



Choosing Forgiveness

Thoughts from Pastor Scott

When I was in high school I had the privilege of hearing Corrie Ten Boom speak at a Lutheran Youth Evangelism conference in downtown Minneapolis. Several

thousand high school kids had gathered to hear Corrie share about her experience of living in a Nazi concentration camp during World War 2 and how she came to grow in her understanding of forgiveness.

Corrie Ten Boom shared about when she and her sister arrived at the concentration camp and had their clothes taken away from them. As they stood with other women, she and her older sister Betsie watched a concentration camp matron beating a prisoner. "Oh, the poor woman," Corrie cried. "Yes. May God forgive her," Betsie replied. Corrie realized that it was for the souls of the brutal Nazi guards that her sister prayed.

Both women had been sent to the camp for helping the Jews. Christ's Spirit and words were their guide; it was His persecuted people they tried to save—at the risk of their own lives; it was His strength that sustained them through times of profound horror.

While living in the concentration camp, Corrie came to grow in her ability to forgive while the glory of God gave her courage to live her Christian faith in a difficult situation. Her life was transformed by it.

As a high school kid, I had thought that forgiveness seemed like a simple thing to do. But, after hearing Corrie's story a lot of us teenagers on the church bus talked with each other about how difficult forgiveness can be if we try to do it by ourselves, without God's help.

This month, during our Lenten Wednesday evening worship at 7 p.m. we dig deeper into understanding what a gift forgiveness is and how it frees us from being "debt collectors" who feel we need to get even with those who hurt us.

Jesus said it best from the cross, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do". Wow! To truly forgive others who hurt us takes a God-sized love for others. Thank God we have his Spirit to help us!

God is with us... Pastor Scott



OUR NEXT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) PLANNING MEETING WILL BE MONDAY, MARCH 29th AT 7 P.M. ONLINE ON ZOOM.

The LCMC Lutheran church in Ashland is graciously lending us their stuffed animals and other things that they used for their “In The Wild” themed VBS a couple years ago. But we realize that we might need to have a “Plan B” like we did last year with the “drive by” VBS so we’ll be discussing plans for both an in person or “virtual” VBS so that we’re ready for anything.

Plan to join us online by going to the usual Zoom link that we’ve been using and join in the fun of planning for this summer. Summer will be here sooner than we realize 😊

As Nebraska’s health directed protocols are relaxing a bit for the COVID-19 pandemic, we’ve returned to gathering at Immanuel for Sunday School at 9 a.m. for both children and adults.

Children can gather in the Fellowship Hall and adults gather with Pastor Scott in the Church Sanctuary. Adults will also continue to have the online option of joining the study of “A Purpose Driven Life” via Zoom by going to the church’s Zoom weblink that we have been using.



Please continue to check Immanuel's church website at www.immanuelceresco.org to see if we are continuing to meet both in person and online.

We will continue to offer worship online by Zoom at 10:15 a.m. like we’ve been doing for the past months.

Our permanent online Zoom link is <https://zoom.us/j/8780165113>

Please be patient as you log on to worship at 10:15 a.m. or the Adult Sunday School at 9 a.m. since Zoom now requires the “host” to let everyone in from an online “waiting room”.



Please remember Immanuel's homebound members in your prayers:

Barb Basel (Barb is living with her daughter and son-in-law now)

27765 County Rd. 14 – Hooper NE 68031
402.719.4596 (Home) 402.480.2582 (Cell)

John Christiansen

1509 County Rd. B – Ceresco, NE 68017
402.429.6475

Marie Johnson

2425 Folkways Blvd, #336 – Lincoln NE 68521
402.438.5618 (home) 402.417.9537 (cell)

Rose Nelson

Saunders Medical Center Long Term Care, Room 114
1760 County Road J – Wahoo NE 68066

Dale Rexilius

c/o Tabitha GracePointe
4620 Randolph St, #203 – Lincoln NE 68510 402.484.9318



BECAUSE OF YOU... people in Africa are able to have good drinking water and food through Lutheran World Relief. Children's lives are touched with Jesus' love at Camp Carol Joy Holling at Ashland. Plus, countless people are being helped with pandemic healthcare, food, clothing and housing through Samaritan's Purse. Thank you for sharing God's financial blessings through our offerings.

Then the King (God) will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for **me**.' (Matthew 25:40 – God's judgement at the end of time)

Thank you letters from these organizations are included with this month's newsletter.

EASTER LILIES

Easter lilies will be \$8.50 per plant & have to be ordered and paid for by Palm Sunday March 28th.

Please make your check out to Fran Freeman or pay with cash.

You may make them in honor or memory of anyone.



MARCH USHERS

March 3 - Fran Freeman
March 7 - Doug & Shawn Rudeen
March 10 - Fran Freeman
March 14 - Kevin & Gaylene Olson
March 17 - Fran Freeman
March 21- John & Janis Bible
March 25 - Fran Freeman
March 28 - Justin & Kristy Badberg

MARCH LECTORS

March 7 - Shawn Rudeen
March 14 - Donna Hanson
March 21- Janis Bible
March 28 - Kristy Badberg

Food Pantry

Canned soup - Lipton dry soup
Beef & Chicken Broth
Bouillon Cubes

Prayer List

Pastor Scott's Father, Ralph (Hospice)
Kent, Teresa & Rylee Hansen (Health – member)
Ray Otto (Health – member)
Christie Bevington (Health – member)
Matthew Weaver (Health – member)
Donna Newell (Covid – member)
Bill Bohling (Cancer/Heart - Crystal's Dad)
Nancy Lind-Olson (Pneumonia – Olson)
Bill Ridgeway (Health – Otto)
Gary & Rhonda Westendorf (Health – Wischhof)
Amanda Ray (Cancer – Hedges)
Lani Swanson (Covid – L Pearson)
Makena Garrison (17 yrs old – Neurofibromatosis – Bevington)
Belinda Basel (Cancer – Otto)
Lora Robinson (Health – Fran's sister)
Mike Hnizda (Health – Fran's brother)
Sharon Breitreutz (Health – Caitlin Eisenmann's Grandmother)
Julie & Bruce (Jon & Janis' Daughter & Husband)
Jo Ann Koepke (Health & Safety – Janis' sister)
Andrea Christensen (Health – J Christensen)
Rob Bonow (Throat Cancer – Otto)
Mary Tvrdy (Health – Otto)
Heather Lucht (Health – Hanson)
Ron Weltruski (Bone cancer – Hedges)
Kim Pearson (Health – L Pearson)
Kelly Hamilton (Health – Bevington)
Shelly Hanneman (Rudeen)
Sydney Kenning & Family (Strength & comfort)
Health & Protection of Everyone

March 2021 Immanuel Calendar

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2	3 6 pm – Confirmation class supper and session at Immanuel	4	5	6
7 9 am Sunday School for all ages 10:15 am Worship with Communion 7 pm Church Council meeting online on Zoom	8	9	10 6 pm – Confirmation class supper and session at Immanuel	11	12	13
14 9 am Sunday School for all ages 10:15 am Worship with Communion DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS TODAY AT 2 A.M.	15	16	17 6 pm – Confirmation class supper and session at Immanuel 7 pm – Ash Wednesday worship at Immanuel and online	18	19	20
21 9 am Sunday School for all ages 10:15 am Worship with Communion	22	23	24 6 pm – Confirmation class supper and session at Immanuel 7 pm – Lenten worship at Immanuel and online	25	26	27
28 9 am Sunday School for all ages 10:15 am Worship with Communion	29 7 pm Vacation Bible School planning session – online meeting	30	31 6 pm – Confirmation class supper and session at Immanuel NO Lenten worship tonight	APRIL 1 7 pm – Maundy Thursday worship at Immanuel and online	APRIL 2 7 pm – Good Friday worship at Immanuel and online	