

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
AVILLA, INDIANA
GOD WITH US**

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Fifth Sunday in Lent

ORGAN PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING THREE – PAGE 184

HYMN No. 425 – When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.**
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.**
- 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C: **who made heaven and earth.**
P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,
C: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

INTROIT – Psalm 116:1-4, 8

P: Precious in the sight of the LORD

C: is the death of his saints.

P: I love the LORD, because he has heard

C: my voice and my pleas for mercy.

P: Because he inclined his ear to me,

C: therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

P: The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;

C: I suffered distress and anguish.

P: Then I called on the name of the LORD:

C: “O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”

P: For you have delivered my soul from death,

C: my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

C: and to the Holy Spirit;

P: as it was in the beginning,

C: is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: Precious in the sight of the LORD

C: is the death of his saints.



G Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir - it.

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



A - men.

Old Testament Reading – Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” ⁴Then he said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.’ ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.
Epistle – Romans 8:1-11

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel – John 11:1-53

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

G Glo-ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

⁵Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." ¹¹After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." ¹³Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, ¹⁵and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me

shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷*She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”*

²⁸*When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”* ²⁹*And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him.* ³⁰*Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him.* ³¹*When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there.* ³²*Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”* ³³*When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled.* ³⁴*And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”* ³⁵*Jesus wept.* ³⁶*So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”* ³⁷*But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”*

³⁸*Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.* ³⁹*Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.”* ⁴⁰*Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”* ⁴¹*So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me.* ⁴²*I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.”* ⁴³*When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.”* ⁴⁴*The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”*

⁴⁵*Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.* ⁴⁶*but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.* ⁴⁷*So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Council and said, “What*

are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.” ⁴⁹But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.” ⁵¹He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵²and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

☪ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), and F4 (half). A fermata is placed over the final F4 note. Below the staff, the lyrics 'Praise be to Thee, O Christ.' are written, with a square neume symbol (☪) positioned under the first note 'P'.

NICENE CREED

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the
Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy
Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one
Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the
resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to
come. Amen.**

HYMN No. 430 – My Song Is Love Unknown

- 1 My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?**

- 2 He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend,
My friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend!**

- 3 Sometimes they strew His way
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!"
Is all their breath,
And for His death
They thirst and cry.**

- 4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries!
Yet they at these
Themselves displease
And 'gainst Him rise.
- 5 They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He
To suffering goes
That He His foes
From thence might free.
- 6 In life no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was His home
But mine the tomb
Wherein He lay.
- 7 Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend!

SERMON

Text: John 11:1-53

Theme: What Kind of Plan Is This?

OFFERTORY



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

(there is a time for silent prayer)

After each petition:

P: Lord, in Your mercy

C: hear our prayer


At the conclusion of the prayer:

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.


PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P: Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bles - ed is He, bles - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.



☐ For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

AGNUS DEI



C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN No. 616 – Baptismal Waters Cover Me

- 1** Baptismal waters cover me
As I approach on bended knee;
My Father's mercy here I plead,
For grievous sins of thought and deed.

- 2** I look to Christ upon the tree,
His body broken there for me;
I lay before Him all my sin,
My darkest secrets from within.

- 3** Lord, may Your wounded hand impart
Your healing to my broken heart;
Your love alone can form in me
A heart that serves You joyfully.

- 4** From Your own mouth comes forth a word;
Your shepherd speaks, but You are heard;
Through him Your hand now stretches out,
Forgiving sin, destroying doubt.

- 5** Baptismal waters cover me;
Christ's wounded hand has set me free.
Held in my Father's strong embrace,
With joy I praise Him for His grace.

Text: Kurt E. Reinhardt, 1969

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HYMN No. 547 - The Lamb

1 **The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price!**

refrain **Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

2 **The Lamb, the Lamb,
One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb,
Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.**

refrain **Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

3 **The Lamb, the Lamb,
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will
On our behalf the Law to fill.**

refrain **Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

4 **He sighs, He dies,
He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives,
He gives me His own righteousness.**

refrain **Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

5 **He rose, He rose,
My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong
Till ev'ry heart to Him belong.**

refrain **Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

HYMN No. 744 – Amazing Grace

- 1 Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!**

- 2 The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.**

- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.**

- 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace.**

- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.**

Text (sts. 1-4): John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond
Text: Public domain

HYMN No. 683 – Jesus, Thy Boundless Love To Me

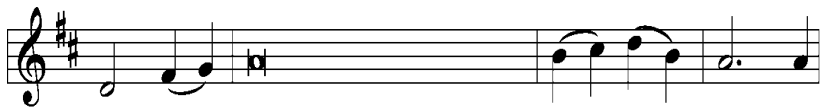
- 1 Jesus, Thy boundless love to me
No thought can reach, no tongue declare;
Unite my thankful heart to Thee,
And reign without a rival there!
Thine wholly, Thine alone I am;
Be Thou alone my constant flame.**

- 2 O grant that nothing in my soul
May dwell, but Thy pure love alone;
Oh, may Thy love possess me whole,
My joy, my treasure, and my crown!
All coldness from my heart remove;
My ev'ry act, word, thought be love.**

- 3 This love unwearied I pursue
And dauntlessly to Thee aspire.
Oh, may Thy love my hope renew,
Burn in my soul like heav'nly fire!
And day and night, be all my care
To guard this sacred treasure there.**

- 4 In suff'ring be Thy love my peace,
In weakness be Thy love my pow'r;
And when the storms of life shall cease,
O Jesus, in that final hour,
Be Thou my rod and staff and guide,
And draw me safely to Thy side!**

NUNC DIMITTIS



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

THANKSGIVING

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P: Let us pray... We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

P: The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P: Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

HYMN No. 851 – Lord of glory, You have bought us

- 1 **Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To the unthankful and the evil
With Your own unsparing hand.**
- 2 **Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You
Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive.**
- 3 **Wondrous honor You have given
To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence,
“You have done it all to Me.”
Can it be, O gracious Master,
That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy,
“Give as I have giv’n to you”?**

**4 Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly,
Hope, to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces,
With Your love our love renew.**

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818-89, alt.
Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book
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WELCOME - We welcome all worshippers to our services at Immanuel this week. As God comes to us in Word and in Sacrament may we experience His love and His power in the singing of praise and the living of our lives to His glory.

VISITORS - Welcome all visitors this week. Be sure to pick up a visitor packet from an usher or from our Information Rack in the east entrance.

RECORD OF FELLOWSHIP PADS -ALL members and visitors are asked to record their attendance at church and communion. Please return the record to the center aisle.

SERVICE ENLARGEMENTS, LARGE PRINT HYMNS & ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES - are now available for the service each week. It will include the service, hymns, and the insert of readings. They will be available at both entrances next to the bulletins. Please return them after the service.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY TOTES - are available at both entrances for children age kindergarten and younger. Please return them after the service.

NURSERY - Exit the southeast door, the nursery is the third door at the bottom of the stairs. The first door is the lounge where you may listen to the service on the speaker.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL is at 8:30AM in the educational rooms of the fellowship hall wing.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL is at 8:30AM in the west Sunday school room. They are looking deeper into the Lessons of the Day for that Sunday Service. All are invited to attend.

CHURCH OFFICE - If you need to meet, speak, or make an appointment with the Church Secretary the office is open on Tuesday and Wednesday. If you need to meet or speak to Pastor Kuhlman you can always reach him on his cell and at his home. **Please note that the church will be locked at all times unless two people are present.**

AVILLA FOOD PANTRY - Please do not forget the needy people in our community. You may place your food donations in the box in the east entrance.

BULLETIN BOARD - Cross Connection; Worship for Shut-Ins

FLOWERS – The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Kathy Dirr.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK:

- Wednesday – Lenten Service 7 PM

PRAYER LIST- Prayer for the sick & recovering: Carole Bishop, Susan Bremer, Angie Hareidk, Don Norden, Paul DeLong, Amos DeLong, LaVon Graft, young relative of a church member who is suffering mentally and parents who need wisdom and comfort.

NEWSLETTERS – April newsletter is in your mailbox. May newsletter deadline is April 18th.

THANK YOU – Thank you to everyone who signed up to donate food for Easter Breakfast. Please bring your items to the church kitchen by Palm Sunday. This will allow us to make sure we have everything we need.

RUMMAGE SALE – Immaculate Conception Catholic Church on the corner of Oak and Diamond Streets in Kendallville will have a Rummage Sale on Friday, March 31st, from 9 AM to 11:30 AM. On Saturday the SALE is \$3.00 per paper grocery bag full.

PASTOR ON VACATION - Pastor Kuhlman will be on vacation from Monday, April 10th thru Sunday, April 16th. The seminarian students will be in charge of the church service on April 16th. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact an Elder.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - is set for June 19-23, 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.! God's Living Water is the VBS theme this year. Last year Immanuel served **50** different children during the VBS week. About half of these children reported no home church. What a blessing for our congregation to host this ministry! We are in need a few more high school and adult volunteers for various contributions. Please pray regarding your calling to contribute. There is an opportunity for everyone! Talk to Vi to discuss where you can contribute, whether before the VBS week, or during VBS.

We appreciate your prayers for VBS. Please pray for community children, that they will be brought to VBS and come to know and grow in Jesus, our Savior! Please pray that God will provide needed leaders and helpers for this important mission.

Brief VBS Meeting Sunday, March 26 after church: If you are already planning to assist with VBS or would like to know more about how you can contribute, or have any other questions about VBS, please meet with Vi & April after church, west side of the Sanctuary.

CAMP LUTHERHAVEN - Registration for summer camp at

Lutherhaven has begun! It may not seem like it, but summer is right around the corner. Have you made plans yet? Camp Lutherhaven has something for everyone. There are programs for kindergarten through High School, as well as some for the whole family! Brochures are on the table in the east entrance. Register online today at www.lutherhaven.org

Again, this year there are scholarships available to members of Immanuel. To apply for one just write the child's name, age, camp session attending and the cost. Place this paper on the secretary's desk. Deadline to apply is May 1st. Any questions on the scholarships please speak to Pastor.

EASTER FLOWERS - As we have done in past years, we will be placing spring flowering plants around the wood Easter cross. **This year you may order a single lily or bring your own plants to the church anytime before noon on Saturday, April 8th. If you would like to order a lily there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the east entrance. The cost will be \$14.00.** We will place a slip of paper with your name on it in your pot. If you bring your own plants, be sure to write your name on a slip of paper and place it in the flower pot so you can take it home after the late service or at your earliest convenience.

LENTEN SERVICES

Seven times He spoke. On Good Friday, Jesus spoke seven times from the cross. He spoke words of forgiveness and promise and accomplishment, plus others. He spoke other words that are filled with meaning for us and our lives, a total of seven words. Each of Jesus statements from the cross teach us about Jesus and His character and His love for us. They help us to see everything Jesus came to be and do for us. This year, midweek lent worship will focus on Jesus' seven words from the cross. The dates and themes are as follows:

- March 29 – He Spoke a Word of Accomplishment
John 19:30

SOUP AND SANDWICH SUPPERS - We will be serving soup

and sandwich suppers prior to our Lenten service on Wednesday's at 6PM. Everyone is welcome to join in the fellowship and good food.

HOLY WEEK

- **PALM SUNDAY - April 2 - 9:30 AM**

We will celebrate the triumphal entry of our Savior into Jerusalem.

- **MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 6 - 7 PM**

(Holy Communion)

- He Spoke a Word of Invitation - Matthew 26:26-28;
Luke 22:19-20

- **GOOD FRIDAY - April 7 – 7 PM**

- He Spoke a Word of Trust - Luke 23:46

We will remember the crucifixion of Jesus with a Tenebrae Service
(Service of Darkness)

- **EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE – April 9 - 9:30 AM**

We will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with services of
Holy Communion.

Easter Breakfast will be served at 8:00 AM.

An Easter Egg Hunt will follow the morning service.

PORTALS OF PRAYER - Portals of Prayer devotional books for April-June are available at the back of the church and at the side entrance.

LOOK UP - Looking Up is your first step to seeing past your struggles. Mental and behavioral health issues can be a silent battle. But there's always hope on the horizon. You can start by looking here for resources, information, and providers.

- <https://lookupindiana.org>
- Call 877-257-0208 - Available 24 hours every day
- Text LookUp to 494949 - Available 24 hours every day

INFORMATION RACK- last week's bulletin; extra newsletters; Visitors Packet; Portals of Prayer; Lutheran Witness; Cross Connection; Thrivent Dollars information; Lutherans for Life.

WEEKLY SERVICE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS are now on our website. The service can be found under Family Altar. The announcements in the bulletin each week can be seen on our website **under Blog and then correct month.**

LAST WEEK'S STATISTICS:

Worship Attendance:

- Sunday Morning: 66 + Jesus
- Wednesday Lenten Service: 24 + Jesus

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY – Christ is the essence of faith.
Love is Christ at work in us.

ANXIETY / DEPRESSION SUPPORT GROUPS

- Mental Health America of Northeast Indiana
<https://mhanortheastindiana.org>
260-422-6441; info@mhanortheastindiana.org

Mental Health America of Northeast Indiana offers a free anxiety and depression support group on Wednesdays at 6 P.M. No formal diagnosis is required. The group is currently meeting via Zoom. Email Lacey Holt to sign up at: lholt@mhanortheastindiana.org

- Mental Health Grace Alliance
<https://mentalhealthgracealliance.org/your-personal-journey>

Mental Health Grace Alliance offers Bible study books that combine relevant Bible studies, neuroscience, and practical tools to help those experiencing a mental health difficulty to manage stressors, increase calm through rest and joy, reframe negative thoughts and nurture healthy relationships. These books are best used in small groups. *Living Grace* is a 16-week study for adults, and *Redefine Grace* is a 10-week study for high school and college age students. Materials are available online.

- NAMI Fort Wayne
<https://www.namifortwayne.org>
260-447-8990; faithnet@namifortwayne.org

NAMI Ft. Wayne provides free support groups for those living with mental illness and also for adult family and friends of people living with mental illness. Call the NAMI Ft. Wayne office to find out their current meeting schedule.