

# 2021 March NEXUS

## PASTORAL REFLECTIONS...



### “From Halcyon Days to A *Hallelujah* Forever!”

“Halcyon” is the word that describes those days. Halcyon simply means a period of time in the past that was idyllically happy and peaceful. That summer of 1978 in Grand Haven on the shores of Lake Michigan was something special. After graduating high school, catching our breath before heading off to college and the next chapter of our lives, ten of us guys, all from our class made up a city-league softball team called the “Bolts” (as in lightning bolts).

Working during the days at Mulligan’s Hollow (a giant park surrounded by sand dunes) as the assistant greenskeeper, I kept in shape and sported a wonderful tan. Everyday after work I and my buddies met down at the State Park’s beach to swim off the strain of the workday, catch up on any needed gossip and plan the evening’s activities. Softball games were Tuesday nights and some weekends for tournaments. The rest of the nights were spent at the bonfires we local boys hosted on the beach for the cottage kids and summer tourists who roamed the beach looking to meet new people.

The last day of that Summer was the best. On that Saturday the 10 of us met at the beach for a morning swim and football on the beach. Then we went to Wagasky’s house for a cookout and buffoonery. (We decided to jump off his roof into his 10 ft. deep pool – God suffers fools greatly and He suffered our foolishness that day – no one got hurt!) That night, the famous Beach Boys had a concert at our high school football stadium. Brian, Carl and Dennis Wilson along with their cousin Mike Love and neighbor Al Jardin, the members of the Beach Boys, were playing “Surfing USA” where most of us “Bolts” had played on the Grand Haven Buccaneer football team! After the concert, with giant hugs including hefty back thumps amid more than a few tears, we said goodbye. Nine of us were going to nine different schools. One of us would stay in Grand Haven to work and go to school a few years later.

The reason I bring this up is that a number of the Bolts are planning a reunion in August for the ten of us. It will be two weeks shy of 43 years since that last day of summer 1978. We’ve kind of kept in touch and some of us have seen one another over the years. But in 43 years, there has not been a time when all of us were together since the halcyon days.

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On the first Pentecost Day, Acts 2 says, “[the disciples] (the original Apostles minus Judas and now Matthias who took Judas’ place) were all together in one place. Extraordinary events happened that day! Loud noises along with images of tongues of fire and the disciples themselves speaking in here-to-for unlearned languages made for a spectacular event. Surrounded by multitudes, the disciples were on display even being accused of drunken-ness for these demonstrations. Oh what memories that day and the days that followed must have produced in the hearts and minds of the disciples!

## Pastoral Reflections...cont'd

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But new chapters were then written for the lives of all the Apostles and after their missionary journeys began. There is no evidence of them all being together in one place ever again- - on earth. I can't help think they thought of the days of the early church, from Pentecost onward as halcyon days. That is until they all died from this earth and were brought into the paradise of our Father complete with Jesus' presence! No longer would they have to be satisfied with the halcyon days, they were enjoying the hallelujah days of heaven!

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Making our way through another Lent, it's not lost on us that a whole year has passed since the pandemic had started. Even now, a year later, we are unsure of how and what the future will look like. For some of us the routines, events, activities and behavior of the past are so greatly missed and there is fear the days of these things are truly over.

Sadly we've had to say a "distanced" farewell to some wonderful people whom God called to Himself. This was doubly hard as the grief was present along with the sense we couldn't say proper good-byes. I can't help but think pre-pandemic times will be the halcyon days of our lives.

Lent really is a good time to think about the days gone by. It's also a good time to repent of our missteps, mistakes and mischief that has plagued our consciences and haunted our memories. Maybe a good encouragement for this Lent is: remember the good, repent of the bad and ready yourself for the good God has in store for us ahead. See, we have the Hallelujah Days of Heaven in our future. Sure, there were Halcyon Days in our past but nothing will compare to what God has in our future. Listen: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him." (I Corinthians 2:9)

Jesus has paid for and prepared our way to be immersed in the Hallelujah Days of Heaven. His dying on the cross has fulfilled the punishment you and I deserved. His rising from the dead as victor over sin, death and the devil assures us that because He lives, we too will live – forever!

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This coming summer, I'm hoping to get a taste of the halcyon days of the Summer of '78. These guys have all grown up to be good, good men. I'm hoping that the wisdom of age coupled with the fragility of no-longer-young bodies will keep us from too much foolishness. My enthusiasm for the reunion is a bit tempered with the knowledge that sometimes memories of the past are more glamorous and sparkling than the present days can offer. Nevertheless, I'm looking forward to the gathering and being together with the fellas once called "Bolts."

Honestly, even more I'm looking forward to the Hallelujah Days of Heaven still ahead. There we will be rejoined with all our loved ones who preceded and succeeded us in the faith and we will celebrate one big party.

Until then, we now turn to Lent as we remember, repent and ready ourselves for what was, what is and what will be.

I wish for you and yours God's blessings this Lententide.

I am yours in Jesus, with love,



Pastor William P. Yonker



# SCHOOL NEWS



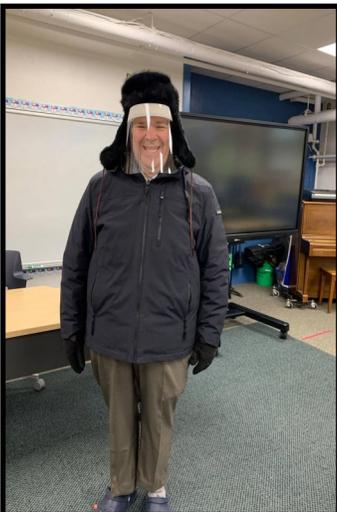
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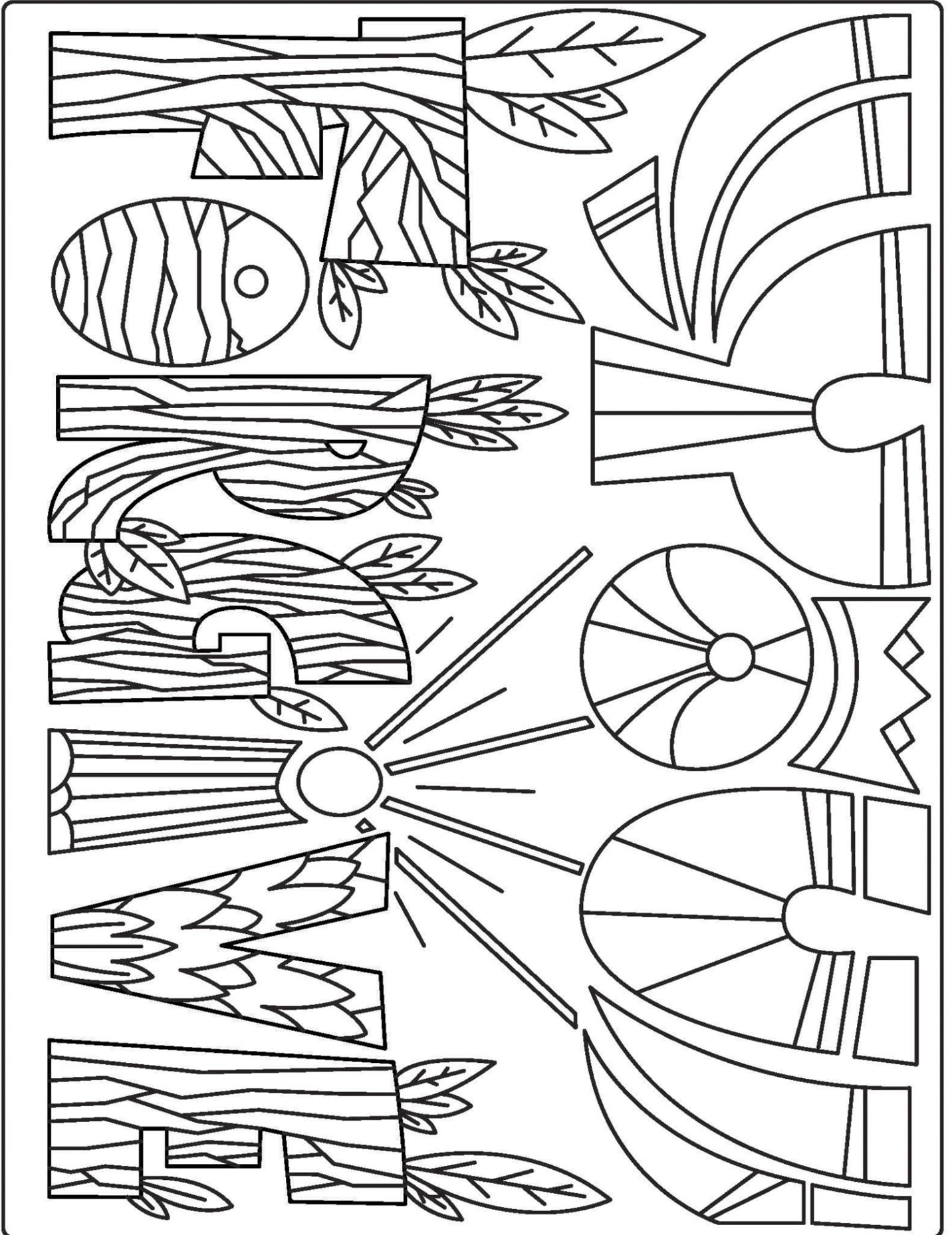
Levi loves visiting friends!



Dressed for the weather!

We  
continue  
to move  
ahead!  
God is  
good!







# Upcoming Worship, Music Events & Ministry Notes... For March

## Lenten Services in March & April ...

Throughout Lent we have Wednesday morning (10:00 am) and evening services (7 pm)... see D-tails below. Please mark your calendars / plan to join us.

( HOLY WEEK is March 28<sup>th</sup> - April 2<sup>nd</sup> / Easter is April 4<sup>th</sup> )

## Lenten Worship



### LENTEN MIDWEEK

**February 24<sup>th</sup>**

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>**

Pastor Baerwolf is sharing the messages for our midwk Lenten services this year:

### **"SENT-4-LENT"**

## **SENT-4-LENT** LENTEN SERMON SERIES

As we have come to see and hear from our study of our SENT ANCESTORS, God is always sending His people -- we are never settled -- the church of Jesus Christ is SENT.

As we look worship this Lent, we are focusing on some more characters from the Old Testament who also were SENT by God to change the world:



- February 24<sup>th</sup> - **GIDEON** (Judges 6:14)
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> - **ISAIAH** (Isaiah 6:8)
- March 10<sup>th</sup> - **JEREMIAH** (Jeremiah 1:7)
- March 17<sup>th</sup> - **EZEKIEL** (Ezekiel 2:3-4)
- March 24<sup>th</sup> - **US** (Luke 10:2)

We consider those who have gone before us in the faith, and we marvel at their willingness to be used as an instrument in God's mighty hand to share the Good News of sins forgiven and life restored...

During the somber season of Lent we will gather on Wednesdays, at 10 a.m. (mask mandatory) and at 7 p.m. (mask encouraged) Our 7 PM worship service will be Live & LIVESTREAMED for those unable to attend - or for those who wish to worship with us from home or afar.

**HOLY WEEK is March 28<sup>th</sup> - April 2<sup>nd</sup> / Easter is April 4<sup>th</sup> ... REGISTER ASAP. Thank You!**

**Maundy Thursday Worship - 10 am + 7 pm / Good Friday Worship - 10 am + 7 pm**

**No services Holy Saturday / Easter Sunday Worship - 6 am, 8 am, 10 am + 11:30 am**



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Thank you

Words seem so inadequate in expressing my thanks to the members of Immanuel extended to me and my family when my beloved Dorcas went home to be with Jesus. Your thoughtfulness, cards, expressions of sympathy, kind words, hugs and contributions to the Scholarship Fund brought us much comfort.

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude and thanks for your kindness. I solicit your continued prayers on my behalf.

*Your Servant,  
Pastor Meisser*

**To the Faculty and Students of Immanuel Lutheran School—**

My family and I were amazed at the thoughtfulness and kindness of the Faculty and students in making the heart shapes. Scripture filled display at the passing of my beloved wife who went home to be with Jesus! It was so very much appreciated. Thank you so much for thinking and acting on our behalf in such a meaningful way.

*Sincerely,  
Pastor Meissner*