

Immanuel Lutheran Church

20 Rocky Mountain Blvd. West
Lethbridge, Alberta
403-327-4336

MARCH 2019

We call the 40 Days from Ash Wednesday leading up to Easter Sunday, the season of Lent. It lasts 40 days not including Sundays! Lent begins Wednesday, March 6.



I invite you to take the journey together with me. The journey will focus on Jesus' life and what His life means for our life! We'll focus on the final days of Jesus' life leading up to His death on the cross. We'll read Scripture together. We will worship. We will eat together. We will be encouraged to give up things that might be holding us back. Will you go on this 40 day journey with me as we prepare our hearts and minds for Easter, the celebration of Jesus resurrection from the dead!?

loving Heavenly Father God, through the Gospel! Our calling makes us an integral part of the body of Christ here in this place.

Network authors Bugbee and Cousins write, ***"The church needs you. Not because it needs people to fill positions within the organization, but because You are an important and integral part of the body of Christ. You have a significant contribution to make. You have a ministry in the church and a mission the world"***

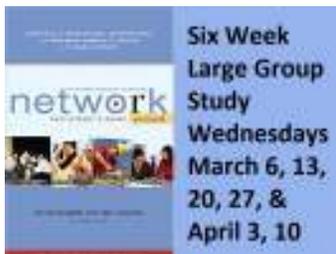
It is our hope that Network is a tool that we can use to healthy functioning church where people know what their gifts are, how they best can serve, and are motivated to serve joyfully and enthusiastically! Please join in!

We have a little something for everybody, I think! Devotional resources. Engaging Sunday messages, "Jesus Makes Headlines", Wednesday Soup Suppers, 30 minute mid-week worship opportunities, Network large group study, and a challenge to give up something that in turn might end up blessing others!



God bless us all on this special 40 day journey to the cross where Jesus paid it all for us so we can life now, and life eternal!

Sincerely,
Pastor Lee



**Network Large Group Study
Wednesdays starting March 6 for
6 Consecutive Weeks 7:15:8:30pm**

The large group study "Network" is a little like completing a puzzle. It is designed to take the pieces you already have and puts them in a framework that helps you see a little more clearly the picture God may have intended for your life. We have learned in 2019 already that we all have a calling issued to us by our



I Give Up



What would you give up for 40 days? Will you give up anything at all? It's totally up to you. If you did give something up, what would it be and would you be willing to donate the estimated \$ value to somebody else?

Pastor Lee cited the example of giving up a weekly visit to Starbucks (valued at \$5/ visit). The idea then would be donate that amount (\$5 X 6 Weeks = \$30) to charity! Starting Sunday, March 10th, we will begin highlighting the following ministries that you may want to direct this extra giving to... the options are focused on needs within our own church, locally in Lethbridge, and even on larger national/international level!

Immanuel

National Youth Gathering Fund – Help our very own youth travel to "Real. Present. God." a youth gathering of 25000 teens and leaders in Minneapolis July 2019! Your donation would help offset costs for this big trip!

Benevolence Fund – Immanuel's benevolence fund helps individuals/couples/families with special needs as they arise and as funds are available.

Local

Streets Alive – Streets Alive Mission exists to provide for the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of the

poor to empower them to change their lives through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Inter-faith Food Bank – This Lethbridge mission recognizes the human dignity of those in need and provides food and access to services and resources generated from within our community.

National/International

Concordia Lutheran Seminary – Concordia Lutheran Seminary (in Edmonton) forms servants for Jesus' Sake. Their primary purpose is to prepare servants for the pastoral ministry.

Canadian Lutheran World Relief - Inspired by God's love for humanity, CLWR challenges the causes and responds to the consequences of human suffering and poverty. As a specialized agency of the Lutheran community in Canada, CLWR offers Canadians opportunities to understand and serve the needs of the others.

MEET AND GREETINGS 2019 WRAP UP



And just like that, Meet and Greetings are over! What a great two months we've had together. Fourteen people gathered on Saturday, February 23rd at Don and Rita Fruson's place for what would be the last Meet and Greet

session with Pastor Lee. Fruson's served as the eighteenth gathering and the tally of participants rose to a total of 175 people, young and old, over the last two months! The purpose was to build relationships and spend time connecting on a more personal level with each other and with Pastor Lee. Thank you to all who participated and hosted!

Come to think of it... it doesn't need to end here, does it? Pastor Lee asked every participant this question..."Can you imagine a church family that does this more often?" That is, in other words, can you imagine a church family that meets together regularly in peoples' homes (or at the church) to encourage each other in our faith journey?

Here's the deal. Meet and Greetings really don't really need to come to an end! Consider this... consider gathering 6-10 people and invite Pastor Lee over for a visit sometime! Another possibility would be to identify people from our family of faith who have the knack for hospitality and others who have the ability to facilitate an evening for relevant/down to earth discussion, faith encouragement, devotion to God's Word, and to prayer. "Meet and Greetings" in January and February might be done, but one thing is for sure... our dear beloved Immanuel is stronger and healthier when we gather to encourage one another and help others on their faith journey!

PRAYER CHAIN



Did you know that **Immanuel has a prayer chain**? We have prayed for people in need for over 45 years. You can call the church

office at 403-327-4336 or Sigrid Heinrich at home 403-328-8067.

Tyler, How's it going at the church?

In a word... **BLESSED!** We didn't have a PPC meeting in February, we focused all energy on getting work done. Mom's Time has expanded with two childcare supervisors starting, Wednesday Men's Coffee group has started with a promising attendance, VBS is starting to prepare for this year's program, we did a church clean up freeing up three classrooms previously used for storage, our play structure committee has had a kickoff meeting and we hosted Watoto. Attendance has been trending well (~24% increase to 2018) and financially we're trending very well too. As our various ministries get going we are blessed with the continued support from our congregation. With all these accomplishments it's easy to get caught up in the blessings of 'what we've done', but I think more importantly we should look at the blessing of 'who we've become'. Immanuel, I'm incredibly proud of WHO we've become. Tyler Rodgers – Chairman



CHURCH CLEAN UP

We had half a dozen volunteers from Immanuel and a couple from Habitat for Humanity assist with the clean up. Ed Baedke has been designated as our fall guy for anything that got moved that shouldn't have. We managed to free up 3 classrooms that had accumulated all sorts of stuff over the years. Two trailers and about four truck/van loads of stuff were removed from the church. On top of that we have a bunch of resources we no longer need, including old hymnals and a variety of study materials. These have been set aside in the fellowship hall as free for the taking. Please take a look through them if you are interested and take what you like. We will be donating / disposing any items left after a couple of weeks. Additionally, we have begun to tidy up the Narthex with the idea being to make it as welcoming and comfortable as possible. Over the next few weeks we will be experimenting with some furnishing layouts with the focus on creating comfortable conversational areas. I'm starting to feel guilty putting it all on Ed, he's such a nice guy! I'll start to share the load. So it's 3 loads Ed, 3 loads Tyler so far.

MEN'S COFFEE GROUP WEDNESDAY 6:30AM

The men's coffee group has been meeting at the church for the past few weeks. We are in the middle of a series called Stay Positive. It's starting as a small group with a half dozen in attendance on average so far and twice that that have shown interest. This is a simple to follow, uplifting conversation... it's 6:30 in the morning after all!

BOARD GAMES NIGHT

Board Games Night for adults of all ages will be held on Friday, March 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the church. We will have snacks and a Jeopardy-style game to start the evening and then break into smaller groups to play a variety of board games. Come for fun, fellowship and snacks. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we have enough snacks and games. For more information talk to Kristin or Erik Cline or call Kristin at 403-715-1925.



A big THANK YOU goes out to The Congregation for your continued love, support and encouragement. Not



LCMS Youth Gathering Update

only financially; through your generous free-will donations and our various fundraisers, but also your verbal validations. It all means so much to our Youth and adds to the experience of the Gathering.

Funds we raise will help offset costs for the trip; registration, airfare, meals, hotel accommodations and additional activities while in Minneapolis. Julia Anton, Kristian Eufemia, Shaylynn Lindemann, Emma Marriner, Sam Murray, Alex Smith, Dean Smith and Kelsey Whipple as well as Leaders Pastor Lee and Michelle Rodgers will be attending the Gathering. This once every three years gathering is an amazing opportunity for Youth and Leaders to gather for worship, relationship and faith building, and for spiritual learning and growth that is designed just for them! The theme verse for the gathering is Psalm 46:1 **"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."** Here we will learn:

God is REAL. We are real people with real problems. Real life is at times broken and messy and because Jesus is real, I can be real.

God is PRESENT. God is present in His Word (Jesus, The Bible, Baptism, the Lords Supper, Proclamation of Good News). God is present through His people. God's

presence is our refuge and strength no matter what happens in our lives.



Our Youth worked together to create a *Travel Board* which is featured in the Narthex. Please keep an eye on our air plane as it tracks our financial goal as it moves along the path to and from Lethbridge, Ab to Minneapolis, Mn and back!



We are currently running a Gift Card fund raiser. **Do you buy groceries or gas? Eat at restaurants? Go to the movies or buy gifts? Have a big renovation coming up?** Please consider our fundraiser, Fundscrip!

This program lets our group raise funds simply by you purchasing gift cards, likely to the stores you already shop at! We will have a table setup in the Narthex following Sunday services for you to sign up (via cash or cheque) up until March 17th with gift cards expected to be distributed March 30th.

You can also visit www.fundscrip.com/support-a-group

Invitation Code: X63RWZ for *Immanuel Lutheran Church – Youth Group* to order directly and have your cards sent out sooner. Please note that if you use a credit card to pay via the website, they dock 1.99% from the percentage donated to us, to cover fees. We suggest using the EFT or online bill payment! *Safeway, Superstore, No Frills, Shoppers Drug Mart, Moxies, The Keg, Montana's, Tim Hortons, Starbucks, Home Depot* are some of the vendors available with many, many more.

We will also be doing another bottle drive collecting recycling at the end of April so please save your bottles and cans. Can't wait till then? We will take them anytime and can arrange to pickup big orders. Just talk to one us!

MOM'S TIME

New Things are Happening at Mom's Time Group! Invite a Friend and Join Us! We have childcare providers to care for the children as moms participant in conversation and topic discussions.

We meet twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

The 2nd Thursday of the month is a topic presentation and discussion and the 4th Thursday of the month will be coffee and conversation starters.

This past month we had a total of 17 moms and 22 children attend Mom's time divided between the two Mom Time sessions!

March topic are:

March 14th Topic: Impact of Media & Technology on families/children

March 28th Coffee & conversation with Fun conversation starters

If you have any questions please call Katherine Canfield 587-220-1672.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

An electrifying and heart-pounding drama, *Without Warning* offers a fresh understanding of a world that has irrevocably changed and how Christ can still make a difference in an age of terror. Ancient religious and political hatreds are manipulating the world around him, but living in terrorism's shadow is the least of John Cain's concerns. His marriage is at the breaking point. John is leaving his ministry. He plans to fulfill his promise to his daughter--a trip to Israel--and then, he's quitting. But when terrorists storm their church in California, launch a deadly unmanned airplane, and capture his tour group in Israel, John finds that his world is changed forever. The author's in-depth research with FBI counterterrorism, cyber terrorism, national security, and scientific experts give this book and extra edge of reality.



THANK YOU FROM WATOTO, BOARD OF OUTREACH & PARISH COORDINATOR!

On behalf of the Watoto Canada office, I just wanted to say thank you for the hosting the Watoto Children's Choir Wednesday, Feb. 27th at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Please pass on our thanks to all the staff and volunteers who helped you with this.

We are so appreciative of everything your team did, -the planning, the logistics & the promoting of the visit. More importantly, thank you for giving your love, support and friendship towards the children and adults on the team. We are so thankful for our time with you!

Celeste Guarino
Tour Coordinator
Watoto Canada

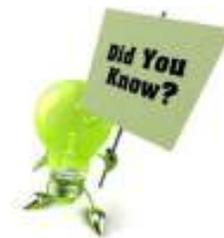
To the amazing Immanuel team, family & members of Immanuel Lutheran Church - THANK YOU! Thank you for working together, welcoming the Watoto Children and Adults in love, kindness and friendship. Thank you for preparing and providing meals, opening your homes to billet the children and adult and extending Christian hospitality. Way to go team! Check out the thank you video from Watoto on the narthex T.V.

The children and adults were able to take in some sledding and hot chocolate.



With grateful hearts, Praising and Thanking God for this Family of Faith,

Board of Outreach –Chair Rita Boltezar
Parish Coordinator – Katherine Canfield



- We now have 2 child care workers helping during moms time “caring for” and playing with the children.
- The Watoto team of 31 performed to a full house of 296 attendees.
- Leadership is in the process of ensuring ‘police checks’ are being done for those individuals working directly with Children and Youth. This is part of our risk management protocol and required for insurance purposes.

