



March 2023

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Caring For Our Community Through Christ

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear Christians,

The season of Lent is upon us. It is the time of the church year where we, if we are honest, take a look at ourselves without the facades that we so easily hide behind. Fortunately for us, we have a God who sees us even when we hide and who loves us enough to walk along side us as we do this thing called life. It's not always easy, and it is certainly getting harder, but God keeps His promises for us that He will never leave or forsake us.



As such, I found this article by Heidi Goehmann I wanted to share with you this month. It is one person's experience with Lent and the life that Christians live in it. May it give you great comfort and peace as you turn your eyes and heart toward Christ and His coming Passion and Resurrection for you.

God bless you!

Pastor David

Lent and the Life Christians Live

"I spend a fair amount of time in airports and on airplanes. On almost every trip, someone inevitably asks me what I do for a living. I generally want to answer, "It's complicated." There should be a special club for those of us in indescribable vocations. In the last year I have settled on, "I'm a trauma therapist. I specialize in the intersection of faith and mental health."

Diving into spiritual trauma, my own and others', over the last ten years has taught me many things. It has especially unveiled to me the challenge many people find in holding the emotions that have little value in our culture: sadness, anger, fear, hurt, distress, exhaustion, and sorrow.

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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

Cell Phone..... 253-241-1435
Email pastordavid.immanuel@gmail.com

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.

Office Phone 410-673-7107
Office Fax Number 410-673-1426
Office Email immanuellutheranpreston@verizon.net

CHURCH OFFICERS — 2023

President..... Richard Wheatley
Secretary..... Lynn Short
Financial Secretary Dee Lambert
Treasurer..... Janice Isenberg
Evangelism Chair Cathy Baker
Trustee Chair Dale Kenton
Stewardship Chair..... Lynn Faulstick
Board of Education Chair Rene Langwost
Elders Chair Mark Frase

The Church Year and Our Emotions

Sitting with people in their stories and the emotions that come with them as a deaconess and as a therapist, I have stumbled upon a new appreciation for the seasons of the church year. When God is hard to see in the world around us, these seasons keep our eyes and hearts grounded in the story of Christ in our lives. These seasons come in a cycle year after year, mimicking the steady faithfulness of God as we travel around the sun. We celebrate the sense of community God created for us in the Church at Pentecost. We sit in the watching and waiting of faith during Advent. We rejoice in the triumph and victory of Christ with Easter.

And then there is Lent.

As a kid I used to dread Lent. It meant listening to my Catholic friends lament about their long forty days without chocolate or pop, and a ridiculous amount of purple (my least favorite tone on the color wheel). The worst part of Lent was watching my mom cry in church every Good Friday. As a kid, I would have given anything to keep my mom from crying. By the time I was two years old, my mom found herself a young widow, and from an early age I spent a good deal of time singing and dancing and quipping, anything to diminish the number of tears and bring out her magical smile.

I learned with time and age the value of allowing those tears their space. My mom understood Good Friday in a way I didn't when I was young. She understood her need for Jesus, her need for God's tender touch that comes into the brokenness of this world. The pain and brokenness Christ took on Himself, which we celebrate as Good Friday, as Lent, reminded her that God understood, that Jesus had walked our roads and taken on our suffering to save us and also to *be with us* for eternity.

A Season to Be Sad (Without Judgement)

Lent is a season of accountability, a time for repentance and contemplating just how much hurt humans are capable of, you and me included. Lent

gives us a moment to acknowledge our own sin and receive sweet absolution, God speaking wholeness over us in Christ's forgiveness.

There is a hidden benefit to Lent I'd invite you to embrace as well: Lent allows us a time when we can be sad without judgment. During Lent, we don't have to choose joy or step outside of suffering. We can do the work of noticing suffering—our own and others'—and call it what it is in Christ: **challenging, yucky, frustrating, apart** from what was meant to be, and somehow, somehow, through the touch of Jesus Christ, good.

During Lent, we are invited to stay in the sadness for a moment longer than we normally would. The world and culture around us asks us to smile and nod. The Holy Spirit gives us permission to drop the facade, to honor the struggle of life in a broken world, and find a unique peace and calm in decrying the challenge of it all, the harshness of our daily landscape.

Sadness and Joy in Tandem

We have joy in our lives in Jesus, maybe even in our family and friends, in our vocations, and in ordinary and extraordinary moments. And I promise that joy is brighter when we allow the sadness and hurt to be heard and seen, by God, and by others, in and outside of the blessed season of Lent.

After all, there is sadness and joy in Someone dying for sin and salvation.

There is sadness and joy in the coexistence of the wonder of the world and its heaviness.

There is sadness and joy in the weird connecting reality that you have pain and I have pain and Jesus knew pain as well.

There is sadness and joy in the coexistence of love and loss.

There is sadness and joy in that we are the betrayed and the betrayer, and that God has room for both at His table.

There is sadness and joy in our humanity, that God calls us

I have often thought of Revelation 21:4 as a now and not yet promise:

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

There will be a day when the pain ends; when sin and sorrow and all of this mess ends. But until then, the same God who pours water over our heads and touches us with His Spirit's saving grace, the God who feeds us His very self, touches our cheeks and collects our tears in His bottle (Psalm 56:8) letting us know that He sees and is with us in every falling drop. After all, God is the Creator of tear ducts and nervous systems and all the things that bring us the relief of leaking water from our eyes. He knew we'd need it. Even those tears are not apart from His kindness.

How might you allow a space to honor your sorrow this Lent, or possibly leave room for those in your life to honor theirs?

God hears and sees. God in Christ is compassion incarnate and Easter is never far off. May your Lent leave room for both sadness & joy.

Written by

Heidi Goehmann

Heidi is a licensed clinical social worker and mental health provider, deaconess, writer, speaker, wife, mom, and advocate. She can always be found at heidigoehmann.com, advocating and providing resources for mental health and genuine relationship. Heidi loves her family, sticky notes, Jesus, adventure, Star Wars, Star Trek, and new ideas . . . not necessarily in that order.





Bible Quiz

In the Gospels, Jesus raised several people from death. Which of the following was not one of them?

- A. Tabitha
- B. Jairus's daughter
- C. A widow's son
- D. Lazarus

Answer: A (See Acts 9, Mark 5, Luke 7, John 11.)



After some time away from the church, author Donald E. Miller returned to the fold. He writes: "One thing that brought me back ... was asking simply: What are the alternatives to the church? Where are the communities that sanction the pursuit of meaning and truth as a legitimate enterprise? that have material and personal resources to assist in this search? that provide regular occasions for confession of failures? that renew and inspire? that provide a setting where children are nurtured? where family members can be buried? where births can be celebrated? where social issues can be debated?"

Miller concludes: "There are a number of institutions that deal with one or several of these questions, but historically the church has demonstrated its ability to energize all of these activities."

Nursery School News

Thank you to everyone who supported Immanuel Lutheran Nursery School's spaghetti dinner fund raiser! This year's fund raiser was a success. We created a Thrivent Action Team, and received a \$250 Community Impact Card to help defray the cost of the supplies for the dinner. Volunteers from the Nursery School staff, Immanuel's Youth Group, the Nursery School board, and church members helped pull the project together and worked hard to get the job done!

At this point a little over \$2000.00 has been raised for the Nursery School. Thank you for purchasing meals and for your donations. We are always appreciative for the support that Immanuel gives to our preschool in so many ways. May God's love continue to be spread to even the youngest members of our community!



SPECIAL FUNDS

Building Repair Fund –

In Memory of Emil Frase, Jr.

Glen Plutschak

Care & Compassion Fund

Anonymous

Anonymous

Concordia Seminary
A Seminary of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Founded 1839



801 Seminary Place
St. Louis, MO 63105
314-505-7000
csl.edu

February 10, 2023

CONCORDIA SEMINARY

Immanuel Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 39
Preston, MD 21655-0039

Dear Friends in Christ:

Thank you for your commitment to serve as an Adopt-A-Student sponsor for Concordia Seminary's 2022-23 academic year. Your support is a wonderful blessing – affording the cost of their education is often mentioned by students as the greatest obstacle to coming to the Seminary. Because your Adopt-A-Student gifts go directly into your seminarian's account, you are tangibly demonstrating that you stand with your student in prayer and financial support.

As an Adopt-A-Student sponsor, you can expect to hear from your student frequently. You also are invited to be in touch with your student, who will love hearing from you! Here is contact information for your seminarian(s) for this academic year:

Mr. Andrew Gordon
Campus Post Office Box
801 Seminary Pl.
Saint Louis, MO 63105-3196

We also have provided your contact information to your student(s).

Thank you again for your partnership in Concordia Seminary's mission. You are making a wonderful difference in the life of your seminarian(s) today and you are making an eternal difference in the kingdom of God as, upon graduation, the Lord blesses the ministry of your student(s) for years to come.

If you have questions or if we may assist you in any way, please contact us at 800-822-5287 or adoptastudent@csl.edu.

God's richest blessings!

Vicki Biggs
Senior Vice President, Seminary Advancement
Chief Communications Officer



**Annual Preston Community
6K Walk Run Proceeds will
benefit Lifetime Wells
International**

**Saturday, April 29,
2023 Preston Town Park 105
Backlanding Road, Preston**

onsite registration and
check in at 8:00 a.m. walk
run starts at 9:00 a.m.
(giveaways and healthy
snacks provided)

**early bird registration by
April 1 (includes t-shirt)**

**\$30 adult; \$15 youth
(age 18 and under)**

**regular & onsite
registration (t-shirt while
supplies last) \$35 adult;
\$20 youth**

**sleepwalker general
donation -\$20**

**REGISTER ONLINE at
[https://
prestonmdwalkrun2023.e
ventbrite.com](https://prestonmdwalkrun2023.eventbrite.com)**

**Or complete a
registration form at your
church**

**Or Call Savannah at 410-
673-8731**

**Hosted by the Preston
Ministerium**

Bethesda United Methodist Church

Mt. Calvary United Methodist Church

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Bethlehem Wesleyan Church

Greater New Hope Church & Ministries

Preston 6K Walk for Water April 29, 2023

8:00am Check In; 9:00am Start

Registration

WAIVER: I know that running/walking is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not join and run or walk unless I am medically able and cleared by a physician to do so. I agree to abide by any decision of a group leader relative to my ability to safely complete the run. I assume all risks associated with running and walking with this group including, but not limited to: falls, contact with other participants, the effect of the weather, including high heat and/or humidity, traffic and conditions of the road/running path, all such risks being known and appreciated by me.

I understand that bicycles, skateboards, baby joggers, roller skates or blades, and animals are not allowed at group runs and I will abide by this guideline. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of your accepting my participation in this training program, I, for myself and anyone entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release Preston Ministerium, church partners, school partners and all business sponsors, and their representatives and successors from all claims or liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event or training group though the liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons named in this waiver.

PHOTO RELEASE: I further grant permission to this group and the organization conducting the training program or event and/or agents authorized by them to use any photographs, videotapes, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for any purpose.

Signature: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian if participant is under 18: _____

Full Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Birthdate _____ T-Shirt
Size _____

MAILING ADDRESS

Street _____

City _____ State
_____ Zip _____

Attached is my payment for \$ _____

Early Bird Registration by April 1, 2023 (includes t-shirt):
Adult: \$30; Youth (18 and under) \$15.

Regular and Onsite Registration (shirts not guaranteed after early bird registration): Adult: \$35. Youth (18 and under) \$20.

"Sleepwalker" General Donation - \$20.

Check # _____ Cash _____





Jamie Johansen	3/2
Chandler Swieczkowski	3/2
William Frase, Jr.	3/3
Jeff Frase	3/3
Mary Railey	3/4
Janellen Lewis	3/5
Karen Lyons	3/5
Sharon Gutz	3/6
Jackie Nichols	3/7
Debbie Clendaniel	3/8
Kelsey Hochmuth	3/10
Darlana Roesti-Butler	3/10
Jill Ostermann	3/11
Gail Whealton	3/12
Jim Harris	3/14
Charles Smith	3/14
Janice Isenberg	3/15
Paul Mitchell	3/16
Sonny Hopkins	3/18
Katie Parmer	3/21
Lindsie James	3/23
Michael Jantz, Jr.	3/23
Jessica Gullion	3/24
Danny Mitchell	3/24
Billy Greenage	3/24
Jeff Rosebrock	3/25
Donna Collins	3/25
Hayden Plutschak	3/25

Josh Ayers	3/26
Joanna Durando	3/26
Molly Plutschak	3/27
Chris Schanken	3/27
Dale Thomas	3/28
Carson Hicks	3/29
David Schmidt	3/30
Jessica Witteman	3/30
Olga MacDonald	3/31

Windsor & Peggy Meyer	3/9
Hugh & Joanne Smith	3/24

Special dates in March

- **World Day of Prayer, March 3, 2023**
- **Daylight saving time begins, March 12, 2023**
- **First day of spring, March 20, 2023**
- **Wednesdays in March -Service at 7:00pm**
- **March 17-18 Eggs Making WiNGS**
- **March 19th Eggs to be package for later distribution (after church)**

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		8:50-11:45 Nursery School	1 8:50-11:45 Nursery School 7:00 pm Service 8:10 pm Bell Practice 7:45 pm Choir	2 8:50-11:45 Nursery School 9:30 am Women's Bible Study	3	4 8:30 Men's Prayer Breakfast
3 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Divine Service with Holy Communion 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	6 8:50-11:45 Nursery School 6:30 Elders Meeting	7 8:50-11:45 Nursery School	8 8:50-11:45 Nursery School 7:00 pm Service 8:10 pm Bell Practice 7:405pm Choir	9 8:50-11:45 Nursery School 9:30 am Women's Bible Study	10	11
12 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	13 8:50-11:45 Nursery School	14 8:50-11:45 Nursery School	15 8:50-11:45 Nursery School 7:00 pm Service	16 8:50-11:45 Nursery School	17 WINGS Egg Making 9 a.m.	18 WINGS Egg Making 8 a.m.—??
19 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Divine Service with Holy Communion 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	20 8:50-11:45 Nursery School 6:30 Nursery School Board	21 8:50-11:45 Nursery School	22 8:50-11:45 Nursery School 7:00 pm Service 8:10 pm Bell Practice 7:45 pm Choir	23 8:50-11:45 Nursery School 9:30 am Women's Bible Study	24	25
26 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	27 8:50-11:45 Nursery School	28	29 8:50-11:45 Nursery School 7:00 pm Service 8:10 pm Bell Practice 7:45 pm Choir	30 8:50-11:45 Nursery School 9:30 am Women's Bible Study	31	

THOSE SERVING IMMANUEL MARCH 2023

Date	Ushers	Assisting Elder	Lay Reader	Acolyte	Sound System	Camera Operator	Kids Worship	Greet-er	Head Tellers
March 5	Roland Limpert John Hochmuth	RexRosebrock	Katie Frase	Catie Casey-Motley	David Schmidt	Janice Isenberg	Rene Langwost		Janice Isenberg Shelly Kapitan John Crampton
March 12	Roland Limpert John Hochmuth		Darlana Roesti-Butler		David Schmidt	Jennifer Phillips	Rene Langwost		Karen Lyons Jennifer Phillips
March 19	Roland Limpert John Hochmuth	Mark Frase	Sam Lozen	Veronica Phillips	Rex Rosebrock	John Crampton	Rene Langwost		Dee Lambert Glen Plutschak Linda Jefferson
March 26	Roland Limpert John Hochmuth		Kathy Schmidt		Jim Harris	Ruth Thomas	Rene Langwost		David & Kathy Schmidt Julie Schmidt

Christian symbol



SHAMROCK — St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, “Is this one leaf, or three?” Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity.

“Consider”


Consider the lilies of the field whose bloom is brief: We are as they; like them we fade away, as doth a leaf.

Consider the sparrows of the air of small account: Our God doth view whether they fall or mount, he guards us too.

Consider the lilies that do neither spin nor toil, Yet are most fair: What profits all this care and all this coil?

Consider the birds that have no barn nor harvest-weeks; God gives them food: Much more our Father seeks to do us good.

—Christina Rossetti









PUZZLE

A seasonal reminder

Signs of spring remind us of God's promises.

Directions: Use the picture code and clues to complete Isaiah 61:11, NIV.

 plants grow here	 seeds are planted in this
 to coil and jump (also a season of the year)	 when watered, these make plants
 to expand and get bigger	 another word for seedling

For as the _____ makes the _____
_____ come up and a _____ causes
_____ to _____, so the
Sovereign LORD will make righteousness
and praise _____ up before all nations.

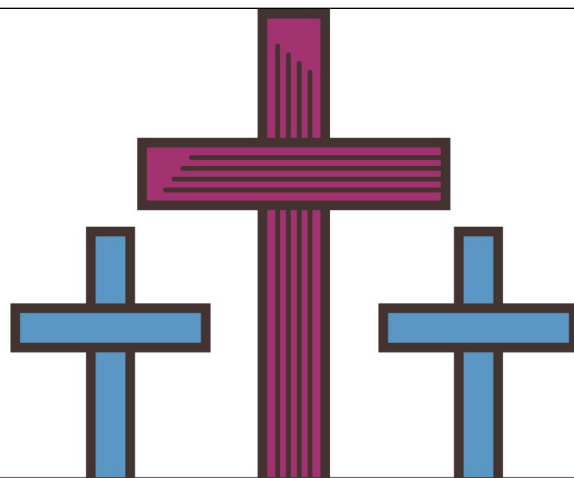
ISAIAH 61:11, NIV

Answer: soil, sprout, garden, seeds, grow, spring

Season of Lent

Just a reminder that we will be having midweek services the entire Month of March. The dates are March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29th. The time is 7:00 p.m.

Pastor David



WEDNESDAYS
during Lent

Immanuel
Lutheran Church
of Preston
(WINGS)



Flavors:

Peanut Butter
Coconut
Cherry Nut
Butter Cream

**Homemade
Easter
Eggs**
(8 oz.)

\$5.00 each

Happy Easter

To Place an Order Call:

The Church Office
410-673-7107

or

(Orders due by March 13)



Help Wanted

We need your help on Saturday, March 18th with making Easter eggs. We will begin at 8:00 a.m., but you can come at any time to help. Meet us in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided.

Anyone can help; there are many jobs to do, and we will find a spot for you. Thank you!

Proceeds from this year's Easter eggs will go to Immanuel's Care & Compassion Fund, Lutheran World Relief (Turkey earthquake), and the Caroline County FOP, Lodge # 118, in memory of Lucas Nagel.