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March 2024



Holy Week

Palm Sunday Service Maundy Thursday Service Good Friday Service Easter Breakfast Easter Sunday Service March 24, 9:30 a.m. March 28, 7:00 p.m. March 29 7:00 p.m. March 31, 8:00 a.m. — 8:50 a.m. March 31, 9:30 a.m.



Much of what is going on in our 2024 time was frighteningly predicted by George Orwell in his 1949 book 1984. There was some thought that his description of Big Brother's controlling every aspect of life might possibly prevent or at least slow that taking place. But instead it seems to have provided more of a pattern for the future, at least for some.

One aspect of the future George predicted was the government's teaching
New Talk as the language to be used. The Ministry of Truth is really concerned with lies. The ministry of Peace is concerned with war. The records department in the Ministry of Truth has the responsibility to falsify historic records, even recent ones, by means of rewrite and deletion-- so that the Party could maintain the illusion that everything it had ever said and done was perfect and consistent.

In an essay entitled "Politics and the English Language", Orwell writes about unscrupulous politicians, advertisers, religionists and other 'double- speakers' of whatever stripe continuing to abuse language for manipulative purposes.

In our own day we have seen how those who oppose abortion have gone under the banner of "Right to Life" and how those who favor few or no restrictions on abortion at first used the term "Right to Choose" but now speak of "Productive

Rights"-- which seems more effective. It also takes the focus off of any thought of the unborn child's having rights protected.

In the church, I have noticed that people more and more prefer to speak of a "Celebration of Life" for one who has died-not a funeral service, or even a memorial service. I understand that we all want to remember the happy, positive things of a person's life. I have always included **not** a "eulogy"-- a glorification of what the departed was and did-- but a Prayer of Thanksgiving. The loved one or friend was after all a gift of God. And, like it or not, a sinner like the rest of us. Our ultimate reason for celebration is always God's overwhelming saving grace, not our own accomplishments.

The reason for a Christian's joy is that our Lord Jesus suffered and died in our stead to redeem us from the consequences of what we on our own could not be. Of late, however, more and more pastors are experiencing those arranging a funeral telling the pastor that they do not want anything negative mentioned, including the fact, it seems, that the person has died.

That's really quite sad. If it is only the quickly passing years of this often-troubled life we can celebrate, we are certainly diminishing the unbelievably joyous message which the Christian faith brings for a time like this-- shrinking it into nothingness.

I have mentioned in sermons that Lent is a time for straight talk. Already at Lent's beginning we heard,

"The wages of sin IS death, but the gift of God IS eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 6:23) The death is both spiritual and physical. We are by nature spiritually dead. unable to conjure up any satisfying or acceptable life with God on our own, no matter how hard we try.

But the life that is God's gift to us through our crucified and living Savior is so far beyond what any life in this world could be without Him that it is not worth even comparing.

So why on earth would be hesitant to speak of death at a Christian funeral? It is after all for Christians only a temporary separation before a glorious reunion with a much, much greater celebration than we could ever

bring about here on earth, no matter what we say and do not say.

So, if we choose to have a celebration of life for a loved one rather than a funeral or memorial service, let's not confuse what that word "life" means. Or what death means either.

Let's all allow the straight talk of Lent to have its Spirit-filled and life-giving way with us. And then, have a Blessed Easter celebration-- a foretaste of what is yet to come!

Project 24 Kenya Update

PRE-COLLEGE LUTHER ACADEMY #5



This month marks the commencement of our Pre-college Luther Academy, welcoming our fifth cohort of secondary student graduates. It is our largest class to date, comprising a total of 33 students.

They eagerly anticipate delving deeper into the teachings of the Lutheran Faith

through a series of classes spanning three months. These sessions not only serve to reinforce prior knowledge but also facilitate a firm understanding of our beliefs and effective evangelism tools. We pray for God's blessings upon this period of learning and communal fellowship.

NEED YOUR HELP

We will be doing a clean-up for Easter! If you can take a few hours out of your schedule to beautify the church, it would be very appreciated. A list of items to be completed will be on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Church Properties have washed and waxed the floors. Carpet has been done. Cleaning times will be on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Please call the office and we will get you in touch with John Moninger for any additional times and details. Thank you!



A REMINDER to those who have Thrivent life insurance or annuities: It's time to designate Thrivent Choice Dollars. Call 800-847-4836, Option 6. Please consider naming Immanuel as a recipient.

Our address is 1116 Devon Avenue, Bartlett 60103.

Thank you!



ALTAR GUILD - Bev Bayes

Don't forget the altar flowers when you have a blessing or special occasion or someone you want to honor.

Order forms: Hanging on the office door.

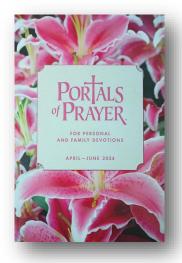
Two vases - \$30 or single rose \$4

Also, we want to remind you these are your flowers and you may take them with you following the service.

Lilies will be available for Easter! Buy a plant in honor of or as a memorial to a friend or family member.

Lilies will be \$7.00 a plant. Money is due at time of order placement.

Portals of Prayer/ Hope-Full Living



The latest Portals of Prayer and Hope-Full
Living are now available.
The latest editions of
Portals of Prayer comes in
small booklet, digest and big print.
They are available in the church narthex
or to be mailed to you by calling
the church office at (630) 837-1166.





Just a reminder!

Daylight Savings Time begins on March 10, 2024 at 2 a.m.

Don't forget to spring forward one hour!



VBS 2024



4,3,2,1 Blast Off!

We are so excited to announce that we are planning to hold Vacation Bible School (Stellar) from Aug. 5th– 9th here at Immanuel for kids ages 4 -to 14. We have so many fun things planned for the kids this summer and would love for you to be a part of it!

If you could even help a single day over the week or could help with getting crafts together or working to set up or clean up for the kids it would be very appreciated!

To volunteer or if you would like to register kids you know, please call the office Mon-Thur. mornings from 9 am - 12 noon (630) 837-1166.

Space will be limited so register early!

If you want to work directly with the children, we are requiring a background check and an on-line child safety class if you did not have one in the past 5 years. The class is free and takes about 40 min.

Watch for our first planning meeting in our newsletters coming soon!

March 2024 Schedules



Lay Minister Schedule



March 3 - Dave Schroeder & Marty Sterrett

March 6 - Al Thilk

March 10 - Al Thilk

March 13 - Al Thilk

March 17 - Al Thilk

March 20 - Al Thilk

March 24 - Al Thilk

March 28 - Dave Schroeder

March 29 - Dave Schroeder & Al Thilk

March 31 - Al Thilk & Dave Schroeder &

Marty Sterrett

March 3 - Dave Schroeder

March 10 - Al Thilk

March 17 - Sally Hover

March 24 - Al Thilk

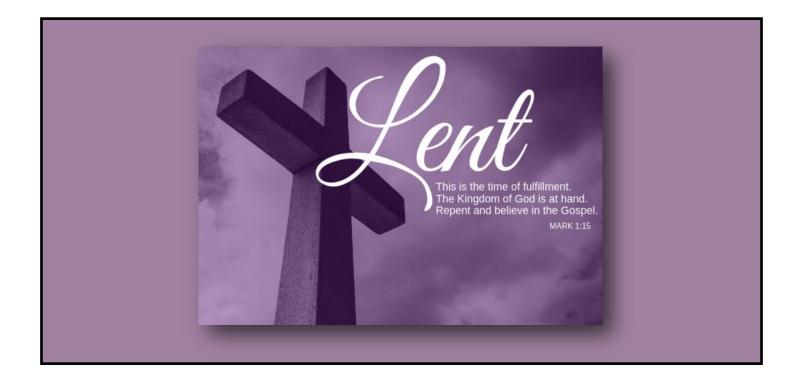
March 28 - Dave Schroeder

March 29 - Dave Schroeder

March 31 - Dave Schroeder

If you would like to volunteer to serve please call the office.

If unable to serve when scheduled, please try to find a substitute. Also notify the church office as soon as possible (630 837-1166 or immanuelbartlett@sbcglobal.net) Thank you!



March 2024

Hispanic Ministry Church

Sunday - 1:00 p.m. - 5:00:p.m.
Tuesday - 6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Friday - 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight
The last Sunday of every month
1:00 p.m. - 6:30:p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous
Monday - 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Meeting - 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					I	2 8:00-10:00 a.m. Church Properties
3 9:30 a.m. Worship Service (HC) 10:45 a.m. Bible Class	4	5	6 Lenten Service 7:00 p.m.	7	~	9 8:00-10:00 a.m. Church Properties
10 9.30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Bible Class	II	12 Board of Lay Ministry 7:00 p.m.	13 Lenten Service 7:00 p.m.	14 Board of Directors 7:00 p.m.	15	16 8:00-10:00 a.m. Church Properties
17 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Bible Class (HC)	18	19	20 Lenten Service 7:00 p.m.	21 The Oaks at Bartlett Service 1:30 p.m.	22	23 8:00-10:00 a.m. Church Properties
24 Balm Sunday 9:30 a.m. (HC) Bible Class 10:45 Surge 5:00 pm 31 Easter Breakfast 8:00 am Easter Service 9:30 am (HC) Bible Study 10:45 am	25	26	27	28 Maundy Thur. Service 7:00 p.m.	29 Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m.	30 8:00-10:00 a.m. Church Properties