limited over a deep concern, I told Mom, "ALL I can do is pray!" At which point she reminded me, "Honey, that is the HIGHEST thing we can do... for ourselves, and for each other. We are so blessed with this gift of prayer."



On those days when it is hard to pray, just tell God, "I don't feel like praying today.." Tell Him how you feel, and just keep praying. (Remember, the Book of Psalms is filled with bold, honest, heartfelt prayers!) And as the Family of God, the Body of Christ, it is good to remember that I am praying for many of you, and I also know that many of you are praying for me. How many times have we heard from each other, "I can actually feel all the prayers!" And then there are those miracle stories that come. And we are so blessed!

Keep Asking ~ Keep Seeking ~ Keep Knocking

Pray ~ Pray ~ Pray

God Hears All Our Prayers

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

6:30 p.m.

Attendees:

(X) Jerry Decent, Box 50	() Pastor Paul Mattson
(X) Char Kinzer, Box 104	(X) Tom Nixon, Box 07
(X) Deb Koop, Box 114	() Peter Nordell, Box 222
(X) Bonnie LaPierre , Box 119	(X) David Pundt, Box 295
() Kevin Martini, Box 213	(X) Paula Traylor, Box 145

CALL TO ORDER: 6:32 PM

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA Motion made by Jerry and Seconded by Paula to accept the agenda with the additions of NB 5 and OB 5-6. Motion carried unanimously.

CELEBRATING THE JOYS of *Manna for Malawi* Immanuel: Annual meeting had good attendance and great questions. Pastor Jim Walth did an amazing job conducting Gordy Jacobson's funeral.

DEVOTIONS: Looking for new book to use for this year

This month: NA

Next month: Bonnie LaPierre

PRAYERS

COUNCIL BUSINESS

DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS ON THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 2024 Minutes were approved by email.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND DISCUSSION: Motion made by Jerry and seconded by David to accept the financial statement; Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. COMMITTEE REPORTs: - *Manna for Malawi*- This is the tenth year of the event! Everything is moving ahead. The subcommittees are up and running. Next meeting will be in April.

Finance and Investments Committees: The committee needs a new council liaison. Jerry volunteered. A motion was made by David and seconded by Jerry to renew the CDs that will be maturing in the next few months.

2. ANNUAL MEETING: Great attendance. Good conversation. The topic of doing "temple Talks" as a communication tool was discussed.

3. COLUMBARIUM: No update

4. WAGES- Communication: Protocols need to be put in place by the personnel committee to ensure that wage changes are communicated to staff when they happen.

5. INSURANCE: A motion was made by Jerry and seconded by Deb to use Church Mutual as our property insurer moving forward. Motion carried unanimously. This is a cost savings of about \$2,000 for the same coverage as we had before.

NEW BUSINESS....

1. EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK: *No questions or concerns with the handbook. It looks very thorough.*
2. COMPUTERS FOR DEBBI AND DEB: *A motion was made by Jerry and seconded by David to spend up to \$2000.00 for replacement computers for Debbi Carlson and Deb Eatros. Motion carried unanimously.*
3. PASTOR PURSUIT NEXT STEPS- *The Call Process Research Committee has completed their work. There will be a call committee formed by April and sub-committees formed as needed. More information to come. David will connect with the NALC before this process starts for their guidance, Council Members will not be a part of any of the committees.*
4. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE- *We don't have a committee. We will put out a request for members.*
5. DONATION REQUEST- *Decided not to take this up*
6. PICTURE DIRECTORY OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS: *David will investigate the feasibility of having a new directory with photos. Looking at associated costs and electronic possibilities.*

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS FOR MARCH

Copy assignments and place in the Ministry Coordinator office mailbox.

2024		9:00 am		10:30 am	(notes/special occasions)
April 7		Paula Traylor		Jerry Decent	
April 14		Kevin Martini		Bonnie LaPierre	
April 21		Peter Nordell		Tom Nixon	
April 28		Char Kinzer		David Pundt	

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ADJOURNMENT MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:50

Next meeting set for March 19th, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Koop, Recording Secretary

March 2024 Worship Service Schedule

Altar Guild for March: Lynette Dehning & Paula Kovatovich

Churchyard Worship Scripture: Psalm 19 & John 2:13-22

Sunday, March 3rd - 9:00am

Greeters: Mike & Eileen Patrick w/ Avery
Ushers: Joe & Darlene McNally
Lector: Jack Schubert
Communion Server: Kevin Martini
Offering Counters: Pam Ballard & Marian Freese
Tech: Tim Bongs & Jack Schubert

Sunday, March 3rd - 10:30am

Greeters: Pakarinen Family
Ushers: Sally & Bella Oren
Lector: Pam Klopffleisch
Communion Server: Jerry DeCent
Nursery: Korinna Nixon

Wednesday, March 6th Worship - 6:45pm

Greeters: YOUTH
Ushers: YOUTH
Lector: YOUTH
Communion Server: Kevin Martini
Offering Counters: Rachel Aulie & George Erickson
Tech: Tim Bongs



Traditional Worship Scripture: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 & John 3:14-21

Sunday, March 10th - 9:00am

Greeters: Virgil & Melva Panitzke
Ushers: Frank & Deb Foote
Lector: Marian Segersten
Communion Server: Peter Nordell
Offering Counters: Rachel Aulie & George Erickson
Tech: Jack Schubert & Terri Wisniak

Sunday, March 10th - 10:30am

Greeters: Kannel Family
Ushers: TBD
Lector: John Klopffleisch
Communion Server: David Pundt
Nursery: Hannah Pakarinen

Wednesday, March 13th Worship - 6:45pm

Greeters: YOUTH
Ushers: YOUTH
Lector: YOUTH
Communion Server: Kevin Martini
Offering Counters: Jody Bunio & Paula Traylor
Tech: Tim Bongs



Contemporary Worship with Wing and a Prayer Scripture: Psalm 51:1-12 & John 12:20-33

Sunday, March 17th - 9:00am

Greeters: Jeff & Marsha Olson
Ushers: Dan Beseman & Nick Zillmer
Lector: Sandy Twigg
Communion Server: Char Kinzer
Offering Counters: Jody Bunio & Paula Traylor
Tech: Tim Bongs & David Pundt

Sunday, March 17th - 10:30am

Greeters: Sally & Bella Oren
Ushers: Jim & Judy Christenson
Lector: Dave Peterson
Communion Server: Bonnie LaPierre
Nursery: Kirsten Nixon

Ushers and Greeters: Please arrive 30 minutes before the worship service.

Nursery Volunteers: Please arrive at 10:15am on Sundays.

Communion Servers: Please see Pastor Paul 10 minutes prior to worship service if you have questions.

Wednesday, March 20th - 6:45pm

Greeters: YOUTH
 Ushers: YOUTH
 Lector: YOUTH
 Communion Server: Kevin Martini
 Offering Counters: Erinn Hoyt & Darlene McNally
 Tech: Tim Bongs



Blended Worship
Scripture: Psalm 31:9-16 & Mark 15:1-39

Palm Sunday, March 24th - 9:00am

Greeters: TBD
 Ushers: Denny & LuAnn Henrichs
 Lector: Jeff Olson
 Communion Server: Paula Traylor
 Offering Counters: Erinn Hoyt & Darlene McNally
 Tech: Dave Peterson & Jack Schubert

Palm Sunday, March 24th - 10:30am

Greeters: YOUTH
 Ushers: Joe & Darlene McNally
 Lector: YOUTH
 Communion Server: Deb Koop
 Nursery: Kallie Nixon

March 28th - Maundy Thursday Worship - 6:45pm

Greeters: YOUTH
 Ushers: YOUTH
 Lector: YOUTH
 Communion Server: Kevin Martini
 Offering Counters: Jody Bunio & Marian Freese
 Tech: Tim Bongs

March 29th - Good Friday Worship - 6:45pm

Greeters: YOUTH
 Ushers: YOUTH
 Lector: YOUTH
 Communion Server
 Offering Counters: Jody Bunio & Marian Freese
 Tech: Tim Bongs

Blended Worship w/ Blessing
Scripture: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 & Mark 16:1-8

Easter Sunday, March 31st - 9:00am

Greeters: Ron & Carolyn Mogen
 Ushers: TBD
 Lector: Tim Bongs
 Communion Server:
 Offering Counters: Jody Bunio & Marian Freese
 Tech: Tim Bongs & TBD

Easter Sunday, March 31st - 10:30am

Greeters: TBD
 Ushers: TBD
 Lector: Nancy Heise
 Communion Server: Tom Nixon
 Nursery: **NO NURSERY**



Meal with a Mission

To Benefit: YOUTH

Hosted by: Jill DeCent

Sunday, March 10th - 10:00am to 12:00pm



~ Please note ~

If you cannot serve on the date you are scheduled, be sure to find or yourself and let your Captain know of your replacement. Thank You!

Sally Oren
 Members Ministry Coordinator
members.immanuel23@gmail.com 218-546-6010 or 218-866-2718

PHOTOS
Compliments of Marian Segersten

Children's Sermon



Family Night



Ash Wednesday



Sunday School