

# THE BEACON

IMMANUEL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

February/March

## PASTOR'S DESK *Being Transformed*

*All this pain,  
I wonder if I'll ever find my way;  
I wonder if my life could really change, at all.  
All this earth,  
could all that is lost ever be found?  
could a garden come out from this ground, at all?*

*You make beautiful things;  
You make beautiful things out of the dust.  
You make beautiful things;  
You make beautiful things out of us.*

*All around,  
hope is springing up from this old ground;  
out of chaos life is being found, in you.*

*- Beautiful Things by Michael Gungor*

To God's beloved at Immanuel,

Though it seems we have only just taken down the last of our Christmas decorations and finished celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus, we are well on our way into this new year, and the season of Lent is just around the corner. Leading up to the remembrance of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, Lent is traditionally a season of self-reflection, repentance, and forgiveness.

This year, we will explore these themes with a particular eye toward God's work in the midst of our sin - our failures and mistakes, our brokenness and need. We don't enter into this season of confession to wallow in our guilt and sin, but to be forgiven, and to be made open to the transformative work of God's love in our lives. making all things new - even us.

Throughout our mid-week services, (in addition to Holden Evening Prayer, obviously!), we will consider God's work through scripture and with the help of some wonderful children's books. These are the books that will guide us:

*The book of Mistakes* by Corinna Luyken - is a playful story which shows readers that even the biggest "mistakes" can be redeemed. Not just "fixed," but redeemed, made into something new and beautiful that couldn't have been dreamed had the mistake never been made.

*One* by Kathryn Otoshi - is a story about what happens to us and to our relationships when we give into our basest human impulses and how together, in community, we can build each other up and help one another to be the best, most authentic versions of ourselves.

*The Rabbit Listened* by Cori Doerrfeld - is a sweet story about how to be loving and compassionate toward the people in our lives, being quick to listen and slower to speak.

*Words and Your Heart* by Kate Jane Neal - is a story about our hearts (the little bit inside of you that makes you, you!) and how the words that we speak and the words we listen to can affect how we feel and act. What would it be like if the words we listened most closely to were the words of God?

*I Have a Little Problem, Said the Bear* by Heinz Janisch - is a lovely story about living together in community and caring for the needs of others.

I hope you will join us in faithful community and worship this blessed season.

With all love, grace, and mercy,  
Pastor Sierra

# BUSINESS

## COUNCIL BUZZ

### YOUR 2023 COUNCIL:

Dan Hartog	Sarah Bauer
Cathi Nehring	Janie Richardson
Colleen Hendershot	Donna Oslund
Colleen Sinell	

These elected members of the Immanuel Lutheran Church Council are hard at work on your behalf, taking care of day to day operations such as paying bills, maintaining the building, praying for the congregation and growing together in leadership so that our whole congregation might be able to focus on being grounded in Worship and Fellowship and Service to our Neighbor. Thank you for your prayer and support as they go about their duties.

### UPDATE TO CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Every ELCA Congregation is governed by a Constitution and Bylaws. The Constitution is largely decided on by our Churchwide body, which meets in assembly every three years. It then becomes our responsibility to keep our congregation's Constitution up to date after changes are made at the Churchwide level. Our Bylaws are specific to and crafted by our congregation and address the day to day structure and functioning of our congregation. The Constitution and Bylaws are voted on by the congregation and then submitted to our Synod. Ours are in need of an update and we have just the team for the job! Genea Howe, Donna Oslund, Colleen Sinell, and Shirley Zierke will be hard at work over these next months with the goal of presenting the updated documents at our Annual Meeting in October.

There will be an information/question & answer session in late summer/early fall. If you are interested in viewing the most recent model constitution voted on and approved by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, you can find it at [elca.org/constitution](http://elca.org/constitution).

*Keep up to date!  
Monthly Council Meeting minutes  
can be found on the bulletin board  
in the Fellowship Hall.*

**THANK YOU!**

## GIVING GENEROUSLY

Thank you for your financial commitment to Immanuel! None of our ministries could happen without your generous contributions.

Your gifts and offerings help to keep the lights on and building humming so that we can gather in Worship together, come together for Quilting and Bible Study, teach our children the stories of our faith and explore that faith with our youth, host meals and events for the community and so much more. Thank you for making all this possible!

### A new year, a new opportunity to give!

As we settle into this new year and come into tax season, it is a great time to assess our giving. We are looking at the nitty gritty of our finances anyway, right?! Maybe this year is the right time for you/your family to make a renewed or increased commitment to financially supporting the ministry at Immanuel.

### 2023 Needed Weekly Average Giving

*(to meet 2023 budget as approved by the congregation at the 2021 Annual Meeting)*

**\$2,891.12**

*If you have not yet switched to online giving,  
maybe now is the time. It's simple!*

*Go to [immanuellutheranbrunswick.com](http://immanuellutheranbrunswick.com)  
and click on "GIVE"*





# PEOPLE OF IMMANUEL

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

February 3—Liam Stromberg  
 February 6—Phyllis Bergren; Landon Schoumaker  
 February 22—Dylan Smith; Kay Speers  
 February 23—Nichole O'Bert  
 February 25—Joe Oslund  
 February 27—Cathy Bergren

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS!

March 1—Dale Doerr  
 March 2—Karen Dare; Graham Maciej  
 March 7—Jenna Maciej  
 March 8—Lindsey Atchison  
 March 11—Jim Nelson  
 March 12—Ben Bauer  
 March 13—Rod Minnich; Shelby Atchison  
 March 17—Janie Richardson  
 March 21—Travis Stromberg  
 March 27—Roger Peysar

*\*If we have accidentally left your birthday off the list or mixed up the dates (in this newsletter or in the past), please let the office know so that we can correct our records.*



## New Address for KAREN DARE

Karen has moved! Send her a card or give her a call:

11124 183rd Circle NW - Unit 304  
 Elk River, MN 55330  
 Phone: 763-441-3525

## LET US PRAY . . .

*As we turn our hearts to prayer, we remember those who are dear to us, especially those who have asked for the prayers of this congregation.*

Gwen Johnsen  
 John M.  
 Nancy Jacobson  
 Jack Stephens  
 Eli Nelson  
 Mel Pioske  
 Eldon Duke

Teri Svendsen  
 Dale Doerr  
 Al Dockendorf  
 Wilson Hartog  
 Emily Hartog  
 Bruce Wenberg



## NEW MEMBERS

Are you new to our worshipping community?  
 Have you given any thought to becoming a member of Immanuel Lutheran Brunswick?

Talk to Pastor Sierra today! We would love to officially welcome you to our church.

New members will be recognized and welcomed in worship this spring.

## SHOP IMMANUEL LUTHERAN MERCH



\$15-\$22

T-Shirts



\$14

Hats



\$28-\$34

Sweatshirts

we have shirts. we have sweatshirts. we have hats. we have aprons. we have tote bags. we have mugs. we have stickers.  
 shop NOW at [ImmanuelLutheranBrunswick.com](http://ImmanuelLutheranBrunswick.com)



# LOVE THY NEIGHBOR



Pack again soon! | fmsc.org

Boxes Packed: 103  
Meals: 22,248  
Kids Fed For A Year: 61  
Cost: \$5,339.52

## FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Did you know that we have a couple of Immanuel families who volunteer every month at Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapids?

They pack rice meals that are then distributed around the globe to people in need! If you are interested in volunteering at Feed My Starving Children, check them out online.



## CHRISTMAS FAMILIES

Each Christmas, Immanuel is blessed to be able to share with families in our community. This year, we were able to provide Christmas gifts - toys and games and sleds, warm boots and coats and socks, along with Gift Cards for Christmas Dinner for **EIGHT** families! What a gift to be able to share God's love in these tangible ways at this time of year.



## QUILTS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Over 80 quilts were lovingly made, blessed and donated to local organizations this year! God bless you in your ministry, quilters!



## COFFEE TREATS

Your weekly donations to the coffee treat mug support the *Home Mission Fund*, *Kanabec County Food Pantries*, *ELCA World Hunger*, and the *Crisis Pregnancy Center*. Thank you.



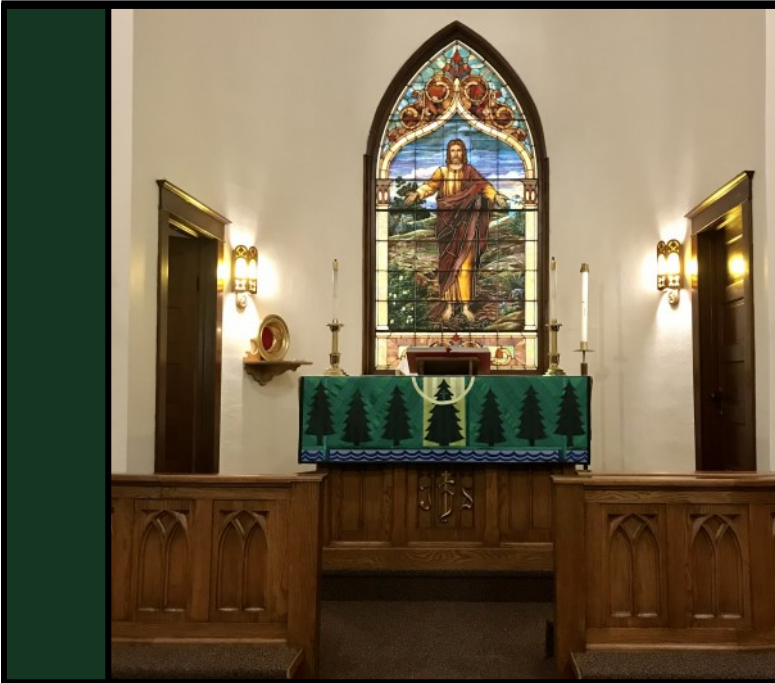
# GO TAIL IT



# ON THE MOUNTAIN

In the season of Advent, the people of Immanuel raised \$202 for ELCA Good Gifts. That's enough for 4 goats or 6 pigs or 20 clinic visits for children. If you still want to donate, you can do so at [goodgifts.elca.org](http://goodgifts.elca.org)

# WORSHIP



Join us for  
**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**  
at **IMMANUEL**

*We welcome all to worship with us at  
Immanuel Lutheran Church!*

**Sunday Mornings @ 9:00am**

Sunday morning services stream  
live on our website:

[immanuellutheranbrunswick.com](http://immanuellutheranbrunswick.com)  
(click on the WORSHIP tab).

Older services can be found on our  
Facebook and YouTube pages.

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go  
to the house of the Lord!"  
- Psalm 122.1*



Join us for  
**DINNER  
CHURCH**

*Sunday, February 19th @ 5:00PM*

*Sunday, March 19th @ 5:00PM*

Dinner Church is a messy kind of service. It is definitely not polished, but neither are we! Whatever else happens in the evening, we will gather around tables to eat together, we will sing, we will worship, we will have good conversation, and we will remind one another that we are beloved children of God.

Dinner Church meets and worships in the Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to volunteer to provide supper for dinner church (plan for 40ish people), please contact pastor Sierra.

Gathering together to worship our God is at the heart of what we do and who we are as a community of faith. We come together on the regular to hear again the good news of God's love for us, for our community, for our world. And having been fed by the word of God, we leave this place to live out lives of love wherever our weeks may take us. All are welcome. So invite your friends!  
And we will see you for worship!



# LENT & HOLY WEEK



## LENT

Wilderness. Waiting. Reflection. Repentance. Lent is all these things and more: the 40 days (plus Sundays) when Christians around the world take time to reflect on the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. It is a time to examine our own walk as we follow Jesus — perhaps there are things cluttering our lives during this time that we “give up,” or holy habits and practices we wish to add. Lent is a chance to reexamine our lives and refocus on our Lord who desperately wants to lead us into life.

### ASH WEDNESDAY

*February 22nd  
7:00PM Worship*

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten journey. Join us for a quiet time of worship in song and prayer, scripture and silence, confession, ashes and communion. On this day, we mark a cross in ashes on foreheads as we remember our human frailty and turn to God in repentance. “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

### SOUP SUPPER & SERVICE

*March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th  
6:00 Soup Supper  
7:00PM Worship*

Join us every Wednesday throughout our Lenten journey. Soup Supper begins at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall and is followed by a short worship service in the Sanctuary at 7:00 PM. Worship will use the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy.

### PALM SUNDAY

*April 2nd  
9:00AM Worship*

The Palm Sunday Liturgy recreates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as we wave our palms and make our procession into the church. This joyful mood soon changes to sober contemplation of our Lord's Passion at the Gospel.  
Thus, Holy Week begins.

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

*April 6th  
6:00PM Worship & Potluck*

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples. As we celebrate the Lord's Supper in Worship, we will also share a Potluck Dinner together. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper in two parts. In the first part, we will share the bread, the body of Christ. Then we will share in a potluck supper together. Following the meal and fellowship, we will celebrate part two of the Lord's supper with the wine, the blood of Christ. The service will conclude with the stripping of the altar as we anticipate the crucifixion of Christ.  
\*Bring a potluck item to share.

### GOOD FRIDAY

*April 7th  
7:00PM Worship*

Worship continues on Good Friday. We will observe Good Friday, the day of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, through word and song and silence, using a Tenebrae style service of the Seven Last Words of Christ.

### EASTER SUNDAY

*April 9th*

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Easter Worship: 7:00AM & 9:00AM  
Easter Breakfast: 8:00AM*

# SOUP SUPPER

During the season of Lent we will come together as a church family and share on Wednesday evenings in soup suppers beginning March 1. All Great Chefs are welcome to contribute (guys included)!! Please note in the bulletin each week when you are scheduled to bring soup. This will also be posted in the kitchen and current newsletter. **Bring a gallon of soup, or more,** to ensure there will be enough for the evening. Those providing soup are asked to help with serving and clean up on your week, if possible. Confirmation students will be helping with serving and clean up as well. If you cannot bring the evening you are scheduled, please find someone who you can trade with. **Serving starts at 6:00 pm; service at 7:00 pm.**

## MMMMMMMM SOUP!

*Persons asked to bring soup:*

*Ash Wednesday:*

Worship Service only – NO Soup Supper

*Wed. March 1:*

Colleen Sinell  
Lindsey Atchison  
Jaime Dick  
Christy Belsheim

Jennie Niedzielski  
Shari Hartog  
Kay Speers

*Wed. March 8:*

Barb Dick  
Mary F. Stromberg  
Ashley Eggert  
Lia Hass

Shirley Zierke  
Sarah Bauer  
Judy Dawson

*Wed. March 15:*

Cathi Nehring  
Joy Nehring  
Michelle Nelson  
Tammie Johnsen

Alisha Prokosch  
Sam Pioske  
Genea Howe

*Wed. March 22:*

Gladys Nelson  
Mary (Rick) Stromberg  
Heather Stromberg  
Mandi Voge

Cheerie Smith  
Janie Peterman  
Sara Engblom

*Wed. March 29:*

Connie Kawalek  
Janie Richardson  
Rose Nelson  
Jason Ochowicz

Angie Bergren  
Jenna Maciej  
Amy Gamble

## DON'T FORGET THE BREAD!

*Persons asked to bring 2 boxes of crackers:*

Corinne Argetsinger  
Rosalie Ludwig

Phyllis Bergren  
Joan Lakedon

Angie Johnson

*Questions related to soup suppers:  
please contact Barb Dick 612-965-0834.*



# REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMING

Join us for  
**TUESDAY MORNING BILBE STUDY**

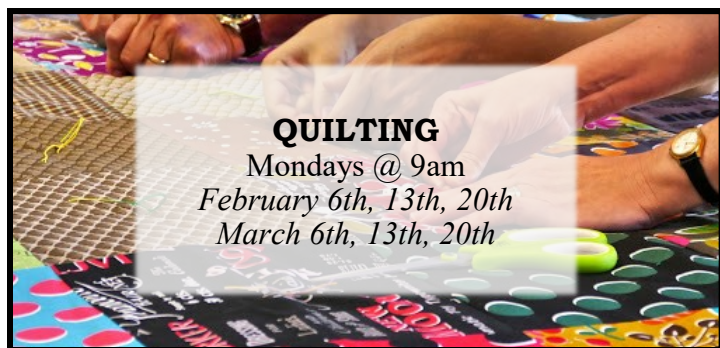
*Every Tuesday Morning  
@ 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall*  
Women of ALL ages welcome!



## COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

3rd Thursdays, 1-4pm

**DROP IN ON THURSDAYS.  
PASTOR WILL BRING THE COFFEE.  
YOU BRING THE CONVERSATION.**



### QUILTING

**Mondays @ 9am**  
*February 6th, 13th, 20th  
March 6th, 13th, 20th*

## Women of the ELCA



### FEBRUARY MEETING

**Thursday, February 2nd**

***Bible Study:***

Lesson Twelve - Word: Praise

***Hostess:***

Rosalie Ludwig

### MARCH MEETING

**Thursday, March 2nd**

***Bible Study:***

Lesson One - Word: Decisions

***Hostesses:***

Rose Nelson & Shirley Zierke

### SENIOR LEAGUE

*February 27th & March 27th  
10:00AM-1:00PM*

Join us the fourth  
Monday of every month for  
fellowship, food and fun.

Be ready for some fun and  
games with Mexican Train  
and bring a food item to share  
as we enjoy a potluck lunch  
together.

**Senior Adults  
GROUP**



# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

## Share the LOVE DINNER & DESERT AUCTION

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN BRUNSWICK

Join us for a magical NIGHT OUT  
with good FOOD, great DESSERTS,  
and romantic PIANO SERENADES

Also enjoy VALET PARKING,  
COAT CHECK, and BABYSITTING

### TICKETS:

\$15/person

\$120/table of 8

BABYSITTING: \$10/child

DAY	TIME	
FEB. 11	6PM	2088 Hwy 70 Mora, MN

Donations support Immanuel's Children, Youth and Family Ministries  
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH BRUNSWICK

## YOUTH GROUP

**CALLING ALL  
7th-12th GRADE  
STUDENTS:  
JOIN US FOR  
YOUTH GROUP!**

*February 1st*

*April 12th*

6:00-8:00pm

\*supper is provided

We eat a meal  
together, play games,  
think about life and  
about God, grow in  
our friendships  
and in faith.

All are Welcome.  
Invite your friends!  
Seriously,  
bring your  
friends.

### FAMILY FAITH FORMATION EVENTS

\*look for more specific  
information to come!

### FEBRUARY

Snow Tubing  
@ Wild Mountain!

### MARCH

Family Board  
Game Night  
@ Immanuel



# CONFIRMATION



## CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

DATE	CLASS/EVENT	SUPPER
FEBRUARY 1	Youth Group	Kawalek Family
FEBRUARY 8	Mentor Night: Projects Introduced	Nehring Family
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11 - VALENTINE'S DINNER		
FEBRUARY 15	Class: Mary Magdalene	Atchison Family
FEBRUARY 22	No Class - Ash Wednesday - Worship @ 7pm	
MARCH 1	Lent - Soup Supper & Worship	
MARCH 8	Lent - Soup Supper & Worship	
MARCH 15	Lent - Soup Supper & Worship	
MARCH 22	Lent - Soup Supper & Worship	
MARCH 29	Lent - Soup Supper & Worship	
APRIL 5	No Class - Holy Week	

## CONFIRMATION AT IMMANUEL

Our seventh, eighth, and ninth grade students gather together to learn about God and God's people and discover more about themselves and their faith.

Confirmation classes are held on Wednesdays from 6:00pm-8:00pm from September through May. We gather for dinner and conversation at 6pm and then move into class time. This year we are exploring the New Testament by getting to know some of the key characters in God's story.

Teachers: Pastor Sierra,  
Mel Pioske & Shirley Zierke

## CONFIRMATION MENTORS

Each of our students is paired with an adult in the congregation with the goals of building relationships across generational lines, learning from each other and growing in faith together.

*Abby Hartog* Ginny Turner

*Brady Nehring* Rick Kawalek

*Camdyn Prokosch* Sarah Bauer

*Brody Smith* Rick Stromberg

*Amelia Atchison* Connie Kawalek

*Sam Dick* Bob Richardson

*Haleigh Eggert* Colleen Sinell

*Ethan Stromberg* Rick Stromberg

*Benjamin Bauer* Jim Nehring

*Alison Nehring* Janie Richardson

*Amarah Pioske* Barb Dick

*Gibson Pioske* Dylan Nelson

*Jacob Vigstol* Shirley Zierke



# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
<b>Ushers:</b>	Pioske Family	Brent & Kay Speers	Bauer Family	Rick & Connie K.
<b>Lector:</b>	Shirley Zierke	Shari Hartog	Sarah Bauer	Donna Oslund
<b>Communion Assistant:</b>	Mel Pioske	Shelby Atchison	Jim Nehring	Rick Kawalek
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Sam Dick	Haleigh Eggert	Ben Bauer	Amarah Pioske
<b>Sound:</b>	Dave & Brady	Dave & Brady	Dave & Brady	Dave & Brady
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Cathi / Shirley	Cathi / Shirley	Cathi / Shirley	Cathi / Shirley
<b>Counters:</b>	Gladys / Sarah	Connie / Joy	Cathi / Colleen	Gladys / Sarah
<b>Coffee Treats:</b>	Lia Hass / Judy D.	Janie P. / Ashley H.	Amie B. / Shelby A.	Michelle / Gladys

	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
<b>Ushers:</b>	Chris / Shirley Zierke	Rick/Mary Stromberg	Jason Nehring Family	Eric Stromberg Family
<b>Lector:</b>	Shirley Zierke	Rick Stromberg	Cathi Nehring	Sarah Bauer
<b>Communion Assistant:</b>	Shirley Zierke	Mary A. Stromberg	Cathi Nehring	Heather Stromberg
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Abby Hartog	Brody Smith	Amelia Atchison	Jacob Vigstol
<b>Sound:</b>	Dave & Brady	Dave & Brady	Dave & Brady	Dave & Brady
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Mary / Amy Gamble	Mary / Amy Gamble	Mary / Amy Gamble	Mary / Amy Gamble
<b>Counters:</b>	Connie / Joy	Cathi / Colleen	Gladys / Sarah	Connie & Joy
<b>Coffee Treats:</b>	Sarah B. / Ginny T.	Mary A. / Cheerie	Joy N. / Kay Speers	Rose N. / Amy G.



**Ushers:** Don't know what to do? There is an instruction sheet on the back pew. Just follow along.

**If you cannot make assigned date:** Please call someone else to swap or sub. Remember to do so in a timely manner and let the office know of the change.

**Any other questions or want to join the list?**  
Call Connie Kawalek (320-679-1491)

*Thank you for all you do!*

# FEBRUARY 2023

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  6:00pm <i>Youth Group</i>	2  1:30pm <i>WELCA</i>	3	4
5  9:00am <i>Worship</i> <i>@ Immanuel &amp; Streaming Online</i>	6  9:00am <i>Quilting</i>	7  9:30am <i>Ladies' Bible Study</i>  7:00pm <i>AA Mtg.</i>	8  6:00pm <i>Confirmation w. Mentors</i>	9	10	11  6:00pm <i>Valentine's Dinner</i>
12  9:00am <i>Worship</i> <i>@ Immanuel &amp; Streaming Online</i>	13  9:00am <i>Quilting</i>	14  9:30am <i>Ladies' Bible Study</i>  7:00pm <i>AA Mtg.</i>	15  6:00pm <i>Confirmation</i>	16  1:00pm-4:00pm <i>Coffee &amp; Convo</i>	17	18
19  9:00am <i>Worship</i> <i>@ Immanuel &amp; Streaming Online</i>  5:00pm <i>DINNER CHURCH</i>	20  9:00am <i>Quilting</i>	21  9:30am <i>Ladies' Bible Study</i>  5:30pm <i>Church Council Mtg.</i> 7:00pm <i>AA Mtg.</i>	22  7:00pm <i>Ash Wednesday Worship</i>	23	24	25
26 LENT 1  9:00am <i>Worship</i> <i>@ Immanuel &amp; Streaming Online</i>  2:00pm <i>Conference Assembly</i>	27  10:00am <i>Senior League</i>	28				



# MARCH 2023

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Worship	2  1:30pm WELCA	3	4
5 LENT 2  9:00am Worship @ Immanuel & Streaming Online	6  9:00am Quilting	7  9:30am Ladies' Bible Study  6:00pm Worship Team Mtg. 7:00pm AA Mtg.	8  6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Worship	9	10	11
12 LENT 3  9:00am Worship @ Immanuel & Streaming Online	13  9:00am Quilting	14  9:30am Ladies' Bible Study  7:00pm AA Mtg.	15  6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Worship	16  1:00pm-4:00pm Coffee & Convo	17	18
19 LENT 4  9:00am Worship @ Immanuel & Streaming Online 5:00pm DINNER CHURCH	20  9:00am Quilting	21  9:30am Ladies' Bible Study  5:30pm Church Council Meeting 7:00pm AA Mtg.	22  6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Worship	23	24	25
26 LENT 5  9:00am Worship @ Immanuel & Streaming Online	27  10:00am Senior League	28  9:30am Ladies' Bible Study  7:00pm AA Mtg.	29  6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Worship	30	31	

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
2088 Highway 70  
Mora, MN 55051  
320-679-2015  
ilb@centurylink.net • immanuellutheranbrunswick.com  
Pastor: Rev. Sierra Westerman  
ilbpastor@centurylink.net

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Mora, MN 55051

