



The Messenger

February
2024

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church

For Christians, the most important event in history is the resurrection. Our church year revolves around the Holy Week and the Three Days (Triduum) of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Resurrection. This week is the very core of our Christian Gospel. Although never mentioned in the Bible, Lent has become our way of preparing ourselves for this Holy Week.



Lent as a time of fasting originated in the first few centuries after Christ. It was a time of mourning, cleansing, and preparation for the Holy Week to come. At first, the length of Lent varied. Lent was formally set at 40 days at the Council of Nicaea in 325. Forty days was selected to parallel the time Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting and being tempted after His baptism. Originally, Lent was a time of intense education and preparation for baptism. As adult baptisms became fewer in number, Lent became more of a penitential season.

The origins of Ash Wednesday are unclear. The Old Testament scriptures speak of people throwing ashes over their heads and dressing in sack cloth during times of mourning and repentance. When Lent first became a tradition, those who were guilty of great sins covered themselves in ashes, fasted, and removed themselves from the community until restored on Maundy Thursday. In the sixth century, priests began marking all worshippers with ashes in the sign of the cross as a reminder of both our mortality and our joining with Christ in our baptism.

In modern times, giving up something we enjoy for Lent has become a common practice. And the most frequent item given up is – Chocolate!! Isn't it ironic that this year Ash Wednesday falls on the day of the year when the most chocolate is sold – Valentine's Day!! Will you give up something for Lent? What we give up is far less important than what we replace it with. So, if you plan on taking part in that practice this year, consider spending your time of fasting in prayer. If you give up your daily Starbucks coffee or evening cocktail, consider donating the savings to the local food bank. Or instead of giving something up, consider adding 30 minutes each day for extra devotions, scripture reading, prayers, or a Lectio Divina. Whatever your choices this Lenten season, remember, Christ did not die so that we might suffer but so that we might enjoy life more abundantly. Blessings to you!



Pastor Jacque

Welcoming All. Growing Together in Faith. Sharing Christ & Love

WAYS YOU CAN SERVE AT CHURCH:



Ministry Teams are the groups of volunteers that give life to our congregation! They are most effective when

many people participate in them. If you have an interest, passion, or simply want to help in any of these areas, please attend a meeting or contact a Council member serving on that team.

Evangelism: Explores and implements various ideas for sharing the Gospel.

Finance: Manages the finances of the church.

Memorials: Oversees the donations that have been given as a memorial.

Missions: Plans various mission events.

Property: Oversees the care of the building and property.

Stewardship: Lifts up ways of giving our whole self (time, talent & resources) as an offering to God.

Worship and Music: Selects hymns and plans worship services.

Youth & Education: Guides the youth & education opportunities.

Congregation Council Action December 2023:

2024 officers were elected and ministry team assignments were made.

Approved motion to hold Congregational Meeting on January 28, 2024 in the sanctuary immediately following worship.

Share Shed

- Donations may be purchased from our Amazon Wish List <http://bit.ly/ImmanuelShareShed>
- Volunteers are needed to sort clothing!



Worship is a vital part of our ministry! Please consider the ways you can share your gifts in worship.

Greeter ~ Welcomes worshippers.

Usher ~ Hands out bulletins, collects offering, directs worshippers to the communion rail.

iPad ~ Starts and ends the Facebook livestream.

Acolyte ~ Lights the candles.

Cantor ~ Song leader for the liturgy.

Assisting Minister ~ Reads all the prayers and the dismissal.

Lector ~ Reads the lessons.

Children's Sermon ~ Prepares and leads the children's sermon.

Communion Assistant ~ Serves the wine during communion.

Fellowship Hour Host ~ Prepares and serves coffee and treat following worship.

Altar Guild ~ is always looking for new members to help prepare the sanctuary for worship.

Worship volunteer sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board outside Pastor's office. For questions about Altar Guild, please contact Monica Davis.

Altar Flowers



Altar flowers may be placed in memory or honor of someone or occasion. Cost is \$20. A special bouquet may also be placed in memory or honor of someone or occasion. It is your responsibility to purchase and have the special bouquet delivered by noon on Friday. For more information, contact the church office.



Did you know that any decoration of the Church is supposed to be more subdued than normal during Lent? Flowers are specifically banned as decorations around the altar for nearly all of Lent. Lent is a time of penance and introspection, based on Jesus' 40 days in the desert overcoming temptation. However, Laetare Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 10, 2024, is an exception to this rule. "Laetare" is derived from the opening

words of the Latin Mass, "Rejoice (Laetare) Jerusalem" (Isaiah 66:10). The church is called to joyful anticipation of the victory to be won. This day is in the middle of Lent. We look with expectation to Easter. It is meant to give us hope and encouragement as we slowly progress towards Easter.



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Winter Weather

Please know that any cancellations of church activities will be posted on the congregational Facebook group (private) and page (public), KSAL.com and local radio/TV stations that we are able to contact. If you feel the roads are not safe to travel on, please stay home!

Joint Council Meeting

Sunday, February 4 at 3:00 pm

Council members of Immanuel, Redeemer & St John’s will gather at Immanuel to explore shared ministry ideas. Council members, please let Janet Ireton know if you are unable to attend.



**Wednesday, February 7
5:30-7:00 pm**

All ages are invited to get messy together through games, crafts and activities, music, and Biblical storytelling. Pizza dinner will be served beginning at 5:30 pm, activities begin at 6:00 pm.

Summer Camp at Tomah Shinga Registration is open!

<https://camptomahshinga.com/summer-camp>

Immanuel pays half of the Early Bird cost for our students to attend camp. Early Bird registration ends April 1, 2024.

PLEASE let Mindy know if you:

- register for camp (so the church can pay its share).
- need additional financial assistance.
- are a current 6th & 7th grader who should attend **Confirmation Camp June 2-7.**

Mark Your Calendars

March 10	Daylight Savings begins
March 24	Palm Sunday
March 28	Maundy Thursday
March 29	Good Friday
March 31	Easter Sunday

Do you have an article for the Messenger?

Please send information to office@immanuelsalina.org
Deadline for the newsletter is the 15th of the month.

CONTACT US:

255 S. 7th St.....Salina, KS 67401
Church office.....(785) 825-4750
Jacqueline Thornton, Pastor.....pastorjacque@immanuelsalina.org
Mindy Tillberg, Deacon.....office@immanuelsalina.org

Sunday, February 11

Salina Souper Bowl of Hope

Project Salina invites us to join in their mission of gathering 58,000 cans of soup for the 2024 Souper Bowl of Hope. A \$30 donation will purchase 60 cans of soup. We will collect donations on Super Bowl Sunday, February 11.

Annual Chili Cook-Off

Bring your favorite chili recipe to the competition or just come to taste and vote. Come for worship at 9:30 am and stay for the fun!

Flower Delivery Volunteers

Volunteers and vehicles are needed to deliver flowers for Valentine’s Day on February 13 & 14 for the Dillon’s store on Cloud. To volunteer, see the sign-up sheet on the youth bulletin board. Monies raised will be used for youth events.



Ash Wednesday * February 14

12:15 pm & 7:00 pm

Join us as we begin the Lenten season with the Imposition of Ashes.

Midweek Lenten Worship

Wednesdays at 12:15 pm

Feb 21, Feb 28, Mar 6, Mar 13, Mar 20, Mar 27
Our focus will be on the book of Isaiah.



WELCA

Monday, February 19 at 1:30 pm

All women are invited to join the monthly meeting and Bible study.

Altar Guild

Wednesday, February 21

Altar Guild gathers at 5:15 pm to plan for upcoming worship services.



New Member Class

Please contact Pastor Jacque if you are interested in participating in this class!

Pastor Jacque Reads

Join Pastor each Wednesday at 7:00 pm as she reads a children’s book based on the next Sunday’s Gospel text. All are welcome to participate!
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87225359402>

February Worship Volunteers as of 01/26/2024

	February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25
Greeter		Tom Davis		
Usher	Tom Davis			
iPad				
Acolyte		Tom Davis		
Cantor	Pam Michel			
Assisting Minister	Pam Michel			
Lector	Janet Ireton	Karen Olson		
Children's Sermon	Liz Diehl			
Communion Assistant				
Altar Guild Communion Care	Kathy Herron	Corlene Lange	Kathy Herron	Janet Ireton
Fellowship Hosts	Karen Olson	Chili Cook-Off	Herron/Pruitt	

March Worship Volunteers as of 01/26/2024

	March 3	March 10 <i>Daylight Savings</i>	March 17	March 24 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	March 31 <i>Easter</i>
Greeter					
Usher					
iPad					
Acolyte					
Cantor					
Assisting Minister					
Lector					
Children's Sermon					
Communion Assistant					
Altar Guild Communion Care	Carol Ann Sloo	Corlene Lange	Carol Ann Sloo		
Fellowship Hosts	Randy Olson				Easter Brunch