

# PARISH THREE

Immanuel and St. Johns Lutheran Churches



## March Worship Schedule

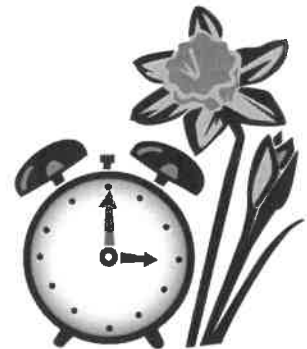
### Sunday Services

March 3	9:00 AM	Immanuel
March 10	9:00 AM	St. John's w/Communion
March 17	9:00 AM	Immanuel
March 24	9:00 AM	St. John's w/Communion
March 31	7:00 AM	St. John's
March 31	9:00 AM	Immanuel

### Shared Evening Lenten Services

March 6	7:00 PM	Immanuel
March 13	7:00 PM	St. John's
March 20	7:00 PM	Good Hope
March 28	7:00 PM	Immanuel w/Communion
March 29	7:00 PM	Ramsey Reformed

Daylight Saving Time begins on March 10th. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour!



Time to Spring Ahead



## July 13 - 14, 2024

Immanuel is counting down the time - it's only 4 months until the big celebration!



Office E-mail: [parishthre@wctatel.net](mailto:parishthre@wctatel.net)  
Website: [www.parish3.com](http://www.parish3.com)

### Parish Information:

Office Phone: 641-926-5798

Office Mail: Parish Three

PO Box 95 , Woden, IA 50484

YouTube services: Iowa Lutherans

Church Locations: Immanuel  
St. John's

110 340th St, Titonka, IA 50480

302 2nd St, Woden, IA 50484

Pr. John Heille Cell: 507-399-3119

Pr. John Heille E-mail: [unlikelyj@icloud.com](mailto:unlikelyj@icloud.com)

Office Hours:

Mondays 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM @Immanuel

Tuesdays 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM @ St. John's

Wednesdays 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM @ Good Hope



March 2024

March greetings,

There's a great old hymn that I catch myself humming and singing at surprising times, *I Love to Tell the Story*. The words are so very familiar—I've been singing them for decades now. As I was humming about the telling story I got to thinking—what is **the story** that matters most? What is **the story** that we Jesus' people love to tell and need keep on hearing ourselves.

There are so many stories people tell about church and Jesus.

He was a great teacher who understood the kingdom of God and announce that the kingdom was coming close to us.

Jesus spoke truth that changes how people seem themselves and their neighbors and the whole world.

Jesus was a true friend and people could spend a whole lot of time just remembering Jesus' friends.

People love to remember and celebrate Jesus' miracles.

There really are some great stories to tell about Jesus; but what's **the story** that changes everything for us Jesus' people?

I think about it as a two part story and we need to have both parts to have the whole story—and the hope they bring to this world.

The Good News—**the story** we love to tell is that our savior, Jesus, came to earth and that he died and he rose from the dead. People can rightly argue there's so much more to Jesus' story than the cross and the empty tomb. But deep down what happened in 3 days in Jerusalem is **the story** that changes everything.

This month we will tell the heart of our story as Jesus' people—

Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024 we will remember the joy as Jesus arrived in Jerusalem.

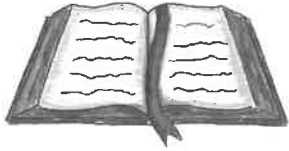
Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024 we will tell the story of the last supper and Jesus' promise to be with us in the bread and wine of Communion.

Good Friday, March 29, 2024 we will remember the cross and how Jesus died at a community service.

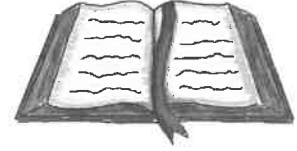
Easter Sunday, March 31 2024 we will hear the news that Jesus tomb is empty—that he has risen from them the dead.

Hope you can make it to hear **the story** that changes everything.

Pastor John Heille



## 10 MINUTE BIBLE STUDY



### 10 Minute Bible Study Philippians 2

There's a part of Paul's letter to the church in Philippi that some scholars think was originally a hymn of the early church. It's a great poem/lyric to think about as we come closer to Easter. There's something about this poem—that helps us see who Jesus really and what the cross and Easter is all about.

#### Read Philippians 2:1-2

Paul was inviting a young church to see how their lives were meant to fit together. What does it mean to have fellowship with other people in the church and to have fellowship with God?

#### Read Philippians 2:5

Paul invites us to follow Jesus starting with our thoughts and attitudes. What does it mean to have a mind/attitude like Jesus?

#### Read Philippians 2:6-7

Jesus was God and on this earth he was a man. What does it mean to say that Jesus emptied himself/made himself nothing?

#### Reading Philippians 2:8

Jesus is God—with all power—but he humbled himself and obeyed God the Father's great plan.

How does remembering Jesus power help you understand his humility?

#### Read Philippians 2:9-11

Jesus was exalted—he was God's son—but the real glory came after his suffering. What does Jesus suffering, death, and resurrection teach us about our future as God's people?

#### Read Philippians 2:12-13

Paul is talking about living in faith—how we follow Jesus as both church and as individuals.

How is it Good News to know we stand before God in the light of Jesus' cross and resurrection?

# Immanuel Servant Schedule

## Communion/Paraments

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

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

## Front Banners

Organists

## Readers

March 3 - David Post  
March 6 - Jim Post  
March 17 - Shelly Kardoos  
March 28 - Eric Eden  
March 31 - Wendy Harms

## Care Center Live-Streamers

March 3 - Allen & Susan Post  
March 17- David & Marsha  
Bergstrom  
March 24 - Jim Post



**Reminder to Thrivent Members:**  
Thrivent Choice Dollars must be designated by the end of March!

# St. John's Servant Schedule

## Ushers

John Kurtzleben & Paul Buns

## Communion

Deb Schimmelpfennig

## Altar Cloths & Flowers

Pat Hobbs

## Readers

March 10 - Deb Schimmelpfennig  
March 13 - Wendy Harms  
March 24 - Val Gibbs  
March 31 - Gary Hayungs

## Care Center Live-Streamers

March 10 - John & Emogene  
Kurtzleben



Church  
Council

**The Parish Three  
Council will meet on  
Monday, March 11 at 7:00  
PM at Immanuel**

If you would like a copy of your annual report, request one by emailing the office ([parishthre@wctatel.net](mailto:parishthre@wctatel.net)) for a digital copy. Extra printed copies are also available at the rear of each church.



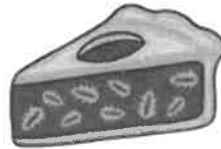
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

## **Immanuel Soup Luncheon on Sunday, March 3**

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM at the Buffalo Creek Activity Center in Titonka

Serving: chili, chicken noodle soup, oyster stew and pies

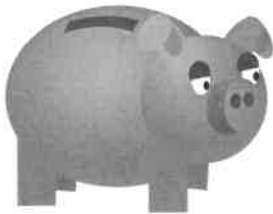
Freewill donation benefiting Exceptional Opportunities and Mosaic



Youth Night will be on Sunday, March 10  
at 6:00 PM at St. John's.

We will be having a Game Night!

(Youth Night is for students 6th grade and up)



**Be sure to get your piggy bank!** Starting on Ash Wednesday, Parish 3 gave out piggy banks at church services to raise money for ELCA World Hunger. We ask each family to take a piggy bank, fill it with their spare change during the Lenten season, and bring it back at the end of Lent. The money will go towards purchasing farm animals for communities fighting hunger. Together we can all make a big difference to a community in need!

**Don't forget** that you have the option to give your offering online through Tithely by using a credit card or bank account. The easiest way to give is on the [www.parish3.com](http://www.parish3.com) website. 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. Once 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!



# Annual Meeting Highlights



## Immanuel (Jan 21, 2024)

- 1) Elections: Eric Eden - secretary and Allen Post - treasurer
- 2) Old business:
  - a) Tithely online giving encouraged
  - b) Cemetery maintenance still being planned
- 3) New business:
  - a) Investigate reinvestment options for CDs
  - b) Combine General and Benevolence treasuries
  - c) The Soup "Supper" will be a Sunday noon in the Buffalo Creek Activity Center. Date to be determined.
  - d) Communion and paraments duties will be assigned alphabetically
  - e) Mission Support and donations to Tanzanian Girls School and a bed for the Titonka Care Center were approved
  - f) 125th anniversary celebration planning is underway
  - g) Jim and Karen Post were elected to attend the Western Iowa Synod Assembly.

## St. John's (Feb 11, 2024)

- 1) Will follow up on setting up Tithely on "Iowa Lutherans" YouTube
- 2) The next Pancake Breakfast will in 2025.
- 3) Pr John reported the possibility of a joint Parish Three children's program.
- 4) Another foreign student will be sponsored, as well as contributions to the missions' general fund.
- 5) A correction to the Ministerial Acts report: Alyza Schimmelfennig was confirmed in 2023.
- 6) Lenten offerings will be split between Parish Three and Good Hope.
- 7) Follow up to occur on support of the Titonka Care Center.
- 8) Becky Crone will attend the Synod Assembly.
- 9) Bruce Schutjer volunteered to fill the vacant trustee position. Another person is needed for the Board of Ed.

Note: these are not the official or complete minutes; please contact your respective church secretary (Eric Eden @ Immanuel) or Wendy Harms @ St. John's) for clarification or more information.

## 2024 Parish Three Council



### Immanuel:

President	Jim Post
Secretary	Eric Eden
Treasurer	Allen Post
Benevolence	Wendy Harms
Trustee	Greg Brandt
Trustee	Weston Harms

### St. John's:

President	Gary Hayungs
Secretary	Wendy Harms
Treasurer	Becky Crone
Benevolence	John Kurtzleben
Trustee	Pat Gibbs
Trustee	Bruce Schutjer

### **A note of thanks:**

*The family of Amanda Bruns would like to thank everyone for their prayers, memories shared and acts of kindness after the loss of our Aunt Amanda. Her faith and church were extremely important to her and we are blessed to have shared so many years with her. A special thank you to the ladies for all of the work you did setting up, helping in the kitchen and providing the wonderful treats for the luncheon!*



# MARCH

## Birthdays

### IMMANUEL

March 2 - Pamela Ubben  
 March 4 - Jason Senne  
 March 4 - Collin Sexton  
 March 5 - Bruce Giesking  
 March 5 - Dustin Michaelson  
 March 6 - Laney Shillington  
 March 7 - Bruce Culbertson  
 March 7 - Wendy Harms  
 March 11 - Greg Brandt  
 March 11 - Avery Luedke  
 March 11 - Larry Sexton  
 March 15 - Perry Mayland  
 March 15 - Rhonda Sexton  
 March 25 - Amy Luedke  
 March 28 - Jacob Finer  
 March 29 - LeAlan Schmidt

### ST. JOHN'S

March 3 - Cady Weber  
 March 4 - Chris Gerdes  
 March 5 - Katie Gross  
 March 6 - Waylon Schutjer  
 March 10 - Kyra Gibbs  
 March 11 - Phyllis Schutjer  
 March 17 - Matt Brandt  
 March 18 - Natalie Wood  
 March 20 - Donnie Juenger  
 March 21 - Mona Buns  
 March 21 - Cassandra Kennedy  
 March 22 - Nicole Lorensen  
 March 24 - Kerrie Smith  
 March 25 - Diane Johnson  
 March 27 - Colton Muth  
 March 30 - Trever Mutzenberger  
 March 30 - Rayshel Witte



### IMMANUEL

March 26 - Cory & Heidi Larson  
 March 27 - Mark & Georgia Ricklefs

### ST. JOHN'S

March 17 - Jacki & James Kennedy  
 March 21 - Matt & Heather Brandt  
 March 25 - Jason & Shannon Doege  
 March 27 - Jason & Kaylin Bosworth

A follow-up to Immanuel's annual meeting:

### *What is Mission Support?*

There is a YouTube video created by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) called "Where Does Your Offering Go?" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MS2O8jnk5cg>) that does a very good job explaining the components of a congregations' offerings. A summary of that clip and some data from the most recent Western Iowa Synod financial report follows:

For every dollar in the offering plate, congregations spend over 90% on themselves: their congregation leaders, their buildings, their ongoing expenses. As noted in the video clip, approximately 6% was forwarded to their synod in the form of "Mission Support". As reported in the fiscal 2022 Western Iowa Synod financial report, congregations in our synod gave a total \$739,320 to Mission Support. Immanuel's Mission Support was \$7,800, or approximately 1.1% of the total synod's Missions Support income.

(continued on next page)

## *What is Mission Support?* (continued)

How does the synod spend that Mission Support? Here's a breakdown:

\$262,000 was forwarded to Churchwide Mission Support<sup>1</sup>

\$ 10,000 was given to Iowa Lutheran Campus Ministries

\$ 10,000 was given directly to ELCA seminaries

\$282,000 total support to ELCA ministries

\$457,000 Western Iowa Synod staff, program and events<sup>2</sup>

\$739,000 total

<sup>1</sup> What does the ELCA Churchwide do with their money?

Their national initiatives include:

growing the ELCA church;

creating new ministries in the US;

forming leaders with youth events, resources and tools;

supporting 7 ELCA seminaries and 26 ELCA colleges/universities;

engaging in interfaith and ecumenical dialogues;

being a voice to government leaders for the marginalized in society;

supporting Lutheran Services in America.

Their worldwide initiatives include:

involvement with the Lutheran World Federation;

companion synods;

forming new churches;

equipping leaders abroad; and

developing ELCA missionaries and (YAGM) Young Adults in Global Ministry.

Your 1.1% provided \$2,976 for these programs and services!

<sup>2</sup> And what does the Western Iowa Synod do?

Their time and efforts are categorized with 2022 programs in the following areas:

7% Advocacy – Lutheran Services of Iowa, Hog Program, Racial Justice Trip, work w/refugees

8% Communication – Waterlife Journal, Lent and Advent devotionals, congregation worships

13% Faith Formation – lifelong programs: baptism, youth and confirmation programs, sharing Holy Communion, preaching

30% Generosity – supporting food pantries, providing stewardship programs, disaster supplies, endowment distributions

15% Local and Global Ministries – supports companion synods in Tanzania and Chile, Lutheran World Relief, ELCA World Hunger

15% Governance – coordinate the synod assemblies, work with Synod Council and synod committees

12% Renewal – pastor calls, pastor ordinations, new congregations (LeMars), Fund for the Future (pastor seminary debt reduction)

Your 1.1% enabled \$4,824 for these programs and services!

There's a lot more info in the assembly reports at [www.wisynod.org](http://www.wisynod.org) and also at [www.ELCA.org](http://www.ELCA.org).

You can see that your Mission Support dollars are used in a great variety of areas, ranging from local synod projects to national efforts and worldwide initiatives. It would be very difficult to support each of the above programs one by one, but by supporting "Mission Support", we combine with other ELCA congregations to make it happen. Gods Work. Our Hands.



**Parish 3**

# March 2024

March 2024

April 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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
31						

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 25	26	27	28	29	Mar 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00am Worship @ Immanuel w/Noisy Offspring 11:00am Soup Luncheon @ Titonka School	7:00pm Council Mtg @ Immanuel	1:00pm Quilting @ St John's	3:00pm Titonka Care Ctr Worship 6:00pm WOW @ St. Immanuel 7:00pm Lent Service @ Immanuel	3:00pm Titonka Care Ctr Worship 6:00pm WOW @ St. Immanuel 7:00pm Lent Service @ St. Immanuel		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00am Worship @ St John's w/Communion. 6:00pm Youth Night @ St John's	7:00pm Council Mtg @ Immanuel	1:00pm Quilting @ St John's	6:00pm WOW @ St. John's 7:00pm Lent Service @ St. John's			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00am Worship @ Immanuel 11:30am Pork Loin Dinner @ Good Hope		1:00pm Quilting @ St John's	Newsletter Deadline 6:00pm WOW @ St. John's 7:00pm Lent Service @ Good Hope			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00am Worship @ St John's w/Communion		1:00pm Quilting @ St John's	3:00pm Summit House Worship 6:00pm WOW @ St. John's	7:00pm Maundy Thursday service @ Immanuel w/communion	7:00pm Good Friday service @ Ramsey Reformed	
31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5	6
7:00am Worship @ St John's 9:00am Worship @ Immanuel	Easter i					

**Parish Three:**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rural Titonka  
St. John's Lutheran Church, Woden**

**Mail: P.O. Box 95 Woden Iowa, 50484**

**Church Phone: 641-926-5798**

**Email: [parishthre@wctatel.net](mailto:parishthre@wctatel.net)**

**March 2024 Newsletter**

