

The Visitor

Immanuel Lutheran Church

March 2024 * Volume 63 #3



Lenten Covenants – The Promises of God to Provide for God's People

During Lent this year we meet Tuesday nights for Dinner Church, a potluck meal followed by Holden Evening Prayer worship. The scriptures for worship are Old Testament lessons from the previous Sundays and are about the covenants God made with God's people. (See elsewhere in this month's Visitor for the schedule for Dinner Church this Lent.)

"Covenant" is a blend of agreement, contract, and promise God makes with God's people to make God's own and provide for them.

Here are the Covenants we are looking at this year at Dinner Church, starting a couple weeks back in February when Lent began this year:

- Tue Feb 20 Genesis 9.8-17 The Rainbow as God's promise never to destroy the earth again by flood.
- Tue Feb 27 Genesis 17:1-16 God promises to give Abraham and Sarah children in spite of their old age and make a great people through them.
- Tue Mar 5 Ex 20.1-17 The Law as God's way of showing God's people how to live and not sin.
- Tue Mar 12 Numbers 21.4-9 The Bronze Serpent as a way God provides to heal the people.
- Tue Mar 19 Jeremiah 31.31-34 The Covenant in Our Hearts, as God's promise to make people God's own without having to teach them the whole law. (As Christians we might call think of this as the Holy Spirit we receive in baptism.)

While we won't have Dinner Church during Holy Week (Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services instead), the Old Testament lessons for Palm Sunday and Easter continue the themes of God's provision for God's people:

- Sun Mar 24 Isaiah 50.4-9a (Palm Sunday) God helps God's people and takes away their shame.
- Tue Mar 31 Isaiah 25.6-9 (Easter Sunday) God swallows up death forever and provides a feast for all people.

As you hear these lessons at Dinner Church or in worship Sunday morning or read them at home, consider how has God made you God's own in these promises. How has God provided for you and saved you? How can you live your life out of gratitude for these gifts?

Peace,

Pastor Burgess

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Rev Richard M. Burgess, Pastor: (860) 462-6545 richardmburgess@gmail.com
Diane Murphy, Administrator: (203) 238-1248 office@immanuelmeriden.org

OFFICE HOURS

9 am – 1 pm Monday – Friday

THE NEXT VISITOR

Articles for the April Visitor are due no later than March 21st.

Please submit all articles via email to both Diane Murphy and Pastor Burgess (addresses above). Alternatively, submit hard copy (ie, “paper”) to Diane Murphy. This will avoid miscommunication and make sure all articles get printed in the Visitor each month.

Another way to receive Immanuel's Visitor

If you wish to receive Immanuel's monthly newsletter via email, please email the office at office@immanuelmeriden.org using the email address you want the Visitor sent to. Please note “Visitor email listing” in the subject line.

Current Prayer List

Dawn Aliou; Carmelo Alvarez; Ginette Anziano; Gigi Balducci; Jimmy Burlison; Sabrina Campbell; Helene Campbell & Edwin; Timothy Carmody; Joan Chasse; Charlotte Gardinier; Elliott Gardner; Matthew Gerry; Anthony Grego; Adrian Hyatt; Doreen Jenkins; Carol Kania; Jean & Bob Kozuch; Richard Leherissier; Tammy Luft; Pastor Joey Lugo; Herta Marin; Jan McGrath; Carla McLeod; Dwight McLeod; Connie Mezzio; Oliver; Ann Phipps; Katie Reeves; Raquel Rodriguez; Jaylea Smith; Dawn Stitham; Hillary Taylor; Carolyn Ziemelis; those suffering from environmental disasters; and those suffering from wars, especially the wars in Israel & Ukraine.

Prayer List Updates

Please contact the office if you would like someone added or taken off the prayer list. They need not be only people who need help – prayers of thanksgiving are also welcome.

Church Cancellation - TV - 30

The decision to cancel church in the event of inclement weather will be made by the Pastor and council president. The condition of the parking lot needs to be clear and safe, as well. Simply tune into Channel 30 and look for the cancellation banner 90 minutes or sooner before church or other events at church

Constitution Review Meeting

Constitution review meeting Monday April 29th at 6:30. This will be the last review meeting before Congregational Vote. (meeting TBD)

The Word in Season

The first quarter 2024 addition of The Word in Season (January, February, & March) is now available as you enter the building. Pick up a copy for yourself and a copy to share.

From the Counters

To assist the counters when processing your weekly envelopes, please be sure to write your name on your envelope. If using the green and white envelope please make sure you designate what category you want to assign the amount to. We want to be sure that we document your weekly donation properly.

Thank you for giving to Immanuel.

Lent Dinner Church and Holy Week Schedule

During Lent we are gathering for fellowship and worship Tuesday evenings for Dinner Church: The agenda is simple: pot luck dinner at 5:30 followed by a short worship with scripture, prayer, and singing after dinner at about 6:15.

Tuesday, March 5	5:30	Dinner Church, Augustana Hall
Tuesday, March 12	5:30	Dinner Church, Augustana Hall
Tuesday, March 19	5:30	Dinner Church, Augustana Hall
Thursday, March 28	7:00	Maundy Thursday Worship, Sanctuary
Thursday, March 29	7:00	Good Friday Worship, Sanctuary
Sunday, March 31	9:45	Festive Easter Worship, Sanctuary

Since we are having Dinner Church on Tuesdays in Lent, there will be no Bible Study or Pub Theology in February or March. Both Bible Study and Pub Theology will resume after Easter.

Outreach News

Periodically we take pictures of events that we hold at Immanuel. Some of these pictures may be posted on our Face Book page. If there is anyone who does not want their picture posted on social media please notify the office, Pastor or anyone on Outreach. There will not be pictures posted of anyone under the age of 18

Thanks,
Cindy, Debbie & Lelita

March Fundraiser: A Matching Challenge

Immanuel's Council Committee has pledged to **match** up to a maximum of \$600 in March contingency giving. This will be a total **match** not individual. So, when someone gives \$10.00 to the contingency fund and someone else gives \$55.50, an additional \$65.50 will be given by the members of Council. This is an opportunity to add \$1,200 more toward deficit relief.

To make a qualifying contribution for this matching challenge, give Immanuel a check and make sure to put "Contingency Fund" in the memo field, or if you give online, go to the [Online Giving page of Immanuel's Website](#) and put your donation amount in the box next to "Contingency".

2024 Registration for Calumet

Registration has begun for Resident Camp 2024 at **Calumet**.



A summer full of faith and fun

The cost for one week at resident camp will be \$1050. Transportation is available for an additional fee. Partial camperships are available from Immanuel.

Family summer camping is also an option. To learn more about both of these camping experiences check out their website www.calumet.org

If interested in sending your child(ren) to **Calumet**, please see a member of the Scholarship Committee, prior to June 1st. In addition to children attending camp there is also money available for any Immanuel adult member to attend any church-related workshop, summer school, seminar or other learning event. See any member of the Scholarship Committee.

Stewardship

We Are Called



May the people of Immanuel journey with God through Lent and Holy Week, inspired by the many sacrifices Jesus endured for God's people. Amen and amen!

Instead of giving up something for Lent, consider trying to do more:

- Attend worship more often; 9:45am Sundays, 5:30pm Tuesdays for Dinner Church and the special Holy Week services. Invite family and friends to join you.
- Spend more time reading The Bible and in prayer.
- Borrow, read and return a book or two from Immanuel's library.
- Talk about your faith with others.
- Contribute more financially to ministry at Immanuel. Use the special Lenten/Holy Week envelopes which are included in the box of offering envelopes or available at church. (Contributions made using these special envelopes are given over and above one's pledged offering. Remember to include your name for proper recording.) Consider giving on-line through <http://immanuelmeriden.org>
- Sacrifice some of your time to ponder and complete the ELCA's [Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church Survey \(google.com\)](#) online. The deadline is March 15, 2024. More information about the commission may be found here: [Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America \(elca.org\)](#)

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." Proverbs 11:25
The Stewardship Committee will next meet following worship on March 10, 2024.

Immanuel's Stewardship Team: Beverly Lange, Lelita McKetty, Kyle Fohlin, Pastor Burgess and Kim Freeman

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, 3/10/24

Set clocks ahead 1-hour Saturday night, 3/9

Finance News

At the Annual Meeting on January 21st, the congregation approved a 2024 budget that included a \$5,259 deficit. This deficit figure is much lower than we faced in 2023 so we are confident we can obtain this funding goal. With a deficit budget we must present a plan to make up the amount of the deficit. Our plan this year will be just like last year. We will have an annual appeal to drive extra giving to the Contingency fund so we can easily track our progress and report that progress to the congregation, via the visitor, emails, and our deficit progress graph at Immanuel.

There are many ways to donate. The online giving portal includes the Contingency Fund as a selection, for those with weekly envelopes, each month there is an envelope dedicated to miscellaneous offerings, those envelopes can be used to direct funds to the Contingency Fund. We also have dedicated envelopes in the pew racks in the Sanctuary and in Augustana Hall. There will also be a few fundraisers and challenges planned in the coming months. Based on the calendar year our goal is about \$440.00 per month in contingency donations.

Audit Committee

The audit committee is in need of two volunteers to serve on the Audit Committee for the Year End (2023) Audit and the mid-year 2024 audit. The records for the 2023 end of year audit are ready now, midyear takes place usually in August. The Audit committee meets two times a year to audit Immanuel's books. You do not need accounting experience to participate. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested, please reach out to any member of the Finance Committee.



March Celebrations



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY Anniversary

Kelsey Yammarino	3/01	Richard Burgess	3/13	Heidi and Chris Burlison	3/18
Abigail Andrews	3/04	Michael DuBois	3/14	Katie & David Hall	3/03
Wendy Becker	3/05	Abby Strielkauskas	3/14		
Alan Luft	3/07	Kristin Mastriano	3/15		
Barbara Barnett	3/08	Sarah Gardinier	3/21		
Brayden Hamer	3/08	Diana Clancy	3/21		
Charlene Mrocicka	3/08	Katie Hall	3/23		
Ricki Soucy	3/08	Brayden Corarito	3/27		
Jon Schomer	3/09	Cynthia McCarthy	3/30		
Brady Gianakos	3/10	Mark Becker	3/31		
Gary Olson	3/12				



Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church
164 Hanover Street
Meriden, Connecticut 06451
Telephone: 203-238-1248

2024 Easter Lily Order Form

(Please return by March 20th to offering plate or secretary inbox with payment)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

In Memory /Honor circle one

of: _____

Quantity: _____

Order Total: (\$15.00ea.) _____



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Box Top Labels

Thank you to the congregation and friends for participating in the Box Tops for Education program. This is a project that my mother, Ruth Tozier, started many years ago. A collection box is attached to the bulletin board, outside Augustana Hall. Please continue to save your grocery receipts for this worthy cause. Once the receipts are scanned credit is given to the Navajo Lutheran Mission in Arizona.

THE NEW BOX TOPS LABELS



Eventually the Box Tops program will become digital-only. Participating brands are starting to change their packaging from a traditional Box Tops clip to the new Box Tops label.

If you see this label, use the new Box Tops app to scan your receipt.

Box Tops are still worth 10¢ for your school. The app will find participating products purchased at any store and instantly add cash to your school's earnings online.

It's the easiest way to earn for your school: just use the Box Tops mobile app to scan your store receipt. It automatically finds participating products and instantly adds 10¢ Box Tops to your school's earnings online. No clipping required!



The grocery receipt needs to be scanned within 2 weeks of purchasing. This box top is useless without the receipt. Thank you for saving your grocery receipts.

If you download the app, the zip code for the Navajo School is 86545. If you do not want to or know how to download the app, you can place your receipt in the collection box and I will upload the receipt. Just a reminder, if you are collecting this box top label, please supply your grocery receipt for scanning.

Cindy McCarthy



March 2024

Immanuel Lutheran Church
164 Hanover Street, Meriden, CT
06451
203-238-1248

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 10am Library Group	2 10am NA 7pm NA
3 9:45am Worship 5pm Pent Serv. 5:30pm NA	4 7pm Women's Area NA Mtg	5 5:30 Dinner Church	6 7pm Pentecostal Service 7pm NA	7 6:00pm Cove 7pm NA	8 10am Library Group	9 9am Property Inside Work Day 10am NA 7pm NA
10 9:45am Worship 11am Stewardship Mtg 5pm Pent Serv 5:30pm NA	11 6pm Property Mtg	12 5:30 Dinner Church	13 7pm Pentecostal Service 7pm NA	14 6:30pm Council 7pm NA	15 10am Library Group	16 10am NA 7pm NA
17 5pm Pent Serv 5:30pm NA	18	19 5:30 Dinner Church	20 7pm Pentecostal Service 7pm NA	21 6:00pm Cove 6:30pm Action 13 7:00 pm Finance 7pm NA	22 10am Library Group	23 10am NA 7pm NA
24 9:45am Palm Sunday Worship 5pm Pent Serv. 5:30pm NA	25	26	27 7pm Pentecostal Service 7pm NA	28 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship	29 10am Library Group 7pm Good Friday Worship	30 10am NA 7pm NA
31 9:45am Easter Worship 5pm Pent Serv. 5:30pm NA						

