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Music Director: Will Canfield
Pastor: *Currently Vacant*



This newsletter has many contributors. If you'd like to submit an article of interest or an announcement of an upcoming event, please contact Ailene Buchtrup, Secretary, in the church office via phone or email. For those with email, an electronic copy of the newsletter will be sent to you. For those with no email or who would prefer to receive a paper copy, we will continue to mail the newsletters via U.S. Postal Services.

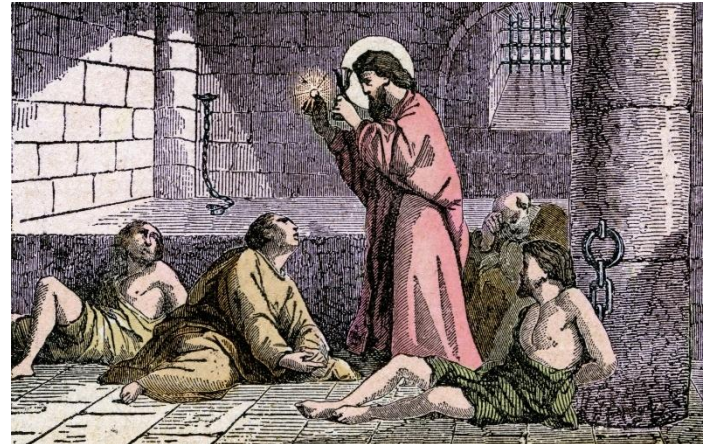
For those with no email or who would prefer to receive a paper copy, we will continue to mail the newsletters via U.S. Postal Services.

To note in pastoral absence: Several pastors and other knowledgeable contributors offer great articles of interest all throughout the year, and in particular holy seasons. Until a new pastor is found for Immanuel, we will draw upon the knowledge and interesting perspectives of those pastors to provide readers with a section called, From the Pastor's Desk. We hope you will find these articles of interest and helpful in your spiritual journey.

The Legend of St. Valentine

By: [History.com Editors](https://www.history.com)

Updated: January 6, 2025 | Original: December 22, 2009



Saint Valentine, who according to some sources is actually two distinct historical characters who were said to have healed a child while imprisoned and executed by decapitation.

Valentine's Day is a holiday celebrated every February 14; this year Valentine's Day falls on a Friday. Across the United States and in other places around the world, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine.

But who is this mysterious saint and where did these traditions come from? Find out about the meaning and history of Valentine's Day, from the ancient Roman ritual of Lupercalia that welcomed spring to the card-giving customs of Victorian England.

The history of Valentine's Day—and the story of its patron saint—is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men.

Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Still others insist that it was Saint Valentine of Terni, a bishop, who was the true namesake of the holiday. He, too, was beheaded by Claudius II outside Rome.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl—possibly his jailor's daughter—who visited him during his confinement.

Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly—romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

Origins of Valentine's Day: A Pagan Festival in February

While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial—which probably occurred around A.D. 270—others claim that the Christian church may have decided to place St. Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to "Christianize" the pagan celebration of Lupercalia. Celebrated at the ides of February, or February 15, Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.

To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at a sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome, were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa. The priests would sacrifice a goat, for fertility, and a dog, for purification. They would then strip the goat's hide into strips, dip them into the

sacrificial blood and take to the streets, gently slapping both women and crop fields with the goat hide.

Far from being fearful, Roman women welcomed the touch of the hides because it was believed to make them more fertile in the coming year. Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city's bachelors would each choose a name and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage.



Valentine's Day Meaning: A Day of Romance and Love

Lupercalia survived the initial rise of Christianity but was outlawed—as it was deemed "un-Christian"—at the end of the 5th century, when Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day. It was not until much later, however, that the day became definitively associated with love.

During the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds' mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of Valentine's Day should be a day for romance. The English poet Geoffrey Chaucer was the first to record St. Valentine's Day as a day of romantic celebration in his 1375 poem "Parliament of Fowles," writing, "For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day / Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate."

Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, though written Valentine's didn't begin to appear until after 1400. The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt. (The greeting is now part of the manuscript collection of the British Library in London, England.) Several years later, it is believed that King Henry V hired a writer named John Lydgate to compose a valentine note to Catherine of Valois.

Who Is Cupid?

Cupid is often portrayed on Valentine's Day cards as a naked



cherub launching arrows of love at unsuspecting lovers. But the Roman God Cupid has his roots in Greek mythology as the Greek god of love, Eros. Accounts of his birth vary; some say he is the son of Nyx and Erebus; others, of Aphrodite and Ares; still others suggest he is the son of Iris and Zephyrus or even Aphrodite and Zeus (who would have been both his father and grandfather).

According to the Greek Archaic poets, Eros was a handsome immortal played with the emotions of Gods and men, using golden arrows to incite love and leaden ones to sow aversion. It wasn't until the Hellenistic period that he began to be portrayed as the mischievous, chubby child he'd become on Valentine's Day cards.

Valentine's Day Greetings and Gifts

In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France and Australia. In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the 17th century.

By the middle of the 18th, it was common for friends and lovers of all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes, and by 1900 printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings.

Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began selling the first mass-produced valentines in America. Howland, known as the "Mother of the Valentine," made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as "scrap."

Today, according to Hallmark, an estimated 145 million Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year (more cards are sent at Christmas).



Our Mission in February is...



Located on the campus grounds of Western Michigan University.



Sunday services @ Noon.

Solid Grounds Student Ministries is a campus ministry that provides services, activities and events for students to grow in their faith.



In February, Immanuel will support this ministry with a gift of \$900 from our missions budget.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR THOUGHTFUL GIVING!



The Lutheran Hour (LHM) is broadcast every Sunday morning at 6:30 a.m. on 105.7 FM or accessible anytime on the Web at www.lutheranhour.org.

February 2:

"Do the Things That Make for Unity"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Jesus crosses borders and even breaks down the barrier of death to do the things that make for unity: shared worship, shared mission, shared harvest. (John 4:9)

February 9:

"We Have an Advocate"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Where we might see only a problem, Jesus sees a person who needs an Advocate. (John 5:6)

February 16:

"The Bread of Our Lives"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola
Jesus gives us Himself as the Bread of Life so that everything we need can be filled by Him and His gifts. (John 6:35)

February 23:

"Need to Know"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
If you don't need God, you won't know God. (John 7:28-29).



KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES

ONGOING FOOD DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

Food donations are accepted
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday - Friday at
901 Portage Street (KLF)

Other donation locations are listed below:

Family Dollar
(Select Locations)

Kalamazoo First Presbyterian Church
321 W South St

Rollerworld
7491 Stadium Dr., Kalamazoo



In Our Prayers:

Homebound Ministry:

Marian Brugh Jan Wilson
Marlys Olson Ellen Plano
John Curtiss Jerome Dirst
Vince Marshall

LONG TERM CONCERNS:

Rose Maxum , requested by Chuck and Amber Townsend	Susan & Gregory Fritz , Stephanie Beck's parents
Amy Stillwell , sister of Dave Reynolds	Mary Ann Massey , friend of Dotty Smith
Lynne Partridge , friend of Christa Perri	Lucille and Lawrence Fritz , requested by Jonathan Fritz
Loren Gerber , Sue Anderson's father	Craig Rennhack , requested by Bob & Maryalice Reck
John Blasko , requested by Elizabeth Blasko	Mindy Mitchell , sister of Shelly Reynolds
Kyle Reinbold Family , requested by Kyle's sister, Sonya DeVary	James Leo Brown , requested by Shelly and Dave Reynolds
Karen McDougall , requested by Sue Steuer	Jim Sabo , friend of Susan Steuer
Katie VerKow , former member of Immanuel, requested by Phil Roekle	Sue Steuer's sister-in-law Christine's mother Elaine , and her daughter-in-law Molly
Vicki Dilley , requested by Christa & Phil Perri	Suzie Brink , Christie Sidwell's mother and Bill Brink , her brother
Joanne Cleason , Esther Cleason's daughter	Melissa , friend of Dotty Smith and daughter Laura
Marie Winberg , godmother of Bill Bennett	Hannah Bayer , 4 y.o., requested by her father
Lisa and David Wentzel , Sue Steuer's cousins	Jerry and Sandi McKenzie , friends of Dotty Smith
Ware Washam , requested by Brian Long	Sandy Hale , requested by Stephen Presdorf
Caroline Barkow	Jeri Noneman
Gene Jennings	Ruth Krueger
Bob Perri , brother of Phil Perri	Beth and Bob Mitchell
Alice Schley , Jane Schley's granddaughter	Charlie Miller , Marian Brugh's brother
Toni —Jane Schley's cousin	Jason , son-in-law of Sue & Craig Anderson
Sharon S. , requested by Dotty Smith	Karen Petersen , daughter of Cathy & Tom Mollet
Kay Hecht , John Hecht's mother	Jason Nichols , requested by Justin Beck
Linda & Scott Spurlock , requested by Esther Cleason	Marilyn Borgeson , Annie Hecht's grandmother
Deb , friend of Sue Steuer	Sophie Rose Verile , Brindley's niece
Kim N., Kim M., Emilie H., & Sydney B. , all friends of Kim Sharp; and River Lint , Kim's cousin's baby	

If you would like the congregation to pray for you or your loved one, please contact the church office to have the name(s) placed on our prayer list.



Gail Stewart	Feb. 1
Emily Jefferies	Feb. 3
John Wagner	Feb. 3
Elliott Jefferies	Feb. 4
Tobias Jefferies	Feb. 4
Susan Steuer	Feb. 12
Jan Wilson	Feb. 14
Matthew Johns	Feb. 15
John Miller	Feb. 15
Juan Salinas	Feb. 15
Robert Brindley	Feb. 16
Felix Mandrick	Feb. 17
Maggie Steuer	Feb. 19
Chad Lawrence	Feb. 20
Alex Lustila	Feb. 20
Jane Schley	Feb. 23



The Groundhog Says.....

Let's Party!

13th Annual

Groundhog's Day Party

When: Saturday, **February 1**, 2025

Where: Brian Long's Home

3427 Oakharbor,

Kalamazoo

Appetizers and Tasting at 4:00pm

Dessert and Coffee ~ 6:30pm

This is an Adult Event!

Driving Direction and Sign-up
Board are
in the Narthex!

SEE YOU THERE





Come join us for a Day of Beauty - Without and Within

Saturday, February 15th from 1:00 to 3:30pm
Immanuel Lutheran Church

What is this?

A time of fellowship, beauty, devotion and supporting women in need. Michaela Hernandez-Haw, our own Mary Kay representative will be doing make overs, demonstrations, answering questions and giving tips on skin care and make up. This will be a hands-on experience in "Beauty Without." A

short devotion from 1 Peter 3:3-4 about "Beauty Within" will be given.

During this event, we will be collecting items for the YWCA. Their mission is: "Improving the lives of children, promoting maternal and child health, and caring for victims of abuse."

Below is a list of what they could use:

- Diapers (size 3, 4, 5, 6)
- Baby Wipes
- Gift Cards (any denomination)
- Personal Care Items (full size body wash, deodorant, hair care products, lotions, etc.)
- Linens (new or gently used twin sheets, blankets, towels, etc.)

If you would like to give a cash donation for purchase of personal care items, Michaela would be happy to order these items and take them to the YWCA.

We will end with refreshments and fellowship!

You will have an opportunity to purchase Mary Kay products if you choose.



Mid-week Lenten services will begin on **Ash Wednesday, March 5,** and continue through the Lenten season (6 weeks).

Worship services are held on Wednesdays during Lent at 7:00 p.m.



Soup Suppers will precede the service and will start at 6:00p.m.

Diaper Drive



In Honor of **Mother's Day, May 11, 2025** and
In Support of Alternatives of Kalamazoo and
The Douglass Community Association

Help for Needy Mothers

Diaper Sizes Needed:

Infant, 2,3,4,5, and Boys'/Girls' Pull-Ups

Bring your donations to the narthex by 9:00am **May 12th**

Note: Between now and May 11, be sure to watch for diaper sales. Both Costco and Sam's Club regularly have low diaper prices.

February 2025

The Mission of the Month: WMU Solid Grounds Ministries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						Feb 1 4:00pm 13th Annual Groundhog's Day Party @ Brian Long's
2 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC & online (Quardokus) 11:30am Children's Choir	3	4 5:30pm Mary/ Martha Meeting 10:00am Bible Study re: Book of Genesis 7:00pm Baumgarts' Bible Study at ILC	5	6 11:00am -12:30pm Choir Rehearsal	7	8 10-11am "Joy" Bible Study @ ILC
9 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC & online (Couch) 11:30am Children's Choir	10	11 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:00am Bible Study re: Book of Genesis 7:00pm Baumgarts' Bible Study at ILC	12	13 11:00am -12:30pm Choir Rehearsal	14	15 1-3:30pm "A Day of Beauty— Without and Within"
16 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC & online (Quardokus) 11:30am Children's Choir	17	18 10:00am Bible Study re: Book of Genesis 7:00pm Baumgarts' Bible Study at ILC	19	20 11:00am -12:30pm Choir Rehearsal	21  Newsletter Deadline	22
23 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC & online (Couch) 11:30am Children's Choir	24	25 10:00am Bible Study re: Book of Genesis 7:00pm Baumgarts' Bible Study at ILC	26	27 11:00am -12:30pm Choir Rehearsal	28	March 1

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
 3000 West Main Street
 Kalamazoo, MI 49006

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<h2>Worship Assistants/Serving Schedule</h2>						
	Acolytes	Altar	Usher	Lector	Worship Assistants	Coffee Hour
Sunday 2/2/2025	Maddie Hernandez & Elijah Lawrence	Patti Wills	Kim Sharp	John Hecht	Bill Stewart & Ron Swinehart	Jane Schley (coffee) & Melanie Baumgart (snacks)
Sunday 2/9/2025	Cailyn Hecht & Norah Lawrence	Sally Crawford	John Wagner	Andrew Lustila	Mark Miller & Andrew Lustila	Sue & John Wagner
Sunday 2/16/2025	Linus & Ezra Mandrick	Vivian Westphal	Ron Swinehart	John Krueger	Denny Patzer & John Quardokus	Amber & Chuck Townsend
Sunday 2/23/2025	Eldorado & Caviion Beck	Kim Sharp	John Hecht	Mark Miller	John Quardokus & John Wagner	Maryalice Reck
Sunday 3/2/2025	Genevieve Miller & Adelaide Jefferies	Jane Schley	Kim Sharp	Ninah Miller	Larry Baumgart & Craig Anderson	Rita Clarke
Ash Wednesday 3/5/2025	NA	Jane Schley	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sunday 3/9/2025	Maddie Hernandez & Elijah Lawrence	Patti Wills	John Wagner	John Quardokus	Bill Stewart & Ron Swinehart	Shelly Reynolds



(269) 345-8090
Immanuel Lutheran Church

Schoolyear Schedule:
 9:15-9:45am
 Children's Sunday School

10:00 am Sunday Communion Service

11:30am Adult Class
11:30am Children's Choir Practice

NOTE:
 All services will be live-streamed on:
Facebook and YouTube