



# February 2024 Newsletter



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

From A Pastor's Desk: "To Lent or Not to Lent"	1
Mary/Martha Guild	3
Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes	3
The Lutheran Hour Sermon Schedule	4
Mission of Month: Solid Grounds @ WMU	4
Prayer List	5
Mid-week Lenten Soup Suppers and Services	5
Birthdays in February	6
Immanuel Soap Project	6
Worship Assistants/Serving Schedule	7
Pastor Sidwell's Farewell Luncheon Pictures	8

### Immanuel Lutheran Church Contact Information:

Church Phone: (269) 345-8090  
 Email: ilckalamazoo@gmail.com  
 Church Secretary: Ailene Buchtrup  
 Music Director: Will Canfield

Pastor: *Currently Vacant*



*This newsletter has many contributors. If you'd like to submit an article of interest or an announcement of an upcoming event, please contact Ailene Buchtrup, Secretary, in the church office via phone or email. For those with email, an electronic copy of the newsletter will be sent to you. For those with no email or who would prefer to receive a paper copy, we will continue to mail the newsletters via U.S. Postal Services.*

*To note in pastoral absence: Several pastors and other knowledgeable contributors offer great articles of interest all throughout the year, and in particular holy seasons. Until a new pastor is found for Immanuel, we will draw upon the knowledge and interesting perspectives of those pastors to provide readers with a section called, From the Pastor's Desk. We hope you will find these articles of interest and helpful in your spiritual journey.*



The following article is an excerpt taken from the St. John's Lutheran Church website, Farmville, VA., Contributing Author, Rev. John J. Bombaro, Ph.D. (King's College, University of London) is a missionary of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, serving as the Assistant Director of Theological Education at the Luther Academy, Rīga, Latvia.

### To Lent or Not to Lent

What should one do to observe the ancient season of the Church? Should they ditch "sweets and meats" during Lent? Should they don sackcloth and sit in ashes? Is Lent more about losing something or gaining something? Parishioners will be taking cues from preachers on the purpose and value of observing the season of Lent.

For Lutherans, the forty-day Lenten season is an important one. But behind the question of what to do during Lent lies more foundational questions: What is Lent? Do the Scriptures mention it? Why do we observe it?

Though the Scriptures do not specifically mention Lent, it has a longstanding tradition in the Church closely derived from the contents of Scripture. As Christ prepared for Good Friday and the Resurrection, so too the Church tethered to the life of Christ through the liturgical calendar follows her Lord into sin's death and resurrection life. The biblical narrative moves the Church to emulate and, therefore, externalize the narrative of her Savior's journey to Jerusalem to accomplish redemption where something is lost (sin) and something is gained (resurrection life). Lent simply engages the Church and each Christian in the rhythm and patterns of sanctification: Death to sin and the pursuit of holiness. Lent fosters an intensive time for the baptized to live as the baptized according to the pattern of [Romans 6:1-7](#).

Lent began very simply as a time of preparation for Easter or, synonymously, resurrection life. This is the driving force behind Lent: The Christian practicing

the future of resurrection life in the here and now. This was a legitimate pursuit because Holy Baptism brought resurrection to the human spirit in this life with the resurrection of the body in the life to come.

**This is the driving force behind Lent: The Christian practicing the future of resurrection life in the here and now.**

From the earliest times it was customary for Christians in most places to fast before Easter (known then as “the Paschal *Feast*”). It was a fasting before the feasting, a celibacy before the celebration. At first this was a two-day fast (Friday and Saturday). As time passed, this fast was extended. The earliest reference to a forty day fast leading up to Easter is the Second Festal letter of Athanasius in 330 AD, though the practice may be traced to the late 200’s. Indeed, it stands as an ancient observance and a fine opportunity, in step with the global Church, to preach the virtues of observing Lent.

For our early Christian forbearers, Lent had two major emphases. First, it was a time of repentance and denial of self that inhibited baptismal, that is to say, resurrection life. All Christians were to examine their lives according to the Ten Commandments and Jesus’ summation of the Law in [Mark 12:30-31](#) and repent accordingly, considering what it cost their Savior to redeem them, but also to strive to “walk in the Spirit” ([Galatians 5:16](#)). Second, it was a time of instruction for catechumens, that is, those who desired the resurrection of their spirits in Holy Baptism. During Lent they learned the Christian faith by studying the Apostles’ Creed. Upon examination they were baptized and received the Lord’s Supper in the joyous resurrection service of Easter. This is fitting given the meaning and significance of baptism: The old self being buried with Christ in baptism and raised to newness of life ([Romans 6:3-5](#)).

At the time of the Reformation, some Christian radicals wanted to eliminate Lent since Scripture did not explicitly command it. Luther, however, urged it be kept, not out of any necessity (one does not *need* to observe Lent to be either saved or sanctified) but because he saw Lent as an opportunity for the strengthening of faith and distinctive proclamation of Christ’s suffering, death, and resurrection. “Lent,

Palm Sunday, and Holy Week shall be retained,” wrote Luther, “not to force anyone to fast, but to preserve the Passion history and the Gospels appointed for that season” (*Luther’s Works*, 53:90). Here Luther, ever conservative, reminds us Lent should be preserved in part because it reminds Christians of the Passion of Jesus and encourages them to meditate and act upon it. However, no one should be forced to participate. It should be voluntary. To be sure, this is in keeping with the teachings of Scripture ([2 Corinthians 3:17](#); [Galatians 2:4](#); [5:1, 13](#)). In other words, you do not have to come to mid-week Lenten Services or observe Lenten devotions at home. But, at the same time our fathers in the Church in the Reformation tradition, our pastors and elders, recognized that the keeping of Lent is for our greater spiritual good because it promotes striving for resurrection life in the here and now by living as the baptized, repenting of sin and embracing the way of sanctification.

**Luther, ever conservative, reminds us Lent should be preserved in part because it reminds Christians of the Passion of Jesus and encourages them to meditate and act upon it.**

Therefore, Lent recalls the time Christ spent, shortly before beginning his public ministry, overcoming temptation (on our behalf!) in the wilderness ([Matthew 4:2](#); [Mark 1:13](#); [Luke 4:2](#)). It is derived from an Anglo-Saxon word, “lencten” (= lengthen), meaning “spring” or the time of the lengthening of the days. Lent is one of the six seasons of the Christian calendar and is a forty-day period (representing the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness) beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending with the celebration of the Easter Vigil on Easter morning. The period is actually 46 days, but since Sundays are feast days, they are never included in the count. These six Sundays, then, are not referred to as Sundays *of* Lent, but Sundays *in* Lent, because on these days of celebrating our Lord’s resurrection fasting should not apply, though we respect the season by omitting the “Alleluias” and the *Gloria*.

Preachers should feel at liberty to promote its disciplines and hallmark it within the calendar as a time intended to be a period of preparation and penitence marked by voluntary fasting, sobriety,

meditation, and almsgiving. The season prompts us to remember the forgiveness of our sins and failures in temptation in lieu of Christ's availing passion, victorious death, His resurrection, and how much God loves us. In other words, Lent preaches Law and Gospel. It accentuates the possibility of living as regenerate humanity amid our fallen humanity.

Lutherans, as well as Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox Christians, and some Presbyterians and Methodists, retain Lent to this day in continuity with the worldwide and historic Christian Church as a salutary outward discipline that gives Christians a wonderful opportunity for spiritual renewal. Our Lutheran observance of Lent combines many of the above features. Through Bible studies and mid-week and Sunday Lenten services highlighted by catechetical preaching, as well as devotional materials for the home, we come face to face with whatever sin may be hindering our walking in the Spirit, that is, walking in newness of life. But most profoundly, we not merely as individuals but as a Church come face to face with the Gospel of Jesus which forgives and removes our sin and gives us the strength to live anew.

There are two guiding principles for the observance of Lent. During this season, the baptized should *grow in their faith and love toward Jesus crucified*, and we should *exercise a penitent heart while always keeping an eye on the victory of God on Easter*.

The season of Lent gives almost unparalleled opportunity for preachers to placard before their auditors the Cross of Christ and beckon Christians to take up their cross and follow Him. It opens wide a door to preach the Third Use of the Law so frequently neglected in preaching today — namely heralding the ethical expectations of life in the Kingdom, indeed, heralding that the King has expectations for our sanctification according to His Word and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Auditors not only expect to hear about the ethic of the Kingdom, but they also welcome it. Boldly preach devotion to Christ and repentance of worldliness and bring the comfort of the Gospel for the forgiveness of sins and our failures, along with the truth and hope that resurrection life is worthy of pursuit in the here and now.

Rev. John J. Bombaro, PhD



**Mary & Martha Guild** meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month @ **5:30pm** in the ILC kitchen. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2/6/24.

*All ladies of the congregation are invited to all of our meetings and we welcome new members at any time! We enjoy planning activities and fund-raising projects for our special projects. Please come and see what's happening!*

*We'd love to have you join us!*



**FEED THE HUNGRY**

## **KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES**

### **ONGOING FOOD DROP-OFF LOCATIONS**

Food donations are accepted  
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday - Friday at  
901 Portage Street (KLF)

*Other donation locations are listed below:*

#### **Family Dollar**

(Select Locations)

#### **Kalamazoo First Presbyterian Church**

321 W South St

#### **Rollerworld**

7491 Stadium Dr., Kalamazoo

*“A hungry man  
is not a free man.”*

*Adlai E. Stevenson*



The **Lutheran Hour (LHM)** is broadcast every Sunday morning at 6:30 a.m. on 105.7 FM or accessible anytime on the Web at [www.lutheranhour.org](http://www.lutheranhour.org).

### FEBRUARY SERMON SCHEDULE

February 4: **"Nature Abhors a Vacuum"**  
 Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
 What fills the heart that has no room to forgive?  
 (Ephesians 4:32)

February 11: **"What Is Evangelism?"**  
 Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
 How do you encourage someone to receive the gift God has for them? That's what evangelism is all about. (Mark 9:7-8)

February 18: **"Redeeming DIY"**  
 Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
 (Mark 1:12-13)

February 25: **"When Winning Is Losing"**  
 Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes  
 (Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:23-31. Romans 5:1-11, Mark 8:8-27)



If you prefer more modern music with the Lutheran Hour message, a special broadcast has been developed for the AFN at

[www.lutheranhour.org/AFN](http://www.lutheranhour.org/AFN). You can also hear a message of hope *when you need it* by listening to your favorite LHM programs by downloading our Podcasts (audio files), free of charge, to your computer or portable devices.

### Our Mission in February is...



Located on the campus grounds of **Western Michigan University**.

Sunday services @ Noon.



Solid Grounds Student Ministries is a campus ministry that provides services, activities and events for students to grow in their faith.

In February, Immanuel will support this ministry with a gift of \$900 from our missions budget.

**THANK-YOU FOR YOUR THOUGHTFUL GIVING!**



# In Our Prayers:

## Homebound Ministry:

Marian Brugh	Jan Wilson
Marlys Olson	Ellen Plano
Ruth Miller	Beverly Fisher
John Curtiss	Vince Marshall
Jerome Dirst	

### LONG TERM CONCERNS:

<b>Rose Maxum</b> , requested by Chuck and Amber Townsend	<b>Susan &amp; Gregory Fritz</b> , Stephanie Beck's parents
<b>Amy Stillwell</b> , sister of Dave Reynolds	<b>Charles and Carol Quandt</b> , Christa Perri's parents
<b>Beverly Fisher</b> , Susan Wagner's mother	<b>Lucille and Lawrence Fritz</b> , requested by Jonathan Fritz
<b>Bob Perri</b> , brother of Phil Perri and <b>Phil Perri</b> , husband of Christa Perri	<b>Craig Rennhack</b> , requested by Bob & Maryalice Reck
<b>John Blasko</b> , requested by Elizabeth Blasko	<b>Mindy Mitchell</b> , sister of Shelly Reynolds
<b>Kyle Reinbold Family</b> , requested by Kyle's sister, Sonya DeVary	<b>James Leo Brown</b> , requested by Shelly and Dave Reynolds
<b>Karen McDougall</b> , requested by Sue Steuer	<b>Jim Sabo</b> , friend of Susan Steuer
<b>Katie VerKow</b> , former member of Immanuel, requested by Phil Roekle	<b>Karen Petersen</b> , daughter of Cathy & Tom Mollet
<b>Vicki Dilley</b> , requested by Christa & Phil Perri	<b>Suzie Brink</b> , Christie Sidwell's mother and <b>Bill Brink</b> , her brother
<b>Joanne Cleason</b> , Esther Cleason's daughter	<b>Melissa</b> , friend of Dotty Smith and daughter Laura
<b>Marie Winberg</b> , godmother of Bill Bennett	<b>Hannah Bayer</b> , 4 y.o., requested by her father
<b>Lisa and David Wentzel</b> , Sue Steuer's cousins	<b>Jerry and Sandi McKenzie</b> , friends of Dotty Smith
<b>Ware Washam</b> , requested by Brian Long	<b>Sandy Hale</b> , requested by Stephen Presdorf
<b>Caroline Barkow</b>	<b>Jordyn Reed</b> , Nicole Bauman's niece

<b>Mark Westphal</b>	<b>Jason</b> , friend of Renee Anderson
<b>Ted Benson</b> , Kim Sharp's friend's brother	John Hecht's mother, <b>Kay Hecht</b>
<b>Margaret &amp; Loren Gerber</b> , Sue Anderson's parents	<b>Cherri Mitchell</b> , friend of Ted & Rita Clarke
<b>Alice Schley</b> , Jane Schley's granddaughter	<b>Pam Hills</b> , requested by Kim Sharp
<b>Toni</b> —Jane Schley's cousin	<b>Fran Rodammer</b> , former ILC member
<b>Sharon S.</b> , requested by Dotty Smith	<b>Lori Gardner</b> , Kim Sharp's friend
<b>Ted Benson</b> , Kim Sharp's friend	<b>Jeri Noneman</b>
<b>Deb</b> , friend of Sue Steuer	<b>Ruth Krueger</b>
<b>Jason Nichols</b> , requested by Justin Beck	All Crossroads Prison Ministry students

**Immanuel members:** Gail Stewart, Dolly Bryan, Cathy Mollet, Shelly Reynolds, Tina Lauer, and John Miller



*Mid-week Lenten services will begin on **Ash Wednesday, February 14,** and continue through the Lenten season (6 weeks).*

**Worship services are held on Wednesdays during Lent at 7:00 p.m.**



**Soup Suppers will precede the service and will start at 6:00 p.m.**

This shared meal allows all of us to forego fixing a full supper and enjoy this time to join other members for a light supper and attend the Lenten Service afterwards.

This is a "donated" meal so we encourage you to sign up to bring food or help in some way whenever possible. (See the sign-up poster in the Narthex.)

*Sponsored by: Discipleship, Fellowship, Outreach, Property, Service and Worship Committees*



Gail Stewart	February 1
Emily Jefferies	February 2
John Wagner	February 3
Elliott Jefferies	February 4
Tobias Jefferies	February 4
Sue Steuer	February 12
Jan Wilson	February 14
Matthew Johns	February 15
John Miller	February 15
Juan Salinas	February 15
Robert Brindley	February 16
Felix Mandrick	February 17
Maggie Steuer	February 19
Chad Lawrence	February 20
Alex Lustila	February 20
Jane Schley	February 23



## IMMANUEL LAUNDRY SOAP PROJECT

For many years, Immanuel Lutheran has mixed and bottled “homemade” laundry detergent for distribution to three or four charitable organizations that serve low-income households in the greater Kalamazoo area. You may have seen the collection boxes for the milk jugs near the kitchen door in the Fellowship Hall. In 2022, we mixed and bottled a total of 367 units of detergent. For 2023, the total expanded to 875 units. We would like to break that record in 2024, but we need your help. Our primary limiting factor is the number of useable empty jugs and bottles we can collect. Milk jugs are best, but juice jugs work good as well. Half gallon jugs are also useful. However, the Jugs **MUST** be clean and well rinsed to be usable. Stale milk will taint the soap, and make it undesirable.

If you have any questions, contact Craig or Sue Anderson, the hard-working champions for the project. John and Ailene Buchtrup are the transporters of the soap to the various agencies.

# Worship Assistants/Serving Schedule

Date	Acolyte	Altar	Usher	Lector	Worship Assistant	Coffee Hour
Sunday 2/4/2024	Cailyn Hecht & Norah Lawrence	Vivian Westphal	Phil Roekle	Mark Miller	Phil Roekle & John Wagner	Shelly Reynolds
Sunday 2/11/2024	Linus Mandrick & Rory Beck	Patti Wills	John Wagner	Ninah Miller	Larry Baumgart & Craig Anderson	MaryAlice Reck
Ash Wednesday 2/14/2024	NA	Jane Schley/ Rita Clark	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sunday 2/18/2024	Eliora Beck & Caviion Beck	Kim Sharp	Ron Swinehart	John Quardokus	Mark Miller & Ron Swinehart	AnnMarie & Philip Miller
Sunday 2/25/2024	Genevieve Miller & Adelaide Jefferies	Rita Clarke	John Hecht	Dave Mandrick	Mark Miller & Andrew Lustila	Jane Schley
Sunday 3/3/2024	Maddie Hernandez & Elijah Lawrence	Jane Schley	Phil Roekle	John Hecht	Denny Patzer & John Quardokus	Beth Mitchell
Sunday 3/10/2024	Cailyn Hecht & Norah Lawrence	Sally Crawford	John Wagner	Andrew Lustila	Phil Roekle & John Wagner	Sue & John Wagner
Sunday 3/17/2024	Linus Mandrick & Rory Beck	Patti Wills	Ron Swinehart	John Krueger	Larry Baumgart & Craig Anderson	Amber & Chuck Townsend
Palm Sunday 3/24/2024	Eliora Beck & Caviion Beck	Kim Sharp	John Hecht	Mark Miller	Bill Stewart & Ron Swinehart	Rita C.--Coffee Alicia B.--Snacks
Maundy Thursday 3/28/2024	NA	Amber Townsend	NA	NA	NA	NA
Good Friday 3/29/2024	Genevieve Miller & Adelaide Jefferies	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Easter Sunday 3/31/2024	Maddie Hernandez & Elijah Lawrence	7:00am Amber T.  10am Jane S.	Phil Roekle	Ninah Miller	Mark Miller & Andrew Lustila	(Easter Breakfast)

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
3000 West Main Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49006  
(269) 345-8090



February 2024 Newsletter  
Volume 53, No. 2



**Immanuel  
Lutheran  
Church**

**Schoolyear  
Schedule:**

**9:15-9:45am  
Children's  
Sunday School**

**10:00 am Sunday  
Communion  
Service**

**11:30am Adult Class  
11:30am Children's  
Choir Practice**

NOTE:  
All services will  
be  
live-streamed on:  
*Facebook and  
YouTube*

## Farewell to Pastor Sidwell and Family!!



***Our Immanuel Congregation  
will miss you all!!  
Many blessings to you in your new  
ventures!***