

## Immanuel Lutheran Church April 2026 Newsletter

This summer, our synod convention will be held in Phoenix. (Yes, the convention facility will be air conditioned, or at least I hope it will be, for those attending!) Since the phoenix (a mythical bird) is associated with resurrection, the theme for the 2026 convention is "Christ Is Risen Indeed."

At a church convention, delegates discuss what is happening in the church and make decisions that guide the direction of the church's life and work, but a church convention is more than a business meeting. Anyone who attends one of our church conventions will have opportunities for spiritual growth during the convention days.

Both pastoral and lay delegates should prepare themselves by finding out what topics and issues are on the convention agenda. Afterwards, they should report back to their home circuits (or at least be prepared to do so if anyone asks).

Only a tiny (but representative) minority attend the convention, but all of us can participate by way of the convention Bible study. The study topic is appropriate to the Easter season. This Bible study covers a lot of resurrection-related passages, including 1 Corinthians chapter 15.

You are invited and encouraged to attend!

### **Sunday Morning Bible Class (Easter)**

**9-9:45 AM, church basement**

*Christ Is Risen Indeed*

- 1 – The First and Second Death (April 12)
- 2 – A Well-Witnessed Resurrection (April 19)
- 3 – Does the Resurrection Matter? (April 26)
- 4 – Wake Up and Live! (May 3)
- 5 – Life Out of Dust (May 10)
- 6 – Risen Indeed! (May 17)

For a young Lutheran who only attended public school K-12, I was given a very strong foundation for my faith. My parents made sure we attended church and Sunday school every Sunday (and most of the special seasonal midweek services). We frequently had family devotions at home. In grades 6-8, we had catechism classes for three hours on Saturday mornings, including memory work and other homework. My sisters and I went to Lutheran summer camp 10 miles from home.

Yet there was a gap in my Christian knowledge. I knew very little about what happened between the New Testament and Martin Luther. Not even my high school Western Civilization class filled that gap. Young me would have appreciated the church history class we are now teaching at ILS.

Most chapters in our textbook, called *Journey through Church History*, focus on certain well-known individuals (martyrs, leaders, writers, teachers, reformers, etc.), but some chapters focus on broad topics or questions (see below).

Have you ever asked yourself these questions? Anyone who is available Wednesday mornings is welcome to join the community Bible class that has continued for many decades in Okawville. This is a good local tradition. Let's keep it going.

### **Wednesday Morning Bible class (April)**

**10-11 AM, Bunkers**

*Journey through Church History*

- Where Does the Bible Come From? (April 1)
- Where Do the Creeds Come From? (April 8)
- Where Does the Liturgy Come From? (April 15)
- Where Do Denominations Come From? (April 22)
- Christianity Comes to America (April 29)

## APRIL CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 1	8:15 a.m. – Chapel – Pastor d’Entremont 7:00 p.m. – Choir
Thursday, April 2	7:00 p.m. - Worship Service with Holy Communion No School
Friday, April 3	7:00 p.m. - Worship Service No School
Sunday, April 5	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School/ No Bible Class 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
Monday, April 6	4:00 p.m. - Beginners Catechesis
Wednesday, April 8	12:15 p.m. – Chapel – Pastor Wood 7:00 p.m. – Choir
Thursday, April 9	6:30 p.m. – Board for Parochial Ed. Meeting
Saturday, April 11	9:00 a.m. - LWML group zone prayer service/rally 5:30 p.m. – Worship Service
Sunday, April 12	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School & Bible Class 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service and Alumni & Friends Celebration
Monday, April 13	7:00 p.m. – Elders’ Meeting
Wednesday, April 15	8:15 a.m. – Chapel – Pastor d’Entremont 6:30 p.m. – Congregational Fund Meeting 7:00 p.m. – Church Council Meeting
Thursday, April 16	7:00 p.m. – LWML Meeting
Saturday, April 18	5:30 p.m. - Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, April 19	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School & Bible Class 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
Monday, April 20	7:30 p.m. – Men’s Club Meeting
Tuesday, April 21	Dual Circuit Pastors @ New Minden or Covington
Wednesday, April 22	12:15 p.m. - Chapel – Pastor d’Entremont 7:00 p.m. - Choir
Saturday, April 25	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service
Sunday, April 26	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School & Bible Class 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service Quarterly Voters’ Meeting after the service
Wednesday, April 29	8:15 p.m. Chapel – Pastor d’Entremont
Wednesday, April 29 – May 1	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Class Trip to Springfield



## LCMS Stewardship

### A Better Way

Originally published in April 2023

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?”

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn't necessary because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won't be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one's income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

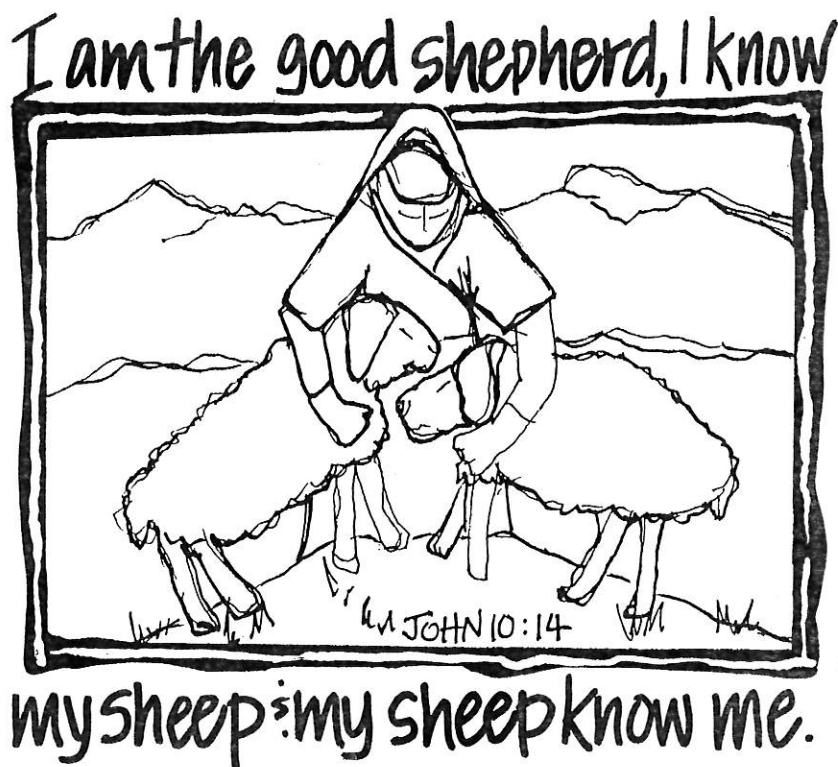
But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism's Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.



### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to those of you who are celebrating a birthday in April.

4. Darrel Eggemann, Jr.
5. Donna Kraus
7. Michelle Burianek
9. Ronda Grewe, Jacksen Harre,  
Sharon Krueger
10. Bryce Kolweier
11. Norbert Hasheider, Harper Price
12. Garret Borrenpohl
14. William Huels
15. Amy Bergmann, Justin Borrenpohl,  
Chloe Kraus, John Krueger
16. Jody Eggemann, Madison Frerker  
Caleb Unverfehrt
17. Brittany Hasheider
19. Jared Borrenpohl
21. Whitney Heyde, Glen Kraus
22. Lauren Hall
23. Kooper Suedmeyer
24. Dylan Seaton, Melinda Traub
25. Macey Riechmann, Jonathan Schneider
26. Elaine Luebke
27. Adysen Harre, Theodore Jacobs
28. Marla Hasheider
29. Charles Grewe
30. Taylor Wilson

### VISITATION COMMITTEE

Lois Obermeier and Sheila Prueshner

### ALTAR COMMITTEE

Sheila Prueshner and Carolyn Rennegarbe

### ACOLYTES

Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Devin Hundelt  
Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Landon Elliott  
Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> – Hudson Schneider  
Crucifer: Coleson Hasheider  
Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> – Maylen Kramper  
Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> – Sadie Bergmann  
Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – Collins Schumacher  
Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – Coleson Hasheider  
Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> – Markus Lautenschlaeger  
Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> – Hudson Schneider

### ORGANIST/PIANIST

Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sharon Krueger  
Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sharon Krueger  
Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> – Sharon Krueger  
Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> – Sophia Wood  
Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> – Sharon Krueger  
Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – Ruby St. Martin  
Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – Lisa Segelhorst  
Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> – Ruby St. Martin  
Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> – Sharon Krueger

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Dennis Pruehsner  
April 5<sup>th</sup> – Jonathan Schneider and Mike Jacobs  
April 18<sup>th</sup> – Kent Helbig  
April 19<sup>th</sup> – Jeff Jacobs

### USHERS

Saturday:  
Sunday:

### APRIL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

April 14<sup>th</sup> – Jim & Julie Borrenpohl  
April 16<sup>th</sup> – Dan & Kristen Miller  
April 25<sup>th</sup> – Lucas & Amanda Millenbine  
Larry & Cindy Kuhlengel  
April 28<sup>th</sup> – Greg & Darla Toensing

### OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism – March 25 – Jovie Ellis Dugger

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**The Sunday School Board** would like to invite the congregation to the school gym Easter morning at 9:00 am for doughnuts and milk, listen to the children rehearse their songs for church and enjoy an Easter egg hunt behind the school. If anyone would like to give a monetary donation to help with candy for the Sunday School Easter egg hunt, please contact Krissy Schneider 618-559-7097, Amber Jacobs 618-314-5851, or Kristal Jacobs 618-830-5528. Thank you!

## LWML

Immanuel's LWML group will be hosting our zone prayer service/rally on Saturday, April 11. There will be a service at 9am in the church, and a program in the school gym after that. This will include a presentation by Diapered With Love, a group in Nashville that collects diapers/wipes for those in need. A collection of diapers, wipes, and money for Diapered with Love will be taken. All women are welcome to attend this free event. If any women are able to donate breakfast treats (muffins, coffee cake, etc), please contact Emily Wood at 618-713-0953.

The April LWML meeting will be held on Thursday, April 16 at 7pm in the church basement. Pat Quinlan will have the devotion, and Emily Wood will have the topic.

### Alumni & Friends Celebration

Please join us on April 12, 2026!

10 AM worship service; Rev. Monte Haun, guest preacher; children will be singing; a full meal and short program will follow in the school. Please RSVP by April 6<sup>th</sup> so that we can prepare appropriately. There is a signup sheet in the narthex, or call 618-243-6142 or 618-322-7998 for RSVPs. A free will offering will be taken for the meal. No one will go home hungry!

Immanuel Lutheran School and Wee Care share the love of Jesus with children and families each day! This is the greatest mission of Immanuel Lutheran Church. This event will celebrate the many blessings, given and received, through this mission. We will also recognize and celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Immanuel Lutheran Alumni & Friends Association! Please join us if you can!

### SCHOOL NEWS

**April 1** Kindergarten and preschool will participate in an Easter egg hunt sponsored by the OHS National Honor Society.

**No School** – Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Maundy Thursday; Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Good Friday; Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> Spring Break.

**April 16** Preschool morning and afternoon class will take a field trip separately to Rainbow Ranch

**April 17** – Midterm

**April 21** Farm Follies Field Trip for K-2 at Maple Hill Farms

**April 22 – 23** MAP Testing

**April 24<sup>th</sup>** K-6<sup>th</sup> will attend Earth Day at Carlyle Lake

**April 27 -28** MAP Testing

**April 29 – May 1** - 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade class trip to Springfield

### PTL THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who made our Annual PTL Breakfast a success, whether you volunteered your time, or enjoyed the breakfast. We appreciate each and every one of you.

### COMMUNITY NOTES

**GOOD FRIDAY TRE ORE:** When Jesus hung on the cross, the sun's light failed for three hours—the darkness of God's judgment on our sin that Jesus carried in His body (Luke 23:44, Amos 5:20). Join pastors and musicians from area congregations on Good Friday, April 3, anytime between 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m., at St. John's Lutheran Church, New Minden, as we meditate on the Seven Words of Jesus from the cross. The time will be divided into nine 20-minute segments, with breaks between to enter and exit, get up and stretch, use the restroom, etc. A door offering will be received for scholarships at Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School.



## WEEKLY WORSHIP RESOURCE LISTING

### **Maundy Thursday** **April 2, 2026**

Old Testament: Exodus 12:1-14  
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 11:23-32  
Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35  
Order of Service: Divine Service Setting Three  
Hymns: OAR 351 A Blessed Feast of Highest Good  
445 When You Woke That Thursday Morning

### **Good Friday** **April 3, 2026**

Old Testament: Isaiah 52:13-53:12  
Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9  
Gospel: John 18:1-19:42  
Order of Service: Good Friday  
Hymns: 440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now  
449 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded  
647 Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head  
434 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

### **EASTER** **THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD** **April 5, 2026**

First Reading Acts 10:34-43  
Epistle: Colossians 3:1-4  
Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10  
Order of Service: Divine Service Setting One  
Hymns: 457 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today  
467 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness  
461 I Know That My Redeemer Lives  
548 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious  
OAR 217 The Son of God Has Conquered Night  
480 He's Risen, He's Risen

### **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER** **April 11 & 12, 2026**

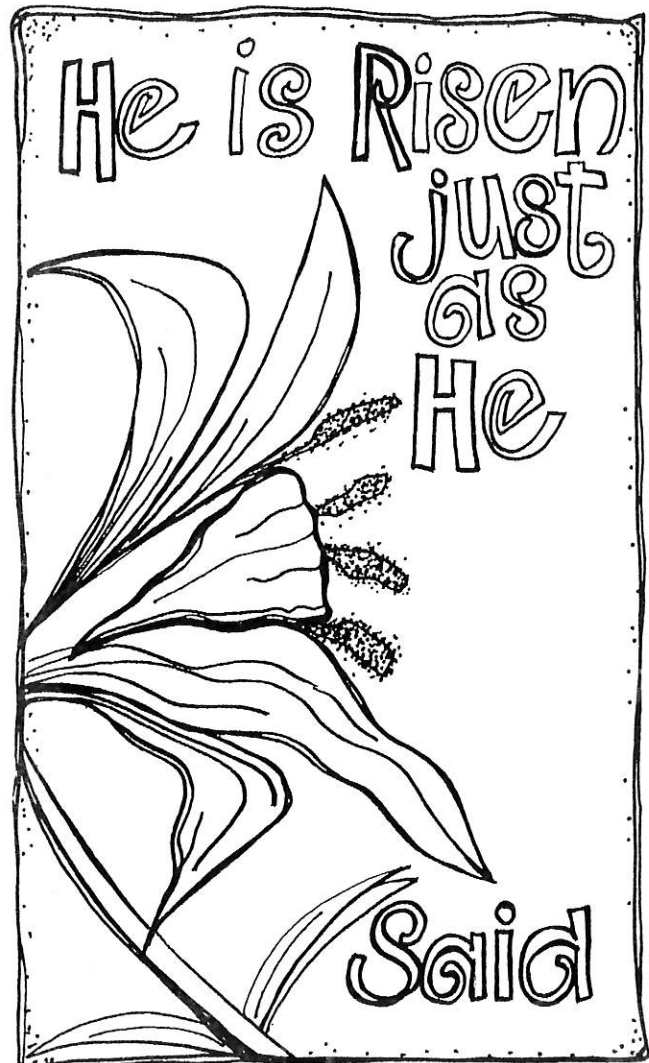
First Reading: Acts 5:29-42  
Epistle: 1 Peter 1:3-9  
Gospel: John 20:19-31  
Order of Service: Prayer and Preaching  
Hymns: 482 This Joyful Eastertide  
818 In Thee Is Gladness  
470 O Sons and Daughters of the King

### **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER** **April 18 & 19, 2026**

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41  
Epistle: 1 Peter 1:17-25  
Gospel: Luke 24:13-35  
Order of Service: Divine Service Setting Four  
Hymns: 483 With High Delight Let Us Unite  
476 Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow  
488 He Is Arisen! Glorious Word  
655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word  
919 Abide, O Dearest Jesus  
474 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** **April 25 & 26, 2026**

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47  
Epistle: 1 Peter 2:19-25  
Gospel: John 10:1-10  
Order of Service: Matins  
Hymns: 692 Praise to You and Adoration  
709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is  
685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



MATT. 28:6

# The Seven Words of Jesus from the Cross

St. John's Lutheran Church, New Minden  
Good Friday, April 3, 2026, 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.

*Worshippers come and go between each meditation*

***Door offering for Scholarships  
at Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School***

*(All details tentative:)*



## **12:00 Golgotha**

*Pastor Eric Wood, Pastor Joseph Nehring  
Kathy Unverfehrt, organ; Music: Abraham Meyer*

## **12:20 “Father, Forgive”**

*Pastor James Hennig, Pastor Eric Wood  
Kathy Unverfehrt, Organ;  
Music: Gretchen Schmitz*

## **12:40 “With Me in Paradise”**

*Pastor Timothy Scharr, Pastor James Hennig  
Judy Kleiboeker, Organ  
Music: Emmalynn Harre; TSJ Band Students*

## **1:00 “Behold, Your Son!”... “Behold, Your Mother!”**

*Pastor David Benning, Pastor Timothy Scharr; Carol Day, Organ; Music: Logan Harre*

## **1:20 “My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?”**

*Pastor Timothy Chase, Pastor David Benning; Carol Day, Organ  
Music: Men's Choir from Trinity, Hoyleton*

## **1:40 “I Thirst”**

*Vicar Nathaniel Bauman, Pr Timothy Chase; Ruth Boehne, Organ; Music: Juliette Harre*

## **2:00 “It is Finished”**

*Pastor Nate Wollenberg, Vicar Nathaniel Bauman; Ruth Boehne, Organ  
Music: Jackson Harre*

## **2:20 “Father, into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit”**

*Pastor Jonathan Jennings, Pastor Nate Wollenberg; Karen Droste, Organ  
Music: Karis, Abigail, and Josephine Meyer*

## **2:40 ‘They Laid Jesus There’**

*Pr Brett Jones, Pr Jonathan Jennings; Karen Droste, Organ; Music: Holly Gazda*

*You are cordially invited to attend  
A celebration for Immanuel Lutheran School and the  
20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
Immanuel Lutheran Alumni & Friends Association*

*April 12, 2026*

*Worship Service 10:00 A.M.*

*Rev. Monte Haun, guest preacher*

*Student Choir singing*

*Program and Meal*

*immediately following in the school gymnasium  
Classroom Open House showcasing student projects*

*Please RSVP by April 6, 2026*

*by calling 618-243-6142 or 618-322-7998.*

*A free will offering will be accepted for the meal.*