

# Immanuel Lutheran Swea City

## March/April Newsletter



For as long as I can remember, my dad has been sure that he will one day die from having a heart attack. Both of his parents had heart attacks, both of his older brothers had heart attacks, high cholesterol runs in the family and so, he is sure it is only a matter of time. The problem? His heart is super healthy and he has one of the lowest cholesterol numbers among his siblings. While no one can make any guarantees, it is very unlikely that heart disease will come for him anytime in the near future.

And yet, he remains convinced that the doctors are wrong, that surely they have missed something, and that it is unlikely he will live to see another holiday, another visit from the grandkids, or another birthday. He so completely lives in this fear that he started having anxiety and panic attacks a couple of summers ago. Between having to remind him of the truth of the doctor's reports on a regular basis and trying to support my mom, I have learned one thing. To live in fear is exhausting.

This is something God knows all too well which is why some version of "Fear Not" or "Be Not Afraid" occurs over 300 times in Scripture. It is spoken to those who are facing certain death, and in times when angels bring news from heaven. It is spoken when the women find the tomb empty and in reminder of how God has provided for his people in the past. It is heard when people encounter God in unique and powerful ways, and when God seems far away.

This reminder occurs again and again, in a wide variety of circumstances, because God wants to remember something very important: no matter what we are going through, He is ultimately in control. Not us, just Him. God is reminding us that nothing can separate us from the love of God. In Romans 8:35, Paul asks, "Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?"

In his fight against the prevailing belief of the day that one's circumstances in life revealed how much God loved them, he goes on to answer his questions in verses 38 and 39 stating that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Not death nor life, angels, nor demons, neither OUR FEARS nor our worries, *not even the powers of hell.*

So if we can never be separated from God's love, and nothing is more powerful than the love God has for each of his children, then why indeed do we need to fear?

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### Thursday, April 2nd

Holy Thursday

### Friday, April 3rd

Good Friday

### Sunday, April 5th

Easter Sunday

## Camp Events

### April 17-19

Spring Crafting Retreat

### May 31

Ingham Ice Cream Social

### June 1-2

Spring Eldersversity

### July 31-Aug 1

Scandinavian Feast and Quilt Auction



## Council Meeting Highlights

### February Highlights

Pastor Sara has reached out to the families interested in first communion this year and is working to coordinate classes.

Mighty Warriors and Wednesday Night Youth Group continue to meet on Wednesdays.

The mission of the month for March will be Team Jesus based out of Des Moines, IA.

A Bible study will be held Wednesdays at 11:30 during Lent with a light lunch being served.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be held at 6:30pm both evenings and a potluck brunch will be held after Sunday services on Palm Sunday. Easter Sunday service will be at our regular 9am time.

Two requests for use of the fellowship hall were approved.

### March Highlights

Wednesday programs are continuing with the Youth Group starting a study on the life of Peter. Pastor Sara is also working to finalize the details for Holy Week services.

There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday with the last class of the school year scheduled for May 3rd.

JOY Camp will be the mission of the month for April.

After reviewing quotes for church insurance coverage, it was decided we would be switching to a company called Guide One. Paul will plan on making an announcement to update the congregation on Easter Sunday.

Use of the social hall for the Park and Rec Spaghetti Lunch will be moved from March 15th to April 26th.

# Holy Week

**Palm Sunday - 9:00 am Service with Palm Processional**

**Potluck Brunch Following Service**

**Maundy Thursday - 6:30pm Service with Hand Washing**

**Good Friday - 6:30pm Service**

**Easter Sunday - 9:00am Service**

# Mission Of The Month

## February

### Beacon of Hope

[Beaconofhopeshelter.com](http://Beaconofhopeshelter.com)

Our mission is to reach out to men who are homeless, hungry and/or in need of hope by demonstrating the Grace of Christ through food, shelter, clothing and the Word of God.

The definition of homelessness is fairly simple; *“a person lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.”* People who are homeless need shelter, food, warmth and personal goods, and distributing these items is a part of the meaningful ministry Beacon of Hope.

Amount Raised: \$158

## March

### Team Jesus of Iowa

[Teamjesusasia.com](http://Teamjesusasia.com)

Team Jesus is an apostolic ministry seeking the lost and broken in our region. We help rescue human trafficking victims and help the homeless in our region and all over. We are equipping the saints for the work of the ministry, come join us!

Amount Raised: TBD

## April

### JOY Camp

[www.facebook.com/joy.camp.507/](http://www.facebook.com/joy.camp.507/)

Held at Camp Okoboji, JOY camp exists to provide individuals with developmental needs an enrichment experience in which they engage in fun activities, are built up in Christian Community, and grow in faith.

There are two sessions scheduled for this year: June 4-7 and July 9-12. If you are interested in getting involved and volunteering, talking with the Steven’s family would be a GREAT first step!

Amount Raised: TBD



When Jesus was tempted in the desert, it is significant that for each temptation, he began his reply with “It is written...” revealing that knowing what he believed as the human Jesus was important in knowing how to resist Satan’s attempt to twist Scripture into something it was not meant to be. So during the season of Lent, the sermon series has focused on what it means that we are not only a Christian church, or a Lutheran Church, but why we choose to be part of the LCMC Network. What are the core beliefs that unite all LCMC Congregations? There are 4 key statements which set apart LCMC Congregations:

- 1. We are Free in Christ**
- 2. We are accountable to one another.**
- 3. We are rooted in the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions**
- 4. We are all working together to fulfill Christ’s Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations.**

You can check out more about these statements at [www.lcmc.net/who-we-are](http://www.lcmc.net/who-we-are)

# CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Our Sunday School students have been working with the Spark program, learning about Scripture and faith through videos, cooking projects, and more. The last week for Sunday School classes will be Sunday, May 3rd.



## Mighty Warriors Kids

When: Wednesdays -

After school for kids (grades 1-5)

Mighty Warriors Kids will be wrapping up for the school year on Wednesday, May 6th. Stay tuned as the pastors work to plan for an end of the year party!

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth in grades 6-12. Meeting at Immanuel. Gather on Wednesdays at 7:00pm for games and snacks, Bible study around 7:30 followed by more games and snacks.

### Currently Studying:

#### Quick Shots: Fast Answers to Hard Questions

As we wrap up the school year with youth group, we are diving into some hard questions such as "Why does God allow evil and suffering?" and "Who created God?"

If you know a teen who has questions, encourage them to join us!





at Camp

Check out the upcoming events at camp!

Spring Crafting Retreat - April 17th-19th

Ingham Ice Cream Social - May 31st

Spring Elderversity - June 1st-2nd

Quilt Auction Weekend (including Scandinavian Feast and 5K Fun Run)

July 31st and August 1st

Golf Tournament - August 15th

Ingham Hog Roast - August 23rd

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
104 1<sup>st</sup> Street North  
Swea City, IA 50590

The Immanuel Lutheran  
Church Newsletter

TO:

