

The King of Kings

We as Lutherans are not accustomed to new things. Normally a new idea is thrown out with the bath water that surrounds it. Our Lutheran Confessions explicitly state that we retain the good and right church traditions. Sometimes though, new traditions arise that meld into our traditions so well that we might not even know that they are new. Perhaps these new innovations incorporate themselves so well that we do not even realize that their origins are not ancient but rather quite modern.

As we approach the end of the Church year, we come to one such tradition. On the last Sunday of the Church year, November 23 in 2025, we come to "Christ the King" Sunday. This is a solemn feast established one hundred years ago in 1925 by Pope Pius XI. Christ the King Sunday is about remembering, amid all the earthly tumult and turmoil, that Christ is King. Christ the King Sunday is a feast to be taken to heart. The final word from the cross TETELESTAI: it is finished. Christ's work is accomplished, and salvation is won for us. Jesus now shifts from His state of humiliation to His natural state of glory. Yes, Jesus did descend into Hell as we confess in the Creed, but as we are told in 1 Peter 3:18-20, we also learn that Jesus proclaimed to the souls imprisoned there, telling of His work for salvation and proclaiming His victory over sin, death, and the devil.

The feast of Christ the King is meant to remind us that though we seem to live in a chaotic world now, in the end Christ is the victor! Christ is the King! It is good and right on this last Sunday of the Church year that we celebrate the victory of Christ at Calvary, and that we look forward to His second coming when He will come not in humility as He did in Bethlehem with only whispers of His majesty, but in glory with clouds descending.

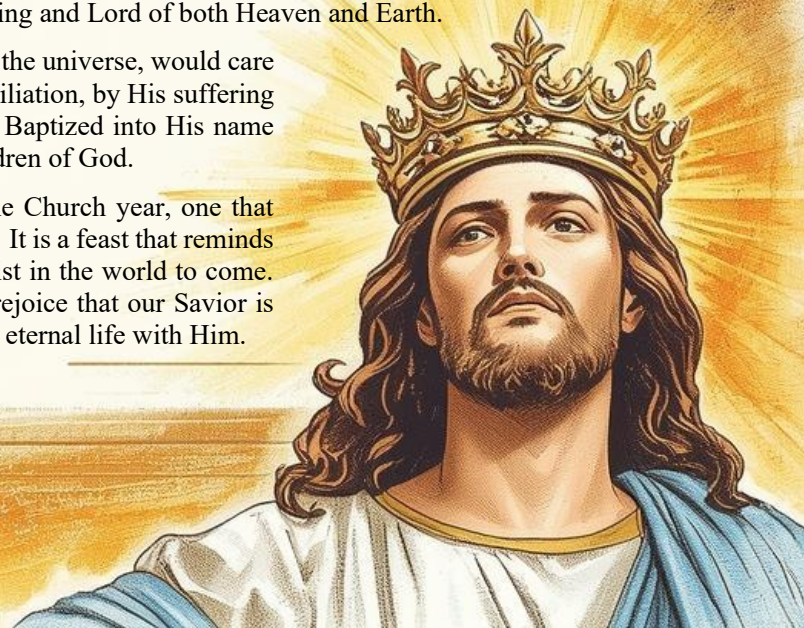
Often, we might shy away from thinking of God as Lord and King, and this is for good reason. God is great and God is mighty. God is glorious. Yet, none of these attributes of our Heavenly Father save us. Indeed, these are the very traits of God that separate us from Him. It is in His humility that we can know God. It is through the Incarnate One, through Jesus, the Son of God who took on our flesh and became man that we can know God in His fullness. Not as a mere power, such as many see the Holy Spirit, and not as a distant Creator and Judge as we might see the Father alone. In Christ we meet God as a loving Savior who shepherds and tends to His creation and cares for His flock. Here in Jesus, we come to know the fullness of the Trinity. Here in Jesus, we come to know the God who loves and the God who cares. Here in Jesus, we come to know that God happily and eagerly hears our prayers and provides for our needs.

We are blessed to have the King of the Universe as our Lord and Savior, and in the modern feast of Christ the King we rejoice to know Him and to be His own. Here in this feast, we rejoice not only in the heavenly and divine power of God, but also in His temporal authority. We rejoice that He cares so much that He steps down and works in this fallen sinful world that He, Himself, has redeemed, bringing His mercy and His Grace, King and Lord of both Heaven and Earth.

This brings the question of why Christ, the King of the universe, would care for us so much. We are His. Redeemed by His humiliation, by His suffering and His death upon the cross, we are His beloved. Baptized into His name most holy, washed in His blood and made to be children of God.

Christ the King is a new and innovative feast of the Church year, one that reminds us of who our God is and who our Savior is. It is a feast that reminds us of the glory in the Cross and of the glory of Christ in the world to come. Let us celebrate our crucified yet risen Savior and rejoice that our Savior is King who will come again in glory and bring us into eternal life with Him.

Rev. James Yonkers



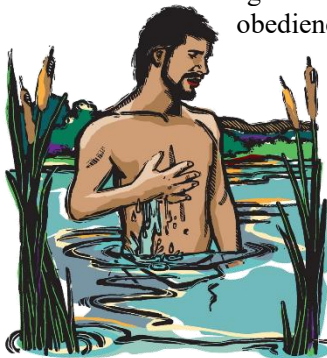
IMPORTANT DATES IN NOVEMBER:

- LWML Mite Collection Sunday, **Nov. 2**
- All Saints' Sunday, **Nov. 2**
- Daylight Savings Ends, **Nov. 2**
- Parish Education's Monical's Day, **Nov. 3**
- ILS Veterans Day Program, **Nov. 5**
- Veterans Day, **Nov. 11**
- Leaf and Holly Holiday Bazaar, **Nov. 11**
- Christ the King Sunday, **Nov. 23**
- Thanksgiving Potluck & GloryWay Concert, **Nov. 23**
- Thanksgiving Eve Worship, **Nov. 26**
- ILS Thanksgiving Break, **Nov. 26 – 28**
- Thanksgiving, **Nov. 27**
- Advent Begins, **Nov. 30**
- Zora Drews Scholarship Door Offering, **Nov. 30**

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.

TAKE ME TO THE RIVER: God often works in unexpected ways. Just ask Naaman, the army commander in 2 Kings 5:1-14. Stricken with leprosy, he traveled to Israel seeking healing from the prophet Elisha. Instead of an impressive display or a grand ceremony, Elisha sent word for him to simply wash seven times in the Jordan River. Naaman was not impressed. "Aren't the rivers of Damascus better than all the waters of Israel?" he asked. Why bathe in a foreign, muddy river when the clean, sparkling rivers of home were far more appealing? It didn't make sense. Yet what seemed absurd became the very path to his healing. We may not be told to wade into an actual river, but we all face "Jordan moments" in life — times when God calls us to take a step that feels uncomfortable, humbling or completely illogical. It is in those moments that trust and



obedience matter most. Naaman's story reminds us that God's power is not limited by appearances or human reasoning. Sometimes the action that feels least likely to work is the one that opens the door to blessing. When God invites you to take the plunge, step into the water. You may find healing and hope waiting there.



Sharing our Blessings from God

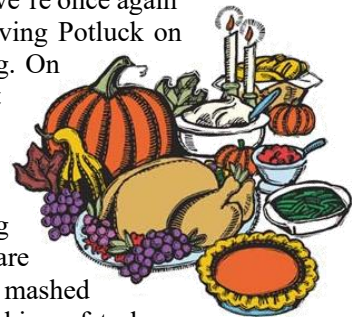
We will once again have the opportunity share our blessings in a *food offering*. On **Nov. 23**, please bring items such as canned yams, mashed potatoes, gravy (jars or packets), boxed stuffing mix, jellied cranberry, canned green beans or corn, cookies, or other non-perishable donations. Monetary donations and Thrivent Action Teams are also appreciated! These items, along with ham and rolls, will be distributed through our Food Pantry in thanksgiving to God for the blessings we so richly receive!

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Plan to join us on Wednesday, **November 26 at 6:30 pm** for our Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service with Communion. We have so much to be thankful for, and it's good to come together with one another to praise our Lord and thank Him for all His blessings. Take a break from those Thanksgiving dinner preparations to come to church to say "Now Thank We All Our God."

Gobble, Gobble, Gobble!

Thanksgiving is a time to spend with family... with our church family, too. That's why we're once again having our Immanuel Thanksgiving Potluck on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. On **Nov. 23** at 5:30 pm, show up at the gym with a side dish and/or dessert and be ready to gobble, gobble, gobble! But please come even if you're not able to bring anything to the dinner, all are welcome! The turkey, ham and mashed potatoes will be provided. Speaking of turkey, we're looking for some. Please consider donating a turkey or money to buy one (we only need three turkeys). Volunteers to set up would be welcome after church that Sunday. For details or to offer up volunteer time or a turkey, please contact:



Tom Fricke:

phone: 217-474-2457

email: tomfricke@hotmail.com

Mary Ellen Fricke:

phone: 217-497-7196

email: maryellenfricke@gmail.com



GLORYWAY CONCERT – NOV. 23! It's the day of our congregational Thanksgiving Potluck, and this year we have something extra special planned. After sharing a meal together (beginning at 5:30 pm), we'll be blessed with a concert by GloryWay! **The concert begins at 6:30 pm.** GloryWay was founded in Mansfield, Ohio in 2002 by lead singer, Justin Crank. Throughout the years, GloryWay has become known around the country for their powerful harmonies and their inspiring music. GloryWay faithfully presents the love of God to their audience, night after night, by skillfully weaving together laughter, encouragement and soul-stirring ministry. Travelling over 70,000 miles yearly, GloryWay tirelessly presents the Gospel through their music. They have the privilege of working with many world-renowned artists, musicians, producers and writers. They embrace every opportunity to share their ministry and have committed themselves to ensuring that each performance leaves their audience delighted, encouraged and inspired. Visit glorywaymusic.com to listen to their music or for more information.

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 for birthdays and graduations, and it's not too early to begin thinking about Christmas gifts! The next Scrip order is due to the church office by 9 am on **Nov. 10** and will be ready for pick up on **Nov. 16**. 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!

CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS!

As a reminder we will **Fall Back** one hour when Daylight Savings Time ends on **Nov. 2**. Set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night – you'll get an extra hour of sleep and still make it to church on time!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING SUMMARY:

Date: Oct. 21, 2025 / Next Meeting: Nov. 18, 2025

New Business

Roof update: The project is moving along and about 90% complete. The asbestos cleanup is estimated to cost 3-5k. The Board of Directors will host the first Advent dinner on Dec. 3.

Old Business

None.

Christian Education

Current enrollment is 73. The shirt sale and poinsettia fundraisers are coming soon. 19 families are attending church through the church attendance discount.

Finance

Reviewed reports. Immanuel and Trinity are covering the cost of the cemetery mowing while the cemetery committee works on getting access to the bank account.

Properties

The garbage disposal in the school kitchen needs to be replaced and will cost \$2,800. RC gave us an estimate to repair the parking lot lights at a cost of \$3,100. Our snow removal contract with Blue's Automotive was renewed.

Stewardship

Sue shared that people are using the pew guest envelopes, but it's not all about the money! It's a beautiful reminder that guests are responding to God's love and grace that they are receiving here at Immanuel. Stewardship is about gratitude, faith, and trust in God who first gives us everything.

Evangelism

Trunk or Treat is coming up.

Worship

We'll have a Veterans Day service on Nov. 9. Advent begins Nov. 30. The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 6:30 pm.

Parish Education

Eat pizza at Monical's and support Parish Ed on Nov. 3.

Youth

There was discussion on how the youth could help service for the Veteran's Day service. Last year, they ushered veterans to their seats. Sue DeMoss is going to order poppies. We would like the drive lined with flags.

Mission and Social Ministry

A volunteer or two are needed to take over Immanuel Cares.

Elders

Need to schedule communion assistant and acolyte training. We have enough acolytes for processions. Cards are in to send out to inactive members.

President

The Cemetery Bylaws passed both congregations and is now in effect.

Pastor

Discussed official acts, Advent theme, and gave the board an update on his health.

Leaf and Holly Holiday Bazaar



Tuesday, November 11, 2025

Bazaar: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Luncheon: 11:00 am – 1:30 pm



Pulled Pork Luncheon

The menu features a delicious BBQ pulled pork sandwich, cheesy potato casserole, cranberry salad, and your choice of dessert and beverage.

Group Carry-Out Orders

If you're scheduled to work that day and can't join us in person, you don't have to miss out on this great meal! We're happy to deliver five or more meals directly to your workplace. Carry-out Order Forms are available on the table in the hallway – pick one up, invite your coworkers to order, and return the completed form with payment to the church office by Friday, Nov. 7.

Tickets

Tickets are available now for just \$14! You can purchase your tickets before and after church through Nov. 9 and in the church office throughout the week. Tickets will be sold at the door. We encourage you to pick up an extra ticket or two and invite a friend to lunch with you!

Shopping

It's time to start gathering and creating for our annual Bazaar! There are many ways you can contribute to making this event a success. Together, we make the Bazaar a wonderful tradition for our church and community!

The **Country Store** is looking for your favorite Christmas and fall baked goods—cookies, breads, candies, jams, and other seasonal treats are always a big hit.

The **Arts and Crafts** table welcomes your handmade creations of all kinds, from sewing and knitting to painting, wreath-making, or other creative projects.

The **Woodworking** area can always use additional pieces, large or small, every handcrafted item is appreciated.

And don't forget **Attic Treasures**, where gently used items in good condition find new homes and bring joy to someone else.

Help Needed

Signup sheets are coming soon. Much help is needed to set up on the day of the event (in the kitchen, working the booths, pie room, wait staff, etc.) and afterwards cleaning up. And, of course, our bakers are once again needed to help with the meal! Your delicious pies, bars, and desserts make our lunch extra special and are always one of the highlights of the day.

Publicity

Please pick up a publicity yard sign if you have access to a high traffic location. Please bring in your craft samples and items for the Silent Auction and put them in the Women's Lounge. We'll take a photo to use for publicity purposes soon. Thank you!

Silent Auction

Our Silent Auction will feature a wonderful variety of items – unique, handcrafted pieces, holiday decorations, gift baskets, and more. Donations are needed. Please contact Sharon Crow with any Silent Auction questions.



2025 Bazaar Feature Quilt

Autumn Starlight

A stunning blend of autumn's beauty and quilting artistry!

WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS:

November Meeting: Our monthly meeting will be on the 1st Tuesday, **Nov. 4** at 11:30 am. We will make final Bazaar plans and get a sneak peak of some of the items. Be sure to join us on Bazaar Day – **Nov. 11!**

Christmas Party: Looking ahead, our Christmas Party will be on Dec. 2 at Turtle Run. Watch for more details and a signup sheet coming soon.

Our **ingathering** for November and December is for the VA. Some of the items to donate from their holiday wish list are listed below.

- Gift Cards - \$5 - \$10 from DQ, Walmart, Meijer, Starbucks, and Applebee's
- Little Debbie Christmas cakes
- Paintable ceramics
- Belts in sizes 32 – 42
- Car or sport t-shirts in sizes XL – 2XL
- Sports hats
- Birthday decorations
- Holiday decorations
- 2 liters of soda

VETERAN'S DAY AT IMMANUEL: ILS



children and staff will honor veterans on **Nov. 5** at 6:30 pm with their Veteran's Day Program. The children will sing songs and display their patriotic artwork. We're looking for help with setting up at 5:00 pm that day and tear down right after the program. As always, members

and guests are invited to support both our school children and veterans! Then, join us on **Nov. 9**, the Sunday before Veterans' Day, for a patriotic service with a special prayer and blessing for veterans.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:



During November, we will learn about the Tower of Babel and begin preparing for the Christmas service, which is Dec. 21. Regular attendance is especially

important in November and December as we practice bells, songs, readings, and fit costumes.

NEW ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS:

Do you want to learn more about what Immanuel and its members believe, teach, and confess? Pastor began a new adult confirmation class on Oct. 29, but it's not too late to join! The class immediately following our service in the chapel on Wednesday evenings is a brief course on Lutheranism and going through the Small Catechism. This class is geared to new members, but of course, all are welcome to attend if you want to brush up on the Small Catechism or get to know our new brothers and sisters in Christ!

IMMANUEL CARES is an amazing group of volunteers who reach out with love and support to our Immanuel members and friends who are homebound or facing health challenges. This caring team celebrates birthdays and anniversaries, sends cards, makes phone calls, visits, and provides meals or transportation when needed. Our annual Immanuel Cares meeting is **Nov. 7** at 10 am. We're currently looking for a new Immanuel Cares Team Leader, and we'd love you to consider joining or leading this important ministry!

ILS CHRISTMAS SHOPPE FUNDRAISER:

ILS is looking for donations of inexpensive, new or gently used items for their Christmas Shoppe Fundraiser. Parents let us know who the gifts are for and pay just \$2 per item. The children love shopping, beaming with smiles while they learn a valuable lesson in generosity. They often shop for mom, dad, grandparents, and siblings. Gift ideas include socks, stationery, votive candles, toys, pens, coffee cups, hair accessories, tools, or ornaments. Gift bags and tissue paper would also be appreciated! Please place your donations in the red tote in the coatroom. Do you have a Thrivent card? This is a great way to use it!



EAT PIZZA

And support Parish Education!

Monday, Nov. 3
At Danville and Tilton locations

The flier, that you must take with you, is available at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1930 N. Bowman, in Danville. The proceeds will support our youth programs such as Sunday School, VBS, & more!

CAPITAL FUND DRIVE

The current fund balance is \$157,738. We also have a grant \$ of \$50,000 that will be given to us when our current project has been completed. Another grant has been applied for, and we will know the results in December. Even if we received the entire amount we requested, there is still a large amount that has not been raised yet for this project. There is a Capital Fund Drive bulletin board in the hallway between the coat room and the parish mailboxes. There, you'll find special envelopes for ongoing donations throughout the year. There are also special donation envelopes by the "giving thermometer" in the narthex and on the ushers' desk in the narthex. *"...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.

CURRENT PROJECT: The Board of Directors has awarded the school/gym reroofing project to Bash Pepper Roofing of Urbana. They have completed the roofing portion of the project, and the skylights will be replaced soon. A new project will be decided upon early next year.

CAPITAL FUND DRIVE CHRISTMAS TREE: There will be a Christmas tree in the narthex for special year end gifts to the Capital Fund Drive; it has all blue and silver ornaments (and no lights). There are special envelopes beside the tree for your donation. Put your check or cash inside the envelope and place the completed envelope in the offering plate. If you would like an ornament from the tree to commemorate your donation, please feel free to take one. All donations will be used to pay for our current project: Reroofing the flat roof on the school/gym wing of our building. *Remember all donations to be counted in 2025 must be in the church office by December 31 to be counted on your 2025 giving statement.* The tree will be left up until Epiphany so you can get a jump start on your 2026 giving if you want.

UPCOMING EVENT: Men's Club and Capital Fund Committee will co-host the German dinner in February 2026. Watch for more details in future newsletters and Immanuel Lights.

THANK YOU to everyone who supported the door offering last Sunday for the Zora Drews Scholarship Fund. Through your generosity, **\$542.00** was collected! Your gifts make a real difference for a school family facing financial hardship, helping their children continue learning and growing each day in the love of Jesus.

STEWARDSHIP: Most people think, "Here comes the church asking for money." It is my goal to change our way of thinking when it comes to stewardship. First, I want to acknowledge that our congregation is a very generous one. When a need is identified, amazing people step up and donate, or work on fundraising to meet our needs. Two examples are the roof we are getting put on and the youth trip to the National Youth Gathering. Thanks be to God for these amazing people and gifts received!

I want you to exchange the word "stewardship" with "church life". There is a pathway from church life to giving. Let me explain.

First step: Acknowledge that all we have in our lives comes from God. His gifts and we rejoice for them and from there we should be filled with gratitude for what we have.

Second step: As God is the giver of all good gifts of house, home, wife, and children; God should be the center of our lives. All of what we do should reflect that we are children of a loving God and our lives are a testament to that.

Third step: We should never stop seeking growth in God's Word and continually thank and praise Him. This is transformational in our lives and how we view our world.

Fourth step: Celebrate our church family. We are brought together in unity of spirit and faith. Be glad our friends and family in Christ Jesus are present to receive His gifts, taking our joy and faith out into the world when we leave this place.

Fifth step: Look around weekly at who is present in worship and act. New young family? Celebrate that they are here despite a fussy baby. Children are witnessing how we worship and where we should be on Sunday. Do you hear those little ones say "yay" at the end of Jesus Loves Me? That is Jesus' joy, and we should have that kind of praise and excitement in our own worship! Have faith of a little child. Is there someone who looks different than you in the pew? Welcome them with genuine care and rejoice that God has brought them into His presence with us.

The sixth step, and this one is so important. Just as we looked around and celebrated who is worshipping with us, ask yourself, "Who is not here?" We are instructed by our Lord to take His Word to all nations and corners of the world. Who in our immediate presence is missing? This is eternal life or death. We need to reach out to our neighbors and encourage them to church life. I want all who I love to be present with me in heaven when the trumpets blow and Jesus brings us home.

Lastly, the gifts that we give are a reflection and testament to what we believe and out of our gratitude. As babies learn to crawl, walk, and run, so we in our church life. We are all at different places on our Christian journey. Be loving, patient, and persistent. Our work while we are on earth never ends. Pray continuously, learn, and grow in Christ Jesus.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan DeMoss

Director of Stewardship

EVERY HEART PREPARE! Advent begins on Sunday, Nov. 30. We decorate in preparation for Christmas. In November and December people spend hours putting up lights in their living space and ornaments on their evergreens. Poinsettias are placed on the mantel and presents under the tree, and we “deck the halls with boughs of holly.” These Christmas decorations bring enjoyment and anticipation to the holiday. Advent is the church’s season of preparation for Christmas, for the coming of the Lord. This Advent season, as part of our preparation, we reflect upon three common Christmas decorations and how they help us see Christ and prepare for His coming: evergreens, lights, and the creche. Then on Christmas we will focus on the decorated presents which point us to the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ.

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MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 1 EVERGREENS

We decorate in preparation for Christmas. Our decoration preparation includes the use of evergreens—from Christmas trees to pine garland. The evergreen decorations also help us prepare for the advent (or coming) of Jesus during Advent—a season of preparation. Today we will consider how evergreens point us to the coming of Christ and the eternal life that He brings.

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 2 LIGHTS

We decorate in preparation for Christmas. Our decoration preparation includes the use of lights—from candles to twinkling LEDs. These luminous decorations also help us prepare for the advent (or coming) of Jesus during Advent, a season of preparation. Today we will consider how lights point us to the coming of Christ and the glory He brings.

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 3 CRÈCHE

We decorate in preparation for Christmas. Our decoration preparation includes the use of the crèche—the miniature model of the nativity scene. The crèche is a distinctively Christian decoration in that it depicts the characters involved in the nativity of Christ: Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the Wise Men, the angels, the stable animals, and—most important of all—the infant Jesus. As we view this manger scene, we recall the timeless story of God coming to earth as a baby to redeem us from our sins.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD WRAPPED PRESENTS

We decorate for Christmas. Our decorations include wrapped presents—gifts in colorful boxes and bags that are placed under the Christmas tree. But these gifts all pale in comparison to the gift that started it all at Christmas—the gift of God’s Son, whose birth brings us regeneration, renewal, and eternal life. On Christmas [Eve], we consider how the gifts under the tree point us to God’s indescribable gift in Jesus Christ.



POINSETTIAS: We will once again order our altar poinsettias through ILS. Be on the lookout for the order forms in your bulletins on Sundays in November.

YEAR END GIVING: Per IRS regulations, all donations have to be received in the church office no later than December 31 to be considered a 2024 donation. If they are received after that time, they will be put on the 2025 giving statements.

MUSIC FOR MISSIONS: St. John's Lutheran Church in Pekin is hosting a Sacred Music Concert and Hymn Sing in support of our Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, our LC-MS Central Illinois District Campus Ministry at Western Illinois University, Macomb, on Sunday, November 16, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

We will join together in singing some hymns, and in listening to sacred organ, choir, vocal solo, and hand bell music, all under the theme, “Hymns of Our Heavenly Home.” Featured musicians will include guest organist Peter Wykert, vocalists Allison Harley and Jennifer Rosa, as well as the St. John's Hand Bell and Sanctuary Choirs.

A free will offering will be gathered to help support our Immanuel Lutheran Student Center in Macomb, which is conducted under the leadership of Pastor Chris Hull. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Please set aside the time to participate in and enjoy the music program, and to support our Central Illinois District mission work. The church is located at 711 Court Street in Pekin. For more information you may contact the church office at 309-347-213.

A SHIFT IN GRATITUDE

When we look at what we want, and then compare that with what we have, we shall be unhappy.

When we think about what we really deserve, and then compare that with what we actually have, we shall thank God.

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

James 1:17 reminds us about the source of every blessing. According to this verse, how is God described?

- A. The one who changes like shifting shadows
- B. The giver of wisdom to the faithful
- C. The Father of heavenly lights who does not change
- D. The one who rewards those who are generous





A Message from Rev. Jeff Harter

I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins. (Isaiah 43:25)

Due to advancing age, illness, or other maladies many of us struggle to remember things. It can be very frustrating! I forget where I put my keys or my cell phone. And I quickly forget names. Yet I have trouble forgetting some things, like something a person says or does that offends me. And I may ruminate for days about my sins or mistakes. The inability to forget some things and to remember others is a weakness with us. But God has the amazing ability to forget what he does not want to remember. And he always remembers what he doesn't want to forget. He remembers his promises and his love for us. When he says, "I forgive you" he immediately forgets the sin and wipes it from his mind as if it never happened. This is an amazing strength that is beyond our comprehension! Satan tempts us to doubt God's word and to mistrust his promises. He wants us to believe his lie that God holds grudges and bears resentment. Satan wants us to argue with God by condemning ourselves or others for sins that have been absolved and that He has chosen to forget. We must always remember the verse above. Romans 8:1-2 reminds us:

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

When our pastor pronounces Christ's absolution and when we confess our sins in Christ to one another, we are set free from condemnation and the fear of punishment! Satan cannot condemn us, and our guilty consciences and resentful hearts are silenced by Christ's true and holy Word! As Jesus said in John 8:32

You will know the truth and the truth will set you free!

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 Central Illinois Lutheran Deaf Outreach, CID's District-wide parish, conducting Word and Sacrament ministry in American Sign Language to bring the Good News about Jesus to the deaf and hearing-impaired. Most deaf people are non-churched. They need Christ!

Music for Missions

St. John's Lutheran Church (711 Court Street) in Pekin is hosting a Sacred Music Concert and Hymn Sing in support of our Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, our LCMS Central Illinois District Campus Ministry at Western Illinois University, Macomb, on Sunday, **November 16, 2025**, at 2:00 p.m. We will join in singing some hymns, and in listening to sacred organ, choir, vocal solo, and handbell music, all under the theme, "*Hymns of Our Heavenly Home.*" Featured musicians will include guest organist Peter Wykert, vocalists Allison Harley and Jennifer Rosa, as well as the St. John's Hand Bell and Sanctuary Choirs. A free-will offering will be gathered to support our Immanuel Lutheran Student Center in Macomb (under the leadership of Pastor Chris Hull). Refreshments will be served following the program. For more information, you may contact the church office at 309-347-213.

Camp CILCA Joyful Hearts Christmas December 12 – 13

Camp CILCA welcomes campers of all ages with developmental disabilities for a 24 hour Christmas party! Campers are partnered up with a high school or college-age volunteer who will help them have a fun and safe Christmas with activities like baking, decorating, singing, and more!

Camp CILCA Contact Information

Camp CILCA Outdoor Ministry

4124 Camp CILCA Road, Cantrall, IL 62625

Office Phone: (217) 487-7497

Pastor Joshua Theilen's Cell Phone: (217) 415-2311

Office E-mail: office@cilca.org

Pastor's Email: director@cilca.org

Lauren's Email: program@cilca.org

Camp CILCA sits on 225 acres of woodland and open fields just north of Springfield, Ill., within an easy drive of the popular Lincoln sites in Springfield and historic New Salem. It offers a summer program of week-long camps and outdoor experiences for students of all ages and abilities; Outdoor Education programs for area students; and camping of many kinds for individuals, families and groups. Rustic and all-weather sleeping cabins, campsites for tents, trailers, RV's and pop-ups, swimming lake with beach, athletic fields, Challenge Course, and indoor and outdoor chapel spaces are among the camp's features.



ILS Connections

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

November 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR: Mrs. Rachel Schmidgall

As we dive deeper into our fall season, we welcome one of my favorite holidays, Thanksgiving. I know most people prefer the festivities of Halloween and Christmas more, and sometimes Thanksgiving is almost a footnote between these two holidays, but it's such a uniquely important holiday and here's why: It is deeply rooted in the biblical call to give thanks in all circumstances. This is a skill learned over time as we battle through life's up and down. In a way, it takes a lot of concentration and effort to be thankful. Families are stretching every dollar, working overtime and making sacrifices to pay for the basics. Why should we be thankful? Where is God right now, some may be asking. The fact is, Jesus Christ is the same forever, whether we have received a new job, or lost one. I'm aware that it's hard to be thankful in these circumstances-it can even hurt a little inside. But I am a sincere believer that gratitude is necessary to be healthy. Having money and nice things is temporary and you cannot take it with you. Hug your little ones, pray with your family, and enjoy the food (and football) that He has provided. It's good for your spirit and soul.

YOUNG TWO'S ROOM: Mrs. Kirsten Brown

How is it already November?! We had so much fun in October! This month we learned about all things fall. Leaves, pumpkins, and we will end the month with Halloween. We also learned about fire safety this month! We are looking forward to our Halloween party! We learned our color of the month, Orange and our number of the month, 2. In Jesus time, we learned about baby Moses, Joshua and the Battle of Jericho and much more! In November, we will be learning about Veterans' Day, Turkeys and Thanksgiving. We will also be learning about the color brown and the number 3. In Jesus time, we will be learning about Daniel and the Lions, the fiery furnace and the birth of John. Hope everyone is having a great Fall!!

TWO'S ROOM: Miss Nicole Martin

October has been a wonderful month in our Two's Classroom! We are so proud to share that we have mastered identifying the circle and the number two—great job, friends! We're also settling in beautifully to our new space, the Yellow Room, and the children have been loving the fresh environment for learning and playing. As we look ahead to next month, we're excited to prepare for our Veterans Day program, a celebration that is especially close to my heart. We can't wait to share this special event with our families.

THREE'S ROOM: Mrs. Katie Rouse

As we move into November, we're excited to share all the wonderful things happening in our Three's classrooms this month. The children have been busy exploring the changes in nature, working on creative projects, and preparing for upcoming festivities all while building important educational skills. November's focus: letter recognition (J, K, L & M), number sense (3), red, and the shape, star. As we get closer to Thanksgiving, our discussions will turn to gratitude, sharing, and the importance of family. A few upcoming Important dates: (11/5) -ILS Veteran's Program, (11/11) No School -Veteran's Day and (11/26-28) Thanksgiving Break. A few friendly reminders as the season changes, please make sure your child has a warm jacket, hat, and gloves as the weather starts to get colder. We will continue to focus on handwashing and keeping our classroom clean. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child's preschool journey! We look forward to a fun and educational month ahead.

FOUR'S ROOM: Mrs. Tabatha Hammer

October seemed to pass in the blink of an eye, and now we're moving into November! This month, we have lots of exciting things planned. We'll be going on our third field trip of the school year to the Terre Haute Children's Museum for a day full of exploration and hands-on fun. We'll also begin preparing for our first program in honor of Veterans Day. The children will learn what it means to be a veteran, how brave they are, and why it's so important to honor them. Our learning focus for the month will include letters: R, M, D, and G, color: brown, shape: rectangle, numbers: 2 and 12, and sight words: in and for. During Jesus Time, we'll learn about Daniel and the Lions' Den, and toward the end of the month, we'll talk about Thanksgiving and the importance of being thankful.

FOUR'S ROOM: Ms. Michelle Wiese

October has been an exciting month for Ms. Wiese's class. We went on our first two class field trips. Hog Wallow was certainly a memorable trip where we got to enjoy time with both family and friends. Our second class field trip was to the Fire Station on Griffin Street. The children got to tour the firehouse & truck, spray the fire hose, and they even pretended to drive the fire truck. The children all really seemed to have a great time on both our field trips so far. I look forward to many more adventures with them all. For the month of November, we will focus on the color brown, numbers 2 and 12, shape: moon, letters: Rr, Mm, Review C-M, Dd, and sight words: in and for. Next month is our first program of the year which will be for Veterans Day. I'm sure some of you are already aware we have been practicing our songs. We look forward to seeing you all for our first holiday program of the year November 5th.





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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

November 2025

November 2, 2025

***“The Saints in Heaven”* by Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III**

Sermon Text: Revelation 7:9-17

On All Saints Day we have sadness as we think of our departed loved ones whom we greatly miss. The apostle John in the Book of Revelation presents to us a vision of the saints in heaven. This vision gives us who are still here on earth great joy and encouragement to remain steadfast in our Christian faith and life.

November 9, 2025

***“Your God is Too Small”* by Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer**

Sermon Text: Luke 20:38

The myths people believe about heaven! What will it look like? What will we experience? The problem with these beliefs is that they are so much less than what God has prepared for those who trust in Jesus Christ. If you settle for the myths, then your God is too small!

November 16, 2025

***“Redemption Draws Near”* by Rev. Shayne Jonker**

Sermon Text: Luke 21:28

Just when things are at their worst and you are left with literally nothing in this world, precisely then, “straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption draws near” (Luke 21:28 ESV). Jesus is near, now in Word and Supper, and soon in visible glory. With Him there is redemption, forgiveness of sin, and eternal life.

November 23, 2025

***“The Greatest Triumph”* by Rev. Paul Shoemaker**

Sermon Text: Colossians 1:13-20

Life presents us with many challenges. As we reflect on these challenges, we recognize that in Christ we have the victory. In Him we have the greatest triumph.

November 30, 2025

***“Your King is Coming”* by Rev. William Mueller**

Sermon Text: Matthew 21:1-11

The First Sunday in Advent turns the pages of our lives to turn our attention toward Christmas. But are we merely going through the motions turning the pages of the calendar or are we turning our hearts to the message of this season?



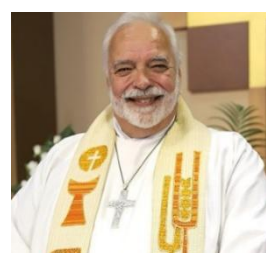
Rev. Maier



Rev. Ahlersmeyer



Rev. Jonker



Rev. Shoemaker



Rev. Mueller



Serving Schedules



November 2025

Note: The Nov. 26 special service is the Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service with Communion at 6:30 pm

Communion Assistants

- 2 Allen Julian, Kurt Thornsborough
- 16 Dwain Dixon, Dean Hull
- 26 Don DeMoss, Josh Christensen
- 30 Allen Julian, Dean Hull

Ushers – Team “E”

Capt. Denny Hilton, Dave Creek, Glen Natschke, and Mike Ferris

Special Service – Team “B” Youth Team

Lay Readers

- 2 Josh Christensen
- 9 Butch & Julie Buesing
- 16 Sue DeMoss
- 23 Dwain Dixon
- 26 Carrie Farrell
- 30 Gail & Barb Garner

Gospel Reader

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

Acolytes

- 2 Carley Wright
- 9 Eli Mann
- 16 Kinley Pratt
- 23 Brooklynn Hunt
- 26 Kendall Wright
- 30 Jamie Yonkers and Owen Price

Videographer

- 2 Dwain Dixon
- 9 Josh Christensen
- 16 Butch Buesing
- 23 Kim Davis
- 26 *Service not streamed*
- 30 Josh Christensen

Sound/Screens

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

Children’s Church

- 2 Jan Mann
- 16 Jan Mann

Children’s Sermon

- 9 Kurt Thornsborough
- 23 Kathy Christensen

Altar Guild

Mary Powell, Tina Ammermann, & Juanita Rottmann

Money Counters

Team “B” Nancy Purviance and Martha Elliott

Check Signers

Mike Ferris and Julie Buesing

December 2025

Note: All special services, the Advent Midweek Services and the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, are at 6:30 pm.

Communion Assistants

- 7 Josh Christensen, Dean Hull
- 24 Don DeMoss, Josh Christensen
- 28 Kurt Thornsborough, Allen Julian

Ushers – Team “F”

Capt. Ray Wittmann, Scott Huckstadt, Larry Fredericks, and Jim Osterbur.

Special Services

- 3 Team “A” Capt. Don DeMoss
- 10 Team “B” Youth Team
- 17 Team “C” Capt. Kurt Thornsborough
- 24 Team “D” Capt. Jerry Kennett

Lay Readers

- 7 Sue Heidle
- 14 Allen Julian
- 21 TBD
- 28 Jan Mann

Gospel Reader

- Kurt Thornsborough
- Allen Julian
- Children’s Program*
- Josh Christensen

Special Services

- 3 Diana Pratt
- 10 Nancy Purviance
- 17 Janet Terry
- 24 Kurt & Debbie T.

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

Acolytes

- 7 Jamie Yonkers
- 14 Carley Wright
- 21 Owen Price
- 28 Brooklynn Hunt

Special Services

- 3 Kinley Pratt
- 10 Eli Mann
- 17 Jamie Yonkers
- 24 Kendall Wright

Videographer

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

Sound/Screens

- Butch Buesing
- Jan Mann
- Jamie Yonkers
- RJ Davis

Special Services

- 3 *Service not streamed*
- 10 *Service not streamed*
- 17 *Service not streamed*
- 24 *Service not streamed*

- Josh Christensen
- Jan Mann
- RJ Davis
- Dwain Dixon

Children’s Church

- 7 Jan Mann
- 21 *Children’s Program*

Children’s Sermon

- 14 Mary Ellen Fricke
- 28 Jan Mann

Altar Guild

Rosemary Hilton, Debbie Ferris, and Carrie Farrell

Money Counters

Team “C” Mary Powell and Holly Clem

Check Signers

Mike Ferris and Jo Van Hoveln



Celebrate the season of gratitude by creating a colorful Thankful decoration.

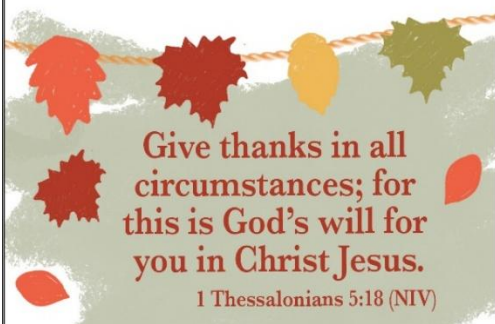
What you need:

- Construction paper in a variety of fall colors
- Pencil, marker, or crayons
- Yarn, ribbon, or raffia
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Spray bottle filled with water
- Real leaves (Optional)
- Wooden or plastic beads, cereal with holes (Cheerios, Froot Loops, etc.), or any dried pasta with a hole (Optional)



What you do:

1. Draw or trace leaf shapes onto construction paper.
2. Lay the paper flat and spray with water until the paper is completely wet.
3. Crumple the wet paper into balls.
4. Open the paper and let the sheets dry flat.
5. When dry, cut out each leaf.
6. On each leaf, write the name of one person or thing you're thankful for.
7. Punch a hole in each leaf.
8. Lace the leaves, beads, cereal, and pasta onto the yarn, ribbon, or raffia.
9. Tie the ends and hang your garland.



Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)



GIVE PRAISE

Solve this puzzle to read a Bible verse about praising God for all his blessings.

Directions: In each group, circle the word that doesn't belong. Then write the circled words on the lines below.

1 Give Take Grab	2 peanut praise pear	3 temple house LORD	4 proclaim past present	5 name boy lad	6 ruin destroy make
7 pine acorn known	8 train nations bus	9 done donut muffin	10 Sing Sleep Yawn	11 she him girl	12 sun praise moon
13 tell fast slow	14 red all blue	15 horrible dreadful wonderful	16 acts sisters aunts		

_____ to the _____, _____ his _____;
 1 2 3 4 5

_____ among the _____ what he has _____.
 6 7 8 9

_____ to _____, sing _____ to him; _____ of
 10 11 12 13

_____ his _____.
 14 15 16

PSALM 105:1-2, NIV

Answer: Give, praise, Lord, proclaim, name, make, known, nations, done, sing, him, praise, tell, all, wonderful, acts

Place
Stamp
Here

Our November 2025 newsletter
prepared prayerfully for:

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

Thank You for Your Service!



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ils.preschooloffice@gmail.com

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

MESSENGER

GOD WITH US

COME

YE THANKFUL
PEOPLE, COME,
RAISE THE

SONG OF

HARVEST
HOME:

ALL IS SAFELY
GATHERED IN:
ERE THE

WINTER
STORMS
BEGIN.

November

2025

Immanuel
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Immanuel
Lutheran School

217-442-5036

Worship Schedule

Sundays

Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30
at 9:30 am

Wednesdays

Nov. 5, 12 & 19
at 5:00 pm

Nov. 26 at 6:30 pm

Communion
Schedule

Sundays

Nov. 2, 16 & 30
at 9:30 am

Wednesday

Nov. 26 at 6:30 pm