

Immanuel Newsletter March 2024

Words from Pastor Joe



When I wrote my last newsletter article for St. Paul's Lutheran Church in rural Neola, Iowa it was October 2023. I was leaving a call that I had served for only 2 years as an intentional interim pastor. It was an amazing experience among people I grew to know and love but I believe God was calling them to a new relationship with a new pastor. And I believed God was calling me to a new adventures in interim ministry.

So, I started looking inside an area within 100 miles of our home in Elkhorn, NE. My path led me to Bruning, NE and rural Axtell, KS. And I grew more involved with Christ Lutheran in Blair where we had found a church home after we moved to the Omaha area in 2020. Then I noticed, on the LCMC website a little congregation called Immanuel in Ceresco, NE that was looking for a part time pastor. Well within our 100-mile limit, I began to inquire. I figured I wasn't exactly the model of the pastor Immanuel was seeking. But I want the congregations of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) to move into the 21st century with a simple, Biblical focus on the relationship between pastor and congregation. So, I submitted my name and profile to the call committee in order to at least interview and meet some awesome people.

I found out we were moving in the same direction, trusting Jesus to foster a relationship that could be fruitful for a time. Mission accomplished. It's been great to not only meet the call committee but the congregation it represents. Now we are well on our way through the season of Lent. Thank you all for inviting and welcoming Gracie and me your adventure of fulfilling the ministry into which you are being called.

The best way to find out where that path leads is to find yourself at worship!

Here we are talking about worship. And I may use the connection to power as a parable. Worship is not the power source. Our Father in Heaven, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit is the power. God's the promise that holds us in time and eternity and theirs is the power that creates, redeems and sanctifies.

Worship is the switch that keeps us attached to that power. It's part of Martin Luther's genius that he identified worship and God's word as the focus behind the command, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." "Regard God's word as holy and gladly hear and learn it," he reminds us. Worship is therefore not an event (weekly, monthly, yearly, or however often you get to **public** worship) as much the permanent connection with life itself. God wants you to know who he is, who you are and how he loves you and wants you to be his forever. He is a great and perfect God. Without his grace you are a lost and condemned sinner. In Christ you are redeemed, forgiven, and being prepared for eternity. Worship: weekly – daily – constantly – keeps you connected. In Christ! Bring the kids.

See you at worship (every time I see you) this week!



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MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2
3 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Coffee and	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Coffee and Fellowship	11	12	13 6:30pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lent Service	14	15	16
17 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Coffee and Fellowship	18 6:30 pm VBS Mtg	19	20 6:30pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lent Service	21	22	23
24 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Coffee and Fellowship	25	26	27	28 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Ser- vice	29 7:00 pm Good Friday Service	30
31 Easter Sunrise Service TBD						

PRAYER LIST

Sharon Sykes (Healing)
Jim Countryman (Healing)
Pastor D & Donna (Healing)
Family of Wanda Lambert (Passing of Pastor Joe's Mother)
Lora & Randy Rohde (Crash – Hedges)
Shannon Maly (Health – Rudeen)
Tammy Morse (Cancer – Fisher)
Kim Pearson (Health – Pearson)
Rene & Sharon Remillard (Health – Hanson)
Jayson Boden (Jodi's Son)
Gracie Wilcox (Blood Disorder – Bevington)
Steve Martz (Stroke – Bevington)
Christie Bevington (Health – member)
Roger McGinnis (Health – Countryman)
Dawn Buss (Health – Fran's Daughter)
Benedikte Ehlers (Cancer – Fran's Tour Guide)
Heather Lucht (Health – Hanson)
Ron Weltruski (Bone Cancer – Hedges)
Zack Emerson (FCA Mission)
Adam Johnson (Convincing Proof)
Wade Family (Missionaries – Bible Translation)
Youth Alpha Experience
VBS Planning Committee
Grace Lutheran Church in Walton
Persecuted Christians around the World
People in War Torn Areas
Health & Protection of Everyone



MARCH USHERS

March 3 Leroy & Barb Hansen
March 10 Fran Freeman
March 17 Kerry & Deb Meyer
March 24 Dane & Hailey Drahota
March 28 Leroy & Barb Hanson
March 29 Fran Freeman
March 31 Doug & Shawn Rudeen

MARCH LECTORS

March 3 Kristi Badberg
March 10 Fran Freeman
March 17 Cory Ball
March 24 Hailey Drahota
March 28 Crystal Haake
March 29 Fran Freeman
March 31 Shawn Rudeen

March Food Pantry

Soups

Canned Soups, Boxed Soups, Broth & Boullion