



PARISH THREE

Immanuel and St. Johns Lutheran Churches



APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 2nd	9:00a.m.	Immanuel - Palm Sunday
April 9th	7:00a.m.	St. John's - Easter Service w/Communion
	9:00a.m.	Immanuel - Easter Service w/Communion
April 16th	9:00a.m.	Immanuel
April 23rd	9:00a.m.	St. John's w/Communion
April 30th	9:00a.m.	Immanuel
	10:30a.m.	Good Hope (Confirmation)

Shared Evening Lenten Service

April 6th	7:00p.m.	Good Hope - Maundy Thursday
April 7th	7:00p.m.	Good Hope - Good Friday



Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, April 8th at 10:30a.m.,
there will be an Easter Egg Hunt at
the South Park in Woden**

**Saturday, April 8th at 9:00a.m.,
there will be an Easter Egg Hunt
at the Buffalo Creek Activity Center
in Titonka**

Parish Information:

Office Phone: 641-926-5798

Office E-mail: parishthre@wctatel.net

Office Mail: PO Box 95, Woden, Iowa 50484

Pr. Heille Cell: 507-399-3119

Pr. Heille E-mail: unlikelyj@icloud.com

Pastor's COLUMN

April 2023

Easter: when the world says no and God says yes.

The closer we get to Easter one thing gets clear: Easter is God's great yes. God said yes when Jesus stepped out of the tomb to new life for all creation and for every one of us. The gifts Jesus shared as Jesus rose from the dead are new life, freedom, hope, forgiveness, peace, and joy.

Jesus' Easter gift of new life is the Good News this world needs. Our mission as a church is to keep on telling the story of God's death defeating love. We need the news: God says yes to new life for us AND all creation.

You might ask, if God is saying yes, is somebody or something else is saying no. Sadly, the evidence is all around us, lots of powers and forces are saying no. The last few years I've been reminded, as my parents go through major health crises that life is fragile. Our own bodies bear the evidence of our mortality. Easter is God's yes to us even after death.

The news of war and economic uncertainty reminds us all how interconnected and tangled up this world is. And Easter is when we hear God's yes even when the world seems uncertain. Easter means real freedom, hope, and joy not based in our circumstances. Jesus forever breaks the bonds of sin, death, and evil – God says yes no matter what the people or powers of this world might do.

This world needs God's love – it's the same thing that I need personally. When I feel overwhelmed I most need to hear the Good News. I need to hear the old story – the God of love, grace, and mercy died and rose again. I need the Good News that Jesus says yes to new life for me and for all creation.

This year the greatest gift we can share at Easter is to tell the story of resurrection and new life.

(Cont'd next page)

Pastor's COLUMN

April 2023 (cont'd)

In my childhood the week leading up to Easter meant worship. My folks made sure we heard the story of Jesus' death and rising every year. Palm Sunday, Maundy/Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday – the heart of Jesus' story is told in just a few days. These days and this story meant something to my dad and mom. I just assumed the story of Jesus death and rising was just as important for everyone. But I've learned most people don't know the story.

As a pastor I've learned the story of Jesus love revealed in his cross and empty tomb isn't all that familiar. As a dad, with young adult children, it gets clearer most young people know very little of the Easter story. This is our moment as a church – to learn new ways to tell the story. Jesus' story – the Good News ours to share. We're trying on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram,

and Twitter. We are learning new ways to share the Good News God says yes even when the forces of sin, death, and evil say no.

My hope for us at St John's, Immanuel, and Good Hope – and for every church and every follower of Jesus this Easter season is that know the Good News, God is saying yes to new life for you. Blessings and thanks for reading.

Pastor John Heille

Join us for Bible study this month
on April 3rd and April 17th
at 6:30p.m. at St. John's





10 MINUTE BIBLE STUDY



7 Words from the Cross

There's an old tradition among some Swedes and Norwegians – listening to the 7 short sentences that Jesus spoke as he was dying. These “7 words” from the cross are beloved and sometimes haunting. What Jesus had to say as he died is foundational to the faith.

A person could spend quite some time pondering and considering each of these simple sentences. The words and the story of the cross don't change – but over the years we read and hear these words anew. These simple sentences both convict us and give us so much hope.

As you read think about what you hear from Jesus.

What about these words of Jesus' give you hope?

What in Jesus' words from the cross challenge you and convict you?

1st Word: “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing. Luke 23:34

2nd Word: “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” Luke 23:43

3rd Word: “Woman, here is your son.” “Here is your mother.” John 19:26-27

4th Word: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Matthew 27:46 Mark 15:34

5th Word: “I thirst” John 19:28

6th Word: “It is finished” John 19:30

7th Word: “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Luke 23:46

This year as we hear the story of the cross on Good Friday these short sentences invite us into Jesus' own thoughts as he died. We hear him pray – we hear him forgive – we hear him speak to people he loved – he said it all while he was dying. This is what God's love revealed for the world looked and sounded like on Good Friday.

If time allows look up these 7 sentences in the 4 Gospels.

Look not only at the words Jesus said, look at the context. Jesus spoke with great power even as he died – and the best news of all is that his death wasn't the end – it was the new beginning for all creation.

Immanuel Servant Schedule

Communion/Dossal

Brad & Wendy Harms

Banners

Organist

Readers

April 2 - Shelly Kardoes

April 9 - Eric Eden

April 16 - Wendy Harms

April 30 - Sherri Post

Care Center Live-Stream Volunteers

April 2 - David & Marsha Bergstrom

April 9 - Damien Strecker & Rachel K.

April 16 - Kyle & Maddie Post

April 23 - Tony & Shelly Kardoes

April 30 - Allen & Susan Post

St. John's Servant Schedule

Ushers

Alan Larson & Ryan Hobbs

Communion

Lynne Larson

Altar Cloths & Flowers

Lynne Larson

Readers

April 9 - Deb Schimmelpfennig

April 23 - Wendy Harms



**The Parish 3 Council Meeting is on
Monday, April 10th at 7:00 pm. at St. John's**



IMMANUEL

April 1 - Mary Franzen
April 3 - Neoma Boyken
April 5 - Nikita White
April 8 - Elsie Planz
April 9 - Amber Rurup
April 13 - LuAnn Brandt
April 13 - Maddie Post
April 14 - Anita Eden
April 14 - Brad Harms
April 20 - Nicole Shillington
April 27 - Nathan Kardoes
April 27 - Robert Schmidt
April 29 - Brian Bruns

ST. JOHN'S

April 1 - Steve Peterson
April 2 - Ashley DeGues
April 17 - Bonnie Doden
April 18 - Aleysha Brandt
April 19 - Coda Stone
April 21 - Luke Haugland
April 25 - Troy Albers
April 27 - Emily Allmon
April 28 - Zadin Henken
April 30 - Jace Young



April 10 - Jay & Clarice Mayland

April 4 - Dan & Cathy Haugland
April 24 - Doug & Michelle Hanna



A Very Happy Birthday to...



**Elsie Planz will be celebrating her
100th birthday on April 8th!**
Help her celebrate by sending her a card to:
PO Box 390, Joaquin, TX 75954



Anyone from St. John's who would like to beautify the sanctuary with an Easter Lily for Easter Sunday should bring their lilies to the sanctuary by Saturday, April 8th.

If you would like to provide a lily in memory of someone, e-mail parishthre@wctatel.net and submit the name(s) the lily is in memory of and the name(s) of who it is from by April 5th, so the information can be printed in the bulletin.



The Synod Assembly will take place on April 21st and 22nd in Le Mars.

Pastor John will be attending along with the delegates from our churches.

Wish them safe travels on their journey to Le Mars!

CONFIRMATION

S U N D A Y

Confirmation will be on Sunday, April 30th at 10:30a.m. at Good Hope. Congratulations to all the confirmands!

Remember to bring your piggy banks to worship on April 2nd so that they can be counted before Easter.



W.O.W. will have their final session of the school year and party on April 26th!

Message from Lutheran Services in Iowa

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

At LSI, we work tirelessly to provide crisis childcare, in-home visits and parenting classes to families across Iowa through our Early Childhood Services. In these services, we provide Iowa parents the support they need to provide a healthy, stable home for their children.

Through our Family Centered Services, we help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable. We also provide therapy services to adults, children and families to help build healthier, more secure homes.

You can make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Thanks to the support from faith-based organizations across Iowa...

...a young mom now has the education and resources she needs to create a better life for her and her family,

...a person with a disability learned to be a little more independent,

...a former refugee found a new home in Iowa and has found new ways to successfully support their family.

All of these successes are possible with the support we receive from congregations and people like **you!** LSI is proud to provide these essential services to people all across Iowa.

Thank you for responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service!

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rural Titonka
St. John's Lutheran Church, Woden
302 2nd Street
P.O. Box 95 Woden Iowa, 50484

Church Phone: 641-926-5798
Email: parishthre@wctatel.net

April 2023 Newsletter

