



# Immanuel News

The newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greeley, Colorado

## April 2026

April!! Must be Spring! - except Colorado weather on the East side of the Rockies doesn't seem to be able to decide which season to be in. Was that really Winter we just (according to the calendar) left? *I'm* looking forward to "April showers bring May flowers", warmer days and nights, but who knows what we will get? One of my prayers is that a late frost won't nip my fruit trees' buds and wreck the possibilities of apples, peaches, and cherries on my dinner table. What are *you* hoping for?

Daylight saving time has begun and daylight seems to last longer aided by the sun's climb higher and higher into the sky each day. Is that a good thing? How long will it take before my kids are able to go to bed at night while the sun still shines outside? How have *you* adjusted to this lengthening of days?

April, this year, is also the month in which the Lenten pilgrimage to the cross that we began 5 weeks ago on Ash Wednesday is now ended. Along the way, in our midweek gatherings, we exercised our connection with God and family, our caring "muscles", our relationships with the communities we live in, and we shared our songs. We wanted to be strong on our spiritual journey.

And now our spiritual journey has taken us to a new/old place, the cross. Along the way we met other pilgrims following the same path to Jesus' death on the cross and his resurrection Easter morning. We spent time with them and talked about our journeys and heard what their meeting Jesus along the way meant for them: Nicodemus, the Samaritan women, a blind man, and Jesus' friends, Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha.

Finally we caught up with Jesus in person and walked with him in his last three days alive, as the Gospel writer, Matthew, described. We were there, celebrating on Palm/Passion Sunday, his betrayal and arrest, his trial, suffering and death on the cross, and his burial. Here our Lenten pilgrimage ended and we arrived at Jesus' death on the cross, and his tomb. Did we get stronger with God and each other spiritually and in our relationships? I pray so.

So now what?

Fortunately or unfortunately, we know the end of the journey is not the cross. It is resurrection day (April 5 this year). The temptation is to rush right on up to the empty tomb and celebrate the gift God has given us, the gift of eternal life. But that is not all God gives. The gifts of the cross are not just for the end of our life, as if that is the only time we can experience God's compassionate love. The gifts God gives at the cross are gifts for life, lived now, here.

So we take some more time to walk with Jesus in his last three days, eyes and ears wide open to see and hear and experience the deep love of God poured out into this life, our life, in Jesus. Maunday Thursday (April 5) connects us, here and now, to the continuing presence of God's love in Jesus and the continuing presence of Jesus for us.

Though this year, 2026, April is the month to live out Jesus' death and resurrection (sometimes it comes in March), it is not an "April fools" joke; not a trick played on us. (The "joke" is on the devil, on evil, on death because they thought they had Jesus where they wanted him, on the cross.) And I think it is fitting that the month that so often brings spring and new life to mind is also the month in which we celebrate new life, here and now, and the eternal love which pours into each day: at each setting of the Lord's Supper, each gathering of God's people for worship. In each prayer that God hears, each act of kindness done, God's eternal love continues to be poured out into our world, our lives.

Eternal life and the eternal love that holds it is also in that place Jesus has prepared for us in his (our) father's house. We'll get to it soon enough. Until then, like the daffodils and tulips poking up new life from the dead soil around them, we can bloom in this life with the power of the Resurrection. Death is defeated. Death is no more. And it doesn't matter the time of day or what the weather is.

**Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor Embree

# WORSHIP

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**April 5** — *Easter Day*  
**April 12** — *Second Sunday of Easter*  
**April 19** — *Third Sunday of Easter*  
**April 26** — *Fourth Sunday of Easter*

## EASTER SUNDAY ACTIVITIES



**8:30 - 10:00 a.m. - Easter breakfast  
in the Fellowship Hall**

*Featuring Swedish Pancakes, Waffles and Pancakes*

Easter Egg Hunt



**9:30 - 10:00 a.m. - Easter Egg Hunt  
on the Annex lawn**



**10:30 a.m. - Holy Communion**

The Worship and Music Committee has heard your requests and comments regarding worship and is considering some changes.

To help the Committee, on March 1, April 12 and May 3 we will be using a Worship & Praise Liturgy on a trial basis. This is a more upbeat setting and will include changes in wording and music choices. After the trial, we will be asking for your opinion regarding this liturgy; likes and dislikes. Your opinions will help us shape worship at Immanuel in the future.



## Time of Transition and the Call process

Pastor William "Bill" Embree continues to serve as a Bridge Pastor.

The Call Committee continues to be in consensus about the potential candidate. During the month of March, we each individually worked on a list of job duties for a pastor. It soon became clear to us and to Pastor Sara Wirth, our Synod liaison, that our congregation will need to scale back the list of duties expected from this potential candidate. When considering calling a TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) candidate, the Call Committee recognizes that not only will this person be part-time but will have another part-time job in addition to accommodating the seminary schedule.

On March 23, the Call Committee had a Zoom meeting. Pastor Sara Wirth had sent us a possible guideline for dividing the duties of the pastoral job description between what the TEEM candidate will be responsible for and what the congregation could be expected to cover with volunteers. We discussed the guidelines, and a possible recommendation to Council in April. We hope to be able to meet with/talk to the candidate again before the April 14 Council meeting."

# YOUTH & FAITH FORMATION

## Bible Study

Adult Sunday Bible Study group  
is using the Luther Seminary series "God Pause."  
We meet at 9:15 am in the Library (room next to kitchen).  
If you would like to receive the emailed study,  
please contact Paula Powell at [ppowell76@gmail.com](mailto:ppowell76@gmail.com)



## FIRST SUNDAY YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, May 3rd (1st Sunday of month)

### **SCHEDULE:**

9:00am – Snacks Together in Annex Youth Room  
9:15am – 5th Grade & Younger (Youth Room)  
9:15am – Middle School & High School (Annex - Upstairs)  
10:00am – Back Together for Fun & Games in Youth Room

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! Sign up to help with Youth Group!**

We need two (2) volunteers each month to sign up to help with the young group for First Sundays Youth Group, February, March and May. If you are available or have questions, please contact the office (970) 352-3003 or Julie Elmquist (970) 371-2734. Resources are available for lessons!



## Any Graduates this spring?

If you know of anyone graduating from a college or university this spring, please call/contact the church office with their name and the name of their school so that we can honor them at a reception held sometime in May. Thank you!

# GIVING & SERVICE

## Free Little **Red Barn** Pantry

Please consider bringing shelf-stable, non-perishable food items to place in the barn each Sunday so our pantry will stay stocked and continue to be a blessing for our neighbors in need! Please just make sure your donations are not past their expiration date.

Travel-sized shampoo & conditioner, toothbrushes, and bars of soap are also appreciated.



Let's work together to **FILL THE BARN!**

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## LUTHERAN EPISCOPAL CAMPUS MINISTRY

### **Support Campus Ministry: Bring a Meal to Sunday Dinner Church**

Support campus ministry and students in Greeley for the spring semester by signing up to bring a meal for our Sunday evening Dinner Church gatherings. These meals are a weekly anchor in our community, and students look forward each week to eating together. Your help providing the food for these meals makes this time together possible. Thank you! Find more details and open dates on our Meal Train page:

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/ynk9ey/updates/lm0dw6>

If you are able, please plan to eat with us!



# PRAYER & CARE



## *Always Say A Prayer Team*

The Prayer Team is here for you. If you have a request, you can fill out a prayer card and leave it in the box at the back of the church or contact anyone on the prayer team or call the church office with your request. We are keeping you all in prayer, especially during this time of transition.

Roma Arithson    Connie Deines  
Sharrol Bernahl    Diane Filipe  
Janet Willis

Hello,

I hope this message finds you well! My name is Sylvia Cervantes, and I'm a sociology student at UNC. I've been wanting to take a moment to thank you for the messages you share on your outdoor digital display facing the road.

I pass by your church every day on my way to class, and the messages are consistently uplifting and comforting. I want you to know that seeing reminders like "someone is praying for you" each morning has been so impactful for me - and I'm sure for so many others as well!

The words your church shares with the broader community, even with people you may not personally know, are deeply welcoming and kind. I greatly appreciate how non-judgmental and inviting the reminders are. They are truly a display of God's unconditional love for us.

I plan to attend Denver Seminary next fall (August 2027), with the hope of becoming a preacher and/or chaplain. In that context, seeing how your church offers simple but meaningful encouragement to the community has been truly life-giving. While I currently attend Christ Community Church, I hope to visit your church in the near future!

If appropriate, feel free to share this message with your staff and/or congregational members as a small encouragement and thank you to all those involved in this ministry!

Again, thank you for the ways you represent Christ and His love. It does not go unnoticed!

Kindly,  
Sylvia Cervantes

# CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION

## Audio/Visual (AV) Committee

An audio/visual (AV) committee was formed to determine how best to leverage the grant our congregation received. Committee members include: Pete Budde, Matt Denman, Stan Elmquist, John Larson, and Lelyn Larson.

To date, the committee has met twice to outline several goals of the project, including:

- Leverage the existing AV equipment we already have
- Improve sound quality of live stream and recorded services
- Display select visual content to the entire congregation in the sanctuary
- Explore range of solutions potentially including mounted cameras, mics, and TV monitors/screens in the sanctuary
- Eliminate waste in printing (hardcopy) materials, e.g., bulletins
- Potentially replace existing speakers (more aesthetic and subtle)
- Add presentation capabilities in the Fellowship Hall

There is progress on receiving bids from a number of vendors to meet the above requirements. All estimates will consider the recurring maintenance & staffing costs in final proposals. Next step, after the holiday season, is to summarize options and present them to the congregation for consideration.

Please reach out to Pete Budde if you have any questions in the interim.



Thank you all for your thoughts, prayers, and get well wishes. They are very much appreciated. I am sure I am getting along so well because of them. Easter blessings and God's peace,  
Carlene Embree

A big THANK YOU to Council and Thrivent Choice Dollars for approving our application to help us purchase items for the Little Red Barn pantry. We are certain Jerry is smiling down on this special outreach project that was started in his memory, and now with this thoughtful gift, it will continue to bless our neighbors in need. We truly appreciate your generosity and support!

With thankful and grateful hearts, Amy Herold & Karen Karst



Join us on Thursday,  
April 23rd at 9:00 am for the annual  
"Spring Clean-up"!

Coffee and  
Donuts will be provided!

# CHURCH COUNCIL



<u>NAME</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>
Budde, Cindy	Secretary
Clausen, Cheryl	
Crespin, Janet	
Elmquist, Julie	President
Johnson, John	Vice President
Larson, John	
Sickles, Katy	

## EFTF – Endowment Foundation Trust Fund

The Endowment Foundation Trust Fund (EFTF) uses interest earned on the donations in the trust fund to support special needs and work of the church that is not covered by the church budget. If you have a special need in mind, please submit a request for fund disbursement. The EFTF Committee considers requests quarterly. Please see an EFTF Committee member if you have questions or pick up a request form from the EFTF mailbox in the church office.

Committee members: Janet Crespin, Amy Herold, Elaine Holbrook, Janet Johnson

## GIA Clothing Bank



Several Greeley-area churches sponsor and help operate the Greeley Interfaith Assn. Clothing Bank, located at 228 N. 9th Ave., Greeley.

**The hours open are 10:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m., Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.**

The Clothing Bank accepts gently used items of clothing and sells them to the public at a reasonable cost. Proceeds of the sales cover operating expenses and then go toward community scholarships and grants.

Volunteers are always needed. Volunteers sort clothing, price the clothes, place on the racks, and check out customers at the cash register. Volunteers also receive a discount for clothing purchases when they work.

See Julie Elmquist, Cindy Thompson, Brenda Turnwall or Katy Sickles for more information. Love to see you there.

## CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

### Council Highlights

- ◆ Set Thursday, April 23 at 9:00 a.m. as the Spring Clean Up Day
- ◆ Approved a \$225 request for Thrivent Choice Dollars for supplies for the Little Red Pantry
- ◆ Vacation Bible School dates are June 15-18

Please join us for our next meeting on  
Tuesday, April 14th @ 6:30 p.m.

**Tied in Faith...**  
**Will meet on Tuesday, April 7,**  
**Thursday, April 16 &**  
**Saturday, April 25**



Women <sup>of the</sup> ELCA 

Our logo—with the cross, water and a white lily—identifies women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as children of God; baptized, forgiven, adopted into God’s family, full of grace and hope in eternal life. It is a reminder of the growth, beauty, and vitality that rises out of that life-giving baptismal water. It is also a reminder of the mission of the church to “Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).



# 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>  MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 pm	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i>  8:30-10:00 am-Breakfast 9:30-10:00 am-Egg Hunt 10:30 am- Holy Communion	<i>6</i> Common Sense Kleaining—Church 6:30 pm– 9:30 pm—Sue Morse-Fellowship Hall	<i>7</i> 9:00 am—Tied in Faith	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	
<i>12</i> 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am-Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am- Holy Communion 11:30 am-Prayer Team	<i>13</i> Common Sense Kleaining—Annex 9:30 am—2:00 pm—ILC at GIA Clothing Bank	<i>14</i> 6:30 pm—Council Meeting	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> 9:00 am—Tied in Faith	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i> 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am-Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am- Holy Communion	<i>20</i> Common Sense Kleaining—Church	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>  Spring CLEAN UP 9:00 am—Spring Clean	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> 9:00 am—Tied in Faith
<i>26</i> 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am-Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am- Holy Communion	<i>27</i> Common Sense Kleaining—Annex 9:30 am—2:00 pm—ILC at GIA Clothing Bank	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>		

# Thanks to our Volunteers!

## April 2026

### April 5: **EASTER**

Greeter: Vera Sylvester  
Ushers: Matt & Molly Ward  
Assisting Minister: Julie Elmquist  
Lector: Luke Larson, Jack Larson  
Communion Setup: Molly Ward  
Communion Assistant:  
Tellers: Marvin & Connie Deines

### April 12:

Greeter: Julie Elmquist  
Ushers: Ron & Cindy Thompson  
Assisting Minister: Cindy Budde  
Lector: Pete Budde  
Communion Setup: Cindy Thompson  
Tellers: Vera Sylvester, Brenda Turnwall

### April 19:

Greeter: Vera Sylvester  
Ushers: John Johnson & Sally Stewart  
Assisting Minister: Cindy Budde  
Lector: Janessa Padilla  
Communion Setup: Sue Morse  
Tellers: Linda Sample, Janet Johnson

### April 26:

Greeter: Julie Elmquist  
Ushers: Katy Sickles, Juan Cruz  
Assisting Minister: Janet Willis  
Lector: Janet Willis  
Communion Setup: Linda Cruz  
Tellers: Janet Crespin

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Bridge Pastor: Pastor Bill Embree  
Secretary: Denise Pollard Stricker 970-352-3003  
Office Hours: M —Th 9:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Offices closed on Fridays

### Executive Council:

President: Julie Elmquist  
Vice President: John Johnson  
Secretary: Cindy Budde  
Treasurer: Connie Deines  
Financial Secretary: Bob Morse