



## March 2026 Newsletter

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the Pastor: "Lent"	1
Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes	2
In Our Prayers	2
Lutheran Hour Ministries	3
March Mission of Month: LCMS MI District	3
Mary/Martha: Next Craft Day: March 14th	4
March Birthdays	4
Lutheran Women in Mission Spring Rally: April 18	4
Adult Catechism: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month	5
Easter Lilies on the Altar	5
Then Sings My Soul Sacred Recital: March 15	6
March Church Calendar	7

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*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.*



### LENT

*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8-9*

Growing up I always saw Lent as a sorrowful time, and Advent was a time of joy. This is an interesting take considering the seasons of the year within which these Church Seasons take place. In Advent the days grow shorter and shorter, with darkness and snow descending upon the land. Lent, meanwhile, takes place in spring, when the snow is melting and the days are getting longer; light is flooding the earth, and the trees are regaining their leaves. Yet I always found myself looking forward to Advent, while Lent always had a dour feel to it.

This could be, in part, because we looked forward to Christmas. Yes, things were getting darker, but Christmas lights were coming up, families were gathering, folks were buying presents for one another, and we had a cherished day to look forward to. Further, parents had more time off work, and we were able to spend the day together as families.

Lent did not carry that same sense of anticipation; there was no joy at the end of the tunnel. Yes, families gathered together on Easter Sunday but that was just another Sunday- gathered on most Sundays. The baskets never felt as magical as the presents, the peeps never as delightful as the candy canes. Plus, I never had to give anything up in Advent, whereas there was always pressure to give something up for Lent.

But as I have grown older, I have found myself desiring Lent more and more, and my favorite week of the year is Holy Week. This is because as I have grown, I have realized how much of a sinner I am. As a child I looked forward to the gift of Baby Jesus (and selfishly all the other gifts I would receive) as an adult I recognize more and more why he has come. This is the reflection of Lent.

Lent is the time to remember our sins. Even more importantly it is a time to remember Jesus' love. He did not just come as a baby for the fun of it. He came to save us from our sins; he came to die in our place. I still cannot fathom the amount of love that Jesus must have held to do what he did!

Yes, Lent reminds us of our sins and the death that they bring. But it also reminds us of the death of Jesus Christ for us. The culmination of Lent is Easter Sunday, when all that we have been reflecting on is revealed to be powerless. Sin, death, the devil all have no power anymore for Jesus has risen from the dead! Through his resurrection he promises us new life.

So, this Lenten season, yes reflect on our sins and remember that you are to die. But also have that same anticipation you had in Advent. But this time wait eagerly for Good Friday and Easter Sunday. For these things tell us all that we need to know as Christians. You are a sinner. But even more importantly, Christ died to bring you forgiveness and rose that you might live with him forever. These are truths that are certainly worth waiting for!

**Pastor Grotelueschen**

## 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



# In Our Prayers:

**Homebound Ministry:**

**Marian Brugh**

**Ellen Plano**

**John Curtiss**

**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>Mary Ann Massey</b> , friend of Dotty Smith
<b>Bob Perri</b> , brother of Phil 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>Lucille and Lawrence Fritz</b> , requested by Jonathan Fritz
<b>Vicki Dille</b> , requested by Christa & Phil Perri	<b>Bill Brink</b> , Christie Sidwell's 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> , 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>Jeri Noneman</b>
<b>Gene Jennings</b>	<b>Kay Hecht</b> , John Hecht's mother
<b>Deb</b> —Friend of Sue Steuer	<b>Beth Mitchell</b>
<b>Sharon S.</b> , requested by Dotty Smith	<b>Charlie Miller</b> , Marian Brugh's brother
<b>Loren Gerber</b> , Sue Anderson's father	<b>Jason</b> , son-in-law of Sue & Craig Anderson
<b>Deb</b> , friend of Sue Steuer	<b>Ruth Krueger</b>
<b>Sophie Rose Verile</b> , Brindley's grandniece	<b>Justin Nickels</b> , requested by Justin Beck
<b>Linda &amp; Scott Spurlock</b> , req. by Esther C.	<b>Karen Petersen</b> , daughter of Cathy & Tom Mollet
<b>Mae Westphal</b> , Westphal's granddaughter	<b>Lynne Partridge</b> , friend of Christa Perri
<b>Thomas Nault</b> , Sue Wagner's cousin	<b>Merry Linn</b> , Sally Crawford's sister
<b>Otto</b> , Pastor Quardokus' grandson	<b>Gus Reck, 3 y.o.</b> , Maryalice & Bob Reck's grandson
<b>Marilyn Borgeson</b> , Annie Hecht's grandmother	<b>Theo Yoakam</b> , Cheryl Schreiber's great grandson
<b>Helen Roekle</b>	
<b>Kim N., Emilie H., &amp; Sydney B.</b> , all friends of Kim Sharp; and <b>River Lint</b> , Kim's cousin's baby	
<b>All Crossroads Prison Ministry students</b> from all congregations around the country	
<b>Immanuel members:</b> Gail Stewart, Dolly Bryan, Shelly Reynolds, Tina Lauer, Jerome Dirst & John Miller	



**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).

**March 1, 2026: "The Fifth Act"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#) Through the Bible, God invites us to help Him complete the unfinished drama He's been writing for the world. 1 Corinthians 4:1

**March 8, 2026: "What Was the Price on That?"** [Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola](#)

When we couldn't pay the price of our redemption, God did so completely by the life of Jesus. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

**March 15, 2026: "No Command from the Lord"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

Jesus is the only way to God, but there are many adventures with Jesus. Which ones will you pick? 1 Corinthians 7:6-7

**March 22, 2026: "Meeting You Where You Are"** [Guest Speaker: Rev. Gregory Manning](#)

Jesus meets you where you are, not where you should have been. 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

**March 29, 2026: "Dime-Sized"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#) God doesn't look for valuable, desirable, beautiful people so that He can love them. God loves first, and by loving them He makes people valuable, desirable, and beautiful. 1 Corinthians 13:11



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).

*Our mission of the month in March is...*

**LCMS MI District**

**IN HIS PRESENCE**  
*Go - Make - Share*  
Matthew 28:19-20

Lodging, meals, and gratuities at the Grand Hotel  
**\$397** per person based on quad occupancy and room selection.

**Speakers**  
Rev. Greg Finke | Rev. Dr. Ryan Tinetti

**Entertainment**  
Tanner Olson

**Premier Sponsor**  
Church Extension Fund

**Lutheran Adult Gathering | Mackinac Island, Mich.**  
October 9-11, 2026  
[www.michigandistrict.org/lag26](http://www.michigandistrict.org/lag26)  
Cost: \$50/person plus lodging  
Deadline to register is September 10, 2026

**Registration Cost: \$50/person**

This cost includes programming and ferry to the island.

**Hotel Costs Separate** Once you've completed your general registration, you will be provided a link in your confirmation email to complete your lodging reservations.

- Cost includes: 2 nights and 4 meals
- Single Occupancy - \$826 for Grand or \$906 for Lakeview
- Double Occupancy - Per Person \$496 Grand/\$536 Lakeview
- Triple Occupancy - Per Person \$428 Grand/\$457 Lakeview
- Quad Occupancy - Per Person \$397 Grand/\$417 Lakeview

(taxes & fees not included - \$16 per guest baggage transportation fee additional)



Please join us for  
our next  
Craft Day and Lunch

*(Everyone is welcome!)*



On Saturday, March 14, 2026  
10am- 3:00pm



Come create  
with us!!

Bring your crafting supplies with you and we'll  
have lunch together.

To reserve your spot, and to make sure we  
have plenty of lunch to share, please sign up in  
the narthex. Let us know you're coming and  
how many people will be coming with you. If  
you can help provide soup for the group,  
please sign up for  
that too.

*(Feel free to invite your family, friends, and  
neighbors!)*

## Happy Birthday March Masterpieces!!

March 1	Vivian Westphal
March 3	Ted Clarke
March 5	Rita Clarke
March 10	Glen Bierens
March 17	Ezra Mandrick
March 24	Debra Foster
March 24	Scott Jackson
March 25	Pastor Grotelueschen
March 25	Christina Lauer
March 28	Steve Brelje



**Lutheran Women in Mission** will have the **spring rally** April 18 at 10:00 with lunch following, at Trinity Lutheran 721 Pine St., Paw Paw. Our speaker will be

Deaconess Susan Knowles the Director of Deaconess Formation in regards to International Deaconesses in Tanzania, Africa. The program at Concordia Theological Seminary Ft. Wayne has received the LWML Mission Grant #18 of \$100,000. All women are invited to come and hear how your Mites are hard at work! **Let all that is in me adore HIM!!**

Peace in Jesus,  
Renita Wollberg  
BC ZP

## Third Saturdays of the Month-- Adult Catechism class in the Immanuel Fellowship Hall

Have you been curious about what it means to be a Christian? Have you recently started coming to Immanuel and have lots of questions about what we believe? Has it been a while since you opened up your catechism? Do you enjoy conversations about God? Then this class might just be for you! Each month we will be exploring a different topic from the Catechism, or other religious topics to help us live out the Christian faith in our lives. They can be taken in any order, so do not fret if you miss the first one! The remaining sessions will be as follows-

- 3rd article of the Creed and the Sacraments (March 14<sup>th</sup>)
- The Bible, and the History of God's People
- World Religions and Worldviews (Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Catholicism, Protestantism, Rationalism, Nihilism)

This month we will be discussing the 3rd article of the Creed and the Sacraments. As we go forward, we will discuss many different topics and questions that many of you have, regardless of your Christian experience, training, curiosity, and tenure in the Christian faith!

**If any of these discussions sound interesting to you, join us in the fellowship hall January 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am on the third Saturdays of the month. Let Pastor Josh know if you are planning on attending!**



## Easter Lilies On the Altar

Easter lilies decorate altars to symbolize the resurrection of Jesus Christ, representing purity, hope, and new life. Their white color signifies holiness, while their emergence from a dormant, underground bulb mirrors Christ rising from the tomb. The trumpet-shaped bloom also represents the joyful announcement of his triumph over death.

Key reasons for the Easter lily tradition include:

- **Symbol of Resurrection:** The bulb buried in the ground in spring is a representation of Christ's tomb. The lily blooms in spring, serving as a direct metaphor for Christ rising from the grave, and conquering death, thus giving new life!
- **Purity and Divinity:** The white, pristine petals symbolize the innocence and divinity of Jesus.
- **Biblical Mentions:** Jesus referred to the lilies of the field, highlighting their natural beauty and God's creation.
- **Tradition:** They are often placed around the altar to mark the end of the Lenten season of fasting and the beginning of the joyous Easter season.

If you would like to commemorate the memory of or honor a loved one by placing a lily on the altar this Easter, please fill out the order form in the worship folder and place it with attached payment in the designated box in the narthex. Lilies are still \$15 per plant. Orders and payment must be placed in the box by no later than Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

# THEN SINGS MY SOUL

*Sacred Song Recital*

Sunday, March 15 at 3:00pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church

*Sara Emerson, Soprano*



*I will sing to the Lord  
as long as I live;*

***I will sing praise to my God***  
*while I have my being.*

Psalm 104:33



# March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
March's MISSION: LCMS MI District						
<b>1</b> 8:30am Choir Practice 9:15am Sunday School 10 am Communion Service 11:30am Bible Study w/ Pastor 3:00pm "Then Sings My Soul" Sacred Song Recital at ILC		<b>3</b> 10am Wills' Bible Study @ILC 5:00-6:00pm Confirmation Class 5:30pm Mary/Martha 7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC	<b>4</b> 6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper 7:00pm Lenten Midweek Service			
<b>8</b> 8:30am Choir Practice 9:15am Sunday School 10 am Communion Service 11:30am Bible Study w/ Pastor		<b>10</b> 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 10am Wills' Bible Study @ILC 5:00-6:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC	<b>11</b> 6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper 7:00pm Lenten Midweek Service			<b>14</b> 10AM-3PM Mary/Martha Craft Day
<b>15</b> 8:30am Choir Practice 9:15am Sunday School 10 am Communion Service 11:30am Bible Study w/ Pastor		<b>17</b> 10am Wills' Bible Study @ILC 5:00-6:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC	<b>18</b> 6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper 7:00pm Lenten Midweek Service		<b>20</b>  Newsletter Deadline	<b>21</b> 9am Adult Catechism Class w/Pastor Grotelueschen
<b>22</b> 8:30am Choir Practice 9:15am Sunday School 10 am Communion Service 11:30am Voters Assembly Mtg		<b>24</b> 10am Wills' Bible Study @ILC 5:00-6:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC	<b>25</b> 6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper 7:00pm Lenten Midweek Service			
<b>29 PALM SUNDAY</b> 8:30am Choir Practice 9:15am Sunday School 10 am Communion Service 11:30am Bible Study w/ Pastor		<b>31</b>	<b>April 1</b>  Immanuel Lutheran Church's 72nd B-day	<b>2 MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	<b>3 GOOD FRIDAY</b>	<b>4</b>

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
3000 West Main Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49006

March 2026 Newsletter  
Volume 55, No. 3



**Immanuel  
Lutheran  
Church**

*(269) 345-8090*

**10:00 am  
Sunday Communion  
Service**

**11:30am Adult Bible  
Study**

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

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



*Mid-week Lenten Soup Suppers and  
Worship Services will continue through  
the Lenten season. Soup Suppers begin at 6:00pm  
and Services begin at 7:00pm on Wednesdays.*



These shared meals allow 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.)

We look forward to seeing you at supper and at worship on these Wednesday evenings during Lent!

*Discipleship, Fellowship, Outreach, Property, Service and Worship Committees*