



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.

Immanuel Informer

March 2026

Volume 21, Issue 9

"God is Your True Hiding Place"

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

"For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
Through my graining all day long. For day and
Night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength
Was dried up as by the heat of summer" (Psalm 32:3-4).

Psalm 32 is a penitential psalm. We know that God speaks to us through His Word, and at times, that Word speaks to the darkest corners of the heart. This is clear in Psalm 32. It is here that King David rejoices in the gift of forgiveness given by God. It also describes what it is like when we do not receive that forgiveness. There are physical, mental, and spiritual implications of being silent in sin. Sin is a disease, an infection of the soul. It eats at us, corrupts us, and wants nothing more than to destroy us. The season of Lent is a time of preparation for the celebration of Easter. We are called to repentance and faith, so with David we say,

"I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,'
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin" (v 5).

Psalm 32 speaks to what happens when we hide from God but more importantly, it reveals what it means to hide in God. By covering our sins, God hides us in Himself. We return to God's family where we need not fear sin, death, nor the devil himself.

"You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble;
You surround me with shouts of deliverance" (v 7).

We all need a safe hiding place where no one can get to you and where you are free from worry, harm, and sorrow. That hiding place is God Himself. During the season of Lent may you find comfort in confessing your sins and receiving Absolution for the sake of Christ.

If your sins are weighing you down, if a particular sin is eating at you, if you long for relief, then as your pastor, I am available for private confession and absolution, especially during the season of Lent. Remember how David begins, "Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." That forgiveness is the final gift.

Father in heaven, You forgive iniquity and richly bless those who confess their sins to You. Teach me to hide in You and help me see that Your strong right hand is always guarding me.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Pastor Steve Deombeleg

Blessings on your Stewardship Journey

Blessed for a Purpose

Ben Franklin, one of our country's founding fathers, had developed a challenging habit. Every day of his adult life, he set aside time to examine two questions. In the morning, he asked himself, "What good shall I do today?" As the day drew to a close, his question was: "What good have I done today?" As Christians, it is easy to relate to Ben Franklin's attitude because a common theme throughout God's Word is that we are to do good to others as we help, love, and serve them. We are called to love others as we love ourselves. In his letter to the church in Galatia, the Apostle Paul wrote, "*So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith*" (Galatians 6:10).

God has created, forgiven, and redeemed us, and we become His instruments of love and compassion in the world. God blesses us so we can serve Him by serving others. He honors us with the privilege of being the channels through which He works. We are blessed for a purpose. We live in total devotion to Him and are His faithful stewards. He empowers us to do the "*good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them*" (Ephesians 2:10). As the Apostle Paul wrote the people in Philippi, "*I can do all things through Him Who strengthens me*" (Philippians 4:13). The same strength that was available to Paul is available to us. God is our source of strength. Through our weakness, God is able to display His divine power. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we can make serving others a priority in our lives.

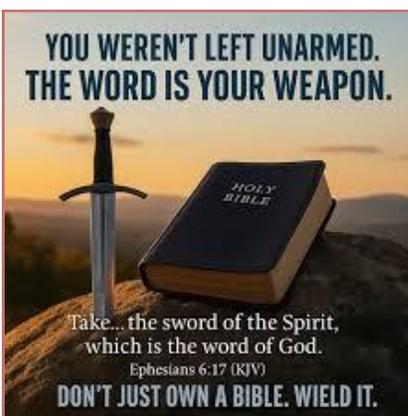
GOD WARNS THE WEALTHY THAT MONEY CAN CAUSE A SENSE OF SELF-IMPORTANCE AND CAN LEAD TO A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY.

"Give me neither poverty nor riches...lest I be full and deny You and say, 'Who is the Lord?'" (Proverbs 30:8-9).



THROUGH FAITH, WE LISTEN AND HUMBLY ACCEPT GOD'S WORD AND THEN ACT ON THE TRUTH OF HIS WORD.

"But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22).



Midweek Sermon Series Schedule

Midweek of Lent 1 - Only If You're There
(Philippians 2:5-8)

Midweek of Lent 2 - Help When We Need It
(Mark 1:9-13; Hebrews 2:14-18)

Midweek of Lent 3 - Finally, the Search Is Over
(Luke 15:1-10)

Midweek of Lent 4 - This Light Cannot Go Out
(Mark 5:1-13)

Midweek of Lent 5 - Are You Going to Wear
That? (Mark 8:31-33)

Midweek Lenten Sermon Series "For Us"

Journey through the history and hymn text for "O Love, How Deep" to see the depth, breadth, and height of God's love *for us*, His creation. "For us" encompasses how God is beyond our comprehension yet took on the most accessible form to walk with us. We will meditate on this historical hymn throughout the season of Lent to see how God's love is steady, deep, and endless.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Cantata - Who is this King?

Those who witnessed the life and ministry of Jesus were consistently mixed in their verdicts about who He was. Many claimed Him to be the long-awaited Messiah while others claimed Him a fraud. Some accepted that He came bearing messages of peace and love while others were looking for a king who would conquer with power and might. Confusion surrounded even Christ's most devoted followers in His final days when He was rejected and crucified...only to be followed by the unprecedented events of the resurrection, resulting in a compelling affirmation: This was indeed the King of all kings!

7:00 p.m. - Maundy Thursday

Worship with Holy Communion

7:00 p.m. - Good Friday

Tenebrae Service of Darkness

9:30 a.m. Easter Sunday

Worship with Holy Communion

Join us after worship on Easter Sunday for a Do-it-Yourself breakfast.

Please bring a breakfast dish to share.



Easter Flower Sale

Watch for order forms in the Sunday bulletins beginning March 8th through the 22nd. Help make Immanuel's Easter celebration heavenly!

Put Your Hands Together

A ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church

To God be the glory for every life touched and every act of love shared!

ACTIVITY

- **In-Kind Food Donations/Food Rescue Recovery:** 12,305 lbs.
- **Food Ministry Service Events:** 5
- **Direct Families Served Food Ministry Partners Served:** 115 Families/6 Agencies
- **PYHT Food Relief Agencies & Ministries Served:** Westchester FP, Berwyn FP, St. Paul Oak Lawn, St. Lukes, Downers Grove Comm Kitchen, Pilsen Pantry, Chicago Heights FP, Trinity Roselle, Rev. William Nicks.

NEWS - Food Security Forecast 2026

- High ongoing need. Food insecurity remains elevated, especially among children; demand at food pantries continues above pre-pandemic levels.
- SNAP pressure. Federal eligibility/work requirement changes in Feb. 2026 may increase strain on local emergency food systems.
- Food bank demand. The Midwest Food Bank continues to report sustained distribution levels to meet community needs.
- Outlook. Demand for food assistance is expected to remain strong through 2026 due to economic pressures and benefit changes.

Help Needed, Pantry Events

- Mon. March 2nd -Food Bank Unloading @4:45pm
- Saturday March 14th Pantry Day @9:30am
- Saturday, March 21st Poultry Day @9:30am
- Mon. April 6th -Food Bank Unloading @4:45pm
- **Saturday, April 11th Pantry Day @9:30am SHINE Event**
- **Easter. We will be distributing extra bags of personal care items instead of Easter candy. Items Needed by 3/15: Body Wash, Deodorant, Shampoo, Lotion, Bar Soap. (Full Size)**



Food Items Needed: Cereal, Canned Tuna, Pasta Sauce, Jelly, Instant Oatmeal

Please keep Immanuel Food Pantry in your prayers. We pray for another successful year of service and good health to all our volunteers. May we continue to serve our community with Christian love and joy, while always bringing Glory to God!

“Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9).



Immanuel Christian Academy

Support ICA this spring by attending events & fundraising!

BENEFIT NIGHT
Immanuel Christian Academy

IMMANUEL SCHOOL GYM

MARCH 20, 6:00 P.M.

- ALUMNI BASKETBALL GAME
- SHOOTING COMPETITIONS
- TINY TOTS GAME
- RAFFLE & PRIZES
- CONCESSIONS

Alumni Game 2025

Tiny Tots Game 2025

Entry

- \$5.00 ADULTS
- \$3.00 SENIORS AND CHILDREN UNDER 12
- FREE FOR CHILDREN 3 & UNDER



HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

START GATHERING YOUR GENTLY USED ITEMS AND SUPPORT OUR UPCOMING COMMUNITY DONATION DRIVE AND FUNDRAISER. YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS WILL HELP GIVE ITEMS A SECOND LIFE AND SUPPORT THOSE IN NEED.

DATE: APRIL 4, 2026
LOCATION: IMMANUEL PARKING LOT
TIME: 8AM -11AM

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR THE SIGN-UP TO INDICATE THE NUMBER OF BAGS AND/OR BOXES YOU WILL BE DROPPING OFF. PLEASE REVIEW THE AVAILABLE SLOTS BELOW AND CLICK ON THE BUTTON TO SIGN UP NO LATER THAN MARCH 27, 2026.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO ASSIST WITH COLLECTION AND DROP-OFF ACTIVITIES ON APRIL 4, 2026. PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP MAKE THIS DONATION DRIVE A SUCCESS.

**CLEAN OUT
YOUR CLOSETS &
CUPBOARDS FOR
IMMANUEL!**

IMMANUEL

Feeling Lucky

THIS IS MY LUCKY SHIRT

Immanuel

Luck O' The CARDINALS

<https://1stplace.sale/29953>



PTL Nothing Bundt Cake Fundraiser has begun. Orders are due March 20. Cakes will be delivered on April 1, for pick-up that same day. Check the table on the narthex for order forms.

@icahillside

Playground Fundraiser

Give Online today to help raise funds for a brand new playground.

Everything written in the Scriptures was written to teach us, in order that we might have hope through the patience and encouragement which the Scriptures gives. Romans 15:4

Getting the Most Out of Your Daily Bible Reading

As you read the Bible each day, allow the Scriptures to speak to you. This daily "dialogue" between you and the biblical text will reveal new understandings about God, and about yourself.

March - Turn to God in Prayer

Second Sunday in Lent

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Psalm 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 Numbers 14:11–25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Psalm 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 Numbers 21:4–20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Isaiah 37:1–20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 Deuteronomy 4:1–14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Isaiah 37:21–38 | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 Deuteronomy 5:1–22 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Isaiah 38:1–20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Deuteronomy 6:1–8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Psalm 82 | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 Deuteronomy 7:1–11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Daniel 9:1–19 | |

Third Sunday in Lent

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Jeremiah 16:14–21 | <input type="checkbox"/> 22 1 Samuel 1:1–18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9 Jeremiah 32:1–15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 23 1 Samuel 1:19–28 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Jeremiah 32:16–35 | <input type="checkbox"/> 24 1 Samuel 2:1–11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Jeremiah 32:36–44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 Psalm 25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Habakkuk 1:1–17 | <input type="checkbox"/> 26 Psalm 27 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Habakkuk 2:1–20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 27 Psalm 31 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Habakkuk 3:1–19 | <input type="checkbox"/> 28 John 17:1–26 |

Fourth Sunday in Lent

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Numbers 14:1–10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 29 Matthew 21:1–27 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 Matthew 26:1–35 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 31 Matthew 26:36–46 |

Fifth Sunday in Lent

- | |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 22 1 Samuel 1:1–18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 23 1 Samuel 1:19–28 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 24 1 Samuel 2:1–11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25 Psalm 25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26 Psalm 27 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27 Psalm 31 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 28 John 17:1–26 |

Palm/Passion Sunday

- | |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 29 Matthew 21:1–27 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 30 Matthew 26:1–35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 31 Matthew 26:36–46 |

Set aside time to read the bible on a daily basis.

Find a quiet place to read and reflect on each day's reading.

Begin with prayer, asking God for guidance and blessing.

March Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 3 - Aireneya Coleman | 13 - Heather Hempel |
| 6 - Karen Sierawski | 13 - Camron Ortiz |
| 7 - Tom Czubernat | 17 - Kennedy Perry |
| 10 - Aerin Everhart | 19 - Andy Polivka |
| 11 - Carol Northcutt | 22 - Hortencia Perez |

A Month of Prayer - During the month of March, focus on prayer, fasting, giving and the Word.

1. Read Psalm 121
2. Pray for a clean heart (Psalm 51).
3. Reflect / Journal on God's love and mercy
4. Attend Midweek worship or chapel
5. Pray for God's help to recognize your own faults.
6. Pray "Jesus, I love you!"
7. Spend 5 minutes in silent prayer or meditation of God's Word.
8. Read Psalm 95
9. Offer a Prayer of Thanksgiving for the gift of life.
10. Pray for the strength to overcome a personal vice.
11. Attend Midweek Worship
12. Fast from social media or idle chatter today.
13. Pray for the neglected or overlooked.
14. Volunteer your time at the Food Pantry or to a friend in need.
15. Read Psalm 142
16. Pray for your family and loved ones.
17. Pray "Jesus, I trust in You" (meditate on this phrase).
18. Attend Midweek Worship
19. Give alms or donate to charity instead of buying a personal item.
20. Pray for those struggling with discouragement.
21. Pray for the grace to forgive someone who hurt you.
22. Read Psalm 130
23. Fast on water and a little fruit today. Give it a try!
24. Pray for the sick and elderly.
25. Attend Midweek Worship
26. Pray for the courage to live out your faith publicly.
27. Pray for the needs of your church community.
28. Pray for peace in your heart and in the world.
29. Read Psalm 31
30. Pray for refugees and those displaced
31. Pray for the leaders of the Church.

For the Record
Nothing to report

- | |
|---------------------|
| 23 - Lynne Hempel |
| 23 - Ellipsis Ervin |
| 24 - Teagan Bozzi |
| 26 - Ellie Blair |
| 28 - Aissa Perez |



March 2026



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 9:30 Worship HC 10:30 Fellowship 11:15 Bible Study	2	3 5:30pm Day School Commission Meeting	4 9:30 Chapel 6pm Lenten Supper 7pm Lenten Service 7:30ish Adult Choir	5	6 4pm Parents vs. Athletes Basketball Game	7 Moves clocks ahead one hour before bed tonight.
8 - 2am Daylight Saving Time 9:30 Worship School Choir Sings 10:30 Fellowship 11:15 Bible Study	9 Scrip Orders Due	10	11 9:30 Chapel 6pm Lenten Supper 7pm Lenten Service 7:30ish Adult Choir	12	13	14 11am Food Pantry
15 9:30 Worship HC 10:30 Fellowship 11:15 Bible Study	16	17	18 9:30 Chapel 6pm Lenten Supper 7pm Lenten Service 7:30ish Adult Choir	19	20 6pm Benefit Night Alumni Basketball Game	21
22 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:15 Bible Study	23 No School Spring Break	24 No School Spring Break	25 No School Spring Break 6pm Lenten Supper 7pm Lenten Service 7:30ish Adult Choir	26 No School Spring Break	27 No School Spring Break 7pm Adult Volleyball	28
29 9:30 Palm Sunday Cantata 10:30 Fellowship 11:15 Bible Study	30	31 	April 1 	2 Maundy Thursday 7pm Worship HC	3 Good Friday No School 7pm Tenebrae Service	4



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Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Lent

