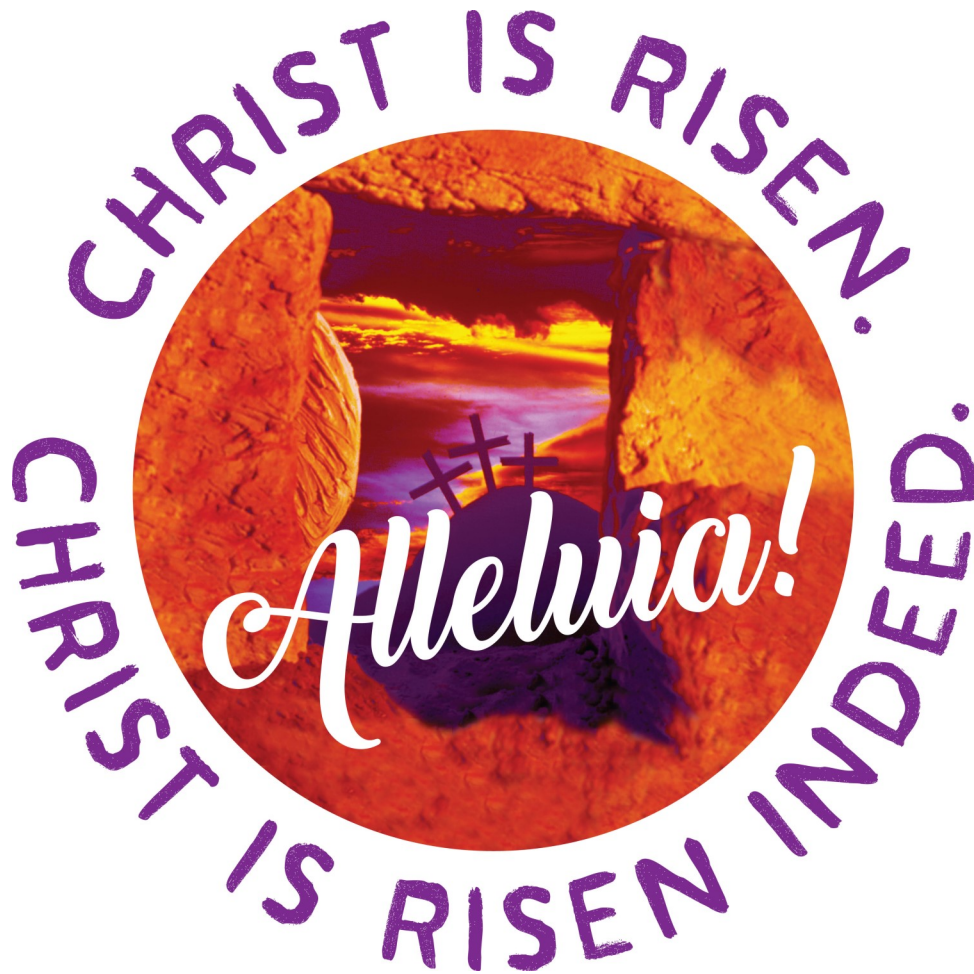




IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Image

April 2021



Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 1 - livestream service at 11 AM*

Good Friday, April 2 - virtual worship service led by the Eau Claire ELCA churches, 12 Noon*

Easter Sunday, April 4 - livestream service at 9 AM* & outdoor service at 10 AM

*Services can be viewed after the scheduled airing on our YouTube channel.

3214 Golf Road, Eau Claire, WI

715-832-7832

immanuelec.org



Joyous Easter, church!

Joy is one of the emotions that characterizes Easter. Jesus is risen! We too are given new life in this miraculous event and cornerstone of our faith. Jesus is raised from death to life. In this great mystery, Jesus allows all the grief and sorrow of our own lives to be transformed into resurrection joy. In the great company of the saints, we rejoice together!

Are you in need of a little JOY, this Easter season?

Jesus speaks to us through the gospel of John telling us to love one another as he has loved us. Jesus says, "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." (John 15:11) The joy of Jesus is given to you- given completely and fully.

How do you experience God's joy in your life most fully? What are the hidden spaces where you find joy? What surprising moments make you rejoice? How can you live more fully into joy this Easter season?

Maybe you will find joy in your garden, like Mary did when she discovered her teacher Jesus! Maybe you will find joy in a long awaited celebration or a cherished reunion. Maybe simple things that you have missed will surprise you with joy. Perhaps a walk in nature or coffee with a friend- a sunrise, sunset, or the laughter of a child could move you to joyous tears. Hearing the Easter story proclaimed and seeing your church community may elicit joy and thanksgiving. I think we are all in need of some joy right now!

Let's open our hearts to joy. It is indeed a gift from Jesus.

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it! (Psalm 118:24)

In Christ's Joy,

Pastor Jamie



worship WITH US

Maundy Thursday - April 1

We will have a [virtual, livestreamed service](#) at 11:00 AM

Good Friday - April 2

A collaborative [virtual worship](#) led by the Eau Claire ELCA churches - available starting at noon

Easter Sunday - April 4

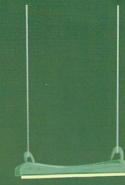
We will have a [virtual, livestreamed service](#) at 9:00 AM and a full outdoor worship service at 10:00 AM

Beginning **Sunday, April 11**, worship will be offered in three formats on Sunday mornings:

- A small in-building worship at 9:00 AM
- An outdoor service at 10:00 AM
- The continuation of the worship livestream during the 9:00 AM service

The indoor service will initially be limited to 50 people, and advance sign-up is requested. [Click here](#) to sign up online or contact the church office.

Spring Work Day at Luther Park
Saturday, April 24th
8:30am to 4:30pm



Help prepare Luther Park Bible Camp for the upcoming season!

Sign up at: lutherpark.org/spring-work-day



Luther Park is hiring counselors! First year counselors start at \$290/week plus room and board.

You can apply [online here](#) or contact [Bekah DaFoe](#) for more information.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program for Seniors

- Are you 60 or older?
- Is your gross monthly household income at or below \$1383 for **one** person or \$1868 for two people?
- Are you a resident of Chippewa or Eau Claire County?

If you answered yes to **all** of the above questions, you qualify for a free box of commodity foods each month! Each box contains: a two pound block of cheese, peanut butter, juice, pasta, protein, canned vegetables, canned fruit, shelf stable mild, dry milk and cereal.

For more information or to register contact:

Kimberly Wahler

The Salvation Army

715-834-1224, ext. 6

Kimberly.wahler@usc.salvationarmy.org

Crosses We Don't Choose¹

Then Jesus told them, "... take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24b

Dear Members and Friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

My friend Julie's mom had dementia. Julie picked up that cross and carried it as her beloved mother faded away. Paul was in second grade when he was diagnosed with diabetes. It was a cross he would carry for the rest of his life. Erica's drug addiction was a cross she and her family carried for years until she found sobriety. They were all crosses they didn't choose.

Jesus carried his cross on the road to his crucifixion. Along the way he falls, and a man named Simon of Cyrene² is forced to pick up Jesus' cross and carry it the rest of the way to Calvary. Simon was most likely a reluctant cross bearer. Most of us are reluctant cross bearers. We don't choose the pain or suffering we've been dealt, and yet we carry the load. We don't choose to carry another person's cross when they are too weak to carry it themselves, but we are at times compelled by love to do so.

This month marks the one year anniversary of the pandemic. It is a cross that we've all carried to one degree or another. For some it has been an inconvenience and for others a heavy burden of suffering and profound grief. Theologically there is no way to put a positive spin on the coronavirus or 2020. It has been a cross we didn't choose. The strain of carrying this cross is evident in our country and congregations. We are all weary of it.

On Palm/Passion Sunday and Good Friday we are drawn into the story of Jesus' arrest, trial, and death. We walk alongside him in the crowd as he carries his cross, our cross, compelled by love. We walk with a suffering Jesus straining under the weight of this cross, stumbling, falling, getting back up and finally letting go, letting another carry it. Jesus knew pain in his human body, and so Jesus knows our every weakness. Jesus himself was beaten, knew suffering and was unable to carry the weight this cross. He falls to the ground under the weight of his love for us.

As a church we invite others to walk in the way of Jesus knowing that they are carrying crosses they didn't choose for themselves. We invite others to walk in the way of Jesus because as a community of faith we shoulder the burden and carry it all together. We help another carry their cross out of love. We are Simon of Cyrene.

Maybe that is what this past year has taught us; that we need each other; we aren't alone. We've been isolated, quarantined, but not alone. We can't take our congregations for granted. We need our faith communities and the relationships with other believers because we can't carry our own crosses. We follow the way of Jesus together bearing our neighbor's crosses out of love.

It is in the cross that Jesus carried and on which he was crucified that we can know the love of God and salvation. This is Luther's Theology of the Cross. It is in the crosses that we as a community of faith carry together as we follow in the way of Jesus that we too see and know the love God.

Dear friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, I am grateful for you, that during the pandemic, we were able to walk in the way of Jesus together. May you each know the joy of Easter! Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed.

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

¹ Inspired by an article titled Crosses we don't choose in March 10, 2021 Christian Century by Debie Thomas

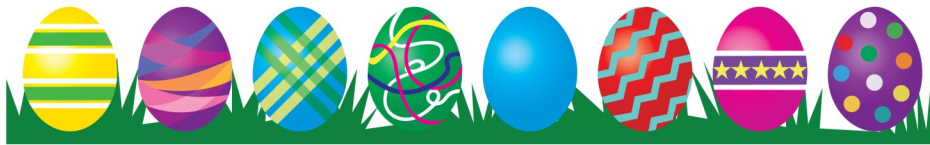
² Simon of Cyrene Matthew 27:32

Youth & Family News



Do you want to get Egged?

Our 2021 Summer Trip team is offering a twist on the old prank of egging houses - we'll egg you with Easter eggs! Here's how it works - contact Alyssa (or sign up via [SignUpGenius](#)) to add your name to our list, give a donation to our trip, and a member of our team will come to your house on Saturday, April 3 and hide 50 filled plastic eggs in your yard (or your neighbors yard, grandkids yard, etc!.) This fundraiser will be completely contact free and COVID safe. We can't wait to EGG your house!



We will bless and recognize the transition of our current 5th grade students into Confirmation Classes during our outdoor WoW service on Wednesday, April 28. Please join us in celebrating with Isaac Jacobson, Bennett Stilp, Brock Stilp, Ben Reuter, Ashlyn Neidermire, Amber Calkins, Elijah Drier and Rowan Tarpensing.



Faith Milestones

Mark your calendars for summer!



Luther Park Bible Camp -- Registration is available now, and Immanuel's Trust Fund is offering 50% Sponsorships! Use the code "Immanuelec2021" at checkout to apply the discount. Luther Park has updated information in regards to camp opportunities & COVID19 precautions on their website: www.lutherpark.org.

Immanuel VBS: Immanuel will lead Vacation Bible School the week of June 28!

Youth Trip: About 20 high school & young adult youth will be participating in an outdoor adventure trip the week of July 18. Watch for opportunities to financially support this trip.

Summer Stretch: This Middle School Ministry, full of fun & service, will be offered during the week of August 9.



Save the date!

Immanuel's annual Thrift Sale will be back! We are planning a one day, outdoor sale on **Friday, June 4**. Stay tuned for more details.



- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 01 Marty Gullicksrud | 25 Paul Bowman |
| 01 Greta Gullicksrud | 27 Jerry Hanson |
| 02 Lang Jacobson | 27 Justin Liebergen |
| 04 Paige Hedges | 28 Kali Strehlau |
| 04 Erik Jacobson | 29 Loren Anderson |
| 06 Charlotte Kuhn | 30 Julie Pickett |
| 07 Konnor Glynn | |
| 08 Jan Bille | |
| 09 Kyle Malec | |
| 10 Judy Wolf | |
| 13 Barb Hokanson | |
| 14 Lisa Calkins | |
| 14 Erica Olson | |
| 16 Elsie Sorvaag | |
| 18 Josie Lietzke | |
| 18 Chris Eilts | |
| 18 Sophie Fey | |
| 18 Ella Glynn | |
| 19 Pauline Anderson | |
| 19 Teckla Wahlstrand | |
| 20 Sabrina Hagstrom | |
| 22 Kristie Weber | |



- 07 Steve & Patty Isaacson
- 11 Todd & Lynn Fox
- 13 Tyler & Carrie Hansen
- 26 Hemant & Karla Hegde

AMMPARO OPPORTUNITIES FOR APRIL

“Dios es nuestro amparo y fortaleza,” (God is our refuge and strength.)- Psalm 46:1

The word “amparo” in Spanish means the protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. AMMPARO is a holistic, whole church commitment by the ELCA, as a church in the world, to accompany children today and in the future. Immanuel has become a partner with the ELCA’s AMMPARO ministry and continues to work on how we see this fitting into our ministry as a “Church Without Walls”.

We have established a fund to assist local Latino community members that may need legal assistance and information on D.A.C.A. applications and other immigration related needs. TO CONTRIBUTE: checks can be made out to Immanuel Lutheran Church with AMMPARO Fund in the memo line. For more information contact Ray Koch: rk9561@charter.net.

Also, we have partnered with the following;

CHIPPEWA VALLEY BRIDGE BUILDERS

“For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Matthew 25:35.

“Truly I say to you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:40.

There is a great need for sponsors for asylum seeking immigrant families. The Chippewa Valley Bridge Builders is an ecumenical, community-based organization formed for the purpose of sponsoring such a family. Watch for more information in the coming weeks. In the meantime, if you are interested in learning more, please contact Steve Isaacson at 715-210-5643; Ray Koch at 715-225-5907; or Greg Barnes (CVBB chair) at 715-491-1471 or gregleebarnes@gmail.com.



April 2021

If you shop on Amazon, log into Amazon Smile. We receive \$ from your purchases.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-0990139>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 Palm Sunday 9:00 AM Worship	29 4-6 PM Food Pantry open	30	31	1 Maundy Thursday Virtual worship at 11 AM	2 Good Friday Virtual worship at Noon	3 Get Egged Summer Trip fundraiser
4 Easter Sunday 9:00 AM virtual worship 10: 00 AM outdoor worship	5 4-6 PM Food Pantry open 6:30 PM - H3 (via Zoom)	6 9:30 AM—H3 (via Zoom)	7 10:00 AM Sr Bible Study 6:00 PM WoW (virtual) 6:45 PM Confirmation 7:30 PM SHYN 7:30 Mentor meeting 7:30 PM Choir (virtual)	8	9	10
11 9:00 AM in-building & virtual worship 10: 00 AM outdoor worship	12 4-6 PM Food Pantry open 6:30 PM - H3 (via Zoom)	13 9:30 AM—H3 (via Zoom)	14 10:00 AM Sr Bible Study 6:00 PM WoW (virtual) 6:45 PM Confirmation 7:30 PM SHYN 7:30 PM Choir (virtual)	15	16	17
18 9:00 AM in-building & virtual worship 10: 00 AM outdoor worship	19 4-6 PM Food Pantry open 6:30 PM - H3 (via Zoom)	20 9:30 AM—H3 (via Zoom) 7:00 PM Council Mtg	21 10:00 AM Sr Bible Study 6:00 PM WoW (virtual) 6:45 PM Confirmation 7:30 PM Summer Trip meeting 7:30 PM Choir (virtual)	22	23	24
25 9:00 AM in-building & virtual worship 10: 00 AM outdoor worship	26 4-6 PM Food Pantry open	27	28 Immanuel serves @ Community Table 10:00 AM Sr Bible Study 6:00 PM Outdoor WoW, end of year celebration, Welcome to Confirma- tion milestone 6:45 PM Confirmation 7:30 PM SHYN 7:30 PM Choir (virtual)	29	30	1

Pastor Jamie Brieske
pastor@immanuelec.org
715-563-3145

Alyssa Engedal
Family Ministry/Camp Create
familyministry@immanuelec.org

Dee Schlieve
Ministry Coordinator
office@immanuelec.org

Katy LoRusso
Director, Create-A-World Preschool
createaworldpreschool@gmail.com

Immanuel Lutheran Church
3214 Golf Road
Eau Claire, WI 54701
Address service required

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Dated Material—useless if delayed



IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A congregation of the
Northwest Synod of the ELCA of Wisconsin*