

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER



MARCH 2025
Volume 39, Issue 6



From Your Pastor

One of the resources I use for my devotional time has the title *The Lord Will Answer*. It is published by Concordia Publishing House, and it has a subtitle, "A Daily Prayer Catechism." It follows *Luther's Small Catechism* and covers it in the course of a year, so it is an excellent way to review the Small Catechism. Several Bible passages are given for each day which support the teaching in focus, and then there is a prayer, written by one of the Church Fathers.

Sometimes, the prayer provided is of a different type. What is most remarkable is the form of these prayers. The editor took a prayer of one of the characters of the Bible and adapted it for our personal use. One of the prayers is based on a prayer by Nehemiah, as it is recorded in Nehemiah 1:5-11.

Nehemiah was one of God's people who came into the service of the king of Persia while God's people were in exile. Some of God's people had been permitted to return to begin rebuilding the temple and the city of Jerusalem. As the book of Nehemiah begins, he tells of hearing that those who had gone back to Jerusalem were in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem remained broken down and its gates destroyed by fire. Nehemiah understood this as God's call to him to go back and organize the work (we learn Nehemiah was a great administrator), but he first had to gain permission from the Persian king, whom he served. Nehemiah poured out his heart to God in prayer.

First, read what Nehemiah prayed, and then I will share how the editor of *The Lord Will Answer* adapted it for our use. Here is Nehemiah's prayer: "O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments, let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, to hear the prayer of Your servant that I now pray before You day and night for the people of Israel, Your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against You. Even I and my father's house have sinned. We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that You commanded Your servant Moses. Remember the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are

unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, but if you return to Me and keep My commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make My name dwell there.' They are Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power and by Your strong hand. O Lord, let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who delight to fear Your name, and give success to Your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man" (Nehemiah 1:5-11).

Now here is how the prayer was personalized by the editor of *The Lord Will Answer*: "O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant of love with those who love Him and obey His commands, let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open to hear the prayer Your servant is praying before You day and night for Your servants, the people of God. I confess the sins we have committed against You, including my sins and the sins of my father's house. We have acted very wickedly toward You. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees, and laws You gave. Cause us to return to You and obey Your commands through Jesus Christ our Savior. Gather us in His Name. Redeem us by Your great strength and Your mighty hand. O Lord, let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of this Your servant and to the prayer of Your servants who delight in revering Your name. Give success today by granting favor through Christ. Amen."

I offer this to you to encourage you to join me in taking the Word of God, applying it to our lives and our lives together, and then praying it back to God! Surely, we read God's Word and see how we have miserably failed to faithfully be the people He has redeemed and called to newness of life! Yet, we ask Him to turn our hearts in true repentance that we may receive His forgiveness through Jesus our Redeemer, we then pray His guidance and blessings upon our lives to glorify His saving Name.

Your fellow-servant for Christ,

Pastor Mahnken



March 1.....	Whitley Brown
March 2.....	Debbie Goetsch Joan Nahnsen
March 3.....	Kayla Clark
March 4.....	Gerald Langholdt
March 7.....	Brandon Jacobson Eugene Mitchell
March 8.....	Abby Macumber Kennedi Mallinger Sarah Schultz Mikayla VandenBurg
March 9.....	Kayla Morgan
March 10.....	Nan Bornhoft Todd Jepsen
March 11.....	Amber Haberberger Peter Teut
March 12.....	Bonard Christiansen (96) Cori Kragel Lucas Peters
March 13.....	Ingrid Finn Barb Quandt
March 16.....	Devin Jepsen William Whitenack
March 17.....	Dylan Dimig
March 18.....	Roger Rothe Wade Schultz
March 19.....	Glenda Bryson Rocky Ellerbeck
March 21.....	Angie Ellis Kasey Lee
March 22.....	Bob Andresen Wyatt Kragel Bruce Paulsen Glenn Wigg
March 24.....	Shelly Aldag Kamden Bruhn Jaci Kluender Karin Schneider
March 25.....	Justin Andresen Zach Bielenberg Amy Hoffmeier
March 26.....	Morgan Haskin
March 27.....	Shilby Henningsen Lori Kline
March 28.....	Jarel Bral Jestin Bral Verdean Gierstorf
March 29.....	Cove Riessen (1) Timothy Riessen



Jeremy & Marnee Rohlf.....	March 3, 2023
Josh & Ashley Beeck	March 4, 2005
Terry & Nancy Kline	March 6, 1970
Matthew & Karla Gross	March 10, 2008
Ryan & Stacy Jepsen	March 20, 1999
Pastor Merle & Chris Mahnken	March 22, 1986
Lodean & Sandra Voss	March 22, 1968
Adam & Megan Nahnsen	March 24, 2018
Grant & Janette Clausen	March 26, 1988
Mitchell & Rebecca Schwarz	March 26, 1977
Brad Highstreet & Ingrid Finn	March 27, 1998
Daryl & Barb Pedersen.....	March 31, 1979

Please notify the office of any
omissions or corrections.

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From the Church Record Book



Baptized: *"Let the little children come unto Me...."*

Lane Robert Andresen, son of Justin and Caitlyn Andresen, was baptized on February 22, 2025.

Deaths: *"I am the Resurrection..."*

Lainey Ray Naberhaus, age 8 days, died January 29, 2025, and was buried February 12, 2025, in the Morgan Township Cemetery, Schleswig, Iowa.

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Daylight Saving Time & Worship Time Change

Our Saturday p.m. worship time changes to a
5:00 p.m. starting time beginning
Saturday, March 15.



Remember to set your clocks to "spring forward" before
you go to bed Saturday night, March 8!



Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2024 expire March 31, 2025!

If you are a Thrivent member, you may
direct Thrivent Choice dollars to our congregation, our
preschool, Mission Central and other LCMS
organizations.

Simply go to www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call
800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) before March 31 and say
"Thrivent Choice."



LWML Hour of Prayer Worship

Everyone is invited to join on March 4, for the Denison Zone LWML Hour of Prayer at Zion Lutheran church in Denison.

Coffee at 9 am, service at 10 am.

Hope to see you there!

The Hand of the Lord

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which will be March 5. The theme for our midweek Lent services this year is "The Hand of the Lord"

Our Lord has hands, real hands. Jesus has accomplished all that we need. Amazingly, He takes our manipulative, distorted, self-serving hands and restores them into useful hands for His purposes, both to literally use them in service and to make our whole lives into His instruments of witness, service, and praise.

Worship will begin at 5:45 pm each Wednesday; supper will follow at 6:30. Our themes will be:

Ash Wednesday, March 5—*The Hand of the Lord Who Freely Gives*

March 12—*The Hand of the Lord Who Creates and Saves*

March 19—*The Hand of the Lord Who Casts Out Demons*

March 26—*The Hand of the Lord Who Heals the Sick*

April 2—*The Hand of the Lord Who Raises the Dead*

April 9—6:00 pm—*Passover Seder with Meal*

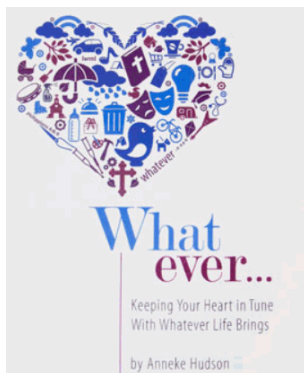
(more info to come)

April 17—Maundy Thursday—*The Hand of the Lord Who Serves and Feeds Us.*

April 18—Good Friday—*The Hand of the Lord Who Was Pierced for Us*

April 20—Easter—*The Hand of the Lord Who Is Risen*

Women's Lenten Bible Study for this year will be, "Whatever..." by Anneke Hudson.



We will begin Ash Wednesday, March 5 at 6:45 p.m. Come join us!



You are invited to attend

2025 UNITY RIDGE

Dinner Auction

SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH 2025

DOORS OPEN / SILENT AUCTION @ 5:00

DINNER @ 6:30

LIVE AUCTION @7:30

The Stables

2199 RIDGE ROAD

DENISON, IA

TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE
712-393-2002



March 18, 2025

Location: The Stables at Copper Ridge,
Denison, Iowa

Speaker: Megan Torreson,
Author of the book, *Fourth in the Fire*

Meal: Staley's Catering
Chicken & beef buffet

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
Program Begins at 6:30 p.m.



Proceeds go to Crossroads of Crawford County Programs:
Pregnancy & Parenting Resources, the new
Ultrasound Program, & CoCares non-medical
helping to the elderly
and caregiver relief



TICKETS BY PRESALE ONLY by March 13, 2025

• Special thanks for TABLES OF 8 PURCHASES! PLEASE CONTACT US TO ARRANGE.

• BUSINESS SPONSORSHIPS of any amount for event expenses are welcomed and especially helpful!

712-393-4673 • Info@crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org • www.crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org
139 N 7th St • Denison, IA 51442

\$50
per ticket,
\$400
per table of 8

CAMP OKOBOJI SUMMER 2025

Discipleship Programs

May 30-June 1...Kids' Kamp
June 5-8...JOY Camp #1
June 22-26...Cub Week #1
June 29-July 4...July 4 Family Retreat
July 6-12...Junior High Week
July 10-13...JOY Camp #2
July 13-19...Cub Week #2
July 20-26...Youth Week (High School)
July 27-August 1...Family Retreat #1
August 3-8...Family Retreat #2

Other Events

January 24-26...Family Ice Fishing Retreat
May 2-4...Spring Volunteer Work Weekend
June 8-10...Iowa District West Convention
June 14...Camp Okoboji Auxiliary Quilt Auction
June 15-21...Minneboji Lutheran Camp
May 25-August 31...Sunday Worship
1st Sundays of the Month (May-October)...Brunch
October 10-11...Fall Volunteer Work Weekend

For more information and to register, visit
campokoboji.org



The camp auxiliary will be giving away six scholarships for Cub Week, Jr. High Week or Youth Week.

Children can apply for the scholarships by completing the application and returning it to Camp Okoboji **by** April 22nd. The annual meeting is April 25th, 2025. The recipients of the scholarships will be notified the following week.

Application forms are available in the Church Office.

136th Tournament of Roses Parade

For the 74th time in the history of the Tournament of Roses Parade, Lutheran Hour Ministries was humbled to present the 2025 Lutheran Hour Ministries float, "Behold! Jesus the Savior is Born"



Under the Tournament of Roses theme "Best Day Ever," this year's float displayed two heralding angels calling viewers to a display of the birth of Jesus and to the Church where Jesus is found. The familiar Christmas tree and lights are symbolic of Jesus' birth and everlasting life. Additionally, the stained glass windows on the church highlight other best days: Jesus' Baptism, Jesus the Good Shepherd, Jesus and the children, Easter, the ascending Christ and the returning King.

Chris Mahnken was able to travel to California with the Petal Pushers volunteer group to work on this Lutheran Hour Ministries float, as well as the float for the City of Alhambra which won the Mayor's Award.



Mercy Meals

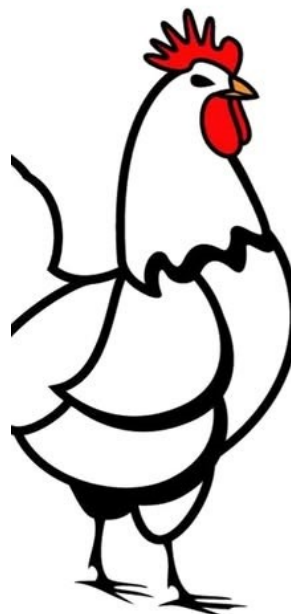
On Saturday, February 22 a group of us went to Mercy Meals of Siouxland and joined with members of the Schleswig Sharks 4-H.

During our 10:30 am shift we packaged 13,314 meals making a total of 18,066 for the day!



drive through **STALEY'S**

CHICKEN DINNER FUNDRAISER



WHEN:	Tuesday, March 4th 4:30pm-7:00pm
WHERE:	Stables of Copper Ridge 2199 Ridge Road Denison, IA 51442
PRICE:	\$13.00, Includes 2 pieces of fried chicken, 2 sides, dinner roll & cookie.

Delivery & payment for on campus tenants & residents must be prearranged. Please call (712) 263-3114 to arrange by 3/2.

**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE
EVENTIDE FOUNDATION.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

~ THE LWML INVITES ALL LADIES ~



Immanuel LWML met in February. We watched a film titled "God, Evil and the Ripple Effect" which Pastor Mahnken followed with a Bible study on Genesis 50 as an example of the ripple effect in the life of Joseph.

Following a discussion, we voted to donate \$6,000 to the new flooring that will be installed in the educational unit. This is possible due to the success of the dinner Immanuel members served during the 125th celebration.

We decided to serve the meal for the Lenten Service on March 26. Plans will be made at the March meeting.

Information was presented on the National LWML Convention in Omaha June 26-29.

The Zone Prayer Service will be held at Zion in Denison on March 4th.

Visits were made the past month to Immanuel members in care facilities by Coleen and Joyce. We followed our meeting with an enjoyable time of food and fellowship.

—Submitted by Donna Harm

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What is the Lutheran Women's Missionary League?

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS). It has as its "mission heart" thousands of volunteers who are daily dedicating their lives to making a difference in this world. It is women who are finding avenues to use their God-given talents as they meet the challenge to share the Gospel message. It seeks to develop and maintain a greater mission consciousness among the women of the Synod through education, inspiration, and service. It places a major emphasis on the support of mission and ministry throughout the world by means of Mite Box offerings. These Mite Box offerings have funded over 100 million dollars in missions grants since the organizations inception in 1942. Mission Projects for our Iowa West District, the United States and countries all over the world!

Come join us and become one of the
Lutheran Women in Mission!



From Your library . . . "Have we got a book for you!"



Home to Holly Springs By Jan Karon

Jan Karon is a well-known Christian author of the Mitford series, 10 books in all and has now written the first book of the Father Tim novels.

Thirty-eight years have passed since Father Tim Cavanaugh left his Mississippi hometown determined not to return. Then he receives a handwritten note postmarked Holly Springs, it's unsigned and says only Come Home.

Those two words compel him to make the most disturbing journey of his life. They also lead him to a truth that will change his life forever.

He wonders what has happened to Peggy, the loving woman who was like a second mother, or a friend he was forbidden to spend time with. He wondered what were the facts behind a covert trial that drove the Cavanaugh family apart. He is also not prepared for how much his life can change in a matter of days.

Add this book to your list of winter reading, I'm sure you will enjoy it.

—Submitted by Carol Neddermeyer





It's a bit of a strange feeling as I look ahead to the month of March. We've got one session of Parent-Teacher Conferences complete, Grandparents' Day has been celebrated, and a couple of morning classes canceled due to the cold weather. There are only two and a half months of school left and at this stage of the game, as an educator, I begin to reflect on where we've come from and where we have yet to travel. What are the high priorities as we near the end of the year? What are the "I really want you to get this" topics? As I reflect upon those things, there could be a tendency to think I need to "push, push, push" to make sure everything has been covered. Yet, right now, at this moment in time, I am reminded about something I heard in church yesterday. You have to let the Spirit do the work. Because I can very easily pick up responsibility for things that are not really my job. Those things will then lead to frustration, burn-out, and false responsibility. Oh, don't get me wrong. I will do those things which God asks of me. I want to be a tool used for His Kingdom and follow where He asks me to go. However, true revelation of who God is and true life transformation in the hearts of the children, those are only accomplished through the work of our gracious and loving Father.

We will begin looking ahead to Easter soon. The children and I usually spend three weeks walking through the events which led up to Jesus' death and resurrection. I will do my best to present the enormity of Jesus' love for us. Yet, it will be God's Spirit who moves in the hearts of the littles and grows His love. I had the privilege of visiting with someone yesterday who became a Christian at about five years old. As she shared some of what her life looked like and how she clung to that promise so young of a God who loved her, I realized our preschoolers

are basically the same age. We have no idea what they have or will face in their lifetime. Regardless of how much we try to protect our children, they will face opportunities and challenges for their own personal growth. We cannot walk their walk for them. We can take them to church. We can share who God is and His vast love for them in Jesus. We can teach them they have authority because Christ lives in them. And we can pray pray pray. However, our children (specifically adult children) will ultimately need to trust the Lord for themselves. Our personal relationships with Jesus are just that, personal. But isn't it amazing to think about how someone shared Jesus with a woman over fifty years ago and she held on tight to that love? I pray that as we've gone through our year and as we head into Easter teaching season, the students who God has sent to Immanuel Lutheran Preschool will have the truth of God's love, grace, and victory rooted so deeply in them that they will hold on tight to it forever. Or perhaps I should say, I pray they will allow Him to hold onto their little hand in complete rest and trust. Because if there is one thing important for them to leave preschool knowing, it is Jesus. Jesus and His immense love for them. Please join me in praying for their little hearts to be receptive each day to their loving and gracious Father.

Blessings,
Mrs. Gustafson

Looking ahead: April 11 the preschool will be hosting their Family Night Fundraiser again. This year the carnival/steak sandwich meal will change locations. We will be hosting this event at the church. We will be offering bouncy houses (yes, plural), carnival games, and the meal. We are planning to host the carnival portion of this event outside. Please mark your calendars. We invite you to eat steak sandwiches for supper that night. Guys in the field by then? Great! We'll have "to go" boxes. And for those who love to bake, last year the cake walk was a BIG HIT! If you'd be willing to bake a cake, bars, a plate of goodies, we would love and appreciate it! Thank you in advance for all your support as we help these littles continue to have a place to grow in their walk with Jesus.



MARCH 2025

Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Schleswig, Iowa



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																			
Preschool Mon., Tues., Thurs.: 8 a.m.—3 p.m. Wed.: 11:45 a.m.—3 p.m. Confirmation 5th & 6th grade: 3:30 p.m.—5:15 p.m. 7th & 8th grade: 6:15 p.m.—8:00 p.m.			April S M T W T F S <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					1 4 p.m. Worship w/HC
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2 Transfiguration Sunday 9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC	3 Preschool	4 Preschool LWML Zone Prayer Service @ Zion, Denison 4:30-7 p.m. Eventide Fundraiser at Stables	5 Ash Wednesday 6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool Confirmation 5:45 Worship w/HC 6:30 Lenten supper 6:45 Ladies Bible Study 6:45 Mens Bible Study	6 Preschool 1:30 LWML 6:30 pm Bible Study	7	8 4 p.m. Worship w/HC 5:00 p.m. Unity Ridge Fundraiser at Stables																																			
9 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS, HS, BC 11:30 Elders' Meeting 	10 Preschool	11 Preschool 8 a.m. Pastors Conference at Our Savior	12 6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool Confirmation 5:45 Worship 6:30 Lenten supper 6:45 Ladies Bible Study 6:45 Mens Bible Study	13 Preschool 9 a.m. Quilting 6:30 pm Bible Study	14	15  5 p.m. Worship w/HC																																			
16 9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC 6:00 Teacher Appreciation Supper	17 St. Patrick's Day No Preschool	18 Preschool <i>Messenger</i> Deadline for April issue  6:30 p.m. Crossroads Fundraiser at Stables	19 6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool Confirmation 5:45 Worship 6:30 Lenten supper 6:45 Ladies Bible Study 6:45 Mens Bible Study	20 First Day of Spring Preschool 6:30 pm Bible Study 	21	22 5 p.m. Worship w/HC																																			
23 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS, HS & BC 30 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC	24 Preschool 31 Preschool	25 Preschool 5:30 p.m. Board of Ed Meeting	26 6:30 am Bible Study 8:45 am Newsletter assemblage p.m. Preschool Confirmation 5:45 Worship 6:30 Lenten supper 6:45 Ladies Bible Study 6:45 Mens Bible Study	27 Preschool 9 a.m. Quilting 6:30 pm Bible Study	28	29 5 p.m. Worship w/HC																																			

**IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
501 Glad St. PO Box 27 Schleswig, Iowa 51461

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Schleswig, Iowa
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Change Service
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TO EVERYONE IN THE HOME OF:



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501 Glad St. PO Box 27 Schleswig, Iowa 51461
Office: 712-676-2235

Saturday Worship at 4 p.m. w/HC;
changing to 5 p.m. on March 8
Sunday Worship at 9 a.m. HC on first & third Sundays
Sunday School and Bible Classes at 10:15 a.m.

+++++

E-mail: immansch@iowatelecom.net
or: markey@iowatelecom.net
Website: www.immanuel Schleswig.com
“Like” us on Facebook

Pastor: Merle F. Mahnken—
Home Ph.: 712-676-2242 Cell Ph.: 712-269-6364
Assisting Pastor: Kurt Kaiser
Cell Ph.: 712-269-8452

Office: Amanda Bruhn and Valerie Teut
Preschool: Leslie Gustafson
Organist: Nancy Bielenberg
Snow Removal and Lawn Care:
Ryan Jepsen; 712-790-1603
Loren and Janice Jepsen

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER



**OUR MISSION
STATEMENT:**
“Together in Christ,
we grow through the
Word and
Sacraments, serving
our Lord and
sharing His saving
grace with all
people.”