

## APRIL 2024 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)  
 April 7<sup>th</sup> | 9:30 a.m. – Last Day of Sunday School Party

### Mondays:

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

### Wednesdays:

April 17<sup>th</sup> | 5:00 p.m. – Monthly Bread of Life Distribution

## APRIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Bread of Life:

This month's bread of life distribution will be held on April 17<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m. The item of the month is liquid household cleaners.

## APRIL/MAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SOUND/POWER POINT	GREETERS	READERS	ACOLYTES
4/7: Greg Ver Steeg & Fred Landis	4/7: Lynette Kruger & Kevin Herding	4/7: Richard Heidloff	4/7: Cullen Funk
4/14: Fred Landis & Bennett Jorth	4/14: Fred & Kristi Landis	4/14: Amanda Jorth	4/14: Leo Ver Steeg
4/21: Henry Ver Steeg & AJ Landis	4/21: Ryan & Khristy Funk	4/21: Glenda Heidloff	4/21: Isaiah Sandbeck
4/28: Richard Heidloff & Lillian Jorth	4/28: Mark & Mary Behrens	4/28: Julie Ver Steeg	4/28: Khoryn Funk
5/5: Lexi Landis & Sosie Ver Steeg	5/5: Dale Garlic & IdaMae Kruger	5/5: Mark Behrens	5/5: Jack Denny
5/12: Greg Ver Steeg & Bennett Jorth	5/12: Bev Streng & Marilyn VanGelder	5/12: Darlene Woelber	5/12: Bennett Jorth
5/19: AJ Landis & Fred Landis	5/19: Grant & Marla Khraling	5/19: Angie McConnell	5/19: Cullen Funk
5/26: Henry Ver Steeg & Lillian Jorth	5/26: Rich & Marla Ahrenholtz	5/26: Sosie Ver Steeg	5/26: Leo Ver Steeg

### Please lift in Prayer:

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

## APRIL CELEBRATIONS

### Anniversaries:

10<sup>th</sup> – Chris & Carmen Jewell  
 14<sup>th</sup> – Omar & Renae Thornton  
 14<sup>th</sup> – Darwyn & Karen Wibben

### Birthdays:

2<sup>nd</sup> – Angie McConnell  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – Matthew Welsh  
 5<sup>th</sup> – Johnny Schmidt  
 5<sup>th</sup> – Amanda Jorth  
 8<sup>th</sup> – Dennis Hansmann  
 8<sup>th</sup> – Leo Ver Steeg  
 9<sup>th</sup> – Bev Hoing  
 11<sup>th</sup> – Becky Stueven  
 18<sup>th</sup> – Catherine Welsh  
 19<sup>th</sup> – Joshua Hansmann  
 19<sup>th</sup> – Mark Krahling  
 21<sup>st</sup> – Bailey Steen  
 22<sup>nd</sup> – Barb Grotluschen  
 22<sup>nd</sup> – Bev Streng  
 24<sup>th</sup> – Carol Krull

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR MATT

"It's a gift to joyfully recognize and accept our own smallness and ordinariness. Then you are free with nothing to live up to, nothing to prove, and nothing to protect. Such freedom is my best description of Christian maturity, because once you know that your "I" is great and one with God, you can ironically be quite content with a small and ordinary "I." No grandstanding is necessary. Any question of your own importance or dignity has already been resolved once and for all and forever." - from Richard Rohr in his book *Falling Upward*

Grace and peace to you from our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ, amen.

One of the theologians I have absolutely loved and appreciated has been Father Richard Rohr, who is a Catholic Franciscan Priest. One of my other and shorter favorite quotes of Father Richard's is "Before the truth sets you free, it tends to make you miserable." One of the connections I see between the two quotes is that we need to look in the mirror to see who we really are and whose we really are.

The temptation as individuals and as congregations is to have an "amazing" life that is defined by being extraordinary and standing out. This is typically seen and measured in the way our society takes measurements. In our personal life this can be seen by our prestigious job, through wealth, and throughout power. In our congregational life this can be seen through finances, through attendance, and through our youth programming. These are not the only ways that things can be measured, but it covers most of it.

However, when we recognize and embrace how small we are that is when the joy and transformation come! If you do not feel small, I invite you to Google the James Webb telescope and read how many discoveries of other planets and galaxies have been discovered. We are truly smaller than we realize! And what a blessing that is!

When we joyfully accept our ordinariness, we are not in the business of proving ourselves or proving we are "right". I wonder how many relationships have been harmed or ruined because of our desire to prove ourselves "right." However, when we accept, we are small we are not concerned with that, and we align ourselves with God we realize that while we are small, we are actually great because we are with God. We have our importance and dignity fulfilled by the only one that can fulfill it and fill it overflowing to the brim. Anything short of God will be temporary and we will always want more. Look at any of the wealthy, famous, or powerful people and more than likely you will find that they want more of what they have.

When we are filling ourselves with good things of God, we can continue to transform not only ourselves, but also our congregation, community and the world. We worship a God who leads not in the ways of the world, but through servant leadership. We worship a God who to show His love and power died on a cross. May the crucified, buried, resurrected, and ascended Christ be with you this day and every day.

God's peace,  
Pastor Matt

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Council met Sunday, March 10 th . President Ryan called the meeting to order at 11:20.

**Present:** Craig Denny, Angie McConnell, Marla Ahrenholtz, Mark Dickmann, Ryan Funk and Pastor Matt.

**Absent:** Clay Hansmann

**Devotions:** Pastor Matt shared John 3: 19. Light has come into the world. This verse is about the Transformation.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Matt asked the Council to answer the question, "What does our Congregation value?" Council discussed. Next month's question to consider is "What is the churches' contribution to the community?"

Pastor presented his shared expenses and mileage. He also purchased some candle wicks.

There will be a joint council meeting next week. President Ryan and VP Mark D will attend.

Pastor reported Midweek Lenten services are being well attended by both congregations. A joint choir will sing at both Easter Services.

Maundy Thursday service will be at Rock Rapids at 6pm. Good Friday service will be in George at 6pm.

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

**Treasurers Report:** Craig gave the report. Marla A. mentioned that the Memorial Committee has put their funds into a CD at 4.9% for 19 months. Mark D. made the motion to approve, Marla A. seconded and motion carried.

**Evangelism and Worship:** Easter service will be at 8:00am. We will be having rolls and coffee before the service starting at 7:00am. Marla will call Shari's Kitchen of Rock Rapids for 6 dozen rolls. Ryan will pick them up Saturday. Craig will get the juice.

Craig asked about putting up a sign- up sheet in the Narthex for kids wanting to go to Bible Camp. The Church will pay for you and one friend to go.

**Property and Stewardship:** Bridget Dickmann asked Mark B if we could put some weed and feed on the properties.

**Education and Youth:** Pastor said Confirmation is going well.

**Old Business:** Council worked on updating the Committee list. We will get this updated and printed.

**New Business:** Craig asked about updating the Thrivent financial list. He will put his name on it and also Marla A. and remove the other names. He will call and let them know.

**Next meeting:** April 7 th after church. Motion to adjourn made by Mark D. and 2 nd by Craig. Motion approved. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.