

GRACEVINE

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

God's Purpose for Immanuel Lutheran Church is to WELCOME and EMBRACE one another in God's love, and to SERVE and SEEK JUSTICE for those in need.

April 2017

Holy Week Services

Sunday, April 9 -
Palm Sunday; 9 am.

Thursday, April 13 -
Maundy Thursday; 7 pm

Friday, April 14-
Good Friday; 7 pm

Sunday, April 16 -
Easter; 9 am



Easter Lilies

The sign-up sheet for Easter Lilies is posted in the fellowship hall. If you'd like to provide an Easter lily for the Easter Service, **please sign up by April 10.**



Pastor's Message

Ash Wednesday has been described as the most honest day of the entire church year. It is the day that we confront the fact that each one of us is going to die. We look without blinking at our sinfulness, all the ways that we have missed the mark, and we trace a cross of ashes on our foreheads to remember that we are dust, and to dust we shall return.

We take the 40-day journey with Jesus in the wilderness, praying as he did and fasting as he did. We follow Jesus and his disciples as they travel to Jerusalem. There Jesus will be betrayed and denied. There he will be mocked and beaten. There finally he will be nailed to a cross to die. In these Sundays of Lent, we come to know Jesus as fully human and fully divine. We listen as he reveals his divine nature to Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman.

We watch as he heals a man born blind, and raises his friend Lazarus from the dead.

Lent is a 40-day journey, step by step and day by day. We know that Easter is coming, but we cannot sidestep Good Friday to get there. We must witness to Jesus' dying before we can witness to his rising.

I thought I was all set for Lent. I had planned to fast from certain foods and drinks, and add 20 minutes of daily centering prayer. I planned to go through my clothes to decide what to give away. I had such good intentions. But the arthritis in my hips has made Lent take on a different tone this year. Pain has brought me to the threshold of my own mobility and endurance. This is an entirely new experience for me. I have always enjoyed walking and hiking. I've always enjoyed having a strong body. I've

always enjoyed good health. I'm not used to this and I hate it.

I have found this year that I have to take Lent step by step and day by day as well. Literally...

I am scheduled to have hip replacement surgery on Wednesday, May 3 in Rapid City. I anticipate that I will be at home and rehabbing for 2-3 weeks afterward, with limited activity after that for some more weeks. John is planning to come back and help me as I recover for as long as needed, and I am blessed to have the care of this congregation. The Council and I will be arranging for worship coverage and pastoral care coverage for the time that I am on medical leave.

I ask for your prayers, and your assistance with the details of ministry as we plan ahead.

A Note from our Church Council President: Robyn Baquet



"Guiding principles provide direction, help us make decisions and keep us accountable to our Mission Statement. They are a set of guard rails or railroad tracks, keeping us on course."

Our new mission statement was introduced during our January Annual Meeting. **WELCOME and EMBRACE ONE ANOTHER in GOD'S LOVE and to SERVE and SEEK JUSTICE for THOSE in NEED.** What a great plan God has for us!

We have been spending the last four Sundays defining what each of the verbs in our Mission Statement mean to us. How do we make our Mission Statement come alive? How do we know we are carrying out God's Mission?

Our next step is to identify our guiding principles. Guiding principles provide direction, help us make decisions and keep us accountable to our Mission Statement. They are a set of guard rails or railroad tracks, keeping us on course. Everything we do should be toward God's Mission for our congregation. These guiding principles will ensure that the activities that we engage in fulfill God's Mission.

Defining the verbs in our Mission Statement helps shape our guid-

ing principles. The Transformational Ministry Team will take the words and phrases shared during worship and develop draft guiding principles. These will then be shared with the council and congregation before the final guiding principles are decided on.

This is an exciting time for our congregation – we get to be involved in God's Mission!! How cool is that?!

Summer Opportunities for Kids

Sullivan Hills Camp: Consider sending your children or grandchildren to Sullivan Hills Camp this summer. The 2017 summer theme is RE:NEW HOPE! Faith is a powerful force that breaks open a NEW HOPE that renews every person it impacts. This summer's Bible study will look at the powerful hope that comes through faith in God. Grace can break

through any barrier. Being freed in faith is like discovering you have a super power – helping others see God's work in their lives. Sullivan Hills is located 10 miles north of Lodgepole, NE. All camp sessions at Sullivan Hills are only \$50! There are lots of options for sessions in June and July for kids in elementary through high school. For more information or to

register, go to www.sullivanhills.org There are also brochures to take home – see Pastor Ann. **Vacation Bible School is coming: June 25-29.** This year, the theme is *Barnyard Roundup*. We will learn about Jesus our Savior who rounds us up and brings us home. Jesus the Good Shepherd Jesus feeds 5,000 people Jesus tells about a sower

Jesus tells about a lost son Jesus appears to Mary in the garden. VBS takes place Sunday-Thursday evenings. Supper will be served each night at 5:30, and lessons, games & crafts follow. Many hands are needed to make Vacation Bible School a success. Volunteers are needed to help with lessons, crafts, games and food. There will be more information & ways to sign up in the coming weeks.

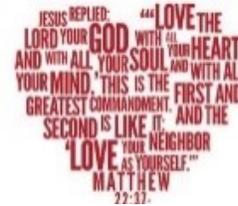
Stewardship: Karen Rupp

Food for thought as caretakers of all God has created, let's consider this passage from Paul's letter to the Hebrew, chapter 10: 23-25. "Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one

another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Stephen Paul Bowman in Baptized for the Moment says this passage is a call to inspire one another to show up in this polarized and angry world with love and grace. We need to not become complacent and allow apathy or a sense of helplessness to deter us from advo-

cating for the world entrusted into our care...but rather be doers and advocate for right action...caretakers of our environment and each other.

Also please consider joining us in reading *Stewardshift*.



Education: Yvonne Moody

The Holy Spirit is at work on Wednesdays at Immanuel Lutheran! Approximately 25-30 children attend Wednesday School each week, where they learn through fun, fellowship, and great lessons.

Most recently, the story

of Martin Luther was presented to Wednesday school youth in a skit performed by Pastor Ann, Maddy Nygren and Yvonne Moody. A variety of activities including a bible 'smuggling' relay race and cryptograms emphasized the rare

privilege citizens were afforded in that time to own a bible and more significantly, to be able to read one in their own language!



Treasurer's Report: Kim Bradley

Social Ministry: Barb Landen

Beginning balance:	\$6,515.04	
3/1/17		
Income	Weekly Offering	\$7,202.63
	MIF interest	\$ 0.00
	Lent	\$1,105.00
	Thrivent	\$ 9.00
	Interest	\$.61
Total Income		\$8,317.24
Expenses		\$10,201.80
Ending balance:	\$ 4,630.48	
3/31/17		

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support Closer to Home and Our Shepherd's Pantry.

In March, we served 35 people at Closer to Home. Thank you to everyone who donated food and helped serve.

Shepherd's Pantry has helped feed 21 adults and 9 children so far this month. Our pantry is a very important resource for many people of our community.

Use your gifts to serve one another. 1 Peter 4:10

Nebraska Synod Rural Immersion Program Coming to the Panhandle

Each year, the Nebraska Synod welcomes 10 students and a professor from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago to a May travel seminar focused on rural ministry. This year, our congregation, along with St. John's Lutheran Church in Alliance and St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Hay Springs, will host these students in the Panhandle.

The goal of the Rural Immersion program is to give seminary students a sense of what ministry looks like in rural places. We anticipate that the group will spend two full days in Alliance, one day in Scottsbluff and three days

in Chadron and Hay Springs.

The students will be in Chadron/Hay Springs from Friday, May 26-Monday, May 29 (NOTE: this is Memorial Day Weekend.) While they are here, they will hear from a panel of educators from the College, the Job Corps and the Chadron Public Schools, help serve lunch at Closer to Home, tour ranches and farms in the area, attend church here and at St. Peter's on Sunday and spend some time at Fort Robinson Sunday afternoon and evening.

We are looking for congregation members to host 1-2 guest in their homes for three nights, provide food for

Closer to Home on Friday, May 26, and host a lunch at Immanuel on Saturday, May 27. If you are able to help out, please contact the church office.

More information will be available as plans take final shape.



Make a Joyful Noise



Make a joyful noise unto the Lord— Psalm 98:4

Do you play an instrument or love to sing? Immanuel is looking for special music to contribute to services. Not comfortable going solo? No problem! Get together with friends to form a duet or trio! Need

help with ideas or just need more information? Call or text Hannah Norgard at 308.430.46467

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God.

Psalm 147:1



YOU'RE INVITED!

The people of St. Peter's Lutheran Church will host their Traditional Aebleskiver Supper on Sunday April 9th. Aebleskivers are Danish pancake-balls, and are served with syrup and/or applesauce. Eggs and ham are also on the menu. 5:00 p.m. 'til 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall at St. Peter's (12.5 mi. south of Hay Springs on Hwy 87). Come out and enjoy the tasty Aebleskivers and warm fellowship!

Easter Breakfast Fundraiser



Sunday April 16

8:00-8:45 a.m.

Free Will Donations

The high school youth will be hosting an Easter breakfast before the Easter Sunday service, on April 16th, from 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m., in the fellowship room. The main dish will be egg casseroles, but they

will also be serving other side dishes along with it. The breakfast will be a free will donation. Come enjoy breakfast and fellowship before celebrating Jesus' resurrection at the Easter service!



snapObjects
Free Complete Breakfast Vector

Easter Egg Hunt



We will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 16 following the Easter service.

Please make plans for your children or grandchildren to enjoy this fun activity!





IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
747 ANN STREET
CHADRON, NE 69337

Church Council Members

President– Robyn Baquet

Vice President– Denise James

Secretary– Sharon Thurlow

Treasurer– Kim Bradley

Building & Grounds– Uati Paopao

Education– Yvonne Moody

Evangelism– Laurie Schmidt

Fellowship– Kit Watson

Social Ministry– Barb Landen

Stewardship–Karen Rupp

Worship– Hannah Norgard

Youth/Young Adult– Leila Tewahade

Pastor– Ann Sundberg

Other Staff:

Financial Secretary– Lorrie Bauer

Custodian– Melissa Churchill

Church Secretary– Amy Jones

Important contact information-

Church Office Phone: 308.432.5408

Pastor Ann Sundberg's Cell: 919.475.9754

Church email: chadimmanuel@bbc.net

Church website: www.chadimmanuel.org

Nebraska Synod Website: www.nebraskasynod.org,

phone number: 402.896.5311

ELCA Church wide Website, www.elca.org,