

Pastor's Corner

Dear Disciples,

Have you ever been driving to a new location, and when you get close to your destination, you turn the music down so you can see the house number better? It really is an odd phenomenon that we have to quiet the noise so we can pay attention with our eyes, but it's all about distraction. When our senses are too overloaded, it can be hard to concentrate and focus on what is really important.

Well, this is exactly what I think of as we enter the season of Lent. This 40-day journey is often talked about as a time of sacrifice, self-deprivation, and sorrow. However, this year I invite you to consider Lent from a different perspective – it is the time when we need to turn the music down so we can concentrate on seeing.

Our lives are filled to the brim with constant stimuli through all our senses, we are easily distracted and our attention is drawn away from faith and into other places. This time of Lent, we are looking towards the cross; we are looking with hope for the resurrection. The mood in Lent is that of solemnity, a time to cut out the superfluous distractions demanding our attention and redirect our focus so that we can see the cross more clearly.

For some, we try and make a promise to “give something up” for Lent as a way to show our sacrifice. Yet, this practice has frequently be co-opted away from faith and towards the frivolous. This Lent, I invite you to consider removing the distractions and things which pull your focus away from faith **and add instead** something which nourishes faith. This Lent, let's turn down the noise so we can see the cross more clearly.

Here are some examples of Lenten practices done by myself and my colleagues over the years:

Instead Of:

Do This:

Coffee
Eating/order out/ drive-through etc...

Donate money you would've spent on take-out/coffee
to a non-profit or the church.

Gossip

Compliment a stranger every day

Sarcasm/snark

Go out of your way to do something nice

Start healing an addiction

Volunteer once a week

Social media

Enjoy time for silence and “centering prayer”

TV/movies/Netflix/Hulu/Gaming etc...

Eat dinner with family/friends and no electronics

Computer (except for work) or phone

Read the Bible 10 minutes a day
(ask the pastor for some weird stories)

- Go to Lenten midweek worship
- Explore the places of worship where my friends/coworkers attend

† Yours In Peace,
Pastor Niki †

Immanuel's Blessings!

Many thanks go out to Al Meyer who helped assemble the Annual Report and to Sue Borchert who has been dressing the bears for church.

Happy Anniversaries

10 Stephanie & Hector Vargas

Happy Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Dorothy Stockman | 16 Mallory Rioux |
| 2 Krystie Williams | Henry Rotzal |
| 3 Amanda Betts | 17 Katelyn Mullen |
| Charles Rippel | Milana Campion |
| 4 Hunter Cripps | 21 Norma Miles |
| 6 Sharon Trede | 22 Michelle Schreyer |
| Virginia Wilde | 26 Billy Ahearn |
| 8 Stephanie Alves | 29 Jeanette Scinto |
| 11 Karen Errickson | |
| Andrew Alves | |
| Erica Marcinczyk | |

New baby? Let Karin Schidat know so a rose can be placed on the font in their honor. 203.888.5976

The Food Bank Corner

Canned meats

Spooner House Meal
Tuesday, February 27th

*Thank you,
Bonnie & Rick Kaeser
for this month's meal.*

Pastor Niki's Hours

Mon: 9am- 1p m

Sat: @ Starbucks 9am-2pm
(Or by appointment)

For Pastoral care, please call
508.439.0439

Highlights from the January 16th Council Meeting are as follows:

- Annual Meeting Preparations** - Annual Congregational meeting is s for Sunday, January 28 @ 11:45. There will be only 1 Service, at 10:30. Members are asked to bring a dish for the PotLuck lunch before the meeting.
- Council Nominations** – there are 7 open positions for Council. We currently have 4 candidates, leaving 3 positions available. Anyone interested joining the Council can contact Rick Kaeser at 203-734-6375.
- Nominations for Synod Assembly** – Nominations will begin to be accepted for 2 members to represent our Church at the New England ELCA Synod Assembly the weekend of June 7- 9, in Springfield, MA, at the Annual Meeting. Let Rick Kaeser know if you are interested.
- 2018 Annual Budget** - Budget was approved by Council and will be presented to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting. Income was \$13640 and Expenses were \$15569, with the difference of \$1929 coming from Endowment. This is in line with last year. Thank you all for your contributions and financial support and keeping up with your pledges.
- Safe Church Policy** was reviewed by the Chris Ed Ministry at their January meeting. A slight revision to the Check Out practices was agreed to for consistency with the policy. Chris Ed is considering using clip boards for sign-outs.
- Worship & Music** – More Contemporary service options are being explored by this Ministry and were discussed with the Council.
- Membership & Outreach** – the capability to put on Events and Activities is being limited by the number of members. The new strategy is to look for more members to help out, even with just one event during the year. A listing of Events will be made available to help members identify where they can best help out.
- Teleconferencing** – Council is looking into options for conducting meetings over the internet. This topic was discussed in light of the snowstorm that threatened to cancel January's Council meeting.
- 2018 Community Awards Program** – With Council approval, Immanuel has enrolled in the 2018 Community Awards Program, sponsored by Ion Bank. People who have a bank account with Ion Bank get to vote for their favorite non-profit organization. Each vote for us will provide us with a \$25 donation. Ion Bank has \$60,000 available for this program. The voting will take place from Feb 1 to March 31.

2018 Community Rewards Program

We are enrolled in the Ion Bank rewards program Each Ion bank customer can vote for their favorite non-profit. For every vote, we will receive a donation of \$25 from the Ion Bank Foundation.

We encourage you to vote for Immanuel.

Voting is from Feb. 1st – March 31st.

Thank you and happy voting!

**Pancake Dinner & with Talent Show to follow:
Tuesday, Feb. 13th – 6:30pm**



Cupcake Challenge February 18th

- **Bring 13 Cupcakes; 12 to share & 1 for judging.**
 - **Judging starts at 11:45AM**
 - **1st, 2nd, & 3rd prizes will be awarded.**
- **Cupcakes will be judged by your favorite design.**

Free will donations will be accepted.

All the proceeds & leftover cupcakes will be brought to Spooner House.

Bake Sale for Julio: Feb. 25th following both services.

First Communion Classes: March 18 & 25th @ 11:30 – 12:15.

Communion Sunday is April 8th.

Prayers: Deb Steckert (203.888.1218) *Please take a look and let me know how they are doing. Thank you.*

Aaron & Jessica	Ruth Edgren	Ernest Isberg	Olivia Grace	Lynne Ross
Joe Abate	Sebastian Estrada	Jody	Olivia Rose	Joyce Sauer
Amy	Linda Williamson	Kevin Johnson	Brian Parsons	Margo Steckert
Ann Marie Lisa	Arleen Flach	Linda Kunecki	Nanci Patchofsky	Dorothy Stockman
Helen Ahearn	Francis	Sarah Leventhol	Florence Pawlak	Ed Stockman
Bob Ancefsy	Gloria	Jerry Lower	Pat Ploch	Family & friends of
Marge Bailey	Louise	Wilma Luft	Dorothy Prillip	Richard Stockman
Shirley Bernardo	Art Gillette	Ava Nebbia	Chandra & Chris Proch	Pete Thompson
Alan Burton	Gary Grabowski	Tacia Neumann	Charlie Ricco	Paul Wislocki
Charlie	Millie Grele	Chuck O'Neil	Joanna Rooney & children	Ann Virag
Kathy Corrigan	Todd Hollis	Dila Ostertag	Rose	JoAnn Virag
Mary Ann Croves	Illiana	Tyler Otis		Dee Voccola

February Ministry						
		Ushers	Assisting Minister	Lector	Acolyte	Coffee Hour
4	8:15	Lillian Thompson & Dave Ahearn	Jeananne Urbanowicz	Janet Edgren	Avry & Jainna Marcinczyk	SouperBowl Sunday
	10:30	Al Meyer & Rick Kaeser	Wendy Cegelka	Teresa Mentgen	Lauren Burton Vanessa Bogle	SouperBowl Sunday
11	8:15	Betty & Jerry Lower	Lillian Thompson	Lynn Nesshoever	Tori Alves & Ethan Andes	Sandra & Dave Andes
	10:30	Beth & Rich Alves	Ellen Fritz	Karin Schidat	Samantha Seres & Sophia Bogle	Karin Schidat & Jutta Firat
14	7:00 pm	Julie Cormack & Dave Ahearn	Lillian Thompson	Beth Alves	Jack Mullen & Stephanie Alves	No coffee hour
18	8:15	Diane & Dale Peters	Julie Cormack	Julie Cormack	Jayden Urbanowicz & Vanessa Bogle	Jeananne & Ed Urbanowicz
	10:30	Vicki Napomiceno & sons	Teresa Mentgen	Julie Cormack	Kinley Mentgen & Brando Fletter	Cupcake Challenge
25	8:15	Anne & Rob Dow	Julie Cormack	Janet Edgren	Lauren Burton & Joshua Napomiceno	Christian Ed Bake Sale
	10:30	Kim & Lee Burton	Julie Cormack	Karin Schidat	Tori Alves & Jack Mullen	Christian Ed Bake Sale
Altar Guild:			Debby Steckert & Jan Cormack			

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:20am Sunday 10:30am Worst 2 more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Adult S 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Scouts 7pm choir Rehe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Christian F 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pinewood - Pack
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Souper-Bowl 8:15am Worshil 2 more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Adult S 7pm Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Worshi 7pm Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Scouts 7pm choir Rehe 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> snowdate pack 1
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:15am Worshil 9:20am Sunday 2 more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Adult S 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Pancak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day 2 more 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pinewood Derby S 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pinewood Derby
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CupCake Challeng 8:15am Worshil 2 more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presidents' Day 7am Borchert F 6:30pm Adult S 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7am Borchert F 7pm Congregat 7pm Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7am Borchert F 6pm Scouts 7pm choir Rehe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7am Borchert F 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7am Borchert F 	
25	26	27	28	Mar 1	2	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bake Sale 8:15am Worshil 3 more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Adult S 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Scouts 7pm choir Rehe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Christian F 		

