

The Crosses of Lent

The cross of Jesus is a symbol of love, hope, and peace. This Lent season we are hearing about the different styles of crosses and the meanings of each type. One style of cross that means more to me than all of the others is a crucifix, that is, a cross with the body of Jesus on it.

I know that some of you think that a crucifix is a symbol of the Roman Catholic Church. You prefer an empty cross, that is, one that is a symbol of what Jesus did. But the Bible tells us what kind of a cross gives us hope. "We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." A cross picturing Jesus hanging on it tells me how much God loves me. The agony experienced by Jesus on the cross is what I deserve for my sins. God allowed Jesus to suffer for me so that I could share in his glory. The crucifix is a powerful reminder of God's love for sinners like me.

The crucifix is also a symbol of hope. I know that Christ is not dead. He has been raised from the dead. I will one day have to die. But as I look at Christ dead on the cross, I know he is now risen and ascended to the right hand of God the Father. He has promised that as he lives, I shall also rise and live forever. On days when I don't feel good, or everything in the world seems to be going wrong, I can look at the crucified Jesus and know that I will be going where he has gone after I die. I will live in a resurrected body like he does. That gives me hope to carry on. Jesus on the cross is also a symbol of peace. Because I know Jesus died and made full payment for my sins, I can rest easy when the devil (and sometimes other people) accuses me of failing to live the way I should. I am not terrified of death, sin, hell, the devil, or any kind of illness or tragedy that may come to me. I have peace with God because of Jesus' perfect sacrifice. The crucifix is a powerful symbol of love, hope and power. Isaac Watts wrote of it thus:

"When I survey the wondrous cross,
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gains I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small,
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!"

*Have a blessed and holy Lent,
Pastor Wright*

A letter from Andy

On March 1st I will have been employed at Immanuel for 3 years! I've done some fun stuff while I've been here. I've also tried to dig deeper into the faith of the youth with regular Bible studies at Together Time and activities and trips that teach and encourage them. I continually pray that the work God has brought me to do here has been a positive impact on the faith of our members.

Another awesome opportunity I'm excited for the youth to partake in is Higher Things. This is a conference that takes place every year. It is smaller than the National Youth Gathering and a bit more traditional in nature, but like so many of the other activities the youth do, it teaches about Christ crucified. This year 9 youth from Immanuel and 4 from Bethlehem will be attending the Higher Things Conference in Carbondale, IL from July 18-21. We will be doing some fundraisers and I hope that you will help support them in this.

I have learned a lot from being in this position at the church. But most of all, I want you to consider why we put such effort into having a ministry to youth and families. Why is it that we invest our time and money into this group rather than others? I hope you come to the same conclusion as I do. The youth aren't just the "future of the church." They aren't just strong, able people who can help us with dinners and work days, but these are fellow sinners in need of knowing that Christ has saved them! They don't just need to know this now, but they need to know this for the rest of their lives. They aren't a separate group of the church—they are a group within the church!

The youth—just like you—need to be reminded that we are sinners, not able to earn heaven by anything we do. We are rotten in every way. We also need to be reminded that we are saved by the precious blood of Christ! And these aren't reminders that we will get in the world. But, only in the church through the Sacraments, the hymns, and the Words of God; we are reminded that Jesus saves! So encourage our youth; encourage any brother or sister in Christ that church is not just something they go to when they are young, but it is a necessity to hear from God and see His grace! A necessity that is a gift of God to be able to worship together. A necessity that reminds us of the love of God!

*With All Joy & Peace,
Andy Dahnke*

Youth and Family

Lent Dinners On Wednesdays during Lent youth will serve a meal after service (no meal on Feb. 22 or March 1). Free-will donations are welcome.

In support of the "Be a Tiffany" Fundraising Dinner we will not be having a Lent Meal on March 1st. We encourage the congregation to dine at the Carriage House Event Center from 4:30-7pm on March 1st. The meal will be an Italian dinner featuring her favorite lasagna. All the proceeds from this event will go towards our "Be a Tiffany" scholarship fund. Which will be given out to two seniors from Altamont high school and two from St. Elmo high school. Carry out will also be available!

Youth will be having Together Time throughout Lent (no TT Feb 22).

High Schoolers are invited to learn and ask questions about all things creation, the flood, and dinosaurs on March 6th at noon. A pizza lunch will be served followed by a presentation and then time to ask questions and view fossils. Please let Andy know if you plan to attend. To learn more about what this program is, please visit creationtruth.com

Jr. High Lock-In will be March 24th starting at 10:30pm (Doors open at 10).

High School Lock-In will be March 31st starting at 10:30pm (Doors open at 10pm)

Family

College Outreach If you know a member who is currently enrolled in a 2- year, 4-year, or trade school program AND lives outside of Effingham County, please fill out a form (at any entrance or on the website under Ministries --> Young Adult) and return it to the church office by **March 5th**. Immanuel will be sending care packages to these members to encourage them in their spiritual and academic life!

Intention Faith Recognition for Sophomores and their parents will be Sunday, March 5th at both 8:30 and 11:00 services.

Women's Bible Study (Formerly Young Women's Bible Study)- Invites women of all ages to join us! We meet every other Wednesday at 7:15pm in the Parish Hall Basement. This month's meetings are on March 1, 15, 29.



Creation Truth Foundation Mobile Museum

Free and open to the public of all ages
-- Hosted by ALIS --

Sunday March 5th - 6:00pm
Monday March 6th – 10am (adults) / 6:00pm
Tuesday March 7th – 6:00pm
Wednesday March 8th – 7:00pm

Ryan Cox serves as a speaker, teacher, and researcher for Creation Truth Foundation, traveling the country with the largest mobile museum of dinosaur fossils in the Christian world. In addition to covering several creation and dinosaur topics, Ryan teaches on the Bible-based foundation of America. He is a graduate of St. Louis Christian College, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, The Sharp Institute for Biblical Worldview Studies, is currently a graduate

student at Missouri State University, and is a lifetime member of the Christian Educators Association. Ryan, his wife Amanda, and their seven children reside in Norman, OK.



Fundraising supported by Carriage House Event Center, Promark Advertising, The Giving Plate, Cobblestone Inn and Suites

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Renovation Committee

Hello Immanuel Friends,

Progress is moving right along. AR Flooring is finished with the floors and they look wonderful. They will come back after the painting is complete to do the polished concrete in the sanctuary bathrooms and the sacristy. Thanks to all the volunteers tearing out the old carpet, AR Flooring did reduce

the price of the original cost to us. Thank you, thank you, every little bit helps!

The south and west walls are now insulated and drywall is hung, just waiting for the drywall finisher to do his part and they will be ready for paint. A channel in the floor is cut for the conduit to hold the sound board wires. This channel runs from the sound board to the altar area. In the future when updates are needed, the old wires will be pulled out of the conduit and new ones fished through without having to tear things apart. By the time you are reading this, the concrete should be poured in the channel and old altar areas.

Electricians from Integrity have started running wires and placement of lights in the overflow area. Final decisions are being made regarding the lights, and then everything will be ordered, delivered and ready to be installed at the appropriate time.

At the January voters' meeting we presented to the voters' assembly that we had met with a contractor regarding our sound system. As was stated before, our sound board is fine, however, he offered several areas that need attention, which we were also aware of. This, of course is going to be a big dollar item and we wanted to make everyone aware and get their vote of approval to research and do what is needed to have a sound system that works great for everyone. A motion was made and seconded to allow us to proceed. We appreciate the vote of confidence and realize the responsibility of making the right choices. As everyone is aware, prices are a challenge in today's market. We do pray that you will find it in your hearts to give as you can, to this continuing project. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. We have several big decisions ahead, and ask for support from all of you, our church family.

*God's Blessings,
Nancy Bowman*

Prayer Corner

- For healing: Kevin Banks, Pam Buening, Heather Davis, Abbey Franzen, Wayne Franzen, Myong Mayfield, Russell Phillips, Evelyn Shumaker, Jenny Wendling
- Comfort to the family and friends of Pam Kepley
- For Lutheran missionary Ted Krey and family
- For our government, for protection of unborn children, elderly, and religious liberty

- For peace in the world, an end to violence, and for harmony among nations—especially Ukraine
- For those persecuted for their faith in Jesus
- For police, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and those who serve in our military and their families

2023 Elder Assignments

Alan Walk 618-267-7623 (Ahten -- Brauer)
Jim Stuckemeyer 618-322-6198 (Budde -- Feller)
Nathan Schnarre 618-367-2884 (Flach -- Hooks)
Dave Heiden 618-322-0472 (Huelskoetter -- Meier)
Howard Winter 618-483-6162 (Mellendorf -- Quandt)
Mike Bowman 618-214-4632 (Ramsey -- Siebert)
Paul Soltwedel 217-690-0340 (Simmons -- Wasson)
Vern Spilker 618-267-3414 (Webster -- Zeigler)

Ladies Aid Meeting Thursday, March 2, 7:00 PM. Devotion by Freda Beccue; topic is ALIS Update. Hostesses: Kathy McGuire, Diana Wendling, Roxanna Wendling.

21st Annual Grilled Pork Loin Dinner at ALIS Gym Sunday, March 5, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Dinner will be "Dine In" or "Carry Out". Menu consists of grilled pork loin, pork burger/hotdog, baked potato, chips, baked beans, green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, desserts, dinner roll. Cost is \$12 for loin dinner; \$7 for pork burger or hotdog meal. Children ages 4 and under eat FREE. Sign the SHEETS on PH table to make the Pork Dinner a success! Needs are:
1. Workers for Saturday to set-up at ALIS Gym;
2. Workers for Sunday Pick which shift works for you;
3. Desserts Members are asked to bring desserts (ALIS cafeteria drop-off after 8 AM on Saturday is preferred).
4. Advanced Orders for 1/2 Pork Loin (cooked) for \$25. Sign-up sheet is also on PH table.

29th Annual ALIS PTL Dinner Auction will be on March 11th at the Carriage House Event Center. Money raised from this event will support the school and education of our children. This year's event will begin with a social hour, silent auction and meal from 4:30 – 6:00 PM. The live auction will begin at 6:30 PM and the evening will conclude with entertainment by Fully N Volved Mobile DJ Service. The cost is \$25 per person or you may reserve preferred seating on a first come/first serve basis for \$300 (table of 8). RSVP with payment to ALIS office by March 3rd. For more information contact Jennifer Milleville 217-821-1898, Robin Elam 618-204-0397 or Shelbi Willenborg 618-322-0011.

PTL Dinner Auction Babysitting The youth of Immanuel and Bethlehem are offering babysitting from 4:00pm-10:00pm on March 11th during the ALIS PTL Dinner Auction.

Please sign up ahead of time by calling the Immanuel Office as we will be taking the first 40 kids who are signed up (2-year-olds through 6th grade only please). Dinner will be provided. Babysitting will take place in the Immanuel Parish Hall Basement. Free-will donations will be taken.

CEFS Meal Deliveries for Immanuel are March 20 – 24 and March 27 -- 31.

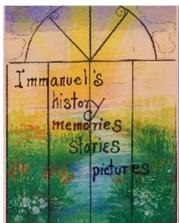


The bus will leave on Tuesday, March 21st from Immanuel North Parking Lot at **8AM** and return

around 4 to 5 PM. Bring a sack lunch (water only on bus). **BUS IS FULL!** If driving separately meet us at a 10:30 AM service at Trinity, Springfield by CID President Mohr.

Church Secretary - Now accepting resumes for part-time Immanuel church secretary position. Please send to immbarbb@gmail.com or hand to Barb Busby in the church office.

St. Peter Lutheran School is seeking a 1st and 2nd grade teacher beginning in the 2023-2024 school year. For more information, Principal Dr. Larry Wooster (lwooster.spls@gmail.com) by e-mail or school office (618-349-8888; 701 E 3rd St, Saint Peter, IL 62280).



Commemorative History Book for Immanuel is being planned by the 150th Anniversary Committee. If you have special memories, photos, etc. to share, look for this box in the Parish Hall Lobby or in Parish Hall for worship services. Carefully identify what you submit and include return information.

Dollar for Missions Project currently is to provide the first half year of support for a vicar to serve Immanuel Lutheran Church in Springfield, devoting most of his time to continuing development of this congregation's new church start in northwest Springfield, Immanuel Lutheran Chapel. CID's first \$30,000 of DFM funds will be applied to this endeavor. For more information, see <http://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-dfm-current-project.html>.

NEW Pictorial Directory Every family and household please get your picture in this directory for the 150th anniversary year. A purchase is not required and you receive a free photo 8"x10" photo and directory book. It will be a special year for us. Go online or call the office for assistance in scheduling.

MAR 24 (2 – 8:30 PM)	APR 12 (2 – 8:30 PM)
MAR 25 (11 – 4:30 PM)	APR 13 (2 – 8:30 PM)
MAR 27 (2 – 8:30 PM)	APR 14 (2 – 8:30 PM)
APR 11 (2 – 8:30 PM)	APR 15 (10 – 4:30 PM)

Go to: www.ucdir.com



Church Code: il281

Password: photos

ALIS Kindergarten Orientation will be held on Mon., March 20th from 6:00-6:45pm. Students will meet their teacher and visit the kindergarten room while parents' complete paperwork and ask questions. Bring a copy of your child's certified birth certificate to the orientation. Students will need a full physical, dental exam, eye exam, current immunizations, and a lead screening before school starts in August. Please call the school office at 618-483-6428 or email alisoffice2@gmail.com to RSVP.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for Tuesday May 30th – Friday June 2nd from 9 AM until noon. This year's theme is "God's living water covered in Jesus' grace!"

Lost & Found Looking for a cemetery saddle with Armond & Lorene Goer's name on bottom. A saddle with red/white poinsettias was found. Please contact Claudia Berg.

Community Events

St. Clare Catholic Church Sausage Breakfast on Sunday, February 26th from 7:30 until 12:00pm. The menu includes sausage patties, country ham, scrambled eggs, biscuit and gravy, pancakes, sweet rolls, sweet breads, milk, juice, and coffee. St. Clare is located at 216 N 9th Street, Altamont, IL 62411. Free will donations will be accepted.