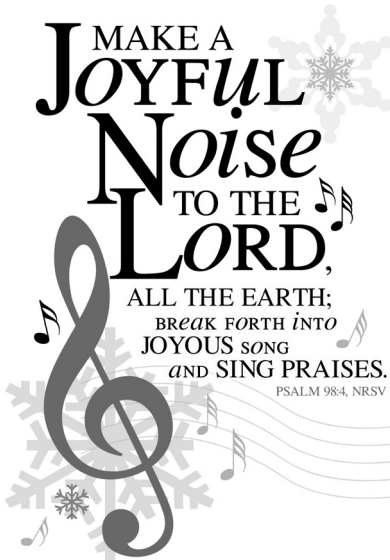


Connections

Sharing Jesus. Prayer. Spiritual Growth. Church Family. Excellence and Beauty

2 Michigan St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. (616)454-3655
www.immanuelgr.org, facebook.com/immanuelgr

February 2012
Volume 8, Issue 2



From the Pastor's Desk

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
We are about to begin the season of Lent on February 22nd. We know it as the time leading up to Easter, but is that all it is, a time before Holy Week? What spiritual significance has it played in the church? The blessing for us is that we see Jesus in Lent and draw closer to Him! Lent is not that we are observing some ritual. For Paul wrote in Romans 14:17 *"For the kingdom of God is **not** a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."*

So what is Lent all about? Lent is one of the oldest observations on the Christian calendar. Like all Christian holy days and holidays, it has changed over the years, but its purpose has always been the same: self-examination and penitence, demonstrated by self-denial, in preparation for Easter. Early Church Father Irenaeus of Lyons (c.130-c.200) wrote of such a season in the earliest days of the church, but back then it lasted only two or three days, not the 40 observed today.

In 325, the Council of Nicea discussed a 40-day Lenten season of fasting, but it's unclear whether its original intent was just for new Christians preparing for Baptism. It soon encompassed the whole Church.

(Continued on page 2)

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Thoughts about the Transfiguration

In Matthew 17, we read about Jesus taking James and John up to the top of a high mountain. It was there that Jesus suddenly appeared to have a different countenance. He was transfigured, his body taking on a glow. Matthew writes: "His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white" (Matthew 17:2, NRSV).

Not only did his friends observe that amazing change, but they heard a voice saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" (17:5).

What happened then? Those fellows did what many of us would have done. They fell to the ground overcome by fear, but they stayed there until Jesus came and touched them. He told them not to be afraid. Then, after they had settled down a bit, He led them down the mountain.

What does that experience say to us? Certainly it shows that Jesus is the unique Son of God. We might call this event the ordination of Jesus.



Worship Times:

Sunday

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Our Staff

Pastor:

Rev. Craig Bickel
pastorcraig@immanuelgr.org

Emeriti Pastors:

Rev. Gordon K. Goltz,
Rev. Fred Krause

Director of Worship:

Elinor Bach
elinor.worship@immanuelgr.org

Business Manager:

Jack Hazewinkel
jack.business@immanuelgr.org

Administrative Assistant:

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Receptionist/PowerPoint:

Sarah Schwab

Organist:

Irene Beethe
irene.musicorgan@immanuelgr.org

Vocal Music Director:

Leslie Hess
les.musicchoir@immanuelgr.org

Bell Choir Director:

Linda Bartusch
linda.musicbells@immanuelgr.org

Discipleship Coordinator:

Steve Eyerman
steve.discipleship@immanuelgr.org

Human Needs:

Burt Uecker

Parish Nurse:

Margaret Staudt

Youth Ministry:

Teske Hoffmeister
teske.youth@immanuelgr.org

Children's Ministry:

Kate Ruffini - kate.kids@immanuelgr.org

Nursery Coordinator:

Christy Mulder

Custodian:

Michael Brown

ISJ School Principal:

Lisa Singleton
isjluth@iserv.net

(Continued from page 1)

How exactly the churches counted those 40 days varied depending on location. In the East, one only fasted on weekdays. The western church's Lent was one week shorter, although it included Saturdays. But in both places, the observance was both strict and serious. Only one meal was taken a day, near the evening. There was to be no meat, fish, or animal products eaten.

Until the 600s, Lent began on Quadragesima (Fortieth) Sunday. However, Gregory the Great (c.540-604) moved it to a Wednesday which is now called Ash Wednesday, to secure the exact number of 40 days in Lent (not counting Sundays) which were fast days. Gregory, who is regarded as the father of the medieval papacy, is also credited with the ceremony that gives the day its name. As Christians came to the church for forgiveness, Gregory marked their foreheads with ashes reminding them of the biblical symbol of repentance (sackcloth and ashes) and mortality: "You are dust, and to dust you will return" (Gen 3:19).

By the 800s, some Lenten practices were already becoming more relaxed. First, Christians were allowed to eat after 3 p.m. By the 1400s, it was noon. Eventually, various foods (like fish) were allowed, and in 1966 the Roman Catholic church only restricted fast days to Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. It should be noted, however, that practices in Eastern Orthodox churches are still quite strict.

Though Lent is still observed in some mainline Protestant denominations, others hardly mention it at all. Many evangelical leaders today, including the late Bill Bright of Campus Crusade, have promoted fasting as a way to prepare for revival. For many evangelicals, they see the early church as a model for how the church should be today. A revival in Lenten practices may be the next logical step.

During our Lenten pilgrimage of forty days, we will focus on Jesus. On Ash Wednesday, we will have a service to help us focus on our brokenness and our need for Jesus. During the Sundays in Lent, we will look at how the Psalms prepare us for the miracle of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. When Lent wraps up during Holy Week, we will with repentant hearts, ask the Holy Spirit to help us walk with, listen to, and celebrate the love our Jesus has for us.

Lent has changed through the years and is emphasized differently in each of our homes. However, for all of us who have been baptized into Jesus, may Lent be a time to reflect on our brokenness and our need for a Savior and the gift of that Savior Jesus! Without recognizing we are messed up and lost, we don't need a leader to get us out of our mess. Lent reminds us of the fact that if it were not for Jesus, we would be in a very bad place for all of eternity.

Let's meet the Suffering Servant Jesus this Lent,

Pastor Craig Bickel ✠



Midweek Lenten Series: "Why?" (Why the Passion?)

Ash Wednesday, February 22

6:00-6:45 p.m. Soup and Salad Supper

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

Midweek Lenten Bible Study & Worship

February 29, March 7, 14, 21 and 28

Noon - Worship

6:30-7:45 p.m. Bible Study and Dessert

“Connections”

You may have noticed that the title for our monthly newsletter has changed. The title “Informant” has been headlining our newsletter for quite some time. Ever since Pete DeMaagd gave it that title, it had been the first thing people saw when they received the newsletter.

A few months back we asked people their thoughts on changing the title. Some remembered the history of the title and feel an affinity to it. But more said that “Connections” captures what we are trying to become at Immanuel. “Connecting People to Jesus” is our mission statement, and this title ties in beautifully with that. Others noted that one of our values is “Family” and “Connections” remind us that we want to be a church family connected one to another.

“Connections” is our new title. That could be all it is, a title, or it can be an expression of our congregation. Let us never forget that we are people connected to the love of Jesus Christ, and thus reaching out and also connecting others to His life-giving love. †

HUMAN NEEDS

FIRST SUNDAY - FIRST FRUITS is February 5th. The need for food at NECM is great! NECM is now averaging 700 - 750 families a month who come in for assistance. Items needed this month are: Cereal, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Boxed Potatoes, Tuna, Corn Muffin Mix, and Spaghetti Sauce. Non-food items are: Bath Soap, Liquid Dish Soap, and Toilet Paper. †

NECM is still in the midst of their Capital Campaign Drive. They are still actively looking for a building that is more handicap accessible and one they can afford. †

PASTOR WIESENAUER: Please stop and look at the updated poster about Pastor Wiesenuer in the corridor near the Gathering Room. During the month of March, the Human Needs Committee will be working on "M is for Missionary." We have invited Pastor Wiesenuer to lead our Lenten Bible Class on March 28. He and his family are in the United States at this time waiting for the birth of their baby. Pastor will be visiting churches to gain support for his work in China. Please watch the Sunday bulletins for an update. †

Finishing the year strong . . .

God has showered His blessings on Immanuel once again. He provided a strong financial year-end carryover. Thank you to all who helped provide a \$22,000.00 start for the 2012 Ministry Plan to connect more people to Jesus.

We also received special funds to complete a couple projects - one being the completion of an upgrade to the speakers in the sanctuary that we were not able to do when the last renovation took place. The second project will be a permanently mounted projector in the Gathering Room. Because of the room size and lighting, this unit has to be larger and will cost more as well. We are not quite there yet with the funds, but hopefully we can meet that goal quite soon.

Immanuel will always have needs both great and small. That is just who we are. If you can help, please feel free to talk with me.

Thank you all for your support,

Jack Hazewinkel
Business Manager †

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

LWML
Mighty Mites!

Grace Place for LCMS International Missionaries \$75,000
Grace Place works in harmony with LCMS World Missions, Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support, Congregational Health Ministries (World Relief and Human Care), Concordia Plan Services, and other entities of Synod to focus on keeping church workers healthy: physically, emotionally, relationally, fiscally, and spiritually. A grant of \$75,000 provides underwriting for three LCMS International Missionary Grace Place events in Asia (2012) and Latin America (2014) to serve all LCMS missionaries in those regions. †



West Michigan Lutheran High School

**601 - 36th St. SW,
Wyoming, MI 49509
(616) 455-2200**

Website: www.wmlhs.org

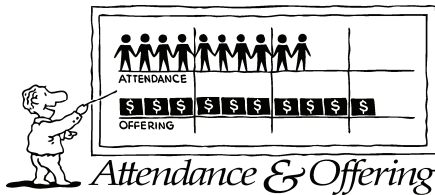
SAVE THE DATE! Celebrate West Michigan High School Dinner and Fundraiser is Friday, March 23.

* SUCCESS IN HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND *

This is an informational meeting for all 7th and 8th grade students and their parents to take a look at high school courses, activities and expectations. Guidance and suggestions will be available from faculty and staff of Lutheran High. This will be an excellent opportunity to begin a dialogue with your child regarding their aspirations for education and personal development in High School and College.

Locations:

- Immanuel- St.James Church & School
Thursday, February 16, 7 p.m.
- St. Mark Lutheran Church & School
Tuesday, February 21, 6:30 p.m. †



Attendance & Offering

WORSHIP

ATTENDANCE DATA

Sunday, December 4	328
Wednesday, December 7	72
Sunday, December 11	321
Wednesday, December 14 (ISJ)	320
Sunday, December 18	294
Christmas Eve, December 24	469
Sunday, Christmas Day, Dec. 25	141

OFFERING DATA

*2011 Weekly General Fund Amount
that we committed to meet budget:
\$10,145*

December 4

General Fund:	\$12,712.50
Debt Reduction Fund:	80.00
Specials Fund:	2,279.51

December 11

General Fund:	\$11,239.00
Debt Reduction Fund:	3,095.00
Specials Fund:	489.00

December 18

General Fund:	\$7,887.50
Debt Reduction Fund:	75.00
Specials Fund:	1,381.50

December 25 (and year-end)

General Fund:	\$33,189.91
Debt Reduction Fund:	102,676.00
Specials Fund:	5,710.50

ISJ SCRIP (December)

Scrip sales: \$5,860; Earned: \$271.40



Immanuel's Got Talent will be back on May 12, 2012. Save the date and start practicing your act! Look for more information in the months to come.



HYMN OF THE MONTH:
"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" LSB 411

"This Transfiguration text by Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945, is another good addition to the Lutheran Service Book (416). It is set to a fine tune, LOVE'S LIGHT, by LCMS composer, Amanda Husberg, b. 1940. Troeger's text amplifies the final stanza of the well-known hymn, " 'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here": 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not remain; But since Thou bidst us leave the mount, Come with us to the plain. Troeger's text takes us with Peter, James and John down the mountain to the plain and valley, to Jerusalem and the cross. No disciple is greater than his master; our lives are shaped by the cross as well as are the lives of all true followers of Jesus. For such living under the cross, we truly need a daily transfiguration of our perceptions and intentions."

(taken from comments by Pastor Stephen Starke –
at: <http://starkekirchenlieder.blogspot.com>)

Swiftly pass the clouds of glory, Heaven's voice, the dazzling light;
Moses and Elijah vanish; Christ alone commands the height!
Peter, James, and John fall silent, turning from the summit's rise
Downward toward the shadowed valley where their Lord has fixed His eyes.

Glimpsed and gone the revelation, they shall gain and keep its truth,
Not by building on the mountain any shrine or sacred booth,
But by following the Savior through the valley to the cross
And by testing faith's resilience through betrayal, pain, and loss.

Lord, transfigure our perception with the purest light that shines,
And recast our life's intentions to the shape of Your designs,
Till we seek no other glory than what lies past Calv'ry's hill
And our living and our dying and our rising by Your will.

Joy in Jesus,
Irene Beethe ☩

What does this mean?

Transfiguration

The season of Epiphany emphasized Jesus' manifestation as God and man and began with the Baptism of Our Lord (January 8) and included Jesus' first miracle, the changing of water into wine at the wedding at Cana. Epiphany ends with the Festival of the Transfiguration (February 19) which commemorates the moment on the Mount of Transfiguration when three of Jesus' disciples (Peter, James and John) saw their Lord in divine splendor, seeing Him as the center of the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah.) Jesus was manifested fully to His disciples before He went to Jerusalem for the Passover. Thus the Season of Lights draws to a close. Ash Wednesday (February 22) begins the observance of the penitential season of Lent. ☩

February Plugged-In dates

are the 12th and the 26th from 6:00 to 8:00!



Annual Super Bowl Sub Sale! Thank you for all of your support. We are so blessed with all the love you give us. Your subs will be available for pickup on the 5th between the early and late services.

We will be delivering Valentines to the Homebound again this year. Those of us who participated last year were so blessed and created memories that will last a life-time. Anyone interested in helping this year, please let Teske know.

Hello dear friends,

As this year began you received a window decal with John 15:16 on it saying:

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.”

We hope that in this New Year we all may be able to shift our focus from the things that are seen to the things *unseen*. Being about the business of God is hard when the things of life are continually coming at you—your mind, your heart, your emotions... They come in the form of responsibilities, fears, pleasures, distractions, goals and ambitions, “failures,” addictions, expectations, etc. With such a constant assault it is difficult to fix our eyes on Jesus and to set “fruit bearing” at the top of our list. The good news is that if God calls us to do something, He’ll equip us to do it!

Sometimes people think that bearing fruit or spreading the gospel message is something that “church workers” do. However, Charles Stanley has some other thoughts I’d like to share:

“The local church errs in the notion that its pastor and staff members are the sole nucleus for the work of the gospel. They have vital functions, but the saints themselves share and participate in the growth of Christ’s body.

Your name may not be on the bulletin. You may not be a deacon or elder. But you have been equipped with spiritual gifts to strengthen the saints. A note with a brief word of encouragement, a phone call to someone in your Sunday school class, lunch with a discouraged parent, a small gift to someone in need—these are discreet but practical and encouraging ways to lift the spirits of sagging saints.

Ask God to show you how you might refresh fellow workers. Let Him lead you in appropriate ways to demonstrate His gentle love.”

I once heard it said: “Where God guides, He provides.” I believe that to be true. All over scripture, from the great commission to this passage in John, we are called to be light in a dark world. That means our lives need to look different than what everyone is used to seeing. That means that loving people (like God does) needs to be intentional and not occasional. And that means that helping people see and know Jesus should be our first priority. If all that scares you, or makes you go—yeah, but how?—then you should ask the One who’s called you to that task to reveal to you how you can do it in your own life. Then submit your heart, mind and lives to Him and watch Him use you in crazy fanatic ways to bear the most beautiful fruit!

Happy Fruit Bearing!!
Ellie

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10

Email Safety

When opening your email, if you see a message from someone you know but the email looks strange (i.e. subject line says “Enjoy” and message says: “I was impressed. It really works” . . . And then lists some web link), just delete the email - do not open the email or download the attachment. There is a chance that the email has been hacked.

Also, do not respond to the message or the hacker will most likely know that your email address is legitimate. The best thing to do is to call the person on the phone and let them know you have received a strange email from them.

If you are ever a victim of hacking, you can try changing your email password. The hacker may have already changed your password and, in that case, you will need to call your email host and work through changing it with them.



ISJ SCHOOL NEWS

Preschool-8th Grade

2066 Oakwood NE, Grand Rapids, MI
49505, (616) 363-0505

E-mail: isjluth@iserv.net Website:
www.mychristianschool.com

GOT FRUIT?

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, **goodness**, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

February focus: Love

Upon writing this article for the month of February, the first thing that comes to mind is placing emphasis on **love** as a fruit of the Spirit. Although it may seem overwhelming at first to write about **love**, really it is quite easy. All I need to do is “bold” **love**, not **love** as the word on a page, but the gift of **love** which the Spirit has given all of us. We need to learn to be bold in this **love** as God is bold in His **love** for us. Our goal at ISJ is to teach our students to be bold in their **love** for Jesus, to be equipped in a world that is filled with superficial love and to distinguish between earthly **love** and the eternal **love** which Our Savior has given to us.

*We love because He first loved us.
1 John 4:19*

We have an upcoming opportunity for you to see the Spirit at work in ISJ as we prepare to host our first Open House for the 2012/2013 school year.

OPEN HOUSE

IMMANUEL-ST. JAMES
LUTHERAN SCHOOL
PRESCHOOL THROUGH GRADE 8
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2012
6:30 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

Everyone is invited to attend!

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?:
The LORD is the defense of my life;
Whom shall I dread?”

Psalm 27:1 (NASB)

February 2012 Ministry Schedule

Week/ Service	Ushers/Hosts	Greeters	Readers / Prayer Partners	Projectionist	Acolytes/ Commun. Asst.	Children's Worship	Nursery	Lay Ministry	Sound	Steeple Bell Ringers	Parking Lot Attendants
Sun., Feb. 5 <i>Traditional</i> 8:30 AM	Roland Ade, Berhane Mekasha, Therese Labenz, Ted Lausman, Josh Seifferlein, Tyler Winkels	Jim & Linda Dondero	Judy Greer	Don Markle	Esther Teng, David Fitzpatrick	Kate Ruffini, Karen Winkels	Kara Korcek 9:50 AM Cammi Adams	Dan Markle, John Ladegast, Carl Meyering	Steve Labenz		
<i>Contemporary</i> 11:00 AM	Corey & Michelle Schaedig Larry & Denise Spaulding		Prayer Partners: Jim Harger, Jennifer McGraw	Noel Bickel	Jacob Bickel	Michelle Schaedig, Heather Emeott	Rachel Buckler	Jim Harger	Steve Steinberg	Anna Schlutt, Peter Schlutt	
Sun., Feb. 12 <i>Traditional</i> 8:30 AM	Jason Alexander, David Harmelink, Bruce Inman, Kevin & Tami Keenan, Dan Korcek	Dale & Kathy Overbeek	John Ladegast	Berhane Mekasha	Kyle Vela	Kim Blount, Turah Adams	Diane DeMaagd 9:50 AM Kristina Nuffer	David Cherry, Ethan Anderson	Dan Markle		Damian Flashaar
<i>Contemporary</i> 11:00 AM	Gary & Diane DeMaagd, Kim Neveau, John Staudt		Prayer Partners: Bill Takens, Margaret Staudt	Nicole Graves	N/A	Stacey Vree, Kristina Nuffer	Macy & Isabel Albaitis	Mark Orth	Dan Markle	Joe McGraw, Mallory Heldt, Jan Themm	
Sun., Feb. 19 <i>Traditional</i> 8:30 AM	Liam Adams, Jo DeWitt, Damian Flashaar, Dale Overbeek, Steve Shelner, Burt Uecker	Glenn & Judy Greer	Teresa Anderson	Ted Lausman	Dan Newberg, Mason Martin	Cammi Adams, Gretchen Collison	Anna Lausman 9:50 AM Victoria Broka	Dan Uekert, Ethan Anderson	Tom Hutchinson		
<i>Contemporary</i> 11:00 AM	Steve & Susanne Albaitis, Corey & Michelle Schaedig, Bill Takens		Prayer Partners: Kris Anderson, Sharon Bickel	Jacob Bickel	David Fitzpatrick	Rachel Buckler, Isabel & Macy Albaitis	Michelle Schaedig	Jim Harger	Tom Hutchinson	Joe McGraw, Noel Bickel	Dave & Nate Powell
Sun., Feb. 26 <i>Traditional</i> 8:30 AM	Al Kieda, Gary Leddick, Shawn Roman, Dennis Sharples, Clare Tigchelaar, Larry Uecker	John & Jill Ladegast	Dennis Hess	Bill Takens	Ian Collison	Stacy Anderson	Turah Adams	Ed Newberg	Dan Uekert		
<i>Contemporary</i> 11:00 AM	Brian & Rachel Buckler, Mallory Heldt, Michelle Schaedig, Larry Spaulding		Prayer Partners: Jim Harger, Jennifer McGraw	Caleb Bickel		Joanna Kaiser	Kaylee Fitzpatrick	Mark Orth	Josh Seifferlein	Mallory Heldt, Joe McGraw	
Sun., Mar. 4 <i>Traditional</i> 8:30 AM	Roland Ade, Berhane Mekasha, Therese Labenz, Ted Lausman, Josh Seifferlein, Tyler Winkels	Burt & Lois Uecker, Heidi Uecker	Robert Adams	Don Markle	Donnie Clifford, Chris Vela, Jr.	Kate Ruffini	To be determined 9:50 AM To be determined	Dan Markle, Dan Uekert, John Ladegast	Steve Labenz		
<i>Contemporary</i> 11:00 AM	Gary & Diane DeMaagd, Larry & Denise Spaulding		Prayer Partners: Bill Takens, Margaret Staudt	Noel Bickel	Jacob Bickel	Kim Neveau, Heather Emeott	To be determined	Mark Orth	Steve Steinberg	Noel Bickel, Joe McGraw	

Contribution Counters For February: Bob Batt, Hjordis Guikema, Elaine Simpson

If you are unable to serve on your assigned day, *please find a replacement* and inform Steve Eyerman in the Church Office at 454-3655 of any changes.

February 2012 General Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>5</p> <p>-[8:30 AM]Worship w/ HC -[9:50 AM]SS/Bible Study -[11:00 AM]Worship w/ HC -[5:30 PM]Youth Bells Practice -[6:00 PM]JAA</p>	<p>6</p> <p>-[10:00 AM]Meditation Study -[4:30 PM]Leadership Team -[7:00 PM]Prayer Warriors -[7:30 PM]Men of God Bible Study</p>	<p>7</p> <p>West Pastor's Conference -[9:00 AM]Prayer & Praise</p>	<p>8</p> <p>-[6:45 AM]Men's Bible Study -[9:00 AM]CMA Side-By-Side Group -[9:30 AM]Moms' Group -[6:00 PM]Immanuel Ringers Practice</p>	<p>9</p> <p>-[6:30 AM]Women's Bible Study -[10:00 AM]Quilting -[5:30 PM]WB Practice (Red - Vocal) -[6:45 PM]Discovery Class -[7:00 PM]Immanuel Singers Practice</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline -[5:45 PM]Salty Light (Youth Band)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>-[10:00 AM]WB Practice (Red - Band) -[11:00 AM]WB Practice (Red - Vocals)</p>
<p>12</p> <p>-[8:30 AM]Worship -[9:50 AM]SS/Bible Study -[11:00 AM]Worship -[5:30 PM]Youth Bells Practice -[6:00 PM]JAA -[6:00 PM]Confirmation Class -[6:00 PM]Plugged-In (High School)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>-[10:00 AM]Meditation Study -[7:30 PM]Men of God Bible Study</p>	<p>14</p> <p>-[9:00 AM]Prayer & Praise -[9:30 AM]Prayer Warriors</p>	<p>15</p> <p>-[6:45 AM]Men's Bible Study -[9:00 AM]CMA Side-By-Side Group -[9:30 AM]Moms' Group -[6:00 PM]Immanuel Ringers Practice</p>	<p>16</p> <p>-[6:30 AM]Women's Bible Study -[10:00 AM]Quilting -[10:00 AM]MVA Chapel -[6:45 PM]Discovery Class -[7:00 PM]Immanuel Singers Practice</p>	<p>17</p> <p>-[5:45 PM]Salty Light (Youth Band)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>-[10:00 AM]WB Practice (Green - Vocals)</p>
<p>19</p> <p>-[8:30 AM]Worship w/ HC -[9:50 AM]SS/Bible Study -[11:00 AM]Worship w/ HC -[5:30 PM]Youth Bells Practice -[6:00 PM]JAA -[6:00 PM]Confirmation Class</p>	<p>20</p> <p>-[10:00 AM]Meditation Study -[4:30 PM]Leadership Team -[7:00 PM]Prayer Warriors -[7:30 PM]Men of God Bible Study</p>	<p>21</p> <p>-[9:00 AM]Prayer & Praise</p>	<p>22</p> <p>-[6:45 AM]Men's Bible Study -[9:00 AM]CMA Side-By-Side Group -[9:30 AM]Moms' Group -[6:00 PM]Immanuel Ringers Practice -[6:00 PM]Soup and Salad Supper -[7:00 PM]Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>23</p> <p>-[6:30 AM]Women's Bible Study -[10:00 AM]Quilting -[6:45 PM]Discovery Class -[7:00 PM]Immanuel Singers Practice</p>	<p>24</p> <p>-[5:45 PM]Salty Light (Youth Band)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Apologetics Conf. (Holy Cross) -[7:30 AM]Community Breakfast -[10:00 AM]WB Practice (Purple)</p>
<p>26</p> <p>-[8:30 AM]Worship -[9:50 AM]SS/Bible Study -[11:00 AM]Worship -[5:30 PM]Youth Bells Practice -[6:00 PM]JAA -[6:00 PM]Plugged-in</p>	<p>27</p> <p>-[3:00 PM]Caregivers' Meeting -[6:30 PM]Human Needs Meeting -[6:30 PM]WB Practice (Yellow / PC) -[7:00 PM]Lay Ministry Meeting -[7:30 PM]Men of God Bible Study</p>	<p>28</p> <p>-[9:00 AM]Prayer & Praise -[9:30 AM]Prayer Warriors</p>	<p>29</p> <p>-[6:45 AM]Men's Bible Study -[9:00 AM]CMA Side-By-Side Group -[9:30 AM]Moms' Group -[12:00 PM]Lenten Worship -[6:00 PM]Immanuel Ringers Practice -[6:30 PM]Lenten Bible Study & Dessert</p>			

Connections

Immanuel Lutheran Church
2 Michigan St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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Valentine's Day

In the early Christian church, there were three priests named Valentine or Valentinus. Though they didn't live at the same time, each was said to be holy and each had been martyred for his faith. All three priests were designated as saints. Around the year A.D. 498, Pope Gelasius declared February 14 as St. Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day came to be associated with love, romance and marriage. The day is now so popular that only during the Christmas season do people mail more greeting cards.

No matter how many cards, flowers or sweets you receive this Valentine's Day, be assured that God loves you with an "everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3, NRSV).

