



Each week we pray the Prayers of the Church, and within those petitions we remember the members of our armed forces. Many among us are veterans or have active servicemembers and veterans within our families and circle of friends. Their service connects deeply with our lives, even if we ourselves have never worn the uniform.

To serve the spiritual needs of these men and women, the military provides chaplains—ordained pastors who serve as officers in each branch of the armed forces. These chaplains are tasked with caring for the spiritual well-being of those who serve, often in challenging and demanding circumstances. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is blessed to have many chaplains serving faithfully in this role, and as a church body we are widely respected for the high level of theological training and pastoral care our clergy bring into the military.

In this month's newsletter, you will find information about Operation Barnabas, our Synod's ministry dedicated to supporting those in the armed forces, as well as the Adopt-a-Chaplain program. These ministries offer meaningful ways for congregations like ours to be involved—whether through prayer, encouragement, or tangible support. It is my hope that we can become actively engaged, particularly through Adopt-a-Chaplain, so that we may intentionally pray for and support a specific chaplain serving in the field.

As we enter into these opportunities for ministry, we do so recognizing the importance of Word and Sacrament for all LCMS members serving in uniform. Through the work of chaplains, Christ is brought to those who serve—through preaching, teaching, counseling, prayer, and the administration of the Sacraments. These “pastors in uniform” walk alongside servicemembers in both ordinary and extraordinary moments, offering the hope and comfort found only in the Gospel.

The month of May provides a fitting time to begin or renew this focus. As we observe Memorial Day, we remember our veterans—especially those who gave their lives in service to our country. Their sacrifice reminds us of the cost of the freedoms we enjoy and calls us to a posture of gratitude and remembrance.

So this May, and in all the days ahead, let us remember our veterans. Let us give back to those who serve in uniform. And let us faithfully support the chaplains who bring Christ to those who stand watch on our behalf.

***Rev. James Yonkers***

## IMPORTANT DATES IN MAY:

- LWML Mite Collection Sunday, **May 3**
- ILS Graduation Sunday with Kids Singing, **May 3**
- ILS Culver's Night, **May 4**
- National Day of Prayer, **May 7**
- ILS PreK Graduation Ceremony, **May 8**
- ILS Open House, **May 8**
- Mother's Day, **May 10**
- ILS Field Trip to the Indianapolis Zoo, **May 13**
- ILS Last Day of School, **May 15**
- Armed Forces Day, **May 16**
- Cemetery Work Day, **May 16**
- Ascension Sunday with Confirmation, **May 17**
- Pentecost, **May 24**
- Memorial Day & Service at the Cemetery, **May 25**
- Trinity Sunday, **May 31**
- Zora Drews Scholarship Door Offering, **May 31**

## STIRRING UP A LIFE WITH MEANING:

When Winston Churchill once dined at a prestigious London restaurant, he tasted his soup and promptly sent it back to the kitchen. "It has no theme," he complained. A good soup, he insisted, should have a theme. The same can be said of many things that matter: a good book, a meaningful concert, a memorable film, a powerful sermon, a beautiful work of art. It is also true of a good life. Joan of Arc, the French martyr, declared, "God must be served first." That was her theme. St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians that he desired to know nothing among them except Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 2:2). That was his theme. Again and again, we see that every truly devoted Christian lives with a central, guiding focus — an overriding theme. That realization invites a personal question: What is ours? Pastor and psychologist Dr. Curtis Nigh offers this challenge: "If the heart does not have a noble or goodly theme, then it develops an anti-theme." In other words, if we do not intentionally shape our lives around what is good and holy, something lesser will quietly take its place. To be a Christian is to embrace a compelling, Christ-centered theme. It shapes our priorities, our decisions, our relationships and our hope. It is not simply an idea we admire — it is the heartbeat of a life lived for God.

**CEMETERY WORK DAY:** Come join us for light yard work and fellowship! We are hosting a cemetery work day on **May 16** beginning at 7:00 am. Come for an hour or the whole morning — anything you can do; it is greatly appreciated! Kids are welcome too! So, bring your weed eaters (gas only — there is no electricity at the cemetery) and yard work tools and join us for a little bit of work and a lot of fun and fellowship!

**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 LUTHERAN WITNESS** is the official publication of our LCMS. Published 11 times a year—monthly, with a combined June/July issue—*The Lutheran Witness* keeps you updated with news from around the Synod, and addresses topical issues with feature articles, columns, Q&As, and more that will both inform and inspire. If you would like to try it before you buy it, we keep past issues in the church library in the board room. You are welcome to take an issue home to read and return it when you are finished. This is a must-read for Lutherans of all ages! Subscribe by **May 4** using the envelope in your offering box. Include a check made payable to Immanuel, the cost is just **\$23.50** for the entire year (\$1.95 per issue).

## DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

ILS is excited to host a special Mother's Day Cake Sale. The children will decorate a cake to take home for a one-of-a-kind gift made with love that moms and grandmas will love! We are asking our church family to support this fundraiser so that more of the proceeds can directly benefit the school. **Donations needed:** boxed cake mixes and icing (chocolate, vanilla, or Funfetti), and sprinkles (any color), as well as monetary donations to help cover additional costs like eggs, oil, foil pans, and ribbon. Donations can be brought to church and placed in the box next to the table in the hallway. **Volunteers** are needed in the mornings of **May 4 – 6** to help the kids decorate their cakes. The cakes will already be iced, but they will add their personal touch with sprinkles, and a cake topper. Please see Kim in the church office if you are willing to help. Thank you for your support!



**SOONER OR LATER**  
*we all quote our mothers*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING SUMMARY:

**Date: April 16, 2026 / Next Meeting: May 19, 2026**

### New Business

The June Voter's Meeting was set for June 28. ILS is looking into a new online program, Lutheran Educator Academy, made to "help educators share the Lutheran faith with clarity and confidence."

### Old Business

The Nominations Committee is still looking for volunteers that may be interested for a position up for election in June: President, Head Elder, Properties, Evangelism, Parish Ed, and Worship. VOIP phones have been installed.

### Christian Education

Enrollment is at 74. Summer Camp has 17 of a possible 25 enrolled. 26-27 Registration is at 55 with 5 additional applications in progress.

### Finance

Reviewed reports. A bequest from the estate of Carol Johnston has been processed for around \$35,000. Immanuel also received a donation of \$25,000 in memory of Ray and Betty Watts. Capital Fund has submitted an invoice for the base contract from Bash Pepper requesting payment for the grant funds from the Hegeler Foundation.

### Properties

Bash Pepper came to fix the leak along the cafeteria/gym wall. It has rained twice since the repair and there have been no leaks. There have been leaks to the church roof from the chapel hall to the youth room. A Sentry rep stated they believe we may have hail damage. RC Electric will soon repair the driveway lights wiring. Al will meet with KEC tomorrow morning about replacing our steam tables.

### Evangelism

Easter bags were sent home with ILS children.

### Worship

Tom thanked all for the extra efforts during Lent and Easter. We all thanked Tom for his. It was decided to once again have Church in the Park in August. It was amazing to have 168 people in church on Easter Sunday! I think most thought that it was a good decision to have one service on Easter.

### Parish Education

Sunday School will break for the summer after May.

### Mission and Social Ministry

Going well. There is over \$11,000 in the bank account.

### Elders

Discussed hosting a musical group again, perhaps for a holiday concert and invite the school families. We need to improve community advertising for these events. They are high quality musicians.

### Pastor

Discussed official acts, membership changes, upcoming worship services, and Confirmation. The date for the Creation Museum Trip was set for August 29, 2026.

**WOMEN'S GUILD:** The May Women's Guild Meeting is **May 12** at 11:30 am. This will be the last meeting before we break for summer. Watch your mailbox for information on summer fellowship events! The ingathering for May and June is for the Women's Care Clinic. The following items have been requested:

- Spring and summer outfits for boys and girls in sizes from newborn to 2T.
- Baby hygiene – lotion, soap, diaper rash cream, etc.
- Bottles
- Diapers and wipes
- Diaper Bags
- Infant Tylenol

**ILS CULVER'S NIGHT:** Congregation, we need your help to make Culver's Night, **May 4** from 5-8pm, a success for Immanuel Lutheran School! We are looking for volunteers to sign up to help serve that evening in half hour time slots. Please call the Mrs. S. at 217-442-5036 or email her at [ils.schooldirector@gmail.com](mailto:ils.schooldirector@gmail.com) if you'd like to help make a difference! Supporting ILS in this way is easy and delicious! Just cut out and bring this flyer with you and Culver's will donate a portion of your total bill to ILS! Thank you!



The flyer features a blue background with a dashed border. At the top, the text "Donate While YOU DINE" is written in a large, blue, cursive font. Below this, it says "Visit Culver's of Danville, IL on 5-4-26 from 5pm-8pm and we will donate 20% of sales to Immanuel Lutheran." The text "THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!" is followed by "Please present this certificate at the time of your order". The bottom section shows a Culver's burger, fries, and a drink, with the "Culver's Cares" logo and the Culver's logo. At the very bottom, the address "Culver's of Danville, 3210 N Vermillion St., Danville, IL 61832, (217)-213-8022" and the website "CULVERS.COM" are listed, along with a small copyright notice: "© 2017 Culver Franchising System, Inc. Limited time offer. At participating Culver's restaurants. 09/17".

**TAX BENEFIT STARTING IN 2026!** Beginning in 2026, most taxpayers will be able to deduct charitable contributions – even if they don't itemize! It's a great time to support the missions and organizations you care about! Key highlights:

- Deduct up to \$1,000 (individual) or \$2,000 (married filing joint).
- Applies even if you take the standard deduction.
- Gifts must be in cash or equivalent, to a qualified 501 (c)(3) organization.



*On this special day, we extend our heartfelt love and gratitude to all mothers, especially all of our Immanuel moms! To every mom, grandma, stepmom, foster mom, and mother figure: thank you. Thank you for your selfless love, quiet strength, and tireless devotion. Whether you're nurturing little ones, supporting grown children, or pouring your heart into the lives of others, your care reflects the deep, abiding love of God. We celebrate and honor you, and we pray that you feel surrounded by love, joy, and appreciation, not just on Mother's Day, but every day.*

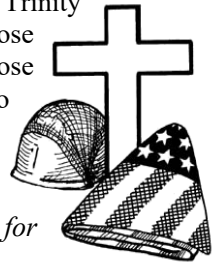
**Bring mom to church with you on Sunday, May 10 for a special prayer and blessing.**

### JOIN US FOR A JOYOUS CELEBRATION!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, **May 3**, as we welcome the children of Immanuel Lutheran School to join us in worship! During the service, we'll honor our PreK graduates with a gift and special presentation to celebrate this exciting milestone in their young lives. Come be part of this joyful occasion as we give thanks for our students and all that God has done throughout the school year. Your presence will mean so much to our children and families as we celebrate faith, growth, and new beginnings together. We can't wait to see you there!

**CONGRATS GRADS!** It's the time of year when students of all ages are graduating school and college and moving on to the next step in their lives. We'd like to recognize all of our graduates with a special prayer and blessing during the service on **May 31**. Please add your graduate's name to the board in our Narthex.

**MEMORIAL DAY** commemorates our United States Service members who have died while on active duty. We'll also remember with grateful hearts all who have served, their families and friends, and our own Immanuel and Trinity Lutheran saints departed. Once again we will gather to honor the fallen at our **Lutheran Cemetery on Memorial Day, May 25** at 9 am along with our friends from Trinity for a service of Word and Prayer. To all those who courageously gave their lives, and to those who have fought or are still fighting today, to you, we say *thank you*. We don't know who all of you are, but we are grateful for each and every one of you. *"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."* (John 15:13).



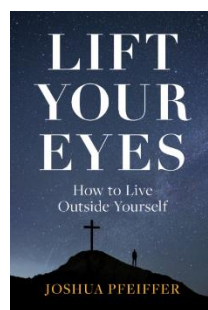
**CONFIRMATION:** Please join us on **May 17** for the confirmation of 3 of our youth, Owen Price, Eli Mann, and Lexie Beauvois. Next year's confirmation class will begin in the fall. If you have a child who is of confirmation age (generally 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade) please speak with pastor about registering your child for instruction. If you are an adult who has never been confirmed in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, we also invite you to speak with pastor about adult confirmation. The rite of confirmation is meant to be a beginning, and not an end.



Bible classes for confirmed youth and for adults are offered as learning and living the faith is a lifelong process as we live our life together and grow in Christ.

### FROM THE CPH SHELF

**LIFT YOUR EYES - \$16.99:** In a culture obsessed with self-discovery and personal authenticity, we've been taught to look inward for identity, purpose, and fulfillment. But what if this inward gaze is the very thing keeping us trapped, anxious, and unfulfilled? Drawing on Martin Luther's transformative insight that Christians live "in Christ through faith and in the neighbor through love," author Joshua Pfeiffer offers a radical alternative to our age of expressive individualism. This isn't about self-improvement—it's about self-transcendence. *Lift Your Eyes* charts a compelling path outward: upward to God in faith and gratitude, outward to our neighbors in love and service, and forward in joyful anticipation of resurrection. Grounded in Scripture and Lutheran theology, Pfeiffer reveals how the freedom we desperately seek comes not from looking within, but from lifting our eyes beyond ourselves. Discover the ancient wisdom that speaks directly to our modern crisis—and find the peace that comes from living outside yourself.



# OPERATION BARNABAS



*The vision of Operation Barnabas is that every military-connected person lives in the hope and peace of God's love and mercy as revealed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

Our men and women in uniform have answered our nation's call to protect and defend us. In every time and place, they have stood the watch at home and abroad, often far from their families. Both active and reserve members of our military and their families continue to bear the burden of deployments to austere and dangerous locations. We invite you to help us to help them, and while doing so, share the love of Christ.

In 2007, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Ministry to the Armed Forces launched Operation Barnabas. Through this program — the only one of its kind in the U.S. — together with our congregations, we accomplish three key goals:

1. **Care for Reserve chaplains and their families and congregations.**
2. **Train and assist local congregations in their care and support of local military members and their families and veterans.**
3. **Serve as a resource to other organizations that provide care to military families and veterans.**

## CALL TO ACTION!

We encourage congregations who reach out to military families to include the following actions:

- ▶ **PRAY** for our troops.
- ▶ **RECOGNIZE** veterans in your congregation at least once a year.
- ▶ **CELEBRATE** LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces Sunday, and learn more about what we are doing to serve our military families. To learn more, visit [lcms.org/armedforcenessunday](http://lcms.org/armedforcenessunday).

In that time, congregations have focused on deployment care — with good reason. We have troops who are "still in the fight," and we continue to offer deployment support to military families.

But we also recognize the immense drawdown our military faces. Over 200,000 military families are leaving the military to return to civilian communities. Our goal is to enable our congregations to lead their communities in welcoming these military families back home. They have borne the weight of repeated deployments, and when they return to our communities, we can prepare to receive them in concert with local chambers of commerce, schools and medical facilities.



“Over 200,000 military families are leaving the military to return to civilian communities. Our goal is to enable our congregations to lead their communities in welcoming these military families back home.”

– **OPERATION  
BARNABAS**

## Connecting with Congregations

Operation Barnabas has worked with dozens of congregations, but we realize hundreds more congregations also are caring for military families. We ask you to contact us so we can recognize your work and encourage you as you serve military families.

When you contact us:

- › We can share your congregation's information with military families asking us to find a local congregation near their duty station
- › We can recognize you with a certificate suitable for placement in your church.
- › We can share your congregation's outreach and encourage other congregations to learn from you!
- › We can forward information to you on a regular basis to better equip you to care for military families.

## If you wish to be even more involved:

Become an Operation Barnabas Chapter. Operating in a manner similar to other chapters in your congregation — such as your Lutheran Women's Missionary League chapter — an Operations Barnabas Chapter meets monthly around a specific goal. In this case, the goal is to actively engage the military members in your community. Successful chapters depend on the volunteerism and leadership of a dedicated group of people in your congregation; this is not another task for pastor! This is a chance for your congregation to actively serve in your community and share the love of Christ with those who have borne the burden of defending our nation.



You have the opportunity to care for both those who are currently serving in the Armed Forces and those who have served in the past. Veterans and their families from every conflict are in need of your support.

If you served in uniform, thank you! Now you have the opportunity to serve again. You know the challenges, and you speak the same language as those in uniform.

## Contact us:

LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces

888-THE LCMS (843-5267)

[lcmschaps@lcms.org](mailto:lcmschaps@lcms.org)

[lcms.org/operationbarnabas](http://lcms.org/operationbarnabas)

[lcms.org/armedforces](http://lcms.org/armedforces)





**A Message from...**

**Rev. Dr. Timothy J. Fitzner**  
**Christ Lutheran Church, Normal, IL**

As the days of spring continue to lengthen and the sun creeps higher in the sky a little more each day, the joy of Good Friday and Easter can't be matched. We celebrate the heart of the faith with the triumphant words from the ancient hymn "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" (LSB 633:7): "Easter triumph, Easter joy!" Christ is risen! Alleluia! Jesus kicked death in the teeth, shattering its power forever and flinging wide the gates of eternal life. Because Christ lives, we shall live also [John 14:19]. "Now in Christ, death cannot slay me" (LSB 756:5). Martin Luther writes: "We should learn to view our death in the right light... because in Christ it is indeed not death, but a fine, sweet and brief sleep... until the time when He shall call and awaken us together with all his dear children to his eternal glory and joy... we shall... suddenly come alive out of the grave" (from *A Compend of Luther's Theology*, ed. Hugh T. Kerr, Jr., p. 242).

**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 Immanuel Lutheran Chapel, a new church start by Immanuel Lutheran Church, Springfield. Pastor Adam Rouse serves both Immanuel church on Springfield's northeast side and the chapel on the northwest side at the CID office.

**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.

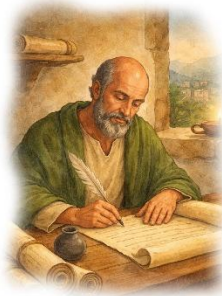
**NEW THIS YEAR!** You can now support Dollars for Mission through online giving. Many people no longer carry cash but still want to support the Central Illinois District's mission work. One-time and recurring donations are now available online. Use this QR Code, or visit:



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



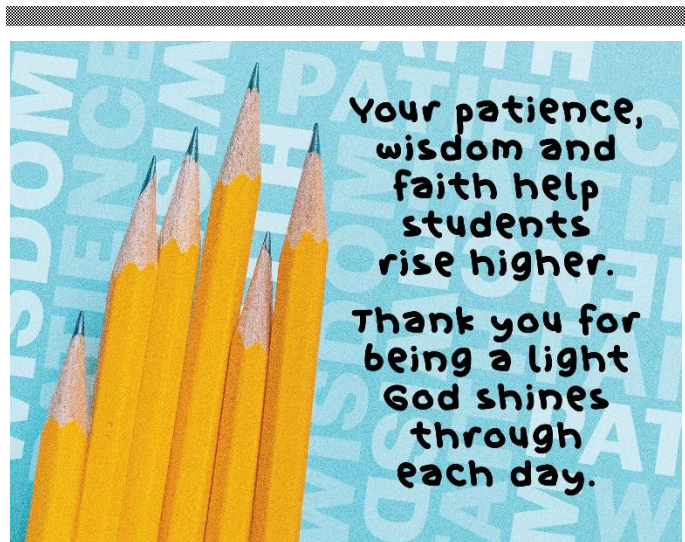
**Bible Quiz**



Although the apostle Paul is credited with writing the letter to the Romans, he dictated the message while another believer served as the scribe. Near the end of the letter, that writer briefly identifies himself. Who was it?

- A. Tertius
- B. Timothy
- C. Lucius
- D. Aquila

Answer: A (Romans 16:22)



*We would like to thank all of our teachers and staff for a job well done all year long! We would also like to thank the Board of Christian Education for your time and efforts, and all of you, the congregation, for your support of ILS all year long!*

**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).**May 2026****May 3, 2026****“You are Chosen!” by Rev. William Mueller****Sermon Text: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

We live in a world where everyone wants to be special; everyone wants to receive a trophy. As the redeemed people of God in Jesus Christ, we are so much more than special. We receive so much more than a trophy! We are chosen and “mercied,” and Christ has given us a glorious mission!

**May 10, 2026****“Keep on Keeping” by Rev. Scott Zeckzer****Sermon Text: John 14:21**

Keepsakes – we all have them – those special things that remind us of special people, places, or events in our lives. God has given you keepsakes to remind you of what He’s done for you. He also has sent the Holy Spirit to help us to “Keep on Keeping.”

**May 17, 2026****“Lifted to a Higher Reality” by Rev. Dr. Walter Maier, III****Sermon Text: Luke 24:44-53**

Why celebrate Christ’s ascension? He visibly left this earth, and we cannot see Him! There are wonderful reasons to celebrate this event. Christ’s ascension lifts us to a higher reality.

**May 24, 2026****“Living Water” by Rev. Thomas Eggold****Sermon Text: John 7:38**

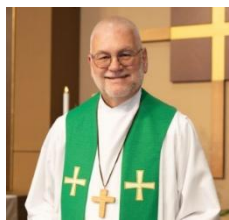
People who think they are healthy don’t go to the doctor, and those who are satisfied in themselves can’t accept a Savior. But to those whose sin has left them desolate – to the one whose life is dry and whose spirit is wilting; to the one who is cracked and broken by their sin; to the one who finds no fulfillment in this world; to the one who rightly despises his own skill and wisdom and sees the futility of his own efforts at salvation; to the one who hungers and thirsts for righteousness – these words mean everything!

**May 31, 2026****“Let God be God!” by Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer****Sermon Text: Matthew 28:19**

Christians across the world gather today to worship the Triune God. In Jesus Christ, we encounter the true God – One who challenges our expectations yet gracefully comes to us with purpose and promise. The invitation given to us is simple and profound: Let God Be God!



Rev. Mueller



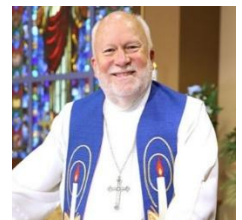
Rev. Zeckzer



Rev. Maier



Rev. Eggold



Rev. Ahlersmeyer



# ILS Connections

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

**May 2026**

**Say hello (and farewell) to Mrs. Yagow!** This is my second year working as a teacher assistant at Immanuel. I



helped in Mrs. Hammer's class last year and this year assist in Ms. Wiese's class in the mornings and help Mrs. Schmidgall in the afternoons. My husband Dan and I will be moving to Edwardsville to be closer to our children and grandchildren this summer and I will miss my time at Immanuel. My favorite memories are things that happen every day, usually in the regular routine of our day. I smile at the "boo boo" reports children give me, especially on Mondays to catch me up on ways they've injured themselves over the weekends. I love the excitement in a student's eyes when he sees a firetruck go by on the road or when he builds a train using all the cars. I am amazed at the creativity that emerges when students create an Easter parade complete with spectators and a Barbie Easter Parade Queen during free play time. I enjoy seeing the feeling of accomplishment when a

child successfully completes a task like bouncing on a hopper ball without wiping out or drawing a picture they can't wait to tell me about. I am originally from St. Peter, Illinois where I grew up on a farm. I attended a Lutheran elementary school. I hold a bachelor's degree in Family and Consumer Sciences from Eastern Illinois University and taught for over 35 years at the high school level. I've been married to my husband Dan for 43 years and have 2 daughters. Kendra and her family live near St. Louis, and Carmen lives in Springfield. I have 4 grandchildren. When I retired 2 years ago, I still desired to work with children. However, I no longer wanted to spend all my weekends and evenings grading papers and planning lessons. That's what led me to Immanuel. My favorite part of being at ILS is being able to be a part of helping children have a positive and wonderful first experience in school, especially in a school that includes learning about how much God loves and forgives us. I was blessed to have Christian parents who knew the importance of baptism, so I joined God's family at my baptism as a baby. When I was old enough to understand what the Bible teaches, I was confirmed in the Lutheran church. As I look back on my life, I know that even though I still don't know or understand everything about God, I know that He loves me beyond my own comprehension.

## **YOUNG TWO'S ROOM: Mrs. Kirsten Brown**

How is it already the end of the school year? It's hard to believe how quickly the time has flown by! We've had such a fun year together. In April, we explored all things in spring. We have learned about flowers, bugs, and frogs. We also focused on the letter H, numbers 8 and 9, and the color purple. During Jesus Time, we talked about Jesus' ultimate sacrifice and what it means for us. As we wrap up the year, we're excited to learn about zoo animals and the beach. We're also looking forward to celebrating with a fun end of the year party and our special field trip to the Indy Zoo! Thank you for sharing your wonderful children with us this year. It has truly been a joy watching them learn and grow.

## **TWO'S ROOM: Miss Nicole Martin**

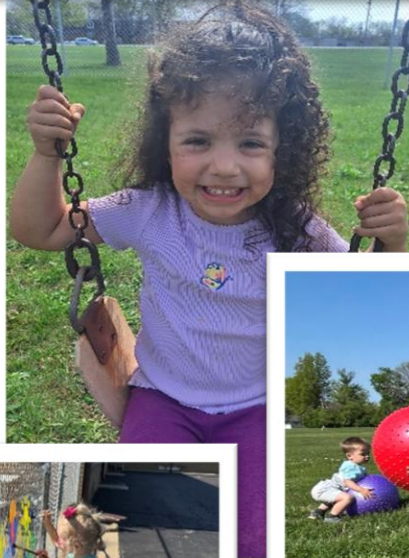
April was full of fun, sunshine, and a little bit of silliness in our two-year-old classroom! We had a fantastic month exploring butterflies, bugs, and all things spring. One of our biggest accomplishments is that most of our kiddos are potty trained or very close to it—hooray for big kid milestones! With the beautiful weather, we've been heading outside for little adventures, soaking up the sunshine, and discovering the world around us. Whether we're on a mini nature walk or just enjoying fresh air and playtime, every day feels like a new adventure. We're having so much fun and are more than ready for a summer full of sunshine and smiles!

## **THREE'S ROOM: Mrs. Katie Rouse**

The school year is coming to an end and it's been an exciting year full of learning, growth and fun for everyone! In the month of May, all ILS students will take a field trip to the Indianapolis Zoo with family and friends. We will enjoy our last Spring "lunch on the lawn" on Thursday, May 7th. Lastly, we will celebrate with an end of the year class party on Tuesday, May 13th outside with water, chalk and bubble fun!

## **FOUR'S ROOM: Mrs. Tabatha Hammer**

The school year is coming to an end, and it's been a wonderful one! To celebrate, we're planning an end-of-year party along with a field trip to the Indianapolis Zoo. We're excited to wrap up the year with these fun activities and great memories.



# Joyfully Serving the Lord

## May 2026

### Communion Assistants

3 Don DeMoss, Dwain Dixon  
17 Josh Christensen, Al Julian  
24 Dean Hull, Kurt Thornsborough

### Ushers

Team "E" – Capt. Denny Hilton, Dave Creek, Glen Natschke, and Mike Ferris

### Lay Readers

3 Josh Christensen  
10 Butch & Julie Buesing  
17 Sue DeMoss  
24 Kurt and Debbie T.  
31 Carrie Farrell

### Gospel Reader

Josh Christensen  
Butch Buesing  
Al Julian  
Kurt Thornsborough  
Gail Garner

### Acolytes

3 Carley Wright  
10 Jamie Yonkers and Owen Price  
17 Kinley Pratt  
24 Brooklynn Hunt  
31 Volunteer Needed

### Videographer

3 Butch Buesing  
10 Kim Davis  
17 Dwain Dixon  
24 Dwain Dixon  
31 Josh Christensen

### Sound/Screens

Jamie Yonkers  
RJ Davis  
Jamie Yonkers  
Don DeMoss  
Volunteer Needed

### Children's Sermon

10 Sue Heidle  
24 Diana Pratt

### Immanuel Cares

Marcy Heeren and Marge Souza

### Altar Guild

Pam Van Camp and Carrie Farrell

### Money Counters

Nancy Purviance and Martha Elliott

### Check Signers

Mary Powell and Jo Van Hoveln

## June 2026

### Communion Assistants

7 Josh Christensen, Dean Hull  
21 Don DeMoss, Dwain Dixon

### Ushers

Team "F" – Capt. Ray Wittmann, Scott Huckstadt, Larry Fredericks, and Jim Osterbur

### Lay Readers

7 Allen Julian  
14 Jan Mann  
21 Diana Pratt  
28 Nancy Purviance

### Gospel Reader

Allen Julian  
Butch Buesing  
Dwain Dixon  
Kurt Thornsborough

### Acolytes

7 Kendall Wright  
14 Eli Mann  
21 Brooklynn Hunt  
28 Jamie Yonkers and Owen Price

### Videographer

7 Dwain Dixon  
14 Kim Davis  
21 Josh Christensen  
28 Dwain Dixon

### Sound/Screens

Jan Mann  
RJ Davis  
Jamie Yonkers  
Don DeMoss

### Immanuel Cares

Judy Creek and Janet Terry

### Altar Guild

Sharon Crow and Katie Yonkers

### Money Counters

Mary Powell and Holly Clem

### Check Signers

Jo Van Hoveln and Mike Ferris

*The Lord will  
watch over  
your coming & going  
both now & forevermore.*

Psalm 121:8, NIV

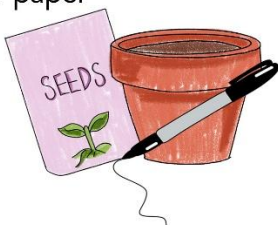
# GROWING IN GOD'S word



Try this craft as a reminder that we need to continue to grow in God's Word.

## What you need:

- Small terra cotta pot and plate
- Acrylic paints (various colors)
- Paper plate
- Potting soil (enough to fill the pot)
- Small inside plant or packet of seeds
- Newspaper or paper
- Paintbrush
- Cup of water
- Permanent black marker



## What you do:

1. Spread some newspaper out on a table for your working area.
2. Squeeze the paint colors that you wish to use onto your paper plate.
3. Paint designs on the pot and plate.
4. When the pot is dry, take the black marker and on the top part of the pot write: Growing in God's Word.
5. Pour a small amount of potting soil into the bottom of the pot. With adults help, place your plant into the pot and surround your plant with the rest of the soil. If planting seeds, follow the packet instructions.
6. Water your plant so the soil is moist. Check your plant everyday and keep the soil moist.
7. Enjoy watching your plant grow, and remember that you too, need care as you grow in God's Word.

2 Peter 3:18 NIV

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

# Puzzle!

In spring and summer, we remember mothers and fathers with special days. Find the parents of these Biblical children. Check the verse given for help.



Joash (2 Kings 11:2)

A \_\_\_\_\_

Obed (Matthew 1:5)

B \_\_\_\_\_

Joseph (Genesis 35: 22-24)

\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_

John the disciple (Matthew 4:21)

\_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_

John the Baptist (Luke 1:13)

\_ E \_\_\_\_\_

Lo-Ruhamah (Hosea 1:6)

G \_\_\_\_\_

Jezreel (Hosea 1:4)

H \_\_\_\_\_

Esau (Genesis 25:28)

I \_\_\_\_\_

David (1 Samuel 16:19)

J \_\_\_\_\_

Jacob (Genesis 25:28)

\_\_\_\_\_ K \_\_\_\_

Samuel (1 Samuel 1:19-20)

\_ L \_\_\_\_\_

Gershom (Exodus 2:21-22)

M \_\_\_\_\_

Samuel (1 Samuel 1:19-20)

\_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_

Jesse (Matthew 1:5)

O \_\_\_\_\_

Gershom (Exodus 2:21-22)

\_\_\_\_\_ P \_\_\_\_\_

Joseph (Genesis 35: 22-24)

R \_\_\_\_\_

Isaac (Genesis 21:3)

S \_\_\_\_\_

John the Baptist (Luke 1:13)

\_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_

Jonathan (1 Samuel 14:1)

\_\_\_ U \_\_\_\_

Solomon (1 Kings 2:1)

\_\_\_ V \_\_\_\_

Jesus (Matthew 1:18)

\_\_\_\_\_ Y

James (Matthew 4:21)

Z \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: Ahaziah, Boaz, Jacob, Zebedee, Zechariah, Gomer, Hosea, Isaac, Jesse, Rebekah, Elkanah, Moses, Hannah, Obed, Zipporah, Rachel, Sarah, Elizabeth, Saul, David, Mary, Zebedee

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# MESSENGER

GOD WITH US



*In God we boast  
all the day long,  
and praise thy name  
for ever.*

*Psalm 44:8, KJV*

*May 2026*

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
 1930 N. Bowman  
 Danville, IL 61832  
[www.ilcdanville.com](http://www.ilcdanville.com)  
 217-442-5675

**Immanuel Lutheran School**

**Worship Schedule**  
**Sundays**  
 May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31  
 at 9:30 am

**Wednesdays**  
 May 6, 13, 20 & 27  
 at 5:00 pm

**Communion Schedule**  
**Sundays**  
 May 3, 17 & 24  
 at 9:30 am

**Wednesdays**  
 May 27 at 5:00 pm

Place Stamp Here

*Our May 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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