

THE BEACON

IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

April / May

PASTOR'S DESK *Christ is Alive!*

*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.*

*Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching ev'ry place and time.*

*In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.*

*Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.*

*Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and ev'ry age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.*

*- Evangelical Lutheran Worship #389,
text by Brian A. Wren*

We all have songs of faith that seem to speak to us, that resonate deep within our hearts. I wonder, what are some of yours? "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing" is one of mine, and has been for a long time. I can envision teenage-Sierra singing this hymn from three pews back, pulpit side, in my home congregation out in Washington, buzzing with the excitement of Easter

and the lift of greening hills and blooming flowers. Well the green may still be buried and the flowers still dormant in the ground, but this hymn is just as joyous this year in any other year or place.

I've always loved the imagery of the tomb standing empty to the sky. It feels triumphant, bold, full of life. But the line that has captured my spirit as my theological imagination has grown is this one: *Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine...* That line transports me back to the time of Jesus, to the particular place and time in which he lived, died, and was raised. At the same time, it also proclaims to me that Christ is alive - here and now. Easter doesn't only celebrate a past event, but also a current reality. Jesus is alive now - saving now - healing now, right here.

I recently learned that the hymn writer, Brian Wren, wrote the first version of this hymn in for Easter in 1968, after the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The world was grim and full of pain, and Wren wanted to "express an Easter hope out of that terrible event," not an Easter that was "long ago, far away, and high above." His Easter hymn honors the reality of our lives, and yet boldly proclaims that the risen Christ suffers with all those who suffer in any place where there is division and despair, bringing love, healing and hope.

This hymn reminds me that Christ *is* alive and comes to bring good news to this and every age. Christ brings good news to this age of struggle, to this Easter in a world that feels as confused and chaotic as ever. This is the good news - that Christ *is* alive; that love, even when drowned in death, can never die. This good news is for *us today*, in *our* age, in *our* time. No matter what is happening in the world, even in the midst of "*every insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide.*" Each of us can hear the Spirit and hear the call this Easter season. And the good news will keep on coming again and again through this season and the next until all creation sings with the joy, justice, love, and praise of Christ.

May this good news be poured into you this Easter and poured out into the world through your living each and every day.

Pastor Sierra

BUSINESS

COUNCIL BUZZ

YOUR 2023 COUNCIL:

Dan Hartog Sarah Bauer
Cathi Nehring Janie Richardson
Colleen Hendershot Donna Oslund
Colleen Sinell

These elected members of the Immanuel Lutheran Church Council are hard at work on your behalf, taking care of day to day operations such as paying bills, maintaining the building, praying for the congregation and growing together in leadership so that our whole congregation might be able to focus on being grounded in Worship and Fellowship and Service to our Neighbor. Thank you for your prayer and support as they go about their duties.

A NOTE FROM YOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

I am so glad that YOU are here. I am honored to be serving as your Council President for a second year.

Serving on Council is not *all* fun and games. Leading and caring for a congregation is hard work, but it is good work. And I am glad to be able to do it for you. It has been a long winter - outside and in here - but we know that winter won't last forever.

Spring will come!

Happy Easter to you. See you in the pews!

-Dan Hartog, President Immanuel Council

*Keep up to date!
Monthly Council Meeting minutes
can be found on the bulletin board*



FINANCIAL UPDATE:

2023 Needed Weekly Average Giving
*(to meet 2023 budget as approved by the
congregation at the 2021 Annual Meeting)*
\$2,891.12

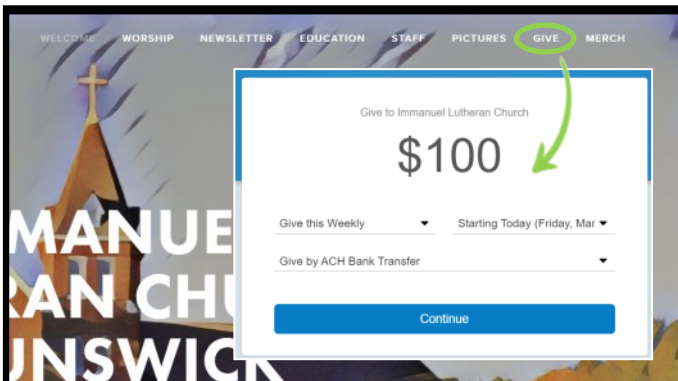
Weekly Giving 2023 Compared to 2022

Month	2023	2022	Difference
January	\$2,107.00	\$1,882.60	\$224.40
February	\$1,512.50	\$2,148.75	-\$636.25
March	\$1,587.50	\$2,196.25	-\$608.75

In the first quarter of this year (January-March), our costs have exceeded our income by \$12,489.05. Based on our current level of giving, we will not be able to meet our financial obligations within the next few months.

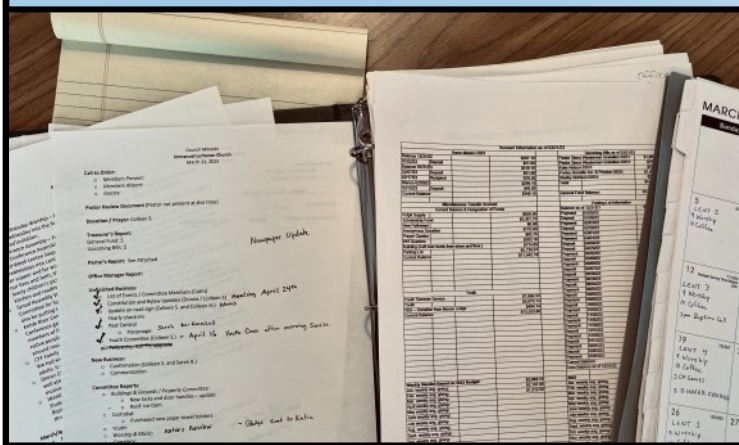
This doesn't mean it is time to panic. But it does mean it is time to give some serious thought to your family's giving and prayerful consideration to whether you can increase your contribution.

THANK YOU!



ONLINE GIVING

*If you have not yet switched to online giving,
maybe now is the time. It's simple!
Go to immanuel.lutheranbrunswick.com
and click on "GIVE"*



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

It has been a tough winter and our little church is in need of little TLC.

The following are projects that need attention, which of course requires time and money.

Please prayerfully consider how you might be being called to help attend to our building so that we all may have this beautiful place to call our church home for years and years to come. Thank you!

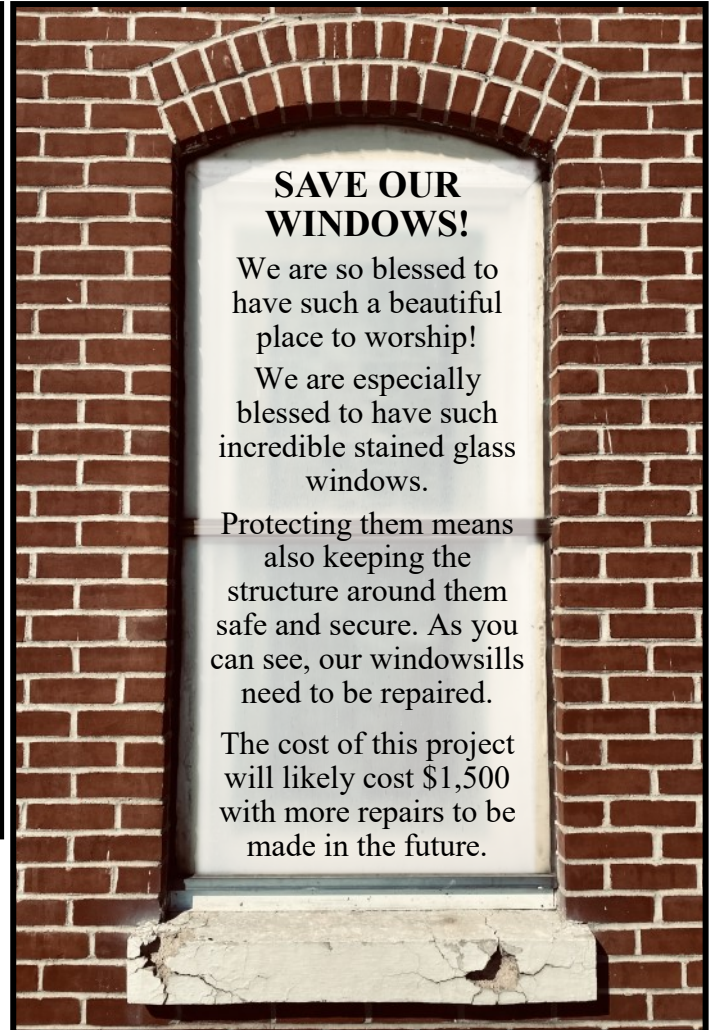
-Buildings & Grounds Committee: Nancy Jacobson, Jim Nehring, Bob Richardson, Chris Zierke



RAIN, RAIN GO AWAY!

While we were all grateful for warmer weather in the second half of March, we were a little less pleased walking into the Fellowship Hall through a sheet of RAIN INSIDE!

The heavy snow and warmer winter resulted in ice dams and a leaking roof. We are working with our insurance company and local contractors to make the necessary repairs.



SAVE OUR WINDOWS!

We are so blessed to have such a beautiful place to worship!

We are especially blessed to have such incredible stained glass windows.

Protecting them means also keeping the structure around them safe and secure. As you can see, our windowsills need to be repaired.

The cost of this project will likely cost \$1,500 with more repairs to be made in the future.



PRAYER GARDEN TENDERS

Do you enjoy spending time in the garden? Do you find working in the soil relaxing or even meditative? Do you enjoy the beauty of blooming flowers or appreciate a serene place to sit and ponder or pray? Come spring, (and it will come!), we will be in need of volunteers to tend to our small prayer garden.

If you are interested or have more questions, please contact Nancy Jacobson.

NO MORE MICE!

And finally, some good news! Our little mouse problem seems to be under control. No more nibbles out of communion bread or presents left behind on counter tops!

We have contracted with a pest control company to check out the church and parsonage quarterly to make sure all our critter friends stay outside, where they belong.

PEOPLE OF IMMANUEL



NEW MEMBERS

Are you new to our worshipping community? Have you given any thought to becoming a member of Immanuel Lutheran Brunswick?

We would like to invite any new members or prospective new members to join Pastor Sierra for dinner in May. We'll share some food, have some time to get to know one another, maybe learn a little something about the church and its ministries.

Date and time to be determined.

New Members Sunday will be June 11th.

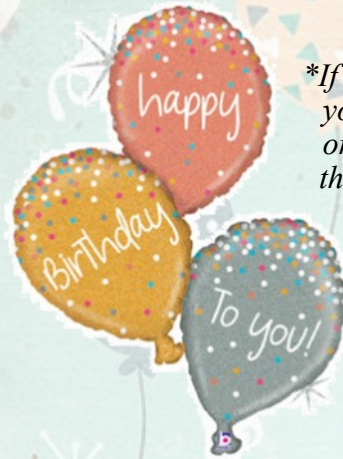
If you've got any interest in joining, please talk to Pastor Sierra today! We would love to officially welcome you to our church family.

LET US PRAY . . .

As we turn our hearts to prayer, we remember those who are dear to us, especially those who have asked for the prayers of this congregation.

Gwen Johnsen
John M.
Nancy Jacobson
Jack Stephens
Eli Nelson
Mel Pioske
Eldon Duke

Teri Svendsen
Dale Doerr
Al Dockendorf
Wilson Hartog
Emily Hartog
Bruce Wenberg



**If we have accidentally your birthday off the list or mixed up the dates (in this newsletter or in the past), please let the office know so that we can correct our records.*

APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

April 1 Nick Atchison
April 2 Rick Kawalek
April 3 Christy Belsheim
Ethan Stromberg (14 years old!)
April 5 Mel Pioske
April 14 Angie Bergren
April 22 John Folkema
Kinsley Stromberg (4 years old!)
April 24 Addyson Maciej (11 years old!)

MAY BIRTHDAYS!

May 4 Amelia Atchison (14 years old!)
May 5 Camdyn Prokosch (15 years old!)
May 8 Alisha Prokosch
May 9 Gladys Nelson
May 14 Annette Jensen
May 18 Richard Sinell
May 20 Xavier Cook (14 years old!)
Myles Hass (10 years old!)
May 22 Connie Kawalek
May 28 Mary Clasen



MEN OF IMMANUEL: LET'S GO CAMPING!

Spring is coming! So let's gather up the boys, fuel up the ATVs, and head to the great outdoors for some fellowship and fun. All adult men and older youth welcome. Plans for a spring camping trip are in the works. Specific plans depend on interest, so if you are interested, *please* contact Dave Howe: 912-414-8377.

WORSHIP

Holy week



PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 2nd @ 9:00am

The Palm Sunday Liturgy recreates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as we wave our palms and make our procession into the church. This joyful mood soon changes to sober contemplation of our Lord's Passion at the Gospel. Thus, Holy Week begins.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 6th @ 6:00pm

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples. As we celebrate the Lord's Supper in Worship, we will also share a Potluck Dinner together.

The service will conclude in the sanctuary with the stripping of the altar as we anticipate the crucifixion of Christ.

*Bring a potluck item to share.

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 7th @ 7:00pm

Worship continues on Good Friday. We will observe Good Friday, the day of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, through word and song and silence, using a Tenebrae style service of the Seven Last Words of Christ.

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 9th

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and delight in God's promise to all God's beloved of new creation and life everlasting.

Easter Worship: 7:00am & 9:00am

Easter Breakfast: 8:00am



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP at IMMANUEL **Every Sunday @ 9:00am**

Sunday morning services stream live on our website: immanuellutheranbrunswick.com (click on the WORSHIP tab). Older services can be found on our Facebook and YouTube pages.



DINNER CHURCH

April 16th @ 5:00PM & May 28th @ 5:00PM

Dinner Church is a messy kind of service. It is definitely not polished, but neither are we! Whatever else happens in the evening, we will gather around tables to eat together, we will sing, we will worship, we will have good conversation, and we will remind one another that we are beloved children of God.

If you would like to volunteer to provide supper for dinner church (plan for 40ish people), please contact pastor Sierra.

Gathering together to worship our God is at the heart of what we do and who we are as a community of faith. We come together on the regular to hear again the good news of God's love for us, for our community, for our world. And having been fed by the word of God, we leave this place to live out lives of love wherever our weeks may take us. All are welcome. So invite your friends! And we will see you for worship!

COME ONE, COME ALL



Immanuel's Ham Loaf Dinner, presented by the Women of Immanuel Lutheran Church, is back! This year, instead of requesting specific items from each family, the Women of the church have decided to save you the trip to the grocery store and instead are requesting financial donations to help offset the costs of food. And don't forget to save the date for dinner. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors! All are welcome!

REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMING

Join us for
TUESDAY MORNING BILBE STUDY

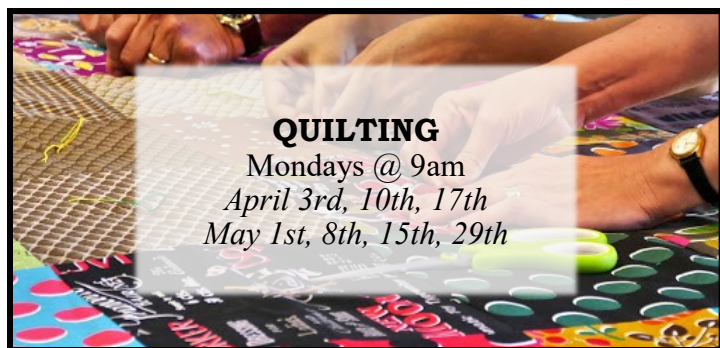
*Every Tuesday Morning
@ 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall*
Women of ALL ages welcome!



COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

3rd Thursdays, 1-4pm

**DROP IN ON THURSDAYS.
PASTOR WILL BRING THE COFFEE.
YOU BRING THE CONVERSATION.**



QUILTING

Mondays @ 9am
*April 3rd, 10th, 17th
May 1st, 8th, 15th, 29th*

Women of the ELCA



APRIL MEETING

Thursday, April 6th

Bible Study:

Lesson Three - Word: Plan

Hostess: Betty Eggert; Mary Stromberg;
Joy Nehring

***April 15th—Kettle River Conference
Our Redeemer—Pine City***

MAY MEETING

Thursday, May 4th

Bible Study:

Lesson Four - Word: Wisdom or Wise

Hostesses: Noon Potluck



SENIOR LEAGUE

April 24th & May 22nd

10:00AM-1:00PM

Join us the fourth
Monday of every month for
fellowship, food and fun.

Be ready for some fun and
games with Mexican Train
and bring a food item to share
as we enjoy a potluck lunch
together.

**Senior Adults
GROUP**

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY



YOUTH GROUP

**CALLING ALL
7th-12th GRADE
STUDENTS:
JOIN US FOR
YOUTH GROUP!**

April 5th

May 3rd

6:00-8:00pm

*supper is provided

We eat a meal together,
play games, think about
life and about God, grow
in our friendships and in
faith.

All are Welcome. Invite
your friends! Seriously,
bring your friends.

SNOW TUBING @ WILD MOUNTAIN & GAME NIGHT were SO. MUCH. FUN!

Our February and March CYF Events were a big hit! It was a busy night at Wild Mountain but we got in plenty of runs and had a blast. March Game Night saw a great turn out with almost 40 people gathered in the Fellowship Hall around tables and games and then Dinner Church Worship.

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION EVENTS

In lieu of Sunday School, Immanuel is hosting monthly CYF Faith Formation Events! A Chance to gather together with other kids and families for fellowship and fun.

*look for more specific information to come!

Questions? Contact Sarah Bauer: 763-670-4094

APRIL
Sunday, April 23rd
Roller Skating @ Thunder
Blades Roller Rink,
Princeton

MAY
Bowling!



CHILDREN & YOUTH IN WORSHIP

FIRST COMMUNION Sunday, May 21st

Our 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade students are ready to begin First Communion instruction! We ask for the prayers of the congregation as they gather with their parents and Pastor to learn about this Holy Meal. We will explore the origins of Holy Communion in the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples, and consider what it means for us to get to participate in this meal today. The kids will work through a book with their parents at home and work on a creative project to help them think about this whole business of church, communion, and the love of God for all. Plus, they will get the chance to bake the communion bread that we will use for their first communion!

This is the Sunday our 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade students will also receive their Bibles!

Class Session One: Sunday, April 23rd - 4pm-6pm

Class Session Two: Sunday, May 7th - 4pm-6pm

First Communion Sunday: May 21st

Worship @ 9am, students/families arrive at 8:30am.

"Whenever you share this bread and cup, I will be with you, feeding you, loving you, forgiving you."



CONFIRMATION Sunday, May 14th

Come celebrate with our CONFIRMANDS! They have spent the last three years learning about the Bible (Old Testament and New Testament) and exploring what they believe through Luther's Small Catechism and conversations about the big questions of faith. Now they will make public affirmation of their baptismal faith!

This year's Confirmands:

Abby Hartog

Brady Nehring

Camdyn Prokosch

Brody Smith



SENIOR QUILT SUNDAY Sunday, June 4th

Come celebrate with our
HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!

Wherever life will take them next, we celebrate their accomplishments thus far and send them into this new chapter of life wrapped in the love and support of this congregation. Quilts made with love and care from this congregation are gifted to each as a physical sign of this love.

Tucker Hass, Emily Hartog, Hailey Voge

CONFIRMATION



CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

DATE	CLASS/EVENT	SUPPER
APRIL 5	Youth Group	Pizza
APRIL 12	Class - Thomas	Dick Family
APRIL 19	Class - Saul/Paul	Hartog Family
APRIL 26	Mentors & Students - Project Presentations	DINNER NEEDED!
MAY 3	Youth Group	Atchison Family
MAY 10	9th Grade Only	Prokosch Family
SUNDAY, MAY 14	CONFIRMATION SUNDAY	

TELLING THE STORY STUDENT/MENTOR PROJECTS

Your Task: To find a creative way to tell your assigned bible story. Presentations should take approximately 2-5 minutes and will be presented to the whole group on **Wednesday, April 26th.**

Your Method: It is up to you! But here are some ideas:
create a board game | write a song | make a video | do a slide show
write/perform a skit | build a diorama | paint a picture/create art

CONFIRMATION AT IMMANUEL

Our seventh, eighth, and ninth grade students gather together to learn about God and God's people and discover more about themselves and their faith.

Confirmation classes are held on Wednesdays from 6:00pm-8:00pm from September through May. We gather for dinner and conversation at 6pm and then move into class time. This year we are exploring the New Testament by getting to know some of the key characters in God's story.

Teachers: Pastor Sierra,
Mel Pioske & Shirley Zierke

CONFIRMATION MENTORS

Each of our students is paired with an adult in the congregation with the goals of building relationships across generational lines, learning from each other and growing in faith together.

<i>Abby Hartog</i>	GINNY TURNER
<i>Brady Nehring</i>	RICK KAWALEK
<i>Camdyn Prokosch</i>	SARAH BAUER
<i>Brody Smith</i>	RICK STROMBERG
<i>Amelia Atchison</i>	CONNIE KAWALEK
<i>Sam Dick</i>	BOB RICHARDSON
<i>Haleigh Eggert</i>	COLLEEN SINELL
<i>Ethan Stromberg</i>	RICK STROMBERG
<i>Benjamin Bauer</i>	JIM NEHRING
<i>Alison Nehring</i>	JANIE RICHARDSON
<i>Amarah Pioske</i>	BARB DICK
<i>Gibson Pioske</i>	DYLAN NELSON
<i>Jacob Vigstol</i>	SHIRLEY ZIERKE

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	April 9	April 16	April 23	April 30
Ushers:	Nehring Family @ 7am Kawalek Family @ 9am	Jim & Joy Nehring	Bob R. / Rod M.	Sam Pioske Family
Lector:	Rick Stromberg @ 7am Shirley Zierke @ 9am	Gladys Nelson	Shari Hartog	Sarah Bauer
Communion Assistant:	Cathi Nehring @ 7am Sarah Bauer @ 9am	Jim Nehring	Cathi Nehring	Mel Pioske
Acolyte:	Ethan Stromberg @ 7am Benjamin Bauer @ 9am	Gibson Pioske	Brady Nehring	Camdyn Prokosch
Sound:	Dave & Brady	Dave & Brady	Dave & Brady	Dave & Brady
Altar Guild:	Barb and Jaime Dick	Barb & Jaime Dick	Barb and Jaime Dick	Barb and Jaime Dick
Counters:	Gladys / Sarah	Connie / Joy	Cathi / Colleen	Gladys / Sarah
Coffee Treats:	Easter Breakfast	Jaime & Barb Dick	Mel Pioske / Shari H.	Fifth Sunday Brkfst.

	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28
Ushers:	Brent & Kay Speers	Bauer Family	Rick & Connie	Chris & Shirley Z.
Lector:	Jaime Dick	Ben Bauer	Donna Oslund	Shirley Zierke
Communion Assistant:	Jaime Dick	Sarah Bauer	Rick Kawalek	Shirley Zierke
Acolyte:	Sam Dick	Haleigh Eggert	Benjamin Bauer	Amarah Pioske
Sound:	Dave & Brady	Dave & Brady	Dave & Brady	Dave & Brady
Altar Guild:	Mary A. /Amy Gamble	Mary A./Amy Gamble	Mary A./Amy Gamble	Mary A./Amy Gamble
Counters:	Connie / Joy	Cathi / Colleen	Gladys / Sarah	Connie / Joy
Coffee Treats:	Mary A./ Cheerie S.	Janie Richardson	Connie & Shirley Z.	Lia Hass / Judy D.



Ushers: Don't know what to do? There is an instruction sheet on the back pew. Just follow along.

If you cannot make assigned date: Please call someone else to swap or sub. Remember to do so in a timely manner and let the office know of the change.

Any other questions or want to join the list?
Call Connie Kawalek (320-679-1491)

Thank you for all you do!

APRIL 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 PALM SUNDAY 9:00am Worship @ Immanuel & Streaming Online	3 9:00am Quilting	4 . 9:30am Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm AA Mtg.	5 6:00pm Youth Group	6 1:30pm WELCA 6:00pm MAUNDY THURSDAY Worship & Potluck	7 7:00pm GOOD FRIDAY Worship	8
9 EASTER SUNDAY 9:00am Worship 8:00am Breakfast 9:00am Worship @ Immanuel & Streaming Online	10 9:00am Quilting	11 9:30am Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm AA Mtg.	12 6:00pm Confirmation	13	14	15
16 9:00am Worship @ Immanuel & Streaming Online 10:00am Youth Conversation 5:00pm DINNER CHURCH!	17 9:00am Quilting	18 9:30am Ladies' Bible Study 5:30pm Church Council Mtg. 7:00pm AA Mtg.	19 RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE 6:00pm Confirmation	20 1:00pm-4:00pm Coffee & Convo	21	22
23 9:00am Worship @ Immanuel & Streaming Online CYF Roller Skate 4-6pm First Communion Class	24 10:00am Senior League	25 9:30am Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm AA Mtg.	26 6:00pm Confirmation w. Mentors - Projects	27 5-7pm Ham Loaf Dinner	28 SYNOD ASSEMBLY	29 SYNOD ASSEMBLY
30 9:00am Worship @ Immanuel & Streaming Online 10:00am Fifth Sunday Breakfast SYNOD ASSEMBLY						

MAY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:00am <i>Quilting</i>	2 9:30am <i>Ladies' Bible Study</i> 7:00pm <i>AA Mtg.</i>	3 6:00pm <i>Youth Group</i>	4 1:30pm <i>WELCA</i>	5	6
7 9:00am <i>Worship @ Immanuel & Streaming Online</i> 4-6pm <i>First Communion Class</i>	8 9:00am <i>Quilting</i>	9 9:30am <i>Ladies' Bible Study</i> 6:00pm <i>Worship Team Mtg.</i> 7:00pm <i>AA Mtg.</i>	10 6:00pm <i>Confirmation - 9th Grade Only</i>	11	12	13
14 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 9:00am <i>Worship @ Immanuel & Streaming Online</i>	15 9:00am <i>Quilting</i>	16 9:30am <i>Ladies' Bible Study</i> 5:30pm <i>Church Council Meeting</i> 7:00pm <i>AA Mtg.</i>	17	18 1:00pm-4:00pm <i>Coffee & Convo</i>	19	20
21 FIRST COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00am <i>Worship @ Immanuel & Streaming Online</i>	22 10:00am <i>Senior League</i>	23 9:30am <i>Ladies' Bible Study</i> 7:00pm <i>AA Mtg.</i>	24	25	26	27
28 9:00am <i>Worship @ Immanuel & Streaming Online</i> 5:00pm <i>DINNER CHURCH!</i>	29 9:00am <i>Quilting</i>	30 9:30am <i>Ladies' Bible Study</i> 7:00pm <i>AA Mtg.</i>	31			

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