

FEBRUARY 2024 AT IMMANUEL GEORGE

Sundays:

9:15 a.m. - Adult Bible Study
 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School (1st & 3rd Sundays)
 10:30 a.m. - Worship (communion is served the 1st & 3rd Sundays)

Mondays:

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Pastor Matt Office Hours, George

Wednesdays:

Feb 7 | 7:00 p.m. HS Bible Study, George
 Feb 14 | 6:00 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Service, George
 Feb 14 | 7:00 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Service, Rock Rapids
 Feb 21 | 5:00 p.m. - Monthly Bread of Life Food Distribution
 Feb 21 | 6:00 p.m. - Lent Service, George
 Feb 28 | 6:00 p.m. - Lent Service, Rock Rapids
 Feb 28 | 7:00 p.m. - Confirmation, Rock Rapids
 Feb 28 | 7:00 p.m. - HS Bible Study, George



FEBRUARY/MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Usher – February TBD; March: TBD

SOUND/POWER POINT	GREETERS	READERS	ACOLYTES
: Gregory Stueven & Lillian Jorth	2/4: Bev Strange & Marilyn VanGelder	2/4: Darlene Woelber	2/4: Khoryn Funk
11: Henry Ver Steeg & AJ Landis	2/11: Brent & Amanda Jorth	2/11: Angie McConnell	2/11: Bennett Jorth
2/18: Richard Heidloff & Fred Landis	2/18: Lawrence & Norene Funk	2/18: Sosie Ver Steeg	2/18: Jack Denny
2/25: Lexi Landis & Fred Landis	2/25: Grant & Marla Khraling	2/25: Cathy Huff	2/25: Cullen Funk
3/3: Greg Ver Steeg & Bennett Jorth	3/3: Rich & Marla Ahrenholtz	3/3: Lillian Jorth	3/3: Leo Ver Steeg
3/10: Gregory Stueven & Sosie Ver Steeg	3/10: Jim McConnell & Janet Boone	3/10: Kristi Landis	3/10: Isaiah Sandbeck
3/24: Richard Heidloff & AJ Landis	3/24: Dick & Glenda Heidloff	3/24: Marla Ahrenholtz	3/24: Jack Denny
3/31: Lexi Landis & Sosie Ver Steeg	3/31: Clay & Deb Hansmann	3/31: Lexi Landis	3/31: Bennett Jorth

Immanuel Monthly | February 2024

The purpose of Immanuel Lutheran Church is to use our faith to share God's love and grace to all.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MATT

“You are dust and to dust you shall return.”

We hear these uncomfortable words on Ash Wednesday. It is a reminder that we will die, something that many of us try to avoid. We purchase things to help us live longer, look younger, and just to avoid that uncomfortable thought. BUT on Ash Wednesday it is thrust upon us quite literally with the ashes being spread on our forehead. Ash Wednesday this year comes early, and it is on Valentine's Day February 14. George will have their Ash Wednesday Service at 6pm and Rock Rapids at 7pm. My hope is that you can make it to one of the services


whether it is your congregation or not, with having the two times offered, providing more opportunities to work better with your schedule and needs. Speaking of Lent and your congregation, I am excited about our partnership with the two Immanuel's! Our Sunday morning services will remain the same during Lent, but the midweek services will be different. I am looking forward to this Holy Experiment as we discern what it means to be church together not only in our own buildings/congregations, but what it also means to be part of the larger church. After Ash Wednesday our midweek services will rotate which congregation will host them. It will start on Wednesday, February 21, being at Immanuel George and then on Wednesday, February 28, at Immanuel in Rock Rapids. We will continue to rotate weekly. The time will always be the same for these at 6pm. I strongly encourage you to attend these worship services, but I really really encourage you to attend services even if it isn't at your church. If you need a ride, please don't hesitate to reach out to a church member and ask for help!



Talking about both the words we hear on Ash Wednesday on death and then our Lenten midweek service plan. It may feel like a loss or death to you that your church isn't going to be hosting a midweek service every week. It may feel like grief or a death that you will worship part of the time in a new place with people you may be unfamiliar with. I understand that and Lent is a time to wrestle with all these strong/hard feelings. However, I would also point to Easter. Yes, Jesus comes out of the tomb and is resurrected, but it is only Good News because of the death that happened on Good Friday. Without Good Friday the Easter celebration is not much of a celebration and is a shallow celebration. However, when you have the death and then resurrection it is transformative! I know many of us want that renewal and resurrection side of things, but without the death there is no resurrection or renewal. I would invite you to try something new and join in this partnership! I am looking forward to worship with you in new places and with new and familiar faces!

Pastor Matt Polsdofer may be reached through email at pastormatt001@gmail.com, or on his cell phone at 641-590-4049. He holds office hours on Mondays in George from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IT'S TIME FOR THE SOUPER BOWL! Bring in a can of soup for Bread of Life on February 11. As an incentive to do so, all who bring in soup can ditch their stuffy Sunday attire and come dressed in the gear of their favorite football team, pro, college, high school, whatever you would like. It is a fun way to take part in Super Bowl Sunday while also doing so good for those around us. 

FA-LA-LA-LA! Are you looking for a place to share your musical talent with a short-term commitment? Immanuel Rock Rapids and Immanuel George are looking at creating a joint choir with a performance on Easter Sunday (March 31). There would be a few practices, and then the group will help the two congregations celebrate Christ's resurrection with some special music. If you are interested in participating, let Pastor Matt know.

BREAD OF LIFE – The item of the month is paper towels. Donations may be left by the pantry door. The next distribution is Wednesday, February 21.

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries

2 - Kevin Herding & Lynette Kruger
22 - Lynn & Barb Grotluschen

7 - Mark Hansmann
8 - Dillon Bathke
9 - Marni Hansmann
10 - Debra Bathke
13 - Joel Bathke



22 - Char Bathke
22 - Faye Trei
22 - Marilyn Van Gelder
23 - Cael Hoing
24 - Neal Kruckenber
28 - Darlene Woelber
29 - Ryan Funk

Birthdays

6 - Blair Hansmann
6 - Johanna Hansmann

14 - Bridget Dickmann
21 - Henry Ver Steeg

PLEASE LIFT IN PRAYER

Bev Kaster, Brad Sandbeck, Clay Hansmann, David Perlick, Darrell Ver Steeg, Doug Hilbrands, Isaiah Sandbeck, Joel Bathke, Rich Ahrenholtz, Rita Hilbrands, Ruben Stueven, Sandy Luenberger, Wanda Parker, Wendy Smith, and Military Families.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Church Council met Sunday, January 21 at 11:30 a.m. Vice President Ryan Funk called the meeting to order.

Present: Fred Landis, Mark Dickmann, Craig Denny, Angie McConnell and Pastor Matt Polsdofer. Mark Behrens was absent.

Pastor opened the meeting with devotions from Mark 1 vs 17: Follow me and I will make you fisher of men.

Pastor's Report – Someone volunteered to make communion bread. We will put it in the bulletin when prayers are needed. There is no prayer chain at this time.

Secretary's Report – Approved through email.

Treasurer's Report – Craig will get the budget report set up for the Annual Meeting (January 28) to be approved.

Evangelism & Worship – Lent begins Wednesday, February 14 with Ash Wednesday services at 6 p.m. in George. Midweek Lenten services will alternate between George and Rock Rapids. February 21 the service will be in George beginning at 6 p.m. Maundy Thursday service will be in Rock Rapids at 6 p.m., Good Friday service will be in George at 6 p.m., and Easter Sunday service at 8 a.m. in George with rolls and coffee to follow.

Property & Stewardship – Brad Sandbeck will remove the snow. Fred mentioned that we need a new battery backup for the camera. He will take care of it. Ryan was at the church for the required annual inspection of the boiler. Everything was approved.

Education & Youth – Nothing at this time.

Old Business – Fred mentioned the grant applicants from Grand Falls Casino will open February 2. We will present this at the annual meeting. Council will take care of the lunch for the annual meeting. Sandwiches, chips and bars.

New Business – Angie mentioned Ashley Sandbulte is going to Africa on a mission trip. She would like funding help. We will table this until the February meeting. Fred brought up that Mid Sioux had not received their check, so we sent a second one. They had not received that one either. The checks have not been cashed. Fred will check into this. They have been sent to the right address. Fred also mentioned that Elise Sandbeck is going to Wartburg College this fall. Thrivent will match up to \$750 so Allison said they will give the church \$750 so Thrivent can match it.

No meeting date was set for February.

Fred made a motion to adjourn. Mark D seconded. Motion carried. Closed with The Lord's Prayer.