

Wilson-Immanuel Lutheran Parish
401 310th Street
Wilson WI 54027
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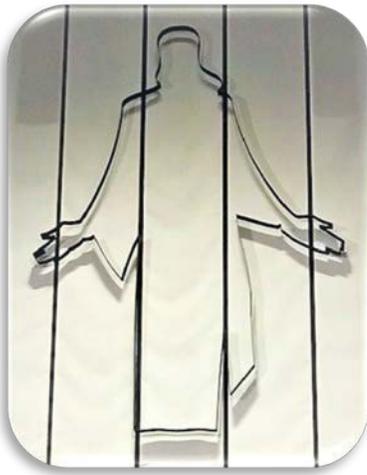
Mission Statement

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 2020, Newsletter for
Wilson-Immanuel Lutheran Parish*



Wilson-Immanuel Lutheran Parish
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Pastor Email: PastorBob@wwt.net



Cookie Cutter Jesus: An Easter Message

I visit a different church in our Synod nearly every Sunday. This Sunday I discovered a 15 foot cookie cutter outline of the figure of Jesus hanging high above the altar.¹ I kept staring at the shape during the first hymn thinking about the outstretched arms of Jesus and realized this as an *Easter* cookie cutter. This is the resurrected Jesus who showed the wounds of the nails in hands when he appeared to Mary Magdalene and the other women. These are the women who became the first witnesses to announce that Jesus had risen from the dead to the other disciples.² I was still thinking about the cookie cutter shape of Jesus when the last hymn was sung. After worship I visited with a long time member of that congregation, Shirley³. I remarked how I appreciated the 15 foot cookie cutter Jesus above the altar. Shirley smiled and

then told me this story: The church sanctuary was built in the 1970s. Everyone was so excited for the first worship service. The construction workers were busy putting the finishing touches on the sanctuary. The metal shape of Jesus was lying flat on the floor in the church waiting to be hung above the altar. At the time Shirley's daughter, Kari was about 3 ½ years old. Shirley and little Kari were checking out the progress in the sanctuary. Kari, a normal curious child, stepped into the cookie cutter frame and stood in the middle of the Jesus shape. Kari said to Shirley, "Look mommy, I'm standing in Jesus' hand." It was a sweet memory of that long ago moment. Shirley then went on to finish that story. She told me that her daughter Kari died of complications from cancer treatment two years ago. She was only 46. Shirley said that she finds comfort in knowing that her daughter is now resting forever "in Jesus' hands." She often thinks about Kari when she sees the shape of Jesus above the altar. She envisions her daughter in Jesus, resting in Jesus. This Easter, remember we are "in Jesus." We have been baptized into his death and resurrection. We are people who believe "in Jesus."



Friends, as I write this I realize that we are living in complicated times, COVID-19 frightens, cancer kills, politics are ugly, wars rage, immigrant and refugees suffer, racism, gun violence, sexism, climate change, drug abuse are real concerns and yet here we are standing "in Jesus." During this season of Easter, no matter where you are on your spiritual journey, know that the resurrected Jesus reaches out his nail scarred hands to us all, appearing to us in our grief, in our scariest moments, in our despair. This Easter Jesus walked on the road to Emmaus with the two grieving disciples. This is the resurrected Jesus who appeared to the terrified disciples in the locked room and said "peace be with you." This is the resurrected Jesus who ascended into heaven and says to us all, "Go and make disciples of all nations and remember I am with you ALWAYS to the end of the age." You are "in Jesus." Go in peace and share this Easter good news with the world.

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

¹ I bake and decorate hundreds of rolled out cookies every year and have a collection of old cookie cutters.

² The women at the tomb were the first witnesses to the resurrection. 2020 is the 50th Anniversary of the ordination of women pastors in the United States. Save the date, November 7, 2020 is the Synod's Day of Celebration for the 50th Anniversary at Luther Park's new ministry center.

³ Thank you to Shirley Bostrom for giving me permission to share this part of her story.

Resurrection Life

"It was a strange and dreadful sight when life and death contended. The victory remained with life, the reign of death was ended."

Martin Luther

On Easter Sunday Christians around the world will celebrate Christ's resurrection, without doubt the single most important event in human history. The words spoken by the angel to Mary Magdalene *"and the other Mary"* at the empty tomb on that first Easter, *"Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said"* (Matthew 2:5b-6a) ring in our ears.

The resurrection of our Lord is fundamental to our life of faith. The angels words, laid alongside 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), but eternal hope throughout our lives; an Easter hope every day. Faced with the reality of death, we remember Christ triumphed over the grave; that *"the reign of death was ended."* Perhaps we especially need to remember that these days.

In the midst of all the recent changes in our lives, it's an important word for us to remember this Easter. Stay at Home orders, social distancing, hand sanitizers, essential services, empty store shelves, and so much more have changed our day to day relationships in ways we never would have imagined just a few weeks ago. Today being *"life-giving"* includes the new reality of six feet of separation; a reality that will prevent us from worshipping as we always have before, a community of faith gathered together on Easter Sunday morning.

Then I remember the words Jesus spoke when he met the women as they ran from the empty tomb, filled *"with fear and great joy"*, to deliver the angel's message of hope to the disciples, *"Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me"*.

Their words that remind me Easter is not a single day each year; that, because we are an *"Easter People"* every day, there is nothing to fear. Because Christ comes to meet us wherever we are, we always walk in the light of Christ and his resurrection. It's a light that doesn't go out with sundown on Easter Sunday, but one that shines for us, on us, and through us every day of our lives.

As *"Easter People"* we are called to live that light each day and share it with the world, dispelling the darkness we find there. In so doing we become, not one separated by distance from the many, but a community of faith that always carries the resurrection message in our hearts and shares it with those in need of hearing its life-giving promise, wherever their Galilee may be.

It is life-giving, this Easter message, but it's not just a one-time deal. It's a word of life for today, tomorrow, and the weeks and months ahead; a message for our whole lives and for the life of the world.

So, spread the Good News Easter people. Easter is coming. Easter is here. Easter never ends. Happy Easter by brothers and sisters, every day.

Pastor Bob

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

April 2020 –Season of Easter

Worship is Cancelled Until Further Notice Due to the COVID 19 Coronavirus

Sunday, April 5 – Palm / Passion Sunday

- ❖ Color: Purple
- ❖ ELW Setting: Setting I with Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66: In fulfillment of scripture and obedience to God's will, Jesus goes to the cross so that a new covenant in his blood may bring forgiveness of sins. Even the soldiers who crucify him recognize him to be the Son of God.

Thursday, April 9 – Maundy Thursday

- ❖ Color: White
- ❖ ELW Setting: Setting I with Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Exodus 12:1-10; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- ❖ 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 other.

Friday, April 10 – Good Friday

- ❖ Color: None
- ❖ ELW Setting: Setting I with Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Isaiah 52:13-52:12; 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 12 – Easter Day

- ❖ Color: White
- ❖ ELW Setting: Setting I with Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10: Sorrow gives way to "fear and great joy" when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!

Sunday, April 19 – Easter 2

- ❖ Color: White
- ❖ ELW Setting: Setting I with Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9
- ❖ Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31: The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

Sunday, April 26 – Easter 3

- ❖ Color: White
- ❖ ELW Setting: Setting I
- ❖ Readings: Acts 2:14a, 35-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Luke 24:13-35: The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

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PARISH NEWS

ALL WORSHIP AND OTHE PARISH EVENTS AND PROGRAMS ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO THE COVID 19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. WATCH YOUR EMAIL AND THE PARISH WEB SITE AT WWW.WILSONIMMANUEL.ORG FOR UPDATED INFORMATION.

Newsletter On-Line: The monthly newsletter and calendar are available in PDF format on the parish web site located at www.wilsonimmanuel.org. Click on the "Newsletter" and "Calendar" links in the menu bar at the top of the Home page. If you would like to receive links to the Web site versions of the calendar and newsletter by email each month, subscribe to the Parish Email List by completing "Subscribe for Updates" found on the lower right corner of the Home page.

Food Pantry: Hunger issues have long been a ministry of the parish. Hunger relief is a ministry which touches many of our neighbors, especially those negatively impacted by the COVID 19 coronavirus pandemic. In addition to food items, consider donating paper products, personal care items like tooth paste and bar soap, household items such as dish soap and other cleaning products, and baby toiletries. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated by all who use the area food shelves.

WILSON NEWS

Wilson WELCA: The next regular WELCA meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Thursday, April 9(**TENTATIVE**). All women of the church are invited to attend.

Wilson Council: The next regular meeting is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Thursday, April 9 (**TENTATIVE**). Any business requiring council action will be completed by email.

March 12 Council Meeting Highlights: (Complete minutes are available in the office)

- Mike made a motion to change worship time for Confirmation on May 17 to 8:30, second by Barb Lamb. Motion carried.
- Louanne made a motion that Confirmation Camp Parent's fee would be \$65, second by Dean. Motion carried.
- Care Center visitations are closed to outside visitors.
- ELCA Infection Control Guidance was reviewed and what applied will be implemented. It is available in the office to view.
- Thank you letters for Endowment Fund Gifts were read.
- We still need 1 Male/1 Female Synod Assembly (May 16) Representatives.
- Synod Assembly registration needs to be submitted by May 8th.
- After discussions it was decided not to order a new supply of pens, with Wilson logo, at this time.
- Mike sold the snow blower that was not being used.
- Online newsletters were discussed. Those who are not interested in online newsletters will have the opportunity to request a traditional paper form. Information in the months ahead will be presented in the newsletter with a goal of October to have most members receiving their newsletters online.

WILSON LUTERAN CHURCH 2020 USHER SCHEDULE		
May	Dean and Linda Rambo	5 Sundays
June	Louanne Anderson and Doug Faber	4 Sundays
COMMUNION SERVERS		
May	Emma Lamb	5 Sundays
June	Ally Lamb	4 Sundays
ALTAR CARE SCHEDULE		
May	Dean and Linda Rambo	5 Sundays
June	Sue Faber	4 Sundays
Please arrange for another person if you are unable to serve as scheduled.		

Wilson On-Line Giving Program: Thank you for the generous way you give thanks to God through your financial support of the mission and ministry of the Christ's church in this time and place, and to our neighbors in need around the world. You are truly a blessing.

Not being able to worship together each Sunday presents a challenge to our weekly in person envelop based offering program. While you can certainly mail your offering to the office, as some have done, the council has decided to provide another option, giving on-line through the Vanco GivePlus program.

GivePlus provides a means by which contributions to the church may be made using direct deposit (ACH) from your checking or savings, or your debit or credit card. Giving options will include the General, Benevolence, Building or Memorial Funds, set up on a recurring basis - weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly – or as a one-time gift. Signing up for the GivePlus program is very simple, using a link posted on the church Web site. Giving through the GivePlus program will be entirely optional. If you wish to continue using the offering envelopes, you are welcome to do so.

We are in the very early stages of making this option available. We're hoping it will be completed soon, and will notify you by email when it's ready. Please contact Pastor Bob if you have questions.

Easter Lilies: Since it is not likely we will be able to worship together this Easter, the order for Easter Lilies has been cancelled. If you order flowers and would like a refund, please let the office know. If we do not hear from you, the amount of your order will be directed to the General Fund and credited to your annual giving.

Prayer Shawls: Do you know someone having a particularly difficult time due to health issues, or other personal concerns; someone who would appreciate knowing they are "covered" with the prayers of others. A prayer shawl is an excellent way of sharing that message. Just select one of the shawls displayed in the worship space, or from the box in the sacristy. Then get a gift card from Pastor Bob and let him know who will be receiving the shawl. It's a powerful ministry; a sharing of the love and care of the body of Christ with those in need of life-giving relationship.

Tuesday Community Supper: The Tuesday Community Supper served at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Baldwin, is cancelled for Tuesday, April 7.

Lectors Needed: Once are able to worshipping together again, readers will be needed for the Sunday scriptures through the end of the year. If you are interested in reading, please contact Pastor Bob.

IMMANUEL NEWS

Message from President Matt Main:

I hope this finds you all healthy and corona-free! We are in a strange time with this pandemic and must stay positive and faithful through all of it, knowing God will always persevere and is working through so many to help us through these weeks and months to come.

Isaiah 41:10

"Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

As directed by Governor Tony Evers with the "Safer at Home" order we are temporarily suspending church services until 4/24/20, or longer. I know that there are a lot of families struggling out there; Immanuel is struggling as well. The church continues to have monthly bills, just like all of us, and needs our continued support. If you wish to send an offering to help Immanuel, here are a few ways to do so. If you need any help, please feel free to call me or Pastor Bob.

1. You can mail a check to Monica, church treasurer at: Monica Eggert, 2231 County Road Q, Clear lake, WI 54005
2. **Vanco (GivePlus) Online:** Immanuel members have an online method for making weekly and special offerings. Give Online allows you to set up regular contributions 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 on "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.
3. **Amazon Smile:** Give when you make an Amazon purchase by using Amazon smile. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. There is no additional cost to the purchaser.

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a charitable organization of choice. Clicking on the "Give OnLine" link on the Home Page of our Web site (www.wilsonimmanuel.org) will take you to the page with the AmazonSmile logo Clicking on that logo will take you to the AmazonSmile website with Immanuel Lutheran Church selected as your organization of choice for donations. Immanuel Lutheran Church should appear in the "Supporting" line in the upper left corner of the screen.

Immanuel Luther Church Council Meeting Minutes:

Date of Meeting: March 10, 2020

Start Time: 7:03 p.m. End Time: 8:14 p.m.

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

Absent:

Agenda

1. Pastor's Report and devotional
2. Treasurer's Report - David made motion; Geoff seconded; motion carried
3. Secretary's Report – Brad made motion; David seconded; motion carried
4. Sunday School Committee Update:

- a. The committee met on March 1st. Topics discussed: 1. Low attendance of youth and possible reasons for the low attendance. Hailie sent a message out to parents, encouraging their children to attend. 2. The ELCA Youth Gathering. 3. The Easter Craft. 4. Confusion amongst teachers with books and corresponding dates. Tiff offered to identify each book with the correct date, in the teacher's bins. 5. It was suggested to have a picnic/grill out during the church cleanup.

Old Business

1. Laura put together a list of each individual on council with the details of their term.
2. Officers elected. Installation of officers was held on March 1st at the 8:30 service.
3. A taller toilet to be installed in the woman's rest room. The current toilet is broken. An anonymous donation was made for the purchase of the toilet.
4. The new communion vessels, donated by Rhea DeBoer in memory of Todd DeBoer, were dedicated and are now being used.
5. Church cleanup set for May 3rd.
6. Wednesday evening lent offering to be put in the local benevolence fund.
7. Monica and Matt completed paperwork to have the Thrivent statements come to them.

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.
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. Matt offered to look into this as well as Laura offered to bring this to the Sunday School Committee. There was a discussion on what a contemporary service could look like as well as children services, types of music etc.
3. 30 feet of land to the west of the church; discussion to be tabled until the spring. The eastern field driveway will be fixed in the spring. Matt and David offered to speak to the neighbor about that 30 feet of land and come up with an agreement.
4. First Communion at the 5th grade level (up to parent's discretion). Potentially having first communion on the day of Pentecost (05/31/2020). Pastor talked about having a 4 hour class on a Saturday, date TBD.
5. The children's donation jar designation is TBD/continues to carry over.
6. Matt has the current insurance policy. He offered to see if the modifications to the church have added to the policy.
7. Monica offered information on the Feed My Starving Children opportunity. At this time, there no local locations available. A date is TBD. This may be tabled to the fall.
8. The ELCA Youth Gathering convention to be held in 2021, in MPLS. Laura provided information on the cost, lodging, transportation, details, etc. on this event. Laura will send a message to the parents of the confirmation students, to see if anyone is interested in attending.

New Business

1. Pastor reported that there is one confirmed camper going to summer camp. It was noted that this camper will most likely go with the Holy Cross campers.
2. We are still in need of one male and one female to attend the Synod Assembly on May 16th in Eau Claire.
3. The cross needs to be taken out of the shed and brought into the church. David offered to assist with that.
4. For Confirmation, church services will be switched. Immanuel will have the late services and Wilson will have the early service.

David made motion to adjourn the meeting; Roxie seconded; motion carried.

Next Meeting: April 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Briesemeister, Church Council Secretary

Assisting with Worship at Immanuel

Month	Altar Care	Usher	Cleaning	Sundays
May	Help Needed	Help Needed	Joyce Ohman	5 Sundays
June	Todd and Cindy	Todd and Cindy	Todd and Cindy	4 Sundays

Please arrange for another person if you are unable to serve as scheduled.
Please check the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board and help as you are able.

PARISH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES – April 2020

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

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Printed on an elderly woman’s sweatshirt: “I am not 80 years old, I’m sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.”
 You just gotta’ love the attitude.

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I’ve gotten used to being tailgated on the Interstate, but these days it seems social distancing has even taken hold out there. Drivers are keeping at least six car lengths between vehicles 😊.

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Now I’m sure this stay at home thing has gone too far. I just found a recipe on Facebook for SPAM on a stick.

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Some people say I’m lazy. I prefer to think of it as “selective participation.”

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If you’ve eaten lutefisk you’re immune from just about everything. 😂

Revised Common Lectionary
Daily Readings – Year A
April 2020

Date	Day	Psalm	First Reading	Second Reading	Gospel
1	Wednesday	Psalm 143	Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41		Matthew 22:23-33
2	Thursday	Psalm 31:9-16	1 Samuel 16:11-13	Philippians 1:1-11	
3	Friday	Psalm 31:9-16	Job 13:13-19	Philippians 1:21-30	
4	Saturday	Psalm 31:9-16	Lamentations 3:55-66		Mark 10:32-34
5	Sunday <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Psalm 31:9-16	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:14-27:66
6	Monday	Psalm 36:5-11	Isaiah 42:1-9	Hebrews 9:11-15	John 12:1-11
7	Tuesday	Psalm 71:1-14	Isaiah 49:1-7	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	John 12:20-36
8	Wednesday	Psalm 70	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Hebrews 12:1-3	John 13:21-32
9	Thursday <i>Maunder Thursday</i>	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19	Exodus 12:1-14	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
10	Friday <i>Good Friday</i>	Psalm 22	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Hebrews 10:16-25	John 18:1-19:41
11	Saturday	Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16	Job 14:1-14	1 Peter 4:1-8	Matthew 27:57-66
12	Sunday <i>Easter Day</i>	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Acts 10:34-43	Colossians 3:1-4	Matthew 28:1-10
13	Monday	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Exodus 14:10-31; 5:20-21	Colossians 3:5-11	
14	Tuesday	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Exodus 15:1-18	Colossians 3:12-17	
15	Wednesday	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Joshua 3:1-17		Matthew 28:1-10
16	Thursday	Psalm 16	Song of Solomon 2:8-15	Colossians 4:2-5	
17	Friday	Psalm 16	Song of Solomon 5:9-6:3	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	
18	Saturday	Psalm 16	Song of Solomon 8:6-7		John 20:11-20
19	Sunday	Psalm 16	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
20	Monday	Psalm 114	Judges 6:36-40	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	
21	Tuesday	Psalm 114	Jonah 1:1-17	1 Corinthians 15:19-28	
22	Wednesday	Psalm 114	Jonah 2:1-10		Matthew 12:38-42
23	Thursday	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	Isaiah 25:1-5	1 Peter 1:8b-12	
24	Friday	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	Isaiah 26:1-4	1 Peter 1:13-16	
25	Saturday	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	Isaiah 25:6-9		Luke 14:12-14
26	Sunday	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
27	Monday	Psalm 134	Genesis 18:1-14	1 Peter 2:1-3	
28	Tuesday	Psalm 134	Proverbs 8:32-9:6	1 Peter 2:1-3	
29	Wednesday	Psalm 134	Exodus 24:1-11		John 21:1-14
30	Thursday	Psalm 23	Exodus 2:15b-25	1 Peter 2:9-12	

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Prayer Ventures

April 2020

1 Give thanks for laughter, smiles, joy and humor today! Praise God for humor that lifts our spirits and provides us an unexpected doorway to reflect on social issues that are difficult to ponder or discuss.

2 Pray for God's blessings upon the ELCA's Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries, which serve our neighbors and strengthen the church through evangelical outreach, advocacy, social ministry, ecumenical and interfaith relations, leadership development and affirming the dignity and worth of Arab and Middle Eastern people and their cultures.

3 The season of Lent can seem dark, muted and immersed in thoughts of our human weaknesses and failings. But along the way, remember to give thanks for the good news and hope found in our journey to the cross and in the life-giving miracle of Jesus' resurrection.

4 Give thanks for bishops, staff, volunteers and leaders who serve in our synods across the country. Pray that the Spirit will strengthen and encourage them for service in the diverse contexts to which God has called them.

5 *Palm Sunday* Some people describe our times as post-Christian, an era in which Christ has little meaning, influence or relevance. Pray for the Spirit to be present and diligent in our lives and in the world, rekindling faith in Jesus Christ, the son of God, our Savior, the light and hope for humankind that holds true throughout time and changing cultures.

6 "How precious is your steadfast love, O God!" Give thanks and praise for God's love and mercy washing over us and providing us refuge.

7 Pray that we will be guided by the spirit, manner and example of Jesus to be humble and gracious in our faith, service and lives.

8 *Total Inclusion!* Widening the Welcome at ELCA Outdoor Ministries is a collaboration between the ELCA churchwide organization and Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, the association of camps and retreat centers affiliated with the ELCA. Pray that this new program will

equip and empower outdoor ministry organizations and leaders as they move toward more intentional welcome of people who historically have been marginalized in the church and society — especially people of color, people with disabilities and people who identify as LGBTQIA+.

9 Remember in prayer all who despair, suffer or long for liberation, love and redemption.

10 *Good Friday* As we tell and retell the story of Jesus' life, suffering, death and resurrection, pray that we will see the cross as a vivid symbol and reminder of God's amazing love for us, a life-giving gift given to us in Jesus Christ that is meant to be shared through words, actions and imagery that inspire faith today.

11 The living word of God in Jesus Christ breaks through every barrier and border, shines light wherever there is darkness and bridges every rift and difference in humankind — real or imagined. Give praise and thanks to God!

12 *Easter Sunday* This is the day we eagerly anticipated, a day of celebration and joyous mystery — the resurrection of Jesus Christ! Shout praise and glory to God for saving us and setting us free to live as children of God and share the good news with the world.

13 Give thanks for our church's long-standing commitment to global mission and faithful service alongside global companions, churches and organizations as they share the good news of Jesus Christ, care for neighbors in need, work for justice and grow the church.

14 Look up and all around today; notice what is good, life-giving and hope-inspiring. "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

15 Give thanks for the volunteers of all ages who are vital to our mission and work in the world and who share their diverse gifts, interests and abilities in congregations, volunteer corps, camps and retreat centers, ELCA Global Mission, ELCA Mission Builders, Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran social ministry organizations and however else they feel called to serve.

16 Having received a new life and identity in Christ, we ask God to help us recognize and focus on what God considers to be important, good and true.

17 Remember in prayer ELCA missionaries serving alongside the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Slovak Republic in ministries of education, leadership development and parish life.

18 Give thanks for our church's history of hospitality and concern for refugees and immigrants. Pray for the 60 million displaced people in the world and ask God to equip and embolden us to advocate on their behalf and welcome them, in partnership with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, the Lutheran World Federation and companion churches in other countries.

19 *Earth Day Sunday* Praise God for this wondrous creation! Give thanks for how our church embraces our responsibility to care for God's creation through stewardship, education, advocacy and urging one another to take personal and institutional responsibility. Pray that the partnerships and collaborations of the ELCA will produce far-reaching results through ecoAmerica's Blessed Tomorrow program, Creation Justice Ministries, Lutherans Restoring Creation and other networks focused on engaging the church and society in the care and stewardship of creation.

20 Ask for God's grace and forgiveness when questions and doubts undermine our joy in the good news of Jesus Christ. Give thanks that God meets our uncertainty with the same patience and love shown to the disciple Thomas when he needed reassurance that Jesus was the Son of God, the true Messiah and Savior of the world.

21 Pray for worship leaders gathering in Valparaiso, Ind., for the Institute of Liturgical Studies seminar "Living Breath of God: How Word Through Music Forms Us." Ask that the Holy Spirit strengthen and stir their faith, wisdom and creativity as they reflect on questions around the theology and practice of music in our worshipping communities.

22 *Earth Day* Rejoice in God's astonishing handiwork of creation; praise God's life-giving power and might revealed in the smallest microbe and the infinite mysteries of the universe. Pray that we will demonstrate wisdom, appreciation and respect for

nature and all that God has entrusted to our care and use.

23 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

24 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the assemblies of the Alaska and Minneapolis Area synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

25 Give thanks that God is our ever-present refuge, counsel, comfort and joy.

26 Pray that we will recognize the presence of Jesus in our daily lives — at home, at work, at church, in relationships, during leisure time and in our travels and encounters with strangers.

27 Give thanks for the witness and work of Alberto (Gustavo) Driau, regional representative for Argentina and Uruguay; Rachel Ringlaben, YAGM country coordinator; and the seven volunteers serving alongside our companions in Argentina and Uruguay as part of the Young Adults in Global Mission program.

28 Ask God to stir our generosity for supporting the ministries and witness of our congregations, synods and churchwide organization.

29 Pray that we will find words to share our faith in Jesus Christ and our understanding of Scripture with one another and the world, while also trusting that the Holy Spirit works to deepen our faith and enrich our knowledge of God's word and ways.

30 Ask God to help us see and attend to people who are unseen, forgotten, underserved or ignored in our congregations, communities and society — elders who are homebound; people who are quiet, incarcerated, homeless or mentally ill; and people living in shelters, care facilities and group homes.

APRIL 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NOTICE Worship has been cancelled until further notice due to the restrictions placed on public assembly as the result of the COVID19 coronavirus outbreak. Check the Web site at www.wilsonimmanuel.org for updates.				2	3	4
5 Palm/Passion Sunday	6	7	8	9 Maundy Thursday 9:30 a.m. WELCA Meeting at Wilson (TENTATIVE) 12:30 p.m. Council Meeting at Wilson (TENTATIVE)	10 Good Friday	11 Vigil of Easter
12 Easter Sunday	13	14 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting at Immanuel (TENTATIVE)	15	16	17	18
19 Newsletter Deadline	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	May 1	2