

I know
that my
Redeemer
lives

GABRIEL'S GAZETTE

APRIL 2026



"Loving, Sharing, Serving
Jesus with you."

Immanuel Lutheran Church
1237 E. Coolspring Ave.
Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 872-4419

Email:
[immanuel Lutheran1237@
gmail.com](mailto:immanuel Lutheran1237@gmail.com)

Website:
www.immanuelmc.com



Gloria

The Divine Service: The Gloria

The *Gloria* was first used as a daily hymn by Christians, but by the 6th century, was introduced into the Sunday Divine Service. By the 12th century it had become part of the *ordinary of the mass*. The *ordinary of the mass*, I said in the last article, were the unchanging songs of the communion service in the Middle Ages. These were set to music by almost every composer until the Enlightenment.

After we have sung the *Kyrie*, humbly setting our petitions before our King and asking Him to answer them in mercy, the *Gloria* announces the coming of the King in peace. Indeed our King truly comes to us in His Word and Sacrament, with His gifts to save us. And we praise and worship Him. We address our King as the Almighty, Triune God. Especially when, in the song, we come to the person of the Son, we confess Him as the Lamb of God, our Savior, who takes away the sin of the world and ask for mercy. This anthem from the Angels at Bethlehem (Luke 2) reminds us that the same Lord has come to dwell with us and in us through His gifts in the Divine Service.

You will notice that both for the *Kyrie* and the *Gloria*, I am facing the altar. As a reminder, generally speaking, when I am facing the altar, this is a sacrificial position. We are offering a sacrifice of praise to our God. When

I am facing you, this is a sacramental position. This is when I, as a called representative of Christ, offer to you God's gifts.

But we haven't been singing the *Gloria* for a while now! By the 8th century for Lent and the 13th century for Advent, the *Gloria* was typically omitted during those seasons. Why? The *Gloria* was at first added to the Divine Service during particularly festive days during the church year. It adds to the "pomp and circumstance" of the service, a joyful song of praise to the coming of our King. The taking of it away during the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent adds to the solemnity and heightens our anticipation for the great Easter festival, when the *Gloria* and Alleluias return in full force.

May the return of the *Gloria* for the Easter season remind you of the triumph of Christ's resurrection, who shares His victory with you in the forgiveness of sins! Peace, goodwill to all from God our Father through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Pastor

SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES



PALM/PASSION WEEKEND

Saturday, March 28, Worship at 6:00 PM

Sunday, March 29, Worship at 10:00 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 2, Worship at 7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 3, Worship at 12:00 PM &
7:00 PM

EASTER VIGIL

Saturday, April 4, Vigil of Easter Service
at 6:00 PM

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

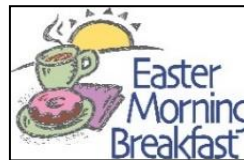
- EASTER DAY

Sunday, April 5,

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 5.

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.



EASTER BASKET

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

- 2 TIMOTHY 1:12 NIV

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VBS

General Information Meeting

Thursday, April 23

6:30 p.m.

It takes a lot of helping hands to offer a quality Vacation Bible School program to our community. Can you help? Please join us on Thursday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m. to see where your 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.





A Better Way

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, "How much should I give?" But this question really means, "Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?"

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn't necessary because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no "Thus saith the Lord," or "should" concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won't be enough left over to get the things that they use, want, or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one's income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7-23; 2 Cor. 9:2-7).

But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? "The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism's Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no

passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all these various ways — time, talents, and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months, and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.

**- LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article
March 2026**

COMING NEXT MONTH . . .



**RUMMAGE SALE
MAY 16**

Are you doing your Spring cleaning yet? Are you wondering what to do with your no-longer-needed items? Immanuel will host a rummage sale in May and would welcome donated items in good condition for the sale. So, start gathering your items now and watch for details on when and where to bring your items. You can contact Lori Dobkins or Kelli Kalvaitis for more information.



Shepherds & Lambs

The Sunday School Newsletter April 2026

My favorite season of the church year is the Lenten/Easter season. I am always in awe of the love God has for us that He would give us a plan for our salvation, free. Free to us - a gift of great love to us! We are so undeserving. Jesus' life for ours. I pray that as parents, you will instill the death and resurrection gift in your children. During Holy Week, talk to your children about Jesus' love for them, that He would give up His life for them. Jesus died for me—I feel so thankful!!!



*Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe;
Who Thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe,
Through Thy suff'rings, death and merit
I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus unto Thee. -LSB 420*

How appropriate is our monthly Bible verse that our students are focusing on -- John 3:16!!



Don't forget—on Palm Sunday the children will be doing some special events during the Sunday School hour. They will also be processing with their palms at the beginning of the service. After the processing, they will sing and can return to their parents. Make sure they are there that day!



There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON EASTER.



We welcome 2 new students in our 3-yr. old class. We are so glad to share the love of Jesus with you!



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

Lynette Johnston-Martin
Superintendent



**Our Annual
Easter Egg Hunt
is
Saturday, April 4th
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 – 4th Grade
Bring your friends!

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

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

For the 2026 Operation Christmas Child Donations each month, we will focus on collecting different types of items for these boxes.



In April we will collect "WOW" items like:

- soccer ball & pump
- musical instruments
- cars/trucks
- dolls
- stuffed animals

Each item must fit inside a shoebox.

Easter Word Search

G S N O I T P M E D E R Y Y M
 J J U Y K I R Y T T F X E O L
 R L K F W E E C I O J E R C K
 X Y N G Q C U W V U P C M C K
 R C R O S S H R E D P H M N E
 I F V A I B Q U I R G P Q R N
 S A Q Z M T M I R A C L E T S
 E I A O I R C H R C O Y I U E
 N T T P R C G E Y O H S S R L
 I H H S O O C A R K I E P V K
 N W O R C S D U B R J V R G T
 O H T N G N T E S F U L A M I
 D P V O U Q F L D K A S Y S H
 Z M E S B Z Z W E M L Y E D F
 E T G L M E G K B S L T R R U

APOSTLES
 CROWN
 LAMB
 PRAYER
 RESURRECTION
 SON

CHURCH
 FAITH
 MARY
 REDEMPTION
 RISEN
 SUNDAY

CROSS
 JESUS
 MIRACLE
 REJOICE
 SAVIOR
 TOMB



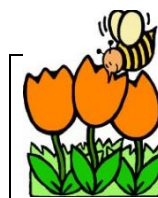
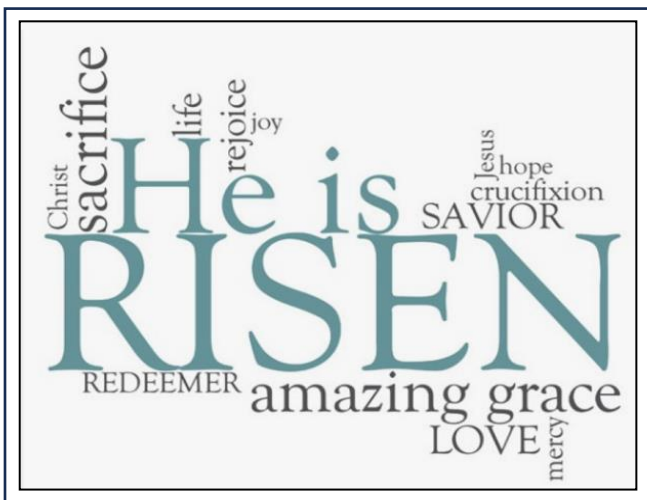
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026
JUNE 29-JULY 3
8:30-11:30 AM

For children ages 4-11
(or just finished 5th grade)

Join us for a Tropical Trek where we will learn how Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10)! As we traverse fun and exciting places, like a dormant volcano and island caves, we'll discover how God finds us and helps us in every challenge we face.

At Tropical Trek VBS, five Bible stories will show kids that God is always there for them, finding them when they're having troubles, feeling lonely, lost, hopeless, or not good enough. In fact, God the Father loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to save us. Because Jesus died and rose to life, we have hope and new life in Him!

Watch for registration information
In the May issue of Gabriel's Gazette.



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