

*"You are no longer
foreigners and strangers,
but fellow citizens
with God's people
and also members
of his household."*

EPHESIANS 2:19

This is a very patriotic month. The call to be patriotic is both good and right. We have discussed authority before. We have also spoken about rendering unto Caesar and about temporal authority. This July, let us continue to reflect on these themes, but through the words of St. Paul in Ephesians, where he writes about being strangers and aliens in this world (Ephesians 2:19).

Petra, one of the original Christian rock bands, sang about this verse in one of their softer songs, "Not of This World." As Christians, we are called to be citizens of two worlds. First, we are called to live as who we have become through our Baptism—children of God. Second, we are called to live as citizens of this world and of this nation. In common language, we are called to serve both God and country. Paul speaks of this as being citizens of heaven, members of God's kingdom, while at the same time living as aliens, foreigners, and strangers in this world.

In the Garden of Eden, this was a simple and easy task, for there was only one authority on earth, and the uncorrupted will of Adam was in complete harmony with the will of God, our heavenly Father.

Before the Fall, there was no need to live as a stranger, foreigner, or alien in this world. All things were right and in accordance with the Law and will of God. Now, however, this is no longer the case. Adam and Eve fell into temptation and sin, and the world fell with them. Consider Adam's own sons. Cain killed Abel. He brutally murdered his brother out of jealousy. It is striking that Adam is not the one who carries out justice upon Cain for his sin; rather, God Himself acts. God's authority stands above every human authority. He alone is not fallen, unlike all that is in this world.

Our loving God has snatched us up from sin, much as Pharaoh's daughter rescued the infant Moses from the Nile. In doing so, God has changed us and made us His children, citizens of His kingdom, and has set us apart from the multitude of unbelievers.

Yet this reality, though complete and finished, remains unseen. It is not possible to look at a person and immediately know whether they are a Christian; that is known fully only by God Himself. Certainly, our outward actions can point both ourselves and others to Christ. Going to church, saying our prayers, and reading our Bibles are often the first things that come to mind. Yet the things that truly separate us from the world are our Baptism, our faith, and our faithful reception of the Lord's Supper, through which the Word of God dwells within our hearts.

The world tells us that we are number one. Scripture teaches us that God is number one and that our neighbors are to be loved as ourselves. The world teaches us that we are more than okay, that we are perfect just the way we are, and that we deserve many good things. Scripture teaches us the opposite: that we are sinners and worthy of no good thing. Yet, out of His great love and mercy, God reached down and made us His beloved children, holy and righteous in His sight.

Continued on the next page...

Because of this, we have become children of God. Through our adoption in Baptism, we are now heirs of the good gifts that God freely gives. We no longer belong to this world; we belong to God. In this way, we have become aliens. Yet we are still in this world and are called to serve within it. Jesus' final words before His ascension were spoken to His Church. He assured us that we are not alone, that He will always be with us, and He commanded us to go forth boldly and proclaim to this foreign world all that God has done. In doing so, we speak God's Word to all people and bring others into His kingdom.

We are aliens in this world, separated by God from the great multitude of unbelievers. Yet we are also residents of this earth, called by God to bring His light into the world and His Word to all people. We are called to live our lives to the glory of God and for the benefit of our neighbor. Let us always walk in His light and, by our words and deeds, reflect God's light and God's love to those around us. In doing so, we live out the reality proclaimed in Ephesians 2:19.

Pastor Yonkers

IMPORTANT DATES IN JULY:

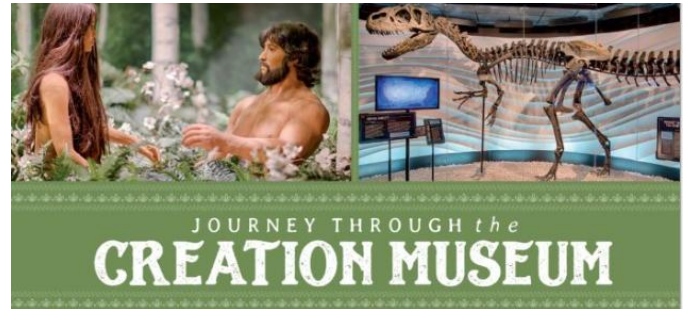
- Independence Day, **July 4**
- Patriotic Service, **July 5**
- LWML Mite Collection Sunday, **July 5**
- Schomburg Golf Outing for ILS, **July 17**
- Pastor Yonkers Vacation, **July 19 – 23**
- Ladies' Kickapoo Tea Room Outing, **July 28**

STILL WORTH MORE THAN YOU KNOW: A



speaker opened his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill and asking a crowd of 200 people, *“Who would like this?”* Nearly every hand went up. *“I’ll give it to one of you,”* he said. *“But first...”* He crumpled the bill tightly in his fist. *“Who still wants it?”* Hands remained in the air. He dropped it to the floor and ground it under his shoe. Then he picked up the wrinkled, dirty bill. *“How about now?”* The hands rose again. *“My friends,”* he said, *“you’ve just learned an important lesson. No matter what I did to the money, it never lost its value. It was still worth \$20.”* Life can feel the same way. We are dropped, crumpled and ground down by our choices and by circumstances beyond our control. At times, we may even feel worthless. But our value does not change. In God’s eyes, you are never less than priceless. Clean or dirty, wrinkled or whole, you remain precious to Him. As Isaiah 43:4 says in the NIV, *“You are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you.”*

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.



Experience the Creation Museum! Join us for a special day trip to the Creation Museum in Petersburg, KY on Saturday, **Aug. 29!** This adventure promises a day filled with faith, fellowship, learning, and fun. Guests will enjoy exploring the museum’s exhibits, including the moving pro-life exhibit, “Fearfully & Wonderfully Made,” and the stunning “Radiance” exhibit, along with beautiful gardens, walking trails, the Creation Zoo, and the state-of-the-art Stargazer Planetarium.

This is a very family-friendly trip! The charter bus has storage compartments for strollers, and families are welcome to leave snacks, toys, books, and other items on the bus during the day, so you don’t have to carry everything with you throughout the museum.

The prices listed include museum admission, a meal voucher for an entrée, side, and drink from Sprig & Stone, as well as one show at the Stargazer Planetarium. A sign-up sheet is available on the table in the hallway or call the church office. Payments are due by the end of July. **Invite your family and friends – you do not need to be an Immanuel member!**

Trip Details:

- **Date:** Saturday, August 29, 2026
- **Departure:** Early morning from Immanuel
- **Return:** Same evening
- **Transportation:** No worries, Immanuel is providing the charter bus! However, this will cost about \$4,000, so if you would like to donate towards the cost, it would certainly be appreciated!

Cost (includes admission, meal, and 1 planetarium show):

- Adults (18–59): \$85.00
- Seniors (60+): \$80.00
- Youth (11–17): \$55.00
- Children (10 and under): \$25.00

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING SUMMARY:

Date: June 16, 2026 / Next Meeting: July 21, 2026

New Business

The board discussed direct deposit for employees. The board approved the budget to take to the Voter's Meeting for final approval. A facilities use request was discussed.

Old Business

Nominations for elections in June were discussed. The board approved Sentry Roofing to replace the church flat roof. Al will reach out to them to get us on their schedule.

Christian Education

Dean discussed a bit of his vision for the coming year. He is working with staff and the director to implementing a dress code or uniforms of jeans and a polo with our logo (to be provided to them). The focus for next year will be education of students, professionalism from all levels of employees, and Jesus. A draft of the employee handbook was presented. Dean will meet with Kim, Rachel, and Kurt to work on combing the church and school employee handbook. A staff meeting is scheduled for Aug. 3.

Finance

Reviewed reports. Discussed the budget in new business.

Properties

Thanks to Schomburg for coming out to fix some flashing that the wind blew off. Serve Together did amazing job with the school painting – thanks to all who served! Karl is working on stripping and waxing classrooms. Al is working on getting new steam tables for the kitchen.

Evangelism

No report.

Stewardship

VBS is going great with an average of 20 volunteers and 32 kids.

Worship

Worship in the Park is scheduled for August 23rd.

Parish Education

No report.

Mission and Social Ministry

Food pantry is doing well. A rep with Midwest Foodbank came for a visit. Judy Creek is the new treasurer for Missions and Social Ministry.

Elders

Discussed feedback from members.

Pastor

Discussed official acts and his summer calendar.

LADIES SUMMER FELLOWSHIP: Ladies, please join us on Monday, **July 28** for a trip to Downs for lunch at the charming Kickapoo Tea Room. Located in a beautifully restored church building with stained glass windows, the Tea Room offers a unique dining experience and is well-loved for its homemade meals, desserts, and warm atmosphere. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway and make your meal selections at the table in the hall, so we can make reservations. Thank you!

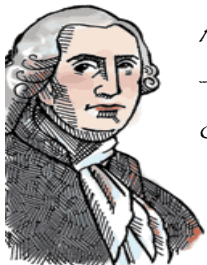


A SPECIAL PATRIOTIC SERVICE: July 5,

the Sunday after Independence Day, we will have a Sunday set aside to honor our Service men and women, as they too fulfill their holy vocations within our armed forces. We will have readings on God and His role in the two kingdoms, and we might even touch on the three estates (Church, Government, and Family). It will be a joyous service honoring those who serve now and have served in our armed forces in a way that teaches us all about vocation and serving God in all that we do. All authority comes from God. Here on this earth God rules and He reigns. Yet, He also delegates authority to people here on earth, to the Church, government, and to the family. We will focus on service to our government and country. We will lift up petitions in prayers, sing hymns of service, and thank God for giving us the gift of peace and quietness in our land. We will thank all of those who have served and sacrificed in a most honorable vocation so that we might have these gifts of peace, quietness, and freedom.



OFFICE HOURS: The church office will be closed on Friday, **July 3**. Pastor Yonkers will be out of the office for vacation July 19 – 23. If you are in need of emergency spiritual care, you may call his cell phone any time at 260-413-8375, or you can contact our Head Elder, Don DeMoss, at 217-799-1035. Thanks for your patience!



America stands on two great pillars
— faith and morality. Without these,
our foundation crumbles.

—George Washington

SAVE THE DATE! As you make plans for the months ahead, be sure to mark these special events on your calendar. We hope you will plan to join us for both of these special events. Watch future newsletters and announcements for additional information.

Church in the Park – August 23

We are excited to once again gather for worship outdoors at Lincoln Park Pavilion on Sunday, August 23. Church in the Park has become a wonderful opportunity to worship together in God's creation while enjoying fellowship with our church family. More details will be shared as the date approaches, but we encourage everyone to save the date now.

Special Mission Guest – October 10

On Sunday, October 10, we will be blessed to welcome Ashley Lehr, the missionary supported by our LWML. Ashley serves in Puerto Rico and will join us to share about her work, the people she serves, and the ways God is at work through her ministry. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about mission work and the impact of your support through LWML.

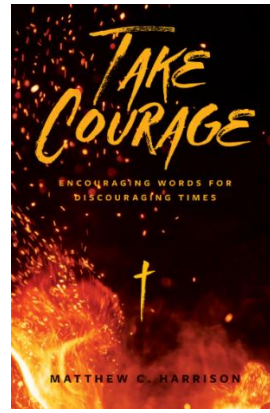
SCRIP ORDERS: Are you looking for a thoughtful gift, or just want to make your everyday purchases work for a good cause? The next Scrip order is due to the church office by 9 am on **July 13** and will be ready for pick up on **July 19**. Here's how it works: you purchase a gift card at face value (for 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!

CAPITAL FUND DRIVE: The current bank balance is \$46,721. The roofing portion of our project (\$214,200) has been paid to Bash Pepper since the reroofing portion of this project has been completed. Nine of the 11 skylights have been installed, and the final two are to be installed soon. We are not sure of the final bill for the project yet since there might have been some additional time and material work done, but it looks like we should have the money for everything. Research is going on into future projects; if you have any suggestions, please let any of the committee members know.



CARD SHOWER FOR JENNETTE LANE: Let's surround Jennette with our prayers, love, and support! The family of former Immanuel members Greg and Jennette Lane invites the congregation to participate in a get well card shower for Jennette. Send your cards and words of encouragement anytime between now and July 6 to: Jennette Lane, 219 Alice Drive, Lakeland, FL 33815

FROM THE CPH SHELF...



Take Courage: Encouraging Words for Discouraging Times
Price: \$17.99

For more than a decade, Matthew C. Harrison has served as the president of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod. During this time, he has faced many discouraging days and witnessed the decline of the popularity of being a Christian in our modern era. He knows that even faithful Christians can feel as if everything in life is against them. The world wants them to abandon faith in God, who is so particular. Many of their family and friends no longer sit next to them in the pew. The worldview promoted by culture is so different from the one they hear from the pulpit and in the pages of the Bible. But this is not another book telling you everything that is wrong in the world. This is a book reminding you of the one thing right in the world, the person who alone has overcome the world.

Through Jesus, Rev. Harrison has found constant encouragement. He now writes these words as encouragement to you. As your words and prayers have sustained him for years, so now these words of encouragement are for you. Jesus alone has overcome the world. He alone is risen from the dead. No matter the uncertainty of our times, no matter the discouraging state of affairs around us, these truths are certain.

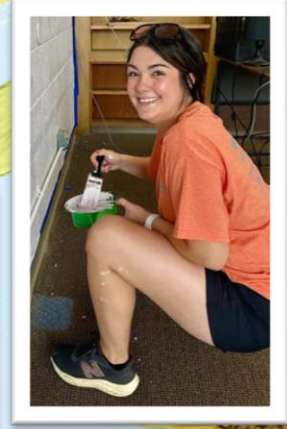
If you would like to order a copy of this book, please see Kim in the church office.

TEE OFF FOR A GREAT CAUSE! The **2nd Annual Schomburg & Schomburg Golf Outing** will take place on **Friday, July 17, 2026**, at the Danville Country Club, and all proceeds will benefit Immanuel Lutheran School. This exciting event promises a day of fun, fellowship, and friendly competition! The day begins with registration and lunch at 11:00 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 12:00 p.m. After the round, stick around for prizes, a raffle, and appetizers. The investment is \$600/team. Businesses are also invited to support the event through sponsorship opportunities. The registration deadline is **July 7, 2026**. Registration and sponsorship forms can be found on the information table in the Chapel hallway. For questions, sponsorship details, or more information, call 217-304-0989 or email events@schomburginc.com. We hope you'll join us on the green as we swing in support of Immanuel Lutheran School!



This past month, we celebrate two wonderful examples of God's people serving with joy and generosity. On this page, you'll find highlights from our Tropical Trek Vacation Bible School, where children learned about God's love through Bible stories, music, crafts, games, and fellowship. You will also see the results of a tremendous day of service as volunteers from Serve Together helped refresh and paint areas throughout Immanuel Lutheran School in preparation for the coming school year.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to either of these efforts. Whether you volunteered your time, donated supplies, prepared food, offered prayers, helped behind the scenes, or participated in any way, your support made these events possible. God continues to bless our congregation through the willing hands and faithful hearts of His people, and we are grateful for each person who helped make these ministries a success.





A Message from...

Rev. Marcus Manley

Bethlehem and Zion Lutheran, Altamont

What's New?

"What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun." -Ecclesiastes 1:9

Solomon, son of David, is not pontificating on the return of warmer temperatures "under the sun." He's observing that man and creation in all their might cannot evolve into something new. Our technology is only "newish" for a while, but it doesn't last. Despite all the world's media to get you to subscribe to what it's offering; it has nothing new. Even a pastor who's outed publicly as a sinner is old news.

The new life Jesus brings isn't subject to a changing calendar under the sun. Who Jesus is and what He does is new because it's everlasting. His Gospel and life are true and new for eternity. His conception and birth in Mary's womb are not an evolution of man but the revelation of God becoming man and forever making man new in Him. He's lifted up on the cross as the new Son of David. Risen from the dead, His hands and side bear testimony that even His forgiveness for us is always new. He's coming back to make all things new (Rev. 21:5).

The baptismal life He gives renews you in Christ. The body and blood He gives you has already broken forth from the grave as the New Testament. Living in faith, we have good news for Solomon or anyone who's under the sun. If you're tired of the same old, God, who comes to us in word and sacrament from above the sun, is, was, and ever shall be new.

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.

Please remember in your prayers our District's Lutheran Early Response Training (LERT) volunteers, who provide help in Jesus' name to churches and individuals affected by natural disasters. Pray for the hundreds of LERT workers in CID and throughout our Synod.

Current Dollar for Missions Project

Amount to be funded: \$7,000.

Project: The second 2026 project for Dollars for Mission is a new lighted sign for Wittenberg Lutheran Center. The sign will feature the Wittenberg logo and be placed on the building's steeple to proclaim the work of Christ and the Holy Spirit for all.

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>



Bible Quiz

About 450 years before Jesus, Nehemiah heard that Jerusalem still lay in ruins after the Babylonian invasion. The news broke his heart. After days of prayer and mourning, he stepped forward to lead the effort to rebuild the city wall. Despite opposition, the people pressed on.



A well-known verse describes their progress: "So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to _____."

A. be protected C. serve
B. work D. live

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.**July 2026****July 5, 2026****“Jesus Gives You Rest” by Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III****Sermon Text: Matthew 11:28-30**

Our bodies need rest. Of greater importance is rest for our souls. Only one Person can give this, who says to us, “Come to Me, and you will find rest for your souls.”

July 12, 2026**“Now What?” by Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer****Sermon Text: Matthew 13:23**

You have heard — or read — God’s Word. Now what? The question isn’t “How do we make the Word more life changing?” Instead, how does this life-changing Word shape and guide our lives as we live in response to it?

July 19, 2026**“Weeds Among Wheat” by Rev. Shayne Jonker****Sermon Text: Matthew 13:24-25**

Christians must always contend with false teaching and false Christians. Jesus said so. There is nothing wrong with the good seed that Christ sows. The pure Gospel rightly proclaimed produces faithful Christians, but the devil deliberately sows bad seed where the good seed has been sown.

July 26, 2026**“Priorities” by Rev. Paul Shoemaker****Sermon Text: Matthew 13:44-52**

What is your priority in life? Jesus’ priority was to do the will of His Father. That means that His priority was you. His priority was to pay in full the penalty of your sins so you could be in heaven forever.

**Rev. Maier****Rev. Ahlersmeyer****Rev. Jonker****Rev. Shoemaker**

Serve the Lord with gladness!

July 2026

Schedule change: Pastor Yonkers will be out of town on July 19, so Communion has been moved to July 26.

Communion Assistants

5 Josh Christensen, Kurt Thornsborough
26 Dwain Dixson, Allen Julian

Ushers

Team "A" – Capt. Don DeMoss, Pete Rudolph, RJ Davis, Zachary Davis, Charlie Crow, and Sue DeMoss

Lay Readers

5 Janet Terry
12 Sue DeMoss
19 Kurt & Debbie T.
26 Gail and Barb Garner

Gospel Reader

Josh Christensen
Allen Julian
Kurt Thornsborough
Gail Garner

Acolytes

5 Carley Wright
12 Kinley Pratt
19 Eli Mann
26 Jamie Yonkers and Owen Price

Videographer

5 Dwain Dixson
12 Kim Davis
19 Dwain Dixson
26 Butch Buesing

Sound/Screens

Jan Mann
Jamie Yonkers
Josh Christensen
Jan Mann

Immanuel Cares

Rosemary Burmeister and Charlotte Kennett

Altar Guild

Rosemary Hilton and Debbie Ferris

Money Counters

Jerry and Charlotte Kennett

Check Signers

Mike Ferris and Mary Powell

August 2026

Communion Assistants

2 Dean Hull, Kurt Thornsborough
16 Don DeMoss, Allen Julian
30 Dwain Dixson, Dean Hull

Ushers

Team "B" – Capt. Josh Christensen, Hannah Christensen, Jamie Yonkers, Eli Mann, Kendall Wright, Carley Wright, Brooklynn Hunt, Benjamin Hunt, and Owen Price.

Lay Readers

2 Allen Julian
9 Jan Mann
16 Diana Pratt
23 Nancy Purviance
30 Janet Terry

Gospel Reader

Allen Julian
Butch Buesing
Gail Garner
Josh Christensen
Dwain Dixson

Acolytes

2 Kendall Wright
9 Jamie Yonkers
16 Eli Mann
23 Brooklynn Hunt
30 Kinley Pratt

Videographer

2 Dwain Dixson
9 Kim Davis
16 Butch Buesing
23 Dwain Dixson
30 Kim Davis

Sound/Screens

Jamie Yonkers
RJ Davis
Jan Mann
Don DeMoss
RJ Davis

Immanuel Cares

Kathy Christensen and Mary Powell

Altar Guild

Sharon Crow and Mary Powell

Money Counters

Martha Elliott and Nancy Purviance

Check Signers

Mary Powell and Jo Van Hovel





Transform slice-and-bake cookies into cheerful lollipop treats and share a few edible smiles.

What you need:

- 1 roll refrigerated sugar cookie dough
- Knife
- Baking sheet
- Wooden craft sticks
- Frosting
- Sprinkles
- Clear treat bags
- Ribbon



What you do:

1. Freeze the cookie dough for 15 to 20 minutes to firm it up, then slice into ¼-inch rounds.
2. Place cookies on a baking sheet about 2 inches apart.
3. Bake at 350 degrees for 5 minutes.
4. Remove from the oven and gently press a wooden stick halfway into the bottom of each cookie.
5. Return to the oven and bake 3 to 5 more minutes, until lightly golden.
6. Let cookies cool completely.
7. Decorate with frosting to create smiling faces and add sprinkles.
8. Slip each cookie pop into a treat bag and tie with ribbon.

Puzzle!

One of a Kind

The scrambled words and phrases below are all drawn from Scripture. Unscramble each one to reveal the correct biblical term or phrase. After solving them, transfer the circled letters in order to the lines at the bottom of the page to uncover the final message.

1) eiVn _ _ _ _ _

2) ilLy fo teh elaVly

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

3) abLm fo dGo _ _ _ _

4) estMar _ _ _ _ _

5) eJuss _ _ _ _ _

6) okRc _ _ _ _ _

7) rdBea fo eiLf _ _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

8) higLt fo hte dorWl _ _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

9) voaSir _ _ _ _ _ _

10) doLr _ _ _ _ _

11) ishCrt _ _ _ _ _ _

12) ehSprhed _ _ _ _ _

13) hTe doWr _ _ _ _ _ _

14) rncPie fo cePae _ _ _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _

What do all these words have in common?

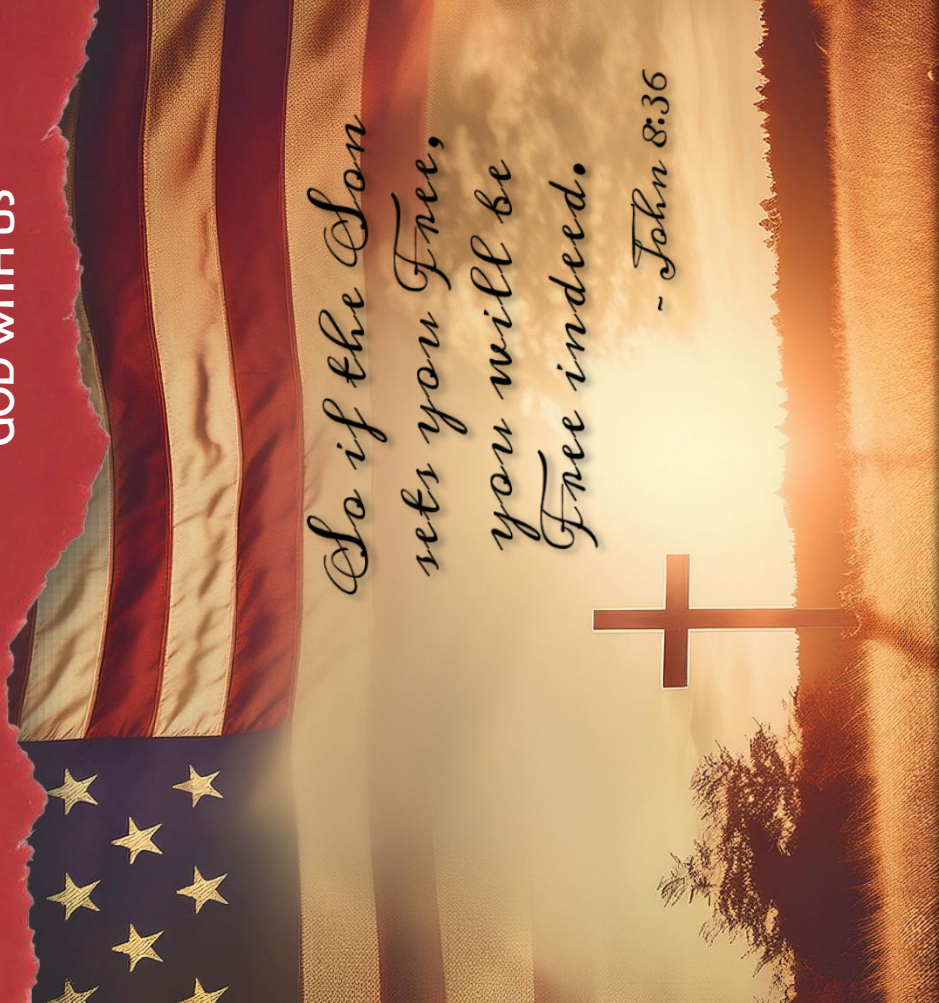
Answers: Vine; Lily of the Valley; Lamb of God; Master; Jesus; Rock; Bread of Life; Light of the World; Savior; Lord; Christ; Shepherd; The Word; Prince of Peace; Names of God's Son



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

MESSENGER

GOD WITH US



So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

- John 8:36

Immanuel Lutheran Church

1930 N. Bowman Danville, IL 61832
www.ilcdanville.com
217-442-5675

Immanuel Lutheran School

217-442-5036

Worship Schedule

Sundays

July 5, 12, 19 & 26 at 9:30 am

Wednesdays

July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 at 5:00 pm

Communion Schedule

Sundays

July 5 & 26 at 9:30 am

Wednesday

July 29 at 5:00 pm



WORSHIP!
with us!

Our July 2026 newsletter prepared prayerfully for:

This newsletter also available on our website: www.ilcdanville.com



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Danville, IL 61832
Church Office: (217) 442-5675
ilcd.churchsec@gmail.com
ils.preschooloffice@gmail.com

Place Stamp Here