

Immanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA
726 Fuller Avenue
Big Rapids, MI 49307
immanuelbigrapids726@gmail.com
231-796-8273

www.immanuelbr.com
Instagram: ILCbigrapids
Facebook: @immanuelbr

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
9:30 a.m. Worship Service February 8, 2026

Welcome! We're glad that you are here, and we hope this service of worship will be a blessing to you. Welcome Packets are available in the entryway

In the ELCA we welcome all believers to receive the Holy Communion. Communion elements for our service include: Pre-packaged wafers (they are also gluten free), individual cup of wine or grape juice.

Restrooms are located through the entryway and to the left (signs are posted).



Assisted Listening: The Hearing Loop system in place for the hearing impaired will allow hearing aids equipped with a telecoil to serve as wireless loudspeakers, delivering sound right inside the ear. By activating a switch on your hearing aid, the sound is transmitted directly to your ears.

MISSION: To inspire members to grow in loving devotion to Jesus Christ, caring concern for one another, welcoming outreach, and loving service to our neighbors.

VISION STATEMENT: Immanuel Lutheran Church will be known for welcoming hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity.

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
With One Voice Holy Communion Setting 5
February 8, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

Bells

Sharing Time

Passing the Peace

Candle Lighting

Transition Song: “Praise The Lord”

Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord, Praise God’s holy name, Alleluia!

Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord; Praise God’s holy name, Alleluia!

Praise God’s holy name, Alleluia; Praise God’s holy name, Alleluia!

Praise God’s holy name, Alleluia; Praise God’s holy name, Alleluia!

**(Please stand as you are able)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

A: Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

C: Amen.

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

C: You call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us

the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: Amen.


GATHERING HYMN “Rise, Shine, You People!” LBW 393 Green Hymnal

GREETING


P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

*(Please be seated)

HYMN OF PRAISE



C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



I Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



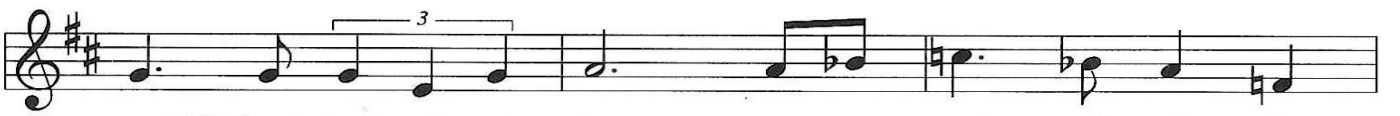
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



II Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



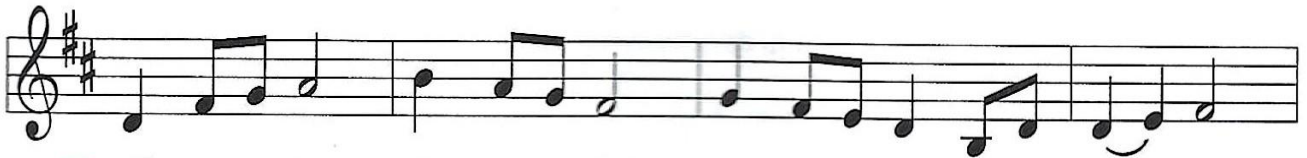
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



I
II For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Prayer of Day

P: Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

¹ Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.² Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side.³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers.⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail.¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

A: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 112:1-9 [10] (We sing the Psalm)



¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD
and have great delight in | God's commandments!

- ² Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;
the generation of the upright | will be blessed.
- ³ Wealth and riches will be | in their house,
and their righteousness will | last forever.
- ⁴ Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.
- ⁵ It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending
and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.
- ⁶ For they will nev- | er be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance.
- ⁷ They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting | in the LORD.
- ⁸ Their heart is established and | will not shrink,
until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.
- ⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands | fast forever;
they will hold up their | head with honor
- ¹⁰ The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and | pine away;
the desires of the wick- | ed will perish.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. ⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"—¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

¹³ And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴ Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. ¹⁶ "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?"

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**(Please Stand if you are able)*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 5th chapter, vss. 13 through 20.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

[Jesus said:] ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON: Pastor Devon Herrell “You ARE Salt and Light”

**(Please stand as you are able)*

HYMN OF THE DAY : “Lord of Light” LBW 405 Green Hymnal

P: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed.

C: APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**(Please be seated)*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response following each petition:

A: Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

**(Please stand if you are able)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Offerings



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

A: God of majesty,

C: **No eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

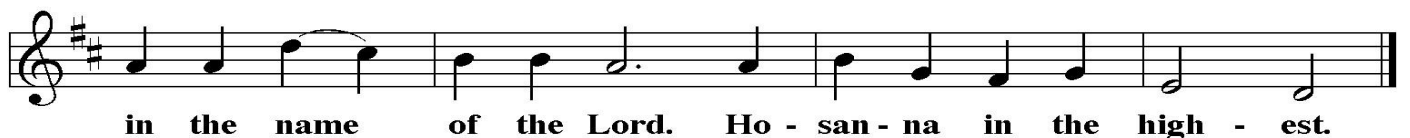
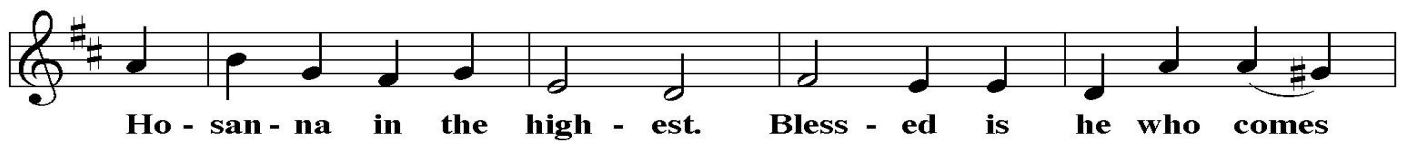
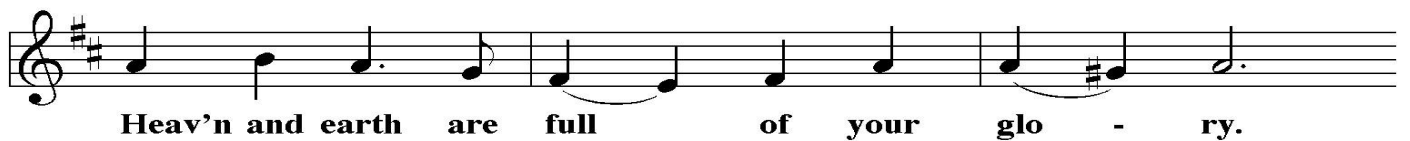
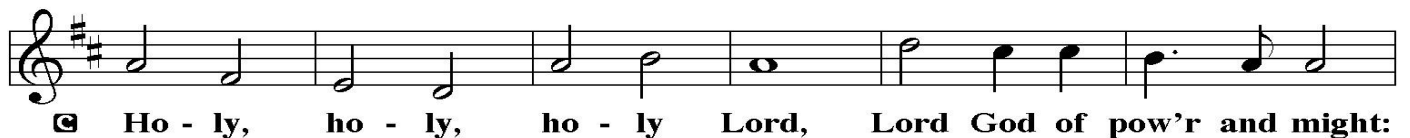
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life he lived among us, to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



CONSECRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

P: : Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take this and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

COMMUNION

In the ELCA we welcome all believers to receive the Holy Communion. Communion elements include this morning: Pre packaged wafers (they are also gluten free), individual cup of wine or grape juice.

LAMB OF GOD

Ⓔ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**COMMUNION HYMN: “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” LBW 423
Green Hymnal**

**(Pease stand if you are able)*

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



♩ Thank - ful hearts and voles raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name,
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

A: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: “How Great Thou Art” LBW 532 Green Hymnal

PRAYER

A: Let us pray together Immanuel's Opening Doors prayer.

C: Dear Lord, we thank and praise you for your everlasting love and enduring mercy. Continue to send your holy spirit: to bless us, to watch over us and to guide us in all that we do so that we grow in: our love for you, our love for each other and our love for those in our community.

Grant us the courage to be bold in opening doors by inviting and welcoming others in our community to God's church. Give us strength: to trust in you and to have faith and hope in your plans for God's church. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2018 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #42463. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by Permission. All rights reserved.

The congregation and ministries of this church rely on your weekly offerings and gifts. We encourage you to continue your tithing to Immanuel. If you have a key, you may stop by & leave them in Cindi's mailbox or slip them under her door. You may also mail them to Immanuel at 726 Fuller Ave. Big Rapids, MI. Thank you to everyone who has been sending in your offerings.

~Stewardship Committee

Please join us for fellowship in the Fellowship Hall following Worship today! (on 3rd Sunday of month, cake will be served for all birthdays celebrated in the month.)

Serving in Sunday Worship Service

Musician: Janet Mallett

Altar Duty: Carol Zimmerman, Phyllis Cousineau

Presiding Minister: Pastor Devon Herrell

Worship Assistant: Jim Lindsey

Cantor: Vicky Scott

Greeter: Phyllis Lindsey

Usher:

Reader: Nedra Neumann

Sound Technician: David Scott

A/V Projection Technicians: David Scott

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthdays this week – None to report

Belated Anniversary – None to report

Altar Flowers by Phyl Cousineau; in Memory of her husband Roger.

Readings for February 15th (Transfiguration of Our Lord):

Exodus 24:12-18

2Peter 1:16-21

Psalm 2

Matthew 17:1-9

Upcoming In Person meetings

Bill Peters Birthday Party **Sun. February 8th at 1:00pm**

FOTA Concert 'Cliff Monear' **Sun. February 8th at 4:00pm**

Staff meeting **Tues. February 10th at 10:30 am**

Council Meeting **Tues. February 10th at 12:30pm**

Worship & Music Meeting **Tues. February 10th at 2:00pm**

Hitchcock Movie "Dial M For Murder" **Thur. February 12th at 2:00pm**

FOTA Concert (Sergei Kvitko) **Fri. February 13th at 7:00pm**

Movie Matinee 'Random Harvest' **Sat. February 14th at 2:00pm**



Helpful Hints from Parish Nurse Phyllis Lindsey –

Feb 8: February is Women's Heart Disease Awareness Month. Did you know that more women than men die yearly from heart disease? Did you know that more women than men die within one year of a heart attack than men? Did you know that more African American women die from heart disease than white women? Did you know that having diabetes is a risk for having heart disease for all women?



Saturday, February 14th, 2026

This month's Movie Matinee is 'Random Harvest' starring Greer Garson & Ronald Coleman (1942)



Shepherd's Hooks & Needles now meet on the third Tuesday of the month. The next session is **Tues. Feb. 17th at Noon.**

Community Events

Manna Pantry:

February: pancake mix and syrup

Project Starburst:

Cereal

Grade School

Kleenex, shampoo, toothpaste/brushes, soap, underwear, sweatpants (neutral colors), socks. Sizes for children to fifth grade. Also hats, mittens, scarves, sweatshirts

DINNER EIGHTS RE-BOOT

The Ministry Leadership Team would like to invite interested members to be part of the Dinner Eights re-boot, beginning in April, 2026. Dinner Eights was designed as a groups of eight people who wanted to get to know one another better outside of Sunday mornings. The groups of eight met at one another's homes, pot luck style, or a restaurant of the coordinator's choice. They met monthly, on a date chosen by the group, for three months, then the groups were scrambled so that for the next three months different people were together in groups of eight, and so on. This is our re-boot proposal:

We will be Dinner Sixes! We have become smaller so the number can be smaller! Nedra Neuman and Carol Wilson will initiate Dinner Sixes, first with a preference survey, and then selection of the first groups of sixes. If we end up with odd numbers, no worries, we will absorb so that at least six will be together. This can be a couple, single, friends, family, etc. that would like to know more about their neighbors in the pew.

So...If you would be interested in being part of such a team, complete the survey that will be available in your bulletin for the next four weeks, and then watch for additional information in the March Messenger. The goal is to begin meeting in April for the months of April, May and June. "Guidelines" will be presented after the survey is completed.

Please complete the survey, even if you aren't interested in participating. It will help our Ministry Leadership Team plan and develop future events as well as Dinner Sixes.

A colorful graphic for a birthday celebration. The word "HAPPY" is written in large, multi-colored letters (H: red, A: orange, P: green, P: blue, Y: yellow) with a yellow star above the 'Y'. Below it, the word "BIRTHDAY!" is written in large, multi-colored letters (B: green, I: blue, R: pink, T: purple, H: yellow, D: red, A: blue, Y: purple) with a yellow star above the 'Y' and a red exclamation point at the end.

PLEASE COME TO
CELEBRATE BILL PETER'S
90TH BIRTHDAY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH AT
GREEN TOWNSHIP HALL IN PARIS AT 1:00PM



The 5th Sunday after Epiphany

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Sunday, February 8th, 2026