

HE HATH NOT DEALT WITH US  
AFTER OUR SINS;  
NOR REWARDED US  
ACCORDING TO OUR INIQUITIES ...  
FOR HE KNOWETH OUR FRAME;  
HE REMEMBERETH THAT WE ARE DUST.

PSALM 103:10, 14, KJV

## From Ashes to Victory

This month we enter the season of Lent. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (February 18 this year). Lent is a penitential season, forty days in length (not counting Sundays), in which we ponder our sinfulness and focus on our need for a Savior and the great price God paid for us. Specifically, we remember Jesus, who became incarnate, was born, walked among us, suffered, and died for us so that we might be His own and live eternally as His beloved children in heaven.

The word *Lent* simply means “spring season,” for it always comes before Easter. The date of Easter was set in A.D. 325 at the Council of Nicaea. Even earlier, St. Eusebius of Caesarea (c. A.D. 190) wrote about controversy within the Church regarding the celebration of Easter. Even today, within the wider Christian Church, there are differing dates for Easter. This is largely due to the use of different calendar systems throughout various places and eras of the Church’s history.

Prior to the Council of Nicaea, fasting before Easter was already common, though the length of time was much shorter, sometimes as brief as a single day. Following the first Ecumenical Council, Church Fathers spoke more clearly of Lent and fasting. St. Athanasius encouraged believers to fast for forty days before the great Feast of Easter. St. Cyril of Jerusalem delivered a series of instructions to catechumens (those preparing for baptism) during this season. Pope Leo I (not to be confused with Leo X, who was pope during the time of Martin Luther) also emphasized fasting during the forty days of Lent.

Recall that in the early Church, Lent was a time of preparation for catechumens as they prepared for baptism. During this era, baptisms were performed only on Easter. Thus, fasting was encouraged as a way to prepare these candidates for initiation into the Christian Church.

In modern times, the ancient practice of fasting has often been replaced by “giving something up” for Lent. In even more recent times, giving up bad or sinful habits—such as biting one’s nails or using foul language, has become common as a means of self-improvement during the Lenten season.

This can be good. Sinning less is always good, and self-improvement is worthwhile. However, the true purpose of Lent is, as mentioned earlier, to focus on our sinfulness and our need for a Savior. In Advent, we do this as we await the coming of Jesus. In Lent, we do so in anticipation of Jesus’ penitential sacrifice on Calvary, where He shed His blood on the cross for us.

This Lenten season, as you prepare for Good Friday, the day our Savior died, and as you look forward to the resurrection of Christ at the Feast of Easter, prepare the Royal Highway. Prepare your hearts both for the sacrifice of Christ and for the celebration of Easter, the celebration that Jesus has won the victory for you. Live in that victory, hold it high, and claim it each day. After all, the wages of sin is death, but Christ has taken that away.

As you prepare, feel free to walk with Jesus during this season. Feel free to give up a beloved treat or abstain from a sinful vice. Prepare your heart for the gift of salvation that we anticipate this Lent. It is a good and ancient tradition. It is good and right to do. Just as we come to His Table asking, “Am I a sinner?” “Is Jesus my Savior?” and “Do I receive forgiveness, faith, and eternal life in Jesus’ body and blood?” as we approach the Table of God and receive the Lord’s Supper, so also, we prepare during Lent.

**Rev. James Yonkers**

## IMPORTANT DATES IN FEBRUARY:

- LWML Mite Collection Sunday, **Feb. 1**
- Groundhog Day, **Feb. 2**
- ILS Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, **Feb. 12**
- Valentine's Day, **Feb. 14**
- President's Day, **Feb. 16**
- Ash Wednesday, **Feb. 18**
- A Taste of Deutschland German Dinner, **Feb. 21**

**HELP US CARE FOR YOU:** *Your well-being is important to us, and we want to pray for you!* Unfortunately, we are no longer notified by the hospital; please call the church office during regular business hours (Monday through Friday from 7 am - 3:30 pm) when you have any medical procedure or in any time of spiritual need at 217-442-5675. In case of emergencies after hours, please feel free to contact Pastor Yonkers on his cell at 260-413-8375. **Prayer requests:** we are certainly pleased to pray for your (non-member) family and friends alongside our Immanuel members. Please keep us informed of their needs.

**THE LOVE GOD DESIRES:** God's love is never meant to stop with us; it's meant to flow through us. When

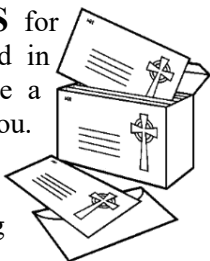


we love others, we reflect his very heart. As 1 John 4:12 (NIV) reminds us, *"If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."*

This is the true mark of a Christian — love that reaches beyond comfort zones, opinions and differences. Jesus said in John 13:35 (NIV), *"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."* The world is watching, not to see how loudly we profess our faith but how deeply we practice it. Every act of compassion, every gentle word and every moment of grace reveals something divine — God's love at work in us. The more we give that love away, the more it grows within us, mirroring the heart of Christ, who gave Himself for all. So ask yourself: Does the world recognize you as his disciple by the way you love?

*The Newsletter Newsletter*

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** for your 2025 offerings have been distributed in your church mailbox. If you do not have a mailbox, we will mail your statements to you. Contact Kim in the church office if you have any questions regarding your statement, or if you would like to begin using envelopes. *Thank you for your generosity!!*



## FOR US



"For us" is not simply a pithy line to use because it is easy to repeat. It is a confession of who God is and what He brings in giving us His Son. It helps us understand why God would send His Son to die for us. The phrase "for us" also captures much of the

Reformation's theological emphasis—and Luther's understanding of Scripture in particular. Luther went from searching for a righteous God and finding only stern rebuke to seeing God in the form of a little baby and as the one who became one of us for us so that we might become like Him.

Our Lenten preaching series hymn is *"O Love, How Deep"* (LSB 544). Some hymns tell a story, others teach, and still others create pictures in our minds of the great works of God. Some hymns do all three, weaving together a tapestry that is beautiful yet simple, wondrous yet easy to understand. *"O Love, How Deep"* is that kind of hymn. Although it does not appear in the first stanza, the most pointed and beautiful language in the hymn is expressed in the phrase "for us." The phrase is reminiscent of the language of the Nicene Creed: "Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven."

**Ash Wednesday – Feb. 18**

O Love, How Deep: A Love That Knows Our Sin

**Midweek of Lent 1 – Feb. 25**

For Us He Became One of Us

**Midweek of Lent 2 – Mar. 4**

For Us He Stood in Our Place

**Midweek of Lent 3 – Mar. 11**

For Us He Still Seeks and Serves

**Midweek of Lent 4 – Mar. 18**

For Us He Breaks the Power of the Enemy

**Midweek of Lent 5 – Mar. 25**

For Us He Suffers, Dies, and Rises

**LENT SUPPER SPONSORS NEEDED!** We will once again gather for a Lenten Supper each week at 5:00 pm, prior to the midweek service, and we are looking for individuals or groups to host a supper. Simply gather a few friends, each person brings a dish, and you serve a simple meal to our church family. All proceeds from the supper may be directed to a ministry or cause at Immanuel of your choosing. You do not need to serve on a committee to support the ministry you select. If you are interested in hosting, please contact the church office to see which dates are available. This is a wonderful way to serve and support the ministries of our congregation!



## NEW INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY:

The Board recently discussed how worship services are handled during inclement weather and would like to share this guidance. Historically, the cancellation of worship services at Immanuel has been, and will continue to be, a very rare occurrence. If severe weather is forecast and a cancellation must be considered, a decision will be made by 6 am on Sundays and by 3 pm on Wednesdays. Pastor Yonkers will record a message on the church's outgoing voicemail with the final decision to either cancel services or proceed as scheduled. Members and guests may call the church office at 442-5675 after 6:30 am on Sunday morning to hear the most up-to-date information. When weather conditions are poor, but services are not cancelled, we encourage everyone to prioritize safety and use their own judgment when deciding whether to attend. We value gathering together for worship while also caring for one another's well-being.



## SPRING RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE!

The Spring Rummage Sale is **March 20 & 21**. It's time for you to clean out your closets, declutter your home, and help Immanuel! We are asking that you wait until **Mar. 11** to bring your donations. ILS will need to use the stage that day for their Grandparent's Day Program. After that date, you may place your donations on the stage behind the curtain. We are no longer using the boys' locker room to store rummage sale items. Also, please do not bring large TVs, computers, or Christmas trees. All proceeds will benefit the Capital Fund. *Thanks!*

## LEAF & HOLLY BAZAAR RESULTS:

Many thanks once again to everyone who volunteered, donated to, and/or attended the 2025 Bazaar! 210 lunch tickets were sold – 150 dine in and 60 carry-outs. Many of you gave generously above and beyond the ticket price and through additional cash donations, helping cover the cost of groceries. We are also grateful for three Thrivent Action Team cards and a donation that fully covered the cost of the pork. The booths did well, and after all expenses were paid, the Women's Guild netted a profit of \$7,116.49 to fund their missions and local projects. Thanks again for your generous support!

*Janet Terry and Donna Toms, Co-Chairs*

*"Dear Lord Jesus Christ, I feel my sins. They bite, chase and frighten me. Where shall I go? I look to You, Lord Jesus Christ, and despite my weakness, I believe in You. I hold fast to You, and I am certain that You said, 'Whoever believes in Me will have eternal life.'"* – Martin Luther

## WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS:

Our January and February **ingathering** is for Rose's Food 4 the Children Backpack Program. There is a tote in the coatroom for donations. Items needed:

- Canned Beef Ravioli (15 oz. easy open cans)
- Canned Spaghetti & Meatballs (15 oz. easy open cans)
- Pork and Beans (easy open cans)
- Individual cereal boxes or bowls
- Juice boxes
- Instant Oatmeal packages
- Individual Fruit Cups

Our January luncheon meeting is Tuesday, **Jan. 13** at 11:30 am. Bring a dish to share, everything else will be provided. Pam and Debbie, our January hostesses, will provide dessert. Please join us!

**PHIL'S FRIENDS URGENT NEED!** We received word that the Phil's Friends Hope Centers are running dangerously low on women's blankets. Phil's Friends wants to ensure that every care package includes a cozy blanket to provide warmth and hope during treatment and recovery. If you can donate a blanket, please bring it to church and place it in the designated tote in the coatroom. Diana Pratt will be going to Watseka for an LWML President's meeting, and they will get them to Kankakee from there. Blankets can be handmade knit, crocheted, quilted, or fleece, or store bought (approx. size 50 x 60).

**Reflections from Our Presidents:** As we observe Presidents' Day this month, we give thanks for the leaders who have served our nation and reflect on the role of faith in public life. Throughout our history, many presidents have spoken openly about the importance of Scripture, trust in God, and living out one's faith with integrity. The following quotations remind us that devotion to Christ and reliance on God have long shaped both personal character and national leadership.



### Woodrow Wilson, 28<sup>th</sup> President of the United States

*"It is in our life and conduct that we must show our devotion to Christ."*

### Ronald Reagan, 40<sup>th</sup> President of the United States

*"If we trust in Him, keep His word, and live our lives for His pleasure, He'll give us the power we need—power to fight the good fight, to finish the race, and to keep the faith."*

### Theodore Roosevelt, 26<sup>th</sup> President of the United States

*"A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education."*

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING SUMMARY:**

**Date: Jan. 20, 2026 / Next Meeting: Feb. 17, 2026**

### **New Business**

2 members of the Board of Directors and 3 members of the congregation are needed to serve on the 2026 Nominating Committee. The Board will host the Ash Wednesday Lent Supper with the proceeds going to Parish Education. We are looking for a group to host the Hustle Hoops Concessions Stand. A new Inclement Weather Policy was discussed.

### **Old Business**

Discussed submitting nominations for Synod President, First Vice President, and Regional Vice President.

### **Christian Education**

Current enrollment is 73. 20 families / 25 students are attending church through the church attendance discount. The DCFS visit went well. The Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser is Feb. 12. A letter was sent to families regarding program changes for the 2026 – 2027 year.

### **Finance**

Reviewed reports. Plans are underway to audit. The notes in the Immanuel Lights were well received and effective, no money transfers from savings was needed. It's nice to be able to thank members for stepping up as well. The Food Pantry is eligible for a \$2,500 grant through Enterprise. We now have access to the Cemetery bank account.

### **Properties**

A new garbage disposal was installed. A new refrigerator was purchased for the kitchen. Al is working on the parking lot and driveway lights that are out. Al would like to thank our generous congregation for stepping up to help with repairs!

### **Stewardship**

Sue will begin working on a new Stewardship Survey.

### **Evangelism**

Thank you to Dee Ramsay for taking care of the Christmas Bags for the ILS children!

### **Parish Education**

Plans are underway for Icebox Cookies in March.

### **Mission and Social Ministry**

The food pantry is low on some staple items. Ideas discussed included a food drive. The Immanuel Cares report was reviewed.

### **Elders**

Discussed encouraging teachers to attend church services. A new robe was ordered for Owen.

### **Vice President**

Kurt would like to complete the leadership bulletin board.

### **President**

Josh discussed cemetery updates.

### **Pastor**

Discussed official acts, membership changes, upcoming worship services, member concerns, and the Lent theme.



# **A Taste of Deutschland**



## **German Dinner and Dancing**

The Men's Club and Capital Fund are teaming up once again to bring the Taste of Deutschland German dinner to you on Saturday, **Feb. 21**. We'll enjoy a delicious meal, dancing, and live German music by Keith Stras and the Polka Confetti Band!

**Menu:** grilled brats, red potatoes, green beans, sauerkraut, pumpernickel bread, dessert, and a drink. Carry-outs are available.



**Tickets:** Adult tickets are \$20 and a child's ticket with a hotdog meal are \$5. Tickets are on sale in the chapel hallway on Sundays and in the church office during the week.

**Volunteers:** Please consider signing up to help with the setup on Friday at 5 pm, at the event, and with the cleanup and tear down of the tables and chairs after church the next day. Bakers – we need your yummy treats! Desserts do not need to be traditionally German. Signup sheets for the desserts and volunteers will be on the card table next Sunday. Bring your appetite and your friends for a night of Gemütlichkeit and good cheer!



**LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION:** In 2025, Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) translated and printed 414,000 books in 48 languages, including Luther's Small Catechism, children's Bible storybooks, devotionals, and Lutheran Confessions. These resources are reaching believers across Africa, Southeast Asia, Central and South America, Europe, and even the United States, introducing new generations to the saving love of Jesus Christ. One inspiring example is Grandmother Nid, a 75-year-old widow in Thailand, who came to faith through the worship and study of God's Word at her local Lutheran preaching station. Using LHF's Small Catechism and *Jesus Never Fails* devotionals, she grew in faith and now continues to study Scripture and catechism daily, grounded in Christ's promises. You can help more people like Grandmother Nid encounter Jesus by donating at [lhfmissions.org/donate](http://lhfmissions.org/donate) or by mailing contributions to Lutheran Heritage Foundation, 7000 N. Sheldon Rd., Canton, MI 48187. To read the full blog post and learn more about the impact of LHF's ministry in 2025, visit [lhfmissions.org/news](http://lhfmissions.org/news).



**CAPITAL FUND DRIVE:** The current bank balance is \$230,593 which includes a Certificate of Deposit and a \$50,000 grant from Julius W. Hegeler II Foundation which has not been received yet. Our current project is reroofing the flat roofs of the school/gym wing of our building and replacing the skylights. The reroofing portion of this project has been completed, and the skylights will be installed weather permitting. This project will total approximately \$260,000. Donations do not have to be one large amount; they can be smaller monthly or quarterly donations, whatever fits your budget. The congregation established the Capital Fund Drive in 2012, and thanks to our generous congregation, we have accomplished many needed upgrades/renovations. Prior generations worked and sacrificed to build the school/church building, and it is up to us to preserve and improve our church home just as we would our own household's. There is a Capital Fund Drive bulletin board in the hallway between the coat room and the parish mailboxes. There, or on the Usher's Desk, you'll find special envelopes for ongoing donations throughout the year. *"...because of my devotion to the house of my God I give my treasure for the house of my God. 1 Chronicles 29:3b.* All donations from large to small are equally appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Jo Van Hoveln or any of the committee members.

**SCRIP ORDERS:** Are you looking for a thoughtful gift, or just want to make your everyday purchases work for a good cause? Scrip cards are great gifts for any special occasion! The next Scrip order is due to the church office by 9 am on **Feb. 9** and will be ready for pick up on **Feb. 15**. Here's how it works: you purchase a gift card at face value (for example, a \$100 Meijer card), and the church receives a percentage back (in this case, 3%). You still get the full \$100 to spend—on groceries, gas, prescriptions, or whatever you normally buy—and the church gets a boost at no extra cost to you. Thank you for using this simple and impactful way to give back!

# thrivent®

**ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS!** The Thrivent Choice Dollars Deadline **March 31<sup>st</sup>**! Each year Thrivent members have the opportunity to designate where your Thrivent Choice Dollars go. Choice Dollars are a free benefit of being a Thrivent member, and they can be used to make great donations to Immanuel Lutheran Church, or any of its special missions or funds. It is all, as the name implies, **YOUR choice**. Thrivent Choice Dollars can be designated to many other organizations or charities, but we ask that you would consider designating Immanuel Lutheran Church. Choice Dollar designees are listed by Thrivent. If you wish to designate to a specific mission or ministry here (including Immanuel Lutheran School) here at Immanuel Lutheran Church we can make that happen, just speak to your Thrivent agent and the church office regarding your Choice Dollars and we will make them work for you, the congregation, and any special ministry you choose to support.

*An easy way to help support what matters to you!*  
**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®**

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED:** A request came in from Safe Families that a Danville mom needs some help with clothing for her children. There is a designated tote in the coatroom for donations.

- Isis – 5T girls clothes and 4T/5T Pullups
- Amelia – 5/6 girls clothes
- Samira – 7/8 girls clothes
- Brandon – 12/14 boys clothes
- Lebron – 12\*14 boys clothes
- Brian – 14/16 boys clothes



**Spaghetti DINNER**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026 4:30-6:30 PM**

**– Menu Includes: –**

- Spaghetti • Salad
- Garlic Bread • Dessert

**A freewill offering will be collected with 100% of the proceeds to benefit the ILS lunch program. All are welcome!**

Immanuel Lutheran School invites families, friends, and the community to enjoy an evening of food and fellowship at our Spaghetti Dinner on Thursday, Feb. 12 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Dinner will include spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, and dessert. A free will offering will be collected, with proceeds benefiting the ILS lunch program. This event is a wonderful opportunity to gather, enjoy a delicious meal, and support the ministry and mission of ILS. We hope you'll join us as we twirl our forks, share God's blessings, and enjoy a night that's sure to be *pasta-tively* heartwarming!



### A Message from Pastor Mike Burdick St. John's Lutheran Church, Effingham

One of our shut-ins told me of the new tv documentary "The First Christmas," hosted by Kevin Costner. Her advice for her granddaughter had been that the great-grandchildren not be allowed to watch it. She was right. In it, Herod was accurately depicted as darkly evil, and kids shouldn't experience the depth of his twistedness yet. While kids should be shielded from strong images of evil -- please protect them, mom and dad by carefully filtering what they watch -- adults ought to admit just how horrible the human mind and heart can be. Then lament and repent daily. Jesus entered into a culture and creation infected with sin, to be the world's Savior. To give us unlimited joy. Life in the midst of a State which has allowed physician-assisted suicide. Help in the midst of suffering. Deep peace. Forgiveness of sin. Confidence in the face of the grave. Light in the darkness. Hope in the midst of Herods. **"The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."** (John 1:5) Christ the King reigns, no matter what the Herods of the world try to do. Rejoice.

### Stay Connected!

Central Illinois District Contact Information:  
CID's website: <http://www.cidlcms.org/>  
Subscribe to the E-GatePost (digital newsletter) and monthly bulletin inserts:  
<http://www.cidlcms.org/>.  
Follow the CID on Facebook and Instagram

### Prayer Request

#### Pray for Our CID Missions supported by your church's contributions to the district.

Dear Father, we pray Thee, give us Thy Word, that the Gospel may be sincerely preached throughout the world and that it may be received by faith and may work and live in us. So we pray that Thy kingdom may prevail among us through the Word and the power of the Holy Spirit, that the devil's kingdom may be overthrown and he may have no right or power over us, until finally the devil's kingdom shall be utterly destroyed and sin, death, and hell exterminated, and that we may live forever in perfect righteousness and blessedness (from Luther's Large Catechism)

### Current Dollar for Missions Project

**Amount to be funded:** \$11,000.00.

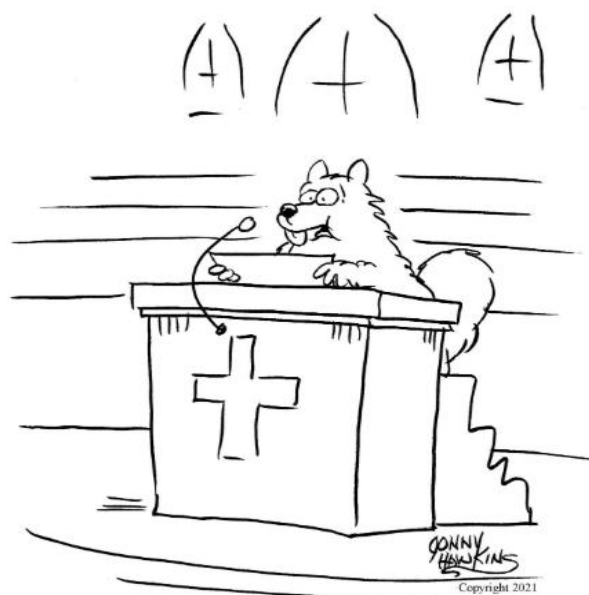
**Project:** Replace original kitchen equipment in the sexton's apartment at Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, Macomb. Immanuel Lutheran Student Center in Macomb was dedicated in 1969, but some kitchen equipment in the apartment for the live-in student who takes care of the student center (the sexton) has not been replaced since then. DFM funds would be used to replace the original kitchen equipment.

**NEW THIS YEAR!** You can now support Dollars for Mission through online giving. Many people no longer carry cash but still want to support the Central Illinois District's mission work. One-time and recurring donations are now available online. Use this QR Code, or visit:



<https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/LCMSCentralIllinoisDistrict/D4M>


**All new recurring gifts will be matched by a special one-time gift, up to \$20,000.**



"Yes, I'm preaching a Groundhog Day sermon about living in the shadows ... again!"

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ??

The New Testament uses several Greek words to describe love. Which of the following best represents the **selfless, sacrificial love** that God shows to humanity?



A) Eros

B) Phileo

C) Agape

D) Storge

Answer: C (See John 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 13)



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Website: [www.worshipanew.org](http://www.worshipanew.org)

**WEEKLY BROADCAST SCHEDULE:**

**Sundays at 7:00 am – WTWO – TV2 (NBC)**

**Sundays at 7:30 am – WCIX Channel 3**

**Sundays at 10:30 am – TCT Network – Direct TV Channel 377**

**Nationwide Sundays: Direct TV Channel 377 (11:30 am Eastern / 10:30 am Central / 9:30 am Mountain / 8:30 am Pacific)**

**Tune in anytime online: [www.worshipforshutins.org](http://www.worshipforshutins.org).**

***February 2026***

**February 1, 2026**

***“The Power of God”* by Rev. Paul Shoemaker**

**Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

In the early church, Christians were being challenged by people who said the Christian faith was foolish. Today, the faith of Christians is still challenged as foolish. We know the “word of the cross ... is the power of God.” 1 Corinthians 1:18 ESV

**February 8, 2026**

***“Salty Christians”* by Rev. William Mueller**

**Sermon Text: Matthew 5:13-20**

In His “Sermon on the Mount”, Jesus pulls us deeper into an understanding of our relationship with Him. He uses the metaphor of salt and light. Just a little bit of salt brings some great flavor. In complete darkness, even a small light will change everything. Yet in all this, Jesus still has a surprise for us!

**February 15, 2026**

***“The Wrong Mountain”* by Rev. Scott Zeckzer**

**Sermon Text: Matthew 17:1-9**

There are times in our lives where we have “mountain top experiences.” The problem is that they do not last; they are forgotten. There is one “mountain top experience” that changed everything. Tune in to “Worship Anew” to find the right mountain.

**February 18, 2026 – Ash Wednesday**

***“The Great Exchange”* by Guest Pastor Rev. Joe Hoem**

**Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10**

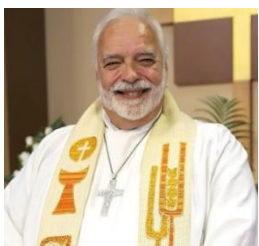
Lent isn’t about improving ourselves but about seeing what Christ has done for us. The One who knew no sin became sin in our place, bearing our guilt on the cross. In Him, we are made righteous, forgiven, and free to live as God’s beloved.

**February 22, 2026**

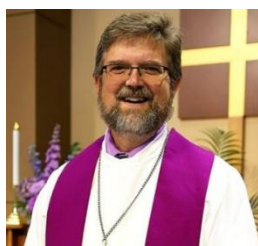
***“Jesus Also Was Tempted”* by Rev. Dr. Walter Maier, III**

**Sermon Text: Matthew 4:1-11**

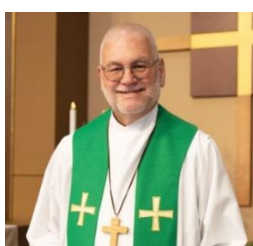
The bad news is that we will be tempted by Satan throughout our earthly lives. The good news is that Jesus also was tempted by the devil in all the ways that we are, yet He never once sinned. He defeated Satan for us and now helps us overcome temptations of the devil.



**Rev. Shoemaker**



**Rev. Mueller**



**Rev. Zeckzer**



**Rev. Hoem**



**Rev. Maier III**



# Joyfully Serving the Lord

## February 2026

**Note:** All special services, Ash Wednesday and Lent Midweek Services are at 6:30 pm.

### Communion Assistants

- 1 Don DeMoss, Al Julian
- 15 Dean Hull, Kurt Thornsborough

#### Ash Wednesday Service

- 18 Josh Christensen, Don DeMoss

### Ushers – Team “B” Youth Team

Capt. Josh Christensen, Hannah Christensen, Jamie Yonkers, Eli Mann, Kendall Wright, Carley Wright, Owen Price

#### Special Services

- 18 Team “E” Capt. Denny Hilton
- 25 Team “F” Capt. Ray Wittmann

### Lay Readers

- 1 Al Julian
- 8 Jan Mann
- 15 Diana Pratt
- 22 Janet Terry

### Gospel Reader

- Al Julian
- Kurt Thornsborough
- Dwain Dixon
- Gail Garner

#### Special Services

- 18 Nancy Purviance
- 25 Kurt Thornsborough
- Josh Christensen
- Kurt Thornsborough

### Acolytes

- 1 Jamie Yonkers and Owen Price
- 8 Eli Mann
- 15 Brooklynn Hunt
- 22 Kinley Pratt

#### Special Services

- 18 Jamie Yonkers
- 25 Owen Price

### Videographer

- 1 Kim Davis
- 8 Dwain Dixon
- 15 Kim Davis
- 22 Dwain Dixon

### Sound/Screens

- RJ Davis
- Butch Buesing
- RJ Davis
- Jan Mann

### Children’s Church

- 1 Jan Mann
- 15 Jan Mann

### Children’s Sermon

- 8 Diana Pratt
- 22 Jo Robinson

### Immanuel Cares

Joyce Martin and Kathy Christensen

### Altar Guild

Sue DeMoss and Kimberly Davis

### Money Counters

Nancy Purviance and Martha Elliott

### Check Signers

Mike Ferris and Jo Van Hoveln



## March 2026

**Note:** All Lenten Midweek Services are at 6:30 pm.

### Communion Assistants

- 1 Don DeMoss, Dean Hull, and Josh Schmidgall
- 15 Josh Christensen, Dwain Dixon
- 29 Dean Hull, Josh Schmidgall

### Ushers – Team “C”

Capt. Kurt Thornsborough, Paul Pasquale, Butch Buesing, Gary West, Allen Julian, and Jim Robinson

#### Lenten Services

- 4 Team “D” Capt. Jerry Kennett
- 11 Team “F” Capt. Ray Wittmann
- 18 Team “A” Capt. Don DeMoss
- 25 Team “E” Capt. Denny Hilton

### Lay Readers

- 1 Josh Christensen
- 8 Sue DeMoss
- 15 Dwain Dixon
- 22 Carrie Farrell
- 29 Gail and Barb Garner

### Gospel Reader

- Josh Christensen
- Kurt Thornsborough
- Dwain Dixon
- Butch Buesing
- Gail Garner

#### Special Services

- 4 Allen Julian
- 11 Jan Mann
- 18 Diana Pratt
- 25 Nancy Purviance

- Allen Julian
- Kurt Thornsborough
- Butch Buesing
- Dwain Dixon

### Acolytes

#### Sundays

- 1 Kinley Pratt
- 8 Kendall Wright
- 15 Jamie Yonkers
- 22 Owen Price and Jamie
- 29 Carley Wright

#### Lenten Services

- 4 Brooklynn Hunt
- 11 Owen Price
- 18 Kinley Pratt
- 25 Jamie Yonkers

### Videographer

- 1 Dwain Dixon
- 8 Josh Christensen
- 15 Kim Davis
- 22 Dwain Dixon
- 29 Kim Davis

### Sound/Screens

- Jamie Yonkers
- Don DeMoss
- RJ Davis
- Jan Mann
- RJ Davis

### Children’s Church

- 1 Jan Mann
- 15 Jan Mann

### Children’s Sermon

- 8 Diana Pratt
- 22 Jo Robinson

### Immanuel Cares

Nancy Holler and Charlotte Kennett

### Altar Guild

Sharon Crow and Sharron Runyan

### Money Counters

Mary Powell and Holly Clem

### Check Signers

Mike Ferris and Mary Powell



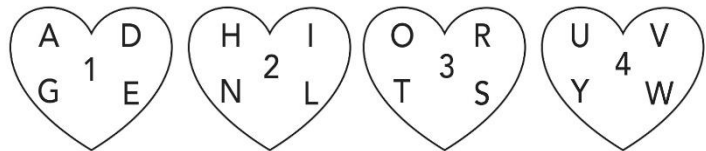


# Puzzle!

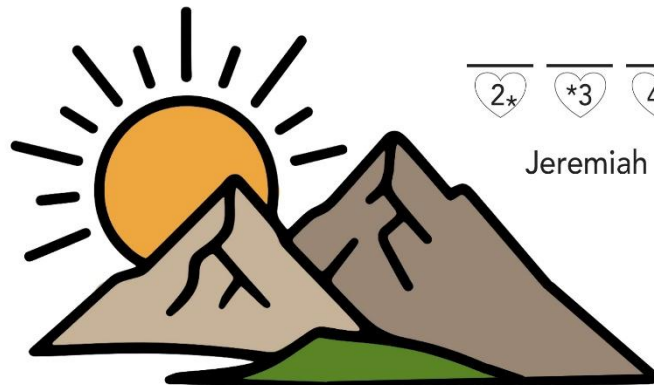
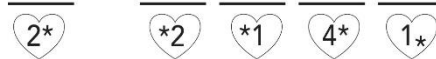
We see hearts everywhere and love sharing cards and greetings with friends and family.

Use the code to discover a special message from God — perfect for any day, any month.

## CODE:



"



Jeremiah 31:3

Answer: "I have loved you with an everlasting love."

## LOVE IS Action!

Love isn't just a feeling — it's something we do! This simple activity reminds us that acts of love, big or small, can grow and bless others.

### What you need:

- Construction paper (brown for the trunk, pinks and reds for hearts)
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Markers or crayons



### What you do:

1. Cut a large tree trunk and branches out of brown paper and glue it onto a sheet of paper or poster board.
2. Use colorful paper to cut several hearts — these will be your "leaves."
3. On each heart, write loving actions like "share my toys," "pray for others," or "help clean up."
4. Glue the hearts onto the branches to create a full, love-filled tree.
5. Hang it somewhere visible as a reminder to put love into action every day!

"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."  
-1 John 3:18 (NIV)

Place  
Stamp  
Here

Our February 2026 newsletter  
prepared prayerfully for:

This newsletter also available on our  
website: [www.ilcdanville.com](http://www.ilcdanville.com)

Immanuel Lutheran Church and School


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Danville, IL 61832

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ilcd.churchsec@gmail.com

ilcd.preschooloffice@gmail.com



ANCHOR in His HEART PROMISES

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

GOD WITH US

create in me a  
CLEAN HEART  
O GOD, AND renew  
A RIGHT SPIRIT  
within me.

February 2026

<b>Immanuel Lutheran Church</b> 1930 N. Bowman Danville, IL 61832 <a href="http://www.ilcdanville.com">www.ilcdanville.com</a> 217-442-5675	<b>Immanuel Lutheran School</b> 217-442-5036
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<b>Worship Schedule</b> <b>Sundays</b> Feb. 1, 8, 15 & 22 at 9:30 am <b>Wednesdays</b> Feb. 4 & 11 at 5:00 pm Feb. 18 & 25 at 6:30 pm
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<b>Communion Schedule</b> <b>Sundays</b> Feb. 1 & 15 at 9:30 am <b>Wednesday</b> Feb. 18 at 6:30 pm
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