

## Pastor's Corner

Dear Disciples

*"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." -Matthew 5:16*

The beautiful thing about light is that it spreads farther than we would expect. The smallest flame can cast a circle of light to see an entire room, a small fire can be seen from miles away in the dark of night. In the same way, we all have light to shine and this during month of stewardship we will be focusing on this theme of "letting our light shine". We will hear reflections from members of the wider community on how our giving at Immanuel spreads God's light and love to countless people in various ways; we will hear stories from members of Immanuel about what it means to them when they share their gifts and light; we will give thanks to God together for all the ways light shines in the darkness.

This is a generous place filled with compassionate servants of God. When people ask about Immanuel, I always tell them how incredibly generous you all are. Here are some examples:

- When children coming in from Puerto Rico needed winter coats, you dug through closets and hit the stores and we collected over 50 coats in less than a week
- When the challenge was set to raise \$300 for ELCA World Hunger and 100 items of food for Spooner House, you met this goal in less than 48 hours and then doubled it in just over a week
- The corner outside my office is filled with food, toys, and blankets for pets in local shelters
- Generous giving has paid towards the furnace fund faster than planned for (and kept us from paying more in interest)
- Children have collected coins and held successful fundraisers to support Julio as a Compassion child in the Sunday School
- Volunteers dedicate incredible amounts of time, ideas, and energy involved in ministry

These are just a few examples, and they have helped us to grow in faith and been part of God's light shining into the world.

So, why give to Immanuel? For each, the reasons will look a little different, but ultimately, we are called to give since God has entrusted us with these blessings and we all seek to make a difference. We can talk about numbers and percentages, we can talk about bottom lines and increases, but at the heart of stewardship is faith. It is faith that God is using us to make a difference in the lives of others. It is faith that we use all the gifts God has put in our care to show God's love for the world. It is faith that the Holy Spirit is doing something amazing at Immanuel and we are called to be a part of it. It is faith that even if we put our last two coins in the offering then God will multiply the impact of our giving. It is faith that we will be wholly transformed by this growing light.

This is a generous community, filled with faithful and compassionate people, and together we can continue to "let our light shine"!

† Yours In Peace,  
Pastor Niki †

### Community Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**

(Rain date: March 30<sup>th</sup>)

**11:00 a.m.**

- We need your help! Over 60 children participate along with 100 adults in our hunt and we need volunteers on that Saturday. There is a sign-up sheet in back of the church.
- We also need help to stuff over 2500 eggs at 9:30 on March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- We'll be collecting wrapped candies until March 18<sup>th</sup>. A bin will be in the Narthex.

"This year's egg hunt will include an area for any children in wheelchairs!"

**First Communion Classes: March 18 & 25<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30 – 12:15.**

**Communion Sunday is April 8<sup>th</sup>.**

### Holy Week Services

#### **Maundy Thursday March 29<sup>th</sup>**

Immanuel Lutheran Church

6:15 pm Simple Supper

7:00 pm Holy Communion

w/ Stripping of the Altar

† † †

#### **Good Friday March 30<sup>th</sup>**

*Commemorating the Death of Christ with Sacred Song, Scripture, & Seven Candles*

**7:00 pm**

Immanuel Lutheran

#### **Noon**

@ Trinity Episcopal

91 Church St. Seymour

Easter Day @ Immanuel

7:30 am Holy Communion

8:30 Easter Breakfast

10:30 Holy Communion

## Immanuel's Blessings!

*Pastor wishes to thank the anonymous donor of the Starbucks Gift Card. That really made her smile!*

*And thanks go out to the person who left some stickers in my mailbox that we use for mailings to our shut-ins. And to Al Meyer, who also gave us more stickers.*

**New baby?** Let Karin Schidat know so a rose can be placed on the font in their honor. 203.888.5976

## Happy Anniversaries

17 Diane & Mark Waggener

## Happy Birthdays

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Lars Edgren        | 9 Wendy Cegelka     |
| Christopher Cummings | 10 Richard Steckert |
| Kinley Mentgen       | 11 Noah Urbanowicz  |
| 3 Jan Cormack        | 12 Austin Tupper    |
| Benjamin Cegelka     | 15 Dorothy Rippel   |
| John Otis            | 19 Martha Parkins   |
| Vanessa Bogle        | 20 Susan Hatstat    |
| 4 Robert Mullen      | Brando Fletter      |
| 5 Rick Parnoff       | 22 Bob Maciog       |
| Christina Campion    | 24 Anella Porto     |
| 7 Shirley Drummer    | 29 Kristina Wambolt |
| 8 Dale Peters        | 30 Janet Edgren     |

### Pastor Niki's Hours

**Mon: 9am- 1p m**

**Sat: @ Starbucks 9am-2pm**

(Or by appointment)

For Pastoral care, please call

**508.439.0439**

## The Food Bank Corner

### Juices

### Spooner House Meal

**Tuesday, March 27th**

*Thank you,  
MaryAnn & Ken Robinson  
for this month's meal.*

## 2018 Community Rewards Program

We are enrolled in the Ion Bank rewards program. Each Ion bank customer can vote for their favorite non-profit. For every vote, we will receive a donation of \$25 from the Ion Bank Foundation.

We encourage you to vote for Immanuel.

Voting is from Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you and happy voting!

**Easter Lilies:** \$14 each. Deadline date to order is March 25<sup>th</sup>. Contact Jan Cormack: 203.888.2260

**Prayers: Deb Steckert (203.888.1218)** *Please take a look and let me know how they are doing. Thank you.*

|                          |                                   |                 |                  |                          |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Aaron & Jessica          | Ruth Edgren                       | Ernest Isberg   | Gracelynn Orfiss | Chandra & Chris Proch    |
| Joe Abate                | Sebastian Estrada                 | Jody   Jordan   | Dila Ostertag    | Courtney Robertson       |
| Amy                      | Linda Williamson                  | Kevin Johnson   | Tyler Otis       | Joanna Rooney & children |
| Ann Marie Lisa           | Arleen Flach                      | Kazia Chodoba   | Olivia Grace     | Rose                     |
| Helen Ahearn             | Francis                           | Linda Kunecki   | Olivia Rose      | Lynne Ross               |
| Bob Ancefsy              | Gloria                            | Roy Lingdell    | Brian Parsons    | Joyce Sauer              |
| Shirley Bernardo         | Louise                            | Sarah Leventhol | Nanci Patchofsky | Margo Steckert           |
| Alan Burton              | Art Gillette                      | Jerry Lower     | Florence Pawlak  | Dorothy Stockman         |
| Charlie                  | Gary Grabowski                    | Wilma Luft      | Gordon Pinckney  | Ed Stockman              |
| Kathy Corrigan           | Millie Grele                      | Ava Nebbia      | Pat Ploch        | Pete Thompson            |
| Mary Ann Croves          | Todd Hollis                       | Tacia Neumann   | Dorothy Prillip  | Paul Wislocki            |
| Jean Deuel               | Illiana                           | Chuck O'Neil    | Charlie Ricco    | Dee Voccola              |
| Immanuel Lutheran Church | 25 Great Hill Road, Oxford, 06478 |                 | 203.888.4713     |                          |

## COOKIES CAUSE WE CARE

We'll be sending Cookies out once again the week of April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Please send any names and addresses for our college or military friends and family to Jeanmarie at:

[jmullen22@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmullen22@sbcglobal.net) or call: 203.264.8315.

We will also need your donations of cookies.

Anyone willing to help package the cookies, please meet in the kitchen on April 8<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30 service.

Thank you.

*Munchies*

## Along the Road

All congregations will offer:

**6:00pm** Simple Supper, **7:00pm** Services

March 7th

Immanuel Lutheran Ch.

† † †

March 14th

Seymour United Methodist Ch.

90 Pearl St., Seymour

† † †

March 21st

Trinity Episcopal Church

91 church St., Seymour

## March Ministry

|                     |         | Ushers  | Assisting Minister                      | Lector                 | Acolyte   | Coffee Hour                                |
|---------------------|---------|---|---|------------------------|---|--|
| <b>4</b>            | 8:15    | <i>Debbie &amp; Tom Solomon</i>                 | <i>Lillian Thompson</i>                 | <i>Janet Edgren</i>    | <i>Ethan Andes Jainna Marcinczyk</i>            | <i>Kelly Urbanowicz</i>                    |
|                     | 10:30   | <i>Kim Tupper &amp; Charlie Rippel</i>          | <i>Ellen Fritz</i>                      | <i>Beth Alves</i>      | <i>Samantha &amp; Brando Fletter</i>            | <i>Judy &amp; Troy Adcox</i>               |
| <b>11</b>           | 8:15    | <i>Janet Edgren &amp; Kelly Cormack</i>         | <i>Julie Cormack</i>                    | <i>Lynn Nesshoever</i> | <i>Stephanie Alves &amp; Samantha Seres</i>     | <i>Lydia O'Connell</i>                     |
|                     | 10:30   | <i>Ellen &amp; Chuck O'Neil</i>                 | <i>Andrew Napomiceno</i>                | <i>Teresa Mentgen</i>  | <i>Lauren Burton &amp; Joshua Napomiceno</i>    | <i>Alicia Belinsky</i>                     |
| <b>18</b>           | 8:15    | <i>Julie Cormack &amp; Peter Wright</i>         | <i>Jeananne Urbanowicz</i>              | <i>Julie Cormack</i>   | <i>Jayden Urbanowicz &amp; Samantha Fletter</i> | <i>Kim &amp; Lee Burton</i>                |
|                     | 10:30   | <i>Charlotte Tottenham &amp; Rick Kaeser</i>    | <i>Ellen Fritz</i>                      | <i>Charlie Rippel</i>  | <i>Jack Mullen &amp; Vanessa Bogle</i>          | <i>The Mullen family</i>                   |
| <b>25</b>           | 8:15    | <i>Betty &amp; Jerry Lower</i>                  | <i>Julie Cormack</i>                    | <i>Julie Cormack</i>   | <i>Avry &amp; Jainna Marcinczyk</i>             | <i>Diane &amp; Dale Peters</i>             |
|                     | 10:30   | <i>Al Meyer &amp; Charlie Rippel</i>            | <i>Teresa Mentgen</i>                   | <i>Beth Alves</i>      | <i>Tori Alves &amp; Kinley Mentgen</i>          | <i>The Alves family &amp; Karen Keenan</i> |
| <b>29</b>           | 7:00 pm | <i>Kim &amp; Lee Burton Maundy Thursday</i>     |   | <i>Teresa Mentgen</i>  | <i>Vanessa Bogle &amp; Lauren Burton</i>        |  |
| <b>30</b>           | 7:00 pm | <i>Tom Solomon &amp; Troy Adcox Good Friday</i> |   | <i>Karin Schidat</i>   | <i>Josh Napomiceno &amp; Stephanie Alves</i>    |  |
| <b>Altar Guild:</b> |         |   | <i>Debby Steckert &amp; Jan Cormack</i> |                        |   |  |

# Highlights from February 20 Council Meeting

1. Devotions, led by Pastor Niki, had the theme, 'invite someone to church'. That is the best way to get new members.
2. Council is considering a request from AA to host a women's meeting at our Church.
3. All Hands-on Deck! The Easter Egg hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 24. This is our biggest community outreach activity of the year. All who are available are asked to join us to help continue to make this a successful event.
4. The Financial Audit Team of Ellen O'Neil, MaryAnn Robinson and Rich Alves was approved by Council.
5. Furnace Fund is down to \$52K from \$78K because of the generous contributions of our members. This is paying down the load quicker and saving us money on interest. Thank you.
6. Nominations for Synod Assembly are still open. We are looking for 2 members, to represent us the weekend of June 8 to 10. Let Pastor Niki or Rick Kaeser know if you are interested.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Rick Kaeser  
Church Council President