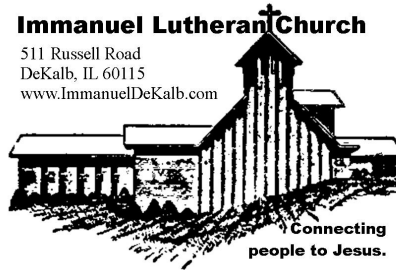


Immanuel Lutheran Church

511 Russell Road
DeKalb, IL 60115
www.ImmanuelDeKalb.com



Information in Regards to Immanuel Activities

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our congregational leadership spent some time discussing the current Corona virus (Covid 19) situation. As you will read below we have decided to cancel all organized gatherings at the Church until further notice. John Sprinkle, our congregational chair explains below.

From John Sprinkle, Congregational Chair

All,

Pastor Marty and I had a chance to discuss this over the phone. We believe it is best to cancel Wednesday services, meetings, and also this Sunday's services. We will reassess as more information becomes available moving forward.

We will look to have something online and also on the radio.

Another thing I've been contemplating is communion. Sunday (March 29th) would be a communion Sunday. My possible idea would be to offer communion at church over a 2 hour period. I suggest the continuous flow option. This would allow for people to come in, take part in the Lord's supper, say prayers if need be, and leave when they are ready. It wouldn't be our normally structured services, but would allow people to come into church. We would encourage individuals to write on a log that they came in and to still maintain safe hygiene practice to prevent spreading any disease.

For myself, a lot of this reminds me of the NIU shooting in 2008. I was a peer minister at that time, and when things calmed down that day, I remember just wanting to get to church to open the lounge. I wanted to provide a place for students to gather and be together to deal with their feelings. Obviously the big difference between that event and today is that we are being told to keep our distance. Social distancing is the best practice for our community, but I also see the benefit of giving ourselves a place to escape and relax in the Word with others.

As a hospital employee, I can tell you that the updates are continuously coming in and things are updating daily. Keep each other and our community



The following activities have been **cancelled** Wednesday, March 17 - Saturday, March 28, 2020.

- Little Lambs Preschool Classes
- All English Conversation Classes
- Healthy Families
- Sewing/Quilt Group
- University Village Family Night
- Wednesday Lenten Worship Service
- Little Lambs Spaghetti Dinner
- Refuge Lenten Dinner
- Council Meeting
- Junior Confirmation
- Choir Rehearsal
- Intercultural Café

(See alternate plan - a good place to lend a hand!)

- Hope Garden Meeting
- Sunday Worship Services
- Sunday School
- Adult Bible Study

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

- Wednesday Lenten Worship Service
 - Facebook posted video message tentatively planned to be available.
- Sunday Worship Services
 - Bulletin & Announcements will be sent out in Constant Contact and available on line.
 - Facebook live broadcast tentatively planned

in your prayers. We will continue to assess what is best practice for our congregation.

John Sprinkle, congregational chair

Listen to WLBK 10:30 a.m. Sunday

- for 8:00 a.m. Sunday, March 22.
- Some form of Worship will be on the radio at 10:30 a.m.
- Sponsorship's of flowers and radio will be read over the radio. Flowers will be delivered to a recipient of the sponsors choice, or may be rescheduled.

As Pastor, please know that I continue to be here for you in anything that you may need. Call me, email, Facebook or reach out in any other way you want. I'm going to limit visits especially to the elderly unless specifically requested to do so. If you need me, I WILL be there for you!

I'm planning to broadcast a "Facebook Live" video of a sermon on Wednesday that would have been my Lenten sermon. I'm not sure I can make this available outside of Facebook, but I'll be trying.

For Sunday I'm hoping to do a more complete worship service for both video and the radio. My creative juices are flowing and I'm going to continue to find ways of bringing the good news of Christ's love to our congregation, our community and the world.

Stay faithful to our loving God during this time. Don't let Satan steal your hope or distract you with anger against particular leaders, agencies of government or other people who are, or are not, following your particular view of the best way to respond. Satan is going to have a field day dividing us during this time. This is the REAL enemy. Don't let him deceive you and cause you to miss the opportunities to be Christ like during this time.

Please also remember the practical ways you can be of help to others. Remember the 7th commandment.

- Help and support others In their time of financial need.
- Find ways to support local business.
- Offer help as you are able to those who are out of work and share the gifts God has given to you.
- Remember also to continue to give to the Lord through your offerings. This may be the catalyst you need to sign up for the automated giving option or you may chose to use the mail system, or there are numerous ways to still give your offerings to God through Immanuel. Should you want to know about them, just call the office or send us an email.

I will be stockpiling hugs (kind of like Joseph stock piled grain during the 7 good years in Egypt) so that when this is all over, you all will be getting inundated with hugs when we return to normal. Wait for it, the day will come and it will be worth it! In the meantime, please accept my cyber hugs and love. I'll continue to be in touch!!

Remember and take to heart the words of Jesus to His disciples when they were concerned the night before He died: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me." John 14:1.

In Christ,

Marty

Newsletter



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - MONDAY

April newsletter deadline is Monday, April 23, 2020. Articles and information can be emailed to the office. (darleneh@godwithusilc.org)

Stay tuned for assembly instructions. The office is prepared to assemble, should gathering of volunteers still be discouraged.

In addition, we will be putting our Constant Contact news in the in the coming days. If you have updates or news you would like us to share, please pass it on to the office.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Dear NIU and Network of Nations family,
We are praying for you. For Gods protection and your families, here and in your home country. We

understand the stress you may be under for your studies and also your family at home. The Executive Board of Network of Nations are brainstorming to see how we can support you during this time. We believe that God has made us for community, but we may have to share it in a different way.

The Executive Board has made the choice to close the Intercultural Cafe until further notice as to be in sync with recommendations of the WHO and CDC of large groups.

This choice is very hard for us. We love and care for you. And because of this love we have to protect you and the Network of Nations family.

If there are any questions, concerns, or needs, please Contact us at Board@networkofnations.org We will be continuing assessing the needs for the International community. If there are any suggestions, please contact Lisa@networkofnations.org



A WAY TO HELP

Although there will be no Intercultural Cafe, Network of Nations has been hard at work trying to see what the International students may need. A food drive is planned for this Thursday, March 19.

You can drop off non-perishable food between 4 and 7 at Immanuel.

Please, non perishable items only.

Rice, soup, pasta, canned veg. Nothing frozen.

They suggest putting together a little "meal packet" - maybe a box of pasta and a jar of sauce, for example.

These students are far from home at a very scary time. This is our opportunity to reach out and let them know that they are not alone! Thank you everyone for reaching out to the church body.



The office will continue to be open Monday - Thursday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Little Lambs continues registration.

Pastor Marty is available for any type of pastoral service needed.

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