

# Holy Week Schedule

March 29: Palm Sunday

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

*Procession w/palms at both services*

April 2: Maundy Thursday

7:00p.m.

*The Lord's Supper  
& Stripping of the Altar*

April 3: Good Friday

1:00p.m. & 7:00p.m.

*Tenebrae Services  
(Service of darkness)*

April 5: Easter Sunday

7:00 a.m.

*SONrise Service  
w/ Holy Communion*

8:15—9:15 a.m.

*Easter Breakfast*

9:30 a.m.

*Easter Festival Service  
w/ Holy Communion*

**Midweek Lenten  
Services**

Wednesday's

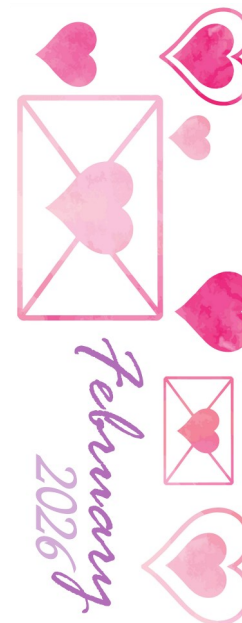
February 18—March 25

7:00 p.m.

**Sunday & Midweek  
Services**

available in person,  
on Facebook Live &  
YouTube

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Immanuel Lutheran Church & Student Center  
511 Russell Road  
DeKalb, IL 60115

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ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
DeKalb, IL  
Permit No. 143

# Ash Wednesday



**February 18, 2026**  
**Services at 11:00 a.m. & 7:00p.m.**  
 w/ Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes  
 7:00p.m. services to be broadcasted on  
 Facebook Live & YouTube

**Little Lambs Preschool Registration for Fall Classes Opens**  
**Monday, March 9, 2026**  
**for members of Immanuel**  
**and Current & Past Little Lambs families.**  
 Registration for members of the community opens  
 Monday, March 16, 2026.  
*Complete information and registration forms*  
*will be available in mid-February .*



**Pastor:** Rev. Marty Marks  
 815-501-3951 (c)  
 Rev@godwithusilc.org

**Preschool Director:**  
 Katie Martinez  
 LittleLambs@godwithusilc.org

**Office Support Staff:**  
 Darlene Hillman (*office manager*)  
 Alma Sanchez (*secretary*)

**Custodians/Maintenance:**  
 Michelle Mangini & Craig Dybas

**Elders:**  
 Chris Cook, Ron Feldmann,  
 Dennis Martinez, Keith Nelson,  
 Hayes Tiggelaar & Jeff Bannister

**Office Hours:**  
 Monday—Thursday  
 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.  
 Friday 8:30– 12:30 p.m.  
*(when Little Lambs is in session only)*



**Immanuel Lutheran Church & Student Center**  
**Little Lambs Preschool**  
 511 Russell Road; DeKalb, IL 60115  
 815-756-6669  
 www.ImmanuelDeKalb.com



- February 1: **"Rotten Tomatoes"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
 Boasting gone wrong—it's the rotten fruit of rightful praise. It happens when we forget that everything we have is a gift, even the things we think we've earned and deserved.

—1 Corinthians 1: 30-31

- February 8, 2026 **"Type C"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
 In the Bible, the Holy Spirit meets us, gives us the mind of Christ, and leads us back into the world as children of God.

—1 Corinthians 2:12

- February 15, 2026 **"Up and Down the Mountain"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Michael Schutz  
 Many voices compete for our attention, but above all, listen to the voice of Jesus and hear what He's done for you. *Matthew 17:1-9*

<u>Station</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u>Freq</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
WGN	Chicago, IL	720	AM	Sun	6:30 AM
WHJG	Rockford, IL	93.3	FM	Sun	
WROK	Rockford, IL	1440	AM		
WTPB-LP	Rockford	99.3	FM		
WFPS	Freeport, IL	92.1	FM		
WCCI	Savanna, IL	100.3	FM		
WGVE	Gary, IN	88.7	FM	Sat	10:00 AM
W284CY	Hammond, IN	104.7	FM	Sun	11:00 AM
WTMU	Milwaukee, WI	620	AM	Sun	6:30 AM



**Fiscal Year**  
**July 1, 2025—December 31, 2025**

	<b>December 2025</b>	<b>Fiscal YTD</b>
Budgeted Receipts	\$70,756.70	\$261,546.11
Budgeted Disbursements	(\$52,862.47)	(\$284,603.85)
Budgeted Net Income or (loss)	\$17,894.23	(\$23,057.74)
Non Budgeted Receipts	\$1214.27	\$36,025.60
Non Budgeted Disbursements	(\$ 599.00)	(\$7,174.85)
Non Budgeted Income or (Loss)	\$615.27	\$30,089.73
Total Net Income or (Loss)	\$18,509.50	\$5,793.01

**From the Financial Secretary:**

Giving statements for 2025 are available in the narthex. If you would like yours mailed, or have any questions concerning contributions, *please contact me or the office.*

Thank you. Ann Nelson, Financial Secretary

*(Pastor Marty; Continued from page 3)*

powerful in seeing God's love for us. The season of Lent is intended to be a time for reflection on our sinfulness. It is a time to consider how Jesus' death on the cross is the direct result of our choices, our thoughts, our actions. Each of the valleys we will explore will give us some time to consider different aspects of our sinfulness but more importantly, give us different, and beautiful views of God's mercy, grace and love.

I hope you join us on this journey through the 6 weeks of Lent as we approach our celebrations of Jesus death and resurrection Easter weekend. Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll find the description of each of the valleys we'll be visiting. Blessings on your Lenten journey individually and as part of our Church family.

In Christ,

Pastor Marty



As most of you know, my family visited New Zealand for a short vacation over Christmas break.

It was great to be back in a beautiful country that we love, spending time with some dear friends and visiting our favorite places. As we drove around the country we visited some high places atop hills and even small mountains. We also traveled down into valleys, sometimes in rapid succession. Both the hills and the valleys offered their own unique view and beauty. Many of our most vivid memories and most striking pictures come from a mountain or a valley.

I've included below a picture from our trip taken in a valley we consider especially beautiful! (I wish I had not placed the gravel piles right behind us in the picture, but never claimed to be a good photographer.)

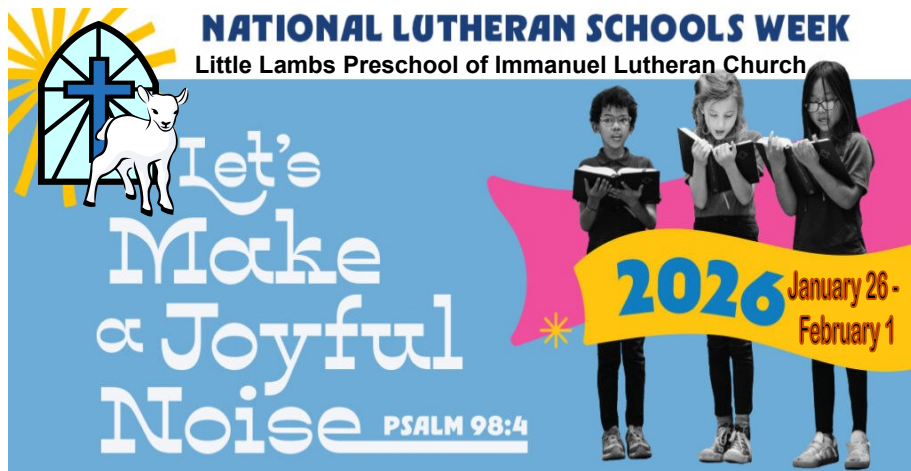


Spiritually we often have mountains and valleys as we go "up and down" in our life's struggles. This Lent we are going to embark on a series of mid week Lenten worship services that highlight some Biblical "valleys." Each of these actual valleys that are geographical places, also reveal and represent to us some of the spiritual valleys we all face as God's people in the world.

Much like we found in New Zealand, the valleys provide a perspective that can be just as beautiful and in some cases more

*(Continued on page 26)*





Hello and Happy New Year from Little Lambs!

January has been a very busy month, and the second half of our school year is filled with special events and important fundraisers that help us continue to grow and enhance our program.

During the last week of January, Little Lambs celebrated **Lutheran Schools Week**. This special week highlights the wonderful ways Lutheran schools across the country share the good news of Jesus with their students each day. This year's theme is **"Make a Joyful Noise,"** based on Psalm 98:4: *"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises."*

Throughout the week, we embraced the daily themes together:



#### **Make a Joyful Noise in Praise & Worship**

The children wore their Little Lambs shirts and sang during chapel. We recorded a video that will be shared with the congregation on Sunday, February 1.



#### **Make a Joyful Noise in Service & Community**

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our **Phil's Friends** collection. Your generosity will truly bless those receiving these care packages. Items will be delivered to a collection site to be assembled and distributed.

Our service project continues through February 8 in partnership with Refuge and the Human Care Board. We will keep collecting items for Phil's Friends as a way to joyfully serve our community.



#### **Make a Joyful Noise Together**

Each child invited a special guest to spend part of the day with us. Classrooms will host special activities or crafts for children and guests to enjoy together. We will

*(Little Lambs, Continued on page 19)*

## **SLEEP AWAY CAMPS**

- Our Summer Sleep-Away Camps run Sunday through Friday, except as noted
- Drop-off times are between 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm on the first day listed (typically Sunday)
- Our Closing Ceremony is Friday at 11:00 am followed by check-out until 11:45 am, or at 11 am on the last day listed.
- Please plan on eating prior to your arrival on Sunday.

**Premiere:** Grades 1-3     July 26- July 29, 2026  
Cost is \$250

The **Premiere** program is for kids wanting a first look at the camp experience! Enjoy all of the classic camp fun in half of the time. Campers will get the opportunity to try canoeing, hiking, cooking over a campfire, and more to get a taste of camp. Campers will also get to walk through stories from the Bible and campfire devotions to foster age-appropriate faith development!

Try camp for the first time with this approachable Premiere program!

**Explorer:** Grades 3-6     June 21- June 26, 2026; July 12 - July 17, 2026  
Cost is \$550

The **Explorer** program is our classic camp offering! Experience a week away from home while making new lifelong friends, trying things you've never thought of before, and growing in your faith! In addition to the classic camp activities, kids will get to enjoy campouts, cookouts, and an electric campfire at the end of the week. The Explorer program is a great next step in our overnight camping progression for your camper to enjoy.

**Voyager:** Grades 6-8     July 5-10, 2026     July 19-24, 2026  
Cost is \$550 + any specialty fees listed below.

Take the camp experience to the next level with the **Voyager** program! New this year to Walcamp, campers that participate in Voyager will get to select a specialty to focus on throughout the week.

\* The Challenge Course specialty will work through our low and high challenge course elements and will get the opportunity to celebrate their growth as a team with an off-site adventure.

\* The Fine Arts specialty will encompass a variety of art forms, from music to painting and everything in between. (There is an additional \$50 for this specialty)

\* Campers that select the Canoeing specialty will get to practice their skills on the water and then put them to the test with an overnight off-site canoe trip. (There is an additional \$150 for this specialty)

The Horse specialty will get to go off-site to learn how to care for and ride horses. (There is an additional \$150 for this specialty)

**Classic Camp:** Grades 3-8     June 28- July 3rd  
Cost is \$550

Your all-time favorite activities - archery, canoeing, swim, hike, play games, build craft projects, roast s'mores, and explore God's creation.



## Day Camp

An ideal Christ-centered option for your summer daycare needs. Hike in the woods, canoe, wade in a river, play games and still be home by dinner!

Try a day or stay the whole summer!

To enhance our campers' experience at Walcamp, we have shifting programs so that each week of summer camp can focus on a specific camper age.

- **First graders and High School students see the world through very different eyes.** This approach gives campers focused faith development experiences (Bible Encounters, devotions, camp songs) with age-appropriate topics, Bible stories and life applications.
- **Campers demonstrate varying levels of growth.** Activities like all-camp games, cookouts, GIC team challenges, and other activities can challenge campers at a level appropriate for their mental, emotional, physical, and social development.
- By interacting with peers, **campers can see and interact with other Christians their age**, growing in their personal faith while experiencing what it means to live in community with others.
- **A progression of activities for campers, with new activities to look forward to each year.** By incorporating "specialties" into programs for older campers, we provide options and experiences that appeal to campers' interests and giving them something new to look forward to in future summers.

This change allows us to provide a program tailor-made for our campers' developmental, social, and faith needs - so that we may proclaim the Gospel to them in a way that they can best understand it.

**Grades are based on your camper's grade on March 31, 2026, not the grade when the camp will be.**



## LITTLE LAMBS SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Used Book Sale:** If you have used books you would like to repurpose, please consider donating them to the Little Lambs Used Book Sale. *See more information on page 6.*
- It's time to start planning for our Silent Auction! — Our biggest fundraiser of the year! Everyone is encouraged to participate! If you signed up on the parent volunteer form to help with this event we will be contacting you in February to get the ball rolling. *See more information on page 6.*
- We have begun planning our spring events: field trip to Russell Woods, Dental Hygiene presentation, spring sing/graduation, just to name a few. *Watch for details to be forthcoming!*

### Special Dates to Note

- ⇒ **February 1st:** Little Lambs Lutheran's Schools week presentation during worship service.
- ⇒ **February 12th:** T/TH & M-F Valentines Day Classroom Parties
- ⇒ **February 13th:** M/W/F Valentines Day Classroom Parties
- ⇒ **February 16th:** NO SCHOOL (Presidents Day)
- ⇒ **February 27th:** Book Sale Set Up
- ⇒ **March 4th: Little Lambs Spaghetti Dinner** from 5:00—6:30 p.m. Invite family, friends, neighbors! Freewill offering. Watch for information to come through Sign-Up Genius regarding donations and shifts for volunteers. *See more information on page 18.*
- ⇒ **March 9, 2026: Fall 2026 Registration!** Opens to Immanuel members, current and past Little Lambs families!! Complete information will be available mid-February
- ⇒ March 23—27: Spring Break

**Phil's Friends Mission Collection**  
**Join Immanuel in sharing hope and encouragement!**  
 Support the Phil's Friends mission by donating items for care packages sent to those facing cancer.

**Collection will be through February 8, 2026**  
 Although everyone is invited to donate whatever they would like from the provided areas, the following groups are focusing on items as listed:

- Human Care Board: adult items
- Little Lambs Preschool: items for children
- Refuge: "Craft Christians" are working on hand crafted items such as blankets and hats
- Immanuel Sunday School Classes

**Thank you for being the hands and heart of Christ!**

## CARE PACKAGE NEEDS

### BLANKETS

Throw blankets, crocheted, or fleece tied



### HATS

Knitted & Crocheted



### FUZZY SOCKS

Women's Only



### JOURNALS



### PUZZLE BOOKS



### LOTIONS

Fragrance-free; 16oz. or smaller



### MOUTH RINSE

Alcohol-free 4-8oz. or smaller



**PLAYING CARDS**  
No Casino Decks



### TISSUES



### LIP BALMS



**TOOTHBRUSH**  
& Travel size TOOTHPASTE



## Service VOLUNTEERS

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTE	LAY READER	RADIO	SLIDES	VIDEO/SOUND
2/01	8:00 AM	Alexis Cruz	Katie Martinez	Tammy Tiggelaar	Doug Nelson	Ted Stone
	10:30 AM	Rosie Landshaft	Jessica Molitor	—	Mia Yelich	Doug Nelson
2/08	8:00 AM	Mikey Martinez	Reagan Andsager	Chris Ewald	Doug Nelson	Mark Misic
	10:30 AM	Irene Prignitz	Angela Prignitz	—	Doug Nelson	Nathan Allen
2/15	8:00 AM	Colleen Goff	Charlie Schmidt	Sue Harms	Kevin Harms	Doug Nelson
	10:30 AM	Virgil Walker	Robert Miller	—	Nathan Allen	Mia Yelich
2/22	8:00 AM	Aaron Martinez	Sandy Lancaster	Tammy Tiggelaar	Doug Nelson	Mark Misic
	10:30 AM	Heather Allen	Rita Goodwin	—	Mia Yelich	Doug Nelson

Date	Time	Communion Assistants
2/01	8:00 AM	Dennis Martinez, Tom Sawyer
	10:30 AM	Brian Prignitz & Dan Lohmeier
2/15	8:00 AM	Russ Peterson, Taylor McWilliams
	10:30 AM	Keith Nelson, Will Michels
2/18 (Ash Wed)	11:00 AM	Tom Sawyer, Ron Feldmann
	7:00 PM	Ken Boldt, Dan Lohmeier

### February 2026 Ushers:

8:00 Ken Boldt, Jackson Harms & Russ Peterson

10:30 Jen Allen, Dan Lohmeier & Will Michels

### February 2026 Altar Guild:

Jackie Hanson

### Giving of Time: Participant Coordinators

Ron Feldmann: *Communion Assistants & Ushers*

Pastor Marty: *Acolytes & Lay Readers*

Doug Nelson: *Radio & Sound*

Carolyn McQuillan: *Altar Guild*

Outreach Board: *Greeters*





2/01	Carol-Joy Motisi	2/11	Naomi Devlieger
2/03	Samantha Gratschmayr		Summer Hamel
	Mia Yelich		Noah Hamel
2/04	Nova Leadingham		Emily Nelson
	Connor Knutson		Clara Neiman
2/06	Lily Peckys	2/12	Lucas Faivre
	Addison Schwab	2/14	Alissia Talaga
2/07	Kenneth Hayes II	2/16	Jill Misitano
	Angela Pringnitz	2/17	Carl Long
2/08	Janet Byrnes	2/19	Lincoln Cook-Rhodes
	Madelyn Hayes	2/21	Virginia Walker
	Robert McKinley	2/22	Lisa Nelson
2/10	Graysen Molitor	2/26	Judy Thorson
		2/27	Gail Cantrell
			Diane Griffith
			Michelle Mangini



2/24/1980  
Doug & Lisa Nelson

If you are a member of Immanuel, and do not see your birthday or anniversary listed, or the date is incorrect, please kindly inform the church office so that our records can be corrected.  
—Thank you!

**The Mission of Immanuel Lutheran Church  
is connecting people to Jesus Christ.**

## Infant & Toddler

- Rattles & stacking toys
- Blocks
- Board or soft books
- Sensory or teething toys
- Small stuffed animals
- Light-up or sound toys

## For All Kids (Ages 3+)

- Coloring books
- Crayons (24-count) or colored pencils
- Activity books
- Small Play-Doh containers
- Stuffed animals (12" or smaller)
- Kids card games (UNO, matching, Crazy 8s)

## Ages 4-8

- Small toys (princesses, dinosaurs, superheroes, Bluey)
- Dolls, action figures, cars, plastic animals
- Small Lego-type sets
- Coloring & activity books
- Sticker sets & scratch art
- Magnetic play sets
- Play-Doh mini tubs
- Small craft kits & fidget toys
- Early reader books

## Ages 9+

- Lego/building sets
- Jewelry or craft kits
- Art & drawing supplies
- Fun pens & stationery
- Puzzle or hidden picture books
- Chapter books
- Action figures (Marvel, Star Wars, robots)
- Small handheld puzzles & fidget toys

## Age-Appropriate Bibles

- Beginner's Bible
- Jesus Storybook Bible
- Adventure Bible

## ITEMS YOU CAN MAKE

### BLANKETS

Tie fleece, crochet, knit or quilt.

### CARDS OF HOPE

Download templates at [philsfriends.org](https://philsfriends.org), color and customize, or create your own handmade cards.

### CARE PACKAGE ITEMS

Collect care package items, or host a donation drive at your church, school, or organization.

### HATS or PORT PILLOWS

Crochet or knit hats, or sew port pillows.

### JOURNALS

Creatively design and decorate composition notebook covers.

### PRAYER

Pray for patients and their families.

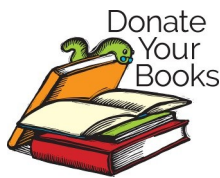
Detailed instructions and how-to videos are available at [philsfriends.org](https://philsfriends.org)

Instructions for hats, blankets, Cards of Hope, and port pillows are available under the Little Lambs bulletin board in the entry.



Amazon Wishlist can be found on their website:  
<https://philsfriends.org/>

"I was sick, and you looked after me..."  
Matthew 25:36



### It's Used Book Sale Collection Time!

SEEKING GENTLY USED BOOKS FOR ANNUAL USED BOOK SALE If you have used books you would like to repurpose, please consider donating them to the Little Lambs Used Book Sale. We accept books in good condition for all ages! Please keep content in mind if you are donating books for adults. If you have books to donate, please bring them to the church anytime between now and February 27th . Dependent on our inventory, the sale will be open for from, March 1st-9th.



### Looking Ahead to Our Silent Auction

It's time to start planning for our Silent Auction—our biggest fundraiser of the year! This exciting event is a wonderful way for our school community to come together, and everyone is encouraged to participate.

If you signed up on the parent volunteer form to help with the Silent Auction, you will be contacted this month as we begin preparations.

Now is also a great time to start thinking about local businesses you may know who would be willing to donate items or services. Reaching out is a meaningful way to support our school while also helping small businesses gain visibility within our community.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping make this event a success!



### Help Us Get the Word Out!

One of the greatest compliments our school can receive is a recommendation from our families. Your kind words truly make a difference in helping other parents discover our school and the care we provide every day.

If you've had a positive experience, we invite you to share it! Leaving a review on platforms like Facebook, Google, Yelp, or Care.com

helps families who are searching for a school feel confident in their decision. Word of mouth is just as powerful—whether it's telling a friend, neighbor, or coworker about us.

You can also help by sharing our school brochures with families you know or stopping by our office to pick up a few to pass along. Every review, conversation, and recommendation helps spread awareness and supports our school community.

Thank you for being such an important part of our school family. We truly appreciate your support!

## Christianity 101 - Class Session Schedule

Class Begins February 15, 2026

Immanuel Lutheran Church and Student Center, DeKalb, IL.

Are you are interested in learning about our God and growing in faith in Him? These classes are meant to give you a broad overview of the basic teachings of Christianity *from a Lutheran perspective*. We encourage questions, visitors, a good sense of humor, and open hearts. This is the place to ask all of the questions you've wanted to ask. We can't promise to provide all of the answers, but we'll at least look at what God has to say about the subject. You are under no pressure to join anything but, if after the class you would like to join our congregation and Church Family, we would happily welcome you. Just come with your questions and an open heart and let God do the rest.

February 15	Introductions & who is God? The Apostles Creed
February 22	What are the commandments?
March 1	God's Word: what is it?
March 8	What is Prayer? – The Lord's Prayer
March 15	What are the Sacraments?
March 22	Worship: The how's and whys
March 29	Our Church: Immanuel, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and all of Christendom!"

The class will meet on Sunday Evenings at 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall of the church. May God bless our time together!

## Italian Dinner FUNDRAISER

TO BENEFIT COMFORT DOGS, EUNICE & SAMSON AND THE LADIES SOCIETY

Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026

4:00-7:00 p.m.

St. John Lutheran Church  
13N535 French Road  
Burlington, IL 60109

\$15 PER PERSON  
\$5 PER KIDS MEAL



[WWW.STJOHNLUTHERANCHURCH.COM](http://WWW.STJOHNLUTHERANCHURCH.COM)





## Little Lambs Preschool

# USED BOOK SALE

## and Spaghetti Dinner!




**March 1—15**  
 Shop anytime  
 —during school  
 —during office hours  
 —during the dinner  
 — Sunday mornings  
 Choose books you like.  
 Place donations  
 in the container.  
 Thank-you!

**YOU'RE INVITED — Open to EVERYONE —**  
 Little Lambs friends, family, neighbors, staff,  
 members of Immanuel, etc!  
 Menu includes: Meat or Marinara Red Sauce  
 w/Spaghetti, Salad, Applesauce, Bread, Drinks  
 & Dessert  
 Place: Immanuel Lutheran Church;  
 Cost: Freewill Offering  
 Serving: 5:00—6:30 p.m. (Hall will remain  
 open, but serving will conclude at 6:30)

Evening Lenten Worship Service begins at 7:00 p.m. Services  
 are approximately 30 minutes. As always, everyone is  
 welcome and invited to stay for worship.



## LUTHERAN SCHOOLS



SHARING THE  
 LIFE-CHANGING  
 MESSAGE OF  
 JESUS' LOVE WITH  
 MORE THAN  
**180,000**  
 STUDENTS, THEIR FAMILIES  
 AND THE COMMUNITY

**RAISING UP THE NEXT  
 GENERATION OF FAITHFUL  
 CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES**


- Experiencing and celebrating God's lavish gifts of love, grace and mercy
- Sharing those gifts with others
- Being transformed by God's Word
- Clinging to the cross of Jesus

**PROVIDING EXCELLENT  
 ACADEMIC PREPARATION**

- Developing love for and excitement about learning
- Excelling at reading, writing and effective communication
- Training minds for success at the next academic level
- Creating a strong work ethic, critical thinking skills and the ability to relate well with others

**EARLY CHILDHOOD > 1,677  
 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS > 191  
 MIDDLE SCHOOLS > 625  
 HIGH SCHOOLS > 103  
 TOTAL > 2,594**

**LEARN MORE**  
 888-THE LCMS (843-5267)  
[lcms.org/school-ministry](http://lcms.org/school-ministry)




**DEADLINE:**  
 Newsletter Articles

**March 2026**  
Newsletter Deadline: February 17  
Newsletter Assembly: February 25th



## Mark your calendars now for Vacation Bible School **JUNE 22—25, 2026**

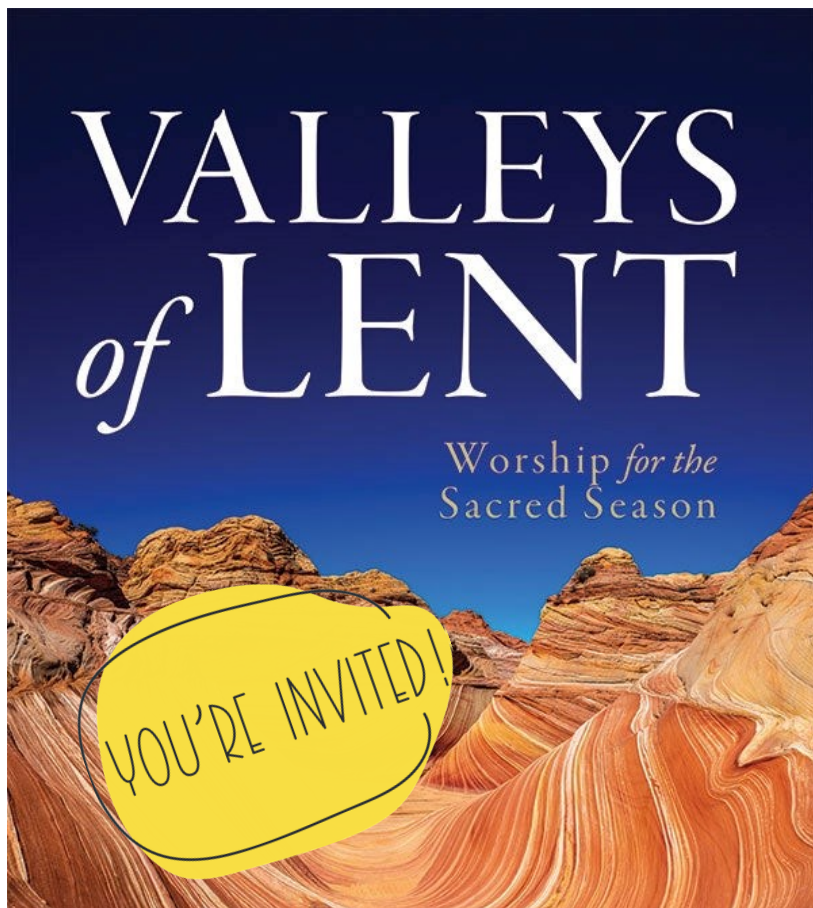
**For children ages 3 years—middle school!**



## Wish to help adorn the altar for Easter?

### Easter Lily Sign-up will begin February 15

If you would like to help adorn the sanctuary for Easter Sunday by purchasing an Easter Lily, a sign-up will be available in the narthex through March 22. You can either take your flower home after the late service or donate it to a shut-in. Cost for each plant is \$20. *We will list the names of those who donate flowers—you can also chose to give your flowers in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one.—If you do not want your name listed, simply list “anonymous.” (No long dedications please—we will simply list the name and either “in memory of,” or “in honor of.”)*



### **“The Valleys of Lent.”**

**Each service looks at a different valley from Scripture that points to something about the suffering Christ endured.**

\*\*\*\*\*

#### *Midweek Lenten Services*

*Services are held at 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. each week.*

*The 7:00 service will be on Facebook Live*

*A fellowship dinner is offered from 5:30-6:30 p.m. each week.*

*(Little Lambs Spaghetti Dinner will run from 5:00—6:30 p.m.)*

*See announcement on page 10 for details.*



### **February Radio Broadcast Sponsorships**

- 2/01 “To the glory of God, in celebration of **Lutheran Schools Week** and the mission of **Lutheran schools to nurture children in faith and learning**, and in thanksgiving for the partnership with **Immanuel** in this ministry,” by Little Lambs Preschool.
- 2/08 *OPEN*
- 2/15 “To the glory of God and in memory of Clarence & Vivian Baird.”
- 2/22 “Given in celebration of Lana Marten’s life and her many gifts that she shared with all,” by Linda Conrad & Pat McKinley.

*(Little Lambs Continued from page 4)*

take photos and send home framed keepsakes, and we’ll celebrate with a pancake brunch topped with apples, blueberries, and whipped cream—a fun day for all! We will also be making cards to include in the Phil’s Friends boxes.



#### **Make a Joyful Noise in Christ Alone**

Throughout the week—and every day—we keep Christ at the center of all we do.

#### **Upcoming Fundraisers**

We are preparing for several fundraisers in the coming weeks:

- **Used Book Sale & Spaghetti Dinner** (free-will donation) Book sale setup begins Friday, February 27, and the sale will run for two weeks. If you have gently used books looking for a new home, please consider donating them.
- **Lenten Supper:** Little Lambs will host a Spaghetti Dinner as one of the mid-week Lenten suppers on Wednesday, March 4.
- **Silent Auction – Our Biggest Fundraiser:** The Silent Auction will take place in May, with the final evening on **Thursday, May 21**. More details will be shared soon. If you or someone you know would like to donate items or help run games that evening, please contact me or Darlene.

Little Lambs is truly grateful for the continued support of the Immanuel congregation. Thank you for partnering with us in ministry and service.

In His Service,

**Katie Martinez**

Little Lambs Preschool Director





## February Flower Sponsorships

2/01 “To the glory of God, in celebration of **Lutheran Schools Week**, and in grateful recognition of the partnership with **Immanuel** in the ministry of Little Lambs Preschool,” by Little Lambs Preschool.

2/08 *OPEN*

2/15 *OPEN*

2/22 “Given in celebration of Lana Marten’s life and her many gifts that she shared with all,” by Linda Conrad & Pat McKinley.



### **Update to Flower Sponsorship: As of January 1, 2026: Cost of Flowers is \$50**

Our floral provider has notified us of increased expenses, so the cost of sponsoring flowers will now be **\$50** (formerly \$45). We’re deeply grateful for your continued generosity in helping beautify our worship space each week. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

### **OPEN FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS:**

March 8, 15 & 29; April 5 (Easter) & 19; May 10 (Mother’s Day);  
June 7, 14, 21 (Father’s Day) & 28

### **OPEN RADIO SPONSORSHIPS:**

March 15, 22 & 29; April 5 & 26; May 3, 24 & 31;  
June 7, 14 & 21 (Father’s Day)

**To be a Radio or Flower Sponsor:** Call the office to reserve a date. Cost is \$50 for flowers. Flowers may be taken home following the 10:30 service, or you may have them given to one of our shut-ins by a member of the Altar Guild.

**Radio:** Radio sponsorships are \$250 for a 60-minute broadcast or \$125 for 30 minutes of the broadcast. *(Remaining 30 min. could be sponsored by someone else).*



**Ash Wednesday**  
— Lent Begins

### **Ash Wednesday, February 18:**

“You are dust, and to dust you shall return,” the Lord God said to Adam and Eve, in words the church recalls each Ash Wednesday. Ezekiel’s

### **Valley of Dry Bones** provides a

vivid picture of that, along with the hope of the Spirit’s gift of new life.

**February 25:** Sin begins to show its ugly results in **The Hebron Valley**, where the sons of Jacob plot to murder their brother Joseph, reminiscent of Cain and Abel.

**March 4:** At **The Jordan Valley**, about to cross the river into the promised land, we have the opportunity, like Moses, to look back at all the Lord has provided us and to look forward to what God has in store.

**March 11:** Gideon was hiding from the marauding Midianites in **The “Valley” of the Winepress**, a poor place to be threshing wheat. From there, God called this unlikely hero to valiant victory.

**March 18:** “**Every Valley Shall Be Lifted Up**,” says the prophet Isaiah about the coming of the Lord to rescue his people from captivity. Valleys still need to be raised up (and mountains and hills made low) for the Lord’s arrival.

**March 25:** to the Children of Israel before he died. Lent continues to call us to what the prophet Joel calls **The Valley of Decision**.



### **Holy Week Schedule:**

**March 29: Palm Sunday** 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
*Process in with palms at both services*

**April 2: Maundy Thursday** 7:00 p.m.  
*The Lord’s Supper is served/Stripping of the altar*

**April 3: Good Friday** 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
*Tenebrae Service (Service of darkness)*

**April 5: Easter Sunday**  
7:00 a.m. **SŌnrise Service w/Holy Communion**  
8:15—9:15 am. Easter Breakfast  
9:30 a.m. **Easter Festival Service w/Holy Communion**





### Midweek Lenten Services & Meals

Midweek Lenten services will begin Wednesday, February 18. The evening service will be preceded by a Lenten dinner.

Dinners are served from 5:15 p.m.—6:30 p.m. *(unless otherwise noted)*

#### The schedule at this time includes:

Wednesday, February 18	LWML Soup & Sandwich Dinner
Wednesday, February 25	Refuge Baked Potato & Salad Bar
Wednesday, March 04	5:00—6:30 p.m. Little Lambs Preschool Spaghetti Dinner
Wednesday, March 11	Immanuel Music Groups Taco Night
Wednesday, March 18	Junior Confirmation Families To Be Determined
Wednesday, March 25	Church Council Hot Dogs, Hamburgers & Brats fresh from the grill!



### MARCH OPPORTUNITY

Meals on wheels is coming in March! Sign up will begin on **Sunday, February 1st- Sunday February 22nd.** Each year we are given the opportunity to be a part of this community-wide service. Our church covers the month of March to provide meal delivery for the DeKalb area. Meals are provided by the Voluntary Action Center.

#### Delivery involves:

1. Arriving at Meals on Wheels headquarters around 10:45am. *(Located on the corner of Peace and Bethany Road).*
2. Obtaining prepacked carriers to place in your vehicle.
3. Using their carefully designed route maps to deliver meals to
4. shut-ins.
5. Returning carriers to the headquarters.

You will be finished in about an hour or so. Find a friend, relative, or neighbor to go with and after the route, go out for your own lunch! This is a fun task that is very well organized. Information and calendar sign up will be in the narthex under the Human Care bulletin board. This is a very rewarding experience and a great way to serve the community! Please consider signing up!

### LWML Notes:

#### LWML SOUP & SANDWICH ASH

**WEDNESDAY DINNER will be offered on Wednesday, February 18 from 5:15—**

**6:30p.m.** We are in need of soup, sandwich, desserts and staple donations for the evening as well as workers to serve. See the sign up sheet in the narthex.



**LWML BITS:** Our LWML NID theme for 2026 is “Kindness and Compassion” based on Ephesians 4:32. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (NIV) Our goals for the year will be to accept all people from all walks of life, comfort others, pray for others, and smile and greet strangers. What is your one act of kindness for today?



#### The Prayer Team will meet at 6:30

**Wednesday, February 4, 2026**

If you would like the Prayer Team to give thanks or pray for you or someone in need:

1. Please fill out a Prayer Request Card located in the pew racks and by the Prayer Request Box on the left side of the sanctuary.
2. Notify Pastor Marty or the church office
3. Fill out the form on the church website to notify Pastor Marty and the team.



#### WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE *THE LUTHERAN WITNESS MAGAZINE*?

The office is now taking subscriptions and renewals for *The Lutheran Witness*. If you currently

subscribe, and wish to continue, or if you would like to become a subscriber, please make a check out to Immanuel Lutheran Church for \$20.65/year. **Place your check in the church office with your name and address and a note indicating your desire to subscribe** or renew your current subscription. Subscriptions are due by February 22 and delivery will begin in May. The publication comes out monthly, with the exception of the combined June/July issue. Cost is \$1.72/issue.

*The Lutheran Witness* is the official magazine of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod. Its goal is to advance the work and witness of Jesus Christ. For questions about the publication, contact the editors at [Lutheran.Witness@lcms.org](mailto:Lutheran.Witness@lcms.org).



**Quilt and Lap Robes**  
**Sewing Group**  
Join us  
**February 10th & 24th**  
**at 9:15 a.m.**

*If you have the time—we can use your hands!*

## Join Us for Game Day!



Mark your calendar for game days.

**February 6th and March 6th**

The fun starts at 1pm & wraps up around 3:30pm. Both men & woman are invited.



## Aluminum Can Recycling – February 1, 2026

The Board of Trustees continues to collect cans here at church. For those who wish to drop your cans off, you can place them in front of the garage at the southwest corner of the parking lot the first Sunday morning of each month. If you wish, you can also bring cans and metals to DeKalb Iron and Metal and tell them it is for Immanuel Church and they will add it to our account and give you a receipt for your donation.



Salvation Army Food Pantry

## Remember Food Pantry Sunday is February 8, 2026

**Bring a nonperishable item for the local Salvation Army food pantry.**

Food Pantry Sunday is a collection

day to support the Salvation Army Food Pantry. Want to help? Add an item or two to your grocery list and put it in our shopping cart in the church narthex! Items can be placed in cart before or on the second Sunday of each month!

## Don't Give Up Witnessing for Lent!

*Invite a friend to experience it with you.*

### SEEK GOD:

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the heart of your friend.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to bless all interactions with your friends and family.

### BE CREATIVE:

- Exchange stories of family Easter traditions. You'll learn about others' current spiritual situations and be able to share what Jesus means to you.
- Invite your friends to make new traditions this year, especially if the Easter season is stressful or depressing. Invite them to read the devotions with you, go to Lent services, or participate in a servant event.
- Bring your friend or family member to help work at a church activity before Easter. Getting to know people in a non-threatening way makes them more likely to attend future worship.

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRY DEVOTION BOOKLETS WILL  
BE AVAILABE AT IMMANUEL IN THE NARTHEX BY  
FEBRUARY 15.



In love, God sent His Son to redeem the world. In hatred, He was rejected. In *Behold Your King!*, we see the Savior stripped of His dignity, led away, and crucified on our behalf. No one could imagine this Man, this condemned and forsaken Man, was God in the flesh sent to liberate us from our sin by His death and resurrection.

 **LHM.ORG/LENT**

# FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <i>Recycle Sunday</i> Lutheran School Week Presentation 8AM Worship/ YouTube/FB Live 9:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Worship/YouTube/FB Live 10:30 AM Worship Broadcast on WLBK 1360 12:00 PM Peer Ministry Team Meeting	<b>2</b> 5:30PM Bd of Trustees (North Narthex) 7 PM Zoom Bible Study	<b>3</b> 5 PM Bd of Christian Ed 5:30 PM Girl Scout Mtg. 6:30 PM Human Care Bd Mtg 7:00 PM Crafty Christians 9 PM Refuge Bible Study	<b>4</b> 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Jr. Confirmation 6 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Prayer Team	<b>5</b> 8:30AM Bulletin Deadline Prayer Team 6-7 PM Girl Scout Mtg. 8:00PM College Activity Night	<b>6</b> 8:30-12:30 Office Hours 1:00 PM Game Day 5:30PM Chit Chat & Chai 6:30PM Intercultural Café <div>5 PM—5 PM Refuge Leadership Conference, Howe, IN; Dunes Learning Center</div>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <i>Food Pantry Sunday</i> 8AM Worship/ YouTube/FB Live 9:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Worship/YouTube/FB Live 10:30 AM Worship Broadcast on WLBK 1360 12:00 PM Peer Ministry Team Meeting Refuge Super Bowl Party	<b>9</b> 7 PM Zoom Bible Study	<b>10</b> 9:15—11:30 AM Ladies Sewing Group 7:00 PM Crafty Christians 9PM Refuge Bible Study	<b>11</b> 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:30PM Jr. Confirmation 6 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal 7PM Elders Mtg	<b>12</b> Council Reports Due Darlene Off thru 2/23 (Office hours 8:30—2:30) LL T/TH Valentine's Day Party 8:30AM Bulletin Deadline 8 PM College Activity Night	<b>13</b> LL M/W/F Valentine's Day Party 8:30-12:30 Office Hours 5:30PM Chit Chat & Chai 6:30PM Intercultural Café	<b>14</b> 
<b>15</b> 8AM Worship/ YouTube/FB Live 9:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Worship/YouTube/FB Live 10:30 AM Worship Broadcast on WLBK 1360 12:00 PM Peer Ministry Team Meeting 6 PM Christianity 101	<b>16</b> <b>PRESIDENT'S DAY NO SCHOOL</b> 8:30—12:30 Office Hours 7 PM Zoom Bible Study	<b>17</b> <b>March Newsletter Deadline</b> 7 PM Crafty Christians 7 PM Campus Ministry Committee Meeting 9 PM Refuge Bible Study <div>Darlene Off; Office Hours 8:30—2:30</div>	<b>18</b> <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 11:00 AM Lenten Worship 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Jr. Confirmation 5:15 PM LWML Soup & Sandwich Lenten Dinner 6 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 PM Lenten Worship 7:45 PM Council Mtg	<b>19</b> 8:30AM Bulletin Deadline 6—7 PM Girl Scouts 6:30 PM Outreach Meeting 8 PM College Activity Night	<b>20</b> 8:30-12:30 Office Hours 5:30PM Chit Chat & Chai 6:30PM Intercultural Café	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8AM Worship/ YouTube/FB Live 9:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Worship/YouTube/FB Live 10:30 AM Worship Broadcast on WLBK 1360 12:00 PM Peer Ministry Team Meeting 6 PM Christianity 101	<b>23</b> Darlene Off 8:30—2:30 Office Hours 7 PM Zoom Bible Study	<b>24</b> 9:15—11:30 AM Ladies Sewing Group 7 PM Crafty Christians 9 PM Refuge Bible Study	<b>25</b> 9:30 AM Newsletter Assembly 11:00 AM Lenten Worship 12:15 PM Staff Lunch 5:15 PM Refuge Hosts Lenten Dinner 5:30 PM Jr. Confirmation 6 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Lenten Worship	<b>26</b> 8:30 AM Bulletin Deadline 8 PM College Activity Night 9:00 AM Little Lambs Book Sale Set Up	<b>27</b> 8:30-12:30 Office Hours 5:30PM Chit Chat & Chai 6:30PM Intercultural Café	<b>28</b>