

Wilson-Immanuel Lutheran Parish
401 310th Street
Wilson WI 54027
Address Service Requested

Mission Statement

Wilson - Immanuel Lutheran Parish serves to provide all people the opportunity to become disciples of Jesus Christ, encourage faith and obedience to Christ and, through diverse opportunities for evangelism, serve God's people in our communities, nation, and throughout the world.

April 2021 Newsletter
Wilson-Immanuel Lutheran Parish



Wilson - Immanuel Lutheran Parish
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Pastor: Rev. Bob Dahm
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I try to imagine what it must have been like on that first Easter morning when there wasn't the knowledge of the resurrection. When, instead, it was all about death and disappointment. And I imagine Mary Magdalene coming to the tomb in order to care for Jesus' body, to prepare it for burial. The story was over. The hope was gone. And then someone shows up in the garden, and Mary can't recognize him. Thinking that he's the gardener, she says, "Sir, tell me where you've taken the body so that I may bring it back here."

Imagine a woman, literally, thinking that she could carry the deadweight of a man. All of that grief, the heaviness of that physically as well as spiritually, and just then Jesus speaks her name. "Mary," he says, and her eyes are open. And she can see Jesus because she has been seen by Jesus. Her name has been called by the risen Lord, and now she is part of the resurrection story that happens for all of us in baptism. Jesus has called all of us by name and knows every one of us. And we too now are part of the resurrection story. Her mourning was turned into dancing.

I'm going to leave you with this hymn from our newest worship resource, *All Creation Sings*, about the transformation of Mary's grief into joy. Happy Easter, dear Church.

Elizabeth A. Eaton

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Woman, Weeping in the Garden



1 Wom - an, weep - ing in the gar - den, who has
2 Wom - an, wait - ing in the gar - den, af - ter
3 Wom - an, walk - ing in the gar - den, Je - sus
4 Wom - an, weep - ing in the gar - den, weep for
5 Wom - an, danc - ing from the gar - den, find the



pushed the stone a - side? Who has tak - en Je - sus'
men have come and gone, af - ter an - gels give their
takes you by sur - prise; when the gar - d'ner calls you,
joy, for you have seen Je - sus, the Mes - si - ah,
oth - ers and pro - claim Christ is ris - en as he



bod - y, Je - sus Christ the cru - ci - fied?
wit - ness, si - lent - ly you watch the dawn.
"Mar - y!" faith and joy meet in your eyes.
ris - en; Christ, of whom the proph - ets dream.
prom - ised; tell the world he knew your name!

Woman, Weeping in the Garden

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Happy Easter, dear Church.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Crosses We Don't Choose¹

Then Jesus told them, "... take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24b

Dear Members and Friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

My friend Julie's mom had dementia. Julie picked up that cross and carried it as her beloved mother faded away. Paul was in second grade when he was diagnosed with diabetes. It was a cross he would carry for the rest of his life. Erica's drug addiction was a cross she and her family carried for years until she found sobriety. They were all crosses they didn't choose.

Jesus carried his cross on the road to his crucifixion. Along the way he falls, and a man named Simon of Cyrene² is forced to pick up Jesus' cross and carry it the rest of the way to Calvary. Simon was most likely a reluctant cross bearer. Most of us are reluctant cross bearers. We don't choose the pain or suffering we've been dealt, and yet we carry the load. We don't choose to carry another person's cross when they are too weak to carry it themselves, but we are at times compelled by love to do so.

This month marks the one year anniversary of the pandemic. It is a cross that we've all carried to one degree or another. For some it has been an inconvenience and for others a heavy burden of suffering and profound grief. Theologically there is no way to put a positive spin on the coronavirus or 2020. It has been a cross we didn't choose. The strain of carrying this cross is evident in our country and congregations. We are all weary of it.

On Palm/Passion Sunday and Good Friday we are drawn into the story of Jesus' arrest, trial, and death. We walk alongside him in the crowd as he carries his cross, our cross, compelled by love. We walk with a suffering Jesus straining under the weight of this cross, stumbling, falling, getting back up and finally letting go, letting another carry it. Jesus knew pain in his human body, and so Jesus knows our every weakness. Jesus himself was beaten, knew suffering and was unable to carry the weight this cross. He falls to the ground under the weight of his love for us.

As a church we invite others to walk in the way of Jesus knowing that they are carrying crosses they didn't choose for themselves. We invite others to walk in the way of Jesus because as a community of faith we shoulder the burden and carry it all together. We help another carry their cross out of love. We are Simon of Cyrene.

Maybe that is what this past year has taught us; that we need each other; we aren't alone. We've been isolated, quarantined, but not alone. We can't take our congregations for granted. We need our faith communities and the relationships with other believers because we can't carry our own crosses. We follow the way of Jesus together bearing our neighbor's crosses out of love.

It is in the cross that Jesus carried and on which he was crucified that we can know the love of God and salvation. This is Luther's Theology of the Cross. It is in the crosses that we as a community of faith carry together as we follow in the way of Jesus that we too see and know the love God.

Dear friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, I am grateful for you, that during the pandemic, we were able to walk in the way of Jesus together. May you each know the joy of Easter! Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed.

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

¹ Inspired by an article titled Crosses we don't choose in March 10, 2021 Christian Century by Debie Thomas

² Simon of Cyrene Matthew 27:32

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP
APRIL 2021 – THE SEASON OF EASTER

Sunday, April 1 – Maundy Thursday

- ❖ Color: Purple
- ❖ ELW Setting: Setting I with Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Exodus 12:14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 1:23-26
- ❖ Holy Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35: The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one another.

Sunday, April 2 – Good Friday

- ❖ Color: Purple
- ❖ ELW Setting: Setting I
- ❖ Readings: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25
- ❖ Holy Gospel: John 18:1-19:42: On Good Friday, the story of Jesus' passion—from his arrest to his burial—is read in its entirety from the Gospel of John.

Sunday, April 4 – Easter Sunday

- ❖ Color: White
- ❖ ELW Setting: Setting I with Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Mark 16:1-8: The resurrection of Jesus is announced, and the response is one of terror and amazement.

Sunday, April 11 – Easter 2

- ❖ Color: White
- ❖ ELW Setting: Setting I
- ❖ Readings: Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133: 1 John 1:1-2:2
- ❖ Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31: The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

Sunday, April 18 – Easter 3

- ❖ Color: White
- ❖ ELW Setting: Setting I with Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48: In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

Sunday, April 25 – Easter 4

- ❖ Color: White
- ❖ ELW Setting: Setting I
- ❖ Readings: Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24
- ❖ Holy Gospel: John 10:11-18: In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

Martin Luther

We tend to focus our Easter thoughts on the time beginning with Ash Wednesday, through the season of Lent and into the "Three Days" of Holy Week, culminating with the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday.

On that day Christians around the world will celebrate Christ's resurrection, without doubt the single most important event in human history. The reality of the resurrection is what prompted St. Augustine to declare, "We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song." Truly, it is a wonderful day as we celebrate, in faith, the fulfillment of God's promise made visible in Jesus Christ.

The resurrection of our Lord is fundamental to our life of faith. Those beloved words from John's Gospel, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life"*, (John 3:16) give us hope, not only for eternal life (as if that were not enough in itself), but eternal hope throughout our lives; an Easter hope.

Faced with the reality of death, and all the sorrows and tragedies of our lives, we remember Christ triumphed over the grave; that death does not have the last word; that Christ has promised to make all things new.

But the celebration doesn't end on Easter Sunday, or at least it shouldn't.

The words of Martin Luther quoted above, help us to remember we are "Easter People" every day, always walking in the light of Christ and his resurrection; a that the light doesn't go out with sundown on Easter Sunday. Rather, it is a light that shines for us, on us, and through us every day of our lives.

And if we need be reminded it is a daily thing, we need only look to the new life around us, not just in springtime, but always before our eyes. Yes, in every new leaf shooting forth from the branches in the spring, but everywhere new life springs forth to be warmed by the light of the sun - and the light of the Son.

As "Easter People" we are called to share that light, dispelling the darkness of the world every day; becoming, not only one among many, but together a community of faith that always carries the resurrection message in our hearts and shares it with all in need of hearing its promise.

It is life-giving, this Easter celebration, but it's not Just a one-time deal. It is for tomorrow, the weeks and months ahead – indeed for our whole lives in this world and our lives eternal – and for the life of the world.

So, spread the Good News Easter people. "Christ has Risen! He is Risen Indeed!"

PARISH NEWS

HOLY WEEK / EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Date	Service	Location	Time
April 1	Maundy Thursday	Immanuel	7:00 p.m.
April 2	Good Friday	Wilson	7:00 p.m.
April 4	Easter Sunday	Wilson and Immanuel	8:30 @ Wilson 10:30 @ Immanuel

Vanco (GivePlus) Online Program: The Vanco GivePlus Online Giving Program is now available to both Wilson and Immanuel members. GivePlus allows you to set up weekly and special offerings, as well as special one-time donations. Contributions may be made to the General, Benevolence, Memorial, or Building Funds. Contributions to the Memorial and Building Funds may be designated for specific projects. MasterCard, Visa, and Discover are accepted. You can also contribute using your financial institution's debit card, checking or savings account. Visit our Web site at www.wilsonimmanuel.org and click the "Give Online" link in the menu bar near the top of the Home page. You can also download the GivePlus app for Apple or Android smartphones.

Food Pantry Support: Please remember the area food pantries supported by the parish congregations. Wilson contributes to five food shelves during the year, one each month, including Baldwin, Elmwood, Glenwood City, Spring Valley, and Woodville. Immanuel supports the food shelves at Clear Lake and Glenwood City. More people are seeking help from food pantries than ever before, so your contributions are especially welcomed. Don't forget to include items like paper products and personal care supplies. Bring your donations when you come for worship, or drop them off at church during the week. Thank you for the continuing support of your neighbors in need.

WILSON NEWS

Wilson WELCA: WELCA meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Wilson Council: The next regular meeting is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Thursday, April 8. All members of the church are welcome to attend.

March 11, 2021 Council Meeting Highlights: *(Complete minutes are available in the church office.)*

- Chuck Walz made a motion to have the annual meeting on Sunday April 25, at 11:00 switching the services with Immanuel that Sunday, second by Mike. Motion carried.
- Wilson Endowment Fund Committee's report from their January 28th meeting was read. Louanne made a motion to approve the recommendation of distribution of \$2500 from the fund, second by Barb Lamb. Motion carried.
- After discussion, Louanne made a motion to appoint Barb Lamb, Treasurer, to a 3-year term on Council, second by Sharon. Motion carried.
- Louanne will let the cemetery committee know more signs are needed before Memorial Day.
- Mike will monitor the year-old LED outside light that has been flickering.

Special Meeting of the Congregation

The Wilson Lutheran Church Council has called a special meeting of the congregation for Sunday, April 11, to begin immediately following the 8:30 a.m. worship. The purpose of the meeting is to take action on two recommendations from the council:

- Dissolve the two-point parish relationship with Immanuel Lutheran Church.
- Issue a Letter of Call to Pastor Bob Dahm to serve as pastor at Wilson Lutheran Church.

This meeting is important for the life of the congregation, its mission and ministry. All members are urged to attend.

Wilson Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation, postponed from its usual January date, will be held Sunday, April 25, immediately following the 10:30 worship service. Note the change in worship time for this date only. Please plan on attending.

Tuesday Community Supper: Members of St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Church will be handing out supper from 5:00 to 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday, April 6th, 2021 in the Gethsemane parking lot. Drive by to pick up roast beef, (BBQ sauce on the side), scalloped potatoes, mixed veggies, roll, and a dessert bar.

The Tuesday Community Supper is served the first Tuesday of the month at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 1350 Florence Street, Baldwin, Wisconsin, 54002. This is a free meal open to anyone in the community. Area churches, businesses and organizations take turns preparing and serving good nutritious food.

Assisting with Worship at Wilson

Month	Usher	Altar Care	Communion Server	
April	Help Needed. Please sign up at the indoor Communion service, or call the church office to sign up			4 Sundays <i>Good Friday and Easter Sunday</i>
PLEASE HELP US RETURN TO WORSHIP BY SIGNING UP TO ASSIST				
Please arrange for another person and notify the office if you are unable to service as scheduled				

Virtual East Lilies

Another huge success! Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Virtual Easter Lilies. Your generosity resulted in a contribution of \$110 to each of the five food pantries Wilson supports: Baldwin, Glenwood City, Elmwood, Spring Valley and Elmwood. Blessed to be a blessing!



2021 Virtual Easter Lily Donations for Local Food Pantries

From:	In Memory Of:
Doug and Mary Brandt	Ralph and Lucille Brandt
	Roger Brandt
	Frank and Fern Olsen
	John Olsen
Pastor Bob and Susan Dahn	Fred, Eva and Jeff Warland
	Robert F. and Vera Dahm
	Bennie and Carrie Ferm
	Ronald Dahm
	Robin Messick
Chuck and Barb Lamb	Don and Frances Gunderson
	Merton and Louise Lamb
	Alice Bennett and Noah Lamb
	Tom Lamb and Thomas L Kingston
Flossie Hughes	Bob Hughes
	Hugh and Harriet Cardiff
	Arnie Cardiff
	Lester and Bernice Jensen
	Rochelle Painter
Jerry and Vicki Glampe	Arlis, Bud, and Mark Timm
	Avis and Harry Glampe, and Mary Overby
Louanne Anderson	Gary and Rebecca

Leslie Larson	Karen Larson
	Richard Larson
Jill Menk and Bill Krueger	Andy Menk
Janelle Timm	Dennis (Denver) Timm
Susan Faber	Family and Friends Gone Before Us
John and Ginny Overland	Melvin and Betty Dolalie
	Dale and Audrey Overland
Charles and Sharon Howell	Our Parents
	Victims of COVID
Charlie and Sue Ross	Deceased Members of the Brandvold Family
Darlene Dehkes	Bob Dehkes
	Don and Vera Baker
Karen Keck	Dennis Keck
	Bud Weimer
Evie Spielman	Dale Spielman
Roger and Barb Kronholm	Andrew and Veronica Kronholm
	Edward Kronholm
	Joseph and Irene Peterson
	Andrew and Connie Kronholm
	James J. O'Keefe
	James H. O'Keefe
Dave and Linda Powers	Marilyn Hoyt
	Richard Powers
Rex and Janet Brandt	Ralph, Lucille, and Roger Brandt
	Lois Prochnow, Lori Thompson, and Edith Wilson
Don and Junalee Hogenson	Ernest and Dorothy Moe
	Dale and Loren Moe
	Donnalle Danovsky
	Henry and Mary Hogenson
	Dorothy Hogenson and Arlene Dobbs
Lyle and Babe Jacobson	Our Parents
	Our Son Larry Jacobson
Dean and Linda Rambo	Our Parents and Brothers Sam and Bud
From:	In Honor Of:
Janelle Timm	My Family
Rex and Janet Brandt	Carl and Irene Hunt
Louanne Anderson	Lauren and Gavin
Charles and Sharon Howell	Health Care Workers
Dean and Linda Rambo	Our Grandchildren

IMMANUEL NEWS

Immanuel Luther Church Council Meeting Minutes:

Date of Meeting: March 9, 2021

Start Time: 7:08 p.m. **End Time:** 7:48 p.m.

Attendees: Monica Eggert, Pastor Bob Dahm, Matt Main, Jan Anderson, Laura Briesemeister, Dena Cress, David Rosen, Geoff Phillips

Absent: Roxie Anderson, Brad Voeltz

Agenda

1. Pastor's Report
2. Treasurer's Report - David made motion; Jan seconded; motion carried
3. Secretary's Report – David made motion; Jan seconded; motion carried
4. Sunday School Committee Update: no update

Old Business

1. In-person church begins 03/14/2021. Pastor will continue to offer online worship.
2. The budget meeting was held and was successful.
3. Annual meeting is set for April 11th, after the late service.
4. Confirmation classes have been going on. Outdoor communion will end due to in-person services beginning.
5. The Wilson secretary has been mailing out the Immanuel newsletters.

Unfinished Business

1. Ladies Aide— invite the ladies of the church to a round table talk about reviving Ladies Aide. Consider inviting Laurie Wells to come and speak about the topic. Tabled for now.
2. Consider having one Sunday a month to be a contemporary service. It was recommended to have a meeting setup with the worship committee, to discuss further. Tabled for now.
3. First Communion at the 5th grade level (up to parent's discretion). Tabled for now.

New Business

1. Palm Sunday breakfast discussion.
2. Feed My Starving Children work update. Laura will look into local options. (This will most likely be tabled to the summer due to COVID 19.)
3. David offered to contact Scott Buhr to turn on the furnace timer for church on Sunday.
4. Pastor asked for the large cross to be brought back into the church.

Geoff made motion to adjourn the meeting; Dena seconded; motion carried.

Next Meeting: April 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Briesemeister, Church Council Secretary

Congregation Annual Meeting at Immanuel

The annual meeting of the congregation has been rescheduled from its original January date to be held Sunday, April 11, immediately following the 10:30 worship service. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Assisting with Worship at Immanuel

Month	Altar Care	Usher	Cleaning	
April	Help Needed. Please signup on Immanuel’s Facebook page			4 Sundays Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday
PLEASE HELP US RETURN TO WORSHIP BY SIGNING UP TO ASSIST				
Please arrange for another person and notify the office if you are unable to service as scheduled				

Thank You – Palm Sunday Brunch: Thank you to everyone who helped make our Palm Sunday Brunch as success – bringing and preparing food (our confirmands are quite the pancake makers), serving and cleaning up. And a special thankyou to all who attended and enjoyed a good meal and fellowship.

PARISH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES – April 2021

Birthdays				Anniversaries	
Wilson		Immanuel		Wilson	
April 3	Darren Peterson	April 1	Alexis Swanepoel	April 15	Keenan and Becky Stahl
April 4	Jordan Lamb	April 2	Jarrett Marlette	April 21	Andy and Jes Lamb
April 7	Kinsley Blegen	April 4	Roger Ohman	April 24	Dean and Linda Rambo
April 13	Peggy Timm	April 6	Keaton Marlett	April 28	Dean and Sue Timm
April 17	Briana Lund	April 8	Jeanette Marlette		
April 17	Lyle Jacobson	April 8	Brian Cassellius	Immanuel	
April 20	Sarah Blegen	April 18	Roxi Anderson	April 10	John and Polly Stansbury
April 24	Sue Faber	April 20	Claudine Goodrich	April 12	Brent and Bridgette Bliese
April 24	Nicole Lamb	April 22	Kayla Buhr	April 30	Roger and Roxi Anderson
April 25	Esther Krueger	April 23	Jesse Buhr		
April 27	Sawyer Pomasl	April 27	Kenny Buhr		
April 27	Cody Pomasl	April 27	Vanessa Melstrom		
		April 29	Emma Swanepoel		

Revised Common Lectionary
Daily Readings – Year B
April 2021

Date	Day	Psalm	First Reading	Second Reading	Gospel
1	Maundy Thursday	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19	Exodus 12:1-14	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
2	Good Friday	Psalm 22	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Hebrews 10:16-25	John 18:1-19:42
3	Holy Saturday	Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16	Job 14:1-14	1 Peter 4:1-8	Matthew 27:57-60
4	Easter Sunday	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Acts 10:34-43	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Mark 16:1-8
5	Monday	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Genesis 1:1-19	1 Corinthians 15:35-49	
6	Tuesday	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Genesis 1:20-2:4a	1 Corinthians 15:50-58	
7	Wednesday	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Song of Solomon 3:1-11		Mark 16:1-8
8	Thursday	Psalm 133	Daniel 1:1-21	Acts 2:42-47	
9	Friday	Psalm 133	Daniel 2:1-23	Acts 4:23-31	
10	Saturday	Psalm 133	Daniel 2:24-49		John 12:44-50
11	Sunday	Psalm 133	Acts 4:32-35	1 John 1:2:2	John 20:19-31
12	Monday	Psalm 135	Daniel 3:1-30	1 John 2:3-11	
13	Tuesday	Psalm 135	Daniel 6:1-28	1 John 2:12-17	
14	Wednesday	Psalm 135	Isaiah 26:1-15		Mark 12:18-27
15	Thursday	Psalm 4	Daniel 9:1-19	1 John 2:18-25	
16	Friday	Psalm 4	Daniel 10:2-19	1 John 2:26-28	
17	Saturday	Psalm 4	Acts 3:1-10		Luke 22:24-30
18	Sunday	Psalm 4	Acts 3:12-19	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
19	Monday	Psalm 150	Jeremiah 30:1-11a	1 John 3:10-16	
20	Tuesday	Psalm 150	Hosea 5:15-6:6	2 John 1-6	
21	Wednesday	Psalm 150	Proverbs 9:1-6		Mark 16:9-18
22	Thursday	Psalm 23	Genesis 30:25-43	Acts 3:17-26	
23	Friday	Psalm 23	Genesis 46:28 – 47:6	Acts 4:1-4	
24	Saturday	Psalm 23	Genesis 48:8-19		Mark 6:30-34
25	Sunday	Psalm 23	Acts 4:5-12	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18
26	Monday	Psalm 95	1 Samuel 16:1-13	1 Peter 5:1-5	
27	Tuesday	Psalm 95	1 Chronicles 11:1-9	Revelation 7:13-17	
28	Wednesday	Psalm 95	Micah 7:8-20		Mark 14:26-31
29	Thursday	Psalm 22:25-31	Amos 8:1-7	Acts 8:1b-8	
30	Friday	Psalm 22:25-31	Amos 8:11-13	Acts 8:9-25	

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Prayer Ventures
April 2021

1 As Paul said, our faith in Christ may seem like foolishness to some people but we can always trust in God's love for us through Christ because it is real, trustworthy and life-giving. Pray that God will embolden us to share our faith without hesitation or embarrassment and to invite others to believe even when doing so seems foolish.

2 *Good Friday* Remember the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus, the Son of God, for our sake and salvation. Give thanks that God looks upon us with concern, gracious love and mercy.

3 Lift up prayers of humble gratitude that through baptism our lives are conjoined with the life, death and resurrection of Christ, which enable us to "walk in newness of life" and be "alive to God."

4 *Easter Sunday* He is risen! Praise God! Give thanks that through Jesus' resurrection we are no longer constrained by sin and death but can celebrate salvation, new life and God's wonderful grace, which reclaims and changes us.

5 "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Look around and give thanks for the people, community, world, wonders of creation and signs of God's presence and work that surround you.

6 *Arab American Heritage Month* Remember in prayer the diverse gifts, cultures, heritages and stories of our Arab and Middle Eastern siblings in Christ, who remind us of the rich history and tradition of Christ's church in the world. Ask God to bless and further the work, witness and advocacy of Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries in the ELCA and the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage of the ELCA.

7 Give thanks for the generosity shared from across our church, which helps us respond to the needs of the world, live out our faith in service to our neighbors and proclaim the gospel everywhere.

8 Jesus continues to walk with us daily and to make his loving presence known when we gather with bread and wine, remembering the sacrifices he made for our sake

and for the restoration of our relationships with God. Give thanks and praise to God for being in our lives!

9 Give thanks for the empathy and support expressed by the Rev. Martin Junge, general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), in his letter to Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton and our church in a time of political and social tension. "People need to talk and listen to each other again," he wrote. "Broken relationships need to be mended. People need to trust again so that they can live and work together. People need to heal from their pain and their wounds." Give thanks for the LWF, a global family who accompany one another in doing God's work in the world.

10 Pray for the humility to acknowledge and respect God's infinite power, presence and grace for the sake of all people.

11 Jesus is with us in times of fear and uncertainty, just as he was with his troubled disciples after the resurrection. Pray for the Spirit to encourage our faith, ground us in the good news of Christ and grant us peace, reassurance, hope and direction throughout our baptismal journey.

12 Give thanks for signs of spring! Some places still have snow on the ground, yet others show signs of nature blossoming and new life emerging. Give thanks for the good, life-giving work of our Creator, who urges patience and stirs new life and hope in every season.

13 Pray for Creation Justice Ministries, Lutherans Restoring Creation and other ministries, organizations and networks that deepen our awareness and knowledge of creation and the environment and equip us to care for creation and our communities.

14 "How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!" Pray that God will help us better understand what living together in unity requires of us as siblings in Christ and as world citizens striving for peace, justice, reconciliation and mutual care.

15 Ask the Spirit to inspire wisdom, insight, compassion and boldness in the members of the ELCA Church Council as they gather online this week to guide and shape the work of our church in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ, serving our neighbors in need and supporting our congregations.

16 Pray that, as we share the gospel and serve our neighbor, we will recognize the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of our siblings in Christ who are also doing God's work in the world.

17 Pray for our ELCA missionaries serving alongside companion churches and organizations in Asia and the Pacific region, including the Rev. Phillip Baker (Cambodia), the Rev. Chandran Paul Martin and Timothy Melvyn (India), the Rev. Charles Peterson and the Rev. Jeffrey Truscott (Indonesia), Hailey Brenden (Nepal) and the Rev. Suk Yeon Lee (Jang) (South Korea).

18 Lift up prayers of gratitude to God for the presence of the Spirit in our lives, which deepens our faith and trust in Jesus as the promised Messiah, helps us understand Scripture and moves us to respond to God's call that we bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ.

19 Give thanks for volunteers of all ages and gifts who serve in congregations, including teachers, assisting ministers, child care providers, committee members, greeters, singers, musicians, people who fix things and those who visit the ill or homebound. Praise God for the rich diversity of gifts, skills and passions we share in the body of Christ.

20 The Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) is a pre-event to the ELCA Youth Gathering. Pray for the MYLE leadership team of youth, young adults and adults planning the summer 2021 event on the theme "Made Free." Ask God to bless their work of creating a community, inclusive and accountable to all, that is inspired and woven together by the Spirit.

21 What a joy it is to be called children of God because of God's great love for us! We may not know or understand everything about God or what lies in store for us, but we are still loved, forgiven and claimed without condition. Thank and praise God!

22 *Earth Day* Give thanks and glory to God for the blessings and mysteries of creation, entrusted to us to sustain and enrich all generations. Pray that God will make us wise, generous and responsible stewards of nature and Earth's resources for the glory of our Creator and the well-being of our neighbor.

23 Give thanks for our church's partnership with Lutheran World Relief to support pandemic emergency response projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

24 Remember in prayer people who are confined in our jails, prisons and correctional facilities. Pray that they will be treated humanely and justly, be renewed by the good news of Jesus Christ, and find hope and strength in God's love and mercy. Pray for the Spirit to help us — as individuals and as faith communities — empathize with prisoners returning home and boldly extend our hospitality, acceptance and support as they do the difficult work of building new lives in our communities.

25 Give thanks that Jesus is the good shepherd who knows us, loves us, unites us, leads us through life and is willing to sacrifice his life for our sake.

26 Give thanks to God for the generosity and commitment across our church as it supports and funds global mission programs and accompanies companions in 45 countries through missionaries, companion church grants, the International Leaders Program and other programs.

27 In this sometimes lonely world, praise God that we always have Jesus, a loving shepherd who knows us and provides us with care, guidance, renewal, comfort and courage as we face the challenges of daily life.

28 Pray for the needs of people in your neighborhood and community, give thanks for their joys and recognize how their lives intersect with yours.

29 Pray that the Spirit will make us courageous and articulate in sharing the good news even in the most intimidating of circumstances, just as John and Peter did while in prison.

30 Give thanks for national and local leaders, health care workers and volunteers who continue to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and help us recover physically, economically, spiritually and emotionally. Pray that God will help them persevere and that we will generously express our support and gratitude.

APRIL 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship at Immanuel	2 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship at Wilson	3
4 Easter Sunday Holy Communion 8:30 Worship at Wilson 10:30 Worship at Immanuel	5 Pastor's Sabbath	6 1:00 p.m. Pastor's Text Study at Peace Lutheran Church Menomonie	7	8 12:30 p.m. Council Meeting at Wilson	9	10
11 8:30 Worship at Wilson 9:00 Congregation Special Meeting at Wilson 10:30 Worship at Immanuel 11:00 Annual Meeting at Immanuel	12 Pastor's Sabbath	13 1:00 p.m. Pastor's Text Study at Peace Lutheran Church Menomonie 7:00 p.m. Immanuel Council Meeting	14	15	16	17
18 Holy Communion 8:30 Worship at Wilson 10:30 Worship at Immanuel Newsletter Deadline	19 Pastor's Sabbath	20 1:00 p.m. Pastor's Text Study at Peace Lutheran Church Menomonie	21	22	23	24
25 NOTE TIME CHANGE DUE TO WILSON ANNUAL MEETING 8:30 Worship at Immanuel 10:30 Worship at Wilson 11:00 Annual Meeting at Wilson	26 Pastor's Sabbath	27 1:00 p.m. Pastor's Text Study at Peace Lutheran Church Menomonie	28	29	30	June 1