

Immanuel Evangelical Church

April, 2026



EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION



2026 Holy Week & Easter Schedule

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |
| Palm Sunday March 29 | Maundy Thursday April 2 | Good Friday April 3 | Easter Sunday April 5 |
| 10:15 am Worship | 6:00 pm Passover Feast in Fellowship Hall Menu: roasted lamb, nan bread, sweet bread, boiled eggs, grapes, cheese, mixed nuts 7:15 pm Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary | 8:00 pm Good Friday Drama Sponsored by Jr. & Sr. High Youth | 6:45 am Community Easter Sunrise Service at Harvest Park 8:00 am Easter Breakfast Menu: kalaches, biscuits & gravy, fresh fruit. drinks 9:00 am Easter Egg Hunt 10:15 am Easter Worship with Holy Communion |

NMA pastors invite you to Easter Sunrise Service

The pastors of the Needville Ministerial Alliance are once again hosting a Community Easter Sunrise Service at Harvest Park on Sunday, April 5 at 6:45 am.

Praise music will be supplied by the worship band from Carmel Church and Pastor Ron Shifley from Immanuel Evangelical Church will deliver the message. Communion will be celebrated for all attending.

Bring your family, your lawn chairs, and share in the joy of Christ's resurrection this Easter morning!



A free daily online Lenten Devotional Guide www.d365.org

Journey to the cross during Holy Week with daily devotions, including Scripture, music, meditation and prayer.

Scan the QR code to experience this Lenten devotional online.

Get the [d365 Daily Devotional](#) app on your Apple or Android app store.



Rev. Ron Shifley
Senior Pastor
Office 979-793-6282
Pastoral Emergencies
Cell 419-905-9844

Deanna Shifley
Interim Youth Director
Office 979-793-6283
Cell 567-242-4490
Email: youth@jecneedville.org

Samantha Sebesta
Leaps & Bounds Director
Office 979-553-3357

Jackie Moody
Organist/Pianist

Church Secretary
Church Office 979-793-6125
Email office@jecneedville.org
Mon-Fri 9:00 am -- 1:00 pm

Ron's Ramblings

Was it a morning like this?

I often wonder what it was like on that first Resurrection Day in Jerusalem—the day that Jesus rose from the dead. I know that it seems like every Easter Sunday morning when Deanna and I head to Easter Sunrise services, the birds seem to be chirping a loud joyous song. Is that something that birds do every morning and I miss it, or is it just an Easter thing?

The Gospel of Luke gives us a description of what happened that day:

“On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!

Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” Then they remembered his words.

When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.” (Luke 24:1-12)

I can't imagine what it is was like for Mary Magdalene, Mary, Jesus' mother, and Peter to see the empty tomb. To hear the news that Jesus was risen from the dead, and later that day to see the risen Christ for themselves.



Back in 1978 Jim Croegaert tried to express the wonder of that morning when he wrote the lyrics to the song, “Was It A

Morning Like This?” Christian singer, Sandi Patty made the song famous. Part of the lyrics go like this:

“Was it a morning like this

When Mary walked down from Jerusalem

And two angels stood at the tomb

Bearers of news she would hear soon

Did the grass sing?

Did the earth rejoice to feel You again?

Over and over like a trumpet underground

*Did the earth seem to
pound He is risen?*

*Over and over in a never
ending round*

*He is risen hallelujah
hallelujah”*

Every time I hear this song, my heart pounds. The lyrics create an immense sense of joy. It's like the song transports you to the countryside outside of Jerusalem right alongside Mary, Peter and John.

I would like to invite you to hear this song again for yourself this Easter season. Watch the

YouTube video linked to this article. Let the music and the lyrics transport you back to Jerusalem on that first Resurrection Day. Let Scripture and the Holy Spirit seep into your soul to feel the wonder of that moment again. Don't let the resurrection of Jesus be just a nice story this year. Let the wonder of this miracle of miracles come alive again, so that you might begin to feel the power of our living God. May God bless you with the wonder of Easter morning. Amen.



Purim Supper a fun, meaningful celebration



Twenty-five members of our church family gathered to celebrate the biblical holiday of Purim on March 1 with the 2nd annual Purim Supper.

The evening featured worship around the table and a delicious meal of roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables and dessert.

Following supper the Old Testament story of Queen Esther was told and folks had fun making noise while twirling wooden rattles every time the evil Haman was mentioned.



Teen Sunday School Class

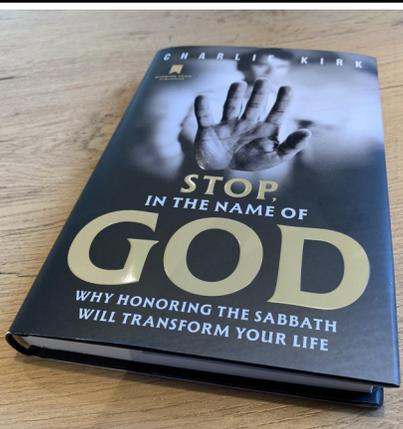
Sundays at 9:00 am Food Pantry Classroom
Teens grades 7 to 12 invited!



Children's Rotation Sunday School Sundays 9:00 am

April Adventure: "The Great Commission and Ascension"

Grades: preschool to grade 6



Adult Sunday School Class

Sundays at 9:00 am
Library Classroom

Adults of all ages invited!

IEC YOUTH

Deanna Shifley, Interim Youth Director
Email: Deanna.shifley@gmail.com
Cell: 567-242-4490
Office: 979-793-6283

Catacombs breaks attendance record again in March



For the second month in a row, Catacombs broke its attendance record with 55 youth attending the Friday night ministry on March 20, the first week back from Spring Break.

Highlights of the evening featured volleyball, karaoke and Jo Ann Morton leading around a dozen girls in fun dance songs in the gymnasium.

Average attendance in February and March has been 43 teens. A good number of teens who attend our church actively attend Catacombs on a weekly basis. Also, we've seen several unchurched teens who have been attending Catacombs migrate into our Wednesday night youth ministry. Some of them will

be participating in the Good Friday Drama on April 2.

Please keep this ministry in your prayers. Pray for the teens and their families. Pray for our volunteer chaperone staff: Nathan Gaskamp, Dale Oberhoff, Dena Dick, Mike Richter, Shirley Richter, Brenda Carson, Mark Lawler, Kim Lawler, Brad Brown, Kathy Brown, Jo Ann Morton, and substitutes Sharon Hedt, Rita Hedt, Nancy Urbanek and Suzanne Mikeska, among others who help out from time to time.

Thanks for everyone's prayers and support of this outreach ministry.

2026 EA Summer Camps

Youth Mission Trip (grades 9-12)

Sunday to Thursday June 14-18

Location: New Braunfels, TX

Cost: \$250.00 per person

Register at evangelicalassociation.org/texasyouthmission

Youth Camp (grades 6-9+)

Sunday to Wednesday July 13-15

Location: Camp Lost Pines, Warda, TX

Cost: \$175.00 per person

Register at: evangelicalassociation.org/texasyouthcamp

Kids Camp (grades 2-5)

Thursday to Friday July 16-17

Location: Camp Lost Pines, Ward, TX

Cost: \$75.00 per person

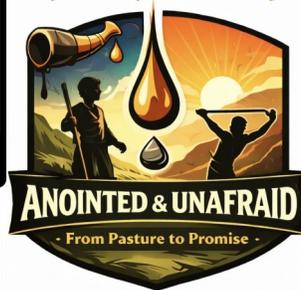
Register at: evangelicalassociation.org/texaskidscamp



SCAN ME

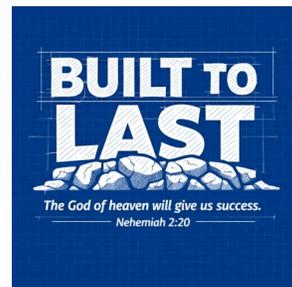


SCAN ME



"my God turns my darkness into light."

— PSALM 18:28 —





Reliving the Passion of Christ

Members of our junior and senior high youth fellowship rehearse for the Good Friday Drama to be held on April 3 at 8:00 pm.

Join us at 8:00 pm on Good Friday for the youth drama.

A NOT SO TERRIBLE PARABLE
 the mysterious whodunit about the good samaritan

Music Camp 2026
June 22-26 | 9:00-2:00 pm
 Musical performance: Fri. June 26 at 6:30

Register at: <https://immanuelevangelicalchurch.org/music-camp>

2026 Graduates:
 Please confirm with Deanna by **APRIL 22nd** that you are graduating, where you are graduating from, and future plans. Also, please include a picture to be included in May's Newsletter.
Deanna.shifley@gmail.com

April Missions/Outreach

April Missions: Streethearts of Haiti

Our Missions Committee has chosen the Streethearts of Haiti as our wider missions focus for the month of April.

Founding missionary, Linsey Jorgenson writes about the boy pictured at right, "Every smile in this photo represents a story rewritten - from surviving the streets to building a future filled with faith and purpose."

Streethearts of Haiti has been helping to build lives filled with faith and purpose for forgotten street kids in Haiti since 2012. Over 122 youth and young adults call Streethearts their home. The boys are given housing, an education, healthcare, a second family, and most importantly the love and good news of Jesus Christ.

Our goal is to raise \$1,000 for Streethearts of Haiti in the month of April via the special mission envelopes located in the pews. You can learn more about the Streethearts of Haiti by viewing the Digital Missions Display in the main lobby of the church or visiting their website: streetheartshaiti.org



Leaps & Bounds MDO NEWSLETTER

April 2026



Monthly Bible Verse

**He is not here, but
He is risen.
Luke 24:6**

Easter Egg Hunt

April 2 we will celebrate Easter with our egg hunt. Please send 1 dozen stuffed eggs and a basket. We will start at 12:30 with our 18 month old & 2 Year Old Class and the other classes will follow. Parents are welcome to join us; students will be dismissed when they are done hunting.

Spring Pictures

Gebhart Photography will be here on 4/23 for picture day. Order forms will be sent home soon!

NYF Parade

It's fair time! We will be participating in the NYF Parade on April 25 at 10:00am. Our theme is "LEGO AND LET GOD". More information will be sent home soon!

April

4-2 Easter Egg Hunt 12:30
4-16 Donuts with Dad 8:30
4-16 Pizza Day
4-23 Spring Picture Day/ Pre-K
Graduation Pictures 8:30
4-25 NYF Parade 10:00
4-28 Needville Elem. Registration
4-30 Zebra Day

April Birthdays

Macy 4-22



Donuts with Dad

Join us on 4/16 for our annual Donuts with Dad breakfast!



Search process begins to call a new Youth Pastor

A Search Committee has been formed to search for a candidate to hire as our new Youth Pastor.



The Youth Pastor Search Committee met for the first time on March 26. The Committee is still looking for a couple more members to join the team. Contact Melissa Kostelnik if interested.

A brief online survey will be emailed to the congregation just after Easter to get input from the church family on the kind of candidate that we will look for along with priorities for children's and youth ministry in the future.

Most importantly, we are asking for the whole congregation to keep the Youth Pastor search process in your prayers, that God would lead us to the best candidate for our church family.



Help Wanted!

We are looking for volunteers to help run our worship projection system including Media Shout and Live Streaming. A class will be forming soon, please text Deanna at 567-242-4490 if you are interested.

**IMMANUEL
ANNUAL BROTHERHOOD
EASTER BBQ SALE
PRESALE ONLY**

Let the Brotherhood cook your Easter BBQ meal. Again this year, we are cooking whole beef shoulder and selling it by the pound. You can buy anywhere from 1 to 100 pounds. Pork and beef sausage (from Cernoch's) will also be available for purchase, by the link.

Pickup time will be Saturday, April 4th, 11-1:30pm (@BBQ pit)

Prices:
 BBQ Beef Shoulder \$20 per pound
 Link of Sausage \$10 per link

Use the order form below and turn in by **April 1st at 12pm** to Immanuel Church Office (9018 Church St)

ORDER FORM:

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

_____ pounds of BBQ Beef Shoulder
 _____ links of Sausage

Total: \$ _____

Make checks payable to : IEC Brotherhood

Bop Til' You Drop at a Sock Hop!

Join the Women's Guild for a delightful luncheon with lots of laughter and conversation as we step back in time...

**Immanuel Fellowship Hall
Saturday, April 18th 11-1**

RSVP by 4/12/26

Sandra Zacek 281-785-4297
 Becky Oberhoff 281-684-3547
 Sharon Hedt 832-595-5824
 Roxy Graeber 281-239-4223
 Sheila Elster 281-455-5002

Offering by Credit or Debit

To give by debit or credit card, you can scan this QR code. It will take you directly to an app to make your donation.

Thank you for your support!



| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> | 3 <i>Good Friday</i> | 4 |
| | | | <i>Children's Fellowship</i> 4:00-5:30 pm <i>Bell Choir</i> 5:30-6:00 pm <i>Youth Fellowship</i> 6:00-8:00 pm | <i>Leaps & Bounds</i> 8:30-2:30 pm <i>Passover Feast</i> 6:00 pm <i>Communion Service</i> 7:15 pm | <i>Good Friday Drama</i> 8:00 pm | <i>Fellowship Hall Reserved</i> |
| 5 <i>Easter</i> | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| <i>Sunrise Service @ Harvest Park</i> 6:30 am <i>Breakfast</i> 8:00 am <i>Egg Hunt</i> 9:00 am <i>Sunday School</i> 9:00 am <i>Worship</i> 10:15 am | | <i>Leaps & Bounds</i> 8:30-2:30 pm <i>Fellowship Cmte.</i> 2:00 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i> 6:30 pm | <i>Food Pantry</i> 9:30-12:00 pm <i>Children's Fellowship</i> 4:00-5:30 pm <i>Bell Choir</i> 5:30-6:00 pm <i>Youth Fellowship</i> 6:00-8:00 pm | <i>Leaps & Bounds</i> 8:30-2:30 <i>Missions Committee</i> 6:00 pm <i>Worship Committee</i> 6:30 pm <i>Cub Scouts</i> 6:30 pm | <i>Sr. Citizens Lunch</i> 11:30 am <i>Catacombs</i> 8:00-11:00 pm | |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| <i>Sunday School</i> 9:00 am <i>Worship</i> 10:15 am | | <i>Leaps & Bounds</i> 8:30-2:30 pm <i>EA Board of Directors Mtg</i> 9:00-5:00pm | <i>EA Board meeting</i> 9:00-2:00 pm <i>Children's Fellowship</i> 4:00-5:30 pm <i>Bell Choir</i> 5:30-6:00 pm <i>Youth Fellowship</i> 6:00-8:00 pm | <i>Leaps & Bounds</i> 8:30-2:30 pm <i>Consistory</i> 7:00 pm | <i>Sr. Citizens Lunch</i> 11:30 am <i>Catacombs</i> 8:00-11:00 pm | <i>Women's Guild Luncheon</i> 11:00 -1:00 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| <i>Sunday School</i> 9:00 am <i>Worship</i> 10:15 am | | <i>Leaps & Bounds</i> 8:30-2:30 pm <i>EA Camp Meeting</i> 1:00 pm <i>Brotherhood</i> 6:30 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i> 6:30 pm | <i>Food Pantry</i> 9:30-12:00 pm <i>Children's Fellowship</i> 4:00-5:30 pm <i>Bell Choir</i> 5:30-6:00 pm <i>Youth Fellowship</i> 6:00-8:00 pm | <i>Leaps & Bounds (Picture Day)</i> 8:30-2:30 pm <i>NMA Clergy</i> 4:00 pm <i>Cub Scouts</i> 6:30 pm | <i>Sr. Citizens Lunch</i> 11:30 am <i>Women's Guild</i> 2:00 pm <i>Catacombs</i> 8:00-11:00 pm | <i>Leaps & Bounds in Youth Fair Parade</i> 10:00 am |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |
| <i>Sunday School</i> 9:00 am <i>Worship</i> 10:15 am | | <i>Leaps & Bounds</i> 8:30-2:30 pm | <i>Children's Fellowship</i> 4:00-5:30 pm <i>Bell Choir</i> 5:30-6:00 pm <i>Youth Fellowship</i> 6:00-8:00 pm | <i>Leaps & Bounds</i> 8:30-2:30 pm <i>Search Committee</i> 6:30 pm | | |

PRAYER LIST

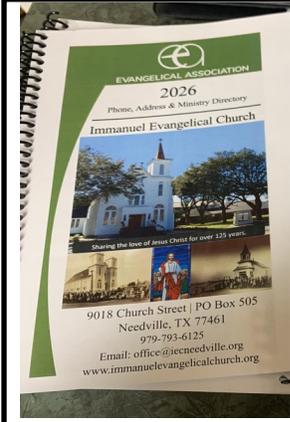
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|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Mark Paweleck | Cecelia Blinka | Clarence Thielemann | Jo Ann Conrad |
| Tommy Lovel | John Spears | Nathan Gaskamp | Paul Flessener |
| Keith Warncke | Harvey Mager | Robert Hallgren | Glynn & Bernice Schmidt |
| Brandon Beck | Joyce Christ | Ellvina Loehr | Barbara James |
| Cindy Schulze | Barbara Sims | Carolyn Kaluza | Norma Freund |
| Sue Hurta | Barbara Schroeder | Waymond Schulze | |
| Cecil Tielke | Erna Thielemann | Becky Tabler | |

Needville Ministerial Alliance
National Day of Prayer Service
 May 7 at 7:00 pm | Carmel Church

GLORIFY GOD
 AMONG THE NATIONS

SEEKING HIM
 IN ALL GENERATIONS
 1 CHRONICLES 16:24 NASB
 THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



The **2026 Church Directory** has been published.

Pick up a copy for your family after worship today.

It is available at the Welcome Center table.



Celebrating an Anniversary this Month

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Justin & Samantha Svatek | April 02 |
| Virgil & Elizabeth Leus | April 03 |
| Gerald & Wanda Miller | April 10 |
| Sage & Lauren Hlavaty | April 13 |
| Bill & Kim March | April 17 |
| John & Jill Otto | April 19 |
| Cody & Bianca Mach | April 20 |
| Wade & Teresa Bosse | April 22 |
| Matt & Laura Casassa | April 25 |
| Mike & Shirley Richter | April 28 |

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------|---------------------|----------|
| Cain Todd | April 01 | Clarence Thielemann | April 15 |
| Matt Casassa | April 01 | Grant Kelly | April 16 |
| Jennifer Eversole | April 01 | Bruce Oberhoff | April 16 |
| Kirk Schmidt | April 02 | Jill Otto | April 17 |
| Kylie Nowak | April 03 | Gerald Miller | April 19 |
| Rusty Moody | April 03 | Emersyn Raska | April 21 |
| Jason Fletcher | April 04 | Sandra Dorr | April 21 |
| Bobbie Richter | April 04 | Mason Todd | April 22 |
| Grace Nelson | April 05 | Dianne Sebesta | April 23 |
| Garren Schmidt | April 05 | Donna Moody | April 23 |
| Dave Goodbread | April 06 | Emmett Kelly | April 24 |
| Tracy Beck | April 06 | Grady Legendre | April 24 |
| Raymond Schmidt | April 07 | Katherine Lovel | April 24 |
| Randall Schmidt | April 08 | Troy Mills | April 25 |
| Hailey Leus Volz | April 09 | Rhonda Jurek | April 25 |
| Clinton Mikeska | April 09 | Tammera Miller | April 26 |
| Gregory Schmidt | April 09 | Cindy Nulisch | April 26 |
| Justin Bosse | April 10 | Patrick Kelly | April 27 |
| John Stern | April 11 | Whitney Griffith | April 29 |
| Madison Casassa | April 12 | Ruth Bowman | April 29 |
| Chloe Schwaiger | April 12 | Edgar Wendt | April 29 |
| Demi Singletary | April 12 | Mildred Novak | April 29 |
| Dylan Novak | April 12 | Cody Simmons | April 30 |
| Glenn Urbanek | April 12 | Ryan Simmons | April 30 |
| Jewel Lovel | April 14 | Shirley Richter | April 30 |
| David Dick, III | April 15 | | |

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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