



Immanuel's Story

April 2025

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*“Jesus,
remember
me when
you come
into your
kingdom.”*

LUKE 23:42

Holy Week at Immanuel

Palm Sunday ~ April 13, 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday ~ April 17, 6:45 p.m.

Good Friday ~ April 18, 6:45 p.m.

Easter Sunday ~ April 20, 8:00 a.m. & 10 a.m.

Pastor's Perspective

Sometimes one little word can make all the difference.

There's a three-letter word in Mark's Gospel which peppers the story of Jesus' resurrection. The word is: **"but."** (See Mark 16:1-8)

The women are frightened, **but** the angel messenger calms their fears. They have come to find the body of Jesus, **but** they hear instead the news that he is risen. They are awestruck, filled with terror and amazement, yet they are told, **"But go, tell..."**



Yes, one little word can change everything.

It seems that the story had come to an end. Jesus died a cruel death on the cross. It was finished. The women came to the tomb to do the last act of devotion – to anoint the lifeless body of Jesus for burial. They feel powerless, unable to stop death, unable to move the large stone entombing their Lord.

But... (there it is again!) **But** the stone is rolled away. **But** Jesus is not there. **But** Christ is risen!

Pain and difficulties can weigh us down like a cold stone that cannot be moved. Death and sorrow can cover us as a shroud. Guilt and anxiety, fear of the future, or frustration over the past can entomb us, with seemingly no light at the end of the tunnel.

But God pulls off the greatest reversal of all in the resurrection of Jesus. The last word spoken is not death, **but** life; not sorrow, **but** joy; not guilt, **but** forgiveness. God breaks down the locked doors of whatever that shuts us in, and God promises wonderful surprises through that one little word.

But there is something more.

This wonderful news is not just for us to keep for ourselves. The words that are spoken to us are **"But go, tell..."** Tell others the amazing news of the risen and living Jesus. Tell others that death is not the final word, **but** eternal life is available for all who believe. Tell others that God is not confined to a time and place, **but** Jesus goes before us and is with us wherever we find ourselves to be. **No buts about it!**

Blessed Holy Week to you and yours!

Pastor Paul



Birthdays

- 1 Marv Hayes
- 2 John Houck
- 4 Iris Christenson, Michael Jola
Molly VanHorn
- 7 Jim Bloedel
- 8 Ron Mogen, Audrey Wittnebel
- 9 Rick Koop
- 10 Jack Schubert
- 11 Steve Heins
- 12 Carter DeCent
- 13 Skyler Faulkner
- 14 Mary Nagorski
- 15 Lucy Christenson, Tucker Pederson,
Barb Rhodes, Nick Zillmer
- 18 Cindy Albrecht
- 19 Judy Christenson
- 20 Steve Freese, Eric Nelson
- 22 Trey Jacobs, Jon Wittnebel
- 23 Denny Davis, Audrey Jacobson
Kevin Reinhart
- 24 Mike Patrick
- 25 Garry Nelson, Sandy Twigg
- 26 Wendy Flannigan, Mick Lindert,
Bruce Oliphant
- 27 Michelle Hage, Marek Koop, Connie
Rinde
- 28 Pam Klopfleisch
- 29 Mary Peterson, Linda Peterson,
Noah Reinhart
- 30 Wendy Chirhart, Judy McKanna

Anniversaries

- 6 Ken & Sandy Johnson (1968)
- 8 Don & Judi Hendrickson (1995)
- 10 Randy & Amy Stanfield (1990)
- 13 Paul & Jill Mattson (1985)
- 18 Steve & Erica Perpich (2009)
- 20 Hal & Judy Kirchoff (1968)
- 24 Lindsey & Angela Knoll (2022)
- 25 Brian & Kim Marquart (1992)
- 27 Steve & Laura Heins (2001)
- 28 Don & Sue Rasmussen (1973)
- 29 Jason & Paula Kovatovich (2006)

Funerals

Donald Kehl

Tommy "Tom" Bliss



ATTENDANCE

March 2	127
March 9	128
March 16	116
March 23	96

Jill DeCent, Family Ministry Coordinator

Spring is in the air!

In Children's Ministry...

Sunday School is held each Sunday through May 18th, and releases from the service immediately after communion. This allows families to worship together and gives parents time to stay and fellowship after service. Children ages 4-12 are invited to Sunday School! We continue to learn with the congregation through the "Believe" series.

Attention all 5th Graders! It's that time of the year where we help prepare you for your first communion! Please reach out to the church office, or Jill DeCent to express interest. Preparation sessions will be had prior to first communion, which is taken on Maundy Thursday during service.

In Confirmation/Youth...

Students are engaging in Wednesday night activities through the Lent season, via Soup Suppers with mentors, helping with clean-up, then attending services and having Faith Talks with mentors following each service. This is a nice tradition, where students both grow in their faith journey, as well as connect with an adult mentor whom they continue a relationship with in the future. Regular Wednesday evening youth activities resume April 23rd. Stay tuned, as we prepare our youth for Paul and Jill to depart, as well as get ready for Summer programming!

MEAL WITH A MISSION

April 13th

10:30am – Benefitting:

Manna for Malawi Event



GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET REPORT

	<u>FEB - 25</u>	<u>FEB - 24</u>	<u>YTD 2025</u>	<u>YTD 2024</u>
BUDGET	35,848	37,553	71,696	75,106
GENERAL FUND GIVING	23,964	36,793	56,379	66,888
GENERAL FUND EXPENSE	30,825	33,043	66,295	68,627
NET INCOME	-6,861	3,750	-9,916	-1,739

Giving in February is down compared to January and in the months of February and March every year we have a lot of annual expenses we need to be able to cover. Insurance, computer and media software are just a few of these items. I encourage all of us, if we are able, to give a little more. This year we are also raising funds, so we can send Pastor Paul off with a nice Retirement Gift and Party this spring. I want to let everyone know we raised \$1,163.63 during Souper Bowl for our local Food Shelf. Together, we got this!

Your Friend in Christ,

Deb Eatros, Financial Manager

Major Capital Improvement Fund

2/28/2025

February 1, 2025 **Balance:** **\$65,287.42**

Deposits: \$712.71

Reserve: \$250.00

Withdrawals: \$0.00

February 28, 2025 **Ending Balance:** **\$66,250.13**



April 2025 Worship Service Schedule

Altar Guild for April: Pat Neros and Marsha Olson

Wednesday, April 2

Greeters: Lily Thompson & Aribelle Radinovich
Communion: Char Kinzer

Ushers: Bella Oren & Molly VanHorn
Tech Support: Tim Bongs

By
his
wounds
we are
healed.

Isaiah 53:5, NIV

Sunday, April 6 ~ Churchyard *Believe, chapter 28: Faithfulness*

Greeters: Garry & Lynda Nelson
Lector: Terri Wisniak
Offering Counters: Paula Traylor & Sandi Erickson

Ushers: Lynn & Shelly Harker
Communion Server: Paula Traylor
Tech Support: Tim Bongs & Jack Schubert

Wednesday, April 9

Greeters: Mikah Cronk & Brody Pakarinen
Communion Server: Peter Nordell

Ushers: Jayla Conner & Ethyn Meixner
Tech Support: Tim Bongs

Sunday, April 13 ~ Traditional Worship *Easter Break for Believe*

Greeters: Mark & Nicki Bjornstad
Lector: Becky Pakarinen
Offering Counters: Erinn Hoyt & Darlene McNally

Ushers: Hal & Judy Kirchoff
Communion Server: Tom Nixon
Tech Support: Terri Wisniak & Jack Schubert

Maundy Thursday, April 17 6:45

Greeters: Youth
Communion Server: Kevin Martini

Ushers: Joe & Darlene McNally Tech Support: Tim Bongs

Good Friday, April 18 6:45

Greeters: Youth
Tech Support: Tim Bongs

Ushers: Joe & Darlene McNally

Sunday, April 20 ~ Wing and a Prayer Worship *Easter Break for Believe*

8am Greeters: Gary & Sandi Erickson
8am Ushers: Carl & Jeanne Kurtz
8am Lector: Tim Bongs
8am Communion Server: Char Kinzer
Offering Counters: Deb Koop & Sue Schubert

10am Greeters: Lynette Dehning & Phyllis Collignon
10am Ushers: Jeff & Marsha Olson
10am Lector: Deb Koop
10am Communion Server: Bonnie LaPierre
Tech Support: David Pundt & Tim Bongs

Sunday, April 27 ~ Blended *Chapter 29 in Believe: Gentleness*

Greeters: Youth
Lector: Youth
Offering Counters: Pam Ballard & Marian Freese

Ushers: Youth
Communion Server: Peter Nordell
Tech Support: Tim Bongs & Jack Schubert



USHERS & GREETERS: Please arrive ½ hour prior to Worship
COMMUNION SERVERS: See Pastor Paul 10 minutes prior to worship if you have questions
FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE VOLUNTEERS: Please arrive at 8:30 a.m.
Please note: If you cannot serve when scheduled, please find a replacement. Thank you!



PRAYER MINISTRY

Jesus is Everything We Could Ever Need!

God, our Father will supply all our needs according to the riches of His glory in Jesus Christ forever and ever.

This is the promise found in Philippians 4:19-20

In Colossians 2:2-3, we are told that He wants our hearts to be encouraged and united together in love. We will have all the riches of assured understanding of God's mystery. The mystery is Jesus Christ, in whom are hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Although He is absent in Body, He is with us in Spirit and He rejoices to see the discipline and stability of our faith in Him.

Jesus declares, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in Me, even though he dies, yet shall he live". This powerful truth was believed by Martha. Jesus commanded her brother Lazarus to come out of his tomb, four days after his death and he did! John 11:25

In John 14:6, Jesus states, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me". This is what He told His disciples at the Last Supper as He reassured them about His departure and their future. Jesus presents Himself as the only Way to the Father. He is the source of all Truth. Eternal Life is the gift of Salvation only obtained through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Rejoice in the Journey with Him who Guides us
Step by Step for the Hope of Eternal Life and the Promise
of Future Resurrection for Believers.

Peace Be With You, Your Prayer Team

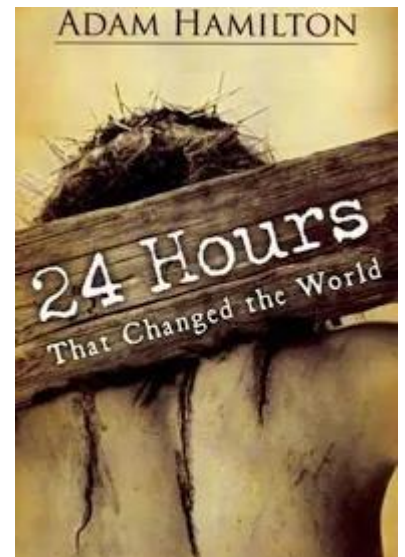
PRAYER FELLOWSHIP is scheduled for Sunday, April 6th @ 8:30 a.m. in the fireside room



On Wednesdays in Lent, we will be featuring 24 Hours That Changed the World, by Adam Hamilton.

April 2 The Torture and Humiliation of the King
April 9 The Crucifixion

Worship will be held on these dates at 6:45 p.m., preceded by the Soup Supper at 6pm. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.



We are in the midst of our congregational study, Believe. Here is the schedule through the conclusion on May 4:

March 30 chapter 27 Kindness/Goodness
April 6 chapter 28 Faithfulness
April 13—April 20, Holy Week-Easter Break
April 27 chapter 29 Gentleness
May 4 chapter 30 Humility

IN LOVING Memory

- † Given by Bruce & Mary Oliphant, in memory of Shirley Davies for Malawi Children
- † Patricia Killeen, in memory of Don Kehl, undesignated
- † Adrian & Jean Olson, in memory of Don Kehl, undesignated
- † Marian Segersten, in memory of Don Kehl, for Milestone Ministry
- † Lynn & Shelly Harker, in memory of Don Kehl, for Good Samaritan Ministry
- † Mark & Nicki Bjornstad, in memory of Don Kehl, for Malawi Education
- † Phyllis Collignon, in memory of Don Kehl, for Malawi
- † Ken & Barb Moe, in memory of Don Kehl, undesignated
- † Paul & Jill Mattson, in memory of Don Kehl, undesignated
- † Bruce & Mary Oliphant, in memory of Rick Coccie, for Malawi Children

Retirement Parties -What!?

The retirement party turned into two parties! We will invite the public to an open house on Saturday, May 17th from 1 to 3pm. We will have a sheet cake and coffee. Chefs Elizabeth and Gio will bring food. Our Paparazzi will make a slide show of pictures. (Shhh-Marian's birthday is the 16th)

Sunday, May 25th will be the last worship service by Pastor Paul. We will have a potluck after service with a root beer keg.

We will also celebrate Judi Burson's special birthday on the 25th. Let's bring our stories and memories of these two wonderful people.

Debbi, Deb, Jill D., Terri, Sue, Marian, LuAnn

Manna for Malawi

The people in this photo volunteer to feed the children at the project every day! Our Manna for Malawi event brings in money to help provide food and education. We all volunteer to make our event a success.

We have selected Gigfoot, a 4-piece band to play at our event on August 23rd here at ILC. We will have a MWAM on April 13th to help fund this event. The planning committee is meeting Thursday, April 24th at 5:15pm. There is so much to plan. If you can help, please join us at our meeting.



Immanuel Lutheran's last rummage sale was in 2018 so we should anticipate a large sale! Plans are "springing" ahead for May 1st & 2nd and we hope that many closets and drawers are being down-sized for this sale. Please note the items, on the previous page that are not accepted and PLEASE bring only useable clothing, linens and housewares.

Most clothing and other items will sell for \$1.00 except for furniture and more valuable items which will be marked separately. We will once again have the "Oval Room," located in the fireside room, to display specialty items, glassware and clothing.

Donations will be accepted beginning on Monday, April 28th at 8am. Please bring them to the south door near the custodial room and nursery. Please do NOT drop off items in the fellowship area unless you have made prior arrangements for furniture. The hours for drop off are Monday and Tuesday from 8am-5pm and on Wednesday from 8am-noon.

Our Rummage Sale has always been a wonderful community event. We will need many volunteers to make this a success. Jill DeCent will be in charge of the Bake Sale. Members of ILC are asked to contribute a baked food item, if possible, on Wednesday afternoon or by noon on Thursday. All monies from the bake sale will be given to the Youth.

Volunteers, men and women, are needed to set up the tables, metal clothing pipes and ceiling signs on Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday, items from the church pews need to be placed on the tables and hangers, and your help is needed throughout the sale to organize and straighten clothing, etc.

On Friday, 2pm-4pm there will be a brown bag sale for \$3.00. Men are also needed at 4pm at the sale's end to help with clean-up and to pack large bags of clothing for the DAV. Their organization will once again welcome these unsold clothing items and linens.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this sale. If you have questions and are able to volunteer your time, please notify us.

Judy Kirchoff
218-820-2802

Nancy Nyvold
612-804-4917



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2025
6:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

<input type="checkbox"/> Jerry Decent, Box 50	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pastor Paul Mattson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Char Kinzer, Box 104	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Nixon, Box 07
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bonnie LaPierre, Box 119	<input type="checkbox"/> Peter Nordell, Box 222
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Debbie Lindahl, Box 125	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Pundt, Box 295
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Martini, Box 213	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paula Traylor, Box 145

The meeting was called to order by President Char Kinzer at 6:29pm.

CELEBRATING THE JOYS OF IMMANUEL: Mark Carlson's preaching on Sunday and that he is a Certified Lay Preacher; the large numbers of young people attending Lenten services; the "24 Hours that Changed the World" has gotten good reviews.

DEVOTIONS: LEAD LIKE JESUS CHAPTER 8

This month: Bonnie LaPierre

Next month: Debbie Lindahl

Following devotions, we prayed personal prayers of request and thanks.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND DISCUSSION: Paula Traylor moved we accept the Financial Statement, Bonnie LaPierre seconded her motion and it was approved by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. COMMITTEE REPORTS:** David Pundt reported a recent meeting of the Manna for Malawi committee. Good progress was made. We'll meet again on April 24th at the church.
- 2. INTENTIONAL INTERIM STATUS:** Char Kinzer reported the Interim Selection committee has reduced the number of candidates down to two from a list of nine applicants. The council will meet in special session to conduct Zoom calls with them separately, look at documentation and references and entertain a motion to select one and ask them to offer a contract to Immanuel Lutheran. Time of the meeting will be determined within the near future.
- 3. REHEARSAL FEES:** Personnel Committee members Carolyn Mogen and Nancy Heise decided that accompanists would be paid \$50 for each special group rehearsal.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. OFFICE PAINTING: The offices are to be remodeled and bids were sought for painting the office walls and the main hallway. Two bids were received. Bonnie LaPierre moved we accept the lowest bid of \$4,000 from Geo's Painting, the cost to be taken from the Capitol Improvement Fund. Paula Traylor seconded her motion and it was approved by voice vote.

2. PROPERTY DISCUSSIONS: Council discussed the availability of the Don Kehl property at the east edge of the parking lot and its value. The house has been priced at \$190,000. No action was taken. Council discussed an appraisal of the parsonage completed by Harry Kahnert and Bonnie Hatfield, for information purposes only and no action was taken.

COMMUNION SCHEDULE:

2025	9:30 a.m.	(notes/special occasion)
May 4	Paula Traylor	
May 11	Tom Nixon	Mother's Day
May 18	Peter Nordell	
May 25	Kevin Martini, Char Kinzer, David Pundt, Paula Traylor	Pastor's Final Service

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm and we closed with The Lord's Prayer.



This & That...

- ❖ Due to the cost of color copies, we are limiting our use of colored copies within the newsletter.
- ❖ There is a team of staff and volunteers working on updating our website and social media presence.
- ❖ Our Souper Bowl donations totaled \$1163.63. Thanks to everyone for these donations and supporting the Cuyuna Range Food Shelf!
- ❖ NOTE from the Building & Grounds Committee: *We are in dire need of a new or gently used, good quality leaf blower and weed whip. Please call Joe McNally, 952-220-2760.*
- ❖ Also from Building and Grounds: We are currently working on a lawn care schedule for the coming months. If you have volunteered to help with this, you will be hearing from us soon.
- ❖ ILC contributed 561 pairs of socks for Bridges of Hope!!