



April 2025
Newsletter



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Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Music Director: *Currently Vacant*

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.*

"He Is Not Here!"

by David Kolander

April 9th, 2023

Christ the Lord Lutheran
Church & School,
Brookfield Wisconsin



We have probably all said it; at least, we have probably all thought about saying it. When something goes wrong in my life, when something makes me sad in my life, when something makes me cry in my life, when something does not seem fair in my life, when something is just too confusing to understand in my life, it can be so easy to say or to think, "Where is Jesus in my life? He is not here!"

Thanks be to God that our Easter life as God's children - the entire reason for our Easter worship today and every single day of our lives as God's children - is based on those same very words, though spoken for a totally different reason by an angel of God who had the unquestionable honor of telling two women named Mary and the entire world the life-changing words, "**He Is Not Here!**" So, brothers and sisters, on this Festival of all festivals let's think about where Jesus is - and where Jesus was - and where Jesus ever shall be. Alleluia.

To be able to sing, as we sang, "*Jesus Christ is risen today - our triumphant holy day - Alleluia,*" showing that we believe the angel's words, "**He is not here,**" we need to first **think about where he had been**, something we also sang about in that same hymn stanza, "*Who did once upon the cross suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia.*" The angel said it this way to those women, "**Don't be afraid, for I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.**" In other words, the resurrection of Jesus Christ can only mean something if where Jesus was before he rose from the dead - culminating in the crucifixion on Calvary's cross - accomplished something. And it most certainly did.

The past days during our Lenten worship we reviewed week by week what is at the heart of our worship all year long. The holy Son of God came down from heaven as the humble Son of Man to do for us what we could not do for ourselves - and that was to find a way to get the God who made us to let

us live with him in heaven after we die – and to have a purpose for while we are alive. Where Jesus was before he was in the grave was doing things that showed he did not deserve to suffer or die or be buried. For all the things which you and I have done which show that is exactly what we deserve to have happen to us, Jesus came as God the Father’s own choice to experience the same temptations as us – and so much more – and to never fall, so much unlike us – and then, even though sinless and righteous, to still die with the payment price of holy, precious blood to accomplish what is called the redemption – the purchase – of all the people of this world – all the people he had created, but who have all, like us, fallen so miserably short of his glory. We can only pray to God that more people would actually believe that – even as we continue to pray to God that we ourselves will continue to treasure that as the only thing that really makes any difference in our lives and in this world.

That is where Jesus had been before he entered the grave on that first Good Friday. He had been in heaven from all eternity and then on earth for thirty-some years as he lived perfectly and died innocently to show us how much he loves us and how much he wants us to live with him in heaven someday – and to live for him now – and all of this by his mercy and grace, which we confess we have done nothing to deserve, but which we believe, according to his promise, will never, ever be taken away from us. If the devil ever says to you when you think of how you have failed God, “Why should God be here with you? How can you possibly think Jesus could be here with you? Ah, he is not here with you,” you can tell the devil you know where Jesus had been – and you know what Jesus had been doing – during all those days before that wonderful day when the angel of the Lord said to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary outside that empty grave, “*He is not here.*” Because he is my Savior, he is also my Lord. He rose from the dead to assure me that where he had been really counted, and so I am counted among God’s dearly loved children. Again, Alleluia.

That’s where he had been before the angel said, “He is not here.” Now **think about where he was going** after the angel said, “He is not here.” After the angel told the two Marys to come and see the place where he lay, he gave them these instructions, “*Go*

quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee.’ There you will see him,” something which Jesus himself said when he so suddenly appeared to them as they ran out of the tomb in their fear and joy to tell the disciples. “*Greetings,*” Jesus said – a greeting which had to be the most wonderful greeting these women could ever hope to receive from someone they had thought was their Lord and Savior, but whom they now thought was dead, leading them to fall at his feet and worship him with all their hearts, with the object of their worship – the Lord and Savior Jesus – first comforting them, “*Do not be afraid,*” and then telling them the same thing the angel had said about there being some joyful work to do: “*Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee. There they will see me.*”

In our Second Lesson the apostle Paul told the Corinthian church members about some of the appearances Jesus made after he left the tomb on Easter Sunday morning, with all of those appearances to all those witnesses being the proof that Jesus truly was alive and that this was no made-up story. One of those appearances, which may or may not have been referred to by St. Paul in those verses, was on a mountain in Galilee, where the angel and Jesus had told the women to tell the disciples to go. So, while all his appearances were important, there must have been something extra special about his meeting on a mountain in Galilee, which was way up north in Israel, near the cities of Nazareth where he had grown up, and Capernaum where Jesus had preached and the Sea of Galilee, where he had once taught from a boat and walked on water and calmed a storm and on whose shore he had fed thousands of hungry people with such a little amount of food. It was on a mountain in that same area where, sometime before he returned to heaven, Jesus showed why this meeting was going to be such a special meeting. “*All authority in heaven and on earth,*” Jesus told them that day, “*has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*”

Do you see what Jesus was saying about where he was going after the angel said, “He is not here.” Where Jesus was going was wherever you and I are. To the very end of our lives, to the very end of the

world itself, Jesus is with us, as we remember – whenever things are going bad in my life, whenever there is something sad in my life, something that makes me cry in my life, something that does not seem fair in my life, something that is too confusing to understand in my life – things that make me wonder, “Jesus can’t be here. He is not here,” – no, Jesus says – no, the one who is always with us, says – *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”* If I was able to rise from death itself after giving my life to death, I am able to do whatever is necessary and whatever is best to keep you hanging on to my promise and hanging on to my love – something so important that someone in your life loved you enough to go into your part of the all nations to make you a disciple of Jesus Christ by baptizing you in the name of the true and living Triune God – and by teaching you to obey – to believe – everything he has commanded you – something that we also have the unquestionably high honor of telling others close by and far away, so they do not have to be afraid in their sadness and tears and confusion... We can say: “He is here... here with you... because of that grave it could be said, ‘He was not there.’” For Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Again and again, Alleluia. Amen.



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



In Our Prayers:

Homebound Ministry:

**Marian Brugh
John Curtiss**

**Ellen Plano
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	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	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 , 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
Loren Gerber , Sue Anderson’s father	Beth Mitchell
Alice Schley , Jane Schley’s granddaughter	Charlie Miller , Marian Brugh’s brother
Toni —Jane Schley’s cousin	Jason , son-in-law of Sue & Craig Anderson
Sharon S. , requested by Dotty Smith	Karen Petersen , daughter of Cathy & Tom Mollet
Ruth Krueger	Justin Nickels , requested by Justin Beck
Deb , friend of Sue Steuer	Marilyn Borgeson , Annie Hecht’s grandmother
Sophie Rose Verile , Brindley’s grandniece	Lynne Partridge , friend of Christa Perri
Linda & Scott Spurlock , req. by Esther C.	Merry Linn , Sally Crawford’s sister
Kim N., Kim M., 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	

If you would like the congregation to pray for you or your loved one, please contact the church office to have the name(s) placed on our prayer list.



Maddy Baumgart	April 1
Amelia Quardokus	April 1
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

Please let Ailene (Secretary) know if your birthday was missed. You are too special for us to miss celebrating it!



Mid-week Lenten services will continue through the rest of the Lenten season.

Worship services are held on Wednesdays during Lent at 7:00 p.m. Soup Suppers will precede the service at 6pm

	LENTEN SOUP SUPPER— WEEKLY SPONSORS:	
	April 2, 2025	Outreach Committee
April 9, 2025	Service Committee	

Thank you to everyone who has brought dishes to pass for our very special Lenten soup suppers!!

**Our Mission of the Month
In April is:
Alternatives of Kalamazoo**

Diaper Drive



In Honor of **Mother's Day, May 11, 2025** 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 12th**

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

Your donations to our Diaper Drive are greatly appreciated!!



Sunrise Service at 7 am &

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 20th

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.



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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 SERMON SCHEDULE

April 6: **"Better Than I Deserve!"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Keith Haberstock

Jesus didn't deserve to die on a cross, but He died and rose again in order to give us better than we deserve. (John 12:1-11)

April 13: **"In the Middle"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

In Jesus, God showed up smack in the middle of life with forgiveness, love, and a promise never to leave us. (John 19:18)

April 20: **"A Risen Christ and a Clean Room"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The risen Christ has folded Death up and put it in its place. Now Christ invites you to trust in Him and find place and purpose in His new creation. (John 20:5-7)

April 27: **"Through Locked Doors"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

When Jesus shows up, it's no longer "us vs. them," because Jesus is for everyone, even if everyone is not yet for Jesus. (John 20:19)



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.

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.

MOM to MOM SALE

St. Michael Lutheran School
& Preschool
7211 Oakland Drive
Portage, MI

April 12th
9:00am - 1:00pm

\$25 per space
registration & payment due by 4/4

Set up Friday, 4/11 5-8pm
with early access shopping for
sellers & volunteers

**School Program Tours & Information
available during the event!**

April 2025

The Mission of the Month: Alternatives of Kalamazoo

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5:30pm Mary/ Martha Meeting 7:00pm Baumgarts' Bible Study at ILC	2 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Lenten Midweek Service (Iqbal)	3	4	5
6 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC and online (Couch) 11:30am Children's Choir	7	8 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:00pm Baumgarts' Bible Study @ ILC	9 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Lenten Midweek Service (Iqbal)	10	11	12 10-11am "Joy" Bible Study @ ILC
13 PALM SUNDAY 10:00am 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC and online (Quardokus) 11:30am Children's Choir	14	15	16	17 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00pm Holy Thursday Service (Iqbal)	18 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00pm Good Friday Service (Iqbal)	19
20 EASTER SUNDAY 7:00am Sunrise Service (Couch) 8:30am Easter Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt #1 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC and online (Couch) 11:30am Easter Egg Hunt #2	21	22 7:00pm Baumgarts' Bible Study @ ILC	23	24  Newsletter Deadline	25	26
27 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC & online (Quardokus) 11:30am Children's Choir	28	29 7:00pm Baumgarts' Bible Study @ ILC	30			

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

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(269) 345-8090

**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*



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday April 13~
Communion Service 10:00am

Maundy Thursday April 17~
Evening Service 7:00pm

Good Friday April 18~
Evening Service 7:00pm

Easter Sunday April 20~

- Sunrise Service 7:00am
- Sunrise Breakfast &
Egg Hunt (#1) 8:30am
- Communion Service 10:00
- Egg Hunt (#2) 11:30

Come Worship With Us!!