





FEBRUARY 2025/MARCH 2025

THE CROSS CONNECTION

News and Happenings for the "Connected-Compassion" Community

A publication of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Light of Christ Chinese Ministry, and Immanuel Lutheran School

CONTACT US

314-993-2394 9733 Olive Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63132 Pastor Karg rkarg@immanuelolivette.org

Church Office Hours Monday-Friday 8:00-4:00

WORSHIP WITH US

Saturdays - 5:00 pm

Sundays - 8:00 am and 10:30 am

(also Live Streamed on YouTube)

Holy Communion served 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays each month

Sunday School Sundays - 9:20-10:15 am

Bible Classes Sundays—9:30-10:15

Light of Christ Worship

Sundays-10:30 am (also Live streamed on <u>YouTube</u>)

Holy Communion served 1st & 3rd Sundays each month

CONNECT WITH US









Immanuel Lutheran Church-Olivette

LENTEN SCHEDULE



Ash Wednesday Worship

March 5 - 7:00 pm

Fellowship Dinner served by Youth - 5:15-615 pm

Midweek Worship March 12, 19, 26

7:00 pm

Preceded by hymn sing, 6:45



PASTOR

Rev. Rory Karg 314.761.5523

DEACONESSES

Kan Hsu, Helen Zhang

SCHOOL FACULTY

Christine Nixon- Principal

Adam Schoedel- Grade 8

Brenda Hente - Grade 7

Jamie Hart- Grade 6

Clayton Erdmann- Grade 5

Rachel Larson-Grade 4

Lori Steingraber- Grade 3

Chris Meyr- Grade 2

Hailey Cole-Grade 1

Lisa Mull- Kindergarten

Bethany Greatens—Pre-Kindergarten

Cheri Fitzgerald- Preschool

Anna Iannucelli- Jr. Preschool

Adam Schoedel- Athletic Director

Keith Huckshold-Algebra Teacher

ELDERS

Head Elder - Todd Mirly

Luke Burkemper

Drew Hackmann

Jeff Nixon

Tim Schaff

Peter Seddon

Bump Trower

STAFF

Connie Baur - Business Administrator

Helen Zhang-Light of Christ Secretary

Ksenia Mirly-School Secretary

MUSIC MINISTRY

Paul Snyder- Worship Coordinator & Choir Director

FIELDWORKERS

Andrew Cole, Ethan Luft, Steve Steingraber, Abram Egger

VICARS

Joshua Horst, Nan Tian

CONGREGATIONAL **OFFICERS**

Neal Niewald-President

Brian Bunte— Vice President

Natalie Oleshchuk- Secretary

Gregg Knehans- Treasurer

Joan Marek - Financial Secretary

Bethany Greatens-Sunday School Superintendent

Todd Mirly- Elders Board Chairman

Curtis Niewald-School Board Chairman

Jerry Watkins- Stewards Board Chairman

Beth Carter- Parish Education Chairman

CO-FDITORS

Rita Eckert

Katie Krenning

OFFICIAL ACTS

BAPTISMS

Vivian Erickson, 11/30/24 Tatum Erickson, 11/30/24

DECEASED

Leon Mittler, 12/20/24

ARTICLE DEADLINE

March 9 for April/May

Articles can be placed in the Anchor Mailbox in the fellowship hall or e-mailed in a Microsoft Word document type format (*.doc) to anchor@immanuelolivette.org

FROM THE PASTOR

"I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"—Psalm 122:1

There is a pop song that includes the line, "You're gonna miss me when I'm gone..." And while the words of the song may refer to the missing of a dear friend or loved one...have you ever thought about what your life would be like if you were prevented from attending Sunday worship? Would you miss it?



Worship is important in our lives. For some it is new and fresh and each encounter is a brand new experience; the toddler who at the communion rail echoes the "amen" at the communicants' dismissal or maybe they too hold out their hands to receive, watching as mom and dad take and eat. For others, regular Sunday worship is a distant memory; but those memories continue to be recalled when the pastor visits bedside. The elderly member debilitated by age and memory loss, who struggles to speak clearly but still hums along to every familiar hymn that the pastor sings.

From the youngest to the oldest, from the greatest to the least, our worship life is important, and as David shares in his psalm, there is a gladness that comes from going to the house of the Lord. From the toddler gladly and spontaneously vocalizing the "amen," to a bedridden member who fondly remembers those old hymns of her youth, there is a joy that comes in worship. Most of us are probably somewhere in between. Small children being taught the faith and learning the habit of worship. Young folks in the military or college students away from home, struggling with what they have been taught over against the freedom to choose for themselves. Parents and their struggles to keep kids of whatever age coming to church, amidst the enticement of weekend sports and activities, or the endless question of "Do I have to go to church?" Older adults experiencing the sunset years of life and while the heart wants to be in the house of the Lord, the body isn't cooperating; steps are sometimes unsure and hands shake, and there is the wondering of just how long? No matter where we are in our worship life, coming to the house of the Lord is important.

My father once commented regarding the loss of his own father, that what he missed most was that he couldn't just call him up and

talk. Thoughts like this make the line of the song, "You're gonna miss me when I'm gone..." all the more poignant. How would you feel if you could no longer come to worship? What would you miss? What do you miss when you are absent from the house of the Lord?

King David in the whole of Psalm 122 gives a picture of what is found in the House of the Lord. Peace, Security, Goodness. Now we understand why David can begin this psalm with such a joy-filled statement, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

We too can endorse such a statement, because in Christ-centered worship, in Word and Sacrament, we receive what we so desperately need—the forgiveness of our sins and strengthening of our faith. With



King David, we too have peace, security and goodness and joyously can echo, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"—Psalm 122:1

-Pastor Karg

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL



Partnering with Families to Prepare God's Children for the Future

ILS Olivette's Vision is to lead students to seek and know their identity in Christ, develop a continual love of learning, and live fully redeemed lives serving others.

We Welcome You with Love!

"Apply your heart to instruction and your ear to words of knowledge."

Proverbs 23:12

Immanuel Lutheran School responds to God's grace through Christ, assists families with whole child development, and prepares children for God's service.

The second semester has begun and we are back in session after a few unexpected snow days! This extended our Winter Break, giving us a time for extra renewal and rest. Now, we look forward to continual learning, the events, sports, clubs, and other activities for students and teachers. We welcome you to tour our school anytime and be a part of our activities!

Our upcoming events center around community building and Open Houses. Our Open Houses allow prospective families to visit Immanuel and learn about our Christ-centered environment, the curriculum, and the extracurricular activities offered. Teachers shine as they welcome guests and answer any questions they may have. Families and community members tour the school and understand what children will experience throughout the year. We would LOVE to invite you to



Immanuel Lutheran School Olivette. Missouri 2024-2025

see the ministry you so graciously support through your time, gifts and prayer. God uses Immanuel daily to share Christ's love with others and it is exciting to see!

Our celebrations and activities continue to foster a love of our mission and build a positive school culture. From our preschool International Night (where families learn and appreciate diverse cultures), to our extracurricular activities like basketball, volleyball and chess club. Second semester celebrations include our National Lutheran Schools Week and PSCE fundraisers such as our Auction and Trivia Night. These events create meaningful experiences that not only are important interactions, but are valuable as we support and encourage one another.

May God's love be a source of joy as we seek and serve Him, learn from one another, and remember the gifts He gives us daily. Spread the word about Immanuel, visit anytime, and celebrate with us!

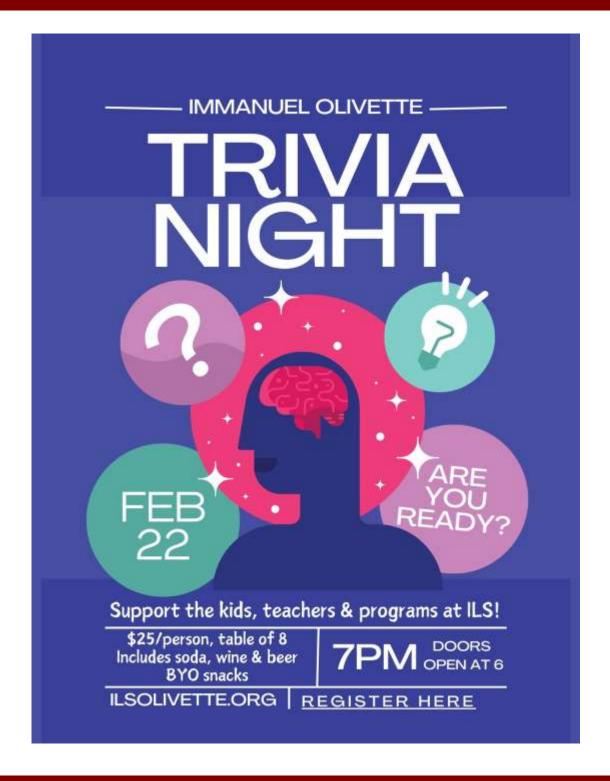
In His Service,

Christine Nixon, Principal

DEADLINE SOON FOR EDUCATION GRANT

Attention Widows and Single Mothers:

Immanuel has been given money in a trust fund to help widows and single mothers further their personal education and the education of their dependent children. If you feel you qualify, please contact Pastor Karg to discuss applying for the grant. The money that will be awarded will be allocated out of the interest generated by the base fund. The award will be made based on the need expressed in an application form to be given to those applicants that qualify. Anyone interested in this program will need to submit the application by Feb. 15, 2025. Approval of funds will be made by May 15, 2025.





News from Light of Christ

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!" - Luke 2:14

The Angels praised at the birth of Jesus, and the praises have not stopped. Jesus delivered His people from sin and death. The Holy Spirit continues to work among us by calling and gathering us, keeping us in the one true faith. His work continues at Light of Christ. In November and December new members were received and catechumens were confirmed. Glory be to God in the highest!





After Thanksgiving Day, the LOC family gathered together for our annual Thanksgiving dinner, followed by brothers and sisters sharing how God had shown His faithfulness through the year. Glory be to God in the highest!





The sound of praises rang through the month of December at Light of Christ as various groups prepared for the Christmas season. The LOC Choir shared the light of our Savior with the help of our youngest choir member at the annual Christmas Concert. The Dance Team declared the glory of

God with a dance, while the Youth Ensemble prayed for the glory of our Savior and rang the carols of the bells in joyous sound, celebrating His coming. Glory be to God in the highest!

warmth to our hearts as the





On December 22rd, the caroling team brought the sound of light around the St Louis Community to peoples' homes, stores, a nursing home and a restaurant. Carols were sung, Scripture passages were read, blessings were given. Although the fearless Caroling Team sang outside in the cold for several venues, the touching moments brought tears, joy and



listeners teared up and joined us in praising God. Glory be to God in the highest and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

After the Christmas celebration, the moment of our beloved Pastor Lim's retirement came. We prayed for a blessed new





phase of life for Pastor Lim with mixed feelings, perhaps like that of Jesus' disciples watching Jesus ascended into heaven, But we know that we are not left alone as orphans, as our Lord is with us, Immanuel. We also know that we are in Pastor Lim's and Yin's prayers.

The Christmas season has passed. We are well into the season of Epiphany, but the praises of the Angels can be heard all year round at Light of Christ: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

OUR COMMUNITY



Immanuel Ladies, are you looking for something fun to do? Women's Guild might be your answer! On Feb. 4, 6:00 pm, we will gather for an appetizer buffet (please bring an appetizer to share), to be followed by a devotion, business meeting (to decide which mission/outreach to support), and then all play a game planned by the committee. It will be fun! Join us!

Then on March 4, 6:30 pm, we will listen to our favorite historical reenactor, Barbara Kay, and her husband portray Henry VIII and his wives! The Men's Club will join us for the presentation. Afterwards, we'll have a short meeting and refreshments. This will surely be an entertaining evening...please come!



MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club will have its February meeting at 6:30pm on Tuesday the 4th. This will be a standard meeting with refreshments and card playing to follow. We encourage all congregational men and current members to join us. Hope to see you there!

The Men's Club will have their March meeting at 6:30pm on Tuesday the 4th and we will be joining the Women's Guild to watch a live theatrical performance, featuring Henry VIII and his wives. More details will follow in the announcements. A normal business meeting will occur after the performance along with refreshments. So, please join us! We encourage all congregational men and current members to join us.



ATTN: THRIVENT MEMBERS

Don't forget to request your 2024 Choice Dollars for Immanuel Church or School. Log in at Thrivent.com/choicedollars or simply call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836, option 6. Each year you must specify a request in order for the funds to be given. Don't miss out!



COMMUNITY CARE TEAM



FOOD PANTRY

"Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Thank you so much for your generosity in supporting the seminary food bank! It is truly such a blessing to us and helps relieve some of the financial stress we face. We truly appreciate your kindness in supporting our time here at the seminary. Gods' Blessings,

Beth Vanderhyde"

Thank you for supporting this ministry so generously! Your donations help the Concordia Food Bank and Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry provide food to many families in need. Food pantry donations may be left any time on the food





IMMANUEL INBOUND



Our inbound members love hearing from Immanuel!

February Birthday - Marilyn Weinstock due Sunday, Feb. 2, 10:30 am Easter Cards due Sunday, April 6, 10:30 am

Joan Gansman, Dorothy Knoll, Donna Scotino, Marilyn Weinstock, and Zane Zeable.

No postage necessary. Just place cards in the black mailbox in the atrium adding the recipient's name on the envelope. Cards will be delivered by an Immanuel volunteer. 2025 Birthday/Easter/Christmas card schedule is available next to the mailbox. Contact Diane Tallyn (cell 314-910-2032 or diane_tallyn@hotmail.com) with any questions.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR PETER AND PAUL COMMUNITY SERVICES



THANK YOU for our congregation's tremendous support for The Community Care Team's Christmas Gift Collection! This year our collection supported the men served at Peter and Paul Community Services (PPCS). With your help, we were able to provide 100 bags stuffed full of socks, hygiene items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, shampoo, deodorant), and snacks (protein bars, chips, candy). Our Immanuel family donated \$1,185 in cash plus many donations of food and hygiene items.

Diane Tallyn and Margaret Watkins did the shopping, sorted items, then stuffed and

packed the bags. In addition to the above, Immanuel Day School gave us their leftover items from their hurricane relief collection, which meant we were able to include a washcloth, bar of soap, comb, Chapstick and pocket-sized Kleenex. Our 100 bags completely filled the cargo van that PPCS used



to haul the items from Diane's home to their facility. Needless to say, PPCS was overwhelmed by this response from Immanuel. Your contributions were greatly appreciated by the men served by PPCS. We are grateful for your generosity in extending the love of Christ to our friends at PPCS!

HOLY WEEK COLLECTION — APRIL 12-20, 2025

The Community Care Team is sponsoring a Holy Week collection for the men housed at Peter and Paul Community Services' new facility in North City. These men are in PPCS' transitional housing program, called Positive Directions. They are working on moving from being completely unhoused to living in supportive housing and eventually independent housing.

We'll be asking for monetary donations of any amount, which we'll use to purchase some of the most urgently needed items, such as bath and bedding items, as the men set up their new living spaces at PPCS. Your generosity will assist them in their progression to independent living!





MEN'S CLUB SAUSAGE FORM



Did you know that the Immanuel's Men's Club helps fund requests from many organizations at Immanuel, as well as the church at large, including property maintenance and improvements for the church and school? We are only able to provide funding for these many worthwhile projects and organizations with your support of our Men's Club Pork Sausage sale. So, it's time to plan your order for fresh Men's Club Pork Sausage. If you have not tried our sausage before, we invite you to try some as we are confident that you will find the quality and value of our sausage is superior. Don't forget to stock up for summer! We thank you for your support.

We MUST have your orders NO LATER THAN Monday, Mar. 10. The price is \$5.00 per pound. Orders may be placed by phone or mail to any of the following, or with any Men's Club member:

- Church Office (314) 993-2394
- Wayne Meyr (314) 423-8944

Orders will be ready for pick up on Thursday, Mar. 20, between 3–6 pm, or after church services on Saturday, Mar. 22, or Sunday, Mar. 23.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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GREETERS LIST

Notes To Greeters:

Please note on your personal calendar, and trade with someone if you have a conflict. Badges are in the Volunteer Room. More Greeters are always welcome. Please call Judy Meyr (314-265-1182) if interested in this service to the Lord.

February 2025

Sat. 2/1: 5 pm Becky Shaw

Sun. 2/2: 8 am Luke & Barb Burkemper

10:30 am Bill & Judy Budner

Sat. 2/8: 5 pm Ricci Grabski Sun. 2/9: 8 am Lois Stiegemeier

10:30 am Tim & Cheryl Schaff

Sat. 2/15: 5 pm Mike & Mar Croxton Sun. 2/16: 8 am Bob & Angie Sudbring

10:30 am Greg & Sherry Miller

Sat. 2/22: 5 pm Leslie Elgert Sun. 2/23: 8 am Rae Mohrmann

10:30 am Diane Tallyn

March 2025

Sat. 3/1: 5 pm Ricci Grabski Sun. 3/2: 8 am Lois Stiegemeier

10:30 am John & Suzanne Domalewski

Ash Wed. 3/5: 7 pm Brice & Lisa Williams

Sat. 3/8: 5 pm Sue Wyland & Betty Crane

Sun. 3/9: 8 am Cheryl Lokke

10:30 am Tim & Cheryl Schaff

Wed. 3/12: 7 pm Carla Krazl Sat. 3/15: 5 pm Becky Shaw

Sun. 3/16: 8 am Duane & Bette Bude

10:30 am Jerry & Margaret Watkins

Wed. 3/19: 7 pm Ken & Rita Eckert Sat. 3/22: 5 pm Leslie Elgert

Sun. 3/23: 8 am Mark & Char Gordon

10:30 am Diane Tallyn

Wed. 3/26: 7 pm Luke & Barb Burkemper Sat. 3/29: 5 pm Mike & Mar Croxton Sun. 3/30: 8 am Rae Mohrmann

10:30 am Bill & Judy Budner

BOARD OF STEWARDS

Greetings from your 2025 Board of Stewards! To help with getting to know your Steward members, please read on.

We all see people at church and functions that we:

- see a familiar face but don't know the person's name
- know a person, but didn't know they were serving Immanuel in a Board capacity, or,
- don't know much about the person we see often

To help with these all-too-common scenarios, please meet your Immanuel 2025 Board of Steward elected members, and, a small briefing about each:

Suzanne Domalewski

Michele Zalmanoff

Tom Hough

Mel Ballenger

Jerry Watkins, chairman

Suzanne Domalewski

Husband John. Two sons, Jake and Luke. And mom Jo Ritze.

Became a member in June 1988. My pastor from back home said Immanuel was the only church in St Louis that I could join. I love to travel and hike with John and our boys, and, I love to garden and quilt with my mom.

Michele Zalmanoff

Daughter of Leon & Carol Mittler, sister of Janelle Leidholdt. Mother of children Courtney Manor and Cameron Zalmanoff. Lifelong member of Immanuel, am an RN at St. Louis Children's Hospital. Hobbies include: camping, hiking, kayaking, birdwatching and spending time with family. Oh, HUGE KC Chiefs fan!

Tom Hough

My family started attending Immanuel in 1996 when we moved to St. Louis from my hometown of Carrollton, IL, and we joined the church in 1997. I've been at Carrollton Bank for my entire career. My wife Suzanne works part-time at the bank and enjoys volunteering in the community. We have two sons, Tom and John, who both live in St. Louis. Tom is at Carrollton Bank, and John runs his own business – Gateway Sports Venue.com.

Mel Ballenger

Wife Angela. Sons Andrew and Nicholas, daughter Riley and granddaughter Leilani. The Ballenger's became members in 2012 when our prior church school closed; moved to Immanuel. Mel loves: following Cardinals baseball team, Dallas Cowboys and the University of Texas football. I love to grill and barbecue...part of my Texas roots.

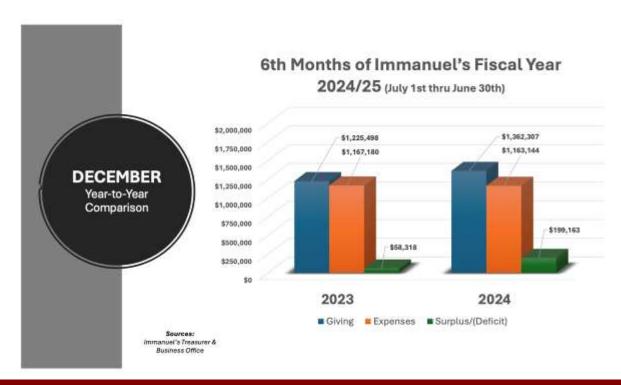
Jerry Watkins, chairman

Wife Margaret and two sons, Robert and Ryan. We became members as "transplants" to the STL area via Chicago (lowa and KC roots), Margaret spotted the church on the way to her work, been members since 1998. Maniacal lowa sports fan, love to fish/golf, walk the dog and anything with muscle cars, especially Shelby's. Margaret volunteers at the Welcome Desk where she helps with school items and projects.

Please say hello and start a conversation!!

Our Best,

Immanuel Board of Stewards



35TH ANNUAL SAUSAGE <u>DINNER AND SPRING BAZAAR</u>

Sunday, March 2*

Featuring our Immanuel Men's Club Pork Sausage

Menu:

All-you-can-eat Pork Sausage

Real Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy

Sauerkraut w/Pork

Green Beans w/Bacon & Onion

Applesauce, Bread & Butter

Dessert & Beverages

Prices:

Adult \$16

Child (6-12) \$8

Child (5 and under) Free

Carry-outs \$16

Serving Times:

11:00-3:00

Carry-outs Available 11:30-3:30

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors and enjoy a great home-cooked meal. Browse the Spring Craft Bazaar featuring handmade gifts, spring décor, children's items, decorative crosses, baked goods, and jellies.

*In case of inclement weather, March 9 is the alternate date, Call 314-993-2394 for information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Immanuel is thrilled once again to be able to host a Sausage Dinner! Since this is an all-congregational event, we need ALL members' participation. Please plan how YOU can lend a hand.

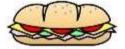
Areas of service include Saturday prep (potato peeling, etc.), cooking (kitchen or outside), potato mashing, buffet line serving, beverage serving, tray taking, table resetting, pie baking (150 needed!), ticket selling, seating, dishwashing, and final cleanup. Some of the tasks are broken into shifts. Watch for sign-up opportunities or call Connie Baur, 314-993-2394, to offer your help. Thank you!



Please note that help by Immanuel School families can count towards required service hours.

SUPPORT THE YOUTH EVENTS





Subs

Orders can be placed here: https://rb.qy/sqf6rk



It's time to order your Super Bowl sub sandwiches from the Immanuel Youth Group!

Subs include:

fresh-baked bread, ham, turkey, bologna, pepper jack and cheddar cheese, and, of course, that special, once-a-year treat... Mama Luther's Secret Sauce!

Order TODAY!

Pick up Sat., Feb. 8, 11am or Sun., Feb. 9 between services.

Orders close at midnight Feb. 4.

SOUP SUPPER



Wednesday, March 5 – Serving a Fellowship Dinner preceding the Ash Wednesday worship service. Serving 5:15 – 6:30pm.

BAKE SALE

Sunday, March 30 – Bake Sale! Satisfy your sweet tooth while supporting the Youth!



FEBRUARY 2025

SUN	Mon	INE	VVed			Sat
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	Connected	X	Compassion			4:00 Dumpling Party 5:00 Worship
2	3	7	2	9	7	∞
8:00/10:30 Worship	3-8 ILS Dine Out, Higher Ground?		9:30 Bazaar	9:30 Quilters		
7:00 Adult BBall		6:30 Women's Guild 6:30 Men's Club				5:00 Worship
6	10	\	12	13	1 4 Valentine's Day	15
8:00/10:30 Worship			9:30 Bazaar	9:30 Quilters		
7:00 Adult BBall		6:30 All Boards				5:00 Worship
9	1 7 President's Day	18	19	20	21	22
8:00/10:30 Worship	Church/School Offices		Science Fair	9:30 Quilters		
7:00 Adult BBall	NO School	6:30 Council			5:30 Family Night	5:00 Worship 6:00 Trivia Night
23	24	25	26	27	28	
8:00/10:30 Worship			9:30 Bazaar	9:30 Quilters		
7:00 Adult BBall		6:30 Voter's Meeting				

MARCH 2025

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Sun	Mon	Tue	₩	Thu	<u>-</u>	Sat
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2020						5:00 Worship
7	23	4	5 Ash Wednesday	9	_	∞
8:00/10:30 Worship 11:00 Sausage Dinner 7:00 Adult BBall		6:30 Women's Guild 6:30 Men's Club	9:30 Bazaar 5:15 Soup Supper 7:00 Worship 8:00 Conf. Parent Mtg.	9:30 Quilters 4-8 Dine Out, Panera	NO School	5:00 Worship
9 Daylight Savings	10	<u></u>	12	13	14	15
Begins 8:00/10:30 Worship 7:00 Adult BBall		4-6 ILS Open House 6:30 All Boards	9:30 Bazaar	9:30 Ouilters		5:00 Worship
16		18	19	20	21	22
8:00/10:30 Worship	ILS Spring Break		9:30 Bazaar	9:30 Quilters		
7:00 Adult BBall		6:30 Council			5:30 Family Night	5:00 Worship
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:00/10:30 Worship			9:30 Bazaar	9:30 Quilters		
7:00 Adult BBall						5:00 Worship
30	31		Sunday Morning Schedule	schedule	Sunday Mor	Sunday Morning Schedule
8:00/10:30 Worship 7:00 Adult BBall			8:00 a.m 9:30 a.n 10:30 a.r	8:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship		10:30 a.m. Worship