

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH MARCH NEWSLETTER 2021

In this issue –



- From the Pastor's Desk – Grace and Peace
- Lenten Bible Study & Worship
- Worship Leaders for March
- Faith in Action
- Celebrations of Life & Love
- Church Council & Staff

Letter from Bishop Lozano – health challenge
Christian Education

Did you know? Can you help?
March 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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**Grace & Peace
from the
Pastor's Desk**

As we enter into March, we find ourselves in the midst of the season of Lent. It will last throughout the rest of the month, ending on Easter morning, Sunday, April 4. The word “Lent” simply means “spring”, a time of new beginnings and new life. This is a fitting term because of the new life that is brought to humanity through the resurrection of Christ. Many churches have actually changed the term “Easter Sunday” to “Resurrection Sunday” because of all the secular activity that is now associated with Easter. The name “Resurrection Sunday” reclaims the day to its original Christian meaning, the day we celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

The original Christians of the first and second century spent Lent teaching new Christian converts about Christianity, and Easter would be their formal introduction into the church as they were baptized into new life in Christ. Their baptism would be an immersion in a body of water, such as the Jordan River. Being completely covered in water symbolized the death and burial of Jesus in the tomb, and bursting through the water symbolized being raised from the tomb to new life in Christ.

In modern times we sometimes give things up for the forty days of Lent to symbolize Jesus fasting in the wilderness for 40 days. If we choose to do that, we should be giving up something that we really will miss, and when we experience cravings for that food or item (chocolate, tv, coffee, ice cream, etc.) our focus should be redirected to Jesus, making it a holy Lent. Often, instead of giving something up, people will take something on.... Like a new time of Bible study, or a volunteer activity that they don't normally engage in. This also is meant to put the focus on Jesus, creating a holy Lent. Is there something you are doing during this season that is drawing you closer to Jesus, so that Easter Sunday, or Resurrection Sunday, is something more than just another Sunday?

Lent is a perfect time to initiate following the words of Paul in Colossians 3:23 “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters” (NIV). If we train ourselves during Lent to follow Jesus with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, doing everything to God's glory, we will have made a good start at transforming our entire life, living a new life in Christ.

Just to note, you may wonder why Lent is 40 days, when the actual number of days from Ash Wednesday to Easter is 46 days? Because Sundays are not included in Lent. Every Sunday is considered a re-creation of Easter, so no Sundays are counted as being “in” Lent.

If you'd like to talk with me, I'm in the office Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., give me a call or just drop in. The church's phone number is 833-4062. My mobile number to call at any time is 724-557-2386, leave a message and I will get back to you.

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



Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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23 February 2021
Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr

Dear Synod,

Grace, mercy, and peace be with you in the name of Christ our Lord!

I write to give you a brief update on my health. For some time now, at least the last six months, I have dealt with sore and aching muscles in my shoulders, neck, and chest. I have worked with my doctor to rule out several probable causes and have sought specialist care to rule out other diagnoses.

Two weeks ago, I experienced sharp pains in my upper chest and shoulder such that I went to the emergency room to see if a cause could be determined. I knew before going it was not cardiac related, and this was confirmed by the doctors on call. The emergency room visit resulted in more tests. Yesterday, my doctor informed me that a mass was discovered on my sternum. A biopsy will be performed soon, and the results will determine my options for treatment.

I choose not to hide my health issues from you, nor do I want to alarm you. I ask only your patience with me and our synod staff as I move forward in diagnosis and treatment. I am sure I will have more bad days than good days in the weeks and months ahead. And I am sure I will be a bit more forgetful than usual or slow in responding to the needs of our synod due to medications.

As a pastor and now as bishop I am privileged to walk with those in need of healing in their lives, be it in body, mind, or spirit. My illness is no greater than theirs or yours. I am in a good place now that a diagnosis is firming up. Patti and Christopher are both processing what this will mean for us as a family. We are good today but hold us in prayer.

And so, we pray: Lord Jesus, you healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing – with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are need of healing. Amen

Called to Serve,


Bishop Lozano

Christian Education



~ Sharing the Good News ~

SS has resumed and is meeting in the large 1st floor classroom at 10:30 if you'd like to join us indoors. Discussions have started with Lakewood Methodist about VBS. Please keep SS in your prayers as we meet and prepare.

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.

Counters and Ushers needed in 2021 - We would welcome additional folks to join us in both of these church tasks. Please see the lists in this newsletter and reach out to Cindy Geddes for Counters and Bob Dorler for Ushers if you think you'd like to give this a try.

Volunteers Welcome



MARCH 2021 Worship Calendar for Immanuel Lutheran, Erie PA

Date	Presider	Assistant	Lector
3/3/21 LENTEN SERVICE 7 PM	Kostur		Anita Byrne
3/07/21 9:30 AM	Kostur	Stan Holsopple	Claudia Skerlong
3/10/21 LENTEN SERVICE 7 PM	Kostur		Anita Byrne
3/14/21 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEINGS 9:30 AM	Kostur	Debbie Redditt	Bill Redditt
3/17/21 LENTEN SERVICE 7 PM	Kostur		Anita Byrne
3/21/21 9:30 AM	Kostur	Bob Dorler	Bob Dorler
3/24/21 LENTEN SERVICE 7 PM	Kostur		Anita Byrne
3/28/21 PALM SUNDAY 9:30 AM	Kostur	Anita Byrne	Anita Byrne
3/31/21 LENTEN SERVICE 7 PM	Kostur		Anita Byrne



DID YOU KNOW...

The liturgical color during Lent is ~purple~

for REPENTANCE AND SOLEMNITY

We are now in Lectionary Year B (there are A, B, & C)

Altar Guild: P. Maloney/Sue Pfeiffer/Sally Leubin

Counters: Stan Holsopple/Denise Arnold

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 April

APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

MARCH 15TH

and CAN YOU HELP...

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 Cooper & Sierota families on the passing of Ron Cooper & Joe Sierota; 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, the Feiler & Lee families including Mike's Aunt Lana; Ruth & Ken Foos – friends of Carol McCray; Jim & Lorraine Hornaman, Kyle Husted, Jim Kuntz, Nancy Leonard – Pastor Karen's friend; Patrick Lewis – family friend of S.Kocur; Bishop Michael Lozano, Diane McGranor, Phyllis Lindahl, Carole Rickrode, Sharon Roemer, Jan Rowe – Pastor Karen's friend; Dr. Carl Seon; Pastor Roy Washill & family 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).

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.

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.



Many thanks and much appreciation to those who rallied together and helped with the Ron Cooper funeral luncheon. Special thanks to Tom & Judy Stewart, Bill & Debbie Redditt, Bob & Donna Dorler, Sally Leubin and Anita Byrne.



Your help was very much appreciated. Debbie Redditt

FAITH

IN

ACTION

Thank you
for sharing

your

Time &

Talents

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kit Appeal



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



Lutheran World Relief is in need of personal care kits. Demand for the kits is greater than what they have on hand. Last year 71,900 kits were distributed. The personal

care kits include a towel, bar soap, toothbrush, comb and nail clippers. We are asking members to sponsor the cost of a kit which is \$8 which includes shipping costs. Due to specific size requirements and needs to clear customs, the social ministry committee will purchase the items and prepare each kit for shipping. Please consider sponsoring one or more kits. Our goal is 50 kits.

Please label your donation as care kit and place in the offering plate or mail to the church office. Easter, April 4, will be the last day to sponsor a kit. Thank you for your support toward this mission of faith in action.



The Social Ministry committee would like to thank everyone for their "Souper Bowl" donations. We collected \$400 which will be sent to the Erie City Mission.

Thank you for your support!

Social Ministry Committee

Worship & Music in the News....



During Lent we are offering Bible Study at 6 p.m. either indoors or via Zoom and worship at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays.

As we look ahead we will have Palm Sunday service on March 28th followed by Holy Week, when we will have our final mid-week worship on Wednesday, 3/31, plus worship services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 7 p.m.

Easter Resurrection Sunday service will take place indoors and via drive-in at 9:30 a.m. on April 4th. We hope you can join us on this faith journey either indoors, via Zoom, or in our drive-in services.





Celebrations

of Life and

Love



March Birthdays

March	4	Julie Sierota
	7	R. Cooper– <i>remembering Ron /J. Byrne</i>
	8	Stephanie Wood
	11	Ava Fetcko
	12	Carolyn Kuntz– <i>remembering Carolyn</i>
	25	L. Nemenz, I. Guthrie
	27	J. Swanson/S. Fager/M. Moore
	31	Mary Hauser

Everyone enjoys receiving a card!

March Anniversaries

Congratulations! to those celebrating their anniversary on:

March	4	Michael and Jodie Feiler
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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.

Celebrating New Life/New Birth

The rosebud placed on the Altar was sponsored by proud Grandfather Richard Kuntz and Aunt Jennifer Kuntz in honor of their Granddaughter/Niece, **Divya Rene Kuntz**, born February 9, 2021 at 5lbs., 11 oz., to the proud parents Jason and Rucha Kuntz.

An Irish Bless

Shared by Jeannette Swanson as seen in
the Erie Times 2/3/21

May there always be work
for your hands to do.
May your purse always
hold a coin or two.
May the sun always shine
on your windowpane.
May a rainbow be certain
to follow each rain,
May the hand of a friend
always be near you,
May God fill your heart
with gladness to cheer you.



EASTER FLOWERS, I would like to give _____ flowers for
the Special Offering for Easter Sunday at \$8.00 each.
\$ _____ is enclosed.

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Given by _____

Please indicate your preference below

_____ please have circle member deliver to shut in

_____ I will deliver to shut in

_____ I prefer to pick up after late service

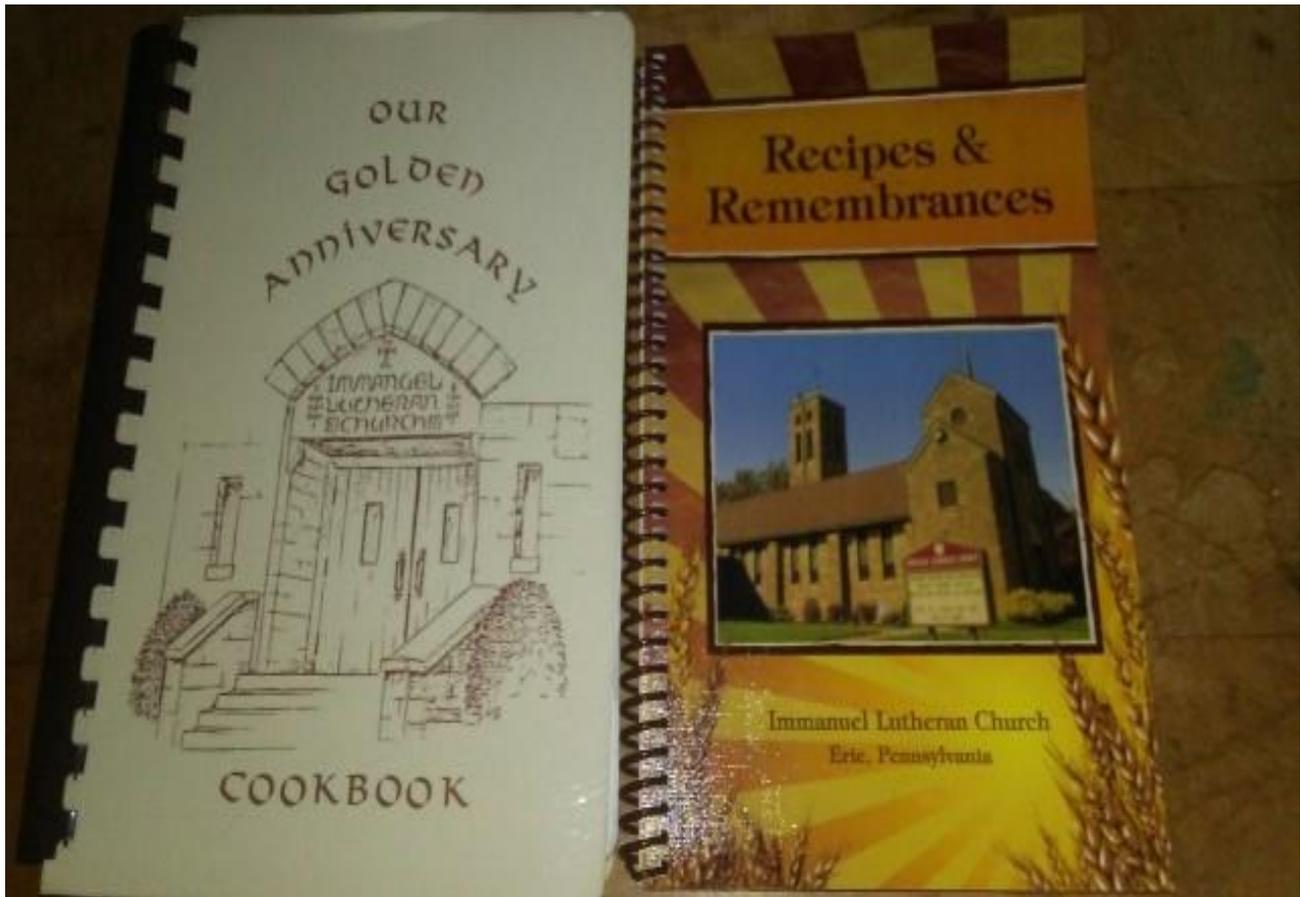
Instead of flowers I would like to give _____ for the
Special Offering for Easter Sunday to go towards eliminating
hunger locally and globally.
\$ _____ is enclosed.

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Given by _____

**PLACE FORM & DONATION IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR
SEND TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY MARCH 21, 2021.**



We still have copies of both of our spiral bound cookbooks available if you haven't gotten your copy or would like to give these wonderful collections as a gift, please contact the church office.

We are offering them for \$5 ea. or 2 for \$9.

In addition to this fundraising idea, please also consider setting up an automatic "check payment" to be mailed to Immanuel Lutheran Church for your regular offering.

This can be done through your bank as other members have done. This will be a big help for the ministry and maintenance of the church.

March 2021



Greetings of Peace

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 QUILTERS 9:30 AM	2	3 6:00 PM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM SERVICE 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 6:00 PM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM SERVICE AA MTG 7:30 PM	11	12	13
14 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS – SPRING FORWARD Worship: 9:30 a.m. 10:30 Sunday School COUNCIL MTG after service	15 QUILTERS 9:30 AM APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16	17 6:00 PM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM SERVICE  AA MTG 7:30 PM	18	19	20 FIRST DAY OF SPRING!!
21 Worship: 9:30 a.m. 10:30 Sunday School EASTER APPEAL DEADLINE	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 PALM SUNDAY Worship: 9:30 a.m. 10:30 Sunday School	29 HOLY WEEK QUILTERS 9:30 AM	30 HOLY WEEK	31 HOLY WEEK 7:00 PM SERVICE			

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recycled paper

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 – 833-4062
or Emergency #: 724-557-2386
Pastor's 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,
Pastor Kostur

Congregation & Church Council Officers

Pres. – Debbie Redditt – 449-1855
Vice Pres. – Bob Dorler – 833-2719
Sec. – Debbie Madurski – 774-3590
Fin. Sec.: Cindy Geddes – 734-1286
Treasurer: Bill Redditt – 833-7024

Additional 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.

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
LWR PERSONAL CARE KITS

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
**OneDrive audio files of recorded services – see Bryan Timm
for details**



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