



ImmanuelNews

The newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greeley, Colorado

April 2024

Beloved of God,

I've spoken to many of you over the past several months about the current conflict in Israel/Palestine. I know a number of you have spent time there in different ways, and that what has been happening there since October weighs on many of you. The situation is multifaceted and complex, with deep historical roots that go back decades, if not also centuries. I don't know about you, but the more I seek to understand what is happening, the more I learn how tangled not only the local issues are, but how entangled they are with global politics and dynamics. And so, as I write to you about the conflict this month, I do not write as an expert, only as one whose heart breaks at the great loss of life and human suffering.

In our lives of faith, as Pr. Paul Judson says over and over again, we are resurrection people. This means that we maintain faith and hope and deep trust that God is, even now, making all things new, that God's heart breaks with ours at the suffering of the world, and that God is always transforming the ways of death into the ways of abundant life. This is especially at the center of our lives of faith in this Easter season, as the alleluias of Easter Sunday continue to ring out with joy, and we hear stories of the resurrected Christ gathering, speaking, and eating with the disciples. We turn our hearts this season to the wonder and joy of the mystery of the resurrection, as story, as mystery, and as God's way in our midst, now.

This resurrection promise may seem difficult to reconcile with what we know of violence and suffering locally and globally. And I do not have an easy answer for you. But to say that we stake our lives on the promise that the resurrection is a gift of love and hope and life for all the world, a gift that shapes our lives and calls us into discernment and loving service.

Which leads to my invitation for you in this season. One of the best strategies for understanding complex issues, like the current conflict in Israel/Palestine is to listen to the stories and experience and perspectives of those communities most affected. And so, our Easter Sunday Bible study will explore the story of Jesus through the ELCA's new series *Following the Way of Jesus, A Holy Land Journey*. This series of videos and discussions trace the life and way of Jesus through a historical and contemporary view of the Holy Land. We'll hear scripture, learn about the land Jesus lived in, and hear from the experiences of Palestinian Christians living there today. While this is not a direct deep dive into the current conflict, it will, I pray, grow our understanding of the lives and experiences of our siblings in faith who are living there today. Join us for these conversations starting April 7 at 9:15 downstairs in the library.

And may the grace and hope and peace of the risen Christ be among you and remain with you always!

In Christ,

Pr. Monica

WORSHIP

Sundays in April

- April 7 - Second Sunday of Easter & Presentation of Bibles for Youth
April 14 - Third Sunday of Easter & Pulpit Swap
Guest Pastor: Rev. Tim Bettger, Shepherd of the Valley, La Salle
April 21 - Fourth Sunday of Easter & New Member Sunday
April 28 - Fifth Sunday of Easter & Birthday Celebration for Clarence Carlson

FAITH FORMATION

Sunday Bible Study: *Following the Way of Jesus, A Holy Land Journey* Sundays, April 7-May 26, 9:15AM.

Our Easter Season study will be *Following the Way of Jesus*, a video and discussion series that explores the story of Jesus in the context of the Holy Land through scripture and reflections from contemporary Palestinian Christians. The series also explores the theology of *sumud* or “steadfastness,” as a way of living the Way of Jesus today. Learn more about the ELCA’s accompaniment ministry in the Holy Land and preview (or re-watch!) the study videos here:

<https://www.elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/peace-not-walls>)

Confirmation Class Schedule



Wednesday, April 17, 4:30pm (Final class!)

Sunday, May 19: Pentecost Sunday with Affirmation of Baptism & Reception for Confirmands

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

New Member Welcome: Sunday, April 21

Whether you are relatively new to Immanuel or have been attending for a long time, we invite you to consider becoming a member of our congregation! Members make a commitment to their living their faith within this community, sharing in word and sacrament, service and community among the people of Immanuel. We will welcome and celebrate new members in worship and a special coffee reception hosted by the church council on April 21. **Interested in membership? Contact the church office or talk with Pr. Monica or a member of the church council.**

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE... (continued)

Spring Clean-up — 9:00 AM, April 13

It's time to spruce up the church (inside and out!) as we welcome spring. Join us as we clean out garden beds, tidy the yards, and do some deep cleaning inside the building. Questions? Contact any Church Council member.

There will be outdoor and indoor projects. Please join us to make Immanuel shine!

In case of inclement weather, cleanup will be **April 27**.



The Celebration of Life for Shirley Uhrich will be held on Friday, April 19, 2024, at 12:30 pm at the Eaton Country Club. Lunch will be served.

All are invited to attend to celebrate Shirley and share memories.

A private service will be held for family only at the cemetery prior to the celebration.



*Open House
Lunch provided
Please send him your
Birthday Card prior so he
can celebrate every day!
Please bring your own
lawn chair.
No Gifts*

RSVP TO:

**Linda: 303.434.1792
Cheryl: 970.978.0726
Marcia: 970.493.5011
Janet: 970-397.5104**



Birthday Celebration for Clarence Carlson: Sunday, April 28, 10:00AM

Celebrate Clarence's 100th birthday with a special festive gathering during coffee fellowship at 10:00AM in the Fellowship Hall!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE... (continued)

Former Organ has New Owner

When our church's previous organ console was replaced with a new one during mid-2022, our organ selection committee had studied options from three manufacturers and then recommended one to our Congregation's Council.

Following this new instrument's selection, the committee continued to meet periodically, hoping to find a suitable home for the used organ console. (The Rodgers Organ dealer who sold us the new one was not interested in marketing the old one.)

The committee sought a way for the organ to stay in service somewhere. There had been a realization it might end up being dismantled and its parts offered for use in repairs on other aging organs. It was originally built in 1983 and was first put into service as a demonstrator model for the Rodgers Organ Company, headquartered in Hillsboro, Oregon. Over twenty years ago it replaced a somewhat newer organ console here that was catastrophically damaged by an electrical short traced to its electrical outlet—a total loss.

In early 2022, the used instrument was offered initially to other churches in the region through publicity circulated in the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod's *eConnection* newsletter—while it was still being played and could be shown in working condition. There were two inquiries but neither party pursued it after congregational leaders learned technical details. One congregation, located at a long distance from available technical services, anticipated that the initial delivery, set up, and periodic servicing would pose challenges. Further interest was not shown by the other party after receiving details. (The organ console had been configured here for use in combination with our six ranks of decades-old windblown pipes. Using it for electronic-only purposes or with differing pipe technologies would require adjustments and re-voicing by an organ technician familiar with its outdated, analog technology.)

By late 2022, an unwieldy woofer cabinet had been sawed in two for its removal from the upstairs organ chamber, making room for the new organ's speaker system. Denver-area organ technician Leroy ("Art") Kuczek contacted us after learning from our longtime service technician, John McGuire, that the used organ was still available, and possibly free for the taking. Kuczek's specialty is Rodgers Organs. Our committee said we would be happy if he could find it a new home, hoping he might not just take it apart and sell it for parts. After generating interest from a few potential buyers, he suddenly phoned me during December 2023 after offering it to an organist who lives in Utah. Although this organist is primarily employed in work unrelated to music, he planned to get the organ ready for use during organist training workshops. He would be conducting those himself periodically in various locations, hauling the organ many miles across a wide area.

On Saturday evening, December 9th, 2023, with the hurriedly assembled help of both Tim Adams and his son Rod, five of us rolled the organ console out of our building's Music Room on an equipment dolly and placed it in this organist's rented trailer, pulled by his pickup. The organist's next stop before heading home to Utah was Kuczek's warehouse, to pick up the speaker system and other electronic components that had been stored there a number of months before.

Hopefully, this article answers some readers' curiosity about "What happened to the old organ?"

--Stan Elmquist, organist

LUTHERAN EPISCOPAL CAMPUS MINISTRY

From Kaia, LECM Congregational Outreach Minister:

Happy Spring from LECM! We enjoyed a week off of classes during Spring Break in mid-March. Pastor Veronica from Zion Lutheran in Loveland donated a Sunday Dinner and stayed for worship, we had a great time sharing our home with her! LECM celebrated Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday at the house, and joined local congregations for other Holy Week services. Some of our students joined the churches in Windsor for a traveling Easter Vigil, and our group told the story of the Valley of Dry Bones! Looking forward to April, LECM will send two delegates to the Rocky Mountain Annual Synod to vote for the new bishop. Happy Easter to you all!

--Kaia Duke, LECM Congregational Outreach Minister

Support our students with a Sunday meal!

Sunday Dinner Church is an anchor in the week for our student community. We eat, we connect, we share what's going on in our lives, and from that connection, join in worship together. Bringing a meal on a Sunday is a great way to support our ministry and get to know the student community! **We have two more Sundays open for meal donors in April.** Sign up to bring a meal and plan to stay and eat with us, we'd love to have you! Sign up online at <https://mealtrain.com/yнк9ey> or talk to Pr. Monica!

FROM THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD

Synod Assembly: April 25-27, Loveland, CO

Please hold the delegates of the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly in your prayers this month. Representatives from congregations and ministries of the synod will meet to conduct the annual business of the synod, as well as elect a new bishop who will serve a six-year term. Election of a bishop is an important process of discernment and call by the whole synod, and we are grateful for all your prayers for those involved. Amy Herold, Pete Budde, and Pastor Monica will represent Immanuel, along with student delegates from Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry. **Learn more about the Assembly and Bishop Election:** <https://www.rmselca.org/2024-bishop-election-process> and potential candidates for bishop: <https://www.rmselca.org/leaders-in-discernment-24>

FROM THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD *(continued)*

Prepare your Church: Disaster Preparedness Workshop **Thursday, April 25, 10:00am-12:00pm, Zion Lutheran Church, Loveland**

The Rocky Mountain Synod has been afflicted by several major natural disasters in the last several years. These include the Marshall Fire in Boulder County, Colorado, and the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fires in northern New Mexico.

Join leaders of RMS congregations near these disaster areas for a morning workshop of learning, conversation, and preparation. You'll gain valuable insights from the experiences of those who have walked through these disasters. You'll also be equipped to be better-prepared when disaster affects you, your congregation, or your community, including where to find resources and support throughout our whole church.

This event is FREE. Register at www.rmselca.org/disaster2024.

SERVICE & COMMUNITY

Thrivent Choice Dollars Disbursed

At its March 5th meeting, the Congregation Council voted to disburse the remaining 2023 and a portion of the 2024 Thrivent Choice Dollars in the following manner:

\$400.00 – to purchase gardening supplies, topsoil & plants for flower beds around the property

\$300.00 – to purchase drawstring backpacks for school kits for Lutheran World Relief

\$200.00 – to donate to SSKIDS for their project to provide school fees for children in Uganda

Any member of Immanuel may submit a request for Choice Dollars funding. Applications for the next disbursement in October of 2024 will be available at the church office in September of 2024. Requests can include but are not limited to: education, youth/student activities, mission activities, religious worship, cash assistance, disaster assistance, repair/maintenance, supplies, and equipment. Funds will not be used to supplant the budget. The deadline for submitting Fall Choice Dollars funding requests will be advertised in the September Newsletter.

If you are a Thrivent member and you are eligible to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars and still need to direct those Dollars, please visit www.thrivent.com for information on how to direct your Choice Dollars.

For more information on Thrivent Choice Dollars, how you can become a Thrivent member, or how you can direct your Choice Dollars to Immanuel, you are also welcome to contact the Congregational Advocate listed below:

Julie Elmquist (970) 371-2734

SERVICE & COMMUNITY *(continued)*

Dear Immanuel WELCA members,

Thank you for your gift of \$400 to LECM. We are working to bring at least one student to Synod Assembly this year, and your donation will cover the cost for them to be part of this event and vote for our new bishop!

I am grateful for your care and support for our students, thank you for your generosity!
Pastor Monica



King Soopers Community Rewards

Do you shop at King Soopers? If you do, then you can help Immanuel earn money simply by shopping!

Sign up now and select Immanuel Lutheran Church of Greeley to receive the community rewards. Then all you have to do is shop! It's easy!

Each time you make a purchase at any King Soopers or Kroger store, just enter your alternate I.D. number OR swipe or scan your King Soopers card and voila you have earned money for Immanuel.

Community reward money will be added to Thrivent Choice Dollars, which are used to support projects at Immanuel.

GIA Clothing Bank

Several Greeley-area churches are sponsors for and help operate the Greeley Interfaith Assn. Clothing Bank, located at 228 N. 9th Avenue in Greeley.

The hours open are 10:00 am—2:00 pm-Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays.

Clothing Bank



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

Some Immanuel members have committed to being on duty on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month. Donations can be dropped off at the Clothing Bank during the hours of operation.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact: Julie Elmquist, Katy Sickles or Cindy Thompson.

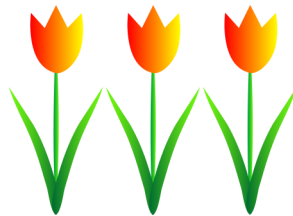
CHURCH COUNCIL



Name	Phone	E-mail	Committee
Adams, Tim	970-381-6032	shirleymarine093@gmail.com	Property
Budde, Cindy	C: 970-371-6588	peteandcindyb@gmail.com	Secretary – Communications & Social Media
Elmquist, Julie	H: 970-330-6679 C: 970-371-2734	sjelmquist@msn.com	Vice President -Youth Team, Property
Herold, Amy	970-978-0870	herold_amy@hotmail.com	Youth Team
Larson, Lelyn	970-371-0307	larsonoff@gmail.com	President -Finance, Property

Pastor Monica's Schedule: Pastor Monica works from both the Immanuel Annex and the Campus Ministry office. In general, she is based at Campus Ministry Mondays and Thursdays and Immanuel Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

You can always reach Pastor Monica by email: pastor@immanuelgreeley.org or phone/text at (970) 573-6020.



CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Council Highlights

- Immanuel Youth will be presented with new bibles on 4/7/24
- Spring Clean up is slated for 4/13/24. There will be outdoor and indoor projects. In case of inclement weather, clean up will be 4/27/24
- Affirmation of Baptism will be celebrated on 5/19/24

**Join us for our next meeting
on Tuesday, April 16th
at 6:30 pm .**

Tied in Faith...
**will meet on Tuesday, April 2nd,
Thursday, April 18th &
Saturday, April 27th at 9:00 am.**



WELCA

Love and Priscilla/Ruth Circle
will not be meeting this month.

*Please call the church office, 352-3003, for additional
information*

April Birthdays

1	Blake Carlson Peggy Kuntz Gema Padilla Harper Ward
5	Sue Morse
6	Wes Holbrook Baron Peterson
7	David Hoyland
8	Ila Mae Larson
9	Micayla Crespin
15	Matthew Crespin
21	Nevaeh Deines Janet Johnson
23	Clarence Carlson — 100!
27	Cole Peterson
28	Marvin Deines



April Anniversaries

6 Rodger & Roma Arithson

If we have missed your
birthday or anniversary, please call the church office so that we
can update the records

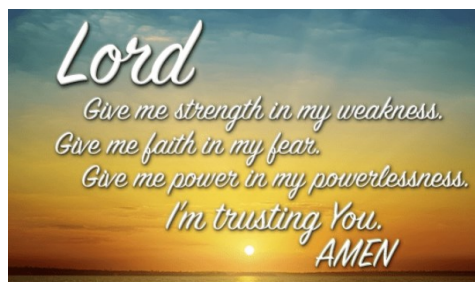
EFTF –Endowment Foundation Trust Fund

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: Cindy Thompson, Jacqui Larson,
Janet Crespin, Janet Johnson

PRAYER & CARE

Always Say A Prayer Team



If you have prayer concerns, please contact Pastor Monica
pastor@immanuelgreeley.org
Call/Text 970.573.6020

Prayer request cards can be found at the back of the nave
along with a box to place your requests.

**All concerns will be kept confidential unless you choose to
add your name to the prayer list in the bulletin.**

Members of the Prayer Team

Roma Arithson Shirley Marine
Connie Deines Sharrol Bernahl
Janet Willis Diane Filipe

Pastoral Visits

Pr. Monica is available for pastoral visits;
especially in times of special concern, illness, or celebration.
If you would like to request a pastoral visit, please contact the church office.

Our Immanuel Family

Immanuel celebrates the baptisms of:
Jesslyn Olguin, daughter of Jesus & Araceli and
sister of Itsayana & Maelie Olguin on March 30, 2024.
Wesley Alexander Thaden, son of Devon & Bette` Thaden and
Arthur Frost Hawkins, son of
Austin Hawkins & Samantha Wilson on March 31, 2024.

Please notify the church office of births, deaths, marriages, address changes or other news and events.



Amy Herold, Youth Director
Cell Phone: 970.978.0870
Email: herold_amy@hotmail.com

Sunday Youth Group

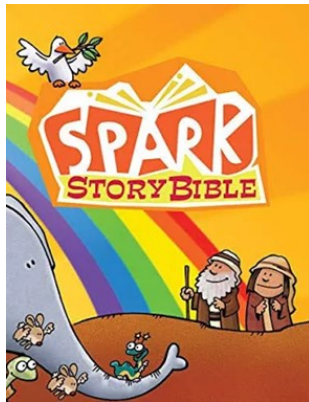
DATE: Sunday, April 7, 2024

TIME: 9:00 am

PLACE: Youth Room (Church Annex)

All ages are welcome! Snacks will be served!

Next Sunday Youth Group: Sunday, May 5



Bible Presentation for Youth

(*Ages 2 – 3rd grade)

Sunday, April 7, 2024

During the 10:30am Worship Service

*If your child is in this age range & he/she didn't receive an informational letter, contact Amy for more details.

THANK YOU...for your support & generous donations for our Annual Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt! We appreciate you!



Save the Date to Celebrate Our Graduates!

Sunday, May 12, 2024

9:15am

Fellowship Hall at Immanuel

Do you know someone from Immanuel that is graduating?
Let Amy know so they can be included in our celebration!



Affirmation of Baptism

Pentecost Sunday -

May 19, 2024

More details coming soon!



Immanuel Lutheran Church's Vacation Bible School - 2024



Monday, June 24 – Friday, June 28

Dinner: 5:30pm & VBS: 6-8pm

Plan to Attend & Invite a Friend!

To register, volunteer, or inquire about VBS,
please contact Amy Herold.

**Mark your calendar & save the date,
VBS is going to be great!**



March
Financials
will be
available
April 7th

Thanks to our Volunteers!

April 2024

April 7:

Greeter: Vera Sylvester
Ushers: Juan Cruz, Katy Sickles
Assisting Minister: Janet Willis
Lector: Janet Willis
Communion Setup: Cindy Thompson
Tellers: Marvin & Connie Deines

April 14:

Greeter: Julie Elmquist
Ushers: Tim Adams & Shirley Marine
Assisting Minister: Cindy Budde
Lector: Luke Larson, Jack Larson
Communion Setup: Cindy Thompson
Tellers: Vera Sylvester, Brenda Turnwall

April 21:

Greeter: Vera Sylvester
Ushers: John Johnson & Sally Stewart
Assisting Minister: Julie Elmquist
Lector: Molly Ward
Communion Setup: Molly Ward
Tellers: Linda Sample, Janet Johnson

April 28:

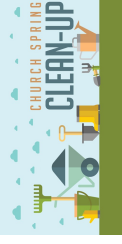
Greeter: Julie Elmquist
Ushers: Juan Cruz, Katy Sickles
Assisting Minister: Roy Woldum
Lector: Luke Larson, Jack Larson
Communion Setup: Cindy Thompson
Tellers: Janet Crespin

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor: Monica Butler 970-573-6020 or 970-352-3003
Secretary: Denise Pollard Stricker 970-352-3003
Office Hours: M -- Th 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Offices closed on Fridays

Executive Council:
President: Lelyn Larson 970-371-0307
Vice President: Julie Elmquist (h)970-330-6679 or (c)970-371-2734
Secretary: Cindy Budde (c)970-371-6588
Treasurer: Connie Deines 970-378-1475
Financial Secretary: Bob Morse 303-359-5919

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 EASTER MONDAY Church Offices Closed Common Sense Kleaning—Annex	2 9:00 am-Tied in Faith 6:30 pm-Exec Committee	3	4	5	6
7 9:00 am- Youth Group 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am- Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am-Holy Communion 11:30 am-Prayer Team	8 Common Sense Kleaning—Church 9:30 am—2:00 pm—ILC at GIA Clothing Bank	9	10	11	12	13 9:00 am— 
14 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am- Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am-Holy Communion	15 Common Sense Kleaning—Annex	16 6:30 pm-Council Meeting	17 4:30 pm-Confirmation	18 9:00 am-Tied in Faith	19	20
21 NEW MEMBER SUNDAY 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am- Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am-Holy Communion	22 Common Sense Kleaning—Church 9:30 am—2:00 pm—ILC at GIA Clothing Bank	23 2:30 pm-Worship & Music	24	25	26	27 9:00 am-Tied in Faith
28 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am- Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am-Holy Communion	29 Common Sense Kleaning—Annex	30				

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

PURPOSE STATEMENT

*IMMANUEL IS CALLED TO PROCLAIM THE
LIFE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF
CHRIST; TO PROVIDE PLACES AND
OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP AND
FELLOWSHIP; AND TO BE THE SPIRIT OF
CHRIST IN THE WORLD.*

We welcome and encourage submissions for our newsletter. Please make all submissions in writing. We prefer that the material be submitted in electronic form, if possible. All material is subject to editing for content, clarity and style, as needed. The deadline for the newsletter is the **15th** of every month.

Please forward your submission by mail to 1865 14th Ave., Greeley, CO 80631, by fax to 970-352-7096, or by email to office@immanuelgreeley.org

Immanuel Lutheran Church
1865 14th Avenue
Greeley, Colorado 80631

Return Service Requested

April 2024