



Immanuel Lighthouse

April 2011



*God's word is a lamp to my feet and
a light for my path. Psalm 119:105*

Sharing Faith, Hope and Love

In the Sellwood
Neighborhood of Portland
Since 1907

Immanuel Lutheran Church & Preschool

Pastor David Zemke
7810 SE 15th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97202
503-236-7823

Church e-mail address:
office@immanuelutheranpdx.com

Sunday Worship: 10:30 am
Education Hour: 9:00 am
Communion on
1st & 3rd Sundays

Immanuel's Mission Statement

Called to love God
with all our hearts
and to love
our neighbors
as ourselves,
We offer ourselves
to God through:

- + Faithful study of
God's Word
- + Sincere worship
and prayer
- + Active fellowship
- + Loving Service



From the desk of Pastor David Zemke

AS I was growing up, the teachers at the local school always placed Spring Break during the week in which April first took place. This was for two reasons of which I can think. Firstly, in North Idaho, this is the first really nice week that's possible. There's usually some snow laying around, but the highs were in the forties and after a long winter, this felt almost tropical! Secondly, and probably in-
consequentially, the teachers never had to put up with April Fool's Day antics.

As an adult I remember April Fool's Day only as a childish observation and one that never really piqued my curiosity. As an adult April is that dreaded month in which we fill out forms and prostrate ourselves before the Internal Revenue Service! I'd like to go back to that idea about April Fools for a moment though.

April usually has some amount of Lent in it, although this year is exceptional. Lent is a time of foolishness in our society. Our current, non-Christian times can't imagine introspection, much less a time to dwell on our imperfect and repent. This is all foolishness to a culture that is always forward looking and future driven.

Yet St. Paul calls the cross folly to those who are perishing in 1 Corinthians 1:18. In other words, what we do doesn't make sense to people who aren't Christians. But that shouldn't stop us! God tells us in 1 Corinthians 1:19 that He is busy thwarting the earthly wisdom of the so called "wise." We're actually called by this text to not just be April Fools, but year round fools!

There's actually a class of saints in the Eastern Orthodox Church called "Fool for Christ." These are individuals who worked in their lives and actions to expose sin in society by literally engaging in shocking and foolish behavior. I don't know that I'm suggesting intentionally doing this, I suppose that's more a calling. What I am suggesting is that we live our lives in tension, knowing that what we do certainly looks silly to many people, but is the heart of our own piety. We should never be ashamed of our Lord or of devotion to Him. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith and run with perseverance the race he has set before us, no matter how foolish it seems.

Food For Thought.....

I showered and shared.....I adjusted my tie.
I got there and sat.....in a pew just in time.
Bowing my head in prayer.....as I closed my eyes....



I saw the shoe of the man next to me.....touching my own. I sighed.
With plenty of room on either side.....I thought, "Why must our soles touch?"

It bothered me, his shoe touching mine.....but it didn't bother him much.
A prayer began" 'Our Father'.....I thought, "this man with the shoes, has no pride.

They're dusty, worn and scratched. Even worse, there are holes on the side!

"Thank You for blessings,' the prayer went on.

The shoe man said.....a quiet 'Amen.'

I tried to focus on the prayer.....but my thoughts were on his shoes again.

Aren't we supposed to look our best. When walking through that door?

'Well, this certainly isn't it,' I thought. Glancing toward the floor...

Then the prayer was ended.....and the songs of praise began.

His voice lifted the rafters.....His hands were raised high.

The Lord could surely hear. The shoe man's voice from the sky.

It was time for the offering.....and what I threw in was steep.

I watched as the shoe man reached.....into his pocket so deep.

I saw what was pulled out.....what the shoe man put in.

Then I heard a soft 'clink', as when silver hits tin.

The sermon really bored me.....to tears, and that's no lie.

It was the same for the shoe man.....for tears fell from his eyes.

At the end of the service.....as is the custom here.

We must greet new visitors, and show them all good cheer.

But I felt moved somehow.....and wanted to meet the shoe man.

So after the closing prayer.....I reached over and shook his hand.

He was old and his skin was dark.....and his hair was truly a mess.

But I thanked him for coming.....for being our guest.

He said, 'My names' Charlie.....I'm glad to meet you, my friend.'

There were tears in his eyes.....but he had a large, wide grin.

'Let me explain,' he said.....wiping tears from his eyes.

I've been coming here for months.....and you're the first to say

'Hi.'"I know that my appearance.....'is not like all the rest.

'I always clean and polish my shoes.....'before my very long walk.
'But by the time I get here.....'they're dirty and dusty, like chalk.'
My heart filled with pain.....and I swallowed to hide my tears.
As he continued to apologize.....for daring to sit so near
He said, 'When I get here.....'I know I must look a sight.
'But I thought if I could touch you.....'then maybe our souls might unite.'

I was silent for a moment.....knowing whatever was said
Would pale in comparison.....I spoke from my heart, not my head.
'Oh, you've touched me,' I said.....'and taught me, in part;
'That the best of any man.....'is what is found in his heart.'
The rest, I thought.....this shoe man will never know.
Like just how thankful I really am.....that his dirty shoe touched my soul.

You are special to me and you have made a difference in my life.
I respect you, and truly cherish you.

No matter how often you talk,.....or how close you are.

Let old friends know you have not forgotten them; tell new friends you never will.

Remember, everyone needs a friend.....

Someday, you might feel like you have no friends at all.

Just remember this and take comfort in knowing that

Someone out there cares about you.....and always will.

Live each day as your last, it could be!!!

Submitted by Eileen Johnson



Wednesdays. Lenten Services

Noon and 7 pm (except April 6th)

Christ in the Passover.

presented by Jews for Jesus,

Thursday April 7th 7 pm

Maundy Thursday Services

at Noon and 7 pm



Immanuel celebrated our first annual Mardi Gras festival on Sunday, March 6th. The event featured the Michael Curtis Jazz Project, of which member Thomas Whalen is guitarist. There was also a bake sale, proceeds of which will support the upcoming Vacation Bible School, and the raffle for the preschool was held.

While attendance was light, the organizers hope that word of mouth advertizing will help this festival become a yearly fixture in the neighborhood, as our Harvest Festival has. "This festival offers another contact point with our community as we work to reach out with the love of Christ to our community" said Pastor Zemke. Thank you to all who helped and participated in this new event.



Honoring Christ at Easter

If you are able, we need donations of flowers to decorate our beautiful sanctuary. There will be a basket in the Narthex or you can see Judy Cox or Cecille Holm.

Thanking you in advance

Easter Breakfast

Once again, we will be having a breakfast in the fellowship hall at 9 AM Easter morning. This has been a tradition at Immanuel.

There will be no Sunday School or Adult Bible class on Easter, so everyone can partake in the breakfast.

Treat yourself to a relaxing breakfast with your Immanuel family and friends. Watch the bulletin for further details.

Anyone wishing to help with this event, please contact Barbara Pearson at 503-659-8128.



Our Pre-School will be joining us for Palm Sunday Service, April 17th 10:30 am

How to plant your garden

First, come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses...

For the garden of daily living,

~ Plant 3 rows of Peas ~

Peace of mind—Peace of heart—Peace of soul

~ Plant 4 rows of Lettuce ~

Lettuce be faithful—Lettuce be kind—Lettuce be patient—
Lettuce really love one another

~ No Garden is without Turnips ~

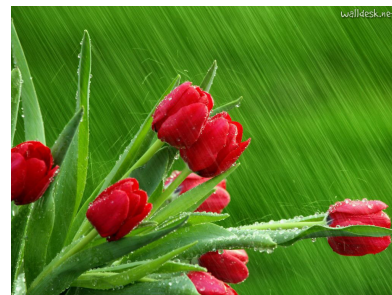
Turnip for meetings—Turnip for Service—Turnip to help one another

~ To Conclude, Our Garden Must have Thyme ~

Thyme for each other—Thyme for family—Thyme for friends

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.

Submitted by Virginia Davenport

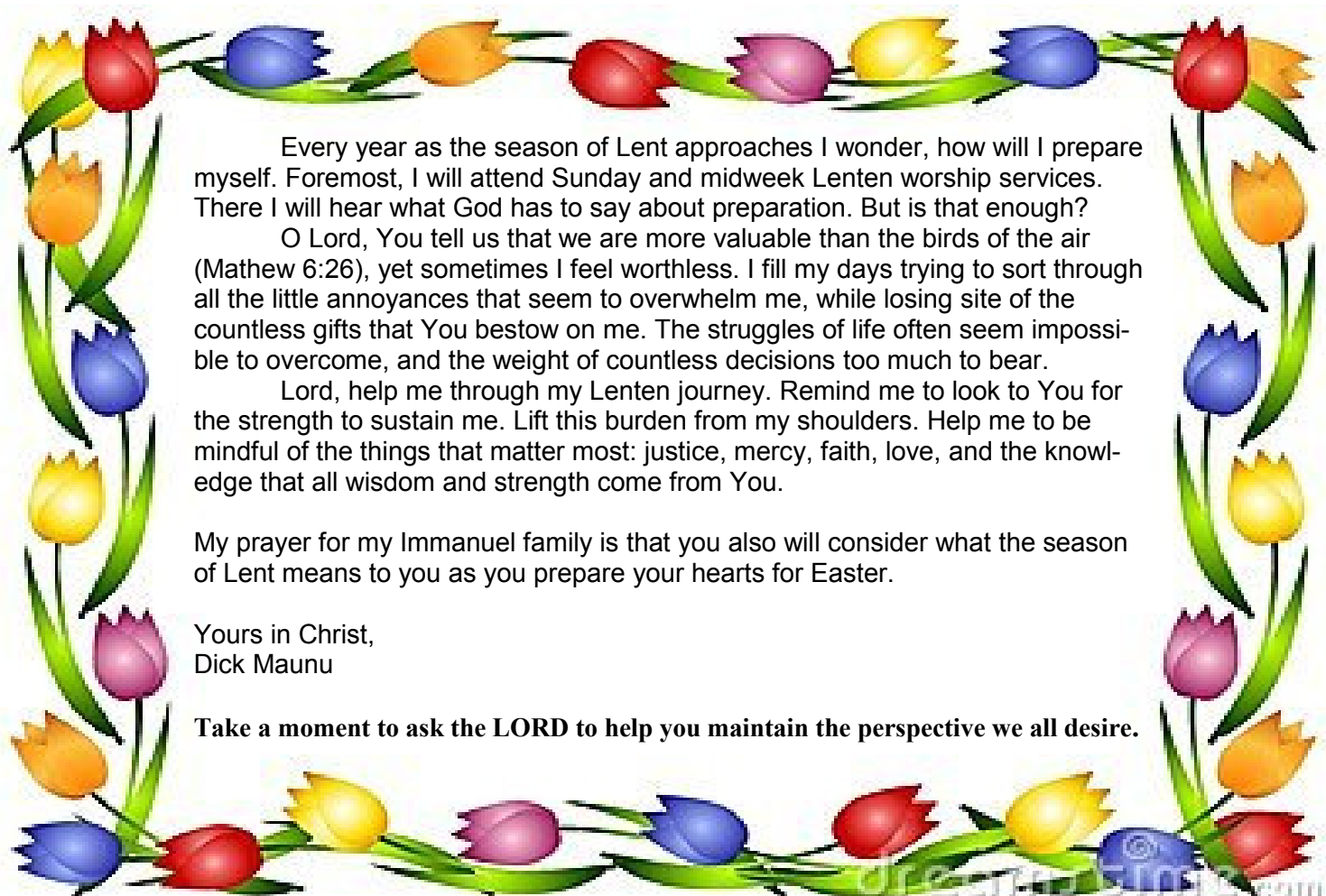


Birthdays

- Alan Zimmerman.....10th
- Mark Christianson.....13th
- Hyland Flores.....13th
- Eileen Johnson.....14th
- John Lambert.....14th
- Kristofer Herschberger.....15th
- Mark Zadow.....19th
- Britney Johnson.....24th
- Linda Oelke.....24th
- Virginia Davenport.....26th

Anniversaries

- William & Gloria Logan.....14th
- June & Marty Arnoldy.....14th
- David & Tamara Cox.....20th



Every year as the season of Lent approaches I wonder, how will I prepare myself. Foremost, I will attend Sunday and midweek Lenten worship services. There I will hear what God has to say about preparation. But is that enough?

O Lord, You tell us that we are more valuable than the birds of the air (Mathew 6:26), yet sometimes I feel worthless. I fill my days trying to sort through all the little annoyances that seem to overwhelm me, while losing site of the countless gifts that You bestow on me. The struggles of life often seem impossible to overcome, and the weight of countless decisions too much to bear.

Lord, help me through my Lenten journey. Remind me to look to You for the strength to sustain me. Lift this burden from my shoulders. Help me to be mindful of the things that matter most: justice, mercy, faith, love, and the knowledge that all wisdom and strength come from You.

My prayer for my Immanuel family is that you also will consider what the season of Lent means to you as you prepare your hearts for Easter.

Yours in Christ,
Dick Maunu

Take a moment to ask the LORD to help you maintain the perspective we all desire.

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