

Immanuel Lutheran Church February 2026 Newsletter

“It’s not for beginners,” say the ads for Stag beer. Whether that means that Stag is an acquired taste, or that it’s meant for more mature drinkers, I’m not quite sure. But I’d like to borrow that line for our Lenten midweek topic. Lamentations – five Hebrew poems written by the prophet Jeremiah after Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians in 587 BC – is not for beginners. If you lack experience swimming in the deeper parts of the Bible, or if you’re not sure what the OT Exile is, then you may want to wear your floaties on Wednesday evenings this Lent.

Anyone may come to Lenten Vespers during the five weeks following Ash Wednesday. We’ll try to keep an eye on everyone, so no one “drowns” in the depths of this truly troubling piece of writing. Consider yourselves forewarned: this book contains material that should be rated R for raw and rough, if not specifically being restricted from people of a certain age. Yet, to be honest, the same could be said of the Gospels. Mel Gibson’s 2004 film *The Passion of the Christ* earned an R rating. I’ve never been in a more silent audience leaving the cinema.

This is a “made from scratch” Lenten series (not from a ready-made box mix), inspired by the speaker for the SID fall pastors conference last October at Giant City Lodge. I became interested in this OT book during two days of intensive study, and I also realized that its five chapters would work well as a five-part series for Lent. What I didn’t realize at the time was that this project would come with a few challenges. I’ll continue working through those now that the services have been planned as I prayerfully prepare for preaching these poetic texts.

One challenge is that few hymns match the mood of this book, besides “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” (LSB 809), which reflects the light that shines at the heart of this otherwise dark book (Lamentations 3:22-24). Most of our hymns neatly resolve any angst or pain somehow, but Lamentations doesn’t quite get there in the end. In real life, it’s often hard for hurting people to put on a happy face or even move on with life. If you know what I mean, Jeremiah gets you, yet he doesn’t want you giving up on God or getting stuck where you are indefinitely.

If you want to know more about the historical context from which Jeremiah wrote, turn to 2 Kings 25 or the final chapters of Jeremiah’s other, much longer book, especially chapters 39 & 52. Jeremiah had long warned the people of Judah / Jerusalem / Zion that the Lord would not continue to ignore their idolatry / unfaithfulness / wickedness indefinitely, but he would eventually carry out his threats to punish such attitudes and activities, as Moses had written in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28. Many trusted in the Temple more than in the Lord.

It’s so easy to get a false sense of security, to begin to believe that when life is good, that that goodness will never come to an end. The Psalms we will hear in this series recall the goodness lost when Zion fell, even as they picture the goodness we experience now by faith in Christ and will know eternally with him. Zion originally described the Temple Mount, where God dwelt among his people and where they sought him; by extension, it can include Jerusalem, Israel, and God’s people here and in eternity (the Church). For Zion, God himself took on human flesh and endured what sinners deserved. Great indeed is his faithfulness.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH FEBRUARY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1st

9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 a.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
 ILS students sing during worship
 Wee Care celebration after worship service
11:30 a.m. – Annual Voters Meeting –
 Election of Officers and Board Members

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd

6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis
Pastor Wood at Doxology II in Indiana
12:15 p.m. – Chapel – Grades K-2; everyone is welcome to join

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4th

7:00 p.m. – Choir

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7th

SID lay leader training - Centralia

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8th

5:30 p.m. – Worship Service - Installation of Officers

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9th

9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11th

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service - Installation of Officers

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13th

7:00 p.m. – Elders' Meeting

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

12:15 p.m. – Chapel – Pastor d'Etremont

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15th

7:00 p.m. – Choir

6:30 p.m. – Board for Parochial Ed. Meeting

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16th

Institute Day – No School

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17th

5:30 p.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18th

9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19th

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion –

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21st

Rev. Heath R. Curtis Luncheon following worship service

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd

No School – Presidents' Day

4:00 p.m. – Beginner Catechesis

7:30 p.m. – Men's Club Meeting

6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis

Dual Circuit Pastors meet at Trinity, Centralia

8:15 a.m. – Chapel – Pastor Wood

7:00 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Service with Holy Communion

6:30 p.m. – PTL Meeting

7:00 p.m. – LWML Meeting

5:30 p.m. – Worship Service

9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

4:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. Men's Club/Alumni Assoc

Chili & Soup Supper

6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis

12:15 p.m. – Chapel – Pastor d'Etremont

7:00 p.m. – Lenten Vespers Service

7:30 p.m. Choir

6:00 p.m. - ILS Movie Night

5:30 p.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27th

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28th

Pastor d'Entremont is on call Feb. 2nd – 4th and he can be reached at 573-723-0339.

LCMS Stewardship

Table of Duties: The Forgotten Stewardship Tool

Luther's Small Catechism is a magnificent tool. Joined with a well-used copy of the Holy Scriptures and an orthodox hymnal, and the Christian is well equipped to live a life of faithfulness to the Lord and service to the neighbor. First in German and now in English and just about any language known to man, this handy masterpiece has introduced generations of people to the central doctrine of justification by grace, through faith, on account of Jesus Christ. The Six Chief Parts have proven to be a faithful framework for a clear confession of the truth of the Gospel for nearly five hundred years!

But more than a textbook, the Small Catechism also serves well as a handbook for Christian living. As a part of its treasure, there is an element that teaches an extraordinarily strong message of stewardship. That hidden treasure that needs to be rediscovered is called the Table of Duties.

The Table of Duties is really nothing more than a categorized gathering of Bible verses. These verses are set apart for "various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities." Addressing pastors and people, government and citizens, husbands, wives, children, youth, workers and so many more, it very clearly lays out what faithful stewardship looks like. Even better, these assembled passages teach one important truth: we are stewards of one another!

The Table is much more than a "how-to" tool; it also lays out the interconnectedness that exists within the body of Christ. Pastors are described by what they are to be as stewards of the Word. 1 Timothy 3 highlights the characteristics of a faithful pastor. Even more, Titus 1 highlights the need for the pastor to be faithful for the sake of those under his care.

Those who hear the faithful preaching of the pastor are stewards of the pastor as well. 1 Corinthians 9 talks about the need for the people to support the livelihood of the pastor. Galatians 6 talks about how the hearers share in the good things that the pastor teaches. 1 Timothy 6 talks about the honor that is owed to the pastor, not because of WHO he is, but rather WHAT he is teaching! Hebrews 13 shows the impact of this stewardship on the pastor, that they perform their duties with joy. Joyful pastors and people are always going to be better stewards of the Gospel!

Outside the church this interdependent stewardship is on display as well. Romans 13 highlights the respect necessary for the governing authorities. As citizens, the faithful steward is called to pay taxes (Matthew 22), pray for their leaders (1 Timothy 2) and that they should be ready to serve in the civil realm (Titus 3), because they are in these positions by God's direction (1 Peter 2).

These steward duties are in the home too! 1 Peter 3 and Colossians 3 shape the husband steward. Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3 shape the wife steward. Ephesians 6 form parental stewards and child stewards.

The Table of Duties is a wonderful place for the individual steward to learn how much our stewardship is more than just a "me and Jesus thing!" In fact, it ends with these words: "Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well share fare." This is interdependent stewardship on clear display. As each learns stewardship in this way, the more faithful we will be as a family, congregations, communities and the church at large.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2. Debbie Guest
4. Lilly Dunn, Rebecca Heckert, Janet Weeke
5. Martha Schneider
6. Carol Brockmann
10. Jim Teter
11. Gage Berger, Beth Williams, Jewel Martens, Coleson Hasheider
12. Kerry Toensing
13. Kim Zimmerman
16. Dan Jacobs, David Krug
20. Abbie Huels
21. Katherine Kramper
24. Hannah Leonard, James Weeke
25. Ada Guest, Patti Jacobs, Amber Weeke, Taylor Walton
27. Kellee Helbig
28. Larry Kuhlengel, Jason Zimmerman

VISITATION COMMITTEE

Pat Quinlan

ALTAR GUILD COMMITTEE

Angie Kampwerth and Lois Obermeier

ACOLYTES

Sunday, February 1st – Hudson Schneider
Saturday, February 7th – Coleson Hasheider
Sunday, February 8th – Landon Elliott
Saturday, February 14th – Maylen Kramper
Sunday, February 15th – Devin Hundelt
Wednesday, February 18th – Collins Schumacher
Saturday, February 21st – Sadie Bergmann
Sunday, February 22nd – Markus Lautenschlaeger
Wednesday, February 25th – Coleson Hasheider
Saturday, February 28th – Hudson Schneider

ORGANISTS/PIANISTS

Sunday, February 1st – Sharon Krueger
Saturday, February 7th – Sophia Wood
Sunday, February 8th – Sharon Krueger
Saturday, February 14th – Sophia Wood
Sunday, February 15th – Sharon Krueger
Wednesday, February 18th – Sharon Krueger
Saturday, February 21st – Eric Wood
Sunday, February 22nd – Johnathan Clayton
Wednesday, February 25th – Sharon Krueger
Saturday, February 28th – Sophia Wood

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Sunday, February 1st – Mike Jacobs
Saturday, February 14th – Dennis Pruehsner
Sunday, February 15th – Jonathan Schneider
Wednesday, February 18th – Dennis Pruehsner

USHERS

Saturday –

Sunday – Jim Unverfehrt and Caleb Unverfehrt

VISITATION FROM OUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT

On Sunday, February 15, the President of the Southern Illinois district of the LCMS, Rev. Heath R. Curtis, will be preaching at our worship service. There will be a meal after the service during which President Curtis will also be making a presentation about cultural and demographic change, the four problems this raises for every Christian church in America, and how to faithfully respond in our congregation. Everyone in the church is encouraged to come and hear this engaging and informative presentation!

Immanuel Luncheon & Presentation



Sunday, February 15, 2026

Immediately Following Worship – At the School

Special Presentation

SID President - Rev. Heath Curtis

'The 4 Challenges Every Church Faces Today, and How to Respond.'

Luncheon Menu

- Pulled pork sandwiches & meat tray
- Green beans, slaw, and chips
- Tea, lemonade, and water

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

RSVP – Please drop off in marked box in northex

How many plan to attend: _____

I will be bringing a side dish or dessert (circle)

*We look forward to sharing food
and fellowship with you!*

LWML

LWML will meet on Thursday, February 19 at 7pm in the church basement. Emily Wood will have the devotion, and Angie Kampwerth will have the topic. We will be planning for the spring zone prayer service in April, which we will be hosting. Please join us!

MEN'S CLUB/ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CHILI & CHICKEN SOUP SUPPER

The chili and soup supper will be held in Immanuel Lutheran School gym on Sunday, February 22, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. It is all you can eat chili, chicken soup, a dessert, and drink. Adults - \$13.00, Children (10 and under) \$6.00, ages 5 and under are free. Carry outs are available (bring your own containers). Hope to see you there!

THRIVENT CHOICE...

... allows members who own Thrivent Financial products to recommend where some of the Thrivent Financial charitable outreach funds are distributed. If you are not sure whether or not you have money available to allocate to an organization such as Immanuel Lutheran Church or Immanuel Lutheran School, please call the following number 800-847-4836. It is a very simple process and benefits our church and school. Thrivent representatives are willing to help you if you have any questions. March 31, 2026 is the deadline for allocation of funds for the 2026 calendar year. It is always best to check availability of funds at this time of the year.

Save the Date: Alumni & Friends Celebration is April 12th.

SCHOOL NEWS

Feb. 4th Chapel will be with K-2 grades at 12:15 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Feb. 6th Wee Care and K - 2nd will be seeing Disney on Ice

Feb. 12th Board for Parochial Education Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Feb 13th – no school Tri County Conference

Feb. 16th – no school Presidents' Day

Feb. 19th – PTL Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 22nd ILS students sing at St. Salvator Lutheran Church

Second Quarter Honor Roll

5th Grade

Honor Roll

Graycyn Borrenpohl

Jacob d'Entremont

Drew Schwartz

6th Grade

Honor Roll

Brynlee Borrenpohl

High Honor Roll

Nyelle Burianek

7th Grade

Honor Roll

Devin Hundelt

8th Grade

Honor Roll

Teagan Burianek

High Honor Roll

Sawyer Galliano

SAVE THE DATE Immanuel Lutheran School PTL Breakfast has been set for Sunday, March 15, 2026.

WURST MARKT

St. Peter's UCC in Okawville is holding their annual Wurst Markt Sunday, February 1st.

Menu includes pork sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce, and dessert. Serving will be drive - thru only rain or shine 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. All meals are \$15.00 each.

VALENTINE PORK CHOP DINNER & AUCTION

Hoffman Trinity Lutheran School will be hosting the annual PTL Valentine Pork Chop Dinner and Auction on February 8th, so invite your Sweetheart out for lunch! Meals will be served from 10:45 am -1:00 pm to get your Smoked Pork Chop, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Cinnamon Applesauce, and a delicious dessert all for only \$14.00. That is a good price for such a tasty meal. Tickets for children 2-10 will be \$6.00. All checks should be made payable to Trinity PTL. We will also have carry-out dinners available for \$14.00 each. The annual live auction will begin at 1 p.m. in the gym. We know it is Super Bowl Sunday, so the auction will be for a limited time. You can still get home

and prepare your snacks for the big game! Bidding for the silent auction will be during the mealtimes, however some may close early, so bid often! If you wish to preview the auction item, please use the Facebook site https://www.facebook.com/events/1437326847753913/?active_tab=discussion or search for it on FB using "Trinity Lutheran Hoffman 2026 Pork Chop Dinner & Auction." All proceeds will go toward the PTL and will be used for the continued education of the students at the school, in the areas of technology, Physical Education, classroom materials, and school wide projects, just to name a few. If you would like to donate an item to the auction, please contact the school by January 31st. Perhaps giving a monetary gift is more of what you want to do; we would appreciate that too. Contact the school office at 618-495-2246, with your donation. Thank you for your continued support! - PTL Trinity Lutheran School Hoffman

WEEKLY WORSHIP RESOURCE LISTING

Third Sunday after the Epiphany (Transferred) February 1, 2026

Old Testament: Isaiah 9:1-4
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Gospel: Matthew 4:12-25
Order of Service: Divine Service Setting One
Hymns: OAR 314 One in Christ and One in Spirit
839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light
812 Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs
849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness
861 Christ Be My Leader
"Let Us Make a Joyful Noise"

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany February 7 & 8, 2026

Old Testament: Isaiah 58 3-9a
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16
Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20
Order of Service: Prayer and Preaching
Hymns: 698 May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill
578 Thy Strong Word
411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

The Transfiguration of our Lord

February 14 & 15, 2026

Old Testament: Exodus 24:8-18
Epistle: 2 Peter 1:16-21
Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9
Order of Service: Divine Service Setting Four
Hymns: 873 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies
631 Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face
523 O Word of God Incarnate
537 Beautiful Savior
632 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee
414 'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

Old Testament: Joel 2:12-19
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Order of Service: Divine Service Setting Three
Hymns: 419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee
607 From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee
651 I Love Your Kingdom, Lord
648 Glorious Things of You Are Spoken

Fifth Sunday in Lent

February 21 & 22, 2026

Old Testament: Genesis 3:1-21
Epistle: Romans 5:12-19
Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11
Order of Service: Matins
Hymns: 561 The Tree of Life
562 All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall
718 Jesus, Lead Thou On

Lenten Vespers

February 25, 2026

Order of Service: Prayer and Preaching
Readings: Lamentations 1 and Psalm 48
Hymns: 764 When Aimless Violence Takes Those We Love
448:1-3 O Darkest Woe
885 I Lie, O Lord, within Your Care

Second Sunday in Lent

February 28 & March 1 2026

Old Testament: Genesis 12:1-9
Epistle: Romans 4:1-8, 13-17
Gospel: John 3:1-17
Order of Service: Divine Service Setting One
Hymns: 596 All Christians Who Have Been Baptized
708 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart
422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image
601 All Who Believe and Are Baptized
632 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Lord
594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It