



April 2022

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Caring For Our Community Through Christ

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

When I was in high school (back before Tik Tok, Snapchat, Facebook, and Twitter were a thing), there was a popular fad sweeping Christianity across America. This fad was in the form of a phrase that became so common, that to not know it, or to not wear its swag, made a person appear as if they lived in a galaxy far far away. To make things even more interesting, the merchandise for this fad sold, as the old saying goes, like hot cakes and it wasn't uncommon to see someone wearing this phrase on a t shirt, hat, bracelet, etc. If you didn't have one, you needed to get one (I had the bracelets).



What was this phrase: What Would Jesus Do? Perhaps you've heard it. Maybe you've spoken it. It could be that you've even prayed it or encouraged someone to consider it. You might have even had some of the swag affiliated with it. I know I did.

This month as we move from the penitential season of Lent into the glorious season of Easter, I believe it's appropriate to briefly consider in 2022 What Would Jesus Do? But to give this phrase proper consideration, its important first to examine what made this simple little set of four words so meaningful to so many Christians.

Ever find yourself in a situation, perhaps of your own making, where you needed to know the right thing to do? What Would Jesus Do? Have you run into a place where a relationship has ended? What Would Jesus Do? Maybe you've received some life changing news and you are unsure how to feel or what to make of it? What Would Jesus Do?

Theologically, I get it. To ask What Would Jesus Do, should bring us to moments of pause and reflection. In doing so, we should seek God, asking for discernment (and maybe even a nod to our inquiry). Asking What Would Jesus Do can take us to our knees in prayer, in hopes of answers that will calm our hurting hearts.

But as always happens with anything that is man-made, asking What Would Jesus Do did not necessarily bring us closer to Jesus. Rather, it led many closer to themselves and further from the God who they had hoped to know. How? Well, it came down to usage. Instead of sincerity of heart in

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod

Caring For Our Community Through Christ

REV. DAVID CASEY-MOTLEY, PASTOR

PASTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

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PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.; and by appointment

BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS

The office is normally open from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Please remember that the administrative assistant may be
away from the office running errands during this time.

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CHURCH OFFICERS — 2022

President..... Richard Wheatley
Secretary..... Lynn Short
Financial Secretary Dee Lambert
Treasurer..... Janice Isenberg
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asking What Would Jesus Do, confessing the phrase (Yes, it was a confession, change my mind) became a false piety. What do I mean? Let me give you a few examples.

Boy meets girl in school. Boy likes girl for various reasons and so boy wonders if girl likes him and if he should ask her out. What Would Jesus Do? A job opportunity opens up. It's a little farther from home but the pay is better even though the hours aren't as pleasant. You consider if a change in employment, and more specifically, this particular job, is better for you. What Would Jesus Do? Or lastly, an unhappy spouse finds green grass in another pasture and wonders if the getting is better than what they already have. After all, God would want them happy, right? What Would Jesus Do?

Friends, Jesus is not a granter of wishes. He doesn't ask you to come unto Him so that you can give Him a list of your "most wanted request" with stars beside the ones you really want. And He isn't going to tell you who your spouse should be, where you should work, or if you ought to like one thing and not another. He doesn't work that way.

So, if God won't give us what we demand, then can we still ask the question in 2022, What Would Jesus Do? I believe the answer to be a resounding YES! Here's how.

We know what God won't do. He won't do anything that is contrary to His Word. His Word is perfect as are His plans for each and every one of us. It doesn't matter if we want a part to play in it or not, God's ways are not ours. His thoughts are not ours. Nor should they be for if they were wouldn't we be selfish and try to right some wrongs in our lives first (for more on this, see the movie Bruce Almighty).

God created all things. He spoke and it was. He promised and He delivered on His promises. He is long suffering and is our Perfect Love! What would Jesus Do? He'd take on human flesh for you. Jesus stepped into a river and took all those sins you carried and in doing so He gave you robes of righteousness. God would endure temptation, bullying, abandonment, and more. He would take your fake piety and well meanings, soaked in the cancer that is sin, to a cross and there, He'd willingly be nailed to an old, rugged cross allowing

His blood to flow down, covering you, washing away all your sins. Then lifeless, Jesus would lay in a tomb for you, for His death is yours as is His burial. And Jesus would burst from the grave, alive and glorious, for you on that first Easter morning for just as we are crucified and buried with Him, so too are we risen from the dead with Christ.

But that's not the end. For you see, because God keeps His promises, He went and prepared a place for all who believe in Him and on the last day, He will come back again to take all who are His to their true home, a beautiful place like no other. His return is soon, but before His second Advent, He doesn't leave us to fend for ourselves.

What Would Jesus Do? His Word continues to endure and will endure forever. The Gospel is proclaimed from the mouths of His under-shepherds in pulpits every Lord's Day. What Would Jesus Do? He'd call you by name from the waters of the font where the old Adam in you is put to death and new life is given for sins forgiveness. What Would Jesus Do? He'd give you the best of Himself, on paten and in chalice, as bread and wine, to forgive your sins and strengthen your Christian faith and life. What Would Jesus Do? He'd gather you together as His body, to deliver Word and Sacraments and then to send you out to your family, friends, and communities to tell others of the Good News of Jesus. That, my friend, is what Jesus would most certainly do.

Friends, as you live out your faith this season of Easter, I pray that you would ask the question: What Would Jesus Do? And, in doing so, that you would remember that what Jesus would do, is not to give you what you want, but rather to give you His gifts: for the forgiveness of your sins, to strengthen your Christian faith and life, and to help you love your neighbors as yourselves when you live out the Gospel in sharing the Good News of Jesus in your communities. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia.

In God's service and yours,



Church Council Corner

Since the Council does not have any new business for the Voters' Assembly to consider, an April meeting of Voters' Assembly has not been scheduled. A Voters' Assembly may be held at any time should circumstances warrant. Any voter who has an item to be brought before the Voters should speak with Dicky Wheatley.

In the meantime, our Church Officers and Boards continue to do their work. The Trustee is working to upgrade lighting throughout the property for safety and efficiency. The new boiler and pipe installation is complete, resulting in a major improvement heating efficiency. The stained-glass window refurbishment is ongoing. The Treasurer, the Financial Secretary and their financial team are working throughout the month to ensure deposits are accurate and that payroll and bills are paid in a timely and accurate manner. They are also currently working to address some action items from the recent audit to improve accountability.

If you have a question or want to get involved, please contact the appropriate church officer, listed earlier in the Grapevine.

Lynn Short, Secretary



SPECIAL FUNDS

Leonard Slyter Memorial

Nancy Sword & Norma

Stained Glass Fund

Sharron Jamarik

Stained Glass Fund

- In Memory of Emilie Schmick

Carl & Donna Newton

Nursery School

Linda Jefferson

Youth Group

- In Memory of Leonard Slyter

Glen Plutschak, Brad Plutschak
& Robbie Karge

125th Anniversary Fund

Linda Jefferson

Choir Fund

Janice Isenberg



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Nursery School spaghetti dinner fund raiser.

Over \$1,500.00 was raised to benefit Immanuel's Nursery School. Many thanks for all of your support. Thanks also to Katie Mae's for their hard work and assistance in this fund raiser!



Lesson for April

April 3rd Lesson is call "The Living Wonder". After mocking and beating Jesus the Roman guards take him to be crucified . Jesus gives up his life. And they bury the body of Jesus.

April 10th Palm Sunday the student will be called "The Proof Room." The Lord appears among His disciples gathered . Thomas one week later says he won't believe unless he sees Christ. Christ appears and said, Blessed are those who havbe not seen and yet have believed".



Please join us for worship as we hear the witness of these people in John's Gospel:

April 3rd , Fifth week of Lent 5: Pontius Pilate,
John 19:1–16

April 10th, The Vigil of Easter: Nicodemus,
John 19:38–42

April 14th, Maundy (Holy) Thursday:
Judas Iscariot, John 13:21–30

April 15th, Good Friday: John, the Gospel Writer,
John 19:25–37

April 17th The Resurrection of Our Lord:
Mary Magdalene, John 20:1–18

God bless you!

“For Such a Time As This”

Life at Immanuel: 1897-1945

Members and friends of Immanuel displayed photos and documents of family members who participated in the founding of the congregation and the succeeding years. After the service on March 20, we gathered to remember and learn about these faithful Christians from many years ago.

Next 125th Anniversary Event – May 15, after the service

Life at Immanuel: 1946-2022

Please bring photos and documents from these years.

Whether you have memories from 1946 or last month, help us gather the memories and the

testament
to God’s
faithfulness
to us.





Lynn Isenberg 1959

Did you know?

Easter Memories at Immanuel

(Article by Iris Rieck)

A few members and friends shared their story of earlier years at Immanuel on Easter Sunday. Perhaps their stories will bring back memories for you, as well. The photo, on the right, was sent in by Vera Rieck, showing her daughters on Easter morning about 1964. They always looked forward to a new outfit that their mother made, gloves and a hat. Times

were such that buying outfits for three daughters was out of the question! Flowers were not used for decoration in the church unless Easter was late and the daffodils were in bloom. While regular Sunday services served a full house, Easter attendance was standing room only. There was no choir at that time and the congregation sang the Easter hymns joyously accompanied by Mrs. Geiger's robust playing on the pump organ. How blessed Immanuel was

and continues to be!

Irene Wheatley stated that Easter morning at Immanuel was always quite exciting! It was time to wear our new Easter outfits – complete with new shoes, socks and for the girls and ladies – a new hat. When we arrived at church, we quickly sought out our friends to compare our “finery”. Then we all settled down to watch a 16mm film of the “Easter Story”. The entire Sunday School – including adults - was invited to the undercroft to watch. After the movie we would meet our parents and try to find a pew that would hold our whole family. Some years we would have to “split up” because there just wasn't enough room or the younger children would have to sit in their mother's or father's lap.



Valerie, Cheryl, and Victoria Rieck
1964



Did you know? -

Easter Memories at Immanuel

(continued)

The church was packed and at times folding chairs were added in the aisles. The service always seemed long to the children because there was extra music and there were so many who went to communion. As we left church, we all shook hands with the pastor and wished him a "Happy Easter!" What a wonderful way to celebrate Christ's Resurrection!

Janellen Lewis also commented on the clothes at Easter. She stated that every year, she and her sisters would always get a new dress, hat, church shoes and, sometimes, gloves. This always made them feel so grownup because all the women were also wearing hats!

Lynn Short remembered Sunday School in the 1960's, with a group opening followed by a movie being played using a projector that showed the event of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. The lights in the undercroft were turned down and the seats were filled from front to back. She remembered being amazed and in awe as the events were portrayed by the actors on a big screen in color. This movie changed her childhood perception of the Biblical events. After Sunday School, everyone went up to the sanctuary for the 11:00 AM Easter service. It was packed with joyful worshippers in their new Easter hats, dresses and best suits. Alleluias filled the rafters!!

Jeanette Schmick remembered that Paul Geihlsler built the removable stands that are still used today to hold the Easter lilies and the Christmas poinsettias. For a

while, all spring flowers were in the church at Easter along with the lilies. We had tulips, hyacinths and azaleas. All were placed throughout the nave in the windows of Immanuel. In time, the pungent odor became too much and flowers were limited to the lilies in the chancel.

Iris Rieck stated she did not remember when the cross was first placed on the lawn of Immanuel. It probably began after the flowers were not allowed to be in every window due to the overbearing smell. The cross, made from a small tree and wrapped in chicken wire, was bare on Maundy Thursday, draped in black for Good Friday, and flowers filling the chicken wire Easter morning were a reminder to each one of us that Jesus died for our sins and on the third day, rose from the dead. It was and still is Immanuel's way of telling everyone who passes by that Jesus rose from the dead for all of us!! This same cross is still used today, thanks to the men who bring it out of where it is kept, dig a hole to place it in and, when Easter week is over, take it down and put it away for the next year. Unfortunately, there is nothing mentioned of who made this beautiful reminder.

Linda Nabb was kind enough to share her memories of Easter at Immanuel through the years. Recalling Easter memories at Immanuel actually began pre-Easter, with the mid-week Lenten services every Wednesday night. "I was in Junior Choir, and we always sat in the choir loft with the church organist/Junior Choir director, Agnes (Plutschak) Dietrich. The Junior Choir sang verse 8 of *Abide With Me* at the end of each service. I think of that every time I hear the music:

(Continued from page 7)

*Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes,
Shine through the gloom and point me to the
skies.*

*Heavn's morning breaks, and earth's vain
shadows flee;*

In life, in death, oh Lord, abide with me!

On Easter Sunday we dressed in our choir robes, which consisted of red long skirts, white long-sleeved tunics, and huge red cloth tied bows. Getting those bows tied so the tips were of the same length was a challenge.

One year, the youth group was in charge of hosting an Easter egg hunt for the younger children in the congregation on the Saturday before Easter. In advance of the hunt, we dyed real eggs and made gift Easter baskets out of construction paper that we filled with artificial green grass and candy for the children to take home, along with the eggs they had found in another bag. The day of the hunt, some in the youth group hid the eggs outside, while others played games with the kids in the Fellowship Hall to keep them entertained while the eggs were hidden. The children then hunted the eggs and had cookies and something to drink, taking their hunted eggs and gift Easter baskets home with them.

Doing this a few times, we figured out a few important details for a more successful event. The curtains in the Fellowship Hall had to be closed so the older kids couldn't see any feet of the youth group hiding the eggs to gain an advantage of where to look. Wanting each child to find at least a few eggs, youth group members wandered about during the hunt, peeking in the egg collection bags to see if any child needed a few hints. Younger kids either hunted in a separate area with eggs more obviously placed, or were started a few minutes ahead of the older ones.

But even with our efforts to have a successful egg hunt, one year things didn't go as planned. Irene (Engle) Wheatley and I were in charge of boiling the eggs before they were decorated. We helped each other loading the raw eggs into the large pots in the church kitchen and boiled them. As eggs cooled enough, they were dyed and put into the refrigerator until needed. At that year's egg hunt, one of the younger children dropped her found egg onto the ground, and it cracked. Irene and I gasped as yellow egg yolk slowly ran onto the grass. Between the two of us, we had mistaken a barely cooked pot of eggs on the stove from the fully cooked one. We had to swallow our embarrassment and warn the parents about the potential of uncooked eggs among those their children took home."

Have a Blessed Easter! God bless those that shared their memories, and God bless Immanuel!



*(Photo is of Ron, Jr., Paul, and
Connie Nichols)*

APRIL



APRIL



Abby Andrews	4/1	Emil Frase	4/18	Doug & Jennifer Phillips	4/5
Robin Bowman-Smith	4/2	Rachel Harris	4/18	Kevin & Jennifer Stevens	4/5
Marsha Kenton	4/3	Glen Plutschak	4/18	Michael & Amanda Knorr	4/6
Carl Frase	4/4	David Casey-Motley	4/21	Dale & Ruth Thomas	4/12
Nathan Quidas	4/4	Allison Patchett	4/21	Thomas & Robin Starken	4/14
Lawrence Schmick	4/5	Todd Butler	4/24	Jeffrey & Denise Coppage	4/23
Ava Kenton	4/6	Andrew Willey	4/24		
Andee Hardinng	4/7	J.T. Worm	4/24		
Myrna Roth	4/8	Barbara Headley	4/26		
Amanda Scudder	4/8	Corey Schmidt	4/30		
Brady Edwards	4/9				
William Fry	4/9				
Kayleigh Bowmsn-Pinder	4/10				
James Camden	4/10				
Jeffrey Parmer	4/15				
Dennis Janko	4/16				
Dale Kenton	4/16				



APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	2 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	3 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	1 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study	2 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study
3 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Divine Service with Holy Communion 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	4 8:50-3:25 Nursery School 6:30 pm Elders Mtg	5 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	6 8:50-3:25 Nursery School 6:30 pm Bell Practice 7:40 pm Choir Practice	7 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	8	9
10 Palm Sunday 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	11 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	12 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	13 Easter Break No School 6:30 pm Bell Practice 7:40 pm Choir Practice	14 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm Service No School	15 Good Friday 7:00 pm Service	16
17 EASTER 9:15 Sunday School & Breakfast 10:30 am Divine Service with Holy Communion 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	18 No School Easter Break 6:30 Nursery School Board Meeting	19 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	20 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	21 8:50-3:25 Nursery School	22	23
24 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	28 8:50-3:25 Nursery School					

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April 2022

Immanuel's 125th Anniversary Commemoration

“For such a time as this!”

March 2022 - Life at Immanuel 1897-1945

After the service on March 20th, we gathered in the Undercroft (Fellowship Hall) and saw some moments in history from those who founded our church and those who were a part of our congregation in the early years. Photos and church certificates were on display, along with other information about the beginning of Immanuel.

Next 125th Anniversary Event – May 15, after the service

Life at Immanuel: 1946-2022

Please plan to bring photos and documents from these years. Whether you were baptized in 1948 or last month, help us gather the memories and the testament to God's faithfulness to us.

Ways to get involved in April

Think about items that can be used for Life at Immanuel for the upcoming event on May 15th

Upcoming 125th Anniversary Events

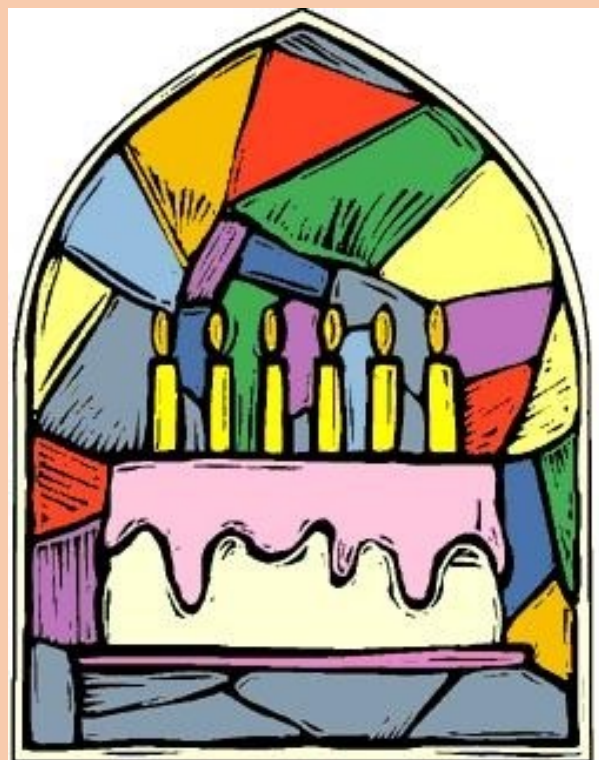
May 15 – Life at Immanuel (1945-2022)

June – Building the structures

July – Pastors

August – Education and Youth

September 25, 10:30 Anniversary Worship Service and Potluck



Church ANNIVERSARY