



GABRIEL'S GAZETTE

APRIL 2025



*"Loving, Sharing, Serving
Jesus with you."*

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The Beauty of the Resurrection

Last month I defined beauty as that which reflects our beautiful God, or that which shows forth the order and goodness and glory of God. Beauty is not inherently subjective. That is, you don't make something beautiful because of how it makes you feel, it attracts you because there is something beautiful in it. Now, someone may think a sunset at the beach most beautiful and another person might enjoy most a mountain landscape. Someone might like blondes and another brunettes! Neither takes away from the beauty which God instilled in them all.

Also, beauty isn't only something seen by outward appearance. Perhaps you've met a person who was very attractive in appearance, but once you got to know her, all beauty faded away because she lacked character. On the other hand, a person might have lost all the beauty of her youth, but still be beautiful because she is made in the image of God. She is clothed with Christ's righteousness and reflects His character. She is humble and meek and lives a virtuous and faithful life. This is the most precious and beautiful.

Easter is a beautiful season. While the sun is shining longer and bringing more warmth, the flowers are blooming and trees budding, and animals are bringing forth their young, we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. The resurrection brings beauty to everything. It promises new life and restoration. Christ has given us new birth in baptism and is transforming us from one glory to another by the power of His victory over sin and death. He has united Himself with us and His Spirit is transforming us to joyfully reflect God's goodness and love. We are the firstfruits of the new creation. We remember that when Christ returns, He will

make all things new. The whole creation, which has been subjected to futility because of our sin (Romans 8:20), will be restored to its perfect goodness and order.

In celebration of the resurrection, we make beautiful things: art, music, poetry, and perform works of love and mercy to adorn God's creation and glorify His name. Our church's flowers, paraments, vestments, stained glass windows, art, architecture, organ, choir, and other instruments all testify to the beauty of our God. Do we *have* to have them in order to worship God? No. But we don't *have* to do anything to be saved. God gives His grace as a gift! Rather, the joyful response of faith is to glorify God in everything. We can't help but do so! We have an ever-flowing stream of God's grace and love pouring into us, which overflows in praise to God and love for others. We want to transform and adorn the whole world with God's glory, so that it all sings of the One whom God sent to redeem the world.

This includes the creative beauty of the arts. That is why we are celebrating our organ's 40th anniversary this year and collecting funds to add a zimbelstern to our organ. What is a zimbelstern? These are little bells that play to add ornamentation to special stanzas of hymns and highlight special occasions. Do we *need* it? No. We don't *need* an organ either. But this instrument beautifully adorns and assists our singing.

This month, thank God for all that is beautiful in creation, in your church, in your families and friends, especially the beauty of the new life we have in Christ and His resurrection.

Pastor

On April 5th and 6th, after the services, there will be a brief presentation by Christian Palestinians from Bethlehem to give some information about Christians in Israel and Palestine. Many of their families rely heavily on Christian tourism, which has fallen sharply since the Gaza War. They will be selling religious olivewood carvings to support Christians living there. These would make very good gifts for Easter!



The Way of the Cross: Hymns for Holy Week

Join us for Hym'n Ales at Zorn Brewery on



April 7, 6-8 p.m. as we musically walk the way of the cross from Palm Sunday to Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter.

FUNDRAISERS FOR YOUTH HIGHER THINGS CONFERENCE . . .



SPRING FLOWER SALE APRIL 11-28

Youth attending the Higher Things Conference will be taking orders for flower flats and pots from Blooms Garden Center. Information sheets are available in the Gathering Place. Pickup will be on May 26.

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#### Mother's Day Candy/Cookie Flower Bouquets



The youth will be taking orders for hand-made Candy/Cookie Flower Bouquets, **April 20 – May 4.** Pickup will be after the services on May 10 & 11.

### SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES



#### **PALM/PASSION WEEKEND**

Saturday, April 12, Worship at 6:00 PM

Sunday, April 13, Worship at 10:00 AM

#### **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

Thursday, April 17, Worship at 7:00 PM

#### **GOOD FRIDAY**

Friday, April 18, Worship at 12:00 PM &  
7:00 PM

#### **EASTER VIGIL**

Saturday, April 19, Vigil of Easter Service  
at 6:00 PM

#### **THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**

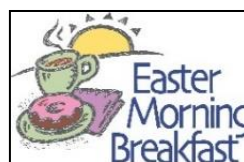
##### **– EASTER DAY**

Sunday, April 20,

Sunrise Service at 6:30 AM

Easter Breakfast at 8:00 AM

Easter Festival Service at 10:00 AM



#### **Our annual EASTER**

**BREAKFAST** will be served immediately following the Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday, April 20.

All the food for this meal, the set-up, and the clean-up are provided by you, the congregation. So, please let us know how you can help this year.

Items needed: egg casseroles (*already baked*), fruit platters (*washed, cut, and ready to serve*), sweet breads and muffins (*sliced and ready to serve*), colored hard-boiled eggs, cash donations, juice/milk, kitchen help, set-up before, and clean-up after. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. If you have any questions, contact the church office, or Lori Dobkins.

Thank you for your help again this year in making our Easter Breakfast possible.



Our Annual  
**Easter Egg Hunt**

is  
**Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 9:30 a.m.**

at Creek Ridge County Park  
on County Road 400 North  
(if it's raining, come to the church)

**For ages 0 – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
Bring your friends!

***Come out and enjoy the  
fellowship and fun!***



## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2025**

**JUNE 23-27**  
**8:30-11:30 AM**

**For children ages 4-11**  
**(or just finished 5<sup>th</sup> grade)**

There's no greater joy than to praise the name of the Lord all day long. But how can your kids do that if they don't know who Jesus is or what he's done for them? Here at *Wonder Junction*, we marvel at Jesus and live for his glory. So, grab your bandana and dust off your boots! We are headed west to *Wonder Junction* where kids will discover the wonder of who Jesus is.

***Watch for registration information  
in the May issue of Gabriel's Gazette!***



## **ZIMBLESTERN**

This year is the 40th anniversary of our organ! In thanksgiving to God for such a beautiful instrument to enhance our services, we will be having an organ concert and hymn sing at the end of the year. We are also going to install a "zimblestern," German for "cimbel star." It is an ornamental stop on the organ to be played on special verses for special occasions. Google it and check it out. We are also asking the congregation for donations toward it. See the poster in the Gathering Place. Mark "zimblestern" on your checks or envelopes.

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Throughout 2025, we will be gathering items for the Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child boxes. Each month, we will focus on collecting a different type of item for these boxes. A collection box is in the Gathering Place.



In April we will collect "WOW" items like:

- soccer ball & pump
- large toy truck or car
- stuffed animals
- musical instruments
- dolls
- other larger toy items

Each item must fit inside a shoebox. For more information, please see Kelli Kalvaitis or contact the office.



It takes a lot of helping hands to offer a quality Vacation Bible School program to our community.

There will be a  
**VBS General Information Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 24**  
**6:30 p.m.**

for all those interested in finding out where their time and talents can best be used to assist Immanuel's Vacation Bible School ministry. We need help during the planning stages, during VBS week, and during the follow-up time after it's over. Plan to attend for more information, or contact Peggy Elser.



## Shepherds & Lambs

### The Sunday School Newsletter April 2025



**We thank God for the baptisms** of three of our students. May they feel the love of their Savior and walk in His way during their life!

**We also welcome** a new student to our 1<sup>st</sup> grade class. God's blessings to these young students.



**On Palm Sunday** our students will follow the last few days of the life of Jesus in *The Way Of The Cross* presentation. Students will walk along 7 stations depicting those events. We will begin at 8:45 a.m., during the Sunday School hour. We invite the Adult Bible Classes and the congregation to join us.

**The students will sing on Palm Sunday,** and two of our students will sing a duet during the Maundy Thursday service.

**We will not have Sunday School classes on Easter Sunday.**



A Blessed Easter to your families as we celebrate the resurrection of our Savior.

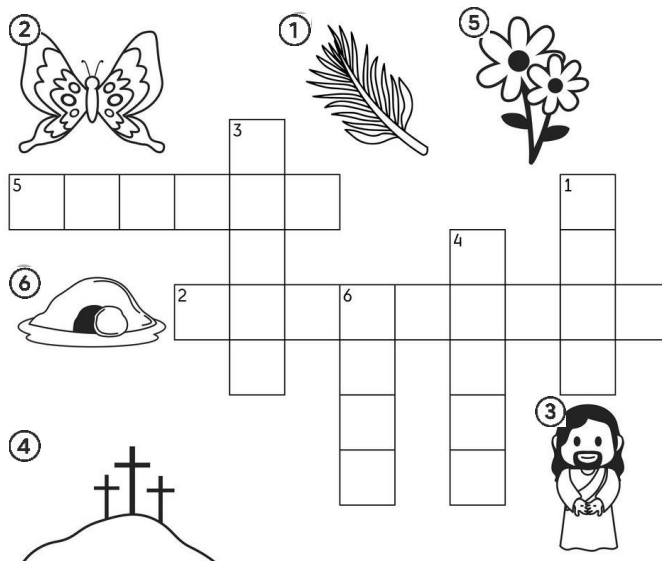
*Lynette Johnston-Martin*  
Superintendent

Some bunny doesn't love you as much as Jesus does!



### RESURRECTION SUNDAY PUZZLE

Guess what each numbered item is and write it in the crossword.



**PLEASE NOTE:** The deadline to submit items for the May Gazette is Monday, **April 7.**



## Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings LSB#782

*Gracious God, You send great blessings  
 New each morning all our days.  
 For Your mercies never ending,  
 For Your love we offer praise.  
 Lord, we pray that we, Your people  
 Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,  
 Through the sharing of Your blessings  
 May bring glory to Your name.*

*By Your Word You formed creation  
 Filled with creatures large and small;  
 As we tend that endless treasure  
 May our care encircle all.  
 Lord, we pray that we, Your people  
 Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,  
 Through the sharing of Your blessings  
 May bring glory to Your name*

*In His earthly life, our Savior  
 Knew the care of faithful friends;  
 May our deeds of dedication  
 Offer love that never ends.  
 Lord, we pray that we, Your people  
 Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,  
 Through the sharing of Your blessings  
 May bring glory to Your name.*

*Heav'nly Father, may our caring  
 Bear the imprint of Your grace;  
 With the Son and Holy Spirit,  
 Praise be Yours in ev'ry place!  
 Lord, we pray that we, Your people  
 Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,  
 Through the sharing of Your blessings  
 May bring glory to Your name.*

