



# Emmanuel Lutheran News

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## Pastor's Word for March 2025

For what will it profit them to gain the whole world, and forfeit their life?

- St Mark 8

March is almost upon us, and this year brings Lent along with it. We commence with Ash Wednesday, March 5th, and proceed as ever. 'If any would be my disciple, let them deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow me.' Jesus said that, probably more than once.

That's three things really: The denying oneself, the taking up of one's own cross, and following Jesus. None of which is particularly easy, I suppose.

Now, here's an interesting note: Jesus does NOT say: If you want to be SAVED, do these three things. (He DOES get after that Rich Young Ruler in St Luke 18.18-23 to give everything he has to the poor, and THEN follow Jesus, but that was particular to that eager fellow, not to all of us. Saving is God's work, after all.) We are saved by God's grace, through our believing and trusting - having faith. We don't have to deny ourselves, we don't have to take up any crosses, our own or anyone else's, and we DON'T have to follow Jesus. We CAN, but we don't have to. This is an INVITATION, not a DEMAND. 'Gospel' means Good News, after all, not just more bad news about stuff we gotta do to make someone else happy!

Now, IF we trust in Jesus, if we ARE saved by grace, of course, the desire to follow Jesus should reasonably grow in us.. When it does, then start following Jesus: but it's OUR decision, not anyone else's! And it's supposed to be joyful, not drudgery! Believe it or not, the disciples following Jesus down those dusty Galilean roads long ago WANTED to be there! They WANTED this.

And even in their darkest hours, persecuted, imprisoned, chased from town to town, the disciples never lost the joy they felt, the joy they radiated in ways that drew others to them time and again.

So. This March, this Lent, we invite you, as we always have, from time out of mind, to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus - because it's a joyous, life-affirming, wonderful thing to do. Not because you'll go to hell if you don't, but because you'll bring down just a little bit of heaven if you DO! And THAT is a very good, very desirable, thing for you, for us, and for this anxious and uncertain world we live in.

Bring on some Lent!  
Pastor Greg



Lent 2025 begins

*\*Special Note- The minutes will be published in the month following the meeting as they need to be approved by the Council before publication. Thus, March's newsletter has February's meeting minutes. There is not another way to get the newsletter and the minutes out to the congregation in a timely manner.\**

***Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council Minutes (Approved electronically by all members)  
February 3, 2025***

Members present: Charlotte Preuschoff, Chris Falk, Tessa Wicks, Gary Cook, Barbara Hamilton, Pastor Greg Yeager, and Pastor Carol Yeager.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by President Charlotte Preuschoff.

Barbara Hamilton moved, and Gary Cook seconded to approve the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as amended (janitorial rate increase is \$10/hour, not \$10/month as previously reported). Motion carried.

**Church Secretary Report:** The Council is tasked with benevolence designations for the coming year. As approved in the budget, the benevolence amount is 10% of last year's (2024) offering income. Discussion on funds and allocations took place. The consensus of the group was to keep benevolence local. Tessa Wicks moved and Barbara Hamilton seconded to designate \$450/month, with \$250 earmarked for the Synod, \$112.50 to We CARE, and \$112.50 to Bite2Go – Second Harvest. The motion carried.

**Financial report:**

The financial report for the month of January was presented. Discussion followed regarding a reimbursement to the pastors for a withholding miscalculation, account selections and negative net income. Tessa Wicks moved, and Chris Falk seconded to accept the report. Motion carried.

Once the pastors arrived, Pastor Carol led the group in an Opening Prayer.

**Pastors' report:**

Pastor Carol reported about the accident/injuries she sustained while on vacation and her recovery.

**Committee reports:**

**Worship & Music/Outreach & Fellowship:** It was reported that the Annual Meeting brunch went well, and the committee wants to thank all that helped set-up, clean-up and contribute to the marvelous food. Buddi would also like to thank all that have signed up to read and provide food on Sundays. There are spots available, for both, for anyone who has not yet had a chance to sign up.

**Property & Remodeling:** Gary and Chris will both be in touch with Waylan Anderson for a timeline on replacing the parsonage's front door. There is also an L & I Inspection due for the church elevator. Gary will coordinate a time for the inspection.

**Endowment:** The committee received a thank you note from scholarship recipient, Lydia Wicks, expressing her gratitude for the money helping to fund her education.

**Sunday School:** After looking at the church directory, there are only about five young people for the committee to reach through Sunday School and they are all periodically attending and taking part in the activity bags. Charlotte also reported that she is including more interactive projects in the bags.

**Old Business:**

**Reardan Athletic Booster Club Advertisement/Support:** With basketball season over, we will look into this advertising next fall when the opportunity is available. Chris will reach out to a current Reardan Athletic Booster Club board member to get us on the list.

**Constitutional Updates:** Pastor Carol, Charlotte, and Barbara will divide and conquer this project to update sections of the Constitution.

**Membership Roles:** While this has occupied a great deal of discussion for the past year, the Council feels that the membership roles have been clearly outlined to the congregation. An idea was put forth to have one less roadblock to giving. Pastor Carol will research creating a QR code which links directly to the church bank account – this code will be available on the website, newsletters and on church pews.

**New Business:**

**Election of Officers:** Treasurer – Johanna Ellis, appointed. Note that Colleen Ellis will serve as Treasurer, during Johanna’s absence. Nominations: President, Charlotte Preuschoff; Vice President, Chris Falk; Secretary, Tessa Wicks. All nominees were voted on and the ballot passed unanimously.

**Committee Reporting Schedule:** To increase meeting efficiency, members reporting for committees will let the president know the week prior to the council meeting if a committee report needs a spot on the agenda.

**Goals for 2025:** 2025 Goals will be better defined at future meetings, but Charlotte wanted to open discussion whether a formal goal setting/alignment process was necessary. Some ideas for more congregational interaction are: “Ask the Pastor” newsletter questions, song requests, and scheduling potlucks during months that have five Sundays.

**Pastors’ Sick Leave:** The church secretary was questioning the Pastor’s sick time, given recent health issues. The pastors earn 1-hour sick leave for every 40 hours worked, according to Washington State laws.

**Roundtable:**

Pastor Carol mentioned that she and Pastor Greg are looking into splitting up Sunday services so that they can enjoy fellowship at both churches on a more regular basis. They will be bringing this up to the St. John’s Council as well. The Emmanuel Council gave them flexibility to do what they desire as long as the needs of both congregations are met.

Discussion followed regarding the best way to communicate with the congregation via newsletters, council minutes, etc. so that people feel they are getting pertinent dates and information in a timely manner.

Buddi would like to hold a couple community meetings in the church basement – time and date TBD. The Council had no issues with this. Buddi also mentioned that there needs to be assembly for quilts scheduled. Gary will ask Chris Cook who will take charge and report back.

Chris Falk mentioned that purchasing a smart thermostat for the church may help reduce monthly power expenses, which has been effective for the parsonage. Gary will also inquire about budget billing through Avista to help stabilize monthly expenses.

**Upcoming events:**

It was moved by Chris Falk and seconded by Barbara Hamilton to move monthly Council meetings to the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer at 7:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tessa Wicks, Council Secretary



Council Meeting Minutes



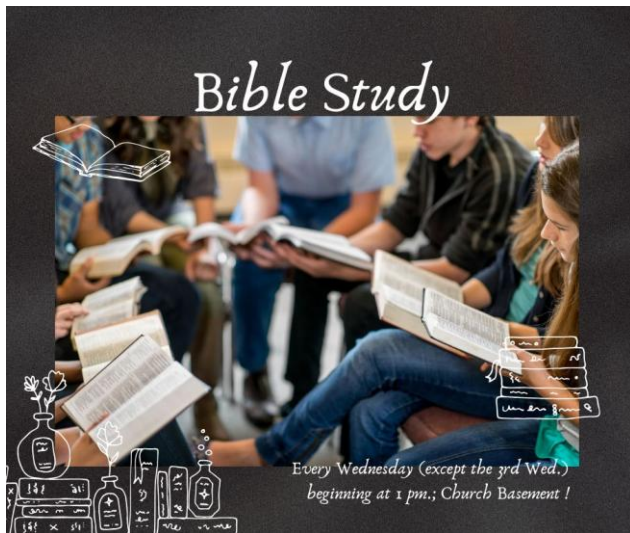
## March Celebrations


March 5: Casey & Michelle Ferderer  
March 5: Chris Falk  
March 6: Debbie Brockman  
March 10: Johanna Ellis  
March 18: Konnor Hoff  
March 31: Wade & Barbara Hamilton

March 5: Paul Williams  
March 5: Jackson Ekstrom  
March 9: Emily Zwainz  
March 18: Debbie Plummer  
March 22: Jude Falk










**HAVE YOU EVER? WHAT IF?  
DID THIS REALLY?**

Do you have a question or nagging thought that the Pastors can answer?

Now's your chance!! You can submit a question and they will answer it in the next newsletter!



Submit your questions either by text (either Pastors' numbers) or by email at [reardanlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:reardanlutheran@gmail.com)

Your name will be kept confidential so feel free to ask away!



**Sunday School at Home for March**

Can you believe it's March already?! It seems like we were just celebrating Christmas! And just like Christmas has a period of waiting and preparation called Advent, Easter has a period of waiting and preparation starting this month called Lent. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> and ends Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. So, what is Lent? It's the season in the church calendar where we all get ready to celebrate Easter – Jesus' resurrection from the dead. There are 40 days of reflection/fasting and 6 Sundays of mini celebration. The timing is based on the 40 days Jesus was in the desert being tempted by the devil and fasting and praying. During Lent, we are encouraged to do three things. **PRAY**, so we can spend time with God. **FAST**, which means we give up something that we like such as candy, so we aren't so distracted from being with God. And **GIVE** so that we can help people that need help because we want to be kind and generous like God is kind and generous to us.

(Lent for Kids, Indiana Kentucky Synod Sunday School at Home [iksynod.org/2022/03/02/ssah03062022](https://www.iksynod.org/2022/03/02/ssah03062022)) Here are some ideas you can do as a family at home to participate in Lent activities....

- Read the story of how **Jesus was tempted to sin just like we are.** (Luke 4:1-13) Then as a family talk about...
  - When was a time that you were tempted?
  - What do you do when someone wants you to do something wrong?
  - How can you remember that God is always with you?
  - Activity: Draw or create pictures of the different ways Jesus was tempted and what he said to resist the devil. Make crosses that you can wear or carry with you to remind you that God is always with you.
- Spend more time with God by praying and reading the bible....
  - Commit to praying each day of Lent and carving out time to spend with God.
  - Help your children learn the Lord's Prayer if they haven't already.
  - Commit to reading a bible story each week of Lent.
  - Make a paper prayer chain for each day of Lent. Cut 40 strips of paper in your favorite color, or use purple paper because it's the color of Lent. Cut 6 strips of white paper for each of the 6 Sundays in Lent. On each strip of paper write the name of a person or something you want to

pray for. Create your paper chain: take one of the colored strips of paper and bring the two ends together to form a circle. Secure the ends with glue, tape, staples, etc. Take a second colored strip of paper and put it through the first circle then join its two ends together. Continue with all the strips of paper until you have one long chain. Hint: use 4 pieces of colored paper to link together first, then use a white strip. This represents the March 5 – Sunday, March 9. Then use 6 strips of colored paper and 1 white strip until you finish the chain. Each day of Lent, starting on March 5<sup>th</sup>, tear off a link and add that person or thing to your prayers.

- Will you give something up for Lent? (Fasting).... Although we think of fasting as being related to food, it doesn't have to be. As a family, talk about what tempts you and could you give it up for Lent? Even young children can participate by not playing with a favorite toy, giving up a favorite TV show, drinking regular milk instead of chocolate milk, etc. Help your child choose something that is doable, but not so easy that they miss learning about leaning on God to help them when they are tempted. You may want to decide as a family to give up desserts, junk food or eating out. Do you want to connect more as a family? This is the perfect opportunity to limit time on electronics like phones, TV or game consoles. Is there a habit you've been wanting to give up or change? Now's the time to try!
- Talk as a family about giving in order to help others.
  - Give money to the church or other charities. Consider bringing in your spare change that's lying around on your dresser or in your pockets – every penny adds up!
  - Have your children help pick out food items to give to local charities and food banks – remember we collect food for the blessing boxes
  - Help your child set aside gently used toys and clothes they no longer need, use or wear to donate to others

Remember the next time you visit, you'll find brightly colored activity bags filled with a clipboard, crayons, and activity pages for kids to work on while attending church service in the sanctuary. You can even color and decorate the bag! Pastor Carol and Pastor Greg will provide a special children's sermon for those in attendance. Children can take home the coloring pages or leave them here and we'll display their work downstairs in our Fellowship Hall. We even have activity packets for big kids! We ask that you leave the clipboard, bag and crayons so they can be cleaned and re-used.

If you would like to be part of our Advisory Committee, donate items for the activity bags, volunteer as a teacher, or have any questions or comments about our Sunday School program, please reach out to Charlotte Preuschoff [candepreuschoff@gmail.com](mailto:candepreuschoff@gmail.com) or any of the Advisory Committee members.



### Newsletter News!!!

If you would **rather** receive your newsletter electronically, please let Johanna know at [reardanlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:reardanlutheran@gmail.com), in person, or via text (509-995-1322). She will make sure to email it to you as soon as it is published (typically the last Wednesday of the month).

Also, the newsletter is published on the website under the "Newsletter" page every month on the same day it is generated (typically the last Wednesday of the month). <https://emmanuelreardan.org/newsletter>

New this month, the link to the newsletter will be published on the Facebook page! Look for it to be there around the last Wednesday of the month! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/reardanELCA>

MARCH 6-  
APRIL 9

APRIL 18  
2 PM

APRIL 17  
6:30 PM

APRIL 20 7 AM

APRIL 20  
9 AM

**THAT WORLD OF THE CROSS BOOK**  
**Study**  
**Every Thursday, Noon**

Bring lunch and join the discussion!@

Good Friday Worship Service at St. John's in Medical Lake

Maundy Thursday Dinner at  
Emmanuel Lutheran

Sunrise Easter Service at Rearday Cemetery led by Rearday

**EASTER worship service at Emmanuel Lutheran**

PLEASE SEE THE LIST FOR THE VARIOUS WAYS TO WORSHIP DURING THE LENTEN SEASON

Questions, please contact the church at  
509-796-2531 or  
reardandlutheran@gmail.com

**March 2025**