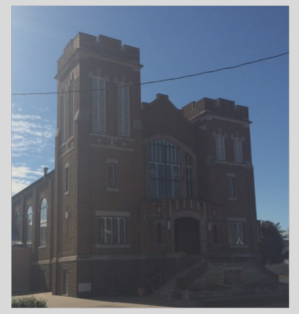


# The Thread



Septuagesima ~ February 16th, 2025

## Lectionary Summary:

### Septuagesima

Exodus 17:1-7

1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5

Matthew 20:1-16

### *Grace Alone*

The people of Israel contended with the Lord in the wilderness (Ex. 17:1-7). They were dissatisfied with His provision. In the same way, the first laborers in the vineyard complained against the landowner for the wage he provided them (Matt. 20:1-16). They charged him with being unfair, but in reality he was being generous. For the Lord does not wish to deal with us on the basis of what we deserve but on the basis of His abounding grace in Christ. The first—those who rely on their own merits—will be last. “For they were overthrown in the wilderness” (1 Cor. 10:5). But the last, those who rely on Christ, will be first. For Christ is the Rock (1 Cor. 9:24-10:5). He is the One who was struck and from whose side blood and water flowed that we may be cleansed of our sin.



**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: (618) 684-3012 ext. 103  
Cell: (260) 446-7953 call or text  
pastor@immanuelmurphy.com

### MEMORY VERSE

*God is not man, that he  
should lie, or a son of man,  
that he should change  
his mind. Has he said,  
and will he not do it?  
Or has he spoken, and  
will he not fulfill it?*

NUMBERS 23:19



### **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 16th: Lloyd & Ruth Mueller

February 23rd: Cindy Gregory

**LWML:** The next LWML meeting will be March 4 at 5:00 p.m. All women of the congregation are welcome to attend. We hope to see you there!

**Thank You:** Thank you to everyone who prepared food or worked at Roger's funeral dinner. The food was delicious. He would have been pleased. Thank you to everyone who expressed sympathy at his passing through cards, calls and attendance at the funeral. Roger lived a good life and we are thankful to have been a part of it. —Scott, Steven and Valerie Draves

**Congregational Baby Shower:** We rejoice in welcoming two babies to the Immanuel family as Sara Stanton recently had her baby and Michelle Cramer is expecting a little-one soon. To celebrate these mothers and their babies, the entire congregation is invited to gather today, February 16th at 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.

**Pledge Cards:** For the coming weeks, we will make pledge cards available on Sunday mornings in an effort to more faithfully prepare the budget for 2025-2026. Please read the Stewardship Thoughts provided each week in the *Thread* and take 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'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

## School Announcements:

This past week, we finally got to celebrate the end of National Lutheran Schools Week by hosting Donuts with Dads (and other special visitors) and packing up the I55 Book Fair.

Thank you to ALL the families who participated in our special events for NLSW. Another huge THANK YOU for all those who shopped at the book fair. We sold over \$4,000 in books and received several FREE books for each classroom. Our Mad Scientist presentation also took place this past week. Make sure you check out our school Facebook page for all the photos.



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

## Important Dates in the Church:

February 16

**Philipp Melanchthon (birth), Confessor**

Philipp Melanchthon (1497–1560) was a brilliant student of the classics and a humanist scholar. In 1518, he was appointed to teach along with Martin Luther at the University of Wittenberg. At Luther's urging, Melanchthon began teaching theology and Scripture in addition to his courses in classical studies. In April 1530, Emperor Charles V called an official meeting between the representatives

Continued on the next page →

## Important Dates, continued:

of Lutheranism and Roman Catholicism, hoping to effect a meeting of minds between two opposing groups. Since Luther was at that time under papal excommunication and an imperial ban, Melanchthon was assigned the duty of being the chief Lutheran representative at this meeting. He is especially remembered and honored as the author of the Augsburg Confession, which was officially presented to the emperor on June 25, 1530, as the defining document of Lutheranism within Christendom. Melanchthon died on April 19, 1560.\*

### February 18

#### Martin Luther, Doctor and Confessor

Martin Luther, born on November 10, 1483, in Eisleben, Germany, initially began studies leading toward a degree in law. However, after a close encounter with death, he switched to the study of theology, entered an Augustinian monastery, was ordained a priest in 1505, and received a doctorate in theology in 1512. As a professor at the University of Wittenberg, Luther's scriptural studies led him to question many of the Church's teachings and practices, especially the selling of indulgences. His refusal to back down from his convictions resulted in his excommunication in 1521. Following a period of seclusion at the Wartburg castle, Luther returned to Wittenberg, where he spent the rest of his life preaching and teaching, translating the Scriptures, and writing hymns and numerous theological treatises. He is remembered and honored for his lifelong emphasis on the biblical truth that for Christ's sake God declares us righteous by grace through faith alone. Luther died on February 18, 1546, while visiting the town of his birth.\*

## A Note from Pastor:

### Lutheran Hymnody

"Why would you pick such a long hymn?!" It might be tempting to simply look at the length of a hymn and judge it automatically as too long or too much of a burden. Indeed, ten stanzas is longer than many hymns that we are used to singing, but I encourage you to look into the deep riches of our Hymn of the Day for this Sunday.

Why would I pick such a long Hymn? The fact is, I didn't pick it. The Hymn of the Day is an appointed "proper"—the same as the Introit, the Collect of the Day, and the Scripture readings. These propers all follow the Historic Lectionary that has developed organically throughout Church History and has been handed down to us. The propers work together to weave together a theme from Scripture for our benefit

on every given Sunday. These propers unite us with our brothers and sisters in Christ from other congregations who also follow the lectionary.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has two options for lectionaries to follow—a three-year and a one-year cycle of readings. Regardless of which lectionary is followed, *Salvation unto Us Has Come* is included as the Hymn of the Day at some point. In addition to its use on Septuagesima Sunday, it's also an option as the Hymn of the Day on Reformation Day. While it's safe to say that the majority of congregations would view *A Mighty Fortress* as the more Lutheran option for Reformation Day, an argument could be made that *Salvation unto Us Has Come* might claim the title of "most Lutheran hymn" because of its focus on the most important teaching of the Reformation—the doctrine of Justification.

Another reason for its Lutheran significance is that *Salvation unto Us Has Come* was included in *Achtliederbuch*—the very first Lutheran hymnal which recently celebrated its 500th anniversary. This is even more impressive once you translate the German and find that this hymnal was known as the "eight-hymn book." That's right, just eight hymns in the whole hymnal, and this was one of them!

Stanza one summarizes the chief doctrine of the Church—Justification—using language from Ephesians 2 and Romans 3. Stanzas 2–4 preach the Law while stanzas 5–7 proclaim the Gospel. Stanza 8 reinforces the interplay of Law and Gospel, pointing to the cross of Christ as the peace and comfort that no part of the Law can bring. Stanza 9 steps forward from Justification to Sanctification as it shows how being justified by faith leads to love and good works, though making it clear that these good works contribute nothing to our salvation. Finally, stanza 10 praises the triune God in whom our salvation is certain.

*Salvation unto Us Has Come* is one of the most important hymns for us to maintain in our tradition. It is Lutheran hymnody at its finest. It expresses the teachings of the Word of God elegantly and places these words of comfort on our lips. If you can't sing all ten stanzas, take a rest for a stanza and listen to your brothers and sister in Christ proclaim the truth of Scripture to you. If you feel as though you can't sing well enough, remember that the Psalm tells us to "Make a *joyful* noise unto the Lord" (Psalm 100), not a perfect noise. Don't let a few extra minutes of singing mislead you into despising the Word of God that is presented so faithfully in this hymn. Rejoice in the riches of the Church handed down in poetry and music. *Soli Deo Gloria*—to God alone be the glory!

✠ Pastor Christian

- You're -  
- invited -

Preschool Sing at 6pm

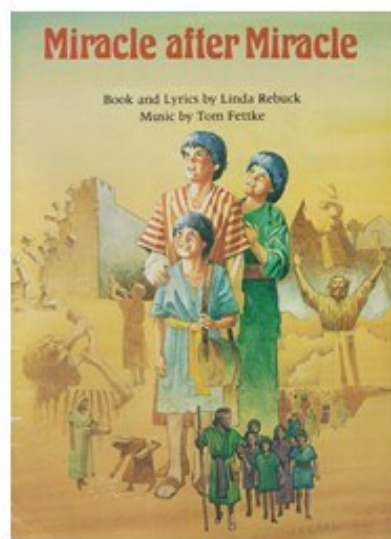
(Preschool students will sing five songs)

&

*Miracle After Miracle*

*(a musical performed by K-8)*

*at 6:30pm*



MARCH 6, 2025

## Weekly Small Catechism Readings:

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

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b><br><i>Before Divine Service</i> | Christian Q & A               |
| <b>Sunday</b><br><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 |
|------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2/16 | Job 12:1–6, 12–25     | John 5:30–47          |
| 2/17 | Job 13:1–12           | John 6:1–21           |
| 2/18 | Job 13:13–28          | John 6:22–40          |
| 2/19 | Job 14:1–22           | John 41–59            |
| 2/20 | Job 15:1–23, 30–35    | John 60–71            |
| 2/21 | Job 16:1–22           | John 1–13             |
| 2/22 | Job 17:1–16           | John 14–31            |

## Stewardship Thoughts:

**Matthew 20:9** – “And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius.”

That's not what they were expecting! The generosity of God is surprising because we are often so tightfisted. But the Lord gives out of His grace, better than we could deserve or even hope for. Living a godly life means living in imitation of God — and surely one of the foundations of God's being is His surprising generosity. How is the Lord calling you to generous living in His image?

## Prepare for Worship Next Week:

**February 23**

**Sexagesima**

Hymn of the Day:

LSB 823 May God Bestow on Us His Grace

Readings:

Isaiah 55:10–13

2 Corinthians 11:19–12:9

or Hebrews 4:9–13

Luke 8:4–15



+ + +  
KIDS IN THE  
DIVINE SERVICE  
+ + +



### What is the “Office of the Keys”?

When you hear this question, you might think that there is an office somewhere in the church building that holds a lot of keys. But this use of “office” means duty and obligation. For example, when someone is elected to Congress, they are elected to a public office with authority and certain duties. The Office of the Keys is an authority given by Christ to His Church with the duty to forgive repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

### Why is this authority called “keys”?

This authority given to the Church works just like a set of keys that locks and unlocks the gates of heaven. When forgiveness is withheld, the door of heaven is locked. When forgiveness is given, the door of heaven is opened and God's forgiveness in Christ is poured out on the repentant person!



**Parents:** Trying to understand why the Church would withhold forgiveness may be difficult. Be sure to study John 20:22–23 and Matt. 18:18 with your child. Discuss what it means to be unrepentant as opposed to repentant. An unrepentant person is not sorry for their sins and does not believe in Jesus Christ. A repentant person is sorry for their sins out of love for God and believes in Jesus Christ for salvation!



Service Participants - This and Next Week

**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

**Sunday, February 23rd, 2025**

**Organist:** Landon Hicks

**Elder:** Mike Clough

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

**Altar Guild:** Sue Williams

**Acolyte:** Jackson Fager

**Greeters:** Rick & Cindy Fager

Offering Income from last week:

February 9th, 2025:

Regular Offerings \$ 4,955.00

Loose Plate \$ 85.00

**Total Offerings \$ 5,040.00**

Restricted Funds:

Missions \$ 120.00

Memorials \$ 300.00

Attendance:

**February 9th: 93**



**Anniversaries:**

† No Anniversaries this week

**Birthdays:**

† 2-16 Joe Baird

† 2-16 Ruth Mueller

† 2-17 Craig Mueller

† 2-17 Steve Williams

† 2-19 Gary Strothmann

**Baptismal Anniversaries:**

† 2-16 Reece Mileur

† 2-18 Devin Eovaldi

† 2-19 Jan Cramer

† 2-20 Staci Middendorf

† 2-22 Loraine Cramer

† 2-22 Carol Zobel

**Expectant Mothers:**

† Bethany Campbell

† Michelle Cramer

† Emily Newton

**Immanuel Families:**

† Matthew Mayberry

† David & Luella McComb

† Savannah McMillan



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