

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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February Newsletter

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH LC-MS
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**ALL SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE
SERVICES ARE LIVE STREAMED ON OUR FACEBOOK**

LET US KNOW...

If you have a change in address, phone or email, have a loved one who is or hospitalized, have a new baby, would like a pastoral visit, or if you would like a special prayer during the prayers of the church on Sunday, please contact Pastor Koepp or the church office.

DO YOU...

have an announcement for the bulletin or newsletter?

Have a prayer request? Birth/Anniversary/Graduation announcements? If so, please submit the information as you want it to appear in the bulletin or newsletter by the deadlines listed below to the church secretary at lcms.immanuelgrinnell@gmail.com

Deadline for submitting in the weekly bulletin is Thursdays by noon. Deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 15th of each month. For those of you without email access, please call or submit your written request to the church secretary.



HELLO FEBRUARY

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Pastor's Message

In the past few months, there has been an uptick in violence and discord around the world. In anxious and troubled times, many search for answers; something to which to cling that will hopefully take an edge off the anxiety. Trouble is not new in creation of course, but we live in a time in which anxiety can easily find food. We don't even have to scour the depths of the internet to find troubled things and vain hopes. With artificial intelligence, the algorithms will send to our feeds and our in-boxes videos and "information" that feeds worry ad nauseum. It wears us down, or worse, causes us to become addicted to the never-ending streams of text and video, like junkies spending our time and resources chasing the hit just to get a fix.

In the past year, I have had an increase of items sent to me to watch for my thoughts and reflections. I am always happy to that, and please don't read this article as a plea to discontinue sending me things; that is not my intention. I want to offer some guidance to help discern our way through the constant barrage of media mediocrity. Now, while news stations have their own blessings and ills, I am specifically referring to those who are attempting to give commentary from various Christian perspectives.

The 2017 edition of Luther's Small Catechism from Concordia Publishing House asks three important questions that I put before you to ponder before reading the rest of my article:

- Question 44: How do we fear and love God in keeping the Second Commandment?
 - First, we fear and love God by not using His name to lie to others or deceive them by speaking or teaching falsely about God.

- Matthew 7:21 - ***Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.***
- Jeremiah 23:31-32 - ***31Behold, I am against the prophets, declares the Lord, who use their tongues and declare, 'declares the Lord.' 32Behold, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, declares the Lord, and who tell them and lead my people astray by their lies and their recklessness, when I did not send them or charge them. So they do not profit this people at all, declares the Lord.***
- Question 86: The Bible tells us to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). What does this mean?
 - It means to speak truthfully to others for their well-being, to build others up toward the mature fullness of life we have in Christ. It includes gently admonishing or encouraging people to repent of their sin, and pointing out the dangers of false teachings and false teachers.
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:14 - ***And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.***
 - Read 2 Samuel 12:1-14, where Nathan confronts David with his sin. Read Ephesians 4:11-16, where Paul tells how speaking the truth in love prevents people from being deceived by false teaching and other dangers.
- Question 215: What are some of the privileges and responsibilities of members of the Church?
 - We should be aware of and avoid false teachings, false teachers, and organizations that promote false teaching.
 - Matthew 7:15-16 – ***Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?***
 - Galatians 1:8 – ***But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.***
 - Romans 16:17-18 – ***I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. 18For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.***

- 1 John 4:1 – ***Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.***

A troubling trend is found within many of the videos, and that is a theme that constantly is aimed at misunderstanding biblical prophecies and prophetic literature in an attempt to speak of the Last Things and almost seek to control the day of Christ's return.

To be fair, many of these people are very learned individuals. Before listening, before speaking, it does us well to also recall these other words of God from Jeremiah 23: "***Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the Lord. Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?***" (Jeremiah 23:28-29)

A common theme emerges from many of these videos, namely, a worldview that goes down the dangerous path of trying to pin down a very specific time frame for the Book of Revelation to modern times. We know from Jesus, "***32 From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. 33 So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 34 Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 36 "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. 37 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, 39 and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. 42 Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.***" (Matthew 24:32-44)

From this, we see a few things. No one knows that day or the hour, so trying to pin down a time is an exercise in futility. Second, the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. When one tries to see and interpret the time as to when to expect Jesus coming back, he will ultimately fail. Third, it is important to know how to rightly see and interpret the times and seasons.

The Christian always believes he or she is living in the end times. Because we do not know when Christ is coming back (either for me individually or for all on the Last Day), the Christian lives as always prepared. We know and confess that each breath might be our last. This is why Jesus taught us to pray this day for our daily bread. It is why the Holy Spirit teaches us to sing in the psalms, ***“The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. 15 Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous: ‘The right hand of the Lord does valiantly, 16 the right hand of the Lord exalts, the right hand of the Lord does valiantly!’ 17 I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. 18 The Lord has disciplined me severely, but he has not given me over to death. 19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. 20 This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. 21 I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. 22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. 23 This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. 24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”*** (Psalm 118:14-24)

It all begins and ends with God. Jesus is our righteousness, and only through Him, in Him, can we enter into the courts of the Lord. He is our cornerstone of faith and life. It is the Lord’s work. He has not only created this day, but He has given it to me. What else can I do but rejoice and be glad in it?

The sinful nature of course gets in the way and has a theological bias that wants to overemphasize the work of man, and underemphasize the work of God. In this view, man is the center of the Scriptures, not Jesus. Because man is placed at the center, there is no real hope that is given. Hope is searched for in many and various places, apart from Christ and His sure work, His sure word. Many will even posit positions of a Christian being at war and the necessity for prayer, which are true; however, they misinterpret them to fit their own manmade goals. When speaking of spiritual warfare, many will say that they know who will win. They miss the fact that Jesus already HAS WON!

When you begin to put these things together, you see a danger world-view emerge. It is one that lives in and causes panic. It is not aimed at peace, and so there is a certain amount of grabbing at straws, so to speak, to try to make sense of it all. There is a lot of questions raised, and no peace given, which goes against the Holy Spirit's words through Paul, ***“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*** (Philippians 4:4-7)

As you consume various other stories and information of the world, two final thoughts. The first is aimed at faith toward God. Take the example of the Bereans in Acts 17. They received the gospel with eagerness, and daily examined the Scriptures with careful diligence to verify if Paul's teaching's were true. Remember, one major point of the Scriptures is for your comfort. They are given by God so that His children, as children, can be comforted in all of the strange and wicked things that happen living in sinful bodies in a sinful world. Instead of living in fear and doubt trying to place every sign that, quite frankly, are mostly guesses on our part, we would be better to spend more time in the Words of Jesus and it in the sure and certain signs, that are more than signs, His Word and Sacraments.

The second is aimed at living in love toward our neighbors. St. Paul writes:

I bow my knees before the Father, 15from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

4I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

9(In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? 10He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,

12to equip the saints,
for the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ,

13until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

17Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. 20But that is not the way you learned Christ!— 21assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

25Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. 26Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil. 28Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. 29Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

5Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 3:14-5:2)

+Soli Deo Gloria+

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp

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O Lord, Look Down from Heaven, Behold

Ps. 12
Ach Gott vom Himmel, sieh darein
Martin Luther, 1523
Tr., composite

8.7.8.7.8.8.7.

Ach Gott vom Himmel
"Enchiridion"
Erfurt, 1524



1 O Lord, look down from heav'n, behold And let Thy pit - y wak - en;
2 With fraud which they themselves invent Thy truth they have con-found-ed;
3 May God root out all her - e - sy And of false teach-ers rid us
4 There-fore saith God, 'I must a - rise, The poor My help are need-ing;



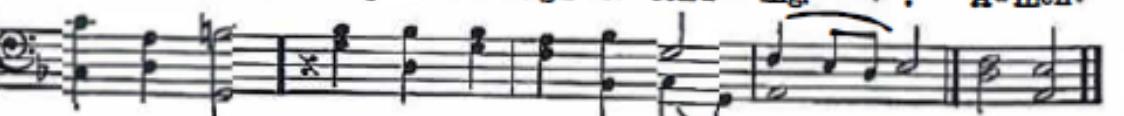
How few are we with - in Thy fold, Thy saints by men for - sak - en!
Their hearts are not with one con - sent On Thy pure doc-trine ground-ed,
Who proudly say: "Now, where is he That shall our speech for-bid us?
To Me as-cend My peo-ple's cries, And I have heard their plead-ing.



True faith seems quenched on ev - 'ry hand, Men suf - fer not Thy
While they pa - rade with out - ward show, They lead the peo-ple
By right or might we shall pre - val; What we de - ter-mine
For them My sav - ing Word shall fight And fear-less - ly and



Word to stand; Dark times have us o'er - tak - en. . . .
to and fro, In er - ror's maze as - tound-ed. . . .
can - not fail; We own no lord and mas - ter." . . .
sharp-ly smite, The poor with might de - fend - ing." . . . A-men.



5 As silver tried by fire is pure
From all adulteration,
So thro' God's Word shall men endure
Each trial and temptation.
Its light beams brighter thro' the cross,
And, purified from human dross,
It shines through every nation.

6 Defend Thy truth, O God, and stay
This evil generation;
And from the error of its way
Keep Thine own congregation.
The wicked everywhere abound
And would Thy little flock confound;
But Thou art our Salvation.

President's Piece for Peace

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders, District President

This winter we have experienced some very cold temperatures, such that school, churches, offices, and athletic events closed or were cancelled for a day or two. It is rare for us to see wind chills reach 40 degrees below zero. Greater wisdom guides us to stay home and avoid potential danger by being out in the frigid, cold air.

I was curious as to how many times the words cold and freezing appear in the Bible. Freezing does not appear, and cold only a small handful of times. Usually, it refers to cold as a blessing. Such as in Proverbs chapter 25:13, 25 where we read: "Like the coolness of snow at harvest time is a trustworthy messenger to those who send him; he refreshes the spirit of his masters" ... "Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land."

It was anything but good news for Peter when we read in John 18:17-18, "You are not one of his disciples, are you?" the girl at the door asked Peter. He replied, 'I am not', it was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself." The cold night temperature was the least of Peter's problems the night Jesus was betrayed and held on trial before the Sanhedrin. Peter was cold with fear. Frozen away from the faith that joined him to Jesus who was deep in the work of atoning for our salvation.

Peter was recognized not once but three times as one who had been a follower, even more than that, a spokesman for the select group known as the Apostles. When confronted with his identity Peter shrank back and denied on oath that he even knew Jesus. How sad, how tragic, how cold can a heart get toward the very Gift of God through whom He would grant the forgiveness of sins?

(Good News) is too good to keep to ourselves. Spread it around. After all, it is Good News that warms the cold heart.

Somewhat surprising is the fact that Peter had been such a "rock" amid the Apostles. He made the great confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Peter responded to Jesus' warning about being sifted by the Devil by stating that he would never fall away from Him. Yet here he is, on a cold night, trying to warm his frozen heart with a fire in the courtyard.

If it could happen to Peter, it could happen to any of us. That night, Peter followed Jesus "from afar". What a lesson for us in our faith life. The frozen heart, no matter how it manifests itself, can only be warmed by the glow of the Word of God and the Blessed Sacraments. These are the Means of Grace that are the soul nutrition for our members, our students, our families, and for we who serve the Church with Called vocations. We partake in daily devotions, weekly worship, prayerful meditation so we can inwardly digest the Good News in Proverbs talks about. These all are given in intimate connection to Jesus, not from afar.

When the rooster crowed and Peter glanced at Jesus' face as He was escorted to further trial, Peter remembered and repented. Broken in heart and ashamed, later, Peter did hear Good News. This time it wasn't from afar but directly to His ears. "Then feed my sheep," the resurrected Jesus said to Peter, restoring him to the Apostleship and later sent out to preach of the resurrection.

The Good News is for you who also preach it, who teach it, who relish in its gracious promises. Eat and drink, read and digest, hear, and receive this Good News every chance you get. It is too good to keep to ourselves. Spread it around. After all, it is Good News that warms the cold heart.

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President



MEMORY WORK SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

Confirmation

***Shortened class time**

5th & 6th Grades Memory Work

Feb. 4 Lord's Prayer: Introduction and Meaning

Feb. 11 Lord's Prayer: First Petition and Meaning

*Feb. 18 Lord's Prayer: Second Petition and Meaning

*Feb. 25 Lord's Prayer: Third Petition and Meaning

7th & 8th Grades Memory Work

Feb. 4 Sacrament of the Altar:

What is the Sacrament of the Altar? Where is this written?

Feb. 11 Sacrament of the Altar:

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

*Feb. 18 Sacrament of the Altar:

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

*Feb. 25 Sacrament of the Altar:

Who receives this sacrament worthily?

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



February 2025

Summer Camp Registration Now Open! 2026 Theme: Free to Serve

"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." - *Galatians 5:13*

What does it mean to be free? Does it mean I can just do whatever I want? After all, I'm "free to do so," right? Wrong! In all that we say or do, we are serving someone, something, or some purpose. Let us consider this as well as who and what our words and actions reflect. After all, "we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against... the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12). While in this wrestling match, it is easy to only consider ourselves and when we're given "freedom," to use it as an opportunity to display our sinful nature. However, through Jesus' death and resurrection, this wrestling match has already been won for us! Therefore, "You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness" (Romans 6:18). In Jesus, we see and can now live out what it truly means to be "free," serving one another through love.

Summer camp registration opened on January 19th, and registrations have been coming in hot! We're excited for the great start we've had and for more registrations to come! Be sure to get signed up for camp today by heading to our website at campiodiseca.org/summer-camp-3/registration/ or scanning the QR Code! We look forward to seeing you this summer!



As we gear up for summer, we're looking for all of the components that make a great camp experience, and that starts with summer staff! We need college-aged young adults to serve as Christian role models, teachers, activity leaders, and friends to the children that pass through our gates. Head to our website at campiodiseca.org/summer-camp-3/staff/ for more information and to get started on completing an application!

Pastors' Wives Winter Social



Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca is excited to host our second annual Pastors' Wives Winter Social! This retreat is for wives of pastors serving in the Iowa District East. This weekend presents a wonderful opportunity for rest, refreshment, and fellowship. The Pastors' Wives Winter Social will take place on March 6-7, 2026. The registration cost for the retreat is \$55/ person and includes the overnight fee, bedding, and meals from Friday supper through Saturday lunch. You may get registered by going to campiodiseca.org/pastors-wives-winter-social/.

3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

phone 319.848.4187

web www.campiodiseca.org

email office@iodiseca.org

Ash Wednesday

February 18

Meal served at 5:15pm

Divine Service at 6:30pm

Midweek Lent Service Schedule

February 25

March 4

March 11

March 18

March 25

Meal served at 5:15pm

Evening Prayer Service
at 6:30pm



Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, this February, the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope. It is my prayer that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

This Lent we will focus on Lessons from the Upper Room. We hear portions of these texts read throughout the Church Year, but on our Wednesday night services, we will be hearing from Jesus one chapter at a time. There is much that can be covered and many lessons contained within each chapter, and so, I encourage you to spend each week reading and re-reading through a chapter of Jesus' discourse in the Upper Room. The schedule we will be following at Church will be as follows:

Mid-Week 1: February 25 – John 13, focusing on Humility
Mid-Week 2: March 4 – John 14, focusing on Faith
Mid-Week 3: March 11 – John 15, focusing on Witness
Mid-Week 4: March 18 – John 16, focusing on Endurance
Mid-Week 5: March 25 – John 17, focusing on Prayer

As the world tries to divide and become increasingly individualistic focused, these words of Jesus not only recognize our individual reality, but they also ground us together within the corporate nature of the Church. These words give us a solid foundation for enduring the many changes that come with living a Christian life.

As we begin the season of Lent, I share with you the same thoughts from previous years, beginning with St. Peter, ***“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.”*** (1 Peter 5:6-9)

During the Season of Lent, we are given an opportunity to hear the Lord's call to return. **"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel"** (Mark 1:15). These recorded words of Jesus, at the start of His public ministry, come upon His return to Galilee after forty days of fasting and His temptation in the desert. We will also hear during this upcoming Lent that we are made of dust and to dust we shall return (Genesis 3:19). These godly and loving reminders tell us that He made us, it is His work, we are His, and He wants us to be with Him.

We want you to be here. I want you to be gathered around His Word and Sacraments, receiving His most gracious gifts. Life sometimes has a way of getting away from us. Other plans seep into our time where we want to be with God's people around His word. Frankly, the pastor at times gets in our way. If there is something that keeps you from God's House receiving His gifts, please let us know how we can help.

Some of us may be feeling as if we are wandering in the wilderness of employment, finances, family matters, health, or other serious concerns at this time, and we perhaps may not always care for the serious side of Lent. Some of us may even feel the deep isolation these past years have caused. We have felt deeply living in the ash heap of our own sins and the sins of the world; here the beauty of Lent shines forth. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, they lead to a triumphant Easter Day and a reminder of our own Baptism into Christ, which we recall in the Easter Vigil. Lent is a serious matter. It is about death and life, sin and forgiveness, grace and mercy, through the Word made flesh. **"With His stripes we are healed"** (Isaiah 53:5).

Each Sunday in Lent is a celebration. The worship at Immanuel Lutheran Church echoes Christ's victory over death. Our heavenly Father can truly do amazing things with dust! To this we bear witness, as we proclaim our Lord's death through the gathering around His Word and Supper for our forgiveness, and divine strength to meet the days ahead.

I encourage you to take advantage of the numerous worship opportunities at Immanuel this Lententide as our Lord calls and comes to us. Please consider returning for Wednesday Lenten services. Like last year, we will have a time of fellowship and meal from 5:15-6:15, followed by Evening Prayer at 6:30.

There will be a sign-up sheet for those that wish to volunteer for the meal found on the back table in the entryway. We will also have a short Service of Prayer and Preaching on the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday of Holy Week at noon, as well as, the Divine Service at 6:30 on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil on Saturday.

With all of the divisiveness in our world, we remain brothers and sisters in Christ. With all of the loneliness, we remain brothers and sisters in Christ. May we use this time for our faith to be renewed in our gracious and merciful God and our love for one another to be strengthened in the love of Christ, always defending and putting the best construction on everything.

Lessons from the Upper Room: Devotional Schedule

Day	Psalm	Hymn	Bible Reading	Devotional Reading
Ash Wednesday	Psalm 110 (antiphon v.1)	LSB 445 When You Woke That Thursday Morning	John 11:45-53	Large Catechism-The Second Petition sections 49-51
Thursday after Ash Wednesday	Psalm 110 (antiphon v.1)	LSB 445 When You Woke That Thursday Morning	John 11:54-57	Large Catechism-The Second Petition sections 52-54
Friday after Ash Wednesday	Psalm 110 (antiphon v.1)	LSB 445 When You Woke That Thursday Morning	John 12:1-18	Large Catechism-The Second Petition sections 55-56
Saturday after Ash Wednesday	Psalm 110 (antiphon v.1)	LSB 445 When You Woke That Thursday Morning	John 12:9-11	Large Catechism-The Second Petition sections 57-58
First Week in Lent - Sunday	Psalm 25 (antiphon v. 20)	LSB 536 (1, 3-5) One Thing's Needful	John 13:1-4	Large Catechism-The Conclusion of the Commandments sections 311-313
Monday	Psalm 25 (antiphon v. 20)	LSB 536 (1, 3-5) One Thing's Needful	John 13:5-11	Large Catechism-The Conclusion of the Commandments sections 314-316
Tuesday	Psalm 25 (antiphon v. 20)	LSB 536 (1, 3-5) One Thing's Needful	John 13:12-15	Large Catechism-The Conclusion of the Commandments sections 317-320
Wednesday	Psalm 25 (antiphon v. 20)	LSB 536 (1, 3-5) One Thing's Needful	John 13:16-20	Large Catechism-The Conclusion of the Commandments sections 321-323
Thursday	Psalm 25 (antiphon v. 20)	LSB 536 (1, 3-5) One Thing's Needful	John 13:21-30	Large Catechism-The Conclusion of the Commandments sections 324-326
Friday	Psalm 25 (antiphon v. 20)	LSB 536 (1, 3-5) One Thing's Needful	John 13:31-35	Large Catechism-The Conclusion of the Commandments sections 327-330
Saturday	Psalm 25 (antiphon v. 20)	LSB 536 (1, 3-5) One Thing's Needful	John 13:38-38	Large Catechism-The Conclusion of the Commandments sections 331-333
Second Week in Lent - Sunday	Psalm 91 (antiphon v. 2)	LSB 526 You Are the Way, through You Alone	John 14:1-4	Large Catechism-Baptism sections 3-9

Lessons from the Upper Room: Devotional Schedule

Monday	Psalm 91 (antiphon v. 2)	LSB 526 You Are the Way; through You Alone	John 14:5-7	Large Catechism-Baptism sections 10-18
Tuesday	Psalm 91 (antiphon v. 2)	LSB 526 You Are the Way; through You Alone	John 14:8-14	Large Catechism-Baptism sections 23-29
Wednesday	Psalm 91 (antiphon v. 2)	LSB 526 You Are the Way; through You Alone	John 14:15-17	Large Catechism-Baptism sections 32-34, 41-42
Thursday	Psalm 91 (antiphon v. 2)	LSB 526 You Are the Way; through You Alone	John 14:18-21	Large Catechism-Baptism sections 52-53, 60-61
Friday	Psalm 91 (antiphon v. 2)	LSB 526 You Are the Way; through You Alone	John 14:22-24	Large Catechism-Baptism sections 64-70
Saturday	Psalm 91 (antiphon v. 2)	LSB 526 You Are the Way; through You Alone	John 14:25-31	Large Catechism-Baptism sections 83-86
Third Week in Lent - Sunday	Psalm 71 (antiphon v. 3)	LSB 683 Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me	John 15:1-4	Large Catechism-The Fifth Petition sections 85-87
Monday	Psalm 71 (antiphon v. 3)	LSB 683 Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me	John 15:5-8	Large Catechism-The Fifth Petition sections 88-89
Tuesday	Psalm 71 (antiphon v. 3)	LSB 683 Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me	John 15:9-11	Large Catechism-The Fifth Petition sections 90-91
Wednesday	Psalm 71 (antiphon v. 3)	LSB 683 Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me	John 15:12-17	Large Catechism-The Fifth Petition sections 92
Thursday	Psalm 71 (antiphon v. 3)	LSB 683 Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me	John 15:18-20	Large Catechism-The Fifth Petition sections 93-94
Friday	Psalm 71 (antiphon v. 3)	LSB 683 Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me	John 15:21-25	Large Catechism-The Fifth Petition sections 95-96
Saturday	Psalm 71 (antiphon v. 3)	LSB 683 Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me	John 15:26-27	Large Catechism-The Fifth Petition sections 97-98
Fourth Week in Lent - Sunday	Psalm 46 (antiphon v. 10)	LSB 768 To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray	John 16:1-3	Large Catechism-The Sixth and Seventh Petitions sections 99-102
Monday	Psalm 46 (antiphon v. 10)	LSB 768 To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray	John 16:4-11	Large Catechism-The Sixth and Seventh Petitions sections 103-104

Lessons from the Upper Room: Devotional Schedule

Tuesday	Psalm 46 (antiphon v. 10)	LSB 768 To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray	John 16:12-15	Large Catechism-The Sixth and Seventh Petitions sections 105-108
Wednesday	Psalm 46 (antiphon v. 10)	LSB 768 To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray	John 16:16-20	Large Catechism-The Sixth and Seventh Petitions sections 109-111
Thursday	Psalm 46 (antiphon v. 10)	LSB 768 To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray	John 16:21-24	Large Catechism-The Sixth and Seventh Petitions sections 112-116
Friday	Psalm 46 (antiphon v. 10)	LSB 768 To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray	John 16:25-28	Large Catechism-The Sixth and Seventh Petitions sections 117-120
Saturday	Psalm 46 (antiphon v. 10)	LSB 768 To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray	John 16:29-33	Large Catechism-The Sixth and Seventh Petitions sections 121-124
Fifth Week in Lent - Sunday	Psalm 143 (antiphon v. 8)	LSB 587 I Know My Faith Is Founded	John 17:1-3	Large Catechism-The Lord's Prayer sections 1-6
Monday	Psalm 143 (antiphon v. 8)	LSB 587 I Know My Faith Is Founded	John 17:4-5	Large Catechism-The Lord's Prayer sections 7-11
Tuesday	Psalm 143 (antiphon v. 8)	LSB 587 I Know My Faith Is Founded	John 17:6-9	Large Catechism-The Lord's Prayer sections 12-15
Wednesday	Psalm 143 (antiphon v. 8)	LSB 587 I Know My Faith Is Founded	John 17:10-13	Large Catechism-The Lord's Prayer sections 16-20
Thursday	Psalm 143 (antiphon v. 8)	LSB 587 I Know My Faith Is Founded	John 17:14-19	Large Catechism-The Lord's Prayer sections 21-25
Friday	Psalm 143 (antiphon v. 8)	LSB 587 I Know My Faith Is Founded	John 17:20-23	Large Catechism-The Lord's Prayer sections 26-29
Saturday	Psalm 143 (antiphon v. 8)	LSB 587 I Know My Faith Is Founded	John 17:24-26	Large Catechism-The Lord's Prayer sections 30-34
Palm Sunday/ Sunday of the Passion	Psalm 31:9-16 (antiphon v. 5)	LSB 438 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth	John 12:12-19	Cyril of Alexandria

Lessons from the Upper Room: Devotional Schedule

Holy Monday	Psalm 36:5-10 (antiphon v. 9)	LSB 434 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy	John 12:20-26	Cyril of Alexandria
Holy Tuesday	Psalm 54 (antiphon v. 4)	LSB 453 Upon the Cross Extended	John 12:27-36a	Cyril of Alexandria
Holy Wednesday	Psalm 70 (antiphon v. 5)	LSB 425 When I Survey The Wondrous Cross	John 12:36b-43	Cyril of Alexandria
Holy Thursday	Psalm 116:12-19 (antiphon v. 17)	LSB 617 O Lord, We Praise Thee	John 12:44-50	Cyril of Alexandria
Good Friday	Psalm 22 (antiphon v. 1)	LSB 454 Sing, My Tongue, The Glorious Battle	John 18:1-19:37	Large Catechism-The Second Article sections 26-33
Holy Saturday	Psalm 16 (antiphon v. 10)	LSB 448 O Darkest Woe	John 19:38-42	Cyril of Alexandria
Easter Sunday	Psalm 118:15-29 (antiphon v. 1)	LSB 458 Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands	John 20:1-18	Cyril of Alexandria
Easter Monday	Psalm 100 (antiphon v. 5)	LSB 463 Christ The Lord Is Risen Today, Alleluia	John 20:19-23	Cyril of Alexandria
Easter Tuesday	Psalm 2 (antiphon v. 7)	LSB 490 Jesus Lives! The Vict'ry's Won	John 20:24-31	Cyril of Alexandria
Easter Wednesday	Psalm 61 (antiphon v. 6-7)	LSB 485 Long Before The World Is Waking	John 21:1-14	Cyril of Alexandria



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship

Table of Duties: The Forgotten Stewardship Tool

Luther's Small Catechism is a magnificent tool. Joined with a well-used copy of the Holy Scriptures and an orthodox hymnal, and the Christian is well equipped to live a life of faithfulness to the Lord and service to the neighbor. First in German and now in English and just about any language known to man, this handy masterpiece has introduced generations of people to the central doctrine of justification by grace, through faith, on account of Jesus Christ. The Six Chief Parts have proven to be a faithful framework for a clear confession of the truth of the Gospel for nearly five hundred years!

But more than a textbook, the Small Catechism also serves well as a handbook for Christian living. As a part of its treasure, there is an element that teaches an extraordinarily strong message of stewardship. That hidden treasure that needs to be rediscovered is called the Table of Duties.

The Table of Duties is really nothing more than a categorized gathering of Bible verses. These verses are set apart for "various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities." Addressing pastors and people, government and citizens, husbands, wives, children, youth, workers and so many more, it very clearly lays out what faithful stewardship looks like. Even better, these assembled passages teach one important truth: we are stewards of one another!

The Table is much more than a “how-to” tool; it also lays out the interconnectedness that exists within the body of Christ. Pastors are described by what they are to be as stewards of the Word. 1 Timothy 3 highlights the characteristics of a faithful pastor. Even more, Titus 1 highlights the need for the pastor to be faithful for the sake of those under his care.

Those who hear the faithful preaching of the pastor are stewards of the pastor as well. 1 Corinthians 9 talks about the need for the people to support the livelihood of the pastor. Galatians 6 talks about how the hearers share in the good things that the pastor teaches. 1 Timothy 6 talks about the honor that is owed to the pastor, not because of WHO he is, but rather WHAT he is teaching! Hebrews 13 shows the impact of this stewardship on the pastor, that they perform their duties with joy. Joyful pastors and people are always going to be better stewards of the Gospel!

Outside the church this interdependent stewardship is on display as well. Romans 13 highlights the respect necessary for the governing authorities. As citizens, the faithful steward is called to pay taxes (Matthew 22), pray for their leaders (1 Timothy 2) and that they should be ready to serve in the civil realm (Titus 3), because they are in these positions by God’s direction (1 Peter 2).

These steward duties are in the home too! 1 Peter 3 and Colossians 3 shape the husband steward. Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3 shape the wife steward. Ephesians 6 form parental stewards and child stewards.

The Table of Duties is a wonderful place for the individual steward to learn how much our stewardship is more than just a “me and Jesus thing!” In fact, it ends with these words: “Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well share fare.” This is interdependent stewardship on clear display. As each learns stewardship in this way, the more faithful we will be as a family, congregations, communities and the church at large.

DARTBALL SCHEDULE 2026
(ALL GAMES BEGIN AT 7 P.M.)
HOME TEAM LISTED FIRST

MONDAY JANUARY 5TH
WILLIAMSBURG 2-GRINNELL
MARENGO-WILLIAMSBURG 1
LINCOLN-BYE

MONDAY JANUARY 12TH
WILLIAMSBURG 2-MARENGO
GRINNELL-LINCOLN
WILLIAMSBURG 1-BYE

MONDAY JANUARY 19TH
MARENGO-GRINNELL
LINCOLN-WILLIAMSBURG 1
WILLIAMSBURG 2-BYE

MONDAY JANUARY 26TH
LINCOLN-WILLIAMSBURG 2
WILLIAMSBURG 1-GRINNELL
MARENGO-BYE

MONDAY FEBRUARY 2ND
MARENGO-LINCOLN
WILLIAMSBURG 2-WILLIAMSBURG 1
GRINNELL-BYE

MONDAY MARCH 16TH-MAKE UP NIGHT IF NEEDED

SUNDAY MARCH 22-TOURNAMENT AT LINCOLN 1 P.M. START

MONDAY FEBRUARY 9TH
GRINNELL-WILLIAMSBURG 2
WILLIAMSBURG 1-MARENGO
LINCOLN-BYE

MONDAY FEBRUARY 16TH
MARENGO-WILLIAMSBURG 2
LINCOLN-GRINNELL
WILLIAMSBURG 1-BYE

MONDAY FEBRUARY 23RD
GRINNELL-MARENGO
WILLIAMSBURG 1-LINCOLN
WILLIAMSBURG 2-BYE

MONDAY MARCH 2ND
WILLIAMSBURG 2-LINCOLN
GRINNELL-WILLIAMSBURG 1
MARENGO-BYE

MONDAY MARCH 9TH
LINCOLN-MARENGO
WILLIAMSBURG 1-WILLIAMSBURG 2
GRINNELL-BYE



FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 4th Sunday after the Epiphany	2 Purification of Mary and Presentation of Our Lord	3 College Hill, Cedar Falls	4	5 <i>Jacob (Israel)</i>	6	7 LWML Board of Directors
8 5th Sunday after the Epiphany	9 Concordia, Cedar Rapids	10 Silas	11 King of Kings, Cedar Rapids	12 Trinity, Cedar Rapids	13 <i>Aquila, Priscilla, Apollos</i>	14 Valentine
15 Transfiguration of Our Lord Philemon and Onesimus	16 Philipp Melanchthon (birth)	17 Ash Wednesday 18 Word of God, Cedar Rapids	18 <i>Martin Luther</i>	19 St. John, Center Point	20	21 Waterloo Zone Prayer Service at Grace Lutheran, Waterloo
1st Sunday in Lent 22 Trinity, Chariton	23 Polycarp of Smyrna	24 St. Matthias	25 New Hope, Charles City	26	27	28 Immanuel, Charlotte

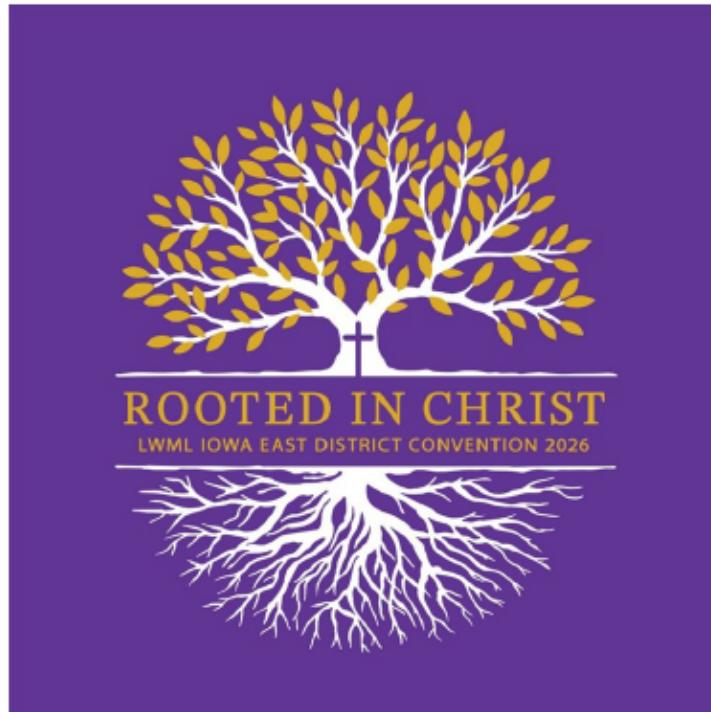
LWML—IOWA EAST DISTRICT NEWS

You Are invited To The **LWML Iowa East District Convention 2026**

Dates: June 12-13, 2026

Location: The Graduate by Hilton Iowa City,

210 South Dubuque St., Iowa City, IA 52240



ROOTED IN CHRIST

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving

(Colossians 2:6-7 ESV).

God's Work in Eurasia

A Mock Family Newsletter

Fall 2025

Home Service 2026



*At the zoo in Prague
(no, the elephant is
not real!)*

We will be back in the U.S. for home service mid-April to mid-June. We are still in the early stages of planning but we have our tickets purchased and are looking forward to seeing as many of you as we can. It has been nearly three years since we deployed as missionaries with lots of updates to share. Get in touch with Cody (cody.mock@lcms.org) if you'd like to be considered for a visit. Our time will be short but we hope to see you.

December: Luther Academy Faculty Meeting



*From left to right: Pastor Christian Tiews, Jēkabs Jurdžs,
Pastor Jerry Lawson, Cody Mock*

It was a blessing to attend my first Luther Academy Faculty Meeting in Riga. It was both an encouraging and productive in-person meeting for the “English Stream” that normally meets online. It was also the first time for me to be back in Latvia since we moved—it very much felt like returning home.

October: Church Planting Conference



New Missionary Orientation

The Eurasia region had its first annual Church Planting Conference. All missionaries in our region gathered in Wittenberg, Germany, to receive training on language learning, updates from fellow missionaries, and fellowship with one another. Unfortunately, I fell ill during the conference but was still able to share with both our new missionaries and our regional team updates on SharePoint, Teams, and Planner (our three core tools we are using to communicate and collaborate as a region).

September: Germany FORO



In front of the Ninety-five Theses Door with our FORO Guests

The Eurasia region had another first—its first ever FORO. It took place in Germany (Hamburg, Berlin, Wittenberg) and showcased the mission work being done within the country. FOROs offer a unique opportunity for partnership and involvement with the local projects and activities that further the Gospel abroad. For more about this FORO and FOROs in general, see the Engage article at <https://engage.lcms.org/foro-winter-2026/>.



Snow! Lots of snow!

We have been taking advantage of the winter weather by going ice skating and sledding—something we have not done since becoming missionaries due to Prague normally not getting very much snow. It felt like being in the Midwest again! Thank you so much for your prayers as we continue in the work that God has set before us, that the Gospel of Christ and Him crucified for the sins of the world may be proclaimed.

— Cody, Aurélie, Eva and Moriah