

Easter Sunday Brunch March 31 immediately after Worship

Coffee Hour following service at 9:30 AM
Sunday School at 9:30 AM

Live-Stream: Immanuel-strum.com/livestream.html or
facebook.com/ilcstrum

Dial-up Worship: 715-695-3906 (enter code: 62732)

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Immanuel Lutheran Church ▪ 109 Elm Street ▪ Strum, Wisconsin

The *Church Messenger*

MARCH 2024



Contact Information

Pastor...Coming Soon!

Administrator

Office: 715-695-3511
Cell: 715-200-1715
email: ilc@triwest.net

Office Hours

Sunday: 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM
Monday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Tuesday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Wednesday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Thursday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday: CLOSED
Saturday: CLOSED

Holy Week Schedule

March 24: Palm Sunday 8:30 AM
March 28: Maundy Thursday 5 PM
March 29: Good Friday 5 PM
March 31: Easter Sunday 8:30 AM
Easter Brunch 9:30 AM

WELCA News

By Karen Franson
Mission Growth Officer

The WELCA will meet on Wednesday, March 6th at 1:30 pm. We will have a short business meeting, and continue our new Bible study. Women of Faith Bible Study Series Adventurous Prayer has been selected this year; we are on Chapter 3 "Teach us to Pray."

The Prayer Breakfast will be held on Wednesday, March 13th at 9:30 AM. Groups 1, 2, 3 & 4, chairpersons Betty Vold, Joan Guenther, Helen Beebe, and Emily Knudtson will serve. Michelle Rayburn will be our speaker. She is a woman of eclectic talents and has an eye for repurposing stuff. She's devoted to finding hope in the trashy stuff of life, writing Bible studies and Christian living books infused with humor alongside solid Biblical teachings. Join Michelle on an unforgettable journey as she shares her candid story of chasing the illusion of perfection. Heartwarming and humorous anecdotes of attempting to become June Cleaver and Martha Stewart rolled into one with the dream of a Better Homes and Garden house and model children. Sign-up sheets will be out soon, or call Karen at 715-695-3553 or Michelle at the church office 715-695-3511.

The WELCA Dairyland Conference will hold their 2024 Morning of Renewal on Saturday, April 13th. The event will be hosted by Central Lutheran in Mondovi. Guest speakers will be Mercedes Falk and John Rosenow.

On Wednesday, May 15th we are off to the Heyde Center to see Ole & Lena's Family Reunion. Snooty cousin Mildred sent out invitations to the whole family inviting them to a big family gathering at Ole and Lena's farm. The only problem is she neglected to ask Ole and Lena if they would host. Although caught by surprise, Lena loves the idea. Ole on the other hand has other plans. Can Sven help Ole get out of going to the reunion? I have reserved 16 seats. Call Karen Franson at 715-695-3553 if interested. Cost is \$37.00; several seats have already been spoken for; **CALL ASAP**. We will meet at the church at 10:30 am and carpool.

Chanhassen Update: Our date is Wednesday, September 18th to see Beautiful, The Carole King Musical. (NOTE: third Wednesday)

Council Minutes

February 13, 2024; 6:00 PM

Present: Kris Husby, Bob Schlink, Dean Anderson, Michelle Jacobson, Gloria Wagener, John Eide, and Tom Wagener.

Absent: Tyler Back

Approval of January minutes: Motion made by Bob Schlink to accept the report as presented; second by Dean Anderson. Motion carried.

Approval of January Treasurer's Report & Joint Parish Financials: Motion made by Bob Schlink to accept the report as presented; second by Dean Anderson. Motion carried.

CBLEC Update: CBELC continues its search for teachers. There is currently no room in the baby room. Due to lack of staff they are unable to move the 1-year olds up from the baby room to another classroom to make room for those on the waiting list.

Old Business

- Election of officers: John Eide was nominated as Council Secretary by Dean Anderson; second by Bob Schlink. Motion carried.
- Calling of New Pastor: Special Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, February 18 after worship. Agenda to be published in the bulletin. The meeting will not be live-streamed or available through Dial-up Worship. Vote to be held by written ballot. Need volunteers to hand out ballots and record eligible voting members.
- Building Committee Update: The preschool has purchased hardware to fabricate a sliding gate for the stairway. The current gate makes it difficult for visitors to come upstairs to the office. Need to come up with a design since the opening is wider than the space available for the gate to slide into. The chair in the pastor's office needs to be replaced.
- Annual Meeting: February 4, 2024. Meeting went well. Serving brunch during the service, works well.

Council Minutes (continued)

- Lenten Services
 - Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024 - 5 PM Immanuel; 7 PM Elk Creek
 - Lenten services, February 21 & 28, March 6, 13 & 20
 - Participation in the Round Robin for Lenten services was discussed.
 - Soup Suppers to be served after worship in the Fellowship Hall.
 - Palm Sunday, March 24
 - Maundy Thursday, March 27
 - Good Friday, March 28
 - Easter Sunday, March 31 with an Easter Brunch following worship - Volunteers needed.
- Bible School 2024: Holding VBS on Wednesday evenings during the summer was discussed rather than one full week.
- Luther Park Bible Camp: No information from Luther Park has been received for Summer Camp as in past years.

New Business

- Special Congregational Meeting - Sunday, February 18, 2024: Vote to call pastoral candidate and approve the compensation and benefits package
- Joint Parish Meeting - Tuesday, February 20 at Elk Creek (may be rescheduled)
- Housing allowance: A discussion was held regarding usage of the Council Designated Parsonage funds to offset the pastoral candidate's housing allowance. A motion was made to move \$4,000 from the Parsonage General Fund and \$5,900 from the Parsonage Property Tax Fund to the General Fund to cover this year's Pastoral Housing Allowance expenses by Bob Schlink; second by John Eide. Motion carried.
- Motion made by Bob Schlink to adjourn; second by Dean Anderson.

Closing prayer/Adjournment

Memorials

DALE FRANSON

General Fund

Virginia Yanakopulos
Eric & Karen Franson

Youth Fund

Jason Franson

RALPH KISOR

West Beef River Cemetery

Kari Brion

General Fund

Ardell & Wyllis Olson

MEMORIAL FUNDS:

Immanuel Lutheran Church:

- ♦ Building Fund
- ♦ Daughters of the King/Jr. DOK
- ♦ Elevator Fund
- ♦ General Fund
- ♦ Library
- ♦ Local Missions Fund
- ♦ Music/Organ Fund
- ♦ Social Concerns
- ♦ Strum Area Food Pantry
- ♦ Sunday School
- ♦ Youth Fund

When writing a check to the following organizations, please make the check payable to the specific organization. Please do NOT write the check to Immanuel Lutheran Church.

- ♦ Creative Beginnings Early Learning Center (CBELC)
- ♦ Endowment Fund
- ♦ WELCA

Cemetery Funds:

- ♦ Hamlin Cemetery
- ♦ St. Paul's Cemetery
- ♦ West Beef River Cemetery

Easter 2024 A Message from Bishop Laurie

AN INCOMPLETE SENTENCE Mark 16:8

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

The gospel of Mark begins with this verse, Mark 1:1, *The beginning of the good news¹ of Jesus Christ*. Then it ends with an incomplete sentence¹. Mark's Easter Story ends with an incomplete sentence. What was the editor thinking? Where are the punctuation police when you need them?

Look at it for yourself. Mark 16:8 in Greek
καὶ ἐξελθοῦσαι ἔφυγον ἀπὸ τοῦ μνημείου, εἶχεν γὰρ αὐτὰς τρόμος
καὶ ἔκστασις· καὶ οὐδενὶ οὐδὲν εἶπαν, ἐφοβοῦντο γάρ



See, it ends with the word "gar" which can be translated "for or because." Why did the writer of Mark end the gospel with the word "because?" Word-for-word the last part of the verse reads *to none nothing they spoke they were afraid because*

So just to be clear, the purpose of the gospel of Mark is to tell the good news of Jesus Christ and then it ends with an empty tomb and the only witnesses to it run away in fear saying nothing to anyone because...

It should be noted there is no punctuation in the original Greek and we can of course rearrange the English words and make a sentence, but still the incompleteness of the Greek sentence, abrupt ending and the incompleteness of story itself are telling.²

Matthew, Luke and John end their Easter story with Jesus appearing to the disciples after the resurrection. These gospels end with proof of the resurrection that others see with their own eyes and some even touch Jesus. Mark has no proof of the resurrection. He doesn't even finish his last sentence.

Mark 1 was intended to be just the beginning of the story of the good news of Jesus. It can't be completely recorded with paper and pen because it is still being written in the lives of the believers today. Friends, the story of Easter didn't end with the frightened women. If it did we wouldn't be here today. Some of Mark's Easter story will be written by your life, my life, our witness to the empty tomb and the transforming power of God love in our life. The rest of the story will be written by those who come after us and whose lives bear witness to God's power to transform death to life. We are proof of the resurrection. Our lives transformed by the power of God's love and forgiveness are proof that Jesus rose from the dead. We are writing new verses and chapters for Mark's gospel, so that the next generation will come to know and love Jesus and all generations will experience God's grace.

Rev. Laurie Shanahan

Mark 16 *When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid*

¹ McCoy and Fister, Pulpit Fiction Podcast #540, Easter 2023

² Mark has two alternative endings (Mark 16:9-20) which many biblical scholars believe were added at a much later date by those who couldn't tolerate ending with an incomplete sentence!

³ Image by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay

Easter 2024 A Message from Bishop Laurie

Rummaging for God

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!



Does your house have a junk drawer? Do you ever find yourself going through this drawer full of stuff; feeling around looking for something that you are sure must be in there somewhere? Twist ties from bread wrappers, pens, batteries, rubber bands, nail clippers, scissors, matches, superglue, glass cleaner, coins, tiny screwdriver, ChapStick, charger cables, sticky notes... Rummaging around in your junk drawer might seem like a strange illustration for an Easter message, but I invite you to consider your memory of past life events as your junk drawer.

Think back on last year's Easter celebration. What do you remember? Rummage around in those memories to see if you can find God. You are pretty sure God is there somewhere but where? Where did you experience God last Easter? Was it in church, at the sunrise service, a sermon, a Bible reading, a hymn, an Easter egg hunt in the park, a gathering with family or friends, or a walk in the woods later that day? How did you experience God and the miracle of Christ's resurrection last Easter?

Now, think back over your lifetime, a lifetime of Easter celebrations, for me that 66 Easters. Where did you see or experience God and the power of the resurrection, God's transforming love that defeated death and gives new life?

Looking back over a day, a year, a lifetime is a spiritual practice called the Examen¹. Essentially it is rummaging through our memories, looking for when and how God was present. The Examen is a form of daily prayer that invites us to examine our day to find God. Finding God in all things and at all times gives us the strength for that next most faithful step.

I wondered what must have been going through Mary Magdalene's mind as she walked to the tomb that first Easter morning. Was she rummaging through all the memories of her time walking with Jesus? Was she trying to remember every word Jesus said? Was she looking for a clue, some way to make sense of what happened on Friday? Where was God in all of this? How could this possibly bring in God's kingdom? She must have missed something. She saw him die. How could Jesus' death be part of God's plan?

Mary arrived at the tomb and found the stone rolled away. She didn't find what she was looking for. The body wasn't there. It still made no sense. Did someone steal his body? She knows that God is in all of this, but where? She continues to search with Peter and John and finally after they leave she enters the tomb and through her tears sees the angels and then a gardener, but not a gardener but the teacher, the risen Savior; and finally through her tears she sees God. (John 20)

John 20:11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb.

Look back over a day, a year, a lifetime of trips you've made to some tomb. Was it the place that held the body of loved one, a dream that had died, a relationship that ended, or a hope that had been crushed? Rummage around in those memories to find what you know is there somewhere, God. Through the tears see the angels, the messengers; the ordinary people, those who helped you and see God!

Dear Friends, I invite you to rummage through all the memories in the junk drawer of life and find God. Think back over a lifetime, a lifetime of trips to the tomb and Easter celebrations. See God and the power of the resurrection. See God's transforming love that defeated death and gives new life. May seeing God in all of life give you the courage and strength to take your next most faithful step.

Bishop Laurie M. Schmitt

¹ [Rummaging for God: Praying Backwards through Your Day - IgnatianSpirituality.com](https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/prayer/examen)

Financial Report - January 2024

Weekly Contributions & Expenses

Jan 1 - Jan 6

General Fund Contributions	\$557.59
Expenses	(623.81)
Net Income (Loss)	(\$66.22)

Jan 7 - Jan 13

General Fund Contributions	\$2,740.00
Expenses	(132.49)
Net Income (Loss)	\$2,607.51

Jan 14 - Jan 20

General Fund Contributions	\$802.76
Expenses	(2,911.43)
Net Income (Loss)	(\$2,108.67)

Jan 21 - Jan 27

General Fund Contributions	\$1,351.00
Expenses	(1,239.32)
Net Income (Loss)	\$111.68

Jan 28 - Jan 31

General Fund Contributions	\$1,760.49
Expenses	(2,562.27)
Net Income (Loss)	(\$801.78)

Total Contribution	7,211.84
Total Expenses	(7,469.32)
Net Income (Loss)	(\$257.48)

Contributions & Expenses Comparison

Average per month

January

	2022	2023	2024
Contributions	10,784.25	10,479.73	7,211.84
Expenses	11,849.84	12,231.99	7,469.32

Year-to-Date

Contributions & Expenses

January 1 - January 31

General Fund Contributions	\$7,211.84
General Fund Expenses	(7,469.32)
Net Contributions (Loss)	(\$257.48)

Condensed P&L for January

General Fund Contributions	\$7,211.84
Building / Property	(100.00)
General Operating	(993.52)
Ministry	(718.73)
Office	(229.87)
Pastor	(0.00)
Payroll	(4,243.28)
Utilities	(1,183.92)
Total Expenses	(7,469.32)
Net Contributions (Loss)	(\$257.48)

Donor Designated Funds

Building Fund

Beginning Balance, January 1	\$75,588.26
Receipts	533.96
Disbursements	(270.00)
Ending Balance, January 31	\$75,852.22

Daughters of the King

Beginning Balance, January 1	\$4,444.10
Receipts	0.00
Disbursements	(0.00)
Ending Balance, January 31	\$4,444.10

Local Missions

Beginning Balance, January 1	\$346.92
Receipts	0.00
Disbursements	(0.00)
Ending Balance, January 31	\$346.92

Music / Organ Fund

Beginning Balance, January 1	\$3,396.90
Receipts	85.00
Disbursements	(4.93)
Ending Balance, January 31	\$3,476.97

Social Concerns

Beginning Balance, January 1	\$1,050.08
Receipts	0.00
Disbursements	(0.00)
Ending Balance, January 31	\$1,050.08

Strum Area Food Pantry

Beginning Balance, January 1	\$6,989.23
Receipts	20.00
Disbursements	(629.68)
Ending Balance, January 31	\$6,379.55

Sunday School

Beginning Balance, January 1	\$1,016.13
Receipts	0.00
Disbursements	(0.00)
Ending Balance, January 31	\$1,016.13

Youth Fund

Beginning Balance, January 1	\$8,579.79
Receipts	0.00
Disbursements	(0.00)
Ending Balance, January 31	\$8,579.79

Council Designated Funds

Parsonage Fund

Beginning Balance, January 1	\$24,021.50
Receipts	425.00
Disbursements	(0.00)
Ending Balance, January 31	\$24,446.50

Parsonage-Escrow

Beginning Balance, January 1	\$11,011.65
Receipts	375.00
Disbursements	(2,463.07)
Ending Balance, January 31	\$8,923.58

MARCH 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 8:30 AM Easter Sunday/ Communion 9:30 AM Easter Brunch No Sunday School					1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 9 - 11 AM Food Pantry
<div>Reservations are <u>REQUIRED</u> for Senior Meals and must be received no later than <u>9:00 AM on Monday & Wednesday</u></div>						
3 8:30 AM Worship/ Communion 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:30 AM Sunday School	4 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study	5 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Senior Meals	6 1:30 PM WELCA 5 PM Lenten Service Soup Supper: WELCA	7 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Senior Meals	8 OFFICE CLOSED	9
10 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Coffee Hour: 9:30 AM Sunday School Daylight Saving Begins (turn clocks ahead 1 hour)	11 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study	12 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Senior Meals 6 PM Council Meeting	13 5 PM Lenten Service Soup Supper:	14 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Senior Meals 1 - 4 PM Quilting	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16
17 8:30 AM Worship/ Communion 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:30 AM Sunday School	18 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study	19 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Senior Meals	20 5 - 7 PM Food Pantry 5 PM Lenten Service Soup Supper: Sunday School	21 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Senior Meals 1:00 - 4:00 PM Quilting	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23
24 8:30 AM Palm Sunday 9:30 AM Coffee Hour No Sunday School	25 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study	26 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Senior Meals	27	28 5 PM Maunday Thursday 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Senior Meals & ADRC Presentation 1 - 4 PM Quilting	29 OFFICE CLOSED 5 PM Good Friday	30

STRUM SENIOR DINING

MARCH 2024



CATERED BY SWEET TEMPTATIONS

Tuesday 3/5	Chicken and Rice w/Veggies, Bread, Dessert	Tuesday 3/12	Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Fresh Veggies, Bread, Dessert	Tuesday 3/19	Irish Stew, Fruit, Bread, Dessert	Tuesday 3/26	Chicken Alfredo, Green Beans, Garlic Bread, Dessert
Thursday 3/7	Turkey BLT, Soup, Dessert	Thursday 3/14	BBQ, Chips, Veggies, Dessert	Thursday 3/21	Scalloped Potatoes and Ham, Veggies, Bread, Dessert	Thursday 3/28	Chicken Pineapple Casserole, Fruit, Bread, Dessert

Reservations required by 9am the Monday prior to dining by calling 715-695-3511.
Meals will be served Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:30 am. Suggested donation is \$5.00.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
109 Elm Street
Strum, WI





Immanuel Lutheran Church Easter Memorial & Honorarium Request Form



Lilies will be available to adorn our church on Easter Sunday. If you wish to order a plant as a memorial or in honor of family or friends, please complete this form and return it along with payment to the church office no later than Thursday, March 21. Lilies will be available for pick up at the church after Easter Sunday worship on March 31. Please make checks for plant orders payable to: Robbe's.

_____ Lilies @ \$9.00 each \$ _____ enclosed

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

by _____

Donations may also be made to one of the church's funds in lieu of (or addition to) flowers. Please have Easter Memorial & Honorarium donations to the church office by Monday, March 25 so they may be included in the Easter bulletin.

Donation to: _____ \$ _____ enclosed

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

by _____



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

This is Christ's Church.

There is a place for you here.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person – questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

<http://www.elca.org/>

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Pastor.....Rev Terry Lorenz
Administrator.....Michelle Jacobson
Organist/Music Director.....Jeanette Tobiason
Custodian.....Jean Herman

Creative Beginnings Early Learning Center (CBELC)

Director.....Katie Feltz
Assistant Director.....Dusti Bolgrin
Teacher.....Tarin Bratsven
Teacher.....Shayla Paxton
Teacher.....
Assistant Teacher.....

Council Members

President.....Kris Husby
Vice-president.....Bob Schlink
Secretary.....John Eide
Treasurer.....Gloria Wagener
Member-at-large.....Dean Anderson
Member-at-large.....Tyler Back
Parish Council Chairperson.....Kris Husby

ILC Office..... (715) 695-3511
CBELC Office..... (715) 695-3954

Dial-up Service (715) 695-3906

Live Stream available at www.immanuel-strum.com



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