



May 2025

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Caring For Our Community Through Christ

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

“Are you ready?” How many times have you asked someone that question? It could be in preparing for a vacation. Maybe you’ve uttered these words during times of surgery. Or what about asking a little one if they were ready for school. Sometimes this three-word phrase is mentioned when considering preparedness, that is, being prepared for things that may occur on a day to day basis whether it’s a change in weather, a sudden emergency, or times when you just have to pack up the car and get to a different destination.

But can these words also be applied to our spiritual lives as well? Absolutely. Particularly during this Easter season, as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior + Jesus Christ, it’s good to ponder these very words again, “Are you ready?” “Ready for what pastor?” Well, ready for Jesus to return.

It’s not something that we think about often, is it? But the truth of the matter is that scripture tells us Jesus will come again. Consider these words from the Gospel, according to St. John, “In my Father’s house are many rooms, if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” (John 14 : 2-3). St. Matthew also writes, “Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man (Jesus), and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory” (Matthew 24 : 30).

Folks, Jesus is coming again and when He comes, we as Christians must be ready. How do we do that? First, we repent. “If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1 : 9). In John’s epistle, we see that when we confess our sins, Christ forgives us of our sins and that forgiveness indeed makes us ready for the Lord to come again.

We also prepare for Jesus’ return through baptism. In baptism, the original sin we are born with, and all sin we’ve committed since, are washed away with the water and the word. In that washing, our sins are forgiven and we’re clothed with white robes of Christ’s righteousness. That is very important because that white robe that baptized Christians wear is the dress code for attending the marriage feast in heaven which has no end between Christ and His church in that place God has prepared for you, His children.

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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 Mon.—Thurs. from
9am to 1pm. Please remember that the admin. assist. may
be away from the office running errands during this time.

Administrative Assistant &

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CHURCH OFFICERS — 2025

President.....Richard Wheatley

Secretary.....Sheri Rodriquez

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Trustee Chair.....Rick Clendaniel

Stewardship Chair.....Linda Jefferson

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Another way we prepare is through the reception of the Lord's Supper. "This is my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sin..." Again, God gives us His grace, mercy, and love and prepares us for His coming again.

But do not be blind dearly beloved for staying prepared can be a difficult thing because the devil is like a roaring lion, seeking you out to devour you. He wants you to sin, to fall away from the Lord, and he'll do everything in his power to make it so. The Father of Lies wants you prepared too, but not for heaven. He wants you prepared for an eternity of hell and separation from God.

Do not be deceived dear Christian, for though the devil tempts you and wants to lead you into temptation, you have a heavenly Father who loves you, who came and died on a cross for you, who has defeated the devil and sin forever, and who rose from the dead in your place. And because He came, died, and lives again, we will too, prepared to spend forever in eternity in the paradise that is heaven with our Lord, our loved ones gone before, and for all the saints who from their labor now rest.

Beloved, are you prepared? I believe you are and that is something to celebrate this Easter season and the month of May. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In Christ's Service and Yours,

Pastor David

SPECIAL FUNDS

Care & Compassion Fund

Caraballo Property Mgmt., LLC
Margaret Bolyard



A Look Back At...



Holy Week



On Palm Sunday, with attendance 87, we were blessed with musical talents by the Senior Choir and Sunday School Chimers. The Sunday school students and the Senior Choir participated in the Procession of the Palms by waving palms, playing the chimes and signing "Hosanna, Hosanna". Pictured with palms: Lilly Andrew, Colton Northam, Andee Harding, Ella Cannon, Hunter Cannon, Katherine Bowman-Pinder, and Kayleigh Bowman-Pinder. Pictured with chimes: Grace Cannon, Charlotte Casey-Motley, Rylee Harding, Hannah Harding, Alicia Carder and Zoe Durando.



Our Maundy Thursday service included Holy Communion and special music by our Senior Choir with 32 in attendance.

Our Good Friday Tenebrae service, with attendance 46, also included the talents of our Senior Choir.



On Easter Sunday our blessings were in abundance! The morning began with breakfast and fellowship. Next up was the youth Easter skit. Our Senior Choir joined them in singing hymns. We had 123 people in attendance for worship. Our service included Holy Communion and musical talents by our Handbell Choir, Senior Choir and our Pop-Up Resurrection Orchestra!

We are so grateful for everyone who joined us and helped to make Easter such a special day at Immanuel Lutheran Church as we celebrated the Resurrection of Our Lord!





Immanuel Lutheran Nursery School

Monday May 5—Friday May 9 is...



We loved having each of you as our students while you were here! Wishing you the very best as you move on to your next adventure...Kindergarten! God's Blessings!

Marti Grace Cheesman

Mattox Newberry

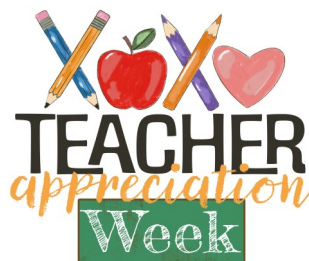
Andee Harding

Logan Phillips

Delaney Higgs

Paxton Ruf

Grant Lord



2025 ILNS

Teachers:

Mrs. Desi

Mrs. Jamie

Mrs. Tina

Mrs. Angel

Mrs. Michelle

Mrs. Ashley



410-673-7107



ImmanuelLutheranPreston@verizon.net

ILCnurseryschool@gmail.com



Immanuel Lutheran Nursery School

CLOSING CEREMONY

Friday May 23, 2025 ~ 6:30 PM



Immanuel Lutheran Nursery School applied for and received a Thrivent Action grant which covered the costs for each nursery school student and one parent to visit Vintage Family Farms in Preston, MD. On April 10th students enjoyed a chilly but beautiful day on the farm playing outside, exploring, and learning about spring time growth! A huge THANK YOU to Carol Frase for applying and Thrivent for granting ILNS the funds to make this field trip possible and free to our families!

Inspiration!

Loving my 'enemies'

In polarized times, when people view huge concepts such as justice, government policy and care for neighbors differently, how do we follow Jesus' command to love our enemies? I prefer the word opponents, but our Lord's instructions still stand.

In the Bible, "love" doesn't mean liking someone; it means caring for them, treating them kindly. I find The Message paraphrase of Luke 6:27-36 helpful: "Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst," Jesus says about one's enemies. So, when I contact government leaders to express my opinions, I address them with respect, whether I agree with them or not. When I encounter a neighbor whose views oppose mine, I ask myself what I would want them to do for me, whether help with an errand or be friendly. Then, as The Message puts it, I "grab the initiative and do it for them." And this, which might be the hardest: Amid tough times, Jesus says, "Respond with the supple moves of prayer." It's human nature to pray that God change our enemies' or opponents' minds. But it's more Christlike to pray for their health, their families and whatever God desires for them, not what I want. Can I do this? With God's help, yes.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

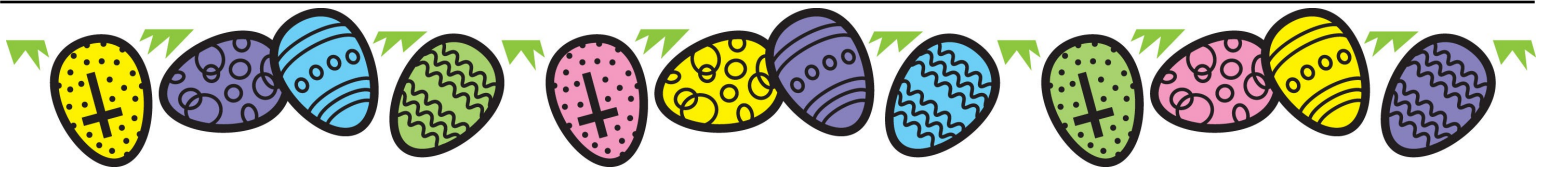
Seizing holy opportunities

In Holy Moments, Matthew Kelly discusses the world's need for more small (but sometimes large) instances of people caring for others, cultivating joy, encouragement and love instead of anger, envy, fear. Kelly defines a Holy Moment as "a single moment in which you open yourself to God. ... You set aside personal preference and self-interest, and for one moment you do what you prayerfully believe God is telling you to do." This may mean mowing the lawn for a neighbor with a broken leg, praising a child on his artwork, buying a surprise snack for someone having a bad day, working extra shifts for a coworker with cancer so she can receive her full salary while out sick, paying for the next car's drive-thru order. Anyone can create a Holy Moment, because you don't need special skills, position or wealth. "If you want to see miracles, make yourself available to God," Kelly suggests. He adds that God has a track record of collaborating with "the most unlikely people to make amazing things happen, and now He wants to collaborate with you." When we're open to God's leading, holy opportunities abound. And we will experience as much joy as the ones to whom we show care.

Powered by God

God made us: invented us as a [person] invents an engine. A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on himself. He himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from himself, because it is not there.

—C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity



WinGS has done it again!

2,685 delicious homemade Easter eggs were made and sold!

There is a huge amount of planning and preparation that goes into this project! What a blessing it is to our church and community! We had over 40 volunteers from our church and community. The fellowship on the egg making days is truly enjoyed by each volunteer!

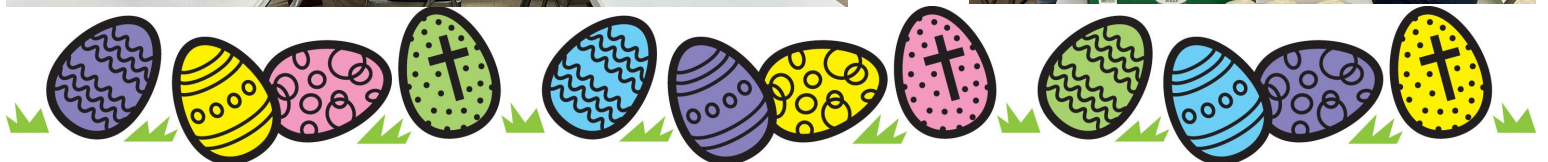


Funds raised this year were donated to:

- * ***Immanuel's Youth Group***
- * ***Immanuel's Care & Compassion Fund***
- * ***Talbot Interfaith Shelter***
- * ***Positive Strides Therapeutic Riding Center***



A Thrivent Action grant helped to cover some of the start up costs for making our Easter eggs! We are very grateful as this helps to offset our expenses and allows us to give more to each worthy cause!



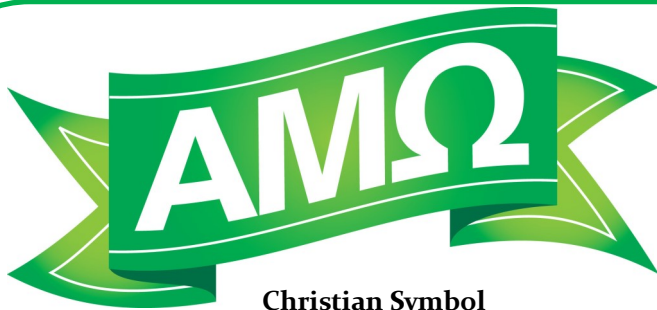
A prayer for Mother's Day

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the blessings of children and families. Help us rely on you for guidance, patience and even-temperedness throughout our days.

We pray that our children will love you, worship you and serve you with their God-given gifts. Grant us the wisdom to know how to influence them to live godly lives. Prevent us from provoking our children to anger and from manipulating or nagging them.

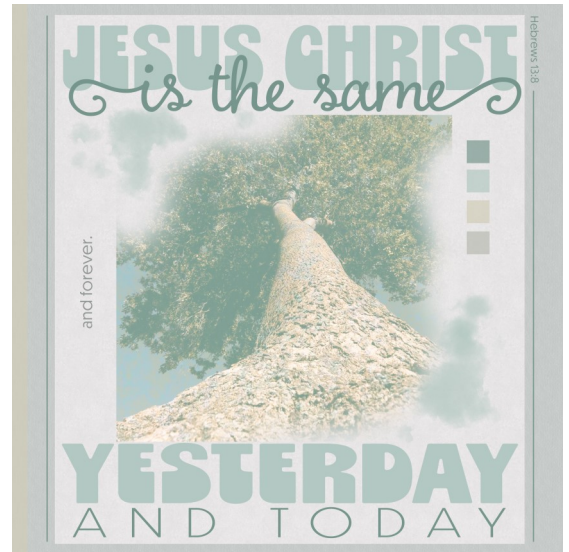
Fill our households with abiding love and respect. And help us all be united in purpose to do your will. In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.



Christian Symbol

ALPHA MU OMEGA — The Greek letters that begin the words *yesterday*, *today* and *forever* remind us of Jesus' constant presence with us personally and his eternal nature that transcends time as we know it. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8, NIV). Dozens of psalms and other Bible passages also proclaim that the Lord's "steadfast love endures forever" (ex., Psalm 100:5, NRSV).

What reassurance when life seems tough and fleeting!



"He ascended into heaven..."

Ascension Day, May 29, 2025

During his earthly ministry, Jesus could be physically present in only one place at any given time. "Only those could speak to him who came to where he was," explained Archbishop William Temple. "If he was in Galilee, people could not find him in Jerusalem; if he was in Jerusalem, they could not find him in Galilee" (from *Readings in St. John's Gospel*).

Spiritually speaking, Christ's Ascension means he is with us wherever we find ourselves. Christ desires to be present with us everywhere we go. His presence is universal. He is here now. "Believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory" (1 Timothy 3:16, NRSV) — that is what the Ascension affirms.



MAY birthdays



HAPPY
Birthday
FROM YOUR
CHURCH FAMILY

Brook Coppage	5/1	Mallory Morris	5/16
Jessica Marine	5/4	Shelby Stevens	5/16
Kelli Schanken	5/5	William Hopkins	5/18
Ryan Wortz	5/7	Mary Ann Frase	5/19
Katherine Bowman-Pinder	5/8	James Johansen	5/23
Dawn Gencel	5/9	Linda Jefferson	5/26
Ella Cannon	5/10	Chuck Braband	5/29
Douglas Frase	5/10	Colton Northam	5/29
Lynn Faulstick	5/13	Barbara Andrew	5/30
Hugh Smith	5/13	Ruth Thomas	5/30
Kristy Marshall	5/15	Reece Durham	5/13



HAPPY
Anniversary
FROM YOUR
CHURCH FAMILY

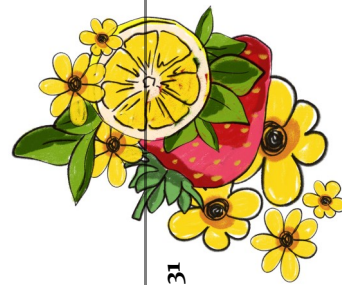


Garver & Amy Cheesman	5/11
Doris & Bill Maser	5/28





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8:50a Nursery School	2	3
4 9:15a Sunday School 10:30 Divine Service 7:00pm AA Meeting	5 8:50a Nursery School 7:00p Elders Meeting	6 8:50am Nursery School	7 8:50a Nursery School 6:30pm Handbells 7:30pm Sr. Choir	8 8:50a Nursery School	9	10 8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast
11 Mother's Day 9:15a Sunday School 10:30am Worship 7:00pm AA Meeting	12 8:50a Nursery School	13 8:50am Nursery School	14 8:50a Nursery School 6:30pm Handbells 7:30pm Sr. Choir	15 8:50a Nursery School	16	17 Armed Forces Day
18 9:15a Sunday School 10:30 Divine Service 7:00pm AA Meeting	19 8:50a Nursery School	20 8:50am Nursery School	21 8:50a Nursery School 6:30pm Handbells 7:30pm Sr. Choir	22 8:50a Nursery School	23 6:30p ILNS Closing Ceremony	24
25 9:15a Sunday School 10:30am Worship 7:00 pm AA Meeting	26 Memorial DAY	27	28	29 Ascension Day	30	31



THOSE SERVING IMMANUEL MAY 2025

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Assisting Elder</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Sound System</u>	<u>Camera Operator</u>	<u>Kids Worship</u>	<u>Head Tellers</u>
May 4	John Hochmuth Hugh Smith	Hugh Smith	Dicky Wheatley	Anthony Clark	David Schmidt	Janice Isenberg	Rene Langwost	Janice Isenberg Shelly Kapitan John Crampton
May 11	John Hochmuth Hugh Smith		Catie Casey-Motley	Shyann Gillis	David Schmidt	Jennifer Phillips	Rene Langwost	Karen Lyons Jennifer Phillips
May 18	John Hochmuth Hugh Smith	Mark Frase	John Crampton	Mikayla Clark	Rex Rosebrock	Shelly Kapitan	Rene Langwost	Dee Lambert Glen Plutschak Linda Jefferson
May 25	John Hochmuth Hugh Smith		Janice Isenberg	Coltyn Bowman-Pinder	Jim Harris	Ruth Thomas	Rene Langwost	David & Kathy Schmidt Julie Farnell



Catie Casey-Motley

Catie Casey-Motley, daughter of Pastor David and Desi Casey-Motley, is graduating from Colonel Richardson High School Monday May 28.

She plans on joining the army to be a military police officer specializing in the K-9 unit. We wish her the very best!



Veronica Phillips

Veronica Phillips, daughter of Jennifer and Doug Phillips, is graduating from Easton High School Monday May 28.

She will be attending Chesapeake College in the fall. She is currently undecided on what she will be studying. She is looking forward to exploring her options. Whatever she decides to do, she will do great!



Our Church's Graduates

You're going places!

Commencement marks the beginning of a new stage of life, with graduates heading off to discover opportunities and face challenges. *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* — a Dr. Seuss book that's now a popular graduation gift — whimsically explores life's ups and downs, twists and turns.

Young adults will face excitement and slumps, fun and loneliness. They'll feel a sense of purpose as well as confusion and even fear. "There are some [things], down the road between hither and yon, that can scare you so much you won't want to go on," writes Dr. Seuss.

In the storybook, the life-traveler's sheer determination propels him beyond difficulties. But God's children don't need to journey alone. Our heavenly Father walks beside us on every winding path and around every corner. Life cannot take us anywhere God hasn't been first. Graduates — and all Christians — can trust in the promise of Joshua 1:9 (NRSV): "Be strong and courageous ... for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."



GRADUATION
sunday

Please join us on Sunday

May 25, 2025

10:30 AM for a special

'Blessing of Our Graduates'

by

Pastor David Casey-Motley

during Worship Service!



VBS

June 23 - 26

Dinner 5:30—6:00 pm

VBS 6:00 pm—8:00 pm



www.vbsmate.com/ilcprestonmd/30509

2025 VBS THEME:



Check out the Epic Australian Adventure VBS Promo Video:

<https://vimeo.com/1017149650/ff78747439>

“Welcome to *Epic Australian Adventure* VBS, where kids journey through the Bible, God’s Word, and discover that Jesus is the way, and the truth, and the life!

Life is an adventure, filled with wonderful things to see, do, learn, and explore! But as we trek through life, we know we will also encounter troubles and dangers along the way. Jesus is our Savior and faithful guide, who shows us the right way to go and guides us on the path of truth that leads to eternal life.

At *Epic Australian Adventure*, kids will learn how Jesus calls, leads, teaches, saves and sends us to share the Good News with others through five exciting Old and New Testament accounts that trace God’s epic plan of salvation.”

cph.org/vbs

Have you ever been to Australia?

Do you have knowledge about Australia?

Any experience or first hand knowledge would be greatly appreciated!

Share what you know. Thank you!



Help Needed:

Kitchen, Registration, Opening/
Closing, Bible Exploration, Team
Leaders, Craft, Music, Snack,
Recreation, Story Telling, Decorating
and more!

Contact Rene Langwest
410-253-8735

Spread the word!

Bring a friend!

