



HOLY WEEK:
Follow Jesus' footsteps from
**SACRIFICE TO
SALVATION.**

This year, the last week of March will be Holy Week. Holy Week is the final week of Lent. The Gospels give us almost a daily account of Jesus' final week before His crucifixion on Good Friday. It is good to take some time and reflect upon the events that Jesus endured for us during His week of Passion.

Holy Week will begin on March 29 with Palm Sunday. This Sunday is also known as "Passion Sunday". This is when we remember the triumphal entry of Jesus. We remember the crowds and the palms. We remember the cheers, but also the disgust of some who upon hearing and seeing the crowds plotted to kill Jesus.

On Monday their disgust grew even stronger as they saw Jesus go to the temple and, calling it His Father's House, claiming equality with God, purging the temple. Jesus drove out the merchants and moneychangers who were eager to profit from the worship of the Jewish people.

Jesus then went on Tuesday to the Mount of Olives and prepared the disciples for his departure. He prepared them for what would be coming that week and prepared them for their leadership and even their martyrdom in the church.

On Wednesday we do not know what Jesus did. It is not recorded for us. Perhaps He rested, perhaps we are not told to teach us about quietness and privacy.

Thursday was a long day. It ended in the Passover meal with His companions. There Jesus led them in what was at the beginning traditional Seder Dinner. Then after dinner He took the cup and after giving thanks instituted the Eucharist, the thanksgiving feast for us giving them all His own body and blood to eat and to drink in, with, and under the bread and wine. Afterwards Jesus took His disciples back to the Mt of Olives and to the Garden of Gethsemane. In the Garden Jesus went into solitude once more and prayed for us all before praying for Himself in the high Priestly prayer ending in "Thy will be done". Praying just as He has taught us. Returning to His once more sleeping disciples He was betrayed by Judas's kiss and was arrested for us.

On Friday He was tried early when it was still dark. Then throughout the morning before the Sanhedrin and the Roman courts. Then finally He was sentenced to death and nailed up on the cross between two thieves and in front of a large and mocking crowd. Even then Jesus was not spared humiliation as the thief on His left railed against Him so strongly the thief on His right rebuked the one on His left. Jesus then promised the thief on His right paradise and the blessing of seeing Jesus in heaven. As Jesus is crucified, he cried out seven times, seven words for us. He begs our forgiveness, and Jesus pleads for Mercy as He suffers for our sins. Finally Jesus surrenders His spirit and dies, crucified for us crying out His victorious words, "It is finished" before He descended into Hell to proclaim His victory to the captives and to Satan himself.

This passion week let us take time to be in God's word. We can read the many prophecies in the Old Testament that begin in Genesis and end in Malachi. Or we can read his passion found in any of the four gospels. We can gather together at Imanuel on Sunday, Thursday and Friday to hear the passion and to praise our savior.

Rev. James Yonkers

IMPORTANT DATES IN MARCH:

- LWML Mite Collection Sunday, **Mar. 1**
- Daylight Savings Time Ends, **Mar. 8**
- ILS Spring Break, **Mar. 16 – 20**
- St. Patrick's Day, **Mar. 17**
- First Day of Spring, **Mar. 20**
- Spring Rummage and Bake Sale, **Mar. 20 – 21**
- Palm Sunday, **Mar. 29**
- Zora Drews Scholarship Door Offering, **Mar. 29**

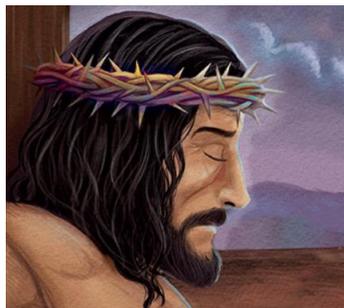
HELP US CARE FOR YOU: *Your well-being is important to us, and we want to pray for you!* Unfortunately, we are no longer notified by the hospital; please call the church office during regular business hours (Monday through Friday from 7 am - 3:30 pm) when you have any medical procedure or in any time 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 KING NO ONE EXPECTED: Sometimes we speak—or even shout—the truth without realizing just how right we are. That's exactly what happened on the first Palm Sunday. Jesus entered Jerusalem not on a prize-worthy stallion, but on a young, humble donkey. The crowd erupted in joy, shouting, "*Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!*" They waved palm branches, symbols of peace, and hailed Jesus as their king. Was He a king? Jesus didn't deny it. When the Pharisees told him to silence the crowd, he replied, "*I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.*" Later, Pilate—the Roman governor—mocked the religious leaders by saying, "*Here is your king.*" The chief priests bristled with anger, shouting, "*We have no king but Caesar!*" When Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified, he made one last jab at the furious crowd. John 19:19 tells us he ordered a sign to be placed above the cross. Written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, it declared: "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." The chief priests demanded the sign be changed, but Pilate refused. "*What I have written, I have written,*" he said. Was Jesus a king? The witnesses of His resurrection knew the answer. In Acts 17:7, the early believers were accused of "saying

there is another king, Jesus." And the book of Revelation looks ahead to the day when all creation will know the truth: "The Lamb will triumph ... for He is Lord of lords and King of kings." — *Revelation 17:14*



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."

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 HELPERS NEEDED!



We are so thankful for everyone who has stepped up to host our Lenten Suppers this year! At this time, we still need help with just one remaining date — **March 18**. Diana Pratt has graciously offered to help organize the meal, with support from you, our congregation. This will be a

simple, shared meal, and many hands make light work! If you are willing to bring a dish to share, we would love to have soups, sandwiches, salads, desserts, or any other favorite you would like to contribute. If you're able to help, please reach out to Diana Pratt. Thank you for your continued generosity and support as we gather together during this Lenten season!

ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS!

The Thrivent Choice Dollars Deadline is **March 31!** 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 consider designating Immanuel Lutheran Church. If you wish to designate to a specific mission or ministry here (including Immanuel Lutheran School) we can make that happen. Just speak to the church office regarding your Choice Dollars and we will make them work for you!

Holy Week Schedule

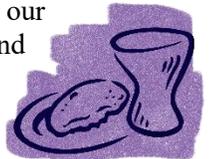
Soon, it will be time again time to journey from the triumphant entry into Jerusalem to the cross of Golgotha to the empty tomb of Easter morning. Reliving the events of Holy Week and Easter help us to contemplate the steps our Savior took to win us eternal salvation. We urge all of you to join us here at Immanuel for our Holy Week services.



We begin on **Palm Sunday, March 29.**

Pick up your palms as you enter church that morning. Then you're invited to join us in the Narthex for our Palm Sunday processional at the beginning of the service.

On **April 2** at 6:30 pm, we will hold our **Maundy Thursday** service. Come and mark the night Christ instituted the Lord's Supper, which we will celebrate as the disciples did with unleavened bread.



We return the next night, **April 3**, at the same time for our **Good Friday** service, where we'll reflect on Jesus' suffering and death to take away our sins.



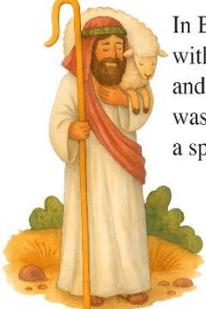
We celebrate with joy Christ's victory over death on Easter Sunday, **April 5**. This year, we will have only one Easter Celebration Service with Holy Communion at our regular service time of 9:30 am.

And we want you to be there, too! When planning your family activities for Easter weekend, don't forget to include your church family in your plans. **As a reminder, there will be no Sunday School or Bible Class on Easter Sunday.**

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME begins on Sunday, **Mar. 8**. Remember to move your clock ahead one hour Saturday evening, Mar. 7, to **Spring Forward!!**

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 **Mar. 9** and will be ready for pick up on **Mar. 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!

Bible Quiz



In Bible times, shepherds spent most of their days with their sheep—guiding them to food and water and guarding them from danger. When a sheep was injured, the shepherd treated the wound with a special liquid. What was it?

- A. Water
- B. Honey
- C. A Salt Solution
- D. Olive oil

Answer: D (See Psalm 23:5, ESV)



WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS:

Join us for our monthly lunch meeting on Tuesday, March 10 at 11:30 am. Bring a dish to share, everything else is provided.

Our 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 after **Mar. 12** 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!*

Our **ingathering** for March and April will go to Crosspoint Human Services. Please place items in the marked tote in the coat room. Hygiene items needed are toilet paper, baby wipes, facial wipes, body wash, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner. Food pantry items needed includes pop-top soups, stews, and pastas, pasta noodles, pasta sauce, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, cookies, instant mashed potatoes, pancake mix, and syrup.

CAPITAL FUND DRIVE: The current bank balance is \$237,843 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 and renovations. There is a Capital Fund Drive bulletin board in the hallway between the coat room and the parish mailboxes. There are special envelopes on the same bulletin board located between the coat room and the member mailboxes and at the usher's desk 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.* 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. 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING SUMMARY:

Date: Feb. 17, 2026 / Next Meeting: Mar. 24, 2026

New Business

A facilities use request for an ILS Family birthday party was approved.

Old Business

Volunteers are needed to serve on the 2026 nominations committee. Kim will run a note in the Immanuel Lights. More volunteers are needed to help with Hustle Hoops.

Christian Education

The meeting was moved to all could attend the Spaghetti Dinner. We are now meeting on Thursday, Feb. 19. Summer Camp registration is going well.

Finance

Reviewed reports.

Properties

RC Electric has been contacted regarding the sanctuary lighting. There are a few minor issues with the boiler. There is a small leak and the pump to the music room needs repair. The mowers have been tuned up and are ready for the spring and summer mowing season. We received a letter from the city that we now need to mow between the sidewalk and the street. The city will no longer do it.

Stewardship

No report.

Evangelism

No report.

Worship

Tom proposed that we only hold one Easter service this year at our regular 9:30 am service time.

Parish Education

Plans are underway for Icebox Cookies after Easter.

Mission and Social Ministry

Kathy Christensen is the new Immanuel Cares lead.

Elders

Reviewed report.

Vice President

No report.

President

Josh discussed cemetery updates. The committee is looking into repairs that need to be made such as a tree that needs to come down, fencing, and shed repairs. Gravel is needed for the roadways. When it rains, the roadways will get puddles.

Pastor

Discussed official acts, membership changes, upcoming worship services, member concerns, and the Lent theme. Pastor will begin looking into a Creation Museum trip to take over the summer.

FROM THE CHURCH DESK TO SUNSHINE AND REST!

Kim will be out of the church office on vacation from Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 20. She will return on Monday, March 23. During that time, Pastor will strive to be in the office as much as possible. However, if you do not have a key, we encourage you to call ahead before stopping by. There may be occasions when the office is closed due to hospital visits or other urgent pastoral needs. Email and message responses may also take a little longer than usual. Thank you for your patience! Kim will be enjoying



some much-needed rest, relaxation, and sunshine in Florida before returning refreshed and ready to serve!

A Taste of Deutschland



Thank you to everyone who volunteered, made a dessert, and/or came to eat the delicious food at this event. The Men's Club and Capital Fund Committee appreciate all your support. Results will be posted in the Immanuel Lights and the monthly newsletter soon.

I would like to give money to our church, but how can I make sure that the gift will be lasting?

Lutheran Legacy specializes in 'endowment funds', also called 'permanent funds', because the principle remains permanently invested while the earnings provide a stream of revenue. Immanuel has set up a fund for both the church general fund and the building and grounds. An initial \$10,000 from savings was invested in each fund, which qualified us for a matching \$5,000 grant for the Building and Grounds fund. All contributions to the buildings and grounds fund will continue to receive a 20% match. To donate directly to Lutheran Legacy, go online to lutheranlegacyfoundation.org and click on the "funds" link on the top of the page, then on "churches" for Immanuel or "parochial schools" for ILS. The funds are listed in alphabetical order, scroll down until you find Immanuel in Danville and click on the "donate" button to the right. If you wish to mail a check, the donation form is also available on the information table in the hall. There, you can also find a "Frequently Asked Questions" handout to learn more! If you do not have a computer, simply pick up a donation form from information table in the hall and mail a check. Please contact Kim in the church office with questions.

Let the Flowers Bloom and the Alleluias Ring!

It's time to order Easter flowers!



Easter Flowers Order Form

As Easter approaches, our Youth Group is excited to offer a beautiful way to celebrate the season with Easter flowers! If you order flowers to adorn Immanuel's altar in memory of a loved one, they will be placed on the altar for you. You can also order flowers for a friend or to take home for your own Easter celebrations. Please place your completed forms with payment in the basket on the usher's desk in the narthex, or place it in the offering plate. *Thank you!*

Name: _____

Phone: _____

**Orders due: Mar. 16
Pick up: Apr. 2**

FLOWERS	QUANTITY	ALTAR?	TOTAL
	<i>How many tulips would you like?</i> _____	<i>How many are for the altar?</i> _____	<i>Number ordered x \$15.00 each</i> \$ _____
	<i>How many hyacinths would you like?</i> _____	<i>How many are for the altar?</i> _____	<i>Number ordered x \$15.00 each</i> \$ _____
	<i>How many Easter Lilies would you like?</i> _____	<i>How many are for the altar?</i> _____	<i>Number ordered x \$15.00 each</i> \$ _____
ORDER TOTAL: \$			_____

If you ordered your Easter flowers to place on the altar, please complete the following:

- In celebration of our Risen Savior
- In loving memory of: _____

Please make checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church



A Message from Rev. Mark Eddy CID President

“I do not do the good which I want; however, the evil which I do not want, this I practice” (Rom. 7:19). Our sinful nature, “dead in trespasses” (Eph. 2:5), was “buried with [Christ] through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we should walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4). The death of Jesus took away the sin of the world, and for His sake God “forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.” But, like the ground squirrels in my church’s cemetery, our sinful nature keeps trying to dig itself out of the grave. As a result, “I am a miserable human being. Who will rescue me from this body of death?” The entire New Testament answers, “Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (Rom. 7:24-25) God’s Son came in human flesh, and “Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:3). So, “if we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and righteous, that He would forgive us these sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). All of us need to recognize our wretchedness, confess our sins, hear what God’s Son did “for us and for our salvation,” and by the power of the Holy Spirit receive God’s gracious pardon. Lent leads us to all that and leads us to why we know it is all true: “Just as He is risen from the dead, lives, and reigns to all eternity, this is most certainly true.”

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 Pastor Pablo Dominguez and Cristo Rey (Christ the King) Lutheran Church in East Moline, where the ministry is conducted almost entirely in Spanish, as well as St. John’s Lutheran Church in Beardstown, where Pastor Dominguez travels twice a month to preach and teach in Spanish.

Current Dollar for Missions Project

Amount to be funded: \$1,800.00.

Project: Our first project for 2026 is support for *Hispanic Ministry in Beardstown, IL* to support travel costs for Rev. Pablo Dominguez.

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>

Notice and Explanation of District Leadership Changes

Elected at Convention

District President: Rev. Michael Mohr

1st Vice-President: Rev. Michael Burdick

2nd Vice-President: Rev. Mark Eddy

As of February 17, 2026

District President: Rev. Mark Eddy

1st Vice-President: Rev. Jason Braaten

2nd Vice-President: Rev. Karl Eckhoff

At the 61st Regular Convention of the Central Illinois District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod held July 13–15, 2025, the above were elected to serve three-year terms in their respective offices by the district voting delegates. Seven months later, the leadership of the district has changed significantly, and this change requires an explanation to our pastors, church workers, and congregations.

On Wednesday, January 28, 2026, District President Mohr was arrested on criminal charges by federal law enforcement. Prior to being held in custody, Mohr was given the opportunity to speak with First Vice-President Burdick and in keeping with district governance temporarily transferred the duties of district president. On Monday morning when the first special session of the Board of Directors met, Rev. Burdick notified the Board that in light of the anticipated duration and demands of the office, he asked to resign from the position of First Vice-President. This resignation removed him from the Board of Directors and elevated Second Vice-President Eddy to First Vice-President and in turn, Acting District President.

With Rev. Burdick vacating his position, the Central IL District Bylaws (2.15(b)) state, “A vacancy in the First Vice-Presidency shall be filled by advancing the Second Vice-President. A vacancy in the Second Vice-Presidency shall then be filled by the President from the reserve list of nominations, that is from the nominees left after the previous election, according to the number of votes received...” Rev. Burdick represented the Eastern Region, so the second-place nominee at the convention for the Eastern Region was Rev. Jason Braaten of Immanuel – Tuscola. He was then appointed as Vice-President for that region by the Acting District President.

When Mohr resigned from his position and as a member of the LCMS roster, Acting District President Eddy succeeded Mohr as District President and vacated the office of First Vice-President. This resulted in Rev. Braaten serving as First Vice-President and a second appointment according to Bylaw 2.15(b) (cited above) of the third-place nominee for the Western Region, Rev. Karl Eckhoff of Christ - Peoria. This final succession and appointment were ratified by the Board of Directors on February 17, 2026, at a second special session of the Board.

While this situation required careful interpretation of our governing documents, the Board acted in accordance with district bylaws, in consultation with Synod and legal counsel. We thank all who have reached out to offer support and wisdom as well as to all who have granted patience as the Board worked through these processes. We remain committed to serving Christ and His Church faithfully in this district, and it is by grace alone that we serve our people and the congregations of the Central Illinois District.

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.****March 2026****March 1, 2026*****“Land, Legacy, and Life!”* by Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer****Sermon Text: Genesis 12:1-3**

God holds your entire world in His hands through three special gifts: Land, Legacy, and Life! Learn how these gifts, promised more than four thousand years ago to Abraham, continue to share our past, present, and future.

March 8, 2026***“Living Water”* by Rev. Shayne Jonker****Sermon Text: John 4:10**

Our sin has left us parched and thirsty. No mere water can quench our thirst for God. Oh, how we try the alternatives. But the polluted puddles of this world’s religions and spiritualities can’t quench the deep thirst we have for righteousness, for wholeness, for peace. Only God can provide that Living Water which flows freely like a stream. Only God in the flesh opens up that stream to us so that we may drink and live.

March 15, 2026***“Eyes That See”* by Rev. Paul Shoemaker****Sermon Text: John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39**

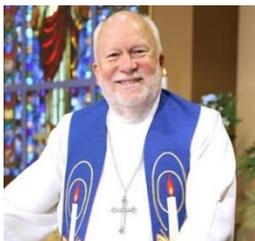
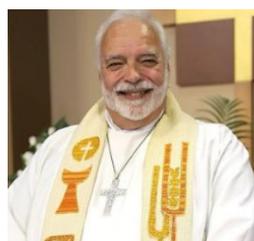
Jesus performs a miraculous sign, giving sight to a man born blind. What a tremendous gift! But the religious leaders, who were spiritually blind, refuse to see with the eyes of faith that the Man before them is the Christ. We thank God for spiritual sight and the opportunities we have to lead others to spiritual sight.

March 22, 2026***“Is, Not Was”* by Rev. William Mueller****Sermon Text: John 11:17-27, 38-53**

John 11 brings us to one of the greatest miracles of Jesus: raising Lazarus from the dead. In this account, Jesus also teaches us two powerful truths. He shows what it means that He is the Resurrection and the Life, and He moves us to discover that believing this resurrection truth greatly impacts our life.

March 29, 2026***“Do You Understand?”* by Rev. Scott Zeckzer****Sermon Text: John 12:16**

We are told that the disciples did not understand what was going on during the first Palm Sunday. The crowds were excited about Jesus but were confused, too. What about you? Do you understand Palm Sunday?

**Rev. Ahlersmeyer****Rev. Jonker****Rev. Shoemaker****Rev. Mueller****Rev. Zeckzer**



ILS Connections

A place to keep families, staff, and the church congregation connected!

March 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR: Mrs. Rachel Schmidgall

For the next three months, I'll be using the Director's Corner to take the spotlight off myself and focus on our staff. These features will be called "Getting to Know our ILS Staff." This month, we feature Mrs. Hammer, one of our 4's Pre-K teachers! We hope you enjoy this different focus and perspective. I have been blessed to serve at Immanuel since October 2000. I began as a 3-year-old aide, then moved to the 4-year-old classroom, and now teach Pre-K. Over the years, my favorite memories have been meeting so many wonderful families, watching them grow, and having the joy of teaching younger siblings who follow in their footsteps. My favorite events are always the ones that include families. There is nothing better than seeing the excitement on the children's faces when they spot their parents and loved ones in the crowd cheering them on. I was born and raised in Danville and graduated from Bismarck-Henning High School. I earned my CDA in Center-Based Preschool and have been part of the Lutheran Church for as long as I can remember. I grew up at Trinity Lutheran Church and am now a member here at Immanuel. My husband James and I have been married for 26 years. We are blessed with two children, Kirsten (25) and Caleb (18), and two wonderful grandchildren, Saige (4) and Sawyer (2), who call me Mimi. One of the things I love most about working at Immanuel Lutheran School is the teachers and staff. We truly are a team and support one another whenever there is a need. Faith is an important part of our classroom each day. One of the most meaningful ways we incorporate it is by saying the Lord's Prayer together daily. We also use music to help us learn and remember our Bible stories. Thanks, Mrs. Hammer!



Mrs. Tabby Hammer

the most meaningful ways we incorporate it is by saying the Lord's Prayer together daily. We also use music to help us learn and remember our Bible stories. Thanks, Mrs. Hammer!

YOUNG TWO'S ROOM: Mrs. Kirsten Brown

In February, we had a wonderful month learning about Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, baking, and what it means to be a "healthy me." Our academic focuses were the letter F, the color pink, the shape circle, and the number 6. During Jesus Time, we learned about the Ten Lepers, Zacchaeus, the Good Samaritan, and how Jesus calms the storm. In March, we are excited to celebrate Dr. Seuss with a fun dress-up week and learn about St. Patrick's Day before heading into Spring Break. Our March focuses will be the letter G, the color green, the shape square, and the number 7. We are so proud of how much your children are learning and growing each day and are thankful for the opportunity to spend this special time with them.

TWO'S ROOM: Miss Nicole Martin

February was such a sweet and exciting month in our two-year-old classroom! We had so much fun learning all about Valentine's Day, spreading kindness, and celebrating friendship. Of course, pink was our color of the month, and hearts were our featured shape! After Valentine's fun, we dove into learning about baking, which the children absolutely loved. We have also been working very hard on spelling and recognizing our names—be sure to ask your little one to show you what they know! We can't wait for March as we get ready to celebrate and learn more about Dr. Seuss!

THREE'S ROOM: Mrs. Katie Rouse

Hello, Families! March is here, and with it comes longer days, blooming flowers, and lots of exciting learning opportunities. As we "spring" into the new month, we will focus on Dr. Seuss, St. Patrick's Day, transportation, and nursery rhymes/fairy tales. This month, our focus letters are U, V, and W. Students will practice recognizing both uppercase and lowercase forms, learning their sounds, and identifying words that begin with each letter. Through songs, stories, and hands-on activities, children will build confidence in early literacy skills. Our color of the month is yellow! We will explore yellow through art projects, classroom activities, and by finding yellow objects in our environment. In math, we will focus on the number 8. Students will practice counting to eight, recognizing the numeral, and representing it using manipulatives. Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and involvement in our classroom. Your partnership makes a big difference in your child's learning and growth. I truly appreciate all that you do to help make our preschool a wonderful place to learn and grow!

FOUR'S ROOM: Mrs. Tabatha Hammer

We're starting March with one of our favorite themes — Dr. Seuss Week! Inspired by the wonderful stories of Dr. Seuss, we have a week full of fun planned! From silly dress-up days to creative art projects and beloved story time favorites, it's sure to be a blast. We're also excited to celebrate Grandparents Day this month! Grandparents are invited to join us for a special program and fun activities as we honor the love and joy they bring to our lives. Our Learning Focus This Month is as follows: Letters: V, Y, Z (with review), Shape: Oval, Numbers: 6 and 16, Sight Words: Go & Can. During God's time, we will be learning about Jesus Feeding the 5,000 and The Lost Sheep. We are looking forward to a month filled with learning, laughter, and special memories!

FOUR'S ROOM: Ms. Michelle Wiese

February may be the shortest month of the year, but our class has shown so much love this month. Thank you to all our ILS families who came to the Spaghetti Dinner. We are getting so close to the end of the year I can hardly believe it. Only a couple more months of our focus wall left before we start reviewing all we've learned. For the month of March we will focus on the following: Color: Purple, Number: 6 and 16, Shape: Oval, Letters: Qq, Vv, Yy, and Zz, Sight Words: go, can. Next month during the first week of March we will celebrate Dr. Seuss and his birthday with a fun week dress up. On March 11th we will be celebrating Grandparents Day at 9 a.m. We can hardly wait for our students to show their grandparents just how much they love them with a program full of songs, time together at chapel, and activities and refreshments to follow. Please remember to fill out the form for Grandparents Day sent home with your child and return it to your child's teacher by March 5th. Reminder that our Spring Break is from March 16th-20th. We hope you enjoy your week and we'll see you all on March 23rd.



Joyfully Serving the Lord

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 *Volunteer Needed*
- 22 Dwain Dixon
- 29 Kim Davis

Sound/Screens

- Jamie Yonkers
- Don DeMoss
- Volunteer Needed*
- Jan Mann
- RJ Davis

Children’s Church

- 1 Jan Mann
- 15 Jan Mann

Children’s Sermon

- 8 Kurt Thornsborough
- 22 Kathy Christensen

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

April 2026

Note: Maundy Thursday (Apr. 2) and Good Friday (Apr. 3) services are at 6:30 pm.

Communion Assistants

- 2 Dean Hull, Kurt Thornsborough
- 5 Don DeMoss, Allen Julian
- 19 Kurt Thornsborough, Dwain Dixon

Ushers – Team “D”

Capt. Jerry Kennett, Chuck Vollmer, Paul Teegarden, Dean and Pam Hull.

Special Services

- 2 Team “B” Youth Team
- 3 Team “F” Capt. Ray Wittmann

Lay Readers

- 5 Gail and Barb Garner
- 12 Sue DeMoss
- 19 Carrie Farrell
- 26 Allen Julian

Gospel Reader

- Gail Garner
- Butch Buesing
- Dwain Dixon
- Allen Julian

Special Services

- 2 Janet Terry
- 3 Kurt & Debbie T.
- Dean Hull
- Kurt Thornsborough

Acolytes

- 5 Eli Mann
- 12 Kendall Wright
- 19 Brooklynn Hunt
- 26 Kinley Pratt

Special Services

- 2 Hannah Christensen and Owen Price
- 3 Jamie Yonkers

Videographer

- 5 Butch Buesing
- 12 Kim Davis
- 19 Josh Christensen
- 26 Dwain Dixon

Sound/Screens

- Jan Mann
- RJ Davis
- Butch Buesing
- Don DeMoss

Special Services

- 2 Josh Christensen
- 3 Kim Davis
- Jamie Yonkers
- RJ Davis

Children’s Church

- 5 No Children’s Church (Easter)
- 19 Jan Mann

Children’s Sermon

- 12 Mary Ellen Fricke
- 26 Jan Mann

Immanuel Cares

Women’s Guild and Annabelle Clark

Altar Guild

Tina Ammermann, Kathy Christensen, Katie Yonkers

Money Counters

Jerry and Charlotte Kennett

Check Signers

Mike Ferris and Julie Buesing

Puzzle!

HOW'S THE WEATHER?

Use the code below to fill in these forecasts in places where Jesus traveled:

CODE:

A=☺	D=☼	H=☼	M=☆	P=◆	T=■	W=☒
B=●	E=✦	I=✦	N=↑	R=●	U=□	Y=☞
C=☼	G=☼	L=★	O=↓	S=○	V=☒	Z=☞

Mt. Hermon ○ ↑ ↓ ☒

Jericho ☼ ↓ ■

Jerusalem ☆ ★ ★ ☼

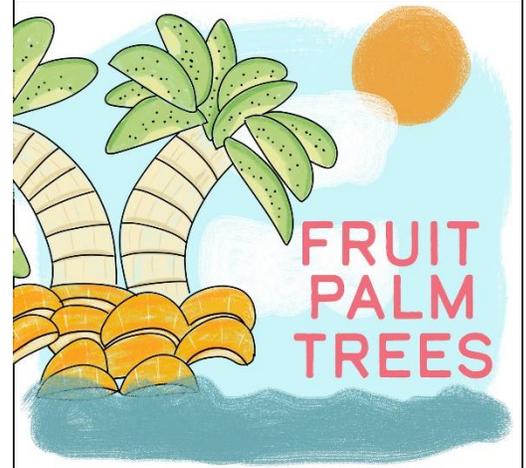
Dead Sea Area ■ ● ↓ ◆ ✦ ☼ ☺ ★ ☼ ✦ ☺ ■

Sea of Galilee ☼ □ ○ ■ ☞ ☒ ✦ ↑ ☼ ○

Mediterranean Coast ● ● ✦ ✦ ☞ ☞



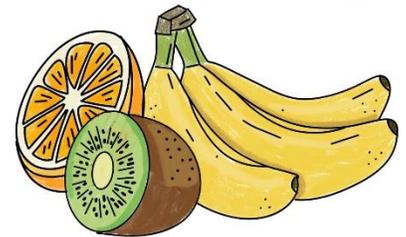
Answers: snow, hot, mild, tropical heat, gusty winds, breezy



These cheerful "palm trees" make a bright reminder of the celebration that greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.

What you need:

- Bananas (for the tree trunks)
- Kiwis or green grapes (for the palm leaves)
- Mandarin oranges (for the ground)



What you do:

1. Slice bananas in half lengthwise and place vertically on a plate.
2. Arrange kiwi slices or grapes at the top to form palm fronds.
3. Add oranges at the base.
4. Serve immediately or chill until ready to serve.

Scripture Tie-In:

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"
—Matthew 21:9 (NIV)

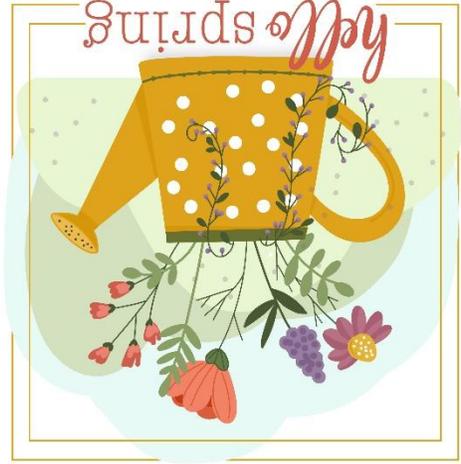
Place
Stamp
Here

Our March 2026 newsletter
prepared prayerfully for:

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

Immanuel Lutheran Church and School
1930 N. Bowman Avenue
Danville, IL 61832

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



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

GOD WITH US

“Hosanna!
Blessed is He
who comes in the name
of the Lord, indeed, the
King of Israel!”

John 12:13

2026
MARCH

**Immanuel
Lutheran Church**
1930 N. Bowman
Danville, IL 61832
www.ilcdanville.com
217-442-5675

**Immanuel
Lutheran School**
217-442-5036

Worship Schedule
Sundays
Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
at 9:30 am

Wednesdays
Mar. 4, 11, 18 & 25
at 5:00 pm

**Communion
Schedule**
Sundays
Mar. 1, 15 & 29
at 9:30 am

