

# you think you know the Bible?

How many books are in the Bible? Who wrote the book of Psalms? How many years were the Israelites enslaved in Egypt before the Exodus? These are just a few of the common questions most people would not know the answers to.

Then there are the more theological questions that are common in the modern world. Was the world made in six days or six ages? Was the Garden of Eden real? What about Adam and Eve? Were they real? Did the Genesis flood really happen? And was it A worldwide flood or maybe a more localized flood, like the forming of the black sea?

Then there are the really theological questions that come from the Bible that as a pastor I am asked all the time. Who was Jesus? Was Jesus really born of a virgin? Do I have to be Lutheran? Why does it matter?

The answers to all these questions and more can be found through study of the Bible. We come to learn basic things like the fact that there are 66 book in the Bible written by a myriad of authors through the centuries. We come to learn that the events in the first eleven chapters of Genesis are not just mythology, but divinely revealed history. We come to Bible study to learn who Jesus is. Not just the human son of Mary, but also the uncreated but begotten Son of God. Born of the virgin Mary. We come to study and learn each and every word of the Bible, wholly inspired by God, trustworthy and reliable.

It is easy to think that we know it all. Many of us have grown up Lutheran, and even more of us have spent our whole lives as Christians. Don't we know the Bible by now? I get these thoughts, but to steal a little from Paul, I grew up Christian, I grew up an LCMS Lutheran. I went to a Lutheran grade school, both a Christian and then a Lutheran college, and I went to an LCMS seminary. I have been a pastor for over a decade, and after being here more than three years, I have gone through every reading in the Lectionary with you here at Immanuel. If anyone should know it all by now it is me, but I don't. Every time I study a scripture for Bible class or to preach on, God shows me something new. So He will teach you too.

A seed in the ground cannot sprout and take root without being planted in the soil. A plant cannot survive without being watered. Living in Nebraska, Iowa, and here in Danville has shown me this. Don't let the seed God planted in you remain dormant. Don't let the faith within you weaken, struggle, or even die. Spend time with your brothers and sisters in Christ, spend time in the Word of God. Come to a Bible study, and if there isn't one that meets your needs in topic or in time, speak with Pastor so we can meet your need to be nourished by the Word of God and to grow in your faith. Come to know Methuselah and the three authors of the book of Psalms. Come and study the Word of God with us, grow in your faith, and strengthen your faith in Jesus Christ our Lord.

***Pastor Yonkers***

## SPECIAL DATES IN MARCH:

- LWML Mite Collection, **Mar. 2**
- Transfiguration Sunday, **Mar. 2**
- Rainbows for Kyla Benefit Breakfast, **Mar. 2**
- Ash Wednesday, **Mar. 5**
- Daylight Savings begins, **Mar. 9**
- Pie Day, **Mar. 16**
- First Day of Spring, **Mar. 20**
- Spring Rummage and Bake Sale, **Mar. 21 – 22**
- ILS Sunday with Children Singing, **Mar. 30**

## RAINBOWS FOR KYLA:



We thank each and every one of you who paused to say a prayer for Kyla the day she had her surgery. Please continue to pray for her, her family and friends, and the doctors and nurses caring for her as she recovers. To help the Culotti family with medical and living expenses as

Kyla continues her recovery and treatment, the youth of Immanuel invite you to a service of prayer and hope and benefit breakfast *next Sunday, Mar. 2*. We want the Culotti Family to know that they are not alone as they face these clouds of darkness. Remember that our God is one of hope, love, and care. As Noah saw the rainbow after the flood, you, too, have His promise that He will never leave you. If you would like to help with the event, please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway. Volunteers are needed next Saturday, **Mar. 1** at 9 am to help set up, prep food, and decorate. On the day of the event, we will need people to cook, serve, and clean up afterwards. While the money we hope to raise is important; our goal is to have two hundred individuals in church to pray for healing and strength for Kyla and her family. Please tell and bring your family and friends and wear rainbow colors on this special day.

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**HELP US CARE FOR YOU:** *Your well-being is important to us and we want to pray for you!* Unfortunately, we are no longer notified by the hospital; please call the church office during regular business hours (Monday through Friday from 7 am - 3:30 pm) when you have any medical procedure or in any time of spiritual need at 217-442-5675. In case of emergencies after hours, please feel free to contact Pastor Yonkers on his cell at 260-413-8375. **Prayer requests:** we are certainly pleased to pray for your (non-member) family and friends alongside our Immanuel members. Please keep us informed of their needs.

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## FASTING AND FEASTING

- Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.
  - Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.
  - Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.
  - Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.
  - Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.
  - Fast from pride, and feast on humility.
  - Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.
  - Fast from fear, and feast on faith.
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## ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS!

The Thrivent Choice Dollars Deadline is **March 31!** Each year, Thrivent members have the opportunity to designate where your Thrivent Choice Dollars go. Choice Dollars are a free benefit of being a Thrivent member, and they can be used to make great donations to Immanuel Lutheran Church, or any of its special missions or funds. It is all, as the name implies, YOUR choice. Thrivent Choice Dollars can be designated to many other organizations or charities, but we ask that you would consider designating Immanuel Lutheran Church. If you wish to designate to a specific mission or ministry here (including Immanuel Lutheran School) we can make that happen. Just speak to the church office regarding your Choice Dollars and we will make them work for you!

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**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** The Elders are still working through our membership roster. A list has been compiled of members who have been inactive for some time, many of them for several years, that we have no contact information for. Please take a look at the following list. If you are related to or friends with anyone, or even if you have older contact information we can try, please let the church office know so we can reach out. Thank you!

- Barbara Cunningham
  - Steve and Lee Diveley
  - Joyce Doss
  - Robin Ferguson
  - Penny Fredericks
  - Nicole Garrett
  - Larry and Jennifer Hill
  - David and Angela Jenkins
  - Laurel Lear
  - Erin and Daniel Moore
  - Lynn Pasquale
  - Darlene Radloff
  - Nicole and Jason Reynolds
  - Jason Smith
  - Joshua Smith
  - Brad Walters
  - Lisa Wilkus
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**God does not need your good works,  
but your neighbor does.**

— Martin Luther —



# Lent at Immanuel

## THE HAND OF THE LORD

Lent will begin this year with Ash Wednesday on **Mar. 5**. All midweek Lenten services are at 6:30 pm: **Mar. 5, 12, 19 & 26**, and **Apr. 2 & 9**. **Lent Suppers:** We need you to host a Lenten supper! You do not need to serve on a board to host a supper. Get a couple of friends together and you can choose where to donate the proceeds – Capital Fund, general fund, Zora Drews, food pantry, youth, etc. Call the church office to sign up. See below to learn more about our sermon series!

Whether tightening a bolt, crocheting, or typing on a computer, there is so much that we do with our hands. The Greek physician Galen called them *the instrument of instruments*. Indeed, hands are instruments that can do a great deal of things. Hands can be used to heal or hurt, work or wreck, build or break, seize or surrender, and on and on. Hands are so often central to the ways we interact with the world that they have also become figurative symbols of power, control, craftsmanship, and possession. We daily speak of hands in many phrases, such as “Lend a hand,” “Things are out of hand,” “Working together hand in glove,” and “Close at hand.” Moreover, in our modern era of robotic, machine, and computer processing, adding “hand” as a prefix to many words can often communicate something that is personal and intentional. Labeling something as handpicked, handwritten, or handmade adds a personal touch and significance. Our Creator has bestowed on us these amazing instruments.

It is no surprise that mentions of hands appear all over the Bible as God’s Word speaks to us in ways that we can understand. All things are the work of the hand of the Lord (Psalm 102:25). The Lord’s hand is referred to over two hundred times in the Old Testament. The Lord’s hand is active in creation, power, control over happenings of the world, judgment, and salvation. The hand of the Lord was upon Ezekiel when He gave him a vision (Ezekiel 3:22), and the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines in the days of Samuel (1 Samuel 7:13). The hand of the Lord is both Law and Gospel.

Perhaps surprisingly, specific references to the “hand of the Lord” are not all that frequent in the New Testament. However, it is precisely in the New Testament where the hand of the Lord takes on literal meaning. The One through whom all things were created took on real, literal hands in His incarnation (John 1:1–14). We have several examples throughout Scripture that speak of the way that Christ used His hands alongside His life-giving words to bring forgiveness, life, and salvation. The work of Christ’s hands helps us to see the merciful and personal way that He has condescended to us. He has given us something to grasp, even as He holds us. Jesus used His hands to save drowning Peter, to feed the multitudes, to touch those who were unclean, to stop a funeral procession in its tracks, to lift up Jairus’s daughter, and to bless the children. The hand of the Lord has come to us in Jesus.

On the other hand, the literal and figurative actions of mere human hands in the Bible are often the means of our own sin. After all, our own Lord was “delivered into the hands of men” (Luke 9:44). However, on a greater level, we know that it was the hand of the Lord at work all along, most especially in His crucifixion. Christ laid down His life of His own authority as He allowed Himself to be delivered into the hands of sinful men (John 10:18). His hands were pierced for the sins of the world. His hands rested on Holy Saturday. Yet, on the third day, He rose again. He now holds us in His hands, and no one can snatch us from His hand (John 10:28). Our Lord has hands, real hands. Jesus has accomplished all that we need. Amazingly, He takes our manipulative, distorted, self-serving hands and restores them into useful hands for His purposes, both to literally use them in service and to make our whole lives into His instruments of witness, service, and praise.

# STEWARDSHIP SPOT

**God's Instruments, God's Stewards** - *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)*

Some pastors refer to these words as “the most forgotten words in the Scriptures.” They are forgotten because they follow the familiar and critical words before it. The preceding two verses that overshadow Ephesians 2:10 are words of justification: “*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast*” (Eph. 2:8-9). These are words preached regularly. They are assigned as confirmation verses. They carry with them the very heart of what it means to be a redeemed child of God!

Precisely because the previous verses are so central to salvation, they often overpower our practice of stewardship! We have been saved by grace. This is certain and sure because of Jesus. Works play no role in our salvation. No credit taking for us! Grace is freely given. Faith is miraculously created by the Spirit and joyously received. This truth is so wonderful and so encompassing that we often miss out on WHY we are redeemed.

The grace of God revealed in Jesus calls us to faith. But St. Paul doesn't stop with grace and faith. He continues to the logical conclusion. Just like the creation declares the handiwork of God, the redemption of sinners like you and me declares His greatest handiwork! Redeemed stewards are created to reflect the grace and mercy God showers on us to others.

As Lutherans, we understand that good works flow from faith in Jesus Christ. They are the fruit of the tree of salvation into which we have been grafted by grace. Sanctification and stewardship are both on-going and active confessions of what the Lord has done in us. These works are not always spectacular. Many times, they are simply parents showing Jesus to their children. They are compassionate actions that live out the truth of the Gospel to co-workers and even complete strangers. While they can be grand endeavors, more likely they are simple, beautiful works which highlight what Jesus has done in us.

These works aren't random either. They have been planned by God. God planned to use you as a faithful steward as you walk the road that leads you through your daily life. There are no chance encounters or coincidences. They have been planned by the Lord of the universe for the benefit of His creation. Good works are what point to God's greatest work: Jesus!

He calls you and me to walk in this faith, which flows from this grace, which has been poured out on us in Jesus. But even this is not to our credit. We are simply called to be faithful stewards of God's grace so that we may share it with those who need it as much as we do. God's Spirit carries us along in this. We are just the steward — the instrument in His hand to accomplish His plan and glorify Him!

**CAPITAL FUND DRIVE:** The current bank balance is \$120,757 (This does not include the Taste of Deutschland fundraiser.) WE ARE ABOUT HALFWAY TO OUR GOAL of \$260,000 for our current project of reroofing the school/gym wing of the building! Stop by the display in the narthex to see the pictures of the current roof. We want to schedule the project for the spring of 2026, so we need to raise the rest of the money this year. The congregation established the Capital Fund Drive in 2012, and thanks to our generous congregation, we have accomplished many needed upgrades/renovations. Prior generations worked and sacrificed to build the school and church building, and it is up to us to preserve and improve our church home just as we would our own household's. There is a Capital Fund Drive bulletin board in the hallway between the coat room and the parish mailboxes where you'll find special envelopes for ongoing donations throughout the year. “*...because of my devotion to the house of my God I give my treasure for the house of my God. 1 Chronicles 29:3b*. All donations from large to small are equally appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Jo Van Hoveln or any of the committee members.

**“A TASTE OF DEUTSCHLAND” GERMAN DINNER AND DANCING:** The fundraising event results will be reported soon in the Immanuel Lights and April monthly newsletter. THANK YOU to all who participated in this event by volunteering, baking a dessert, and/or attending the event.

**SUPER BOWL SUB SALE:** Thank you to Sue Heidle for doing this fundraiser for the Capital Fund Drive and making delicious subs with the Hershey kisses. This raised \$238 for the new roof on the school/gym wing of our building.

**UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS:** Pie Day will be held on Sunday, **Mar. 16**. The rummage sale will be held **Mar. 21 and 22**. Please do NOT bring rummage sale items until March 12 as we don't have room to store them as the stage will be used by the preschool until then. Proceeds from both events will benefit the Capital Fund Drive project of the new roof for the school/gym wing of our building.

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**GIFT (SCRIP) CARDS ORDERS:** The next Scrip order is due to the church office on **Monday, Mar. 10** by 9 am. Scrip cards make great gifts! Updated order blanks are on the table in the chapel hallway. Orders are not limited to the vendors listed on the order blank. You can find a complete list of vendors at [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com) or on the bulletin board in the hall. Write the name of the vendor, denomination of the gift card, number of cards wanted, and total amount on a blank line. Your order will be available **Mar. 16**. *What is Scrip?* They are gift cards. If you order and pay for a \$100 Meijer scrip card, you get a \$100 Meijer gift card. The church gets \$3 (3%) from the program, and you buy \$100 worth of groceries, prescriptions, gas, etc. with it. There are varying rates depending on the vendor ranging from 1.5% to 13%. These cards are *good anywhere and make great birthday, Christmas, new baby, or wedding gifts*.

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## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS SUMMARY:**

**Date: Feb. 18, 2025 / Next Meeting: Mar. 18, 2025**

### **New Business**

Jo Van Hovel is seeking a grant from Iroquois Federal Foundation for the school roof, which requires a motion from the board. A motion was passed to grant her permission on behalf of the Capital Fund to seek the grant.

### **Old Business**

The Board of Directors decided to deposit the Pledgeling Foundation checks.

### **Christian Education**

There was no quorum for the February meeting, so no official actions were recorded.

### **Finance**

Two CDs matured. One was an organ fund long term CD. The interested was rolled in and the CD rolled over. The school savings CD matured. The interested was deposited to the school checking and the principal rolled over. The total interest earned to date since we started putting savings into CDs (early 2023) is \$13,615.38.

### **Properties**

Allen is working with Butch on the sanctuary lighting. Al is looking to repair or replace the church water fountain. The rolling ladder for the stage is assembled. Thank you the Women's Guild and Men's Club for splitting the cost!

### **Stewardship**

Pie Day is March 16. The Spring Rummage and Bake Sale is March 21 & 22. Proceeds from both will go to the Capital Fund for the roof project.

### **Worship**

Lent is approaching. Pastor found a Lenten series from CPH that he would like to use titled "The Hand of the Lord." Discussed bring back sharing the peace.

### **Parish Education**

Diana asked for feedback regarding Children's Church and Nursery. Discussed keeping Sunday School and Bible Studies in the forefront so new families know about it.

### **Youth**

Hustle Hoops is complete and made about \$1200.00 profit from the concessions stand. We hope to hear soon about NYG hotel accommodations. We are close to having all costs paid for with the exception of food. We will continue to fundraise. Will show "The Woodcarver" at the next youth night.

### **Mission and Social Ministry**

Reports reviewed. Received a thank you note from the school for donations.

### **Elders**

The Elders continue to work through the membership roster.

### **Pastor's Report**

Reviewed written report. Discussed Adult Confirmation.

**PRAYER SHAWLS NEEDED:** Missions and Social Ministry is looking for volunteers to knit or crochet prayer shawls. Prayer shawls are lovingly made, held in prayer, and given to anyone in need so they can be wrapped in the warmth, peace, strength, and comfort of God's love. Please see Joyce Martin if you are interested in helping out or have any questions.

## **WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS:**

- Ladies, join us for our next Women's Guild luncheon meeting on Tuesday, **Mar. 11** at 11:30 am. Please bring a dish to share, everything else will be provided.
- Thank you to Kimberly Cullen, director of the East Central Chapter of Safe Families for Children for presenting at our February meeting. This non-profit organization temporarily hosts children and provides family-like support to parents through a community of volunteers. These volunteers provide support and resources to parents while they get back on their feet from homelessness, unemployment, hospitalization, domestic violence, etc. Safe families is faith-motivated and family-focused.
- Our March ingathering is for Safe Families. At this time, we are asking for Walmart gift cards in varying amounts. These gift cards will go directly to clients in need or to host families to help with food, diapers, etc. Future needs may be grocery items or cleaning supplies.
- LWML Mite Bytes: Mission Grant #7 is \$10,000 for Servants of the Gospel through Dots. Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) uses funds to produce at least 1,500 volumes of braille Bibles, large print Bibles, prison Bibles, and other Christian materials, such as scripture calendars. **How can you help?** Pray that God provides the opportunity for those people with visual impairments or incarceration to come to know or continue belief in God through the materials produced by LBW. Support this grant by donating to your church's LWML group mite fund.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENTS AND CHILDREN!**

Save the Date! On **April 13**, we will sing and play bells during the Palm Sunday service. We will practice during Sunday School (8:30 – 9:15 am each Sunday) beginning **March 23**. *Please join us!*



## ILS DATES TO REMEMBER...

- **Mar. 12** – Grandparents Day
- **Mar. 13** – Regular Christian Education Meeting
- **Mar. 17 – 21** – ILS Spring Break
- **Mar. 30** – ILS Sunday with Children Singing



**ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS:** Pastor will be starting an adult Instruction class on Sunday, **Mar. 23** at 8:30 am. Immanuel is a thriving congregation. Our future is bright, and we have many new attendees and even some now wishing to become members. In light of this we will be starting an adult instruction class during Bible Study hour on Sunday mornings this spring. This class will not be a full year-long confirmation study, but instead a brief course going over Luther's Small Catechism and its six chief parts. What are these parts? And was its das? If you cannot answer that from memory maybe you too could come and join us for a brief refresher on what we believe teach and confess. Even if you immediately started to recite the catechism from heart you ought to still come and study with our soon to be members and get to know the new comers to Immanuel. We pray each week to be a city on a hill, a light to people near and far. We have shown the light of Christ into the world. We have done so through our friendship and fellowship and through our preschool. Now it is time to welcome those we have reached with the light of Christ and welcome them into the family of God. If you are a newcomer to Immanuel OR if you are a life-long member of Immanuel or the LCMS please join us for this special adult instruction to learn and grow in Christ and in one another. Come and learn; come and refresh your faith; come and welcome the ones the light of Christ has touched through Immanuel.







## A Message from Rev. Jeff Harter Chaplain at Concordia Villages, Springfield

*As you come to Him, the living Stone – rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ.*

- 1 Peter 2:4-5

Have you ever noticed the pattern in which bricks or cement blocks are arranged on a wall? In the middle of the wall each one is touching six others. The church of Christ is to be like that. Each one of us is touching others that we may support one another. Of course, we are not limited to supporting six people and we ourselves may be supported by more than six.

Have you ever watched a small child build a tower with wooden or plastic blocks? They tend to place each one directly on top of the others. Even if the blocks snap together, the wall easily falls. In business or in church that is what we call “silo thinking.” Departments or families “stack” themselves together without giving any real support to other families or departments. Just like the small child’s block tower, such an arrangement is doomed to fall or to function at much less than its potential.

Christ is our solid Rock upon whom we are securely founded and supported. If things fall apart in a congregation, we cannot blame God. Rather, we must look at ourselves and assess how we are built together and upon whom are we founded. Lack of members or money are symptoms and not the cause of a fall. In rural areas where the number of members may decline because the area population is declining, the congregation can serve God and members can grow in faith as they support one another. Remember, Jesus called twelve apostles, not twelve hundred. And as far as we know, none of them was rich. Yet those few people made a huge difference in the world as God blessed them, supported them, and used them.

## Stay Connected!

Central Illinois District Contact Information:

CID’s website: <http://www.cidlcms.org/>

Subscribe to the E-GatePost (digital newsletter) and monthly bulletin inserts: <http://www.cidlcms.org/>

Follow the CID on Facebook and Instagram

## Prayer Request

**Pray for Our Central Illinois District Missions supported by your church’s contributions to the District. “Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored.”** Please remember in your prayers all our CID campus ministries, especially Immanuel Lutheran Church in Charleston, serving students, faculty, and staff at Eastern Illinois University. And pray for the “Keeping Christ on Campus campaign,” building endowments to help CID support our campus ministries.

## Camp CILCA News

### Women’s Retreat: Mar. 28 – 29

Our retreat theme is Lean & Learn: join us as we lean into God’s word, digging into what God says to us and learn how we live it out in our daily vocation as women. There are two choices for our retreat... You can join us overnight for \$100 and stay in the Christian Growth Center or choose the day only option available for \$75. Registration is open.

### Homecoming: Aug. 2

This will be CILCA’s only fundraiser for the year (replacing the Hog Roast and Chicken Fry). There will be live music, a vendor fair, great food, swimming, square dancing, face painting, wagon rides and more. Mark your calendar to celebrate CILCA’s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in style!

*2025 marks 75 years of outdoor ministry!*

To celebrate this blessed anniversary, Camp CILCA will be offering every week of camp to all campers for just \$75! Registration is open - secure your spot!

***Camp CILCA exists to strengthen and foster faith in Jesus Christ and relationships with others in a unique outdoor setting.***



***Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 8 to make sure you get to church on time!***

**WEEKLY BROADCAST SCHEDULE:**

Sundays at 7:00 am – WTWO – TV2 (NBC)

Sundays at 7:30 am – WCIX Channel 3

Sundays at 10:30 am – TCT Network – Direct TV Channel 377

Nationwide Sundays: Direct TV Channel 377 (11:30 am Eastern / 10:30 am Central / 9:30 am Mountain / 8:30 am Pacific)

Tune in anytime online: [www.worshipforshutins.org](http://www.worshipforshutins.org)**March 2025****March 2, 2025****“Changed by the Mountain” by Rev. William Mueller****Sermon Text: Deuteronomy 34:1-12**

Transfiguration Sunday is the day to remember the moment Jesus revealed His glory to Peter, James, and John. It was high upon a mountain. Two other “mountain climbers” – Moses and Elijah – appeared with the quartet. The account of Moses’ death upon Mt. Nebo, and his reappearance with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, invites us to see how we, too, are changed by the mountain.

**March 9, 2025****“It Is Written” by Rev. Paul Shoemaker****Sermon Text: Luke 4:1-13**

Jesus, the sinless Son of God, took upon Himself all of our sins and paid the price for our forgiveness, in full, on Calvary’s cross. Jesus resisted Satan’s temptations and, in so doing, showed us how we, too, can resist. We turn to God’s Holy Word and rebuke Satan saying, “It is written.”

**March 16, 2025****“Celestial Civics” by Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer****Sermon Text: Philippians 3:20**

Lent powerfully reminds us that we don’t belong here, that we hold heavenly citizenship. Today we learn of the privileges and responsibilities, the pitfalls and opportunities, of celestial citizenship.

**March 23, 2025****“Discipline from the Lord” by Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III****Sermon Text: Psalm 85**

We are all sinners. This means that, at times, we will receive discipline from the Lord. But rejoice! This discipline comes from the love of God and is for our good. This is corrective discipline; it is blessed discipline.

**March 30, 2025****“The Prodigal Father” by Rev. Thomas Eggold****Sermon Text: Luke 15:11b**

When we return to our Lord in our sin, our heavenly Father is always there, arms wide open, ready to restore us to the family. Our sin is great and deserves nothing but punishment, but His grace is greater. Despite our sin, He continues to love us, He continues to seek us out, and He continues to deal with us with the love and mercy made possible in Jesus.





**Altar Guild**

Sharon Crow and Sharron Runyan

**Money Counters**

Team "C" – Mary Powell and Holly Clem

**Check Signers**

Julie Buesing and Mary Powell

**Elders**

Don DeMoss, Dean Hull, Kurt Thornsborough

**Communion Assistants**

- 2 Don DeMoss, Josh Christensen
- 16 Dean Hull, Dwain Dixon
- 30 Don DeMoss, Dean Hull

Ash Wednesday – Mar. 5 at 6:30 pm

Kurt Thornsborough, Allen Julian

**Ushers – Team "C"**

Capt. Kurt Thornsborough, Paul Pasquale, Butch Buesing, Gary West, Allen Julian, and Jim Robinson

Special Services – Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

- 5 Team "D" – Capt. Jerry Kennett
- 12 Team "E" – Capt. Denny Hilton
- 19 Team "F" – Capt. Ray Wittmann
- 26 Team "A" – Capt. Don DeMoss

**Lay Readers**

- 2 Josh Christensen
- 9 Kurt and Debbie T.
- 16 Butch and Julie Buesing
- 23 Sue DeMoss
- 30 Carrie Farrell

**Gospel Reader**

- Josh Christensen
- Kurt Thornsborough
- Butch Buesing
- Dwain Dixon
- Kurt Thornsborough

Special Services – Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 5 Gail and Barb Garner | Gail Garner      |
| 12 Sue Heidle          | Butch Buesing    |
| 19 Allen Julian        | Allen Julian     |
| 26 Jan Mann            | Josh Christensen |

**Acolytes**

Sundays

- 2 Eli Mann
- 9 Kinley Pratt
- 16 Kendall Wright
- 23 Jamie Yonkers
- 30 Carley Wright

Wednesday Services

- 5 Jamie Yonkers
- 12 Jamie Yonkers
- 19 Kinley Pratt
- 26 Eli Mann

**Videographer**

- 2 Dwain Dixon
- 9 Josh Christensen
- 16 Kim Davis
- 23 Josh Christensen
- 30 Dwain Dixon

**Sound/Screens**

- Jamie Yonkers
- Jamie Yonkers
- Kinley Pratt
- Eli Mann

**Children's Church**

- 2 Jan Mann
- 16 Jan Mann
- 30 Jan Mann

**Nursery**

- Chelsea Pratt, Kirsten T.
- Chelsea Pratt, Kirsten T.
- Chelsea Pratt, Kirsten T.

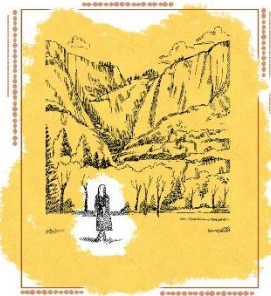
**Children's Sermon**

- 9 Mary Ellen Fricke
- 23 Jo Robinson

**Bible Quiz**

Complete this sentence which introduces a well-known Bible story: "The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of \_\_\_\_\_."

- A. flowers
- B. sheep
- C. rocks
- D. bones



Answer: D (See Ezekiel 37:1, NIV)



FROM THE RISING OF THE SUN,  
TO THE PLACE WHERE IT SETS, THE  
NAME OF THE LORD IS TO BE  
PRAISED.

-PSALM 113:3

# sweet soil



This snack's layers mimic properties of our planet's crust.



### What you need:

- 1 cup rolled oats
- ½ cup nut butter (divided)
- ½ cup chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Silicone mini baking cups

### What you do:

1. Combine the oats and ⅓ cup of the nut butter. Mix until oats stick together.
2. Place 2 teaspoons of oat mixture in each baking cup. Press with a spoon. Freeze for 10 minutes.
3. Spread remaining nut butter atop the cups. Freeze for 10 more minutes.
4. Microwave the chocolate chips 30 seconds. Stir and keep heating for 30-second intervals until melted.
5. Spread melted chocolate atop the cups. Freeze until chocolate is firm.
6. Remove from the molds and enjoy! Refrigerate leftovers in an airtight container.



# Puzzle!



Fill in the blanks with the tiny creatures mentioned in each verse (all NIV). Then search for those words in the puzzle below.

Proverbs 6:6

\_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 78:45

\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 23:24

\_\_\_\_\_

Judges 14:8b

\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 12:23

\_\_\_\_\_

Leviticus 11:22

\_\_\_\_\_

Leviticus 11:22

\_\_\_\_\_

Deuteronomy 7:20

\_\_\_\_\_

Exodus 16:20

\_\_\_\_\_

1 Samuel 24:14

\_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 50:9

\_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 59:5

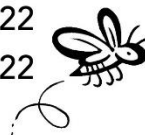
\_\_\_\_\_

Leviticus 11:22

\_\_\_\_\_

Leviticus 11:22

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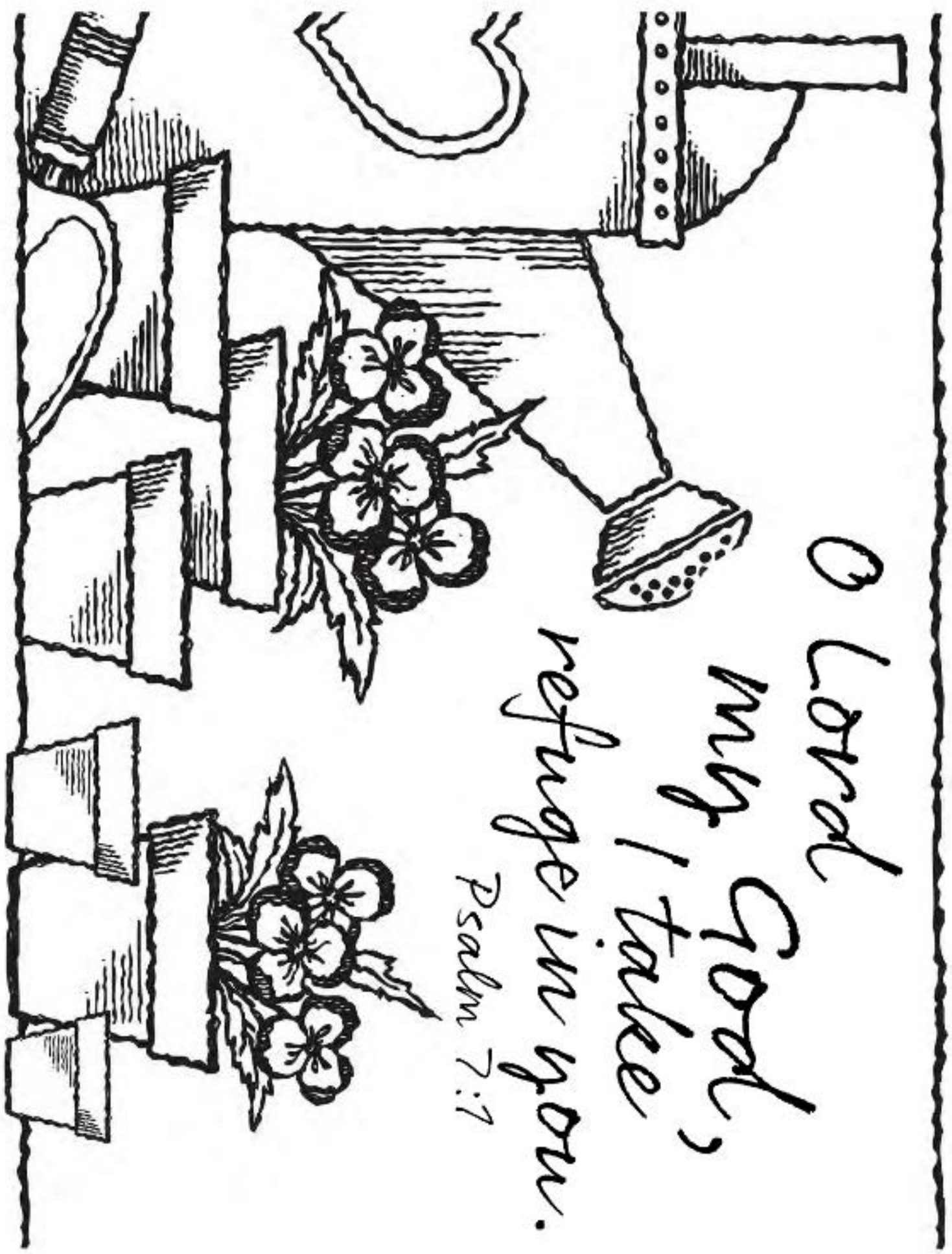


M	O	T	H	S	G	N	A	T	B	H
A	N	T	A	L	L	C	H	P	E	O
G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R
G	F	C	R	I	C	K	E	T	S	N
O	L	S	P	I	D	E	R	S	B	E
T	E	C	L	O	C	U	S	T	D	T
S	A	E	F	K	A	T	Y	D	I	D
G	F	L	I	E	S	W	O	R	M	S



Answers: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggots, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket





O Lord  
my God,  
I take  
refuge in you.  
Psalm 7:1

March 2025

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Luke 19:10

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# MESSENGER

## GOD WITH US

**Immanuel Lutheran**  
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Immanuel  
Lutheran School  
217-442-5036

**Worship Schedule**

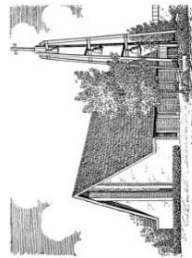
**Sundays**  
Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30  
at 9:30 am

**Wednesdays**  
Mar. 5, 12, 19 & 26  
at 6:30 pm

**Communion Schedule**

**Sundays**  
Mar. 2, 16 & 30  
at 9:30 am

**Wednesday**  
Mar. 5 at 6:30 pm



**WORSHIP**  
*with us*

*This newsletter also available on our website: www.ilcdanville.com*

*Our March 2025 newsletter prepared prayerfully for:*



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Place  
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Here