

SAVED

By Grace,

CALLED

To Serve.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 55
Atwater, MN 56209

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ASH Wednesday Worship Wednesday, March 5

**Carpenter's Tools
Leading Worship
March 30**

Rev. Christa Forsythe, Pastor
christaforsythe@gmail.com
Cell: 320.535.0641

Janelle Eisenbacher
Office Administrator

Melissa Rossell
Office Administrator

Church Contact Information

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Facebook: Immanuel Lutheran - Atwater, MN



Volume XXXIV - Number III - March 2014

The OUTREACH

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 2 - Transfiguration of Our Lord

DEAN NTENGA VISITS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

9:00 a.m.Worship/Holy Communion
10:00 a.m.Fellowship
10:15 a.m.Sunday School/Confirmation

March 5

5:30 p.m.Lenten Supper
7:00 p.m. . . .Ash Wednesday Worship (Beth.)
IMPOSITION OF ASHES/HOLY COMMUNION

March 9 - 1st Sunday of Lent

9:00 a.m.Worship
10:00 a.m.Fellowship
10:15 a.m.Sunday School/Confirmation

March 12

5:30 p.m.Lenten Supper
7:00 p.m.Lenten Worship @ Immanuel

March 16 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

9:00 a.m.Worship
10:00 a.m.Fellowship/WELCA Meets
10:15 a.m.Sunday School/Confirmation

March 19

5:30 p.m.Lenten Supper
7:00 p.m.Lenten Worship @ Bethlehem

March 23 - 3rd Sunday of Lent

9:00 a.m.Worship/Holy Communion
10:00 a.m.Fellowship
10:15 a.m.Sunday School/Confirmation

March 26

5:30 p.m.Lenten Supper
7:00 p.m.Lenten Worship @ Immanuel

March 30 - 4th Sunday of Lent

9:00 a.m.Worship
CARPENTER'S TOOLS
10:00 a.m.Fellowship
10:15 a.m.Sunday School/Confirmation

LENTEN WORSHIP



Ash Wednesday is March 5, and we will be doing joint worship service with Bethlehem Lutheran throughout Lent. Ash Wednesday worship is at Bethlehem Lutheran.

Our Lenten Theme is: *Traveling Light: Reflections on the 23rd Psalm*, based on the book of the same title by Max Lucado.

The midweek worship schedule is:

March 5 - Ash WednesdayBethlehem
Imposition of Ashes/Holy Communion
March 12Immanuel
March 19Bethlehem
March 26Immanuel
April 2Bethlehem
April 9Immanuel
April 17 - Maundy ThursdayBethlehem
April 18 - Good FridayImmanuel

All services will be at 7 p.m. with a supper served from 5:30 - 6:45 p.m. at the host church.

***Check out page 7 for information about the book discussion group we will have using "Traveling Light."*

SOUTH AFRICAN VISITOR

Dean Ntenga, chair of men's ministries in our sister conference in South Africa, will be visiting Immanuel March 2. He will be with us in worship, coffee hour, and Sunday School & Confirmation that morning. It will be a great day to hear about the ministry in South Africa and learn from him. Join us in worship for a great chance to connect and grow in faith together. Special thanks to Roger & Jo Holm for hosting Ntenga.

CARPENTER'S TOOLS

March 30

The Carpenter's Tools musical group will be leading our worship March 30. Immanuel member Erica Borchert sings with this group.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Lent & Psalm 23: Words for Life --- To Travel Light

¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; ³ he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Psalm 23 is the most well-known Psalm out of all 150. It is often one of the most requested Scriptures for funerals. Many of us know it by heart because of how familiar it is and because of its deep meaning to us. However, the Good News of Psalm 23 is not only a comfort when facing death and grief, it is comfort and strength for life.

David sings just a few of the many beloved verses of this treasured Psalm: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want... He restores my soul... he leads me... You are with me... My cup runneth over!" Words for life, death, and new life!

During Lent we will study Psalm 23 and discover how it helps us lighten the load of the many inner burdens we carry. We will see how it applies to most aspects of life.

The season of Lent is one that is contrary to the world around us. As winter comes to a close, daylight lengthens, spring awakens—and spirits lift and joy rises. Yet, we enter into a season of reflection

on who God is to us and all that Christ has given for us. For forty days (stemming from Jesus' temptation in the wilderness), we center our hearts on Christ's journey to the cross. Typically we remove the words "Alleluia," and "Hallelujah," from our worship space, singing, and prayers.

Not because we are sad or down-trodden, but as our way of journeying to the cross and empty tomb with Jesus.



The Lent season has the tradition of fasting. Originally the Easter period of joy was preceded by a forced fast at the end of winter, as stocks from the fall's harvest ran low. This fast for practical purposes became a fast filled with spiritual meaning, as Christians began abstaining from certain types or amounts of food as their way of spiritually focusing on all that Christ did and sacrificed for them.

Today, many Christians "give up" something for lent; recently others have ADDED a spiritual discipline to the forty days to be more intentional about connecting with God.

How might you make these 40 days meaningful in your family or in your relationship with God? Pick a book of the Bible to read through; read through the Psalms; give-up a treasured food or thing; check out our Lenten devotional: *Traveling Light*; begin a prayer journal; do a daily prayer walk; start a faith ritual at work on your lunch break --- be creative! Let's dive in together to a season of reconnecting with the Living God!

Continued Thoughts on the 23rd Psalm:

Many times, we think of the words of the 23rd Psalm --- and we think of them as a comfort when facing death... When in fact, they relate just as much to what life is like here and now --

Pastor - to page 12

APRIL OUTREACH DEADLINE

April Outreach **articles are due** in the church office on **Sunday, March 16.**

We will be **folding** the April Outreach Wednesday, **March 26**, at 9:00 a.m. Helping hands are needed.

WELCA NEWS

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all the Irish Swede's. (that would include me). We are coming into Lent season soon. Don't forget the Lakeland Conference for the women of the ELCA. This is March 15 at Calvary Lutheran in Willmar starting at 8:30 AM.



The quilters are trying to get a start on quilts for our May quilt sale. This money helps our Bible campers and any mission trips our youth are planning for. So please help by making a quilt or help by tying a quilt. And the most important would be in making a large donation in purchasing a quilt. The money does help educate our youth in the Christian path. **We are in need of gently used sheets, all sizes, to be used for Quilt Backs!**

Thank you for the great turn out we had for our Love Offering Service with the Cedar Creek Gospel Band. A big thank you to Gayla for her calling and organizing to get the group here. I do not have a Love Offering figure to date to report, but we are still willing to collect any Love Offering you have. This money does go to our community where help is needed & appreciated.

Serving Group 2 is on Kitchen detail for March and April.

WELCA will have a meeting after coffee fellowship on March 16 (weather and attendance permitting). We may be able to disperse Love Offering at this time. Come and see what is good! Everyone Welcome!!!!

***Sisters in Christ, Linda Burns
WELCA Interim President***

WOMEN'S MORNING BIBLE STUDY



The Women's Morning Bible Study meets at Peaceful Thymes at 9:00 a.m. Thursday mornings.

Immanuel's Website is New & Improved!

Visit the church website to view The Outreach, Weekly Bulletins & The Monthly Calendar.

www.immanuelatwater.com
email: imman@frontiernet.net

Other Helpful Internet Links:
Prayer Ventures:

<http://archive.elca.org/prayerventures/>

Synod Update:

<http://www.swmnelca.org/html/Synod%20Update.html>

GLLM Retreats: www.gllm.org



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Find us at [Immanuel Lutheran - Atwater, MN](https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheran-Atwater-MN). We hope to use this site as a valuable outreach tool, and to post announcements and information. There are lots of great photos to see, and it is a great way to stay in touch with church events.

EASTER GARDEN FLOWERS

The annual Easter memorial flower sale will start in March. Help celebrate the glory of Easter Sunday by adding a plant to our Easter Garden.

Order forms will be inserted into the bulletins in March and will also be available in the church office. Orders will be due to the church office around April 6. In the past, we have had Easter Lilies, Mums, Cyclamen, and Calandiva. Final selection and pricing has not yet been confirmed, but will be listed on the order forms. Please note: we need 15 Easter Lilies to fill our cross and altar.



FAITH-IN-ACTION LENTEN PROJECT

The Faith-In-Action team will be collecting items to pack Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief starting March 9. A cross will be set up in the Narthex with tags listing items that we need to complete our kits. You can simply take a tag, purchase the item(s) and bring them back to church. Items will be due back to Immanuel Palm Sunday, April 13. Our confirmation class will assemble the kits during their class time and send them to Lutheran World Relief for distribution. Instruction sheets will be available.

HEALTH FAIR

The Atwater Living at Home Block Nurse Program is sponsoring their Annual Health Fair Tuesday, March 25 from 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Atwater Community Center. Eye exams, cholesterol & blood pressure check, lunch, and much more. Everyone welcome!

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Join us Sunday, March 30, from 5-7 p.m. for supper, games, prizes, and faith-filled fun for the whole family. All ages welcome.

MARCH IS MN FOODSHARE MONTH

There will be a grocery cart in the Narthex during the month of March. Please consider donating non-perishable food items for our local food shelf. Cash donations are also welcome, and can be left in the church office. Food shelves can stretch cash donations further because of their access to discount products and programs. Cash also gives them more flexibility to acquire perishable items like fresh produce, meat and dairy products.

Each year, Minnesota FoodShare directs the March Campaign, the largest food drive in the state, and restocks 300 food shelves across Minnesota. Throughout the year, Minnesota FoodShare advocates on behalf of hungry Minnesota families with both state and federal lawmakers and educates the public about hunger in Minnesota.

Each Sunday in March, we are also asking our Sunday School students to bring in one (or more!) non-perishable food item in place of their regular Sunday School money offerings.

Family Projects: A fun idea for families to work on together is to gather items for a whole meal. For example, a box of spaghetti, a can of spaghetti sauce, a container of parmesan cheese, a can of vegetables, a can of fruit, and a box of brownie mix.



ELEMENTARY RETREAT

At Green Lake Bible Camp

Join us for a great time at camp with some amazing counselors who love being with kids as we take a mini road trip with Jesus. This is a great way to re-visit your summer camp experience, or try out camp for the very first time. All kids in 2nd-6th grade are welcome.

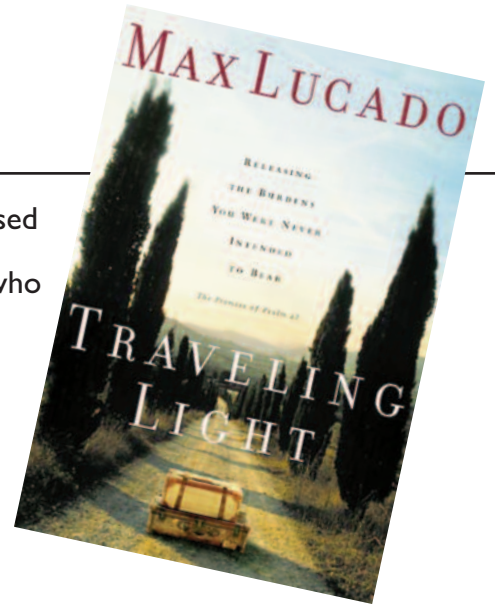
Retreat is Friday, March 28 at 7 p.m. - Saturday March 29 at 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$60, but if you **sign-up in the church office by March 16, Immanuel will pay \$20 of your fee.** Lodging, snacks, breakfast and lunch on Saturday are included.



LENTEN BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Our Lenten Theme is: *Traveling Light: Reflections on the 23rd Psalm*, based on the book of the same title by Max Lucado. Lent is a great time to deepen faith. We have ordered the book, *Traveling Light*, for any folks who want to study the book throughout the six weeks of Lent. The book is great for individual and group study. We will be placing a 2nd order for the book, so contact the church office by 3/16 if you would like a copy.

We will have a discussion group focusing on this book starting Sunday, March 16. The Sunday study will be from 10:45-11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, and we will also have a Facebook discussion group available from 9:15-10 p.m. Tuesdays, starting March 18.



WEATHER-RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the event that Immanuel's worship services are cancelled, Q102 (102.5FM)/KWLM (1340AM) radio in Willmar will be where the cancellation is announced. You can also check "Operation Snow Desk" at www.yourq102.com

WORSHIP SERVICE BROADCAST TIMES

Our Sunday Worship is broadcast on Channel #8 every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m.

If you have a special request for a church service broadcast, please call 320.974.3388.

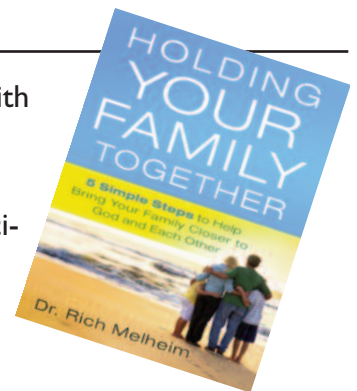
HOLDING YOUR FAMILY TOGETHER WORKSHOP

Workshop will be led by Rich Melheim, Director of Faith Inkubators. March 2 at Faith Lutheran Church in Spicer.

1:30-3:30 p.m. Leader Time

4-5:30 p.m. Gathering of Families – Families and kids of all ages are invited to participate together and learn how to share faith in the home and throughout daily life.

Sign up by February 23 in the church office. Join us for a great day to learn about passing on the faith to your kids at home.



FAITH AT HOME – TOOLKIT



Sunday, March 2nd several folks and families from ILC will attend Rich Melheim's Family Faith 5 event. Melheim encourages and teaches families of all ages and sizes to practice faith at home together.

I have a toolkit in the Narthex with things that my family has tried at home. I often say Jon and the kids are my guinea pigs for what does and doesn't work with faith life at home. Some things that I think will be a resounding "Yes!" flop, and other things take off. A few of our favorites are Prayer Dice, family question flip cards, and a beloved Kids' Bible. Check out the toolkit and if you or your family want to order one item or the whole kit --- sign-up in the Narthex and prepare to share faith together in meaningful and life-giving ways at home. **Peace – Pastor Christa**

corner

Christian Education

first Communion

First Communion instruction will be Sunday, March 16 from 2-5 p.m. OR Thursday, March 20, from 5-8 p.m. Sign up in the church office for one of these dates. Parents will need to attend with their child. March 9, 1st communion kids will be making their 1st Communion Chalices during Sunday School. First Communion is offered to 5th graders, but can also include any older youth who have not previously had instruction. Those participating in First Communion instruction are invited to participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion Sunday, April 6, at our 9 a.m. worship.

***If you have a child older than 5th grade who has not yet communed, please contact the church office if you would like them to participate in First Communion Instruction.**

confirmation Notes/Classes

Confirmation students: remember your yearly requirement of sermon notes (20), service hours (25), & activity points (4).

Regular confirmation classes will meet Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30.

LENT MENTOR MINISTRY: 7th Graders: Remember to pick a mentor and let Pastor Christa know who it is. During Lent, you will worship on Wednesday nights with your mentor and then have 1x1 time for discussion. This is a great time for faith growth.

Other Important Dates:

March 28-29 - High School Synod Youth Event for 9th-12th graders. Sign up by March 9.

April 25-27 - **SAVE THE DATE!** All-Confirmation Twin Cities Retreat.

sundaySchool

We have a few kids who have reached the 20/20 mark for worship/Sunday School attendance. Way to go! Keep filling out your green cards in worship. We are working on preparing songs to sing during worship, so please make every effort to be in class each week.

CAMP REGISTRATION REMINDER

YOU MUST BE REGISTERED WITH GLLM **BY APRIL 27** IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM IMMANUEL. All you need to do is fill out your registration form and send it to GLLM with a \$50 registration fee - you can also register online. In order for us to get our payment made in time, we need to have our final camper numbers by this date. After April 27, you will be notified of the amount being paid by the church. Any additional camp payments can be made directly to Immanuel. If you have any questions, please talk to Janelle.

bible camp Fundraisers

The "Book Sale" Bible Camp Fundraiser continues. Anyone who has gently used books that you are finished with (including children's books) is encouraged to donate books for our sale. **Cost: \$1/hardcover, \$.50/softcover.** Thanks for supporting our campers, and thanks to all those who have donated and purchased books. We plan to continue this fundraiser as long as we have books to sell, so please check out the selection of books regularly!

milestone Ministry

4th Graders - 4th grade students will be making Lent Crosses Sunday, March 2, during Sunday School. They will receive their crosses Sunday March 9 during worship.

Christian Education Ministry Team Members

Harold Eisenbacher (*council rep*) ♦ Jaylen Rossell (*council rep*)
Barb Everson ♦ Janelle Eisenbacher ♦ Nick Rossell ♦ Shane Hagstrom

christian education Calendar of Events

(watch for monthly updates!)

| DATE | TIME - PLACE | EVENT |
|-------------|--------------------------------|---|
| March 2 | 10:15 a.m./Immanuel | 4th Graders make Lent Crosses |
| March 2 | 3 p.m./Faith Lutheran - Spicer | Faith 5 Family Event |
| March 7-9 | | 7th-12th Grade Ski Trip |
| March 9 | 9:00 a.m./Immanuel | 4th Graders Receive Lent Crosses |
| March 9 | 10:15 a.m./Immanuel | 5th Graders Make Communion Chalices |
| March 16 | 2-5 p.m./Immanuel | First Communion Instruction |
| March 20 | 5-8 p.m./Immanuel | First Communion Instruction (Alternate Date) |
| March 28-29 | Green Lake Bible Camp | 2nd-6th Elementary Retreat |
| March 30 | 5-7 p.m./Immanuel | Family Game Night |
| April 6 | | First Communion Sunday |
| April 13 | 9 a.m./Immanuel | Sunday School Kids Lead Palm Processional |
| April 19 | 9 a.m. - Noon/Fellowship Hall | Easter Breakfast Set-Up/Prep |
| April 20 | | 7th-12th Youth Serve Easter Breakfast |
| April 25-27 | Twin Cities | Confirmation Retreat |
| April 27 | | Deadline to Notify Immanuel of GLLM Camp Registration |

SUNDAY SCHOOL QUILT UNVEILED!

Our 1st-6th graders spent part of the fall and winter creating this beautiful quilt that is now hanging in the church Narthex. Each student created a fish for each block, and Barb Everson assembled the quilt. Make sure to take a closer look at this unique addition to our Narthex!



sunday school offering

Each Sunday in March, Sunday School students should plan to bring a non-perishable food item (or more!) in place of their regular offering. March is FoodShare month, and we are gathering items for our local Food Shelf.

Saved By Grace, Called To Serve

1x1 pastor Time

Connection Time with Pastor Christa - 6th-12th graders, Pastor Christa wants to connect with you and take you for coffee, ice cream - or whatever. So call or text her at #320-535-0641.

JANUARY OFFERING

General Fund

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| First Sunday |\$2705.00 |
| Second Sunday |3494.00 |
| Third Sunday |1746.00 |
| Fourth Sunday |882.00 |
| Total |\$8827.00 |

Building Fund

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| First Sunday |\$0.00 |
| Second Sunday |0.00 |
| Third Sunday |75.00 |
| Fourth Sunday |0.00 |
| Total |\$75.00 |

Organ Replacement Project

| | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| First Sunday |\$50.00 |
| Second Sunday |0.00 |
| Third Sunday |20.00 |
| Fourth Sunday |30.00 |
| Total |\$100.00 |

Per Sunday

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Average Attendance (per Sunday) |77 |
| Avg. General Giving (per service) | ...\$2207.00 |
| Avg. Building Fund Giving (per service) | .\$19.00 |

Offering Needed

| | |
|------------|------------------|
| Per Sunday |\$3417.00 |
| Per Month |\$14,807.00 |

Income for 2014 (excluding Organ Project)

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Thru January |\$8902.00 |
|--------------|----------------|

2014 Total Budget\$177,685.00

**please note that these figures do not
reflect all financial transactions*

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Thrivent families: remember to dedicate your Thrivent Choice dollars to a charity of your choosing. If you have not directed your funds by the end of March your Choice dollars will go back to Thrivent to be given as Thrivent chooses.

Call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 and say 'Thrivent Choice' when prompted.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the ILC faith family for all of the birthday greetings, cake, and well wishes on my birthday last month. Thanks to all the February birthday buddies who shared with me that month, especially Betty Stranberg and Shirley Walsh.

*Peace,
Pastor Christa*

HOLDING CROSSES

Thank you to Roger Holm and Ernie Frarck for making the holding crosses. It is our hope to have one cross for every Immanuel worshipper by Easter. Hold onto the cross and remember...Jesus is always holding you!

Take one for yourself - or give one away.

Thanks you, Roger & Ernie!

OFFICE HOURS

The **church office** is typically staffed Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9 a.m. - Noon. & Fridays 9-11 a.m.

Pastor Christa's office hours are currently Wednesday and Friday from 9-noon, and Tuesday 9-10 a.m., or by appointment. Pastor Christa will be in the office many afternoons, but left those hours open for pastoral care, visitation, etc. Call her for any reason: 320-535-0641.

Please be aware that if an office staff member is working in the building alone, the doors will be locked. Please knock, or call ahead if you need to enter the building.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - February 12, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Hagstrom, Harold Eisenbacher, Pastor Christa, Chuck Stranberg, Melissa Litzau, Dean Nelson, Sue Bohn, and Jacklyn Frericks.

Meeting called to order by Chuck Stranberg, Devotions led by Pastor Christa. Minutes of the last meeting approved. Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motion made by Dean and seconded by Harold for election of council officers. Motion passed.
 - a. President – Chuck Stranberg
 - b. Vice President – John Hagstrom
 - c. Secretary – Robin Johnson
 - d. Financial Secretary – Jim Halvorson
 - e. Treasurer – Dean Nelson
2. Selection of committees for board members elected as follows:
 - a. Christian Education – Harold Eisenbacher and Jaylen Rossell
 - b. Building and Property – John Hagstrom and Dean Nelson
 - c. Finance/Stewardship – Pat Walsh, Jacklyn Frericks, Dean Nelson
 - d. Worship and Music – Sue Bohn
 - e. Evangelism and Faith – Melissa Litzau and Robin Johnson
3. Discussion of Immanuel's goals for 2014 year
 - a. Steeple Painting
 - b. Kitchen remodel
 - c. Minor repairs around building such as doors and painting around windows and offices
 - d. Outreach to potential members and membership increase
 - e. Financial awareness for congregation

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS: Full reports, if available, can be found in the Church Office.

Christian Education:

1. Camp Sunday will be Feb. 23.
2. VBS planning underway.
3. Confirmation ski trip in March, retreat in April.
4. Youth Mission Trip for summer 2014 being planned. Possibly set up a sponsorship 'tree' for members to help sponsor participants.

Building/Property: No report.

Finance/Stewardship: No report. Upcoming meeting in March.

Worship & Music: No report.

Evangelism/Faith in Action: Lenten service project begins 3/9 with items due back to church by 4/13. Confirmation class will assemble LVR Health Kits during class.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Christa encouraged participation in the Equipping Congregations event in Willmar. Looking for host home for visitors from South Africa. Talked about the need for adult Lenten mentors. Discussion about the need for ongoing regular communication about finances and general stewardship information throughout the year. Full report is available in the Church Office.

OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS: None.

Council & Ministry Team Schedule

Council Meets: March 16, 11:30 a.m.

Devotions: TBD

Worship & Music: TBD

Christian Ed.: TBD*

Finance/Stewardship: TBD*

Property: TBD*

Evangelism/Faith in Action:

Sun. March 23 - 11:30 a.m.

*Team Leaders, please notify the church office of your monthly meeting date and time so that information can be included in the Outreach.

Pastor - from page 3

We are often caught between two dilemmas --- on the one hand, the Shepherd image sounds well and good, we long for God to supply our every need and lead us. But, on the other hand - do we really want to give up our right to ourselves... our right to call our own shots... our independence --- in order to depend on another --- even if the other is the Living God? You've been raised to help and care for others --- so what does it mean for you to trust and depend on the living God?

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want” And yet, many of us, if we're honest would say we are bombard-ed all the time by advertising and messages from a world that does indeed tell us that we are lacking --- that we are in want --- If only I had this... if only I did this... If only I looked like this... If only I had a little more... If only I could go back to the way it was when... If only...

There are all sorts of reasons and ways that we feel we are in want, that we do indeed lack, and that we are in need. Our cup sometimes feels empty instead of overflowing. Other times, the valley is dark and there does not appear to be any light at the end of the tunnel. We need to be restored. We need comfort. We are in need.

Then – the Risen Christ rushes into your darkness, your grief, your emptiness, your need. Christ rushes into your self-sufficiency, pride, stubborn independence, and more --- and says, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.” The God who took on the cross for you, the Lord of the empty tomb, is your good shepherd! He proclaims to you, “I am yours and you are mine.” --- “I have come so that you may have life and have it abundantly.”

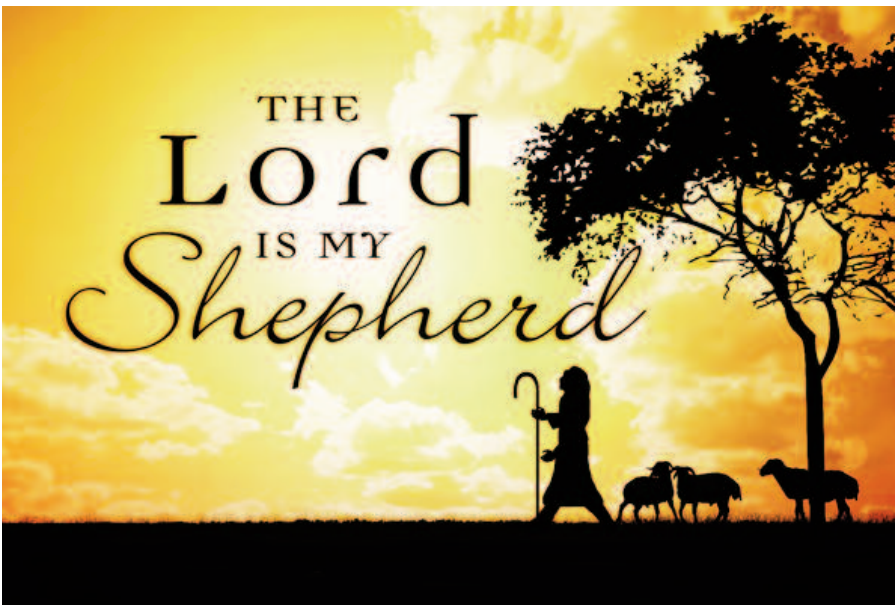
Abundant life --- light in the midst of darkness, restoration in the midst of brokenness, comfort in the midst of heartache, hope in the midst of despair, life in the midst of death. Do you dare to look to the Risen One to supply all that you need, knowing that the Good Shepherd leads you here and now and eternally --- knowing you are his & he is yours?

Sally Lloyd Jones re-wrote the 23rd Psalm in words geared for children in her book, The Jesus Storybook Bible. Although a paraphrase, she encourages us to trust, hope, and live with faith like a child, “God is my shepherd, and I am his little lamb. He feeds me, he guides me, he looks after me --- I have everything I need. Inside, my heart is quiet. As quiet as lying still in soft green grass in a meadow by a little stream. Even when I walk through dark, scary, lonely places – I won't be afraid because my Shepherd knows where I am. He is here with me. He keeps me safe. He rescues me. He makes me strong and brave. He is getting wonderful things ready for me – especially for me – everything I ever dreamed of! He fills my heart with so full of hap-

piness, I can't hold it all inside. Wherever I go, I know God's Never Stopping, Never Giving Up, Unbreaking, Always and Forever Love Will go, too!

So, where do you find yourself this day, week, or month? Wherever you are, whether you are in want or need --- Christ comes to you exactly as you are, exactly where you are and enters in. The Risen One finds you and brings you his very life --- abundant and over-flowing --- with strength and help for the journey.

***Blessings on the Journey,
Pastor Christa***



2014 WELCA Serving List

GROUP 1

Kristy Anderson, Chair
Connie Halvorson,
Chair
 Veda Stockland
 Peggy Starz
 Katey Rosenquist
 Elizabeth Litzau
 Janelle Eisenbacher
 Donna Miller
 Rolayne Beerman
 Elaine Wothe
 Jill Smith
 Jill Bengtson
 Lori Schroeder
 Elvern Bomstad
 Suzi Holtz
 Lila Snavelly

GROUP 2

Barb Everson, Chair
Lissa Borchert, Chair
 Lori Hutchinson
 Sandy Walsh
 Kala Kaehler
 Marge Nelson
 Terry Lease
 Gerry Passmore
 Kristin Straumann
 Deb Mickle
 Jacklyn Frericks
 Lisa Hovey
 Carla Hagstrom
 Jo Holm
 Sandy Edwards
 Sandra Petersen

GROUP 3

Julie Evenson, Chair
Kathy Nelson, Chair
 Sharon Cramlet
 Pam Narragon
 Amanda Saue
 Shirley Wallin
 Amy Krug
 Tiffany Hintz
 Julie Madsen
 Mary Peterson
 Jean Stranberg
 Tracy Madsen
 Sarah Evenson
 Gwen Anderson
 Tanya Meyer

Service Committee Chair

Pat Fluck: 894-7741

Reserve List

Sheryl Stranberg
 Joan Nelson
 Marge Nelson
 Janet Rossell
 Shirley Frarck
 Elaine Johnson

GROUP 4

Val Carlson, Chair
Deb Hanson, Chair
 Beth Nelson
 Tracey Kalkbrenner
 Staci Sing
 Val Svor
 Liz Everson
 Linda Burns
 Marty Kragenbring
 Sue Bohn
 Mary Schwingler
 Robin Johnson
 Jane Hovey
 Kathy Mahn
 Denise Kragenbring

GROUP 5

Marie Nelson, Chair
Janet Rossell, Chair
 Carol Bosch
 Carol Hintz
 Linda Marshall
 Melissa Litzau
 Melissa Rossell
 Jodi Tanata
 Cheryl Rouser
 Kelly Bolton
 Kim Holm
 Deb Bergstrom
 Lisa Naber
 Julie Hovey
 Jennifer Sherwood
 Rhonda Garcia

GROUP 6

Danita Hansen, Chair
Shirley Frarck, Chair
 Sheryl Stranberg
 Karen Soltis
 Kate Berger
 Gayla Fontaine
 Kay Bomstad
 Jan Peterson
 Sharon Goehring
 Sherri Kelbing
 Pam Peterson
 Jolene Garberich
 Leslie Blom
 Sue Davenport
 Angela Rasmussen

Kitchen Cleaning

JanGroup 1
 FebGroup 1
 MarGroup 2
 AprGroup 2
 MayGroup 3
 JuneGroup 3
 JulyGroup 4
 AugGroup 4
 SeptGroup 5
 OctGroup 5
 NovGroup 6
 DecGroup 6

Questions Concerning Servicing List -Call:

Janet Rossell: 974-8198
 Shirley Frarck: 974-3057

MARCH



Celebrating March Anniversaries...

- 3-4 Mike & Jodi Tanata
- 3-23 Virgil & Dawn Nelson
Dwayne & Lisa Naber
- 3-28 Dale & Marty
Kragenbring



HOMEBOUND LIST

Please remember these homebound people with a visit, a card, or a special prayer to bring a little added sunshine into their lives.

Mark S. Berscheid
Sunnyview
Room #1
316 Sunrise Lane
P.O. Box 686
Atwater, MN 56209

Lucille Carlson
Bethesda Heritage
1012 3rd St. SE
Room 360
Willmar, MN 56201

Blanche Hoepner
Sunnyview
316 Sunrise Lane
P.O. Box 686
Atwater, MN 56209

Bill Hutchinson
Bethesda Heritage
Room 322B
1012 3rd St.
Willmar, MN 56201



Robert & Darlene Kirk
20277 105th Ave. SE
Atwater, MN 56209

Grace Peterson
Emmaus
Room 315
200 N. Holcombe
Litchfield, MN 55355

Rocile Sokolosky
322 Sunrise Lane
Atwater, MN 56209
974-8217

Dennis Wallin
441 Williams Ave. E.
Apt. 207
Dassel, MN 55325

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 3-1 Leone Kragenbring | 3-17 Jim Mueller |
| Jordan Svor | Amanda Bergstrom |
| 3-2 Brad Bengtson | 3-18 Kylie Blom |
| 3-3 Lisa Ahl | 3-20 Stanley Peterson |
| Gayla Fontaine | Deb Hanson |
| Aaron Shultz | Martin Peterson |
| 3-5 Dale Kragenbring | 3-21 Dale Tagtow |
| Carol Bosch | Aaron Rouser |
| Paige Kaehler | 3-22 Jillayna Johnson |
| 3-6 Elaine Johnson | Julie Hoffman |
| 3-7 Nick Rossell | Greg Holm |
| 3-8 Charles Stranberg | James Schwartz |
| Emily Johnson | Jared Peterson |
| 3-10 Gary Nelson | 3-24 Ian Shultz |
| 3-11 John Holm | Hayden Rouser |
| Roger Rossell | 3-26 Micah Berger |
| 3-13 Joel Tanata | 3-27 Reid Stranberg |
| 3-14 Kelly Bolton | Jazmin Petersen |
| Keith Passmore | 3-28 Bill Hutchinson |
| Samantha | 3-30 Denise Shultz |
| Ehrenberg | Justin Sing |
| 3-15 Rocile Sokolosky | |
| Daniel Pirsig | |

Please remember to notify the church office of any corrections that should be made to birthdays, anniversaries, names, addresses, etc., so we can keep our files updated.
Thanks!

March *Assisting Schedule*

Ushers Donald Anderson
John Hagstrom

Communion Assistants

Mar 2 Janet Rossell
23 Dennis Goehring

Lectors

Mar 2 Jacklyn Frericks
9 Shane Hagstrom
16 Dennis Goehring
23 Veda Stockland
30 Pat Walsh

Greeters

Mar 2 Kern & Denise Kragenbring
9 Justin & Jacklyn Frericks
16 Brian Evenson family
23 Veda Stockland
30 Larry & Sheryl Stranberg

Acolytes

Mar 2 Ryan Peterson
9 Skye Powers
16 Elizabeth Sherwood
23 Marie Chalupsky
30 Holly Hoekstra

Altar Guild

Jacklyn & Justin Frericks

Offering Counter

TBD

Coffee Hour Servers

Mar 2 Doug & Deb Hanson
Kern & Denise Kragenbring
9 Bob & Peggy Starz
Pat & Sandy Walsh
16 Lloyd & Kathy Mahn
23 Ross & Michelle Johnson
Roger & Robin Johnson
30 Mark & Lori Hutchinson
Dan & Cheryl Rouser

April *Assisting Schedule*

Ushers Chuck & Jean Stranberg

Communion Assistants

Apr 6 Sharon Cramlet
20 Shane Hagstrom 6:30 a.m.
20 Shane Hagstrom 9 a.m.
John Hagstrom 9 a.m.
Connie Halvorson 9 a.m.
27 Melissa Rossell

Lectors

Apr 6 Chuck Stranberg
13 Denise Kragenbring
20 Veda Stockland 6:30 a.m.
20 Brent Garberich 9 a.m.
27 Deb Mickle

Greeters

Apr 6 John & Carla Hagstrom
13 Pat & Sandy Walsh
20 Deb & Lee Mickle 6:30 a.m.
20 Roger & Jo Holm 9 a.m.
27 Katey & Jason Rosenquist

Acolytes

Apr 6 Kobe Holtz
13 Alexandra Hovey
20 Gabby Lawver 6:30 a.m.
20 Emily Naber 9 a.m.
27 Jeremy Nelson

Altar Guild

Lee & Deb Mickle

Offering Counter

TBD

Coffee Hour Servers

Apr 6 Don & Kristine Anderson
Kathy Nelson, Joan Nelson
13 John & Carla Hagstrom
Pat Heining
20 EASTER BREAKFAST
27 Shane Hagstrom
JJ & Kristin Straumann