

THE IMMANUEL HERALD

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
5701 LOCH RAVEN BOULEVARD
BALTIMORE, MD 21239

Visit Immanuel's website www.immanuellutheran.org

MARCH 2025

DIVINE SERVICE AT IMMANUEL: In addition to the in-person services, all Services are live streamed also. The live stream is available at the following Youtube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqkp9bt5FmMFDmfW0QNplUw/videos>

DIVINE SERVICE AT IMMANUEL AT 10:00 a.m.

March 2

Deuteronomy 34:1–12

Psalm 99

Hebrews 3:1–6

Luke 9:28–36

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Moses' death on Moab

"The Lord is great in Zion; He is exalted over all the peoples."

Christ is faithful as a son over God's house.

Jesus is transfigured on the mountaintop.

Throughout the sojourning of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses, the Lord delivered judgment and promise, signs and wonders, terror and restoration. This prophetic lineage of faithfulness culminates in Christ, whose divine faithfulness is unblemished. He is without fault, being wholly the servant of man and the Son of God. The church bears witness to God's legacy of faithfulness witnessed through Moses, Elijah, and Jesus. Together, we confess Jesus to be the Son of God, to whom we must listen.

March 5

Joel 2:12–19

Psalm 51:1–13 (14–19)

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

Ash Wednesday

"Return to the Lord your God."

"Have mercy on me."

"Be reconciled."

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Great paradox defines the confession of the church. Christ is sinless yet becomes sin. We are guilty yet declared innocent. We are dying and yet we live. We are punished yet we are not killed. Repentance is that intersection of faith—knowing that we deserve death but are gifted with life. Broken and restored hearts are grounded in the treasure of Christ's forgiveness, which reveals the mercy of God. "Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful."

March 9

Deuteronomy 26:1–11

Psalm 91:1–13

Romans 10:8b–13

Luke 4:1–13

First Sunday in Lent

The Lord heard our voice and brought us out.

He shall give His angels charge over you.

Confess with your mouth; believe in your heart.

Jesus is tempted by Satan.

Believers who confess the name of Jesus strive against evil assaults that distort God-given truths. In the church, the Word of God prevails as it is proclaimed, confessed, and believed. The Word, on Jesus' own lips, repels the onslaught of Satan, who, in the midst of Jesus' anguish, asserts false claims and authority. As we witness the clash between Satan and Jesus, we cling to His own words with heart, mind, and voice: "You shall worship the Lord your God . . ."

March 16

Jeremiah 26:8–15

Psalm 4

Philippians 3:17–4:1

Luke 13:31–35

Second Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah prophesies against Jerusalem.

“The Lord hears when I call to Him.”

“Our citizenship is in heaven.”

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets.”

There is no room for impenitence. Jeremiah preaches death for those who do not respond to God’s voice. Death is imminent. But Jesus is the great reversal, pressing toward Jerusalem where He dies for sinners. Jerusalem entombed many prophets before Jesus. And now she is soon to be the gateway for Jesus’ three-day journey from cross to tomb. Those who oppose His cross collide with destruction and shame. Those who cling to the cross are declared beloved citizens of heaven.

March 23

Ezekiel 33:7–20

Psalm 85

1 Corinthians 10:1–13

Luke 13:1–9

Third Sunday in Lent

“I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked.”

“Restore us again, O God of our salvation.”

“God . . . will not let you be tempted beyond your ability.”

Parable of the fig tree

Throughout the Holy Scriptures, the Lord inspires several refrains that shape the confession of the church—repent and live, abhor evil, flee destruction, and love righteousness! The justice of Christ’s righteousness abolishes the merit of good works; He redeems those who genuinely repent of their iniquity. These are the ones upon whom He bestows eternal life. By human standards, this is questionable justice. By divine standards, it is total grace! God is faithful. He will do it!

March 30

Isaiah 12:1–6

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16–21

Luke 15:1–3, 11–32

Fourth Sunday in Lent

“The Lord . . . has become my salvation.”

“I acknowledged my sin to You.”

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”

Parable of the prodigal son

Divine forgiveness is incomparable. God’s justifiable anger for sinful rebellion is assuaged. Prodigal sons are forgiven, embraced, and fed. The church continually recalls this same liturgical sequence—Confession, Absolution, and Eucharist feast. Our restoration as God’s people is complete by God’s decree and action. The old has passed away and the new has come. As a forgiven people, we resound in shouts and songs of unsurpassed joy! Thank the Lord and sing His praise!

Ministry Notes

Our Lent Journey to the Cross

Ash Wednesday March 5th: Our Ashes and His Blood. Divine Service and the imputation of ashes. 12:10 PM and 7:00 PM. Service will be in the sanctuary.

Wednesday Lent Service March 12th. The overall theme is The Good News of a Savior. This week we will see The Good News of a Savior Who Conquers Evil. The Service will be 12:10 PM and will be held in the fellowship hall with a soup lunch to follow. There will be no evening service until Holy Week.

Wednesday Lent Service March 19th: The Good News of a Savior Who Give Us a New Beginning.

Service to be held at 12:10 PM in the fellowship hall with a soup lunch to follow.

Wednesday Lent Service March 26th: The Good News of a Savior Who Gives Himself in Our Place. The Service will be 12:10 PM and will be held in the fellowship hall with a soup lunch to follow. There will be no evening service until Holy Week.

Bingo! Saturday, March 29th, Immanuel will host the LRIA Bingo Fund Raiser. The Event will be 2 PM to 5 PM. See Pastor Minetree for tickets or to volunteer to help with the event.

Special Funding for Staff Increases

A 2.5% cost of living increase for each member of our staff was included in the 2025 budget. This increase was approved by the congregation notwithstanding the fact that an operating deficit of approximately \$85,000 during fiscal year 2025 is anticipated. It was our intention to recognize the good work of each staff member in an uncertain time and to provide an increase this year as regular salary increases have not been part of our annual budgets for the majority of the last ten years.

It was determined by the voters that these cost-of-living increases would be funded by the members of the congregation through contributions to “2025 Staff Cost of Living Increases”. The total amount needed to offset these increases is \$3,500. Contributions to fund the cost-of-living increases are voluntary and can be made by placing your gift in an envelope marked “STAFF INCREASES” and putting it into the offering plate or mailing it to the church office. You may want to give one gift or to give smaller amounts from time to time. The amount collected will be reported from time to time so that you can see how we are doing in collecting these funds.

Again, these contributions are totally voluntary. We urge you to prayerfully consider participating in recognition of our excellent staff.

LWML Baltimore Prayer Breakfast, Saturday, March 15th, 9 to 11 am, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 308 Oak Manor Dr., Glen Burnie. \$5/door. RSVP or questions: Beth Phillips 410 353 2605.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, April 26th, Spring Rally Baltimore Zone. St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2001 Old Frederick Road, Catonsville, MD. More information to come.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIMES BEGINS MARCH 9TH.

Lay Readers:

March 2, Gerhard Ehlerding
March 5 (Ash Wednesday)
March 9, Sandy Collins
March 16, Mark Smith
March 23, Rick Kruelle
March 30, Roland Obetekah

Altar Guild - March

Sheila Gordon/Laura Pickering

Initial Meetings With LCEF Real Estate Solutions

Immanuel has begun work with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund to explore the use of unoccupied space in our building and/or developing the vacant land adjacent to Loch Raven Blvd to create a new source of revenue for the congregation.

A Town Hall Meeting took place on Tuesday, February 25 at which time Mr. Tom Campbell (LCEF Senior Vice President), Mr. Kirk Hymes (LCEF Southeastern District Vice President) and Mr. Jonathan Ward (Project Leader) provided information on the process that lies ahead and answered questions.

The following day, the LCEF Real Estate Solutions Team met with the Church Council to begin discussions about what portions of our campus might be used and some of the possible strategies. Mr. Ward then reported on several meetings that he had already participated in involving local authorities. Over the next several weeks, Mr. Ward will be doing a lot more of this initial exploratory work including follow up with contacts at Good Samaritan hospital. Mr. Ward will meet again with the Church Council via Zoom as part of the next Council meeting on March 19 at which time an update on the project will be provided.

CHURCH FLOWERS

If you would like a special arrangement, the procedure is to call Denise Waicker at (443) 981-0019 or Denisewaicker@mac.com. Denise needs to know the date you select and the statement you want to include so that she can order the flowers for that Sunday. The cost depends on your selection. Pay by cash or check (make payable to *Denise Waicker*) and give to Denise Waicker in person or mail checks via the postal service.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Lola Barnes, who is in rehab for COVID
- Sister of June Dennis, Barbara Griffa, for continued healing
- Niece and niece's son of June Dennis, Sylvia and Terrè Holland, for continued healing
- Chip Powell, Pastor's brother-in-law, who is having back problems
- Rosemarie Wilson, the daughter of Filleseta James, for return of strength in her left leg
- Elaine Mueller, who had hip surgery and is recovering well
- For peace in Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, and Russia
- Bonnie and Joe Castrilli as she cares for her husband who has dementia

-Joseph Woah-tee missing, and whereabouts unknown

Birthdays:

- 4 Luke Salter
- 6 Cheryl Akers
- 9 Ryan Bland
- 11 Pamela Hasskamp
Rochelle Obedekah
- 12 Manix Paye
- 21 Jennifer Pecora
- 24 Jacob Gordon
- 25 Lila Salter
- 27 Prince BellePu
Sally Hermann
- 28 Elaine Schwab

Anniversaries:

- 1 D. Scott and Lynn Wegner
- 11 Jay and Wendie Wegner
- 24 Al and Weezie Lietzau IV

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship & Holy Communion 12 pm Eritrean	3	4	5 ASH WEDNESDAY Services 12:10 and 7 pm	6 No choir practice	7	8 10:00 am Wings
9 <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship & Holy Communion 11 Adult Bible study 12 pm Eritrean	10	11	12 12:10 pm Midweek Lent service/Lunch	13 7 pm Choir	14	15 10:30 Wings/G Boys
16 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship & Holy Communion 11 Adult Bible study 12 pm Eritrean	17	18 7:00 pm LRIA General mtg	19 12:10 pm Midweek Lent service/Lunch 6:00 pm Council meeting	20 7 pm Choir	21	22 11:30 Wings/G Boys
23 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship & Holy Communion 11 Adult Bible study 12 pm Eritrean	24	25	26 12:10 pm Midweek Lent service/Lunch	27 7 pm Choir	28	29
30 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship 11 Adult Bible study 12 pm Eritrean	31	1	2 12:10 pm Midweek Lent/Lunch	3 7 pm Choir	4	5

The Baltimore Bulletin Insert

March 2025

*Events of area LCMS churches, entities, and Recognized Service Organizations
Deadline for April edition: March 20th*

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays, March 12 - April 9

Not every church has a Midweek Lenten Service, but they are a great Lenten piety of seeking God with a humble and repentant spirit. These churches open their hearts to you for Lenten worship.

12:10 (soup lunch)	Immanuel, Baltimore
7:00 (Soup 5:30)	Bethlehem, Baltimore
7:00	Martini, Baltimore, Redeemer, Irvington
7:30 (soup 6:30)	Our Saviour, Ednor Gardens

CIRCUIT 3 TRE ORE WORSHIP *Bethlehem Lutheran Church*
Good Friday, April 18, 12 noon – 3p, 4815 Hamilton, Ave., 21206, Pastors and churches of the Circuit gather for hymns and preaching on the seven last words of Christ from the cross. Worshipers come or go between any of the words, as they are able. All are welcome from all circuits!

BETHLEHEM HAPPENINGS...

Reading and Math Program, Food Pantry - 10-11:45 am, 1st Sat. of every month.

Pancake Dinner – March 4, 5:30 – 7p

Passover Sedar – April 17, 6:00p, stripping of altar after

Community Easter Egg Hunt – March 19, 10-12 noon

EVANGELISM BREAKFAST #2 *Bethlehem, Lutheran, Baltimore*
Saturday, March 8, 9a. Evangelism Breakfast #1 was met with such enthusiasm by the 40 of you who came. In response to your suggestions, we are having #2. You are invited to attend at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 4815 Hamilton Ave, 21206. The breakfast menu is planned and will be a crowd pleaser. R.S.V.P. To karenrbeck@gmail.com or 443-865-4251, so we know the amount of food to prepare. We can't wait to take this to the next level together. We look forward to God's continued blessing on this event.

LMS COMPASSION PLACE

Donate your car, truck or RV to LMS Compassion Place. Visit our website: CompassionPlace.org or call 410-636-0123

Baltimore Bulletin Insert Feature Event

Note: DOXOLOGY is a trusted ministry within Synod, presenting this conference within worthwhile driving distance. Synod is underwriting the cost so that Pastors, Congregational leaders, and interested laypeople may be well established in the Word.

"In His Image" Conference:

Navigating Christian Sexuality in a Post-Christian Culture

Saturday, March 1

9:00am – 4:00pm

Messiah Lutheran Church

13903 Clopper Rd, Germantown, MD 20874

Presented by DOXOLOGY

Open to All | Childcare provided

Cost: Free | Donations appreciated

About the Conference:

The church faces significant challenges as it navigates the legal redefinition of marriage, the complexities of gender, and evolving sexual norms. This conference aims to equip Christians and their pastors with the tools to articulate a positive Christian perspective on marriage and sexuality so they can engage thoughtfully and live confidently amidst today's challenges. Visit bit.ly/MessiahIHI for more information and to register.

LWML PRAYER SERVICE - BALTIMORE ZONE *St. Paul, Glen Burnie*
March 15, 9a, \$5 registration, Ingathering: monetary donations for SED disaster relief. More info: Beth Phillips 410.353.2605.

COALITION OF LUTHERANS IN BLACK MINISTRY *Advent, Chapel Hill, NC*
Fri., March 14 – Sat., March 15. A Special Forum for Youths and Adults
Theme - "CAN WE TALK?" Email: colibmlcms@gmail.com for details

This insert only happens because your church submits items.
A service of The Wyneken Project, appreciating the fellowship we share.
Submit your event to Secretary@MartiniLutheran.org
For locations of churches see LCMS.org > Locators & Directories