

## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH APRIL NEWSLETTER 2020



*Prayer is ....  
simply an honest  
conversation with  
God*

*In this issue –*

- Updates from your Church Council and a letter from the Bishop re: Life in the Covid-19 pandemic
- Sunday School News, Bible Trivia
- Upcoming Opportunities to Serve
- Worship Leaders for April
- Faith in Action – Thanks for all of the SOCKS!!!
- Celebrations of Life & Love
- Church Council & Staff

WORSHIP HOURS: SUNDAYS 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. – SUNDAY SCHOOL K-ADULT 9:30 a.m.

***FAITH\*\*\*FELLOWSHIP\*\*\*FUN***



Immanuel Lutheran Church  
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Erie, PA 16505  
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LIKE US on Facebook

[www.ilc-erie.org](http://www.ilc-erie.org)

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## **Immanuel updates from your Church Council~**

**In the here and now~** At our teleconference meeting on 3/30, the Council has decided, with the recommendation from the Bishop, to cancel services for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Sunday services. Please see the Bishop's communication at the end of this email. The Council will reevaluate our next steps on April 13th, but at this point it is sounding likely that this "stay at home" effort may continue through April. We know that we are all disappointed and concerned but as we continue to be told from our church leadership and our government health and leadership officials - the best thing we can do is stay calm, stay at home if you can, and stay safe. Your actions impact countless others as this has become increasingly clear in these days and weeks.

Wally Coughlin, our Caretaker, is continuing to clean, sanitize, and monitor the maintenance and security of the church. He is there on a regular basis so is also bringing in and securing the mail in the office. Lori Nemenz in our Admin. Office continues to work from home handling communications, picking up and responding to phone and email messages, and she is stopping into the office on Wednesdays to collect mail, process offerings and bills, make copies, etc. She can be reached either through the office phone and email or if necessary by calling her at home 833-1426. Bryan Timm, our Music Director and Carolyn Kuntz, our Sunday School Superintendent, as well as numerous others continue to share their time & talents in various ways near and far in the ongoing work of the church, for which we are thankful. We are asking that you please continue to support the church operations and your faith community at Immanuel, in any way you can, through your regular offerings mailed to the church. We also ask for your support through your unceasing prayers asking God to help and guide us all. Life and the work of the church is continuing and we ask that you please continue your support of Immanuel as you are able during this challenging time.

**Looking ahead with hope~** We are planning an Easter Celebration the first Sunday when services resume. What a joyful reunion that will be. In the meantime we have various online resources being shared via email and Facebook and have the new "Word In Season" daily reflection booklet and "Living Lutheran" publications on the table right outside the office - feel free to pick one up if you stop at the church on Tuesday evening or request that one be delivered to you by one of our willing volunteers.

**Help for the journey** - If you need assistance during this time we are a phone call away and have volunteers ready to try to help - call the church office at 833-4062 and leave a message, contact us via email [immluthch@verizon.net](mailto:immluthch@verizon.net) or [Facebook message](#) or contact Lori at home during working hours 8:30-12:30 if possible - we will get back with you to provide support as we are able.

*God's peace be with you all~  
Your Immanuel Church Council*

## **LETTER FROM BISHOP LOZANO:**

March 25, 2020

Dear Synod, I write these next words with great sorrow, but also with a desire to protect each and every one of you. I, along with our Synod Council, recommend and urge all congregations to not gather in your churches for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Sunday liturgies. The COVID-19 pandemic has yet to reach its peak. Each day brings new numbers of individuals who have contracted the virus. These numbers still outpace those recovering. As you know, our federal, state, county and local governments are requesting and legislating the closure of businesses and institutions as well as requesting/requiring us to stay home or shelter in place. As I write these words, Governor Wolf has ordered schools to remain closed until April 9, 2020. You will also note, I am urging you not to gather in your churches.

The creative Spirit is blowing across our ELCA and our Synod. There are many new opportunities in our synod for on-line worship. And we are working to collect those opportunities and post them on our synod webpage ([nwpaelca.org](http://nwpaelca.org)) and Face Book page. I understand there are congregations finding ways of meeting without gathering in large numbers in parking lots, fields and other open spaces. These ideas will also be posted on our webpage as we become aware of them. Our Synod Council will be working with their Cluster congregations to find ways of supporting one another during these days. Please reach out to your Synod Council representative. Using our synod Zoom account, our Synod Staff and Executive Committee is meeting weekly and our Synod Council has agreed to meet every other week. And I am available via email ([bishop@nwpaelca.org](mailto:bishop@nwpaelca.org)), cell (724-931-4848) or text message. Our Synod Council and I have agreed that our stewardship priority is you. You are the body of Christ made visible in our world. Your actions speak to your communities. Your work takes first place, your mission support to our Synod and the ELCA comes second. Be Easter people for the sake of the world around you. The harvest is plentiful, the workers are few.

Finally, dear Synod, I am amazed at how you represent Christ in your communities during this troublesome time. The stories I am reading, and hearing are heartwarming and make me proud and humbled to be called your bishop. Take care of yourselves – physically, mentally, socially and above all spiritually. I and your synod council are blessed by you!

Called to Serve,  
Bishop Lozano and the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod Council

## Christian Education



**Free Sunday  
School Lessons**



# Sunday School Newsletter

## April 2020

Christian Education reaching out to all (not just students). This **Bible Verse Quiz** may have you paging through your Bible, or not. How many do you know without the Bible?

Hope you are all safe and healthy. Have fun!

\* See the answers on the last page

1. Exodus 2: 1-10 Paroah's daughter went to the river Nile. What did she find in a basket among the reeds? Who was it?
2. 1 Samuel 17: A young boy defeated a giant. What were their names? How was the giant defeated?
3. Exodus 20 1-17: God gave us laws to live by. Who went up Mount Sinai to hear the laws? How did he bring the laws to the people? What are they called?
4. John 11:38-44: Who did Jesus raise from the dead?
5. Joshua 6: What did God tell Joshua to march around for 7 days? What did the priests do as they marched? What was the result on the 7<sup>th</sup> day?

### HOME COMMUNION/EUCHARISTIC MINISTER TRAINING

Could this be something you are called to here at Immanuel?

Do you want to spend more time with some of our shut-in members? Do you enjoy visiting and bringing folks a little joy in their day? We will be offering a new training session for Home Communion Ministers. This is a one-time, 90-min. training so that you will feel comfortable with this ministry role and also have time to ask questions and learn more about this important discipleship. The Synod is encouraging us to form ministry teams of two for visits.

Please share your interest with the church office or sign up on your Time and Talent Sheet.



**DID YOU KNOW...**

**The liturgical color  
during Lent is  
~purple~  
for REPENTANCE AND  
SOLEMNITY**

**We are now in Lectionary Year A  
(there are A, B, & C)  
Year A focuses on the Gospel of  
Matthew**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Worship participants please note:**

If you are unable to fulfill your commitment –  
please find an alternate & notify the church  
office.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:  
APRIL 15**

# **APRIL 2020** Worship Calendar for Immanuel Lutheran, Erie PA

Date	Presider	Assistant	Lay Distributor	Lector
4/5/20 Palm Sunday 8:15 10:45	Kuntz			Cindy Eckman Debbie Madurski
4/9/20 Maundy Thurs. 7:00 p.m.	Edwards			
4/10/20 Good Friday 7:00 p.m.	Edwards			
4/12/20 Easter 8:15 10:45	Edwards			Barb Coughlin Michael Patterson
4/19/20 8:15 10:45	Zimmerman	S. Holsopple	H. Mays	David Mays S. Holsopple
4/26/20 8:15 10:45	Zimmerman			

Altar Guild: Judy Stewart/Donna Dorler

Counters: Debbie Madurski

Ushers: Early: Bob Dorler/Jack Botwright

Late: Tom Stewart/Rick Hetrick

Soup Kitchen Items Needed: Canned Fruit/Vegetables

Soup Kitchen Delivery: Stan Holsopple

**Counters and Ushers needed in 2020** – We would welcome additional folks to join us in both of these church tasks. Please see the lists in this newsletter and reach out to Cindy Geddes for Counters and Bob Dorler for Ushers if you think you'd like to give this a try.

As some of you may have noticed, we recently replaced the **metal folding chairs** in Leubin-McCray Hall. At this time the Property Committee has asked me to share that we are going to begin to recycle/repurpose/remove some of the old chairs and would like to offer them to the congregation first for a donation of **\$5 a piece, as is**. We have approx. 45 chairs. They may come in handy for your Summer picnics or holiday events.



**Please feel free to contact the office if you are interested and we will connect you with a Property Committee member.**





**KEEP IN PRAYER:** Jane Andrews – Bill Redditt’s Mom; Lucie Arndt, Tim and John Botwright, Wally Coughlin’s sister; Char & Dick Feiler; Mrs. Ellison – Anita Byrne’s Mom; Jackie, Jim & Lorraine Hornaman, Pastor Huhn, Kyle Husted, Carolyn Kuntz, Jim Kuntz, Michael; Sharon Roemer, Pearl Young and all of our members and others serving in so many ways to help us all during this pandemic. We pray also for those who are grieving; who are in nursing homes, or ill at home. We also pray for our Immanuel Council and Call Committee as we continue the search for a new ministry option.

## **Shut-In Ministry**

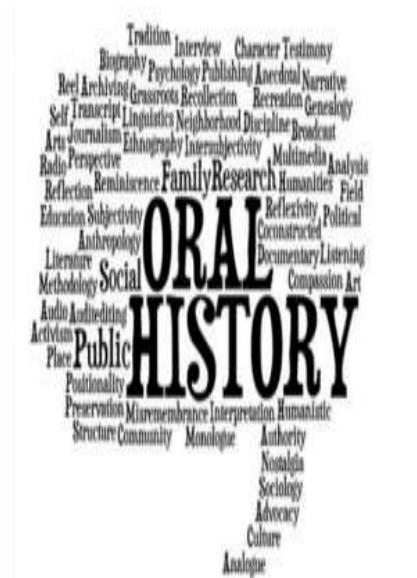
**Current Shut-in list: Audree Adams, Judi Casler, Sally Fager & Pearl Young.**

Please remember the members of Immanuel who are “shut in,” and cannot make it to service, once we are past the pandemic concern you may want to offer them a ride, please do give them a friendly call, send them a card. The current Shut-In Mailing List is available in the office

**UPDATE:** Judi Casler is a resident of Manchester Commons in the Eagle Ridge wing, room #16. Judi is doing well and of course they are under quarantine so no visitors but feel free to call or send a card. Her address is Manchester Commons, 6351 W. Lake Rd., Eagle Ridge #16, Erie, PA 16505. Phone: 314-1816.

**UPDATE:** Sally welcomes your visits when quarantine is lifted, as well as calls and cards.

**UPDATE:** Pearl Young took a tumble and had surgery to repair her hip. She will return to St. Mary’s and will still be in quarantine but your cards and prayers are always appreciated.



***If you are sick or in the hospital please notify the church office and if you’d like home communion or a copy of our newsletter ~ please let us know in the office.***

# FAITH IN ACTION



Thank you for  
sharing your  
Time & Talents



A BIG THANK YOU  
from your  
Social Ministry  
Committee....

We collected 118 pairs of  
socks

Thanks for all of the socks!!!

## **Thrivent Action Teams**

Any member of Thrivent Financial is able to lead an action team. Call Thrivent Financial today to take advantage or to get more information! You may qualify for \$250 in seed money to help kick start an event!

Thank you also to all those who  
participated in

**All Sew Saturday!** We completed  
all 36 hats! Thanks to Debbie Redditt,  
Sally Leubin, Donna Dorler, Penny  
Maloney, Carol Ketchel, Sue Pfeiffer and  
Judy Stewart.



## **April Birthdays**

April	1	Travis Feiler
	10	Carole DelPorto
	17	Kylie Husted
	18	Jason Kuntz & Bryan Timm
	19	Judi Casler
	23	Carol Ketchel
	24	Ron DelPorto & Lainey Bartlett
	25	Bob Dorler & Kylie Nelson
	26	George Pfeiffer, IV <i>who passed this past year</i>

## **Celebrations**

**of**

**Life**

**and**

**Love**

Everyone enjoys receiving a card!

## **April Anniversaries**

None on file this month

**Congratulations** to those celebrating!!!

Did I forget you? Please e-mail me or call me with your birthdays, anniversaries or a special day you would like us to share.

[immluthch@verizon.net](mailto:immluthch@verizon.net)



**Sharing the latest information on the Primary Election and [how easy it sounds to sign up to vote from home.](#)**



**Our Immanuel Book and Bake Sale will be delayed as well I guess.**



*Dear Fellow Pennsylvanian,*

*These are unprecedented times, and we hope you and your families are staying safe. We are writing with **IMPORTANT** news about recent changes to the Pennsylvania primary election related to COVID 19. In order to protect the health and safety of all voters, poll workers, and election officials while also ensuring access to voting, the legislature, Governor Wolf, and the Department of State worked together to pass legislation to **reschedule the PA primary election to Tuesday, June 2.***

*Additionally, thanks to historic legislation passed last fall, ALL Pennsylvania voters now also have the ability to [vote by mail](#) without having to provide an excuse - for any reason or no reason at all. You can [apply for mail-in ballots online](#), by mail, or in person, until one week before the election. For the 2020 primary, mail-in ballot applications **must be received by your county election office by 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 26.** Applying online is very easy and quick, and even better, if you enter your email address, you will receive notifications as to the status of your application and ballot along the way. **Once you receive your mail-in ballot, you now have until 8pm on June 2 to deliver your completed ballot to your county election office,** but you should drop it off or mail it **as early as you can** to ensure it is delivered by that time.*

*Voters who have already requested a mail-in or absentee ballot will receive your ballot for the rescheduled primary. There is no need to apply again if you have already done so.*

*Other important election-related deadlines will change along with the new primary date. The **new deadline to [update your voter registration](#) is Monday, May 18.** Please visit [www.register.votespa.com](http://www.register.votespa.com) to update your registration today.*

*Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate these changes. The Department of State is committed to keeping voters informed. To stay up-to-date with the latest and most accurate election information in Pennsylvania, visit [votesPA.com](http://votesPA.com), or contact your [county election office](#).*

*Sincerely,*

**Secretary of the Commonwealth**

# April 2020



## ALLELUIA!!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	6	7		9 <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	10 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	11
12 <b>EASTER</b> 	13	14	15  May Newsletter Deadline	16	17	18
19  Services: 8:15 & 10:45 9:30 Sunday School	20	21	22  50 <sup>TH</sup> ANNIV. OF EARTH DAY 	23	24	25
26  Services: 8:15 & 10:45AM 9:30 Sunday School	27	28	29	30		



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WHAT IS GOD  
ASKING OF YOU  
TODAY AND IN THE  
DAYS AHEAD?



## **Church Council Committees**

*We invite all members of Immanuel to join any of these committees  
and/or offer your gifts where you can – many hands make light work!!  
Council usually meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month*

### **Christian Education**

Council liaison: Cindy Eckman

**VBS plans in the works**

### **Communications**

Council liaison: vacant    Committee Chair: vacant

Check out our website and "FRIEND" us on [Facebook](#)

Did you miss church? Need to keep updated and want easy access to  
the church calendar, newsletter or annual report?

Check out our website <http://www.ilc-erie.org/>

### **Fellowship, Outreach & Growth**

Council liaisons: Sally Leubin

### **Finance**

Council liaison: George Pfeiffer

### **Property**

Council liaison: Bob Dorler    Committee Chair: Stan Holsopple

**SPRING CLEAN UP AND WEEDING – YOUR HELP IS  
APPRECIATED**

*Property Committee is now meeting the 3<sup>d</sup> Mon. of the month-  
7pm – no meetings currently*

### **Stewardship**

Council liaison: Cindy Geddes

### **Social Ministry Committee**

Council liaison: Debbie Madurski – Committee chair:

### **Worship & Music**

Council liaison: Debbie Redditt Chair: vacant

**\*\*LOOKING FOR NEW COMMITTEE  
CO-CHAIRS\*\***

### **Immanuel Hours**

Church Office – 833-4062

Hours - Mon-Thurs. 8:30am-12:30pm

[immluthch@verizon.net](mailto:immluthch@verizon.net)

### **Staff**

Church Caretaker: Wally Coughlin

Organist/Music: Director Bryan Timm

Admin. Ofc.: Lori Swanson Nemenz

### **Sunday school**

Superintendent: Carolyn Kuntz

Assistant: Janice Kreger

### **Elected Lay Leadership**

Treasurer: Bill Redditt

Fin. Sec.: Cindy Geddes – 734-1286

### **Church Council Officers**

Pres. – Debbie Redditt – 449-1855

Vice Pres. – Bob Dorler – 833-2719

Secretary – Debbie Madurski – 774-  
3590

### **Council Members**

Cindy Eckman, Char Feiler, George  
Pfeiffer, Sally Leubin, Bob Dorler,  
Cindy Geddes



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## **BIBLE VERSE QUIZ ANSWERS:**

- 1. a baby – Moses**
- 2. David & Goliath – with a slingshot and rock**
- 3. Moses – stone tablets – 10 Commandments**
- 4. Lazarus**
- 5. the city of Jericho – they blew their trumpets – the wall of Jericho tumbled down!!**

