



# March 2024 Newsletter



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### Immanuel Lutheran Church Contact Information:

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 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.*



### The History and Meaning of Our Holy Week Observances

By Reverend Dr. Richard P. Bucher

What is this thing we call Holy Week and the special days within it? What is the history of the annual celebrations that happen in this leading to Easter? In other words, though we know that the events that we remember during Holy Week really happened to Jesus (e.g., the procession into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, His death on the cross, His resurrection), when did Christians begin to annually observe them as we do? And, what is the significance of our observances today? This article attempts to offer a brief introduction.

#### Holy Week

As we now practice it, Holy Week is the last week of the 40 day season of Lent and the week preceding Easter. In Holy Week we focus on the last week of Christ's life, remembering especially His passion and resurrection. Though calling this week "Holy Week" is more of a recent innovation, the annual observance of the festivals within it are of ancient origin.

#### Palm/Passion Sunday

Palm Sunday is the commemoration of our Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem five days before His crucifixion. Scripture records this incident in Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1- 11, Luke 19:29-44, and John 12:12-19. This day takes its name from the fact that as Jesus approached Jerusalem on a donkey (in fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9), the huge crowd that followed carried palm branches as they praised Him. The people hailed Him as the long awaited "Son of David," that is, the Messiah.

Though not annually observed at first, by 600-1000 AD Palm Sunday was being given full treatment, especially by Christians aligned with Rome.<sup>1</sup> This treatment was part of a growing emphasis at the time to imitate as closely as possible the last days of Christ's life.

Palm Sunday has a dual focus today. Our service begins with a joyful procession with palms to remember our Lord's jubilant entry into Jerusalem. The hymns,

prayers, and lectionary Scripture readings also reflect this joy. A second focus on Palm Sunday is our Lord's Passion. When this second focus is observed, the entire passion story (Matthew, Mark, or Luke) is read (in place of the sermon).

Originally, however, Passion Sunday was held two weeks before Easter (since the ninth century) and it began the two week period known as "Passiontide" in which special stress was placed on Christ's suffering and crucifixion. Actually, the two week Passiontide is older than Lent, having been observed since the third century.

### **Maundy Thursday**

Maundy Thursday (also known as Holy Thursday and Green Thursday) remembers the events in the upper room the night before Jesus died. These upper room events are described in Matthew 26:20-30, Mark 14:17-26, Luke 22:14-35, and John 13 - 17. Matthew, Mark, and Luke focus on the institution of the Lord's Supper and the eating of the Passover meal. John focuses on the words of Jesus and His washing of the disciples' feet.

The name "maundy" comes from the words of Jesus, "Mandatum novum" ("a new commandment," John 13:34). From the Fourth Century on, Maundy Thursday, was viewed as the last day of the Lenten fast and also as the day of reconciliation (i.e., when those excommunicated could repent and be reconciled to the Church).<sup>3</sup>

Since it was on this night that Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, that sacred meal has often been the chief emphasis of Maundy Thursday. The Lord's Supper is celebrated and often its meaning is rehearsed. At the end of the service, the altar is stripped, in preparation for Good Friday. This symbolizes Christ's being stripped by the Roman soldiers prior to His crucifixion. Psalm 22, a Messianic psalm which clearly prophesies the Messiah's death, is read while the altar is stripped. From ancient times the Church in various places has also observed a ceremony of foot-washing, in memory of our Lord washing his disciples feet on this night (see John 13). This liturgy of foot-washing came to be called mandatum.

### **The Pascha -- Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter**

As we would expect, Christ's crucifixion and resurrection have been annually observed from the earliest times. Christ's crucifixion and resurrection are

described in detail in Matthew 27-28, Mark 15-16, Luke 23-24, and John 19-21. However, Christ's crucifixion and resurrection were not celebrated exactly as we do now. With texts such as John 1:29 and 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 in mind the first Christians celebrated Christ's crucifixion and resurrection in one festival, called the Pascha (Greek for "Passover").

The earliest evidence we possess points to the Pascha as the first of the annual Christian festivals. In fact, in the Second Century a. d. a church-wide split of staggering proportions almost occurred over the correct dating and meaning of the Pascha. The Christians in Asia Minor, citing the practice of the apostle John, bishop Polycarp and others, claimed that the Christian Pascha should be observed on the 14/15 of Nisan (the seventh day of the week), just as the Old Testament commanded (cf. Exodus 12). The rest of Christendom, including the bishop of Rome, Irenaeus, and the bishop of Jerusalem, held that the Pascha should culminate on the Sunday (since it was the day Jesus rose) after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. In the end the majority view won out.<sup>4</sup> In recent years there has been a return in some quarters to a celebration of the Pascha, one festival celebrated over three days: Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday.

What about the Easter Vigil? Already in the Third Century AD, Christians practiced a strict fast which ended after sundown on Saturday evening before Easter. After 313, the Vigil was the time for catechumens to be baptized. As such it also ushered in Christ's resurrection following Paul's linking of baptism with Christ's resurrection (cf. Romans 6:1-5). The theme of light conquering darkness is also prominent.<sup>5</sup>

Easter, the celebration of Christ's resurrection, is the queen of the Christian holy days. The word "easter" and the German "Ostern" come from common source, referring to the direction from which the sun rises. In other words, the word referred to the celebration of the spring sun, when all things returned to life. This symbolism was transferred to the resurrection of Christ who brings us new life. There is no evidence that the word "easter" was the name of an Anglo-Saxon goddess "Eostre." This is based on a passage in the writings of the Christian author, Bede, who in the eighth century erroneously ascribed the word to the goddess. To this day, no research has been able to find any mention of Eostre in Germanic mythology.<sup>6</sup>

As mentioned above, the earliest word for the annual celebration of Christ's resurrection was probably

Pascha. As to the dating of Easter, this has been fixed ever since the Council of Nicea in 325. At Nicea it was decided that Easter would occur on the Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox, which occurs between March 22 and April 25.

Easter celebrates Christ's victory over sin, death, and the devil, as well as the promise of our justification and everlasting life. The season of Easter lasts 50 days until the day of Pentecost.

Holy Week is a marvelous opportunity for Christian growth. It offers incredible potential for satisfying spiritual hunger. It does this by exposing those who attend its services to God's Word and Sacrament. In other words, we grow in Holy Week not by imitating Christ's last days. We grow as the Holy Spirit works through the Gospel and Sacrament that we hear and receive during these days. This Holy Week, taste and see that the Lord is good!

#### About the Author

Richard P. Bucher received his Doctor of Theology degree from Boston University in 2001. He served as Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Clinton, MA from 1985-2003 and at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church from 2003-2006. He served as Campus Dean and Professor at Strayer University from 2007 to 2011, and has served as an adjunct online professor since 2012. He is the author of *The Ecumenical Luther* published by Concordia Publishing House in 2003. He currently resides in Fishers, Indiana.



**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, 3/5/2024.

*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!*



**FEED THE HUNGRY**

## **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

**THERE'S ENOUGH ON THIS  
PLANET FOR EVERYONE'S  
NEEDS BUT NOT FOR  
EVERYONE'S GREED.**

— MAHATMA GANDHI



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).

### MARCH SERMON SCHEDULE

**March 3: "Included in Such Company"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
The more you listen to the life of Jesus, the more you admire Him and the more grateful you are to be included in His company. (Mark 10:43-45)

**March 10: "All Bets Are Off"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Jesus engages his opponents in a battle of wits and wins—for us. (Mark 11)

**March 17: "The Strangest Request"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Hector Hoppe  
(Genesis 22:1-14)

**March 24: "Repurposed Joy and Junk"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
(Mark 14:6)

**March 31: "TBD"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler



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.



Vivian Westphal	March 1	
Ted Clarke	March 3	
Rita Clarke	March 5	
Glen Bierens	March 10	
Adelaide Jefferies	March 15	
Ezra Mandrick	March 17	
Tom Molett	March 18	
Debra Foster	March 24	
Scott Jackson	March 24	
Christina Lauer	March 25	
Steve Brelje	March 28	
Alicia Bohren	March 31	

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





# In Our Prayers:

## Homebound Ministry:

<b>Marian Brugh</b>	<b>Jan Wilson</b>
<b>Marlys Olson</b>	<b>Ellen Plano</b>
<b>Ruth Miller</b>	<b>Beverly</b>
<b>John Curtiss</b>	<b>Vince Marshall</b>
<b>Jerome Dirst</b>	

Fisher

### LONG TERM CONCERNS:

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

<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>

**Immanuel members:** Gail Stewart, Dolly Bryan, Cathy Mollet, Shelly Reynolds, Tina Lauer, Vince Marshall, Jerome Dirst and John Miller



*Mid-week Lenten services will continue through the Lenten season (6 weeks).*

*Worship services are held on Wednesdays during Lent at 7:00 p.m.*



*Soup Suppers will precede the service and will start at 6:00p.m.*

This shared meal allows all of us to forego fixing a full supper and enjoy this time to join other members for a light supper and attend the Lenten Service afterwards.

This is a "donated" meal so we encourage you to sign up to bring food or help in some way whenever possible. (See the sign-up poster in the Narthex.)

*Sponsored by: Discipleship, Fellowship, Outreach, Property, Service and Worship Committees*



**Sunrise Service 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 and 10 AM services.**



**Easter Egg Hunt**

The mission of the month in March is...



**LCMS—**  
**Michigan District**

The Michigan District, LCMS is one of 35 districts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We exist to serve 346 churches, 4 missions, 5 high schools, 68 elementary schools, and 131 early childhood centers in the state of Michigan.

This month our Immanuel congregation will present \$3,150 to the Michigan District of the LCMS. Thank-you for your continuous and generous giving towards missions that are important to us.



Sue and Craig Anderson and family wish to thank the Immanuel congregation for the meal, kind words, sympathy cards, and your prayers during our time of bereavement over the passing of our mother. We are thankful that she is now at rest in the blessed arms of Jesus, our dear Lord and Savior.

## Worship Assistants/Serving Schedule

Date	Acolyte	Altar	Usher	Lector	Worship Assistant	Coffee Hour
Sunday 3/3/2024	Maddie Hernandez & Elijah Lawrence	Jane Schley	Phil Roekle	John Hecht	Denny Patzer & John Quardokus	Beth Mitchell
Sunday 3/10/2024	Cailyn Hecht & Norah Lawrence	Sally Crawford	John Wagner	Andrew Lustila	Phil Roekle & John Wagner	Sue & John Wagner
Sunday 3/17/2024	Linus Mandrick & Rory Beck	Patti Wills	Ron Swinehart	John Krueger	Larry Baumgart & Craig Anderson	Amber & Chuck Townsend
Palm Sunday 3/24/2024	Eliora Beck & Caviion Beck	Kim Wills	John Hecht	Mark Miller	Bill Stewart & Ron Swinehart	Rita C— Coffee Alicia B-- Snacks
Maundy Thursday 3/28/2024	NA	Amber Townsend	John Wagner	John Quardokus	John Q. & Denny Patzer	NA
Good Friday 3/29/2024	Genevieve Miller & Adelaide Jefferies	NA	John Wagner	John Quardokus	Larry Baumgart & John Wagner	NA
Easter Sunday 3/31/2024	Maddie Hernandez & Elijah Lawrence	7:00am Amber T.  10:00am Jane S.	7:00am John W.  10:00am Phil Roekle	7:00am John W.  10:00am Ninah Miller	7:00am John Q.  10:00am Mark Miller & Andrew Lustila	NA

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

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## 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**



**Please join us for worship during Holy Week 2024!**

### **Palm Sunday, March 24**

#### **10:00 a.m. Worship & Communion**

*Palm Sunday* marks the beginning of Holy Week. We rejoice with the crowds as Jesus enters into the city of Jerusalem, waving palms and shouting "Hosanna!"

### **Maundy Thursday, March 28**

#### **7:00 p.m. Worship & Communion**

*Maundy Thursday* takes its name from the Latin word for "commandment," as we remember when Jesus told his disciples, "A new commandment I give to you: Love one another." We mark the official end of Lent by receiving individual absolution, or forgiveness—the oil marking the cross on our forehead just as the ashes did on Ash Wednesday. We also remember the first Lord's Supper and the washing of the disciples' feet.

### **Good Friday, March 29**

#### **7:00 p.m. Worship**

*Good Friday* commemorates the day when our Lord gave his life to save us from our sins. It is a very humbling service, as we contemplate the cost that Jesus paid for our redemption.

### **Easter Sunday, March 31:**

#### **7:00a.m. Worship & Sunrise Service**

#### **8:30am Easter Breakfast**

#### **10:00 a.m. Worship & Communion**

*Easter Sunday* is the day of the resurrection – a joyous celebration of God's victory over sin and death. At our 7:00 am service we will hear the story of our salvation, and greet the rising sun as we celebrate the resurrection. At 10:00am we will have a service of resurrection joy.

**11:30am Easter Egg Hunt**