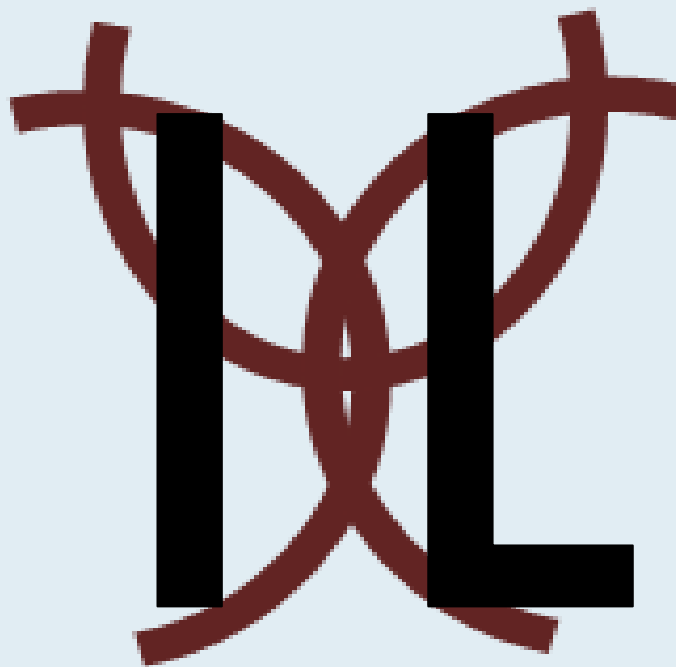


# **IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**MARCH NEWSLETTER 2024**



**1002 Powell Avenue  
Erie PA 16505**

**814-833-4062**



## *In This Issue*

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- ◆ Lenten Schedule
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- ◆ Important Dates to Take Note of
- ◆ Worship & Music
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- ◆ Welcome
- ◆ The Green Corner—Waste Not
- ◆ Prayer Requests
- ◆ Celebrations of Life & Love
- ◆ March Worship Leaders
- ◆ March Calendar & Events
- ◆ Church Council & Staff



## Grace & Peace : From the Pastor's Desk



Good news! If you decided to give something up for the season of Lent and are struggling with carrying out your decision, you only have 31 more days to go; Easter is the last day of this month. Even though Christmas has become a huge celebration, due in part to the secular influences, the most important holiday for us as Christians to celebrate is Easter. Easter is the premise upon which our entire faith is based.

As we go through this month, we will build up to Easter with several worship services. Wednesday Holden Evening Prayer services will bring messages centered around Jesus' message from the sermon on the mount (found in Matthew's gospel. Our Sunday morning messages will come from the Gospels of Mark and John.) When we get to Holy Week, we will have a busy week beginning with Palm Sunday morning worship, hearing of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem followed by his arrest. On the evening of Palm Sunday, a Healing Service will be held where we join together for God's healing in any aspect of our lives, or to pray for another. An anointing with oil will be offered, reminding us of our baptismal sign that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked forever with the cross of Christ, who is health and salvation for the whole world (ELW 276).

Tuesday evening there will be a service of Prayer Around the Cross: Beside Still Waters. It will be with simple verses and prayer will be offered around the cross for those who wish. Anointing with oil will also be available. Wednesday of Holy Week is of course the Holden Evening Prayer service. On Maundy Thursday we will once again celebrate Holy Communion seated at the tables together after having our hands washed to symbolize Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet. The service will end with the stripping of the altar as Psalm 22 is sung, and the church is darkened. Good Friday service will be the Tenebrae where the candles on the altar are extinguished following the readings, then the procession of the cross, and the solemn reproaches will end the service.

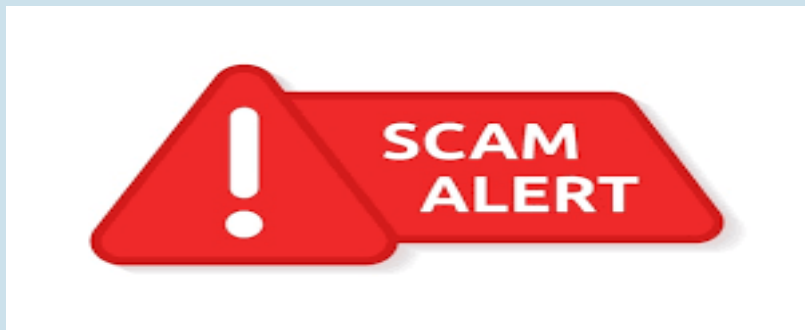
These services give us the background to fully appreciate the suffering of Jesus before his death and his placement in the tomb. Our experiences of worship during Holy Week bring a fuller understanding of the joy that comes on Easter morning as we celebrate the empty tomb. Jesus overcame death, and because he did, we can too!

Remember I am available to talk with you if you have thoughts or questions on this article or anything else. I'm in the office Tuesdays from 1-3p.m., Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The church phone number is 814-833-4062 or you can call my cell phone 724-557-2386 anytime. Please leave a message if I don't answer. I hope to see you in church on Sunday!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Karen

You can find Pastor  
Karen's  
latest sermons in print on  
our webpage here

<http://www.ilc-erie.org/>



### ***WARNING AGAINST SCAMMERS***

There is a new Artificial Intelligence product that can clone a person's voice. There are a few medical and non-medical purposes that have benefits from this product.

However, when the product got into the hands of the scammers, they developed the means of taking a voice and duplicating it in ways that sound as though the person whose voice you recognize is under stress. The scammers are using this development to make phone contact with people whom the person knows, and who knows their voice, and having the false voice ask for money in the pretext of the person whose voice you think you recognized say they have been kidnapped or are in some predicament where they need money quickly.

Because I share my weekly sermons on Facebook it could be possible for you to receive a phone call from an artificially produced voice that may sound exactly like mine asking you to immediately send money on my behalf. Please understand that I will not call asking for money or gift cards or any other currency to be sent on my behalf as an urgent request. If I'm going to call you for money (which I most likely will not do) I would not give you a bank account number nor would I ask for gift cards over the phone.

If you should receive any call that you question if the voice or purpose is valid, ask questions that only the person you know would be able to correctly answer. Set up code words with your family so in case of an emergency they can give you the correct code word to verify the caller is the person you know. Perhaps the code word could be the name of your first pet or your favorite sports team, something that will be easy to remember.



# *Holden Evening Prayer*

*ALL ARE INVITED TO THE LOUNGE  
AFTER THE WEDNESDAY EVENING  
LENTEN SERVICES TO JOIN IN  
FELLOWSHIP AND SHARE  
REFRESHMENTS SPONSORED BY THE  
FOLLOWING MINISTRY  
COMMITTEES:*

*3/6 COUNCIL*

*3/13 SUNDAY SCHOOL*

*3/20 SOCIAL MINISTRY*

*3/27 NO REFRESHMENTS*



**\*\*Holden Evening Service, Wednesday, March 6th, 20th and 27th at 7 PM**

**(NOTE: there are no refreshments on the 27th)**

**\*\*Healing Service Palm Sunday, March 24th at 7 PM**

**\*\*Prayer Around the Cross, Tuesday, March 26th at 7 PM**

**\*\*Maundy Thursday Service, March 28th 7 PM**

**\*\*Good Friday Service, March 29th 7 PM**

**\*\*Easter Sunday Service, March 31st 9:30 AM**





# Mark your calendars



Coffee Hour is the 1st Sunday of every month. Stop in the lounge and enjoy some conversation and a steaming mug of coffee following church service.

*A friendly reminder.....Daylight savings time begins March 10th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead an hour Saturday night. You don't want to be late for Sunday service!*



The deadline for April news for our newsletter is March 18th. If you have news, an upcoming event or anything else to share, please get your entries to Brenda.

## *Worship & Music in the News.....*

**Celebrating A New Life**  
The rosebud placed on the Altar was sponsored by proud Grandfather Richard Kuntz and Aunt Jennifer Kuntz in honor of their Granddaughter/Niece, Vanya Kuntz who was born on February 14th, weighing in at 3 lbs. and 15 oz. and measuring 16" long. The proud new parents are Jason and Rucha Kuntz.



**On February 4th we welcomed our newest members to Immanuel Lutheran Church. Richard & Brenda Durst joined our congregation from Table of Grace Methodist Church, Erie. Zachery Middaugh and Ronneil Clayton are joining us on profession of faith.**

**Lenten Services will be held every Wednesday evening at 7 PM, through March 27th.**



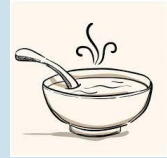




Social  
Ministry



Thank you all for your donations on "Sooper" Bowl Sunday. \$438 was collected for Holy Trinity Pasta Kitchen.



**The final tally for the Mitten Tree collections is in! A total of 225 items were collected. We collected hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and socks. All items were donated to Bethesda Trinity Center and to The Community Shelter.**

**A BIG Thank You to everyone who helped out!**



# Fellowship, Outreach and Growth

## 2024 ANNUAL SOUP COOKOFF

February 4th after church service 33 people attended our annual soup cookoff. We had eight amazing soups presented for us to enjoy. Chef Bryan Timm prepared the winning soup. Chef Bryan presented us with sausage soup that everyone enjoyed. These tantalizing soups were accompanied by some mouth watering desserts. Keep this spectacular event in mind for next year! A big thank you to everyone who participated!!

~Sally Leubin & Cindy Eckman~







**More photos of the attendees and participants of the annual Soup Cookoff.**

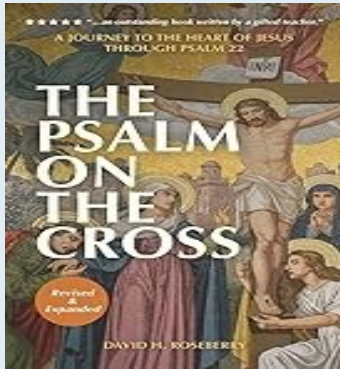
**Don't forget to keep this event in mind for next year and submit your favorite soup for a chance to win the cookoff!!!**



## Christian Education & More

Lenten Bible Study with Pastor Karen  
“The Psalm on the Cross”

**Thursdays**  
**6 PM**  
**Through March 20th**



Join Pastor Karen for Bible Study from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Wednesday evenings. Pastor Karen will continue to discuss the book, “The Psalm on the Cross”. Pastor will supply the book.

**Immanuel Lutheran is still in need of additional Church Council members!**



To learn more about joining the Church Council, please contact our newly elected president,

**Bob Dorler**

**Email: dorlerr@yahoo.com**

**Phone: (814) 833-2719**



**9 - Special Vernal Pool Environmental Education Program:** Join award-winning naturalist, April Claus, and the Lutherlyn Environmental Education staff for an in-depth examination of the ecology of Pennsylvania vernal ponds. Dress to be outside. Teens & Adults. (Registration Required)

**19-24 - Quilting/Crafting Retreat:** Come and join us for a fun-filled weekend of quilting/crafting/reading/relaxing/creating. It's a great time of fun and fellowship that's very popular with quilters, scrapbookers, and other crafters. (Registration Required)

**23 - Intro to Blacksmithing Class:** Learn the art of Blacksmithing in the Woodland Forge at Lutherlyn. All materials are supplied and classes are taught by master blacksmith, Flavius Brinsfield. (Registration Required)



**EASTER FLOWERS,** I would like to give \_\_\_\_\_ flowers for the Special Offering for Easter Sunday at \$8.50 each.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **is enclosed.**

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

*Please indicate your preference below*

\_\_\_\_\_ please have circle member deliver to shut in

\_\_\_\_\_ I will deliver to shut in

\_\_\_\_\_ I prefer to pick up after late service

\*\*\*\*\*

**Instead of flowers** I would like to give \_\_\_\_\_ for the Special Offering for Easter Sunday to go towards eliminating hunger through Meals-on-Wheels.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **is enclosed.**

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

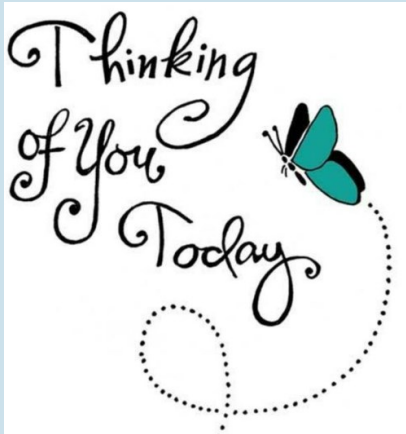
Given by \_\_\_\_\_

**PLACE FORM & DONATION IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR SEND TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY MARCH 4, 2024.**





**Hi! I'm Brenda and I am so happy to be here as your new secretary. I am originally from Troy, Pennsylvania. I relocated to Erie in 2018 with my amazing 25 year old son, Logan. I also have a terrific son who still lives in Eastern PA where the rest of my family is located. I am a dog mom to three furbabies ranging from 5-16 years old. I am proudly retired from the Pennsylvania State Police after 27 years of service. I look forward to meeting you all! Stop in and say hi!**



***Your prayers and cards are greatly appreciated for our friends:***

**Karen Byrd: 2910 Country Lane, Erie, PA 16506**

**Carol & Gordon Ketchel: 5219 Jason Drive, Erie, PA 16506**

**Sharon Roemer: Fairview Manor, 900 Manchester Road, Fairview, PA 16415**



Pennies for Poverty collection is an ongoing effort in support of the Women of the ELCA – donations welcome in the Donation Center canister.



Capital Campaign - Boiler: Funds for the boiler campaign currently show \$28,163.48 toward our goal of \$58,803



## **Green Corner** NWPA Synod Green Team

**Earth Day April 22, 2024 / Earth Sunday April 21**

Earth Day brings thoughts of doing good things for all of creation on earth. First, pray for strength and inspiration for your work as a caretaker of God's creation.

Then, take action. Involve children, adults, your family, and your congregation in activities such as:

- Join the effort to eliminate or reduce single use plastic containers (beverage, food, other merchandise containers).
- Plant a tree, at a location that allows. For planting guidance see [www.bhg.com](http://www.bhg.com).
- Earth Day Scavenger hunt: See [www.buildingfaith.org](http://www.buildingfaith.org) for kid-appropriate help.
- Organize or help with a nearby litter pick up.
- Start a compost pile, coffee grounds and other kitchen food waste – small insects we cannot see are essential to our food production and the air we breathe.
- Learn about bees. They are very important pollinators for our food crops.
- Learn about birds and their tremendous decline. Our North American bird population has declined by approximately 30% in the past 50 years.

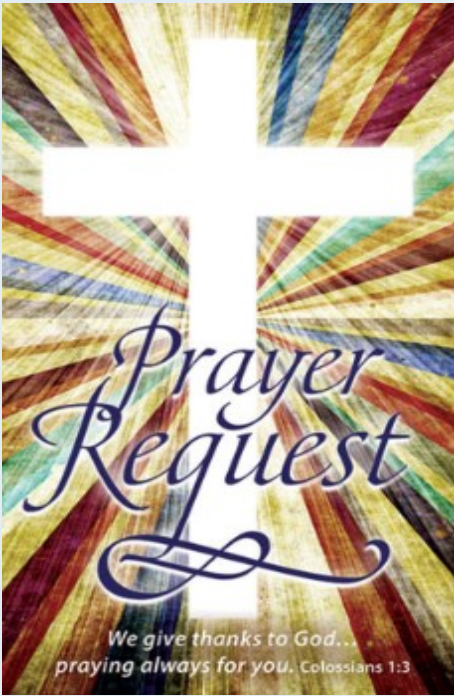
**Celebrate Earth Day with your Family and Congregation!  
Pray for God's Creation!**

The Green Team's purpose is to "raise awareness of and advocate for the care of creation." Our mission is to support and encourage creation care ministries, raise awareness, model creation care advocacy consistent with ELCA teachings in our faith communities and public life.

[nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com](mailto:nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com)

<https://www.northwesternpasynodelca.org/nwpa-green-team.html>

March 2024



*Please remember the members of Immanuel who are "shut in," or having some health challenges and cannot make it to service, you may want to offer them a ride, give them a friendly call, send them a card.*

*The current Shut-In Mailing List is available in the office.*

**KEEP IN PRAYER:**

Karen Byrd  
Wally Coughlin  
Rucha Kuntz  
Allen Millett  
Eric Adkins and family  
Julia – Cindy Geddes' Niece  
Janice Kreger  
MaryAnn Long and Russ Long  
Penney Maloney  
Denise Arnold and her sister, Lana Huhn  
The Botwright family  
Connie Cooper  
Jim and Lorraine Hornaman  
Kyle Husted  
Carol and Gordon Ketchel  
Patrick Lewis–friend of Sandy Kocur,  
Sandy's cousin - Scott Farr  
Sandy's close friend's son-in-law, John  
Bishop Michael Lozano  
Diane McGranor  
Marie Redditt  
Carole Rickrode  
Bob and Sharon Roemer  
All of our members & friends who are grieving;  
Who are in nursing homes;  
All who are ill at home

**We pray for those in the military:**

Scott Case– Navy, (C. Geddes nephew)  
Christopher Peterson – Navy (Grandson of the late Agnes & Chuck Peterson ).

***If you are sick or in the hospital, please notify the church office.***

***If you would like home communion or a copy of our newsletter, please contact the office.***



# Celebrations of Life and Love during March

*Happy 100th Birthday, Jeanette Swanson!!!! Born on March 27, 1924. You have a century of wisdom and memories to share with the world! Enjoy your special day!!!*



3 Julie Molnar  
7 Joe Byrne  
8 Stephanie Wood  
25 Lori Nemenz  
25 Isaiah Guthrie  
27 M. Moore  
31 Mary Hauser



**HAPPY**  
*Anniversary*

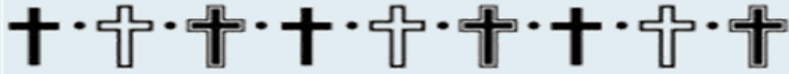
31 Joseph & Penny Maloney



## **LITTLE FREE PANTRY AT IMMANUEL**

**IF IN NEED – TAKE SOMETHING  
IF YOU CAN SHARE - LEAVE SOMETHING**

Feel free to bring items to church office & we will make sure they get in the pantry for you.



| <b>Date</b>                                     | <b>Presider</b> | <b>Assistant</b>       | <b>Lector</b>           |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>3/3/24<br/>9:30 AM</b>                       | <b>Kostur</b>   | <b>Bob Dorler</b>      | <b>Debbie Maderski</b>  |
| <b>3/10/24<br/>9:30 AM</b>                      | <b>Kostur</b>   | <b>Debbie Redditt</b>  | <b>Bill Redditt</b>     |
| <b>3/17/24<br/>7:00 PM</b>                      | <b>Kostur</b>   | <b>Bob Dorler</b>      | <b>Claudia Skerlong</b> |
| <b>3/24/24<br/>9:30AM<br/>Palm<br/>Sunday</b>   | <b>Kostur</b>   | <b>Debbie Redditt</b>  | <b>Bill Redditt</b>     |
| <b>3/28/24<br/>7 PM<br/>Maundy<br/>Thursday</b> | <b>Kostur</b>   | <b>Debbie Redditt</b>  | <b>Bill Redditt</b>     |
| <b>3/29/24<br/>7 PM<br/>Good Friday</b>         | <b>Kostur</b>   | <b>Barbra Coughlin</b> | <b>Various Readers</b>  |
| <b>3/31/24<br/>9:30AM<br/>Easter</b>            | <b>Kostur</b>   | <b>Bob Dorler</b>      | <b>Bob Dorler</b>       |

If you would like to volunteer to Lector, please email or call the church office.



Lectors:

Remember to adjust microphone towards you & speak into it for all to hear!

Altar Guild: Debbie Madurski  
Counters: Stan Holsopple & Denise Arnold  
Usher: Bob Dorler

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





# 2024



| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday                                  | Friday   | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|----------|
|  |  |  |   |   | 1<br>AA 7:00 pm                                  | 2        |
| 3<br>9:30 am Worship<br>Sunday School<br>Quarter Sunday<br>Coffee Hour                                 | 4<br>Quilters 9:30 am<br>Flagship City<br>Chorus 7 pm  | 5<br>AA Mtg. 7:30 pm   | 6<br>Tops 9:00 am<br>Bible Study 6 pm<br>Holden Service 7 pm<br>Church Choir 8 pm<br>AA Mtg. 7:30 pm  | 7   | 8<br>AA 7:00 pm                                  | 9        |
| 10<br>9:30 am Worship<br>Sunday School   | 11<br>Quilters 9:30 am<br>Flagship City Chorus 7 pm    | 12<br>AA Mtg. 7:30 pm  | 13<br>Tops 9:00 am<br>Bible Study 6 pm<br>Holden Service 7 pm<br>Church Choir 8 pm<br>AA Mtg. 7:30 pm | 14  | 15<br>AA 7:00 pm                                 | 16       |
| 17<br>9:30 am Worship<br>Sunday School<br>Church Council<br>10:35 AM                                   | 18<br>Quilters 9:30 am<br>Flagship City Chorus 7 pm    | 19<br>Service of Prayer<br>around the Cross<br>7 pm<br>AA Mtg. 7:30 pm | 20<br>Tops 9:00 am<br>Bible Study 6 pm<br>Holden Service 7 pm<br>Church Choir 8 pm<br>AA Mtg. 7:30 pm | 21  | 22   | 23       |
| 24 <b>Palm Sunday</b><br><b>9:30 AM Worship</b><br><b>Sunday School</b><br><b>Healing Service 7 PM</b> | 25<br>Quilters 9:30 am<br>Flagship City<br>Chorus 7 pm | 26<br>Prayer Around the<br>Cross 7 PM<br>AA Mtg. 7:30 pm               | 27<br>Tops 9:00 am<br>Bible Study 6 pm<br>Holden Service 7 pm<br>Church Choir 8 pm<br>AA Mtg. 7:30 pm | 28 <b>Maundy Thursday</b><br>Service 7 PM | 29 <b>Good Friday</b><br>Service 7 PM<br>AA 7 pm |          |

**31 Easter Sunday**  
9:30 AM Worship  
Sunday School



**JUNE 3RD**  
MEADVILLE COUNTRY CLUB

**Bethesda**  
LUTHERAN SERVICES  
*Promising Futures*

**16TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF OUTING**

Our goal for this year is to raise \$30,000 and you can help by becoming an official sponsor of our 16th Annual Charity Golf Classic. Gain exposure to participants throughout the county as well as different perks for every giving level.

**SHOOTING FOR PROMISING FUTURES!**

**REGISTER NOW!**  
**\$125 | INDIVIDUAL GOLFER**  
**\$500 | TEAM**

ashields@bethesda1919.org 814.724.7510 ext. 228 www.bethesda1919.org

Spend the day doing something you love while supporting a great cause! The 16th Annual Charity Golf Outing. Get a team together, or just go out and spend the day in the sun golfing on your own!

Look at this fundraiser! The event of the year! Take your sweetheart out for a fun night of dinner and dancing to a live 80's band! Not only do you get dinner and dancing, you get a live auction and the chance to hear a special speaker! What a great way to spend your Saturday evening!

**Bethesda**  
LUTHERAN SERVICES  
*Promising Futures*

BACK TO THE  
**80'S GALA**

Join us for our **LARGEST** fundraiser of the year!  
**MARCH 23RD 2024**  
Hotel Conneaut @ 5 PM

Dinner, dancing to a live 80's band: High Above 80, a live auction, and a special speaker

**TICKETS: INDIVIDUAL \$65 & COUPLES \$125**

**RESERVE YOUR TICKETS TODAY**  
814.724.7510 ext. 228 or at [www.bethesda1919.org/gala](http://www.bethesda1919.org/gala)  
**SPONSORSHIPS ALSO AVAILABLE**

Rooms are available by contacting the Hotel Conneaut directly at (614) 573-7747



**Immanuel**  
Church Office  
814-833-4062

Office Hours  
8:30—12:30  
Monday—Thursday

immluthch@verizon.net

## 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*



### **Staff**

Pastor Karen Kostur 814-833-4062  
or Emergency #: 724-557-2386  
Pastor's Office Hours – Tuesday  
1:00-2:00 Thursday, 9:00am-  
2:00pm

Church Caretaker: Wally Coughlin  
Organist/Music Director: Bryan  
Timm  
Admin. Ofc.: Brenda Matson

### **Sunday School**

Coord: Anita Byrne & Janice Kreger  
Teachers: Anita Byrne & Pastor

### **2024 Congregation & Church Council Officers**

Pres: Bob Dorler 814-833-2719  
VP: Rick Kuntz 814-572-3719  
Sec.: Mary Hauser 814-397-7552  
Fin. Sec.: C. Geddes 814-734-1286  
Treasurer: Bill Redditt 814-833-9756

### **Additional Council Members**

Sally Leubin, Dave Mays



2024 Council Members

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/>

**WATCH FOR US ON FACEBOOK, GOERIE.COM, ERIE NEWS NOW AND IN PRINT IN THE ERIE TIMES NEWS**

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

Council liaison: Sally Leubin

**COFFEE HOUR 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF THE MONTH  
ONGOING COLLECTION FOR LITTLE FREE PANTRY  
SOUP COOK BOOKLET AVAILABLE**

### **Finance**

Council liaison: Vacant  
**ANNUAL Budget**

### **Property**

Council liaison: Bob Dorler & Rick Kuntz  
Committee Chair: vacant

**FACILITY MAINTENANCE  
RENTAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE  
ONGOING BOILER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

### **Stewardship**

Council liaison: Dave Mays

### **Social Ministry Committee**

Committee chair: Debbie Madurski

### **Worship & Music**

Council liaison: Joe Byrne Chair: Sue Pfeiffer

### **Christian Education**

Council liaison: Mary Hauser