

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2021

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*Keeping
a Holy Lent*

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*Worship Leaders for February
Did you know? Can you help?
February Calendar*

Drive-In worship participants we are asking you to drive up to the door/overhang at the Education wing in the main (south) parking lot. The usher will hand out communion, bulletins and receive offerings. Using the overhang, the usher will be somewhat protected from the weather and will also not have to cross the street!



Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Erie, PA 16505

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LIKE US on Facebook

www.ilc-erie.org

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Grace & Peace from the Pastor's Desk

Howard Thurman was a member of the Quaker Fellowship who was active in the civil rights movement in the 1960s. A few years ago I came across this poem he had written, and with what is going on in our world now, I feel compelled to share it:

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,

When the star in the sky is gone,

When the kings and princes are home,

When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,

To heal the broken,

To feed the hungry,

To release the prisoner,

To rebuild the nations,

To bring peace among brothers,

To make music in the heart.

Why, when it's just about Valentine's Day, and all the celebration about love is in the air, would I bring back a poem from Christmas? Because we have been, and are still, experiencing a tumultuous season. A season of loss: for some, loss of health; for others, loss of loved ones; others have experienced loss of income; we've all experienced a loss of "normal" life; for some there has been a loss of hope; and most of us, with the presidential transition, have experienced a loss of the America we knew as the invasion of the White House was witnessed through the lens of a camera.

What does that have to do with the post-Christmas poem, you might ask? Because we need to be reminded that Christmas isn't just about a baby being born in a manger, about beautiful trees with lights and Chrismons, or that warm feeling we get when everyone is feeling the Christmas spirit. The difference between the love in the air at Christmas and on St. Valentine's Day, is that the spirit of love on Valentine's Day isn't for all humanity, it's just your own loved one who receives the special treatment.... And if you have no loved one, you're left feeling out and hurt. We need to keep the Spirit of Christmas alive throughout the season of Epiphany, or maybe longer, so the world around us can know the love of Christ. It is our responsibility as followers of Christ to live the gospel so that we can find the lost, broken, hungry, and prisoner. So that we can rebuild the nation and bring peace among our fellow humans.

Matthew 25:31-46 where Jesus speaks of separating the sheep from the goats, tells us that Jesus expects us to do all these things listed above, but we need to learn to live by Micah 6:8, "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" As we continue to work for the Lord, let these words be our guide.

Please remember I am in the office most Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 2pm. You can schedule an appointment, or just drop by. I can be reached by phone during office hours at 814-833-7062, or on my cell phone 724-557-2386 (leave a message if I don't answer and I'll call back.)

***Grace and Peace,
Pastor Karen***

Christian Education



~ Sharing the Good News ~

Sunday School did not meet during December. Packets with Advent lessons and crafts were delivered to each family. Thank you to everyone who put items on the Mitten Trees. Thank you to the Sewing Group for taking care of the trees. They also counted and boxed everything. 217 items were delivered to Bethesda's main campus in Meadville. The children will need them with the weather we have this week! Some will come back to Erie for the children, teens and young adults at the 18th St. Trinity Centers. SS has resumed and is meeting in the large 1st floor classroom. There will be no Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner this year, due to social distancing. Discussions have started with Lakewood Methodist about VBS. Please keep SS in your prayers as we meet and prepare.

~Anita

LENT BIBLE STUDY

AND

WORSHIP

For the Lenten season this year we will be offering a 6 pm Bible study based on the ELCA Daily Discipleship, Word of Life series, followed by a quiet, meditative evening worship service at 7 pm. The Bible study, led by Pastor Karen is based on the Gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday. It will begin Ash Wednesday, February 17, and continue through Wednesday, March 24th. The study will be a hybrid in-person/Zoom meeting. The in-person meeting will be held in the large 1st floor Kindergarten classroom. Those wishing to participate by Zoom need to email the church for the link to be sent to them. The evening worship service will continue through March 31.

Sharing from my faith journey during the pandemic from... "Boundries, Borders and Better Relationships"

I sit in my car for worship, with my Mom, and feel that I am "in church" surrounded by God's love and yours – very blessed and thankful - at peace with the minimalist setting of divine creation & focusing on the inspirational words.

*As we install our 2021 Council members and look ahead to hopes of a year with a little more normalcy, I am thankful for all who help in so many ways with ministry and volunteer support, with prayer & praise, through these turbulent waters, with the Word of God as our guide.
by Lori Nemenz, Admin. Ofc.*

*I recently read a booklet on **Boundries, Borders and Better Relationships** written by Pastor Diane Wheatley, an ordained pastor of the Lutheran church since 1984. She has been teaching workshops since 2001 and has been part of the Conflict and Healing Team of the Upstate NY Synod since 2000. In this world, that has been somewhat turned upside down during the pandemic, I thought this information worthy of sharing with all of you as we seek to be God's disciples in the world.*

Pastor Wheatley shares that Spiritual Bullying, is more frequent in faith communities than we would like to admit... which is especially sad during such challenging times. Here are a few illustrations:

- *Assuming any one person/s thoughts are always the best which silences others,*
- *Belittling the ideas of some people,*
- *Laughing when people suggest an idea we disagree with,*
- *Glaring at people who suggest a different solution, and*
- *Implying there is something wrong with the faith of quiet people if they don't share out loud.*

Pastor Wheatley also shares about different leadership styles and invites us to consider a Servant Leadership style as one that parallels 1 Corinthians 12 which refers to the various gifts we all have and should be encouraged to share and is included in the installation ceremony for our council.



FEBRUARY 2021 Worship Calendar for Immanuel Lutheran, Erie PA

Date	Presider	Assistant	Lector
2/7/21 9:30 AM	Kostur	Bob Dorler	Bob Dorler
2/14/21 9:30 AM	Kostur	Debbie Redditt	Bill Redditt
2/17/21 ASH WEDNESDAY 7 PM	Kostur	_____	_____
2/21/21 9:30 AM	Kostur	Cindy Geddes	Cindy Geddes
2/24/21 LENTEN SERVICE 7 PM	Kostur	_____	_____
2/28/21 9:30 AM	Kostur	Stan Holsopple	Stan Holsopple

***DID YOU KNOW ...
this time of year –
after the Epiphany is
represented by the color***

***~green~
and symbolizes***

***Our Time of
Growth in Christ***

and CAN YOU HELP...

Altar Guild: Judy Stewart/Donna Dorler
Counters: Bill & Debbie Redditt
Ushers: Ushers as assigned by B. Dorler Head Usher

If you are unable to fulfill your commitment – please find an alternate & notify the church office.

Sign-up sheets on the bulletin board for March

**MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
FEBRUARY 15TH**

We would like to invite you as a member of the congregation to join us as a Lector on Sunday morning at our Indoor service. If you are willing, please just sign-up on the bulletin board across the hall from the Church Office - all ages are welcome - no training, other than being able to read -- so come on, give it a try when you are able to share your time and talents.



KEEP IN PRAYER: The family of Jamie Young – Stephanie Wood’s brother who passed away; Denise Arnold’s Mom - Lucie Arndt and sister, Lana as well as brother-in-law Pastor Huhn; John & Tim Botwright and Tim’s wife Karen, Wally Coughlin’s sister & family; the Feiler & Lee families; Ruth & Ken Foos – friends of Carol McCray; Jim & Lorraine Hornaman, Kyle Husted, Jim Kuntz, Nancy Leonard – Pastor Karen’s friend; Diane McGranor, Phyllis Lindahl, Carole Rickrode, Sharon Roemer, Jan Rowe – Pastor Karen’s friend; Dr. Carl Seon; and all of our members who are grieving; who are in nursing homes, who are serving on the “front line” during the COVID-19 pandemic or who are ill at home. We pray for those in the military: Scott Case– Navy, (C. Geddes nephew) & Christopher Peterson – Navy (Grandson of the late Agnes & Chuck Peterson).

Shut-In Ministry

***No time in your busy life for much more?
How about just an occasional phone call or card?***

***Current Shut-in list: Audree Adams, Judi Casler,
Sally Fager.***

Please remember the members of Immanuel who are "shut in," and cannot make it to service, you may want to offer them a ride, give them a friendly call, send them a card. The current Shut-In Mailing List is available in the office or see our current directory.



If you are sick or in the hospital please notify the church office and if you’d like home communion or a copy of our newsletter ~ please let us know in the office.



FAITH IN ACTION

Thank you
for sharing
your
Time &
Talents

This year in place of the Holy Trinity Sloppy Joe dinner the Social Ministry Committee asked for your financial donations to support the Holy Trinity Soup & Pasta Kitchen's "grocery bag" ministry, since they are not able to offer indoor meals during the pandemic.



We were able to send them \$1019.00 in donations.



February 7 is not only a day for football, but also a way to help feed others by donating to our annual "Souper" Bowl. Pots will be inside and outside to collect your donation. This year's collection will go to the Erie City Mission. Please mark your check in the memo line with Souper bowl.

Thank you for your support!
Social Ministry Committee

Worship & Music in the News....



"Bryan and Denise are gathering information for a potential virtual event. They are requesting that members email in a few of their favorite hymns. Please email your hymns to timmbryan@hotmail.com or write them down and leave in his church mail box, or on the organ console."



Make a *Joyful* unto the Lord
a noise *Lord*
Psalm 98:4



Active ELDERS

At Home, But Not Forgotten

Are you a senior who is staying inside for longer periods of time because you don't want to get COVID? Are you less active? Are you feeling fearful, lonely, anxious, or sad?

The **Active ELDERS** program may be able to help.

This one hour television show hosted by Traci Teudhope is designed to support seniors who want to:

- Know they are not alone because their community embraces them.
- Learn how to safely increase their flexibility, balance, and strength where they live.
- Understand how to work through difficult feelings brought on by the pandemic.
- Discover wellness tips to break out of social isolation.

In 2021, **Active ELDERS** is scheduled to air on

WQLN  **PBS** Channel 54-1

Thurs. January 7 8:00pm

Sunday January 10 2:00pm

Sunday February 21 3:00pm

Eco-Friendly Products



As we look to the future and plan for post-COVID 19 events and services, we hope you are thinking green. We've recreated worship, learning and service. Now let's recreate our use of cleaning and office supplies and paper products. Yes, they cost a little more, but the cost is worth our Care of Creation?

One social ministry provider in our synod took the plunge to purchase greenware for their expanded free take-out community meals. A congregational member received a Thrivent Action Team grant to try eco-friendly green ware and the products were deemed just as good as products used previously. The cost difference is approximately \$50 for 300 meals. That's only 17 cents per meal! They are being conscientious about the impact take-out containers have on the environment and are setting an example for the community.

So how do you start? Google eco-friendly take-out containers or office/cleaning/paper products. Ask the company you currently purchase these products from what eco-friendly products they have available. Compare their price to other sources of the same product. There are lots of suppliers. Sam's Club and Costco carry a few items, but mostly online only. Green Paper Products, Fabri-Kal, Earth Choice Packaging, Staples, Janitor Supply, Quill and Webstraunt offer these products. Then compare the price and quality of just 1 or 2 products that you use regularly, i.e. toilet paper, paper towels, copy paper, trash bags or take out containers. Choose the provider that best meets your needs.

Here's an example:

100% recycled copy paper 8 1/2 X 11 case of 10 reams	
Staples	\$ 99.19
Webstraunt	\$ 58.49
Costco	\$ 59.99
Amazon	\$ 50.33
Amazon NOT 100% recycled	\$ 41.98



Will it be more expensive to purchase eco-friendly products? YES! Is it worth the expense? YES, it's worth it to be environmentally friendly and Care for Creation! Are there resources available to help? Yes, just look and ask your congregation for their support. We believe the financial resources will be there.



Also consider eco-friendly solutions to bigger projects like new construction, repairs, roofs replacements and parking lots. Go to <https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/stewarding-your-property-as-an-earth-community/> for more information. There is financial assistance for these larger projects from the Mission Investment Fund Green Building resources at <https://www.mif.elca.org/building-green-d-clr-dcdde1-515153?rq=green%20building>. Google "church green or sustainable project grants" for more resources.

If you would like to be on the NWPA SYNOD's Green Team's email list or would like more information about the Green Team, contact Dennis Groce (d_mgroce@labs.net) with your name and email address.

Martin Luther, "God is wholly present in all creation, in every corner, behind you and before you." (LW 51:43)



February Birthdays

February 3	Mychal Molnar
13	Vic Paternosh
16	Lori Yusz/Mark Moore
17	Cathy Righnour
18	Christopher Bureau
19	Judy Stewart
26	Melissa Sturgeon

Celebrations

February Anniversaries

February 1	Cindy & Dave Eckman
14	George & Sue Pfeiffer

of Life and

Did I forget you? Please e-mail me or call me with your birthdays, anniversaries or a special day you would like us to share.

Love

February 2021



Greetings of Peace

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 QUILTERS 9:30 AM	2	3 AA MTG 7:30 PM	4	5	6
7 Worship: 9:30 a.m. 10:30 Sunday School QUARTER SUNDAY 	8 QUILTERS 9:30 AM	9	10 AA MTG 7:30 PM	11	12	13
14 Worship: 9:30 a.m. 10:30 Sunday School 	15 QUILTERS 9:30 AM MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16	17  6:00 PM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM SERVICE AA MTG 7:30 PM	18	19	20
21 Worship: 9:30 a.m. 10:30 Sunday School	22 QUILTERS 9:30 AM	23	24 6:00 PM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM SERVICE AA MTG 7:30 PM	25	26	27
28 Worship: 9:30 a.m. 10:30 Sunday School						



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WHAT IS GOD
ASKING OF YOU
TODAY AND IN THE
DAYS AHEAD?



**All are
Welcome**

Immanuel Hours

Church Office – 833-4062
Hours - Mon-Thurs. 8:30am-12:30pm
immluthch@verizon.net

Staff

Pastor Karen Kostur – 833-7062
or Emergency #: 724-557-2386
Office Hours – Tues & Thurs. 9:30am-2:00pm
Church Caretaker: Wally Coughlin
Organist/Music Director: Bryan Timm
Admin. Ofc.: Lori Swanson Nemenz

Sunday School

Coord: Anita Byrne & Janice Kreger
Teachers: Rick Kuntz & Jen Kuntz

Elected Lay Leadership

Treasurer: Bill Redditt
Fin. Sec.: Cindy Geddes – 734-1286

Church Council Officers

Pres. – Debbie Redditt – 449-1855
Vice Pres. – Bob Dorler – 833-2719
Secretary – Debbie Madurski – 774-3590

Council Members

Cindy Eckman, Char Feiler, George Pfeiffer, Sally Leubin, Bob Dorler, Cindy Geddes

Church Council Committees

*We invite all members of Immanuel to join any of these committees and/or offer your gifts where you can – many hands make light work!!
Council usually meets the 2nd Sunday of the month*

Christian Education

Council liaison: Cindy Eckman
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

NO SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Communications

Council liaison: vacant Committee Chair: vacant

Check out our website and "FRIEND" us on [Facebook](#)
Did you miss church? Need to keep updated and want easy access to the church calendar, newsletter or annual report?

Check out our website <http://www.ilc-erie.org/>

**WATCH FOR US ON FACEBOOK, GOERIE.COM, ERIE NEWS
NOW AND IN PRINT IN THE ERIE TIMES NEWS**

Fellowship, Outreach & Growth

Council liaisons: Sally Leubin & Char Feiler
NO SOUP COOK-OFF THIS YEAR

Finance

Council liaison: George Pfeiffer
2020 AUDIT

Property

Council liaison: Bob Dorler Committee Chair: Stan Holsopple
FACILITY MAINTENANCE, RENTAL PROPERTY OVERSIGHT

Stewardship

Council liaison: Cindy Geddes
MEMBERSHIP RECORD UPDATE

Social Ministry Committee

Council liaison: Debbie Madurski – Committee chair: Debbie Madurski
SOUPER BOWL OF CARING COLLECTION

Worship & Music

Council liaison: Debbie Redditt Chair: vacant
****Looking For New Committee Co-Chairs****
DRIVE-IN AND INDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES
VIRTUAL MUSICAL EVENT BEING CONSIDERED
LENTEN BIBLE STUDY & SERVICE



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