



# April 2024 Newsletter



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### Immanuel Lutheran Church

#### Contact Information:

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 Email: ilckalamazoo@gmail.com  
 Church Secretary: Ailene Buchtrup  
 Music Director: Will Canfield

Pastor: *Currently Vacant*



*This newsletter has many contributors. If you'd like to submit an article of interest or an announcement of an upcoming event, please contact Ailene Buchtrup, Secretary, in the church office via phone or email. For those with email, an electronic copy of the newsletter will be sent to you. For those with no email or who would prefer to receive a paper copy, we will continue to mail the newsletters via U.S. Postal Services.*

*To note in pastoral absence: Several pastors and other knowledgeable contributors offer great articles of interest all throughout the year, and in particular holy seasons. Until a new pastor is found for Immanuel, we will draw upon the knowledge and interesting perspectives of those pastors to provide readers with a section called, From the Pastor's Desk. We hope you will find these articles of interest and helpful in your spiritual journey.*

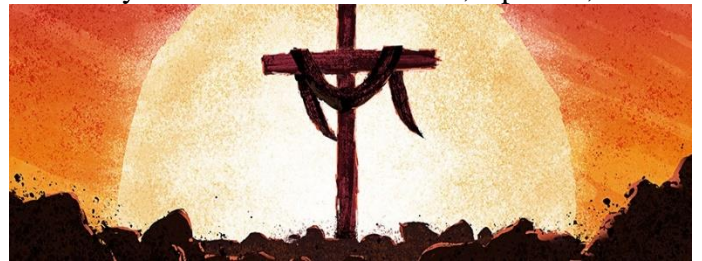


Excerpts taken from King of Grace Lutheran Church & School, Golden Valley, MN

Articles by Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad, April 16, 2022 & March 25, 2022

## The Church Season of Easter

Article by Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad, April 16, 2022



*Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

### Resurrection

On Easter Day, we celebrate the astonishing, miraculous resurrection of Jesus. The open tomb is the declaration of objective justification for the whole world—Jesus has accomplished his mission and redeemed his people from slavery to sin and the death that results.

### Holy Living

Yet the whole redemptive work, not only the one phase of the resurrection, is the object of Easter's celebration. We are not only freed from sin, but we are also filled with grace. The liturgy of Easter has some important things to say about how Christians of today must spend their lives. We are to be living witnesses of Christ's resurrection by letting the grace it has brought us shine out for all to see in the holiness of true Christian conduct.

In fact, the entire Lenten season has been intended to prepare Christians for rising with Christ at Easter from death into this new life of holiness. When the Head arose, the mystical body of believers was to be holy, ready to serve the Head in holiness. In the ancient church, Lent had been a time of intense

preparation for Baptism, by which Christians are born into a new life (Romans 6:3-5).

## New Creation

This all leads to the beginning of the new creation our Lord has promised, already today. He has promised to create a new heavens and a new earth in which his people will live in peace and joy, as in the beginning. That new creation has begun in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, “the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

## The History of the Easter Celebration

Easter is the oldest of the church’s feasts, and the source of all others. The ancient name for Easter is “Pascha,” from the Greek and Hebrew words for Passover, “for Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed” (1 Corinthians 5:7).

Easter is not a single day but a season of forty-nine days, a “week of weeks.” It is a season of joy and praise, of wonder and mystery, for the power of God has reversed the power of sin and death. The season concludes on the 50th day, the festival of Pentecost.

At first, the resurrection of Jesus was the only festival celebrated by the church, and they celebrated it *every* Sunday of the year. As the church year gradually developed, however, an annual celebration of the resurrection became the norm. But there was much debate about exactly when to celebrate annually. In the end, the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325 directed that for the Western Church, Easter would be celebrated the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox (the Eastern Orthodox churches follow a different schedule today). This keeps it in close proximity to the Passover but not in exact agreement. And it avoids the problem of celebrating Good Friday and Easter Sunday on other days of the week like happens at Christmas.

## Spring Is a Betrayal

Article by Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad, March 25, 2022

Spring is my least favorite season of the year, and I expressed that with a bit of a joke the other day when I said, “It’s because spring is a constant betrayal.” It

warms up and I have hope for better days, and then it gets cold again.

The Old English word for spring is \*lengten,\* from which the church gets its word ‘Lent’ for the Lenten season of the church year. The season of Lent also ended with a betrayal, as Jesus was handed over to the Jews and Romans to be crucified by one of his own.

But betrayal is not the end of the story! Springtime will surely turn to summer, and Good Friday certainly turned to Easter morning. If you have been recently betrayed by



someone or circumstances in life, put your trust in Jesus as the one who will surely come again and turn your mourning into gladness.



*“Our Lord has written the promise of the Resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime!”*

*Martin Luther*



**Mary & Martha Guild** meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month @ **5:30pm** in the ILC kitchen. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 4/2/2024.

*All ladies of the congregation are invited to all of our meetings and we welcome new members at any time! We enjoy planning activities and fund-raising projects for our special projects. Please come and see what's happening!*

*We'd love to have you join us!*



## KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES

### ONGOING FOOD DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

Food donations are accepted  
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday - Friday at 901 Portage Street (KLF)

*Other donation locations are listed below:*

**Family Dollar**  
(Select Locations)  
**Kalamazoo First Presbyterian Church**  
321 W South St  
**Rollerworld**  
7491 Stadium Dr., Kalamazoo



Maddy Baumgart	April 1
Amelia Quardokus	April 1
Vince Marshall	April 5
Paige Lundquist	April 8
Julie Steuer	April 8
Mercedes Cross	April 11
Esther Cleason	April 14
Craig Anderson	April 15
John Quardokus	April 22
Sonya DeVary	April 25
John Krueger	April 26
Alex Quardokus	April 26

Wishing all you April babies a very  
**Happy Birthday!!**





One mission of the month in April is... Alternatives of Kalamazoo

**The Mission of Alternatives of Kalamazoo:**

Alternatives is a non-profit, faith based, pro-life 503(c)3 located in Kalamazoo, MI. Alternatives' mission is to promote the value of human life by serving the unborn and their families through the love of Jesus Christ. Alternatives strives to provide testing, education, and material support while caring for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of women, men and families within our community.



The other mission of the month in April is... The Edison Initiative

Edison Initiatives is a non-profit L3C made up entirely of volunteers that are working to bring about transformation and empowerment of the Edison Neighborhood.

The first program's objective is to communicate love, value, and worth to individuals stuck in the cycle of renting by helping them to become first-time homeowners.

We desire to increase the number of owner-occupied single-family homes in Edison by helping more people become homeowners.

# Immanuel Diaper Drive



In Honor of **Mother's Day, May 12, 2024** and In Support of Alternatives of Kalamazoo and The Douglass Community Association

## Help for Needy Mothers

Diaper Sizes Needed: **Infant, 2,3,4,5, and Boys'/Girls' Pull-Ups**

Bring your donations to the narthex by 9:00am **May 13<sup>th</sup>**



*Any help you can give means so much to the mothers that benefit from our services. Thank-you!*



The Lutheran Hour (LHM) is broadcast every Sunday morning at 6:30 a.m. on 105.7 FM or accessible anytime on the Web at [www.lutheranhour.org](http://www.lutheranhour.org).

**APRIL SERMON SCHEDULE**

April 7: **"Raise the Flag"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Learn how the followers of Christ are raising God's flag in the world. (Acts 1:1-11)

April 14: **"Breathe In, Breathe Out"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez  
The Holy Spirit breathes life into the Church and the Church breathes that life out to the world, with the love of Christ. (Acts 2:42-47)

April 21: **"More Than He Bargained For"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Whatever we ask of Jesus is probably too small, because Jesus provides more than what we expect. (Acts 3:6)

April 28: **To be decided.**



If you prefer more modern music with the Lutheran Hour message, a special broadcast has been developed for the AFN at [www.lutheranhour.org/AFN](http://www.lutheranhour.org/AFN). You can also hear a message of hope *when you need it* by listening to your favorite LHM programs by downloading our Podcasts (audio files), free of charge, to your computer or portable devices.



**In Our Prayers:**

**Homebound Ministry:**

- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| Marian Brugh | Jan Wilson     |
| Marlys Olson | Ellen Plano    |
| Ruth Miller  | Beverly Fisher |
| John Curtiss | Vince Marshall |
| Jerome Dirst |                |

**LONG TERM CONCERNS:**

Rose Maxum, requested by Chuck and Amber Townsend	Susan & Gregory Fritz, Stephanie Beck's parents
Amy Stillwell, sister of Dave Reynolds	Charles and Carol Quandt, Christa Perri's parents
Beverly Fisher, Susan Wagner's mother	Lucille and Lawrence Fritz, requested by Jonathan Fritz
Bob Perri, brother of Phil Perri	Craig Rennhack, requested by Bob & Maryalice Reck
John Blasko, requested by Elizabeth Blasko	Mindy Mitchell, sister of Shelly Reynolds
Kyle Reinbold Family, requested by Kyle's sister, Sonya DeVary	James Leo Brown, requested by Shelly and Dave Reynolds
Karen McDougall, requested by Sue Steuer	Jim Sabo, friend of Susan Steuer
Katie VerKow, former member of Immanuel, requested by Phil Roekle	Karen Petersen, daughter of Cathy & Tom Mollet
Vicki Dille, requested by Christa & Phil Perri	Suzie Brink, Christie Sidwell's mother and Bill Brink, her brother
Joanne Cleason, Esther Cleason's daughter	Melissa, friend of Dotty Smith and daughter Laura
Marie Winberg, godmother of Bill Bennett	Hannah Bayer, 4 y.o., requested by her father
Lisa and David Wentzel, Sue Steuer's cousins	Jerry and Sandi McKenzie, friends of Dotty Smith
Ware Washam, requested by Brian Long	Sandy Hale, requested by Stephen Presdorf
Caroline Barkow	Jeri Noneman
Mark Westphal	Jason, friend of Renee Anderson
Ted Benson, Kim Sharp's friend's brother	John Hecht's mother, Kay Hecht

<b>Margaret &amp; Loren Gerber</b> , Sue Anderson's parents	<b>Cherri Mitchell</b> , friend of Ted & Rita Clarke
<b>Alice Schley</b> , Jane Schley's granddaughter	<b>Pam Hills</b> , requested by Kim Sharp
<b>Toni</b> —Jane Schley's cousin	<b>Fran Rodammer</b> , former ILC member
<b>Sharon S.</b> , requested by Dotty Smith	<b>Lori Gardner</b> , Kim Sharp's friend
<b>Ruth Krueger</b>	<b>Jason Nichols</b> , requested by Justin Beck
<b>Dennis Lacko</b> , family of Kim Sharp	<b>Sloane Evelyn Ison</b> , requested by Kim Sharp
<b>Charlie Miller</b> , Marian Brugh's brother	<b>Gene Jennings</b>
<b>Deb</b> , friend of Sue Steuer	<b>All Crossroads Students</b>
<b>Immanuel members:</b> Gail Stewart, Dolly Bryan, Cathy Mollet, Shelly Reynolds, Tina Lauer, Vince Marshall, Jerome Dirst and John Miller	



## *An Easter Prayer*

*“Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter, every day. Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice. Let us have eyes that look upon your grace and rejoice in our salvation. Help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell your good news to the world.”*



**Sunrise Service**  
at 7 am  
&

## **Easter Breakfast**

Sunday, March 31st  
8:30-9:45 AM  
Fellowship Hall

Join us for breakfast before attending worship services! See the poster in the narthex and sign up to bring something to share if you can.



**An Easter Egg Hunt for children will follow both the 7 & 10 AM services.**



## Don't miss the annual Kalamazoo Deacons Conference **Spring Treasure Sale 2024**

The sale will be held at  
**Second Christian Reformed Church,  
3015 Nichols Road**

**May 3 & 4, 2024**  
Friday (7:30am-5:00pm)  
Saturday (7:30am-2:00pm)

*All proceeds benefit the Kalamazoo Deacons Conference  
in their efforts to provide a **helping hand**  
to those in **need**.*



# Focus on Life

**2024 Annual Benefit Dinner**

**May 2, 2024**

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner & Program at 6:30 p.m.

## **Kalamazoo Right to Life 2024 Annual Benefit Dinner**

Kalamazoo First Assembly of God Church  
5550 Oakland Drive, Portage, MI

**John Bursch**, Special Guest Speaker

John Bursch is senior counsel and vice president of appellate advocacy with Alliance Defending Freedom. Bursch has argued 12 U.S. Supreme Court cases and three dozen state supreme court cases, and he has successfully litigated six matters with at least \$1 billion at stake. A recent study concluded that among all frequent Supreme Court advocates who did not work for the federal government, he had the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest success rate for persuading justices to adopt his legal position.

Bursch served as solicitor general for Michigan from 2011-2013. He also worked for a large Michigan law firm and for his own appellate boutique, representing Fortune 500 companies, foreign and domestic governments, top public officials, and industry associations in high-profile cases, primarily on appeal. He was inducted into the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers and serves as a member of the American Law Institute.

Come listen as he clearly explains various legal positions with regards to the abortion vs. right to life debate.

For more information contact Rob Karrer, (269)599-4954, [rkarrer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rkarrer@sbcglobal.net).

To obtain tickets, go to <https://kazoortl.org/>.

**\$50/person, \$25 student/disabled, \$400 table of 8**

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
 3000 West Main Street  
 Kalamazoo, MI 49006  
 (269) 345-8090

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## April 2024 Church Calendar

**April's Missions of the Month are:  
 Alternatives of Kalamazoo & The Edison Initiative**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
31 9:15am Sunday School  10am Communion Service  11:30am Children's Choir	1	2  5:30pm Mary/Martha Meeting  7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC	3	4	5	6
7 9:15am Sunday School  10am Communion Service  11:30am Children's Choir	8	9 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast  7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC	10	11	12	13
14 9:15am Sunday School  10am Communion Service  11:30am Children's Choir	15	16  7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC	17	18	19	20
21 9:15am Sunday School  10am Communion Service  11:30am Children's Choir	22	23  7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC	24	25	26	27
28 9:15am Sunday School  10am Communion Service  11:30am Children's Choir	29	30  7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC				



**Immanuel  
 Lutheran  
 Church**

**Schoolyear  
 Schedule:**

**9:15-9:45am  
 Children's Sunday  
 School**

**10: 00 am Sunday  
 Communion Service**

**11:30am Adult Class  
 11:30am Children's  
 Choir Practice**

**NOTE:  
 All services will be  
 live-streamed on:  
 Facebook and  
 YouTube**