



Immanuel Lutheran Church

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March 2024

A Word from The Pastor

“Joseph and Jesus: God Meant It for Good”

Feb 28	Lenten Service	Remember Me	Genesis 40
March 6	Lenten Service	Royal Robes	Genesis 41
March 13	Lenten Service	Forgiven	Genesis 42-45
March 20	Lenten Service	Redeemer of All	Genesis 47
March 24	Palm Sunday	Prince Among His Brothers	Genesis 44-45
March 28	Maundy Thursday	A Meal with the 12	Genesis 43
March 29	Good Friday	God Meant it For Good	Genesis 50
March 30	Easter Vigil	Buried	Genesis 50
March 31	Easter Sunday	My Son is Alive!	Genesis 45-46

Dear Friends in Christ,

FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY

Our Board of Evangelism is sponsoring Friendship Services on Palm Sunday weekend, March 23-24. Please consider who you could invite to worship with you that weekend. Most people who join a church do so because a member of that church invited them. Our Sunday school children will sign that day and our youth will serve a brunch and have a silent auction after worship.

MAUNDY THURSDAY LAST SUPPER

We will be doing a Last Supper Tableau at our Maundy Thursday Service. This is the night that Jesus transformed the Old Testament Passover into a more powerful New Testament holy meal. In this meal we receive the very body and blood of Jesus and in that food we receive forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. We are looking for 12 men to represent the disciples for this service. There is a short reading part for each disciple. Let me know if you willing to help in this way.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE

We will have our traditional Good Friday Tenebrae services, focusing on the death of our Lord Jesus on the cross. Come at 2 PM to gather for the last hour of our Lord’s life on the cross or come at 7 PM for the identical service in the evening.

BASEMENT BATHROOM REMODEL

Our trustees have recommended and our voters have approved a full remodel of our basement bathrooms, subject to having enough funds on hand. These bathrooms were installed in the 1940s and are in serious need of attention. They are used every week by the 20 students in our preschool and kindergarten Sunday School classes, as well as by our youth and VBS students. Estimated cost of this project is \$15,000. We plan to use some volunteer labor. To contribute to this project, designate a gift to the Trustee Fund. Help us keep all of God’s House in good repair!

MISSION STATEMENT

The Vision and Planning Committee has come up with 3 possible mission statements for our church. They are:
1) *We are called to serve our community by knowing and showing the love and truth that is Jesus Christ.*
2) *We exist to know, share and love Jesus Christ.*
3) *Empowered by God’s Word, we know, love and share Jesus in our community.*

Please give feedback to Pastor or anyone on the vision and planning committee. We are looking for the statement that best describes why we exist. Who has God called us to be?



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ACT BRUNCH AND SILENT AUCTION

On March 24 our ACT Youth will serve a brunch after worship. Egg bake, fruit and muffins will be served. They will also have a silent auction that day. They welcome any donations of items for the auction. Items should be left in the Fellowship Hall by March 22.

EASTER VIGIL

Our Saturday Service on the night before Easter is special. It begins in low light, reminding us of the darkness of Good Friday. Candles are lit throughout the congregation, reminding us of the hope of Easter. The lights remain somewhat dimmed as we hear the Word and as we renew our baptismal vows. The lights increase as we celebrate communion. The bell rings as we conclude the service hearing the Easter Gospel for the first time this season. Join us for this special service.

EASTER CELEBRATION

On Easter morning we will gather at 7 AM to celebrate our Lord's Resurrection as soon as possible. Our youth will help to lead us in worship that day. At 9 AM we will gather to celebrate our Lord's triumph over death and the grave in a service of Easter Gospel and Holy Communion. The joy of Easter is so great and each service is unique, so it is worth coming to both! Our youth will serve a light breakfast in between services.

CALL DAY

Pastor candidates, deaconesses and vicars will be assigned at services at our seminaries in St Louis and Ft. Wayne on April 23 & 24. We have submitted a joint application with Trinity, Carlos, for a vicar for the coming year. Please keep the assignment process in your prayers, for the Holy Spirit to guide the placement of each person. If we are assigned a vicar, he would begin August 1, living in the parsonage at Carlos. He would help with worship here most Saturday and Sundays and also lead worship at Carlos on non-communion Sundays. He would help lead Bible Classes, teach confirmation, help with our youth and get a taste of all aspects of our congregational life.

CONFIRMATION SEDER MEAL

A Seder Meal for all 7th & 8th grade confirmation students and parents will be held Wednesday, March 27 at 6:30 PM. Thank you to LWML volunteers for hosting this special observance.

HIGHER THINGS

Higher Things is an organization in the LCMS that organizes summer youth conferences. 10 of our youth and 3 chaperones have registered for the Higher Things Youth Conference in Portland, Oregon in July. Our group will be traveling by Amtrak. To help support this event our youth are doing an envelope fundraiser during Lent. They will have a board with envelopes numbered by even numbers from \$2 to \$100. Please consider supporting our youth by taking an envelope and placing a donation of that amount in the envelope.

PPHS SPEECH & MUSIC

There are two opportunities to see the talents of our local high school youth at Immanuel this month. On March 14 a number of speech students will present their contest speeches. Several speech students are Immanuel members. The evening will start with a speech in the Fellowship Hall for everyone. Then there will be a schedule of speeches in various areas of the building and you are able to choose the speakers you want to hear. This hour long event begins at 7 PM. On March 25 the music department will present a solo and ensemble and dessert concert in our Fellowship Hall. Come and enjoy good music and good food. There is no cost for either event, only a freewill offering at the dessert counter for the music event.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Needed each month in 2024	\$21,848.00
January Offerings	\$16,521.51
Feb. Offerings through Feb. 18	\$11,512.40
Offerings under budget January 31	\$5,326.49

**God's Blessings,
Pastor Kirk Lee**

March-April USHERING SCHEDULE

Following is the schedule for the next two months for ushering, greeting, and acolyting. Greeters will also help with the offering. A post card will be sent to you about 10 days ahead to remind you.

If you cannot serve on your assigned time, please try to find someone to take your place. If that doesn't work, call Arvid Hoppe, 320-766-3904 or Byron Herdman, 701-371-5139 the co-head ushers, if you are scheduled for Sunday or midweek; or the church office, if you are scheduled for Saturday.

In order for these activities to work smoothly please be at church 30 minutes ahead of the beginning of service. Arvid or Byron will explain the procedure to you for Sundays and midweek services, Pastor for Saturdays. Thank you!

DATE USHER GREETER ACOLYTE

<u>MARCH</u>			
2	John Duberowski		Sophia Gibson
3	Kyle & Megan Barrows	John & Linda Barrows	Gage Rud
6 (Wed 7 PM)	Adickes Family	Don & Karla Kalpin	Lillian Woodbridge
9	Sylvia Brunson		Ryker Porter
10	Lyle & Ines Ashbaugh	Dennis & Jeanette Bast	Aiden Moran
13 (Wed 7 PM)	Woodworth Family	Bettermann Family	Luke Schilling
16	Finbraaten Family		Becca Ahlers
17	Tom & Bobbi Duberowski	Derek & Erin Bolland Family	Madiysn Fahlin
20 (Wed 7 PM)	Bryce & Becky Cook	Greg & Amy Riedel	Aaron Vogt
23	Evangelism Board		Ryker Springer
24	Evangelism Board	Evangelism Board	Grace Gustafson
28 (Thur 7 PM)	Bert & Kathy Pexsa	Matt & Nancy Erwin	Carter Schmidt
29 (Fri 2 PM)	Dennis & JoAnn Stende	Donna Herdman	Jayden Olson
29 (Fri 7 PM)	Kevin & Sherry Wendt	Lucht Family	Brendan Koep
30	Brandon & Kim Crawford		Jaeda Porter
31 (7 AM)	ACT	O'Brien Family	Kellen O'Brien
31 (9 AM)	Jeff & Rhonda Fassett	Ray & Kathy Caauwe	Chloe Rathcke
<u>APRIL</u>			
6	Alan & Darcy Peppersack		Nolan Wendland
7	Holly Downing	Paul & Hannah Downing	Katie Pexsa
13	Gerads Family		Averyana Hammock
14	Ryan & Jessica Peppersack	Scott & Kayla Duberowski	McKayla Vogt
20	Mike & Sylvia Skrogstad		Tannen Stephan
21	Gale & Becky Iverson	Grattan Family	Rebekah Harstad
27	Rodney Uran		Elliana Hammock
28	John & Judy Moeller	Todd & Kayla Gaarsland	

March Anniversaries

Don & Lois Sjobeck	3-03-1962
Kayla & Jake Fiedler	3-12-2016
Jennessa & Brian Fitzgerald	3-16-2019
Todd & Heidi Lucht	3-17-2012
Bill & Lynda Uhde	3-17-1971
John & Diane Potratz	3-23-1985
Arden Schlecht & Linda Maughan	3-25-2023
Andrew & Allison Wendt	3-25-2023
Jerry & Deb Jacobs	3-30-1981
Mike & Teresa Harstad	3-31-2007
Don & Karla Kalpin	3-31-1990
Joanie & Clayton Oler	3-31-1967

March Birthdays

Reghan DeBoer	3-1
Andrew Moen	3-1
Chris Ahlers	3-2
Bill Brunson	3-2
Ashlee Nordlund	3-2
Ryan Penrose	3-2
JuAnn Riedel	3-2
John Duberowski	3-3
Brynlee Greenwood	3-3
Joyce Malmgren	3-3
Larry Roberts	3-3
Lisa Rubner	3-3
Zach Zimmerman	3-3
Alan Riedel	3-4
Holly Downing	3-5
Madisyn Fahlin	3-5
Dedra Zwieng	3-6
Derek Henning	3-7
Kathy Pexsa	3-7
Nila Venzke	3-7
Bailey Blake	3-9
Orion Venzke	3-9
Dale Hart	3-10
Theo Jahnke	3-10
Scott Kreidler	3-10
Marlys Schultz	3-10
Tanner Johanson	3-11
Rodney Moske	3-11
Rhonda Pooler	3-12
Mary Hanson	3-13
Jesse LaManna	3-13

Randy Block	3-14
Terry Briese	3-14
Amber DeBlicke	3-14
Bailey Jacobson	3-15
Calin Mattocks	3-15
McKenna Rathcke	3-15
Savanna Fahlin	3-16
Chris Klukken	3-16
Marlene Pooler	3-16
Alec Alberts	3-18
Amy Hunter	3-18
Troy Jacobs	3-18
Jodi Klimek	3-18
Kris Rathcke	3-18
Karley Colberg	3-19
Jeff Samuelson	3-19
Pat Botzet	3-20
Daniel Moske, Jr.	3-20
Nathan Ratajesak	3-20
Ray Stach	3-20
Ryan Gaarsland	3-21
Hudson Knapp	3-21
Dwayne Woodbridge	3-21
Chloe Rathcke	3-23
Pat Knox	3-24
Chad Knapp	3-25
Wyatt Pauly	3-25
Mitchell Kalpin	3-26
Jake Rud	3-26
Michael Thomas	3-26
Brooke Burns	3-27
Jen Thomas	3-27
Ashley Klimek	3-28
Isaac Meissner	3-28
Myles Meissner	3-28
Kaylee Riedel	3-28
Mary Springer	3-28
Nancy Knutson	3-29
Nicholas Erwin	3-30
Caleb Hardekopf	3-30
Deb Jacobs	3-30
Jesse McKane	3-30
Judy Nelson	3-30
Christine Lorenzen	3-31

If your March birthday or anniversary is not listed, please inform the church office.

IMMANUEL QUARTERLY VOTERS MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 4th, 2024

47 MEMBERS PRESENT

The meeting was called to order by Ray Caauwe at 10:31 am with an opening devotion by Pastor Lee.

The SECRETARY'S REPORT was reviewed. Motion was made and seconded to approve. Motion carried

ELECTION OF OFFICERS. Motion was made, seconded, and approved to add Donna Karger to the ballot for Board of Evangelism prior to the vote. Secretary – Tiffany Springer, Co-Head Usher – Byron Herdman, Board of Elders – Gene Moske & Greg Riedel, Board of Trustees – Todd Lucht, Endowment Committee – Glen Olson, Board of Education – Sheila Schilling, Board of Evangelism – Jeanette Bast & Donna Karger, Board of Finance – Derek Bolland & Becky Cook

The BOARD OF FINANCE/TREASURER'S REPORT: The Fourth Quarter Financial Report and Fourth Quarter Dedicated Funds Report were read. A motion was made and seconded to approve the reports. Motion carried

The BOARD OF ELDERS reported the following Fourth Quarter Official Acts: **Baptisms:** Isaiah Finbraaten, Peter Finbraaten (Adult), Conner Doehling, Adler Wendt, Arlo Wendt **Funerals:** Vayda Cook, Brian Brockopp **Weddings:** Ryan & Jakki Elfering **Membership Changes: Transfers In:** Diane Vis **Profession of Faith:** Bruce & Patty Wiitanen, Grace Gustafson. **Adult Confirmation:** Peter Finbraaten, Taren Settle, Hannah Downing, Shane Pauly, & Molly Pauly. Special Needs Fund offering will be Feb 24-25th. A motion was made and seconded to set our TIM goal at \$3,000 for 2024. Reports Lenten Services will begin February 14th with soup supper at 6 PM and services at 7 PM. A vicarage application has been submitted with Carlos. A \$1,000 Scholarship will be given to Michael Thomas each of the next 3 semesters before his vicarage. Motion carried to approve the purchase of 2 new wireless microphones for \$1580 from the Memorial Fund. Congregation was asked to think about changing the practice of having live Poinsettias & Easter Lilies due to allergies. Provide input to Pastor, Ray, or the Board of Elders.

The BOARD OF EDUCATION reports both Tuesday and Wednesday Bible classes have new members and good attendance and the Women's evening Bible Study will resume Feb. 12th. ACT Reports they will have the following upcoming fundraisers: Sub sales, Lenten soup suppers, Palm Sunday brunch, and an envelope fundraiser. LIC Sunday will be February 11th. 10 youth are registered for the Higher Things Conference in Portland in July.

The BOARD OF EVANGELISM reports a new member dinner was held in January. Friendship Sunday will be March 24th.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES Reports that furnace cleaning and elevator key box installation has been completed, remodeling is underway of the north side of the balcony, they are making contacts to paint the sanctuary, and looking into completing the parsonage remodel with trim and door work. Motion carried to approve a remodel of the basement bathrooms and flooring in the back hallway with an estimated cost of \$15,000.

The ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE read the Treasurer's report and a motion carried to approve the 2024 budget. Reports \$30,000 was invested in a CD at Midwest Bank and \$15,000 was invested in a 30 month CD at LCEF.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Audit Committee conducted their yearly audit and found everything in good order. Bids are being solicited for the ERC Remodel at LIC, Broadcast Committed reports installation is complete and livestream is improved, Planning Committee is seeking feedback on the 3 possible Mission Statements.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn with prayer at 11:42 a.m.

Holly Downing

Secretary



Minnesota North District
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
PO Box 604, Brainerd, MN 56401 | 218-829-1781 | mnndist@mnndist.org

February 2, 2024

Dear saints of the Minnesota North District

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich.” 2 Corinthians 8:9

Thank you for your generous support of the Minnesota North District in 2024. The Lord has called us together, 197 congregations and 27 schools, to proclaim the Gospel, stay true to His Word, and love one another in His name. We pray to the Lord of the harvest that, by His Word, He would use us to strengthen the saved and save those who do not believe in forgiveness won for them in Christ’s death and resurrection.

Through your gifts we pray that together we will serve Him and others through:

- Strengthening our faithfulness to Gods Word and connections through congregational visits (e.g., pre-call meetings; encouragement to our workers, circuit meetings; congregational celebrations).
- Helping congregations and schools fill vacancies in a timely manner, with a focus on efficiency and consistent communication in the call process.
- Supporting and caring for our workers (e.g., church worker care resources; visitations, worker conferences).
- Investing in mission expansion in our district where and when opportunities present themselves.
- Supporting the work of our Synod (42% of congregational receipts annually).

To Him be all the glory!

In the service of Christ (I Timothy 1:15)

Rev. Brady Finnern
District President



Lutheran Island Camp

Upcoming Events

Gentlemen, join us for our annual Men's Weekend! Dr. David Coe is our speaker for the 2024 Men's Weekend. He is a theology professor at Concordia University NE and the author of the book "Provoking Proverbs: Wisdom and the Ten Commandments". You won't want to miss this weekend full of theological learning, fellowship, and fun! The cost is \$155 and includes food, lodging, and Dr. Coe's book. To sign up, and to find the schedule, go to islandcamp.org/schedule.



From the Director's Desk

Spring is just around the corner! As we patiently wait for spring, we are reminded of those in the Bible who patiently waited. Sarah waited for a baby, Paul waited in prison, Noah waited on the Ark, and the list goes on. Waiting is a normal, but difficult, part of life. The winter months on the Island are often a period of waiting for the summer season to come. And with that waiting comes preparation. We prepare Bible studies, schedules, and staff training. We prepare for spring

retreats and Confirmation Weekends.

During our waiting season, we are also preparing and putting together our summer staff. Applications for a life-changing summer working at Camp are now open! Working at Camp is not just a job; it's an experience that has the power to shape lives and create lasting memories. Whether you're leading activities, building relationships, or simply sharing the joy of campfires under the starlit sky, the impact you make is immeasurable. Encourage the college students you know to embark on a journey that goes beyond the ordinary. In the spirit of giving and sharing the blessings God provides in this place, let us come together to make the summer of 2024 an unforgettable chapter in the story of our camp.

All of this preparation is for our campers to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are welcoming summer registrations at this time. Excitement is growing for our new programs and the new and old faces we will get to see this summer. If you would like to register your child(ren) or family for camp, visit our website [Registration page](#).

We couldn't do the ministry we do without your incredible support. We look forward to seeing you on the Island and pray that you have a month filled with Christ's love and the love of those around you.



Program Corner

It's winter on the Island, but we're already dreaming of summer - it's only 137 days until our first day of youth camp! We are excited to announce several new youth programs this summer including Mini Classic Camp and High School Camp. Mini Classic Camp is offered to campers entering 3rd and 4th grade who are ready for all the adventures of camp but on a shorter timeline.. High School Camp is offered to campers entering 9th-12th grade. Campers will get to revisit favorite camp activities and experience new

adventures and challenges on the Island and on offsite day trips.

Retreat season is in full swing! We had a great weekend with the confirmation classes from St Paul's in Perham and Faith Community Lutheran Church in Zimmerman during our January Confirmation Retreat. Students enjoyed campfire, devotions, broomball, and lots of 9 Square in the Air. Register your confirmation class for a fun-filled weekend during our February or March Confirmation Retreats!

Looking to support camp? We are in need of six new kayak paddles! If you are interested in donating to the kayak cause, contact Olivia at 218-583-2905. To find a list of LIC needs, check out our wish list on Amazon at <https://a.co/g0Ne3WM>.

The summer staff application is OPEN! As always, if you know someone who would make a great counselor or support staff have them check out our job descriptions at www.islandcamp.org/employment. Working on summer staff at LIC is an amazing opportunity to share God's love, gain practical life skills, and experience ministry in a unique setting.

Thanks for a successful End of the Year!

Thank you to all our incredible donors for helping us reach our \$100,000 goal before the end of 2023! We raised \$124,000 towards the ministry of Lutheran Island Camp. We look forward to another incredible year of "nourishing the whole person for Christ-centered, joy filled life and service"!



45011 230th St | 218.583.2905

www.islandcamp.org



CONFESSIONAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
CLC



The Executive Chairman, (Rev. D. R. Wowa) P.O. Box 20395, Luwinga, Mzuzu 2 Malawi, South East Africa. Cell: +265995275209 / +265888 034 114 Email: daviswowa@yahoo.co.uk

Dear Friends, Greetings from Mzuzu in the name of our suffering Lord and savior Jesus Christ, I would like to sincerely apologize for the delay to send a detailed report on how wine to water filters were distributed to both our members -CLCMS and non-members. It has been a great honor to come to you with cheeks of smiles from the members who received as the reports indicate that those wine to water filters are changing their mindset, focusing on clean water being used in their families. We say thank you so much for such an awesome gift of love.

Areas where these filters were distributed;

Malawi is divided into four regions, Northern, southern, eastern and central regions. Our churches are in all these regions. In most areas of the country of Malawi, clean water is a problem. During summer season too much water is consumed, at this time thirst is meeting everyone, leading to drink any water available. In most areas springs of water are dried. So, there is no other option hence drinking any water available.

Now, with the coming of wine to water filters, members are helped with clean water now.

Some few challenges; these wine to water filters some say that after using them, when they clean, at times they do not block and no water filtering and I received this complaint from two people who received but it might be they did not follow the instructions. Another challenge was the shortage of buckets, with the help from LCMS grant we managed to buy over **136 buckets** and we have distributed **over 241 wine to water filters**, **105** had been distributed without buckets and were told to buy their own plastic buckets and job is having trained them, those who have bought buckets is to make a hole and advise them how to use. Right now I am remaining with **50 wine to water** which came late and will be distributed to those who are critically in need regardless of religion but have a need.

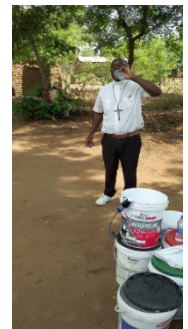


This is in Karonga, northern region, it is in the heart of a town but access to clean water is zero, and many times, this part of the area is flooded almost every year and cholera outbreaks become the order of the day. I did share them but still asks for many to at least have such wine to water filters, 23 of them benefited, the area is accommodating over 500 people. It is **600m** to our CLCMS church building.



This is Chinsewe a preaching place from our church, it is almost 10 km from our church, Karonga town, the area is plain and flat, usually faces floods every year. No clean water is found and the place is warm above 43 degrees Celsius during summer, I **distributed to 12 members** but still there is a great need to meet some vulnerable needy people for at least to save their lives.

This is **Mbeta in the lower Shire, Nsanje** close to border between Malawi and Mozambique southern region of Malawi. There is much need of the filters I distributed **16 wine to water filters** plus buckets, those who had received, say the filters have made their life better as those who use them testify.





This is St. Mary Magdalene CLCMS in Mzimba district, Northern region of **Malawi 23 wine to water filters** were distributed. we still need some because the area is crowded and there no clean water except one borehole which to some, there is a distance. Those who use them say, the filtered water is good and they enjoy it



This is in Mzuzu the regional headquarters of Northern region, **a city with over 2 million people**, with few accesses to clean water and most times swampy spring water are used, to those who had chance, received the wine to water but were told to buy buckets and those who bought, I did instruct them how to use.

This is in Makanjira CLCMS a church close to the border between Malawi and Mozambique. It is in the district /county of Mangochi in the eastern region of Malawi the area if a place where people were exiled from southern region seeking cultivation. There are no ware wells except one which accommodates thousands of people drinking from, the challenge is that there is no sanitation to it. So, when I distributed 12 of them, it was discovered that there is a great need as the area has almost **7,000 people**.



This is Mgoni CLCMS down to the lower shire in Nsanje district a disaster-prone area. **23 wines to water filters** were distributed to members and later 20 filter minus buckets, and were told to buy their own plastic buckets and having done so, I will go and instruct them how to use it. Buckets can be easily sourced to some but not to all like the elderly.

This is at my church in Mzuzu, Holy Trinity confessional Lutheran church -CLCMS some needy members 19 of them received and are using them. Reports say that they are of great meaning as regards to health issues.

Last Sunday I went to visit our brothers and sister in Dowa County where **Democratic Republic of Congo -DRC** refugees are kept. We about **60 members** there and I took **20 of the wine filters** and trained them how to use and they too were told to buy buckets so they begin to use this wine to water filters. This is the most congested area where every year, there is an outbreak of cholera and other related diseases due to bad water. So the use of these wine to water filters can go a long way assisting them, the camp has almost **13,000 refugees**,



All 8 pastors, 14 evangelists, 10 leaders of the churches have received filters.

Remaining with **50** which will be distributed next week to other congregations and those in critical need. On behalf of the synod and indeed on my own behalf, sincerely convey our heartfelt thanks to all those who had contributed to making this real, may our heavenly Father keep blessing America and all those living there!

**In His service,
Rev. Davis Robert Wowa
Executive Chairman
Confessional Lutheran Church -Malawi synod -(CLCMS)**



Jan - Feb 2024

SERVING THE LORD IN

Japan

News from
Pastor Dan and Joan Jastram

<https://www.lcms.org/jastram>



Pastor Dan and Joan Jastram

Rev. Jastram serves as the
Asia Lutheran Resource
Coordinator:

*Making Lutheran resources of
theology and worship
available in Asia.*



To be added to or removed from
this mailing list, send an email
message to:

daniel.jastram@lcms.org

with the word ADD or REMOVE
in the subject line.

Here's our newsletter archive link:

<https://bit.ly/3Xkd9W8>

Link to join our mailing list:

<https://tinyurl.com/47vyhnae>

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Expanding Horizons

I couldn't help but rejoice greatly
over how things turned out.
"How good and pleasant it is . . ." according to Ps. 133:1 !!

In early February, I took an
exploratory trip north of Tokyo to
become acquainted with the third of
the three Japanese pastors serving the
small confessional Lutheran Ev.
Christian Church entity here in Japan.

Pastor Nidaira serves two
congregations in Tochigi Prefecture,
one in Ashikaga, the other in
Utsunomia.



Ashikaga, Tochigi Prefecture

What a blessing to find a well-
crafted sermon proclaiming Christ as
Savior, clear distinctions of Law and
Gospel, the traditional Japanese
Lutheran liturgy, and solid catechesis
following worship! At the same time,
what a great need for prayer that God
would bless the faithful ministry of His
Word and Sacraments in such a
resistant culture!

For those visiting Japan, the land
and culture appears to be steeped in
religion with shrines, temples, and
sculptured images around every
corner, in back yards, in the
households, and along the country
paths.

Paradoxically however, most
Japanese consider themselves non-
religious and simply follow societal
"customs" without any obligations of
specific doctrines or membership.

Their "religious viewpoint" of life
along with their customs seem to lie
on a moveable point somewhere
between the religious and the non-
religious depending on circumstance
and perspective: sometimes as
"Japanese spirituality", sometimes as
superstitious folkways, sometimes as
traditional customs, festivals, or
holidays with religious origins but
tenuous religious weight.

What functions as a glass barrier is
that Japanese-ness seems embedded,
in part, in its distinction against the
"foreign" Christian faith.

At almost every funeral, ritual
reverence for and communication
with one's ancestors beyond the
grave endures as the pervasive,
religious substratum of the culture.

This is a major challenge for the
proclamation of new life in Christ who
was crucified for our trespasses and
raised for our justification.



Utsunomia, Tochigi Prefecture

Prayer and Thanksgiving:

- thanksgiving for the faithful ministry of the three pastors of the Lutheran Ev. Christian Church and specifically for Rev. Nidaira at Ashikaga and Utsunomia;
- prayer for wisdom in ministry due to the cultural barrier between old traditions and a new life in Christ;
- thanksgiving for new brethren in Christ: Barnett, Hetland, Terjesen;
- prayer for preparations with our Lutheran Theological Conference in Niigata coming up in May;
- thanksgiving for connections with LCMS member Matthew Strawn in Kyushu at great distance from Lutheran fellowship;
- thanksgiving for the privilege of Rev. Taguchi's attendance at the January CTS-FW Symposium series;
- prayer for those still suffering from the 7.5 magnitude January earthquake damage in the prefecture bordering Niigata;
- thanksgiving for Joan's three-week visit with family and grandchildren in the States;
- thanksgiving for wonderful headway on our newest translation project of Engelbrecht, *The Lutheran Difference* (CPH 2014) (about 55% completed);
- thanksgiving for God's blessings at our two current worship sites: Shinjuku and Yokosuka;
- thanksgiving for the faithful prayers and support provided by our LCMS Jastram-Asia mission partners.



[L-to-R] Barnett (2), Jastram, Hetland; Terjesen (7)

Growing Ministry

In addition to occasional visitors, we are very pleased to welcome those staying in Japan for longer periods of time who often come from some distance in order to gather at our Shinjuku Tokyo worship site. Recently Cacey and Moeko Barnett (from the north), Matthew Hetland (from the south), and the Terjesen family from the Yokosuka military base, all found their way to us.

In January, we received news that a new LCMS military chaplain, Rev. Ryan Schnake, has begun serving in Okinawa Japan through the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces. We are glad to entrust into his capable hands the work we have carried on there through our occasional visits these past two-and-a-half years.

At our current host congregation, I am particularly delighted that those who use only Japanese have a confessional, liturgical service available in the morning service with Pastor Yoshimura. Those who use only English have a confessional, liturgical service available in our twice-a-month Sunday afternoon service under my care. And those who are bilingual—

or who have invited someone to worship of either category—can worship at either service or at both depending on their preference. For example, on some occasions in the afternoon, everyone is either comfortably bilingual, or struggling to a greater or lesser degree with the English liturgy and sermon. So, for catechesis after the service we switched to Japanese for the greater comfort and understanding of those who were struggling. It reminds me that in heaven there will be those of many nations and languages all worshipping at the throne of Christ. ♦

Granddaughters Fiona and Salome at play during Joan's visit



YOUR SUPPORT is vital for our continued mission work in Japan: regular services at our worship sites, translation of theological resources, and nurturing relations with local Lutheran pastors facing individual challenges to the faith. We are humbly grateful for your continued prayers and support. **Thank you!**

Your missionaries, Dan and Joan Jastram

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil”

(Eph. 6:11, First Sunday of Lent, Liturgical Verse).

To support this LCMS mission work:

Give securely online through the LCMS page:

lcms.org/givenow/jastram

[OR] Mail your tax-deductible gift to:

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861**

Make checks payable to:

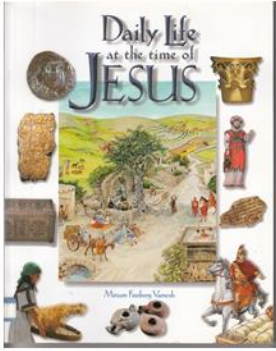
The Lutheran Church —Missouri Synod

Mark checks:

“Support of Asia-Jastram”

From Our Library March 2024

EASTER will be celebrated on March 31st, 2024. Although it is fun to have Easter eggs etc. What we really celebrate is Christ' Resurrection.. He is RISEN.



Daily Life at the time of JESUS by Miriam Vamosh. Original illustrations of life in N.T. times with maps, photos of the Holy Land & significant archaeological finds to bring alive the times of Jesus in a fascinating way. In-depth explanations that are with each illustration. Perfect for all ages. Code: Blue 220.9 Van



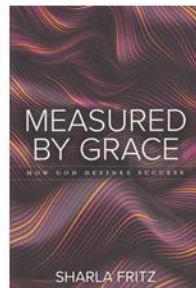
Sound of Freedom is based on the incredible true story. 131 minutes running time. God's children are not for sale. A federal agent rescues a young boy from ruthless child trafficking & then learns the boy's sister is still captive & so decides to go on this dangerous mission to save her.

DVD Code: Blue Angel #4



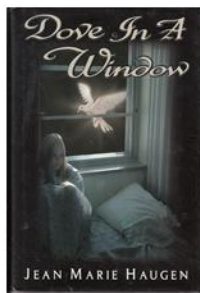
1884-1984 Zion Lutheran Church Centennial Cookbook. Mpls, MN. Interesting to see what was cooking 140 years ago. Found in our

cookbook section—middle bookcase behind desk Spiral Code: blue 642 Zio



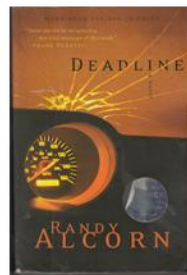
Measured by Grace by Sharla Fritz (How God defines Success) The world measures by thru wealth, fame & success. Our culture focuses on achievement. How does God measure you? He redeems failure, forgives freely and transforms you by His love.. This book helps you dig deeper, gain insight & discover a life measured by God's grace. Code:

discover a life measured by God's grace. Code:



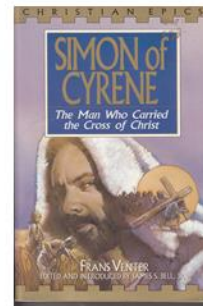
Dove in a Window by Jean Marie Haugen. Dr. Springfield had seen many cases in practicing psychiatry, but this is unusual. Angela is either in denial or just unaware of it happening to her. Find the answers & questions in this psychological

thriller. Code: MN author Hau.



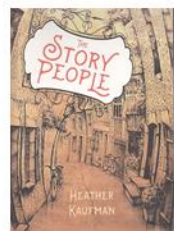
Deadline by Randy Alcorn. (His body hung suspended between two friends—His soul between two worlds.) Deadline is a dramatic & vivid novel of substance, filled with

hope & perspective for every reader who longs to feel purpose in life. Great read. Code: white Alc



Simon of Cyrene (The man who carried the Cross of Christ.) By Frans Venter & edited by James S. Bell Jr.. Thru Simon's eyes you will see that the Roman yoke is becoming intolerable to the Jews & the insurrection is simmering. They are confronted with a carpenter who

is performing miraculous signs and speaking of a heavenly Kingdom. Code: white Ven



The Story People by Heather Kaufman. Ben inherits his uncle's book store, he has a secure career & built-in home, but not contentment. His customers

scheme to keep him in town by finding him a wife. Then Rosemary walks into his store. Code: white Kau

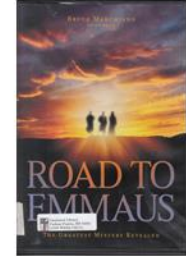


The Week that changed the World by Paul Maier. **The Resurrection Happened.** Not just the belief of Christians, its borne out of history, archaeology & science. This documentary takes you step by step thru events of Holy Week, key players & political intrigue plus what happened & why. DVD Code: Easter Mai



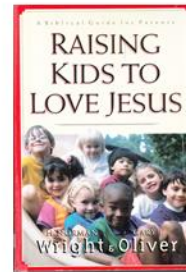
He chose the nails by Max Lucado. Experience live praise & worship event as Max narrates passages from his book. This is a compelling spiritual journey into the greatest event in history: the crucifixion of Christ. VHS Code: white Eas 4

history: the crucifixion of Christ, VHS Code: white Eas 4



Road to Emmaus. Mourning the death of Jesus, two travelers were joined by a stranger. Over the next few hours the stranger revealed mysteries hidden in Scriptures. Soon their sadness turned to great joy. Learn what they learned—on the Road to Emmaus. DVD Code: Easter 3

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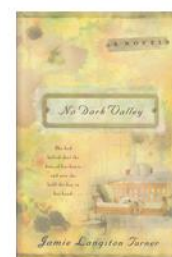
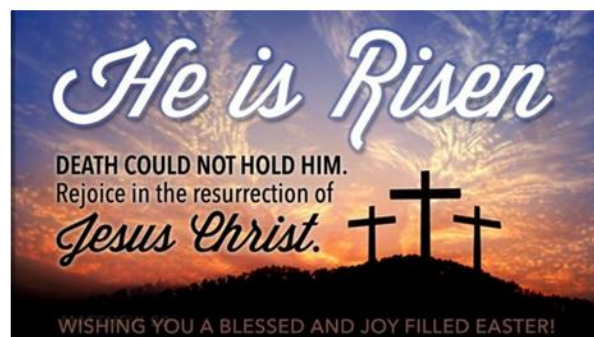
Raising Kids to love Jesus by Norman Wright & (Train a child in the way He should Go).. The road to adulthood is more hazardous than ever But you as parents can help them stay in a Christian course by building their lives on Jesus Christ. Discover the do's & don'ts of how to love, discipline & guide your kids. Code: Blue 248.8'45 Wri

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Little One God planned You by Josie Syverson. Explore a baby's month-by-month development in its mother's womb & let the awe that the Creator God

had when He so perfectly planned you seep into both yours & your Little One's hearts. MN Code: Blue 176 Syv.

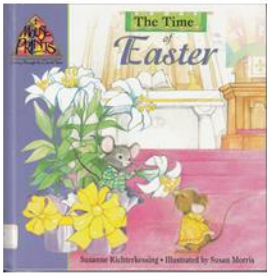


No Dark Valley by Jamie Langston Turner. Beyond the remorse, forgiveness beckoned. Bruce is struggling guilt over his past & Celia wants nothing to do with this neighbor of hers. But God has better plans. Code: White Tur

wants nothing to do with this neighbor of hers. But God has better plans. Code: White Tur

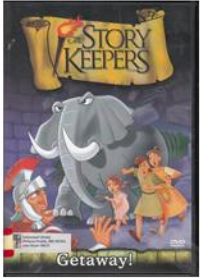


Jesus is
Alive!



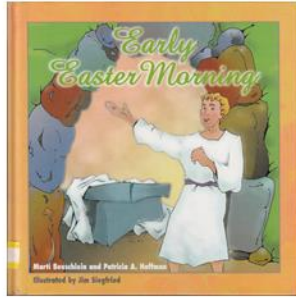
The Time of Easter by Suzanne Richterkessing.. Journey thru church year: Season of Lent, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Day and Ascension Day.

Great book for showing your kids the Journey of Easter. Code: yellow Ric



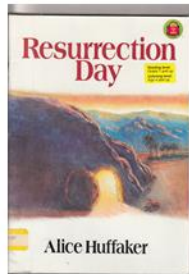
Getaway! From the Story Keepers—25 min. Year is A.D. 64, in Rome the church is under persecution. Helena & others must free their friends from Nero's stockade. Meanwhile overjoyed Cyrus learns that his parents are alive. Ben, a former circus clown plans an unusual rescue. He recalls how Jesus meet his own death on the cross and tells the joyous story how Jesus died and rose again on Easter Sunday.

DVD Code: Red. Sto -2



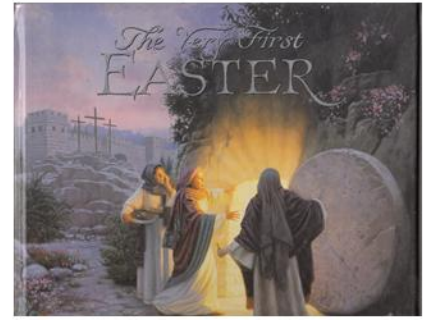
Early Easter Morning by Marti Beuschlein.

This book takes kids ages 2—5 on a walk to the empty tomb. What it must have been to mourn Jesus' death & then learn that He is alive! Celebrate the joy of Jesus' resurrection with Early Easter Morning! Code: yellow Beu

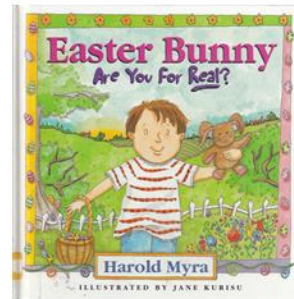


Resurrection Day by Alice Huffaker. Let your kids see the wonder of the first Easter thru eyes of those who were there. Rhyming text and color pictures, simple vocabulary

for young readers. Grade 1 & up.. Listening level ages 4 and up. Code: yellow Huf



The Very First EASTER by Paul Maier. Children's picture book of parents reading the Easter story to their son.. Reading Level is 5- 10 years. Interest level is Ages 5-10 Excellent book for teaching about the Very First Easter. Code: Yellow Mai



Easter Bunny Are you for Real? by Harold Myra. What does the Easter Bunny have to do with Easter? Thru the story & illustrations, they will learn the history behind the holiday & see beyond the commercialism to the true celebration of our risen Christ! Code: yellow Myr.

Code: yellow Myr.



He Knows my name runs for 35 min.

Rebekah is fascinated by Jesus & wants to hear all He has to say. But her mother says some call Him Master and others label Him, heretic—stay away from him, but one day she brings Him home and it will change their lives forever. DVD Code: blue/bl JR teen FFT22



Tomorrow I'll Miss You by Theresa Kelly "Aloha". Cass and her stepsister Tabitha are around 16. Both girls face hard decisions & family struggles as they look to God to lead them where He thinks best & bring them safe-

ly home again.. Youth Fiction from CPH Code: black Kel




Dream a Little Dream by Theresa Kelly. Cass & Tabitha's high school years are coming to an end. Their Mom wants them to think what God wants them to be. They ask God to help the put away habits that do

no please him & learn to dream about becoming women of God Youth fiction from CPH. Black Kel



Parents: Don't assume your child knows why we celebrate Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter, talk to him/her about these days!! The Little Lamb's Library has many books/VHS/DVDs to help you teach your children. Pick something up today. Rejoice: HE IS RISEN!

MARCH 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
Pastor Lee 338-5351 Church Office 338-2511 Charlie/Jodi Klimek, Cust. 338-2929	The Lutheran Hour WCCO Mpls 830 6:05 AM KWAD Wadena 920/1430 8:30 AM KXRA Alex 1490/100.3 6:30 AM KFGO Fargo 790/94.1 7:30 AM KWAD Wadena 920/1430 8:30 AM KPRM Staples 94.7 9:30 AM KMRS Morris 1230/107.7 12:30 PM					7:00 Worship w/Communion <i>6 Confirmation</i> <i>Retreat at LIC</i>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00 Worship w/Communion, also Livestreamed 10:00 Coffee 10:30 Sunday School & Bible Class 7:00 Service on Cable Ch 14	9 District Board 6 PM Women's Bible Study	9:00 Bible Breakfast 1:00 Library Meeting	10 Bible Class at Church & Zoom 3:30 6 th Grade Confirmation 5:00 7 th & 8 th Grade Confirmation 6 PM Soup & Sandwich Supper 7 PM Lent Service	9:00 Footcare 1:00 LWML 2:00 Women's Bible Study		7:00 Worship
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 Worship, also Livestreamed 10:00 Coffee 10:30 Sunday School 7:00 Service on Cable Ch 14	6 PM Women's Bible Study 7 Dartball Tourney @ Deer Creek	9:00 Bible Breakfast	10 Bible Class at Church & Zoom 3:30 6 th Grade Confirmation 5:00 7 th & 8 th Grade Confirmation 6 PM Soup & Sandwich Supper 7 PM Lent Service	11:00 Windmill Ponds Communion 7 PPHS Speech Family & Friends Night	10 LIC Board	7:00 Worship w/Communion
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 Worship w/Communion & Baptism, also Livestreamed 10:00 Coffee 10:30 Sunday School 7:00 Service on Cable Ch 14		8:30 Winkel at Immanuel 9:00 Bible Breakfast	10 Bible Class at Church & Zoom 3:30 6 th Grade Confirmation 5:00 7 th & 8 th Grade Confirmation 6 PM Soup & Sandwich Supper 7 PM Lent Service			9 AM ACT Setup 2 PM Shower 7:00 Friendship Worship
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00 Friendship Sunday Worship, also Livestreamed 10:00 ACT Brunch & Silent Auction 10:30 Sunday School 2:00 St. William's Service 7:00 Service on Cable Ch 14	6 PM Women's Bible Study 7 PPHS Dessert Solo Ensemble	9:00 Bible Breakfast 6:30 ACT Class	10 Bible Class at Church & Zoom 6:30 7 th & 8 th Grade Confirmation Seder Meal 7:30 8 th Grade & Parents Meeting	7 PM Maundy Thursday Last Supper Service	2 PM Good Friday Service 7 PM Good Friday Service	7:00 Easter Vigil Worship w/Communion
31						
7:00 Easter Sunrise Worship 8:00 ACT Light Breakfast 9:00 Worship w/Communion, also Livestreamed 7:00 Service on Cable Ch 14	 					



Immanuel Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

P.O. BOX 66—PARKERS PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 56361

Forwarding & Address Correction Requested

-
- March 24 Palm Sunday, Friendship Sunday 9 AM**
- March 28 Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion 7 PM**
- March 29 Good Friday Tenebrae 2 PM & 7 PM**
- March 30 Easter Vigil 7 PM**
- Holy Week*
- March 31 Easter Sunrise led by ACT Youth 7 AM**
- March 31 Easter Celebration with Holy Communion 9 AM**