



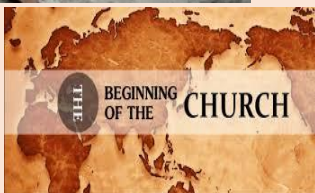
# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP WEEKLY



## Sunday Worship and Learning Schedule Sunday, March 2, 2025

- 9:00 am – Divine Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 10:30 am – Praise Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 10:45 am – “The Rock” Sunday School

\*Most of our Worship Services are streamed Live on Facebook [Immanuel Lutheran Church Bridgman](https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchBridgman), or are posted on our website: [www.immanuelbridgman.org](http://www.immanuelbridgman.org)



Immanuel Lutheran Ministries  
9650 N. Church St.,  
Bridgman, MI 49106  
269-465-6031 Church Office

*A weekly publication of our announcements from our church leadership, staff and Early Childhood Development Center of Bridgman*

## AS WE GATHER

Daily, as believers, we endeavor to follow Jesus. Also daily, we are consumed by the crosses, burdens, disease, fear, and anxiety of this sinful world, and we feel as if we are drowning. But God’s Word keeps us buoyant as we cling to our Baptism, where we are claimed as God’s beloved children. Transfiguration is a moment of incomparable glory. Surely, we too, would want to sequester that divine moment in time. But wait! We cannot delay or halt the gruesome journey to the cross yet to take place. Jesus knows this. He claims the journey to the cross as His own. Momentary glory cannot and will not impede God’s will. Jesus’ cross will be taken up! It is a cross of death for the Son of God, and the cross of life for all who follow Jesus—and believe.

## CHURCH NEWS

**Ash Wednesday** is this Wednesday and we will have two opportunities to worship, one at 12:15 pm and one at 6:00 pm. As well as the Worship Services we will offer again this year a fellowship luncheon following the 12:15 pm worship service and a supper before the evening worship. Imposition of Ashes will be offered as well as Holy Communion. Please join us as we begin our journey to the cross.

**Preparing for the Lenten Season** will be a time of reflection and learning about the origin of the church and the office of public ministry. Pastor Krenzel will delve into how the church came to be, the “rock” on which it was built and how the office of public ministry was developed from the apostolic office, Jesus, as the risen Lord, sending out the apostles into a sinful world. Lent begins late this year, starting on March 5<sup>th</sup> with Ash Wednesday. We hope you will take this opportunity to join us during our midweek journey towards salvation.

**Welcome Special Guest Organist** Karen Schaeffer. Karen lives in LaPorte, Indiana and has graciously agreed to play at our 9:00 am worship service today. Karen is the wife of LCMS Pastor Ken Schaeffer and has even played for Trinity Lutheran Church in Clarkston, Michigan as their organist. We are so blessed that Karen has agreed to play today, while Pastor Fischer fulfills his commitments to Lutheran Heritage Foundation. We are blessed.

**Don’t Forget to SPRING Ahead!** This coming Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> is our “SPRING” ahead time change. Yes, we do lose one hour of sleep, but think of the blessing of more sunlight to enjoy each day courtesy of God and His infinite blessings. Don’t forget to set your clocks ahead this **Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>** before you go to bed, or you might be very early for church on Sunday!



**The Flowers on the altar** are shared with us by the family of Sarah Hogue. Sarah's Coronation Service of Celebration was this last Wednesday. We pray God will walk with Sarah's family during their time of grieving.

**Thank you for attending** the Special Voter's Meeting **on February 16<sup>th</sup>**, to vote on the contract for roof replacement. We had forty voters at the meeting who supported the recommendations from the Trustees and Business Council to choose Future Construction to replace the roof to the old school portion and Life Center. In addition, they voted to replace the five skylights because they are worn and made of plastic and might not survive the roof replacement. The entire cost of the project with new skylights will be \$91,510.00. Through your gifts and generous donations, we have received the necessary funds to complete the project. Please be aware, this roofing company was already very busy with other commitments, they will not be able to start our project until June or July of this year. We are so blessed and grateful for all of you who gave from your heart and donated to care for this facility. Thank you God!

**Thank you to** Paul Jaeger for using your time and talents to rework the wiring in the church so we have lights again throughout the entire narthex, not to mention outside of the church doors. He worked for two days to find a solution, so we can see our church mailboxes again. We are so grateful for helping us to see better for our evening worship services by reworking the outside lights as well. Thank you for sharing your love and care with us all.

**Midweek Lenten Meals** We are looking for some families or groups here at Immanuel to provide a Lenten meal for our luncheon after the 12:15 pm midweek worship service and the supper at 5:00 pm. If you or your group can help provide the meal please sign-up on the sheets on the table in the narthex. There are six weeks in Lent and our meals are well known for wonderful food and fellowship that is provided by you. We hope you will take this opportunity to continue on with the Lenten Meal tradition.



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## ECDC NEWS

### PLEASE MEET OUR HARDWORKING INFANT ROOM TEACHERS!



Meet our "early bird" Nicole Lynn Fisher. Nicole is the teacher who opens our center each day at 5:00 am. We have some parents who have early shifts and they drop their children off at the center very early. Nicole comes in early to check the rooms and wait for the children who arrive early. We appreciate you Nicole! Nicole was born and raised in a suburb of Houston Texas and attended Clear Creek High School. Nicole enjoyed marching band in Texas playing the trumpet for their band. Nicole also went out for softball at that High School. Nicole attended a community college for a time, but found taking care of children a better fit for her talents. Nicole has one older brother Tommy, who lives in Florida. Nicole also has a half-brother, Peyton and stepbrother, Patrick who both live in Texas. Nicole lives in Bridgman and attends Immanuel Lutheran Church on Sundays. Nicole has charge of her little rat terrier, Pippi who is 11 years old and who veterinarians claim is geriatric (that is in dog age). Nicole likes to bake in her spare time, mostly cakes and cookies and enjoys reading mysteries and fiction novels. Nicole enjoys going to movie theaters to see current movies and also likes to watch movies on television. Before moving here to Michigan, Nicole worked for a childcare center in Texas, enjoying taking care of infants and toddlers. Nicole likes to travel down to Florida to see her brother and to Texas to see her father and extended family. Nicole also loves to go out to local restaurants with family members, enjoying staying connected to them and what is going on in their lives. Nicole found Immanuel after her Aunt talked with Jan Catania (Director of the ECDC) and discovered Immanuel needed a teacher.. Part of Nicole's goals for the future include staying as active and healthy as possible. She loves to take her little Pippi for walks, you can see Nicole walking her rat terrier up and down Lake Street sometimes. Stop and say hello!



Meet one of our Infant Room teachers, Erica Marie Anstey. Erica was born and raised in Sidney New York with her brother Jaime and sisters Casey and Jasmine. Erica's mother has an inoperable brain tumor, which they are treating with radiation and chemotherapy. Erica credits her mother with a tremendous amount of strength to fight this tumor as long as she has. Erica's father lives in Florida, he lived with Erica's stepmother, who unfortunately passed away from lung cancer. Erica also has three step-sisters. Erica attended Afton Central High School in New York and Morrisville State College. While Erica's high school was small, only 35 in her graduating class, she came out of school with an advanced science degree along with a nursing assistant certificate. Erica worked in the medical field in several areas, working even with hospice patients. Each of her experiences in the medical field had its own advantages and disadvantages, hospice held a special place in her life, becoming close to the patients and their families. Erica is married to Daniel, who is an alumni of Immanuel's school. They live in Berrien Springs they moved back to the area in 2021. Daniel works transporting by truck fertilizers and soil enhancements to and from farms. Daniel and Erica were high school sweethearts who have been blessed with four children: Hannah who is 17 years old, Daniel who is 16 years old, Thomas who is 13 years old and Marina who is 9 years old. Hannah goes to Berrien Springs High School and is a member of the Art Club and is studying to become a teacher of the Montessori method of teaching. She plans on attending Lake Michigan College to obtain her associate degree focusing on education. Daniel is a sophomore math wiz at Berrien Springs High School. Daniel likes to play football and has played the trumpet since the fourth grade. Daniel hopes to become an engineer. Thomas is their special needs child. He attends Blossomland and is sweet, caring and funny, everyone who meets him comments about how loving and caring he is. Their youngest child, is Marina and Erica can see her becoming a lawyer, because she is strong willed and likes a good debate. Erica has worked for us before in our toddler room, but left for a better opportunity at Notre Dame's preschool/daycare. Erica has also worked for a few different childcare /preschools such as Lighthouse Education Center (she served as a behavioral technician for children with autism) a preschool teacher at Trinity in St. Joseph and even one daycare/preschool started by the church she attends, Hope Community Church in the YWCA. Erica found our ECDC to be loving and supportive to both staff and students including their families. She valued the way our Director Barb Ackerman treasures the staff of ECDC and she knows that other employees feel the same way. Erica does not have much free time with four active children, however she does like to visit thrift stores, shopping for bargains and having coffee with friends. Recently, Erica contracted an antibiotic-resistant bacteria which causes Erica to have trouble breathing. She is still undergoing treatments as the doctors have not discovered what will work to improve her breathing. Erica has found that she has become closer to God, turning over her anxieties and problems to God, giving her the needed peace to relax and let God take care of her and her family. Erica is looking forward to feeling better and running with her earbuds in her ears to Christian contemporary music which she loves. She would also like to teach preschool again since she has her CDA. We are so blessed that God led Erica here to Immanuel's ECDC not once but twice, we appreciate all that she does to take care of the infants that come to us.





## Homebound and Continuing Care Facilities

**Homebound:** Dollie Schmaltz, Edith Weed, Edna Holt, Irwin and Margaret Poschke, Terry Graves, Kay Cornwell, Joanne Argue, Ray Michener, Harry Rock, and Elizabeth Rock

**Continuing Care Facilities:** Pat Ott, Geraldine Wooley, Don Metzger, Skip & Norma Linn, Barry Vance (out of state), Marylou Svorec (out of state), Rose Briggs, Betty Dehring, Dorothea Crocker, Bill Gast, Duane Vigansky, Harriet Fester, Larry Reifschneider and Marion Winter

**For information on how to connect with our church family please call the church office at 269-465-6031**

## Prayers of the Church for Today

Connie Schmidt on hospice (Texas)  
Dave Kramer (on Dialysis) (Jeannie Dehring's brother)  
Andy Benjamin (Multiple Melanoma)  
Wally Mojsiejenko

The Family and Friends of Linda Kuhn

## Healing Needs for the Month

Cheryl Fischer, AnneMarie Mojsiejenko, Pastor Carl Bassett, Leon Schmaltz, Darrell Gast, Jared Simpson, Merry Sneed, Terry Combs, Georgia Hildebrandt, Rick Russell, Mike Dick, Mike Stine, Denny Lawrenz, Tim Smith, Derek Davis, James Petty Sr., Scott Mulvihill, Char Schram, John Stine, Natalya Gaidukevich, Jeffrey Nemitz, Ray Michener, Tiffany Prosser, Michael Dick, Harriet Fester, Ted Joachim, Kathy Burkett, Ray Krieger, Jane Tym, Gavin Hanson, Sara Buist, Harvey Burnett, Charles Boreland, Marilyn Gelesko, Beth Vigansky Ciuzio, Tom Ulmer, Brenda Cangelosi, Ralph Palmer (Nancy Gast's Son), Laura Laube, Roger Mojsiejenko, Jeff Delvaux, Terry Graves, Irwin & Margaret Poschke, Dick Gorske,

## Serving in the Military

Isaac Maze (Army) SFC Casey LeFever,  
MAJ Kenneth Stice, Nathan Anderson, MM1 Timothy Ott,  
Jacob Lomoro, SGT Devin Hays, Tom Shepard, Dan Woodruff,  
SPC David Helfman, Arthur Gatchel, Ryan Skibbe,  
MAJ Joe Chappel, FN Sebastian Kirk MMN3

*Thank you to the members of Immanuel who continue to give their offerings when absent on Sundays*

## Finance News

February 23, 2025 offerings and donations:  
Offering Envelopes \$.00 Year to date: \$.00  
Total Roof fund \$93,368

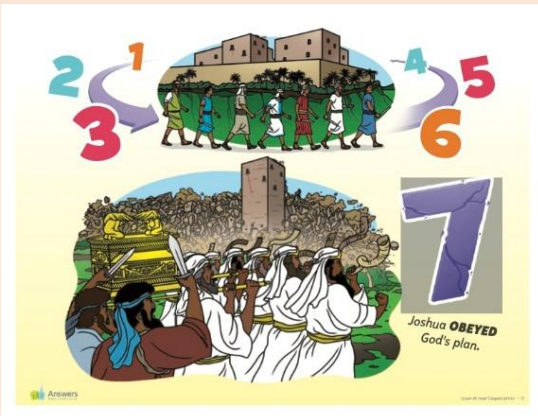
**Today's Hymns:** LSB 413, LSB 873, LSB 537, LSB 837, LSB 835; LSB 427

Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> Scripture readings: *Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-13; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13*

**Sunday Attendance: February 23, 2025**

**9:00 am – 73; 10:30 am – 45**

**Wednesday Bible Study – 9**



**Thank you to the Outreach Board and Smith Family!** The Smith Family has been using their time and talents to repurpose the old kindergarten room/café. Many hours have been spent by the Outreach Board, Amie and her family cleaning up, reorganize and redecorate the room to function as a meeting room/preteen/teen room. The renovation of the room is an exciting opportunity to breathe new life into the room by enhancing and modernizing the amenities in the room. Thank you to everyone who pared down the list of needs by donating the items, the anonymous donors who gave some needed items and to the person who donated \$200 for this room. Our blessings are many and you have reached out to share what you have been blessed with! Thank you!



**Operation Christmas Child 2025:** Like last year, we will be collecting each month, items to add to our boxes for November. Thank you to all who contributed throughout the last year. Thank you for the tremendous outpouring of stuffed animals for the month of February. We want to continue supporting this wonderful ministry so in **March we will be collecting small games, playing cards, and travel size games.** As usual, Dollar Tree Stores have many things to choose from for the Operation Christmas Child boxes.

**LWML Meeting** is coming up, **Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.** We are pretty sure that the weather will cooperate with no snow, however we are thinking spring. We will offer an Easter Bonnet creation showdown! This is your opportunity to show how creative you can be, we will put together beautiful bonnets using our decorations we have at home or at the store and with ribbons wear the most spectacular bonnets which will stand out in any Easter Parade. Bring small decorative items to attach to paper plates to form your most creative and beautiful Easter Bonnet to herald in the Springtime. Use small silk flowers, ribbons glitter and glitz to create a one-of-a-kind Easter Bonnet. Prizes will be awarded to the most creative, most beautiful and most colorful Bonnets. Bring a friend or daughter along to share in the laughter and fun! Don't forget about the delicious refreshments too! We hope you can come!

**“The Rock” Sunday School**

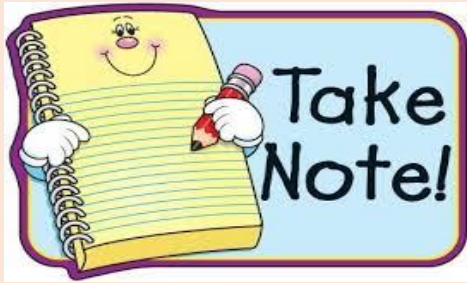
**Israel Conquers Jericho~ Joshua 6:1-25**

Today at The Rock, get your horns ready because we have a city to conquer together! Remember how God brought down the walls of Jericho? God told Joshua to have the priests carry the Ark of the Covenant and blow trumpets while they, along with the fighting men of Israel, marched around Jericho once every morning for six days. On the seventh day, they marched around the city seven times, gave a big shout, and watched in amazement as the Lord took down the walls! Israel was victorious, and they kept their promise by sparing Rahab and her family. **Memory Verse~ Joshua 1:9** *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

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## Special Days

**Birthdays:** Scott Illich (3-02); Kurt Hanke (3-03); Justin Soper (3-04); Timothy Ott (3-04); Doug Hamlin (3-05); Elle Barnes (3-07); Janine Schmidt (3-07); Mathew Wendzel (3-08); Tracy Blanchette (3-08)

**Anniversary:** Alex & Yuliana Ott (3-08) 11 Years

## This Week at Immanuel

**Today, Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Divine Worship with Holy Communion - 9 am  
Praise Worship with Holy Communion – 10:30am

“The Rock” Sunday School – 10:45 am

**Mon. Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Bible Class led by Gerry Vigansky – 10:00 am  
Bridge Club – 12:30 pm

Handbell Choir – 6:00 pm

Administration Board Mtg – 7 pm

AA Meeting – 7:00 pm

**Wed. Mar. 5<sup>th</sup>** - Bible Class Café led by Elsie Hanke – 10am  
Ash Wednesday Worship Service – 12:15 pm

Fellowship Luncheon – 1:00 pm

Fellowship Supper – 5:00 pm

Ash Wednesday Worship Service – 6:00 pm

Choir Practice – 7:00 pm

**Thurs. Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>** - Breakfast with Jesus at Rochefort’s – 8am

Praise Worship Practice – 7:00 pm

**Sun. Mar. 9<sup>th</sup>** – Divine Worship Service - 9:00 am

Praise Worship Service - 10:30 am

“The Rock” Sunday School – 10:45 am

## Noteworthy Dates in the Next Few Weeks

- ♥ **Ash Wednesday** – Worship Service on March 5<sup>th</sup> - 12:15pm
- ♥ **Fellowship Luncheon** –on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:15 pm
- ♥ **Fellowship Supper** – on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm
- ♥ **Ash Wednesday Evening Worship** - on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

**Everyone Needs Prayer!** We still in need for people to sign up to be Prayer Partners with our teachers in the ECDC. Recently we have hired new teachers and we need some prayer partners for them. Those very dedicated women work very hard to teach our littlest members of our community to know and love God. We are asking the Prayer Partners to drop a note to their partner, share small gifts like a small treat, Bible verse, or a quick text to know they are being thought of. Each Prayer Partner will receive a “Favorites” list to help them get to know their partner better. Please sign up today!

**Goodlife Choir** – Our Beyond the Walls Choir is ready to sing again for Lent. The practices have been changed to **Saturday, March 22, 2025 and Saturday, March 29, 2025.** With Easter being a little later this year, we will have our practices a little closer to the end of Lent. Practices will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Bridgman from 10:00 – 11:15 am. The theme for this year’s program is “He is Risen.” Our first time singing to others will be on March 30<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul’s in Buchanan at the morning worship service. We hope you can join this wonderful group as they share the Good News! Jesus is Alive! Alleluia!

## Those Serving in Church This Week

**Greeters:** Sherry, Makenzie and Madison Vonk and Lori Wesner (9 am); Immanuel's Praise Team (10:30 am)

**Ushers:** Don Burch, Brad Hildebrandt, Dave Neal, Paul Jaeger, Joe Rydwelski, Larry Smith, and Ken Dickinson

**Lay readers:** Karen Pedde (9am)

**Praise Team:** Team Leader, Deb Jaeger; Rich Kubsch, Mark Heyn, Karen Kerlikowske, Lori Sukupchak, Sharon Stine, Melissa Barker, Pattie Neal, Amy Krengel and Shannah Smith

**Praise Team Speaker:** Shannah Smith

**Guitarists:** John "Mac" McElligott, Kurt Hanke

**Keyboardist/Guitarist:** Kunwarjit Singh Multani "Sid"

**Altar Guild:** Cheryl Fischer, Susan Foster, Cheryl Music and Karen Oldenburg

**A/V Techs:** Chad Hettig, Lucas Oldenburg, Cyndi Pedde, Pattie Neal, Steve Schmitz, Karl Hanke and Eric Kubsch

**Counters:** Karen Pedde, Craig Klein, Karen Oldenburg, Carol Berndt and Cheryl Music

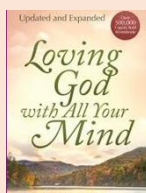
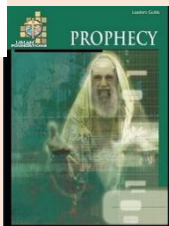
**Office Assistants:** Lorraine Jasper, Melissa Barker, Suellen Klein, Cheryl Fischer

**Trustees:** Brad Hildebrandt, Paul Jaeger, Joe Rydwelski, Art Brunke

**Elders:** Larry Kanous, Denny Barnes, Paul Jaeger, Allan Barker, Mark Heyn, Eric Ott, Steve Schmitz

**Organist:** Karen Schaeffer

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Douglas Krengel.

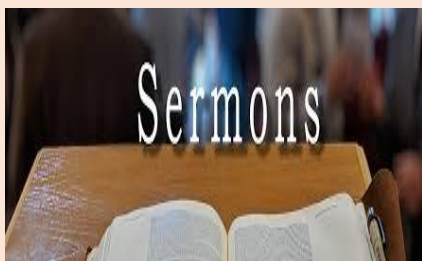


**FREE – For – All:** This year's Free-For-All will be June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Please start saving your donations. Your clean, gently used items such as clothing, books, hardware, toys, kitchenware, electronics and furniture, etc... will be available to our community at no cost. Donation drop-off dates and set-up times will be published soon. This is a big event for Immanuel and we thank you for your support!

**Did you know?** Worship Anew Worship Services are now broadcasted on South Bend - WSBT 22.2 (FOX) Saturday 8:30 am. For those of you who missed the inspirational programing we are grateful to WSBT for offering this worthy program. Why not take a peek?

**Don't forget about our Bible Studies** that are available for everyone, Mondays at 10:00 am led by Gerry Vigansky, and Wednesdays at 10:00 am led by Elsie Hanke. Every Thursday morning at 8am Breakfast with Jesus meet at Rochefort's in Bridgman. Don't forget about Men's Network Breakfast on the third Saturday of the month October through May. Breakfast and fellowship are always prepared and offered by men for men, why not join them for an hour out of your day? Come and join these wonderful learning opportunities!

**2024 Offering Statements** are available by request through the church office by calling 269-465-6031 or email us at [ilc@immanuelbridgman.org](mailto:ilc@immanuelbridgman.org). Let us know if that is something you would like for your records.



**We can always use members who wish to share their musical talents.** Maybe you have some time to share with us by joining one of our Choirs or our Praise Team. Everyone is welcome to join, we enjoy fellowship and fun while using our unique talents to add beauty to worship. If you have a voice you can sing, if you can count you can play bells, if you play an instrument we can use you too. Our Handbell Choir practices on Monday at 6:00 pm. Our Choir practices on Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Our Praise Team practices on Thursday at 7:00 pm. There is also the Beyond the Walls Choir which is seasonal. If you play an instrument, (any instrument!) we would like to invite you to join us also. Let's use our many talents to praise our Lord and Savior. If you have any questions you can contact Pastor Fischer or the Church office.

**The Share Closet is open.** Did you know, we are so blessed to have this ministry? Again this year, Harbor Country Missions put a call out for warm clothing to give to the people in need in Bridgman. We were able to answer that call with so many coats, boots and warm blankets. If you look in the Share Closet, it is filled with plenty of items! That's just one story of many that shows how much this ministry is needed! If you have some time to spare, come and look at the closet and see the great ministry that is going on! Thank you to Cheryl Music, Susan Foster and Ellen Yeske for continuing to help organize and clean up the closet. Thank you for all your donations for this great Outreach!

**Sewing for Missions** were busy during their hiatus, as several very beautiful quilts were assembled and then put together in the Life Center this last Friday. They are creatively putting together such beautiful fabrics, in differing shapes and sizes, and all of them are so beautiful we know the recipients are going to use and treasure the quilts for a very long time. These ladies work so hard to put together these outstanding quilts, we look forward to the blessing of the quilts in the fall! Thank you for sharing your time and talents with those people who have so many needs! You all are such Blessing!

**Sermon Note Sheets** are available on the cabinet in the narthex. This gives you the opportunity to write down some notes that correlate to each of Pastor Kregel's slides and not any questions you might have. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our faith and the Word of the Lord.

**Thrivent Choice Dollars** can be used for various things with all non-profit organizations. Every quarter you can use your choice dollars to help Immanuel or help other non-profit organizations to fulfill their missions. The first quarter ends on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Please consider designating your dollars to the spot where you feel it can do the most good! Thank you!

**Rev. Dr. Douglas A. Kregel, Sole Pastor**

***Please call the church office for any Pastoral needs.  
Church Office 269-465-6031***