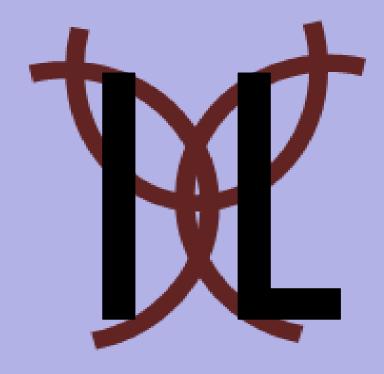
## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH April 2025





1002 Powell Avenue Erie PA 16505

814-833-4062

# April Edition Cable of Contents





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



The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Psalm 23:1-3

What a comforting message the first three verses of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm give to us. To think that we have someone who watches over us closely, who protects us, who makes sure we have enough water, that our soul is refreshed, renewed, and restored to where we find peace and solace. Then we find that he will lead us to where he wants us to be for the sake of the Lord. That may sound like we are being led down a pathway against our will, to be led in right pathways for his name's sake. Yet, the Psalm says "right pathways".

As we read the comforting words of Psalm 23, which assure us of the Lord's guidance and provision, we find ourselves reflecting deeply on the season of Lent. This season is a time for repentance, restoration, and renewal, where we seek to strengthen our relationship with God and embrace His path for us.

With the good Shepherd leading us through these transformative weeks, our hearts are prepared to enter the celebration of Easter. Easter marks a pivotal moment in our faith, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the triumph of life over death. It is a time of immense joy and gratitude, where we acknowledge the sacrifice made for our salvation and rejoice in the new life we have been granted.

In this sacred period, we are reminded of the unwavering love and mercy of our God, who not only watches over us but leads us to green pastures and still waters. As we celebrate Easter, let us embrace the renewed spirit within us, find peace in the presence of our Shepherd, and joyfully proclaim the victory of the risen Lord.

Know that I am available to speak with you or to visit with you. I am usually in the office from 1 to 3p.m. on Tuesdays and 10:00 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Thursdays. The phone number there is 814-833-4062. You can call me on my cell phone at any time 724-557-2386, please leave a message if I do not answer.

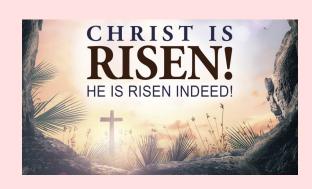
Grace and Peace, Pastor Karen











Sunday Worship
9:30 am
EVERYONE Welcome!
Come join the
Immanuel Family!





Grab your spare quarters and bring them with you the first Sunday of the month for "Quarter Sunday."



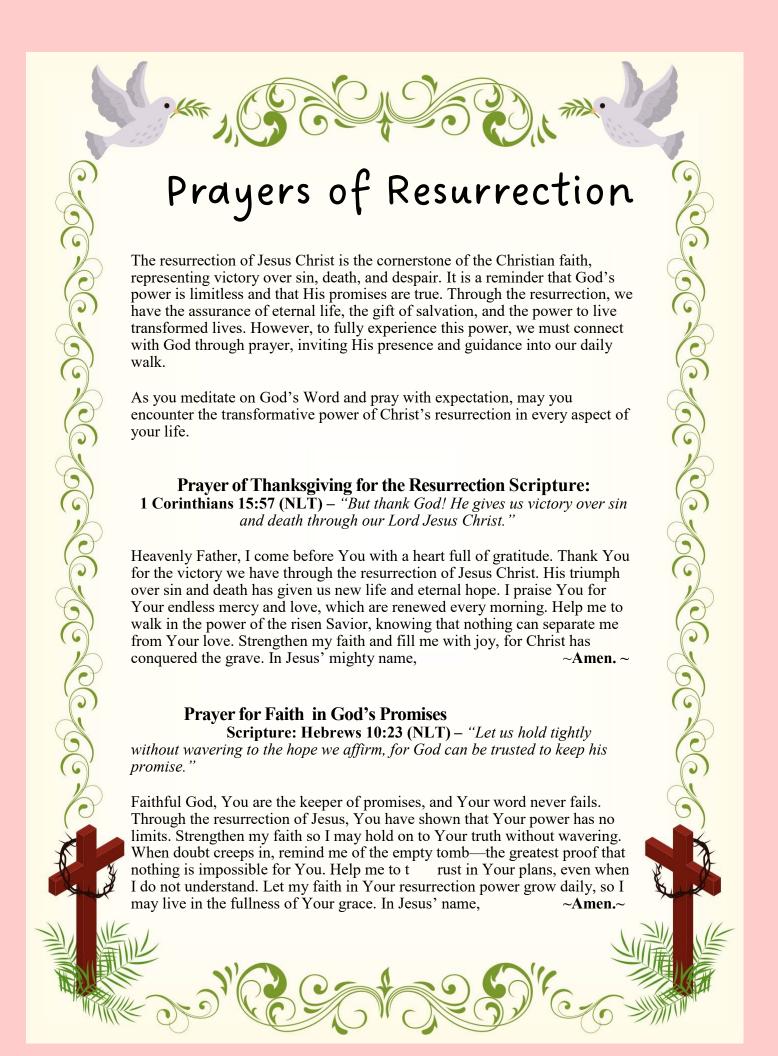




EASTER FLOWERS, I would like to give \_\_\_\_\_ flowers for the Special Offering for Easter Sunday at \$8.50 each. \$ \_\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. In honor of \_\_\_\_\_ In memory of Given by \_\_\_\_\_ Please indicate your preference below please have circle member deliver to shut in I will deliver to shut in 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

PLACE FORM & DONATION IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR DROP OFF TO THE OFFICE BEFORE APRIL 14TH.

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



Let's share some kindness during this special holiday season. Hold the members of Immanuel who are shut-in or having some health issues and are unable to make it to worship close to your heart. But, how about going a step further and drop them a cheery card in the mail to let them know you are thinking about them? Everyone loves to get something in the mail besides bills!

Stop by a shut-ins place and have a cup of tea or coffee with them and spend some time giving them much needed adult company!

The shut-in address list is on the bulletin board.



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:**

Vince Belinski—Diane's Nephew

Karen Byrd

Rev. Bill Cox

Chick Crosby (Sally Leubin's brother)

Janice Kreger

MaryAnn Long and Russ Long

Penney Maloney

Denise Arnold

The Botwright family

Connie Cooper

Jim and Lorraine Hornaman

Kyle Husted

Carol and Gordon Ketchel

Vickie & Mark Fischer

Bishop Michael Lozano

Brenda Matson

Carole Rickrode

**Bob Roemer** 

Alice Tillotson—Mary Hauser's sister

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.

## April Celebrations of Life & Love

- 1 Travis Feiler
- 17 Kylie Husted
- 18 Jason Kuntz
- 18 Bryan Timm
- 23 Carol Ketchel
- 24 Ron DelPorto
- 24 Lainey Bartlett
- 25 Bob Dorler
- 25 Kylie Nelson



There are no April anniversaries to celebrate.

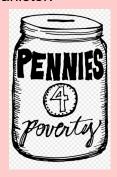


#### Capital Campaign - Boiler:

Funds for the boiler campaign currently show \$35,642.38



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





#### 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.

## Easter symbols and their meanings

- ♦ The Christian tradition of Easter eggs symbolizes the resurrection of Jesus on Easter. The eggshell symbolizes the tomb in which Jesus's body was placed; opening the egg represents Jesus rising from the dead.
- ♦ The Easter lily is often the centerpiece of Easter celebrations. Legend has it that white lilies sprung from the ground around Jesus as he spent his final hours on the cross. It is said that when Jesus's perspiration hit the ground, a lily grew in that exact spot. As a result, Easter lilies are a symbolic trait of new life and purity. For Easter, the lilies symbolize Jesus' resurrection and the promise of everlasting life.
- ♦ During Easter, the lamb is a popular symbol. The lamb symbolizes Jesus himself. Jesus was sent to Earth to provide for the forgiveness of the sins of all mankind, according to Christian tradition. On Good Friday, the day that Jesus was crucified, he was led "as a la,n to slaughter." A baby lamb symbolizes rebirth and new life in the spring season.
- ♦ The cross one of the most powerful and religious symbols of Easter. Crosses can be made of different materials, however a plain wooden cross is the version most symbolic of Easter. A wooden cross is the most accurate depiction of the cross which Jesus was crucified and died on before being placed in a tomb and being resurrected three days later.
- ♦ It has been said that the wood of the dogwood tree was used to build the cross which Jesus was crucified on. The dogwood tree typically blooms on or very close to Easter, even though Easter isn't at the same time each year.
- ♦ The Paschal candle is from a new fire during Easter Vigil, which takes place in many churches the evening before Easter Sunday. The Pashal candle is made of beeswax and is marked with the year, a cross and the Greek letters Alpha and Omega, which represent the beginning and the end. The Paschal candle is used to light smaller candles held by the members of the congregation to represent spreading the light of Jesus.
- ♦ On Palm Sunday, the week before Easter, parishioners are given palm fonds that are used to ceremonially recreate Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem prior to His crucifixion. It represents the biblical story of the townspeople that honored Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem. Palms are said to symbolize victory and peace.
- ♦ Butterflies symbolize the resurrection of Jesus. Just as the butterfly emerges from a chrysalis in which they are hidden away, Jesus emerges for the tomb three days after being laid to rest. Butterflies also represent the transformation of the Christian faith that can lead through the grace of God.
- ♦ In the 7th century, Catholics weren't allowed to eat eggs, fat or milk during the 40-day Lenten Fast. Pretzels only require flour, salt and water. The pretzel shape is said to represent a common prayer position of the time. Pretzels are traditional Lenten food in many parts of the world even though the fast rules are not the same as in the 7th century.

## APRIL FUN FACTS....

Most of us look forward to the month of April as spring returns with warm temperatures, blooming flowers, and many outdoor festivals. There are a lot of fun facts and celebrations in April–let's start it off with a laugh!

- Did you ever wonder how April Fool's Day started? It is speculated that the custom of April Fools began in France during the 16th century, after the New year calendar was moved from April 1st to January 1st. Those who continued to celebrate the April new year were considered fools, and often the victims of practical jokes. Today we just like to have a little fun with our friends!
- Many festivals occur in April. In Washington DC, there is the beautiful cherry blossom festival. New Orleans hosts its Jazz and Heritage Festival and Atlanta celebrates its annual Dogwood Festival. Here in St. Louis, thousands come out to participate in the annual Earth Day festival. Make sure you mark your calendars for the 27th or 28th.
- April has two birth flowers. Both the daisy and the sweet pea are considered birth flowers for the month of April. The sweet pea signifies blissful pleasure, while daisies represent childhood innocence, loyalty, and purity.
- The month celebrates the birth of Queen Elizabeth II, Leonardo da Vinci, William Shakespeare and Thomas Jefferson.
- The first shots of the American Revolution started April 19, 1775. The Civil War, Spanish War and World War II all started in April.
- On 15 April 1912 the Titanic, believed to be unsinkable, hit an iceberg and sank 2 hours and 40 minutes later. Unfortunately, there we too few lifeboats to save everyone and only about 700 of the 2,224 passengers were rescued.
- "Houston, we've had a problem"! April 11, 1970 Apollo 13 launched from Cape Kennedy. Fifty-six hours later, she suffered a catastrophic explosion that crippled the ship. Fortunately, the astronauts were able to return home unharmed.
- April celebrates Arab American heritage, child abuse prevention, and Autism Awareness. It is also Keep America Beautiful month, Jazz Appreciation Month and Poetry Writing Month.
- Some "just for fun" April celebrations include: National Pillow Fight Day (6th), National Library Worker Day (9th), national siblings day (10th) and World Penguin Day (25th).

### Green Corner NWPA Synod Green Team

#### What is a Labyrinth?

A labyrinth is a walkway or path that always leads to the center. It is not a maze where you can make wrong turns or get blocked. It is a designed course that always moves you to the center. There are many places to find a labyrinth, but the one we want to talk and think about today is the **Labyrinth of the NWPA Synod** that sits on the grounds of the synod office located at 22598 Titusville Road (Rt 27), Pleasantville, PA 16341. While there are many reasons to use a labyrinth, we are focusing on contemplating creation and God's gifts to us in nature and our response to these gifts by Caring for Creation.

Labyrinths have a long history in the Christian tradition beginning as early as 350 AD. The meditative labyrinth moves the walker closer to the heart of God. Stopping at various spots, prayers and/or meditation guide the participant toward a deeper understanding – in this case nature and God's creation. You can walk the labyrinth alone or in a small group.

Ground was broken for the labyrinth on the synod property on September 22, 2015. After digging a full circle, gravel was poured, a sand layer was tamped and smoothed and pavers were put into place in a pattern. Three benches were installed and a walkway from the parking lot to the labyrinth was created. All of this was done in the beautiful, wooded setting behind the synod office. After the dedication, the labyrinth was ready to receive walkers. The Synod's Green Team is working with Synod staff to add native trees and shrubs to the Synod property this spring, including around the labyrinth. Watch for announcements of a workday or two if you'd like to be involved.

We encourage you to take a lovely ride to visit YOUR labyrinth on our NWPA Synod property. We encourage you to prepare to enjoy nature, pray with or without words and commune with God in thanks for the gift of creation that He has given us. We covet your prayers and thoughts concerning how to fulfill our mission as your Synod Green Team to "Raise an awareness of and advocate for the Care of Creation". May God bless you on this spiritual journey and bring you peace and solitude as you walk the labyrinth.

The Rev. Dr. Lauren Artress has written three books to help us understand and use a labyrinth. The Sacred Path Companion: A Guide to Walking the Labyrinth to Heal and Transform(2006), Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Practice(2006), and The Path of the Holy Fool: How the Labyrinth Ignites Our Visionary Powers(2020).



#### **Cake Ingredients:**

2 cups sugar
1 cup vegetable oil
4 large eggs
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. salt
2 cups grated carrots

#### **Frosting Ingredients:**

3/4 cup salted butter,
softened
12 oz. cream cheese,
softened
1 1/2 pound powdered
sugar
2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
1/2 cup toasted, chopped
pecans

# Carrot Cake

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease 2 (8-inch) round cake pans with cooking spray. Line the pans with parchment paper and grease the paper with cooking spray.

In a large bowl, whisk together the granulated sugar, oil, and eggs. In another bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt. Add the flour mixture to the egg mixture and stir to combine. Then, add the carrots and mix well.

Divide the batter between the prepared pans and bake until a toothpick inserted into the centers comes out clean, about 30 minutes. Let cool 10 minutes in the pans on a rack, then run a butter knife around the edges of the pans and remove the cakes to the rack to cool completely. Remove the parchment.

For the frosting: In large bowl, beat the butter and cream cheese with a mixer on medium speed until smooth. Add the powdered sugar and vanilla, and beat until fluffy. Place 1 cake layer on a platter and spread with frosting, then top with the second layer. Frost the top and sides of the cake with the remaining frosting. Top the cake with the pecans.

Enjoy a nice big slice!

# Bible Timeline Events Happening in April

#### **April 13: The Feast of the Lord's Passion (Palm Sunday)**

This feast marks the beginning of Holy Week and recalls Jesus' entrance to Jerusalem. This marked the beginning of His Passion. His entry into Jerusalem is sometimes called the Triumphal Entry in anticipation of his victory of all spiritual powers. This day is also called Palm Sunday in recollection of the palm branches laid in his path of entry. Palm branches are commonly used in Christian gatherings

#### **April 16: Holy Wednesday**

Holy Wednesday, or Spy Wednesday, commemorates the day of the betrayal of Christ by Judas. A Tenebrae service may be held.

#### **April 17: Maundy Thursday**

"Maundy" comes from the Latin word mandatum, which means "commandment." It recalls Jesus' words, "I give you a new commandment," in <u>John 13:31-35</u>. Maundy Thursday recalls the Jesus' washing the disciples' feet and gathering for the last supper. Foot washing may be observed on this day.

#### **April 18: Good Friday**

Good Friday is a day of irony. Although it is a day of lament and quiet reflection upon our Savior's death for our sin, it is also "good" because we do not sorrow as people without hope. We often recount the "seven sayings" of Christ from the cross. A Tenebrae service may be held. The cross, a crown of thorns, a black veil, a tomb, and nails are common symbols.

#### **April 19: Holy Saturday**

Holy Saturday remembers our Savior's burial and descent to the dead. On this day we remember that we need not fear to go where Christ has been, for there is no place left untouched by our Savior. Scriptures on the descent of Christ include the Gospel accounts of Christ's burial, Peter's description of the descent in 1 Peter 3:18-20 and 4:1-6, Psalm 31, Lamentations 3, and Job 14. This day marks the end of the Lenten season.

#### **April 20: The Feast of the Lord's Resurrection (Easter Sunday)**

The Feast of the Lord's Resurrection is also called Easter, Resurrection Sunday, and Passover. This is the most widely celebrated feast day by Christians around the world. In a sense, every Sunday of the year is a celebration of the risen Christ. The old English word Easter means "east" in reference to the dawning light of the sun. For the Church, Easter is the dawning of the Son of God. The Feast of Easter begins fifty days of celebration of the resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. Sunrise services and baptisms are commonly practiced on Easter morning. An open tomb, a cross draped with white, and a gold crown are often used as symbols of Easter. Baptismal candidates don white robes.



# "Come to the Light" at Olmsted Manor, May 30th-31st

#### "Come to the Light"

is the theme for the 2025 Synodical Women's Convention (SWO) on May 30th - 31st. It is for all women of the NWPA ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America). The committee is trying to keep the costs to a minimum so more women can participate. They have changed the date to get away from Mother's day weekend. There are many options for attendance.

The SWO board and convention committee hope those attending will experience a time of rest and renewal, a time to recharge your battery. We will have news from churchwide and we will learn about Katie's Fund, an initiative of churchwide. A craft is planned for those interested and other mindfulness activities will be sprinkled throughout our time together. Our goal is to conduct the business meeting in a concise manner.

Registration forms are located on the table. There is also a copy on the bulletin

board.









Date	Presider	Assistant	Lector
04/06/25 9:30 AM	Kostur	Debbie Redditt	Ron Middaugh
04/13/25 Palm Sunday 9:30 AM	Kostur	Debbie Redditt	Zach Middaugh
04/17/25 Maundy Thursday 7 PM	Kostur	Debbie Redditt	Bill Redditt
04/18/25 Good Friday 7 PM	Kostur	Anita Byrne	Ron Middaugh
04/20/25 Easter Sunday 9:30 AM	Kostur	Bob Dorler	Rick Durst
04/27/25 9:30 AM	Kostur	Anita Byrne	Zach Middaugh



#### **An Easter Prayer**

Good and gracious God,

Our most glorious Creator,

As we greet the signs in nature around us:

Of Spring once again regaling us in bloom,

In the songs of returning birds and fields soon to be planted,

We give you praise for an even greater sign of new life: the resurrection of your Son,

Our Lord Jesus Christ, that we especially celebrate at this time.

The sadness and despair of his death has given way to the bright promise of immortality.

For the Resurrection is our guarantee that justice will triumph over treason, Light will overcome darkness, and love will conquer death.

As we celebrate, we also dare to ask for your grace that we may live the promise given to us,

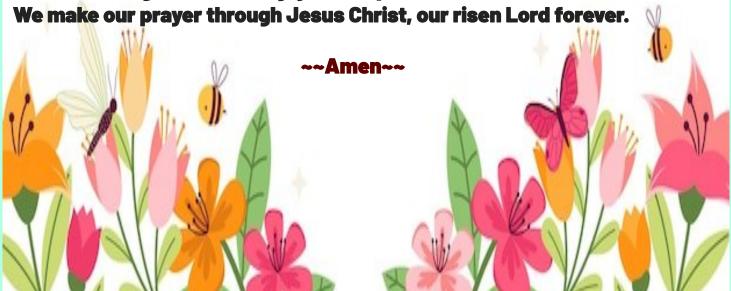
By imitating the life of Jesus in reaching out to the poor, the marginalized, the least among us,

As we strive to be neighbor to all those we meet,

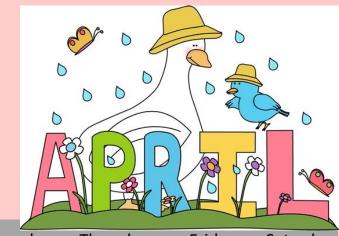
We ask your special blessings each and every day on our President.

Working with him may we strive to make this great country of ours a beacon of hope and justice in a world hungry for peace and so in need of your love.

We praise you in this Easter season. Change our lives, change our hearts to be messengers of Easter joy and hope.



# 



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	Tops 9:00 am Bible Study 6 pm Holden Service 7 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	Bible Study 11 am Choir 12 pm	AA 7:00  Game Night 7 pm	15
Worship 9:30 am Quarter Sunday Coffee Hour	pm Flute Choir 7 pm		Tops 9:00 am Bible Study 6 pm Holden Service 7 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	Bible Study 11 am Choir 12 pm Book Club 7 pm	AA 7:00 pm Game Night 7 pm	
Palm Sunday Service 9:30 am  Council Meeting  **Easter flower orders are due**	Quilters 9:30 am Flagship Choir 7 pm Flute Choir 7 pm Healing Service 7 pm	AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	Tops 9 am Bible Study 6 pm Holden Service 7 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	am Choir 12 pm	AA 7:00 pm Game Night 7 pm Good Friday 7 pm	19
20 Easter Sunday Service 9:30 am	Quilters 9:30 am Flagship Choir 7 pm Flute Choir 7 pm	<b>22</b> AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	23 Tops 9 am Bible Study 6 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	am	25 AA 7 pm Game Night 7 pm	26
27 Worship 9:30 am	28 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship Choir 7 pm Flute Choir 7 pm	AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	30 Tops 9 am Bible Study 6 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm			



## Happenings in and around Erie

<u>Maple Fest:</u> Saturday, April 5th & 6th 10am—3 pm at Andrew J. Conner Nature Center at Asbury Woods, 4105 Asbury Road. Tickets \$6, children under 3 free.

The highlight of this event is a stop in Asbury Woods working sugar shack where the magic of sap to syrup happens! Enjoy samples from local vendors showcasing all kinds of maple products, and browse the gift shop full of hand-crafted pieces by local artists.

<u>Spring Gift Festival:</u> Saturday, April 12th 10 am—6 pm & Sunday, April 13th 11 am 4 pm at the Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier.

2025 Erie Craft Beer Fest: Saturday April 12th at 3 pm at the Brewerie at Erie Station.

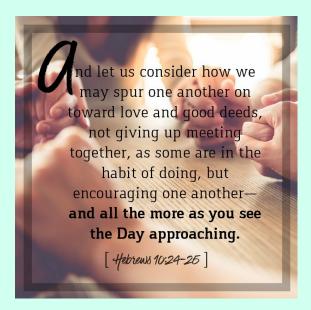
Please visit: www.ticketscandy.com/e/2025-erie-craft-beer-fest-6854 to get your tickets.

<u>Harlem Globetrotters</u>: Monday, April 14th 7 pm at the Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St.

To get your tickets for a great time visit the Erie Insurance Arena website to purchase tickets. There is a limited time to get 30% off of select tickets.

\*\*As the weather changes there will be more events, shows and other happenings in the

Erie area to share. Keep an eye out for things to do and to take advantage of right here in Erie and the surrounding areas.\*\*





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

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

#### **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



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/

#### **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: Allan Sloven-

kay

Admin. Ofc.: Brenda Matson

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

Fellowship, Outreach & Growth
Council liaisons: 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: Zack Middaugh

**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

<u>Social Ministry Committee</u> Committee chair: Debbie Madurski Council Liaison: Brenda Durst

**Worship & Music** Liaison to Worship: Joe Byrne

**Christian Education** 

Council liaison: Mary Hauser

#### **Sunday School**

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

#### 2025 Congregation & Church Council Officers

Pres: Rick Kuntz 814-572-3719 VP: Joe Byrne 814-397-7319

Sec.: Brenda Durst 814-873-0451

Fin. Sec.: Debbie Redditt 814-449-1855 Treasurer: Bill Redditt 814-833-9756



