

GABRIEL'S GAZETTE

MARCH 2019



*"Loving, Sharing, Serving
Jesus with you."*

Immanuel Lutheran Church
1237 E. Coolspring Ave.
Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 872-4419

Email:
[immanuel Lutheran1237@
gmail.com](mailto:immanuel Lutheran1237@gmail.com)

Website:
www.immanuelmc.com



My Redeemer Lives

When intense and compounded trials come upon an individual, they can cause a lot of contemplation about God and the meaning of life. Troubling questions arise like: "Did God or the devil cause this evil?" "Is God punishing me or testing me?" "Is the devil tempting me?" "Why do bad things happen to good people?" "Can anything good come from this?" "How can I be delivered from this?" "Why doesn't God answer my prayer?" And while all of these questions are being wrestled with, friends surround the person with bad counsel: "God won't give you more than you can handle." "God is in control." "God did not allow this" (or in other words, God is not in control). "You need to grow in your faith before God will help you." "I know what you're going through..." (...followed by a story and advice that don't apply to your situation or make your suffering seem miniscule).

The Book of Job is a perfect example of human suffering amidst bad company. Job wrestles with the same questions. His friends and even his wife point him in the wrong direction, away from God's grace, while Job insists on this paradox: God has declared Job righteous by His grace, yet God has also allowed this great evil to befall him. Job's faith clings to God's Word, even though his

sufferings seem to contradict it. Job knows that God is His redeemer. God will come to his defense against his false accusers, vindicate him, and rescue him from evil. God does this in the beginning and the end of the book through an atoning sacrifice.

Through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the devil is defeated and our enemies are silenced. We find peace in the One who was tempted as we are and suffered as we do, only without sin. His holy life and suffering redeem us; His resurrection vindicates us; and His ascension triumphs over the powers of evil and seals our victory. When evil comes to us, we turn away from the questions that we can't answer toward the answer that God has given: His Son Jesus Christ.

Come and wrestle with the questions of Job and focus your eyes on the redemption of God through Christ's sacrifice. Learn about true comfort and how to give comfort to others. Beginning Ash Wednesday, March 6, and continuing through the weekend services and Wednesdays of Lent, I will be taking you through the book of Job in a series I will call, "My Redeemer Lives!"

Pastor



**JOIN US FOR
MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICES
DURING THE LENTEN SEASON.
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS 7:00 PM
Come early for supper at 5:30 PM**

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE . . .

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God's providential care. We understand that we're not islands unto ourselves. We could not exist without those who have gone before us and those who walk alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers so we can eat. But more than that, God created and gave us all the things those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste, their nutritional value, etc., we would not exist.

God gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments, and, of course, He gave us everything to make those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties to be utilized for those purposes. Without God creating and instilling healing properties into those things – and without God creating the ability within man to learn this and implement it to serve our medical needs – we would not enjoy the health we do now.

But there's more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands:

"Then Moses said to the people of Israel, 'See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.'" (Exodus 35:30–34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands, and attached to hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds to make those arms and hands move and accomplish the work set before us. And with that mind, He has given us reason and senses.

That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes, as well as from the accomplishments, of ourselves and others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us ... us.

So, everything we have and everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we "believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth."

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God's provision for our spiritual well-being. He sent his Son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. He delivers that justification through the means of grace (baptism, preaching and the Word of God, and the Lord's Supper). And to give you those means of grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Literally everything we have and everything we are in this life – and the next – is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about — giving thanks for God's provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts.

It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn't stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God's gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church.

"For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him" (*The Small Catechism*, 16).

So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gifts — for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not only in word but also in deed.

*- taken from
LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter, March 2019*

**Quarterly Voters Meeting
Tuesday, March 12th
At 7:00 p.m.
All members of the congregation
Are encouraged to attend.**



Prayers during Lent

Lent provides us with a time to reflect on our prayer patterns and to pray more deeply. This season is a special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God. We can use this time to pray to be drawn closer to God and observe our quiet remembrance of our need for redemption. Lent is also a time that we can acknowledge our deep need for God's loving forgiveness and grace.

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time." (1 Peter 5:6)

Let us also remember to pray for the precious ones on our weekly and on-going prayer lists who are especially in need of His comfort and/or intervention, and still wait for their prayers to be fully answered. We include their caregivers and families, as the suffering of each individual affects many. Please contact Jaime Caldwell at jaimecaldwell27@gmail.com or (219) 229-4590, or the church office at immanuellutheran1237@gmail.com or 872-4419 for updates or suggestions, or to join the prayer chain. Let us pray for others as we would like them to pray for us when we are in need.

--Jaime Caldwell for the Prayer Chain



Shepherds & Lambs

The Sunday School Newsletter

March 2019



The children will be singing in the worship service on a Sunday during the Lenten season.

Students will also participate in THE WAY OF THE CROSS during Lent. We hope to strengthen the faith of our students as they experience the different events of the last week in the life of Jesus. This is a very memorable event, so we encourage you to make sure your child is present that day. The date hasn't been set, but we will send notes home when it is scheduled.

Nine students had Perfect Attendance in January.

The weather wasn't very good in January, but these students made it to Sunday School!!!
GREAT JOB KIDS!



-- Lynette Johnston-Martin Superintendent

The Outreach Committee is having a **CARD MAKING party on March 24**, right after Sunday service in Fellowship



Hall. We will make Easter cards for our shut-ins and Simeon Square residents. Please come join us.



"OOPS! THEY FORGOT TO CLEAR THE AISLE BEFORE THEY DISMISSED THE CHILDREN."



LENTEN GARDEN

Lent is a time for us as a congregation to prepare our hearts like a garden. In order to prepare a garden, one must turn the soil. For Christians, we turn our hearts to the Lord in repentance. Then one loosens the soil and prepares the rows to receive the seed. The believer must do the same in order to receive the seed of God's Word. This is the purpose of our creator and redeemer. Here is what I pray our "garden" will contain:

Three rows of "squash"

Squash indifference.

Squash destructive criticism.

Squash gossip.

Four rows of "turnips".

Turn up with a glad heart.

Turn up with a visitor.

Turn up for Bible class.

Turn up for opportunities to serve.

Five rows of "lettuce"

Let us joyfully worship God.

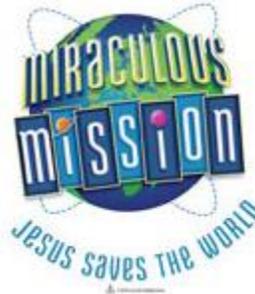
Let us love and care for one another.

Let us welcome strangers.

Let us be faithful in all things.

Let us support our ministry with prayer, time, talent and treasure.

MAY OUR LORD GRANT US A BOUNTIFUL LENTEN GARDEN, THE FRUITS OF WHICH WE CAN ENJOY EACH DAY OF OUR LIVES.



IMMANUEL'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 8 -12

Lift off for an intergalactic adventure at

MIRACULOUS MISSION: JESUS SAVES THE WORLD

Students learn about God's plan of salvation from creation to cross and how the stars have been an ever-present part of the salvation story.



Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 10.

So, mark the date and remember to change your

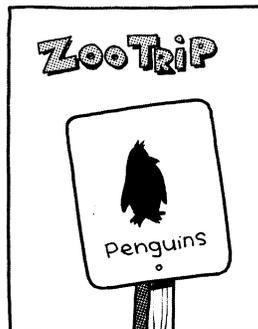
clocks on the right day.

You won't want to miss out on a minute of the worship services, Sunday School, and Bible classes!

Kim & Jason

by Jason Kotecki

www.KimandJason.com





2019 MEN'S GATHERING
APRIL 5 – 7
Lakeview Villages
Seymour, IN

“Man Up! The Quest for Masculinity”

Join us to hear Rev. Jeffrey Hemmer talk about his book: *Man Up! The Quest for Masculinity*. *Man Up!* cuts through all the noise of the world's ideas of masculinity and goes back to what our Creator says about being a man in His creation.

It isn't about taking down the feminists or reclaiming your rights as a man. It's about living in the example and grace of Jesus.

So fix your eyes on the Man up on the cross and embark on a journey to become more masculine (no weight lifting required).

Fellowship with over 100 Christian Men
 Get away and enjoy God's great creation
 Eat like a king at our Hog Roast and Special Saturday Dinner
 Join in the Medieval Challenge, Archery Tag, and much more.

VISIT WWW.MENSGATHERING.US
FOR INFO AND REGISTRATION.



PLEASE NOTE::

The deadline to submit items for the April Gazette is **Monday, March 4.**



LWML HAPPENINGS

Indiana District LWML Retreat
March 29-30
CRG Event Center, Plainfield, IN

To register, carpool, talk to Janet Solum

Sisters in Christ – Chosen to Care
Speaker Katie Schuermann, author

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." (Colossians 3:12)

* * * * *

LWML ZONE RALLY
April 30, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Hosted by LWML, here at Immanuel,
Light supper provided

All ladies from Immanuel are invited to join us in this special event to support Ascension Lutheran Christian School in Gary. Pastor Albers, Principal, will be speaking about this fledgling outreach to the community of Gary. To support this ministry, we will be collecting the following supplies for the school:

Classroom/lunchroom supplies:

tissues, napkins, plastic ware, straws, stiff paper plates, puzzles & games for indoor play & any learning games, cute stickers, religious stickers.
 Ages Kindergarten through 3rd grade

DOJO Rewards:

Kids receive rewards for behavior, work, etc. and redeem them for prizes such as light up glitter balls, soft baseballs, coloring books/crayons, color pencils, small cars, planes, trucks, backpacks, pencil boxes, paint by number craft, flashlights, puzzles, games, small plush animals, dolls, etc.
 Ages Kindergarten through 3rd grade

Office supplies:

paper (letter-size copy) clear tape, masking tape, staples, paper clips, pencils, pens

Many of these items can be purchased at the Dollar Store.