

APRIL 2024

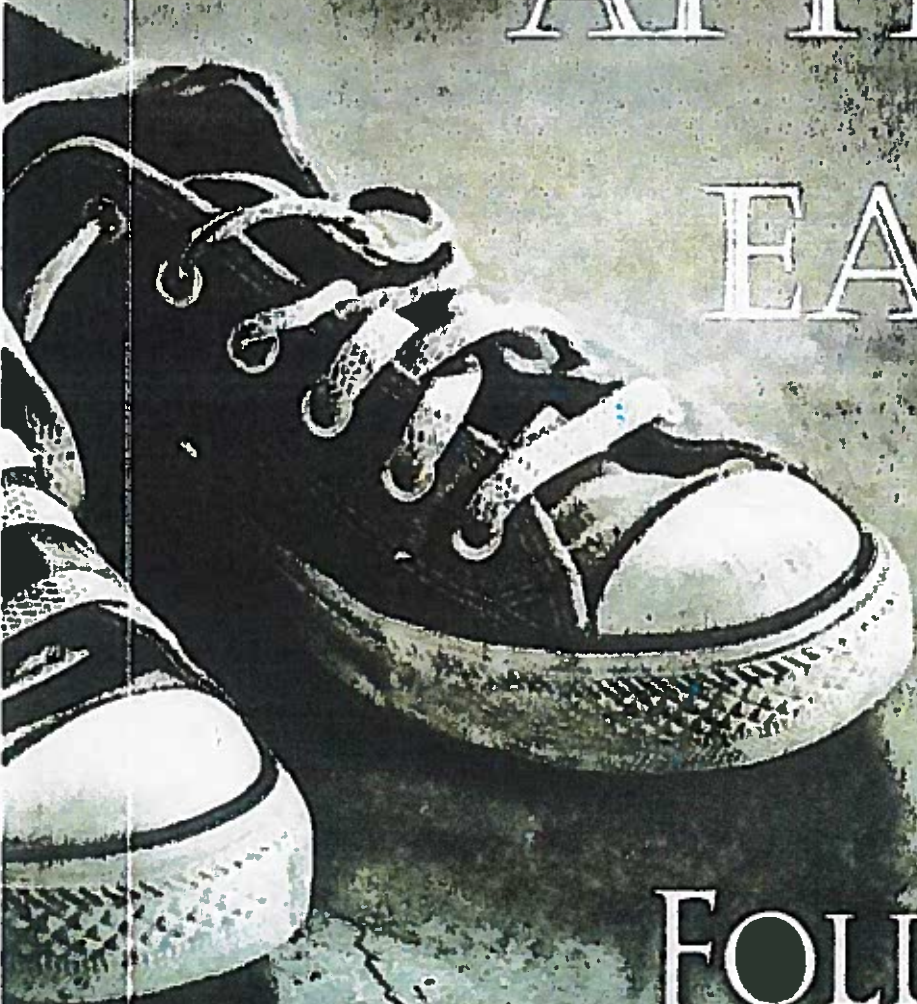
IMMANUEL

MAGAZINE

AFTER

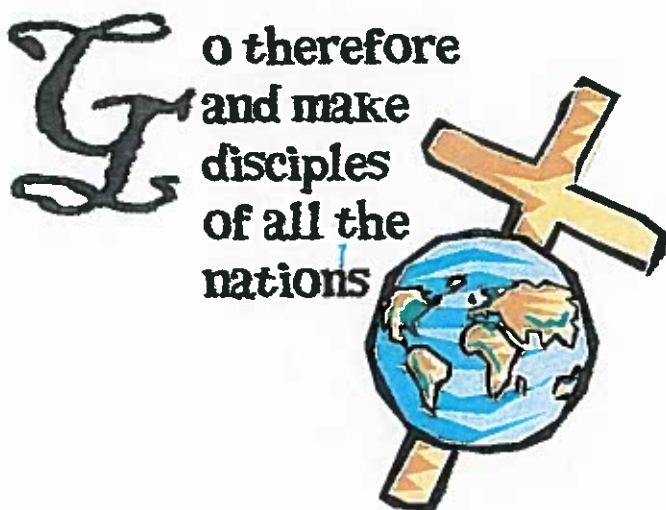
EASTER

FOLLOW ME



Our Front Page

The excitement of Easter could be overwhelming. Family getting together, church celebrations, the certainty of knowing/believing that God through Christ has defeated death, and the Christian hope of an eternal life with the Triune God in paradise is a lot to unpack for just Holy Week.



This month, our magazine and Pastor's message is about the truth of functional guidance to follow after the excitement of Lent and Holy Week.

The message of the risen Christ in Matthew 28: 16-20 is clear, "Go and make disciples." This text is an active challenge for all believers to become teachers (it is the only way to have disciples) of God's grace through the Good News of Jesus Christ to pass from generation to generation the message of salvation.

Jesus' locus as a disruptor of the heavenly kingdom into human history is a loud proclamation, not just of God's grace and sovereignty, but of a game plan for those, like us, who are part of His will of salvation for all (John 3:16-17). To call ourselves Christian is to sign up for a covenant of spreading the gospel to all humanity -without exceptions. This sacred task also entails loving humanity and rejecting hatred for the gospel's sake. It is after Easter that the mission starts. Let us Go in Jesus' name. Halleluia!

The Food Pantry Ministry is Thriving

Please plan to be together as one church in Christ to serve our community through the wonderful ministry of LV Ministerial Alliance/Food Pantry this coming Saturday, April 6, at 8:00 am.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this ministry, please contact the church office or our new Coordinator, Mr. Kris Tripp.



FEED THE HUNGRY

During 2024, our next days of serving after April 6 will be the following Saturdays: June 15, August 24, and November 2.

Come to the Adult Sunday Bible Study

We want to keep sharing an open invitation to Adult Sunday Bible School. As a church grounded in the word of God, we must insist that we all ensure that we are fed in the truth of God. The topic for the first six months 2024 is the Old Testament Prophets. You only need your Bible and a genuine interest in growing in the Lord. Our classes are from 9:15 am to 10:15 am. Pastor Eric M. Miletti is the instructor for the adults. Enjoy this blessing in Christ!



Sunday Morning Adult Study

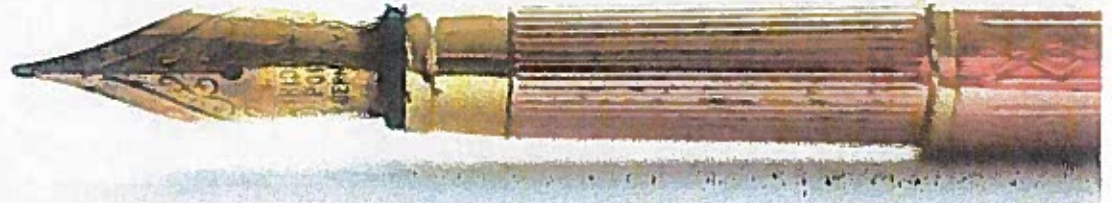
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From the Pastor's Desk



Christian Life After Easter

"Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the death, and indeed, he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." Matthew 28:7

The biblical text above is the angel's message to "Mary Magdalene and the other Mary"¹ when they went "the first day of the week" to see the tomb where Jesus had been buried. This message is highly significant not just because it entails the message of the resurrection in the form of a third-person responsibility/action -Jesus' resurrection here is the act of the Father (He has been raised)- but because the deferred of the public appearance of the resurrected² because a matter of location. The risen Jesus wants to see his disciples in Galilee, not any other place.

Galilee was a unique geographical area for Jesus and the disciples. In Jesus's time, this province included the country's northern section, part of the Jordan River, the Sea of Galilee, and surrounding areas. This is where Jesus grew up because Nazareth was part of this province. More importantly, this is where the old northern kingdom of Israel was established.

According to Collins³, in the second half of the book of Joshua, the allotment of territories to the tribes is explained. It is the song of Deborah in Judges 5 that commemorates the battle for the conquest of the northern regions in Palestine. It is significant to notice that in such an alliance in the fight against the Canaanite kings, the tribes of Judah, Simeon, and Levi are not mentioned⁴. The relevance here is that this division of tribes, mentioned in Judges, ends up in

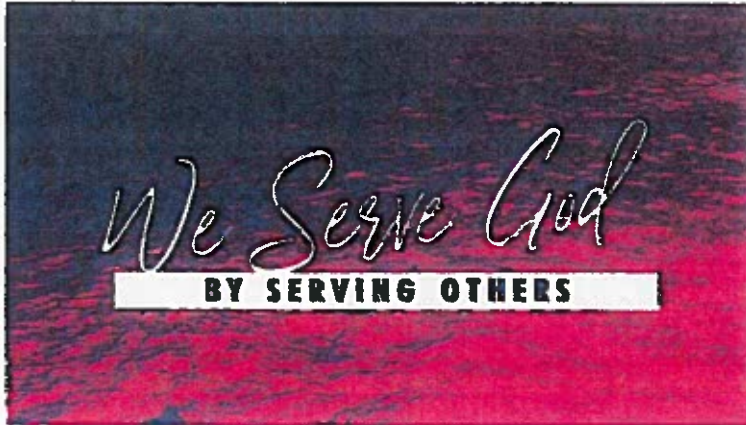
¹ It is relevant to know that the four biblical Gospels -Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John- have different narrations of the Resurrection. For example, in Matthew, there are just two women in the morning of the Resurrection, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary; in the gospel of Mark, there are three women -Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome. Concerning the gospel of Luke, there were an undisclosed number of women (in this case, just three are mentioned: Mary Magdalene, Johanna, and Mary the mother of James), and finally, in the gospel of John, just Mary Magdalene was there. For the biblical and theological differences and the significance of having Mary Magdalene as the only constant through the four narrations, please refer to the Sunday Adult Bible Studies at 9:15 every Sunday.

² This account of deferring in the gospel of Matthew contrasts with the account on the gospel of John where Jesus' impossibility of any physical contact with Mary Magdalene on what could be interpret as a matter of purity in connection with the Law (Numbers 19:11-22).

³ Collins, John J. *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2018. (p.130).

⁴ Ibid. p. 131.

two kingdoms of related tribes. The Northern Kingdom, named Israel, with its capital Samaria, and the Southern Kingdom, named Judah, with its capital Jerusalem. This history between the North and the South is highly relevant to understanding the risen Jesus' reference concerning his request in the gospel of Matthew to reveal himself to the disciples in Galilee.



Since the beginning of the establishment of the tribes in the North of the region, the book of Joshua, chapter 23:12-13, warned such tribes about the uncompleted task of destroying the Canaanites and the risk of intermarriages. This warning was not just about the need to develop a proper identity between the sons of Jacob but about dualistic practices of purity/impurity that are perceived, in the Hebrew Bible, as exclusive when it comes to God's relation to his people.

For texts like Leviticus 12-15 and the Holiness Code in Leviticus 17-26, purification was necessary when it came to sacrifice laws (Lev 1-10) or the day of Atonement (Lev 16). In conclusion, these texts show that the relationship with YHWH is related to the state of individual/collective purity.

This idea of righteousness and purity, plus the fact that the Northern Kingdom was conquered earlier than the South⁵, forced its people to live in exile with new social and religious ties to pagan practices, making the Northern and Southern people religious enemies. The North was an impure place with impure people. Despite this, Christ convoked his disciples there. Although Jesus' resurrection was in Jerusalem, the South, he preferred to show himself in the North. This text element is significant regarding our calling to follow and encounter the exalted Christ. There is no doubt that through this particular request, Christ is challenging the religious purity code of his time.

Through this narrative of the Risen Christ, we are called to keep seeking the blessing of the resurrection in those places where the religiosity of our time disavowed it as unclean. Following and seeking a pick of God's glory through the risen Christ is a call to go where the religious mentality is afraid to visit. Ministering with Christ is seeking and serving the poor, the lame, the blind, the disenfranchised, or our time. Going to Galilee to see Christ is a call to action for all of us. As we pass Easter Sunday, let us go together into Galilee.

I invite you to consider to whom you teach the gospel and how. Where is your Galilee (those places where our religion does not let us in)? What do I need to do to keep actively seeking the resurrected Christ? May the good Lord help to answer these questions humbly and proactively.

God Bless You All,
Pastor Eric

⁵ The Northern Kingdom was conquered in the year 721 BCE by the Assyrian Empire (2 Kings 17:5-23) while the Southern Kingdom was destroyed by the Babylonian Empire in 587 BCE. These two events are highly significant to understand/unpack most texts in the Hebrew Bible (2 Kings 24-25).

women OF faith™

Alleluia! He has risen! He is risen indeed!

What a joy to share these words with everyone on Easter Sunday and every day of the year! What a pleasure to know that our Savior, who died on the cross, couldn't be held down by the devil and the forces of evil. What a joy to know that He lives, and because He lives, we are alive with Him, too.

Alleluia! He has risen! He is risen indeed!

Thank you to all who participated in our first quarter service project by donating your coats, jackets, hats, scarves, caps, gloves, and socks to people experiencing homelessness in our community. All of the clothing was made available to those in need. For our second quarter service project, we will be collecting diapers. They will be donated to the South Texas Pregnancy and Crisis Center in Seguin.

On April 20, 2024, we will gather with our sisters from the **South Texas Mission District** in Three Rivers, TX. A flyer with more information is included in this newsletter, or you can get sign-up forms from Darla or Phyllis in the office. **All forms must be returned by Wednesday, April 3**, so we can get them mailed off on time. A \$20 registration fee covers morning refreshments and lunch. I look forward to having many of you join me on that day!!

Mark your calendars for the **Sisters in Christ banquet**, which will be held in the evening on **Friday, May 3**. The board is working on the program for the evening, and I can guarantee a fun time with the sisters in our congregation – plus a meal provided by the Men of Immanuel. Sign-up sheets will be posted after Easter; please make every effort to attend this year.

With Christ's blessings to all,

Darla Buccigrossi



Men of Immanuel Lutheran Church



If you are a man and are either a member, a visitor, or a friend of ILC,
do not miss our meetings;

Where: At the Parsonage Building at Immanuel Lutheran Church Complex
When: Second Saturday of every month at 8:30 am
What we do: Breakfast together / Study the Bible / Prepare and Plan how to support our church

"Have I not commanded you to be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go"

Joshua 1:9

CHURCH



COUNCIL

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting February 19, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm. Members present were Rebe Penshorn, Wendie Roser, Becca Reeves, Chrystal Coble, Jana Clark, Pastor Eric, Mark Buccigrossi, Kurt Smith, Will Scull, Joyce Block, and Larry Wahl. Mark did the opening devotion. The guest was Gloria Kipp.

Public and Parishioners to be Heard None

Correspondence- Wounded warrior, Lutheran World Relief, Water Mission, Solo Publishing, NALC Disaster Response Cross Trails, Global Refuge, Pew Cushion Company.

Secretary Report: Motion to accept the Secretary report by Mark and seconded by Wendie. Motion passed. minutes accepted to records.

Treasurers Report: After reviewing the report a motion was made by Janato accept the report and seconded by Rebe. Motion passed. Treasurers report accepted to records.

Pastors Report - Had been absent for 2 weeks in a row in January. One week was in Orlando for the NALC retreat which the Theme was "Take time to Rest". Next he reported he was planning on keeping all the 6 studies and classes. Pastor mentioned that the Lenten services were doing great.

Members showed a good interest in the mission trip. Date is set for May 15-22. As of now there are 9 people going. Gloria Kipp, Darla Buccigrossi, Mr. and Mrs. Black, Patrice Goodman, Terry Gibson, David Pianfetti, Pastor an Lilia. Trip should run approximately \$1125.00. Members are paying their own way. Council informed Pastor that they give support for this mission trip. Since Pentacost Sunday is May 19 and Pastor will be gone, the Lay ministers will help out.

Presidents Report -
None

Other Program Reports-

Festival- Becca reported that they have had their first meeting for this year. The committee had discussed and is requesting to move the festival to a cooler time for 2025 which will be their 20th year. After some discussion, Pastor made a motion to move the Festival to the 1st Sunday in May beginning May 2025. Jana seconded. Motion passed.

Council went into executive session 6:49
Executive session ended 7:15

Old Business

- A- 2024 Annual Calendar Review:** Becca passed out schedule of calendar for review and went over.
- B- Building Project Update-** Rebe reported for the building committee. Sanctuary - Contractor stated that the Sanctuary painting is completed. He also submitted a quote for repair of replacing the wooden back door with a 6 panel exterior door and build 2 speaker holders for the organ speaker. Quote of \$3445.00. Since this is for Sanctuary upkeep/repair and speakers are for the organ there was no need for motion. Money will be paid out the Sanctuary repairs and the organ fund. Parrish Hall - Electrical, plumbing, HVAC rough in is complete. Waiting on City of La Vernia approval. Once they receive this, they will begin spray/batt insulation and sheetrock. Contractor also submitted quote for the porches drain slope and the framing of walkthrough door on exterior by garage door plus for swapping the double doors for kitchen and hall to exterior 1'2 glass doors.

amount is under the threshold there was no need for motion.

C- PODS: Since the storage room is not insulated and we are waiting on the City approval, Council decided to extend the rental of the Pods for 1 more month. This way there is not such a rush to schedule moving the items back to the storage before rental is up middle of March.

New Business

- A- Council Member Responsibilities:** Becca passed out and went of the Duties of Council members.
- B- Fence Damage:** Tree that had fell on fence had been cut up. Not much damage. Larry to check on.
- C- Lenten Offerings:** Since several youth are going NALC retreat in Boerne for 4 days, Rebe made a motion for the Lenten offerings to go to the youth. Seconded by Mark. Motion passed.
- D- Council Lenten Supper(February 28)** Jana suggested a taco bar. All agreed. Jana to send out list of items to sign up for.
- E- Bluebonnet and 4th of July parades:** Since the Bluebonnet parade is on the same day as the Lutheran Coronation and the 4th of July parade is during the NALC Youth retreat it was noted that most of the youth will be involved in those events. Will still mention to other organizations in the church of the parades.
- F- NALC youth gathering:** Pastor reported that there were 6-8 youth and a chaperone attending the NALC youth gathering July 1st- 4th.
- G- Classrooms in Parrish hall:** Rebe reported that there are some questioning if there will be a room specific for them. (Sewing circle, Yacht group). Council decided to table till next month to gather more info on what is needed.

Executive session 8:09

End executive session 8:14

H- Election of Council Officers:

- President** -Rebe nominated Becca for President. No other nominations. Becca is President by acclamation.
- V-President**- Wendie nominated Jana. Jana declined. Joyce nominated Rebe. No other nominations. Rebe is VP by acclamation.
- Secretary**- Wendie nominated Jana. No other nominations. Jana is Secretary by acclamation.

Wendie will lead the next devotion at the meeting on Monday, March 18, 2024 at 6:00pm

Motion made by Mark to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Jana. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebe Penshorn



The poster features a blue background with a white and red checkered picnic blanket on the left side. A hamburger and a hot dog are visible on the blanket. The text is written in a white, stylized font.

ANNUAL CHURCH Picnic

Our Annual Church Picnic will be at Immanuel Lutheran on Sunday, May 5. The congregation will join, weather permitting, for an outside service beginning at 10 am. Please bring lawn chairs and tents as you wish.

After service, we will enjoy a hamburger and hot dog lunch with all the fixings. Sides and desserts will be potluck style - please bring a side dish and/or dessert to share.

If you wish to bring any outdoor/group games, please do so as well. If you have any questions, please see a member of the Council.

Contact the church office to RSVP for hamburger/hotdog counts by May 1.



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mary Duelm
- 3 Katherine McLean
- 4 Allison Freeman
- 6 Levi Hild
- 7 Jacob Prater
- 10 Gary Beran
- 11 Kevin Louis
- 12 Andrew Koepp
Jessica Koepp
Lauren Koepp
Juan Montoya
- 16 Samantha Kravitz
- 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



ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Karen & Bennie Campbell
Bradly & Heather Bales
- 12 Chris & Tiffany Kosub
- 17 Ronnie & Jane Haug
- 18 Eddie & Brenda Wileford
- 19 Kevin & Bridgett Faglie
- 20 Darryl & Rebe Penshorn
- 21 Glenn & Molly Frederick
- 22 Brent & Dianell Recker
- 24 Bill & Carroll Dorsett
- 27 Pastor Eric & Lillia Miletta



YARDWORK SCHEDULE

- 04/08 - 04/13 Pat Meyer
- 04/22 - 04/27 Billy Bunton,
Kenneth Mills



APRIL FLOWER CHART

- Apr 7 Altar Heather Bales
Piano Jeanette Bailey
- Apr 14 Altar Joyce Miller
Piano Wanda Mabry
- Apr 21 Altar Laura Baumann
Piano
- Apr 28 Altar Patrice & Hershel Goodman
Piano



KID'S CORNER



Bible Word Search

Apostles / Disciples



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

Word list:

PETER
ANDREW
JAMES
JOHN
PHILIP
BARTHOLOMEW

THOMAS
MATTHEW
JAMES
THADDAEUS
SIMON
JUDAS



Sunday School is Cool



APRIL 2024 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

April 7

	8:00	10:30
Ushers	Mark Buccigrossi Phyllis Caldewey	Lillian Kosub Jeanie Walpole
Readers	Ronnie Haug	Heather Bales
Acolytes	Kaden Morrison	Henry Scull
Altar Guild	Darla Buccigrossi Lucy Schott	Patrice Goodman Laura Baumann Bill Roser
Facebook Live	Joyce Miller	Patrice Goodman
Multimedia	Rebecca Reeves and	Brenda Willeford
Tellers		

April 14

	8:00	10:30
Ushers	Darla Buccigrossi Kathy Volkmann	Tim Ferguson Suzan Ferguson
Readers	Darla Buccigrossi	Suzan Ferguson
Acolytes	Matthew Stanush	Lillie Faglie
Altar Guild	Chrystal Coble Amy Wagner	Charles Stork Candy Stork Shirley Stanush
Facebook Live	Billy Bunton	Jackson Faglie
Multimedia	Kurt Smith and Shirley O'Neal	
Tellers		

April 21

	8:00	10:30
Ushers	Chrystal Coble Amy Wagner	Patrice Goodman Travis Wayne Mabry
Readers	Karen Campbell	Shirley Stanush
Acolytes	Kase Morrison	Abigail Clarke
Altar Guild	Karen Campbell Toni Smith	Brenda Willeford Shirley O'Neal
Facebook Live		Jana Clarke
Multimedia	Karen Campbell	Eddie Willeford
Tellers	Will Scull and Shirley Stanush	

April 28

	8:00	10:30
Ushers	Ronnie Cofeman Randall Richter	Charles Stork Candy Stork
Readers	Douglas Piehl	Charles Stork
Acolytes	Kimber Hild	Maddie Schwake
Altar Guild	Paige Haass Joyce Miller	Troy Stork Caitlin Stork
Facebook Live		Suzan Ferguson
Multimedia	David Haass	Bill Roser
Tellers	Mark Buccigrossi and Phyllis Caldewey	



The Common Confession

(The faith statement of Lutheran CORE – Coalition for Renewal. Adopted: November 2005)

CC1) The Lord Jesus Christ: We are people who believe and confess our faith in the Triune God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We trust and believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord.

CC2) The Gospel of Salvation: We believe and confess that all human beings are sinners, and that sinners are redeemed by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God alone justifies human beings by faith in Christ — a faith that God creates through the message of the Gospel. As ambassadors for Christ, God uses us to speak his Word and build his kingdom.

CC3) The Authority of Scripture: We believe and confess that the Bible is God's revealed Word to us, spoken in Law and Gospel. The Bible is the final authority for us in all matters of our faith and life.

CC4) A Common Confession of Faith: We accept and uphold that the Lutheran Confessions reliably guide us as faithful interpretations of Scripture, and that we share a unity and fellowship in faith with others among whom the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the sacraments are administered in accordance with the Gospel.

CC5) The Priesthood of All Believers: We believe and confess that the Holy Spirit makes all who believe in Jesus Christ to be priests for service to others in Jesus' name, and that God desires to make use of the spiritual gifts he has given through the priesthood of all believers.

CC6) Marriage and Family: We believe and confess that the marriage of male and female is an institution created and blessed by God. From marriage, God forms families to serve as the building blocks of all human civilization and community. We teach and practice that sexual activity belongs exclusively within the biblical boundaries of a faithful marriage between one man and one woman.

CC7) The Mission and Ministry of the Congregation: We believe and confess that the church is the assembly of believers called and gathered by God around Word and Sacrament, and that the mission and ministry of the church is carried out within the context of individual congregations, which are able to work together locally and globally.

Join Our Bible Studies!



Sundays

9:15 am **Adults & Young Adults**

Wednesdays

10:00 am **Women**

6:30 pm **Families**

Thursdays

10:45 am **Day Time Adults**

7:00 pm **Women**

Everyone is welcome!

APRIL 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Adult Meal / Bible Study 6:30 Youth Night & Confirmation	4 10:45 Golden Age Bible Study 7:00 Ladies Bible Study	5	6
7 Second Sunday of Easter 8:00 Worship & HC 9:15 Coffee Fellowship Adult Bible Study Youth Sunday Experience 10:30 Worship & HC	8	9	10 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Adult Meal / Bible Study 6:30 Youth Night & Confirmation	11 10:45 Golden Age Bible Study 7:00 Ladies Bible Study	12	12 8:30 Men's Breakfast
14 Third Sunday of Easter 8:00 Worship & HC 9:15 Coffee Fellowship Adult Bible Study Youth Sunday Experience 10:30 Worship & HC	15 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	16 9:00 Sewing Circle 6:00 Council Mtg.	17 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Adult Meal / Bible Study 6:30 Youth Night & Confirmation	18 10:45 Golden Age Bible Study 7:00 Ladies Bible Study 7:00 Lay Minister Mtg	19	20
21 Fourth Sunday of Easter 8:00 Worship & HC 9:15 Coffee Fellowship Adult Bible Study Youth Sunday Experience 10:30 Worship & HC Women of Faith Luncheon/mtg	22	23	24 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Adult Meal / Bible Study 6:00 Youth Painting @ You're So Crafty	25 10:45 Golden Age Bible Study 7:00 Ladies Bible Study	26	27
28 Fifth Sunday of Easter 8:00 Worship & HC 9:15 Coffee Fellowship Adult Bible Study Youth Sunday Experience 10:30 Worship & HC	29	30				



April 20, 2024

"Be the fruit"

Women of the NALC

The 2024 Spring Gathering for the Women of the NALC of the South Texas Mission District will be held at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Three Rivers on Saturday, April 20th.

Our theme for the day will be "The Fruit of the Spirit" based on Galatians 5:22-23. We will have guest speakers, a Bible study, worship with Holy Communion, lots of fellowship, door prizes and lots to eat.

Registration and hospitality will start at 8:30 AM. We will begin our gathering at 9:30 AM and end the gathering around 3:00 PM.

Registration cost is \$20.00 per person, which includes morning refreshments and lunch. We ask that the registration form be returned to us by Friday, April 5, 2024 so that we may plan for our meal. Please make checks payable to Our Savior Lutheran Church Women.

A monetary offering will be received and presented to Live Oak County Welfare Board, who are our guest speakers. We would like to request a physical offering of throw blankets (any size, rolled up) to go to NALC Disaster Relief.

Name(s) of those attending:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

[[Only fill out your name and return the form with your payment to Darla or Phyllis in the office by Wednesday, April 3. I have a master list and will fill out the form for all of us attending from Immanuel Lutheran Church!]]