



GABRIEL'S GAZETTE

FEBRUARY 2026



*"Loving, Sharing, Serving
Jesus with you."*

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Vocal Rest

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

If you've noticed me drinking more water or dropping out of singing or with a raspy voice these days, I am not sick. Last year in May, I developed a hoarseness in my voice. I don't know how, but I thought it was allergies. I kept thinking it would improve as the season changed, but it only got worse. Instead of resting my voice, I went full steam ahead with VBS, Higher Things, and a family reunion. In the fall I had my vocal chords checked out and they were damaged and swollen. I don't know what caused it to begin with, but I know what did the damage: continued use and overcompensating. So I changed my regimen, drinking more water and herbal tea, using a humidifier, eating better, sleeping better, warming up and cooling down my voice before and after extended use. I worked hard to not overextend my voice. This helped for the day-to-day use, but my voice did not heal. Over the holidays it became painful to speak and sing for any extended period of time. I was missing a key component to recovery: resting my voice. Try to tell a pastor to rest his voice!

I have become more concerned as Lent and Easter are quickly approaching. So, I am making some changes to get more vocal rest. Some chanting feels better for my voice than speaking, but the chanting that doesn't, I won't do. I will mostly not be singing the hymns. I'm going to ask my classes to sit closer so that I do not need to project my voice.

But during Lent (Ash Wednesday is 2/18), I will make some bigger changes to rest my voice:

- I will switch over to a video-led study for Sunday Bible class.
- I will be cancelling Simeon Bible study March through Easter.
- I will be having others teach Family Catechism Time for me.

After Easter, I will reassess what I need to do. I know it will take longer than that to get my voice back to normal, but this will help. This is very frustrating for me, as you know it is my greatest love to teach and sing. Bear with me on this and, Lord-willing, things will get back to normal. Please pray for me as I do for you. Have a blessed Lententide!

Pastor

Thanks to all who served in leadership positions for our congregation during 2025. The offering you gave of your time and talents has been greatly appreciated by us all.



CANDLEMAS DAY

On Saturday, January 31, and Sunday, February 1, we will be celebrating Candlemas

(ordinarily celebrated February 2), also known as The Presentation of Our Lord. This is when Jesus was presented in the Temple and Simeon rejoiced and sang that Jesus would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles." On Candlemas there was a tradition of lighting candles and blessing them for use in the people's homes. We will be handing out candles which you can take home, made in the Holy Land and blessed in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the church which stands where Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead. Come celebrate this special day with us!



**JOIN US FOR
MIDWEEK
WORSHIP SERVICES
DURING
THE LENTEN SEASON.**

**WEDNESDAY MORNINGS 11:00 AM
EVENINGS 6:30 PM**

**BEGINNING ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 18**

Come early for supper at 5:30



We are seeking individuals and groups to sign up and contribute to our upcoming Lenten Suppers. Available dates are: February 25,

March 4, 11, and 25. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for you/your group to sign up to provide a meal for everyone. Please call the office for more information.



VALENTINE TEA

**Saturday, February 14th
2:00 p.m.
in Fellowship Hall**

Ladies save the date! This will be the fifth annual Valentine's Tea. Ticket cost is \$10 per person. All ladies in the congregation, of all ages, are invited! So, please come and enjoy some fellowship with other ladies of the congregation. Tickets can be purchased from members of Ladies Aid.

YOU CAN CHANGE A LIFE!



**American
RedCross**

**The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.**

**BLOOD DRIVE - Thursday, Feb. 26
2 p.m. – 6 p.m.**

Immanuel Lutheran Church - Fellowship Hall
1237 E. Coolspring Ave. – Michigan City

The American Red Cross is struggling to keep hospital blood bank shelves full. Hospitals are being forced to make difficult decisions every day about who should receive a transfusion. Every unit collected is critical!

**Please register online at
www.redcrossblood.org to make an
appointment.**

I would like to thank the signatories of the congregation for the heartwarming king-size congratulatory card given to me upon the marking of my 60 years in the active ministry of our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. I have loved every one of them and have fond memories of the 25 years that I served as your pastor. And I also appreciate your acceptance of my continuing not only as a resident in the Michigan City community, but also (and more importantly) as a part of the communion of saints located at Immanuel congregation. Soli Deo Gloria.

-- Pastor David Albertin



Table of Duties: The Forgotten Stewardship Tool

Luther's Small Catechism is a magnificent tool. Joined with a well-used copy of the Holy Scriptures and an orthodox hymnal, the Christian is well equipped to live a life of faithfulness to the Lord and service to the neighbor. First in German and now in English and just about any language known to man, this handy masterpiece has introduced generations of people to the central doctrine of justification by grace, through faith, on account of Jesus Christ. The Six Chief Parts have proven to be a faithful framework for a clear confession of the truth of the Gospel for nearly five hundred years!

But more than a textbook, the Small Catechism also serves well as a handbook for Christian living. As a part of its treasure, there is an element that teaches an extraordinarily strong message of stewardship. That hidden treasure that needs to be rediscovered is called the Table of Duties.

The Table of Duties is really nothing more than a categorized gathering of Bible verses. These verses are set apart for "various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities." Addressing pastors and people, government and citizens, husbands, wives, children, youth, workers and so many more, it very clearly lays out what faithful stewardship looks like. Even better, these assembled passages teach one important truth: we are stewards of one another!

The Table is much more than a "how-to" tool; it also lays out the interconnectedness that exists within the body of Christ. Pastors are described by what they are to be as stewards of the Word. 1 Timothy 3 highlights the characteristics of a faithful pastor. Even more, Titus 1 highlights the need for the pastor to be faithful for the sake of those under his care.

Those who hear the faithful preaching of the pastor are stewards of the pastor as well. 1 Corinthians 9 talks about the need for the people to support the livelihood of the pastor. Galatians 6 talks about how the hearers share in the good things that the pastor teaches. 1 Timothy 6 talks about the honor that is owed to the pastor, not because of WHO he is, but rather WHAT he is teaching! Hebrews 13 shows the impact of this stewardship on the pastor, that they perform their duties with joy. Joyful pastors and people are always going to be better stewards of the Gospel!

Outside the church this interdependent stewardship is on display as well. Romans 13 highlights the respect necessary for the governing authorities. As citizens, the faithful steward is called to pay taxes (Matthew 22), pray for their leaders (1 Timothy 2) and that they should be ready to serve in the civil realm (Titus 3), because they are in these positions by God's direction (1 Peter 2).

These steward duties are in the home too! 1 Peter 3 and Colossians 3 shape the husband steward. Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3 shape the wife steward. Ephesians 6 forms parental stewards and child stewards.

The Table of Duties is a wonderful place for the individual steward to learn how much our stewardship is more than just a "me and Jesus thing!" In fact, it ends with these words: "Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well share fare." This is interdependent stewardship on clear display. As each learns stewardship in this way, the more faithful we will be as a family, congregations, communities, and the church at large.

**--LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article,
February 2026**

Snow Help Fundraiser for Higher Things

"Higher Things" youth participants are eager to help you shovel snow for a donation to their trip to St. Louis next summer.

Call Lisa Solum to set something up at 219-873-6420.



Guarding Our First Charge: Men's Gathering 2026

Join other men in Christian fellowship **April 9-12** at Lakeview Villages near Seymour, IN as we explore biblical perspectives on life

issues. Dr. Donna Harrison (board-certified OB/GYN) and Rev. Dr. D. Richard Stuckwisch (Indiana District President, LCMS) will help us explore the topics of abortion, contraception, IVF, adoption, and defending life in every circumstance. Get away and enjoy God's creation, feast at our hog roast, compete in feats of skill and wit, and grow in your vocations as father, husband, son, and brother.

Visit www.mensgathering.us for info and registration. See Luke Vandercar with any questions, 219-221-1543.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS !



The dates have been set for this year's Vacation Bible School:

June 29-July 3

Program details will be shared as they develop, but mark it on your calendar now and save the dates. You won't want to miss it!



MEALS ON WHEELS needs additional volunteers to deliver meals.

Immanuel has several volunteer teams that take turns covering a route every Monday, but there are also additional days and routes where volunteers are needed. Meals on Wheels LaPorte County relies on people just like you to lend your time and talent to help them deliver hot meals to seniors, disabled individuals, and citizens unable to prepare meals for themselves. Without volunteers to deliver the meals, some people are unable to receive this service. The average time for a route is one hour.

To become a Monday Immanuel volunteer, contact Peggy Elser at 219-326-1354. To volunteer on other days or for more information, call 219-872-9117 or e-mail lpcomow@laportecountymealsonwheels.org.

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Thanks to Benoit Paquette 02-14-2002
REALLY ADAM ... A VALENTINE'S DAY FRUIT BASKET ... IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN!?!?



PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for submitting items for the March *Gazette* is **Monday, Feb. 2.**

Ash 
Wednesday