

PARISH THREE

Immanuel and St. Johns Lutheran Churches

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EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 1 Maundy Thursday at Good Hope 7 pm

April 2 Good Friday at St. John's 7 pm

April 4th - Easter Sunday

7:00am Service at St. John's

9:00am Service at Immanuel

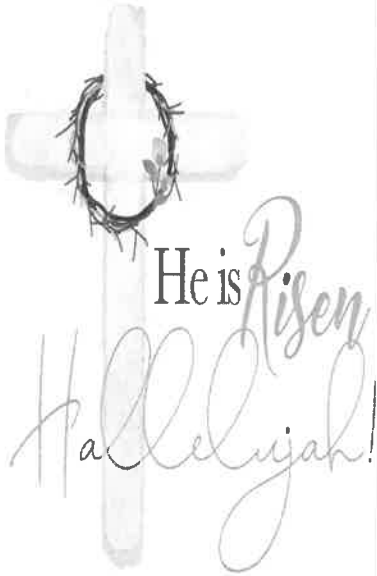
10:30am Service at Good Hope

Sunday Worship in April

9:00am Shared Sunday Worship

April 11th & 25th at St. John's

April 18th at Immanuel



Parish 3 Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 13th at
7:00 pm. at St. John's

Pastors' Page April 2021

Dear Friends In Christ,

We move into April with Holy Week when we will remember the work of Christ on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. However, we just sort of pass over Holy Saturday.

Holy Saturday is the time when Jesus descended into Hell. For me, Holy Saturday has another meaning. It is the time of waiting.

We have the promises of the resurrection. Those promises give us comfort and peace. Sadly, for those of us today, waiting for the "resurrection of the body", that Saturday is usually lifetime.

That Saturday is a time of grief. It is a time of missing that loved one who is buried in the grave. That Saturday of waiting is a time of learning to live without someone who has been taken from our lives in death.

We learn to live with only the memories. We learn how to simply "go on".

The disciples make a lot of sense to me. The One who they thought was the Messiah, who would bring a new Kingdom into this world, was now dead and in the grave. What do they do? They go back to what they knew. Many, such as Peter, James, and John

went back to fishing. (John 21) It was time to get on with life without our loved one.

We go to the grave. "Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust." We say our final goodbyes. Then we go home, back to work, back to school, back to life, whatever form that life was. We have heard the promises of Christ and the resurrection. We cling to those promises, but if we are honest, we do not expect them to happen tomorrow.

This long Holy Saturday will come to an end when God decides it is time. It will be Easter for all who have died in Christ. Somehow, those graves long ago sealed tight will be opened. And with Christ's command we shall arise, body and soul, to live eternally with our Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. What a glorious day.

During this long Saturday, do we find comfort looking towards that final day? God's promises are always sure, even as we wait.

Blessings be upon you as we celebrate this Holy Week.

In Christ,
Pastor Kim Peterson

MINUTE BIBLE STUDY

John 21:1-3

When we are in grief, we often need someone to very simply tell us what to do. No matter how hard we try, we just cannot figure out what we should do.

Who finally decides what to do?

What is special about his decision?

Have you ever experienced this kind of grief?
Who helped you to decide what to do next?

John 21:4-8

What are they doing when they meet the risen Jesus?

Do you think meeting the resurrected Jesus while doing an everyday task has meaning?

What do you think this could mean?

John 21:15-19

Even though Peter denied Jesus when he was arrested, what does Jesus want him to do?

What does Jesus want to know before he gives Peter his new assignment?

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)

We are a church that does God's work in the world and in local communities pursuing justice, peace and human dignity for and with all people.

In partnership with Lutheran congregations and Lutheran social ministry organizations, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has welcomed more than 379,000 refugees to the United States since 1939. This ongoing partnership and work is driven by God's love for all people and a vision for congregations to be welcoming and generous centers for mission and ministry.

The work of the ELCA through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service includes responding to people caught in conflict and facing persecution, advocating for their needs and interests, helping people access resources for basic human needs, working with foster care programs for minors, legal assistance, developing new and innovative service programs and partnerships, and much more.

Join us in this courageous work of serving and loving our neighbors in the name of Jesus Christ. Learn more about Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service today.

This year Immanuel has decided to support Lutheran Immigration Service rather as it's missionary support. To learn more, go to elca.org.

Immanuel News

Servant Schedule

Communion/Dossal/ Banners
Matt & Meagan Swingen

Readers

April 4- Wendy Harms
April 18 - Sherri Post

St. John's News

Servant Schedule

Ushers - Alan Larson & Ryan
Hobbs
Communion -Karen Larson
Bulletin Board -Lynne Larson

Altar Cloths & Flowers

Leslie Emhoff

Readers

April 4 - Val Gibbs
April 11- Gary Hayungs
April 26- Doris Haugland

St. John's women will have their
general meeting on Thursday,
April 8th at 7:00 pm.



Thank you to those that have donated to Erika and to Benevolence for our Missionary. We have received enough funds to meet Erika's schooling but we need more funds for our missionary responsibility. Remember this is in place of the Pancake Supper at the church. Please send any donations to St. John's P.O. Box 95, Woden, IA 50484 or drop in the offering box at the church. Remember to mark that it is for benevolence for our missionary.

Don't forget your offerings! If you are not attending church yet because of Covid, please remember that our expenses continue! You can mail your offerings to:

St. John's Lutheran
P.O. Box 95
Woden, IA 50484

Immanuel Lutheran
P.O. Box 405
Titonka, IA 50480

ST. JOHN'S

IMMANUEL



April 1 - Steve Peterson
April 2 - Ashley DeGues
April 14 - Hannah Spear
April 17 - Bonnie Doden
April 18 - Aleysha Brandt
April 19 - Coda Stone
April 21 - Luke Haugland
April 25 - Troy Albers
April 25 - Violet Korte
April 27 - Emily Allmon
April 28 - Zadin Henken
April 30 - Jace Young

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 14 - Anita Eden
April 14 - Brad Harms
April 20 - Nicole Shillington
April 27 - Nathan Kardoes
April 27 - Robert Schmidt
April 29 - Brian Bruns



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

April 10 - Jay & Clarice Mayland

Community Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 3 at 10 am at the South Park in Woden. If inclement weather, it will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Woden

The **annual Soup Supper** was not held at Immanuel this year because of Covid 19. We would, however, still like to support our friends at Exceptional Opportunities and Mosaic. If you would like to make a donation, please do so this month. Issue your check to Immanuel Lutheran Church and put "soup supper" in the memo. You can put it in the offering on Sunday or send it to our Treasurer, Tony Kardoes. Thank you for prayerfully considering a donation to help those in need.

Elsie Planz will be 98 years young on April 8th! Please join in a birthday card shower to celebrate! Your cards and letters will bring her much joy! Send them to Elsie Planz Box 390 Joaquin, TX 75954

Each congregation will be receiving \$200 from Disaster Response, the Synod, and the Conference. We are being encouraged to match this as we give to a hunger project. St. John's and Immanuel churches have committed to make a donation to our Local Backpack Program. The Backpack program through our local food banks, provides a backpack of nutritionally balanced food to local children who qualify for free or reduced lunches every Friday during the school year. The teachers and staff of the schools distribute the bags to the kids on Friday and the food tides them over on Saturdays and Sundays, allowing them to return to school on Monday ready to learn. If you would like more information regarding this program please go to www.iowahungersummit.org and search for Backpack Program. There is also information regarding the program at <https://www.foodbankiowa.org/backpack>. Please place your donation in the offering plates with a designation for the Backpack Program and help us feed our local children.

GoServeGlobal Fundraising Event - Last fall St. John's, Immanuel, Good Hope participated in a fund raising event for Sukup Safe T Homes. Together we were able to raise \$15,250. They have a new goal and are asking for our help again. There is a \$100,000 matching fund challenge between now and April 17th because of five generous individuals. Every donation given during this time will be doubled! Would you help us to meet the challenge so 26 families can receive a home. Please consider donating, let's see if we can raise even more than we did last time! Donations must be sent to the church or in the collection plate by April 11th. Please note it is for the GoServeGlobal event. Thank you for your support.

Services can be viewed on YouTube. To find it, go to YouTube and in the search box type: Good Hope Lutheran Church, Titonka, IA

Answers to the Spring word Jumble

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|-------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| 1. Daffodil | 2. Showers | 3. Warm | 4. Easter |
| 5. Umbrella | 6. Daisy | 7. Butterfly | 8. Eggs |
| 9. Rainbow | 10. Hatch | 11. Weather | 12. Season |
| 13. Sprout | 14. Green | 15. April | 16. Tulip |
| 17. Flowers | 18. March | 19. Sunshine | 20. June |
| 21. May | 22. Kite | 23. Birds | 24. Grass |

Summer Camp 2021 at Riverside! Registration is open for 2021 Summer Camp and a few camps are already full. You can register online at RiversideLBC.org for a camp. If you would like to contact Riverside you can do so at rlbc@riversidelbc.org or call the office at 515-733-5271.

MERCYONE

MercyOne North Iowa Hospice

Bereavement newsletter

Dear Friends,

Periodically, I ask grieving people how they would define the word grief to someone, as if that person had never heard of the word.

Grief is often described as heartache, loneliness, regrets, emptiness, anxiety, fear of the unknown/future, and questioning purpose in life. Perhaps you've had similar thoughts or could further expand the definition.

Expectations of how one should cope with grief are typically set very high. Is this the arena where we want to over-achieve? Coping with grief can feel like a race, but who are you competing against? What is the hurry? The hurry comes in wanting to feel better emotionally. The emotions with grief are very powerful and can be frightening in intensity. Bereaved, over the years, remarked they thought they would handle grief "better than this." Better than what? This invisible yardstick follows you around like a shadow. It is tricky attempting to measure something you can't see. Even when you've experienced grief from other losses, it doesn't guarantee you'll grieve each one the same way. Well-intended friends, family or co-workers may make comments and suggestions about your coping skills. This fuels the race you have with

Pay attention and listen to yourself first. When in doubt about what to expect with grief or what is healthy coping, seek out information.

Educate yourself about the normal feelings and experiences associated with grief. The more you know, the better you'll be able to cope with grief. When you know what you are dealing with, it is a little easier to gauge how you are doing on that invisible yardstick. Resources are available through your local hospice, libraries, internet, faith communities, and counseling centers.

Thinking of you,
Joyce & Autumn

April 2021, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

According to the most recent Iowa Department of Human Services data, 9,532 Iowa children were subject to abuse or neglect. The most common forms of abuse included denial of critical care, physical injury, exposure to illegal drugs or dangerous substance, and sexual abuse.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) helps combat child abuse through prevention, safety, and stability services, as well as mental and behavioral health care.

Through regular in-home visits to families, LSI Early Childhood Services prevent child abuse by giving parents the support, education, and resources they need to build a healthy, stable home for their children. In 2020, our Early Childhood programs provided more than 18,000 in-home and virtual visits to families.

LSI Family Centered Services help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable, and LSI's Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers serve many children and youth who have experienced trauma from past abuse or neglect.

You can make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI 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](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

Empowering Iowa Families

Gaylene was overwhelmed raising three young boys. Finances were strained and she and her partner, José, worked hard to make ends meet. Suddenly, well into her second trimester, Gaylene learned she was pregnant with her daughter, Julieanna. Left with less time to prepare her home for a fourth child, Gaylene was stressed at the thought of welcoming a little girl into a house with three energetic older brothers. And once Julieanna was born, Gaylene began experiencing postpartum depression.

Gaylene enrolled in LSI Early Childhood Services for help, and she and José began meeting with their LSI worker, Kellie. She provided the family with age-appropriate ideas and developmental activities for the kids, and served as a shoulder to lean on whenever Gaylene or José needed guidance or advice. Gaylene recently graduated from college with a degree in early childhood education, and her family is thriving. Gaylene also graduated out of LSI services last year. The family still keeps in touch with Kellie, and Gaylene says she will forever be grateful for the support she received when times were difficult.

"We got so used to Kellie coming to our home for five years, it's going to be different. But now I know where to turn and how to help my family down the road," Gaylene says. "I feel like Kellie and LSI actually care about people and parents."

Oaxaca Stretchildren Letter

Unfortunately Covid 19 continues to be a grave threat to our families and all citizens of Oaxaca. Likewise the effects of collapse of the tourist economy and the economic crisis make life profoundly diffi-

As of February 28th, Oaxaca State has seen 40,403 cases of Covid 19 and 2,903 deaths, and the country itself has seen 2,076,882 cases of Covid and 184,474 deaths.* Sadly it is believed that Covid cases and deaths are severely underreported in Mexico and that the situation is even more critical than numbers indicate. In particular, Mexico has been facing a nationwide shortage of oxygen which is so critical in treating this disease.

In response to this unprecedented crisis, we continue to do all possible to assist our children, young adults and their families. This includes *dispensas* of food and necessities, paying bus fare to the center, providing emergency cash for urgently needed items, bills, educational support, and much more. At this critical time your help has an extraordinary impact and is so greatly appreciated. Keep these individuals in your prayers as well and remember that we support them through Erika.