

Dear Friends,

Here we are in the month of March. Unless Mother Nature has a nasty trick up her sleeve, we may soon be able to put away our heavy jackets, snow shovels and ice-melter. Spring is on its way!

Each year after months of sleeping, our northern hemisphere comes alive again. The bulbs planted last fall – or many years ago – are pushing their stems up through the muddy ground, and soon we'll marvel at daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and forsythia.

Another thing reminding me of new life is the birth of my grandson on February 21. Little Harmon Elias took his time making his final journey, but when he was delivered, he was perfect, whole and full of life. His arrival brightens the lives of my daughter, her wife, their 6 ½-year old daughter and their nearly one-year old son. Their household is bursting at the seams with rambunctious joy, love and hope. And our entire family is growing in love.

And then we come to Ash Wednesday and Lent. While everything else around us is showing signs of new life, we people of faith are focusing on our mortality. We receive the sign of the cross traced on our foreheads in ashes made from burning the triumphal palms used last year to herald Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. For forty days (not counting Sundays) we are asked to examine ourselves, our thoughts, words and actions, to see if we've even come close to living a Christ-like life.

Some people think the season of Lent is just plain depressing, and some of them refuse to attend church during this penitential season. But these folks are missing out. For weeks, they're not hearing the words of pardon and hope that are included with every prayer, hymn, scripture reading and sermon.

This year, as we leave winter behind and look forward to spring, I invite you to inspect your life. See what's lacking. Come to worship with your fellow broken human beings and hear words of comfort and hope. For Jesus Christ died so that we might have life and have it abundantly – not just after we've died, but each and every day of our lives as we realize we are already beloved children of God.

Have a blessed journey through Lent, and live in hope for the promised resurrection.

~~~*Transitional Pastor Linda Kraft*

## Bingo Night

**Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**

Bring a can food for the local food bank for admission.

Bring at least one \$1-\$3 item(s) for the bingo prizes. There will be number cards for adults and picture cards for kids or adults who want to be a kid again. Get bingo and pick a prize from all the donations provided. Bingo will run as long as the prizes last!

Great family fun night for kids and adults of every age. **Pizza** will be served from 6-7. **Bingo** begins promptly at 7:00.

### Along the Road

6:00pm Simple Supper

7:00pm Services

**March 8<sup>th</sup>**

Seymour United Methodist Ch.

92 Pearl St., Seymour

**March 15<sup>th</sup>**

Trinity Episcopal Church

91 Church St., Seymour

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Seymour Evangelical Baptist Ch.

104 Mountain Rd., Seymour

**March 29<sup>th</sup>**

Great Hill United Methodist Ch.

225 Great Hill Rd., Seymour

**April 5<sup>th</sup>**

Immanuel Lutheran Ch.

25 Great Hill Rd., Seymour

## Immanuel's Blessings!

Many thanks to Judy and Troy Adcox and Sue Borchert for helping with getting many years of the Usher Attendance Sheets into Excel and freeing up a lot of filing cabinet space.

# The Food Bank Corner

## Juices

## Happy Anniversaries

17 Diane & Mark Wagner

## Happy Birthdays

|    |                      |    |                  |
|----|----------------------|----|------------------|
| 2  | Lars Edgren          | 10 | Richard Steckert |
|    | Christopher Cummings | 11 | Noah Urbanowicz  |
|    | Kinley Mentgen       | 12 | Austin Tupper    |
| 3  | Jan Cormack          |    | Noah Wilde       |
|    | Benjamin Cegelka     | 14 | Lisa Dorosh      |
|    | Jackson Rioux        | 15 | Dorothy Rippel   |
|    | John Otis            | 18 | Eileen Gaynor    |
| 4  | Robert Mullen        | 19 | Martha Parkins   |
| 5  | Rick Parnoff         | 20 | Susan Hatstat    |
|    | Christina Campion    |    | Brandon Fletter  |
| 7  | Shirley Drummer      | 22 | Bob Maciog       |
|    | Bob Ferrara          | 24 | Anella Porto     |
| 8  | Dale Peters          |    | Ruth Simpson     |
| 9  | Wendy Cegelka        | 29 | Kristina Wambolt |
| 10 | Emily Drost          | 30 | Janet Edgren     |

## Spooner House Meal Tuesday, March 28th

Thank you, Barbara & John Enquist,  
for this month's meal.

**New baby?** Let Karin Schidat know so a rose  
can be placed on the font in their honor.  
203.888.5946

## Prayers: Deb Steckert (203.888.1218) Donna Figoras (203.734.0249)

|                  |                        |                          |                  |
|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Aaron & Jessica  | Russ Dilley            | Wilma Luft               | Joyce Sauer      |
| Joe Abate        | Heather & Kasen Demers | Art Moran                | Debby Simko      |
| Ann Marie Lisa   | Elizabeth Dicapua      | Ava Nebbia               | Krista Snyder    |
| Helen Ahearn     | Ruth Edgren            | Tacia Neumann            | Margo Steckert   |
| Bob Ancefsy      | Millie Grele           | George Officer           | Dorothy Stockman |
| Elaine Ault      | Sebastian Estrada      | Tyler Otis               | Ed Stockman      |
| Barbara          | Friends & family of    | Olivia                   | Arlene Sullivan  |
| Shirley Bernardo | Dale Hoffman           | Olivia Grace             | Alexa Terrell    |
| Patrick Burton   | Illiana                | Florence Pawlak          | The Tichy Family |
| Lauren Burton    | Linda Kunecki          | Gary Petitti             | Kim Tupper       |
| Cheryl           | Sarah Leventhol        | Dorothy Prillip          | Ron Thompson     |
| Jean Coddington  | Norbert Lorenzen       | Joanna Rooney & children | Dee Voccola      |
| Kathy Corrigan   | Richard LoRicco Sr.    | Rose                     | Debbie Wasko     |
| Mary Ann Croves  | Betty Lower            | Lynne Ross               | Chelsea Wheeler  |

## February Council Meeting Highlights

Highlights from the February 21<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting with people to contact for more information, are as follows:

1. **Thank You Notes** from Council were sent to the videographer from Voices who put together a segment from the Cup Cake Challenge and Rob Mullen for setting up email accounts for Council members. Contact Rick Kaeser for more information.
2. **Finance Report for January** - Income was \$13,640 and Expenses were \$15,569, with the difference of \$1,929 coming from Endowment. This is in line with last year. Thank you all for your contributions and financial support and keeping up with your pledges.
3. The **Church Profile** was submitted to the NE Synod. The work of the Mission Site Profile Team is completed. Thank you to Lee and Kim Burton, Vicki Wojcik, Mark Waggner, Alicia Belinsky and Rick Kaeser for serving on this team and completing the profile.
4. **Call Committee** was formed by Council. Members are Tom Solomon, Christine Miller, Bonnie Kaeser, Gretchen Grele, Chuck O'Neil and Andrew Napomiceno.
5. **Safe Church Training** was attended St. James Lutheran Church in Southbury on **February 11<sup>th</sup>**, by Lee and Kim Burton, Julie, Kelly and Jan Cormack, Beth Alves, Tom and Deb Solomon and Rick Kaeser. We are looking into revising our Safe Church Policy and a background checking service. Rick Kaeser was approved as the Safe Church Lead Person for responding to issues and reporting. You can contact him for more information.
6. We will be conducting a **Church Census** in early March, by sending out a letter for everyone to complete and return as part of an effort to ensure that we have the most accurate information on Church membership as possible. Your cooperation with a prompt reply will be greatly appreciated. Contact Pastor Linda Kraft for more information.
7. **Council email accounts** – Rob Mullen set up email accounts for council members in a service called Round Cube. We will begin using it for church business. This is one of the Council Priorities for 2017 discussed at the Annual Meeting. See Rick Kaeser for more information.

| March Ministry                                               |       |                                            |                            |                       |                                               |                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                                                              |       | Ushers                                     | Assisting Minister         | Lector                | Acolyte                                       | Coffee Hour                    |
| 5                                                            | 8:15  | <i>Peter Wright &amp; Dave Ahearn</i>      | <i>Julie Cormack</i>       | <i>Lars Edgren</i>    | <i>Jack Mullen</i>                            | <i>Jeananne Urbanowicz</i>     |
|                                                              | 10:30 | <i>Sandra &amp; Dave Andes</i>             | <i>Bonnie Kaeser</i>       | <i>Beth Alves</i>     | <i>Lauren Burton &amp; Stephanie Alves</i>    | <i>Scout Sunday</i>            |
| 12                                                           | 8:15  | <i>Deb &amp; Tom Solomon</i>               | <i>Wendy Cegelka</i>       | <i>Hunter Cripps</i>  | <i>Sean Ruggerio &amp; Madison Jarvis</i>     | <i>Kelly Urbanowicz</i>        |
|                                                              | 10:30 | <i>Beth &amp; Rich Alves</i>               | <i>Andrew Napomiceno</i>   | <i>Karin Schidat</i>  | <i>Samantha Fletter &amp; Josh Napomiceno</i> | <i>M &amp; O</i>               |
| 19                                                           | 8:15  | <i>Janet &amp; Lars Edgren</i>             | <i>Jeananne Urbanowicz</i> | <i>Julie Cormack</i>  | <i>Tori &amp; Stephanie Alves</i>             | <i>The Burton family</i>       |
|                                                              | 10:30 | <i>Kim &amp; Lee Burton</i>                | <i>Ellen Fritz</i>         | <i>Charlie Rippel</i> | <i>Lauren Burton &amp; Madison Jarvis</i>     | <i>Sandra &amp; Dave Andes</i> |
| 26                                                           | 8:15  | <i>Diane &amp; Dale Peters</i>             | <i>Hunter Cripps</i>       | <i>Wendy Cegelka</i>  | <i>Ethan Andes &amp; Jack Mullen</i>          | <i>Peter Wright</i>            |
|                                                              | 10:30 | <i>Christina Campion &amp; Rick Kaeser</i> | <i>Julie Cormack</i>       | <i>Teresa Mentgen</i> | <i>Gabby &amp; Kinley Mentgen</i>             | <i>Judy &amp; Troy Adcox</i>   |
| <b>Altar Guild:</b> <i>Judy Adcox &amp; MaryAnn Robinson</i> |       |                                            |                            |                       |                                               |                                |

## 2017 Pledge Drive

*See the fruits of your generosity....*

*...planted by the seeds of your generous contributions to Immanuel*

*"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)*

The Stewardship Ministry will begin the Pledge Drive in mid-March and Pledge Sunday this year is on April 2. We are building on last year's theme: "...*fruits of your generosity...*" from the Book of John. The Pledge Drive will focus, as usual, on pledging financial support and increasing that support for Immanuel and its Ministries. Our Ministries are in need of your support, as well, in the form of additional participation to make them work. Your Pledge of your time and talents by participating in a Ministry activity will be included as a theme.

# March 2017

| Sun                                                                                                                                    | Mon                                                                  | Tue                                                   | Wed                                               | Thu                                              | Fri                   | Sat |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----|
|                                                                                                                                        |                                                                      |                                                       | 1<br>Ash<br>Wednesday<br>Noon at<br>Immanuel      | 2<br>7:00p<br>Christian<br>Education<br>Ministry | 3                     | 4   |
| 5<br>Scout Sunday<br>8:15 Holy Communion<br>9:20 Sunday School<br>10:30 Holy Communion<br>11:30 Anniversary<br>Meeting                 | 6<br>6:30p<br>Adult<br>Study<br>7-9<br>Scouts                        | 7                                                     | 8<br>6:30p<br>Scouts<br>7:00p Choir<br>Rehearsal  | 9                                                | 10<br>Bingo<br>Night  | 11  |
| 12<br>8:15 Holy Communion<br>9:20 Sunday School<br>10:30 Holy Communion<br>11:30 Membership &<br>Outreach Meeting<br>6:30p Youth Group | 13<br>6:30p<br>Adult<br>Study<br>8a-5p<br>Borchert<br>hall in<br>Use | 14                                                    | 15<br>6:30p<br>Scouts<br>7:00p Choir<br>Rehearsal | 16                                               | 17<br>6:30p<br>Scouts | 18  |
| 19<br>8:15 Holy Communion<br>9:20 Sunday School<br>10:30 Holy Communion<br>11:30 Anniversary<br>Meeting                                | 20<br>6:30p<br>Adult<br>Study                                        | 21<br>7:00p<br>Congrega<br>tion<br>Council<br>Meeting | 22<br>6:30p<br>Scouts<br>7:00p Choir<br>Rehearsal | 23                                               | 24                    | 25  |
| 26<br>8:15 Holy Communion<br>9:20 Sunday School<br>10:30 Holy Communion<br>6:30p Youth Group                                           | 27<br>6:30p<br>Adult<br>Study                                        | 28                                                    | 29<br>6:30p<br>Scouts<br>7:00p Choir<br>Rehearsal | 30                                               | 31                    |     |

