

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Altamont, Illinois



Second Sunday after Easter
April 7, 2024

Church	618-483-6395	www.immanuelaltamont.org
Office Hours	Monday-Friday	9AM-Noon & 1PM-4PM
Rev. Dr. James F. Wright, Pastor	217-994-1116	jimwright1961@gmail.com
Kendra Walker Dir of Youth/Fam	217-821-7249	kmwalker79@yahoo.com
Church Secretary	618-483-6395	immalt22@gmail.com
Missionary		Rev. Ted Krey, Dominican Republic

Welcome Guests

We pray that you will be blessed worshipping the Lord with His people. Please sign a guest attendance card and place it at the end of your row. Please join us often.

In Our Prayers

Medical Care Susan Muenchow Bellas, Dale Berg, Tom Campbell, Heather Davis, Gloria Fortkamp, Abbey Franzen, Sharon Hiser, Linda Holste, Kenny Milleville, Ruth Ann Owens, Lucille Schroeder, Patti Smith Sessions, Evelyn Shumaker, Shirley Siddens, Ruth Ann Smith, Catherine Zumwalt.

Homebound Kay Traub, Linda Holste, Howard Voelker

Hospitalized Dale Berg and Leona Wolff

Condolences

Prayers of sympathy to God for wife, Carolyn, and family of **Mike Myers** who passed away this past Sunday.

Also, prayers for the family and friends of **Rev. Richard Loesch**, former pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church of Blue Point, who died on March 8, 2024, at the age of 95. He served congregations in Beloit, WI, Huntsville, TX, Bowen, IL, Palmyra, MO, Washington, MO and Altamont, IL.

Volunteers Needed

Help Needed for operating the projection screen for Saturday 6:00 PM and Sunday 8:30 AM services with Microsoft PowerPoint slides. See Pastor or David Burrow.

Handbell Choir is looking for a ringer. Please contact Sheryl Marble if you are interested in jumping in for April / May.

Current Bible Study & Learning Opportunities

Pastor's Bible Class 9:45AM in LL on Sundays; currently "Heroes of the Bible, Joseph."

Women's Bible Study entitled "*Sip, Savor and Drink Deeply Receive God's Overflowing Gifts*" will meet Wednesdays at 7 PM in the lower level of Parish Hall (PH).

Women's Bible Study in PH at 8:00 AM on Tuesdays with Ruth Spilker. Current Study: Book of Psalms

Men's Bible Study in PH at 6:15 AM Wednesdays. Current Study: Book of Hebrews

Women's Bible Study at Vicki Robinson's 9 AM on Mondays. Current Study: Matthew

Women's Bible Study with Andy meeting at 7:15 PM on April 10th and 24th in the Conference Room. Current Study: Book of Job

This Week At A Glance

CEFS Week 2

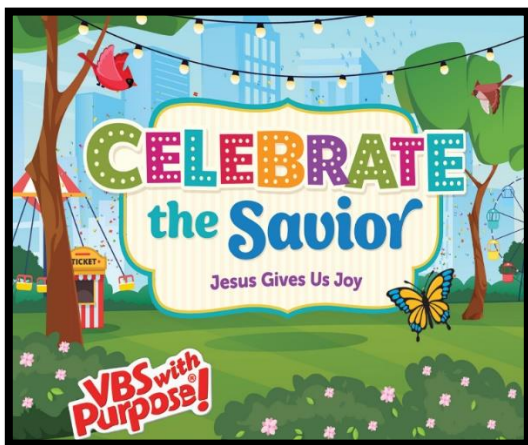
Mon. April 8	9:00 AM	Vicki's Bible Study
Tues. April 9	8:00 AM	Women's Bible Study
Wed. April 10	6:15 AM	Men's Bible Study
	3:30 PM	Public School Confirmation Class
	6:15 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 PM	Sip, Savor Bible Study with Kendra
	7:15 PM	Mixed Choir Rehearsal
	7:15 PM	Bible Study with Andy
Thur. April 11	1:00 PM	Sewing Seeds of Kindness
Fri. April 12		
Sat. April 13	6:00 PM	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. April 14	8:00 AM	Men's Choir Practice
	8:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:45	Sunday School
	9:45	Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	5:00 PM	Young Adult Bible Dinner
		Media DVD to Tower – Dave Frederking
		Greeters: 6:00 PM Mike and Debbie Hanson
		8:30 AM Deb Winter /11:00 AM Debby Frailey

"In the resurrection we find solace in our mourning, in our uncertainty, and in our troubles. Our longing for escape finds its hope in the resurrection of Christ. It is God's approval upon the redemptive work of His Son. It is the assurance that as He was raised from the dead, so shall we, and all who have 'fallen asleep in Him' shall be raised to life eternal." *Pastor Robert Fleischmann, Christian Life Resources – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Upcoming Events



March for Life in Springfield
On April 17th the bus will leave from the Parish Hall Parking Lot at 7:30 AM. The bus sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Bring a sack lunch, or with a \$5 donation a lunch at the Statehouse Inn Ballroom will be available. Info flyer is in the narthex.



Immanuel Vacation Bible School

"Celebrate the Savior"

Save the Date: May 28th – 31st from 1 — 4 PM**

Opening and closing will be at ALIS gym

VBS is a great opportunity for us to minister to children and create outreach within our community. If you'd like to take part, volunteers are needed for advance preparation as well as help during VBS. Donations to support the program are also needed and much appreciated.

Please contact any of the following designated activity chairpersons listed below if you'd like to help prepare:

Music – Sarah Arend 217-343-7081

Crafts – Timmerle Scholes 217-240-0648

Decorations – Candy Wolff 618-267-3834

Games – Cassidy Lowry 618-267-5864

Snacks – Randi Berg 217-343-7742

Signing up to volunteer during VBS is available on our church website at <https://www.immanuelaltamont.org/>

****NOTE** time change to avoid overlap with basketball camp



LYF Participation Dates

Together Time meeting today (April 7th) at **ALIS**. The next meeting (April 21st) will meet as normal in the PH lower level.

Jr LYF - 5-6:45 / Sr LYF - 6:15-8 / Supper – 6:15-6:45

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



YOUNG
ADULT

DINNER

Joe's Pizza April 14
Altamont 5:00

Get together with other young LCMS adults to
discuss the formation of a young adults
Lutheran Bible Study, ages 18-30.



Young Adult Dinner at Joe's Pizza in Altamont on Sunday, April 14th, at 5:00 PM. Get together with other young LCMS adults in Christian fellowship to discuss the formation of a young adults Lutheran Bible Study, ages 18-30 years of age. For more information, contact Violet Wendling at 618-704-6114.

Fundraisers

Scholes Family Benefit will be Friday, April 12th, from 5 – 8 PM at St. Paul Blue Point Lutheran Church. The menu includes BBQ sandwiches, hot dogs, macaroni & cheese, applesauce, chips, ice cream, and Texas sheet cake. Carry-out will be available. It is a free-will donation. A live pie auction featuring some of St. Paul Blue Point's famous bakers will occur at 6:30 PM. This event is to help with the family's medical bills and other needs.



Immanuel Cookbooks are here! Pick one up during office hours or catch them on display during the weekend. The cost is \$15. Proceeds support the Ladies Aid and 150th Anniversary Celebrations.

Media

Lutheran Hour Listen to Rev. Michael Zeigler on "The Lutheran Hour" on Apple, Google, Spotify, Sprecker, iHeart Radio, and Amazon Alexa, or tune in on WCRA, 107.7 FM, 1090 AM Sunday at 9:30 AM, and WPMB 104.7 Sunday at 12:03 PM. Lutheran Hour Ministries is a Christian outreach ministry supporting churches worldwide in its mission of **Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church**. Lutheran Hour Ministries produces Christian radio and TV programming for broadcast, as well as Internet and print communications, dramas, music, and outreach materials, to reach the unchurched in more than 30 countries. LHM's flagship program, **The Lutheran Hour**, is the world's longest-running Christian outreach radio program. It airs weekly on nearly 1,800 stations. For more information, visit www.lhm.org or call 1-800-876-9880.

Issues, Etc. is a ten-hour weekly syndicated radio talk show and podcast. The program features expert guests, expansive topics, while extolling Christ. The program is hosted by Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Jeff Schwarz. Find it at issuesetc.org

Music For the best in Lutheran music and talk, try lutheranpublicradio.org

KFUO radio, St. Louis is the broadcast voice of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Hear it online at kfuo.org.

A Total Solar Eclipse will happen tomorrow, Monday, April 8, around 2 PM (CST) and Altamont is in the path. From New Mexico to Maine a shadow of the moon will be cast across the USA. The closer to the center of the shadow's path, the better the view. I'll be heading toward Mt. Vernon with my family to watch. I hope you can get outdoors to see it, but be sure to use the special filtering glasses or you may damage your eyes.



Eclipses are naturally occurring phenomenon. There have been several voices saying this is a special judgment of God against us. This is true, but only in part. Whenever we see the power of nature, we should think of the God who made all things. Whether it is a great mountain, an ocean, the stars at night, or a total eclipse of the sun, we should give glory to the creator God who fashioned the world. Not only did He make all things that we behold with our eyes and ears, but He still uses his power to sustain them. When we see the power of God, we should also consider how far we fall short of His expectation for us. We have not lived the life that he instructed us to live. This is a reminder of God's judgment on us.

So in that sense, the eclipse is a judgement of God upon us. I am also reminded of the times where the sun stood still or was hidden, which were not naturally occurring phenomenon, but were caused by God's interaction in human history. God caused the sun to stay still in the sky at the battle of Gibeon. In those days the five kings of the Amorites attacked the people of Gibeon. Joshua prayed to God that the sun would stay in the sky for an extra day in order to rout all the enemy from the land, and the Lord granted it, as recorded in Joshua chapter ten:

The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. ¹⁴There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the LORD listened to a human being. Surely the LORD was fighting for Israel!

Another time was at the death of Jesus. The gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke record that darkness covered the earth from the sixth hour (noon) to the ninth hour (3 pm) when Jesus died. This is a judgement not on the people of earth, but on Jesus himself, as he took responsibility for all the sins of every person who ever lived. This was not an eclipse, because it lasted for three hours, not ten minutes. Also, because Jesus was crucified at the time of the Passover festival,

which is celebrated at a full moon, it is impossible for an eclipse to happen. The sun must shine on the face of the moon to be reflected for us to see it on earth during a full moon. For that to happen the moon must be located to the side of the earth, not between the earth and the sun.

What caused the sun to be dark for three hours? There is no way to know, and it is not necessary to know. It is a miracle. Whether it was something in the atmosphere, or a failure of the sun to shine at all, all we can say is it was caused directly by God to show God's judgment on sin. Jesus took that into himself and carried it into death, thereby freeing us from its guilt and shame.

The sun will stop shining once and for all when Jesus returns to earth. Matthew 24 records Jesus saying, *"In those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man"* (Matthew 24:29-30).

As you see the eclipse tomorrow, thank God for his power in creating such wonders, and for his grace in making the sun a sign of the lifting of his judgment of your sin, and a sign of Jesus triumphal return to earth. He will bring us to a new heaven and a new earth. It will be the home of God's righteousness for us.



*The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The sky above
proclaim his handywork (Psalm 19:1).*

Pastor Wright