

# GABRIEL'S GAZETTE

MARCH 2023



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

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## St. Patrick's Breastplate

I invite you to take a look at St. Patrick's Breastplate. The full text can be found online, but a portion of it is in our Lutheran Service Book, hymn 604, with the title "I Bind unto Myself Today." St. Patrick (c. 372-466) lived in a tumultuous time for the British Isles. The Roman Empire had retreated, leaving a power vacuum for the native tribes. At the same time Angles and Saxons were invading from German lands and Denmark. Patrick was sent to Ireland, where he was formerly enslaved, to convert a people almost entirely tribal, pagan, and uneducated. He faced off against the death threats of kings, the spells of sorcerers and witches, and the constant, bloody invasions of warring peoples. Miraculously, by the grace of God, Patrick lived to see a large population of Ireland converted to Christianity.

St. Patrick's breastplate was written in the form of an incantation, like the druids would use to bind the forces in nature to themselves for magical powers. But St. Patrick's hymn called upon the power of the Creator of the universe and Savior of the world, the Holy Trinity, against the deadly forces that opposed him. He knew that the power of God's holy name invoked at His baptism had already snatched him from Satan's grip, destroyed the power of sin and death, and gave him everlasting salvation. Bound to the powerful and holy name of God, Patrick would have the strength of Christ's saving work to continue to battle sin, devil, and anything that opposed Christ's kingdom. Not only so, but although Patrick went by himself, he was joined by angels and archangels, patriarchs, prophets, and apostles, and all the saints of God, whose preaching,

prayers, and lives cheered him on through the battles of life.

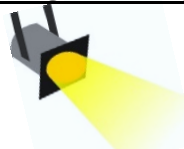
Patrick saw his life as a spiritual battle against the devil, a battle which Christ had already won by dying on the cross and rising from the grave. Thus, Patrick did not rely on any physical weapons or worldly power and wealth. He wore the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20). He was ready to go and preach the gospel wherever the Lord called him. The shield of his faith enabled him to go without fearing failure or what harm might come to him. He spoke the truth boldly and by the power of the Holy Spirit princes and princesses and their kingdoms were baptized and converted. And he called upon the Lord at all times for strength and salvation.

Patrick may not have actually driven snakes out of Ireland, but he did drive out the devil. The same saving power is in your baptism, to fulfill your calling in Jesus Christ. It is the power to forgive your sins, to strengthen you for service to Christ for the good of your neighbor, deliver you from evil, and give you eternal life. Try using St. Patrick's Breastplate as a morning prayer, as a battle cry against that days' troubles and temptations, and may Christ be with you!

Join us in singing St. Patrick's breastplate on Sunday, March 19!

*Pastor*

**FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE...**




**Stewardship Spotlight**

Are we dressed for success? "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil...to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand...having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the Gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God...praying always..." Ephesians 6:10-18. For our spiritual battles, let us read our Bibles daily, pray daily, and attend church regularly. And let us dress for success as these verses in Ephesians tell us to do. Let us be good stewards.

The Stewardship Spotlight for this month is the **Altar Guild**. Ladies, please consider joining our Altar Guild. We currently have 8 teams, but we should have 12 teams so that each team would serve for one month per year. The purpose of the Altar Guild is to serve. Its service requires a spiritual commitment with a spiritual goal. The Altar Guild serves by making sure that the place of worship is maintained and set up for the times and seasons of the church year. It serves by seeing to it that the paraments and linens are put in place, cleaned, and stored properly. It serves by setting in order, cleaning, and putting away the sacramental vessels and linens. The Altar Guild does this quietly behind the scenes for the glory of God and the building up of the people. Please prayerfully consider joining us in this effort to support our worship experience at Immanuel. Contact Dawn Bluzma at 219-380-1093 or talk with any of our members. We will be more than happy to tell you more about our Guild. God bless you as you consider this opportunity to serve God and our church.

Another opportunity for service is **Meals on Wheels**. Did you know Immanuel has teams that do Meals on Wheels Route #7 every Monday? Each team volunteers on a rotating schedule to deliver meals in Michigan City. The mission for Meals on Wheels is to nourish and enrich the lives of homebound, seniors, and disabled persons by providing nutritious hot meals delivered daily Monday through Friday by caring community volunteers. If you are interested in joining our Immanuel team, contact Peggy Elser at 219-448-3125. Meals on Wheels is always looking for volunteers, so if you would like to help on one of their other routes, they would be most happy to have you call their office at 219-872-9117. In this volunteer service we can shine our light out into the community. We are blessed to be a blessing.



**JOIN US FOR  
MIDWEEK  
WORSHIP SERVICES  
DURING  
THE LENTEN SEASON.**

**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS 7:00 PM**  
**Come early for supper at 5:30**



All youth, 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up, are invited to attend a Game Night **at Simeon Square on Friday, March 3, at 5:00 p.m.** Pizza will be provided. Please be sure to bring a friend or two. Should be great fun!



**When we are too busy to pray,  
it's time to reschedule our day.**



**Quarterly Voters' Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 7:00 p.m.**

**All members of the congregation**  
**are encouraged to attend.**



**YOUTH Fundraiser**  
**BAKE SALE**  
**MARCH 18-19**

A number of our youth plan to attend the *Higher Things Youth Conference* this summer and they are working to raise the funds needed. You can help them AND treat yourself by stopping by their Bake Sale table in the Gathering Place after the services on March 18 & 19 to purchase a few items to take home, share with a friend, or eat right there with your coffee!



**2023 MEN'S GATHERING**  
**APRIL 13-16**

**Lakeview Villages**  
**Seymour, IN**

**"Stop the White Noise"**

Wondering how you can stop the white noise of this world? Do you feel like you are wallowing in the muck with those who have no hope? Tired of being a pawn in a world run by the devil? Come to the 2023 Men's Gathering where we bring together men just like you, ready to build a future founded on the common faith that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, that his Bible is trustworthy and true, and that there is nothing more important in this life than passing his wisdom on from generation to generation.

The Mad Christian himself, Rev. Jonathan Fisk, will be our main speaker this year. He will teach us the importance of praying the Psalms, the very prayers of Jesus Christ. We will learn why the Proverbs are a philosophy on which to build our lives and what we can do to Stop the White Noise in our daily lives. Please don't sign up if you are not willing to have your every-day-thinking be challenged! We will leave with our heads lifted up, all the more, as we see the day approaching.

**ONE GREAT GOD**  
**150 CHRISTIAN MEN**  
**ONE UNFORGETTABLE WEEKEND**

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.**

**Register by March 31.**



**I try to keep busy all year. In the summer**  
**I make cookies, and in the fall and winter**  
**I make toys in Santa's workshop.**



**Shepherds & Lambs**  
**The Sunday School**  
**Newsletter**  
**March 2023**

**My favorite Church season is**

**here!** It's so special that I truly take extra time to reflect on God's love for me and what Jesus did for me, my service to my Savior, and how I should "pay His love forward." Also, it's a time to reflect where I fall short in doing what I should as Paul says in Romans 7:19 "For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing." But He still loves me! How could you not want to share His love with your children? Concentrate this Lenten season on making His love come to light and understanding for your children.



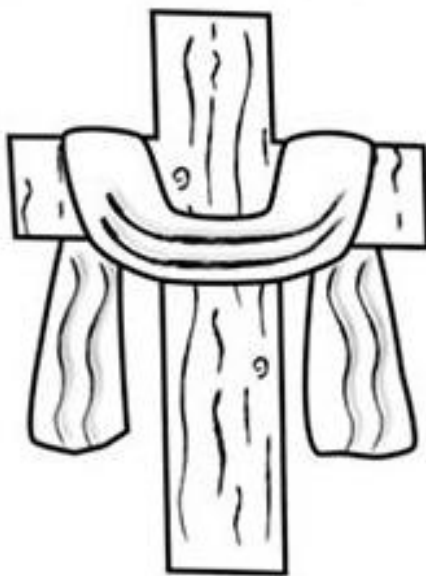
**The theme for this Lenten Season for Sunday School is THIS IS LOVE.** We are asking families to have weekly Lenten devotions. Each family will receive a magnet puzzle and 6 weekly devotion sheets. Each week we will focus on a different piece of the magnet puzzle. At week 6, we will have a complete cross magnet. During the Sunday School opening, we will introduce the piece for the week, then the family devotions will complete the weekly word. What a wonderful way for your family to grow together in the love of God, giving us His Son as our Savior. We encourage you to read directly from the Bible when the devotions call for that. Devotions will begin the week of Feb 26 and finish the week of April 2.



**The children will sing during the Palm Sunday service at 10:00 a.m. on April 2.**

**Plans are being** worked on to go to Simeon Square to play games with the residents. Further details will be coming!!

*--Lynette Johnston-Martin*  
 Superintendent



Find all ten words:

- Jesus
- Lent
- Ash
- Wednesday
- Dust
- Prayer
- Alms
- Fasting
- Sacrifice
- Purple

W	J	E	P	S	A	C	T	A	P
E	Q	L	L	U	F	A	W	L	R
D	J	G	E	O	R	V	R	M	A
N	E	A	F	N	V	P	C	Q	Y
E	P	R	R	I	T	E	L	W	E
S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	R
D	U	S	T	F	W	Y	R	Z	N
A	R	Y	H	V	A	L	M	S	D
Y	Z	B	J	E	S	U	S	H	U
Z	J	F	A	S	T	I	N	G	F

Would You expect to get into a stranger's house if you didn't know the owner? Likewise, do you expect to get into God's heavenly home if you don't know the Master?



**Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 12.**

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.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023  
JUNE 26-30**



This year's VBS program is *God's Living Water: Covered in Jesus' Grace*. There will be more information in next month's *Gabriel's Gazette*, but mark your calendar now and make plans to attend!

**PLEASE NOTE:** The deadline for submitting items for the April *Gazette* is **Monday, March 6.**

