



IMMANUEL ECHO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



IMMANUEL BAPTIST
"GOD WITH US" CHURCH

AT A GLANCE

THOUGHTS & MORE



It is said that Saint Patrick used the three-leaf Shamrock to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity, (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit), to the pagan Irish during the 5th Century. The three leaves represent each divine person with God the Father at the top – all equal but also distinct. The stem itself represents the Godhead held together in “community” – one true God expressed in three ways.

Plus, the tradition of wearing a Shamrock on Saint Patrick’s Day can be traced back to the early 1700s. Knowing that it can point towards God helps to bring a wee bit of Irish charm to sharing the Good News! (Livingshamrock.com).

HELPFUL INFO

Scan for More Info & our App!

ibcminot.org
1615 2nd St SE
Minot, ND 58701
701-839-3694



Sunday

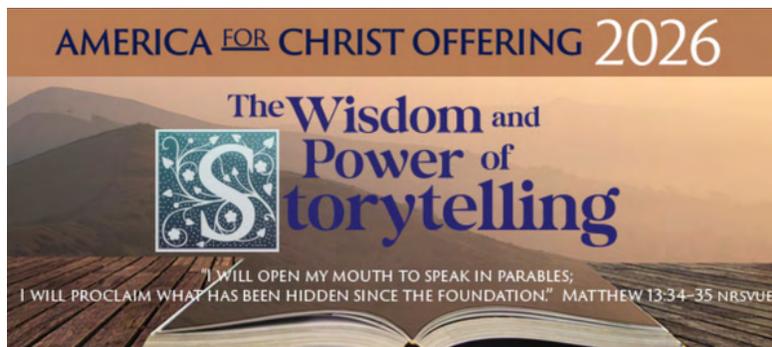
9 am - Fellowship
9:15 am - Sun. School
10:30 am - Worship

Wednesday

11:30 am - Soup Kitchen
5:45 pm - Wed. Meal
6:15 pm - K-5 & Middle School Start
6:30 pm - HS & Adult Start

March Highlights

- *America for Christ Offering*
- *3/11 - Spring Break - No Wed. Night Activities*
- *3/22 - Camp Bentley Sunday*
- *3/29 - Palm Sunday*



MINISTRY TEAM

Pastor

Brian Keithline

Pianist

Dawn Bergeron

Youth Director

Brittany Lohan

Office Manager

Lori Stauffer

Visitation Minister

Karen Anderson

Nursery

Emily Stauffer/Alice Galeas

Technology

Position Open



Like us on Facebook

ibcminot

Karen's Corner

Spring is right around the corner! Hang in there!

In the meantime, there are several things that can keep you busy and let you gather with others. Our monthly gathering of crafters, and those who think about crafting, will be Saturday, **March 7th**.

We begin at 10 a.m. We usually have a potluck lunch around noon and end our day around 2 p.m. in the afternoon.

You can bring a project to work on or come just for the fellowship! We'd love to see you!

Daylight savings begins on March 8th so be sure to spring your clocks forward before going to bed Saturday night on the 7th!

Friday Fun Day will be on **March 27th**. Please allow me to treat you to lunch at about noon-ish at the church and stay for fellowship and games well into the afternoon.

The Brass Band of Minot will be hosting their last concert of the season on **Sunday, March 29th** at the Ann Hall on the MSU campus. This is a free concert and always is such a delight! If you'd like to join me, please watch the bulletin board to sign up.

Craft Day Addition!

A mending station will be added to
Craft Day on both Mar. 7 & Apr. 4.

I will sew on buttons, sew up seams, repair rips,
and do other simple mending.

Please, no zipper replacement. — Beryl



How about a hike through the Bible?

Lisa Harper, a favorite Bible teacher, is leading a series entitled, "No Wasted Words". If you don't think you know enough about the Bible or know everything about the Bible – and don't want to do a traditional Bible study – this will be perfect for you.

We're going to meet on the **1st and 3rd Thursdays** of the month at 1 p.m. at the church to watch this video series. There is no additional homework to do, only a time for walking with God through His Word.

You may not burn a lot of calories but you will definitely be more Biblically fit!

Also, if you'd like a visit with me, please contact me. If I can be praying in a specific way, please let me know how. It's my privilege to serve you in these ways!

Blessings and peace to you!

"Yes, the LORD has some amazing things for us! What joy!" (Psalms 126:3).

— Karen



Evening Women Fellowship

Our Fellowship is on hiatus until the weather consistently improves (despite some of our beautiful winter days). We pray that 2026 will be filled with joy & happiness! Stay safe & warm. – Thanks,
Wanda



STEWARDSHIP

As shared at our Annual Business Meeting on Jan. 25, the Board of Trustees will be working with a CPA to be the best stewards of our resources going forward in order to accomplish all of our ministerial and missional goals. Several CPAs have been considered, and we have selected one who is beginning this month. Thank you.

Chili/Soup Cook-off

And just like that – we wrapped up another successful Chili/Soup Cook-off and once again crowned some new blue-ribbon chefs.

Congratulations to:

- Ryan Elliott for his Pepper Punch Chili
- Sue Bovee for her Knoephla Soup



Upcoming Meetings

- Trustee Board - Mon., Mar. 9 @ 5:30 pm
- Diaconate Board - Mon., Mar. 9 @ 7 pm

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped to make this a special event.

Mission Trip Update



HELPING TO GIVE KIDS THE WORLD

In late January, our Youth Pastor, Brittany, shared about a mission trip to “Give Kids the World” Village, a place that helps to grant the wishes of children with chronic illnesses. (In fact, a local child from Minot was recently featured as one of the recipients). Although different from past IBC missions that were mostly structured for our youth members only, the hope was for a more generalized event for adults, seniors, and youth to travel together and to serve together.

We now have a firm count of those who are interested in participating in this mission opportunity. Please keep them and the children whom they’ll serve in your prayers. Also, please consider helping to support this mission by make a donation at the “Fill My Church” sign in the foyer. Numerous “puzzle pieces” in the “Church” sign have specific dollar amounts for which you can make a contribution that goes to the whole group. Also, all participants are finding creative ways to raise funds to help support this unique trip and opportunity. Stay tuned!



IBC Youth

IBCY - HIGH SCHOOL

The high school youth have continued to study the real life issues that can challenge their Christian faith. More recently, they finished watching the highly acclaimed movie, "Jesus Revolution." It's a real-life story of transformation and of God accomplishing the impossible in dire circumstances.

And it's about recognizing the gift of our Christian life. We all have been wonderfully made in the image of God – so, what does that mean for a world that sometimes challenges our beliefs? It's food for thought for any age.



February Review:

IBC would like to give a "shout out" to Brittany Lohan and her family for their help in hosting a Valentine's Day Child Care opportunity for parents to drop off their children and enjoy a day (or part of a day) to themselves. IBC was able to serve several families – and that's just one way in which we can help meet the needs of others.

IBC also hosted a Super "Bowl" watch party in which people brought their favorite dishes (that could be served out of a bowl). We watched the game together, but we also played games together – such as trivia and bingo – for some great and useful prizes!

Let's keep looking for fun ways to gather as a church – young and younger!

Last – but not least – thank you to the youth who dedicated their time to serving others during the Chili and Soup Cook-Off and who brought desserts for the fundraiser!



Coming Up in March

Details are still being worked out, but keep your finger are these two dates:

Mar. 17 – TBA – A possible St. Patrick's Dinner for our church family and youth, depending on the weather and any schedule conflicts.

Mar. 28 – TBA – A Spring Fling, Pre-Easter Community Event. Your IBC team would like to host a smaller, springtime version of the Fall Fest with some indoor crafts and Easter-themed activities on this afternoon. More information to come soon, but this would be a small outreach to our church family, the kids in our community, and to our neighbors. Stay tuned!



BOOTS, THE BIBLE, AND BULLIES

For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"
(Esther 4:14, NIV).

Have you ever considered that YOU were made for “such a time as this?” Yes — you — and me — and all of us together. At times, it might seem implausible that God intently designed and designated us for this moment. But the record of God’s revelation throughout history proves differently.

You — and me — can indeed make a difference and life’s circumstances aren’t just happenstance.

Now the corollary effect is that life also has some conditions that “bully” our faith — worries, fears, doubts, hardships, illnesses, and anxieties. These loathsome actors like to talk tough, make a proverbial fist, and then threaten to take our milk money. Left unchallenged, enough emotional jabs can leave us with bruises on our ego and scars on our souls.

I think we need to always be cognizant of our current “season” and its “bullying” factors. For example, in the whirlwind confusion of my first year in junior high, I remember how the ninth graders created a trend of kicking the seventh graders in the shins while passing them in the crowded hallways. After two instances when I was caught off-guard, I remembered, I don’t have to wear sneakers to school — I have a pair of cowboy boots at home! Some of the other rural seventh graders had boots, too, and so — the shin-kicking trend soon came to an end.

Our Christian faith rallies against the “bullying” factors of this world — as long as we’re cautious to not fight amongst ourselves. Consider the Book of Esther in the Old Testament (I’d recommend reading it in its entirety).



The Book of Esther is often recognized for the absence of God’s name — there is no specific reference to God or to the Lord. However, the whole tapestry of its narrative tells us how God is the marvelous Weaver behind the scenes. Even today, Esther is still venerated in the Jewish feast of Purim (a word meaning “to cast lots”). Because it was by “lots” or like “picking straws” that an evil man, Haman, plotted to assassinate all of the Jews in the Persian empire (modern-day Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Iran and other Middle Eastern nations).

Here’s a short synopsis of the tale:

Esther was a beautiful, orphaned Jewish woman who was among the exiles in Persia. After her parents’ death, a kindly man, Mordecai, adopts her, and through a series of seemingly random events, Esther is eventually elevated to the position of queen! That’s right — an orphaned exile becomes royalty! A forgotten people — in a foreign place — find themselves with an advocate in King Xerxes’ palace itself!

Continued ...



BOOTS, THE BIBLE, AND BULLIES

Mere coincidence?! Not with our loving God behind the scenes. But that doesn't mean those "bullying" factors completely disappear in life.

Another person also rises to power, Haman, who literally becomes second-in-command to King Xerxes. Fueled by his pride and his hatred of the Jewish people, he plots their extermination. To further intensify his anger, Mordecai, a faithful Jew, refuses to bow to Haman. His refusal isn't about political gesturing, but instead is based on his faithful conviction in our one true God.

When Mordecai learns of Haman's plot, he doesn't panic, but goes into action. He sends word to Esther to convince her to approach the king — in his court — (a possible death sentence without first receiving the king's permission). Through her patience and gentleness, however, she is able to plead for her people.

To remain silent was indeed an option for her — especially in the midst of the "bullying" factors of the world that often silence us — but it would have had dramatic consequences. As Mordecai said to her:

"And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14).

Those words are not merely inspirational; they are confrontational to us — today.

They force us to ask: Where has God placed you — and me? Whom has He entrusted to our influence? What moment is before us right now that requires faith instead of fear?

Esther responds not with bravado, but with a statement of surrender: "If I perish, I perish." That is the language of faith. She fasts. She seeks the Lord. And then she steps forward.

We live in a world no less complex, no less hostile to faith, and no less confusing than ancient Persia. We may not stand in a royal court, but we stand in workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and churches. We face moments when silence feels safer.

We feel the pull to blend in, to bow down, to look the other way. Yet faith calls us to something higher.



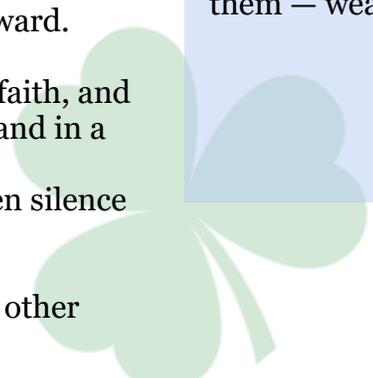
So the question remains for us: Will we remain silent, or will we step forward in faith?

It's more than just a "maybe" — God has indeed placed us here for "such a time as this."

So lace up your convictions. Fast when necessary. Pray without ceasing. Love one another fiercely. And yes — if you have them — wear your cowboy boots.

Blessings,

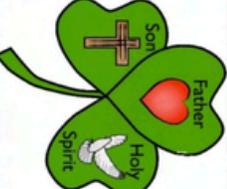
Pastor Brian



You like a lion,

March

out like a lamb.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1 9:00 am Coffee 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship CE Meeting</p>	<p>2 • Note the Change! 5:30 pm Trustees Meeting 7pm Diaconate Meeting</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 11:30 SK 5:45 Family Supper 6:15 K-5th & Middle School Start 6:30 HS & Adult Start</p>	<p>5 9am Brunch Bunch Parker 1pm Bible Hike</p>	<p>6 10:00 BS</p>	<p>7 10-2 pm Craft Day Potluck</p>
<p>8 9:00 am Coffee 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship </p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 11:30 Soup Kitchen No Wed. Night Activities</p>	<p>12 9am Brunch Bunch Homesteaders</p>	<p>13 10:00 BS</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 9:00 am Coffee 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 </p>	<p>18 11:30 SK 5:45 Family Supper 6:15 K-5th & Middle School Start 6:30 HS & Adult Start</p>	<p>19 9am Brunch Bunch Parker 1pm Bible Hike</p>	<p>20 10:00 BS 12:30 Senior Saints Lunch & Games Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22  Camp Bentley Sunday 9:00 am Coffee 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 11:30 SK 5:45 Family Supper 6:15 K-5th & Middle School Start 6:30 HS & Adult Start</p>	<p>26 9am Brunch Bunch Homesteaders</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 TBA - Tentative Spring Fling Easter Craft Event.</p>
<p>29  Palm Sunday 9:00 am Coffee 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 4pm Sr. St Brass Band</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				

March Birthday's

Happy Birthday

2nd Ridge Toben
4th Marlene Molzahn
11th Brittany Lohan
18th Lori Stauffer
19th Doyle Radke
22nd Clayton Fegley,
 Carol Holen



25th Kohlee Roberts
26th Violet Michalenko
28th Beryl Hornberger
 Diem Toben
29th Esther Vitko
30th Wayne Weaver

Happy Anniversary

March 10th

Ken & Jan Schneider

March 12th

Jon & Patty Wistoff

March 13th

Vaughn & JoNell Gibson

March Serving Committee

Teri Jager, Megan Miller,
 Vicki Miller, Val Weaver

next month

- **4/1 No Wed. Night Activities**
- **4/2 Maundy Thursday Service**
- **4/5 Easter! Breakfast, Egg Hunt**
- **Quarterly Business Meeting**

The Immanuel Echo

Immanuel Baptist Church
 1615 2nd St. SE
 Minot, ND 58701-6314



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