

A Message from Pastor Callahan

March 2020

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."

— John 15:12-13

Dear Friends of Immanuel,

As I write this month's article, we are standing at the beginning of the Lenten season. Today is Ash Wednesday, and the words chosen for this month's consideration are a good reminder of just what this season is all about. This season is one where we take a little bit more time, think a little bit more deeply, and consider for just a little while longer the fuller implications of our sin. This is a season when we spend more time in the Lord's house, hearing the proclamation of His Law and Gospel. This is a season of repentance.

But I will never forget, during my time in college, as I studied for seminary preparation the proclamation of one of my pastoral professors. Lent is also a season of restrained joy. For those who do not understand it, Lent can look like an odd time. We hear a lot about the impending death of the Son of God. We think more about sin and repentance. Some of you may have even give something up for the season as a reminder of the ultimate sacrifice given us by our Lord. But this season is also about receiving. In fact, the entirety of our Christian lives is about receiving! We receive, from our Lord, the bounteous gifts that He gives us each and every

day. Luther talks about them extensively in his explanation of the First Article; "clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have."

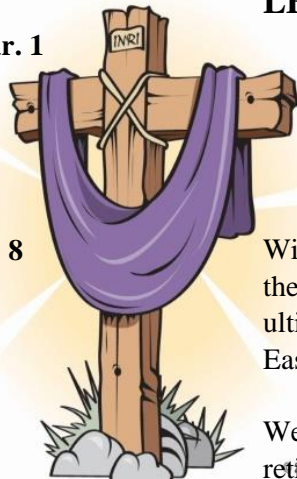
But this season, as we take a deeper look at the blessings of our Lord, we are reminded more blatantly of the gift that not only supports our lives in this world, but gives us the hope for life eternal in the next. "Greater love has no one than this", Jesus says, "that someone lay down his life for his friends." And that is just what He does for you. That is the purpose of this Lenten season. As you gathered together on Ash Wednesday to receive the mark of the cross upon your forehead in ash, it served as a reminder of our repentance for the sins that we commit that will, one day, be the reason that we return to the ground from whence our first parents were formed. But it serves also as a reminder of the love show for us in Christ Jesus' sacrifice upon that old instrument of torture, the cross, in order that we, you and I, might have the hope and promise of forgiveness, life, and salvation that flow freely from it.

May the Lenten season prepare your hearts and minds for the reception of the gifts the Lord loves to give to you, His children. May the restrained joy of this season show forth in your lives through both word and deed. May the hope that you have, the love shown you in Christ Jesus' sacrifice of body and blood for you, help you to show love to all those you encounter this season and always! Amen.

In the love of Christ,
Pastor Callahan

SPECIAL DATES IN MARCH:

- LWML Mite Collection Sunday, **Mar. 1**
- First Sunday in Lent, **Mar. 1**
- World Day of Prayer, **Mar. 6**
- Second Sunday in Lent, **Mar. 8**
- Pi Day, **Mar. 8**
- Daylight Savings Time begins, **Mar. 8**
- Third Sunday in Lent, **Mar. 15**
- First Day of Spring, **Mar. 19**
- Fourth Sunday in Lent, **Mar. 22**
- Fifth Sunday in Lent, **Mar. 29**
- ILS Sunday, **Mar. 29**
- Parish Education's Monical's Day, **Mar. 31**



LENTEN SERVICES:

*When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.*
LSB 425, vs 1

With Ash Wednesday, we have moved into the time of the Church year, where we prepare our hearts for the ultimate victory over death – our Lord's resurrection on Easter.

We will be marking Lent with special Wednesday evening services. Pastor Ed Morrow is a retired pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Lafayette, IN. He will be leading our Lenten services. They will be held every Wednesday at 6:30 pm now through April 1.

I've heard people say they don't like Lent. It's so somber and depressing. And in a way, it should be. After all, we spend the time of Lent to look back on Christ's willingness to be tried, convicted and crucified what our sins – what could be more somber than someone else being will to serve the sentence for our wrongdoings. But unlike Jesus' followers at the time, we know the end of the story, the joy of Easter when our Alleluias return to our worship.

Therefore, it's a good idea for us to use this time of Lent to reflect on what Christ did for us. And though we can do nothing to make ourselves worthy of receiving this gift of eternal life with Him, we can take this time of Lent to reflect on how we can better be appreciative of this gift by the thoughts and actions in our daily lives, both in service to Him and to one another.

Please join us for our midweek Lenten services on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Wednesdays: **Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25 & Apr. 1**; Maundy Thursday: Apr. 9 & Good Friday: **Apr. 10**.

HELP US CARE FOR YOU: *Your well-being is important to us and we want to pray for you!* When you or a family member is hospitalized, we want to serve you with prayers and visits. Unfortunately, we are no longer notified by the hospital; please call the church office when you have any medical/surgical procedure or in any time of spiritual need at **217-442-5675**.



Prayer requests: we are certainly pleased to pray for your (non-member) family and friends alongside our Immanuel members. Please keep us informed of their needs.

SEE(K) FIRST: On Facebook, I can "follow" as many people as I want, viewing their messages, photos and activities. But I can choose only 30 to "see first" — that is, to prioritize in my news feed. As of this writing (Facebook changes often), if my "see first" list is full and I want to add someone new, I must "unprioritize" someone else. That leads me to ponder bigger matters: I often claim to follow Jesus, but what might I need to "unprioritize" to make him not just a priority but *the* priority in my life? To what do I devote time and attention but ought to let go to follow Christ more closely? What activities, behaviors and values do I need to not just bump from my "see first" list but "unfollow" or "block" entirely? Perhaps they are antithetical to discipleship or simply take too much time away from prayer, Scripture and service. This dilemma isn't unique to the digital age. Facebook parlance is about what we "see first," but in Matthew 6:33 Jesus says, "*Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness*" —Heidi Mann

THRIVENT MEMBERS: Your 2019 Thrivent Choice Dollars expire March 31! Please designate them to Immanuel or your favorite charity! Also, please keep in mind that you have 2 Action Teams per year. Start thinking of project you would like support! If you have any questions, talk to Sue Heidle. Thanks!

ECHO

UNBROKEN
TRUTH.
WORTH
REPEATING.
AGAIN.

JONATHAN FISK

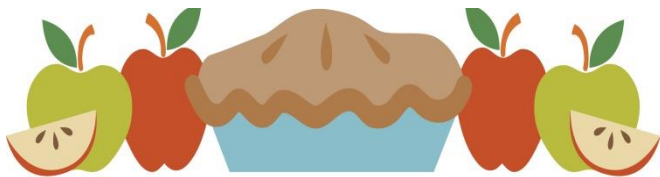
ADULT BIBLE STUDY

will begin a new topic in March: **Echo: Unbroken Truth. Worth Repeating. Again.** Christianity is not the ability to memorize or recite from books of Scripture or doctrine. It is not magic. It is not a social club, counseling group, or self-help support group. It does not promise that you will be healthy, wealthy, wise, or even happy. Christianity is a truth—a truth first heard at the beginning of time that

has echoed to this present age. A truth so profound that no man can master it, yet even a child can learn it.

MEN'S CLUB will meet **Mar. 9** at 6 pm. Our guest speaker is John Kruger of Kruger's ATA Martial Arts. He will share some methods of self-defense with us. Women of Immanuel are also invited to attend John's presentation, beginning at about 6:30 pm. *Please join us!*

MMMMM... PIE! PI Day is Mar. 14. If you are a pie baker, please bring some delicious pies on **Mar. 8** to the board room. If you are a pie eater, please stop by after church to purchase a pie for just \$10. All proceeds go to the new school windows.



POSITIONS AVAILABLE: ILS is looking for an administrator for the 2020-2021 school year. A job description is available in the church or school office. We are also in need of a teacher's aide for our two year old classroom. The position is for Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8 am to 3 pm, pays \$9.25 an hour and runs through the end of May. If you or someone you know may be interested in either position, please contact Gail Garner by phone at 442-5036 or email him at: ilcd.christianeducation@gmail.com.

SUPPLIES NEEDED: ILS is looking for a few supplies to help out our teachers in the classrooms: Lysol spray and disinfecting wipes (we want to keep the sickness away!), Dixie cups, napkins, and baby wipes. While you are shopping if you could pick some up that would be a great help! Thanks for your continued support of our Lutheran Education!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME begins Sunday, **Mar. 8**. Please remember to move your clocks ahead one hour Saturday evening, Mar. 7 before you go to bed to **Spring FORWARD!!**

WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS:

- The March meeting of the Women's Guild is again a luncheon meeting on **Mar. 10** at 11:30 am. We hope everyone can come and bring a dish to pass. Hostesses Donna and Diana will provide dessert.
- Our March ingathering is for the Children's Backpack Program. We are collecting the following items: 10.5 oz. soups (tomato, chicken noodle, vegetable), 15 oz. pork & beans, snack pack pudding (4 packs), fruit cups (4 oz. 4 packs), Mac & cheese cups (4 packs).
- Ladies, coming soon to your mailboxes...Lenten resources and convention info!

MISSION: MILITARY BIBLE STICK!

Once again we have the opportunity to partner with *Faith Comes By Hearing* to provide *Military Bible Sticks* for the men and women of our nation's military and their families. Just \$25 will give a soldier a Bible Stick (digital audio of the New Testament and selected Psalms on a device the size of a pack of gum!); and an audio Bible for their spouse and a Children's Bible for their children. We will take donations as a special Lenten mission beginning next



Sunday, **Mar. 1**. Donation inserts will be available next week – if you would like to make your donation in honor or memory of a loved one, write it down on your donation and we will display a certificate on a *tribute wall*. Pray for this great mission and outreach with God's Word!

PARISH EDUCATION NEWS:

- **March is Icebox Cookie month!** Place your orders at the table in the Chapel hallway on **Mar. 1, 8, & 15**. Cookies/cookie dough rolls will be ready for pickup on Sunday, **Mar. 22** after the service. Parish Ed members will prepare and bake on Friday, **Mar. 21** and Saturday, **Mar. 22**. If you are interested in helping one or both days, contact Diana Pratt for times and details.
- **Monical's Day** is **Mar. 31!** Flyers, which you must take with you, will be distributed in your church mailbox soon. You can go to any Monical's location with the flyer and a percentage of your meal is donated to Immanuel! Invite your neighbors or friends out to a delicious dinner and support our Parish Education programs!
- **Rainforest Explorers** VBS is coming in June. Plan now to volunteer. If you are interested in helping to plan this event, contact Diana Pratt. Please save paper towel rolls for a VBS project. Place them in the labeled tote in the coat room.



OUR SPRING RUMMAGE SALE is Apr. 18 – *save the date!!* You may bring items for the sale and place them behind the big curtain on the stage anytime. Plan now to volunteer - we'll need help sorting items and baked goods for the bake sale. Thanks!

CID LWML MITE BYTES: *Mission Grant #8 – Creating a Lutheran Library for East African Pastors - \$5,000*

Pastors teach the catechism, train the little ones, and guide the flock, but imagine doing so without books in the language of your people. Pastors in East African countries face this challenge daily while ministering to Swahili-speaking people. This grant would help provide Swahili language theology books for pastors in Kenya and Tanzania.

How can I help? Pray that God provides the East African pastors the theology books, support, and comfort during their ministry to their people. Support this grant by donating to your church's LWML society mite fund.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: During the month of March, Sunday School children will investigate two cases. The first is "The Case of the Oil and Bandages: Good Samaritan". We will learn that God desires that we show mercy and compassion and serve our neighbor, just as His Son had mercy on us. The second case is "The Case of the Dried Palms: Triumphal Entry". We will celebrate that Jesus is the one true King of heaven and earth, worthy of praise and worship. Sunday School children will sing in church on **Mar. 22**.

DIRECTORY UPDATES: Please note the following address change in your copy of the church phone directory: **Alice Barnes** has moved to The Villas of Holly Brook, 2215 N. Bowman Avenue, Apt. 41, Danville, IL 61832. Her phone number is 260-9856. Please contact Kim in the church office if your information changes or is listed incorrectly. *Thank you!*



CAPITAL FUND DRIVE: In February, we had fundraiser events for the school windows on the west side of the building. The Super Bowl Subs and the Sweetheart Bake Sale raised over \$800! Our balance is \$48,700 to be used for this project. The Board of Directors voted to use up to \$15,000 of the bequest funds for this project. We have a signed contract with Arrow Glass to replace *all* the windows on the west side of the building. They have committed to do the work over spring break (week of March 23). When you see Wayne Mann, please thank him for all his hard work and determination to get a signed contract! The Capital Fund Drive committee has selected the following as our next projects: refurbishing the church sound system, new guttering on the school, and replacing the northern portion of the parking lot (not necessarily in that order). Properties will continue getting bids for this work. For more information, updates and pictures of capital fund events, there is a Capital Fund Drive bulletin board in the hallway between the coat room and the parish mailboxes. There is a list of the windows yet to be replaced. ***We thank you all for your continued support of the Capital Fund Drive!!*** Prior generations worked and sacrificed to build the school/church building, and it is up to us to preserve and improve our church home just as we would our own households. It's not too late to pledge/donate – all donations from large to small are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Jo Van Hoveln or any of the committee members (complete list is on the bulletin board). Our next meeting is **Apr. 16** at 6:30 pm.

GIFT (SCRIP) CARDS: The next scrip order is due to the church office by 1 pm on **Mar. 9**. This order will be available for pick up on **Mar. 15** or in the church office after that. Each vendor gives us a percentage of the face value of the card which is our *profit*; it can vary anywhere from 1.5% to 14%. This provides an extra \$700 to \$1,000 income a year for the church, and it could be much more if more people utilized this opportunity. Orders are not limited to the vendors listed on the order blank; if you want to order a vendor not listed, see if it is available at: www.shopwithscrip.com. Write the name of the vendor, denomination of the gift card, number of cards wanted, and total amount on a blank line of the order form. There are cards available **every Sunday** in the hallway and in the church office during the week.

HOG ROAST PLANNING: Please join us right after the Capital Fund meeting on **Apr. 16** to begin planning this event and setting the event date. Anyone wishing to help the planning is welcome to attend; it should start around 7:00 pm (maybe a few minutes earlier). If you have any suggestions or comments about last year's events, please talk to Jo Van Hoveln so they may be shared.

CALL COMMITTEE: The following letter was sent to us from the President of the Central Illinois District, Rev. Mark Miller.

Beloved in the Lord,

The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, rest on you to comfort you and grant you peace in your endeavors embarked in His holy name.

I have devoted myself to prayer in your behalf so the God's man for you, and in service to Him and you, might be among the present offered candidates. I am confident that as you pray and, by His Spirit, you walk according to His will, He will bless His Church. These are men who have made vows and promises to be guided by His Word and ways.

Rev. Joseph Barlau
Rev. Mark Barz
Rev. Gerard Bolling
Rev. Matthew Canaday
Rev. Neil Carlson
Rev. Mark Gruden
Rev. Nickolas Kooi

Rev. Jonathon Kuehne
Rev. Alexander Post
Rev. Kenneth Reohrig
Rev. Joshua Schultz
Rev. Christopher Stout
Rev. Matthew Ulmer
Rev. Brian Weaver

The true and Triune God, Father, Son, and Spirit, be with you and bless you in this endeavor!

The Call Committee has been reviewing information on all of the candidates and will begin interviews soon. Please continue to pray for Immanuel, the candidates, and the Call Committee!



MAKE MUSIC TO THE LORD

People of the Bible used many different instruments to worship God through music.

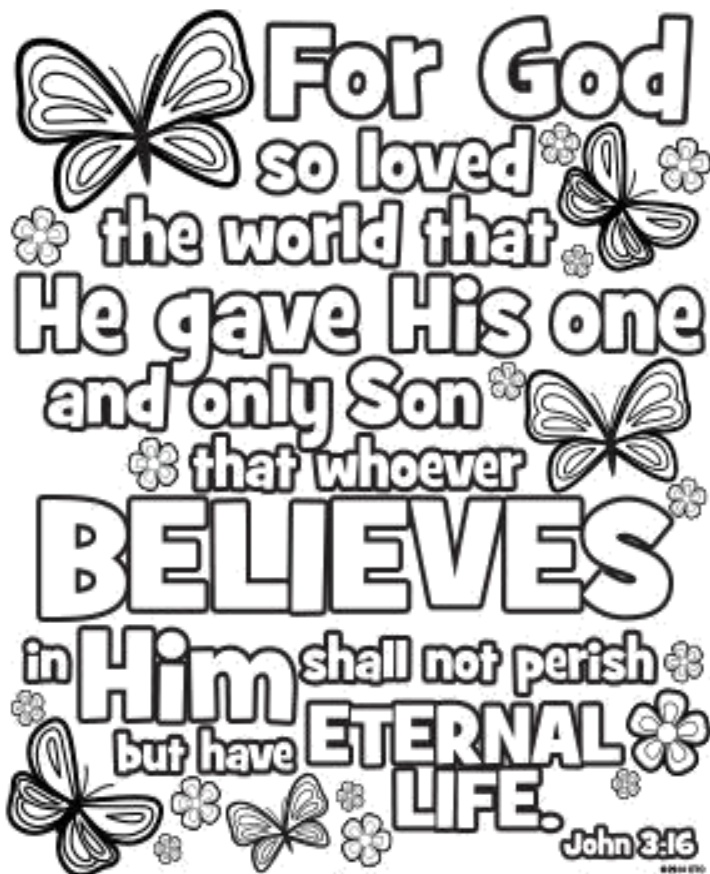
Directions: Using the clues, unscramble the names of instruments found in Psalm 150. Then write the circled letters in order in the spaces below to complete verse 6.



A type of horn	_____ <input type="checkbox"/>	MURTETP
Played by King David	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	PRHA
Plucked to make sound	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	IGSNSTR
Similar to a tambourine	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	MRBELIT
A type of harp	_____ <input type="checkbox"/>	ELRY
Blown through to make sound	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	EPPI
A percussion instrument	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	YBLACMS

Le_ everyt_ing tha_ has _r_ath
_raise the _ORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

Answer: trumpet, harp, strings, timbrel, lyre, pipe, cymbals; Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV



Immanuel Lutheran School News



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- Folk Dancing Night, March 13, 6:00
- Spring Break, March 23-27
- Early Registration has begun

Listening to Haydn's "Surprise" Symphony:



It puts us to sleep, then...



SURPRISE! It wakes us up!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

In like a lion, out like a lamb, it must be March. The school year is passing rapidly. We are almost to the end of the third quarter, March 11. Spring Break will begin at the conclusion of school on March 20 and run through March 29. There are a couple of activities I would like to draw your attention to. First is our Family Folk Dancing Night on Friday, March 13. Mrs. Wells promises that it will be a fun activity for the whole family. Second, the students will get to view a portable planetarium from the Rockford Children's Museum on Wednesday, April 1. This was made possible by a Title 1 grant. We were also able to purchase an additional industrial refrigerator for the school to kitchen with a grant from CID. Also, please remember to pre-register your children for the 2020/2021 school year. We are hoping to expand our preschool classes so it would really help us as we plan for the future.

Yours in Christ,

Gail Garner, Director of Christian Education

MUSIC NOTES

We have been working on many circle dances in music class. Circle dances are a great way for children to learn to work together, to see everyone, listen and move expressively to the music, and to feel a sense of belonging. Dancing in a circle ignites our brain to work at its fullest capacity. Plus circle dances are a lot of FUN! The children will be learning the circle & folk dances that we will be dancing to on Folk Dancing Night, so that they can help teach you! We hope you come and enjoy the benefits & sense of togetherness folk dancing provides.

March is also Music in Our Schools Month. We celebrate music to prepare children to become musical in 3 ways: Tuneful, Beat-ful, & Artful. They will grow into adults who are Tuneful so they can sing lullabies to babies, sing Happy Birthday, and sing during worship. Adults who are Beat-ful can dance at a wedding, or clap on the beat at a sporting event or concert. Adults who are Artful enjoy listening to and are moved by music.

We will be making music in many different ways. Students will be playing bells, boom-whackers, drums, ukuleles, singing, dancing, reading music, writing music, and composing music as well as listening to music from famous Classical Composers such as Vivaldi, Haydn, Beethoven, & Mozart. We will be making a large school staff that the children will be adding rhythmic notes to that they have decorated.

PREKINDERGARTEN CLASSES

March is going to be a busy month for the preschoolers. We will be celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday with green eggs and ham. We will also be reading many books by Dr. Seuss. If you are interested in reading to our class on March 11th, please let Mrs. Hammer know. We are learning the letters R, S and T and the number 7 for this month. The class is working hard on identifying their letters and numbers. We have made vast improvements from the beginning of the year.

The Pre-K has had a very busy February. We learned about Martin Luther King, Jr. We know that God loves and forgives everyone. We had a very fun Valentine's Day party. A big thank you to our great parents who help with supplies and at our parties. We have learned about our presidents, especially George Washington and Abraham Lincoln and different symbols of our country. We continue to work on our letters and their sounds as well as our numbers. We have added 3 new friends to our class: Ryker, Zeke and Easton. This year is really flying by. We are ready for spring!

Chapel Offering Update: For the 3rd quarter our weekly chapel offerings have been going to Hershey Medical Center. This Hospital is partnered with Penn State and is a research hospital for children with cancer and other childhood diseases. Each week your child learns about another aspect of this hospital. We have 3 more weeks to help this great organization. Our 4th quarter mission will be for Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in Minot, ND. Whereas HMC helps younger children, this organization helps older children. Thank you for all your support with our mission projects this year.

Your child received a pamphlet from Camp Cilca in Cantrall, IL. This camp does have offerings for summer camps for all children ages 3 year olds on up. The Generations camp and Pathfinders pertain to our students but older siblings may be interested in other camps available.

EARLY ELEMENTARY

This month, in both Kindergarten and First Grade math, we will be focusing on identifying and extending patterns with objects, sounds, and movement. We are switching our focus in science and beginning a new unit investigating matter. We are also beginning a new unit in social studies learning about different cultures all over the world. Our class is most looking forward to the warmer weather that is sure to be on its way this month!





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March 2020

March 1 (Matthew 4:1-11)

“Tempting Lies”

By Rev. Paul E. Shoemaker, Emanuel Lutheran Church~New Haven, IN

Have you ever been tempted to sin? We all have. And Satan, the father of lies, will lie to us to tempt us to sin. Jesus shows us how to resist temptation by relying on God’s Word for help, strength, and guidance.

March 8 (John 3:1-17)

“Good News for You!”

By Rev. William Mueller, Suburban Bethlehem Church~Fort Wayne, IN

John 3:1-17 contain some of the most loved and treasured words of Scripture. We are right to dearly treasure these words! And these aren’t just words on a page, they are a description of how much our God and Savior loves us. This, indeed, is Good News for You!

March 15 (Romans 5:1-8)

“Under Construction”

By Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer, Holy Cross Lutheran Church~Fort Wayne, IN

Rejoice in the midst of sufferings? Impossible! *Unless* we understand that God accomplishes miracles in our lives through suffering, how suffering means that our lives are Under Construction.

March 22 (John 9:3)

“Displaying God’s Works”

By Rev. Dr. Walter A. Maier III, Concordia Theological Seminary~Fort Wayne, IN

Those who are or will be hospitalized, homebound, in a nursing home, or in some other way limited or restricted can be susceptible to feeling useless. But for the person who has faith in Jesus, no matter what the circumstances are, life always has a purpose. God uses each believer to display His wonderful divine works.

March 29 (John 11:25-26)

“Now What?”

Rev. Thomas Eggold, Emmanuel Lutheran Church~Fort Wayne, IN

Death and the horrible separation it brings are not what God intended for His creation and it causes confusion in the most ardent believer. This is what the death of the Lazarus did to his sister Martha. Yet Jesus entered into her confusion and despair and He spoke words of life that changed everything.



Elders

Mar. John Albers, Don DeMoss, Ken Kuhn

Communion Assistants

Mar. 1 Dwain Dixon, David Ammermann
 15 Wayne Mann, Don DeMoss
 29 John Albers, Al Julian

Ushers

Mar. **Team "C"**
 Capt. Kurt Thornsborough, Paul Pasquale, Don Page, Butch Buesing

Note: Lent Mar. 04 6:30 pm Team "D"
 Lent Mar. 11 6:30 pm Team "B"
 Lent Mar. 18 6:30 pm Team "A"
 Lent Mar. 25 6:30 pm Team "E"

Lay Readers

Mar. 1 John & Terri Albers
 6:30 pm 4 Bruce Burton
 8 David & Tina Ammermann
 6:30 pm 11 Susan DeMoss
 15 Dwain Dixon
 6:30 pm 18 Carrie Farrell
 22 Mike & Sue Heidle
 6:30 pm 25 Carol Johnston
 29 Gail & Barb Garner

Greeters

Mar. 1 Narthex John & Marcy Heeren
 Chapel Kitty Lee
 8 Narthex Charles Vollmer family
 Chapel Charlotte Schendel
 15 Narthex Bill & Joyce Martin
 Chapel Carl & Jerry Young
 Walter Harbison
 22 Narthex Gary & Sarah Stuhr
 Chapel Carol Johnston
 29 Narthex *Volunteer needed!*
 Chapel Dianne Seibert, Roger Seibert

Acolytes

Mar.	Sundays	Wednesdays
1	Josey Clem	4 Zachary Davis
8	Rhylie Beauvois	11 Quentin Alblinger
15	Kyla Culotti	18 Noah Christensen
22	Hannah Christensen	25 Zachary Davis
29	Deegan Culotti	

Altar Guild

Mar. Tina Ammermann, Kathy Christensen

Money Counters

Mar. Team "C" Mary Powell, Dianne Seibert

Check Signers

Mar. Carol Johnston, Sharon Glossinger

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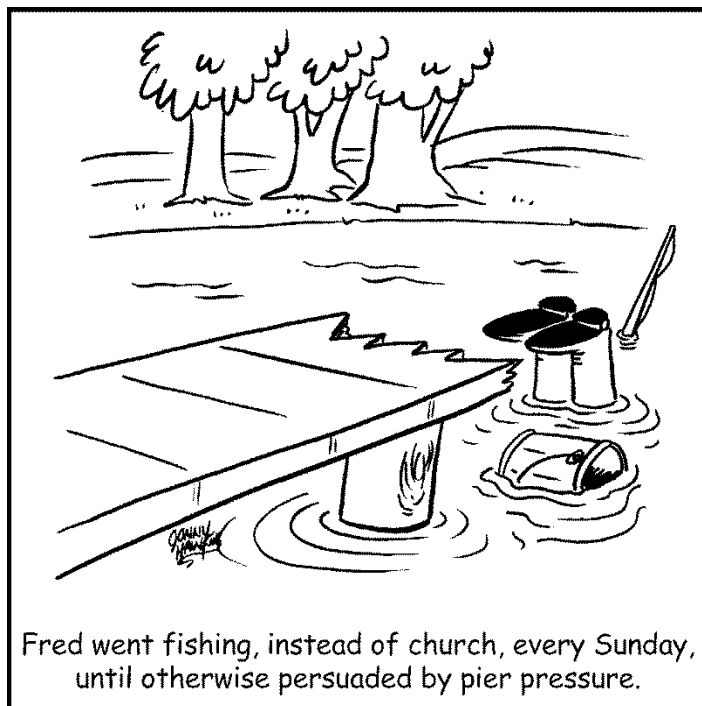
?? ? Bible Quiz ? ? ?

Who came to Jesus by night to ask him questions, and what famous Bible verse was part of Jesus' answer?

- A. Martha; "I am the resurrection and the life ..."
- B. Peter; "Do to others what you would have them do ..."
- C. Thomas; "I am the way and the truth and the life ..."
- D. Nicodemus; "For God so loved the world ..."



Answer: D (See John 3:1-16.)



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*Our March 2020 newsletter
prepared prayerfully for:*

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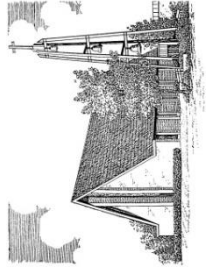
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GOD WITH US



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217.442-5036



Worship Schedule

Sunday Mornings
Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22 &
29 @ 8:30 am

Evenings
Mar. 4, 11, 18 & 25
at 6:30 pm

Worship

Communion Schedules
Mar. 1, 15 & 29
8:30 am

