

# The Thread

The Transfiguration of Our Lord ~ February 9th, 2025



## Lectionary Summary:

### The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Exodus 34:29–35

or Exodus 3:1–14

2 Peter 1:16–21

Matthew 17:1–9

### *Jesus Is Transfigured and Manifests His Glory*

The Lord appeared to Moses in the light of the burning bush (Ex. 3:1–14). Later Moses' face would shine with the light of God's glory when he came down from Mount Sinai (Ex. 34:29–35). At the Transfiguration, Moses and Elijah appeared with the One who is the Light of Light Himself (Matt. 17:1–9). Jesus' glory as God shines with brilliant splendor in and through His human nature. By this epiphany, our Lord confirmed the prophetic word (2 Pet. 1:16–21), revealing that He is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. He manifested His majesty as the eternal Son of the Father, and He wonderfully foreshowed our adoption as sons (Collect). We who have been baptized into Christ's body are given a glimpse of the glory that we will share with Him in the resurrection on the Last Day.



**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](mailto:secretary@immanuelmurphy.com)

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

Office: (618) 684-3012 ext. 103

Cell: (260) 446-7953 call or text

[pastor@immanuelmurphy.com](mailto:pastor@immanuelmurphy.com)

### MEMORY VERSE

**For great  
is the Lord,  
and greatly to be  
praised, and he is  
to be feared above  
all gods. For all the  
gods of the peoples  
are worthless idols,  
but the Lord made  
the heavens.**

1 CHRONICLES 16:25–26



### **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 9th: *TBD*

February 16th: Lloyd & Ruth Mueller

February 23rd: Cindy Gregory

**Birth Announcement:** We rejoice at the birth of Roy Maddox Stanton, son of Jordan and Sara Stanton. He was born in the morning on Wednesday, February 5. Mother and baby are doing well.

**Congregational Baby Shower:** We rejoice in welcoming two babies to the Immanuel family as Sara Stanton had her baby this past week and Michelle Cramer is also expecting a little-one 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 welcome their babies. 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.

**Pledge Cards:** In the coming weeks, we will make pledge cards available on Sunday mornings in an effort to more faithfully prepare the budget for our 2025-2026 fiscal year. Please consider the Stewardship Thoughts in this weeks *Thread* and take some time to prayerfully consider what percentage of your regular income you would be willing to return to the Lord in thankfulness for the "daily bread" that He provides.

**Pastor Is Always Available:** Please call, text, or email me anytime. Stop by the Church Office—if I'm not at the office or on a visit, I'm usually not too far away and can be there quickly. We can always find a time to meet at the Church Office, your house, or even a coffee shop if you'd like. If you end up in the hospital or with a medical emergency, please let me know immediately—I want to be there for you. I'm always available as your pastor. Don't hesitate and don't think that I'm too busy. I've removed my listed "office hours" because of confusion it caused. My office hours were not the only time I was available. I'm your pastor. My hours of availability are whenever I am needed. Please contact me whenever you need me or simply want to talk.

✝ Pastor Christian

## Important Dates in the Church:

**February 10**

Silas, Fellow Worker of St. Peter and St. Paul

**February 13**

Aquila, Priscilla, Apollos

**February 14**

Valentine, Martyr

**February 15**

Philemon and Onesimus

A graphic for a spaghetti social event. It features a large, stylized red tomato sauce splash with a silver fork holding a portion of spaghetti in the center. The text is arranged around the splash. At the top, it says "IMMANUEL LUTHERAN PTL INVITES YOU TO Spaghetti SPRING SOCIAL" in red and yellow. Below that, the date "MARCH 2, 2025" is written in black, followed by the time "10:30AM-1:00PM" and "RAFFLE WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT 1PM" in red. A list of activities is provided: "JOIN US FOR: ~ FOOD ~ RAFFLE ITEMS ~ SILENT AUCTION ITEMS ~ DESSERT SILENT AUCTION ~ FREE GAMES FOR THE CHILDREN". At the bottom, the meal details are listed: "\$12 PER MEAL SPAGHETTI WITH YOUR CHOICE OF MEAT, MARINARA, OR ALFREDO SAUCE, PLUS GARLIC BREAD AND SALAD".

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

**MARCH 2, 2025**  
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**JOIN US FOR:**  
~ **FOOD**  
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**\$12 PER MEAL**  
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**MEAT, MARINARA, OR ALFREDO SAUCE,**  
**PLUS GARLIC BREAD AND SALAD**

## I School Announcements:

We rescheduled our Chapel with Grandparents event to be this past Wednesday. It was great to see so many grandparents and other special visitors attend chapel. We also celebrated our Excellent Eagle Award recipients at the end of chapel. Congratulations to the following students for receiving the award for dependability: Brooks MacFarlane, Kobie Reiman, Teagan Stewart, Brady Zeman, Greyson Bame, Hallie Baltzell, Connie Miller, Brixton Page, Phoenix Sullivan, Sophia Bastien, Lanie Guill, Bowan Mueller, William Manwaring, Daxton Hargraves, Lawson Streuter, Aurora Carson, Olivia Hines, Lillian Guy, Lucas Roberg, and Darren Tanner. ILS is proud of each one of you!

# Stewardship Thoughts:

## Why Should I Tithe?

We do not make God poor when we fail to give money to Him properly, but we *do* make ourselves poor if we do not give according to the standards He sets for us in His Word, the Bible. God does not need our money, but we need to give the way the Bible tells us to in order to overcome the negative influence money and the things of this world can have on us.

**Jesus said, “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” Matthew 6:24**

Some of the teachings of the Bible are more difficult than others. For many, the teachings about money, possessions and offerings are among the most difficult. But God’s instructions are for our good, not for our harm. If we follow His instructions, we will be free and content. Jesus said in John 8:36 “If the Son sets you free, you will indeed be free.” We also read in 1 Timothy 6:6 that “...godliness with contentment is great wealth.” That is God’s desire for His people: freedom, godliness, and contentment. That is also the desire of this church for its members and associates. That is why this Bible study is presented to you. Please pray for the Lord to make you open to His message, then go through the study. If you live in a family setting, it would probably be good to do the study together.

1. To whom does my money belong?

‘The silver is mine, and the gold is mine,’ says the Lord Almighty. Haggai 2:8

King David said to God, “But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you have already given us!” 1 Chr. 29:14

*So everything I have really belongs to God. I am merely His manager of those things.*

## 2. What 5 requirements does God make on every Christian regarding money offerings?

a. 2 Corinthians 9:7 “You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives *cheerfully*.”

*So the Lord wants me to make my money offerings **willingly**.*

b. Proverbs 3:9-10 “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the *first* part of everything your land produc-

es. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with the finest wine.”

*The Lord wants me to make my money offerings to Him **first**. He is not pleased when I give Him leftovers.*

c. 1 Corinthians 16:2 “On the first day of *every week*, each of you should put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering. Don’t wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.”

*This tells me that the Lord wants me to make my money offerings to Him **regularly**, that is, whenever I have income, whether I am able to go to church that week or not.*

d. 1 Corinthians 16:2 “On every Lord’s Day, each of you should put aside some amount of money *in relation to what you have earned* and save it for this offering. Don’t wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.”

Deut. 16:17 “Each of you must bring a gift *in proportion* to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.”

Luke 12:48 “Much is required from those to whom much is given, and much more is required from those to whom much more is given.”

*The Lord tells me that it is not the amount itself that is important. What is important is that I make my money offerings **proportionately**. In other words, I should give a generous percentage of the income the Lord enables me to earn through my work and investments.*

e. 2 Corinthians 8:1-4 “Now I want to tell you, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done for the churches in Macedonia. Though they have been going through much trouble and hard times, their wonderful joy and deep poverty have overflowed in rich *generosity*. For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the gracious privilege of sharing in the gift for the Christians in Jerusalem.”

Luke 7:47 Jesus said, “I tell you, her sins—and they are many— have been forgiven, so *she has shown me much love*. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.”

*So my money offerings to the Lord should also be made **generously**.*

## Stewardship Thoughts, cont.:

Here's the list of Biblical principles when it comes to making money offerings:

1. **Willingly**
2. **First**
3. **Regularly (whenever I have income)**
4. **Proportionately (percentage)**
5. **Generously (Faithful Christian giving starts at a tithe)**

### **3. What if I serve the Lord faithfully, even exceptionally, in other areas? Does that mean I don't need to follow these directions about money offerings?**

2 Corinthians 8:7 "Since you excel in so many ways—you have so much faith, such gifted speakers, such knowledge, such enthusiasm, and such love for us—now I want you to *excel also in this gracious ministry of giving.*"

Matthew 23:23 Jesus once compared offerings with "the important things of the law—justice, mercy, and faith." And he said, "*You should tithe, yes, but you should not leave undone the more important things.*"

*So no matter how well or faithfully I may serve in some areas, the Lord expects me to follow His directions regarding money offerings, also, and even to excel in this area.*

### **4. What exactly is "tithing" and what does God say about it?**

"To tithe" literally means "to give 10%." The *command* about tithing was part of the Old Testament laws for the nation of Israel. So what God said in the *Law* is no longer a requirement, although the principle remains. (The principle in the Bible is that offerings *begin* at 10%.) But the Lord's *promises* never change. And consider this promise about tithing:

Mal. 3:10-11 "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,' says the Lord Almighty, 'I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Let me prove it to you! Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not shrivel before they are ripe,' says the Lord Almighty."

### **5. Is it true that some people have tried tithing and it didn't work for them?**

If that's true, then God's Word is not true. We should remember that the Bible does not say that tithing can be done without sacrifice. But God *does* say that the

blessings will far outweigh any hardship if the tithing is done consistently and from the heart.

### **6. Is getting a blessing from God my motivation for tithing?**

No, the motivation is His amazing love for me. Consider these three Scriptures:

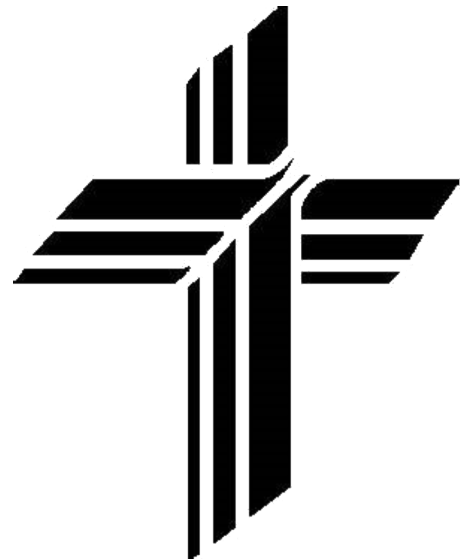
Galatians 2:20 "I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. So I live my life in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

2 Corinthians 8:9 "You know how full of love and kindness our Lord Jesus Christ was. Though he was very rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich."

2 Corinthians 5:15 "He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live to please themselves. Instead, they will live to please Christ, who died and was raised for them."

### **7. Please prayerfully consider the following statements. If you live in a family setting, please talk and pray about them together.**

- The Lord has blessed us with all we need for this body and life.
- Have we been making first-fruit, regular, proportionate and generous (at least 10%, a tithe) money offerings to the Lord from the heart?
- If so, what other needs in our church and community can use our attention?
- If not – what steps can we take to move in a faithful direction?



## Weekly Small Catechism Readings:

The following chart may be used to pray through the entire Small Catechism weekly.

<b>Sunday</b> <i>Before Divine Service</i>	Christian Q & A
<b>Sunday</b> <i>After Divine Service</i>	Table of Duties
<b>Monday</b>	The Ten Commandments
<b>Tuesday</b>	The Creed
<b>Wednesday</b>	The Lord's Prayer
<b>Thursday</b>	The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
<b>Friday</b>	Confession
<b>Saturday</b>	The Sacrament of the Altar

## Daily Lectionary Readings:

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

Date	Old Testament Reading	New Testament Reading
2/9	Job 6:1–13	John 3:1–21
2/10	Job 6:14–30	John 3:22–4:6
2/11	Job 7:1–21	John 4:7–26
2/12	Job 8:1–22	John 4:27–45
2/13	Job 9:1–35	John 4:46–54
2/14	Job 10:1–22	John 5:1–18
2/15	Job 11:1–20	John 5:19–29


IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# KIDS' SUNDAY SCHOOL

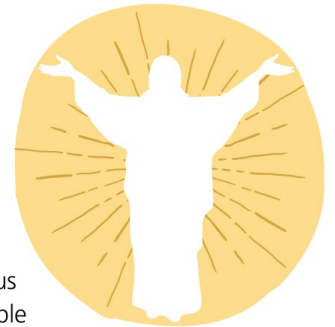
Sunday School lessons are taught by Mrs. Michele Carter

SUNDAYS FROM 10:15AM-11:15AM  
CAFETERIA IN CHURCH BASEMENT

All children are welcome!



+ + +  
KIDS IN THE  
DIVINE SERVICE  
+ + +



### What is "The Transfiguration of our Lord"?

Have you ever wondered what Jesus might look like in His glory? The Bible gives us a glimpse in the story of Jesus' transfiguration (pronounced trans-fig-yer-A-shun) in Matthew 17. The word "transfigure" means "to change form or appearance." Scripture tells us that Jesus led Peter, James and John up a high mountain. When they got up there, Jesus' appearance changed right before their eyes. His face became as bright as the sun, and His clothes became as white as light.

### Why didn't Jesus always appear like this while He was on earth?

If Jesus would have been on earth in His state of glory, He wouldn't have been able to take our place under the Law and then they wouldn't have crucified Him. It was very important for Jesus to die on the cross as a man to pay for our sins. We too will see Jesus as He is in glory on the Last Day! Until then, we see Him: as our crucified and risen Savior revealed to us in the Word and Sacraments!



**Parents:** Read the story of Jesus' transfiguration in Matt. 17:1–13 with your children. Remind them that we will see Him in glory when we die just as the disciples saw Him on the mountain!

## Prepare for Worship Next Week:

**February 9**

**Septuagesima**

Hymn of the Day:

LSB 555 Salvation unto Us Has Come

Readings:

Exodus 17:1–7

1 Corinthians 9:24–10:5

Matthew 20:1–16



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Service Participants - This and Next Week

**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

**Sunday, February 16th, 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:** Gage Pittman

**Greeters:** Scott & Angie Imhoff

Offering Income from last week:

February 2nd, 2025:

Regular Offerings \$ 6,310.00

Loose Plate \$ 106.00

**Total Offerings \$ 6,416.00**

Restricted Funds:

Funeral Meals \$ 500.00

Memorials \$ 600.00

Disaster Relief \$ 150.00

Attendance:

**February 2nd: 77**



**Anniversaries:**

† No Anniversaries this week

**Birthdays:**

† 2-10 Cheryl Reinhardt

† 2-10 Tanner Oetjen

† 2-11 Faith Svanda

† 2-13 Debbie Dunn

† 2-13 Alexa Boese

† 2-15 Charity Behm

**Baptismal Anniversaries:**

† 2-10 Piper Closson

† 2-13 Nolan Stephens

† 2-13 Martin Stephens

**Expectant Mothers:**

† Bethany Campbell

† Michelle Cramer

† Emily Newton

**Thanksgiving for a Safe Birth:**

† Roy Stanton

**Immanuel Families:**

† Ron & Dorothy Manwaring

† Brian, Veronica, William & Blaire Manwaring

† Brian & Julie Marik



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

**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

# 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	5 8:30 am Chapel 10:30 Bible Study	6	7 Pastor's Day Off	8
9 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Bible Study/ Sunday School	10 8:30 am Donuts with Dad 6 pm PTL Mtg 7 pm School Board	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	