



## Amid Wars and Rumors of Wars

*Some thoughts from Pastor Scott*

We live in a part of our world that is not facing horrific pain and fear today. That isn't the case with our Christian brothers and sisters in Ukraine. It got me to thinking, "How are Christians responding to the suffering and uncertainty they are facing in Ukraine today?" Christianity has been in that part of the world for over 1,000 years.

One pastor, Yuriy Kulakevych, a Ukrainian Pentecostal Church pastor recently preached on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:19-34). He told the congregation to "go closer to meet those who are against you or fighting you... to not only enjoy peace ourselves, but to share it." He went on to remind the people of Jesus' words "do not let your hearts be troubled" (John 14:1). Pastor Kulakevych was not talking about some "pie in the sky" hope. He was addressing a real situation where the church could face death or imprisonment. "Protect yourself and your family by all possible means", he said, "and serve as a mentor to people in a bad state." Jesus is calling them to be at peace and serve others.

Another pastor, Igor Bandura of the Baptist Church said that, "Christians are determined to take an active part in the needs of the people around them." He went on to say, "I know that if you will open your heart to the Lord, you will come out renewed, strengthened in Jesus Christ, and ready for anything that is challenging our life." Bandura went on to share that many Christian believers are planning to turn church basements into refugee centers and some members with medical backgrounds are readying for service. Jesus is giving them the strength to serve in difficult times.

Another pastor from eastern Ukraine referred to those who want to just "get along" with Russian invaders and the collapse of the country as "fake Christians who have a fake Christianity". Jesus is calling them to be "real" Christians of action.

As we enter the season of Lent on March 2nd, this is a good time for all of us to think about how serious are we, personally, about our relationship with Jesus Christ. Do we have an inner peace in a troubled world? Do we serve as Jesus served others? Do we put our actions and money where our mouth is or are we "fake"? In a war, there are no people who take the middle road... You're either for or against Jesus.

Something to think about in a world of wars and rumors of wars.

God is with us... Pastor Scott

## March 2022 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 7 pm – Community Ash Wednesday worship service at <b>Ceresco Covenant Church</b> . Pastor Scott gives the message	3	4	5
6 9 am Sunday School for ALL ages 9:45 am Choir practice 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Coffee and Fellowship time	7	8	9 6 pm – Confirmation at Immanuel: Second Article of the Apostle's Creed: Why do we need Jesus?  7pm – Women of the Word study at Immanuel	10	11	12 8 am – Church Council breakfast meeting at Immanuel
13 9 am Sunday School for ALL ages 9:45 am Choir practice 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Coffee and Fellowship time 11:30 am Pack the backpack food at the Methodist Church	<b>March 14-19</b>  <b>Pastor Scott on vacation</b>					
20 9 am Sunday School for ALL ages 9:45 am Choir practice 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Coffee and Fellowship Time	21	22	23 6 pm – Confirmation at Immanuel: The Apostles Creed – Second Article: Who is Jesus?  7pm – Women of the Word study at Immanuel	24	25	26
27 9 am Sunday School for ALL ages 9:45 am Choir practice 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Coffee and Fellowship Time	28					



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR EASTER SUNDAY! APRIL 17...

Be sure to mark your calendars for Immanuel's and Ceresco's Easter Sunday morning activities. Here's what will be happening on Sunday, April 17:

- 6:44 a.m. Community Easter Sunrise Service on the Ceresco water tower hill**
- 7:30 a.m. Coffee served at Immanuel**
- 8:00 a.m. Easter breakfast served by Immanuel's Church Council (until 10 a.m.)**
- 10:15 a.m. Traditional Easter worship service at Immanuel**

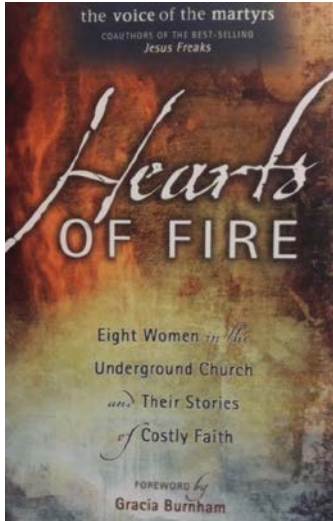
**Please remember Immanuel's homebound members in your prayers:**

**John Christiansen**

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**Dale Rexilius**

c/o Tabitha GracePointe  
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# WOW

WOMEN OF THE WORD

## **Women of the Word Bible Study Wednesdays, March 9th and 23rd at 7 p.m.**

All women of Immanuel and friends are welcome to join us on the **second** and **fourth** Wednesday evenings in March as we conclude an eight-session study series called "Hearts of Fire". We are learning about eight women who held on to their faith and relationship in Jesus Christ. Their stories and our Bible study together inspire and challenge us in our commitment to live out our faith and to encourage one another. All participants will receive a FREE copy of the "Hearts of Fire" book by Voice of the Martyrs. If you don't have a copy of the book and want one we will get one for you.

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## **Immanuel's Church Basement Remodeling Project**



The basement project will be moving forward as we have the basement flooring removed and begin fixing up our basement room, kitchen and bathroom. Be sure to check out the church's plans in the entry area of Immanuel. There's a list of the basement projects that Immanuel will be working on in the months ahead.

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## **NEW CHURCH CARILLON SYSTEM COMING!**



The purchase of a new carillon system was approved at Immanuel's Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 6th. This new carillon system consists of a sound amplifier, speakers to be installed in the church steeple and recordings of bells playing familiar Christian songs and hymns. The new carillon system costs a little less than \$10,000 and will be purchased with Immanuel's memorial funds.

## Summer Bible Camp is only 3 months away



**Hey, parents of elementary and middle school kids...** Registrations are open at Camp Carol Joy Holling (the local Lutheran Bible camp at Ashland) and will be available until a session is full (see the weeks of summer camp below). Families can register online at

[www.caroljoyholling.org](http://www.caroljoyholling.org) and you can also view the 2022 Summer Camp Schedule on their website.

### Half-Off for First Time Campers:

1. First-time campers at Carol Joy Holling Camp only. Sorry - if you've been to summer camp at CJH Camp before (not counting family programs), you can't use this discount.
2. You may **ONLY** use the discount on the following sessions. Grade listed refers to the child's grade during the 2021-2022 school year.

#### **TrailHead (Grades 1-6)**

Week 1 • June 5-10  
Week 2 • June 12-17  
Week 3 • June 19-24  
Week 4 • June 26 - July 1

#### **The Springs (Grades 6-8)**

Week 4 • June 26 - July 1  
Week 6 • July 10-15  
Week 7 • July 17-22

3. **Register now!** When you register, please pay the full registration fee of \$100. If you're a first time camper, use coupon code '**Half22**' when registering online. Please note, the first time camper discount will not be applied to your balance until your eligibility is verified by Camp Carol Joy Holling's Registrar Jessica Weltz.



### **Hey, youth and your families... this year's Boundary Waters Canoe Trip is coming in August!**

Pastor Scott and Jamie Fredrickson were able to reserve BWCA entry permits for another canoe trip. We'll head up to Minnesota the morning of **Monday, August 1st** and return the night of **Saturday, August**

**6th.** Be sure to mark your calendar to save the date! More information will be coming out in the weeks ahead.

Please let Pastor Scott or Jamie know if you wish to go on the canoe trip. We already have eight people signed up and room for ten more youth and adults.

## Prayer List

Christie Bevington (health – member)  
The Wade family (Mission family we support)  
Bill Bohling (cancer/Heart - Crystal's Dad)  
Dan Duffy  
Makena Garrison (17 yrs old – neurofibromatosis – Bevington)  
Gary & Rhonda Westendorf (Health)  
Tommy & Linda Elherton (Health)  
Lora Robinson (health – Fran's sister)  
JoAnn Koepke (health & Safety – Janis' sister)  
Andrea Christensen (health – J Christensen)  
Karen Edstrom (cancer)  
Heather Lucht (health – Hanson)  
Ron Weltruski (bone cancer – Hedges)  
Connie Hansen (cancer Kent & Teresa Hansen)  
Ken Rezac (stroke)  
Dave & Carol Tejral (Bad fall – Lisa)  
Aaron Larson (health - Pastor Larson)  
Melanie Armstrong (Health - Leanne)  
Julie Hart  
Charley Soden  
Taylor Hageman (liver transplant)  
Jerry Jones (Bad Fall)  
Pray for all the Christian Martyrs around the world  
Health, Safety & Protection for all

### **MARCH USHERS**

March 6 Justin & Kristi Badberg  
March 13 Ray & Jane Otto  
March 20 Fran Freeman  
March 27 Christie Bevington

### **MARCH LECTORS**

March 6 Kristi Badberg  
March 13 Marcia Tetley  
Mach 20 Fran Freeman  
March 27 Crystal Haake

### **March Food Pantry**

#### **SOUPS**

**Canned Soups**

**Boxed Soups**

**Bouillon Cubes**