

Immanuel Messenger

GOD WITH US

April 2020

A Message from Pastor Callahan

"Built on the Rock the Church shall stand even when steeples are falling. Crumbled have spires in every land; bells still are chiming and calling, calling the young and old to rest, but most of all the souls distressed, longing for rest everlasting."

– LSB 645 "Built on the Rock"

Dear Friends of Immanuel,

One of the reasons that I love the Lutheran hymnody so much is because it proclaims the foundation of our faith so boldly. In our first streaming service, I mentioned that the great hymn "A Mighty Fortress" was written by Martin Luther during a pandemic of his own time that had taken over Wittenberg. While this hymn does not share a similar story, it does speak to the crisis taking place in our own time in a profound way.

Every time I replay those words "even when steeples are falling" in my head while singing this hymn to myself, I cannot help but think of the situation we are facing. Our economy has come to a screeching halt, small businesses are feeling the burden and are working to tighten their belts while the pickings become slimmer and slimmer, and even churches around the world are feeling the strain as their faithful members are not allowed, in many cases, to gather together for public worship and bring their offerings to support the mission of the Church universal.

It certainly seems like a lot of steeples are falling, doesn't it? "Crumbled have spires in every land" Nikolai Fredrik Severin Grundtvig, this hymns author, tells us. The United States is not alone in struggling through this pandemic. In literally every land we've begun to see the effects of this viral outbreak, and it has most certainly not been positive. Yet Grundtvig leaves no question as to where we Christians are to look for our hope and comfort. He even begins this hymn with

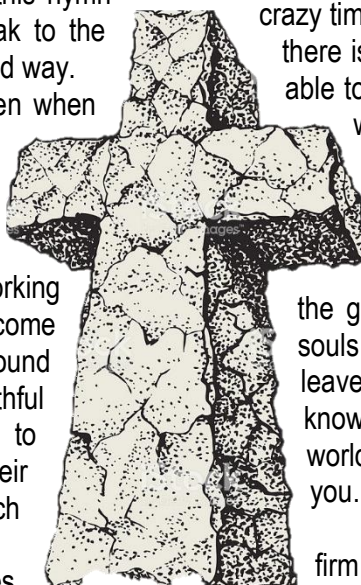
the very focal point of our faith, the firm foundation upon which we build our lives; "upon the Rock". Notice that word "Rock" is capitalized. Much like John's Gospel capitalizes "Word", this is indicative of the fact that it is not merely talking about a lifeless object, but this is in fact a noun, referring to an actual person. Who, you may wonder is that person that may be referred to as "the Rock"? None other than Him in whom our faith has always been based and built; Jesus Christ!

But we do not just hope in a Savior who is far away from us, looking down upon our pleading and debating whether or not to give us aid and counsel in our times of hopelessness. "Bells still are chiming and calling" Grundtvig tells us. The Church continues in her mission to proclaim both Law and Gospel to the Lord's people be it via streaming services, online postings, newsletter articles, or still daring to gather together around the Word and Sacraments, the church continues to call "the young and old to rest".

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I pray that you may find the rest you so desperately crave in these crazy times. Not only physical, but spiritual as well, and there is only one place, one person who will ever be able to give you that rest. He is the Good Shepherd who leads and guides you beside still waters and to green pastures where you may be filled with good things for the edification of both body and soul. May your rest be found in the Rock, the firm foundation upon which the great hope of the Church is built so that you souls may not be long distressed. Finally, Grundtvig leaves us with the promise of Christ Himself, "I know My own; My own know Me. You, not the world My face shall see. My peace I leave with you. Amen"

May the peace of our Lord, the Rock, the firm foundation of our faith and hope be with you in these times and always; even when steeples are falling. May your eyes ever look to Him who conquers and controls all things, who is Victor over sin, death, and the devil himself, Him who calls you out of this world of peril and tragedy to find your true rest in Him alone; the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Amen.

In the love of Christ,
Pastor Callahan



SPECIAL DATES IN APRIL:

- Palm Sunday, **Apr. 5**
- Maundy Thursday, **Apr. 9**
- Good Friday, **Apr. 10**
- Easter Sunday, **Apr. 12**
- Rummage & Bake Sale, **Apr. 18**
- Culver's Night, **Apr. 30**



HELP US CARE FOR YOU: *Your well-being is important to us and we want to pray for you!* When you or a family member is hospitalized, we want to serve you with prayers and visits. Unfortunately, we are no longer notified by the hospital; please call the church office when you have any medical/surgical procedure or in any time of spiritual need at **217-442-5675**.



Prayer requests: we are certainly pleased to pray for your (non-member) family and friends alongside our Immanuel members. Please keep us informed of their needs.

A MODERN-DAY PARABLE: In Luke 15, Jesus tells three parables about the precious being lost and, at great lengths, found again. The kingdom of heaven, he says, is like that. But most of us don't shepherd sheep and wouldn't fret over one lost coin. A child, on the other hand... In fall 2019, as night fell in northern Minnesota, 6-year-old Ethan and his dog wandered off. Family and police grew frantic because the area consisted of fields, woods and swamps. Authorities requested assistance. The kingdom of heaven, Jesus might say, is like *600 volunteers* searching diligently in the dark for a child they didn't know. It's like Steve Fines who, though also a stranger to the boy, grabbed his company's pricy heat-seeking drone and worked the camera for hours, until it detected Ethan huddling with his dog, safe but cold. Yes, the kingdom of heaven — indeed God — is like people giving their all and refusing to quit until the lost one is found.

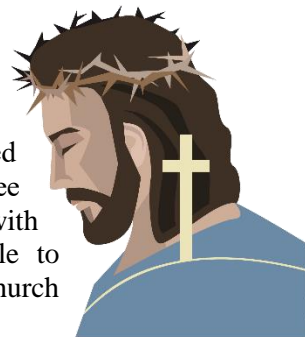
EASTER BREAKFAST: The youth of Immanuel are sponsoring the breakfast! We would like to have all available youth in attendance — no matter the age. We'll set up and prep food at 9 am on **Apr. 11**. Youth and helpers are asked to come to the kitchen after Communion. Questions? Call Josh Christensen at 304-7766.

THE LUTHERAN WITNESS is the official publication of our LCMS. Published 11 times a year—monthly, with a combined June/July issue—*The Lutheran Witness* keeps you updated with news from around the Synod, and addresses topical issues with feature articles, columns, Q&As, and more that will both inform and inspire. This is a must-read for Lutherans of all ages! Please subscribe by **Apr. 26**.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE:

The news about coronavirus continues to grow, with the number of infections and deaths rising around the world. ***First and foremost, we need to pray.*** Please pray that the Lord will heal the sick, comfort those who are mourning, calm the hearts of the anxious, and bring an end to the spread of this virus. Here at Immanuel, we are doing everything within our power to keep our members and community safe and healthy. It is not ideal or easy, but it is necessary. We thank you all for your patience! Please continue watch the church website: www.ilcdanville.com and the church Facebook page for updates. Although the church is closed due to the shelter-in-place order, Kim Davis, our church secretary, is working from home. You may reach Kim by calling the church office phone: 442-5675, or by email at ilcd.churchsec@gmail.com. We are streaming services live on YouTube. There is a guide posted on our website to help you get to our YouTube channel. For additional help, contact Kim, or Dwain Dixon at ilcd.technology@gmail.com. Please note that we are operating under the assumption that things will return to normal at the end of the current shelter-in-place order on **Apr. 7**. However, it is likely that it will be extended. All events in this newsletter and on the April calendar are subject to cancellation.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES: With the current Stay at Home proclamation set to expire Tuesday, April 7, we may be able to have our Holy Week and Easter services as in the past. If that is the case, Pastor Ed Morrow from Lafayette, IN — who has been with us for our Midweek Lenten services — will be leading our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services at 6:30 pm each evening. Our Easter Sunday service would be at our current 8:30 am time, with the Youth serving breakfast after the service. However, it is just as likely that the Stay at Home order may be extended. In that case, we will inform everyone by the church website and Facebook what our plans are for our Holy Week services. We are working on a plan to possibly hold an Easter celebration. Details are still being worked out, so we don't have anything firmed up at this time, and can't guarantee it will come to fruition. But with God's help, we hope to be able to celebrate the Resurrection as a church family.



—Tom Fricke, Board of Worship

**Spring shows what God can do
with a drab and dirty world.**

CONSIDER RUNNING FOR THE CHURCH BOARD:

Probably the hardest committee anyone can be asked to be a part of is the Nominating Committee. I'll admit, I haven't been on this committee in the past. But I felt it was my turn as a board member to serve in this capacity. And that's the key. If everyone just takes their turn, it doesn't take that much effort on anyone's part to make sure that the business of the church is taken care of – both as a candidate for office, and as a member of the Nominating Committee. The committee is to be made up of both board and non-board members. Please let me know if you're interested in helping in this important position. There are six positions up for election at the June Voter's Meeting. They include: President, Director of Properties, Director of Worship, Director of Evangelism, Director of Parish Education, and Director of Elders. We're confident that at least two of these positions will need to be filled. So, if you get asked to run for a position, please prayerfully consider helping lead our congregation as we enter a new era with the calling of a new pastor.

-Tom Fricke, Nominating Committee

PARISH EDUCATION NEWS:

- We would like to thank you all for your Icebox cookie orders. It is our intention to fulfill your orders as soon as it is safe and prudent to do so. Watch the Immanuel publications for updates.
- VBS is coming, hopefully, in June. Please consider helping in some way!

GIFT (SCRIP) CARDS: There next Scrip order is due to the church office by 1 pm on Monday, **Apr. 13**. These gift cards would make excellent graduation, confirmation, and wedding gifts! Order blanks are on the table in the chapel hallway. You are not limited to the vendors listed on the order blank; if you want to order a vendor not listed, first see if it is available through this program by looking it up at www.shopwithscrip.com. At the bottom of the page is a heading "Quick Links." Under it is "Retailers List." If your vendor is available write the name of the vendor, denomination of the gift card, number of cards wanted, and total amount on a blank line of the order form. There is also a vendor list on the bulletin board in the chapel hallway. These orders will be available for pickup on Sunday, **Apr. 19** or in the church office after that. Most of the local fast food/chain restaurants (with varying rates of profit to the church), plus Meijer (3% profit of face value of the card to church), and Wal-Mart (2.5% profit of face value of the card to church), have cards available **every Sunday** in the chapel hallway and in the church office during the week. If you have any questions, contact Jo Van Hoveln or Judy Creek.

OUR SPRING RUMMAGE SALE is **Apr. 18!** You may bring items for the sale and place them behind the big curtain on the stage anytime. Plan now to volunteer! We will need helpers to sort, help the day of the sale, and goodies for the bake sale. Thanks!



CAPITAL FUND DRIVE: In March, the Pie Day fundraiser event for the school windows on the west side of the building raised \$210. Our balance is \$48,823 to be used for this project. The Board of Directors voted to use up to \$15,000 of the bequest funds for this project. We have a signed contract with Arrow Glass to replace *all* the windows on the west side of the building. When you see Wayne Mann, please thank him for all his hard work and determination to get a signed contract! The Capital Fund Drive committee has selected the following to be our next projects:

- refurbishing the church sound system
- new guttering on the school
- replacing the northern portion of the parking lot.

This is not necessarily the order in which these projects will be completed. Properties will be getting bids for this work. The next meeting is scheduled for **Apr. 16** at 6:30 pm unless we have to postpone due to the pandemic outbreak. There is a Capital Fund Drive bulletin board in the hallway between the coat room and the parish mailboxes. There is a list of the windows yet to be replaced. Prior generations worked and sacrificed to build the school/church building, and it is up to us to preserve and improve our church home just as we would our own household's. It's not too late to pledge/donate to the Capital Fund Drive. All donations from large to small are equally appreciated! If you have any questions, please contact Jo Van Hoveln or any of the committee members (list of committee members is on the Capital Fund Drive bulletin board).

HOG ROAST PLANNING MEETING: There will be a meeting immediately after the Capital Fund Drive Committee meeting (Thursday, April 16 at 6:30 pm) unless we have to postpone due to the pandemic outbreak. We will begin planning and set the event date. Anyone wishing to help



the planning is welcome to attend; it should start around 7 pm. If you have any suggestions or comments about last year's events, contact Jo Van Hoveln know so they may be shared.

OFFERINGS: The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is being felt on multiple levels, not least of which is financially. During this difficult time, we are all struggling, and we are not asking you to contribute more than you can. Take care of yourself first. But, please keep in mind that the church still has financial obligations that need to be met. Here are a few options to prayerfully consider:

- Already available to you is the option to set up an Electronic Funds Transfer. This is safe, secure, and easy to set up. You choose the date, amount, and frequency of payments. All you need to do is fill out the form (now posted on our website and in this newsletter) and mail or email it back to the church, and we will take care of the rest!
- We are looking into options we can use to make donations from our website. We will get this information to you as soon as we can.
- You can continue to mail your offering to the church office. We are checking the mail regularly.

CID LWML MITE BYTES: *Mission Grant #9 – Crossing the Gap Prison Ministry - \$2,000*

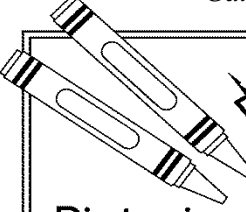
This project is a volunteer correspondence ministry to prisoners, sending approximately 125 letters monthly of the Grace Lutheran Friendship Guild in Paris, IL. This grant would be applied toward the postage expenses. The projects purpose is to encourage Bible Study and share God's love through greeting cards, personal letters, Bible3 passages, and Bible Study materials.

How can I help? Pray that God provides the volunteers of this correspondence prison ministry the words, knowledge, and guidance to show God's love to all people. Support this grant by donating to your church's LWML mite fund.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS: There is no Sunday School on Easter Sunday, but Sunday School children are invited to help process in with our flower cross. Meet Mrs. Pratt in the narthex before church. Sunday school lessons after Easter will review the events of Holy Week and Easter. We will also solve "*The Case of the Broken Bread: Road to Emmaus*." As it happened after His resurrection, today we recognize Jesus through the teaching of His Word and the breaking of bread. April Bible Words: "*Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures*". -1 Corinthians 15:3

A MESSAGE FROM ILS: It is an extraordinary time in our world with the COVID -19 virus changing the way we live, work, and worship. The Governor of Illinois has closed all schools through at least Apr. 7. It would appear from the news we get from Springfield that the closure will likely be extended in order to slow the spread of the virus. In response to the closure I have asked our teachers to maintain contact with our families, sharing possible resources and ideas for the children. Please contact your teacher via *Teacherease* if you have questions concerning activities or resources. In keeping with the Governor's mandate, we are cancelling several April activities at ILS: The portable planetarium – April 1, Pre-registration – April 2, Scholastic Book Fair- April 20-24, and Family Reading Night – April 24. Thank you for your understanding and support in these difficult times. Please stay safe as we navigate these uncharted waters. Our prayers continue for all of our family.

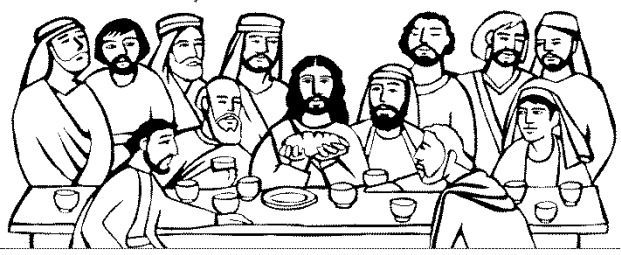
– Gail Garner, Director of Christian Education



PUZZLE

Picturing the Lord's Supper

Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples as a symbol of the new covenant.

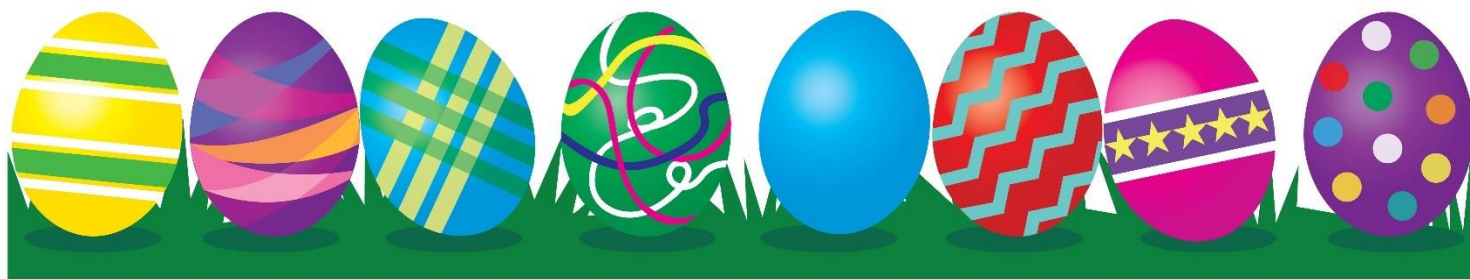


Directions: Use the picture clues to fill in key words from Luke 22:19-20, NIV.

And he took _____, gave _____ and _____ it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my _____ given for you; do this in _____ of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This _____ is the new _____ in my blood, which is _____ out for you."

LUKE 22:19-20, NIV

Answer: bread, thanks, broke, body, remembrance, cup, covenant, poured





DIRECT DEPOSIT OF OFFERINGS ENROLLMENT AND AUTHORIZATION FORM

1. Using blue or black ink, complete the personal information section including your name, address, telephone number, and church offering envelope number.
2. Indicate whether this is a new enrollment/authorization, a change in amount, a change in bank account, or a cancellation of direct deposit. Please note that all of these transactions require one week to process.
3. Indicate the account type, routing number, and account number. Attach a voided check or savings deposit slip to the enrollment form for a new enrollment or a change in bank account.
4. Sign and date the account holder signature section.
5. Designate the amount of your donation in the space provided.
6. Select how often you want this amount transferred from your bank account to the church's bank account and the date which you want this transfer to begin. In selectin the date for the first donation, allow at least one week after you submit the enrollment/authorization form.
7. Return the completed form to the church office.

Church Envelope Number: _____

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Choose One:

- ☐ New Enrollment
- ☐ Change in Bank Account
- ☐ Change in authorized amount
- ☐ Cancellation

Account Type:

- ☐ Checking
- ☐ Savings

Donation Information:

Amount of Donation: \$ _____

Date of first donation (Please allow 5-7 business days to process: _____/_____/2020

- Frequency: ☐ Monthly on the 1st of each month
☐ Monthly on the 15th of each month
☐ Weekly on Fridays

I authorize Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Vanco Services, LLC to automatically withdraw contributions / donations from my account. I have attached a voided check or savings deposit slip. This authority will remain in effect until I give reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.

Account Holder Signature: _____ Date: _____



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 Sundays 10:30 am – TCT Network - DIRECTV channel 377
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- ➔ **Tune in any time online:** **www.worshipforshutins.org**

April 2020

April 5 (Philippians 2:8b)

“Palms to Passion”

By Rev. Shayne Jonker, Faith Lutheran Church~Roanoke, IN

Holy Week begins on the road from Jericho to Jerusalem. Jesus procures a donkey and His disciples hail Him with palm branches. They make a royal highway for Him with their coats and shout, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” The mood, however, shifts quickly from palms to passion, from triumph to crucifixion. This is no ordinary King. He dies for His people and kingdom. Never has the world seen such a King as this one.

April 12 (John 20:1-18)

“Tears of Joy”

By Rev. Paul E. Shoemaker, Emanuel Lutheran Church~New Haven, IN

When a military mother is unexpectedly greeted by her child returning from deployment, the shock is overwhelming, and she may burst into tears of joy. Mary’s tears of sorrow changed into tears of joy when she saw the risen Savior.

April 19 (1 Peter 1:3-9)

“A Genuinely Tested Faith”

By Rev. William Mueller, Suburban Bethlehem Church~Fort Wayne, IN

The Apostle Peter reminds us that our faith in Jesus Christ is a genuinely tested faith. This means that through the struggles, various trials, and other griefs that we endure, God is drawing us closer to Jesus. Our faith in Jesus may be tested, but it is genuine!

April 26 (Luke 24:13-35)

“Have it GOD’S Way!”

By Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer, Holy Cross Lutheran Church~Fort Wayne, IN

Those who are or will be hospitalized, homebound, in a nursing home, or in some other way limited or restricted can be susceptible to feeling useless. But for the person who has faith in Jesus, no matter what the circumstances are, life always has a purpose. God uses each believer to display His wonderful divine works.



Official Acts

Baptism

Leah Jo Christensen



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Locally Owned ... Gary & Sarah Stuhr

Elders

Apr. John Albers, Don DeMoss, Ken Kuhn

Communion Assistants

Apr. 12 Don DeMoss, Kurt Thornsborough
19 Roger Dahlenburg, Josh Christensen

Ushers

Apr. **Team "D"**
Capt. Bill Martin, Charles Vollmer, David Ammermann, Jerry Kennett, Paul Teegarden

Note: M. Thur. Apr. 09 6:30 pm Team "C"
Good Friday Apr. 10 6:30 pm Team "A"

Lay Readers

Apr. 6:30 pm 9 Marilyn Le Pere
6:30 pm 10 Jan Mann
12 TBA
19 Diana Pratt
26 Nancy Purviance

Greeters

Apr. 12 Narthex Charles Vollmer family
Chapel Charlotte Schendel
19 Narthex Bill & Joyce Martin
Chapel Carl & Jerry Young
Walter Harbison
26 Narthex Gary & Sarah Stuhr
Chapel Carol Johnston

Acolytes

Apr.	Sundays	Special Services
12	Noah Acree	9 Noah Christensen
19	Josey Clem	10 Zachary Davis
26	Hannah Christensen	

Altar Guild

Apr. Sharon Crow, Juanita Rottmann

Money Counters

Apr. Team "A" Holly Clem, Jerry & Charlotte Kennett

Check Signers

Apr. Wayne Mann, Charlotte Schendel



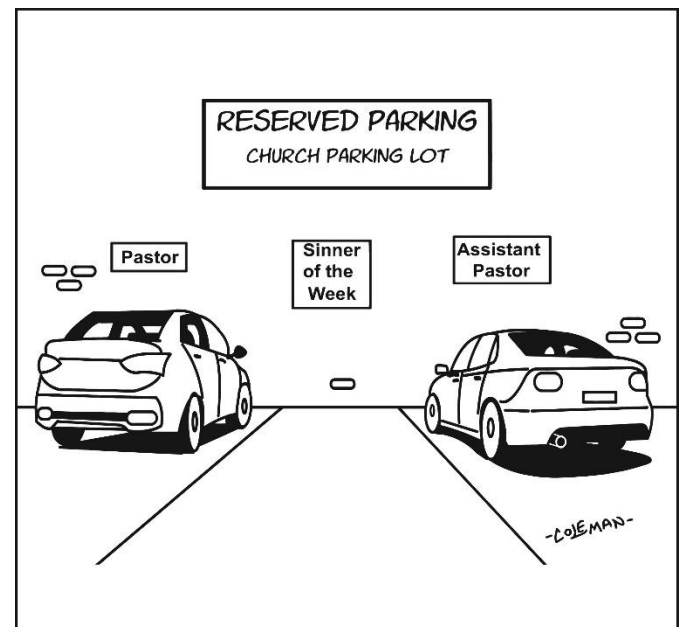
?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

Three of the Gospels tell that when Jesus was crucified, darkness covered the earth from noon until three in the afternoon. Which Gospel does not mention this event?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John



Answer: D (See Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, and John 19.)



happy
EASTER



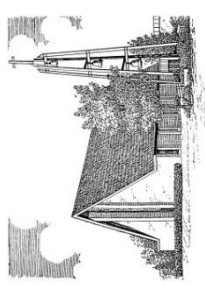
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Our April 2020 newsletter
 prepared prayerfully for:

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 Immanuel Lutheran School
 217-442-5036



Worship Schedule
 Sunday Mornings
 Apr. 5, 12, 19 & 26
 at 8:30 am
 Maundy Thursday
 Apr. 9 at 6:30 pm
 Good Friday
 Apr. 10 at 6:30 pm
 Wednesday Evenings
 Apr. 15, 22 & 29
 at 5:00 pm

Communion Schedule
 Sunday Mornings
 Apr. 12 & 19
 at 8:30 am
 Maundy Thursday
 Apr. 9 at 6:30 pm
 Wednesday Evening
 Apr. 29 at 5:00 pm

