

Immanuel

February 2024

THE
SEASON
OF
LENT



A Publication of Immanuel Lutheran Church, La Vernia, Texas

Our Front Page

This edition's cover is about the Christian Lent season. Lent signifies a solemn 40-day period preceding Easter. Commencing on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Holy Saturday, Lent is characterized by fasting, prayer, and repentance as believers prepare for the celebration of Easter Sunday. This season of reflection and self-discipline involves practices such as abstaining from certain indulgences, fostering a deeper spiritual connection, and commemorating the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.



Not all Christian churches observe Lent. Lent is primarily observed by Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Anglicans, and Roman Catholics.

The Bible does not mention the custom of Lent; however, the practice of repentance and mourning in ashes is found in 2 Samuel 13:19; Esther 4:1; Job 2:8; Daniel 9:3; and Matthew 11:21. These biblical/spiritual realities prompt the church to search and add such practices to our Christian calendar.

These 40 days are set aside to praise and worship the Lord, to read the Bible more, and to pray more often. Christians who observe Lent correctly anticipate deeper intimacy with the Lord, which is the real blessing of the season.

The Food Pantry Ministry is Thriving

We are happy to update you with the latest news about the Food Pantry Ministry and its new Coordinator, Mr. Kris Tripp.

The last event we sponsored as a church was the Christmas Gift Cards, in which we exceeded our quota thanks to generous donations from our members.



During 2024, our next days of serving will be the following Saturdays: April 6, June 15, August 24, and November 2.

FEED THE HUNGRY

A Success the Adult Sunday Bible Study

We want to keep sharing an open invitation to Adult Sunday Bible School with those not Sunday Bible Teachers for children and young adults. So far, our classes have been a success because of the education and the number of assistants every Sunday. In 2024, we will be studying some texts from the Old Testament. Please arrange to be with us every Sunday around 9:15 am as we learn and grow in Christ and his word. Pastor Eric M. Milette is our teacher. Come and enjoy this blessing in Christ!



Sunday Morning Adult Study

Editor and Graphic Artist
Pastor Eric M. Milette

Contributing Writers (this edition)

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FROM THE PASTOR'S

DESK



The Year Upon Us

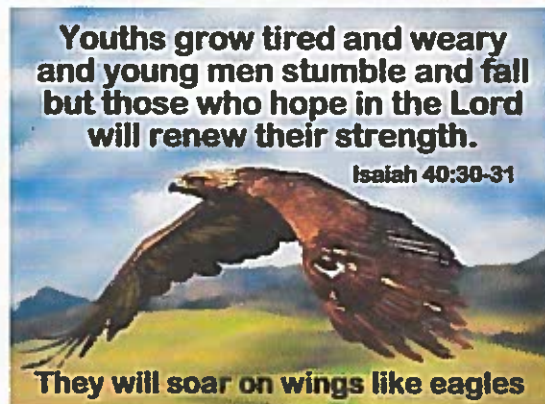
Every New Year should come with instructions on how to prosper, warnings to teach us in advance what not to do, and many recommendations to do better in life but guess what, they do not. New year's come to us full of surprises and without warnings, sometimes too fast, and others give us no time to prepare for what is coming. No surprise there; we called all this life. Different from what some so-called Christian preachers tell us, we have no way to control what is God's own business: our future. The only thing we can do regarding total control of our future year is to trust the Lord.

Of course, there are spiritual ways to prepare to face what is coming. Becoming more committed to our faith community, taking more time to meditate, reading the Bible (in private and community), and sharing God's experiences and love with others are ways to prepare. Unsurprisingly, all these spiritual practices point to a growing process of solid hope in the Lord facing life's uncertainties.

The book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 40, verse 31 reads, *"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint."* First, the text teaches that hope in the Lord will renew our strength. Everything that follows -soar on eagle wings, run and not grow weary, and walk but not faint- has to do with our inner self regarding our spiritual life. I believe this because there is no conditional clause to circumstances or situations (bad or good). In other words, no matter what is happening to us or around us, the word of God promises to sustain us through hope in the Lord. Hallelujah! And this is our confidence as we look into the uncertainty of the new year. God is with us.

Let us remember this and walk by faith into the new year, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). We should actively seek to grow in the hope of God's promise. This spiritual discipline of growing in hope should be our primary task. After all, these promises are for us to claim this year, 2024, and forever.

God Bless You All,
Pastor Eric M. Miletti





MATTHEW
14:22-33

Young Adults Church Team

**OUTREACH
COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Friday, February 2nd
Photos
Senior Saint's Luncheon

Preparation for
Community Outreach
Project in March

SUNDAY EXPERIENCE

February
4th, 11th, 18th, 25th
9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

UPCOMING

Wednesday,
March 20th
Lenten Meal Host

MEETING DATES

Monday, February 5th
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Church Parsonage
meal served

Wednesday, February 14th
Ash Wednesday

If you have any questions, please contact Tina Homeyer, Director of YACHT, @ (210) 857-5572.

Why Pray if God Already Knows What Will Happen?

What a great question. Prayer is counterintuitive. In what other situation do you ask for something or plead with someone when you know for certain their mind is already made up about what they will do?

Psalms 115:3 (NIV) even tells us, "Our God is in heaven; He does whatever pleases Him." To understand all this, we need to think about what Christians call "the sovereignty of God." It's true that God already knows everything that will happen for the rest of eternity. He knows the big events and the small moments of each of our lives, and nothing is beyond His control.

Prayer is a process through which we learn to trust God. He listens to us patiently. He takes our requests seriously. Then He considers everything in the context of the bigger picture only He can see. Pete Greig, the founder of the 24/7 Prayer movement, says, "In prayer, we use our will to come into agreement with God's will — 'Let your kingdom come.'"

God knows better than you do what the eventual outcomes of every situation will be. If you pray for dry weather for an outdoor event your church has planned, God might know of another reason why it needs to rain that day. It's easy to accept this idea when it does not affect a personal situation in your life, but the test of faith comes when God asks you to trust Him with something or someone that matters to you. Let us keep on praying without ceasing so we can keep growing in our relationship of trust in our Lord.

<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/prayer/why-we-pray.html>

COWBOYS & SWEETHEARTS

Senior Saints Celebration

Church members ages 60+ are invited to a special dinner hosted by the Children of God and ILC youth groups. Please wear your favorite western outfit.



Friday, February 2

5:30 - 7:30 pm

5:30 pm Happy Hour with punch & light appetizers

6pm BBQ dinner

6:45pm - 7:30pm Games

Immanuel Lutheran Church, La Vernia

**RSVP by January 25, 2024 by
calling church office**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting
December 19, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm. Members present were Rebe Penshorn, Wendie Roser, Jacy Reeves, Becca Reeves, Pastor Eric, and Gloria Kipp. Absent was Chrystal Coble and Ronnie Coleman, Jana Clark, and Mark Buccigrossi. The opening devotion was done by Jacy Reeves.

Public and Parishioners to be Heard- Renee Scull informed the council that there were several youths from our church that were going to be in the Lutheran Coronation and presented a request for the church to purchase a 2-page color ad for the Lutheran Coronation.

Correspondence- Wounded warrior request for donation.

Secretary Report: Motion to accept the Secretary report by Wendie and seconded by Becca. Motion passed. minutes accepted to records.

Treasurers Report: After reviewing the report, a motion was made by Rebe to accept the report and seconded by Gloria. Motion passed. Treasurers report accepted to records.

Pastors Report - Bible studies have been going well. Has had some private conversations with several parishioners. Traveling the 2nd and 3rd week of January to Puerto Rico the prep for a congregational trip to do some service over there. Pastor reported that there has been small disruption in congregation of members working together and he is hoping to help resolve. He also informed the council that there will be a NALC youth convention summer 2024 and he is trying to get the youth to attend. Pastor also mentioned that he had purchased a new cross on the altar table.

Presidents Report – Informed Council that the phones have been down. Also, that first round of evaluations are beginning starting with the secretary. All evaluations should be done by January 15, 2024. Mentioned that the bid was approved by the congregation for \$286,147.00 and the work should begin 1st week of January for the 2nd phase of the construction. The 1st draw has been requested and lumber has been ordered. President also wanted to inform council that she has been approached by older members to not ask younger members to be on council.

Program Reports-

VBS – VBS directors wanted to inform council that they will be looking to possibly move VBS to June.

Old Business

- A- **Sanctuary Repairs Update:** Inside of church is completely finished. Exterior is almost done. Contractor has requested the final draw.
- B- **Monitor in Sanctuary for Security Team –**Council discussed the Security Teams request that a monitor is put up in back of church. Wendie made motion that we allow the Security Team to put up monitor in back of church and reserve seating for one of them to monitor. Gloria seconded. Vote was 5 in favor and 1 against. Motion passed.
- C- **Clarify Semi-Annual Jan 21, 2024 meeting(one service combined or 2 sep)** After some discussion, Jacy made a motion to have only 1 service at 9:00 am on the Sundays when the Annual and Semi-annual meetings. Seconded by Rebe. Motion passed.

New Business

- A- **Business Google Account:** Due to several dropped emails, the suggestion to get google business account which would make emails more flexible was presented. Price would be \$46.00 month. After discussion, Pastor made a motion to get a Business Google account for approximately \$46. Month. Seconded by Rebe. Motion passed.
- B- **Discuss Ad for Lutheran Coronation:** After discussion, Becca made a motion to allocated \$375.00 for a 2 page ad and seconded by Wendie. Motion passed.
- C- **Discuss Current Storage:** Council decided that after discussion, to allow Ronnie Coleman and Travis Hild to discuss with contractor how to handle the storage during the 2nd phase of construction.
- D- **January Semi-Annual meeting:** Will be requesting reports from all the sub committee. Meeting notice to be mailed out by January 10th. All reports to be submitted by January 3rd.

Ronnie will lead the next devotion at the meeting on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Motion made by Wendie to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Rebe. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebe Penshorn

women OF faith™

Now that one month of the new year is behind us, are you still on track with your resolutions? Are you plodding right along, or are you struggling to keep up? "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but the Lord's purpose prevails." This Bible verse from Proverbs 19:21 reminds me that it doesn't matter how much I plan or think I am in charge; I have to rely on my God, who will always take care of me and guide me in the right direction. He has a plan and a purpose for me (and for each of us), and His plan is the only one that I/we need. Let's keep these words in our hearts as we continue this new year.

Thank you to those who could decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas on short notice and then remove and store the decorations after the holidays. I am grateful for all of your help!

In February, you are being challenged to bring at least one can of soup to church on February 11, which is Super Bowl Sunday. We call it "Souper Bowl Day of Sharing" on Sunday, and all donated soup will be given to the Food Pantry.

The Women of Faith will sponsor the first Lenten meal with soups and sandwiches on Wednesday, February 21.

Your generous donations of warm winter clothing were taken to Haven for Hope just before the last freeze. Thank you; as you can imagine, they were appreciated. Please continue to place your coats/jackets, hats, scarves, gloves, and sock donations in the Parish Hall, as the need continues for those without. "And the King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sister of mine, you did for me'" (Matthew 25:40).

I look forward to seeing you during the Lenten season, at the meals before we worship, and at the evening services.

With Christ's blessings to all,

Darla Buccirossi

Men of Immanuel Lutheran Church

If you are a man and are either a member, a visitor, or a friend of ILC, do not miss our meetings;

Where:	At the Parsonage Building at Immanuel Lutheran Church Complex
When:	Second Saturday of every month at 8:30 am
What we do:	Breakfast together / Study the Bible / Prepare and Plan how to support our church

If you are asking yourself,
What to do in church after Confirmation?

Here is your answer:
Let's learn how to Walk on Water!

Learning and growing together in Christ

In a relaxed atmosphere
with our peers!

Come and Join the Adventurer Seas of Life!

Please contact:
Tina Homeyer @ (210) 857-5572
to hear how you can get involved.

YACHT CLUB
YOUNG ADULT CHURCH TEAM



2024 Scholarship Ministry SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

ILC in conjunction with La Vernia ISD,
awards scholarships to graduating high
school seniors furthering their education.

Last year, two \$500 scholarships were
awarded to deserving students.

Would you like to volunteer to serve on the
2024 Committee?

To learn more or to be part of the
2024 committee, please contact
Tina Homeyer @ (210) 857-5572



WE BELONG

"I KNOW MY OWN AND MY OWN KNOW ME"

July 1-4, 2024
St. John Lutheran Church
Boerne, Texas, United States

CALLING ALL YOUTH
AGES 12-18

Mission: To provide opportunities for
Lutheran youth to not only grow in their
faith, but to be encouraged by connecting
with other believers throughout North
America.

ILC of LV & YACHT will be providing
chaperones, spiritual and financial
support for youth attending.

Youth interested in attending should
contact, Tina Homeyer @ (210) 857-5572
for additional information.

Worship Assistants



February 4

Ushers

Readers

Acolytes

Altar Guild

Facebook Live

Multimedia
Tellers

8:00

Ronnie Coleman

Joyce Miller

Chrystal Coble

Kaden Morrison

Chrystal Coble

Amy Wagner

Karen Campbell

Rebecca Reeves and Brenda Willeford

10:30

Lillian Kosub

Jeanie Walpole

Heather Bales

Lillie Faglie

Patrice Goodman

Laura Baumann

Shirley Stanush



February 11

Ushers

Readers

Acolytes

Altar Guild

Facebook Live

Multimedia
Tellers

8:00

Mark Buccigrossi

Amy Wagner

Karen Campbell

Matthew Stanush

Karen Campbell

Toni Smith

Billie Bunton

Wendie Roser and Shirley O'Neal

10:30

Laura Baumann

Patrice Goodman

Esther DeHaven

Henry Scull

Jeanette Bailey

JoElla Heinsohn

Lillie Faglie

Jackson Faglie



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

February 18

Ushers

Readers

Acolytes

Altar Guild

Facebook Live

Multimedia
Tellers

8:00

Randall Richter

Kathy Volkmann

David Haass

Kase Morrison

Paige Haas

Joyce Miller

Ronnie Haug

Jana Clarke and Gloria Kipp

10:30

Charles Stork

Gloria Kipp

Gloria Kipp

Abigail Clarke

Troy Stork

Caitlin Feller

Jana Clarke

Bill Roser



February 25

Ushers

Readers

Acolytes

Altar Guild

Facebook Live

Multimedia
Tellers

8:00

Ronnie Coleman

Mark Buccigrossi

Douglas Piehl

Kimber Hild

Amy Wagner

Chrystal Coble

Brent Recker

Mark Buccigrossi and Shirley Stanush

10:30

Tim Ferguson

Gary & Yvonne Beran

Suzan Ferguson

Maddie Schwake

Charles Stork

Candy Stork

Suzan Ferguson

Adriana Willeford

February

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ann Strey
- 2 Katy S Markgraf
- 4 Carl Rivers
Hayden Thompson
Kelli Thompson
- 5 Delina Walker
- 6 Simona Buccigrossi
- 8 Amanda Korzekwa
Dorothy Towns
- 9 Boots Waltisperger
- 11 Lillie Faglie
- 14 Whitney Hild
- 16 Bridgett Faglie
- 17 Dan Spinuzzi
Azzy Tamez
- 20 LaVerne Roskydal
- 21 Clara Markgraf
- 22 Robbie Ferry
- 23 Malcolm Morgenroth
- 25 Shannon Coleman
Bob Palan
- 26 Chelsey Thayer
Alyssa Stanush
Katelyn Tripp
Marc Grey
- 27 Don Hormuth
Colleen Piehl

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Bruce & Audrey Badders
- 14 Chris & Tracy Fanning
- 17 Kris & Kymberly Tripp
- 22 Gary & Yvonne Beran
Johnny & Shirley Haseloff

February Yardwork Schedule

- 02/12 - 02/17 Pat Meyer
- 02/26 - 03/02 Billy Bunton, Kenneth Mills

February Flowers Schedule

- Feb 4 Altar
Piano
- Feb 11 Altar Esther DeHaven
Piano
- Feb 18 Altar Joyce Miller
Piano
- Feb 25 Altar
Piano



Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you

1 Peter 5:6-7.



NALC Core Values

Christ-Centered

We confess the apostolic faith in Jesus Christ according to the Holy Scriptures. We affirm the authority of the Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm "according to which all doctrines should and must be judged" (Formula of Concord). We accept the ecumenical creeds and the Lutheran Confessions as faithful witnesses to the Word of God.

Mission Driven

We believe that the mission of the Church is to preach the Gospel and to make disciples for Christ. We believe that making disciples — in our congregations, communities, nations, and worldwide — must be a priority of the Church in the present age.

Traditionally Grounded

We affirm the ecumenical creeds and the Church's faithful witness across time and space. We endorse the form and practices of the universal Church that are consistent with Scripture, particularly the office of the ministry and the tradition of worship under Word and Sacrament. We seek dialogue and fellowship with other Lutheran churches and faithful Christians of different confessions.

Congregationally Focused

We strive to be a church organized to facilitate local congregations' ministries in a posture of servanthood and a spirit of partnership through providing resources, connections, and information.

Join Our Bible Studies!



Sundays

9:15 am **Adults & Young Adults**

Wednesdays

10:00 am **Women**

6:30 pm **Families**

Thursdays

10:45 am **Golden Age**

7:00 pm **Women**

Everyone is welcome!

Lent



This Year's theme is "Can You Drink the Cup?" (Matt. 20:17-28)
Come and experience God's grace through the 40 days of Lent.

Wednesday, February 14 - Ash Wednesday

9:30 am to 3:00 pm Ashes to Go (Sanctuary Parking Lot)

Wednesday, February 14	6:00 pm Supper / 7:00 pm Worship Service
Wednesday, February 21	6:00 pm Supper / 7:00 pm Worship Service
Wednesday, February 28	6:00 pm Supper / 7:00 pm Worship Service
Wednesday, March 6	6:00 pm Supper / 7:00 pm Worship Service
Wednesday, March 13	6:00 pm Supper / 7:00 pm Worship Service
Wednesday, March 20	6:00 pm Supper / 7:00 pm Worship Service

LENT

a season of renewal

