



**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN, ROCKWELL CITY, IOWA  
&  
TRINITY LUTHERAN, KNIERIM, IOWA**

**CONGREGATIONS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD**

**“CHURCHES IN THE COUNTRY”**

**“UNITED TOGETHER WITH CHRIST IN THE  
LIKENESS OF HIS DEATH AND HIS RESURRECTION.”  
[ROMANS 6:5]**

**DUAL PARISH ESTABLISHED IN 2003**

**Members of “Churches in the Country”**

This month and for the rest of 2012, I would like to look at the Psalter, better known as the Book of Psalms. This Old Testament book is the prayer book and hymnal for the whole Christian church, for every Christian and every Christian family. The psalms are God’s Word given us to pray and to sing, that the Word of God might be held sacred and gladly heard and learnt by us. Christian prayer is conversation with God which always begins with His Word spoken and proclaimed to us and our response of thanks, praise, service and obedience. Trust in the Lord comes from His Word. The Word of God invites us to rely upon Him alone, that He richly and daily provides us with all that we need; teaching us how to ask Him for all our needs, for the needs of our neighbor, responding with thanks and praise for all His benefits in times of sorrow and suffering, as well as in times of happiness and joy.

Our Lord Jesus prayed the psalms throughout His life and ministry, and quoted from them in His teaching more than any other book of the Old Testament. He did this because the psalms were known by the Jews and used in the liturgy of the temple and

synagogue. Jesus used the psalms in the preaching of the Gospel to show the continuity between the Old and New Testament faiths. Jesus used the Psalter, because He is the fulfillment of every psalm, just as He is the fulfillment of every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Jesus prayed the psalms for us, so that we might learn to pray them as our own through faith in Him. God’s Words are our words. The psalms become our prayers when we pray them through faith in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit uses the psalms to give us the words to pray, when we don’t know what to pray. The Holy Spirit uses the psalms to join us in prayer, in holy conversation, with our heavenly Father. The Holy Spirit uses the psalms to join us in prayer with the church in all times and in all places, those who have gone before us and those who follow after us.

The best way to pray the psalms with faith and understanding is best done through repetition and out loud. It is best to take one psalm and pray it several times a day for a week. This kind of meditation and reflection upon the Word of God enables us to learn it well and allows its language to form our own prayers; that we would read, mark, learn and

inwardly digest it. The psalms are a wellspring of comfort and strength for us Christians now and forever.

There is no book more used in the liturgy of the church than the psalms. The texts of the Introits, Graduals, Offertories, Responsories, Suffrages, and many canticles used during the Sunday morning Divine Service are taken, almost entirely, from the Psalter. So too, are the prayer offices of Matins (morning prayer), Vespers (evening prayer), and Compline (prayer at the close of the day) inspired by the psalms.

To begin, below is one psalm per week for your prayer and meditation. As I said above, I encourage you to begin by reading it out loud. The brief summary of each psalm comes from the venerable and devout Dr. Martin Luther.

✠Psalm 18 ✠ (February 1-11)

This is a psalm of thanksgiving in which David thanks God that He has delivered him from all his enemies, such as Saul, the heathen, Absalom, and the rebellious Israelites. David relates that he was in deadly distress, and that God had helped him out of them. David praises God, who held back his enemies, and thanks God for His help against the disobedient and the rebels, such as were Seba and most of Israel (2 Samuel 20). Consequently, everyone needs to keep this psalm as an example of how we should thank God for His help when He delivers us out of our troubles. As you pray this psalm consider yourself to be like David, standing against your enemies; God will deliver you from these. This psalm reminds us of the Second Commandment and the First Petition of the Lord's Prayer, because it thanks God and praises His holy name.

✠Psalm 44 ✠ (February 12-18)

This psalm is a general psalm of prayer in which all the saints, especially the New Testament saints, lament that they are

persecuted by heathen and tyrants and would be martyred. They cry out that God has given them over to this, as if He had abandoned them. Formerly He had helped them with great wonders, and no harm came to them from persecutions. But they are now even persecuted on their own account, that is, for God's sake, as if they have done all kinds of evil. This psalm rebukes the flesh, which murmurs against God that it is judged unrighteous and is so poorly governed (according to reason) that the godly, who ought to be helped, are allowed to suffer, and the evil, who ought to be punished, are elevated.

✠Psalm 31 ✠ (February 19-21)

This psalm is a universal psalm of thanksgiving, a psalm of prayer, and a psalm of comfort, all at the same time. It is spoken in the person of Christ and of His saints, who, on account of God's Word, are plagued their entire lives - inwardly they are plagued with fears and troubles; outwardly they are plagued by persecutions, slander and contempt. Yet they are comforted and delivered by God the Father from them all. This Psalm needs to be prayed along with the Second and Third Commandments and the First and Second Petitions of the Lord's Prayer.

✠Psalm 57 ✠ (February 22-29)

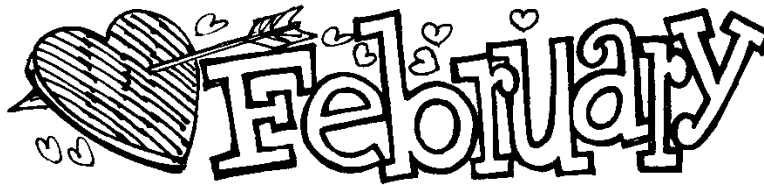
This is the psalm for Ash Wednesday. Here again, David complains about Saul and his servants. They pressed him so hard that he had nowhere he could safely go. But David had the comfort of God's Word and would use it against his enemies, who would twist God's Word against him. These enemies and venomous counselors have fangs and tongues, as David says, are spears and arrows and sharp swords. But thanks be to God, who does not desert us, but hurls them into the pit that they have prepared for us. Their plots finally come down on their own heads.

## FEBRUARY 2012 CALENDAR

<b><u>Wednesday, February 1</u></b>	9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study at Trinity 5:00 p.m. Midweek at Trinity 6:00 p.m. 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation at Trinity 7:00 p.m. 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation at Trinity
<b><u>Thursday, February 2</u></b>	12:30 p.m. Trinity Ladies Aid at Jud's
<b><u>Saturday, February 4</u></b>	5:00 p.m. Saturday Evening Service at Immanuel
<b><u>Sunday, February 5</u></b>	8:45 a.m. Worship / Holy Communion at Immanuel 10:00 a.m. Sunday School at Immanuel 10:15 a.m. Worship / Holy Communion at Trinity
<b><u>Monday, February 6</u></b>	6:30 p.m. Working Women's Group at Immanuel
<b><u>Wednesday, February 8</u></b>	9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study at Trinity 5:00 p.m. Midweek at Trinity 6:00 p.m. 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation at Trinity 7:00 p.m. 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation at Trinity
<b><u>Thursday, February 9</u></b>	6:30 p.m. Elders' Meeting at Immanuel 7:30 p.m. Council Meeting at Immanuel
<b><u>Sunday, February 12</u></b>	8:45 a.m. Worship / Holy Communion at Immanuel 10:00 a.m. Sunday School at Immanuel 10:15 a.m. Worship / Holy Communion at Trinity
<b><u>Tuesday, February 14</u></b>	10:00 a.m. Bible Study/ Holy Communion at Sunny View
<b><u>Wednesday, February 15</u></b>	9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study at Trinity 5:00 p.m. Midweek at Trinity 6:00 p.m. 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation at Trinity 7:00 p.m. 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation at Trinity
<b><u>Sunday, February 19</u></b>	8:45 a.m. Worship / Holy Communion at Immanuel 10:00 a.m. Sunday School at Immanuel 10:15 a.m. Worship / Holy Communion at Trinity
<b><u>Tuesday, February 21</u></b>	9:30 a.m. Holy Communion at Sunny Knoll 10:00 a.m. Bible Study/Holy Communion at Sunny View
<b><u>Wednesday, February 22</u></b>	9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study at Trinity 5:00 p.m. Midweek at Trinity 6:00 p.m. 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation at Trinity No Lenten Supper 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service at Trinity (Conf. questioning)
<b><u>Thursday, February 23</u></b>	1:30 p.m. LWML at Immanuel
<b><u>Sunday, February 26</u></b>	8:45 a.m. Worship / Holy Communion at Immanuel 10:00 a.m. Sunday School at Immanuel 10:15 a.m. Worship / Holy Communion at Trinity
<b><u>Wednesday, February 29</u></b>	9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study at Immanuel 11:30 a.m. Rockwell City Lenten Lunch at Community Center 5:00 p.m. Midweek at Trinity 5:30 p.m. Lenten Supper at Trinity 6:00 p.m. 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation at Trinity 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service at Trinity (Confirmation questioning)

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 – Kim Martin      | 14 – Robert Neumann (Bob) |
| 2 – Nancy Schofield | 14 – Haley Rosendahl      |
| 2 – James Weiss     | 15 – John Skramstad       |
| 3 – Cleo Ballstadt  | 17 – Kim Vosberg          |
| 4 – Heather Hull    | 18 – Mark Gleason         |
| 6 – Amanda Krause   | 18 – Michael Martin       |
| 8 – Jaxon Meyer     | 18 – Connie Ramthun       |
| 10 – Matt Humphrey  | 23 – BreAnn Harman        |
| 12 – Tracy Hartwig  | 25 – Rain Weiss           |
| 13 – Ella Fistler   | 27 – Steve Vosberg        |
| 14 – Allison Morenz | 28 – Mark Egli            |
| 14 – Amanda Daisy   | 28 – Carrie Melohn        |
| 14 – Bradley Hansen | 28 – Kayla Skramstad      |



## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 – Brent and Shelly Keiser
- 14 – Kenneth and Dorothy Zierke
- 14 – Earl and Jacqueline Hudson
- 17 – Kenneth and Beverly Martin
- 24 – Allen and Janice Kretlow
- 26 – Marc and Emily Stelling