



Rev. Eric Obermann
Pastor

Mr. Dean Jennissen
Principal

Supporting the Ministry
of the
Lutheran Church –
Missouri Synod
at home and abroad

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Minnesota South  
District

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Immanuel Lutheran
Church and School

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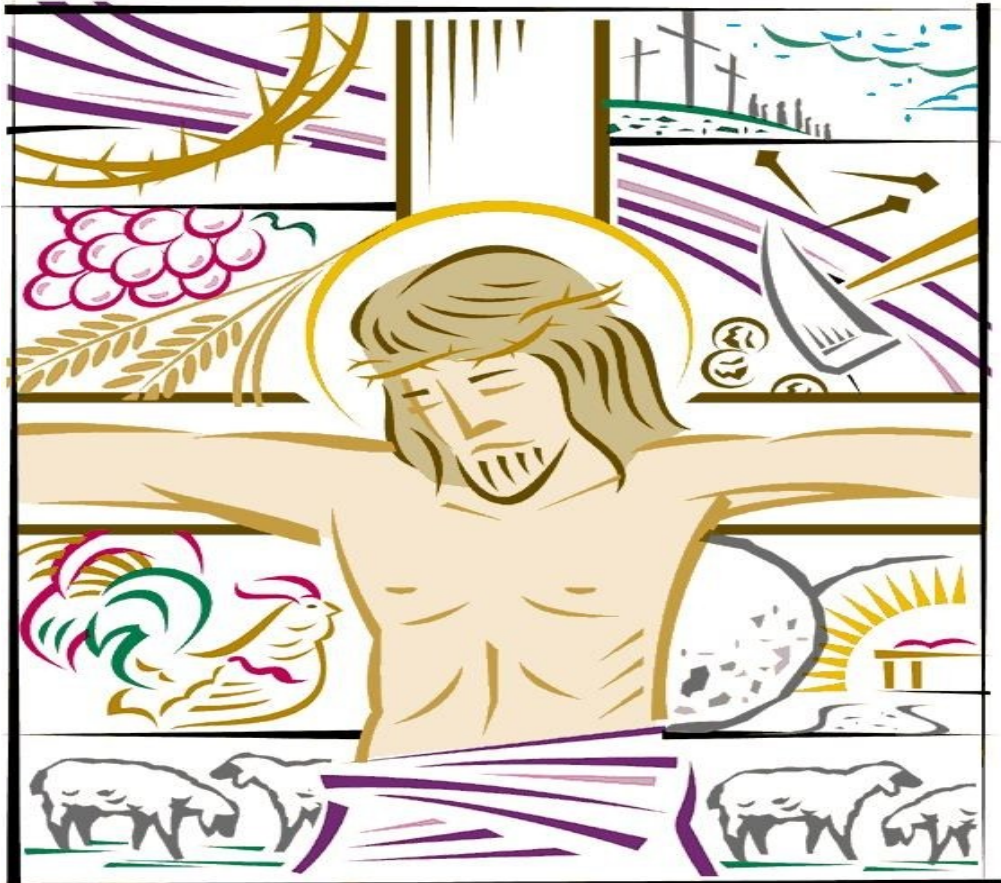
# The Newsletter

of Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Lakefield, Minnesota

April 2026

Volume LXIV, Issue 4

## April



### *Immanuel's Statement of Mission*

**"We Love Because He First Loved Us" - 1 John 4:19**

*Acknowledging with gratitude all that God has done for us in Christ Jesus, we the members of Immanuel Lutheran Church and School dedicate ourselves to educating, equipping (2 Timothy 3:17) and building one another up in love as part of the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:16) and to the furthering of His kingdom in and around the city of Lakefield and throughout the world. (Acts 1:8)*

**JOINT BOARDS** meets on Wednesday, April 29th at 7:00 p.m. All Board Members are asked and encouraged to attend. Communication between our Boards is a vital key in helping our congregation grow. Joint Boards meets in the church basement. Meetings prior to Joint Boards are:

- Board of Congregational Services: Wednesday, April 29th at 5:30 p.m.
- Board of Elders: Wednesday, April 29th at 5:30 p.m.
- Board of Finance: Wednesday, April 29th at 6:00 p.m.
- Board of Trustees: Thursday, April 16th at 5:30 p.m.
- Board of Ed: Wednesday, April 29th at 5:30 p.m.— Meeting is open to anyone who wants to attend.

**2025 ANNUAL REPORTS** are now ready. Please help yourself to a copy. They can be found on the welcome center in the narthex.

**LENTEN DEVOTIONS** from Lutheran Hour Ministries are available. This year’s devotions are titled “Behold Your King!”. Both regular and large print copies can be found on the welcome center in the narthex. Please help yourself to a copy.

**NEW PORTALS OF PRAYER** for April through June are available on the welcome center in the narthex in both regular and large print.

## Holy Week & Easter Worship Services

### Maundy Thursday Worship Service

Thursday, April 2  
7:00 p.m.

### Good Friday Worship Service

Friday, April 3  
7:00 p.m.

### Easter Worship Services

Sunday, April 5  
6:30 a.m. & 9:00 a.m.



## CONFIRMATION

will be held on Sunday, April 19th during the 9:00 a.m. worship service. Pastor Obermann will be confirming these 5 confirmands:



- Maddox Boogerd: son of Jeremy and Tara Boogerd
- Nora Freking: daughter of Mark and Sheila Freking
- Mathias Liepold: son of Wes and Amber Liepold
- Jada Milbrath: daughter of Cory and Suzanne Milbrath
- Simeon Peterson: son of Stuart and LaDonna Peterson

## PHOTOGRAPHY FOR OUR NEW

**PICTORIAL DIRECTORY** takes place this month! Our photo shoot will be in the Activity Center. If you haven't scheduled already, we still have some slots available. In addition to Friday, April 17th, Saturday, April 18th, Tuesday, April 21st, and Wednesday, April 22nd, we now have added Monday, April 20th to the photo schedule. The Congregational Services committee is making calls to help schedule your photo appointment. You are an important part of our church family and our directory wouldn't be complete without you! For participating you will receive a complimentary 8X10 as well as an updated church pictorial directory. The process will only take 30-45 minutes and you will have the opportunity to purchase family portraits. You can contact Dory Poppe @ 507-830-0577 or Beth Carlson @ 507-370-3107 to schedule an appointment or go online:

- Go to [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com)
- Click on the red box “Photography Session Sign Up”
- Put in Church Code: mn640
- Put in Church Password: 640mem
- Pick your day & time!

We look forward to seeing you there!

**VOTERS MEETING** for the second quarter will be on Sunday, April 12th right after the 9:00 a.m. worship service around 10:15 a.m.



Dear Redeemed and Loved Saints of Immanuel!

“Christ is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia”

While it is not quite Easter at the time of writing this. Easter is fast approaching. I have a lot of core memories growing up with Easter. Whether it was collecting eggs or waking early to find a basket in my room, to the many trips to southwest Missouri or northeast Nebraska.

A new memory that I get to enjoy now, is the teaching my kids the joy of Easter.

What is the joy of Easter? It is the signal to the world that God has reclaimed His creation through His Son Jesus. We know that Easter is all about the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus. In which, He puts the final defeat into our greatest enemy, death. Death no longer has dominion over us.

Yet, Easter has so much more to declare! It doesn't just end with the promise of our body being raised from the dead. But Easter shows us the promise of what is to come. God through the Son, reclaiming His creation. St. Paul writes in Romans that all creation is longing for our salvation. On the day when Christ returns all creation will receive its redemption. The blood that Christ spilt on the cross that dripped on to Earth will one day bring about its re-creation. Jesus tells us that the old will pass away so that the new may come.

By the resurrection, Jesus has redeemed all the world. It is not always something that we focus on, it is the greatest news that we have. That by His blood, Christ has paid our price and through the Father giving His life back, we have the greatest hope. A new life that awaits us.

I pray that you all have a blessed Easter!

In the service of Jesus

Pastor Eric

## *Easter Breakfast*

*April 5  
7:30-9:00 a.m.*

*Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes,  
Ham, Applesauce, and Fruit  
will be served.*

*Freewill  
Offering with  
proceeds  
going to our  
Youth Group.*

*Come and  
enjoy  
breakfast!*



**ILS CHESS TOURNAMENT** was held on March 14th. We had 41 players this year with 20 of them from ILS including: Simon Palm, Karina Buresch, Briggs Appel, Carter Ackermann, Jamie Hoffman, Beau Hesemann, Flynn Kruger, Addie Ackermann, Weston Buresch, Felix Church, Graycen Culver, Aaron Ackermann, Summer Scholten, Lydia Mattila, Ben Hesemann, Olive Kruger, Ben Ackermann, Kye Jons, David Ackermann, Abby Ackermann.

### **TROPHY WINNERS FROM ILS INCLUDED:**

Karina Buresch: 1st in K-2nd grade bracket  
Beau Hesemann: 2nd in K-2nd grade bracket  
Briggs Appel: 3rd in K-2nd grade bracket  
Aaron Ackermann: 2nd in 3rd-5th grade bracket  
Ben Hesemann: 3rd in 3rd-5th grade bracket

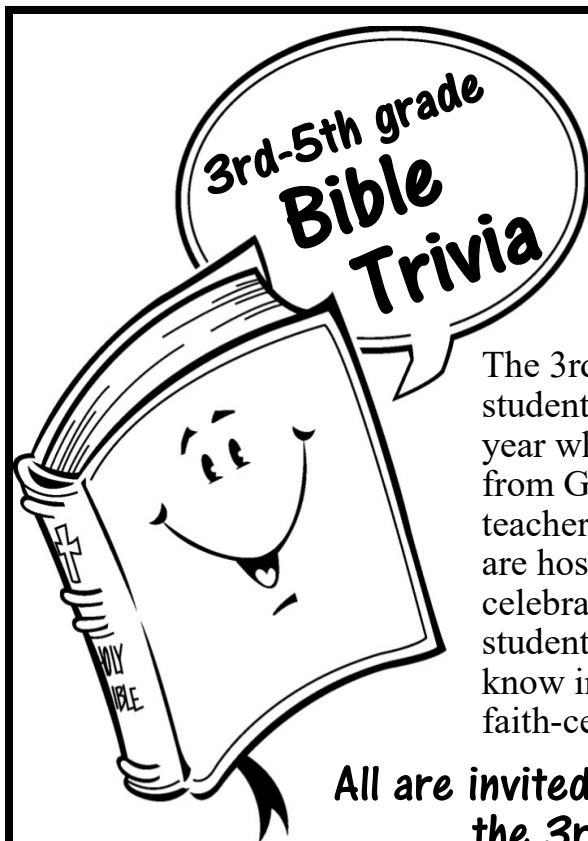
**REGION IV SPELLING BEE** will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Truman on Saturday, April 25th. The following students were selected in their classroom spelling bees:

Grades 7/8: Abby Ackermann & Sofia Welp  
Alternate: Simeon Peterson & Alivia Ackermann  
Grades 5/6: Aaron Ackermann & Ben Hesemann  
Alternate: Colton Laabs & David Ackermann  
Grades 3/4: Morgan Byam & Connor Voss  
Alternate: Grady Dagel & Graycen Culver  
Grades 1/2: Brynlea Kraft & Jamie Hoffman  
Alternate: August Voss & Karina Buresch

**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
TEACHER APPRECIATION:**

Join us on Sunday, April 26th, following the church service, downstairs in the basement for our Sunday School Teacher Appreciation. Treats and beverages for all will be served. We want to thank our teachers for their service this past Sunday School year. Then at 10:15 a.m. Shelley and Roger Pohlman will be doing a Bible trivia with their third through fifth grade Sunday School class. They have extended an invitation for all to come watch and cheer them on!

**This will be our last day of Sunday School. Thank you parents for bringing your little ones to Sunday School. We will start back up in the fall!**



**Sunday  
April 26  
10:15-11:15  
Church Basement**

The 3rd-5th grade Sunday School students have learned so much this year while exploring the Bible stories from Genesis and Exodus. Their teachers, Roger and Shelley Pohlman, are hosting a trivia competition to celebrate their learning and give students a chance to share what they know in a fun, encouraging, and faith-centered environment.

**All are invited to come and cheer on the 3rd-5th graders!**

Teams will be competing for a cash prize that will be given as a donation to one of these 3 options: Church Mission, Immanuel School, School Lunch Program. Winning team will decide which of these to give the donation to.

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL IS OPEN.** We appreciate your interest in Immanuel Lutheran School, an educational environment that promotes excellence and growth in the Lutheran Christian Faith where each child can strive to reach his or her potential. We believe that the parent is the child's first teacher. It is only through parents and teachers working together and showing mutual respect that we hope to achieve what is best for each child at Immanuel Lutheran School.

**WAYS TO SUPPORT THE JOHNSON, ROSSOW, HANSON, HARGUS, AND AMBROSE FAMILIES FOLLOWING THE TRAGIC ACCIDENT FRIDAY, MARCH 20th.**

- Bank Midwest in Jackson has established support accounts for these families. Donations may be given at any Bank Midwest location. Bank Midwest in Jackson is located at 509 3rd St.
- Security Bank in Jackson has established support accounts for these families. Donations may be given at any Security Bank location. Security Bank in Jackson is located at 202 Grant St.

**OFFICIAL ACTS FOR MARCH 2026**

Membership: Baptized: 598

Communicants: 429

ENTERING IMMANUEL...

LEAVING IMMANUEL

...Entering Church Triumphant—

Ardith Westergard took the hand of her Lord on March 1st, 2026 and was given a Christian burial on March 8th, 2026.

Burial is at Immanuel Cemetery.

**BRIDAL SHOWER** will be held for Kim Meyers, bride to be of Matthew Poppe, on Sunday, April 12th, at 1:30 p.m. in the Immanuel Church basement. The couple is registered at Target and Amazon. All are welcome to shower the bride to be with well wishes!

**IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE** you may contact Pastor Obermann directly (563-321-0032 or pastor@immanuellakefield.com) or speak to one of the elders. This includes visits, prayer requests, communion for home bound members, among others.

## LWML Happenings Lutheran Women In Mission

Serving on Altar Guild for the month of April are Monette Berkevich, Dellynn Monson, and Tami Otterstatter. We thank them for taking care of the altar duties.

The April monthly meeting will be Wednesday, April 8 in the church basement. A light supper will be served by Jean Bass, Crystal Dafoe, and Cheryl Ulferts at 5:15, followed by our meeting at 5:30. Renee Erdmann of the Lakefield Stitching Studio will be our guest speaker. Come and hear what her shop has to offer. Everyone is welcome to attend the Immanuel LWML meetings and activities.

If you have extra t-shirts received from Thrivent Action Teams, please bring them to our April monthly meeting. They are being collected for the New Freedom Store in the Twin Cities area, which helps the homeless.

The LWML Spring Get-Together for churches in our Worthington Zone will be held at Sioux Valley Trinity Lutheran Church Saturday, April 18. Registration and coffee will begin at 9:00, with the opening at 9:30. The guest speaker will be Pastor Peter Preus with "Suicide-Gospel Relief for the Despairing" as the topic. There is a fee of \$5, which includes morning coffee and lunch. For anyone who would like to carpool, we will leave from Immanuel Church at 8:30.

Gifts from the Heart, consisting of diapers and hygiene items, will be collected for the Southwest Crisis Center. See the separate article or check the collection box in the narthex for a detailed list of wanted items.

Plans are underway for a salad buffet supper, with entertainment by The Looney Lutherans, to be held Wednesday, June 3 at 5:30. See a separate article for further details.

The LWML MN South District Convention will be held in Mankato June 18-20. There will be Bible Study, Mission Speakers, exhibitors, Communion Service, and more. Everyone is welcome to attend any or all of the events. Registration deadline is May 1. There is a fee of \$145, which includes the Friday lunch and dinner. Additional details and registration info are available online at [https://mnslwml.org/2026\\_district\\_convention](https://mnslwml.org/2026_district_convention).

We thank our Father in heaven for the gift of eternal life, given to us in the victory won by Jesus. He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

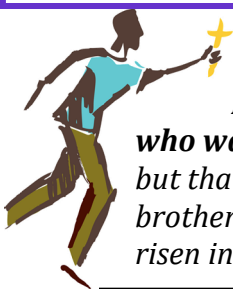
**Serve the Lord with Gladness ~ Psalm 100:4**

### FINE ARTS FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS:

Congratulations to these participants on being awarded these ribbons at the ILS Fine Arts Festival:

- Alivia Ackermann: blue (superior) - vocal
- Abby Ackermann: blue (superior) - vocal
- Nora Freking: blue (superior) - vocal
- Kora Olson: blue (superior) - vocal
- Zoey Grabill: blue (superior) - vocal
- Lydia Mattila: blue (superior) - vocal
- Kye Jons: blue (superior) - vocal
- Nevaeh Henning: blue (superior) - vocal
- Zoey Grabill, Lydia Mattila, Summer Scholten, Olive Kruger: blue (superior) - vocal small group
- Hannah Buresch: blue (superior) - recorder
- Nick Baumann: blue (superior) - organ
- Lela Swanson: blue (superior) - piano
- Eleanor Milbrath: blue (superior) - piano
- Lela Swanson & Eleanor Milbrath: blue (superior) - piano duet
- Nick Baumann: blue (superior) - piano
- Jack Swanson: blue (superior) - piano
- Katherine Baumann: green (participation) piano
- Jules Swanson: green (participation) - piano
- Aaron Ackermann, Ben Ackermann, Ben Hesemann: blue (superior) - dramatic reading
- Olive Kruger: blue (superior) - dramatic reading
- Kye Jons: blue (superior) - dramatic reading
- Soriah Scholten, Eve Appel, Addie Ackermann: blue (superior) - dramatic reading
- Karina Buresch: green (participation) - dramatic reading
- Vivian Wassenaar: red (excellent) - creative writing

A HUGE thank you to our volunteer judges and helpers: Brenda Matasovsky, Mary Hedstrom, Carrie Mohr, Janeen Ruby, Beth Carlson, Natalie Jeske, Leann Henning, Lisa Jennissen, Sue Spoo, Sheila Scholten, and Melissa Ackerman. Thanks also to Mrs. Peterson for organizing the Fine Arts Festival and to Mrs. Soleta and Mrs. Mattila for helping students with their music choices.



*Stewardship Moment...*

**Mark 16:6** – *“And he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here.’”* The Good News is not just that Jesus is risen, but that He is risen to bless us — there is no need to be alarmed. He still calls us His friends and brothers and means to bring us through death to resurrection as well. The Lord is risen, He is risen indeed!

## Lutheran Hour Ministries

The Lutheran Hour may be listened to on Sunday –

KICD – 1240 AM, Spencer, IA at 10:30 AM

WCCO – 830 AM, Minneapolis, MN at 6 AM

KSUM -- 1370 AM, Fairmont, MN at 11 AM

KJLY – 104.5, Blue Earth at 6 PM

**KDOM, 103.1 FM at 10 AM**

KDCR, 88.5 FM at 1 PM

You may also listen anytime on their website: [lhm.org](http://lhm.org)

### April 5 "You Don't Know What You Have Till It's Gone"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Ziegler

*Death is the enemy of life, but in Jesus, God made death become life's servant.*

1 Corinthians 15:26

### April 12

### "Early Adopters"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Ziegler

*The risen Jesus is the "display model" of what we will be, through faith in Him.*

1 Corinthians 15:20

### April 19

### "Not in Vain"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Ryan Tinetti

*Because Jesus lives, your future is certain. You can also be confident that your present life has meaning and worth. In the Lord, your labor is not in vain.*

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

### April 26

### "TBD"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Ziegler

### CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES CAN USE YOUR HELP DURING

**THE PHOTO SESSIONS** for the directory Friday, April 17th through Wednesday, April 22nd. On the narthex glass we have sign up for helping with the registrations as people come for their photo sessions. 2 people per time slot are required. We also need cookies baked for serving during the photo registrations. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

**LAKEFIELD MEAL SITE** is serving in-house and home delivered meals. Meals served at 11:30. Birthday parties are held quarterly. April, May, and June birthdays will be celebrated in May.

Call 507-662-6714 to reserve.

New program available from Lutheran Social Services: FREE Pet food and cat litter available monthly for diners.

Delivered or in-house diners eligible.

Call 507-662-6174 to apply.

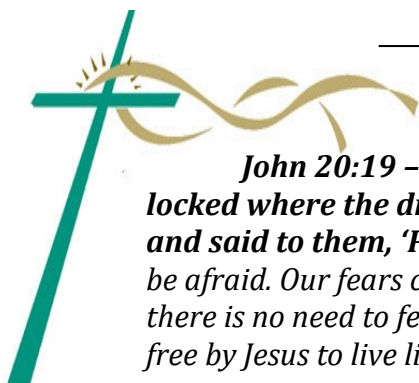
- Thursday, April 2: Easter Meal. Menu: scalloped potatoes and ham, corn, fruit cup, cookie
- Tuesday, April 7: Bingo at 12:30 with prizes provided by Thrivent. Menu: beef stew
- Wednesday, April 8: Game Day. Bring your own or play one of ours. Meal: Salisbury steak
- Friday, April 10: 1/2 Price Meal sponsored by First National Bank. Menu: baked pork chop and gravy, scalloped potatoes, carrots, cookie
- Tuesday, April 14: Pinochle at 12:30. Menu: chicken cordon bleu
- Wednesday, April 15: 500 at 12:30. Menu: pork roast
- Tuesday, April 21: 1/2 Price Meal sponsored by Cutting Image Hairstylists and Boutique. Menu: Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, gravy, cookie
- Tuesday, April 28: Frozen meals only for those already reserved
- Wednesday, April 29: Pinochle at 12:30. Menu: meatloaf

Call Marless (507-662-5254) for card details and to schedule playing. All card games cost 10 cents to play.

Always looking for more card players... lessons and/or refreshers available.

**CHURCH AND SCHOOL OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED** on the Monday after Easter.

This is Monday, April 6th.



### Stewardship Moment...

**John 20:19** – *"On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'" Jesus spent a lot of His time telling the disciples to not be afraid. Our fears constantly hem us in and prevent us from following the Lord's will. But there is no need to fear. Jesus has conquered. No fear can keep us locked up. We have been set free by Jesus to live lives that declare His marvelous deeds.*

# *Immanuel Lutheran School Highlights*

*"We love because He first loved us." -1 John 4:19*



- **3RD QUARTER CHAPEL OFFERINGS** went to Hearts for Jesus which is a service project of the Minnesota South District. We gave to Jehovah Lutheran Church (an LCMS church in St. Paul) to support their mission of helping the homeless. In addition to the winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and sweatshirts we collected; we also gave a donation of \$239.30.
- **4TH QUARTER CHAPEL OFFERINGS** will go to our Tuition Assistance Program.
- **NO SCHOOL—EASTER BREAK—APRIL 2nd-6th**
- **NLSA (NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION) ACCREDITATION SITE VISIT** is April 8th-10th. During this time we will have some visitors at the school for recertification of our accreditation through the National Lutheran Schools Association. This typically happens every 5 years. We have been certified for many years.
- **PTL (PARENT TEACHER LEAGUE)** meets on Thursday, April 9th at 6:00 p.m.
- **ALL SCHOOL CHOIR** sings at The Lutheran Church of Our Savior on Sunday, April 12th at their 9:00 a.m. worship service.
- **REGION IV SPELLING BEE** is on Saturday, April 25th at St. Paul's Lutheran in Truman.
- **BOARD OF EDUCATION** meets on Wednesday, April 29th at 5:30 p.m. Meeting is open to anyone who wants to attend.

## *From the Principal:*

In our Computers and Culture class our students have been learning critical thinking skills by participating in debate with a format much like a Debate Team might follow in high school. We've debated about the age as to which parents should allow cell phones and most recently, "Should schools require uniforms?" As the students continued to sharpen their debate skills, we've operated with a clear, most-important ground rule: Christian Character is non-negotiable. While we want our answers to be salty, we also want them to be gracious (Colossians 4:6). In other words, we are learning to choose our words wisely.

Our world has become so much about words that are, within seconds, shared around the world and often in meaningless debates about the topic of the day. The book of James is filled with advice about words. In relation to words and speech: "bridle your tongue" (James 1:26); our "tongue is a fire" (3:5-6); with our tongue we "bless our Lord and Father and curse people." (3:9-10) Finally, from James 1:19: "Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger." The students in my class that have been the most successful at debate are the ones who actually listen to what the other side is saying before speaking. This takes restraint and humility. Humility is a word that has often come to my mind this Easter as I focus on Jesus' journey to the cross. In humility, Jesus "emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant... He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." (Phil. 2:5-8) And, that is not the end of the story. Jesus rose, conquering sin, death and the devil while securing eternal life for those who He has claimed as His own. These words are the Gospel, Good News to the soul... and there's no debating that.

*Immanuel Lutheran School  
"Let's Make a Joyful Noise"  
~ Psalm 98:4*

*Principal:  
Dean Jennissen*

*Teachers:  
Stacy Soderholm: Preschool/PreK  
Stacie Soleta: Kindergarten  
Cassie Ulbricht: 1st-2nd grade  
LaDonna Peterson: 3rd-4th grade  
Gretchen Benda: 5th-6th grade  
Sarah Mattila: 7th-8th grade  
Raeleen Grein: Computer, AR  
Phil Schult: Band through MLHS*

*Support Staff:  
Sheila Freking: Teacher Aide  
Deb Jons: Teacher Aide  
Crystal Rossow: Teacher Aide  
Pat Pohlman: Hot Lunch  
Amy Altman: Secretary  
Rev. Eric Obermann: Pastor*

*Dean Jennissen, Principal*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY?

- Bookmark Contest for National Library Week. Theme is "Unearth a Story" with 4 age categories. Entry form is at the library or on the Website (jclmn.org) beginning on April 6th. Return entries to the library by Friday, April 24th. One bookmark per category will be printed on bookmarks this summer.
- Great Puzzle Race is on Saturday, April 18th from 10:30-12:30. Register a team of 2-4 people to see which team can finish their puzzle first to win a prize! Call 507-662-5782 to register.
- Story Time for kids is on Thursdays at 10:00
- Bedtime Story Hour is Thursday, April 16th at 6:00
- Elementary After School Program for K-4th grade is "Science Experiments" on Thursday, April 9th at 3:45. Registration required by calling 507-662-5782.
- Tween & Teen Scene for 5th-12th grade is "Mandala Sun Catchers" on Tuesday, April 28th at 3:45 p.m. Registration required by calling 507-662-5782.
- Homeschool Connection meets weekly at the Jackson Library on Thursdays at 10:30. Call the Jackson Library for more info 507-847-4748.
- Adult Programs:
  - Wednesday, April 8th at 2:30:  
The Banana Bread Guys with Zeke and Nate
  - Wednesday, April 22nd at 2:00:  
Kozy Heat Celebrating 50 Years! with Heather Hussong Reasoner, Jim Hussong, & Dudley Hussong
- Adult Monthly Movie Matinee is on Friday, April 16th at 2:15 p.m.
- Book Club meets on Wednesday, April 1st at 3:00 to discuss "People We Meet on Vacation" by Emily Henry.

## SAVE THE DATE!

# Salad Supper with the Looney Lutherans



**Wednesday, June 3 at 5:30**

**(Doors open at 5:00)**

**Immanuel Lutheran Activity Center**

**620 Bush Street, Lakefield**

**Purchase Tickets for \$10 by May 27**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**

**Or contact Carolyn at 507-830-2108**

**Sponsored by Immanuel LWML**

## **Who are the Looney Lutherans?**

The Looney Lutherans are a trio of wacky gals who use music, comedy and some help from the audience to share their age-old wisdom for living a long, happy life the Lutheran way. Material is musical, interactive and family friendly — and you don't have to be Lutheran to love it!

The Looney Lutherans are a team of professional actresses who have come together in a fun, interactive, family-friendly show. The idea for the "Looney Lutherans" was cooked up in 2006 when the founding members were appearing in the cast of the hit musical Church Basement Ladies. The company has since expanded to include additional "Loonies," all professional actresses, writers, singers, and improvisers. As the Looney

Lutherans these talented women have appeared together around the country at Fairs and Festivals, Mother/Daughter Banquets, Red Hat Gatherings, Hospital Fund-raisers, Member and Customer Appreciation Dinners, and at Women's and Senior Expos.

**FOR LIABILITY REASONS** and safety issues we need to know who is in the church and when, especially as we host benefits and other events. All building use needs to be scheduled with Amy in the church office. Many groups and individuals for whom we are very thankful use our building, but we do need to remember to schedule rooms. Please call the church office to schedule an event or meeting. Thank you for your consideration.



# APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 ~ Brenner Burmeister  
Breann Grein  
Colten Flores-Stevens
- 2 ~ Mary Pauling  
Dennis Rossow  
Dawn Rossow
- 3 ~ Linda Luebben  
Cole Monson  
Lloyd Steffen
- 4 ~ Kevin Luebben  
Daniel Schultz
- 5 ~ Brynlea Kraft
- 6 ~ Merlin Tordsen
- 7 ~ Allison Thaemlitz
- 8 ~ Kendra Connell  
Kaleb Sydnes
- 9 ~ Hope Onnen  
Joel Poppe
- 10 ~ Boone Johnson
- 11 ~ David Bass  
Kailey Espenson  
Sarah Laabs
- 13 ~ Alexa Henning  
Sheila Scholten
- 14 ~ Tara Pederson
- 15 ~ Galen Gunther  
Ty Schneider
- 16 ~ Joyce Baumann  
Timothy Baumann
- 17 ~ Kenneth Rients
- 18 ~ Sonya Daberkow  
Matthew Rossow  
Don Schulz
- 19 ~ Riley Henry  
Connie Rossow
- 20 ~ Ahti Lariviere  
Taylor Rossow  
Jodi Thurk
- 21 ~ Mark Freking
- 23 ~ Ross Gunther  
April Krumwiede  
Shelly Palmer
- 24 ~ Jesse Ackermann
- 25 ~ Jerrick Gentz  
Kim Rients
- 26 ~ Cameron Henning
- 27 ~ Wesley Barkeim
- 28 ~ Loretta Palmer  
Twylla Pederson

## LOCAL LERT TEAM COMMUNITY MERCY WORK EVENT:

LERT (Lutheran Emergency Response Team) is having a community mercy work day. Join us Saturday, April 11th, from 12:30–2:30 pm for a General Cleanup of the homeless encampment located at the Pig's Eye Regional Park, 1200 Warner Road, East St. Paul. LERT trained and non-trained volunteers are welcome who are 18 years of age or older. No background check is necessary. We will be serving an Easter Banquet, installing an encampment bulletin board, delivering wood, picking up garbage, distributing relief supplies, etc., all the while having opportunity to be Christ's presence among a population in great need of mercy. Dress appropriately for the work and the weather. If you have either a LERT t-shirt or work vest, please bring them along to wear. We will have some available for those who don't have them. **PLEASE DO REGISTER!** We need to be prepared for the actual numbers that are coming! Register online at [https://www.lcms-lert.org/need/detail/?need\\_id=1234148](https://www.lcms-lert.org/need/detail/?need_id=1234148) Thank you for your consideration!

## YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS

- **CAMP MINNEBOJI** will take place this summer from June 21-27 at Camp Okoboji. This year's theme is "Lifted Up" based on Genesis 50:20. Camp Minneboji is for students who have completed grades 4-9. Activities at Minneboji include crafts, sports games, all group games, a dance, a talent show, and an outing to Arnold's Park! Check out their facebook page (Camp Minneboji) or their website ([www.minneboji.com](http://www.minneboji.com)) for information and registration.
- **CAMP OMEGA** in Waterville, Minnesota has a large selection of camps. Information may be found online at [www.CampOmega.org](http://www.CampOmega.org) or by calling 507-685-4266. Camp handouts may also be found on the welcome center in the narthex. Please help yourself to one. It is a fun camp with lots of different opportunities.
- **CAMP OKOBOJI** in Milford, Iowa also has many camps available. More information may be found online at [www.campokobji.org](http://www.campokobji.org) or by calling 712-337-3325.
- **HIGHER THINGS CONFIRMATION CAMP** will be held July 28-31 at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca in Solon, Iowa. More information can be found at [www.higherthings.org/events/confirmation-camp/](http://www.higherthings.org/events/confirmation-camp/) or by contacting Alec Deppe, Director of Programs and Retreats at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca at 319-848-4187. Many fun things to do at camp including horseback riding, rock climbing, zip lining, and canoeing.

**VOCATIO HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT:** Do you know a high school -age student who may be interested in church work someday? Concordia Seminary, St. Louis invites 9th-12th grade students to attend Vocatio: High School on the campus of Concordia Seminary. This retreat encourages high school men and women to explore life as a seminarian, including attending worship and devotions and joining sessions with professors, all while having some fun and recreation! Registration is \$300 and closes May 15th. Register online at <https://www.csl.edu/admissions/admissions-visit/vocatio-high-school/>



# APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4/7/84 Tim and Vicky Rossow  
 4/13/91 Chris and Jodi Thurk  
 4/16/72 Mike and Jean Hendrickson  
 4/17/71 Larry and Jean Oelke  
 4/19/80 Darv and Marjean Oelke  
 4/21/07 Chad and Amber Newell

**IMMANUEL BOOKSTORE NEWS: All cards are 75 cents.** Confirmation will be here before you know it and if you wish to order Bibles, Hymnals, Prayer Books, etc. for a confirmand now is the time to do it. If you wish to get your gift imprinted, that may take extra time. Confirmation and Graduation cards are available along with birthday, get well, wedding, anniversary, baby, baptism, thank-you, and sympathy cards. Stop by the bookstore and check out the selection. You can either pay Amy in the office or leave it in the empty box by the cards.

Now available at the Bookstore:

- *Easter Cards*
- *Confirmation Cards*
- *Graduation Cards*

**S.A.G.E.S GATHERING XXXVI** is May 4th-5th at Country Inn and Suites in Mankato. This year's presenter is Rev. Greg Finke who is the Director of Dwelling 1:14. Theme is "Living on Purpose with Jesus" focusing on this statement: Young or Old, there are three questions everyone struggles to answer - Who am I? What do I have of value to offer others? What is my purpose in this world? Participants must make their own hotel reservations by contacting Country Inn & Suites directly (507-388-8555). A limited number of rooms are available under the room block, SAGES, at a cost of \$132. The deadline for hotel reservations is April 4th. The registration fee is \$110/person for both days and \$55/person for a single day. Complimentary breakfast for hotel guests. Country Inn & Suites is located at 1900 Premier Drive in Mankato. S.A.G.E.S. (Saints Alive, Growing, Ever Serving) is our LCMS Minnesota South District Older Adult Ministry. To get the registration form or for answers to any questions, please email [minnesotasouthsages@gmail.com](mailto:minnesotasouthsages@gmail.com).

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN ST. PAUL ROST AND OUR REDEEMER OKABENA** congregations in wishing a "Farewell to the Sage's". Pastor Jeff Sage is retiring and will preach his last sermon with them on Sunday, April 26th at St. Paul Rost Church located at 38886 800th St, rural Lakefield. His wife, Jani, was our Kindergarten teacher here at ILS for a number of years. You are welcome at:

10:00 a.m. Church Service  
 11:30 a.m. Lunch  
 1:00 p.m. Program

**CLOSING SERVICE:** It is with sadness that that we announce the closing of St. John's Lutheran Church in Rushmore, Minnesota. All are welcome to attend a service for the closing rite on Sunday, April 19th, at 2:00 p.m. at St. John's. We thank God for the 132 years of service to Him and community history. St. John's Lutheran Church is located at 408 4th St., Rushmore.



## LWML Spring Get-Together

TRINITY LUTHERAN  
 CHURCH – SIOUX VALLEY  
 38523 730TH ST., LAKEFIELD  
 SATURDAY, APRIL 18  
 9:30 a.m. with a 9:00 registration  
 Cost is \$5

- ⇒ Speaker Pastor Peter Preus, Gospel Relief for the Despairing
- ⇒ Gifts from the Heart collected for SW Crisis Center
  - Diapers: size 2, 3, 4
  - Hygiene Items: All items full size
    - Shampoo
    - Conditioner
    - Body Wash
    - Bar Soap
    - Deodorant
    - Tampons
    - Toilet Paper
    - Kleenex
    - Laundry Soap: liquid or pods

A collection box, with further info, will be located in the narthex.

**"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."**

~ Jeremiah 29:11



### **BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN:**

Cherish House and Center in Okoboji, Iowa is a safe, compassionate, faith-based home environment for expectant mothers and their children. These moms stay at Cherish House and are able to get the help they need for their family's future including counseling, education, life-skills training, and finding a job). All services at Cherish House (including housing) are no cost. They are able to provide this service by donations. Are you interested in helping out these expectant mothers? Please take a baby bottle from the tote in the narthex and fill it up with your donation to Cherish House. This can be coins, cash, or check (payable to Cherish House).

Please return these bottles to the church by April 26th. You may put them back into the tote in the narthex. Want more information on Cherish House? Check out one of the pamphlets in the tote with the baby bottles. Pick up your baby bottle from the church narthex beginning on Sunday, April 5th.

### **COMMUNION FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND WORSHIP**

**SERVICES:** Anyone who is not able to join us for worship services, but would like to receive communion please contact Pastor Obermann directly. He will schedule a time to meet you. Pastor's cell is 563-321-0032 and email is pastor@immanuelakefield.com.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR NAME ON THE PRAYER LIST, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 507-662-5718 OR EMAIL  
immanuel@immanuelakefield.com

—  
We would rather hear it two or three times than not at all.  
Also because of privacy issues we need your permission.



## **YOUR CHANGE CHANGES LIVES!**

Take an empty baby bottle and fill it with coins, cash, or check (payable to Cherish Center) **BEGINNING APRIL 5. RETURN IT TO THE CHURCH BY APRIL 26.**

**Cherish center**

Community. Hope. Renewal.

1004 22nd Street  
Milford, IA 51351  
712-338-3333

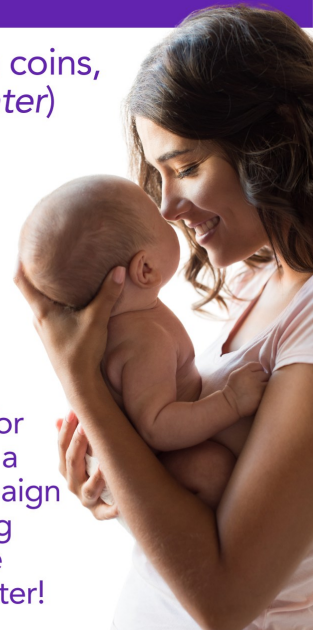
info@cherishcenter.org  
www.cherishcenter.org



or  
give here



**THANK YOU** for participating in a Baby Bottle Campaign and supporting Cherish House and Cherish Center!



### **PLANT SALE AT THE MARTIN LUTHER JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL GREENHOUSE (in partnership with Janzen's Greenhouse)**

- Greenhouse Plant Sale begins May 1st
    - ~ \$5: 6-packs (Marigolds, Kohlrabi, and Celery)  
Perfect for garden bed and bulk planting.
    - ~ \$6: 4 1/2 inch Pots - Herbs (Basil, Cilantro, Mint, Stevia, and Lemon Balm)  
Ready-to-use kitchen favorites
    - ~ \$3.50: 4" Pots (Tomatoes and Peppers)  
Great starter size
  - Proceeds benefit MLHS students
  - Mother's Day Plant Sale is May 1st-8th
    - ~ \$40: Combination Hanging Baskets  
A variety of mixed, colorful combinations.
    - ~ \$45: Combination Patio Pots  
Beautiful mixed planters, ready to gift.
- Bonus with purchase: FREE Mother's Day card of your choice with every purchase  
Proceeds benefit MLHS Student Tuition Assistance.  
MLHS is located at 315 Martin Luther Drive in Northrop.

### **MINNESOTA SOUTH LLL (LUTHERAN LAYMAN'S LEAGUE)**

**DISTRICT CONVENTION** is at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1412 N Main Street in Janesville, on Saturday, April 11th from 8:30-6:00. Cost is \$20 for lunch and \$20 for the banquet. Visit [lhm.org/mnso-lll](http://lhm.org/mnso-lll) to register by April 6th Or by scanning the QR code found on the flyers on the church bulletin boards. Theme is "Faith Formation in the Household" based on Joshua 24:15. Speaker is Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies, Lutheran Hour Ministries VP and Ministry Engagement. Mercy Meals will be packaged for Orphan Grain Train. For more info, contact Doyle Benson at [doylebenson321@gmail.com](mailto:doylebenson321@gmail.com) or 320-583-7695.

## CHURCH COUNCIL—March 24, 2026

**FORT BELMONT SPRING FUNDRAISER** is on Saturday, April 11th, from 11:00-1:00 at the American Legion in Jackson. Menu includes: Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Chips, Bars, and a Beverage. Freewill donation accepted with all proceeds supporting Fort Belmont Capital Projects. The American Legion is located at 411 1st Street in Jackson.

**THE DINNER DATE** is a free meal for everyone in the community. It is on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Lakefield Legion Hall. This month's date is Tuesday, April 14, from 5:00-7:00. All are welcome! Event is organized by St. Peter Lutheran Church. Lakefield American Legion is located at 413 Main Street.

### JOYFUL RESPONSE: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

**Biblical stewardship** is the managing of God's resources—our time, talents, finances, and creation—for His glory rather than for personal gain.

As Scripture reminds us:

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.”  
— 1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

One tool we have to help with our stewardship is Joyful Response, a free, simple, and secure automated electronic giving program offered through the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. This program can help you plan your giving faithfully and consistently, while also helping the church meet its regular bills and ministry obligations.

Joyful Response is easy to set up. There is a simple one-page form available in the narthex or church office.

You can choose from several giving frequency options such as weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly, and your giving amount can be changed at any time. This does not have to replace your envelope giving—you may still give in person—but it does provide consistency, especially when you are unable to attend church due to weather, illness, or travel.

We encourage you to consider trying Joyful Response, even with a small portion of your tithe, and see if it might help your family as it also helps our church family carry out our ministry.

We currently have 23 members enrolled representing about 18% of our monthly budget. Let's see how many more we can have signed up by June! If you have questions or would like to get started, please speak with a member of the Board of Finance, an Elder, or Amy in the church office.

**Present:** Kurt Swanson, Joel Poppe, Josh Swanson, Dory Poppe, Beth Carlson, Pastor Obermann, Albert Henning, Shane Rossow, Luke Henning, Ken Pohlman, Jim Berkevich, Joel Burmeister, Dean Jennison, Brandon Laabs, Kerry Sydnes

Chairman Kurt Swanson called the meeting to order at 7:44 p.m.

### Board of Finance

**POI:** The Board of Finance presented the updated financial information.

### Board of Education

No Motions

### Board of Trustees

No motions

### Board of Congregational Services

No Motions

### Board of Elders

**MSC:** Lakefield PD and Jackson County Sheriff's department to use activity center and tunnel as shelter for inclement weather.

**Voters' Meeting** will be Sunday, April 12, 2026, after church.

**MSC** to adjourn at 7:54 p.m.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Kerry Sydnes, Congregational Secretary

**CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER...** *A serious illness or death in your family; a personal crisis; a time of major decision making; a time of great joy; all of these times when pastoral care is vitally important.*

*If you or a family member or a friend is experiencing any of these, please contact the church office. We, here at Immanuel, welcome the opportunity to provide spiritual care and guidance in difficult times, as well as to rejoice with you in times of joy.*



Dear Church Family,  
It's time for a New Directory!

## Connections Event

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.

~ Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at the church or simply go online and follow the instructions below. If we don't see your name on our list of appointments, you will receive a phone call inviting you to participate.

~ Every sitting photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!

~ Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at our church! You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finishes and framing options for the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to your family and friends.

Set your appointment with  
Universal today at [ucdir.com](http://ucdir.com)!

Gathering families, Connecting generations.



*Celebrating faith.*

*Connecting families.*

*Sharing hope.*

When people enter the doors of our church they are looking for a place to belong. Our directory brings us together to develop new relationships, connect with our own families, and reconnect with those we haven't seen in a while. Join us for this "Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at our church!

*Directory Committee*

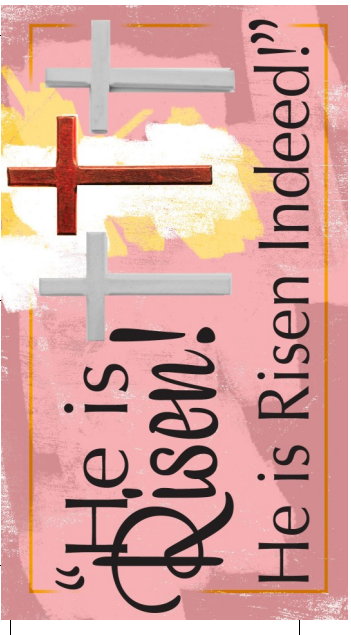
**IT'S NOT TOO LATE! If you haven't made your picture appointment yet, you can go on [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com), Church code: mn640, password: 640mem. We can do it for you by calling Beth @ 507-370-3170 or Dory @ 507-830-0577.**

# April 2026

*I know that my Redeemer lives!*



|                                                                                                                                                        | Tue                                             | Wed | Thu                                                                                                                                       | Fri                                                                                   | Sat                                                 |                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 5 Easter<br>6:30 Worship with Communion<br>7:30-9:00 Easter Breakfast<br>9:00 Worship with Communion                                                   | 6<br>NO SCHOOL<br>OFFICES CLOSED                | 7   | 8<br>8:20 Chapel<br>2:10 Confirmation<br>5:15 LWML<br>6:10 Imm Ringers<br>7:10 Choir                                                      | 9<br>6:00 Parent Teacher League (PTL)<br><br>NLSA Accreditation Site Visit April 8-10 | 10<br><br><br>11                                    | 4<br><br><br>11                           |
| 12<br>9:00 Worship<br>9:00 All School Choir sings at The Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Windom<br>10:15 Voters Meeting                               | 13                                              | 14  | 15<br>8:20 Chapel<br>2:10 Confirmation<br>6:10 Imm Ringers<br>7:10 Choir                                                                  | 16<br>5:30 Bd Trustees Mtg                                                            | 17<br><br><br>Church Directory Pictures April 17-18 | 18                                        |
| 19 Confirmation<br>9:00 Worship with Communion                                                                                                         | 20<br><br>Church Directory Pictures April 20-22 | 21  | 22<br>8:20 Chapel                                                                                                                         | 23                                                                                    | 24                                                  | 25<br>Region IV<br>Spelling Bee at Truman |
| 26<br>9:00 Worship<br>10:00 Sunday School Teacher Appreciation in Church Basement<br>10:15 3rd-5th grade Sunday School Bible Trivia in Church Basement | 27                                              | 28  | 29<br>8:20 Chapel<br>5:30 Bd of Elders Mtg<br>5:30 Bd of Ed Mtg<br>5:30 Bd Cong. Services Mtg<br>6:00 Bd Finance Mtg<br>7:00 Joint Boards | 30                                                                                    |                                                     |                                           |



Immanuel Lutheran Church and School  
P.O. Box 750, 604 Bush Street  
Lakefield, Minnesota 56150  
507-662-5718

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Lakefield, Minnesota 56150  
Permit #21

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Worship Schedule —*

Sunday Morning Services  
9:00 AM

Sunday School  
Youth Group Bible Study  
Bible Class  
10:15 AM

Communion Celebrated  
1st and 3rd Sunday

Happy Easter to:

*APRIL Monthly*

