



Seed & Feed
North Immanuel

NORTH IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PELICAN RAPIDS, MINNESOTA • 218-863-5447
APRIL 2020

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Treasurer: Julie Ann Holt (218) 863-5226
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MISSION STATEMENT

As members of North Immanuel Lutheran Church and in recognition of the gift of grace we have received through Jesus Christ, our Mission is:

- To develop a personal and Spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ, our Lord,
- To provide an environment for the continuing Education and further teachings of all ages,
- To reach out to welcome all to grow with us in faith through worship and serving others in our community and throughout the world.

CEMETERY BOARD OFFICERS

Chairman—David Aas (218) 863-5455
Treasurer—Judy Johnson (218) 863-2204
Secretary—Bill Osborne (218) 863-7913

April 2020

BEING THE CHURCH WHEN EVERYTHING IS CANCELLED

In times of crisis, the historical response has been for people to band together. Even when cultures are divided – by politics, morals, and religion – disaster encourages us to unify. Sadly, epidemics create an exception to that rule. The risk of spreading disease forces us apart and into isolation. This is the world’s current situation; everything is cancelled as we struggle against Coronavirus, otherwise known as COVID-19.

School – canceled. Vacation – canceled. Basketball tournaments – canceled. Conferences, retreats, and events of all kinds – altered, postponed, or canceled. In just a few days, things have escalated from “wash your hands and cover your cough” to significant lifestyle changes that most of us have never experienced.

Of all the cancellations, perhaps the most unnerving of all is the call, in many areas, to cancel church worship services. This seems counterintuitive in a time when people are anxious and need community, when people are facing economic uncertainty and need support, and when people are fearful and need the comfort of prayer and connection. And yet, we must acknowledge that “large gatherings” are a hotspot for the spread of disease, a trend to which church services are not immune. For all of our best efforts to eliminate hand-shaking and peace-passing, and to modify communion practices, the best way to protect folks right now is to keep them apart.

It’s sad. It’s painful. It goes against every impulse of church leaders who proclaim faith in a God who is bigger than human fear. And it rubs up against the ego of those who think of themselves as hardy enough to weather any storm – they still want to get to church early to start the coffee.

I get it – I really do – but painful as it is, select cancellations are the responsible, compassionate thing to do, and anything else is just hubris. Think of this illness as the black ice of liability. If there’s a blizzard, you might be able to get to church. But if you can’t clear the sidewalks and the parking lots, do you really want to invite people into a hazard situation – the invisible threat that is

just under the surface? This epidemic is like that. Sure, folks who aren't sick are going to feel like they should still come to church. But they could be carrying something they don't know they have yet, and pass it right on to their elderly or immunocompromised neighbor.

There are many unknowns here. There is unprecedented territory ahead, and nobody can say how long it might last. So, if it does come down to canceling services, here are some things to remember, and some ways to keep "being the Church," even when you can't be in the church building.

1) Support your pastors, elders, and council members – whoever has to make the really hard decisions about whether and how to gather in times of uncertainty. There is no road map for this, and there is no one right answer. Trust that the folks who ultimately make the call spent some time in prayer, discernment, and very difficult conversations. Know that they heavily weighed consequences, including your disappointment, and ultimately did what they thought was the best thing for the wellbeing of the community. Thank them for having your best interests at heart, and then...

2) Check on your neighbors. Your older neighbors, your neighbor on chemo, your neighbor whose kid would normally eat a free school lunch, and your neighbor who still has to go to work and could use help with childcare. Any time you help someone in your proximity, you are living out the values of your faith community. You are embodying the new life Jesus has given you, which takes Church out of the building and brings to others. This is what we go to church to learn how to do – it is "for such a time as this" that you have spent all those other Sundays in worship.

3) Pray for your church family. We can also send notes and make phone calls. Everything we do for shut-ins, we could also do for each other now that we are all shut-ins – so to speak. As God's people, we are supposed to act like members of one body, even when that body is not together in the flesh. There are plenty of ways to stay connected in spirit, and care for each others' spiritual needs.

4) Practice Sabbath. For some, this shutdown is going to cause significant economic hardship. In the spirit of #2, care for your neighbor as best as you can. In the meantime, recognize if your own discomfort is just inconvenience, and keep that perspective. Recognize that downtime can be a gift – an imposed sabbath of time to sit still and be with your family, without the usual rush of places to be and things to accomplish. Read the Bible, play, and prepare meals together (can you share with a neighbor? Remember #2). When’s the last time everybody was home for this long? Talk about what you can learn from this, and talk about your blessings! Make something. Listen to music. It really doesn’t matter. Any of these things can be worshipful in their own way, if by ‘worship’ we mean rest and renewal by way of connecting with God and others.

5) Send in your offering if you cannot attend. This may seem like a small thing in the grand scheme, but giving your offering is still important – if you are fiscally able. Even the healthiest congregations can find themselves in the hole, and quick, after just a few Sundays of missed offerings. If you can’t mail in a check, send a carrier pigeon. After all, bills and salaries still need to be paid, as do mission commitments, and community outreach is now more important than ever.

[The LORD asks,] “Have I not commanded you to be strong and courageous? Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1.9)

By grace, through faith, in Jesus Christ alone,
Pastor Ethan Fearing

Dear women of North Immanuel,

Our Spring Bazaar with bake sale is Saturday, April 25th from 8:30 a.m. to Noon. We again are asking for donations of baked goods, handcrafts, plants, vintage jewelry, etc. We are asking for no baskets.

You will be contacted by the bazaar committee at that time we will ask you to please bring a pan of bake, 2 dozen cookies, or pie. If you are unable to donate items to sell, please consider donating \$20.00 to help with expenses.

We also need help on Friday to set up and work the day of the bazaar. Please consider sharing your time to help.

Thank you.

The Bazaar committee

Church Finances

Minnesota National Bank

Beginning Balance 02/01/2020 \$20,606.21

Income:

Member/Loose Offering \$ 6,048.00

Memorials 50.00

Total Income \$ 6,124.44

Expenses:

Budgeted \$ 6,874.52

Ending Balance 02/29/2020

Minnesota National Bank \$ 19,856.13

02/02/2020 \$ 1,661.00

02/09/2020 \$ 1,050.00

02/16/2020 \$ 1,250.00

02/23/2020 \$ 1,067.00

Mail \$ 1,020.00

Loose Coin \$ 26.44



The last Sunday of every month is Spare Change Sunday.

March 20, 2020

After more CDC restrictions were made public, the NILC Council decided to cancel all activities and worship until April 5th. We pray that we will be able to reunite for Holy Week. If not, we may implement alternative methods of “gathering,” such as streaming all services and posting them to the website.

Also, please let us know if you need anything! Pastor Ethan is happy to drop off groceries and supplies at your front door. And if you have prayer requests or want to chat, please give him a call: 320-874-0104

For now, and to assist with your private and family devotions, please check out the sermons posted on the church website: nilchurch.org

May the LORD bless you and yours!

Due to increased concern of the Coronavirus, North Immanuel Lutheran Church has decided to DISCONTINUE Lenten and Sunday Services through April 5th.

If all possible, we are asking that you submit your normal offering and mail to church.

**North Immanuel Lutheran Church
PO Box 438
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572**

**Submitted by Sandie Strandlien
Council President**

Unfortunately, the Coronavirus has changed our daily lives, along with NI Church.

For everyone's safety it has been decided to make the following changes for next 3 weeks or until further notice.

- Sharing of Peace will discontinue
- No Sunday School
- No Soup & Bread will be served before Wednesday Lenten Services
- Moving Lenten Service and Sunday Service upstairs, so members can space themselves for their safety
- No Communion Sunday, April 5th
- Offering Plate will be located at back and will not be passed around during service

God Bless,
NI Church Council

No Council Meeting March 10th 2020

Special Council Meeting Sunday March 15th 2020 to hold Vote on 2 Projects

Called to order by President Sandie S
Present Brian J, Conni A, Jacob J, Nolan D, Greg N

A motion was made by Greg N for Hovland Family to install concrete bench to be placed in front of church on east side in memory of parents, 2nd by Brian J. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Greg N to switch from MEI Elevator Solutions to Larson Elevator, for existing repair and the annual maintenance service. 2nd by Jacob J. Motion carried

Meeting Adjourned with Lords Prayer

Next Council Meeting April 14th 2020 6pm

*Submitted By
Sandie S. Francillon*

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Palm Sunday April 5, 2020 No Sunday School or
Worship



Maundy Thursday April 9, 2020 No Seder Meal



Good Friday April 10, 2020 7:00 p.m. Service



Easter Sunday April 12, 2020 8:00 a.m. Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Worship

April 2020 Health Note from The Welcome Place

The Health Note this month is a difficult one to write. As the Coronavirus situation is constantly evolving and health information is being disseminated constantly (sometimes hourly), it seems like more information is not a good thing. It is reasonable to pay attention to the CDC and State Departments of Health for the most trustworthy sources. The consensus seems to be that this is a serious situation that will require a significant amount of effort on everyone's part to move through it.

Whether local churches will be printing April Newsletters is also unknown. Churches have made decisions to suspend services and to look at a variety of potential ways to stay in contact with their members. I would strongly encourage everyone to maintain contact with their religious organizations in whatever way is recommended and safe, to practice good hand washing frequently, and to use appropriate disinfectant products when necessary. Social distancing is the recommended advice, with many businesses and organizations closing their services. People who are restricted to their homes may need to contact others to help them resupply their food and medical products.

The latest information seems to indicate a greater amount of time may be necessary before the virus is controlled; at the time of this writing, the time frame is unknown. All I can suggest is that we pay attention to the directives coming from approved agencies and follow them.

“Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world.”

—Virgil A. Kraft

Rejoice

IN THIS DAY

A modern-day parable

In Luke 15, Jesus tells three parables about the precious being lost and, at great lengths, found again. The kingdom of heaven, he says, is like that. But most of us don't shepherd sheep and wouldn't fret over one lost coin. A child, on the other hand ...

In fall 2019, as night fell in northern Minnesota, 6-year-old Ethan and his dog wandered off. Family and police grew frantic because the area consisted of fields, woods and swamps. Authorities requested assistance.

The kingdom of heaven, Jesus might say, is like *600 volunteers* searching diligently in the dark for a child they didn't know. It's like Steve Fines who, though also a stranger to the boy, grabbed his company's pricy heat-seeking drone and worked the camera for hours, until it detected Ethan huddling with his dog, safe but cold. Yes, the kingdom of heaven — indeed God — is like people giving their all and refusing to quit until the lost one is found.



APRIL Birthdays

Birthdays are a good time to reflect on the blessings that you have been given by God. Here are our members who have birthdays in April so we can help each other celebrate.

Kaylie Ross	04/02
Brody Ross	04/02
Odin Axness	04/03
Aaron Fouquette	04/04
Jeremy Osborne	04/05
Donald Tollerud	04/05
Corey Sillerud	04/06
Jonah Follingstad	04/07
Kristi Haugrud	04/07
Linda Tollerud	04/08
Peter Klovsstad	04/13
Amari Ibarra-Anderson	04/14
Deloris Dunham	04/21
Jacob Johnson	04/22
Jack Pray	04/23
Gavin Haugrud	04/26
Isabella Jasso	04/26
Wayne Hovland	04/28

This list is not yet complete. If you have a birthday in April and your name is not here, or if the date we have is incorrect, please call it to Kara so we can update our records. May your birthday be a blessed one!



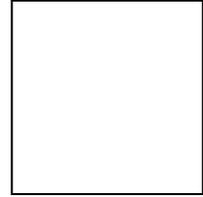
North Immanuel is Online:

<http://www.facebook.com/NorthImmanuelLutheranChurch>
<http://www.nilchurch.org>



NORTH IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PO BOX 438
PELICAN RAPIDS, MN 56572-0438

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



SHARING
THE NEWS
WITH...



 **Palm Sunday**  **Maundy Thursday**  **Good Friday**  **Easter Sunday**

5

9

10

12

ADMINISTRATIVE
Professionals
DAY 

22

APRIL 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Ushers: Philip & Robbie Shulstad (5 & 12); Paul & Tammy Nord (19 & 26)	***If you are unable to serve, it is your responsibility to find a replacement.***		1 1 ST QUARTER MOON	2	3	4
5 PALM SUNDAY No SS No WS	6 PDO	7 FULL MOON	8	9 MAUNDY THURSDAY	10 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 p.m. Service	11
12 EASTER 8:00 a.m. Breakfast 9:00 a.m. WS	13 PDO	14 6:00 p.m. Church Council meeting 3 RD QUARTER MOON	15	16	17	18
19 9:00 a.m. SS 10:00 a.m. WS/HC	20 PDO Deadline for May S&F and Calendar	21	22 ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY NEW MOON	23	24	25 8:30 a.m.-Noon NILC Spring Bazaar
26 9:00 a.m. SS 10:00 a.m. WS	27 PDO	28	29	30 1 ST QUARTER MOON		Council member in charge for April: Heidi Fouquette

KEY: PTS=Pastors' Text Study; PDO=Pastor's Day Off; LL=Luther League; POH=Pastor's Office Hours; SS=Sunday School; HC=Holy Communion; WS=Worship Service; Conf.-Confirmation; WBS=Women's Bible Study; LS=Lenten Service