

Immanuel Lutheran Church March 2025 Newsletter

As our calendars turn from February to March this year, we prepare to enter the Time of Easter. (The movable date of Easter is especially late this year, affecting the first day of the Lenten season, Ash Wednesday, as well.)

Easter was the major celebration of the early church, which also set aside a period of preparation to celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter). Lent was a period of preparation first prescribed for baptismal candidates. During this period, the candidates were examined in preparation for Baptism at the Easter (or Paschal) Vigil. Later, these forty days (excluding Sundays) were associated with Jesus' forty days in the desert before He was tempted and with the forty years the Israelites spent in the wilderness. This made Lent a time of preparation for every Christian from that time onward.

Living as we do under the freedom of the Gospel Lutherans are not required to fast or give up anything during this season. Our congregations often observe Lent by gathering for midweek services, to prepare for the serious events of Holy Week and the joyful celebration of Easter. Here at Immanuel, we maintain this tradition as a beneficial opportunity for all.

This year, on the five Wednesdays after Ash Wednesday, we will gather to meditate on the Five Scenes from the Passion of Our Lord, as follows:

- March 12 The Lord's Supper
- March 19 Gethsemane
- March 26 The Palace of the High Priest
- April 2 The Praetorium
- April 9 Calvary

These scenes are drawn from the Four Gospels, consolidating their four separate narratives of these events into a single narrative. Although a Passion Play may include events from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to his resurrection from the dead or even his ascension into heaven, strictly speaking our Lord's Passion includes only his suffering and death, as described in Matthew 26-27, Mark 14-15, Luke 22-23, and John 18-19. Each Gospel concludes with his resurrection and post-resurrection appearances, as found in Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24 (with Acts 1), and John 20-21.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH MARCH CALENDAR

Saturday, March 1 st	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, March 2 nd	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
Monday, March 3 rd	No School – Casimir Pulaski Day 4:00 p.m. - Beginners Catechesis
Tuesday, March 4 th	6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis
Wednesday, March 5 rd	8:15 a.m. – Chapel – Pastor d’Entremont 7:00 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Service
Saturday, March 8 th	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service
Sunday, March 9 th	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
Monday, March 10 th	6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis 7:00 p.m. – Elders’ Meeting
March 10 th – 14 th	School Registration for Pre-School & Kindergarten - Immanuel Members
Wednesday, March 12 th	8:15 a.m. – Chapel – Pastor Wood 7:00 p.m. – Lenten Service 7:30 p.m. – Choir
Thursday, March 13 th	6:30 p.m. – Board for Parochial Education Meeting
Saturday, March 15 th	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, March 16 th	7:30 a.m. – Noon –PTL Breakfast 9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
Monday, March 17 th	6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis 7:30 p.m. – Men’s Club Meeting
March 17 th – 21 st	School Registration for Pre-School & Kindergarten – open to everyone
Tuesday, March 18 th	Dual Circuit Pastors @ Faith Lutheran Church in Mt. Vernon
Wednesday, March 19 th	8:15 a.m. – Chapel – Pastor d’Entremont 7:00 p.m. – Lenten Service 7:30 p.m. – Choir
Thursday, March 20 th	12:00 p.m. LWML Meeting & lunch at the Original
Saturday, March 22 nd	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service
Sunday, March 23 rd	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
Monday, March 24 th	6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis
March 24 th – 27 th	School Registration for grades 1 st – 8 th
Tuesday March 25 th	ILS Spring Pictures
Wednesday, March 26 th	12:15 p.m. – Chapel – Pastor Wood 7:00 p.m. – Lenten Service 7:30 p.m. – Choir
Friday, March 28 th	12:20 p.m. – ILS Early Dismissal
Saturday, March 29 th	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, March 30 th	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
Monday, March 31 st	6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – [lcms.org/stewardship](https://www.lcms.org/stewardship)

Newsletter Article – March 2025

God's Instruments, God's Stewards

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)

Some pastors refer to these words as “the most forgotten words in the Scriptures.” They are forgotten because they follow the familiar and critical words before it. The preceding two verses that overshadow Ephesians 2:10 are words of justification: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8–9). These are words preached regularly. They are assigned as confirmation verses. They carry with them the very heart of what it means to be a redeemed child of God!

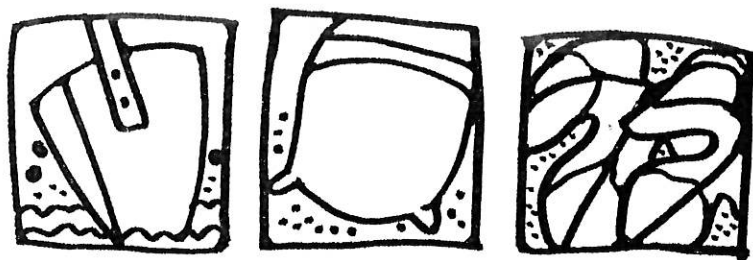
Precisely because the previous verses are so central to salvation, they often overpower our practice of stewardship! We have been saved by grace. This is certain and sure because of Jesus. Works play no role in our salvation. No credit taking for us! Grace is freely given. Faith is miraculously created by the Spirit and joyously received. This truth is so wonderful and so encompassing that we often miss out on WHY we are redeemed.

The grace of God revealed in Jesus calls us to faith. But St. Paul doesn't stop with grace and faith. He continues to the logical conclusion. Just like the creation declares the handiwork of God, the redemption of sinners like you and me declares His greatest handiwork! Redeemed stewards are created to reflect the grace and mercy God showers on us to others.

As Lutherans, we understand that good works flow from faith in Jesus Christ. They are the fruit of the tree of salvation into which we have been grafted by grace. Sanctification and stewardship are both on-going and active confessions of what the Lord has done in us. These works are not always spectacular. Many times, they are simply parents showing Jesus to their children. They are compassionate actions that live out the truth of the Gospel to co-workers and even complete strangers. While they can be grand endeavors, more likely they are simple, beautiful works which highlight what Jesus has done in us.

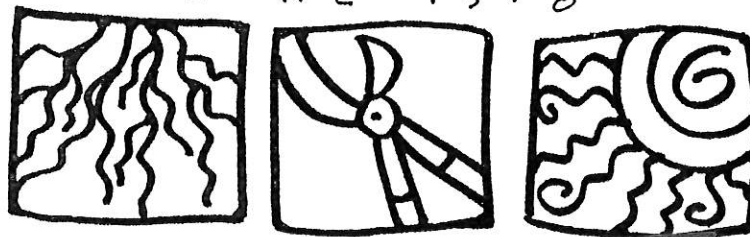
These works aren't random either. They have been planned by God. God planned to use you as a faithful steward as you walk the road that leads you through your daily life. There are no chance encounters or coincidences. They have been planned by the Lord of the universe for the benefit of His creation. Good works are what point to God's greatest work: Jesus!

He calls you and me to walk in this faith, which flows from this grace, which has been poured out on us in Jesus. But even this is not to our credit. We are simply called to be faithful stewards of God's grace so that we may share it with those who need it as much as we do. God's Spirit carries us along in this. We are just the steward — the instrument in His hand to accomplish His plan and glorify Him!



ONE MORE CHANCE

L U K E 1 3 : 8



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to each of you who have a birthday in March. If we have overlooked someone, or have the incorrect date, please contact the church office (243-6216) and the records will be corrected.

1. Charlotte Jacobs
2. Jody Schneider, Olivia Wiese
3. Sue Bower, Taiya Bergmann, Ashley Storck, Jackson Rennegarbe
4. Dale Brockmann, Jackie Bening, Alexis Kampwerth
5. Julie Going
6. Stephen Brammeier, Gerald Brockmeier, Ada Kurtz
7. Dawn Weinstock
8. Charlene Elliott, Brian Woods
11. Toryn Stevenson
12. Kaidyn Schumacher
14. Addysen Rennegarbe
15. Mark Friedrich
16. Ty Andrews, Brian Kampwerth, Charles Kurtz
17. Connie Murphy, Audrey Moeller
18. Laura Hesker, Kolby Suedmeyer
19. Jill Harre
20. Matthew Hasheider, Paisley Buettner
22. Gloria Eggemann
23. Nathan Hasheider, Pam Hundelt, Teren Schwankhaus
25. Leonard Obermeier, Morgan Kampwerth, Andrew Bruck, Eric Bruck
26. Linda Frederking, Chris Rennegarbe
27. Sharon Schuessler
28. Greg Toensing, Kenneth Wagner, Kent Helbig
29. James Borrenpohl, Ethan Bening, Emily Wood, Devin Hundelt
30. Bennie Dugger
31. Dannon Harre

VISITATION COMMITTEE

Mary Ann Niedens

ALTAR GUILD COMMITTEE

Angie Kampwerth and Lois Obermeier

ACOLYTES

Saturday, March 1st – Landon Elliott
Sunday, March 2nd – Olivia Bergmann
Wednesday, March 5th – Maylen Kramper
Saturday, March 8th – Michael Lautenschlaeger
Sunday, March 9th – Devin Hundelt
Wednesday, March 12th – Landan Kraus
Saturday, March 15th – Collins Schumacher
Sunday, March 16th – Kooper Schumacher
Wednesday, March 19th – Emmerson Hasheider
Saturday, March 22nd – Matthew Lautenschlaeger
Sunday, March 23rd – Landon Elliott
Wednesday, March 26th – Olivia Bergmann
Saturday, March 29th – Maylen Kramper
Sunday, March 30th – Devin Hundelt

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

March 1st – Mike Jacobs
March 2nd – Jeff Jacobs
March 5th – Jonathan Schneider
March 15th – Kent Helbig
March 16th – Dennis Pruehsner
March 29th – Jonathan Schneider
March 30th – Dennis Pruehsner

USHERS

Saturday: Jason Obermeier
Sunday: Gary Streuter and Greg Harre

ORGANISTS

Saturday, March 1st – Sophia Wood
Sunday, March 2nd – Sharon Krueger
Wednesday, March 5th – Sharon Krueger
Saturday, March 8th – Pastor Wood
Sunday, March 9th – Sharon Krueger
Wednesday, March 12th – Sharon Krueger
Saturday, March 15th – Sophia Wood
Sunday, March 16th – Sharon Krueger
Wednesday, March 19th – Sharon Krueger
Saturday, March 22nd – Pastor Wood
Sunday, March 23rd – Barbara Croessman
Wednesday, March 26th – Sharon Krueger
Saturday, March 29th – Sophia Wood
Sunday, March 30th – Sharon Krueger

MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

March 17 Nathan and Brittany Hasheider

OFFICIAL ACTS

Funerals:

Verdell Unverhehrt passed away on February 23rd and was laid to rest on March 1st.

Loraine Schneider passed away on February 25th and will be laid to rest on March 8th.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ALERT!

This year Daylight Saving Time begins March 9th.

LWML NEWS

The March LWML meeting/Bible study will be on Thursday, March 20. We will have lunch at the Original Springs restaurant at noon, with the Bible study and meeting to follow, also at the restaurant. Carolyn Rennegarbe will have the devotion, and Pastor Wood will have the topic.

The Southern Illinois district LWML spring retreat will be held on Saturday, March 29 at St Mark, Steeleville. More information about the retreat can be found on the bulletin board in the narthex.

“FROM IMMANUEL’S LAY DELEGATE”

I attended the Southern Illinois District (SID) Convention at the Regency Conference Center in O’Fallon as a lay delegate from Immanuel this past week. As with any convention, there was the usual business of reports from schools, mission board, Lutheran Church Extension Fund, LCMS Foundation, treasurer updates, and Synodical reviews. LWML, seminaries and universities sent greetings and updates. To continue our work in the district, nominations, elections, and resolutions were also conducted. As a lay delegate, I have learned more about the work and mechanics of our district. It takes many pastors, teachers, and lay persons to do the work. There is also more work to be done. Rev. Peter Lange, First Vice President of LCMS, preached on the convention’s theme, “Heirs of Eternal Life” (Titus 3:7). Through this theme we realize as an heir of eternal life through our baptism we continue to be strengthened through the Lord’s Supper. This was carried out as the convention began with a Divine Service hosted by Zion of Belleville. The service included musicians and choir members from neighboring congregations. Attending the SID Convention is a privilege and a learning experience. The unity of working together to share and spread the gospel is a Christian duty we all have in common. I encourage anyone to take advantage of this opportunity if asked.

Cora Schmidt

LOVE AND THE LAW: A TIME FOR PRAYER AND STUDY

Join Southern Illinois Circuit 6 for a workshop on immigration and Christian living on March 15 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Millstadt. Rev Stephen Heimer, manager of All Nations Ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, will present about how we, as Lutheran Christians, live in the reality of loving our neighbors like Jesus has called us to do and encouraging all people to live under God’s Law and human laws. Immigration policy and loving our neighbors sometimes creates confusing situations for Christians, and Rev Heimer will help us consider these important and timely topics. The workshop will begin with a prayer service at 9am, and will conclude at noon. An offering will be taken for the St Louis ministry Christian Friends of New Americans.

Speaker Rev Stephen Heimer is currently serving as the LCMS manager of All Nations Ministry. Before that, he served as a parish pastor for 13 years on the border in Texas, serving a combination of Americans and immigrants. He cared for immigrants, armed forces members, customs and border agents, and all other backgrounds. He also cared for people on both sides of the border and provided chapel services at detention centers along the border.



SCHOOL NEWS

Now Enrolling Students for 2025/2026 School Year at Immanuel Lutheran School, Okawville.

Preschool and Kindergarten

Members of Immanuel March 10-14

7:00 am - 3:30 pm

Non-members March 17-21

7:00 am - 3:30 pm

Grades 1-8

March 24 & 25 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

and 6:00 pm -7:30 pm

March 26 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

March 27 7:30 am - 5:00 pm

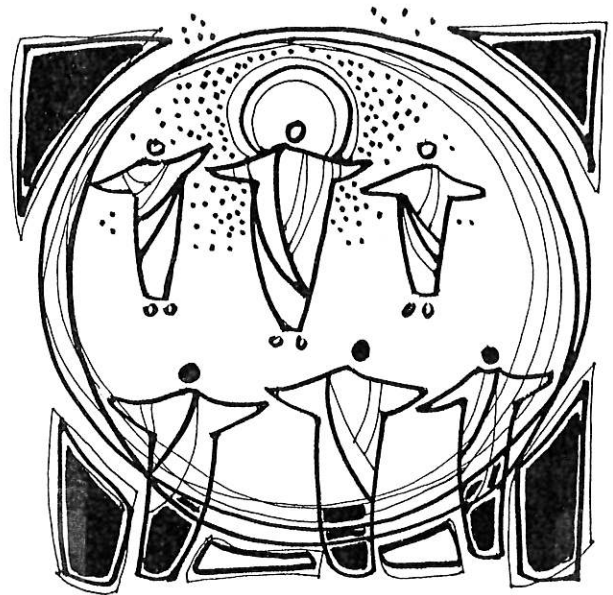
Please call 618-243-6142 to set up an appointment or stop by the school office.

Immanuel Lutheran School PTL Dine in or carry-out Breakfast – Sunday, March 16th 7:30 – noon at ILS. Tickets \$10.00 in advance (\$12 at event) Advance tickets available from ILS students, or at the school office. Breakfast includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits & gravy.

Spring Pictures will be taken on Tuesday, March 25th. Track, Pee Wee Basketball, Scholar Bowl and Choir will also be taken that day.

Immanuel Wee Care is looking for a custodian for a couple hours each day after 5:30 p.m. If you are interested or would like additional information, please call Cheri Kurtz at 618-243-6161

ILS Scholarship Fund: The Board of Parochial Education would like to start another scholarship fund. This fund is not intended to replace SAFE funds; the SAFE fund program is still essential to providing tuition assistance for families in hardship or need, so funding will still always be needed for the SAFE program. The new scholarship fund is intended for all first year, 1st grade through 8th grade students to apply for. In the future we plan to expand the scholarships to more than first year students. If an individual, organization or committee would like to donate to this fund, please enclose cash or check in an envelope with “scholarship fund” written on the envelope and “scholarship fund” on the memo line of the check. You may place it in the offering plate (Immanuel), mail to the school office or hand deliver to the school office. Thank you for your support!



for the Lord our God is holy
P S A L M 99:9

WEEKLY WORSHIP RESOURCE LISTING

The Transfiguration of Our Lord March 1 & March 2, 2025

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Epistle: Hebrews 3:1-6
Gospel: Luke 9:28-36
Order of Service: Divine Service Setting One
Hymns: 402 The Only Son from Heaven
415 Jesus on the Mountain Peak
414 'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here
631 Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face
643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing
417 Alleluia, Song of Gladness

ASH WEDNESDAY March 5, 2025

Old Testament: Joel 2:12-19
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Order of Service: Divine Service Setting Three
Hymns: 419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee
607 From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee
610 Lord Jesus, Think on Me
704 Renew Me, O Eternal Light

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT March 8 & March 9 2025

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Epistle: Romans 10:8b-13
Gospel: Luke 4:1-13
Order of Service: Prayer and Preaching
Hymns: 424 O Christ, You Walked the Road
657 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
418 O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

LENTEN VESPERS March 12, 2025

Order of Service: Prayer and Preaching
Reading: Passion of Our Lord: The Lord's Supper
Hymns: 445 When You Woke That Thursday
Morning
638 Eat This Bread
629 What Is This Bread

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT March 15 & March 16, 2025

Old Testament: Jeremiah 26:8-15
Epistle: Philippians 3:17-4:1
Gospel: Luke 13:31-35
Order of Service: Divine Service Setting Four
Hymns: 425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
708 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart
725 Children of the Heavenly Father
730 What Is the World to Me
748 I'm But a Stranger Here
427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

LENTEN VESPERS March 19, 2025

Order of Service: Prayer and Preaching
Reading: Passion of Our Lord: Gethsemane
Hymns: 436 Go To Dark Gethsemane
663 Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray
731 O God, Forsake Me Not

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT March 22 & March 23, 2025

Old Testament: Ezekiel 33: 7-20
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Gospel: Luke 13:1-9
Order of Service: Matins
Hymns: 579 The Law of God Is Good and Wise
614 "As Surely as I Live," God Said
580 The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace

LENTEN VESPERS March 26, 2025

Order of Service: Prayer and Preaching
Reading: Passion of Our Lord: The Palace of the
High Priest
Hymns: 431 Not All the Blood of Beasts
440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now
887 Now the Light Has Gone Away

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT March 29 & March 30, 2025

Old Testament: Isaiah 12:1-6
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Gospel: Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32
Order of Service: Divine Service Setting Three
Hymns: 915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us
571 God Loved the World So That He Gave
423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary
437 Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed
632 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee
562 All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall