

Immanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

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First Sunday in Lent 9:30 a.m. Worship Service February 22, 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.

First Sunday in Lent
Lutheran Book of Worship Holy Communion Setting 1
February 22, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

Bells

Sharing Time

Passing the Peace

Candle Lighting

Transition Song: “God Is Here!” WOV#719

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share;
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

**(Please stand as you are able)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

A: Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:
Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdainning the living water
Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margins, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope
in the world: Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come
forth to life: Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins
are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's
love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" WOV 660 Blue 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 In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



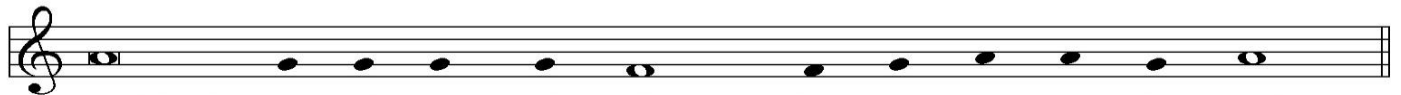
A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



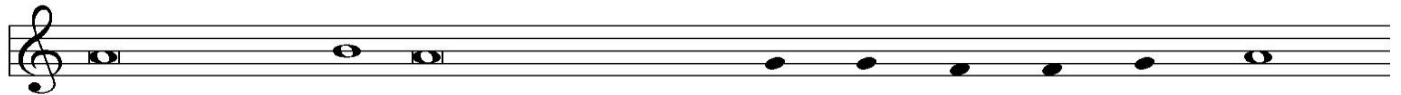
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

Prayer of Day

P: Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

C: Amen.

**(Please be seated)*

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’ ” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

A: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 32 (We sing the Psalm)



¹ Happy are they whose transgressions [|] are forgiven,
and whose sin is [|] put away!

² Happy are they to whom the LORD im- [|] putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there [|] is no guile!

³ While I held my tongue, my bones with- [|] ered away,
because of my groaning [|] all day long.

⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me [|] day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the [|] heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- [|] ceal my guilt.

**I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the
guilt [|] of my sin.**

⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in [|] time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they [|] shall not reach them.

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve [|] me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts [|] of deliverance.

⁸ “I will instruct you and teach you in the way that [|] you should go;
I will guide you [|] with my eye.

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no [|] understanding;

who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

¹⁰ Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**(Please Stand if you are able)*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 4th chapter, vss. 1 through 11.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ” ⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ” ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON: Lay Pastor Jim Lindsey
Video sermon “Keep Climbing” by Rev. Dr. Brent McDougal

**(Please stand as you are able)*

HYMN OF THE DAY : “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” LBW 479 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: Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

**(Please stand if you are able)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Offerings

LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL

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: O God, maker of heaven and earth ,

C: Your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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.

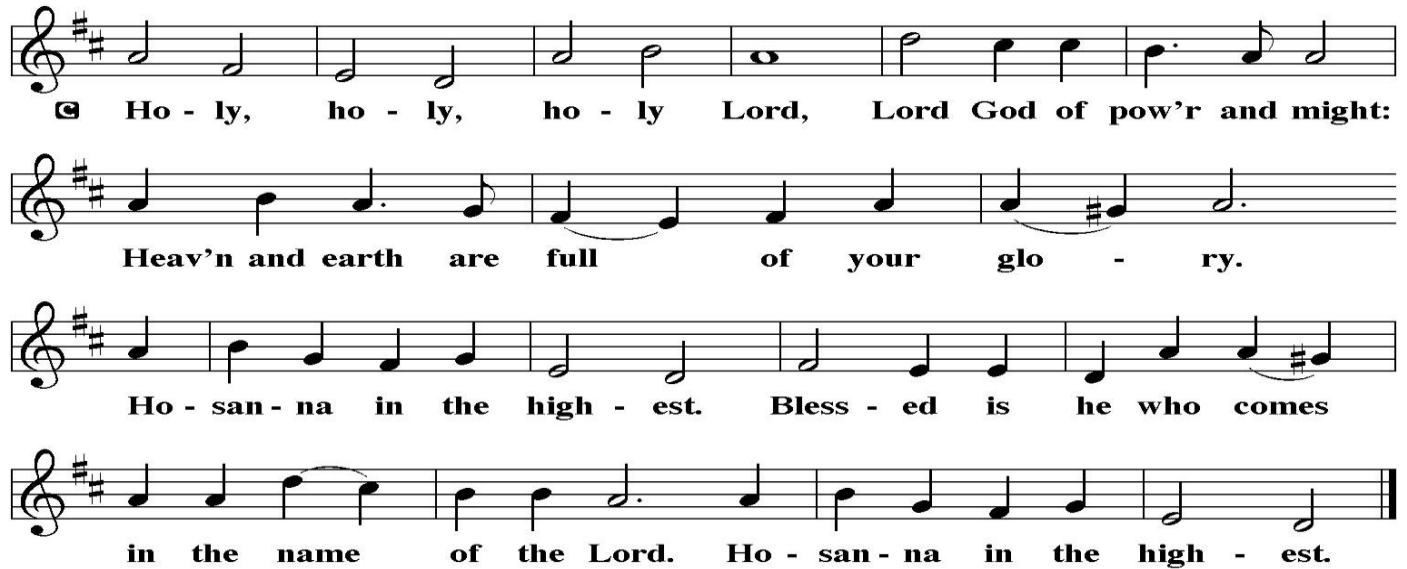
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. 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: “Thy Holy Wings” WOV 741 Blue Hymnal

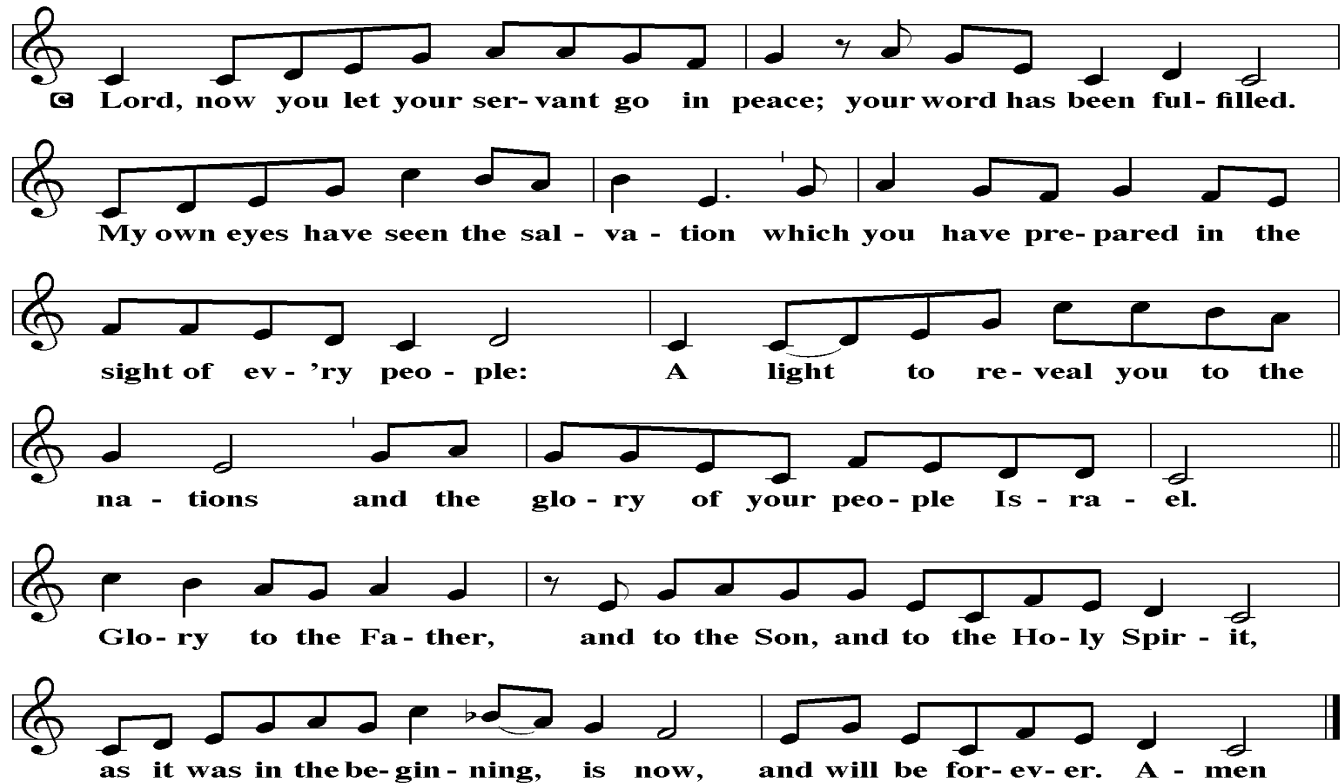
**(Pease stand if you are able)*

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 “Lord, now you let your servant go in peace”



Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful- filled.
My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre- pared in the
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re- veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo- ple Is - ra - el.
Glo- ry to the Fa- ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Spir - it,
as it was in the be- gin - ning, is now, and will be for- ev- er. A - men

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

A: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” LBW 229 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. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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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: Lay Pastor Jim Lindsey

Worship Assistant: Linda Obermier

Cantor: Vicky Scott

Greeter: Phyllis Lindsey

Usher: Phil Keating

Reader: Linda Obermier

Sound Technician: David Scott

A/V Projection Technicians: David Scott



Birthdays this week – Christine Decker (2/22), Nedra Neumann (2/27)

Happy Anniversary – None to report

Altar Flowers By Betty Nelson, in memory of her husband, Don.

Readings for March 1st:

**Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121**

**Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17**

Upcoming In Person meetings

MLT Meeting **Sun. February 22nd at 10:45am**

FOTA Concert 'Third Coast Swing' **Sun. February 22nd at 4:00pm**

Staff meeting **Tues. February 24th at 10:30 am**

Hymn Planning **Tues. February 24th at 3:00pm**

Hitchcock Movie "North by Northwest" **Thur. February 26th at 2:00pm**

FOTA Concert "Women and Songs of Revolution" **Thur. February 26th at 7:00pm**

FOTA Concert "Northern Stringworks" **Fri. February 27th at 7:00pm**

FOTA Concert (Daxson & Sarah Lewis) **Sat. February 28th at 7:00pm**



Helpful Hints from Parish Nurse Phyllis Lindsey –

Feb 22: February is Heart Awareness Month. Vegetarians have healthier hearts than meat and/or fish eaters. Vegetarians are 32% less likely to be hospitalized or die from heart disease, probably because of their diet and its effect on cholesterol and/or blood pressure. Usually vegetarians are thinner and get less type 2 diabetes.

Heart Attack Warning Signs

1. Chest discomfort.
2. Discomfort in other areas of the upper body. May include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.
3. Shortness of breath.
4. Other signs may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea, or light headedness.



Saturday, March 14th, 2026

Next month's Movie Matinee is 'Anchors away' starring Gene Kelly & Frank Sinatra (1945)



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

Community Events

Manna Pantry:

February: pancake mix and syrup

March: Tuna

Project Starburst:

Cereal

Fruit – any kind

Grade School

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

Please Note:

The Big Rapids branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is collecting gently used books, CDs, and DVDs for its annual book sale. Donation bins are located at Artworks, Immanuel Lutheran Church, First United Methodist Church, the United Church of Big Rapids, Conley's Bakery, Canadian Lakes Pharmacy, Coldwell Banker Lakes Realty, and the Mecosta County Commission on Aging and Activity Center. Please, no textbooks or encyclopedias. The sale will be held Friday, April 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 304 Elm Street, Big Rapids. Proceeds fund scholarships for nontraditional Ferris students. For more information, call or text 231-287-7022.



BOOK SALE

April 17, 9am-5pm

April 18, 9am-2pm

**First United Methodist Church
304 Elm Street**

Now collecting donations of *gently* used books, CDs, & DVDs
(no encyclopedias or textbooks) at these locations:

- Artworks
- First United Methodist Church
- The United Church of Big Rapids
- Immanuel Lutheran Church
- Conley's Bakery
- Canadian Lakes Pharmacy
- Coldwell Banker Lakes Realty
- Mecosta County Commission on Aging and Activity Center

**Proceeds fund scholarships for Ferris students.
For more information, call or text 231-287-7022.**

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.

Ministry Leadership Team Meeting Schedule

February 22 nd	Introduction of the ministry growth action plan for 2026 (during sharing time) and Congregational Conversation during fellowship hour.
March 1 st	Adult Education session
March 8 th	Adult Education session
March 15 th	MLT Meeting
March 22 nd	Congregational Conversation
March 29 th	Adult Education session

It's a Very Busy Week for FOTA:

Sunday February 22 nd	Third Coast Swing Concert	7pm
Thursday February 26 th	Movie: "North by Northwest"	2pm
Thursday February 26 th	Women & Songs of Revolution Concert	7pm
Friday February 27 th	Northern Stringworks Concert	7pm
Saturday February 28 th	Daxson & Sarah Lewis Concert	7pm



Sunday, February 22nd, 2026