

Sermon: "Is Jesus the Answer, or the Question?" John 1:29-42a

Saturday, January 17 and Sunday, January 18, 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

Phone: 618-243-2846

Email: myhomeontherange@juno.com

Principal Kelli Borrenpohl

Phone: 618-243-6142

Email: principal@immanuelokawville.org

Immanuel Website: Immanuelokawville.org

Saturday: 20 Sunday: 79

Bible Class: 6 Sunday School: 11

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, Roy Frederking, Norbert Hasheider, Kellee Helbig, Janet Lange, Martha Schneider, Linda Schuetz, Jackie Schwankhaus, Stanley Schwankhaus, Crystal Strasburg, Mike Strasburg
 - At Washington County Hospital - Nancy Weeke
 - At Brightly in Mascoutah – Leonard Hemminghaus
 - 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 AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Order of Service - Divine Service Setting Four

606 I Lay My Sins on Jesus (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.

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel/Stand

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst,

enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 19:1–4a, b; antiphon: v. 14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable | in your sight,*

O LORD, my rock and my re- | deemer.

The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,*

and the sky above proclaims his | handiwork.

Day to day | pours out speech,*

and night to night reveals | knowledge.

There is no speech, nor | are there words,*

whose voice | is not heard.

Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end | of the world.*

In them he has set a tent | for the sun.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

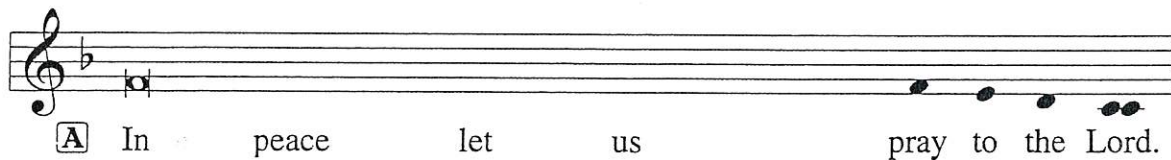
as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable | in your sight,*

O LORD, my rock and my re- | deemer.

Kyrie



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



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; 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.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; 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.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

C 1 To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.

Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 49:1–7

¹Listen to me, O coastlands,
and give attention, you peoples from afar.
The LORD called me from the womb,
from the body of my mother he named my name.
²He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.
³And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
⁴But I said, "I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my right is with the LORD,

and my recompense with my God.”
⁵And now the LORD says,
 he who formed me from the womb to be his servant,
 to bring Jacob back to him;
 and that Israel might be gathered to him—
 for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD,
 and my God has become my strength—
⁶he says:
 “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
 to raise up the tribes of Jacob
 and to bring back the preserved of Israel;
 I will make you as a light for the nations,
 that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”
⁷Thus says the LORD,
 the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
 to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation,
 the servant of rulers:
 “Kings shall see and arise;
 princes, and they shall prostrate themselves;
 because of the LORD, who is faithful,
 the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

Praise the LORD, all | nations! *
 Extol him, all | peoples!
 For great is his steadfast | love toward us, *
 and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for- | ever.
 Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name; *
 bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:1–9

¹Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother
 Sosthenes,

²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be
 saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus
 Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel

John 1:29–42a

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁹The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³²And

John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

³⁵The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). ⁴²He brought him to Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C 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.

Sit

402 The Only Son from Heaven

Sermon "Is Jesus the Answer, or the Question?"

John 1:29-42a

Stand

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

Service of the Sacrament

Stand

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

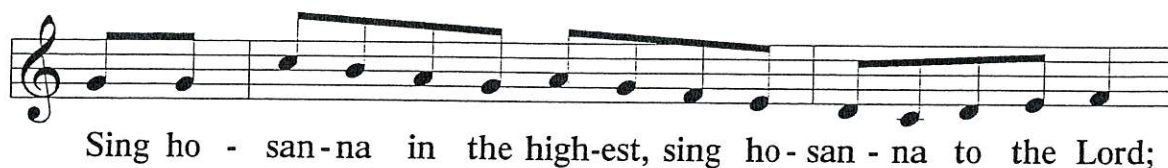
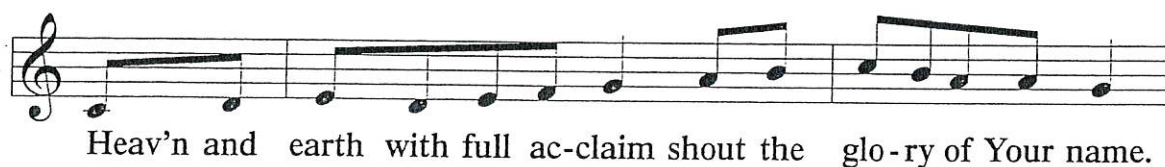
P Lift up your hearts.

G 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, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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



Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

As the glory of Your presence once filled Your ancient temple, so in the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You manifested the fullness of Your glory in human flesh.

We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your glory to us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood so that we may one day behold Your glory face to face.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. 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."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei



The musical notation for the Agnus Dei is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes. Below the staff, the lyrics are written for two parts: 1 and 2. The lyrics are: 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God, 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God.

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

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.

550 Lamb of God

570 Just as I Am, without One Plea

702 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

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.

C Amen.

Stand

Nunc Dimittis



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

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.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

- A** Let us bless the Lord.
- G** Thanks be to God.

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.
- G** Amen.

531 Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus (Sunday)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Pastor:	Eric Wood
Organists: (Saturday)	Ruby St. Martin
(Sunday)	Sharon Krueger
Acolytes: (Saturday)	Maylen Kramper
(Sunday)	Landon Elliott
Readers: (Saturday)	Jeff Obermeier
(Sunday)	Connie Murphy
Communion Assistants (Saturday)	Mike Jacobs
(Sunday)	Dennis Pruehsner

Birthdays: 18th Andrea Buettner, Connor Obermeier, 19th Dixon Harre, 23rd Betty Hasheider, 24th Ed Bower, Dustin Teter

January Ushers – Saturday – Jason Obermeier
Sunday – Brent Schneider and Cameron Obermeier

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 Meeting this Monday at 7:30 p.m.

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

Dual Circuit Pastors meet this Tuesday at Immanuel

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

Chapel this Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. with Pastor d’Entremont

A vote will take place at the annual voters meeting on January 25 pertaining to the Saturday Evening service. There will be 3 options to vote on listed below:

- 1) Keep the service schedule the same with weekly Saturday evening services.
- 2) No longer hold Saturday evening services with services on Sunday only.
- 3) Saturday service once a month to coincide with the 1st communion Sunday of the month.

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!

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

SCHOOL NEWS

Monday, January 19th No school

PTL Meeting this Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

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: Life issues (abortion, suicide, sexual identity, physician-assisted suicide to name a few) can often be the result of a person trying to solve their own problems or fulfill their own needs instead of relying upon the Lord to help them. The appearance of our Lord as the sacrificial Lamb of God (John 1) reminds us that God is always faithful (Isaiah 49:7), even at the cost of His own blood. By faith in Christ, we can and should wait patiently for the Lord (Psalm 40:1) and make Him our trust (Psalm 40:4) in any and every situation, and we should invite our neighbors to do the same.

Life Quotes: "Our task is to make sure that our fellow Lutherans and our neighbors know how much God loves us just as we are. Look at this fingerprint: God made each of us unique. There is no one else just like you. God knew you before you were born (Jeremiah 1:5). He knitted you together in your mother's womb. You were fearfully and wonderfully made, and God had a plan for your life even before you took a breath in this sinful, beautiful world that He created for you (Psalm 139:13-16)." *Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life - A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Stewardship: John 1:29 – "The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'" The Israelites of old offered a lamb to God at Passover so that death might pass over them and do no harm. Over those long centuries of sacrifice, did they understand that this was actually God's gift? That God would be the true Giver of the true Lamb? Truly, we can never out-give God, for all that we have is His.

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

Lay Leader Training: Send your lay leaders to gain skills and expertise at our Lay Leader Training! These workshops will cover areas that assist youth leaders, school boards, Sunday school teachers/superintendents, trustees, treasurers, evangelism committee members, and congregational presidents in carrying out their assigned duties. The day begins with Matins at 9am and wraps up at 2pm. Lunch is provided as part of registration. Find more information and registration at sidlcms.org/events Save the date today: Saturday, January 17th, 2026 (Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 1300 Beltline Rd. Collinsville, IL 62234) and Saturday, February 7th, 2026 (Trinity Lutheran Church 201 S. Pleasant Ave Centralia, IL 62801). *Immanuel lay leaders are encouraged to attend February 7th in Centralia, after new leaders are elected and installed.*

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, January 25th, 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

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.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The offerings for Saturday, January 3, Sunday, January 4, Saturday, January 10, and Sunday January 11 were Current \$1,950.00, Home Use \$10,463.00, Loose \$321.00, New Years Eve \$300, and New Years Day \$20.00.

Expenses for the week: \$27,699.35

Loan Balance: \$45,000.00

Thrivent Choice

Thank you to everyone who directed their "Thrivent Choice Dollars" to Immanuel. 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. Thank you for your support!! RBM Golf Course