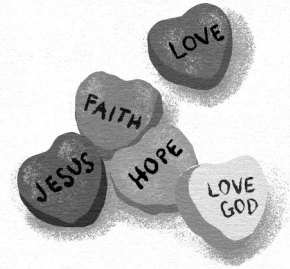


PARISH THREE

Immanuel and St. Johns Lutheran Churches



February Worship Schedule

- Feb. 4th 9:00 a.m. Immanuel
- Feb. 11th 9:00 a.m. St. John's w/Communion
(Annual Meeting)
- Feb. 14th 7:00 p.m. Immanuel w/Communion
(Ash Wednesday)
- Feb. 18th 9:00 a.m. Immanuel
- Feb. 21st 7:00 p.m. St. John's Lenten Service
- Feb. 25th 9:00 a.m. St. John's w/Communion
- Feb. 28th 7:00 p.m. Good Hope Lenten Service

Last call for St. John's annual reports!
Please email them to parishthre@wctatel.net NOW!



July 13 - 14, 2024

Immanuel is counting down the time - it's only 5 months until the celebration!



Parish Information:
Office Phone: 641-926-5798
Office email: parishthre@wctatel.net

Pr. Joh Cell: 507-399-3119
Pr. John EMAIL: unlikelyj@icloud.com
Mailing: PO Box 95, Woden, Iowa 50484

Pastor's COLUMN

FEBRUARY 2024

This year Valentines Day and Ash Wednesday are the same day Wednesday, February 14, 2024. Combining these two very different days has gotten me thinking about love. There are some very real and different definitions of love.

Valentines Day celebrates one kind of love—romance and all the passion that goes with it. Valentines seems tailor made for selling greeting cards and roses by the dozen.

Ash Wednesday is all about God's love for imperfect people. In so many ways the heart of Ash Wednesday is remembering that we can come to God as is needing his transforming love.

Putting Ash Wednesday and Valentines together can challenge us to talk about all the full power of love. When we talk about love we start to see how God's love and our love can be so very different. Looking at Valentines roses on Ash Wednesday might help you expand the meaning of love. On Valentines Day romance and sentimentality flow so easily but Ash Wednesday reminds us that there's so much more to love than flowers and heart shaped candy boxes.

With so much "love" talk maybe its a good time as church to think about some of Jesus' most challenging words about love. Jesus talked about love for all people—even love for our enemies. Jesus said,

²⁷ "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again.

³¹ Do to others as you would have them

do to you. Luke 6:27-31 (NRSV)
Jesus' words about love enlighten and challenge us. Jesus' words about loving our enemies pushes us far past our sentimental definitions of love. There's a place for love and romance—but Jesus invites us to go past the romance to a love that gives without expectation.

Jesus words about loving our enemies challenge us. Love and compassion come easily for lovable people. But Jesus' says love everyone even our enemies.

A couple years back I was leading a worship service/bible study in a county jail. We were talking about Jesus definitions of love. The men were eager to joke about love. The men all nodded in agreement when I said it's easy to care for people who love us back. Then I asked what the "golden rule" had to do with love. I walked into that room with a definition of the golden rule in my mind. One man on the other side of the table said, "I know the golden rule—the one with the gold makes all the rules." The other men laughed. His "golden rule" is simple—but it's so different Jesus' teaching.

Jesus said it so simply,

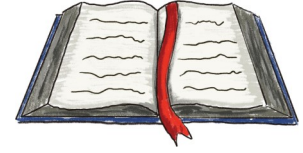
Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31 NRSV

These words sound like good advice for us in our most cherished relationships—but Jesus wasn't just talking just about our relationships with close family and friends. Jesus is giving us an ethic, a way of life, that is shaped by concern for the well-being of all people. He is talking about the hard relationships even with people who misuse and mistreat.

Peace and thanks for reading,
John



10 MINUTE BIBLE STUDY



10 Minute Bible Study February 2024

Love in the Bible

The word love appears well over 500 times in English translations of the Bible. This one word has many different meanings.

The word love is used to describe the feelings of a husband Jacob for his wife Rachel in Genesis 29:20.

Look up Genesis 29:15-30

How does our love for other people fit into God's plan for the world?

How did love change Jacob's life?

How does love change us as people?

In Exodus 34:6-7 we hear about God's steadfast love for the people of Israel as they were given the commandments.

Look up Exodus 34:1-9

What does it mean to say God's love for his people is endless?

Where/when do you experience God's steadfast love?

Jesus talked a whole lot about love—love for God and love for people. He challenged his followers to love each other and even to love their enemies.

Look up Luke 6:27-36

How could Jesus call to love our enemies change this world?

When are times that you have seen people act with love and concern for their enemies/former enemies.



FEBRUARY

Birthdays

IMMANUEL

Feb 1 - Tessa Brandt
Feb 7 - Arliss Ullmann
Feb 7 - Emberly Harms
Feb 9 - Savannah Kardoes
Feb 10 - Mary Ullmann
Feb 13 - Steve Eden
Feb 14 - Alexander white
Feb 15 - wayne Ebbers
Feb 15 - Merle Ricklefs
Feb 15 - Jenna Stohr
Feb 16 - Weston Harms
Feb 17 - Arvid Boyken
Feb 19 - Charlotte Eden
Feb 23 - Daniel Rurup
Feb 25 - Eric Eden
Feb 26 - Ryan Finer

ST. JOHN'S

Feb 1 - Levi Brandt
Feb 2 - Laura Aase
Feb 2 - Janessa Brandt
Feb 2 - Becky Crone
Feb 3 - Phillip Johnson
Feb 4 - Denny Buns
Feb 7 - Pat Hobbs
Feb 7 - Pam Juhl
Feb 7 - Alyssa wood
Feb 11 - Degan Juenger
Feb 13 - Jason Kruhl
Feb 14 - Joseph Hanna
Feb 21 - Kassie Bartlett
Feb 24 - Tracy Hanna



IMMANUEL

Feb 3 - Jim & Karen Post
Feb 4 - Beauford & Rozzie Stohr
Feb 16 - Russ & Diane Bruns

ST. JOHN'S

Feb 9 - Sherri & Brad Haugland
Feb 9 - Carrie & Kelly Snieder
Feb 24 - Terry & Kathy Albers

Immanuel Servant Schedule

Communion/Paraments

(helpful instructions will be posted in the sacristy, the NW corner room)

Nancy Axness (Feb. & Mar.)
Cindy Beenken (Feb. & Mar.)

Sanctuary Banners

Organists

Readers

Feb. 4 - Wendy Harms
Feb. 14 (Ash Wed.) - Sherri Post
Feb. 18 - Susan Post

Titonka Care Center

Live Streamers

Feb. 4 - Jim Post
Feb. 18 - Kyle & Maddie Post

St. John's Servant Schedule

Ushers

Pat Gibbs & Steve Gerdes

Communion

Emogene Kurtzleben

Altar Cloths & Flowers

Tjode Mickelson

Readers

Feb. 11 - Gary Hayungs
Feb 21.(Lent) - Doris Haugland
Feb. 25 - Pat Gibbs

Coming soon:

What is Mission Support???



Parish Three Council Meeting

**Monday, February 12th
7:00pm at St. John's**

If you were not in attendance but would like a copy of Immanuel's annual report, you can email the office (parishthre@wctatel.net) and a digital copy will be sent to you. Otherwise, you can pick up a paper copy at church.



**ANNUAL
REPORT**



You now have the option to give your offering online through Tithely by using a credit card or bank account. The easiest way to give will be to go to www.parish3.com. On the home page scroll down to Church Offering and Food Bank Contributions. You will see "Give St. John's" and "Give Immanuel" buttons. They will link you directly to a giving form for each church. If you sign-up and create an account with Tithely, you will be able to track your giving throughout the year. Once you create an account, Tithely has an app that makes online giving very quick and easy!

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Remember to designate where you want your
Thrivent Choice Dollars
directed in February and March.



Titonka Care Center Valentine Celebration

Tuesday, February 13 at 2:30 PM

Music by Carl & JoAnn Nord

Lunch will follow

A baby shower for Maddie and Kyle Post will be held on Saturday, February 10th from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Immanuel. There is an Amazon baby registry under the name "Maddie Post". All are invited to attend.



Thank you to St. John's for the Christmas gift this year!
It is very much appreciated. Thank you for thinking of me.

-Rachel Kurtzleben

Riverside Bible Camp Registration is Open!

Riverside Bible Camp offers a wide range of summer programs, from half week sessions for their youngest campers, to full week programs for campers entering 3rd grade all the way up through high school, and family camp. Riverside also has a beginner and intermediate ranch camp program, as well as an adventure camp focused on growing in faith through enjoying God's creation.

Riverside Bible Camp is located in Story City, IA.

More information about the various camps can be found at:

<https://www.riversidelbc.org/summer-camp>

There are "early bird discounts" through 2/15/24!

Needed: summer staff - If you or your child have ever attend a camp or event at Riverside, you know the deep, life-changing impact that a summer staffer can make. Do you know a student who is finishing their junior or senior year? Qualities: Lovers of Jesus; positive, adaptable & joyful; a heart for kids and all people; willingness to serve, learn and grow. Use the Riverside email address above.



Message from Lutheran Services in Iowa

February 2024, Newsletter Article and Story

Happy Valentine's Day from LSI!

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

The idea behind Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is centered around love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service.

We give thanks to all our ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, adults, and families.

At LSI, we see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who are overcoming years of trauma and building brighter futures, in Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence, in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families, and in so many other joyous moments.

You can help carry out LSI's mission of hope and healing by giving a gift and showing love to the Iowa families we serve.

Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day!

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's 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.

Understanding Grief and Loss Support Group

Understanding Grief and Loss is an adult support group that will provide grief education and support to individuals who have experienced the death of a family member or friend.

There is no charge to participate in this program. Space is limited and registration is required.

Next scheduled group:

Five Monday Afternoons - Mason City

February 5 - March 4, 2024

MercyOne North Iowa Hospice Center
232 2nd St SE, Mason City

To register, please call:

MercyOne North Iowa Hospice
641-428-6267 or 1-800-297-4719

MercyOne. North Iowa Hospice...providing care to North Iowa since 1981

**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**

February 2024 Newsletter