



Immanuel Lighthouse

February 2012



*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:
ilepdxoffice@gmail.com

Church & School Websites:
immanuel Lutheran p dx . com
immanuel preschool . net

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

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

Having little kids around the house, we're getting a refresher on our nursery rhymes. One familiar rhyme has an ending that says "Ashes, ashes, we all fall down!" What a horrible way to end a nursery rhyme! It's bad enough that some people have interpreted the whole thing to be about the black plague the spread across Europe. This probably isn't true, as this particular variation on the rhyme appears later than the plague.

But what a great way to start to talk about Lent! Yes, Lent begins in February this year. Every time this happens I feel a little out of kilter because of how early Easter is going to be. In point of fact, Ash Wednesday comes on the 22nd of February. All of you Valentine's Day fans can celebrate in peace, but a little over a week later, we start Lent with ash.

Ashes are used as part of a symbol of penitence in the Old Testament. If you had done something wrong you were to put on sack cloth and ashes as an outward sign of your repentance. We don't usually see that practice today, for better or worse we leave our repentance on the inside, expect for one day. As we begin the season of Lent we begin with ashes.

Ashes are really the end product. We shouldn't want to see ashes because they mean something has been burned up. They're also dirty. Every time I get near them I seem to get them all over and have a terrible time getting off myself. Our sin is just like ash. All our good intentions, all the things we could have done, and yes, even our relationship with God is gone and in its place is something dirty that we can't quite get rid of.

I'm actually less interested in the ashes part of the rhyme as I am in the falling down part. We all fall down. On Ash Wednesday we all fall down at the foot of the cross. We all fall down in repentance, covered in ashes. And we stay down for the next 40 days. We use this time of introspection, at the foot of the cross, as we seek to amend our sinful lives. Perhaps this year we won't give up something but we will add something by way of spiritual practice. For whatever we use these 40 days, at the foot of the cross, we shall be blessed by God as He draws us near to Himself.



From The Elders



We are called to love God with all our hearts and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We offer ourselves to God through,

Faithful Study
Sincere Worship and Prayer
Active Fellowship
Loving Service

This should look familiar; yes this is Immanuel's mission statement. While racking my brain, trying to figure out what to write about, searching high and low for that perfect subject for my February article, Among other places, I went on the Immanuel Lutheran's web page to look at previous articles and the mission statement caught my eye. I asked myself how often do I actually read and actually practice the items written in the mission statement on a regular basis. With the New Year just starting, maybe our New Year's resolution should also include living your life by following our Mission statement along with, losing a few pounds, more exercise and a little less procrastinating. Our spiritual health is just as important as our physical health and sometimes getting caught up in everyday activities we may forget. As we get closer to the Lenten season, let's strengthen our spiritual lives and live as God would wish us to live.

Important Email Changes

Effective Immediately:

Office email: ilepdxoffice@gmail.com.

Pastor's email: ilepdxpastor@gmail.com



Preschool Fundraiser

We are now selling raffle tickets for a 4 consecutive night stay at

a beach cottage at Arch Cape, south of Cannon Beach donated

by one of the preschool parents.

The tickets are on sale after service through Sunday, February 12th.

Cost of tickets are 1 for \$10.00 or 3 for \$20.00.

Drawing will be held at

Preschool Meet and Eat on Feb. 16th.

If you would like to meet regularly for some fellowship and fun making lap robes for our returning soldiers and veterans in wheel chairs, prayer shawls and/or blankets for babies that are baptized here at Immanuel or the Crisis Pregnancy Centers or perhaps chemo or NICU hats.

If you don't know how to start things, it might be fun to learn a new skill. In the choir room – the last Saturday of the month @ 10 am.

Karen Rambo 503-775-3962



Family Night is scheduled for the last Friday of every month.

Please join us for fun, games and dinner,

Friday the 24th, 6-8pm.



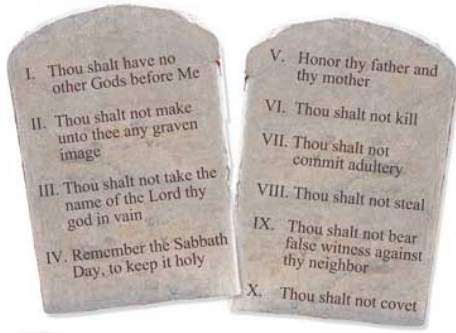
Acclaim Images.com



Ash
Wednesday



February 22nd
Services at
Noon and 7pm



Our Lenten Season will be a journey through the 10 Commandments. Pastor Zemke will walk with us each week on Wednesdays and Sundays. Plan to join us Wednesdays at noon or 7 pm and Sundays at 10:30 As we go back to the basics in our preparation for Easter Season.

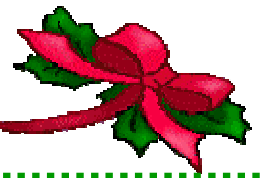


<i>Lou Christianson</i>	<i>8th</i>
<i>Edie Folkestad</i>	<i>10th</i>
<i>Debra Wagner</i>	<i>12th</i>
<i>Neil Maunu</i>	<i>16th</i>
<i>Matthew Gross</i>	<i>18th</i>
<i>Myles Zemke</i>	<i>21st</i>
<i>Andrea Golin</i>	<i>24th</i>
<i>Katherine Pearson</i>	<i>24th</i>
<i>Jordan Cox</i>	<i>25th</i>



SAVE THE DATE...February 21st
Pancake Supper hosted by our Men's Group
5 pm until all are full.

Thank You



The Dorcas Guild wishes to thank everyone for their participation at our Christmas Dinner and Auction. Your donations to the auction and your purchase of these items were greatly appreciated. The net proceeds from the auction were \$510.02, plus the \$700.00 from Thrivent, for a total of \$1,210.02, will be sent to the Northwest District Seminarian and Student Aid Fund. We are happy to be able to do this and again thank you very much.

New
Choir Members
Welcome!

Immanuel has an awesome choir!

They are small but mighty & they do make a joyful noise.

Thanks go to our Choir Director, Marie Helsby and each of the members, Stephen Bladow, Susan Bladow, Don Cox Jr, Judy Cox, Susan Keil, Kathy Lambert, Katherine Pearson, Rick & Karen Rambo and Terri Wolffe.

We find that we are in need of new members. If you like to sing and can carry a tune, please consider joining us. If you know someone outside of the church that would like to sing ask them to come join us. We meet Wednesdays @ 7 pm or following Lenten Services. No auditions are needed, and they will have fun.

“Then Job replied to the LORD: ‘I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted.’ ...My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.”
Job 42:2, 5 (NIV 1984)

Sometimes I don't fully trust God has prepared good things. For me, for family, for friends, for others.

I'm not sure He can redeem the pain, recover what's lost, heal all that's broken. Can He truly fit the pieces of this past year into a hopeful future?

Right now, circumstances suggest otherwise. And if I rely on what circumstances currently imply, I'm apt to believe the answer is no, the Lord is not able.

But circumstances tell tales that are prone to change in a moment.

And the truth of the matter is: God never changes. His power to give a future and hope never change. His Word never changes. So when life weaves stories of doubt and hopelessness in God's authority over circumstances, I reread accounts of His faithfulness and redemption. I refer back to the Truth...

All the while Job's family, home, crops and health demolished...God was preparing to give him double of what was killed, stolen, lost and damaged.

The time Joseph was a slave and prisoner...God was planning for him to be second in command over Egypt.

When Ruth was a homeless, barren widow...God was creating a home in Boaz's heart for her to be a wife, and mother, and great, great, great-grandmother to His Son.

As Lazarus was bound in grave clothes...God was forming the breath that'd give him new life.

The moment David laid down in adultery...God was laying the groundwork for him to rise up in repentance.

Every time Saul crucified Christians...God saw Paul preaching the crucified Christ.

With each strike that Sarai beat Hagar with...God saw Sarah beating her jealousy, pride and doubt with the birth of Isaac.

When Esther was an orphaned girl shaking in fear for her life...God made a way for His daughter to shake a kingdom and save His people.

As Rahab welcomed men into the shelter of her bed...God saw her sheltering the spies on her roof.

When Peter lost faith and denied Christ...God saw him bringing many to faith as he proclaimed Christ.

As Moses killed an Egyptian with his hands...God saw him chiseling the Ten Commandments with those same hands.

At the time Mary saw Jesus die...God saw Jesus resurrected and seated on His heavenly throne!

No matter what the dire, dreary circumstances, God turned each into a hopeful future.

The verse assures us, none of His plans can be thwarted. Despite what is happening in life, these stories of redemption and hope speak the truth. God can and will reverse, restore, revive and renew. He sees beyond the present troubles and is sparking a fire to light up the future with hope.

Let's be on the lookout for His plans to come to pass. And trust Him that He can take any circumstance and use it for our good and His glory.

