

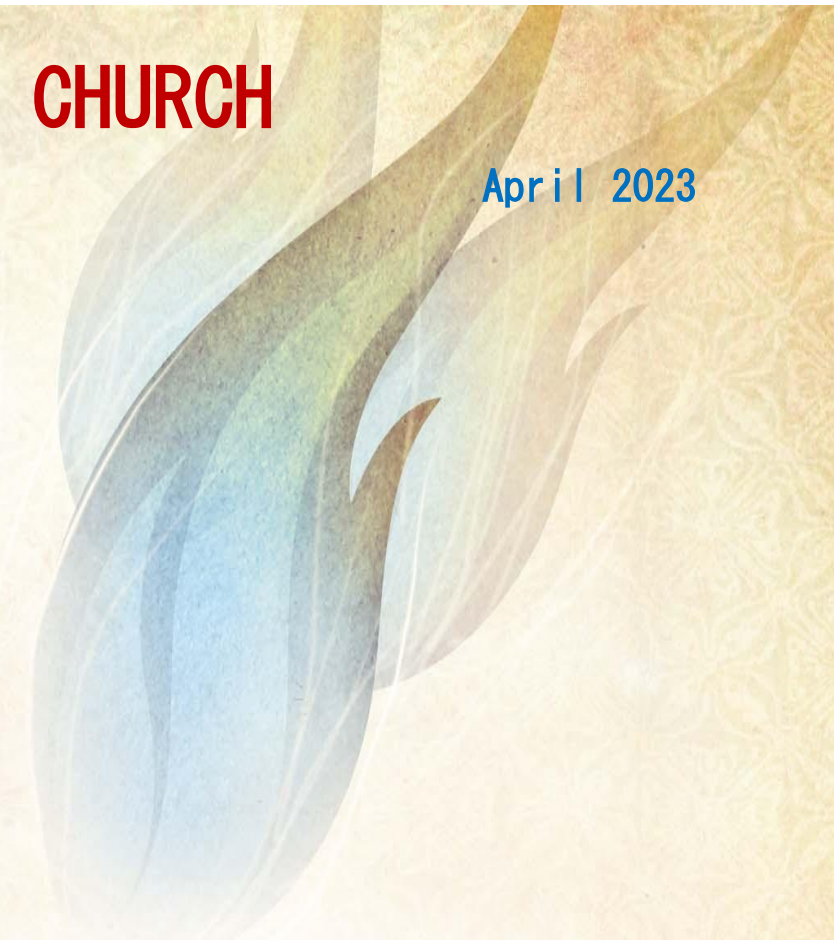
APRIL 2023

A – ANNEX PH – PARISH HALL P – PARSONAGE						1 Kubena/Henkes Wedding Shower 2:00 - 4:00 PM
2 Palm Sunday 8:00 Worship / HC 9:15 Coffee Fellowship Bible Study Confirmation / Sunday School 10:30 Worship / HC	3 7:00 Festival Committee Mtg.	4 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir Practice	5 6:00 Peacemakers Fellowship Fun Night	6 Maundy Thursday 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	7 Good Friday 10:00 Cross Walk at LV City Park 7:00 Good Friday Service	8 8:30 Men's Breakfast - P
9 Easter Sunday 7:00 Sunrise Worship / HC 8:30 Breakfast 9:15 Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 Resurrection Worship / HC	10	11	12 6:00 Adult Meal & Bible Study 6:00 Peacemakers Fellowship Fun Night	13	14	15
16 8:00 Worship / HC 9:15 Coffee Fellowship Bible Study Confirmation / Sunday School 10:30 Worship / HC 12 Special Meeting	17 6:00 Council Mtg.	18 Sewing Circle 9:00 – 12:00	19 6:00 Adult Meal & Bible Study	20 7:00 Lay Ministers Meeting	21	22
23 / 30 8:00 Worship / HC 9:15 Coffee Fellowship Bible Study Confirmation / Sunday School 10:30 Worship / HC	24	25	26 6:00 Adult Meal & Bible Study 6:00 Peacemakers Fellowship Fun Night	27	28 Set-up & Wedding Rehearsal	29 Jones/Walker Wedding 4:00 PM

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH


La Vernia, Texas

April 2023



THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT



Extra Mundum Nulla Salus

Jesus said to him, "Today, salvation has come to this house because this man, too, is a son of Abraham."
Luke 19:9

To Christian people or churches, referring to salvation as an exclusive event of the afterlife is not necessarily a biblical truth. From Jesus's perspective (Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:15;), the kingdom of God and its blessings (salvation) seems to be a reality "*at hand*." This reality points to a close relationship with the Triune God that leads our life in a decisive witnessing of grace over the world (John 3:16-17). It is also a gift that comes from God (Ephesians 2:8), and there is absolutely nothing we can do to achieve it (Ephesians 2:9; Romans 9:8). But the central fact of our exposition remains (as the title of the article expresses: "*Outside Of This World There Is No Salvation*") that to be saved in Christ is a God's action that occurred and is express in our lifetime and circumstances (Do not expect to be saved in an imaginary place after you pass).

The practical and theoretical consequences of salvation "right here and right now" are enormous. For example, this means that salvation must have a visible seal, God's real presence in our life. Salvation acting "in us" in real-time should be noticeable by the world around us. Being saved in Christ is not a cute religious slogan, an ideological stand, or a disguise for Sundays. It is a way of life. Saved in Christ (Christians) is a specific form of being in the world, a way to express and carry our relationships with the Other and live our values and principles (John 13:35). Does this mean that we should be perfect or without sin? No. But it certainly means that our actions, attitudes, words, and even our body language should differ from those who are not Christians. A Christian - male or female - should be humble enough to recognize that yet still a sinner, we are in active training to express Christ's way and grace in daily endeavors. Christians should always be open to own their mistakes and shortcomings and willing to be transformed by the Holy Spirit's power daily for the Gospel's sake (Romans 8:1-17).



Therefore, my brothers and sisters in Christ, let Christ's bright light always be present in our midst (2 Corinthians 4:5-7). Let us be open for God to change those things in us that do not please Him. Let us trust the One who calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9) to proclaim and live His salvation now.

God Bless You All,
Pastor Eric M. Miletta

APRIL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Apr 2	Palm Sunday Ushers Readers Acolytes Altar Guild Multimedia Facebook Live Coffee Hosts Tellers	8:00 AM Mark & Darla Buccigrossi Harold Schott Ryan Maynard, Katelyn Tripp Darla Buccigrossi, Lucy Schott Billy Bunton	10:30 AM Laura Baumann, Patrice Goodman Heather Bales Abigail Clarke, Zaythan Tamez Laura Baumann, Patrice Goodman Patrice Goodman Jana Clarke
Apr 9	Easter Sunday Ushers Readers Acolytes Altar Guild Multimedia Facebook Live Coffee Hosts Tellers	Congregational Council Jana Clarke, Brenda Willeford Sunrise Service - 7:00 AM Chrystal Coble, Ronnie Coleman Colleen Piehl Bryson Coleman, Joshua Stanush Chrystal Coble, Amy Wagner Ronnie Haug	Resurrection Service - 10:30 AM Charles Stork, Tim Ferguson Charles Stork Christopher Homeyer, Henry Scull Charles & Candy Stork Karen Campbell Suzan Ferguson
Apr 16	Ushers Readers Acolytes Altar Guild Multimedia Facebook Live Coffee Hosts Tellers	Men of Immanuel Chrystal Coble, Gloria Kipp Darla Buccigrossi, Randall Richter Joyce Miller Kimber Hild Paige Haass, Joyce Miller Brent Recker	David & Gayle Teel Renee Scull Gloria Henkes, Brenda Willeford Bill Roser Shirley Stanush
Apr 23	Ushers Readers Acolytes Altar Guild Multimedia Facebook Live Coffee Hosts Tellers	Women of Faith Mark Buccigrossi, Patrice Goodman Kathy Volkmann, Amy Wagner Esther DeHaven Ryan Maynard, Matthew Stanush Rebe Penshorn, Taylor Witherell David Haass	Lillian Kosub, Travis Mabry Gary Beran Henry Scull, Zaythan Tamez Jeanette Bailey, JoElla Heinsohn Adriana Willeford Bill Roser
Apr 30	Ushers Readers Acolytes Altar Guild Multimedia Facebook Live Tellers	Sunday School Rebe Penshorn, Darla Buccigrossi Kathy Volkmann, Amy Wagner Esther DeHaven Katelyn Tripp Rebe Penshorn, Taylor Witherell Karen Campbell	Lillian Kosub, Travis Mabry Gary Beran Lillie Faglie, Maddie Schwake Jeanette Bailey, JoElla Heinsohn Jackson Faglie Bill Roser
		Rebe Penshorn, Darla Buccigrossi	



Holy Week

April 2nd

Palm Sunday, 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Procession of Palms and Worship Services
with Holy Communion

April 6th

Maundy Thursday, 7:00 PM

Worship Service with Holy Communion

April 7th

Cross Walk at LV City Park, 10:00 AM

Good Friday, 7:00 PM

Worship Service with Holy Communion

April 9th

Easter Sunrise Service, 7:00 AM

Breakfast, 8:30 AM

Easter Egg Hunt, 9:15 AM

Easter Resurrection Service, 10:30 AM

(Both Worship Services with Holy Communion)

Lutheranism 101: The Book of Concord

As we Lutherans know, God's revelation in the Christian Bible (Old Testament and New Testament) is the main source of doctrine and the authority norm for Christians. Together with the Bible we also believe in the need to the right interpretation of the Word of God (Orthodoxy) vs. interpretations that differ from the norm (Heterodoxy). In our Lutheran tradition the Book of Concord is the foundation for our orthodox beliefs.

The Book of Concord contains documents in which Christians from the 4th to the 16th century A.D. explained what they believed and taught on the basis of the Holy Scriptures. It includes, first, the three creeds which originated in the ancient church, the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed. It contains, secondly, the Reformation writings known as the Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, Luther's Small and Large Catechisms, and the Formula of Concord.

The Catechisms and the Smalcald Articles came from the pen of Martin Luther; the Augsburg Confession, its Apology, and the Treatise were written by Luther's co-worker, the scholarly Phillip Melancthon; and the Formula of Concord was given its final form chiefly by Jacob Andreae, Martin Chemnitz, and Nickolaus Selnecker.

- Apostles' Creed – (2nd Century) Unknown Baptismal Creed used in Rome.
- Nicene Creed – (325-381) Assembled church leaders at the Council of Nicea (325) and the Council of Constantinople. This Creed intends to clearly state on the basis of Scripture that Jesus Christ is the true God equal with the Father and that the Holy Spirit is also the true God, equal with the Father and the Son.
- Athanasian Creed – (6th-8th Century) Named after the great church father, Athanasius, who was instrumental in the drafting of the Nicene Creed. Confesses the teaching of the Trinity and the Person and work of Jesus Christ.
- Small Catechism – (1529) Martin Luther. A short work intended to educate the laity in the fundamentals of the Christian Faith.
- Large Catechism – (1529) Martin Luther. Though covering the same chief parts of Christian doctrine as the Small Catechism, the Large Catechism is really a series of re-edited sermons that Luther preached.
- Augsburg Confession – (1530) Philip Melancthon. Often viewed as the Chief Lutheran Confession; it was presented by the Lutherans to Emperor Charles V at the imperial diet of Augsburg as a statement of the chief articles of the Christian faith as understood by Lutherans.
- Apology of the Augsburg Confession – (1531) Philip Melancthon. After the Roman theologians had condemned many of the teachings of the Augsburg Confession, Melancthon authored this lengthy defense of Confession.
- Smalcald Articles – (1536) Martin Luther. Articles of faith intended by Luther to be an ecumenical platform for an upcoming ecumenical council.
- Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope – (1537) Philip Melancthon. Was intended to serve as a supplement to the Augsburg Confession.
- Formula of Concord – (1577) Jacob Andreae, Martin Chemnitz, David Chytraeus. A restatement of some teachings in the Augsburg Confession over which Lutherans had become divided. The *Solid Declaration* is the unabridged version. The *Epitome* is an abridged version intended for congregations to study. Over 8,100 pastors and theologians signed it, as well as over 50 government leaders.

The North American Lutheran Church (NALC); History

The NALC is a fast-growing Christian church in the Lutheran tradition, uniting more than 142,500 Lutherans in more than 430 congregations across North America. The NALC embodies the theological center of Lutheranism in North America and stands firmly within the global Lutheran mainstream.

We are a church family committed to the authority of the Bible as the inspired Word of God. In keeping with the Lutheran Confessions, we believe all doctrines should and must be judged by the teaching of Scripture.

The NALC has embraced four core values which shape our common life: Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded, and Congregationally Focused. We are a church centered on the unique Gospel of Jesus Christ, animated by missions and evangelism, grounded in the 2,000-year tradition of Christian faith, and organized chiefly to serve our congregations.

The NALC was constituted on August 27, 2010, in Columbus, Ohio, at a Convocation organized by the church reform movement Lutheran CORE. One year earlier, a similar gathering of Lutheran CORE had directed its leadership to develop new organizational alternatives for faithful Lutheran Christians in North America. In response to numerous requests from congregations for the creation of a new Lutheran church, Lutheran CORE developed *A Vision and Plan for the North American Lutheran Church and Lutheran CORE*, published in February 2010. Six months later, our new church was formed.

The constituting Convocation was attended by nearly 1,000 members and visitors from across North America. A number of other churches sent leaders to greet the Convocation, including the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, and the Anglican Church in North America. Bishop Benson Bagonza of the Karagwe Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, preached at the closing worship and, along with retired Bishop Ken Sauer, installed the Rev. Paul E. Spring as the first Bishop of the NALC.

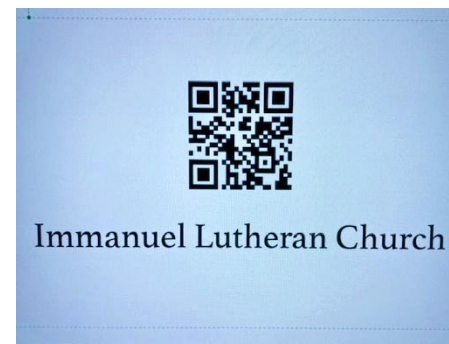
The NALC has been blessed with extraordinarily rapid growth. At the time of the constituting Convocation in August 2010, seventeen congregations had voted to join the NALC. Six years later, that number had grown to more than 400 congregations. Of those, roughly 70 are mission congregations, reflecting the priority placed on missions and evangelism by the NALC. We give thanks to God for all that has been accomplished and seek His guidance as we move into the future with excitement.

<https://thenalc.org/history/>

Pastoral Priorities Program for 2023

1. Education / Knowledge (Hosea 4:6)
2. Prayer (Psalm 127:1)
3. Update Communications (Acts 2:6)

Contact Us!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mary Duelm
- 3 Katherine McLean
- 4 Allison Freeman
- 5 Diana Bell
- 6 Levi Hild
- 7 Jacob Prater
Harold Schroeder
- 10 Gary Beran
Cooper Nichols
- 11 Dewayne Curry
Kevin Louis
- 12 Andrew Koepp
Jessica Koepp
Lauren Koepp
Juan Montoya
- 16 Samantha Kravitz
- 18 Tim Pierdolla
- 19 Elise Koepp
- 20 James Bonds
- 21 Adalee Lahodny
Karen Spinuzzi
- 24 Triston Baumann
- 26 Brylee Coleman
- 28 Christopher Homeyer
Kymberly Tripp
- 29 Kylee Bunton
Michael Pierdolla

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 5TH Bradly & Heather Bales
Bennie & Karen Campbell
- 12th Chris & Tiffany Kosub
- 17th Ronnie & Jane Haug
- 18th Eddie & Brenda Willeford
- 19th Kevin & Bridgett Faglie
- 20th Darryl & Rebe Penshorn
- 22nd Brent & Dianell Recker
- 24th Bill & Carroll Dorsett
- 27th Pastor Eric & Lilia Milette
- 28th Mike & Cindy Collins

SPECIAL DATES IN APRIL

- Apr 2 Palm Sunday
- Apr 6 Maundy Thursday
- Apr 7 Good Friday
- Apr 9 Easter Sunday
- Apr 16 Special Congregational Meeting

YARD WORK SCHEDULE

- Apr 3 - 7 Brad Bales, Betty Maultsby
- Apr 17 - 21 Pat Meyer

FLOWERS FOR APRIL

- Apr 2 Altar Brad & Heather Bales
Piano
- Apr 9 Altar *Easter Lilies*
Piano
- Apr 16 Altar Sandy Friedrich
Piano
- Apr 23 Altar Darryl & Rebe Penshorn
Piano Marvin & Laura Baumann
- Apr 30 Altar **Flowers Needed**
Piano

***** IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- Apr 2 Palm Sunday
- Apr 6 Maundy Thursday
- Apr 7 Good Friday
- Apr 9 Easter Sunday
- Apr 16 Special Congregational Meeting
- May 7 Church Picnic
- May 21 Confirmation

- June 5-9 Mission trip to Puerto Rico
- July 16-20 Vacation Bible School, 5:30-8:30
- Aug 6 Annual Community Festival
- Oct 29 Reformation Sunday
- Nov 22 Thanksgiving Eve Service

- Dec 2 Christmas Market
- Dec 9 Cantata
Senior Saints' Luncheon
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight
Services



Vacation Bible School 2023 – July 16 to July 20, 2023

Plans are underway now for our summer Vacation Bible School, **July 16, 2023 to July 20, 2023 from 5:30pm to 8:30 pm.** Vacation Bible School once again will be held in the evenings. **This year's theme is Keepers of the Kingdom: Standing Strong in Today's Battle for Truth.** Volunteers can sign up online at [ImmanuelLutheranVBS2023.myanswers.com/keepers-of-the-kingdom](https://www.immanuelvbs2023.myanswers.com/keepers-of-the-kingdom) then click on **volunteers at the top.** Once there is a list of volunteers, a volunteer meeting will be scheduled. We will open registration for the kids in May. For more information, stay tuned to our Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/297408141284>

If you have any questions or would like to help, contact Chelsey Thayer or Shasta Franklin.



"Welcome to our church—even though you're sitting in our family pew . . ."

© 1996 David Hartnagel. More at LeadershipJournal.net/Caricatures

La Vernia Christian Food Pantry

With the 40 Cans for 40 Days food drive going on during Lent, supplies at the LV Food Pantry are not so depleted.

Your donations are so appreciated!!

Of the ten plus churches in the Ministerial Alliance that rotate Saturdays, each provides different items so families receive food that contributes to a healthy lifestyle.

We are asked to provide canned meats, pasta, rice, and tomato products.

Our next workday is on Saturday, June 3rd from 8:30 – 11:00 AM



The Women of Faith gathered for a sandwich luncheon with chocolate desserts on February 19. Twelve members and three guests were in attendance. After a short devotion on loving others, everyone got to sample as much chocolate as they desired! Thanks to everyone who brought a dessert and participated in the chocolate contest. Winners were: **Suzan Ferguson**, cakes/cup-cakes; **Amy Wagner**, candy; **Patrice Goodman**, cookies; **Laura Baumann**, miscellaneous; and **Darla Buccigrossi**, pies.

The Women of Faith provided food for the Lenten supper on Wednesday, March 1. We had soups, sandwiches, chips and yummy desserts. Thank you to all of the women who generously donated food and drinks for this event.

Our March gathering was at The Den on March 12. Fifteen ladies and four guests came to listen as Clifton Jansky performed. It was a beautiful spring day, and we, along with others from the community, enjoyed food, fellowship and Christian music in the courtyard for over three hours.

Upcoming events: Sunday, April 16 – Potluck Lunch in the parish hall, noon
 Friday, May 5 – Sisters in Christ Banquet in the parish hall, 6 pm
 Sunday, May 7 – Church Picnic at La Vernia City Park, 10 am

We are planning a retreat for the last weekend in October in Fredericksburg. If you have any interest, please sign up in the narthex so that we can reserve a space and accommodate everyone.

Looking forward to celebrating the Easter resurrection with all of you,

Darla Buccigrossi
 Women of Faith President



2023 marks our 20th Annual Community Festival Anniversary!

We are accepting raffle donations and items through May 1st. If you are interested in contributing to the raffle, please see *Lillian Kosub*. Let's make this our best year yet as we celebrate this milestone!

The next Festival Committee Meeting is Monday, April 3rd at 7:00 PM.



Celebrating their First Communion on 10/30/22 were (from upper left to right) Kase and Kaden Morrison, Regan Smithpeter, Henry Scull, and Kimber Hild



Mark Buccigrossi, Jana Clarke, Chrystal Coble, and Rebe Penshorn were voted in as new Church Council Members on January 29th, 2023

Comparison Data for the first two months of 2022 vs. 2023

Comparison

Attendance & Offerings

**DECLARING
OUR
UNPRECEDENTED
GOD**

January 2022

	Attendance	Offering
• 1/2	89	\$4,203
• 1/9	111	\$3,719
• 1/16	95	\$4,165
• 1/23	107	\$3,981
• 1/30	91	\$3,487

Average 98.6 \$3,911

January 2023

	Attendance	Offering
• 1/1	51	\$2,784
• 1/8	135	\$6,308
• 1/15	113	\$4,023
• 1/22	140	\$4,604
• 1/29	144	\$5,221

Average 116.6 \$4,588

Increase +18.3% +17.3%

Comparison

Attendance & Offerings

**DECLARING
OUR
UNPRECEDENTED
GOD**

February 2022

	Attendance	Offering
• 2/6	119	\$7,942
• 2/13	70	\$4,049
• 2/20	56	\$3,040
• 2/27	104	\$6,462

Average 87.2 \$5,373.25

February 2023

	Attendance	Offering
• 2/5	126	\$5,796
• 2/12	121	\$4,558
• 2/19	134	\$3,908
• 2/26	140	\$6,564

Average 130.2 \$5,206.50

Increase +49.3% -.03%