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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.

FROM THE PASTOR

Living in Easter

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.
1 Corinthians 15:17-19

Happy Easter! What a wonderful holiday Easter really is. It is amazing to see all the flowers, and all the bright colors of Spring. There are Easter Egg hunts, and many families scatter around seeking their Easter Baskets. It is truly a day worth celebrating!

Easter is truly the most important of the Holidays, and no it is not because of the Easter Bunny. Instead, it is because of the reason we celebrate- the resurrection of Jesus Christ. If it was not for Easter there would not be Christmas, there would not be Christianity, indeed there would be no hope. As Paul pointed out in his letter to the Corinthians- If Christ has not been raised we are most to be pitied. If there was no Easter, then there would be no hope for life after death, and no claim that our sins have been forgiven. If it was not for Easter, Jesus would have just been another man who was born, lived and died. Sure, he may have been an innocent victim of execution, but he would hardly be the first.

However, Christ has risen from the dead! He has risen just as he said he would. His resurrection has countless implications for us, but the ones I want to focus on are as follows-

1. Christ’s Word can be believed!
2. Sin and death are defeated!
3. You have been forgiven and eternal life is yours!

Now these three points are closely linked. Christ’s resurrection has proved his trustworthiness. He claimed that he would die, and three days later would rise again. If anyone else claimed this, they would be considered a lunatic. Yet Christ fulfilled his word and rose again from the dead. If he can make this word come true, then we can trust everything else he says. This includes his words of forgiveness for you.

If Christ has risen from the dead, he can be believed in everything that he says. He has said that he has forgiven you. Which is easier, to forgive sins or to rise from the dead? With Jesus' resurrection sin has lost its bite, and death has lost its sting. The condemnation of God is no more and we can have hope that we will live forever. If Christ has risen from the dead, then we can trust him when he says he has earned for us life everlasting!

That life begins today. Today we live as people of hope, people of purpose. We live as people who will not one day just decay in the ground. We live as people who will join in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and live forever. Therefore, do not let the pains and cares of this world wear you down. Instead remember Easter, and the joy that comes with the resurrection of the dead.

Pastor Grotelueschen



The Westwood Neighborhood Free Store will be holding their annual garage sale on:

**Friday, May 15th
from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm
at 915 Jenks Blvd
on Kalamazoo's west side.**

We are looking for items to sell. If you would like to donate to our sale, please bring those items to 915 Jenks Blvd. on Thursday, May 14th between 9:00 am and Noon. (No clothing will be accepted).

Contact Beth Mitchell with any questions or for more information. (269) 626-5241.



IMMANUEL PRAYER LIST

LONG TERM CONCERNS:

Rose Maxum , requested by Chuck and Amber Townsend	Susan & Gregory Fritz , Stephanie Beck's parents
Amy Stillwell , sister of Dave Reynolds	Mary Ann Massey , friend of Dotty Smith
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	Lucille and Lawrence Fritz , requested by Jonathan Fritz
Vicki Dilley , requested by Christa & Phil Perri	Bill Brink , Christie Sidwell's brother
Joanne Cleason , Esther Cleason's daughter	Melissa , friend of Dotty Smith and daughter Laura
Marie Winberg , godmother of Bill Bennett	Hannah Bayer , 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
Gene Jennings	Kay Hecht , John Hecht's mother
Deb —Friend of Sue Steuer	Beth Mitchell
Sharon S. , requested by Dotty Smith	Charlie Miller , Marian Brugh's brother
Loren Gerber , Sue Anderson's father	Jason , son-in-law of Sue & Craig Anderson
Deb , friend of Sue Steuer	Ruth Krueger
Sophie Rose Verile , Brindley's grandniece	Justin Nickels , requested by Justin Beck
Linda & Scott Spurlock , req. by Esther C.	Karen Petersen , daughter of Cathy & Tom Mollet
Mae Westphal , Westphal's granddaughter	Lynne Partridge , friend of Christa Perri
Thomas Nault , Sue Wagner's cousin	Merry Linn , Sally Crawford's sister
Otto , Pastor Quardokus' grandson	Gus Reck , Maryalice & Bob Reck's grandson
Marilyn Borgeson , Annie Hecht's grandmother	Theo Yoakam , Cheryl Schreiber's great grandson
Helen Roekle	Nicholas Jackson
Otto , Pastor Quardokus' grandson	Dotty Smith
Kim N., Emilie H., & Sydney B. , all friends of Kim Sharp; and River Lint , Kim's cousin's baby	
All Crossroads Prison Ministry students from all congregations around the country	
Immanuel members: Gail Stewart, Dolly Bryan, Shelly Reynolds, Tina Lauer, Jerome Dirst & John Miller	



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.

April 5, 2026:

"You Don't Know What You Have Till It's Gone" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Death is the enemy of life, but in Jesus, God made death become life's servant. 1 Corinthians 15:26

April 12, 2026:

"Early Adopters" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. The risen Jesus is the "display model" of what we will be, through faith in Him. 1 Corinthians 15:20

April 19, 2026:

"Not in Vain" Guest Speaker: Pastor Ryan Tinetti. Because Jesus lives, your future is certain. You can also be confident that your present life has meaning and worth. In the Lord, your labor is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

April 26, 2026

"Second Chances and First Impressions" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. God is the God of second chances, not for Himself but for others. 1 Corinthians 15:47-49



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.

Our mission of the month in April is...



At Kalamazoo YFC we are:

- * REACHING out to every young person with the life-changing love of Jesus*
- * WALKING alongside them in discipleship, and*
- * SENDING them out to do the same*



"Thank-you to Immanuel Lutheran Church for your generous April gift of \$900 to support our mission. Your dollars help us provide Christian care and services to hundreds of teens in the Kalamazoo area. Their souls are worth it!!



Please join us for
our next
**Craft Day and
Lunch (Taco Bar)**

(Everyone is welcome!)

On Saturday, April 11, 2026
10am- 3:00pm



Come create with us!!
Bring your crafting supplies with
you and we'll have lunch
together.

To reserve your spot, and to make sure we have plenty
of lunch to share, please sign up in the narthex. Let us
know you're coming and how many people will be
coming with you. If you can help provide soup for the
group, please sign up for that too.

(Feel free to invite your family, friends, and neighbors!)



**Lutheran Women in
Mission** will have the **spring
rally** April 18 at 10:00 with
lunch following, at Trinity
Lutheran 721 Pine St., Paw
Paw. Our speaker will be

Deaconess Susan Knowles the Director of
Deaconess Formation in regards to International
Deaconesses in Tanzania, Africa. The program
at Concordia Theological Seminary Ft. Wayne
has received the LWML Mission Grant #18 of
\$100,000. All women are invited to come and
hear how your Mites are hard at work!

Let all that is in me adore HIM!!

Peace in Jesus,
Renita Wollberg
BC ZP

Happy Birthday April Creations!!

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



Third Saturdays of the Month-- Adult Catechism class in the Immanuel Fellowship Hall

Two more sessions left!!!

Have you been curious about what it means to be a
Christian? Have you recently started coming to
Immanuel and have lots of questions about what we
believe? Has it been a while since you opened up your
catechism? Do you enjoy conversations about God?
Then this class might just be for you! We have only
two more topics to explore to help us live out the
Christian faith in our lives. They are:

- || **(April 17th)** The Bible and the History of God's
People
- || **(May 16th)** World Religions and Worldviews
(Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Catholicism,
Protestantism, Rationalism, Nihilism)

Diaper Drive



In Honor of **Mother's Day,**
May 10, 2026 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 11th**

Note: Between now and May 11, be sure to watch for diaper sales. Both Costco and Sam's Club regularly have low diaper prices.

The Church teaches that supporting single, needy mothers is a high expression of faith, commanding believers to defend, care for, and minister to them. Scripture positions God as a father to their children and defender of single mothers, demanding that churches provide practical, financial, and emotional support while cultivating a welcoming, non-judgmental community. God commands special care for single mothers (similar to widows/orphans) and commands believers never to judge, viewing them with compassion. Thank-you for your gifts of diapers and pull-ups for needy infants and toddlers. You give much needed relief!!

Immanuel Lutheran Gleaners Service Opportunity Date: **Monday, April 27, 2026**

We need at least 10 Immanuel members to volunteer for a morning at Gleaners! There are about six different jobs at Gleaners, but the ones requiring the most volunteers are the three listed below. Shifts begin at **8:30am**, but you will want to arrive **a few minutes ahead**. We typically wrap up around **11:00am**. This allows time for a full tour of the facility, processing the produce for the day, and completing cleanup. About halfway through the shift, we break for coffee and donuts, as well as a short devotional message. For the health and safety of all volunteers, vinyl gloves (provided) are required in **all** rooms. Hands must be washed before leaving the restroom and before handling any food products. Be sure to wear comfortable clothes that **can get a little dirty**, and **close-toed shoes** are required. Wearing a hat, hairnet or pulling back long hair is recommended. On the **signup board** in the narthex, please put your name and phone number next to the job for which you would like to volunteer.

Sign-up deadline is Tuesday, April 21st.

Trim Room: In the Trim Room volunteers cut the "bad stuff" from the produce. Knives and gloves are provided.

Traying Room: In the Traying Room, the chopped produce is carefully flattened onto dehydration trays, and trays are stacked for the dehydrator.

Packaging Room: After dehydration, the trays of produce are brought to the Packaging Room where the produce is loaded into bags, sealed, labeled, and packed into shipping boxes.

IMPORTANT: Before arriving on April 27, please visit www.kalamazoogleaners.org and click on "WATCH TRAINING VIDEOS," and click on the video for the job you have selected.
Do not sign up on the site.
We will do the sign-up for you.

We Preach Christ Crucified

May 31, 2023 / Letter From the President, Print
Feature, The Magazine / By Matthew Harrison / 2023
LCMS Convention, Convention, Matthew C. Harrison

Paul confronted numerous problems in his mission congregation in Corinth. He'd spent a year and a half with them after founding the congregation in A.D. 51. Despite all his time there, a host of challenges erupted. That's comforting, knowing that even with apostolic leadership things went awry. No surprise when we have challenges. He wrote to them barely four years later in the spring of A.D. 55.

In his letter, Paul chastises them for divisions in Corinth. They were lining up behind individuals they perceived were supporting their views.

For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? (1 Cor. 1:11-13)

These divisions were serious indeed. Some were denying even the resurrection of the dead. Paul responded with the glorious resurrection chapter. "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins" (1 Cor. 15:17). Thank God we don't have such serious problems.

Had the Apollos party come to despise those with a less eloquent or philosophical approach to the faith? Had the Cephas party insisted upon elements of the Jewish ceremonial laws as Peter had done, contrary to the Gospel? We'll never know for sure. Paul responds, "Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age?" (1 Cor. 1:20). Could these be in order, the Christ party, the Cephas party and the Apollos party?

Paul hits them all and brings it back to basics. "Since ... the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe" (1 Cor. 1:21).

Make no mistake, the message of Christ's crucifixion is complete folly to the world and has been ridiculed from the beginning. That God the Son assumed flesh, lived the perfect life no human could live, fulfilled all the righteous requirements of the law, died a substitutionary death for all sinners and all sin, was rejected and condemned by His own Father, was raised on the third day for the reconciliation and justification of all (2 Cor. 5:19; Rom. 4:25) is a scandal to faulty human reason. It offends every natural inclination of human self-righteousness. That the blessing of eternal righteousness, this justification, comes to benefit me personally only when the Spirit creates faith in this Christ and His cross is the height of absurdity and injustice to the natural, sinful human mind. "For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, 'Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame'" (Rom. 10:10-11).

Paul also writes:

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" (Rom. 10:14-15)

Paul is speaking here of ordained pastors and missionaries. But there is also a vital witness lay people perform in the course of their myriad vocations in life. Consider the woman at the well. She witnessed to her neighbors, and "many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony" (John 4:39). Our church follows the Scriptures (1 Peter 2:9) and joins Martin Luther in strongly asserting that Christ has "commanded all

Christians to confess their faith publicly and to bring others to the faith” (WA 12:521.36f).

“Christ crucified” is the content of the message we proclaim. Just read Peter’s preaching in the early chapters of Acts:

Let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead ... This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.
(Acts 4:10–12)

The crucifixion was a blood atonement that was made for the sins of the world. “The blood of Jesus [God’s] Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). It was a sacrifice “once for all,” says the writer of Hebrews. “He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption” (Heb. 9:12). Jesus calls His death a “ransom” (Mark 10:45). The New Testament often calls it a “redemption,” a purchase price, a buying back, the price of a slave’s freedom.

“The Crucified One” is a special grammatical construction. “Crucified” is in the perfect tense. It conveys that an action in the past is accomplished but the results of that action continue. Christ was crucified once, but He remains ever “the Crucified One.” Indeed, no resurrection, no Christianity. But note that after the resurrection, Christ presents Thomas His wounds and tells him to see and touch. Thomas responds: “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28; emphasis added). The Crucified One is alive.

The deed is done. “It is finished!” said Jesus before He died. Paul taught that this crucifixion, like Christ who remains the Crucified One, puts this crucified reality right into believers’ lives. In Baptism, “I am crucified with Christ.” I daily return to my baptismal crucifixion

via repentance. Like Jesus, I live daily with the cross. “We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin” (Rom. 6:6).

God answers our prayers, but He often answers them like He answered Paul: “My power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor. 12:9). Like Paul, we must learn to boast in weakness: “But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” (Gal. 6:14).

The very crosses I suffer in this life drive me to Jesus. I may look weak, but I’m Christ’s. I shall follow Him into death. Because I’m baptized, I shall follow Him into life eternal to await a blessed physical resurrection just like His. Meanwhile, I live under the cross by faith and in joy. “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Gal. 2:20). That’s divine power and divine wisdom under the cross.

We preach Christ crucified, the power and wisdom of God.

–Pastor Harrison



The Kalamazoo Deacons Conference will be holding their annual Treasure Sale on:

Friday, May 1st, from 7:30am – 5:00pm
Saturday, May 2nd, 7:30am – 2:00pm
at Second Christian Reformed Church
3015 Nichols Road, Kalamazoo

All items are ½ price on Saturday until 1pm, and then at 1pm, it’s whatever you can put in a bag for \$1.00

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
3000 West Main Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49006



April 2026 Newsletter
Volume 55, No. 4



**Immanuel
Lutheran
Church**

(269) 345-8090

**10:00 am
Sunday Communion
Service**

**11:30am Adult Bible
Study**

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

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



**Maundy Thursday, April 2nd: 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, April 3rd: 7:00 p.m.
Tenebrae Service**

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, April 5th:
7:00a.m. Worship & Sunrise Service
(Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt at 8:30am)**

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.

(Egg Hunt at 11:30am)