



March 2025

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Caring For Our Community Through Christ

## **PASTOR'S PONDERINGS**

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

By time you receive this newsletter, we will be in the season of **Lent**. **Lent** is, in a nutshell, the season of the church year where we are rightfully reminded that, "we are dust and to dust shall we return". You may notice the wording from graveside services when the words, "ashes to ashes and dust to dust" are spoken. That statement is a **Lenten** one! **Lent** is also that time of year where we take honest looks inside ourselves, realizing as we confess on Sundays, that we are poor miserable sinners, and that we'd remain that way if it weren't for Jesus who came to die on the cross for us, to forgive us of our sins, and to save us. And **Lent** is the time of the church year where we wait and prepare for our Lord to come to us in Holy Week, where He enters Jerusalem on the back of a donkey with shouts of Hosanna and where by weeks end He is dead and laid in a tomb, only to rise again from the dead on that first **Easter** Sunday. So friend, this **Lenten** season, I invite you to come and gather with others both in our mid-week services and on Sunday mornings, examine yourselves, repent of the sins that you've committed (or thought of committing) and wait for the coming of Jesus at Holy Week where He will suffer, die, and rise from the grave for you.



And as you wait, I want you to know our **Lenten** theme this year is, "The Hands of the Lord." The following is from CPH (Concordia Publishing House, the publishing house of our church body) and it introduces us to our theme.

God bless you! Welcome to **Lent**!

Pastor

Now, for our theme:

"Whether tightening a bolt, crocheting, or typing on a computer, there is so much that we do with our hands. The Greek physician Galen called hands the instrument of instruments. Indeed, hands are instruments that can do a great deal of things. Hands can be used to heal or hurt, work or wreck, build or break, seize or surrender, and on and on. Hands are so often central to the ways we interact with the world that they have also become figurative symbols of power, control, craftsmanship, and possession. We daily speak of hands in many phrases, such as, "Lend a hand," "Things are out of hand," "Working together hand in hand", and "Close at hand."...

*Continued on Page 2...*



# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod

## **Caring For Our Community Through Christ**

**REV. DAVID CASEY-MOTLEY, PASTOR**

### **PASTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION**

Cell Phone .....253-241-1435

Email ..... pastordavid.immanuel@gmail.com

### **PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.; and by appointment

### **BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS**

The office is normally open Monday—Thursday from  
9am to 1pm. Please remember that the administrative assistant  
may be away from the office running errands during this time.

#### **Administrative Assistant &**

**Newsletter Editor**.....Raechl Cannon

**Office Phone** .....410-673-7107

**Office Fax Number**.....410-673-1426

**Office Email** .....immanuel.lutheranpreston@verizon.net

### **CHURCH OFFICERS — 2025**

**President**..... Richard Wheatley

**Secretary**..... Sheri Rodriguez

**Financial Secretary**..... Janice Isenberg

**Treasurer**..... Carol Frase

**Evangelism Chair**..... Cathy Baker

**Trustee Chair**..... Rick Clendaniel

**Stewardship Chair**..... Linda Jefferson

**Board of Education Chair**..... Rene Langwost

**Elders Chair**..... Rex Rosebrock

*Continued from Page 1...*

Moreover, in our modern era of robotic, machine, and computer processing, adding “hand” as a prefix to many words can often communicate something that is personal and intentional. Labeling something as handpicked, handwritten, or handmade adds a personal touch and significance. Our Creator has bestowed on us these amazing instruments.

It is no surprise that mentions of hands appear all over the Bible as God’s Word speaks to us in ways that we can understand. All things are the work of the hand of the Lord (Psalm 102:25). The Lord’s hand is referred to over TWO HUNDRED times in the Old Testament. The Lord’s hand is active in creation, power, control over happenings of the world, judgment, and salvation. The hand of the Lord was upon Ezekial when He gave him a vision (Ezekial 3:22), and the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines in the days of Samuel (1 Samuel 7:13). The hand of the Lord is both Law and Gospel.

Perhaps surprisingly, specific references to the “hand of the Lord” are not all that frequent in the New Testament. However, it is precisely in the New Testament where the hand of the Lord takes on literal meaning. The One through whom all things were created took on real, literal hands in His incarnation (1 John 1:1-14). We have several examples throughout Scripture that speak of the way that Christ used His hands alongside His life-giving words to bring forgiveness, life, and salvation. The work of Christ’s hands helps us to see the merciful and personal way that He has condescended to us. He has given us something to grasp, even as He holds us. Jesus used His hands to save drowning Peter, to feed the multitudes, to touch those who were unclean, to stop a funeral procession in its tracks, to lift up Jairus’ daughter, and to bless the children. The hand of the Lord has come to us in Jesus.

On the other hand, the literal and figurative actions of mere human hands in the Bible are often the means of our own sin. After all, our own Lord was “delivered into the hands of men” (Luke 9:44). However, on a greater level, we know that it was the hand of the Lord at work all along, most especially in His crucifixion. Christ laid down His life of His own authority as He allowed Himself to be delivered into the hands of sinful men (John 10:18). His hands were pierced for the sins of the world. You were engraved on the palms of His hand. His hands rested on Holy Saturday. Yet, on the third day, He rose again for you. He now holds us in His hands, and no one can snatch us from His hand (John 10:28). Our Lord has hands, real hands. Jesus has accomplished all that we need. Amazingly, He takes our manipulative, distorted, self-serving hands and restores them into useful hands for His purposes, both to literally use them in service and to make our who lives into His instruments of witness, service, and praise.” (From CPH, 2025, [Lent](#)).



# Resurrection



# ORCHESTRA

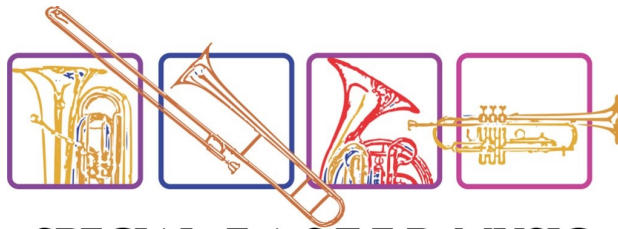
Adults, Middle School and High School Students

Do you play a musical instrument?

Would you like to use your gift of music in praise to God this **Easter**?

Make plans today to participate in our pop-up musical group known as the:

**Resurrection Orchestra!**



## SPECIAL E A S T E R MUSIC

Rehearsals will be held after the church services on March 16, 23, 30 and April 6 for about 30 minutes. You can come to one, two or more of the early rehearsals as you are able. A mandatory rehearsal will be held on April 13, Palm Sunday.

Plan to attend one of the upcoming interest session to let us know which instrument you play and you will receive a copy of the music to take home. Interest sessions are March 9 and March 16. Questions? Speak to Lynn Short, Music Director.

# Welcome Spring



Transfiguration  
SUNDAY

3.2.2025

ASH  
WEDNESDAY  
3.5.2025

SPRING  
FORWARD  
3.9.2025





# Immanuel Lutheran Nursery School

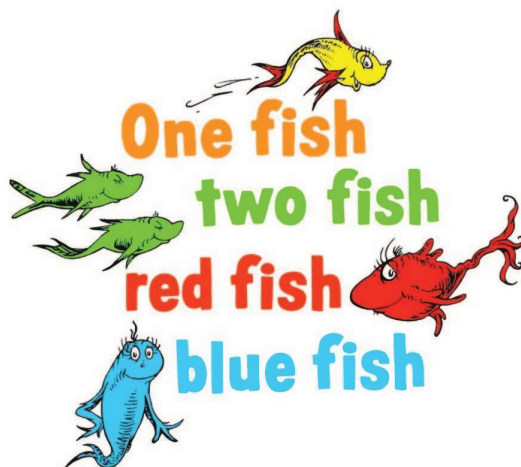
In February ILNS celebrated Read Across America week encouraging the love for reading! Each day of the week had a fun theme to go along with famous Dr. Seuss books such as "Cat in the Hat" and "One Fish, Two Fish..."



Our 3 & 4 year old classes with their crazy socks for "Fox in Socks" Day!



Mrs. Michelle, Mrs. Angel, Mrs. Tina, Mrs. Jamie & Mrs. Desi.



Andee Harding with her red fish and blue fish for "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish"!



In March ILNS students will be making leprechaun traps in hopes of catching one! A leprechaun trap is a craft project made to catch leprechauns on St. Patrick's Day. Traps typically include gold coins, rainbows, etc. to attract the leprechauns and are left out the night before the holiday. In the morning when the students arrive to school they will check the trap(s) for signs of a leprechaun's visit. We will have to wait and see what they find in next month's newsletter!



Thank you to everyone who supported the Nursery School's Spaghetti Dinner fund raiser! There was a good turnout, lots of volunteers to help, and everything ran smoothly. Thank you to the nursery school staff, and individuals who volunteered their time. We made a little over \$1,800.00, and that money will be used to buy supplies to continue the mission of our school.

**A BIG Thanks!**



# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Immanuel's Youth Group will be traveling to New Orleans, LA to attend the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering in July. The Youth Gathering theme for 2025 is ENDURE—Hebrews 12: 1-3. This event brings youth together for praise, worship, and fellowship! Alicia Carder, Catie & Desi Casey-Motley, Joanna & Zoe Durando, and Jennifer & Veronica Phillips are raising funds for their trip with a 'No Fuss Fundraiser'. Simply choose an amount that you would like to donate and 'fill' their cross! See the poster in the narthex or any youth group member for more information. Checks should be made out to Immanuel Lutheran Church and be sure to indicate 'Youth Group'.

Thank you for your support!

When: July 19-23, 2025

Where: New Orleans, LA

Why: Held every 3 years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to be encouraged in their walk with Jesus Christ and learn about the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity.

The Gathering is more than the five days of the event. The preparation process for the Gathering brings together young people and supportive adults to encourage each other in their baptismal identity. The Gathering provides young people a vision for the vastness of Christ's Church and equips them for vocational service as they continue their walk with Jesus.

This event is organized by [LCMS Youth Ministry](https://www.lcms.org/youth) in Saint Louis, MO. For additional ways to connect to LCMS Youth Ministry, please visit [www.lcms.org/youth](https://www.lcms.org/youth).

# ENDURE



Last year's youth **Easter** skit was a lovely addition to our **Easter** Sunday so we are happy for its' return in 2025!

If you would like to participate in any way, please reach out to: **Joanna Durando, 410-829-8885**.

This skit is for youth in **5th through 12th grade**. Adult helpers are welcome as well.

A few practices will be held, likely during Sunday School time. Thank you!



### His Hope Ministries Vision

(found at <https://hishopeministries.org/>)

***At His Hope Ministries, we envision a world where every person has access to the resources they need to live a healthy, happy, and fulfilling life. We strive to create a world where everyone has the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their background or circumstances.***

Our Immanuel Family has tried to support His Hope ministries with donations of money, dinners and by providing breakfast food items each month. Our next dates for collecting individually wrapped breakfast items that do not require refrigeration are March 2nd and March 9th. Donations should be placed in the designated box in the narthex. Remember if you are unable to shop but would like to help, a cash donation is fine.

Please see or call Irene Wheatley - 410-310-2571 if you have questions or would like to make a cash donation.

*Thank you for caring for our community through Christ!*

## The Lenten Desert



During the **Lenten** season, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year), Christians figuratively follow Jesus into the desert. Just as our Savior spent 40 days fasting and facing temptation, we focus on self-reflection and contrition.

In an 1873 hymn, Claudia Hernaman wrote, "O Lord, throughout these forty days, you prayed and kept the fast. Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past."

The desert experience of **Lent** serves a clear purpose, filling us up rather than depleting us. "This is what **Lent** is meant to be," writes theologian Ron Rolheiser. "Time in the desert to courageously face the chaos and the demons within us and to let God do battle with them through us. The result is that we are purified, made ready, so the intoxicating joy of **Easter** might then bind us more closely to God and each other."

## Just in time for Spring Cleaning...



**Save the Date: May 17, 2025**

Please donate your gently used items and help WINGS serve our church family.

An old hymn declares:



I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest.  
Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."  
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn and sad.  
I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad.  
(Horatius Bonar, 1846)

Many people these days feel exhausted by division, the news, hatred that seems louder than love. More than ever, we who are "weary, worn, and sad" need to hear Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest."

Jesus wants to be our resting place — but not so we can hide forever from reality. Instead, he offers a place of refreshment where we can relax long enough to remember that not everything is bad; there is gospel to share. Not everything is hatred; God's love is stronger.

Resting in Jesus, we focus on God's goodness. We are reminded of love shown by kind people to those in trouble, bold voices speaking for justice, warm friendships that brighten our days. Gladdened by rest, we rise again. Jesus walks with us, as always. We can lean on him every step of the way.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



HAPPY  
Birthday  
FROM YOUR  
CHURCH FAMILY

Jamie Johansen	3/2	Gail Whealton	3/12	Joshua Ayers	3/26
Chandler Swieczkowski	3/2	James Harris	3/14	Joanna Durando	3/26
William Frase Jr.	3/3	Charles Smith	3/14	Camryn Plugge	3/27
Jeffrey Frase	3/3	Janice Isenberg	3/15	Molly Plutschak	3/27
Mary Railey	3/4	Paul Mitchell	3/16	Christopher Schanken	3/27
Madison Swieczkowski	3/4	William Hopkins III	3/18	Dale Thomas	3/28
Janellen Lewis	3/5	Katie Parmer	3/21	Carson Hicks	3/29
Karen Lyons	3/5	Lindsie James	3/23	David Schmidt	3/30
Sharon Gutz	3/6	Michael Jantz Jr.	3/23	Jessica Wittemen	3/30
Jackie Nichols	3/7	William Greenage Jr.	3/24	Olga MacDonald	3/31
Caroline Northam	3/7	Jessica Gullion	3/24		
Deborah Clendaniel	3/8	Danny Mitchell Jr.	3/24		
Kelsey Hochmuth	3/10	Jeffrey Rosebrock	3/24		
Darlana Roestri-Butler	3/10	Donna Collins	3/24		
Jill Ostermann	3/11	Hayden Plutschak	3/24		



HAPPY  
Anniversary  
FROM YOUR  
CHURCH FAMILY



Windsor & Peggy Meyer Sr.	3/9
Corliss & E. Wright	3/12
Jerry & Kristen Stivers	3/17
Michael & Karen Lyons	3/20
Warren & Mary Ann Frase	3/22
Hugh & Joanne Smith	3/24





# MARCH

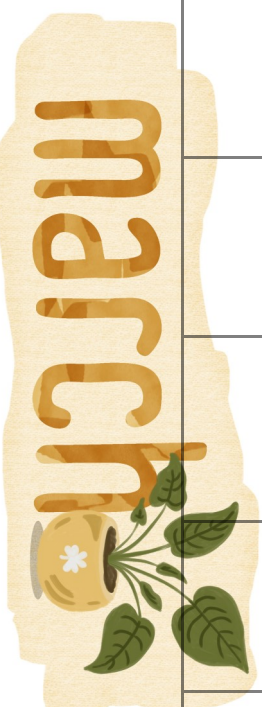


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast
2 <b>The Transfiguration of Our Lord</b> 9:15a Sunday School 10:30 Divine Service 7:00pm AA Meeting	3 8:50am Nursery School	4 8:50am Nursery School 6p Youth Confirm. Class	5 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 8:50a Nursery School 6:00p <b>Potluck Dinner</b> 7:00p <b>Service</b>	6 8:50am Nursery School 9:30am Women's Bible Study	7	8
9 <b>1st Sunday in Lent</b> Daylight Savings 9:15a Sunday School 10:30am Worship Orchestra Interest Mtg. 7:00pm AA Meeting	10 8:50am Nursery School	11 8:50am Nursery School 6p Youth Confirm. Class	12 8:50a Nursery School 12pm <b>Lent Service w/ luncheon</b> 6:30pm Handbells 7:30pm Sr. Choir	13 8:50am Nursery School 9:30am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm WinGS	14	15
16 <b>2nd Sunday in Lent</b> 9:15a Sunday School 10:30 Divine Service Orchestra Meeting & Rehearsal 7:00pm AA Meeting	17 <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> 8:50am Nursery School	18 8:50am Nursery School 6p Youth Confirm. Class	19 8:50a Nursery School 12pm <b>Lent Service w/ luncheon</b> 6:30pm Handbells 7:30pm Sr. Choir	20 <b>First Day of Spring</b> 8:50am Nursery School 9:30am Women's Bible Study	21	22
23 <b>3rd Sunday in Lent</b> 9:15a Sunday School 10:30am Worship Orchestra Rehearsal 7:00 pm AA Meeting	24 8:50am Nursery School 11am Piano Tunings	25 8:50am Nursery School 6p Youth Confirm. Class	26 8:50a Nursery School 12pm <b>Lent Service w/ luncheon</b> 6:30pm Handbells 7:30pm Sr. Choir	27	28	29
30 <b>4th Sunday in Lent</b> 9:15a Sunday School 10:30am Worship 7:00 pm AA Meeting	31 8:50am Nursery School					



# THOSE SERVING IMMANUEL MARCH 2025

Date	Ushers	Assisting Elder	Lay Reader	Acolyte	Sound System	Camera Operator	Kids Worship	Greeter	Head Tellers
March 2	Rick Clendaniel Roland Limpert	Rex Rosebrock	John Crampton	Anthony Clark	David Schmidt	Janice Isenberg	Rene Langwost	Kenny & Michelle Wheatley	Janice Isenberg Shelly Kapitan John Crampton
<del>Ash Wednesday March 5</del>	Rick Clendaniel Roland Limpert			Mikayla Clark					
March 9	Rick Clendaniel Roland Limpert		Glen Plutschak	Coltyn Bowman- Pinder	David Schmidt	Jennifer Phillips	Rene Langwost	Kenny & Michelle Wheatley	Karen Lyons Jennifer Phillips
March 16	Rick Clendaniel Roland Limpert	Hugh Smith	Janice Isenberg	Grayson Jackson	Rex Rosebrock	Shelly Kapitan	Rene Langwost	Kenny & Michelle Wheatley	Dee Lambert Glen Plutschak Linda Jefferson
March 23	Rick Clendaniel Roland Limpert		Christina Frase	Shyann Gillis	Jim Harris	Ruth Thomas	Rene Langwost	Kenny & Michelle Wheatley	David & Kathy Schmidt Julie Farnell
March 30	Rick Clendaniel Roland Limpert		Kathy Schmidt	Anthony Clark	Jim Harris	Shelly Kapitan	Rene Langwost	Kenny & Michelle Wheatley	Carol Frase Mark Frase





## Concordia Seminary St. Louis Adopt-A-Student

# PRAY

FOR SEMINARY STUDENTS

### A Thank You Letter from Concordia Seminary:

“Thank you for your commitment to serve as an Adopt-A-Student sponsor...Your support is a wonderful blessing—Affording the cost of their education is often mentioned by students as the greatest obstacle to coming to the Seminary and because your Adopt-A-Student gifts go directly into your seminarian’s account, you are tangibly demonstrating that you stand with your student in prayer and financial support...”

Thank you again for your support of our students and for your partnership in Concordia Seminary’s mission. You are making a wonderful difference in the life of your seminarian(s) today and you are making an eternal difference in the kingdom of God as, upon graduation, the Lord blesses the ministry of your student(s) for years to come.”

Concordia Seminary is grateful for Immanuel Lutheran Church’s commitment to serve as an Adopt-A-Student sponsor again!

The student we are sponsoring this year is Mr. Harry T. Wright and you can find his mailing address here.

We will be sure to share any correspondence received from him with the congregation.

Our New Seminary Student

Mr. Harry T. Wright  
Campus Post Office Box  
801 Seminary Pl.  
Saint Louis, MO 63105-3196



Are you ready to make some **Easter** eggs? WINGS is planning its annual **Easter** egg fund raiser, and we will be making eggs on **Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>** and **Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**.

If you want to volunteer to help, we will need a group of egg shapers on Friday, the 28<sup>th</sup>, beginning around 10 a.m. That is all we will be doing that day, making cherry nut eggs to allow them to dry prior to dipping on Saturday. We will do the bulk of our work on Saturday, the 29<sup>th</sup>. This is the day we need a big turnout to get the jobs done.

On Saturday, beginning at 8 a.m., we will begin shaping the other flavors of eggs. If you would like to help, you can come any time after 8 a.m. There are so many jobs to do, and we will find a spot for you! Lunch will be provided both days. Come when you can, and stay as long as you want, even if it’s only for a few hours.

All ages are welcome—we need your help!

Donations from the profits of the **Easter** eggs will go to Immanuel’s Youth Group, our own Care & Compassion Fund, Talbot Interfaith Shelter and Positive Strides Therapeutic Riding Center.



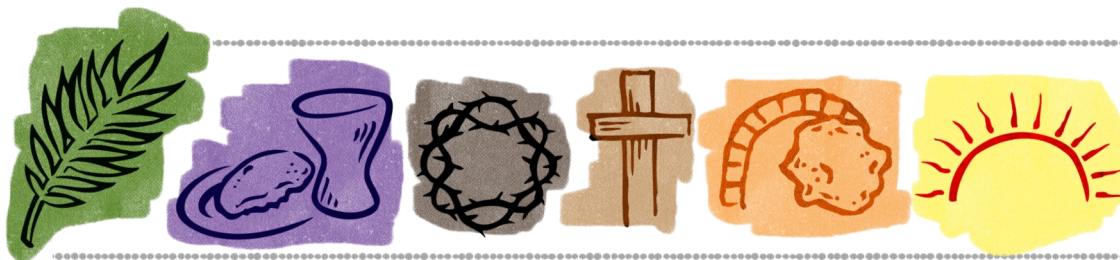


# Lenten

## SCHEDULE



WEDNESDAY March 5	Ash Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6PM Potluck Dinner</li> <li>• 7PM Confession &amp; Communion Service</li> </ul>
SUNDAY March 9	First Sunday in <b>Lent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10:30AM Worship Service</li> </ul>
WEDNESDAY March 12	Midweek <b>Lent</b> 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12PM Vespers Service followed by lunch</li> </ul>
SUNDAY March 16	Second Sunday in <b>Lent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10:30AM Divine Worship Service</li> </ul>
WEDNESDAY March 19	Midweek <b>Lent</b> 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12PM Vespers Service followed by lunch</li> </ul>
SUNDAY March 23	Third Sunday in <b>Lent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10:30AM Worship Service</li> </ul>
WEDNESDAY March 26	Midweek <b>Lent</b> 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12PM Vespers Service followed by lunch</li> </ul>
SUNDAY March 30	Fourth Sunday in <b>Lent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10:30AM Worship Service</li> </ul>
WEDNESDAY April 2	Midweek <b>Lent</b> 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12PM Vespers Service followed by lunch</li> </ul>
SUNDAY April 6	Fifth Sunday in <b>Lent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10:30AM Divine Worship Service</li> </ul>
WEDNESDAY April 9	Midweek <b>Lent</b> 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12PM Vespers Service followed by lunch</li> </ul>



## Holy Week Schedule

SUNDAY April 13	Palm Sunday Sunday of the Passion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10:30AM Worship Service</li> </ul>
THURSDAY April 17	Holy (Maundy) Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7PM Holy Thursday Service</li> </ul>
FRIDAY April 18	Good Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7PM Good Friday Tenebrae Service</li> </ul>
SUNDAY April 20	The Resurrection of Our Lord <b>Easter</b> Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Easter</b> Sunday Breakfast</li> <li>• <b>Easter</b> Skit</li> <li>• 10:30AM <b>Easter</b> Day Worship Service</li> </ul>