

Welcome

## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

37515 Park Trail, Almelund, MN 55012

Pastor Justin Fenger

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### Immanuel Lutheran Church

37515 Park Trail, Center City, MN 55012

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**Phone:** 651-583-2340

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**Mark Weslander, Administrative Assistant**  
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**Jason & DeeDee Fredlund, Youth Directors**  
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**Judy Nelson, Prayer Chain**  
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651-674-5920

**Office Hours:** M-W 9-5 unless otherwise noted. Cell phone is always available @ 651-431-8941

### IMMANUEL STAFF

**Justin Fenger, Pastor**  
**Momoh Freeman, Organist**  
**Pat Remer, Accompanist**  
**Volunteers Church Custodian**  
**Mark Weslander, Administrative Assistant & Financial Recorder/Secretary**  
**Daryl Abrahamson, Cemetery Groundskeeper**  
**Jason & DeeDee Fredlund, Youth Directors**

*A welcoming community rooted in Christ, growing in faith and serving with joy!*



**Welcome to Immanuel!**

Thank you for joining us for our worship service. Whoever you are, whatever you've done, or where ever you are in life. You are loved by God which means, You are welcome here at Immanuel. God's grace is given freely, not earned. So whatever journey you are on, God led you here today. We thank you for coming and hope to see you again soon.

**Visitors**, welcome to worship! If you are interested in knowing more about our congregation please speak to Pastor or call the church office! Contact info is on the back of this bulletin.

**We Encourage all Children** who can read, to follow along in the bulletin during our worship service.

**GATHERING**

Today's Service is using the **ELW**; Red Book

**PRELUDE:** Here I Am to Worship **WOW**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**INTRODUCTION:**  
*Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**  
L: In the darkness of our lives, to whom do we turn?  
**All: We turn to the One who brings comfort.**  
L: In need of revival, to whom do we turn?  
**All: We turn to the One who spreads out the table before us.**  
L: We come, Lord, in praise of your goodness and mercy.  
**All: We come, Lord, to worship the Shepherd of our lives.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**  
P: We confess our sins before God and one another.  
*Pause for silence and reflection.*

P: God of mystery and grace,  
**C: We admit to you, to ourselves, and to this community that we have caused harm to others through our actions and through our failure to act. We have stored up treasures for ourselves on earth, we have given into temptation, we have failed to heed your call to cross boundaries in the name of your love and justice. Give us the humility to accept our failings and make things right where we can. Forgive us and help us to forgive ourselves.**  
P: Hear these words: God so loved the world that God came and dwelt among us in the person of Jesus, and through him all people are redeemed. Know that you are more deeply loved than you can imagine, and that through Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Amen.

**OPENING HYMN:** Christ Be Our Light v.v.1,2,5 #715 ELW

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**  
Bend your ear to our prayers, **Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** Awesome God **WOW**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON:**

**PSALM:** Psalm 23  
R: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.  
**C: The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**  
R: You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.  
**C: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**  
R: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.  
**C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

**SECOND READING:** Ephesians 5:8-14  
*Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.*

<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, " Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

The word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Amazing Grace v.v. 1,5 #779 ELW

**GOSPEL:** Dramatic Reading John 9:1-41

We invite you to follow the service and take part in a way that feels right to you.

P = Pastor  
L = Leader  
C = **Congregation**  
R = Reader

Sections in **bold** are to be read by the congregation.

**Today's Scripture**

Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

**Today's Hymns**

Hymn #715 ELW  
Hymn #779 ELW  
Hymn #793 ELW  
Hymn #866 ELW

**Happy Birthday  
this week!**

20

Max Swenson

22

Christine Schumacher

Julie Nygren

23

Linda Peterson

24

Kristy Elkerton

**SERMON:**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** Be Thou My Vision #793 ELW

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**OFFERTORY:** Send The Light WOW

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS:**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

**OFFERING PRAYER:**

We bring our thanks for all that you have generously given us, without our asking and without our merit. Bless now these gifts that your church offers, and use our plenty to supply the need of others. Amen.

**HOLY COMMUNION:**

**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION:**

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

**COMMUNION HYMN:** In Remembrance of Me WOW

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

Embodied God,  
**at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.**  
**Amen.**

**Litany**

L: Jesus' love heals in ways beyond our understanding.

**C: Yet we insist on knowing the "how" and the "why."**

L: We want to know because it gives us a feeling of control.

**C: We do not want to be the ones who are blind.**

L: In our need to control, we close ourselves off,

**C: And become actually blinder to reality.**

L: Instead, let us open our minds and accept.

**C: Let us accept the words of the healed,  
and be inspired to follow Jesus.**

L: Then we can proclaim in the words of the hymn,

**C: I was blind, but now I see.**

**BLESSING:**

God, the giver of love, Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.  
**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN:** We Are Marching In The Light of God #866 ELW

**DISMISSAL:**

Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:**

WOW

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**HOLY WEEK**

**Maundy Thursday** Services are at 11:00 am & 6:30 pm

Services will include communion, with the stripping of the altar at the 6:30 service

**Good Friday** Service is at 6:30 pm

**Easter Sunday** Services are at the Labyrinth at 6:30 am.  
Second service will be at 9:30 am  
Coffee and rolls will be served between services.

**Thank you for helping  
lead worship today!**

**Pastor:**  
Justin Fenger

**Organist:**  
Momoh Freeman

**Special Music:**  
The WOW Group  
W/Johnny Russell

**Reader:**  
Dianne Wiik

**Ushers:**  
Norm & Linda Peterson

**Sound Tech:**  
Nancy Nadeau

**Camera Tech:**  
Jodi Johnson Waldemar

**Communion Ushers:**  
Steve Peterson  
Tora Carlson  
Marty Johnson

**Children's Sermon:**  
Pastor Justin

**Altar Guild: Purple**  
Loraine Rue

**Teachers:**  
Soua Carlson &  
Kris Koran

**Coffee Servers:**  
WOW Group



## Zoom Bible Study.

Send the office your email to get started watching each Monday evening @ 7:00.

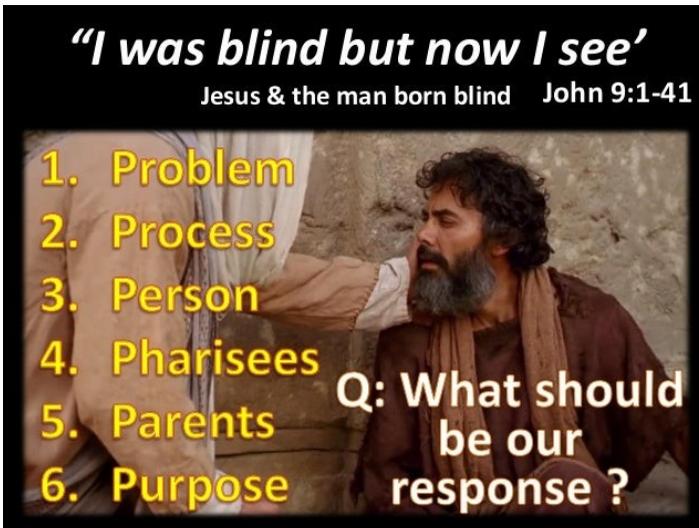
**Tune in our Daily Texts**, Monday through Saturday on our Facebook Page

[@immanuelchurchofalmelund](#)

A daily devotional time based on an Old and New Testament bible verse based on a Moravian Church tradition and Ground Up Grace Publications Daily Texts 2023 books are found in the back of Sanctuary by Welcome (Guest) book.

### "NOISY OFFERINGS; FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

We express our thanks to all those who provide special music with a Special Thank You to Momoh's friends who travel a distance to share their talents. We would like to show our appreciation by gifting these musicians with a gas card. Funded with a "Noisy Offering" So - SAVE YOUR CHANGE and let's make a Joyful Noise Unto The Lord!!!!



### There's no doubt about it: Addiction is a powerful thing.

It defies logic, reason, and emotion, and it drives us to do things we don't necessarily want to do—to be people we don't necessarily want to be.

Addiction comes in many varieties: drugs, alcohol, pornography, sugar, self-harm, coffee, sex, gambling, social media, video games, exercise, and even work are among the pursuits that many of us will relentlessly chase after.

Addiction holds sway over millions of people, both inside and outside of the Church. Addiction is a formidable force, but many have found that God is able to help break its power.

The pathway to recovery from addiction is difficult without reliance on God, and not everyone is ready to walk that path. In John 5:6, Jesus saw a man who had been paralyzed for 38 years and asked him an interesting question: "Do you want to be made well?" The implication of that question is—not everyone who needs healing and recovery is ready to move in that direction.

Oftentimes, God allows us to get to a place of rock bottom before our recovery from addiction can begin, because only then are we desperate enough for change. We see that in the parable of the Prodigal Son.

I invite you to listen to a [13-minute podcast episode](#) featuring Jeff Dafler, a recovering alcoholic and author of the book *Psobriety: A Journey of Recovery through the Psalms*. In the podcast, Jeff takes a look at Psalm 88, and discusses what he calls "the gift of desperation," which allows those struggling to move toward hope and redemption.

As followers of Jesus, let us be mindful of those among us who are struggling with addiction in any form. Let us befriend, pray for, and come alongside those who need help without judgment. And if we have addictions of our own, let us earnestly seek the help we need to overcome them.

God bless you,

Jake Hennes  
Director of Development  
Seminary Relations  
Luther Seminary



# Easter Memorial Garden

Funds will be used for altar flowers & worship supplies throughout the year; or you may give to a memorial fund of your choice. Please return this form to the church, along with your contribution by or before Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023. Make check to: ILC, Easter Memorial Garden. Thank you.

***Note:** Forms turned in by the deadline will be included in the Easter Sunday memorials brochure in the bulletin, those turned in after Palm Sunday will be listed in the bulletin on the Sunday after Easter.  
Thank You.*

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person(s) to be remembered or honored:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Easter Memorial Garden Fund



## 34th Annual Saint Paul Area Synodical Women's Convention

Saturday, April 22, 2023  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church  
700 Snelling Avenue S, Saint Paul

A friendly reminder that Convention registration deadlines are:

- **March 18, 2023 for Voting Members**
- **April 1, 2023 for Visitors**

Convention activities include:

- a time for business - election of officers and Board Members, approval of the budget, setting direction for the future
- a time for community - renewing friendships and making new friends, being inspired and renewed by speakers and workshops

May the Holy Spirit bless us as we gather in Christ's Name.  
Blessings, Dawn Sargent and Becky Maier  
SWO Co-Presidents

**Future Plans: A Legacy Workshop**, hosted by the Elim Lutheran Church Foundation, is being held at Elim Lutheran Church, Scandia MN on Saturday April 22 from 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Several speakers will share a variety of information including things you should discuss with your partner/family/financial planner **before** you talk to an attorney. Other topics covered are durable health care directives, power of attorney, wills and trusts, funeral plans, and where to share and store these documents. A member from Minnesota Senior Link Line will be on hand to distribute information about services available to seniors and to answer any questions you may have. Space is limited so reservations are preferred. Please contact Elim's church office today to reserve your spot (651-433-2723; [joan.detzler@elimscandia.org](mailto:joan.detzler@elimscandia.org))  
Thank you.

Joan Detzler  
Office Administrator  
Elim Lutheran Church  
Scandia, MN  
651-433-2723