

The Grapevine



Immanuel Lutheran Church
Preston, Maryland 21655
Church Office (410) 673-7107

immanuel.lutheran.preston@verizon.net

Facebook: Immanuel Lutheran Church Preston MD

“Caring for our community through Christ”

February 2016

A Note from the Board of Elders

As I am writing this article for the newsletter, we find our church in unsettled times. On one hand, we find ourselves without a permanent pastor for the next several months to a year and also finishing the 2015 year with a deficit in offerings of \$32,000.00. On the other hand, we find our church being cared for by many other kind and caring ministers since the first of the year and continuing until our call process has been completed.

Pastor Keith Less our circuit visitor will be overseeing our call process. The Call Committee, headed by Ann Schmick, has already begun work on the journey of finding out who God wants us to have as our next pastor here at Immanuel.

As we have different pastors serving the congregation each Sunday, there is also a plan in place for emergencies that might and will come up throughout the week. In the event of an emergency, you should call the church during office hours and call me or any other elder when the office can't be

reached. Pastor Braband has offered his services wherever possible and Pastor Less will coordinate assistance when needed. Pastor Less will also be doing our Contemporary Services on the 2nd Saturday of each month as well and possibly spend additional time with us on Saturday (more information on times will be determined later).

More than ever we need you, the congregation, to be active in the church's responsibilities. Whether it be caring for our sick and elderly, participating in activities with the church, or just supporting each other with your prayers and kindness. We also need your support with your continued offerings and fellowship each Sunday.

Our mission is still to spread the Word and love of God to our congregation and our community. We are doing this with weekly Sunday school and Church Service, monthly Contemporary Service, Nursery School, and by our supporting other organizations such as Lutheran Mission Society and Care and Compassion. With the giving of your time and talents, we can continue with our mission. It would be easy to sit back and wait for the new pastor, but I urge you to stand up and march forward, helping us all meet the challenges we will face in the coming year.

UPDATES FROM ...

Lutheran Mission Society



Lutheran Mission Society in Cambridge thanks everyone who donated time, money and food during the months of November and December. We were able to help many families have a blessed Christmas.

The food pantry at LMS is in good supply right now. Hooray!! We also have a good inventory of coats - a special THANK YOU to Katie Mae's for that!! However, there is a need for gloves, scarves, and hats for people of all ages and we are also very low on clothing for children - sizes toddler through 16 - especially boys. Blankets, afghans, quilts, etc. are also needed. Please check your closets for these items and leave your donations in the designated area in the hallway in Geiger Hall.

If you need help getting your donations to church, call Irene Wheatley - 410 - 310 - 2571. Thanks for helping us help others!

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16 ESV

SPECIAL MISSION OFFERINGS

Remember that on the first Sunday of EVERY month, there will be an additional and special offering to underwrite the work that our congregation does through the Southeastern District and the Missouri Synod. Please join in the special work.



Pastor Less will be serving Immanuel on the 2nd Saturday of each month. His hours will be from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. During his time here, he will be conducting the monthly Shut-In Communion Service at Geiger Hall starting at 1:00 p.m. He will have office hours by appointment. The rest of his time will be spent visiting sick and shut-ins. Anyone wishing to see pastor should call the church during office hours and schedule a time to see him. Anyone wishing a visit should do the same. He will finish his day by conducting the Contemporary Service at 5:00 p.m. Please take advantage of his time here to receive any needed pastoral care.

A THOUGHT ON WORSHIP

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”
(Psalm 51)

As you receive this Grapevine issue, we are passing from the season of Epiphany into Lent. We have seen the Christ commemorated in four manifestations or “epiphanies”: to the shepherds, the magi, His baptism in the Jordan and His first miracle at Cana in Galilee. The season concludes with the Transfiguration where the face of Christ shone like the sun, and His garments became white as light. (Matt. 17:1-14)

The transition to Lent is rather abrupt. On the day after Shrove Tuesday comes a day of bitter confession and absolution. In the early church, the bishop would sprinkle ashes over the head of the penitents. Later, this act of contrition and repentance became more voluntary and practiced by many. The simple cross drawn on the forehead became a sign of our need for a savior. The symbol came from “dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” (Gen. 3:19) While the color of Epiphany is white, the color of Lent is purple.

Tuesday (February 9) is Shrove Tuesday, a day which is part of the longer “Shrovetide” period. It is an English name for a carnival period before the rigors of Lent. Lent has had the implication of denial, deprivation, sacrificing – a season of rigorous concentration on the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ. True joy becomes discipline and self-denial with our model being Christ.

Will you sacrifice something this Lent? Sacrifice can be positive like spending more time in prayer, in studying scripture. It does not have to be denial only. Giving up chocolate doesn’t really cut it. Confession and abstinence from ungodly things satisfies. The creating of a new heart is a serious and rigorous doing.

Dennis Janko, M.M.

Create in me a
**clean
heart,**
O God,
and put a new &
**right
spirit**
within
me.


Psalm 51:10. NRSV



PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The call committee has met once with our Circuit Visitor Rev. Keith Less and we are currently prayerfully considering options that were laid out to us. We are also individually working on a self-study for our congregation and will be discussing this at our next meeting. This is a crucial piece that needs to be done to understand who we (Immanuel) are and what we need in a Pastor.

Another item for you all to know is that all the committee members had to sign a guideline sheet that comes from the district. I felt it is good for all the congregation members to know them and honor them too.

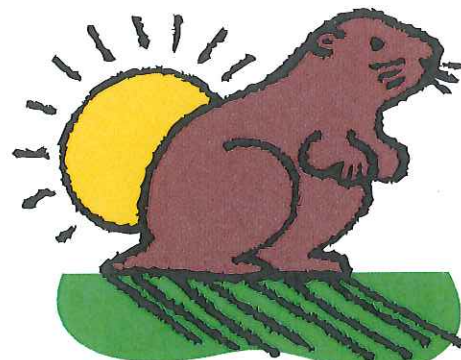
1. Members should not disclose to any person outside the committee any committee or committee deliberations, business or results.
2. Members should not discuss or electronically engage in conversations about committee work

or its members outside of formal meetings unless asked to submit information or opinions by the chairperson.

3. Members will attend, to the degree that they are able, all committee meetings and inform the chairperson if you cannot attend well in advance of the meeting.
4. Members will conduct themselves with the highest level of personal decorum showing respect for all committee members.
5. Members promise to discuss any issues within the committee with the chairperson, or other committee members, and directly with those individuals.

Thank you in advance for praying for the committee and the work ahead of them. God has our Pastor already chosen, we have assurance in that.

Ann Schmick
Call Committee Chairperson
410-924-1807
email annschmick@gmail.com



GROUNDHOG DAY



Immanuel Lutheran Nursery School

Winter has surely been knocking at our door; we've experienced our first snowfall of 2016, keeping us from getting to where we need to be, like work, school, and church. Here's a reminder that when Caroline County Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather Immanuel Lutheran Nursery School will also be closed. We also follow the same School Calendar as CCPS.

During the month of January the 3-year-old class has been learning to recognize the letters J, K, and L, the numbers 6 and 7, as well as the seasons; while the 4-year-old class has been learning to recognize the letters N, O, P, and working on blends, they also are learning the numbers 9 and 10.

Our Bible stories have been extra fun because of Jillian bringing in VeggieTales movies - Noah & the Ark and Rumor Weed.

Looking Ahead at ILNS

Pre-School Closings

Wednesday, February 3

Monday, February 15

Thursday, February 11

Valentine's Day Party/
Card Exchange

@ 11:00 a.m.



WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

On Sunday, December 27, 2015, we welcomed into Immanuel's family through Holy Baptism, Luke Alexander Dutton. Luke is the son of Kenneth Dutton and Georganne Glessner, and the grandson of Melva Jean and Gary Glessner. Sponsoring Luke was Laura Glessner and Matt Taylor. We thank God for Brady's new birth through Holy Baptism!

"Whoever believes and is
baptized will be saved."

Mark 16:16, NIV





**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.™

Thrivent Financial Is Changing

For many years THRIVENT Financial has provided resources to churches through its chapter oriented system. Our area has been represented by the Chesapeake Bay Chapter, which serves Immanuel and Grace of Easton, St. Paul's of Cordova and Immanuel Preston.

In 2014 THRIVENT launched a new "member-led" program that replaced the chapter system. Accordingly, the Chesapeake Bay Chapter will wind down its business, effective September 30, 2016.

This new "member-led" program encourages **Thrivent members** to become active in their church and community by providing "seed" money to sponsored events that require teamwork to produce results. The program works as follows:

1. After a project is identified (e.g. a spaghetti dinner), an Action Team is formed to organize the event.
2. A Thrivent Member submits an on line application at Thrivent.com/actionteam, to sponsor the event.
3. When the event is approved, the Action Team will receive a kit in the mail with everything it needs to lead a team, including

a \$250 credit card for "seed money" to launch the event.

A Thrivent member may sponsor two events per calendar year.

On line applications should allow for a three week lead time for approval prior to the date of the event.

If you have any questions, call the Thrivent Home Office at 800-847-4836, say "Thrivent Action Team"; for on line information, Thrivent.com/actionteam.

The Chesapeake Bay Chapter; Robert Lorenz, Immanuel Preston
Dolores Slyter, Immanuel Preston
Marion Davis, St. Paul's Cordova
Linda Jefferson, Immanuel Easton
Carol Chisholm, Immanuel Easton
Fred Hink, Immanuel Easton



INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

Notices for church service or church activity cancellations due to bad weather will be posted on the two Salisbury TV stations, WBOC and WMDT, along with the following radio stations: WCEI-96.7(FM); WAAI-100.9 (FM); WCEM-106.3 (FM); the WTDK-107.1 (FM); and WCEM-1240 (AM). Please tune in to one of these stations when weather threatens cancellations.

SPECIAL FUNDS

Lutheran Mission Society

Milly Quidas
Jack and Donna Collins

Jesse Ellis Fund

Mark & Carol Frase

CD Ministry Fund

Lorena Becker
Bob Lorenz

Postage/Misc. Fund

Frances Shull

Parking Lot Fund

In Memory of: Engle Memorial
By: Vera Worm
Connie Eskridge

Memorial

In Memory of: Ethel Engle
By: Albertine Guild & Family

In Memory of: Amelia Brown
By: Bob & Fay Strickler
Trudy Dougherty
DeFord & Carolyn Brown
Rose Bates
Ron & Mary Brown
Kathy & Bill Falter
Phoebe Anthony
Olga MacDonald
John & Nancy Myers
Daniel & Brenda Cowgill
Marilyn Marshall

Building Repair Fund

In Memory of: Amelia Brown
By: The Leon Schmick Family



ASH WEDNESDAY



Lenten Potluck

Immanuel will hold a covered dish dinner beginning at 6:00 p.m. before the 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, February 10th. Please bring a dish of a meat, casserole, side, or dessert to share for the meal before our service. Beverages will be provided. See you there!

In The Narthex...



Altar Flowers

In the narthex, you will find the **NEW 2016 Flower Chart**. Simply sign up with your name and phone number on the Sunday(s) you would like to place flowers on the altar. Many thanks to all who place flowers on the altar during the year.

If you are not sure how to make arrangements to place flowers on the altar, the following steps will help you.

1. Check the flower chart (which hangs on the elevator door in the Narthex) for available Sundays.
2. Sign your name and telephone number on the Sunday(s) you choose.
3. You are responsible for ordering and paying for the flowers for your selected Sunday(s).

The following florists provide flowers for Immanuel and have the ability to deliver to the church prior to the Sunday service.

- Lucy's (Federalsburg) 410-754-5011
- The Garden Basket (Preston) 410-822-0575
- John's Four Seasons (Federalsburg/Reliance) 410-754-5835
-

4. Gail Whealton (410-673-7118) will call you at the beginning of the week prior to your selected Sunday(s) to remind you and to ask what wording you desire in the bulletin. (Gail then calls Kim, our secretary, so she knows what to print in the bulletin.)
5. After church, on your selected Sunday(s), you should pick up your flowers in the area off the Chancel where Gail, Helen, Kathy, or Julie will place your flowers in containers to take home. (The containers do not need to be returned.)

Also In The Narthex...



In the narthex, you will find the **NEW 2016 Lenten Devotions – Love's Greatest Sacrifice**. This Lenten devotional is also available in LARGE PRINT and can be picked up in the Narthex, Sunday, February 7th.





In
CHRISTIAN
Sympathy

Our sincere sympathies to the families of Iris Rieck and Alan Nichols, Sr., whose son, Ron Nichols, Jr., was called home to be with our Lord, on Thursday, December 24, 2015. He was 52. Ron was a graduate of North Dorchester High School and spent most of his adult life working on farms and working on farm equipment for Jones Implement and Atlantic Tractor. He was baptized here at Immanuel Lutheran Church on October 27, 1963, and confirmed by Pastor Budke on May 29, 1977. He later became a member of Unity Washington United Methodist Church in Hurlock where he sang in the choir for a number of years. Ron married his wife, Rachael, on July 24, 1999 and together they had 7 children: Christopher, Robert, Lorie, Tiffany, Ronald III, Brittany, Madelynn, Pyper, and Kennedy. In addition to his parents, Ronnie is survived by his stepmother, Louise Nichols; a sister, Connie Overington and husband Ed; a brother, Paul Nichols and wife Jackie; and his niece and nephews. He was preceded in death by his stepfather, Harry Rieck, Jr. A funeral service was held at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Saturday, January 2, 2016. *"Come unto me all ye who...are heavy laden and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28 KJV*



Our sympathies to the family of Fred and Jeanette Schmick, whose sister, Betty Schmick Shirey went on to be with our Lord on January 4, 2016. She was 82. Betty was baptized and confirmed here at Immanuel. She graduated from Preston High School and earned a BA in Home Economics from the University of Maryland. She married David Shirey in 1957. She is survived by her 3 sons, John, Paul, and Philip; seven grandchildren; two great grandchildren; and two brothers, Fred and Victor. The funeral service was held on Thursday, January 7, 2016, at the Frampton Funeral Home with interment following at the Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery. *"...No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" 1 Corinthians 2:9 NIV*



Our sincere sympathies to the family of Margaret Rosebrock who was called to her eternal home on Wednesday, January 6, 2016. She was 96. Margaret was born in Bush Township, North Carolina. She graduated from Norlina High School in 1936 and was valedictorian of her class. In 1951, Margaret started attending Immanuel Lutheran Church and continued as a member for over 60 years, serving in the Ladies Aid and in the choir. She volunteered her time at the Lutheran Mission Society of Maryland. Her hobbies included quilting and gardening of flowers and vegetables. She is survived by two sons, Albert Rosebrock of Sherwood, Ohio, and Rex Rosebrock and his wife Kim of Preston; and a daughter-in-law Barbara Rosebrock of Sherwood, Ohio; 11 grandchildren; and numerous great-

grandchildren; great-great grandchildren; two sisters in law; and several nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her husband, George William Rosebrock; an infant daughter, Mary Margaret Rosebrock; two step-children; and six siblings. A funeral service was held Sunday, January 10, 2016, at Immanuel Lutheran Church with Pastor Chuck Braband officiating. A private interment will be set at a later date. *"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23:6*



Our deepest sympathies also to the family of Eddie Fuchs who was called home to be with our Lord, Wednesday, January 6, 2016. He was 82. Eddie was born in Preston and graduated from Preston High School, class of 1952. He married Doris "Joanne" Jones on September 7, 1957. Eddie was an avid farmer and enjoyed talking with other local farmers. He was known for his sense of humor and always enjoyed making people laugh. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. Eddie was a baptized and confirmed member of Immanuel Lutheran Church and a former member of the Preston Lions Club. He is survived by his wife Joanne; a son, Donald Fuchs and his wife Tana; two daughters, Cathy Lankford of Lewes, Del., and Nancy Marshall and her husband Billy of Katy, Texas; five grandchildren; and a sister, Louise Nichols of Hurlock. He is preceded in death by a son, Dale Fuchs; a brother, Jim Fuchs; and a sister, Caroline Oliphant. A funeral service was held on Tuesday, January 12, 2016, at the Framptom Funeral Home. Interment

followed at Junior Order Cemetery. *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." John 11:25-26 NIV*



Our sympathies to Barbara Wright and Phillip Fuchs whose sister, Naomi Buckalew, went home to be with our Lord on Thursday, January 14, 2016. She was 76. A funeral service was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2016, at Moore Funeral Home in Denton. *"...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5 KJV*



Our sympathies go out to the family of Maroulina Pfeiffer who passed away on January 2, 2016. She is survived by two sons Roy Pfeiffer and his wife, Amy, Demetrious Papasimakapoulous and two grandsons from Greece. You may remember Maroulina when she lived here in Preston and attended Immanuel, before moving to Lewes, Delaware. A funeral service was held Thursday, January 7, 2016, at St. Andrew the Apostle Orthodox Church in Lewes, DE. Interment followed at St. Peter's Cemetery, Lewes, DE. *"The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts..." Philippians 4:7*



THANKS *from the* HEART

Thank you all for the cards and visits over the past years and being so kind to our mom, Lucille Gadow. It was also heartwarming to see that so many of our church family remembered her with memorial gifts to her church. Thank you.

The Gadow Family



The family of Margaret Rosebrock would like to thank everyone for all the cards, kindness shown, and expressions of sympathy extended to us during mom's recent illness and death. A special thanks goes to Mark Frase for his efforts, Pastor Braband for his spiritual support, WINGS for the wonderful luncheon, and everyone who assisted in any way.

Gratefully in Christ,
Rex and Kim Rosebrock



The family of Ron Nichols, Jr. would like to thank everyone for their kindnesses during the last six months of his life. Ron appreciated the visits from Pastor Becker and we want to thank the WINGS for graciously sharing their time and talent in providing a luncheon after the service. Your calls, cards, thoughtfulness, support and prayers helped us through this very difficult time. We are comforted that Ron is now enjoying a pain free life in Heaven.



Dear Friends and Church Family:

I wish to personally thank each of you for all the kindness, joys and blessings you have shone to me and my family over the last 6+ years. I will miss you all very much, but I know your next pastor (and maybe his family) will be so very blessed to have you to serve. In God's name, I thank you all.

Love,
Sandi Becker





FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Doris Jefferson	Feb. 1
Tom Wilson	2
Keith Lyons	4
George Macey	5
Paul Nichols	5
Fred Schmick	5
Elliott Frazier	6
Caron Janko	7
John Johansen, Jr.	8
Irene Wheatley	8
April Frase	9
Ryan Kenton	11
Nichole Lambert	13
Mark Gadow	14
Laura Frase	15
Ron Andrew, Jr.	17
Ann Bradley	17
Jacob Parmer	17
Ernest Plutschak	18
Beverly Morgan	19
Cynthia Coverdale	21
Helen Schmidt	21
Robbie Phillips, III	22
Jason Frase	23
Kyle Stevens	23
David Gadow	24

Kimberly Jantz	25
Michael Limpert	26
Diana Patchett	26
Sandi Becker	27
Jim Fuchs	27
Crystal Lambert	27
Kara Erskine	28
Jennifer Phillips	28



We join in thanking God for His blessings in the past. We ask Him to keep you in His Grace and love in the future. If your birthday or anniversary was not listed or not listed correctly, please contact the church office, 410-673-7107.

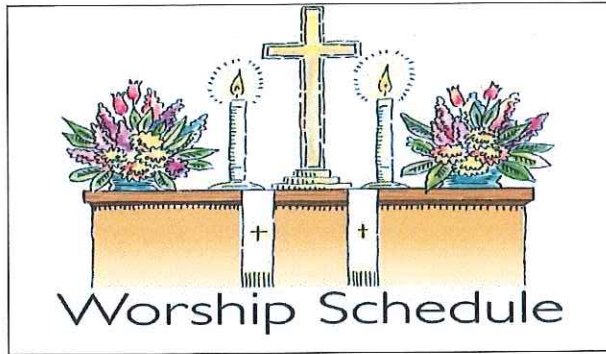


FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Glen & Mary Lou Plutschak	4
Billy & Carole Greenage, Jr.	18
Leonard & Doris Rieck	22
Joe & Barbara Headley, Sr.	27

Come Worship With Us



Every Sunday

Sunday school for all ages 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Shut-In Communion

Saturday, February 13th 1:00 p.m.
(this takes the place of Mid-Week Communion)

Contemporary Worship Service

Saturday, February 13th 5:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service

February 10th @ 7 p.m.



THE LUTHERAN HOUR

Date: February 7

Title: "It's Best to Be with Jesus "

Life is not a do-it-yourself project. To live life to its fullest, we need Jesus.

Luke 9:28-36

Date: February 14

Title: "Call on Him "

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Everyone? Yes!

Romans 10:11-13

Date: February 21

Title: "Body and Soul Salvation "

In Christ, we have a "Body and Soul" Savior for "Jekyll and Hyde" sinners.

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Date: February 28

Title: "Follow Him "

Is your life is headed in the wrong direction? Jesus says, "Follow Me!"

Matthew 9:9

You can hear the Lutheran Hour on:

WNAV 1430 AM Sundays @ 6:00 a.m.

WBAL 1090 AM Sundays @ 10:30 a.m.

and also at www.lutheranhour.org.

Newsletter DEADLINE

The deadline for the March 2016 newsletter is Monday, February 15th. Please have all articles into the church office by that date.

JIM and SHAUNA KENT

1205 1st Avenue South, Conover NC 28613

james.kent2004@gmail.com, shauna.t.kent@gmail.com

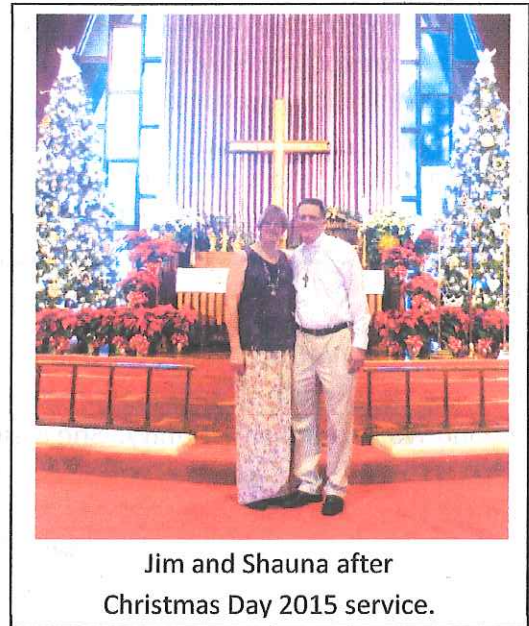
Immanuel Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 39
Preston, MD 21655-0039

15 January 2016

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,

A happy and blessed New Year to you all! I just learned today that you renewed your previous support for us. Thank you so much for continuing your support of my studies at the seminary. Our Vicarage year almost half over now and we're enjoying our time in Conover NC at Concordia Lutheran Church and Christian Day School. It has been a very busy, but very rewarding time for both of us as we've immersed ourselves into the life of the Church and the city.

For starters, everyone wants to know how the preaching has gone...I'll say this...it seems to have gone quite well thus far. Concordia has four services each week, three on Sunday and one on Monday night. Combine that with special services we've held during the Summer, Fall, and Advent, and I've had ample opportunity to work on my preaching preparation and delivery. With one exception, it has gone very well thus far as Pastor Schudde, my supervising pastor, and the congregation encourage their vicars to challenge themselves. Preaching in both traditional worship settings and in a



Jim and Shauna after Christmas Day 2015 service.



Celebrating our Christmas with our children Leta and Chase.

very contemporary worship setting has been excellent experience for me. Exactly what I was hoping for and expecting. The one exception I mentioned...it wasn't a bad experience, just a learning one...never try to perform a hands on craft while trying to deliver a sermon. Each year there is a Family Camp in the mountains where the service is held outdoors in the evening around a firepit. The theme was God's creation so I chose to do a creative craft as an object lesson for the children while conducting the sermon...I don't think I'll try that again any time soon. Too

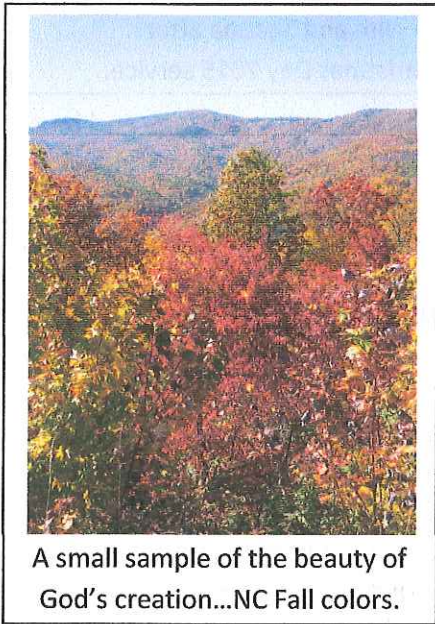
many moving parts to keep track of while delivering the word. Nevertheless, though I felt inadequate, the people said it was great! They are a congregation full of grace and mercy.

However, preaching is just a small part of the duties. Concordia is a "full service" parish with many different areas. They have a Day School so I've had some opportunity to work with their Pre-K through 8th grade students in various ways...Youth Group, Chapel, teaching Confirmation, and Field Trips. They have many elderly and homebound so I've had many opportunities for home and institutional pastoral visits. Since they conduct both traditional and contemporary worship, I've had a lot of experience planning for both styles of worship as the liturgist. And, of course, there are several Bible Studies throughout the week that I am responsible for. If that wasn't enough, our Assistant Pastor took a call to Texas in early November. This just added a little bit more to the plate. Bottomline, I'm gaining some invaluable experience in all facets of ministry. Hard to imagine a better place for me to be.



Shauna and a couple of members of Concordia's Praise and Worship Team at Camp Linn Haven.

It is a team effort though and Shauna is also very engaged across several aspects of Concordia's life and work in the community. She is singing in their Praise Band every week. This involves weekly rehearsals and worship. She also got to sing at a big 75th Anniversary celebration for the local area Lutheran Camp called Camp Linn Haven. This was a huge event with over 2000 attendees. Her "crafty ways" have also come into use helping the LWML women make prayer shawls and quilts for overseas missions. The ladies have truly appreciated her skills and nimble fingers! She is also very involved in the Bible Studies and volunteers a couple days in the Day School library.



A small sample of the beauty of God's creation...NC Fall colors.

We have had a number of fun fellowship events also. The Church provides us a beautiful little house, fully furnished down to the towels and silverware so we decided we'd host an open house for the church as part of our 25th Anniversary celebration in October. We were blessed to have almost 70 members show up to help us celebrate this huge milestone in our lives. We also had the pleasure to be part of Concordia's annual Trunk-n-Treat outreach where over 2000 people came to Concordia's campus to partake in treating, music, contests and games, and food. It was a great outreach event to attend. Shauna and I dressed up our van as a Circus Tent and put on our clown costumes. A great time was had by all!

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We thank you all for your continued prayers and support! As we enter into the New Year, it is appropriate we thank God our Father for all of his steadfast support, his love, and his mercy toward us. May God's peace be with you and your congregation.

Dear ILC, Congratulations to Pastor
Beshier on his retirement. Our prayers
are with him in his personal transition
and the congregation as you all go
through the call process. Jim & Shauna

In Christ's Love,

Jim & Shauna



Pray For Us Calendar

These prayer requests were submitted by coworkers in the Lord's mission.

Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution. Download at lcms.org/prayforus or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.

INTERNATIONAL WITNESS — FEBRUARY 1-29 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has a long tradition of international mission work that dates back to the 1880s. This work has encompassed many different witness and mercy projects over the years in some 90 countries around the world. Today, LCMS efforts focus on training pastors, planting churches and starting schools, all while working in collaboration with partner churches in the five mission regions. God has blessed the far reach of LCMS mission work through LCMS members who support this work with prayers and gifts.

Remember God's work through LCMS international witness work as you pray:

1. for all missionaries around the world, as they are separated from friends and family this holiday season. Ask that God would give them comfort and courage.
2. that missionary families would be granted the things they need to serve in other countries, such as visas and work permits, solid educational institutions for their children and high-quality medical facilities near their new homes.
3. that the Lord would open up the hearts and minds of people around the world, so that His grace-filled message can be spread far and wide.
4. for short-term mission teams that are preparing to serve alongside LCMS missionaries and Lutheran partners around the world. We ask that they might be given support and safety in this work to share Christ with others.
5. for the Synod's 36 partner churches around the world, that they would continue to teach Christ's Word in all of its truth and purity.
6. for the children of missionary families, that the Lord would grant them health and flexibility as they adapt to new places and cultures.
7. for political stability around the world. Pray that God would bring peace to war-torn areas so that missionaries are able to safely enter those places to share the Gospel with hurting people.
8. for all refugees around the world, that God would work all things according to His purposes so that more people would have the opportunity to learn about His saving love.
9. for the pastors of the Independent Evangelical-Lutheran Church (SELK), the Synod's partner church in Germany, who are ministering to the flood of refugees to the country. Ask God to energize and encourage them for this fruitful but exhausting work.
10. for the work of the Global Seminary Initiative, that it might strengthen education at Lutheran seminaries around the world and help equip future church workers for service to the Church.
11. for the Bible camps that will be held in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland this summer. Pray that God would provide willing volunteers for these camps, where hundreds of youth will hear the Gospel and make new Christian friends.
12. that partners — including the Synod, LCMS districts, LCMS congregations, international church partners and others — would work together to effectively share the Gospel with people of every land and language.
13. that God would raise up indigenous pastors, deaconesses and other church leaders to reach out to their own communities and share His saving Word.
14. for Christians around the world who are in danger, that the Lord would protect them from harm and strengthen their faith to face these trials.
15. with thanksgiving for the work God is doing in the hearts of students in Christian schools around the world, such as at Concordia Middle School in Chiayi, Taiwan, where several LCMS missionaries work.



Refugees read through a translated copy of Luther's Small Catechism during Bible study at St. Trinitatisgemeinde, a SELK Lutheran church in Leipzig, Germany.

INVOLVEMENT IDEAS

- Learn more about how the SELK is reaching out to Middle Eastern asylum-seekers who are flooding into Germany: blogs.lcms.org/2015/synod-walks-with-german-partner.
- Get the latest Synod news and highlights delivered straight to your inbox. Sign up for "Life Together," a new monthly digital news digest: lcms.org/lifetogetherdigest.
- Visit lcms.org/missionarysupport to learn about current missionaries and to find one to support through your prayers and financial gifts.
- Did you know that the LCMS is working, has working partnerships or has historical work in 90 countries? Learn more about the amazing scope of the Synod's mission work at lcms.org/international.

16. for the Lutheran preaching station in Macau, which has formed around Concordia English Center. Please pray that through the relationships built at the center, more people would come to know their Savior, Jesus.

17. for churches, that they would be unified in purpose and filled with love. Ask that God would heal all divisions so that His people's words and actions might be a witness to others.

18. for the new lunch program for children at Castillo Fuerte Mercy House in the impoverished La Victoria district of Lima, Peru. Ask God to use this ministry to meet physical needs while teaching children about God's great love for them.

19. for the two new Castillo Fuerte locations set to open in Lima early this year. Pray that God would use these centers to provide a refuge in the Lutheran church to even more children, volunteers and staff members.

20. that God would raise up even more missionaries to serve as pastors, deaconesses, teachers and in other roles on the mission field.

21. for the training of pastors and evangelists in Africa. Several LCMS missionaries are involved in this work at the seminaries of our partner churches, where they help educate future leaders for these quickly growing churches.

22. that all people may come to believe in Jesus' glorious resurrection, which delivers us from sin, death and the power of the devil.

23. for the missionary training programs at the seminaries of the LCMS, that future missionaries would be properly equipped for this diverse and sometimes difficult work.

24. for the safety of all missionaries, especially those who work in countries that are hostile to the Gospel. Ask God to send His holy angels to guard these faithful people from danger.

25. for the children who benefit from "Christ's Care for Children: Kenya," a project of the LCMS Office of International Mission that provides education, meals and spiritual care at boarding-school facilities for Kenyan children who might otherwise not be able to attend school.

26. that God's Word and the Small Catechism might be rightly translated into the heart languages of all peoples, that they might come to know the true God.

27. for discernment, that we might heed God's call to serve in His name, whether that is around the world or here at home.

28. with thanksgiving for all of the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who support LCMS missionaries through their prayers and gifts. This support helps these missionaries to fulfill their callings.

29. with thanksgiving for all past missionaries. Thanks be to God that the Gospel seeds they planted continue to bear much fruit.



The Rev. Joshua Gale, LCMS career missionary to Peru, greets children for chapel at Castillo Fuerte Mercy House in Lima.

MISSIONARY & PERSONNEL BIRTHDAYS

Download the prayer cards of missionaries and other personnel from lcms.org/prayercards.

- Feb. 3** Denise Schlesselman, Czech Republic
- Feb. 4** Shara Cunningham, Kenya; Melissa Hosch, Peru; Peggy Krikava, Eurasia; David Preus, Dominican Republic
- Feb. 6** Mary Aadland, Kenya; Matthew Wasmund, South Korea
- Feb. 8** Christel Neuendorf, Dominican Republic
- Feb. 9** Danelle Putnam, Dominican Republic
- Feb. 10** Kenneth Horvath, Southeast Asia; Eric Semler, Asia
- Feb. 13** Tyler McMiller, Mexico
- Feb. 15** Johanna Stinnett, Ethiopia
- Feb. 22** Leif Hasskarl, Cayman Islands
- Feb. 26** Adam DeGroot, Philadelphia, Pa.; Charles Evanson, Eurasia

MILITARY CHAPLAINS WITH BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY:

Chaplain Charles Mallie, Virginia Beach, Va.; Chaplain Lynn Christensen, Camp Lejeune, S.C.; Chaplain Matthew Christensen, Fort Wainwright, Alaska; Chaplain Benjamin Carnahan, Great Lakes, Ill.; Chaplain Dann Ettner, Moffett Army Air Base, Calif.



THOSE SERVING IMMANUEL IN FEBRUARY 2016

Date	Ushers	Acolytes	Nursery	Collectors	Head Teller /Counter	Lay Readers	Greeters
Feb. 7	Roger Schmick Richard Wheatley Jimmy Johansen	Jacob Parmer	Karen Lyons		Janice Isenberg Allen Reichlin Evelyn Reichlin	Glen Plutschak	Jimmy Johansen
Feb. 10 <i>(Ash Wednesday)</i>	Roger Schmick Richard Wheatley Jimmy Johansen						
Feb. 14	Roger Schmick Richard Wheatley Jimmy Johansen	Joey Parmer	Carole Greenage		Kimberly Jantz Karen Lyons Olga MacDonald	Samantha Greenage	Leonard Slyter
Feb. 21	Roger Schmick Richard Wheatley Jimmy Johansen	Grace Schmick	Jennifer Phillips		Dee Lambert Glen Plutschak Mary Lou Plutschak	Arelen Stevens	Rex Rosebrock
Feb. 28	Roger Schmick Richard Wheatley Jimmy Johansen	Jacob Parmer	Ann Schmick		David Schmidt Kathy Schmidt John Crampton	Paul Elzey	Rene Langwost



FEBRUARY 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Council Brd. 7 PM Zumba 6 – 7 PM	2 Groundhog Day Zumba 6 – 7 PM	3 Bell Choir 6:45 p.m. Senior Choir 7:45 p.m. <i>Nursery School Closed</i> Zumba 6 – 7 PM	4 Zumba 6 – 7 PM	5	6 Zumba 10 AM – 11 AM A.A. Meeting – 7 PM
7 The Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday School and Confirmation 9:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.	8 Brd. of Elders 7 PM Zumba 6 – 7 PM	9 Zumba 6 – 7 PM	10 ASH WEDNESDAY Covered Dish Dinner 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir practice after service.	11 Mustang Mtg. 7:00 PM WINGS 7:30 PM Zumba 6 – 7 PM	12	13 Office Open 10 AM – 5 PM Zumba 10 AM – 11 AM Shut-In Communion 1 PM Contemp Wrshp Srv 5 PM A.A. Meeting – 7 PM
14 Valentine's Day Sunday School and Confirmation 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.	15 President's Day <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> <i>Nursery School Closed</i> Zumba 6 – 7 PM	16 Bd. of Evangelism 7 PM Zumba 6 – 7 PM	17 Bell Choir 6:45 p.m. Senior Choir 7:45 p.m. Zumba 6 – 7 PM	18 Zumba 6 – 7 PM	19	20 Zumba 10 AM – 11 AM A.A. Meeting – 7 PM
21 Sunday School and Confirmation 9:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.	22 Zumba 6 – 7 PM	23 Zumba 6 – 7 PM	24 Bell Choir 6:45 p.m. Senior Choir 7:45 p.m. Zumba 6 – 7 PM	25 Nursery Brd. 7:00 PM Zumba 6 – 7 PM	26	27 Zumba 10 AM – 11 AM A.A. Meeting – 7 PM
28 Sunday School and Confirmation 9:15 a.m. Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.	29 Zumba 6 – 7 PM					

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