

# *Immanuel Lutheran*

507-345-3027 [www.ImmanuelMankato.org](http://www.ImmanuelMankato.org)

Pastor Joe Naumann 920-266-5386

Pastor Neal Radichel 920-268-8002

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# *Easter*

# *Sunday*

April 12, 2020

Vol. 83, No. 25

## *Welcome!*

We are excited to share the Good News with you! Guests, please contact us if you're interested in learning more about Immanuel.

## *Serving Us This Week*

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE (7 AM)

PASTOR Joe Naumann ♦ ORGANIST Colleen Matzke

VIDEO Craig Stelter & Matthew Kranz

EASTER SERVICE (10 AM)

PASTOR Neal Radichel ♦ ORGANIST Bonnie Cornish

VIDEO Craig Stelter & Matthew Kranz

## *Serving Us Next Week*

PASTOR Neal Radichel ♦ ORGANIST Vickie Schreyer

VIDEO Craig Stelter & Matthew Kranz

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

*1 Corinthians 1:18*

## *Order of Service*

### *We Prepare to Meet our Lord*

Pastor (P): Christ is risen!

Congregation (C): He is risen indeed!

Opening Hymn 210 (v. 1,3-5) *TLH (Red Hymnal)*  
The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done

P: We begin our celebration of Christ's resurrection in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen!

♪ Come, you faithful, raise the strain  
Of triumphant gladness!  
God has brought His Israel  
Into joy from sadness.  
See the spring of souls today:  
Christ has burst His prison  
And from three days' sleep in death  
As a sun has risen.

*WS 726 (v. 1)*

P: The joy of celebrating our Lord's Resurrection continues. This joy forms the basis for an entirely new life of hope; the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ reorders our earthly lives around an entirely new and different set of priorities. Instead of living for self which

dooms us, we live for Jesus Who promises us eternity through His death and resurrection saying, "Because I live, you shall live also!"

♪ All the winter of our sins,  
Long and dark, is flying  
From His light, to Whom we give  
Laud and praise undying.  
Neither could the gates of death  
Nor the tomb's dark portal  
Nor the watchers nor the seal  
Hold Him as a mortal.

WS 726 (v. 2)

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION OF SINS PSALM 118

*We come before our Holy God recognizing that  
we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.*

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P: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

C: **His love endures forever.**

P: Let Israel say: "His love endures forever."

C: **Let the house of Aaron say: "His love endures forever."**

P: Let those who fear the LORD say:

C: **"His love endures forever."**

P: In my anguish I cried to the LORD,

C: **And he answered by setting me free.**

P: The LORD is with me;

C: **I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?**

P: The LORD is with me;

C: **He is my helper. I will look in triumph on my enemies.**

P: I was pushed back and about to fall,

C: **But the LORD helped me.**

P: The LORD is my strength and my song;

C: **He has become my salvation.**

P: Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous:

C: **"The LORD's right hand has done mighty things!"**

P: The LORD's right hand is lifted high;

C: **The LORD's right hand has done mighty things!"**

P: I will not die but live,

ALL: **And will proclaim what the LORD has done! ALLELUIA!**

♪ But today among His own  
Christ appeared, bestowing

Blessed peace, which evermore  
Passes human knowing.  
Come, you faithful, raise the strain  
Of triumphant gladness!  
God has brought His Israel  
Into joy from sadness!

WS 726 (v. 3)

# *From Golgotha to Glory!*

## CHRIST'S PASSION HISTORY READING

*According to the Four Gospels (New International Version)  
From Orville Daniel's "A Harmony of the Gospels" 1987 Baker Book House*

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### LESSON 1: Events near the Tomb (Sunday morning)

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

While it was still dark, Mary of Magdala went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved (John), and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

Just after sunrise, the women took the spices they had prepared and went on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them.

In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Do not be afraid. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen! Remember how He told you, while He was still with you in Galilee:



'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' Come and see the place where they laid him. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: and Peter, 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee.' There you will see him, just as he told you. Now I have told you." Then they remember his words. Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Meanwhile, Peter and John started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally John, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead). Then the disciples went back to their homes, wondering what had happened.



Soon after, Mary returned and stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."



At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father.

Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

While the other women were on their way to tell the disciples about the angels' message, Jesus suddenly met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

When they came back from the tomb, Mary of Magdala went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. The women all told these things to the Eleven and to all the others who had followed him and who were mourning and weeping. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.

Meanwhile, while all the women were on their way to tell the disciples, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

Hymn of the Day 199 *TLH (Red Hymnal)*  
Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia!

## LESSON 2: Road to Emmaus & Back (Sunday afternoon)

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but



we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as



if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true!

The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

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## OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH 2 PETER 3:9-10, 13-15, 18

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The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with us, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare...

But in keeping with Jesus' promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. Bearing in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote with the wisdom that God gave him... that we may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

### LESSON 3: Jesus appears to disciples (Sunday evening)

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were still talking about this, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus himself stood among them as they were eating; and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

When he had said this, he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen. After he said this, he showed them his hands and feet and side. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. When the other disciples told him that they had seen the Lord, he declared, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands



and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."



Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

♪ Jesus lives! The victory's won!  
Death no longer can appall me;  
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done!  
From the grave Christ will recall me.  
Brighter scenes will then commence;  
This shall be my confidence.

TLH 201 (v. 1)

### EASTER MEDITATION 1 JOHN 3:4-8 (NASB)

*Jesus said, "...Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" Luke 11:28*

Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. **5** You know that He [Christ] appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. **6** No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him. **7** Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; **8** the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

## Sin, Death and the Devil are Defeated by Jesus!

1. Idle hands are the devil's workshop

*"Idle hands are the devil's workshop; idle lips are his mouthpiece." Proverbs 16:27 (TLB)*

♪ Jesus lives! For me He died,  
Hence will I, to Jesus living,  
Pure in heart and act abide,  
Praise to Him and glory giving.  
Freely God doth aid dispense;  
This shall be my confidence.

TLH 201 (v. 3)

## 2. Idle words are the devil's playground

*"And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them." Lk 24:11 (NKJV)*

♪ Jesus lives! I know full well  
Naught from me His love shall sever;  
Life nor death nor powers of hell  
Part me now from Christ forever.  
God will be a sure Defense;  
This shall be my confidence.

TLH 201 (v. 4)

## 3. Idle idols are the devil's downfall

*"Those who regard worthless idols Forsake their own Mercy."  
Jonah 2:8 (NKJV)*  
*"The last enemy that will be destroyed is death."  
1 Corinthians 15:26 (NKJV)*

♪ Jesus lives! And now is death  
But the gate of life immortal;  
This shall calm my trembling breath  
When I pass its gloomy portal.  
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense,  
Jesus is my confidence!

TLH 201 (v. 5)

# *We Offer Ourselves to the Lord*

## OUR OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS TO THE LORD

*So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7*

OFFERING MEDITATION "He is not Here" ILC Tour Choir (Agnus Dei)

While we are worshipping at home, it is important to continue to support the work of Immanuel's ministry with our offerings. This can be done in several ways:

#### OPTION 1

Mail your weekly contribution to:  
421 North Second Street  
Mankato, MN 56001

#### OPTION 2

Drop off your contribution in the mail slot to the left of the school entrance on the south side of the building in the parking lot. Please do not use cash if you choose to use this option.

#### OPTION 3

*\*NEW\* ELECTRONIC OPTION:* download the CashApp on your mobile device or go to [cash.app/login](https://cash.app/login) to sign up. Once you sign up, you may pay by connecting a bank account, credit card or debit card. The debit card and bank account options are free; if you use a credit card, the app will take 3% of your transaction. The church's \$cashtag is "\$immanuelmankato". In the memo section, please indicate your envelope number and how you would like your offering distributed between funds. For example: #317 General Fund: \$25 MDF: \$5.

*BONUS:* Prior to registering, send the email address that you plan to register with to [myoffering@immanuelmankato.org](mailto:myoffering@immanuelmankato.org) and have Mr. Douglas Schaller send you a referral email from CashApp. This referral will earn a bonus \$5 for Immanuel and for yourself with your first offering. If you have any questions, please contact the Financial Secretary at the above email address or at [financial.secretary@immanuelmankato.org](mailto:financial.secretary@immanuelmankato.org)

Thank you for your continued support of His Work at Immanuel!

## SPECIAL PRAYERS - EASTER PRAYER - LORD'S PRAYER

# *Our Lord Blesses Us*

BENEDICTION *A Good Word or Blessing.*

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Congregational Response: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.

Closing Hymn 189 TLH (Red Hymnal)  
He is Arisen! Glorious Word!

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# *In memory of*

*Flowers at the front of church have been  
purchased in memory of the following:*

Bernice Abbott  
Devina May Anderson  
Shane Larry Anderson  
Robert Becker Sr  
Arthur & Verna Born  
Kim Born  
Fred & Loraine Brandt  
Fred & Ardella Bruns  
Jeannie Bruns  
Erwin Busse  
Delmont, Leslie & Beatrice Enter  
Rick Enter  
Bernard & Arvilla Fiegel  
Wally & Bertha Frank  
Ken Freundl  
Erwin & Helen Friedrichs  
Herbert Geiger  
Arthur & Erna Hanel  
Carol Hanel  
Philip Emanuel Hanel

Donald & Ruth Heinze  
Tony & Iriene Hiese  
Donald Hoffman  
Herb Hoffman Jr  
Herb & Eleanor Hoffman  
Elsa Kettler  
Paul Kofoed  
Wilton & Frieda Landon  
Milton Meyer  
Joseph & Delores Morgan  
Paul F & Eva Nolting  
John Purrington  
Jerry Salfer Sr  
Irma Schreyer  
Myrtle Schreyer  
Roman Schreyer  
Phyllis & Woodrow Spear  
Gert & Ed Stavenau  
Erna Weisz  
Shirley Wilking

**CANCELLED** All activities, services, and office hours at Immanuel Lutheran Church have been cancelled due to the shelter-at-home orders issued by our government. Some activities will be conducted online and services will still be live-streamed from Immanuel, but during this time, we ask that no one but the pastors, the organist, and the camera operator attend services in-person. Thank you!

## *This Week*

- Sat Apr 11 6:00p No WORSHIP
- Sun Apr 12 7:00a Online Easter Sunrise WORSHIP \*\*  
9:15a Radio Sermon: KTOE 1420AM or 102.7FM  
10:00a Online Easter WORSHIP \*\*  
\*\* Join us live by following the link at the top of the page on our website [www.ImmanuelMankato.org](http://www.ImmanuelMankato.org) OR find and watch the recording afterwards at [www.ImmanuelMankato.org/sermons/](http://www.ImmanuelMankato.org/sermons/)
- Mon Apr 13 NO School – Easter break
- Tues Apr 14 9:30a Online Chapel – join us via [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/)  
No Pastors' Office Hours - Please call to visit or to set up an online meeting!  
6:30p Virtual Council & Board Meetings
- Wed Apr 15 9:30a Online Chapel – join us via [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/)  
12:45p Televised WORSHIP Service, Charter #181; Consolidated Comm #7  
5:00p Online Public School Catechism Class
- Thu Apr 16 9:30a Online Chapel – join us via [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/)  
5:45p Televised WORSHIP Service, Charter #181; Consolidated Comm #7
- Fri Apr 17 9:30a Online Chapel – join us via [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/)  
No Pastors' Office Hours - Please call to visit or to set up an online meeting!
- Sat Apr 18 6:00p No WORSHIP
- Sun Apr 19 9:15a Radio Sermon: KTOE 1420AM or 102.7FM  
10:00a Online WORSHIP  
Join us live by following the link at the top of the page on our website [www.ImmanuelMankato.org](http://www.ImmanuelMankato.org) OR find and watch the recording afterwards at [www.ImmanuelMankato.org/sermons/](http://www.ImmanuelMankato.org/sermons/)

# Last Week

## Gatherings

Service Sunday 4/5: **362** views  
Service Thursday 4/9: **135** views  
Service Friday 4/10: **91** views  
Chapel Monday 4/6: **105** views  
Chapel Tuesday 4/7: **57** views  
Chapel Wednesday 4/8: **109** views  
Chapel Thursday 4/9: **no school**  
Chapel Friday 4/10: **no school**

*Note: the number of views listed is as of 4/10/2020; "views" does not represent the number of viewers, but rather only the number of computers/devices that accessed it*

## Fruits of Faith

### Immanuel

	Mail/Drop off	CashApp
Current Expenses	<b>\$15,606</b>	<b>\$775</b>
Weekly Need \$14,304.31		
Benevolent	<b>\$240</b>	<b>\$10</b>
Bequest to be designated	<b>\$200</b>	
Easter	<b>\$635</b>	
Good Friday	<b>\$110</b>	
ILS Foundation	<b>\$15</b>	
ILS Interactive Display Fund	<b>\$10</b>	<b>\$10</b>
ILS Preschool Fund	<b>\$25</b>	
ILS Student Aid	<b>\$660</b>	<b>\$50</b>
Land Purchase	<b>\$50</b>	
Lent	<b>\$405</b>	
Major Improvement	<b>\$80</b>	<b>\$10</b>
Maundy Thursday	<b>\$110</b>	

### CLC

	Mail/Drop off	CashApp
Missions (Coop. Budgeted Plan CBP)	<b>\$1,155</b>	<b>\$50</b>
Weekly Need \$1,206.18		
KINSHIP	<b>\$100</b>	
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	<b>\$100</b>	

## Immanuel Announcements

**MEMORIAL PLANTS FOR THE ALTAR ON EASTER** If you ordered a potted plant to adorn the altar on Easter, you may mail your payment

to church or use CashApp – please indicate Easter plant in the memo line. Lilies were \$8 each; tulips were \$13 each.

**You may pick up your plants at the side entrance to the school by the parking lot on either Easter Sunday from 12:00 – 2:00 pm or Monday, April 13, from 12:00 – 2:00 pm.** Viv Hanel will be supervising these pick-up times from her vehicle due to the social distancing recommendations. If these times do not work for you or if you have questions, please contact Viv at [vivianhanel@gmail.com](mailto:vivianhanel@gmail.com) or at 507-304-0463.

**CEMETERY CLEAN-UP** Members of Immanuel, I hope you are all staying happy and healthy! Due to COVID-19 and the social gathering restrictions that go along with it, Pilgrims Rest Cemetery is planning on doing a few cleanup days instead of the traditional single workday. We are going to have a cemetery board member out at the cemetery on April 18, April 25, and May 2 from 9 AM - 12PM. We are looking for 5-7 volunteers for each day to assist us with picking up leaves, sticks, and garbage. If you are interested signing up for one of the workdays, please email Tony Harris at [redwolf.harris@gmail.com](mailto:redwolf.harris@gmail.com). Optionally, if you'd like to work out there on your own, you may. Just leave whatever piles of leaves and sticks you gathered next to the closet paved road and a board member will gather them up and take them to the burn pile. If you pick up garbage, we would ask that you bring a garbage bag with you and then leave the bag at the garage. If you have any questions, please contact Tony Harris 507-382-3081.

**SAVE THE DATE: Summer VBS** Due to the large number of students last summer, the Immanuel Board of Education has decided to host two separate and different sessions of Vacation Bible School this summer. The first will be held **June 8-12**. The second will be held **July 27-31**. We hope that you will be able to join us for one or both sessions!

**TVBS OPPORTUNITY** Grace Lutheran Church in Valentine, Nebraska is looking for a team of eight teachers to help with their Vacation Bible School this summer. The dates are set for **June 8-11**. The members of Grace plan to host all volunteers and have fun activities planned for the afternoons. Please note that this is the same week that Immanuel will be holding our first session of VBS. So many volunteers are needed. Please speak to Pastor Naumann if you are interested in helping out. Thanks!

**ECHO FOOD SHELF** If considering a donation to ECHO Food Shelf, please make monetary contributions this month rather than food if possible.

ECHO Food Shelf is participating in this year's Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign through April 7. All monetary and food donations will be proportionately matched by MN Food Share. Every donation counts! .

These donations can be made through the [ECHO website](#) or at their location, 1014 South Front Street. Every \$1 donated is equivalent to \$5.

# CLC Announcements

**CALL NEWS** Redeemer, Cheyenne, WY has called Miss Carly Meyer (member of St. Paul, Denver, CO) to be their teacher. <> The Board of Regents has appointed Pastor Mark Weis to serve as the Dean of Students at Immanuel Lutheran High School and College. He will fill the remainder of the term vacated by Mr. Gus Falkenberg who is peacefully stepping down at the end of this academic year so that he can better focus on his role as the boys' dormitory supervisor. We thank Gus for serving faithfully in this capacity. The Dean of Students' main concern is the high school students' and collegians' spiritual and physical well-being while at Immanuel.

**VIDEO** Pastor Sam Rodebaugh, Immanuel, Winter Haven, FL, recently produced a very well done video that gives the Christian perspective of the current pandemic. The video is posted on the [clclutheran.org](http://clclutheran.org) homepage.

**RETIREMENT GIFT** Professor Paul Sullivan has announced his retirement effective the end of the current academic year. His faithful service to our church and our school will be acknowledged during the ILC Class Day & Graduation festivities on May 22-23, 2020. Our custom is to present a monetary gift to Prof. Sullivan as a token of our appreciation. CLC members are invited to contribute to a monetary gift which will be presented to him at Graduation on May 23. Please make your checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran College and indicate: "Prof. Sullivan Retirement." Send your gift to: Immanuel Lutheran College, 501 Grover Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701.

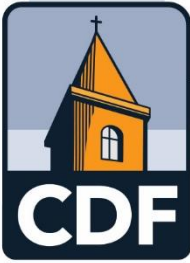
**NOMINATIONS FOR ILC PRESIDENT** The Board of Regents announces the following nominations for the office of President of ILC: Professors Paul Naumann, Daniel Schierenbeck, and John Ude. The term of this call is for two years, extending to the end of Academic Year 2022. All comments from members of CLC congregations regarding these candidates are to be received by **April 11** (postmarked by April 1), to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: [jeb6217@yahoo.com](mailto:jeb6217@yahoo.com).

**CLC CONVENTION** The 34th CLC Convention will be **June 25-28**, in Eau Claire, WI. A new video entitled "How Does Convention Work?" has been produced to explain the basics of Convention. If interested, please find this 14 minute video on the homepage of our synod's website [clclutheran.org](http://clclutheran.org).

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If you have an announcement or event for next weekend's bulletin, please send it to [Bulletin@ImmanuelMankato.org](mailto:Bulletin@ImmanuelMankato.org) or contact one of the pastors by Thursday at 12 pm. Thank you!





## The Office of the Keys and Confession

Because God's Word is based on absolute truth, which applies the same to all people; and because we are fallen sinners, there will be times when our witness of God's Word is uncomfortable to give and to receive. In our culture, we're used to hearing responses to God's Word such as, "Who are you to judge me?" or "I'm free to do what I want, you can't tell me what to do!" If you've been on the receiving end of such a response then you've probably contemplated if you have the right to speak or not.

The reality of being a believer in Christ is that we have the pressing duty of sharing parts of His Word that people do not want to hear. Perhaps the most ardent of opponents that come to mind in this regard are those who reject God's Word. But, even Christians should know what the sting of God's moral law feels like to a conscience burdened by sin — we wrestle with the same thing!

When you face situations where people are resistant to God's Word, it's easy to feel embarrassed, surprised, or ashamed. The knee-jerk reaction is to slink back into your confessional shell and keep your faith to yourself. The world's demand of, "What gives you the right?" echoes in your mind. You might think — maybe they're right.

It's critical for our witness of Jesus not to get caught off-guard in these moments. Rejection comes with the territory of being a Christian who is standing for Christ. Jesus Himself, who also was rejected by many, said this, "A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also (John 15:20)."

We don't have to be afraid or ashamed of rejection because we know how a sinner thinks and feels when confronted with God's truth. But even more importantly, we have authority from Jesus to speak on His behalf. Who gives you the right? Jesus does!

This what we call the Office of the Keys; it's the privilege that Jesus gives believers to speak the law (message of judgment and sin) and the gospel (message of salvation in Christ). You might think "That's nice and all, but I'd rather not," or "I'm just not qualified or skilled at witnessing." Sorry to say, God doesn't want your excuses. Giving up or ignoring this privilege is not an option. You see, this is what the Christian life is all about — proclaiming God's power,

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glory, and grace in Christ to the world. If you're a Christian, this is what you're supposed to be doing. It's part of why Jesus suffered and died in your place - to earn this right for you.

This doesn't mean that preaching or standing in front of a crowd is the only way to exercise the Office of the Keys. It's also important to remember the rest of the title — ...and Confession. This blessed work of the believer also takes place each time sinners are directed to confess before the Lord and receive forgiveness (often called Absolution). Regular confession and assurance of forgiveness in this way is the life of the Christian's faith. This practice is not based on our outstanding ability to achieve what God commands, but rather on the precious Gospel proclamation of full and free pardon of sins in Christ's name. Wherever this gift is being practiced by Christians, faith is begun and sustained.

Indeed, confession may be seen on Sunday at church. But, let it also be present in our homes, between husband and wife, among relatives and co-workers, and even on the playground. A healthy and functioning faith, no matter what your vocation is, will lead you to "proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)."

Imagine what the world would be like without Jesus. That's what's at stake when we shrink back from declaring and defending His Word today. You are blessed to have the right to speak for the eternal and almighty God of heaven and earth! Don't allow any mere human to make you doubt that. It is your right, duty, and blessed privilege in Jesus' name.

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