

April Calendar 2024

| <u>Events</u> | | <u>Anniversary & Birthdays</u> | |
|----------------------|--------|---|----------------------------------|
| Wednesday | 3-Apr | 3-Apr | (B) Bonnie Clark |
| Friday | 5-Apr | 5-Apr | (W) Steve & Caryl Hickerson 1986 |
| | | | (W) Albert & Colleen Wefer 1964 |
| Sunday | 7-Apr | (E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School | |
| | | (E) 10am Worship Service | |
| Monday | 8-Apr | (E) 7pm Ladies' Aid Meeting | |
| Thursday | 11-Apr | 11-Apr | (W) Mark & Andrea Meadows 2015 |
| Sunday | 14-Apr | 14-Apr | (B) Pastor Timothy Landskroener |
| | | (E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School | |
| | | (E) 10am Worship Service | |
| Monday | 15-Apr | 15-Apr | (B) Gerald Schaal |
| Saturday | 20-Apr | 20-Apr | (B) Charles Kruenegel |
| Sunday | 21-Apr | 21-Apr | (B) Matthew Bauer |
| | | (E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School | |
| | | (E) 10am Worship Service | |
| | | (E) 11am Ladies' Aid Soup Luncheon | |
| Thursday | 25-Apr | 25-Apr | (W) Clint & Krystal Elam 2009 |
| Saturday | 27-Apr | 27-Apr | (B) Alan Harrison |
| Sunday | 28-Apr | 28-Apr | (B) Sharon Dolly |
| | | (E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School | |
| | | (E) 10am Worship Service | |

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April, 2024

Dearly Beloved of Christ,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

God grant you and yours a very blessed Easter-tide. After all, Easter lasts longer than one Sunday, or one week; it lasts for a full fifty days, until Pentecost. During this time we celebrate our Lord's glorious Resurrection from the grave, His Ascension into heaven, and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. We thank God for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation He gives us in and through Jesus.

Yet, there is no Easter without Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Jesus cannot rise from the dead unless He first die. His Resurrection only has meaning because of what He did on the cross. He hung there bearing your sins in His Body. He then rose from the dead; this is the Father's proof to you that your sins, which separated you from Him, are forgiven, forgotten, gone. They can no longer condemn you. They are no longer yours. And since they are no longer yours, then the punishment for sin can no longer be yours. Hell cannot claim you when you die. Death cannot have you. It must give you up for eternal life when Christ returns on Judgment Day to judge the living and the dead.

Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted preaching and the Sacraments to bring His salvation to you. We do not go back to an old cross to find Him there. Instead, He does what He's always done. He comes down to us sinners. We don't work ourselves into a spiritual "high" to commune with Him. He comes down to us, just like He came down to earth by taking on our flesh. He baptized you. He washed you clean of sin. He buried you in the waters with Him in His death and raised you out of the waters with Him in His Resurrection. He gives you His Body to eat and His Blood to drink, the very Body crucified by Pilate, the very Blood shed unto death for the life of the world. You are united to Him.

This means you have an identity. You are not merely a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church Augsburg, or even The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Your identity is as a child of God, one of the people of God. You are a true Israelite in whom there is no guile. Old Israel's history is now your history. Israel's history was not at all about a political entity, but entirely about the Church awaiting her Messiah. He has come; now the Church looks back to His coming, but also ahead to His Second Coming.

You are baptized. You are pledged to Christ. You have made an oath to Him. You have promised to be faithful to Him. That means you promised to be in Church as often as possible. You promised to live a life of faith, a life of good works, doing what He has given you to do. You promised to give Him your all, even as He gave you your all upon the cross. You have made

vows. You made them at your Confirmation as you confessed the faith given you in Baptism. But You have not kept them. Repent.

Be in Church. Here your Jesus comes to you. His Spirit forgives your sins of despising your Baptism and breaking your confirmation vow. He enables you to keep your promises. And this is very important since you made them at His Altar, before His Throne. Do not dwell on the fact that pews are empty, that people who used to be here are gone. Do not let this discourage you. I know it can be discouraging. I feel that pain as much as you do, perhaps even more because I am your pastor. Remember, Christ said the gates of hell cannot overcome His Church. He will not let you down; He will never leave you nor forsake you. You worship not just with whoever happens to be in church on any given Sunday, but with angels and archangels and all the hosts of heaven. Rejoice not that so many are absent, but rejoice that people are there to hear God's Word and receive His Sacrament. Rejoice that YOU are hearing His Word and receiving His true Body and precious Blood! That's what the Church does. She hears and receives. She trusts her Lord will bless her as He sees fit. What He ordains is always good. His Word, not our opinion or desires, is what matters in all things. We receive His forgiveness, and in that forgiveness, we go out to forgive others.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

God bless you always. In Jesus' Name,
Pastor Landskroener

Whenever we gather for the Divine Service, it's good to prepare by reading the readings for the day during the week/days before. Here are the readings for the upcoming Divine Services:

April 7 The Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:32-35
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

April 21 The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:1-12
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

April 14 The Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 3:11-21
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36-49

April 28 The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 8:26-40
1 John 4:1-11 (12-21)
John 15:1-8

SACRED MUSIC FOR THE EASTER SEASON... “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today,” “Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands,” “I Know That My Redeemer Lives,” “Awake, My Heart, with Gladness,” “He’s Risen, He’s Risen.” You can listen 24/7 to sacred music for the 50 days of the Easter season at lutheranpublicradio.org, TuneIn, Amazon Echo, Google Home, Apple HomePod and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: Since the Bible calls God “Father”, are all human beings are His children? To hear an answer to this question, go to <https://www.cidlcms.org/myth-or-faith/3.4.mp3>

The Annual Banquet is back on Sunday, April 14 at the **Camp CILCA** Dining Hall. This year's speaker is Mrs. Mary Kate Zander, Executive Director of Illinois Right to Life. Tickets are \$40 and include a catered dinner, homemade fudge, live music, and an update on Camp CILCA. Tickets must be reserved by calling or emailing the camp office by Wednesday, April 10. 217-487-7497 / director@cilca.org

Council meeting is April 3rd at 7:00 pm.

Voters meeting is immediately after the service April 7th.

RIGHT TO LIFE MARCH, Springfield, Illinois, April 17, 2024. St. Peter’s Lutheran Church has chartered a Bales Bus to go to the march in Springfield. You are invited to go and help us fill the bus! There is no charge to ride the bus. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for you to sign; print your name & telephone number. A Matins service will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church (across the street from the capitol) before the rally and the march, followed by a light lunch at the Statehouse Inn (a block north of the capitol) for a nominal cost. Exact time for boarding the bus has not been determined but further information will be provided as soon as it becomes available. **HELP US PACK THE BUS!**

Christ Our Rock Lutheran HS has some very exciting news to announce. Our boys baseball team gets to play at BUSCH STADIUM this year!!! That's right, the same field as so many Cardinal legends and current MLB team. That date is April 12, at 6pm. In order to make this happen we need to sell 700 tickets to the Cards vs Brewers game on April 19. Tickets are \$25 a piece in the Infield Terrace (sec 400s). If you would like to purchase tickets for family, friends or giveaways contact me dkueper@corlhs.org or at the school 618-226-3315. You can also reach out to any of our current baseball players. What a tremendous opportunity for our kids!!!

Ladies’ Aid soup luncheon is Sunday, April 21st for Chili / Chicken Noodle Soup, served with chicken salad or peanut butter sandwiches and grilled hot dogs, dessert and beverage. Serving beginning at 11A.M until soup is gone. Carry out available. Free will donation.

Parish Hall reservations – If you would like to plan an event or meeting to use our Parish Hall for any reason, this also includes Church activities, you will need to contact Scott or Karen Torbeck. If not asked, we don’t know. Use of the Parish Hall will be determined by the first reservation made.

Contact Pastor Landskroener 330-204-4180 for a Pastoral visit.

Prayer Request – When prayers are requested, we ask that we are informed of the relationship of the person with our congregation. There has been concerns about names on prayer list & who they are. We will add the relationship to the prayers. This will allow members to ask about the individual’s progress in recovery. In an effort to manage the list more effectively, individuals will be placed on the list for a period of four weeks. If at the end of that time, those people still need additional prayers, they may be re-added to the list for another four-week term. This may be done as long as the individual continues to need the added strength of the church prayer for their special need.

Please Sign attendance books in the pew, so Pastor is better able to serve you.

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Y Z Y A H Y Q Z X Q U D K L F
T M R F T H O T E H O E U V N
F G M N I K A L N C T U X P T
R K A U A T B D T E V T Z Y I
E E S J F A C G R D P E Z G L
D C H U R C H N Y Q C R O U A
E S N A I T A L A G F O E F U
E A P L X L Q V D S D N X S B
M E H E L H T E B F M O S E S
G O L I A T H Z R Y C M W K I
R D F I E J U I T P L Y P T C
A E R Q L L D Z T A Q Y A E T
C M W G L A S T S U P P E R C
E G N X Y K G P O L A D S Y J
B K T O Q L R D L Y W Q R X Y

FAITH

GOLIATH

GRACE

MOSES

SERPENT

DEUTERONOMY

GALILEE

GOOD FRIDAY

PSALMS

CHURCH

BETHLEHEM

PAUL

LAST SUPPER

GALATIANS

ETERNAL LIFE

REDEEM

SANCTIFY

PARABLE

