

NEWSLETTER

# THE PRESENCE



April

The word "April" is rendered in a large, serif font with a halftone or stippled texture. To the left of the letter 'A', there is a detailed illustration of a flowering branch with small blossoms and leaves. To the right of the letter 'l', there is a smaller, similar illustration of a flowering branch.

2026  
Our Mission Statement

*"We teach, proclaim and live Christ in all things."  
Where two or three come together in my name there am I with them. Matthew 18:20*

Immanuel Lutheran Church – 351 Wilson Street – Alpena, Michigan 49707 – Ph: 989-354-3443  
Website: [immanuelalpena.org](http://immanuelalpena.org)

April 2026

Dear Members & Friends of Immanuel:


As we transition out of a grueling winter into a most welcome springtime, the church year transitions during Holy Week from the season of Lent into the season of Easter. Walking with Jesus for that triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the week of our Lord's passion unfolds with Maundy Thursday and the institution of His Supper in the upper room. Good Friday is the most solemn day in the Christian church, remembering that it is for our sin Jesus was mocked, stripped, beaten, crucified, and died. Yet the day is called "good" because we are forever grateful that the justice of God's wrath and judgment fell on Jesus, not on us. Why? Because of our God's tender compassion and steadfast love for sinners. By God's mercy, our sins are absolved by the sacrificial death of God's Son on the cross.

Easter is not simply a one-day celebration. It's a 50-day season to immerse ourselves in the astounding truth of Christ's resurrection, rejoicing in a risen and victorious Savior who conquered sin and death for us. The first celebration of Easter is the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening, a service of light taking us from the solemnity of Good Friday to the pre-dawn joy of Easter. It features Old Testament readings of "salvation history" bearing witness to God's intervention of rescue for a world suffering under the curse of sin. Easter Day is the "Queen of Festivals" with victorious tones of triumph throughout the Easter season ... "Jesus Christ is risen today!"

There's nothing like Holy Week for a Christian. The deep, rich experience that bears the fruit of heartfelt repentance and sorrow for sin. But also, the overwhelming joy and confident peace flowing from the good news ... Jesus is alive forevermore. Holy Week is not merely the center of the church year. It is the heart, the centerpiece of the Christian's life! How can we abstain from being a participant in this impactful week, the ground of our faith?

As we continue to move through this "year of transitions" here at Immanuel, preparing to begin a new chapter with a new Senior Pastor and the completion of our school for Junior & Senior High students at the Pinecrest property, we are truly pilgrims on a journey. The pathway of change may be a little unsettling at times. As an old Gospel song says, "If We Could See Beyond Today as God Can See," I suppose trusting God would be easier. But alas, it is enough to know this risen and living Savior walks with us along life's way. He strengthens our steps by His energizing and ever-present Word and Spirit one day at a time – until we transition from this earthly journey to the surprise of resurrection life and forever gaze with wonder into the face of this crucified and resurrected Jesus!

Only then will transitions cease. We will have arrived at our final destination. Thanks to the reality of Holy Week.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Frank J. Leonard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "F".



# APRIL

## Birthdays

**April 1**

Dorothy Smith

**April 2**

Grace Idalski  
Andrew Glomski

**April 3**

Kyle Fisher

**April 4**

Eli Winter  
Kenton Parris  
Andrew Dargis

**April 5**

Bob Long  
Amber Miller  
Carol Schuetz

**April 6**

Dennis Neumann  
Benalli Gabara  
Raelyn Wilber

**April 7**

James Kindt  
Jordan Reynolds

**April 8**

Brantley Garrow

**April 9**

Lisa Erickson  
Nancy Green  
David Bauer  
Michael Grabow

**April 10**

Doug Krueger

**April 11**

Bruce Goodrich  
Macy Strong

**April 12**

Sandra Mayo

**April 13**

Fred Tippman

**April 14**

Rodney Crow  
Kyle Hanson  
Jeremiah Kowalski  
Gail Maurer  
Weston Wenzel

**April 15**

Werner Jagst

**April 16**

Joyce Brilinski  
Mary Lou Schaedig  
Samantha Rupert

**April 17**

Wayne Kowalski  
Rylann Page  
Chris Komst  
Eric Klomp

**April 18**

Alexandria Browski  
Chuck Budnick  
Sarah King  
Wade Kowalewsky  
Kasidy Medina

**April 19**

Stanley Krentz  
Terry Martin

**April 20**

Elmer Blemke

**April 21**

Connor VanWagoner  
Cassie Fairchild

**April 22**

Kristine Ball  
Martin Cirulis

**April 23**

No Birthday

**April 24**

No Birthday

**April 25**

Nancy Birmingham  
Andrew Kowalski  
Olivia Kowalewsky  
Debra Libka  
Eliza Zempel

**April 26**

Emma Dickins  
Christina Elowski  
Rory Cummins  
Roman Idalski  
Chuck Hein

**April 27**

Donna Gagnier  
Helen Hemmingson

**April 28**

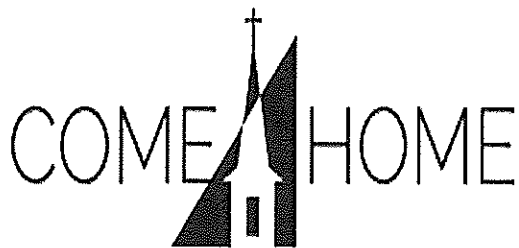
Elaine LaMarre  
Adam King  
Ivan Krentz  
Jesse Grzechowski

**April 29**

Jagger Zempel

**April 30**

Andrea Krueger  
William Stafford



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

### CHURCH CONTACTS

Phone: 989-354-3443

Fax: 989-354-0122

Secretary – Janel Muszynski Ext. 10

Secretary - Kathy Nowak Ext. 11

Email: [office@immanuelalpena.org](mailto:office@immanuelalpena.org)

#### Senior Pastor

Rev. James D. Erickson

Phone ext. 16

Email: [ericksonj@immanuelalpena.org](mailto:ericksonj@immanuelalpena.org)

#### Deacon:

James T. Wolf

Email: [wolfj@immanuelalpena.org](mailto:wolfj@immanuelalpena.org)

### SCHOOL CONTACTS

Phone: 989-354-4805

Fax: 989-358-1102

**Principal:** Rev. Joshua Schultz Ext. 23

Email: [schultzjm@immanuelalpena.org](mailto:schultzjm@immanuelalpena.org)

**Administrative Assistant –**

Kelsey MacNeill Ext. 13

Email: [school@immanuelalpena.org](mailto:school@immanuelalpena.org)

Congregation President: Bob Lang

Congregation V President:

Congregation Secretary: Maddison Wangelin

Congregation Treasurer: Kim LaBrecque

## Worship Services

Saturday at 6:30 pm

Sunday at 8:00am & 10:30am

(live on Facebook at 10:30am)

WBKB-TV 7:30am Ch: 12

10:00am Ch: 10

### Membership Changes

#### Transfers In/Out:

None

#### Deaths:

Lynn C Kieliszewski 3/11/26

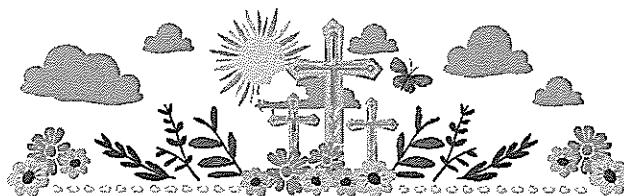
### Office News

Bulletin submission deadline

3:00pm Tuesday

Newsletter submission deadline

The 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.



### ANNIVERSARIES-CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OR MORE



*Arthur & Judith Hoch ~ 55 Yrs, April 3*

*Paul & Theresa Karsten ~ 39 Yrs, April 4*

*Fred & Debra Koenig ~ 42 Yrs, April 6*

*Douglas & Peggy Huiting ~ 47 Yrs, April 7*

*Gary & Gloria Smith ~ 62 Yrs, April 18*

*Terry & Marilyn Clute ~ 34 Yrs, April 18*

*Dave & Tina LaMarre ~ 38 Yrs, April 23*

*Gerald & Darlene Cadarette ~ 67 Yrs, April 25*

*Darby & Misty Schaedig ~ 30 Yrs, April 27*

## CHURCH SERVICES

### April 5

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Epistle: Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

### April 12

First Reading: Acts 5:29-42

Epistle: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel: John 20:19-31

### April 19

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Epistle: 1 Peter 1:17-25

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

### April 26

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Epistle: 1 Peter 2:19-25

Gospel: John 10:1-10

## BIBLE CLASS

Sunday 9:15am High School Youth/Adult Bible class Schedule

*“The Story of Undying Love:  
A Study of the book of Hosea”*

**April 5...** No Bible Study—Easter Sunday

**April 12...** J. Wolf – 14:1-9

*“The Death of Death”*

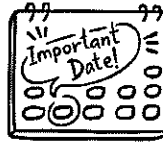
*“No Other Gospel: A Study of Paul’s  
Letter to the Galatians”*

**April 19...** J. Schultz – 1:1-10

*“Salutation & The Crisis in Galatia”*

**April 26...** J. Erickson – 1:11-24

*“The Apostolic Vocation”*



**See weekly bulletin  
Or inquire at church office  
for details** (dates subject to change)

**April 1-30<sup>th</sup>**- Flamingo Flocking

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>**- Maundy Thursday

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>**- Tre Ore Service

**April 4<sup>th</sup>**- Easter Vigil

**April 5<sup>th</sup>**- Easter Breakfast

**April 5-12<sup>th</sup>** - take Easter Lily home

**April 7<sup>th</sup>**- Parish Board meeting

**April 11<sup>th</sup>**- Men’s Prayer Breakfast

**April 13<sup>th</sup>**- Priscilla Meeting-sunrise mission

**April 14<sup>th</sup>**- Parish Planning Council Meeting

**April 17<sup>th</sup>**- **Deadline** to sign up for desserts  
(Pastor retirement party)

**April 18<sup>th</sup>**- Gala for Options Pregnancy Center

**April 20<sup>th</sup>**- Summer Adult Inquirer Class Begins

**April 28<sup>th</sup>**- Voters meeting

**April 30<sup>th</sup>**- Deadline- Drop off desserts at church

**April 30<sup>th</sup>**- Thrivent deadline-Choice dollars

**May 1<sup>st</sup>**- Pastor Erickson Retirement Party-Aplex

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>**- LWML Sonshine Zone Spring  
Rally/Prayer Service @Immanuel Lutheran Moltke

**May 2-3<sup>rd</sup>**- **Open House new campus**

**May 8<sup>th</sup>**- Just for Widows lunch (JJ’s restaurant)

**May 12<sup>th</sup>**- Muffins with Mom

**May 17<sup>th</sup>**- Confirmation

**June 1<sup>st</sup>**- Orphan Grain train clothing donation

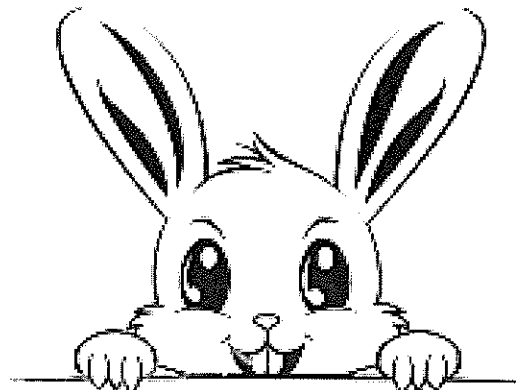
**June 8<sup>th</sup>**- Annual Fun Fair Event

**June 26-28<sup>th</sup>**- 41<sup>st</sup> LWML MI District Convention

**June 28<sup>th</sup>**-July 2<sup>nd</sup> - VBS

**July 1<sup>st</sup>**- **Deadline** donation/sponsorship ILS Gala

**September 25<sup>th</sup>**- Gala Fundraiser at Aplex



# We're Looking For Help

- Mercy and Care Committee  
Volunteers Contact: Anne Lewandowski 989 590-7174 or Karen Nowicki-Compeau 989 657-4149
- Immanuel Lutheran Social Ministry is looking for board members Contact: Dawn McDonald 989-354-8541
- Immanuel Lutheran School kitchen volunteers contact School 989-354-4805
- Weekly Altar Flower offerings has many spots open see signup sheet on Kiosk or contact Kathy Nowak at 989-657-9646. If you would like to purchase flowers.
- Looking for Altar Guild helpers to set up communion. Contact Tina at 989-595-3119

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## LWML Sonshine Spring Rally & Prayer Service

**Date: May 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Time: 10:00 AM**



Join us at **Immanuel Lutheran Church in Moltke** for a joyful morning of fellowship and prayer! No preregistration is needed- simply come and be part of this uplifting gathering. All women are warmly welcome- we would love to see you there!

See weekly bulletin/google calendar or inquire at church office for details

### MONDAY:

- ❖ 7-8am Early Bird Bible Study  
Adult Ed. Room
- ❖ 9:30am Social Ministry Meeting  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month)
- ❖ 5:00pm Sunday School Teacher training  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month)
- ❖ 5-6pm Grief Share in Library
- ❖ 6-7:10pm Adult Inquirer's Class in Adult Ed.
- ❖ 6pm Women's Bible Study in Youth Room  
(Check google calendar for changes)

### TUESDAY:

- ❖ 8:30am Quilters Guild meets  
In fellowship room
- ❖ 6:00pm Parish Boards Meeting  
(1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month)
- ❖ 6:00pm Parish Planning Council  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month)
- ❖ 6:00pm Voters Meetings  
(Jan 27<sup>th</sup>, April 28<sup>th</sup>, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>, Dec 1<sup>st</sup>)

### WEDNESDAY:

- ❖ 8am Chapel in Sanctuary
- ❖ 6:30-7:30pm Conf. Class in Adult Ed./Youth Rm  
(5:30PM During Lenten & Advent Services)

### THURSDAY:

- ❖ 8:30am Quilters
- ❖ 11:00am Prayer Circle – Library
- ❖ 2:00pm Afternoon Bible Study-  
Adult Education Room
- ❖ 6:00pm Jr./Sr. High Youth Group in  
Youth room
- ❖ 6:00pm Adult Choir – Sanctuary
- ❖ 6-6:30pm Close the Back Door in Adult Ed.
- ❖ 7pm Al-Anon in Adult Ed.

### SATURDAY:

- ❖ 7:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Sat of month No July/No August)

### SUNDAY:

- ❖ 9:15am Youth Sunday School/Adult Bible  
Study in Fellowship Room
- ❖ 11:30am Bell Choir Practice  
(following 10:30am Service)



## A Mercy & Care Committee

Your generosity continued to assist those in need in February. Immanuel Lutheran was able to supply propane for heat to a family living in their camper this winter. God bless your continued generosity. If anyone is interested in assisting with the Social Ministry committee, please reach out to Dawn McDonald at 989-354-8541.

Is a Ministry that has been formed within our church family dedicated to offering compassionate care and support for members of our congregation.

Our ministry seeks to provide Christ's love with compassionate care through meaningful acts of kindness.

If you or someone you know from our congregation could utilize these services, whether it's helping with small chores, transportation needs, meals, or simply a visit from one of our volunteers, please reach out to Karen Nowicki-Compeau (989)657-4149 or Anne Lewandowski (989) 590-7174 to utilize our services.

"Therefore, be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful." Luke 6:36



Prayer Circle continues every Thursday morning at 11:00am in the Church Library.

We start with scripture followed by 30 minutes of prayer. Bring any prayer concerns that you have or just come and pray with us. We would love to pray for you or someone you care for. Please feel free to fill out a prayer request card and place it in the container marked "Prayer Requests" located in our parish welcome center.

### New from the Immanuel Evangelism Team.

"Timeless Wisdom"- is a framed Scripture reflection, perfect for gifting or displaying in your home. A minimum donation of \$10 per piece is requested, with all proceeds supporting our School Expansion Fund. Available in the Church office. Thank you for investing in the future of our Students!

### WOMEN'S MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY



#### SCHEDULE:

March 23 @ 6pm

No Class:

March 30<sup>th</sup> and April 6<sup>th</sup>



### "Just for Widows" Notice

The "Just for Widows" group will not meet in April.



Join us every Monday at 5PM in the library for GriefShare Support group. This group is a safe, welcoming

space for anyone experiencing the loss of a loved one. Together, we'll find comfort, and support through this season of grief.

Everyone is welcome. You don't have to go through grief alone.



Immanuel Lutheran School is looking forward to our annual Fun Fair event this **June 8th** to celebrate our students' hard work throughout the school year. We currently are in **need of volunteers** to help run carnival

games (lunch will be provided for those that stay for the full day).

Sign up here:

[https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/10C084](https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/10C0844ACA62DA1F5C61-58347107-funfair)

[4ACA62DA1F5C61-58347107-funfair](https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/10C0844ACA62DA1F5C61-58347107-funfair)

OR call Lauren at 989-255-7949 if you can help!

## New Paschal Candle

Every two years Immanuel purchases a new paschal candle for the church. The new candle will be lit at the Saturday night Easter Vigil service (April 4, 2026) and used throughout the Easter season to indicate that Christ, the Light of the world, is risen from the dead. It is also used for funerals and baptisms as a reminder that the life of the Christian only has meaning in view of the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

The following individuals have generously donated to the cost of the candle:

Bob & Jean Ghidoni –  
In honor of their 63rd wedding anniversary

Tom & Dianne Gerszewski –  
In memory of son **Ryan**

Elaine Lamarre –  
In honor of Pastor James D. Erickson

Jennifer Matuszak –  
To the glory of God

Terry & Marilyn Clute –  
In honor of Pastor James D. Erickson

Pattie Peppel –  
In memory of husband **Bill Peppel**

Pam Tippman –  
In memory of grandparents **Arnold & Elizabeth Schaedig** and **Leslie & Lenore Tippman**

Tom & Shelley Tuuri –  
In memory of **baby Myers**

Jim Boboltz –  
In memory of wife **Laurie Boboltz**

Anonymous Donor

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## Retirement gift for Pastor Erickson

As Pastor Erickson looks forward to traveling with Lisa and family in retirement, we'd love to bless them with a gift to support those special adventures.

**If you'd like to contribute, you can:**

- Drop off your gift at the Church office
- Place it in the gift box at the retirement party on May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Aplex

Let's celebrate his faithful years of service and help make this next chapter full of joyful memories!

**“FOR US”** ... That is the title of this year's Lenten Midweek series continuing this week on Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the 6:30 p.m. communion service and at the Good Friday Tenebrae service, 6:30p.m. A breakdown of the remaining messages is as follows:

**Maundy Thursday, April 2 (6:30pm)...**  
*“For Many Means for You”*

**Good Friday, April 3 (6:30pm)...**  
*“His Dying Breath”*

**Saturday, Easter Vigil, April 4 (6:30pm) ...**  
*“For Us He Rose from Death Again”*

**Easter Sunday, April 5 (8am & 10:30am) ...**  
*“For Us He Lives on High to Reign”*

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## Start stocking up for the Clothing Drive that starts in June.

(Please don't bring items to church until June.)



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**LWML Priscilla Group**  
**Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**1:00PM**



The LWML Priscilla group will be collecting supplies for the Sunrise Mission in Alpena. All donations are due by the time of the meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Items needed :**

- Coffee & powder creamer
- Paper & Cleaning supplies
- Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Dish or liquid hand soap
- Powdered laundry detergent
- Plastic totes

All Immanuel Lutheran women are invited to attend. Come join us as we support the Sunrise Mission group in Alpena!

**Options Pregnancy Center is hosting our  
Vision Gala on Saturday, April 18, at the Apex!**



The evening begins with a reception at 5:45, followed by a complimentary dinner at 6:15. Our speaker is Michigan gubernatorial candidate, Ralph Rebandt, who is pro-life

and committed to restoring family values. Please come and see what the Lord is doing through Options in our region, and how you can partner with us.

**For more information and a formal invitation, please contact Karen Budnick at 989 255-3869.**

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**Capital Campaign- Pledge cards  
coming soon!**

You should be receiving a pledge card in the mail for the Capital Campaign supporting the new Immanuel Lutheran School expansion.

This pledge helps support the growth of our school over the next two years. Your commitment is important-it allows us to plan and include this support in our budgeting.

**Campaign Progress:**

**\$150,105.00** of our \$450,000.00 goal has already been reached- thank you for your generous support!

**Exciting Opportunity:**

**Double your Impact!**

All funds received on or before **June 30<sup>th</sup>** (not just pledged, but given) will qualify for the matching campaign- **doubling the value** of your gift.

Please return your pledge card to the church office by mail or by dropping off.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the church office at 989-354-4334.

Together, as a community, we can accomplish something truly meaningful. Thank you for being part of this exciting journey!



**Reminder:** Easter Lily can be taken home after the 10:30am service on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Plants that are remaining after April 12<sup>th</sup> will be delivered to the homebound members. If you are interested in helping with delivery there is a sign-up sheet in Narthex on the table.

**thrivent**® Reminder **April 30<sup>th</sup>**  
deadline to direct any  
remaining choice dollars before they expire.

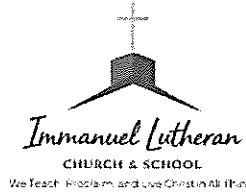
1. Go to

<https://www.thrivent.com/aboutus/membership/thrivent-choice>  
scroll down and click on "Direct Choice Dollars," and log into your account.

2. Call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt

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**Now Hiring: Middle/High School Science  
Teacher**



Immanuel Lutheran School is seeking a qualified and passionate middle/high school science teacher to join our Christ-centered

educational team. Candidates should have a strong background in science instruction and a desire to support students academically and spiritually.

Resumes and requests for an application may be sent to [schultzjm@immanuelalpena.org](mailto:schultzjm@immanuelalpena.org) or the school office.

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**GOOD FRIDAY TRE ORE SERVICE ...** will be held in our sanctuary this Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m. in ½ hour segments. Join us for a look at Matthew's passion story entitled "*Promises Fulfilled.*"



**Desserts needed  
for Pastor  
Erickson's  
Retirement Dinner  
May 1<sup>st</sup>**

If you would like to make or purchase a dessert for the retirement dinner, please sign up on the sheet located on the table in the Narthex.

**Deadline to sign up: April 17<sup>th</sup>**

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 989-354-4334.

Thank you for helping make this celebration special!



# Immanuel Lutheran School Fall Fundraiser Gala

On behalf of the Immanuel Lutheran School PTLS our gala committee is seeking help for auction items at our Fall Fundraiser Gala scheduled at the Aplex on September 25, 2026. We are seeking donations for our live and silent auctions as well as sponsorship options. No item is too big or too small. Funds from the gala will go towards important updates to our Wilson street school building (paint, flooring, lighting) and help us secure transportation for field trips and school activities (our dream goal is to purchase our own school bus). Below is the following sponsorship levels:

### **PLATINUM SPONSOR \$1000+**

- Opportunity to provide a branded item or special message to attendees
  - Social Media Recognition
  - Premier full page advertisement in program booklet
    - 8 Tickets to Gala
  - Reserved VIP seating with sponsor name for 8 guests

### **GOLD SPONSOR \$750**

- Reserved seating for 6 guests
- Quarter page logo or name displayed in program booklet
  - Social Media Recognition
  - 6 Tickets to Gala

### **BRONZE SPONSOR \$250**

- Name listed in program booklet
- Social Media Recognition

### **SILVER SPONSOR \$500**

- Logo or name displayed in program booklet
- Reserved seating for 4 guests
- Social Media Recognition
- 4 Tickets to Gala

### **FRIEND OF PTLS \$100**

- Social Media Recognition

We would greatly appreciate any donations and/or sponsorships you or your business can make. If you have any questions or need further information, you can email

**immanuelschoolgala@gmail.com.**

On behalf of the students, parents, and faculty of Immanuel Lutheran School, thank you for your consideration.

Immanuel Lutheran School PTLS Committee

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### **I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL!**

Items must be received by July 1st to be included in the gala program booklet.

Check One or More Options Below:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> PLATINUM SPONSOR- \$1000 | <input type="radio"/> Friend of PTLS -\$100                                |
| <input type="radio"/> Gold SPONSOR- \$750      | <input type="radio"/> Please accept my personal donation of \$_____        |
| <input type="radio"/> Silver SPONSOR- \$500    | <input type="radio"/> Please accept my business donation of \$_____        |
| <input type="radio"/> Bronze SPONSOR \$250     | <input type="radio"/> AUCTION ITEM/non-Cash Donation:<br>VALUED AT \$_____ |



Mail this form to: Immanuel Lutheran School, PTLS 355 Wilson St., Alpena, MI 49707

Please make checks payable to: Immanuel Lutheran School PTLS

Please provide name as you wish it to appear in Immanuel Lutheran Materials below (or if you wish to remain anonymous):

# April School News

*"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!" Psalm 98:4*

The end of March and beginning of April brings the highlight of the Christian life: the celebration of our Lord's resurrection. Throughout Lent, we have been preparing our hearts to walk with Jesus to the cross, and now we rejoice in the victory that is ours because He lives.

Holy Week stands at the center of this season. From the shouts of "Hosanna—Lord, save us!" on Palm Sunday, to the quiet intensity of the upper room, to the darkness of Good Friday, everything leads us to the empty tomb. Easter is not simply another holiday on the calendar, it is the very foundation of our faith. Christ is risen, and in Him we have forgiveness, life, and salvation.

This year, Holy Week is also Spring Break and many of our families will be traveling. I would encourage you to remain rooted in the life of the Church even while away. Set aside time for worship. Seek out a faithful congregation wherever you are. In doing so, we teach our children that gathering around God's Word and His gifts is not just something we do at school or when it is convenient, but something essential to who we are as God's people.

Here at Immanuel, we will continue to celebrate the joy of the resurrection together throughout the Easter season, giving thanks for the work of Christ that shapes everything we do in our homes and in our school.

As we move into the final quarter of the school year, this is also an important time for focus and perseverance. The weather is improving, spring sports are kicking off, and bedtimes are harder to hold to! Yet, the habits that have been built throughout the year now come to fruition. We encourage our students to finish strong academically, but also in their character, their relationships, and their faith. Parents, your continued support and encouragement at home make a tremendous difference in helping your children stay engaged and diligent in these final weeks.

May this season of Easter fill your homes with joy, your schedules with purpose, and your hearts with confidence in Christ, who has overcome the world.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen! And so will we!

## Upcoming Dates

**Monday, April 6**  
No School  
Easter Monday

**Tuesday, April 7**  
School Resumes  
Welcome Back!

**Tuesday, April 7**  
Run Club Begins

**Friday, April 10**  
School Dance  
(5th—8th Grade)

**Sunday, May 10th**  
8th Grade to Washington D.C.

**Tuesday, May 19**  
PTLS Meeting

**Friday, May 22**  
No School  
Memorial Day Weekend

**Monday, May 25**  
No School  
Memorial Day

**Tuesday, May 26**  
No Bus am or pm

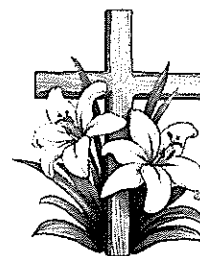
**Wednesday, May 27**  
Last Day of Preschool

**Thursday, May 28**  
Preschool Graduation

## **April Chapel Offerings to benefit: Orphan Grain Train**

### April Birthdays


4/4	Kenton Parris	4/6	Josephine Timm	4/12	Rylee Campbell
4/14	Weston Wenzel	4/18	Kasidy Medina	4/19	Samuel Hooks
4/22	Lincoln Witt	4/29	Jagger Zempel	4/30	Billy Stafford




*When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." —John 8:12*

**Sunday School (3 years – 8th grade)**  
meets every Sunday at 9am  
**Youth Group (7th grade and Up) meets**  
every Thursday at 6pm

JOIN US FOR AN  
**EASTER BREAKFAST**



WHERE: IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
WHEN: APRIL 5TH  
TIME: 8:30AM - 10:30AM



PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT OUR CURRENT 6<sup>TH</sup> AND 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS FOR THEIR 2027 TRIP TO WASHINGTON DC!

**Save the Date: Vacation Bible School**  
June 28th through July 2nd




**School Spirit Store**



Order direct through Omega Electric

Shoe donations for gym class



If you have old shoes (children sizes) willing to donate, we appreciate it!

**PTLS News and Events**

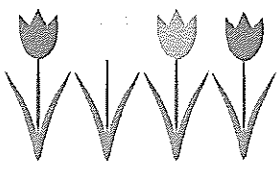
We have two upcoming activities that require the help of our community, including parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and family friends.

Fun Fair (June 8th)  
Field Day (June 9th)

If you have any questions, please reach out to a PTLS officer. Thank you for all that you do for our students and school!

**POPCORN FRIDAYS**

APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup> & 24<sup>TH</sup>  
SUPER BAG

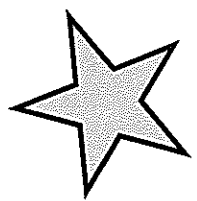


**CAFETERIA VOLUNTEER**



Bring a hat!  
YOU MUST HAVE A BACKGROUND CHECK ON FILE

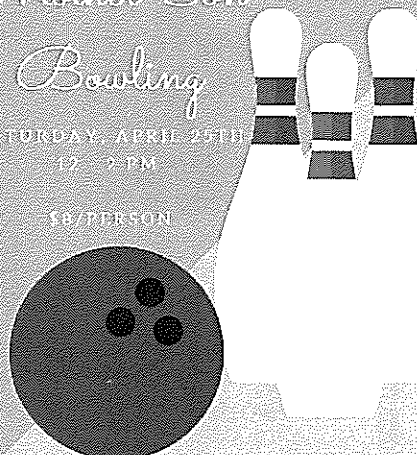
WEEKDAYS  
10:30 - 12:30pm



**School Dance (5th—8th Grades)**  
Friday, April 10th from 5:30—8:30 pm  
Cost is \$10 per ticket and includes two slices of pizza, snacks, and drinks  
Tickets sold through April 8th



*Mother Son*  
*Bowling*

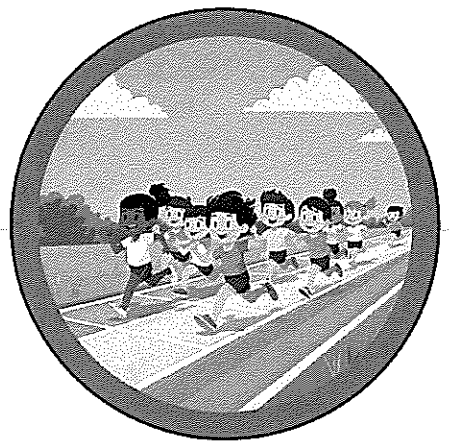


SATURDAY, APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>  
12 - 2 PM  
\$8/PERSON

**RUN CLUB**

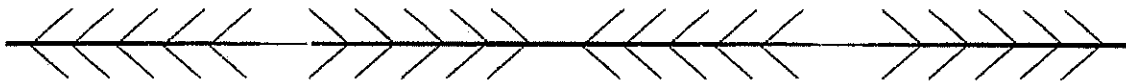
Starts Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

For Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30 - 3:15 pm



# Immanuel's Youth Group

April 2026



Our youth ministry encourages 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders in our congregation, school, and community to grow in their faith through worship, bible study, and fun activities with other Christian teens all under the care of our compassionate youth leaders.

We meet weekly on **Thursdays from 6-8PM** except when Immanuel Lutheran School is closed (ex: holiday or snow days).

## STAY IN TOUCH

We send communications via Facebook, Slack, and Snapchat. Find us so we can keep you informed on the fun activities ahead!



For questions, feel free to contact our youth director (Lauren Larsen) at 989-255-7949.

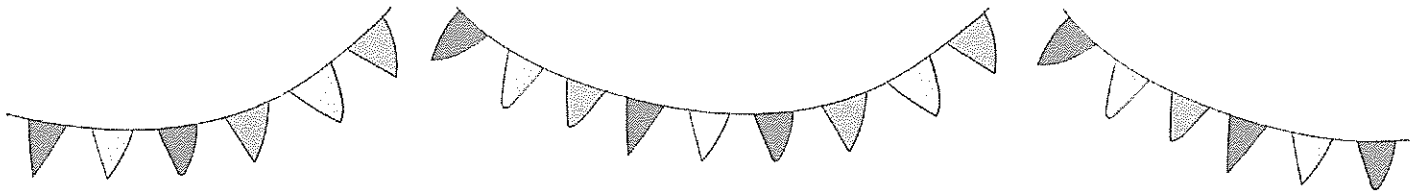
## UPCOMING

### Weekly Meetings:

- 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, and 4/30

### Monthly Events:

- **4/2 is Maunday Thursday.** We will plan to attend church service instead of meeting this week.
- **Flamingo Flocking Fundraiser:** This month, you can surprise a friend with a yard full of fun flamingos all while supporting our youth ministry! Flockings are \$30 or buy flocking insurance for \$40. Order forms and more info are out in the Narthex. Funds raised help offset the cost of upcoming youth trips and events for our students.



Immanuel's Youth Group is holding a

# Flamingo Flocking Fundraiser!

All April long, our stealthy squad of pink flamingos will be swooping into yards across town. Want to prank a friend? Put a smile on a family member's face? Send a fun and cheerful flock their way! Do you prefer to avoid waking up to a bunch of beady-eyed birds staring at you from your lawn? Better grab some flocking insurance before it's too late! It's harmless mischief for a great cause!

Funds raised will directly help our youth group students by offsetting costs of upcoming trips and events. We're also beginning to prepare for the next National Youth Gathering, with an informational meeting planned for this fall - every little bit helps us prepare.

Flocks are \$30 and Insurance is \$40. Cash or Check can be made to Immanuel Youth Group and submitted to the church office. We will deploy the flamingos in the order these forms are received.

NAME OF PERSON TO BE FLOCKED (FLOCKEE): \_\_\_\_\_

FLOCKEE'S PHYSICAL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Flamingos are not allowed to flock on public property or apartment complexes.*

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU WANT THEM TO KNOW WHO ORDERED THE FLOCKING?: YES OR NO

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

INSURANCE PROTECTS YOUR YARD FROM A FLAMINGO FLOCKING. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE INSURANCE, PLEASE FILL OUT THE SECTION BELOW:

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR PHYSICAL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT AMOUNT IS \$30.00 PER FLAMINGO FLOCKING OR \$40.00 FOR INSURANCE PROTECTION. PAYMENT MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE CHURCH OFFICE. PAYMENT VIA (CIRCLE ONE): **CASH OR CHECK?**

*\*Checks may be made payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church Youth Group.*

# Thank you for supporting Immanuel Lutheran Church Youth Group!

APRIL

Immanuel Lutheran Church - Usher/Service Schedule

Wk	Date / Service	Lay Minister	Head Usher	Ushers	Acolytes																														
	Maundy Thursday - April 2	6:30 pm JIM GRULKE			6:30pm - Micah Schultz, Luke Erickson																														
	Good Friday Tre Ore - April 3	12-3 pm T. KRIST, M. STEVENS																																	
	Good Friday Tre Ore - April 3	6:30 pm MATT STEVENS																																	
	Easter Vigil April 4 & 5	RICK YERKS		Wayne Kowalski, Jerry Plohocky, Evan Kowalski, Nick Thibault	Kasidy Medina, Jazmin Koinowski																														
	8:00 am	BRIAN GLENNIE	ART PAHLKOTTER	Tom Ludwig, Tom Kindt, Clayton VanWagoner	_____																														
	10:30 am	MATT STEVENS	KURT KRAJNIAK	Robert Lewandowski, Marty Sommerfeld Brandon Neumann	Alayna Gosselin, Claire Schultz																														
	6:30 pm	DALE PARRIS	_____	David Bauer, Dale Burt, Evan Repke Stanley Krentz, Fred Sterns	Owen Miller, Kenton Parris																														
	8:00 am	JERRY NEUMANN	_____	Merton Gabara, Dave Dickins, Tom Gerszewski	Tucker Chrzan, Mason Chrzan																														
	10:30 am	_____	PAUL KARSTEN	Darwin Grabow, Tom Grubaugh, Jim Compeau Karl Larsen,	Skylar Torsch, Jackson Schaedig																														
	6:30 pm	RICK YERKS	TERRY CLUTE	Don Frank, Nolan Parris Will Weber, Nathan Parris	Jacob Birmingham, Rory Cummins																														
	8:00 am	DALE PARRIS	DALE PARRIS	Art Hoch, Doug Huiting, Jim Kindt, John Male	Mason Chrzan, Tucker Chrzan																														
	10:30 am	MARK PULS	_____	Jerry Neumann, Matt Stevens, Adam Szydlowski, Tom Thornton	Meri Stevens, Taylor Thornton																														
	6:30 pm	JIM VANWAGNEN	_____	Ken Krentz, Dave LaMarre, Dale Krentz, Rick Yerks	Kenton Parris, Micah Schultz																														
	8:00 am	TOM KRIST	_____	Jon Kindt, Adam Hardies, Justin Karsten	Meri Stevens, Lauren Gohl																														
	10:30 am	JIM GRULKE	BRIAN GLENNIE	Gary Gerke, Mason Donajkowski, Craig Vining, Steve Donajkowski	Wyatt Sitton, Spencer Nunneley																														
<p><b>Greeter &amp; Welcome Center</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Wk</th> <th>April</th> <th>6:30 pm</th> <th>8:00 am</th> <th>10:30 am</th> <th>Finance: Anne Lewandowski</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>4 &amp; 5</td> <td>Janet Winfield</td> <td>Bob &amp; Barb Raniszewski</td> <td>Anne Lewandowski, Bey Hiske</td> <td><b>Altar Guild:</b> Kristine &amp; Tom Ball, Bobbi Cornell</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>11 &amp; 12</td> <td>Barb Weismantel</td> <td>Dianne Gerszewski</td> <td>Elaine Pearcey, Carol Schuetz</td> <td><b>Flower Committee:</b> Michelle Kowalewski 356-6621 Elaine LaMarre 595-2260</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>18 &amp; 19</td> <td>Don &amp; Marilyn Frank</td> <td>Sandy Mayo</td> <td>Darlene Sommerfeld, Carol Boyd</td> <td><b>Bulletin Folders:</b> Pattie Peppel, Nancy Birmingham, Barb Raniszewski, Pam Cramer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>25 &amp; 26</td> <td>Adeline Krentz</td> <td>Mary Lou Schaedig</td> <td>Karen Citulis, Anita Tanner</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						Wk	April	6:30 pm	8:00 am	10:30 am	Finance: Anne Lewandowski	1	4 & 5	Janet Winfield	Bob & Barb Raniszewski	Anne Lewandowski, Bey Hiske	<b>Altar Guild:</b> Kristine & Tom Ball, Bobbi Cornell	2	11 & 12	Barb Weismantel	Dianne Gerszewski	Elaine Pearcey, Carol Schuetz	<b>Flower Committee:</b> Michelle Kowalewski 356-6621 Elaine LaMarre 595-2260	3	18 & 19	Don & Marilyn Frank	Sandy Mayo	Darlene Sommerfeld, Carol Boyd	<b>Bulletin Folders:</b> Pattie Peppel, Nancy Birmingham, Barb Raniszewski, Pam Cramer	4	25 & 26	Adeline Krentz	Mary Lou Schaedig	Karen Citulis, Anita Tanner	
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