

# Immanuel Lutheran Church and School

# *The Thread*



The Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord ~ February 2nd, 2025

## Lectionary Summary:

### The Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord

1 Samuel 1:21–28

Hebrews 2:14–18

Luke 2:22–32

### *God Gives the Gift of a Child to Destroy Death*

The Lord opened the barren womb of Hannah and gave her the gift of the son for whom she prayed, and in grateful response she presented and gave the child, Samuel, to the Lord's service. "*As long as he lives, he is lent to the Lord*" (1 Sam. 1:28). So, too, did Mary and Joseph present the Child promised from the fall, born of a virgin's womb. The true offering wasn't the turtledoves or young pigeons. It was the Child they carried. This Child has come to "*destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery*" (Heb. 2:14b–15). Set free by His advent in our flesh and the promise of what He would do "*in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people*" (Heb. 2:17b), Simeon and Anna rejoiced. We also rejoice, for we, too, can face death unafraid and "*depart in peace*" (Luke 2:29) when our time comes.



**Sunday Divine Service - 9:00 am**  
**Sunday Bible Study - 10:15 am**

### Contact Us:

#### **Church & School Office**

Office Hours: M–F: 7:30 am–3:30 pm

(618) 684-3012

secretary@immanuelmurphy.com

#### **Pastor Matthew J. Christian**

Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 10 am–12 pm

Other Meetings / Private Confession by Appointment

(618) 684-3012 ext. 103

pastor@immanuelmurphy.com

### MEMORY VERSE

**But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.**



1 JOHN 1:7

lcms.org

### **Live Broadcast**

If you are unable to join us for church today, don't miss the opportunity to listen to our service live this morning at 9:00 a.m. on 103.9 FM WXAN. The radio broadcast re-airs on Sunday evenings at 9:00 p.m. You can also view the livestream or recording on our YouTube channel.

## Church Announcements:

**Bible Study Snacks:** You can sign up to provide snacks on a future Sunday on the bulletin board downstairs.

February 2nd: *TBD*

February 9th: *TBD*

February 16th: Lloyd & Ruth Mueller

February 23rd: Cindy Gregory

**Congregational Baby Shower:** We look forward to welcoming two babies to the Immanuel family in the coming months as both Sara Stanton and Michelle Cramer are expecting little ones soon. To celebrate these mothers and their babies, the entire congregation is invited to gather on February 16th, 2-4 p.m. for a party to celebrate the life that God has given. If you would like to give a gift, gift cards are the easiest way to allow the families to get those items they most need as they prepare for their baby's arrival. The Stantons would appreciate Walmart gift cards, and the Cramers would appreciate either Walmart or Target gift cards. Please join us in celebrating God's gift of life and rejoicing with the Stantons and Cramers during this exciting time.

## Important Dates in the Church:

### February 2 — The Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord

Thirty-two days after Jesus' circumcision and seventy weeks after the announcement of John's birth to Zechariah by the angel Gabriel, the Lord comes to His temple to fulfill the Torah (Luke 2:22-38). The days are indeed fulfilled with the presentation. Jesus' parents keep the Torah and fulfill it by bringing Jesus to His true home. Also, Jesus' parents offer the alternative sacrifice of two turtledoves or two pigeons. Leviticus 12:8 allows this instead of a lamb, since not everyone could afford a lamb (showing the poverty and humility of Joseph and Mary). Yet no lamb was necessary because already here at forty days old, Jesus is the Lamb brought to His temple for sacrifice. Simeon's Nunc Dimittis is a beautiful example of the immediate response to this inauguration of God's consolation and redemption in the Christ Child. Speaking to Mary, Simeon also prophesies about the destiny of the child.\*

### February 5 — Jacob (Israel), Patriarch

Jacob, the third of the three Hebrew patriarchs, was the younger of the twin sons of Isaac and Rebekah. After wrestling with the Angel of the Lord, Jacob, whose name means "deceiver," was renamed *Israel*, which means "he strives with God" (Genesis 25:26; 32:28). His family life was filled with trouble, caused by his acts of deception toward his father and his brother, Esau, and his parental favoritism toward his son Joseph. Much of his adult life was spent grieving over the death of his beloved wife Rachel and the presumed death of Joseph, who had been appointed by the Egyptian pharaoh to be in charge of food distribution during a time of famine in the land. Prior to Jacob's death, through the blessing of his sons, God gave the promise that the Messiah would come through the line of Jacob's fourth son, Judah (Genesis 49).\*

\* From *Treasury of Daily Prayer*

## School Announcements:

This past week was National Lutheran Schools Week. It wasn't the same as previous school years. Our school had an outbreak of illness that took out 30-40% of our students. While we do what we can to sanitize on a daily basis, germs can still spread. Attendance for our events at the beginning of the week were low and got lower as the week went on. A few of our events were postponed and two of our school days transitioned into eLearning days. Please pray that all of our students and staff become healthy again to return to school. Doors reopen on Monday.



**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN PTL  
INVITES YOU TO  
Spaghetti SPRING  
SOCIAL**

**MARCH 2, 2025**  
10:30AM-1:00PM  
RAFFLE WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT 1PM

**JOIN US FOR:**  
~ FOOD  
~ RAFFLE ITEMS  
~ SILENT AUCTION ITEMS  
~ DESSERT SILENT AUCTION  
~ FREE GAMES FOR THE CHILDREN

**\$12 PER MEAL  
SPAGHETTI WITH YOUR CHOICE OF  
MEAT, MARINARA, OR ALFREDO SAUCE,  
PLUS GARLIC BREAD AND SALAD**

## Stewardship Thoughts:

### Do I have to Tithe?

That is an interesting question: do we have to tithe under the New Testament? After all, tithing, that is, giving 10% of our income to God's work in the Church, is a regulation of the Old Testament. We live under Christ in the New Testament so does this apply to us today?

We might approach our answer to this question by asking whether or not we have to keep the Third Commandment – which reads in full from **Exodus 20:8–11**, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

So do we have to keep this commandment? Should we cease from all labor on Saturday as the people of the Old Testament did? Of course not! That was one of the Old Testament prophecies of Christ – and since Christ has fulfilled the Sabbath rest by resting in the tomb on Holy Saturday, we are free from the Old Testament Sabbath regulations. Thus St. Paul writes, “Let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ” (**Col. 2:16–17**).

And yet, there the Third Commandment stands in our Small Catechism: Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy! What's going on here? Well, look at Luther's explanation of the third commandment: “What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but gladly hear and learn it.” So the form of the commandment, the letter of the law, has passed away as a shadow: but the spirit still remains. We are to honor God by our worship, by gladly receiving His Word and Sacraments in His Church.

So it is with tithing. The New Testament nowhere lists the precise regulations about giving this tithe and that tithe to the Levites and the Temple and so on. Those precise regulations were to point us to Christ: who represents the fullness of humanity though He is one Man, just as the tithe represented the fullness of the income of the people of Israel though it was only 10% thereof. We are in no way bound to these precise legal regulations of Old Testament Israel.

## Daily Lectionary Readings:

Join in the congregation's daily devotional life with this week's readings.

Date	Old Testament Reading	New Testament Reading
2/2	Zechariah 12:1—13:9	Titus 1:1—2:6
2/3	Zechariah 14:1–21	Titus 2:7—3:15
2/4	Job 1:1–22	John 1:1–18
2/5	Job 2:1—3:10	John 1:19–34
2/6	Job 3:11–26	John 1:35–51
2/7	Job 4:1–21	John 2:1–12
2/8	Job 5:1–27	John 2:13–25

And yet, just as the fulfilling of the Sabbath Day doesn't mean that going to the Lord's House for worship once a week is obsolete – so also the New Testament does not make faithful financial stewardship obsolete. Rather, the New Testament is full of admonitions on this point: “On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as each one of you may prosper.” (1 Cor. 16:2); “But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” (2 Cor. 8:7); “The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work” (2 Cor. 9:6–8).

So just as the Old Testament's once a week worship became the benchmark for New Testament worship, so also the Old Testament's tithe becomes the benchmark for New Testament stewardship. Not in the way of inflexible, minute regulations – but in the way of pattern and fulfillment. If in the New Testament we are called to give proportionally (“as each one may prosper”), weekly (“on the first day”), and “generously” - then surely the Old Testament tithe is the floor level of Christian giving, not the ceiling. As our worship in the New Testament is a greater fulfillment of the Old Testament Sabbath, so also our New Testament stewardship is called to be an even greater sacrificial fulfillment of the Old Testament tithing regulations. ✚

Service Participants - This and Next Week

**Sunday, February 2nd, 2025**

**Organist:** Luella McComb

**Elder:** Bryce Mueller

**Ushers:** Bryan Hollmann, Orval Rowe, Josh Proctor, Scott Maloney, Charlie Homan & Henry Phillips

**Altar Guild:** Sue Williams

**Acolyte:** Eli Pittman

**Greeters:** Kevin & Rhonda Ice & Alberta Reiman

**Sunday, February 9th, 2025**

**Organist:** Corey Williams

**Elder:** Jeff Streuter

**Ushers:** Bryan Hollmann, Orval Rowe, Josh Proctor, Scott Maloney, Charlie Homan & Henry Phillips

**Altar Guild:** Sue Williams

**Acolyte:** Parker Closson

**Greeters:** Chuck & Susan Closson



Offering Income from last week:

January 26th, 2025:

Regular Offerings \$ 4,735.00

Loose Plate \$ 2,036.00

**Total Offerings \$ 6,771.00**

Attendance:

**January 26th: 88**

**Prepare for Worship Next Week:**

**February 9**

**The Transfiguration of Our Lord**

Hymn of the Day:

LSB 413 O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair

Readings:

Exodus 34:29-35

or Exodus 3:1-14

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9



**Anniversaries:**

† 2-2 Scott & Paula Maloney

**Birthdays:**

† 2-2 Loraine Cramer

† 2-3 Kyle Fager

† 2-3 Michelle Reames

† 2-3 Carolyn Davis

† 2-6 David McComb

† 2-8 Harmony Karg

† 2-8 Jean Morgan

**Baptismal Anniversaries:**

† 2-3 Aurelia Flores

† 2-4 Brian Manwaring

† 2-4 Molly Batson

† 2-8 LeaAnn Fager

† 2-9 Meagan Codgill

**Expectant Mothers:**

† Bethany Campbell

† Michelle Cramer

† Emily Newton

† Sara Stanton

**Immanuel Families:**

† Shawn & Leah MacFarlane

† Adam & Brooks MacFarlane

† Scott & Paula Maloney



**Comfort, health, recovery:**

† Those in the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement, Fire, Emergency Medical Services, & Healthcare

† David Arbeiter

† Rev. Ted Mayes

† Leah Carter

† Wilma Nelson

† Ben Dallas

† Casey Phillips

† Valerie Draves

† Jeff Presutti

† Tina Doan

† Don Porter

† Paul Estel

† Amanda Reinhardt

† Terry Estel

† Sarah Reitzel

† Annette Etherton

† Becky Streuter

† Jane Gilbert

† Alice Svanda

† Richard Hart

† Brenda Todd

† Marilyn Imhoff

† Evie Todd

† Dan Kuenker

† Richard Weber

† Faye Lee

† Sue Williams

† Virginia Lewis

† Beth Zobel

† Ron Manwaring

† Carol Zobel

† Nelda Miesner

Let us pray at all times in the Spirit with boldness and confidence — making supplication for all the saints (Ephesians 6:18).  
✠ Pastor Christian

# February BIRTHDAYS

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2-2 Loraine Cramer    | 2-19 Gary Strothmann  |
| 2-3 Kyle Fager        | 2-23 Colin Clendenin  |
| 2-3 Michelle Reames   | 2-23 Haley Hollmann   |
| 2-3 Carolyn Davis     | 2-23 Madison Stanton  |
| 2-6 David McComb      | 2-25 Michael Boese    |
| 2-8 Harmony Karg      | 2-25 Valerie Draves   |
| 2-8 Jean Morgan       | 2-26 Greg Vaughn      |
| 2-10 Cheryl Reinhardt | 2-26 Joseph Graff     |
| 2-10 Tanner Oetjen    | 2-26 Maybree Karg     |
| 2-11 Faith Svanda     | 2-26 Garrett Hollmann |
| 2-13 Debbie Dunn      | 2-26 Graham Hollmann  |
| 2-13 Alexa Boese      | 2-27 Marshall Meade   |
| 2-15 Charity Behm     | 2-28 Charles James    |
| 2-16 Joe Baird        | 2-28 Nelda Miesner    |
| 2-16 Ruth Mueller     | 2-28 Maebry Presutti  |
| 2-17 Craig Mueller    | 2-28 Kelly Ratzel     |
| 2-17 Steve Williams   | 2-29 Anthony Batson   |

## Altar Guild

Sue Williams

## Ushers

Bryan Hollmann

Orval Rowe

Josh Proctor

Scott Maloney

Charlie Homan

Henry Phillips

## Organists

2-2 Luella McComb

2-9 Corey Williams

2-16 Corey Williams

2-23 Landon Hicks

## Elders

2-2 Bryce Mueller

2-9 Jeff Streuter

2-16 Jeff Streuter

2-23 Mike Clough

## Acolytes

2-2 Eli Pittman

2-9 Parker Closson

2-16 Gage Pittman

2-23 Jackson Fager



AND WE HAVE KNOWN & BELIEVED  
THE LOVE THAT GOD HAS FOR US.

*God is love;*

AND HE THAT DWELLETH IN LOVE  
DWELLETH IN GOD & GOD IN HIM.

1 JOHN 4:16

# February ANNIVERSARIES

2-2 Scott & Paula Maloney



# FEBRUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Bible Study/ Sunday School	3 6:30 pm Elders Mtg	4 6:30 pm School Board Mtg	5	6	7 Pastor's Day Off	8
9 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Bible Study/ Sunday School	10 6 pm PTL Mtg	11	12 8:30 am Chapel 10:30 Bible Study	13	14 Pastor's Day Off Valentines Day & school parties/Noon dismissal	15
16 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Bible Study/ Sunday School 2:00-4:00 pm Congre- gational Baby Shower	17 No School - Presidents Day! 6:30 pm Board of Di- rectors mtg.	18	19 8:30 am Chapel 10:30 Bible Study	20 LCMS Southern Illinois District Con- vention	21 LCMS Southern Illinois District Convention	22 LCMS South- ern Illinois Dis- trict Conven- tion
23 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Bible Study	24	25	26 8:30 am Chapel 10:30 Bible Study	27	28 Pastor's Day Off	