



Joy in the Journey

Journey Connection

Modified Journey Connection #10 2021

Mission Statement of Immanuel Church

To be and to make Spirit-filled followers of Christ who shine the light of God's love to the world.

YES...WELCOME TO IMMANUEL CHURCH, EVEN THOUGH WE ARE CURRENTLY NOT GATHERING!

We at Immanuel are on a **joyful journey** – with Jesus...regardless of the current situation, – to disclose His presence in the world...especially during this challenging time, - and His love for all people...whether they are acting irrationally or not. With humility, we invite **everyone** to join us - of course respectfully keeping your distance, **regardless** of their relationship with Jesus, and even if they doubt His reality; together we will get through this COVID-19 pandemic! And, we invite **everyone** to join us, **regardless** of race, culture, age, sexual orientation, family status, or the brokenness of their lives. Yes, even the closet hoarders are welcome! On this journey there are no judgments – just Jesus. Whoever you are, **you are welcome** to join us in Spirit!

If you desire a calming conversation during this time of hysteria or could use a peaceful prayer while wrestling with isolation, please contact Pastor Rich or Jenny Landowski at **262-334-2886**. You could also leave us an email message at pastor@immanuelwestbend.org or director@immanuelwestbend.org ; we would welcome a time to connect with you!



A WORD, OR TWO, FROM OUR PASTOR RICH...

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel,

I have some good news in the midst of a difficult winter. Last month my bloodwork tests revealed that my white cell count remains relatively stable. For now, I continue to do well. My next bloodwork is scheduled in March to continue to monitor my numbers. Thanks so much for your loving support and kind prayers. I am grateful that my health has continued to hold.



Last month Jenny and I attended a “Returning to Church 2.0” conference put on by the Wisconsin Council of Churches that supplied helpful material and criteria in regard to planning to regather. You will find a summary of what we learned in Doug’s letter. Please continue to pray for us as we seek to make wise decisions during a very difficult and unpredictable time.

Lent is right around the corner. As usual, this season in the Church Calendar invites us to reflect anew on our journey with Christ as he approaches his rejection, betrayal, and crucifixion. It is a time to reconsider our relationship and commitment to Christ and implement new ways (or remove old obstacles) that hinder our communion with God in Christ through the Spirit. I certainly hope you will take advantage of this unique Lenten season to search your soul and rediscover anew the grace and love that moves the stars.

It is my great joy to be your pastor and accompany you through what may be the single greatest collective challenge we have faced together. Though the road has been long and hard, I am confident that the best is yet to be, and that our Immanuel (God with us) continues to accompany us, no matter the circumstances.

Grace and peace,

Rich



STAYING CONNECTED

Join us for our virtual Ash Wednesday
Service

February 17th, 2021

on Immanuel Church's YouTube Channel

Next Virtual Communion Services

Sunday, February 21st, 2021

Sunday, March 21st, 2021

During our YouTube Worship Service on these dates, Pastor Rich will invite you to provide your own elements, which he will virtually bless as he presides over the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Staying connected with Immanuel through social media...

Website – <https://www.immanuelwestbend.org/>

Facebook – Immanuel United Church of Christ

YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/c/ImmanuelUCCWestBend>

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, March 21st at 10:00am

Immanuel's Annual Meeting will be conducted via Zoom on Sunday morning, March 21st at 10:00am with members of our leadership as your hosts. There will also be a phone number to call if you would prefer to use that method. You will receive an email with all the information you need for the meet, as well as an explanation on how to participate.

INSPIRATION FROM OUR PASTORAL ASSISTANT/DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES

Dear Immanuel Church Family and Friends,

got hope?

got peace?

got joy?

got love?

It seems like we were just in Advent, reflecting on each of these words and their relevance in our lives, and now here we are ready to begin Lent...what do those words mean to you now, especially as we continue to wait? As we begin this time of self-reflection and strengthening our Christ-connection, I encourage you to give them some thought. If you are lacking Hope, you may find the answer in joining us for weekly virtual Worship. If you are wrestling with Peace, consider some of the resources being offered here at Immanuel during Lent. If Joy seems to be eluding you, consider the words in James 1:2-18. If you're not feeling the Love, contact me and I'll help you find a way to spread it; I guarantee it will come back to you.

Remember, we are here for you.

In Gratitude, In Love,

~Jenny

LENT 2021 ~ HOW WILL IT LOOK FOR YOU?

*The
Season
of
Lent*



So often we think of things we can give up
during the Lenten Season;
this year you may be asking yourself how much more am I
supposed to give up?!?

If you feel you've been wandering in the desert and
your spirit is parched,
consider taking on one or more of the following...

~ Join Pastor Rich and Jenny in the Sanctuary
on Wednesday Nights at 6:00pm
for a time of prayer and devotions.

February 17-March 31

~ Stop by church to pick up a UCC Lenten Devotional Booklet
or an Upper Room

to take home and incorporate into a daily discipline.

~ Embrace some Quiet Time with the Lord...

Weekly devotions will be set out in the Narthex;
take one to reflect on

or simply get close to our Creator in the solitude of the Sanctuary.

Monday-Thursday 9:30am-3:00pm

We hope you can join us, in one form or another,
during this season of Lent,

as we strive to revive our spirits, nourish our souls,
and strengthen our relationship with our Savior!



On behalf of our President...



An update from Immanuel's Lay Leadership

Greetings from Immanuel's leadership team. Hopefully, we all feel the joy as the days grow longer and the sun shines more. It means we are on the seasonal upswing toward the spring equinox when new life is once again on its way. Beyond the seasonal picture, we are beginning to see more and more vaccines being administered. While we may feel there is not enough, it is not arriving fast enough, the distribution is not up to our expectations and the priorities are wrong; we must believe health care workers are working hard to get it where it needs to be—in the arms of people. We must continue to celebrate our health care workers who continue to fight against this virus and those who deliver the needed materials to bring all of us continued health and renewed life.

In that regard, our Church Leaders continue to consult with our UCC Wisconsin Conference and the Wisconsin Council of Churches as to putting together a plan for regathering. Last month, Pastor Rich and Jenny attended an online conference entitled "Returning to Church 2.0" put on by the Wisconsin Council of Churches. The information received was brought to our Church and Ministry Team to review. This conference gave guidelines that we hope to use to aid in our planning for regathering. The Council recommended that two main criteria guide our decision-making: (1) Vaccination Rates and (2) Rates of Positive Tests for COVID. The criteria for a "safe" re-gathering involves waiting to regather until vaccination rates have hit 50-70% and when cases are less than 5 per 100,000 population and positive tests less than 10%. Once these criteria have been met, they recommend a slow re-gathering with agreed safeguards in place and a back-up plan in case any cases arise within the gathered community.

All that being said, the guidelines for re-entry will continue to be examined and, hopefully, a plan will emerge which will protect participants when it is safe to re-enter. In the meantime, keep the faith and know the church remains resilient. Immanuel continues to be especially resilient as it is blessed with a spiritually, inspired staff, engaged volunteers and a congregation that participates and supports when the opportunities arise.

The business of the church continues. Virtual services are held. Pastoral care is ongoing. The office is open. Members drop in to conduct business. Groups utilize our larger spaces to hold physically safe meeting. The structure is maintained and improved. The Finance Committee with the help of the Treasurer and Financial Secretary oversees the business of Immanuel. And, at long last it looks like the claim for the water damage the church received in past years due a compromised storm drain (not our fault) has been paid out! We continue to move toward our spring.

Please know even though the snows continue to fall, we are inching toward our own Immanuel spring.

Doug Stewart

262-338-4059

das4672@charter.net



THOUGHTS FROM OUR CHURCH TREASURER

Even with all of the challenges that we have faced this year, our church continues to pour out blessings beyond measure. We give wholeheartedly and with Christ at the center of why we give allowing us to shine the light of God's love into the world. Currently our finances continue to be in good standing and the blessings continue to pour out from all that we do. Recently a letter was sent out from Pastor Rich with a pledge card encouraging us to hold on to some semblance of normalcy. We are all in need of returning to those "normal" things in life again. As we continue to plan for in person worship, the pledge cards will confirm the support and uplifting of the church in prayers, volunteering time, and monetary giving.



We have faced many challenges over this last year. I think we can safely say 2020 will go down in our books as a year no one would care to repeat. We have had times where we felt distant and broken and yet somehow, we have also had times where the simplest gestures somehow made our hearts sing. All in all, God continues to be with us, even in the dark times when things seem grim he is still there lighting our way in the darkness. May we see that light giving us hope of what is to come.

We are truly humbled and eternally grateful for the dedication and generosity that has been shown by this congregation to allow our ministries to continue to reach so far!

Liz Ratzburg
Treasurer
Eratz217@yahoo.com
262-483-6183





UPDATE ON FLOODING ORDEAL

Genesis 9:13-16

I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and

the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”

Our Rainbow has appeared!!! After over 2 years since the beginning of our flooding we have finally seen closure to this ordeal. In January, our claim with our insurance company had been settled and they have reimbursed our expenses for the flooding! There will be conversations taking place to determine how the funds from the reimbursement will be applied. We can truly see how the power of prayer works, even as we have had to remember “all in God’s time.” Praise God from whom all blessings flow; the total amount of the reimbursement was...

\$49,483.88



Wacky Tacky Talent Show

Virtual Style

Immanuel Church is sponsoring a Virtual Talent Show in support of its ministries and is looking for acts to be prerecorded. Singing, Dancing, Comical, Magical, Poetic, Dramatic...we'd welcome just about any kind of talent you'd be willing to share!

Please provide the following information to us via email or stop by church to fill out a form. Johanna will then be in touch with you to make arrangements for videotaping your act.

~Participant(s) Name(s)

~Type of Act

~Name of Song or Act

~Will you need an accompanist?

~List any props that you may need (such as piano, microphone, music stand, etc.)

As you know, typically there are Blanket Breaks within the program when we collect your donations, however since this will be virtual, we don't recommend you throwing coins at your tv screen.

Rather, start saving your change now and be ready to drop your bounty off at church after the show.

Of course, checks or online payments would also be accepted.

In addition to the show, there will be an Italian Dinner

"pick up or delivery"

as well as a Bucket Raffle!

More details on the event will be in our next Journey Connection! 😊



Full Shelf Pantry

If you offer your own food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light will rise
in the darkness,
and your night will become like the noonday. Isaiah 58:10

In support of West Bend's Full Shelf Pantry
throughout the month of February, we will be collecting:

Pasta and Rice Products



Items can be placed in the bins outside the main office, or
cash/checks (payable to Immanuel) can be put in your giving
envelope with notation designated to Food Pantry.
Any questions see Jenny or Johanna Landowski

Immanuel's Book Share

Finding you have a little extra downtime for reading lately?

- Help yourself to a book on the shelf outside the Friendship Room.

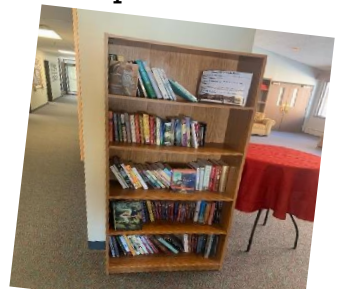
Read a good book that you'd like to share with others?

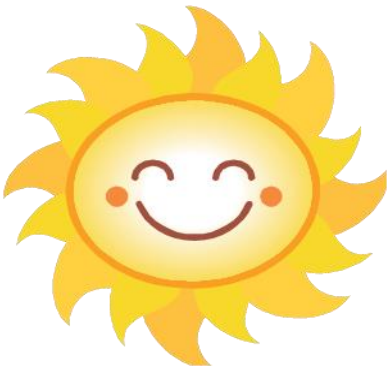
- Leave a book on the shelf outside the Friendship Room.

***Please do not leave more than 3 books at a time.**

****There is no specific genre to the types of books on this shelf.**

*****Books that are left are free for the taking; you will not get them back.**





SONSHINE GALS

The SonShine Gals have resumed their study on C.S. Lewis's book *Mere Christianity*. They will be meeting the following Thursdays at 10:00am.

February 11th and 25th & March 11th and 25th

We have now made arrangements for members who are uncomfortable to attend gatherings in person to join us via Zoom.

If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Landowski
*masks are required at our gatherings

Preplan Your Funeral Service



The death of a loved one is rarely an easy time for the family, and certainly planning a funeral that will honor the deceased and comfort the living can be an added stress during this period of grieving. If your desire is to have a say in your Memorial Service and ease the burden on those you've left behind, then you may want to consider filling out a Planned Funeral Information Sheet that can be kept on file here at Immanuel Church. This is strictly a form that covers questions regarding your wishes upon your passing in regard to a Memorial Service; it is not a legal document, nor is it any type of prepaid funeral planning package.

If you would like a form you will find them located in a pouch on the bulletin board outside of Pastor Rich's office.

Filled out forms can be put in Jenny Landowski's mailbox #4, and any questions can be directed to her as well.

JAM Time Activity

J.A.M. Time Shine Brites spreading the love of Jesus to our church family and to our community!





J.A.M. Time Family Resources...

Join us for "Loving our way through Lent". Each weekday offers a different scripture verse that helps remind us of the Love of God, and how we are to love our neighbors and ourselves. Let's all do our part to fill our homes, communities, country, and world with God's Love!!



Daily Lenten Love Devotion

Wednesday February 17th

~ John 3:16

Thursday February 18th

~ 1 John 4:9

Friday February 19th

~ Romans 5:8

Monday February 22nd

~ 1 Corinthians 13:4

Tuesday February 23rd

~ 1 Corinthians 13:5

Wednesday February 24th

~ 1 Corinthians 13:6

Thursday February 25th

~ 1 Corinthians 13:7

Friday February 26th

~ 1 John 4:19

Monday March 1st

~ 1 Corinthians 16:14

Tuesday March 2nd

~ 1 John 4:8

Wednesday March 3rd

~ Ephesians 6:24

Thursday March 4th

~ 1 Corinthians 13:13

Friday March 5th

~ Hebrews 13:1

Monday March 8th

~ 1 Peter 4:8

Tuesday March 9th

~ 1 John 4:11

Wednesday March 10th

~ Psalm 18:1

Thursday March 11th

~ John 15:9

Friday March 12th ~

John 13:34

Monday March 15th

~ Romans 13:10

Tuesday March 16th

~ 1 John 4:21

Wednesday March 17th

~ John 15:12

Thursday March 4th 18th

~ Psalm 145:20

Friday March 19th

~ Proverbs 10:12

Monday March 22nd

~ Philippians 1:9

Tuesday March 23rd

~ John 13:35

Wednesday March 24th

~ Romans 12:9

Thursday March 25th

~ Colossians 3:14

Friday March 26th

~ Hebrews 10:24



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is going great! We meet almost every Sunday morning for an hour and a half; during that time, we watch Pastor Rich's sermons and take time to talk about them, then we have a faith-based lesson on a variety of topics. These four young youth are amazing! They are learning and expanding their minds in God's love and their faith. Please continue to keep Eliana, Kathryn, Chassidy, and Noah in your prayers as they grow in their relationship with Christ.



If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Johanna Landowski

confirmation@immanuelwestbend.org

(262) 353-2739



SHINE...

Shine meets weekly from 6-7 in the SHINE Room. Masks are required during this time. Join us for topics including how we can continue to be messengers of God's Word while still being in the middle of a pandemic.

Anyone is welcome to join us as long as you have completed Confirmation and have not yet graduated high school.

Any questions can be directed to me at my new contact email:

shine@immanuelwestbend.org

Looking forward to seeing your faces again!

Chris Witt

262.745.7703

~Joyful Journeys, Inc.~

An outreach ministry founded and operated
by members of Immanuel Church.

OUR MISSION: *to establish and or operate programs and facilities that will assist impoverished and needy people whose lives are challenged by current life circumstances, by helping to provide for their immediate basic needs and to bring them hope and promise for a brighter future.*

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS NEWS Needed Items at the Shoppe



Donations of gently used clothing in all sizes and for all genders is always appreciated. Items can be dropped off at church Monday-Thursday from 9am-3pm. Currently some of our specific needs at the *Circle of Friends Shoppe* are as follows:

Boys Athletic Pants ~ sizes 3, 8, 10, 14, and 16

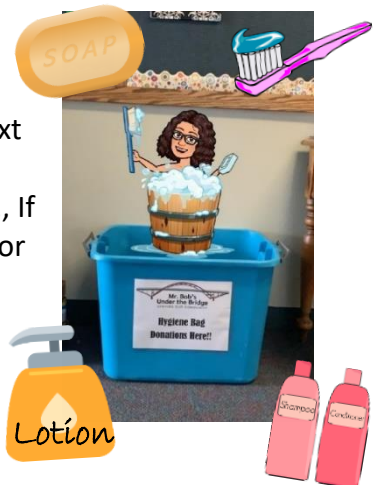
Girls Stretchy Pants ~ sizes 3, 4, and 5

Girls Shirts ~ size 12

Thank you for supporting this ministry through the years!

Hygiene Packets for Mr. Bob

Over the past 9 months, we've had members of our church family helping to assemble Hygiene Packets for Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge; we give thanks for the relationship we have with this outreach program as we join together in serving our communities. Typically, Mr. Bob provides us with the items needed for these packets by way of miscellaneous donations or by purchasing needed items. If you would like to contribute to this ministry, there is a bin next to the Food Pantry donations where you can drop off travel size soap, shampoo, lotion, etc., If you have any questions, please contact Jenny or Johanna Landowski.



INDIA NEWS



Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are very excited that many restrictions have now been lifted so we can begin having regular classes again. Most of the school children are attending regularly, only few children are not comfortable coming. In the morning, we have half of the children, in the afternoon the other half of the children are coming. Our 10th grade children have full day school.

Here I send few pictures.

Thank you for your continued support to Marshall School.

Your brother in Christ,

Novahu



For an interesting article on COVID in India, check out this link:

[Why Did COVID-19 Cases Dramatically Decline In India? : Goats and Soda : NPR](#)

One Great HOUR OF SHARING

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR Associate General Minister for Wider Church Ministries

The theme for the 2021 One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering is “Let Love Flow.” When you share your gifts to OGHS, you Let Love Flow. Your generosity ensures that, even in the midst of uncertainty, the transforming power of love will continue to change the lives of those who are most vulnerable among us. The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare structural inequities that contribute to increased poverty and injustice. On full display is the plight of the working poor who have lost jobs, are on the brink of homelessness, and are waiting for hours in long lines at food pantries. Deadly wildfires, hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, and wars have left people homeless, families grieving loss of loved ones and entire communities awaiting assistance for long term disaster recovery. Refugees and asylum seekers are left in limbo, languishing at borders waiting for welcome. Many have been displaced by economic conditions, war and climate change. Among the millions of refugees are families looking for safe places that they can call home. In the midst of these despairing moments, the United Church of Christ is able to offer hope as we stand in solidarity and mutuality with communities suffering and in need. Through Wider Church Ministries, the United Church of Christ fulfills its commitment to respond to a variety of global and local concerns by providing advocacy, sustainable development resources, long term disaster recovery support, and assistance for refugee and asylum seekers, working in collaboration with our partners locally and globally. “Sandra, a Congolese refugee, was welcomed and resettled in 2018. She is one of more than a dozen refugee women using skills she learned in RefugeeOne’s Sewing Studio to make face masks as a way of giving back to the place she now calls home. RefugeeOne is one of the

partners engaged in refugee and sustainable development programs supported by your generous donations to One Great Hour of Sharing. With your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, we are able to be present for the long term in disaster recovery, as we partner with churches and organizations around the world to walk with families as they rebuild their homes and lives. Thank you for your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, as together we build a just world for all.

With Gratitude and Hope, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson AGM, Wider Church Ministries and Co-Executive Global Ministries

Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty, shade from the sun, shelter from the wind, For the Compassionate One guides them, takes them to the best springs.” (Isaiah 49:10 MSG)

Make a donation in your local church or online at www.ucc.org/oghs_resources



Tending the Flock



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THOSE

recovering from illness or injury and our friends who are shut-ins, as well as those grieving the loss of a loved one. To brighten up their day please think about visiting or dropping a card to one or more of them.

Shut-ins:

Bill Altschwager, Julie Pulda, Garnet Schneider, Shirley Dow, Jerry Kuckuk, Marge Bergemann, Marian Kachel, Judy Muelling and Norm Fedderly.

Recovering from illness, surgery, or injury:

Pastor Rich, Bruce Kapanke, Tom Wilson, Jessica Frederick, Barb Styduhar, Charles and Arlene Roemer, Gary Barber, and Karen Tonn

Those who are suffering from depression and/or addiction

Serving in the military:

Jackson Raad, Rebecca Gerard Shanahan and her husband, David.

Continuing their education:

Rebecca Kempfer-Witt, Lexi McCrillis, Simon Uecker, Owen Vincent, Ella Gustafson, Julia Stier, Evan Patten and Kiley Komro.

Member in Discernment:

Emma Landowski

Prayer Request

Are you battling health concerns in one form or another? You don't have to do it alone; let us know so we can include you on our list, then take comfort in knowing that your church family is praying for you.

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

501 Walnut Street, West Bend, WI 53095 (262-334-2886)

Email address: office@immanuelwestbend.org

Immanuel Website: www.immanuelwestbend.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ImmanuelWestBend/

MINISTERS: All of us

PASTOR: Reverend Richard Vincent (pastor@immanuelwestbend.org)

PASTORAL ASSISTANT/DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES: Jenny Landowski
(director@immanuelwestbend.org)

ELDERS: Doug Stewart (President), Jan Nesladek (Vice President),
Rob Sheehy, Elaine Radzinski

DEACONS:, Dave Hammen, Scott Gluck, Jane Kosednar, Alan Olsen,
Liz Ratzburg (Treasurer), Tracy Halfman

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES: Rachel Gumm
(excited4jam@immanuelwestbend.org)

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES and CONFIRMATION LEADER:
Johanna Landowski (youthgroup@immanuelwestbend.org)

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Johanna Landowski (office@immanuelwestbend.org)

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Cindy Komro (finance@immanuelwestbend.org)

ORGANIST/ BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Marlene Wondergem

SENIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR: Marlene Wondergem (studio_543@yahoo.com)

WORSHIP TEAM LEADER: Mark Uecker

CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR: Terry Christie (christieeric35@gmail.com)

CHILDCARE SUPERVISORS: Mindy Stein, Johanna Landowski, Maggie McCann,
Kendra Lepak

Sermons



An audio (mp3) copy of Sunday's sermon
will be available a few days
after presented at:

<http://www.immanuelwestbend.org>

BIRTHDAY'S FOR FEBRUARY & MARCH

Bill Myers February 3rd
Evie Schleif February 3rd
Emma Landowski-Sancomb February 4th
Lisa Hager February 5th
Gina Lloyd February 5th
Chris Arndt February 6th
Jean Stone February 7th
Vali Borresen February 8th
Joe Halfman February 8th
Dale Moser February 10th
Jeff Brettingen February 12th
Helen Key February 12th
Emerson Zachow February 12th
Paige Barger February 13th
John Buck February 15th
Dori McCrillis February 15th
Matt Susnik February 16th
Bob Davis February 18th
Kellen Mitchell February 18th
Chris Soener February 19th
Madilyn Zachow February 19th
Julie Pulda February 20th
Ellery Flaherty February 22nd
Barb Seefeldt February 23rd
Curt Forester February 24th
Jeremy Walter February 26th
Laurie McCann February 27th

Ana Komro March 3rd
Zachary Tanner March 3rd
Mona Anderson March 4th
Beverly Walter March 4th
Irene Welzien March 4th
Mark Koehler March 6th
Brigitte Quandt March 6th
Daniel Gerard March 8th
Maggie Seideman March 8th
Rosemarie Kearns March 9th
Nathan Valdes March 11th
Amy Schmitt March 12th
Marge Rusch March 13th
Erin Mueller March 15th
Kim Uecker March 15th
Jacqueline Prodoehl March 16th
Carmen Vincent March 17th
Cyndee Thull March 21st
Cindy Komro March 22nd
Rita Layton March 22nd
Ron Schmitt March 22nd
Patricia Love March 24th
Beth Moser March 25th
Carolyn Gibson March 27th
George Forst March 28th
Barbara Stahnke March 28th
Nader Raad March 29th
Paul Stier March 30th

