



Pastor's Message

Dear People of Immanuel,

This week we begin a new season of the church year, the season of Lent, a 40-day period of time in the spring leading up to Holy Week and Easter. (The word "Lent" comes originally from the old English word for spring, *lenten*.) For Christians Lent has always been a time to focus on deepening ones faith. We speak of a Lenten journey – a time to draw closer to God through prayer, reading the Bible, worship, and reaching out to others with acts of kindness.

You're invited to join us during this season for our Lenten evening gatherings, which will take place each Wednesday from March 12 through April 3. This year we want to focus on ways to deepen our spirituality in the midst of a life filled with stress and activity. A good way to do this is to understand that we can experience spirituality in all kinds of activities in life,

not just those that we considered to be religious. The key is to practice our awareness of God's presence in all that we do. Our gatherings will be called "**Spiritual Timeout.**" Each week we'll take part in spiritual exercises meant to help us focus and connect with God's Spirit in a variety of activities including eating, service projects, music, meditation, prayer, discussion, and teaching. More information can be found in this newsletter about these in other activities offered to deepen your faith during this season. I encourage you to call timeout and interrupt your busyness as we gather to experience inspiration and renewal.

See you at church,

Pastor David

	Immanuel Lutheran Church 1715 Grant Road Los Altos, CA 94024	
	Phone: 650.967.4906	Fax: 650.965.0902
	E-mail: office@praiseimmanuel.com	Web site: www.ilclosaltos.com
<u>Sunday Worship Schedule</u>		
9:00 AM – Service with contemporary music 11:00 AM – Traditional Service and hymns		
Adult Education between services Confirmation Class – Sundays, 5:00 p.m. (Sept. – May)		

Ash Wednesday is on March 6th



The Season of Lent begins this year on **March 6th**. Throughout Christian history the church has seen this six-week long period as a special opportunity to deepen ones faith through practices like worship, prayer, and repentance. Ash Wednesday is the first day in this season and marks the beginning of our Lenten journey toward Good Friday and Easter. We will gather at Immanuel to begin this journey on **March 6th at 7:00 p.m. for an Ash Wednesday service**. Join us as we focus our hearts in prayer, song, scripture, and the imposition of ashes. **Note: there is no Soup Supper on Ash Wednesday.**

Spiritual Timeout



Wednesday Evenings in Lent at Immanuel

March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10

6:00 p.m.



Our Wednesday evening gatherings during the season of Lent take place this year under the theme: Spiritual Timeout – an opportunity to reset and renew our spirits by discovering our connection to the spiritual in life in all kinds of moments and activities – even ones we don’t usually think of as spiritual, such as eating together, laughing together, serving other people together. Each Wednesday will include:

- a meal/soup supper with side dishes – to feed our bodies.
- a devotion/prayer time – to feed our spirits and faith. In addition to song and Word, each week will offer a unique “focusing prayer exercise.”
- some weeks will also include a service project, connecting us with the spiritual experience of generosity, which was central to Jesus’ ministry. (An example is the first gathering on March 13, which coincides with Immanuel’s monthly “Lunch for Others” activity).



We’ll also take seriously the common idea of a Lenten spiritual journey by “journeying” to different parts of our property for the spiritual exercises and devotions – making use of not just the sanctuary, but also locations like the new patio fire pit and the arbor.

Activities begin each week at 6:00 PM with the meal and finish up with prayer and other activities at around 7:30. If you can’t come at 6:00, come when you can to join in.

Come to be refreshed in body, mind and spirit.



Spring Forward

*Daylight Saving Time
Begins Next Weekend
(March 10)*

*Don't forget to turn your
clocks ahead one hour*

Last Call for First Communion Class



Pastor David is scheduling a First Communion Class. This practical and informative session is intended for children (as well as youth and adults) who have either not participated in Communion instruction before, or not yet received Holy Communion. Typically in our congregation children from the second grade up attend the class, but participation is at the parents' discretion. If you feel your child will be able to understand and participate in the discussion, you may plan for them to attend. To enroll, please contact the church office or email the pastor at: pastordavid@praiseimmanuel.com.

Volunteers Needed to Sort and Pack Food at Second Harvest Food Bank

Saturday, April 13, 9:00am to 12:00 Noon

Description of volunteer activity: Volunteers help sort fresh produce (divide the good produce from the bad produce) and pack them into 20-25 lb. boxes. Some, but not all volunteers will be lifting these boxes to stack up on pallets. There is a 15 minute break for refreshments and snacks.



Our group of 10 from Immanuel Lutheran Church, is scheduled to sort food at the Cypress Center Second Harvest location at:

**4001 North 1st Street
San Jose, 95134**

**We still have spaces open.
Spaces fill up quickly.
Sign up soon!**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SIGNING UP: (INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION OF GROUP MEMBERS IS REQUIRED)

- Group members register individually using this link: https://shfb.tfaforms.net/27?tfa_4=GR-15488 as soon as possible to retain their slot.
- Group members need to use this reservation ID when signing up: **GR-15488**
- Group size may be reduced to the number of registered individuals to accommodate wait-listed volunteers.
- If any individuals are below the age of 18, electronic parental permission slips will need to be completed at least 48 hours ahead of volunteering.

Annual “Empty Bowls” Soup Supper — Sunday, March 10

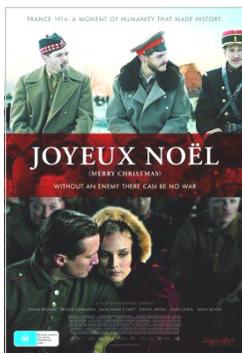
Two seatings: 3:00-4:30pm and 5:00-6:30pm

*(Note: Tickets for the 5-6:30 seating are selling out fast!
There are more spaces available for the 3-4:30pm seating.)*



“Empty Bowls”, the annual fundraiser to benefit the homeless in our community, sponsored by CSA (Community Services Agency of Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills) is celebrating its 28th anniversary this year. It will take place at Central Seventh Day Adventist Church, 1425 Springer Road, Mountain View on Sunday, March 10. Tickets may be purchased at the event for a minimum donation of \$35. Join us there for a delicious meal of soup, salad, cake and beverage and take your beautiful handmade bowl home. For additional information contact Gisela Daetz at (408) 738-4726.

*“Immanuel Reads” Movie Night
Saturday, April 6, 6:30 p.m.*



Join us when “Immanuel Reads” presents the movie, “Joyeux Noel”, on Sat., April 6, at 6:30pm. This is the World War I battlefield story Pastor David recently described in a Christmas season sermon as a Christmas Miracle. “Academy Award, Golden Globe and BAFTA nominee for Best Foreign Film, “Joyeux Noel” tells the true-life story of the spontaneous Christmas Eve truce declared by Scottish, French and German Troops in the trenches of WWI.” English/French/German languages are spoken with English subtitles for those of us that need them; runs 116 minutes. We will begin the movie at 6:30 p.m., followed by coffee, sweets and discussion at 8:30. Please join us if you can. Need transportation? Call Terry Higgins at 650-619-3576.

*Cal Lutheran Choir Concert
Saturday, March 23, 7:00 p.m.
Grace Lutheran Church, Palo Alto*

The Cal Lutheran Choir is starting their north-western concert tour in Palo Alto on Saturday, March 23, 7:00 p.m., at Grace Lutheran Church, 3149 Waverley Street, Palo Alto (650-494-1212). Come enjoy a fabulous concert with wonderful musicians. Contact Ruth Ann Johnson for more information at 408-736-1665 or raj1036@att.net.

*Online Giving – Please Update Your New Pledge Amounts for 2019
(or try using online giving for the 1st time, if you'd like!)*

Thanks to all of you who are able to contribute to Immanuel. For those who contribute online, if you have changed your pledge for this year, would like to change what you contribute, or simply would like to start contributing online, please visit our website, <http://www.ilclosaltos.com>

Online giving is convenient and flexible and we have more and more members join each year. It's three simple clicks away: on our website, go to the upper right side of the page under "Giving" and click the link for "Online Giving." (Or simply use this direct link:

<http://www.ilclosaltos.com/online-giving>. You will then be taken to the "Simply Giving" page that allows you to login or register. This link also describes what Simply Giving is, and gives additional instructions and information about setting up an account. You can set recurring amounts per week or per month, as well as make one-time contributions.

Your financial secretary, Mike Schini, is available to help with any questions or issues you may have. Please reach out to him in church or by email at: finsec@praiseimmanuel.com.

*The Ladies Evening Group meets
Tuesday, March 26, 5:30 p.m.*

The Ladies Evening Group will meet for dinner on Tuesday, March 26, 5:30 p.m., at Black Bear Diner, 415 E. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale (408-749-1100.) The restaurant will issue separate checks. Please RSVP to Ruth Ann Johnson at 408-736-1665 or raj1036@att.net by Monday, March 25, so she can make reservations. Those of you who usually attend might want to invite someone who hasn't been able to join us. Feel free to contact Ruth Ann for more information.

Congratulations...

...to Lynn North who is featured as the cover story this month in [Bay Area Women Magazine](#).

Birthdays in March

Junette Higgins March 1
Martina Jones March 1
Justin Ford March 2
Glen Carlson March 6
Anita Danford March 6
Bill Boardman Jr. March 7
John McCrillis March 7
Andrew Carter March 8
Melody Spradlin March 8
Dennis Cater March 9
Brent Ahrens March 11
Tom Poppitz March 13
Geoffrey Ball March 16
Matt Poppitz March 18
Ercan Erhan March 19
Bob Rossi March 19
Dan Johnson March 22
Polly Neumann March 22
Brent Johnson March 23
Lisa Manners March 23
Christian Schick March 30
Linda Toll March 31

Anniversaries in March

(none)



YOUTH EVENTS IN MARCH

Movie Night

Saturday, March 9th, 6:00pm

Come and enjoy some Marvel fun as we enjoy a fun movie night. Get ready to kick back, enjoy some pizza and watch our superheroes. The movie will start at 6:00pm, at Immanuel. Please RSVP to Danny if you are planning to attend.

Sunday School Invite-a-Friend Day

Sunday, March 10th

We will be planning a fun and eventful Sunday school for this day. We are asking each of our Sunday School children to invite a friend to come and enjoy this fun time. All who invite a friend get to reach into the treasure chest as do their friends. There will be games, crafts, snacks, lots of fun and pizza too! Please mark this on your calendar, and make sure to invite a friend.

Parents Night Out

Saturday, March 30th, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Once again we will be having a fun Parents Night Out. Once again we will be feeding the kids dinner. Weather permitting we will be doing outdoor games and challenges. This is always a great time and we look forward to having you there. Make sure to invite a friend as well to this awesome event.

SUNDAY EVENING

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

(these begin at 6:00 p.m., each week following Confirmation.)

Sunday, March 10th—Relay Race Fun

Get ready for a great time as we break into teams and enjoy some crazy Relay race fun.

Sunday, March 17th—Chef Night

This month each group will make a different dish. They will need to find their items somewhere on the church grounds, and then make do with what they have to make a nice meal.

Sun., March 24th—Board Game Challenge

We will have a board game night, where teams will need to work against a clock to try and win the game. This will create some fun challenges.

Sunday, March 31st—Escape Room

Come and enjoy an Immanuel Escape room. Let's see if you have what it takes to get yourself free :)



ADDITIONAL YOUTH EVENTS

Parents Night Out and Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 20th, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Our annual Parents Night Out and Easter Egg Hunt will be a blast. We will have a great time with games, crafts, food and of course a fun Easter Egg Hunt. Make sure to mark it on your calendar and to have the kids invite friends.

Mexico Mission Trip June 23-29

Our annual Mexico trip this year will actually be earlier than in the past. This year the youth are heading to Mexico June 23rd-29th. Put it on your calendar to make sure that your youth is all set. You will also want to make sure that they have their passport updated and ready to go. All youth entering 9th grade the following Fall are eligible to go. Contact Danny if you have any questions.

Vacation Bible School July 8-12 & July 15-19

Last summer the youth were very excited about VBS. They were so excited that they decided that they wanted to bring the children back to the church for a second week. So this year we will be having two VBS weeks at Immanuel. The dates for the VBS weeks are as follows. July 8th-12th and July 15th-19th. Please let Danny know if your youth is around and can help. We can only do this if we have youth support.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
1715 Grant Road
Los Altos, CA 94024**

Return Service Requested

We believe there is no person or created thing outside the active love and grace of God shown to us so clearly in Jesus Christ.

Immanuel Lutheran Church newsletter is published monthly.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
1715 Grant Road
Los Altos, CA 94024
Phone: 650.967.4906
Fax: 650.965.0902
E-mail: office@praiseimmanuel.com
Web site: www.ilclosaltos.com