

## 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 1 <sup>st</sup>	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 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup>	Pastor Wood at Doxology II in Indiana
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 <sup>th</sup>	12:15 p.m. – Chapel – Grades K-2; everyone is welcome to join 7:00 p.m. – Choir
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 <sup>th</sup>	SID lay leader training - Centralia 5:30 p.m. – Worship Service - Installation of Officers
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 <sup>TH</sup>	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service - Installation of Officers
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9 <sup>th</sup>	6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis 7:00 p.m. – Elders' Meeting
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 <sup>th</sup>	12:15 p.m. – Chapel – Pastor d'Etremont 7:00 p.m. – Choir
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12 <sup>TH</sup>	6:30 p.m. – Board for Parochial Ed. Meeting
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13 <sup>th</sup>	Institute Day – No School
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14 <sup>TH</sup>	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion – Rev. Heath R. Curtis Luncheon following worship service
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16 <sup>th</sup>	No School – Presidents' Day 4:00 p.m. – Beginner Catechesis 7:30 p.m. – Men's Club Meeting
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 <sup>th</sup>	6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis Dual Circuit Pastors meet at Trinity, Centralia
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 <sup>th</sup>	8:15 a.m. – Chapel – Pastor Wood 7:00 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Service with Holy Communion
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 p.m. – PTL Meeting 7:00 p.m. – LWML Meeting
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21 <sup>st</sup>	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 <sup>nd</sup>	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
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23 <sup>rd</sup>	6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 <sup>TH</sup>	12:15 p.m. – Chapel – Pastor d'Etremont 7:00 p.m. – Lenten Vespers Service 7:30 p.m. Choir
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27 <sup>TH</sup>	6:00 p.m. - ILS Movie Night
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion

Pastor d'Entremont is on call Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

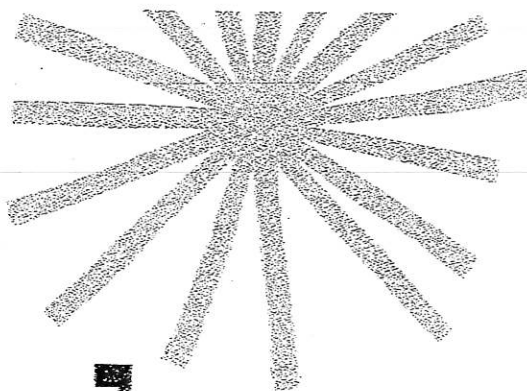
Those who hear the faithful preaching of the pastor are stewards of the pastor as well. 1 Corinthians 9 talks about the need for the people to support the livelihood of the pastor. Galatians 6 talks about how the hearers share in the good things that the pastor teaches. 1 Timothy 6 talks about the honor 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.

Let's  
Make  
a Joyful  
Noise **PSALM 98:4**



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

## ORGANISTS/PIANISTS

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

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> – Mike Jacobs  
Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> – Dennis Pruehsner  
Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> – Jonathan Schneider  
Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> – 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 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **SCHOOL NEWS**

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

**Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>** Wee Care and K - 2<sup>nd</sup> will be seeing Disney on Ice

**Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>** Board for Parochial Education Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**Feb 13<sup>th</sup>** – no school Tri County Conference

**Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>** – no school Presidents' Day

**Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>** – PTL Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>** 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 1<sup>st</sup>.

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](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

### **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

## **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

### **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