

February Calendar 2024

<u>Events</u>		<u>Anniversary & Birthdays</u>	
Saturday	3-Feb		(B) Lee Schaal
Sunday	4-Feb (E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School	4-Feb	(B) Sandra Kleinik
	(E) 10am Worship Service		
Monday	5-Feb (E) 7pm Ladies' Aid Meeting	5-Feb	(B) Errol Rhodes
Tuesday	6-Feb	6-Feb	(B) Paula Gephart
Thursday	8-Feb	8-Feb	(B) Evelyn Meseke
			(B) Dan Summann
Sunday	11-Feb (E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School	11-Feb	(B) Lucy Newcomb
	(E) 10am Worship Service		(B) Ryan Summann
Monday	12-Feb (E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School		
	(E) 10am Worship Service		
Wednesday	14-Feb (H) 7pm Ash Wednesday Service		
Thursday	15-Feb	15-Feb	(B) Wesley Rogers
			(B) Ashli Fenton
Sunday	18-Feb (E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School		
	(E) 10am Worship Service		
Wednesday	21-Feb (E) 7pm Lenten Service	21-Feb	(B) Makenna Dothager
Thursday	22-Feb	22-Feb	(B) Jamie Tischhauser
Sunday	25-Feb (E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School		
	(E) 10am Worship Service		
Monday	26-Feb	26-Feb	(B) Chris Cole
			(B) Harlan Schukar
Wednesday	28-Feb (E) 7pm Lenten Service	28-Feb	(B) John Moyer

Augsburg Immanuel Lutheran Church

Quarterly Voters Meeting

January 14, 2024

Chairman Mo Schukar called the meeting to order and Pastor Landskroener led all present in prayer.

Minutes from the October 9, 2023 voters meeting were printed in the church newsletter. There was no further discussion on these minutes. A motion was made to accept the minutes as posted, seconded, and approved.

Members:

Voting members: None

Communicant members: None

Baptisms: None.

Transfers:

Transfer out: None

Transfer in: None

Releases: None

Treasurer's Report:

The 2023 annual treasurer's report was presented by treasurer, Fran Collier. A copy of the report is included with these minutes. A few changes on how balances are reported were requested, and will be changed for the next meeting. A motion was made to accept the report as presented, seconded, and approved.

Elders' Report:

All is going well. Haven't met in the last couple of weeks. The meeting schedule is getting back on track after the holidays. As usual, please contact the elders if you have any questions or concerns.

Pastor's Report:

Funerals:

January 12 - Herman Sachteleben

December 3 - Mary Dierks (non-member interment)

2023 Summary

Sunday Services 53

Average Attendance 60

Average Communed 49

Special Services 14

Average Attendance 30

Average Communed 20 (4 services)

Trustees' Report:

Maintenance repairs have been completed on restroom in the church basement. Projects that have been placed on hold until warmer weather are the concrete work to the church and the parsonage and restroom upgrades for the kindergarten room.

Sunday school:

The Christmas program had 18 children participate. It was enjoyed by all – both the participants and those watching. Thank you to everyone involved in making the program a success again.

Bible Class:

Bible class continues to meet every Sunday at 9:00 AM in the parish hall. As usual, everyone is invited to attend. So please come join us.

Finance Man: No report.

Sexton:

After the accident this fall, the culverts have been replaced in the entrances to the cemetery. The local monument and vault company has been sold. Working on establishing a relationship for graves, headstones, and repairs.

Old Business:

The church officer elections were completed at the last quarterly meeting.

New Business:

Special Collections:

The following special collections were submitted for the first quarter:

- Ash Wednesday – Fort Wayne Seminary
- 2nd Lenten – AbleLight (formerly Bethesda)
- 3rd Lenten – St. Louis Seminary
- 4th Lenten – Lighthouse Pregnancy Center
- 5th Lenten – Lutheran School for the Deaf, Jacksonville
- 6th Lenten – District Deaf Ministry
- Maundy Thursday – Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School

A motion was made to accept the special collections, seconded, and approved.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded, and approved. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Steven R. Hickerson

Immanuel Lutheran Church - Shobonier, IL

Annual Financial Report

Jan. 1, 2023 - Dec. 31, 2023

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Disbursed</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Balance on Hand - Jan. 1, 2023			\$ 59,047.62
 <u>Received from</u>			
Envelopes	\$ 114,212.58		
Loose	\$ 12,942.49		
Interest	\$ 76.86		
Thrivent Choice	\$ 739.00		
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 958.83		
 Total Received	 \$ 128,929.76		
 <u>Disbursements</u>			
Pastor's Salary & Housing		\$ 54,130.91	
Pastor's Concordia Plan		\$ 23,886.17	
Pastor's Tax Assistance		\$ 1,566.07	
Pastor's Mileage Reimbursement		\$ 3,601.64	
Guest Speaker		\$ 400.00	
Pastor's Meetings & Lodging		\$ 307.56	
Vacancy / Guest Mileage		\$ 111.25	
Parsonage Utilities		\$ 3,096.57	
Church Maintenance		\$ 2,612.03	
Custodian's Salary		\$ 14,400.00	
Church Utilities		\$ 10,016.97	
Church Insurance		\$ 16,399.58	
Church Supplies		\$ 2,213.68	
Organist Salary		\$ 3,350.00	
Office Supplies		\$ 4,523.35	
Secretary Salary		\$ 2,400.00	
Social Security Church Payment		\$ 1,562.88	
PayChex		\$ 1,478.77	
Lutheran Witness		\$ 672.78	
Portals of Prayer		\$ 425.75	
Sunday School & VBS		\$ 342.27	
Miscellaneous Expense		\$ 99.18	
Organist Mileage		\$ 278.15	
 Total Disbursed		 \$ 147,875.56	
 Balance on Hand - Dec. 31, 2023			 \$ 40,101.82

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Disbursed</u>	<u>Balance</u>
<u>Cemetery Fund</u>			
Balance on Hand - Jan. 1, 2023			\$ 11,609.18
Received for Fund	\$ 7,460.00		
Disbursed from Fund		\$ 734.25	
Balance on Hand - Dec. 31, 2023			\$ 18,334.93
<u>Building Fund</u>			
Balance on Hand - Jan. 1, 2023			\$ 3,803.22
Received From			
Envelopes/Donations for use	\$ 75.00		
Loose	\$ 1,109.79		
Total Received	\$ 1,184.79		
Balance on Hand - Dec. 31, 2023			\$ 4,988.01
<u>Mission Work</u>			
Received From Envelopes (Synod)	\$ 13,880.00		
Total Disbursed to Synod		\$ 13,880.00	
Special Envelopes Missions	\$ 325.00		
Holiday Service Missions	\$ 2,248.00		
Total Received Special Missions	\$ 2,573.00		
Total Missions Disbursed		\$ 2,573.00	
<u>Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Funds Received</u>			
Choice Dollars	\$ 739.00		
Balance on Hand (All Funds) - Jan. 1, 2023			\$ 74,460.02
Received All Funds	\$ 154,766.55		
Disbursed All Funds		\$ (165,062.81)	
Balance on Hand (All Funds) - Dec. 31, 2023			\$ 64,163.76
Special Account - Property Maintenance			
Balance on Hand - January 1, 2023			\$ -
Amount Received			\$ 50,000.00
Amount Dispersed			\$ (4,228.58)
Monthly Interest			\$ 24.50
Balance On Hand - December 31, 2023			\$ 45,795.92

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February, 2024

Dearly Beloved of Christ,

The way of the world is different from the way of the Church. Different things cry for our attention. If you pay much attention to the things of popular culture, you know that on Sunday, February 11, something big will occur. It's Super Bowl Sunday. It's a day of festivities, food, parties, special commercials, a spectacle of football and entertainment. A lot of hype precedes the actual game – both about the game itself and the half-time entertainment. A lot of time and money is spent getting ready for the day. And, as I write this, we don't even know who will be playing in the game. Yet, in the end, nothing about that event will matter. It will all fade away.

Yet, the excitement of the Super Bowl doesn't hold a candle to the event the Church celebrates on that day. On the last Sunday of the Epiphany season, we remember and celebrate the Transfiguration of Our Lord. It's the day we celebrate Jesus taking Peter, James, and John up on the mountain, His being transfigured before them, His divinity shining through His humanity, His talking with Moses and Elijah. Peter blurts out, "It's good for us to be here!" And it was. As Peter suggests that they build three tents—one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah—the Father declares, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." With Moses and Elijah gone, Jesus and the disciples come down the mountain. It's a wonderful day to celebrate the glorious vision of Jesus in His glory. Those disciples never forgot it. You won't want to miss it either. (By the way, we bid farewell to "Alleluia" in the closing hymn.)

To prepare to worship that day, here's a summary of the readings for the day (Ex. 34:29-35 is an alternate Old Testament reading):

The Face of Jesus Christ Manifests the Light of the Knowledge of the Glory of God

It was "a hard thing" that Elisha asked, but by his persistence he was able to see the prophet Elijah being taken "by a whirlwind into heaven." Although "chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them," Elisha received Elijah's cloak and a "double portion" of his spirit for preaching the Lord's Word (2 Kings 2:9–11). It was a hard thing, too, for Israel to see Moses and come near to him, when "the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God" (Ex. 34:29–30). Therefore, after "he commanded them all that the LORD had spoken with him in Mount Sinai," Moses "put a veil over his face" (Ex. 34:32–33). Only the Word of the Gospel lifts the veil, and "only through Christ is it taken away" (2 Cor. 3:14). Thus are we able to behold "the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ," who is "the image of God" (2 Cor. 4:4–6). For the Law and the prophets are all fulfilled in Him. Therefore, "listen to him," and fix your sights on "Jesus only" (Mark 9:7–8).

On Wednesday of that week (February 14), the world celebrates another day, Valentine's Day. It's a day to celebrate romantic love. It's a day of flowers, candy (usually chocolate), and other gifts to show your love to your beloved.

Again, the Church observes the day differently: as a day in honor of St. Valentine, who died a martyr's death. More importantly, on that day the Church celebrates the beginning of the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. It's a day when we remember our mortal, sinful nature and give special attention to repentant prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We will celebrate the Divine Service that night as we begin our Lenten journey to Holy Week, Jesus' suffering and death, and then His glorious resurrection on Easter. Here's a summary of the readings for the day:

Return to the Lord Your God, for He Has Reconciled You to Himself

On Ash Wednesday, we come down from the mountain with Jesus and set our faces toward His cross and Passion in Jerusalem. We make our pilgrimage with Him by the way of repentance, and thus we return to the dying and rising of Holy Baptism. Christ Jesus, "*who knew no sin,*" became our sin, so that by His death we are released from sin and in His resurrection we "*become the righteousness of God*" (2 Cor. 5:21). Since God has thus reconciled the world to Himself in Christ, "*now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation*" (2 Cor. 6:2). He has provided the sacrificial Lamb, and He has left "*a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering*" in the Eucharist (Joel 2:14, 19). He summons us to return to Him with all our hearts, because He is "*gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love*" (Joel 2:13). Return to Him in faith and confidence, and so pray to Him as your Father; give to the needy from a heart of love; and fast for the sake of repentance (Matt. 6:3-4, 6, 17-18).

Whenever we gather for the Divine Service, it's good to prepare by reading the readings for the day during the week/days before. Here are the readings for the upcoming Divine Services:

Feb. 4 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 40:21-31
1 Cor. 9:16-27
Mark 1:29-39

Feb 18 The First Sunday in Lent
Genesis 22:1-18
James 1:12-18
Mark 1:9-15

Feb. 11 The Transfiguration of Our Lord
2 Kings 2:1-12
2 Cor. 3:12-13 (14-18); 4:1-6
Mark 9:2-9

Feb. 25 The Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Romans 5:1-11
Mark 8:27-38

Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:12-19
2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10
Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21

God bless you always.

Pastor Landskroener

EXPERT GUESTS, EXPANSIVE TOPICS, EXTOLLING CHRIST... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: Responding to the Cliches of Pop American Christianity, The Epiphany Hymn "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise," An Update on an Attempt by Concordia University Texas to Reject the Governance & Oversight of the LCMS, The Benefits of Liturgical Worship and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod or your favorite podcast provider.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: Is Sin, by its definition, the way we break God's Commandments? To hear an answer to this question, go to <https://www.cidlcms.org/myth-or-faith/2.1.mp3> If you would like to receive every week an e-mail message with a new question and a link to audio answering that question, e-mail lawandgospel@hotmail.com

"Please SAVE the DATE" The next Soup & Chili Dinner will be held on Sunday, April 21st.

Sausage Supper St. Peter's Lutheran Men's Club will once again be holding their Sausage Supper with all the fixings on February 18th, 2024, serving begins at 5:00 PM in the St. Peter's Lutheran School Gym. Carry Outs will be available

Camp CILCA's Woodcutters' Retreat February 23-24, 2024 - Saint Paul admonishes the Christians of Corinth to "act like men." Cutting trees, splitting wood, fellowship with other men, good food, and time in God's word are all great ways to get started in this endeavor. You do not have to be skilled in using a chainsaw, hammer, or tractor to come to this event. Strong backs and eager hands are just as helpful. For more information or to register, go to www.cilca.org using the events/retreats tab under "act like men" events.

Save the date – Saturday, March 9, 2024 - Mark your calendars! Join the CID LLL District at their annual convention hosted at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Altamont, Illinois. All are welcome to attend. Our guest speaker is Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Speaker of the Lutheran Hour® focusing on Energizing Mission. Join us for a day of spiritual growth with inspirational presentations to encourage and equip you as partners in His mission. Flyer is posted in Narthex.

Camp CILCA's Pancake Breakfast Saturday, March 2, 2024 - Come enjoy a free breakfast of pancakes, sausage, and fruit at Camp CILCA. We want to thank you for all of your support! Breakfast will be served from 10 am-1 pm in the Dining Hall.

Parish Hall reservations – If you would like to plan an event or meeting to use our Parish Hall for any reason, this also includes Church activities, you will need to contact Scott or Karen Torbeck. If not asked, we don't know. Use of the Parish Hall will be determined by the first reservation made.

Contact Pastor Landskroener 330-204-4180 for a Pastoral visit.

Prayer Request – When prayers are requested, we ask that we are informed of the relationship of the person with our congregation. There has been concerns about names on prayer list & who they are. We will add the relationship to the prayers. This will allow members to ask about the individual's progress in recovery. In an effort to manage the list more effectively, individuals will be placed on the list for a period of four weeks. If at the end of that time, those people still need additional prayers, they may be re-added to the list for another four-week term. This may be done as long as the individual continues to need the added strength of the church prayer for their special need.

Bible Word Search:

PRAYER & FASTING

S B X M G N C F L A F E H P S
N P Y G C R A F A Z J D A E K
O O A T I B B B U S N D L N U
I X I S C M M Z K E T F V E O
N P I T W E E K Z L E I S M B
I S O Q A S A V M X I T N O U
M D H Y O L H E A L I N G G P
O S K P R N E M W I A M D J R
D Q R N S Y I V G B P C K S A
G U R E C N A R E V I L E D Y
P O A I A O S J A R J X F I E
E S N T R Q X K Y J O F K K R
H R I I D U G M I P Z A L A L
T O I N U J W F J E D N I Z V
N H Q G R C G K K R P O S R E

PURPOSE	PRAYER	DELIVERANCE
SELF-EXAMINATION	CRISIS	HEALING
REVELATION	DOMINION	FASTING

Prayer & Fasting:

1-day fast - deliverance, self-examination (Ezra 8:23; Psalm 35:14)

3-day fast - crisis, healing (1 Samuel 30; Esther 4:16)

21-day fast - revelation (Daniel 10:2-3)

40-day fast - dominion (Luke 4)

Prayer - Ephesians 6:18; Psalm 34:17; John 15:7; Philippians 4:6

Fasting - Isaiah 58:6; Ezra 8:21-23; Nehemiah 1:4; Mark 9:29;

Acts 13:2; Joel 1:14