

# FEBRUARY 2025 AT IMMANUEL GEORGE

## SUNDAYS:

9:15 a.m. – Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. – Worship (Communion is served the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)

February 2<sup>nd</sup> | 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School for ages 3+

February 16<sup>th</sup> | 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for ages 3+

## Mondays:

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

## Wednesdays:

February 5<sup>th</sup> | 7:00 p.m. – Confirmation in Goerge

February 12<sup>th</sup> | 7:00 p.m. – Youth Group in George

February 19<sup>th</sup> | 7:00 p.m. – Confirmation in George

February 26<sup>th</sup> | 5:00 p.m. – Bread of Life distribution

February 26<sup>th</sup> | 7:00 p.m. – Youth Group in Rock Rapids

# FEBRUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Bread of Life:

The item of the month for February is cereal. The next distribution will be held January 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

## Please lift in Prayer:

Bev Kaster, Brad Sandbeck, Clay Hansmann, Doug Hilbrands, Isaiah Sandbeck, Rich Ahrenholtz, Rita Hilbrands, Ruben Stueven, Wanda Parker, Wendy Smith, and Military Families.

# FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

## FEBRUARY/MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

DATE	USHER	SOUND/POWER POINT	READERS	ACOLYTES
2/2	Craig Denny	Richard Heidloff & AJ Landis	Kristi Landis	Jack Denny
2/9	Craig Denny	Fred Landis & Leo Ver Steeg	Mary Behrens	Cullen Funk
2/16	Craig Denny	Greg Ver Steeg & Sosie Ver Steeg	Marla Ahrenholtz	Leo Ver Steeg
2/23	Craig Denny	Richard Heidloff & AJ Landis	Lexi Landis	Isaiah Sandbeck
3/2	Clay Hansmann	Fred Landis & Leo Ver Steeg	Glenda Heidloff	Khoryn Funk
3/9	Clay Hansmann	Greg Ver Steeg & Sosie Ver Steeg	Julie Ver Steeg	Jack Denny
3/16	Clay Hansmann	Richard Heidloff & AJ Landis	Mark Behrens	Cullen Funk
3/23	Clay Hansmann	Fred Landis & Leo Ver Steeg	Darlene Woelber	Leo Ver Steeg
3/30	Clay Hansmann	Greg Ver Steeg & Sosie Ver Steeg	Angie McConnell	Isaiah Sandbeck

## Anniversaries:

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

## Birthdays:

6 – Blair Hansmann  
6 – Johanna Hansmann  
8 – Dillon Bathke  
9 – Marni Hansmann  
10 – Debra Bathke  
13 – Joel Bathke  
14 – Bridget Dickmann  
20 – Karen Perlick  
21 – Henry Ver Steeg  
22 – Char Bathke  
22 – Faye Trei  
22 – Marilyn Van Gelder  
23 – Cael Hoing  
24 – Neal Kruckenberg  
28 – Darlene Woelber  
29 – Rvan Funk

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR MATT

“Almighty God, heavenly Father, in Your love we have been brought to this hour of joy. Help us to realize that we do not create love; we only open our hearts to what You have already given. We trust that Your continuing love of us will amend what we are and make us what we ought to be.”

Can you feel the love tonight? I remember this line whenever I think of February and Valentine's Day. It is from the movie Lion King which came out when I was a young child. I enjoy the movie still and it was a movie I enjoyed watching and singing to as a child and an adult!

As we enter February and think of Valentine's Day it is easy to think of it as the month of love. We often think of big romantic gestures, candle lit dinners, and romantic comedy movies. But where does love come from? Where is it created? We often hear stories of love at first sight whether regarding a spouse/significant other or when people talk about seeing their child for the first time, they often talk about falling in love at first sight.

The quote above is part of a prayer we use in our Lutheran liturgy for weddings. It is a reminder of where love comes from. We often think that we need to be attracted to people to love them. Whether this is romantically or in non-romantic ways, there are usually things that attract us to certain people to make them friends or family. But we hear in this prayer that we do not create love. We can only open our hearts to what love God has given us.

So how much love has God given us? Clearly there is only a finite amount, and it is doled out sparingly, right? NOOOOOOOO!!!! We live in a world where there is a finite number of resources whether financially or natural occurring resources, however God's love is infinite and fills us to the brim and overflows into the world! The wedding at Cana in Galilee is a reminder and sign of God's reign of love! -

It is easy to be sparingly in love. Whether we do it to protect ourselves or because people have hurt us. People are both simultaneously the best and worst thing about being human! Yet, God doesn't call us to hold back this love. From the beginning of creation to the Israelites through Jesus life/death/resurrection to current day life God keeps coming back to us. As Father Richard Rohr says, math is the only science that God fails at. God's love and grace is always greater, and our relationship is more important to God than anything else. We are also reminded in John 3:16 that God so loved the world/cosmos! We are in a world where people can fall out of love, but we are reminded that God does NOT do that with us. This is a love the world needs so desperately, and we can show not only through our thoughts and words, but also through our prayers and actions.

God's peace and love be with you,  
Pastor Matt

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Council met Sunday January 12, 2025 after worship.

Present: Angie McConnell, Mark Dickmann, Ryan Funk, Clay Hansman, Craig Denny and Pastor Matt.

Absent: Marla A.

Ryan called the meeting to order.

**Devotions:** Pastor Matt spoke on Isaiah 43:2. God is with us.

**Secretary's Report:** Angie reported minutes approved by email.

**Treasurer's Report:** Craig reviewed the report. Expenses included the parsonage furnace \$4917.56 and Western Iowa Synod \$7541.14. YTD we are under budget. The giving is down for the year. Pastor said the insurance will be \$8073 for 2025. Mark D made a motion to approve and Clay seconded. All approved.

**Evangelism and Worship:** Ash Wednesday is March 5. Each church will have their own service.

Lenten services will be shared every other Wednesday. We will set times next month.

**Property and Stewardship:** Jim Bathke asked if we could have a light switch installed by the attic. We will let Byron know this.

**Education and Youth:** Confirmation has 6 confirmands. Wednesday youth night is still going well.

**Old Business:** Bailey Hansmann will need to get set up on the payroll account. She will be doing the slides for the church services.

**New Business:** The annual meeting is January 19<sup>th</sup> after church. Lunch will be served by the Council. Marla will get the chips and drink. All council members will make 1 dozen sandwiches. Angie and Kristy Funk will make a pan of bars.

Arlyce Elias will become the churches' new Financial Secretary replacing Brent Jorth.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor received a letter from the George Chamber of Commerce asking if we would like to join at no cost to the church. They will put any happenings of the church on the Website. Council agreed this will be a good thing.

Pastor mentioned things are going well with the Micronesians and their services here at Immanuel.

He will be on vacation January 27 to February 2. Larry Wendland will provide pulpit supply Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Larry Wendland will also help Pastor with visitations as needed.

Pastor has asked Bailey if she would do the Sunday service slide shows. This will free up some time to do more visits.

Pastor gave us his financial expenses.

Pastor asked us if we can mention at Annual Meeting to have a couple volunteers to go to the Western Iowa Synod Assembly this year because we are electing a new Bishop. Pastor will be attending. We need 2 voters of any age. Also one youth (under 18) and one young adult (18-30) can volunteer. If anyone is interested, please let a Council member know. The dates are Friday, June 13 at 1:00pm to Saturday, June 14 at 4:00pm in Sioux City.

Next meeting: January 19<sup>th</sup> after Annual meeting. We will set the February meeting date at that time. Motion to adjourn made by Craig and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark D. Motion approved. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.