

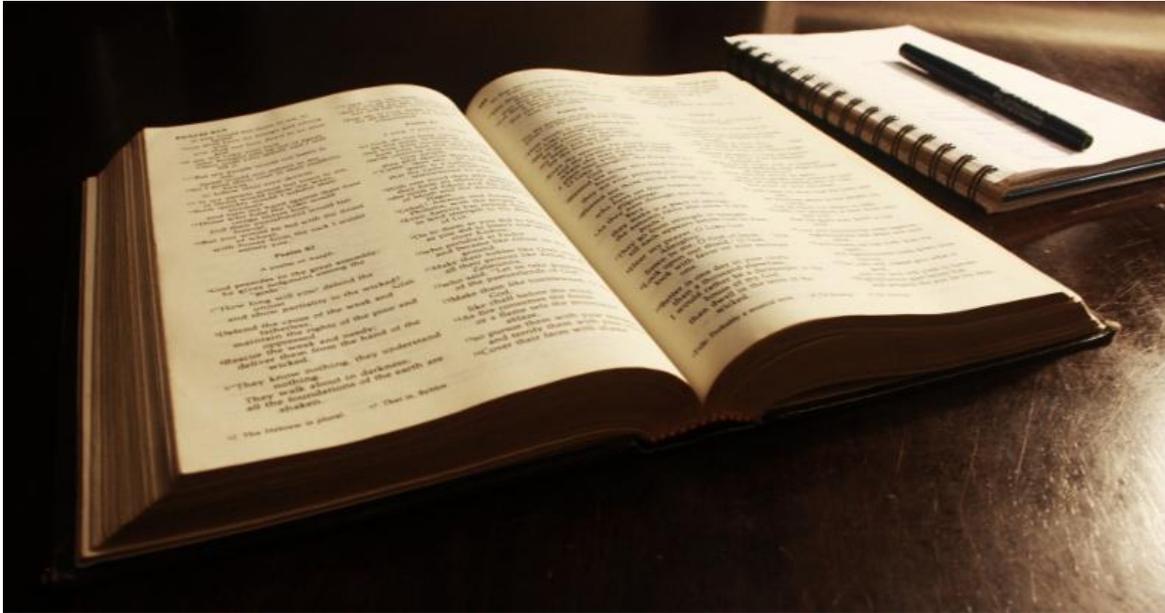
# Immanuel Lutheran CHURCH

“God with Us” - Ceresco, NE

Visit our website



February 2018 Newsletter



## Thoughts from Pastor Scott



“God so loved the world that He sent His only son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life” – John 3:16

This year, the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14<sup>th</sup> and it is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays which ends on Holy Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. The Lenten season is a time when many Christians observe a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, self-denial and spiritual discipline. The purpose of doing these things is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ - his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial, and resurrection.

The word “Lent” comes from the Anglo Saxon word “lencten”, which means “spring.” The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry. Many people think about what they can “give up” during Lent – a way of making a sacrifice to remember the great sacrifice Jesus gave on the cross. But, I like to think about what I can “give” during Lent – to do something for someone else that I might not otherwise do, as a way to sacrifice some time and money to help others.

During this season of Lent, please consider what you can do to share God’s love with someone else as we all remember the great love He has for us. At Immanuel, we’ll begin the Lenten season with our Ash Wednesday evening worship at 7 p.m. Please plan to join us in this season of renewal and invite a friend to join you.

God is with us..... Pastor Scott

## Time and Passion

### TIME AND PASSION SHEETS

Recently, Immanuel's "Time and Passion" sheets were handed out at church or you received one in the mail. Now is a great time to think about what you enjoy doing and how you can share that passion with others in the church, in the greater Ceresco area, or in the world. Please take a few minutes to fill out the form and return it to the basket inside the entry of Immanuel. Thank you for your partnership in sharing the Good News of Jesus.



## Financial Peace University

**COMING TO IMMANUEL  
MARCH 6, 2018 THROUGH MAY 1, 2018  
TUESDAY EVENINGS AT 6:30 P.M.**

What if you were following a plan for your money that you KNEW worked? With Dave Ramsey's class Financial Peace University, you CAN take control of your money, get out of debt, and create a plan for your future. If you or friends of yours are interested in learning more about the class, please contact Pastor Scott! Because the class will be offered for nine weeks, beginning Tuesday evening, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

This class is **open to anyone** from the area who wishes to learn more about personal money management and becoming debt free. Cost for the materials is \$109, however, scholarships are available for a reduced price.

### Financial Peace University

**Memberships include all class materials**

Financial Peace University now includes:

- \***NEW**—One-year access to online video lessons
- \***NEW**—One-year subscription to EveryDollar Plus
- \***NEW**—Debt snowball tool.

Materials can be ordered through Immanuel Lutheran Church by contacting Pastor Scott. **Registration closes Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.**

[CLICK HERE FOR FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY INFORMATION](#)

## February 4th Special Meeting

**Special "Second" Congregational Meeting  
to vote on Immanuel's relationship with the ELCA  
and LCMC – Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> following  
worship**

An important meeting will be held after worship on

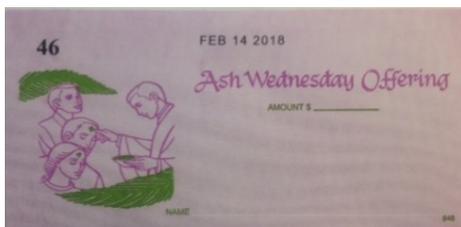


Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> to vote on Immanuel's relationship with the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ). Earlier, on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 Immanuel held the first of two meetings for this vote. Approximately 85% of Immanuel's members who were present voted that Immanuel only remain with the LCMC and leave the ELCA. This "second" vote is required to make that decision final.

If Immanuel votes to leave the ELCA, the Nebraska Synod Council of the ELCA will make its final decision to release Immanuel and we would only be a LCMC congregation. There are slightly less than 1,000 LCMC congregations and about 50 of them are part of the Heartland District which comprises the Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa and South Dakota area.

Immanuel's members who wish to continue supporting the ELCA are welcome to do so if the congregation votes to leave the ELCA. Please be sure you note this on your offering envelope so that the church can steward your financial gifts appropriately. Please visit with Pastor Scott if you have any questions about this process and what it means for Immanuel.

## February 14 Ash Wednesday



Please plan to attend our Ash Wednesday evening worship service on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Immanuel. This year's Ash Wednesday offering will go to purchase "Easter vouchers" for the Backpack program. The vouchers will enable families

who participate in the backpack program to purchase extra needed food during the Easter holiday season. You can place your special offering in the Ash Wednesday envelope. Regular offerings toward Immanuel can be placed in our regular white offering envelopes. Thank you for helping feed local families in need.

## Immanuel's Annual Meeting

Immanuel's congregational annual meeting was held January 21, 2018 immediately after worship services in the sanctuary. The meeting agenda was given to members and the church Council President Doug Rudeen called the meeting to order and determined that quorum was met. The Examiner's report, 2018 budget, endowment funds, and nominations were presented and voted on. Immanuel has three new Council members who will be installed during worship on February 4<sup>th</sup> and joining the Council this year. They are: Justin Badberg, Ken Sherwood and Lisa Kaiser

A new examiner was elected. Kent Hanson will replace Ray Otto

This year's Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) delegates for our Heartland District Conference in Omaha on July 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> plus the LCMC National Assembly in Des Moines on October 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> are Fran Freeman and Jane Otto. Pastor Larson will also represent Immanuel at these church assemblies. Chris Lever with Thrivent Financial spoke about new tax law changes and if any member would be interested in estate planning to contact his office. Ray Otto also explained the different funds and how they were being used for scholarships and

Lutheran ministries.

New business discussion was held concerning the Church parking lot, a float at Ceresco Days, Immanuel's 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebration in 2019 and the writing of our new Constitution for our church's affiliation with LCMC.

The meeting adjourned after there was no more church business to discuss.

## Constitution & Bylaws Task Force

If the Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> vote for Immanuel remains to leave the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and remain a Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) church, our congregation will need to rewrite its constitution and bylaws to reflect our new church structure in leadership and ministry. Pastor Scott and Doug Rudeen (our Church Council president) have been

gathering samples of other Lutheran church constitutions and we invite any members of Immanuel who would like to help in the drafting of the new documents to join this task force to review and write new ones that will be presented to the congregation for approval at a later date.

If you are interested, please contact Pastor Scott or Doug Rudeen. We'd love to have you join in this exciting opportunity to set the course for Immanuel for years to come.

### Church Constitution & Bylaws



## Youth and Confirmation



2019

Carol Joy Holling Camp

REGISTER TODAY!

**KIDS CAN GO TO CAMP WITH  
ASSISTANCE  
FROM IMMANUEL**

Hey, families of Immanuel, your kids can go to Camp Carol Joy Holling in Ashland and you can get campership fee assistance. Immanuel wants to help children experience a great week at Bible camp by providing partial financial assistance for the cost of camp registration. All you need to do is log onto Immanuel's Endowment Fund website and fill out the information in the form provided. If you have questions about how to do this, please contact Ray Otto at 402.432.3343 or [daplugger@gmail.com](mailto:daplugger@gmail.com)

There will be information from the camp available to all families of Immanuel soon. Please check your church mailbox for the camp's flyer. You can also check out the camp online at [www.caroljoyholling.org](http://www.caroljoyholling.org).

**Fundraiser ideas coming this Spring.  
Fundraiser projects to be determined.**



## Other Church News

### Prayer List

Jerry Eastin (Health-Congregation)  
Bob Newell (Health- Congregation)  
Velda Gerguson (Health- Fran Freeman)  
Andrea Christensen (Health- John Christensen)  
Jessica Creger & Son Zach (Health- Jodi Boden)  
Raegan Love (Toddler/Cancer- Doug & Shawn Rudeen)  
Heather Lucht (Health- Barb & Leroy Hanson)  
Marsha Hanson (Health- Ray & Jane Otto)  
Susan Strauss (Health-Niece of Bob & Donna Newell)  
William Sonne (Health -Bob & Donna Newell)  
Bob Boens (Health- Lonnie Boens)  
Julie Hart (Health- Jon & Janis Bible)  
Isabella Bible (Health- Jon & Janis Bible)  
Trinity Lutheran Church in Dewitt



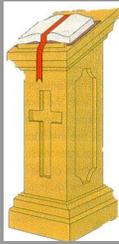
### A Christian video library free for you to use

Have you had a chance to check out the great collection of videos at [rightnowmedia](http://rightnowmedia.org)? There is something for all ages – children, youth and adults – who want to grow in their understanding of Scripture, current issues, entertainment, and much more. With colder weather coming, it's a great time of year to turn on your computer, smartTV, or other device and enjoy watching quality, Christian messages.

To learn more about the mission of RightNowMedia, click on the link below.

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/mission>

## Upcoming Worship Events February 14- Ash Wednesday



LECTOR  
SCHEDULE



USHERS

## FEBRUARY LECTORS

Feb. 4- Jane Otto  
Feb. 11- Janis Bible  
Feb. 14 - Shawn Rudeen  
Feb. 18- Fran Freeman  
Feb. 25- Scott Black

## FEBRUARY USHERS

Feb.4 -Leroy & Barb Hanson  
Feb. 11- Christie Bevington  
Feb. 14-Doug & Shawn Rudeen  
Feb. 18- Fran Freeman  
Feb. 25- Scott & Shannon Black

## ACOLTYES FOR WORSHIP:

Feb 4 - Wyatt Hanson  
Feb 11 - Mason Kreikemeier  
Feb 14 - Conner Kreikemeier  
Feb 18 - Conner Kreikemeier  
Feb 25 - Andrew Otto



## February Food Pantry

**\*\*\*Canned Goods\*\*\***  
Vegetables, Fruits, Meats, Soups,  
Potatoes, Tomatoes,  
Chef Boyardee Meals

# Immanuel Lutheran CHURCH

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[www.immanuelceresco.org](http://www.immanuelceresco.org)

Contact Us



**Scott Larson**  
Pastor