



February 2025

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Caring For Our Community Through Christ

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dearly Beloved,

By time you read this article, I will be at home recovering from gastric bypass surgery. This month I wanted to just share my journey with you and to look at a couple of spiritual takeaways.

I've always enjoyed food. As such, I've also always struggled with my weight, even while I was in the Army. I have learned that I "stress eat" meaning that when I am stressed, I eat. That type of eating I now know is not good for me and, coupled with the fact that due to my injuries from the military I am not able, as I'd like to be, to work out more, the weight just piled on. Today, I am ashamed and embarrassed by how much weight I have gained over the years.

Desiring to live a better, healthier life, I decided to have weight loss surgery. I won't lie, it's been a tough journey. There have been appointments with cardio, gastroenterology, mental health, dieticians, the surgeon, and more. Each part of the process and each designed to prepare me for the lifestyle changes that are to come.

So, on January 23, I will have the surgery. Some of you have asked how I am doing? I won't lie, mental health wise, it's been up and down. Part of me doesn't want to have the surgery. However, the pros outweigh the cons, and I know that having the procedure done will greatly benefit me and my family and, Lord willing, I will be alive to see my grandchildren. So, I ask that you pray for me and my family during this time. That God will lay His healing hand upon me and that He will give us a little more grace, comfort, healing, and peace.

So, what are the things I want you to take away from my story this month? One, we are not in control when it comes to God. He is the architect of our lives. He gave us life and He knows when we will take our last breath. It's hard for me to not have control over things, particularly in this situation, and when I don't, it's stressful. But just as God stood in the boat, stretched out His hand and calmed the seas, I know He has authority over this and will give me calm and you as well as you face the trials and tribulations of your life.



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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod

Caring For Our Community Through Christ

REV. DAVID CASEY-MOTLEY, PASTOR

PASTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Cell Phone253-241-1435

Email pastordavid.immanuel@gmail.com

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.; and by appointment

BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS

The office is normally open Monday—Thursday from
9am to 1pm. Please remember that the administrative assistant
may be away from the office running errands during this time.

Administrative Assistant &

Newsletter Editor.....Raechl Cannon

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CHURCH OFFICERS — 2025

President Richard Wheatley

Secretary Sheri Rodriquez

Financial Secretary..... Janice Isenberg

Treasurer Carol Frase

Evangelism Chair Cathy Baker

Trustee Chair Rick Clendaniel

Stewardship Chair Linda Jefferson

Board of Education Chair Rene Langwost

Elders Chair Rex Rosebrock

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Second, on your good days and on your bad ones, cast all your worries onto the Lord. That's what He is there for. This has been hard for me during this time leading up to my surgery. I know I should, and I've prayed about it earnestly and will continue to, but it's letting go and letting God that I have struggled with. Thanks be to God though that He loves me and that His grace is sufficient for me because without it, I would be lost and that is not a good place to be. Friend, God has you. He came for you. He took your sins upon Himself on the cross and He died for them there. In doing so, He gives you forgiveness, grace, new life, and the promise that He is indeed, with you always, even to the ends of the age.

Lastly, pray. The Apostle Paul says that we are to pray without ceasing. Take everything to the Lord in prayer. There is nothing He doesn't want to hear. Nothing is too big or small for Him. He loves and adores you and cares about you immensely. When you pray, just be yourself. Talk to the Lord as if you were talking to a friend, a neighbor, or dare I say, your Father who art in heaven. You don't have to use big words or phrases, just speak from the heart. He is listening. And when the words won't come, know that He sees you and He hears you even when your words are silent or run down your cheek as tears.

Thank you beloved for allowing me to share with you this month. It is the greatest joy of my life to be your pastor, and I love each and every one of you so very dearly. As I pray, I will remember all of you by name and fondly and I look forward to seeing God answer those prayers for you in your life.

One last request: remember my family this month. They could use a little more grace, love, and support during this time. Thank you for that. God bless you.

In the Lord of our Lord and Savior who is for You,

Pastor David





Adults, Middle School and High School Students:

Do you play a musical instrument?

Would you like to use your gift of music in praise to God this Easter?

Make plans today to participate in our pop-up musical group known as the *Resurrection Orchestra!*



INSTRUMENTALISTS *Needed*



Rehearsals will be held after the church services on March 16, 23, 30 and April 6 for about 30 minutes. You can come to one, two or more of the early rehearsals as you are able. A mandatory rehearsal will be held on April 13, Palm Sunday.

Plan to attend one of the upcoming interest sessions to let us know which instrument you play and you will receive a copy of the music to take home. Interest sessions are March 9 and March 16. Questions? Speak to Lynn Short, Music Director.

SPECIAL FUNDS

Care & Compassion Fund - In Memory of Robert Lorenz

Vera Rieck

Care & Compassion Fund

WinGS

Nicole Caraballo

CD Ministry Fund

Rex Rosebrock

MaryLou Plutschak Fund

Glen Plutschak

Altar Furnishing Fund

Linda Jefferson

CHURCH DIRECTORY 2025: Please provide us with your current contact information to allow us to update and distribute the Church Directory for 2025. You can provide us with your information using the form below and putting in the drop box in the narthex, emailing us anytime at ImmanuelLutheranPreston@verizon.net, or calling 410-673-7107 (feel free to leave a message after office hours). If you would like to be added to our Bulletin and Newsletter email list, please provide your email address. Thank you very much!



Full Name	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Home Phone Number	
Cell Phone Number	
Email Address	



ILC RECAP OF CHRISTMAS



CHRISTMAS

@
*Immanuel
Lutheran*
Nursery School



Immanuel Lutheran Nursery School had a wonderful Christmas program followed by a long and snowy winter break!

In January they celebrated Lutheran Schools Week with spirit days, Sports Day, Career Day, and Cartoon Character Day!

In February they will continue their daily learning and celebrate Valentine's Day with a class party!

Thank you 
Sunday School
teachers

Opening & Music: Lynn Short

Opening Assistant: Catie Casey-Motley

Pre-K, K & 1st: Ron Andrews Jr., Raechl Cannon, Jessie Harding

2nd—5th: Robin Bowman-Smith, Christina Frase, Marilyn Harris

6th: Irene Wheatley

We are so grateful for your dedication to our students!

- Rene Langwost, Board of Education Chair

Ryan Anthony James Wortz

Ryan was baptized at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Sunday January 12th, 2025!

We welcome Ryan to God's family and ours!

Ryan is 9 years old and lives in Ridgely with his parents, Michelle and Chris, and his sister Karly.

Ryan is in 4th grade at Ridgely Elementary School.

He loves to play soccer and football, ride his dirt bike and play with friends.

His sponsors are Jimmy and Gina Wortz. Ryan's maternal grandparents are Tony & Debbie Roberts.

His paternal grandparents are Jim and Vicki Wortz.



Immanuel Lutheran Church has been collecting baby bottles filled with coins and cash to support Choices Pregnancy Center in Easton, MD.

Thank you ALL for your support!

Choices Pregnancy Center provides compassionate Christian ministry that offers life-affirming choices to women and their families who are faced with an unplanned pregnancy.





ANGEL *tree*

THANK YOU
for

GIVING

We received the following letter from His Hope Ministries regarding our 2024 Angel Tree gifts.

Please see below:

"Hello all,

Hope everyone is safe at home enjoying the snow. I wanted to thank everyone for their participation in our gift program in '24. The gifts were appreciated by all our guests and they insisted on a family style gift opening around the tree. Your generosity was amazing, allowing our guests to have a special holiday.

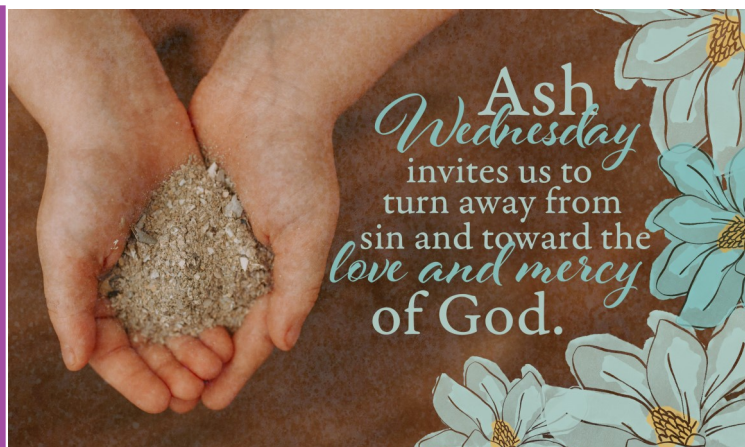
I am already working on plans for next year, hoping to have our requests out earlier. Although that can be tough as the shelter guests come and go at a moment's notice.

I hope we'll see many of you in December, but if not, thank you for your patience with me and your giving spirit.

Happy New Year!

Mindy Wise, Volunteer Coordinator"

Join us on Ash Wednesday, March 5th!
Our potluck dinner will begin at 6:00pm
followed by a confession and
communion service at 7:00pm!



HAPPY
Birthday
FROM YOUR
CHURCH FAMILY



FEBRUARY
birthdays

God is
LOVE.
1 JOHN 4:16



Leslie Jefferson	2/3	Mark Harding	2/12	Jason Frase	2/23
Kenny Wheatley	2/3	Cathy Baker	2/13	Kimberly Jantz	2/25
Sharron Jamarik	2/4	Mark Gadow	2/14	Michael Limpert	2/26
Keith Lyons	2/4	Rick Clendaniel	2/16	Diana Patchett	2/26
Paul Nichols	2/5	Ronald Andrew Jr.	2/17	James Fuchs	2/27
Caron Janko	2/7	Ann Bradley	2/17	John Hochmuth	2/27
John Johansen Jr.	2/8	Jacob Parmer	2/17	Kara Erskine	2/28
Irene Wheatley	2/8	Helen Schmidt	2/21	Jennifer Phillips	2/28
April Frase	2/9	Robert Phillips III	2/22		
Ryan Kenton	2/11				



Love is patient,
Love is kind.
1 CORINTHIANS 13:4



FEBRUARY
anniversaries

William & Carol Greenage Jr.	2/18
Timothy & Naomi DeGroat	2/22
Joseph & Barbara Headley Sr.	2/27

HAPPY
Anniversary
FROM YOUR
CHURCH FAMILY

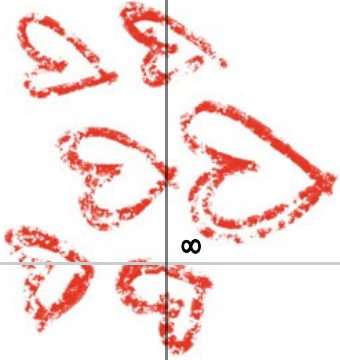

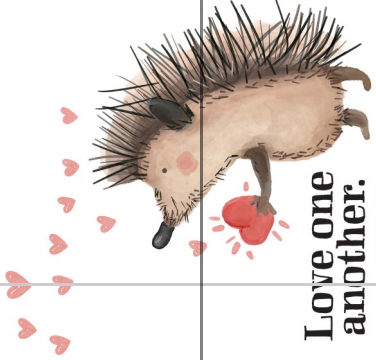




FEBRUARY



February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 
2 Groundhog Day 9:15a Sunday School 10:30 Divine Service 7:00pm AA Meeting	3 8:50am Nursery School 6p Youth Confirm. Class	4 8:50am Nursery School 6p Youth Confirm. Class	5 8:50a Nursery School 6:30pm Handbells 7:30pm Sr. Choir	6 8:50am Nursery School 9:30am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm WinGS	7	8 
9 9:15a Sunday School 10:30am Worship 7:00pm AA Meeting	10 8:50am Nursery School	11 8:50am Nursery School 6p Youth Confirm. Class	12 8:50a Nursery School 6:30pm Handbells 7:30pm Sr. Choir	13 8:50am Nursery School 9:30am Women's Bible Study	14 Valentine's Day	15
16 9:15a Sunday School 10:30 Divine Service 12-2p ILNS Spaghetti 7:00pm AA Meeting	17 President's Day 7:00p Board of Elders	18 8:50am Nursery School 6p Youth Confirm. Class	19 8:50a Nursery School 6:30pm Handbells 7:30pm Sr. Choir	20 8:50am Nursery School 9:30am Women's Bible Study	21	22 
23 9:15a Sunday School 10:30am Worship Church Council 7:00 pm AA Meeting	24 8:50am Nursery School	25 8:50am Nursery School 6p Youth Confirm. Class	26 8:50a Nursery School 6:30pm Handbells 7:30pm Sr. Choir	27 8:50am Nursery School 9:30am Women's Bible Study	28	Love one another. 1 JOHN 4:7

THOSE SERVING IMMANUEL FEBRUARY 2025

Date	Ushers	Assisting Elder	Lay Reader	Acolyte	Sound System	Camera Operator	Kids Worship	Greeter	Head Tellers
Feb. 2	Jack Collins Dale Kenton	Todd Butler	Catie Casey-Motley	Grayson Jackson	David Schmidt	Janice Isenberg	Rene Langwost	Kenny & Michelle Wheatley	Janice Isenberg Shelly Kapitan John Crampton
Feb. 9	Jack Collins Dale Kenton		John Crampton	Mikayla Clark	David Schmidt	Jennifer Phillips	Rene Langwost	Kenny & Michelle Wheatley	Karen Lyons Jennifer Phillips
Feb. 16	Jack Collins Dale Kenton	Rick Clendaniel	Kate Frase	Coltyn Bowman- Pinder	Rex Rosebrock	Shelly Kapitan	Rene Langwost	Kenny & Michelle Wheatley	Dee Lambert Glen Plutschak Linda Jefferson
Feb. 23	Jack Collins Dale Kenton		David Casey-Motley	Shyann Gillis	Jim Harris	Ruth Thomas	Rene Langwost	Kenny & Michelle Wheatley	David & Kathy Schmidt Julie Farrell



february





Pastor David had gastric bypass surgery on Thursday January 23, 2025. His wife Desi said that the surgeon described his surgery as unremarkable, textbook surgery. He has a follow up appointment with his surgeon on Monday February 3, 2025.

We are grateful for all of your prayers!
Please continue to pray for Pastor David during his recovery!



A prayer for President's Day

Lord of heaven and earth, we offer you our deepest gratitude for this country and the freedom to worship you. Stir up a sense of stewardship so we all may care for our nation and each inhabitant of it.

We pray especially for our leaders, that you will bless them with wisdom and humility. Prompt everyone in positions of authority to pursue righteousness, justice and the welfare of all.

Remind us of the psalmist's teaching: "Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12, NRSV). May that promise be fulfilled "from sea to shining sea." Amen.



From LCMS:

"The wildfires in Los Angeles County, California, continue to inflict widespread damage and suffering throughout the Los Angeles area. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is in close communication with the LCMS Pacific Southwest District (PSD) regarding our Synod's response."

"As long as it takes, LCMS Disaster Response will walk alongside the PSD and its congregations in this response. Our shared response includes the entire Synod's prayers, along with spiritual resources to assist church workers as they care for their congregations. In addition, we are here to offer practical support in the form of ongoing counsel and advice and material support in the form of supplies, recovery grants and volunteer coordination."

If you would like to support LCMS's response to CA Wildfires visit:

<https://www.lcms.org/givenow/wildfires>





JOIN US

Spaghetti Dinner

TO BENEFIT THE NURSERY SCHOOL

Sunday, February 16th

\$10

PER PERSON

12-2 PM

**Immanuel
Lutheran Church
Basement**

**242 Main St
Preston**

**INCLUDES: Spaghetti, Salad, Bread, Drink &
Dessert**

CARRY OUT ONLY