

# ***IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH***

 **March**



***\*\*Please take note that the parking lot doors will be locked at 9:45 am. If you arrive after 9:45 am, please use the front door. Thank you for your understanding!\*\****

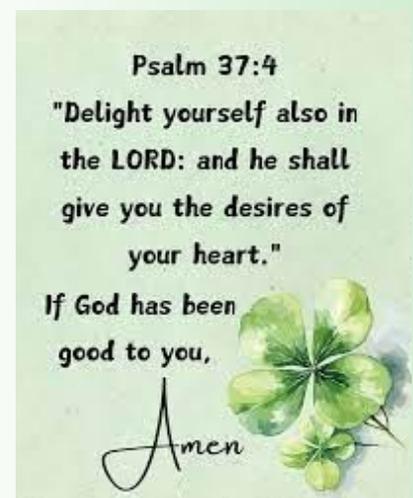
**1002 Powell Avenue**

**Erie PA 16505**

**814-833-4062**

# Table of Contents

- Grace & Peace From the Pastor's Desk
- Worship & Music
- Lenten Worship Calendar
- Social Ministry / Christian Education
- Fellowship Brunch
- Easter Flower & Local Hunger Appeal Form
- Prayer List
- March Dates
- Saint Catherine's Monastery
- March Celebrations of Life & Love
- Spring Renewal
- March Worship Calendar
- Lenten Crossword
- Recipe of the Month
- March Calendar of Events
- Holy Week
- Green Scene
- Church Council & Committees





## *Grace & Peace from the Pastor's Desk*

Romans 12:12, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in affliction, persevere in prayer."

Philippians 4:4, "Rejoice in the Lord, always. I will say it again, rejoice."

It is easy to rejoice when we see miracles happen. One of my clergy women friends had a miracle happen when her husband who was on life support, and she and her children were going in to say their last goodbyes, found him sitting up in bed talking and smiling without any support systems attached. That's an easy time to rejoice. But what if the morning hadn't happened that way, would there still have been rejoicing? As a Christian the answer would be yes because her husband would be resting in the arms of Jesus. But it's not that cut and dry, is it?

It is those times that we have to lean deeply into our faith and know that no matter what we can rejoice because we have the promise of Jesus, the promise that we will live through eternity. Now eternity might not sound enticing to everyone. I had a young confirmand at the first church that I served who questioned, "Who wants to live forever?" Looking deeper into his question I found that it came from his father, who was not a Christian, and who was not a very happy person. We talked about eternity, about what it means. That eternity isn't just after you die, but eternity is also the here and now.

So if eternity is the here and now, why would we want to spend it being down in the dumps, defensive, and simply not enjoying our life? Unless we have severe depression, we can make the choice and we can choose to have joy. One of the ways that I have found that gives me the most joy is to think about what is good in this world. To think about how lucky I am and how blessed I am to live this life where I have persons of faith who surround me, and I have friends who are also faithful Christians. Perhaps you do not have that same circumstance in your life. I'm not saying that it is easy, but you can make the choice to find positive friends, friends who believe in Jesus, friends who are always cheerful. Cheerful people are not easy to find but, but they do exist.

Another way that I am able to find joy is to read the Bible, especially Ephesians and Philippians. When I realize how much Jesus did for me, how he left paradise to come to live on earth so that we can have a closer relationship with God, to understand what God expects of us, and to know how much God is willing to give us, not in material goods but in spiritual goods, it is an amazing thought, and I can't help but rejoice. I have found that when I rejoice in all circumstances, not because of the circumstance, but in the circumstance, it makes it far easier to get through whatever it is that is happening. That is God's gift to us.

I hope to be back in the office the end of June. If you need anything before then please contact the office and we will make sure that you have a pastoral presence if needed.

*Grace and Peace,*

*Pastor Karen*



# Worship & Music



# SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30 AM

**\*\*EVERYONE IS**

*Lenten Bible Study meets at 10:45 on Thursday mornings. We are studying "Why Easter is Important." It's not too late to join us!*

**Don't forget the first Sunday of each month is Quarter Sunday. Be sure to deposit some quarters in the collection plate. Thank you!**



## Coffee hour

Join us the first Sunday of each month after worship for Coffee Hour. Everyone is welcome to join your Immanuel Family & Friends as we enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and a sweet treat while sharing conversation with one another.

**PLEASE BE SURE TO JOIN US!**





**PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS**

**Every Wednesday Evening in  
March at 6:30 pm**

**HOLDEN EVENING SERVICES**

**WEDNESDAYS AT 7:15 PM**

**March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th and April  
1st.**

**PRAYER SERVICE (March 30th) 6 PM**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY (April 2nd)  
7 PM**

**GOOD FRIDAY (April 3rd)  
7 PM**

**EASTER SUNDAY (April 5th)  
9:30 AM**



**\*\*EVERYONE is welcome!\*\***



**We collected \$261.00 for the “Souper Bowl” of caring. We will be sending the donations to support The Holy Trinity Soup & Pasta Kitchen. THANK YOU!!!**

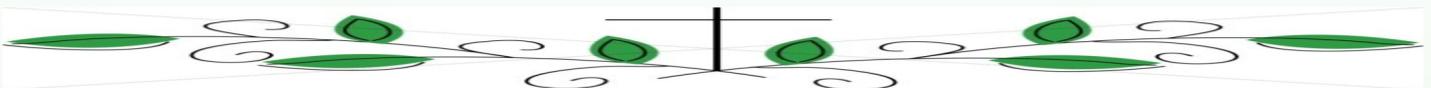


**Social Ministry will begin collecting for the Community Shelter Services beginning March 15th.**

**We are collecting to purchase bus passes to help those who utilize the Shelters services.**

**We are collecting March 15th—April 5th.**

**\*\*If you are donating by check, please be sure to mark “Bus Pass” in the memo line.\*\***



## Christian Education



**THANK YOU!!!**

**We collected 114 hats, 50 pair of gloves, 6 pair mittens, 8 scarves and 10 pair of socks for Bethesda!**



# **FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH MARCH 15th**

**Please stay after worship on Sunday, March 15th and join us for our monthly Fellowship Brunch.**

**If you are able, please bring a dish to share.**

**We would like everyone to join us as we share a meal together and time as a family!**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**\*\*We need people to volunteer to set up for the brunch (getting out plates, place settings, cups, etc...) and cleaning up afterward. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Thank you!\*\***



**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 \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**Instead of flowers** I would like to give \_\_\_\_\_ for the Special Offering for Easter Sunday to go towards 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 29, 2026.**

# Thank you

## ST. PAUL'S FREE CLINIC

February 17, 2026

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Attn: Debbie Redditt, Financial Secretary  
1002 Powell Avenue  
Erie, PA 16505

Dear Debbie Redditt and Immanuel Lutheran Church Members,

The St. Paul's Free Clinic has received your donation in the amount of (\$140) to help provide free medical and dental care to those in need in our community.

We want to thank you personally for this very generous gift. It was through your generosity that we are the recipients of this charitable act to help support our ongoing operational expenses.

Once again, we thank you so much for your continued support and interest in the St. Paul's Free Clinic in helping us to achieve our mission.

St. Paul's Free Clinic is a charitable organization. Please keep this receipt for your records. No service or goods have been received for this donation.

Sincerely,

Lisa Kelleher  
Executive Director

***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. Maybe just stop to share a moment of your time. How about taking a cup of coffee, a pastry or just a smile and share it with one of our loved ones who are unable to join us in person. Remember how much that one gesture can mean to someone.***

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

***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.***

## **KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

Denise Arnold  
Vince Belinski—Diane’s Nephew  
Karen Byrd  
Janice Kreger  
MaryAnn Long and Russ Long  
Penney Maloney  
The Botwright family  
Connie Cooper  
Jim and Lorraine Hornaman  
Rich Hornaman  
Kyle Husted  
Carol Ketchel  
Diane McGranor  
Brenda Matson  
Katie Coughlin-Palotas— Wally Coughlin’s niece  
Carole Rickrode  
Bob Roemer  
Leslie Woodruff—Carole Rickrode’s Granddaughter  
Logan Wrisley —Brenda Matson’s son  
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.**  
**Pray for the homeless & those who are hungry & those who are cold.**





## St. Patrick's Day



March 29, 2026



# Saint Catherine's Monastery

Saint Catherine's Monastery located at the foot of Mount Sinai in Egypt, is the oldest continuously inhabited Christian monastery, with a history that can be traced back over seventeen centuries. It was built in the 6th century, between 548—565CE. The Greek Orthodox monks who live in the monastery, observe rites that have continued uninterrupted within the monastery walls for 15 centuries!

The monastery is impressive with 34 feet high, 6 foot thick granite wall that have never been breached. The walls have holes in them that are used for firing arrows. It is nestled low on the mountain and looks humble and timeless, according to the Smithsonian magazine. Yet, despite the rise and fall of the surrounding civilizations, the life at Saint Catherine's monastery has changed remarkably little.

Overseeing the monastery are approximately 25 or so Greek Orthodox monks, with some of them from the United States. They live like their forefathers did 1500 years ago. Every morning a bar is beaten at 3:30am to call the monks to service. The Orthodox service last from 4am until 7am. The fathers, many of the elderly stand through the entire service. The monks eat a single meal which is at noontime. The remainder of the day is spent in prayer.

Saint Catherine's monastery has been mostly left undisturbed for its 1,400 year existence. The monastery is prepared for emergencies, such as a war or invasion with secret passageways that lead out of the monastery.

In 1963 the great mosaic of the Transfiguration which is located in the dome of the monastery was on the verge of falling off the ceiling. It had stood there undisturbed for 14 centuries! To save it, 56 tiny holes were drilled in the mosaic with mortar squeezed into the holes and 7 copper pins were placed in the mortar to reinforce it.

Saint Catherine's hosts the world's oldest continually operating library that has been used by the monastery since the fourth century. In addition to printed books, the library houses more than 3,000 manuscripts that have been accumulated over the centuries. Due to the dry stable climate in the area, they are all remarkably preserved.

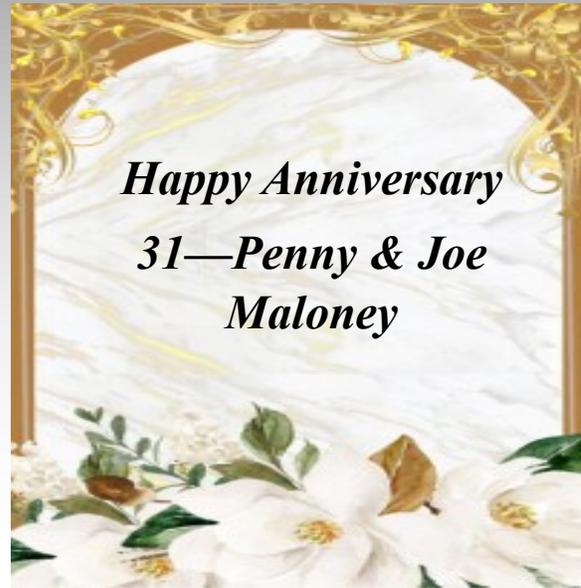


# MARCH CELEBRATIONS



## Happy Birthday!

- 3—Julie Molnar
- 4—Julie Sierota
- 7—Joe Byrne
- 8—Stephanie Wood
- 11—Ava Fetco
- 25—Lori Nemenz
- 31—Mary Hauser



## Happy Anniversary 31—Penny & Joe Maloney

Did your special day get forgotten? PLEASE let me know so I can fix it!!!

### Capital Campaign - Boiler:

Funds for the boiler campaign currently show \$35,642.38 toward our goal of \$58,803.

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



### 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.

# Spring's Renewal Within Your Soul



As spring starts to awaken, we can sit back and watch the world around us burst into life, as the bird's begin to sing, the days become longer and spring flowers start poking their faces through to grasp their first bit of sunlight. This is the time of year that is a vivid reminder of the Creator's hand in every change in the season! Spring carries us a message of renewal, a testament to the power of the transformation in nature and within your soul.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come.

Just as spring starts the changes in the season bringing brightness to the darkness and beauty to the coldness of winter, your faith in Christ can blossom with wondering hope, Spring is a reminder that you can transform into someone far more wonderful in this season. As you watch the rebirth of nature, God invites you to renew and cultivate your faith and grow in Him.

Therefore, if anyone  
is in Christ, he is a  
**new creation;**  
old things have  
passed away; behold,  
all things have  
become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17



# HELP WANTED

## HELP FEED SENIORS IN OUR COMMUNITY

### Meals on Wheels Drivers Urgently Needed!



Meals on Wheels of Erie County is driven by  
one mission: to ensure that  
no senior goes hungry or feels alone.



#### Volunteer Qualifications

Must have a valid driver's license, insurance, reliable vehicle, and pass a background check — all for our seniors' safety



#### What You Will Do

Choose a delivery route, decide on delivery days, & provide nutritious meals during weekdays



#### What GECAC Will Do

Provide training, route details, packaged meals & mileage reimbursement. Drivers aged 55+ earn additional mileage, insurance, & senior volunteer recognition



Learn more by scanning the QR code.  
[www.gecac.org](http://www.gecac.org) (814) 459-4581



# MARCH WORSHIP CALENDAR



Date	Presider	Assistant	Lector
03/01/2026 9:30 AM	Pastor Kostur	Bob Dorler	Bob Dorler
03/08/2026 9:30 AM	Pastor Kostur	Debbie Redditt	Brenda Matson
03/15/2026 9:30AM	Pastor Kostur		Rick Durst
03/22/2026 9:30 AM	Pastor Kostur	Anita Byrne	Debbie Madurski
03/29/2026 9:30 AM	Pastor Kostur	Debbie Redditt	Brenda Matson





# Dublin Coddle (Irish Sausage and Potato Stew)



Coddle is a delicious Irish dish featuring sausage, bacon, and potatoes. This recipe browns the meat more and uses stout instead of milk. Everything cooks low and slow on the stovetop or in the oven to make a great dish for St. Patrick's Day.

8 strips thick cut bacon (cut in 1' pieces)

2 chopped yellow onions

1 c chopped green onions

1 TBS fresh thyme leaves

Fresh ground pepper (to taste)

Pinch of cayenne pepper

4 c chicken broth

2 TBS butter

4 cloves minced garlic

1 c stout beer

1/4 c chopped Italian parsley

2 TSP salt (to taste)

3 # Yukon Gold potatoes (peeled & halved)

2 1/2 # large sausage links

Cook bacon in a Dutch oven or a large oven-safe pot with a lid over medium heat, turning occasionally, until evenly browned, about 10 minutes. Add butter, onions, and pinch of salt, and cook until onions are soft and translucent. Add garlic, and green onions, and cook stirring for 2 minutes.

Pour in beer, raise heat to high, and cook, stirring occasionally, until beer has reduced by about 75%. While beer is reducing, season with thyme, parsley, black pepper, salt, and pinch cayenne. Once beer has reduced, add potatoes and broth and bring to a simmer.

Preheat the oven to 300 degrees F (150 degrees C).

Prick sausage on both sides, and add to the pot on top of the other ingredients.

Cover and place pot into the preheated oven. Cook for about 2 1/2 hours. Remove the lid, and continue cooking uncovered for about 1 more hour.

Remove from oven and skim excess fat from top before serving. Garnish top with green onions, if desired.

# MARCH 2026

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Worship 9:30 Quarter Sunday Coffee Hour	Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm	AA Mtg 7:30 pm	Tops 9:30 am AA Mtg 7:30 p <b>Prayer Around the Cross 6:30</b> <b>Holden Evening Service 7:15 p</b>	Bible Study 10:45 am Choir 12 pm	AA 7 pm <b>Game Night 6 pm</b>	
<b>8 Daylight Savings Time</b>	9	10	11	12	13	14
Worship 9:30 am Council Meeting	Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm	AA Mtg 7:30 pm	Tops 9:30 am AA Mtg 7:30 pm <b>Prayer Around the Cross 6:30</b> <b>Holden Evening Service 7:15</b>	Bible Study 10:45 am Choir 12 pm	AA 7 pm <b>Game Night 6 pm</b>	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Worship 9:30 am <b>FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH</b>	<b>President's Day</b> Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm	<b>Mardi Gras</b> AA Mtg 7:30 pm	Tops 9:30 am Worship 7:30 PM AA Mtg 7:30 pm <b>Holden Evening Service 7:15</b>	Bible Study 10:45 am Choir 12pm	AA 7 pm <b>Game Night 6 pm</b>	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Worship 9:30 am	Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm	AA Mtg 7:30 pm	Tops 9:30 am AA Mtg 7:30 pm <b>Prayer Around the Cross 6:30</b> <b>Holden Evening Service 7:15 pm</b>	Bible Study 10:45 am Choir 12 pm	AA 7 pm <b>Game Night 6 pm</b>	
<b>29 Palm Sunday</b> <b>Easter Flower Orders Due</b>	30	31				
	Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm	AA Mtg 7:30 pm				





March 30th—  
April 5th 2026

Easter is not just a day—it is a season, and a way of life.

This year, consider beginning your Easter preparation an entire week early so that you may experience Jesus' last week on earth as a man. These seven days are called Holy Week because without the crucifixion, there would not have been a Resurrection Sunday. Had Christ not hung on the cross, taken on our sins, and defeated Satan's power, his rising again would not have been as meaningful. We would not be rejoicing and singing hymns about it. Most likely the New Testament wouldn't have been written. But, most importantly no one would have eternal life

Through scripture, you can “walk in Jesus' shoes.” We know how the story ends. To experience it put yourself in the moment of each day and take the place of the disciples, of Jesus, of the Roman soldiers, and even Judas if you dare! Live the story as it unfolds.

Each Holy day, Bible verses are selected to help you live the story.

Begin on Palm Sunday. Read about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem riding on the donkey and the meaning behind it as fulfilled by the prophets. Read ***Luke 19:28-42 and Zechariah 9:9.***

Monday read about Jesus at the Temple. Open your Bible and read ***Luke 19:45-20:8.***

Tuesday read all about Jesus teaching at the Temple, ***Luke 20:1-40.***

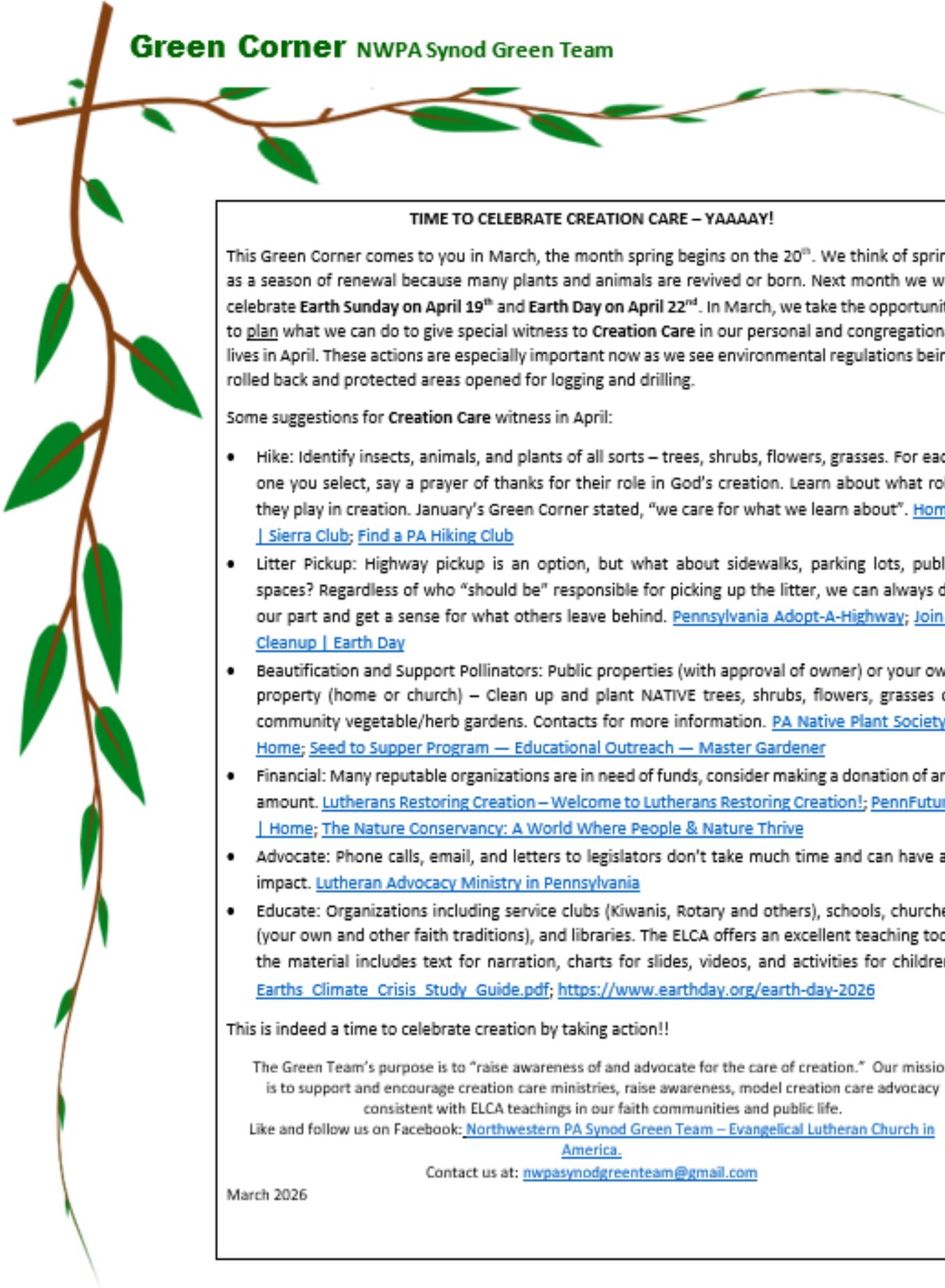
Wednesday read all about who Jesus said he was and the reactions of the people in ***Luke 20:41-47 & Luke 22:1-6.***

Thursday (Maundy Thursday, the day of the Last Supper): Maundy is an old English word for washing. You are going to read ***Luke 22:7-46.***

Friday (Good Friday) take a moment between Noon and 3 pm to stop and reflect on Jesus' death on the cross and read ***Luke 22:47-23:48 & John 19:1-37.***

Saturday (Holy Saturday) is when Jesus lays all alone in the tomb. Scripture is more silent about this day but you can read ***Luke 23:50-56 & John 19:38-42.***

Sunday (EASTER) awaken with a song in your heart, as He has risen! The Lord has risen indeed! Read all about it in ***Luke 24 & John 20.***



## Green Corner NWPASynod Green Team

### TIME TO CELEBRATE CREATION CARE – YAAAAAY!

This Green Corner comes to you in March, the month spring begins on the 20<sup>th</sup>. We think of spring as a season of renewal because many plants and animals are revived or born. Next month we will celebrate **Earth Sunday on April 19<sup>th</sup>** and **Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup>**. In March, we take the opportunity to plan what we can do to give special witness to **Creation Care** in our personal and congregational lives in April. These actions are especially important now as we see environmental regulations being rolled back and protected areas opened for logging and drilling.

Some suggestions for **Creation Care** witness in April:

- Hike: Identify insects, animals, and plants of all sorts – trees, shrubs, flowers, grasses. For each one you select, say a prayer of thanks for their role in God's creation. Learn about what role they play in creation. January's Green Corner stated, "we care for what we learn about". [Home](#) | [Sierra Club](#); [Find a PA Hiking Club](#)
- Litter Pickup: Highway pickup is an option, but what about sidewalks, parking lots, public spaces? Regardless of who "should be" responsible for picking up the litter, we can always do our part and get a sense for what others leave behind. [Pennsylvania Adopt-A-Highway](#); [Join a Cleanup](#) | [Earth Day](#)
- Beautification and Support Pollinators: Public properties (with approval of owner) or your own property (home or church) – Clean up and plant **NATIVE** trees, shrubs, flowers, grasses or community vegetable/herb gardens. Contacts for more information. [PA Native Plant Society - Home](#); [Seed to Supper Program](#) — [Educational Outreach](#) — [Master Gardener](#)
- Financial: Many reputable organizations are in need of funds, consider making a donation of any amount. [Lutherans Restoring Creation – Welcome to Lutherans Restoring Creation!](#); [PennFuture](#) | [Home](#); [The Nature Conservancy: A World Where People & Nature Thrive](#)
- Advocate: Phone calls, email, and letters to legislators don't take much time and can have an impact. [Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania](#)
- Educate: Organizations including service clubs (Kiwanis, Rotary and others), schools, churches (your own and other faith traditions), and libraries. The ELCA offers an excellent teaching tool, the material includes text for narration, charts for slides, videos, and activities for children. [Earths Climate Crisis Study Guide.pdf](#); <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2026>

This is indeed a time to celebrate creation by taking action!!

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.

Like and follow us on Facebook: [Northwestern PA Synod Green Team – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.](#)

Contact us at: [nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com](mailto:nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com)

March 2026

**Immanuel**

**Church Office 814-833-4062**

**Office Hours**

**8:30—12:30 Monday—Thursday**

**Staff**

**Pastor Karen Kostur 814-833-4062**

**or Cell#: 724-557-2386**

**Pastor’s Office Hours – Tuesday 1:00-3:00**

**Thursday, 9:30am-2:00pm**

**Church Caretaker: Wally Coughlin**

**Organist/Music Director: Allan Slovenkay**

**Admin. Ofc.: Brenda Matson**

**Sunday School**

Coord: Anita Byrne & Janice Kreger

Teachers: Anita Byrne & Pastor Kostur &  
Brenda Durst

**2026 Congregation & Church  
Council Officers**

Pres: Rick Kuntz 814-572-3719

VP: Joe Byrne 814-397-7319

Sec.: Brenda Durst 814-873-0451

Fin. Sec.: Bob Dorler 814-449-1855

Treasurer: Debbie Redditt 814-833-9756

**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!!*

**Fellowship, Outreach & Growth**

Council liaisons: Sally Leubin

**COFFEE HOUR 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF THE MONTH**

**ONGOING COLLECTION FOR LITTLE FREE PANTRY**

**Finance**

Council liaison: ANNUAL Budget

**Property**

Council liaison: Rick Kuntz

Committee Chair: Debbie Redditt

**FACILITY MAINTENANCE**

**RENTAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**

**ONGOING BOILER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

**Stewardship**

Council liaison: Dave Mays

**Social Ministry Committee**

Committee chair: Debbie Madurski

Council Liaison: Brenda Durst

**Worship & Music**

Liaison to Worship: Joe Byrne

**Christian Education**

Council liaison:

**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/>**