

Sermon: "Conversations with Jesus: Nicodemus the Undercover Inquirer" John 3:1-17
Saturday, February 28 and Sunday, March 1, 2026
Immanuel Lutheran Church & School
Okawville, Illinois 62271
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

WELCOME TO IMMANUEL

We gather on the Lord's Day knowing that "Christ being raised from the dead will never die again" (Romans 6:9). Welcome, visitors who have joined us today. If we can help in any way, please call: Church 618-243-6216 or School 618-243-6142.

Pastor Eric Wood

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Principal Kelli Borrenpohl

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Immanuel Website: Immanuelokawville.org

Saturday: 18 Sunday: 69

Bible Class: 7 Sunday School: 10

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Prayer concerns to be included in our public prayers may be shared with Pastor Wood and/or the church office. Prayers may be for particular individuals or concerning wider issues. Let us pray!

- All members of Immanuel including:
 - At home – Adeline Blumhorst, Bill Durham, Norbert Hasheider, Kellee Helbig, Janet Lange, Martha Schneider, Linda Schuetz, Jackie Schwankhaus, Stanley Schwankhaus, Crystal Strasburg, Mike Strasburg
 - At Brightly in Mascoutah – Leonard Hemminghaus
 - At Washington County Hospital - Nancy Weeke
 - At Bethesda Gardens in Loveland, Colorado – Carol Wennemann
- Non-members: Lisa Arbogast-Eilers, an ILS graduate; Crystal Hasheider, wife of Matt Hasheider; Tim Schnitker, son-in-law of Sharon Storck.
- That the Lord would continue to provide for his work in this place through generous giving, willing workers, and wise stewardship.
- The staff, faculty, and students of Immanuel Lutheran School
- The educational mission of Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School
- All who work or study in West Washington County Schools
- John Trinklein, second-year student at Concordia Seminary
- Reverend Rafael & Deaconess Jamielynn Flores, serving in Chile
- The mission work of the Southern Illinois District, including...
 - ...all congregations, schools, and district leaders
 - ...rural and small-town congregational support
 - ...urban ministry (neighborhood renewal and Unity school) in East St. Louis
 - ...campus ministry and international student outreach at SIU-C and SIU-E
 - ...prison and jail ministry in many locations
 - ...partnership with seminary in Dominican Republic
 - ...disaster response ministry (LERT)
 - ...Advocates for Life

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
Order of Service - Divine Service Setting One

596 All Christians Who Have Been Baptized (Sunday)

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

G But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

G **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

Stand

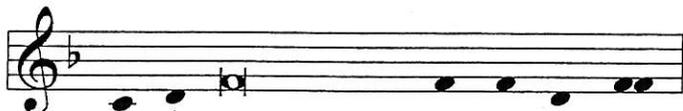
Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 105:4-7; antiphon: v. 8

He remembers his covenant for- | ever,*
the word that he commanded, for a thousand gener- | ations.
Seek the LORD | and his strength;*
seek his presence con- | tinually!
Remember the wondrous works that | he has done,*
his miracles, and the judgments he | uttered,
O offspring of Abraham, his | servant,*
children of Jacob, his | chosen ones!
He is the | LORD our God;*
his judgments are in | all the earth.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
He remembers his covenant for- | ever,*
the word that he commanded, for a thousand gener- | ations.

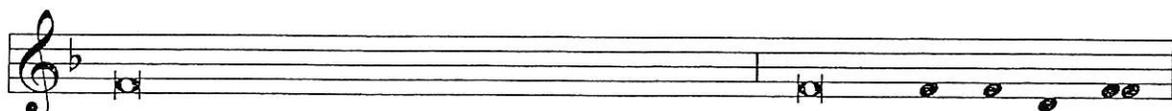
Kyrie



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



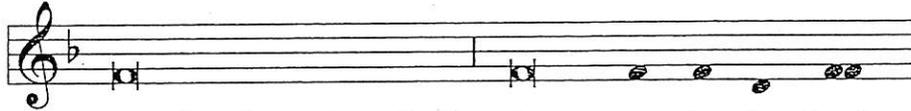
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



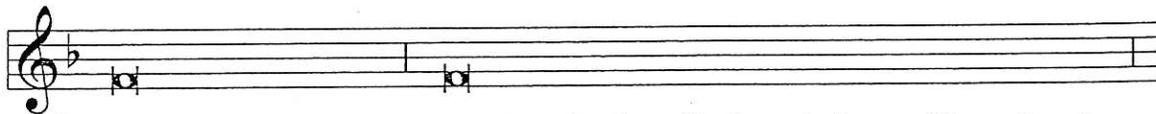
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



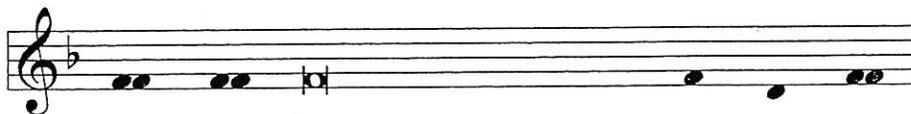
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



G A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 12:1-9

¹The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,*
 the founder and perfecter | of our faith,
 who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- | ing the shame,*
 and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

Epistle

Romans 4:1–8, 13–17

¹What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh?
²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.
³For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”
⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due.
⁵And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,
⁶just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

⁷“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,
 and whose sins are covered;

⁸blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” . . .

¹³For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.
¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.
¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,
¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse (Lent)



G Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead-fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Holy Gospel

John 3:1-17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

708 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

Sermon "Conversations with Jesus: Nicodemus the Undercover Inquirer"

John 3:1-17

Stand

Nicene Creed

☐ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

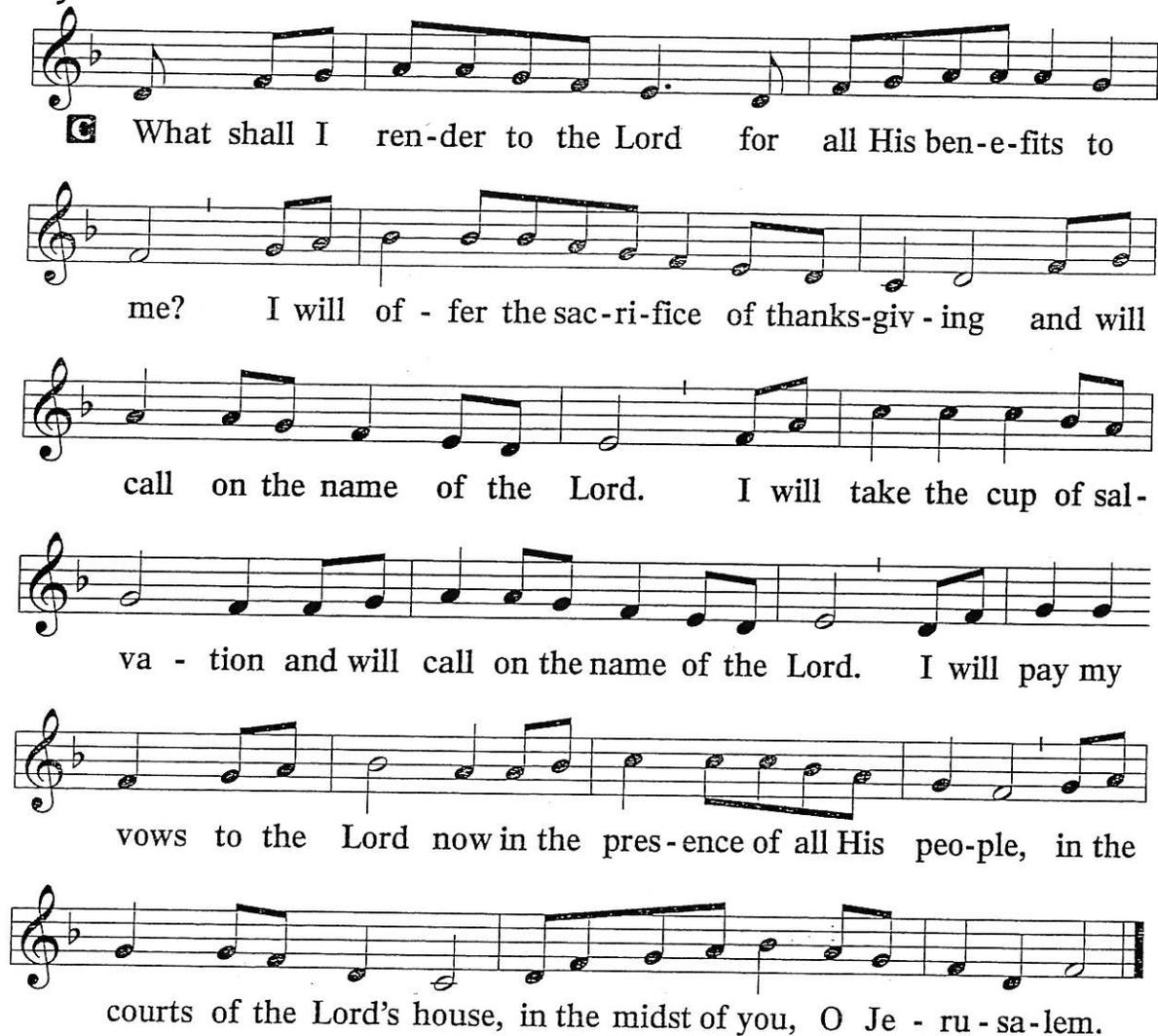
Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).

Sit

Offering

Stand

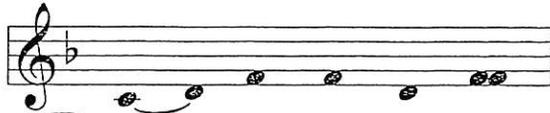
Offertory



G What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa-lem.

Service of the Sacrament

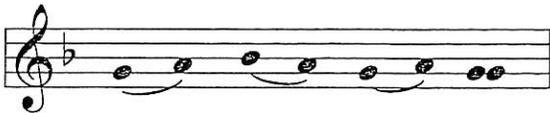
Preface



P The Lord be with you.



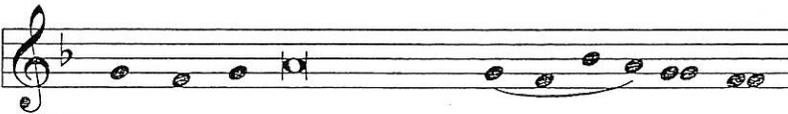
C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

G Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

601 All Who Believe and Are Baptized

632 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee

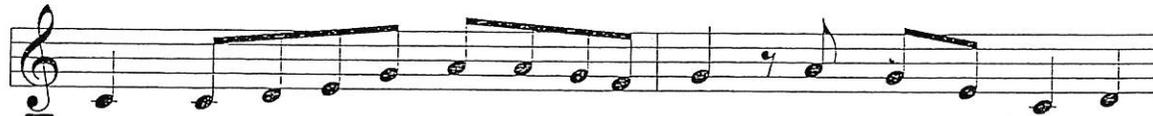
Stand

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✝ in peace.

G Amen.

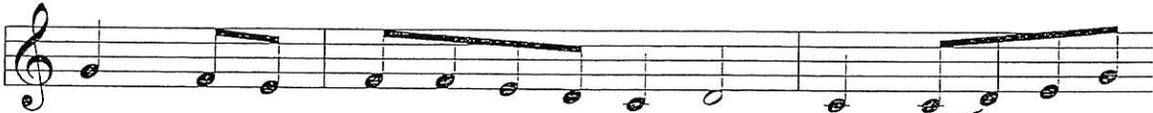
Nunc Dimittis



G Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre-



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



G A - men.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.



594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It (Sunday)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Pastor:	Eric Wood
Pianist: (Saturday)	Sophia Wood
Organist: (Sunday)	Sharon Krueger
Acolytes: (Saturday)	Hudson Schneider
(Sunday)	Landon Elliott
Readers: (Saturday)	Jackie Bening
(Sunday)	Donna Davis
Communion Assistants (Saturday)	Jonathan Schneider
(Sunday)	Jeff Jacobs

Birthdays: 1st Charlotte Jacobs, 2nd Jody Schneider, Olivia Wiese, 3rd Sue Bower, Taiya Bergmann, Ashley Storck, Jackson Rennegarbe, 4th Dale Brockmann, Jackie Bening, Alexis Kampwerth, 5th Julie Going, 6th Stephen Brammier, Gerald Brockmeier, Ada Kurtz, 7th Dawn Weinstock

March Ushers – Saturday – Jeff Obermeier

Sunday – Gary Streuter and Greg Harre

Saturday service at 5:30 p.m.

Bible Class at 9:00 a.m. Bible class topic is “Ask, Seek, Knock”.

Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.

Men’s Club & Wives Sunday at 6:00 p.m. at Trenton House

Public Catechesis this Tuesday at 6:45 a.m.

Community Bible Study at Bunkers this Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

Chapel this Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. with Pastor Wood

Lenten Vespers Service this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Choir this Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

March 29th Sunday School students will celebrate Palm Sunday by singing with the adult choir and walking in with palm leaves to start the service. The Sunday School Board would like to invite the congregation to the school gym Easter morning at 9:00 am for doughnuts and milk, listen to the children rehearse their songs for church and enjoy an Easter egg hunt behind the school. If anyone would like to give a monetary donation to help with candy for the Sunday School Easter egg hunt, please contact Krissy Schneider 618-559-7097, Amber Jacobs 618-314-5851, or Kristal Jacobs 618-830-5528. Thank you!

Extra copies of the March newsletter are available on the table in the narthex. Please feel free to take one for yourself or someone else.

SCHOOL NEWS

Now Enrolling Students for 2026/2027 School Year at Immanuel Lutheran School, Okawville.

Preschool -8th Grade

Closed Enrollment (current ILS students,

Wee Care, & LCMS members)

March 2nd – 5th during Parent/Teacher Conferences

Open Enrollment for everyone begins

March 15th during the PTL Breakfast

No School on March 6th.

Immanuel Wee Care is looking for a daycare worker to help a few days or more per week. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Cheri Kurtz at 618-243-6161.

You can help the school financially by doing the following: **Shop With Raiseright** – For complete information visit www.shopwithraiseright.com Checks payable to ILS PTL. Go to smile.amazon.com/ch37-0916756 and Amazon donates to Immanuel Lutheran Church and School Okawville. Participate in the **Kroger Community Rewards** program. Join **Casey's Rewards** today and donate to our school. This is for instore, online or at the pump purchases.

GENERAL NOTES

Life Thoughts in the Church Year: Salvation comes only through faith in Christ, who was “lifted up” on the cross as the payment for the world’s sins (John 3:14-15). Not even Abraham our forefather was saved by his works or inner worth (Romans 4:2-3). In choosing to redeem us by His own grace apart from our works, God shows us that our value is not found in a person’s own qualities. Instead, every person is precious to God and worthy of dignity because “God so loved the world that He gave His only Son” (John 3:16).

Life Quotes: “This is love—the God who became a human baby for us, who suffered for us, who rose from the dead to give us everlasting life. This is love, shining into our own darkness to give us joy and salvation.” *Lutheran Hour Ministries Daily Devotions – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Stewardship: Matthew 4:7 – “Jesus said to him, ‘Again it is written.’” Jesus defeats Satan in our place, not by using His power as God, but by His perfect obedience in His perfect humanity. Jesus defeats Satan not by miracles, but by quoting the Scriptures and living according to them. This should cause us great joy for two reasons. First, we see Jesus win the victory for us. Second, here Jesus shows us how to stand in that victory: on the Word of God alone.

Lutheran programs on Radio & TV on Sundays – 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. 850 AM Radio KFUE Lutheran Worship from a Lutheran church; 9:00 a.m. 104.7 FM Rev. Mueller, New Minden Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. TV Station “TCT” “Lutheran Worship.” These are not a replacement for being in church and Bible class. These are for times when we are unable to attend in person.

COMMUNITY NOTES

Chicken Supper at St. John's, New Minden, Sunday, March 1, from 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. (or sold out). Serving 1/2 of a crispy and delicious fried chicken, famous German potato salad, seasoned green beans, cinnamon applesauce, and fabulous homemade desserts that you may choose from your car. \$15.00 per meal. Drive-thru only. Please enter from Highway 127 across from Countryside Corner at the "God's Garden" sign.

Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School will host an Open House for prospective students on Thursday, March 5, with tours from 6:00-8:00 p.m. During that time, families will be able to visit the school, tour the facilities, and talk with current students, parents, and teachers. Come see how Christ Our Rock can serve your family. This event is open to all prospective students and families. Transfer students and potential freshman are encouraged to attend. Interested families not able to attend can contact the school office at 226-3315 to receive an information packet and set an appointment to visit the school.

Bethlehem Lutheran to Hold Its Winter Workshop on Necessary Masculinity: The world says all sorts of things about masculinity, even that it's toxic. Yet, Holy Scripture says otherwise. What does true masculinity look like? What are the responsibilities that God gives to men? How do we raise our boys to be godly men? On Sunday, March 8th, Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Ferrin, IL) will host Rev. Jeffrey Hemmer for its annual winter workshop, where he will present on "Necessary Masculinity." Rev. Hemmer is the pastor at Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church (Fairview Heights, IL) and is the author of *Man Up: The Quest for Masculinity*. He has presented on this topic throughout the synod, which has been well-received. The workshop will be held at the church from 2pm to 5pm, and is open to men in 6th grade and up. Refreshments will be served as well. For those interested in attending, please RSVP to bethlehemferrinchurch@gmail.com.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The offerings for Saturday, February 14, Sunday, February 15, Wednesday, February 18, Saturday, February 21, and Sunday, February 22 were as follows: Current \$940.00, Home Use \$7,065.00, Loose \$267.00, and Ash Wednesday \$154.00.

Expenses for the week: \$40,407.36

Previous Loan Balance: \$45,000.00

Borrowed an additional: \$13,000.00 (1/29/26)

Thrivent Choice: If you have not contacted Thrivent Choice Recently, please call 800-847-4836 to see if Thrivent has money set aside for you to designate to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Immanuel Lutheran School or another designation of your choice. Money is available through the Thrivent Choice Program. This is not a donation coming out of your investment.

Reminder: Bunker's Restaurant (Golf Course) will give 10% to Immanuel Lutheran Church if you show your bulletin from church when eating on Sundays. Over the last six months Immanuel received \$180.00. Thank you for your support!! RBM Golf Course