Immanuel Lutheran Church March 2026 Newsletter

When was the last time you had a heart-to-heart conversation with someone? For some, life is hectic and overscheduled; family members who live under one roof may not often be at home together, making conversation rare and rushed. For others, life is lonely or isolated; they feel the world has forgotten them or is too busy to care. Or the people we need to talk to are distant (geographically or otherwise), so making conversation happen is a challenge, despite having so many platforms to bring us together. Whatever our situation with other people, our God is always ready for a heart-to-heart conversation with us. He speaks to us in his Word and listens whenever his people speak to him in our prayers.

On the First Sunday in Lent, we considered these questions: "Will you dedicate just 1% of your time to the spiritual welfare of you and your family? Will you use 14 of the 1440 minutes each day to read the Bible and pray? Will you spend just one of your 100+ waking hours to come to church each week and worship the Lord?" Those are opportunities to be in conversation with the Lord who gives us life. Being in church is also an opportunity for us to converse with one another, perhaps multiplying our joys and dividing our sorrows as a result (Romans 12:15), especially for those who arrive a little early and / or stick around afterward. Some who arrive early may be praying, so please be mindful of that as well.

In mid-March, our Sunday Bible class will wrap up a study on prayer called "Ask, Seek, Knock." On March 8 during Bible class, we will hear about the work missionaries Rev. Chris & Jenny Yang will soon be doing in Taiwan. On March 15 & 22, we will discuss Martin Luther's "A Simple Way to Pray," a booklet he wrote for his barber. As long as we live, with the Holy Spirit's guidance we can keep going deeper into the Scriptures and growing in our prayer life. If you could use some guidance or encouragement, just ask.

In addition to the five-part Wednesday evening series "Lamentations for Lent," here is a sneak peek at the four-part Saturday / Sunday series "Conversations with Jesus."

Lent 2 (February 28 & March 1) – "Nicodemus the Undercover Inquirer" (John 3:1-17)

Lent 3 (March 7 & 8) – "The Samaritan Woman Who Had Neighbors" (John 4:5-30, 39-42)

Lent 4 (March 14 & 15) – "Talking with and about the Man Born Blind" (John 9:1-41)

Lent 5 (March 21 & 22) – "Mary and Martha and Lazarus of Bethany" (John 11:1-53)

And finally, we are rehearsing a special piece for combined choirs, which was also sung at Immanuel on Palm Sunday in 2015. On Palm Sunday this year, which is March 29, the adult choir and Sunday school children will sing "Hosanna!" If you have a child who likes to sing, bring him or her to Sunday school every week in March to learn the music.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday, March 1st	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class
	10:00 a.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
	6:00 p.m. – Men's Club & Wives dine at Trenton House
Monday, March 3rd	12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. SID Board of Spiritual Care, Shiloh
March 2nd – March 5th	Parent/Teacher Conferences & ILS Registration for 2026-2027
Tuesday, March 3rd	6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis
Wednesday, March 4th	8:15 a.m. – Chapel – Pastor Wood
	7:00 p.m. – Lenten Service
	7:30 p.m. Choir
Friday, March 6th	No School – End of 3rd quarter
Saturday, March 7th	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service
Sunday, March 8th	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class
	10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
Monday, March 9th	6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis
	7:00 p.m. – Elders' Meeting
Wednesday, March 11th	No Chapel
	7:00 p.m. – Lenten Service
	7:30 p.m. – Choir
Thursday, March 12th	6:00 p.m. – Board for Parochial Education Meeting & Training
Friday, March 13th	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. - Grandparent's Day
	10:15 a.m. – Chapel – 7th & 8th Grade
	12:20 p.m. – Early School Dismissal
Saturday, March 14th	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, March 15th	7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. –PTL Breakfast
	ILS Preschool – 8th Grade Open Enrollment Begins for Everyone
	Scholastic Book Fair at ILS (March 15th – March 20th)
	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class
	10:00 a.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
Monday, March 16th	6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis
	7:30 p.m. – Men's Club Meeting
Tuesday March 17th	ILS Spring Pictures
Wednesday, March 18th	8:15 a.m. – Chapel – Pastor d'Entremont
	7:00 p.m. – Lenten Service
	7:30 p.m. – Choir
Thursday, March 19th	6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. ILS Registration and Scholastic Book Fair
	7:00 p.m. LWML Meeting
Saturday, March 21st	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service
Sunday, March 22nd	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class
	10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
Wednesday, March 25th	12:15 p.m. – Chapel – Pastor Wood
	7:00 p.m. – Lenten Service
	7:30 p.m. – Choir
Thursday, March 26th	6:30 p.m. – PTL Meeting
Saturday, March 28th	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, March 29th	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class
	10:00 a.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion

LCMS Stewardship

As a kid, I remember my Grandma and Grandpa Diepholz' home with extraordinary joy. Family fun. Great food. A legacy of faith. One of my lasting memories of that house was the table that sat between their twin beds. It contained a lamp, a Bible, a catechism and a hymnal. These were well-worn, as Grandpa read to Grandma every night before they went to sleep! What a treasure these tools of faith are! Let us spend some time this month in the hymnal to help us better understand our life as Christian stewards! To do this, we will use LSB 785 "We Praise You, O God."

We Praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tributes we bring.
We lay it before You, and kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

Stewardship is an act of worship. It flows from the grace and mercy we have received in Jesus! Faithful stewardship can never start with us. Our sinful nature will make us and our desires the center of our worship. Our tributes, our giving and our serving only flow from how the Lord Jesus has given of Himself for our sake! When we have this in clear view, our knees bow and our praises flow freely! All this flows from the Name that has been placed on us in Holy Baptism!

We worship You, God of our Fathers, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o'ertake us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

Our stewardship that flows from what God has done for us in Jesus Christ is rooted in history. Passed from one generation to the next, stewards of the Gospel connect God's provision in the past to His continued care in the present.

So often, the struggles we face are self-inflicted. While there are indeed perils that can shake us from outside of ourselves, we are more likely enduring the suffering that comes because of our own choices that are outside the Word and will of God! But even in these situations, the Lord who loves us will never forsake us. When we become selfish, self-serving and self-destructive, the Lord NEVER abandons! The Lord helps us to overcome the struggles in faith and win the victory the steward rejoices in!

With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

Stewardship is more than just an individual thing. There is a corporate nature to our steward life. We see this in the Divine Service. There, stewards of all ages, all economic strata and all languages are joined in the singular task of praise. This stewardship of praise flows from the altar to us, out into the world and then back to the altar! God's strong arm leads us in this stewardship 24/7. This makes stewardship, in all times and places, a matter of worship. We praise our Redeemer who has entrusted us with this great stewardship of the Gospel which forgives our sins, grants us new life and salvation. And this treasure we freely share for God's glory and the benefit of our neighbor!

"Time flies when you're having fun." We must be having fun here at ILS because we can't believe it's already March. March is the month of madness, new beginnings, and focusing on the end.

Madness- March Madness of course, basketball is in full swing. Our Titans won 2nd place at the Springfield tournament and have been working hard all season and our Lady Titans are still playing hard, won 1st place at the Springfield Tournament and will make their 10th appearance at Lutheran State this year as a coop. If you wonder where you should be March 6th-8th, CHICAGO, rooting on our Lady Titans.

New Beginnings- It will be spring before we know it, March 20th to be exact. As we all know spring is a time for growth and getting out of those winter doldrums. Each student is still growing and learning here at ILS, and to show just how far we have come, I want to share some testing growth our students have accomplished.

For those who don't know a couple years ago we changed our standardized testing strategy. Instead of a once-a-year test towards the end of the year, we now test students three times a year using NWEA testing(Northwest Evaluation Association Measures of Academic Progress Growth), where we measure the growth and achievement, compare that data each season-fall, winter, and spring, and then analyze it and decide what better ways to help our students. I am proud to say that our students here at ILS have all scored above the 50th percentile in all subjects(Math, Reading, Language Arts, and Science). Just recently, US News ranked all grade schools and high schools across the US and even though I have not delved deep into the methodology, according to the percentages ILS ranks higher than our surrounding schools in Washington County. Our students are some of the brightest and our teachers are definitely some of the best!

Focusing on the end-Some of you may have already heard, but with a heavy, yet supportive heart, I share with you the news that Ms. Liszewski will not remain with us for the new 2026-2027 school year. She has sold her house and will be moving and putting herself too far away from us to remain here. If there is any more story to tell, it is hers to tell, however I know she is very emotional about this decision and has said she will miss this school, staff, students, and church immensely.

As for what decisions will be made towards the kindergarten position, those are still being worked out and the congregation will know as soon as they are finalized. Until then, I ask for your prayers, especially for Ms. L, as I know this weighs heavily on her and for the school board and myself that we make the right decision in what is best for our students, staff, and school.

God's ultimate blessings,
Kelli Borrenpohl

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to each of you who have a birthday in March. If we have overlooked someone, or have the incorrect date, please contact the church office (243-6216) and the records will be corrected.

1. Charlotte Jacobs
2. Jody Schneider, Olivia Wiese
3. Sue Bower, Taiya Bergmann, Ashley Storck, Jackson Rennegarbe
4. Dale Brockmann, Jackie Bening, Alexis Kampwerth
5. Julie Going
6. Stephen Brammeier, Gerald Brockmeier, Ada Kurtz
7. Dawn Weinstock
8. Charlene Elliott, Brian Woods
11. Toryn Stevenson
12. Kaidyn Schumacher
13. Tensley Kolweier
14. Addysen Rennegarbe
15. Mark Friedrich
16. Ty Andrews, Brian Kampwerth, Charles Kurtz
17. Connie Murphy, Audrey Moeller
18. Laura Hesker, Kolby Suedmeyer
19. Jill Harre
20. Matthew Hasheider, Paisley Buettner
23. Nathan Hasheider, Pam Hundelt, Teren Schwankhaus
24. Myla Dunn
25. Leonard Obermeier, Morgan Kampwerth, Andrew Bruck, Eric Bruck
26. Chris Rennegarbe
27. Sharon Schuessler
28. Greg Toensing, Kenneth Wagner, Kent Helbig
29. James Borrenpohl, Ethan Bening, Emily Wood, Devin Hundelt
30. Bennie Dugger
31. Dannon Harre

MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

March 17 Nathan and Brittany Hasheider

VISITATION COMMITTEE

Mary Ann Niedens

ALTAR GUILD COMMITTEE

Laura Obermeier and Malinda Weeke

USHERS

Saturday: Jeff Obermeier
Sunday: Gary Streuter and Greg Harre

ACOLYTES

Sunday, March 1st – Landon Elliott
Wednesday, March 4th – Maylen Kramper
Saturday, March 7th – Collins Schumacher
Sunday, March 8th – Devin Hundelt
Wednesday, March 11th – Sadie Bergmann
Saturday, March 14th – Markus Lautenschlaeger
Sunday, March 15th – Coleson Hasheider
Wednesday, March 18th – Hudson Schneider
Saturday, March 21st – Landon Elliott
Sunday, March 22nd – Maylen Kramper
Wednesday, March 25th – Devin Hundelt
Saturday, March 28th – Sadie Bergmann
Palm Sunday, March 29th – Collins Schumacher
Crucifier – Markus Lautenschlaeger

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Sunday, March 1st – Jeff Jacobs
Saturday, March 14th – Kent Helbig
Sunday, March 15th – Mike Jacobs
Saturday, March 28th – Dennis Pruehsner
Palm Sunday, March 29th – Jonathan Schneider

ORGANISTS/PIANISTS

Sunday, March 1st – Sharon Krueger
Wednesday, March 4th – Sharon Krueger
Saturday, March 7th – Sophia Wood
Sunday, March 8th –
Wednesday, March 11th – Sharon Krueger
Saturday, March 14th – Sophia Wood
Sunday, March 15th –
Wednesday, March 18th – Sharon Krueger
Saturday, March 21st – Sophia Wood
Sunday, March 22nd – Sharon Krueger
Wednesday, March 25th – Sharon Krueger
Saturday, March 28th – Sophia Wood
Palm Sunday, March 29th – Sharon Krueger

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ALERT!

This year Daylight Saving Time begins March 8th.

LWML NEWS

Immanuel's LWML group will be hosting the Upper Kaskaskia zone prayer service and rally on April 11. We will be providing refreshments for the women who gather here that day. If you would be interested in donating baked goods for that event (coffee cake, muffins, etc), please contact Emily Wood at 618-713-0953. March LWML meeting will be on Thursday, March 19 at 7pm in the church basement. Carolyn Rennegarbe will have the opening devotion, and Pastor Wood will have the topic.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

March 29th Sunday School students will celebrate Palm Sunday by walking in with palm leaves to start the service and singing with the adult choir. 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!

Alumni & Friends Association News:

You will find the invitation for the upcoming celebration on April 12, 2026 in this newsletter. The school has been one of the main missions of Immanuel Lutheran Church since 1908! That is something to celebrate. The love of God has been shared with so many children and their families. As a member of Immanuel, you support the school through your offerings and prayers. A lot of resources in time, talents and treasurers are needed to keep a school running smoothly. We thank you for all that you have shared for the benefit of ILS!
The day will also include a recognition of the Alumni & Friends' 20th Anniversary! Rev. Monte Haun, a former teacher and principal at ILS, will be the guest preacher for the 10 a.m. service on Sunday. The children will be singing during the service and a short program at the dinner will include their talents as well. There will be a free will offering for the dinner and a sign up sheet will be in the narthex for anyone who would be willing to donate a dessert. Each and every member of Immanuel and friend of the school is invited. Please share the invitation with anyone that may enjoy coming! We'd love to see as many teachers, students, parents and families (current and former) gather as we can find! Please RSVP so that we know how much food to prepare. We hope to see you there!

Yard Sale- We have received so may requests to continue the yard sale project in June! There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for volunteers. We will need help with setup and specific sale days. We will schedule hours according to volunteer availability. The optimal schedule would include sale hours on June 4, 5, 6 11, 12 and 13. This project is strongly supported by the community through donations and purchasing. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to purchase nice clothing and other items at very reasonable prices. Please consider helping with this project and volunteer if you can. Any amount of time will help. Thank you, in advance!

SCHOOL NEWS

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

<u>Preschool -8th Grade</u>
Closed Enrollment (current ILS students, Wee Care, & LCMS members)
March 2nd – 5th during Parent/Teacher Conferences
Open Enrollment for everyone begins March 15th at the PTL Breakfast

No School – March 6th

Board for Parochial Education Meeting – March 12th

Grandparents' Day is March 13th 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. with a 12:20 p.m. dismissal. Students may be signed out early to go home with a grandparent.

Immanuel Lutheran School PTL Dine in or carry-out Breakfast – Sunday, March 15th 7:30 – 12:30 at ILS. Tickets $10.00 in advance ($12 at event) Advance tickets available from ILS students, or at the school office. Breakfast includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits & gravy.

Spring Pictures will be taken on Tuesday, March 17th. Track, Scholar Bowl and golf will also be taken that day.

Scholastic Book Fair is coming back to ILS this year. Dates scheduled are March 15th – 20th and may even be open on March 13th for Grandparents' Day. Please stop in to shop for all who like to read or be read to. You can even shop online by searching for Immanuel Lutheran School, Okawville on the scholastic website.

PTL Meeting – March 26th at 6:30 p.m

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WEEKLY WORSHIP RESOURCE LISTING

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 Thee
594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

LENTEN VESPERS
March 4, 2026

Readings: Lamentations 2 and Psalm 76
Hymns: 757 Lord, It Belongs Not to My Care
448:2-4 O Darkest Woe
615 When in the Hour of Deepest Need

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
March 7 & March 8 2026

Old Testament: Exodus 17:1-7
Epistle: Romans 5:1-8
Gospel: John 4:5-30, 39-42
Order of Service: Prayer and Preaching
Hymns: 535 How Wide the Love of Christ
824 May God Bestow on Us His Grace
699 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

LENTEN VESPERS
March 11, 2026

Readings: Lamentations 3 and Psalm 84
Hymns: OAR 284 Lord and Savior, Do You Hear Us
448:3-5 O Darkest Woe
809 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
March 14 & March 15, 2026

Old Testament: Isaiah 42:14-21
Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-14
Gospel: John 9:1-41
Order of Service: Divine Service Setting Four
Hymns: 697 Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death
551 When to Our World the Savior Came
571 God Loved the World So That He Gave
729 I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus
744 Amazing Grace
849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

LENTEN VESPERS
March 18, 2026

Readings: Lamentations 4 and Psalm 122
Hymns: 758 The Will of God Is Always Best
448:4-6 O Darkest Woe
752 Be Still, My Soul

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
March 21 & March 22, 2026

Old Testament: Ezekiel 37: 1-14
Epistle: Romans 8:1-11
Gospel: John 11:1-53
Order of Service: Matins
Hymns: 548 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious
430 My Song is Love Unknown
685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

LENTEN VESPERS
March 25, 2026

Readings: Lamentations 5 and Psalm 125
Hymns:762 There Is a Time for Everything
448:5-7 O Darkest Woe
945 Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved

PALM SUNDAY
March 28 & March 29, 2026

Old Testament: Isaiah 50:4-9a
Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11
Gospel: John 12:12-19
Order of Service: Divine Service Setting Three
Hymns: 443 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna
438 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth
634 The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord
797 Praise the Almighty
806 Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart
837 Lift High the Cross

You are cordially invited to attend

A celebration for Immanuel Lutheran School and the

20th Anniversary of the

Immanuel Lutheran Alumni & Friends Association

April 12, 2026

Worship Service 10:00 A.M.

Rev. Monte Haun, guest preacher

Student Choir singing

Program and Meal

immediately following in the school gymnasium

Classroom Open House showcasing student projects

Please RSVP by April 6, 2026

by calling 618-243-6142 or 618-322-7998.

A free will offering will be accepted for the meal.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2026 OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN: Jeff Jacobs (314-0257)
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Chris Rennegarbe (580-6297)
TREASURER: Angie Kampwerth (973-5572) - Temporary
SECRETARY: Jackie Bening (541-7708)

BOARD OF ELDERS
Dennis Pruehsner (246-3108)
Jonathan Schneider (521-0027)
Kent Helbig (438-1977)
Mike Jacobs (314-0258)

BOARD OF PARISH ED.
Krissy Schneider (559-7097)
Amber Jacobs (314-5851)
Kristal Jacobs (830-5528)

CEMETERY COMMITTEE
Brent Schneider (521-8504)
Mark Schneider (521-0026)
Jim Unverfehrt (319-0143)
Larry Kuhlengel (534-8794)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Braden Meyer (204-6931)
John Elliott (980-0808)
Bryce Kolweier (559-4477)

BOARD FOR PAROCHIAL ED.
Ken Storck Jr. – 2027 (559-4778)
Morgan Kampwerth - 2027 (243-6406)
Donna Davis – 2028 (714-788-0855)
Garrett Guest - 2029 (314-2432)
Rachael Lautenschlaeger - 2029 (920-1354)

STEWARDSHIP BOARD
Debbie Guest (246-6490)
Kathy Suedmeyer (967-0118)
Lisa Teter (534-1292)

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Malinda Weeke (713-5008)
Connor Obermeier (314-2666)
Alexis Kampwerth (314-6424)
Cameron Obermeier (314-0852)

AUDITING COMMITTEE
Angie Kampwerth (973-5572)
Allison Dunn (534-9636)

*All phone numbers are in the 618 area code unless stated otherwise.