



The Messenger

February
2026

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church

*Abraham answered, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord,
I who am but dust and ashes.*

Genesis 18:27

February is a season of change for the church. We go from the afterglow of the Christmas and Epiphany seasons into the solemnity of the Lenten season. The changing of the church seasons will be particularly profound here at Immanuel as we go from a 1st Communion celebration on February 15th into the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. Even in the midst of joy, we are ever reminded that we are dust and to dust we shall return.

Although Lent does not begin until the 18th, now is a good time to start preparing in order to make Lent more meaningful this year. Traditionally, Lenten preparation has included three key elements, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, although we seem to concentrate on the fasting part, giving something up. So, let's consider ways to practice these ancient concepts to help grow a stronger faith.

Change up your prayer habits. Add something new. Daily devotions if that has not been your practice. A daily scripture reading or simply a time set aside for reflection can also help bring us closer to God. Instead of thinking of fasting as giving something up, make it something that distracts you from God or that leads you into unhealthy habits. And that may be different for each person. For some it may be social media, for others overeating or drinking. Gossiping or complaining. We could all stand to replace our distractions and bad habits with something positive like volunteering. Finally, the touchy subject of almsgiving. As we gather our information for tax preparation, it's a good time to reevaluate our giving, whether to the church or to other causes which touch our hearts.

If that all seems too challenging, I have found a simple 4-point plan to make our Lenten preparation more manageable:

1. Pray & Reflect:

Ask God where you need to grow and what God wants you to focus on this Lent.

2. Write it Down:

Make a concrete plan for your prayer, fasting, and almsgiving goals.

3. Be Realistic:

Choose sacrifices that are challenging but achievable, not so minimal they have no impact or so large they lead to failure.

4. Focus on “Being”:

Think about how you want to be (more thoughtful, quiet) as well as what you want to do.

May Lent be a time that brings you closer to God and closer to what God wants you to be.

Blessings.



Welcoming All. Growing Together in Faith. Sharing Christ's Love

Join a Team!



Ministry Teams are the groups of volunteers that give life to our congregation! They are most effective when

many people participate in them. If you have an interest, passion, or simply want to help in any of these areas, please attend a meeting or contact a Council member serving on that team.

Evangelism: Explores and implements various ideas for sharing the Gospel.

Finance: Manages the finances of the church.

Memorials: Oversees the donations that have been given as a memorial.

Missions: Plans various mission events.

Property: Oversees the care of the building and property.

Stewardship: Lifts up ways of giving our whole self (time, talent & resources) as an offering to God.

Worship and Music: Selects hymns and plans worship services.

Youth & Education: Guides the youth & education opportunities.

stay CONNECTED

Please notify the church office when...

...You or a family member is hospitalized. Also, let the hospital chaplain know you would like a visit from Pastor Jacque.

...You have a change of address.

...Your phone number has changed.

...Your email address has changed.

...Members of your family are students attending school away from home or are living at a different address.

Congregation Council Action from December 2025:

No minutes to approve yet.

Do you have an article for the Messenger?

Please send information to office@immanuelssalina.org
Deadline for the newsletter is the 15th of the month.

CONTACT US:

255 S. 7th St.....Salina, KS 67401
Church office.....(785) 825-4750
Jacqueline Thornton, Pastor.....pastorjacque@immanuelssalina.org
Mindy Tillberg, Deacon.....office@immanuelssalina.org
Church office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-12:30 pm.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Worship is a vital part of our ministry! Please consider the ways you can share your gifts in worship.

Greeter ~ Welcomes worshippers.

Usher ~ Hands out bulletins, collects offering, directs worshippers to the communion rail.

iPad ~ Starts and ends the Facebook livestream.

Acolyte ~ Lights the candles.

Cantor ~ Song leader for the liturgy.

Assisting Minister ~ Reads all the prayers and the dismissal.

Lector ~ Reads the lessons.

Children's Sermon ~ Prepares and leads the children's sermon.

Communion Assistant ~ Serves the wine during communion.

Fellowship Hour Host ~ Prepares and serves coffee and treat following worship.

Altar Guild ~ is always looking for new members to help prepare the sanctuary for worship.

Worship volunteer sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board outside Pastor's office. For questions about Altar Guild, please contact Monica Davis.



Altar Flowers

Altar flowers may be placed in memory or honor of someone or occasion. Cost is \$20. A special bouquet may also be placed in memory or honor of someone or occasion. It is your responsibility to purchase and have the special bouquet delivered by noon on Friday. For more information, contact the church office.

Share Shed

Our Share Shed continues to a source of relief and comfort for our neighbors in need. Clothing, blankets and personal care items are always in need. Donations may also be purchased from our Amazon Wish List <http://bit.ly/ImmanuelShareShed>. Thank you!

Need a bandaid? First Aid kits with basic supplies are located in the kitchen pantry, sound control room, and usher's cabinet.

Winter Weather

As we enter the season of winter weather advisories, please know that any cancellations of church activities will be posted on the congregational Facebook group (private) and page (public), KSAL.com and local radio/TV stations that we are able to contact. If you feel it is unsafe to travel, please stay home!



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Wired Word Adult Bible Study Sundays at 11:00 am

Join Pastor Jacque each Sunday morning for an adult education opportunity that relates current events to Scripture creating thought-provoking, stimulating discussions every week!

Summer Camp Registration Open



All Immanuel students receive a scholarship for half of the Early Bird price at Camp Tomah Shinga. Visit camp-tomahshinga.com to see the camp schedule. For more info, contact Mindy Tillberg 785-825-4750.

Mark Your Calendars

March 8	Daylight Savings begins
March 29	Palm Sunday
April 2	Maundy Thursday
April 3	Good Friday
April 5	Easter Sunday

Midweek Lenten Worship

Wednesdays at 12:15 pm

February 25 & March 4, 11, 18, 25

Midweek worship provides a reflective space during the busy week for us to pause and meditate as we journey towards Holy Week.

Midweek Lenten offering will be given to the Salvation Army. A special basket will be in the narthex for these donations. Offerings may also be marked "Salvation Army" and mailed to the church.



Wednesday, February 4

5:30 pm Dinner
6:00 pm Messy Activities

All ages are invited to get messy together through games, crafts, singing, and Biblical storytelling.

Sunday, February 8

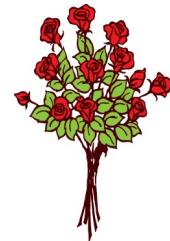
Salina Souper Bowl of Hope

Project Salina invites us to join them in their goal of raising cash donations to purchase 60,000 cans of soup in conjunction with Super Bowl LX. While soup donations are appreciated, cash donations are encouraged because they offer greater flexibility and impact. A \$30 donation will purchase up to 50 cans of soup. We will collect donations until Super Bowl Sunday, February 8.



Flower Delivery Volunteers

Volunteers and vehicles are needed to deliver flowers for Valentine's Day on February 13 & 14 for the Dillon's store on Cloud. To volunteer, see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. -6Monies raised will be used for youth events.



Annual Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, February 15

Bring your favorite chili recipe to the competition or just come to taste and vote. Join us for worship at 9:30 am and stay for the fun!

Altar Guild

Wednesday, February 18 at 1:00 pm

Altar Guild meets to plan for upcoming worships.

Ash Wednesday * February 18

12:15 pm & 7:00 pm

Begin the Lenten season with the Imposition of Ashes.



February Worship Volunteers *(as of 1/22/26)*

	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
Greeter				
Usher				
iPad				
Acolyte				
Cantor	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	
Assisting Minister	Henry Diehl			Henry Diehl
Lector				
Children's Sermon		Liz Diehl		Liz Diehl
Communion Assistant				
Altar Guild Communion Care	Connie Beisner	Connie Beisner	Monica Davis	Corlene Lange & Carol Ann Sloo
Fellowship Hosts				

March Worship Volunteers *(as of 1/22/26)*

	March 1	March 8 Daylight Savings	March 15	March 22	March 29 Palm Sunday
Greeter					
Usher					
iPad					
Acolyte					
Cantor					
Assisting Minister					
Lector					
Children's Sermon					
Communion Assistant					
Altar Guild Communion Care	Carol Ann Sloo & Diana Looney	Connie Beisner	Corlene Lange & Carol Ann Sloo		
Fellowship Hosts	Bacon's				