

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

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Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Volume 10 Issue 2

February 23, 2023

## Mission Statement

Our Mission is to Honor God, by sharing His love, living in Christ, and serving our community.



*To grow spiritually a man must first learn to kneel.*

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## Visions of the Kingdom

As you read this article, the season of Lent will have already begun. Lent comes at a difficult time of the year for some. This time of year, especially here in Oregon, days can be dark and dreary which adds to what some would say is the darkness or sadness of the season of Lent. Even if you don't identify with those emotions, I encourage you to read the article found at the link below. It is written by Heidi Goehmann, an LCMS deaconess and Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

[https://blog.cph.org/read/sadness-and-joy-in-lent?hsmi=246831855&hsenc=p2ANqtz-88iu5WRdPTOaMaofkNcCpvwZm7mpTitjMaYWXy8NUS1FrP8qht6JATITT-kTI\\_vMc4pD27D8puUm3UMVhCidzeBIPYzQ](https://blog.cph.org/read/sadness-and-joy-in-lent?hsmi=246831855&hsenc=p2ANqtz-88iu5WRdPTOaMaofkNcCpvwZm7mpTitjMaYWXy8NUS1FrP8qht6JATITT-kTI_vMc4pD27D8puUm3UMVhCidzeBIPYzQ)

As in pre-pandemic years, this Lenten season we will be participating in "round robin" of pastors for our Wednesday evening services. This is a great opportunity for pastors and congregations to meet other congregations and pastors. To be honest, it is also helpful decreasing the additional workload for pastors. Seven weeks of Lenten services concluding with multiple services of Holy Week can be very stressful.

This year we will be hearing about the visions of Zechariah, a member of a priestly family that returned from exile in Babylon. He became a prophet during the time the people were trying to rebuild their lives, the city of Jerusalem and the Temple after everything had been destroyed by the Babylonians. About 15 years after the return from Babylon the people were becoming discouraged for a variety of reasons. Zechariah reminded the people that their forefathers had ignored the prophets and things didn't work out so well for them. So, he wrote encouraging them to "return to the Lord and he will return to you." He explained that God was going to fulfill his promise that Israel would be a blessing to the world. Zechariah's prophecy is also filled with curious and amazing hints of a coming global king [that would be Jesus] who would achieve salvation not only for the Jewish people, but also for the rest of the world as well.



Join us for the "Visions of the Kingdom." Soup suppers will begin Wednesdays at 4 PM with services beginning at 5 PM. We hope to see you there to hear how Zechariah's visions are fulfilled in Jesus' death and resurrection. The joy of Easter is coming!

*Pastor Larry Oliver*

## Scripture Readings For March

Season	Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalms	Epistle	Gospel
	Mar. 5	Second S. in Lent	Gen. 12:1-9	Psalms 121	Rom. 4:1-8, 13-17	John 3:1-17
	Mar. 12	Third S. in Lent	Ex. 17:1-7	Psalms 95:1-9	Rom. 5:1-8	John 4:5-26 (27-30, 39-42)
	Mar. 19	Fourth S. in Lent	Isaiah 42:14-21	Psalms 142	Eph. 5:8-14	John 9:1-41 <i>or</i> John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39
	Mar. 26	Fifth S. in Lent	Ezek. 37:1-14	Psalms 130	Rom. 8:1-11	John 11:1-45, (46-53) <i>or</i> John 11:17-27, 38-53

## March - 2023 Serving Schedule

Dates	Elder	Greeter	Reader	Server	Altar Guild	Counting Team
5-Mar		Brenda Rowe	Priscilla Stratton			Velma Bariletti
12-Mar		Debbie & Ralph Graham	Linda Tedisch			
19-Mar		Gary & Sharon Yon	Brenda Rowe			
26-Mar		Priscilla Stratton	Debbie Graham			

**Thank you for serving your church  
If you cannot serve, please find someone to take your place.  
Please leave a note for the secretary.**

For each petal on the  
shamrock  
 This brings a wish your way  
 Good health, good LUCK  
 & happiness  
 For today and every day.





**March Birthdays**

Ann Oliver ..... 3/22  
 Kayla Burks..... 3/31

**March Anniversaries**

Matthew & Kendra Steele ..... 3/14

## Spring Garden

So when I looked at those flowers,  
 I was looking at God  
 For they bloomed in His sun  
 and grew in His sod  
 And each lovely flower  
 was a "voice from above"  
 That whispered a message  
 of kindness and love  
 For I feel in my heart,  
 and I know you do, too,  
 That God speaks to us all  
 through the kind things we do  
 And when I looked at those flowers  
 I couldn't help but feel  
 That they brought heaven nearer  
 and made God so real.

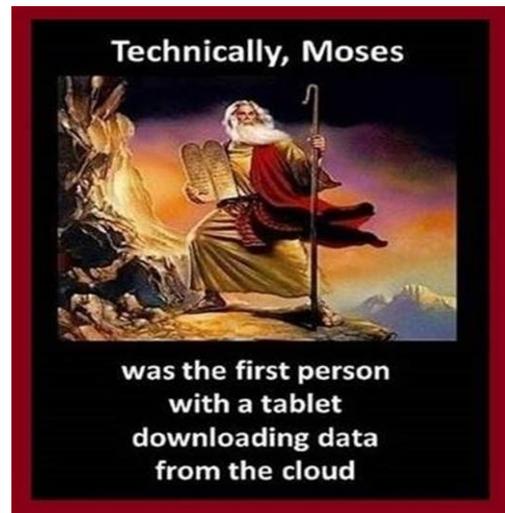
~ Helen Steiner Rice



**THIS IS HOW WE  
 PLAYED ON LINE**



**BEFORE THE INTERNET**



## Melody in F (The Prodigal Son)

Feeling footloose and frisky, a featherbrained fellow  
 Forced his fond father to fork over the farthings.  
 And flew far to foreign fields  
 And frittered his fortune feasting fabulously with faithless friends.

Fleeced by his fellows in folly, and facing famine,  
 He found himself a feed-flinger in a filthy farmyard.

Fairly Famishing, he fain would have filled his frame

With foraged food from fodder fragments.

“Fooey, my father’s flunkies fare far finer.”  
 The frazzled fugitive forlornly fumbled, frankly facing facts.

Frustrated by failure, and filled with foreboding,  
 He fled forthwith to his family.

Falling at his father’s feet, he forlornly fumbled,  
 “Father, I’ve flunked.

And fruitlessly forfeited family fellowship favor.”

The farsighted father, forestalling further flinching,

Frantically flagged the flunkies to  
 Fetch a fatling from the flock and fix a feast.

The fugitive’s faultfinding brother frowned  
 On fickle forgiveness of former folderol.

But the faithful father figured,

“Filial fidelity is fine, but the fugitive is found!

What forbids fervent festivity?

Let flags be unfurled! Let fanfares flare!”

Father’s forgiveness formed the foundation

For the former fugitive’s future fortitude!



## St. Patrick's Day

**St. Patrick's Day**, feast day (March 17) of **St. Patrick**, patron saint of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain in the late 4th century, he was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but returned about 432 CE to convert the Irish to **Christianity**. By the time of his death on March 17, 461, he had established monasteries, churches, and schools. Many legends grew up around him—for example, that he drove the snakes out of Ireland and used the **shamrock** to explain the **Trinity**. Ireland came to celebrate his day with religious services and feasts.

It was emigrants, particularly to the **United States**, who transformed St. Patrick's Day into a largely **secular holiday** of revelry and celebration of things **Irish**. Cities with large numbers of Irish immigrants, who often wielded political power, staged



the most extensive celebrations, which included elaborate parades. **Boston** held its first St. Patrick's Day parade in 1737, followed by **New York City** in 1762. Since 1962 **Chicago** has colored its **river** green to mark the holiday. (Although blue was the color traditionally associated with St. Patrick, green is now commonly connected with the day.) Irish and non-Irish alike commonly participate in the "wearing of the green"—sporting an item of green clothing or a shamrock, the Irish national plant, in the lapel. Corned beef and cabbage are associated with the holiday, and even beer is sometimes dyed green to celebrate the day. Although some of these practices eventually were adopted by the Irish themselves, they did so largely for the benefit of tourists.



### Immanuel Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Pastor Larry Oliver (541)-730-6673

Pastor's Hours: Wed - Thur 9:00 am - 12 noon

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**We're on the web!**

**[Immanuelalbany.org](http://Immanuelalbany.org)**