

# The Manger

#### **Connecting Lives to Christ**

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA

517 S Clinton Street Grand Ledge, MI 48837

©PHONE:

(517) 627-6310

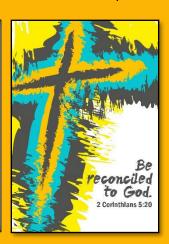
**WEBSITE:** 

Immanuel-gl.org

#### Worship Services: Sunday

8 & 10:30 am Worship9:15 am Christ Connection9:15 am Adult Bible Study6:00 pm Alternative Worship

Daylight Saving Time: Spring Ahead March 10



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#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT.... a note from your Pastor

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10

"A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending worship regularly, stopped coming.

After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a big chair near the fireplace and waited. The pastor made himself comfortable but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs.

After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet fascination. As the one lone ember's flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and "dead as a doornail." Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting.

Just before the pastor was ready to leave, he picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it."

You have probably heard the statement that you "don't have to go to church to be a Christian." To which I would say, that is true. Likewise, you don't have to have a parachute to jump out of an airplane, but it sure helps! What I mean to say, that being a faith family, means participating in the body, and the body meets on a regular basis to celebrate what God has done. We call this worship, our worship, given to God, because God is worthy. Not because we get something out of it, although that very well can and should happen. But because of all that God has done, our response can only be one of complete gratitude and praise. And the irony is that when we come to give, we receive from God's grace an abundance that we could not imagine! Vital, life giving time, spent in praise to God and in fellowship with one another, this faith community.

I know that coming to worship is a choice, one of the many we make each week. But think about *this* particular choice; is it healthy to worship frequently? Yes, studies show that it is. Does it add peace and longevity to our lives to pray and to come together in community? Yes, studies show that it does. So, when you go to Meijer to grocery shop, do you pick out the items that are the best, the healthiest choices? Truth be told, maybe not always, but you strive for these things because you care about your health and your family's health.

I do too! And as your pastor, I really am focused on your spiritual health! I care about you and your walk with God. I care about when you are laid low by life and when you are celebrating. I care about your doubts and fears and joys and sorrows. I truly do. And the best, the very best possible thing we can do, is to come together with all those things and worship God, the maker and giver of all things. Maybe worship isn't exactly what you want it to be, but did you ever think that maybe, just maybe, God wants you to be bored for an hour each week? Perhaps in that uncomfortable spot, God is reaching out to you.

I want you to be encouraged, not feel like I'm picking on you. But the truth is, the ember cannot glow very long on its own. It needs the strength and warmth of the rest of the fire in order to burn brightly. I hope that you can see the truth in this message, and that God works in your heart to fan the flames of the spirit. I miss you, your family misses you. I hope that we can gather together soon.

Growing with you, Pastor Chuck



At February's meeting Blanche Schaudt was nominated and voted in as Recording Secretary of Council.

I recently came across this verse and am comforted in its words.

#### Isaiah 41:13 states

"For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, "Do not fear, I will help you."

Change is inevitable. There are times when we feel it coming and there are times when it catches us unaware. It can be uncomfortable and stressful. The Lord takes our hand. Once we reach acceptance, change can be seen as an opportunity to work, worship and serve stronger in more ways than we could have imagined. We may just be surprised as what we're capable of.

It can be difficult to trust but we should have no fear. God has our hand.

#### **Daylight Savings Time Begins:**

March 10 Spring your clocks ahead and one hour!



# Preparing Corner! Cindy Foy, Education Director

Christ Connections (Sunday School) classes continue every Sunday at 9:15am! Please share your child(ren) with us on our path to learning more about God and His word!

VBS/Day Camp is July 22-26 and we are slowly starting to plan for this event! We have the wonderful counselors from Stoney Lake leading the way again this summer! Put this week on your calendar and look for a volunteer board in the near future! It will be here before we know it, along with warmer weather!

Remember each classroom is tithing for certain charities so please encourage your child to bring their change in to class! Thank you!
Have a great month!

### Join the Fun!

March 5, 2019

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

5-7 pm

Cost: \$8 Adults, \$5 Kids 4-10, Free 3 & under Here at Immanuel!

Proceed will go toward camp scholarships for Middle & High School Youth



#### **Serving Team Corner by Den Graeber**

The February Noisy Offering for the Grand Ledge Food Bank was \$175.05. Our March Noisy Offering is scheduled for Sunday, March 10 for Blessings in a Backpack. Let's make some noise. Thanks!

Our special offering of food for the Grand Ledge Food Bank is scheduled for Sunday, March 17. Thanks for your continued support as the food bank reaches out to help the community.

Looking Ahead - You are invited to attend the **Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 21**. The breakfast will be held between the two church services. This year's breakfast will be a Continental style breakfast planned and hosted by the Serving Team. Make plans now to attend

Time to direct your

#### Thrivent Choice Dollars

Prior to March 31 or you will loose them.

If you have any questions please contact Kris.

Hernden @ 712-7185.

#### **Luther League II**

Food/ Fellowship/ Laughter
Luther League II will meet for lunch at
Cugino's at 1:00 p.m.,
Monday, March 11.

Please call Kris at 517-712-7185 or Richard/Sharon 517-627-2538 to let us know if you can make it.

We enjoy good food and GREAT fellowship. We would love to have YOU join us.



## Immanuel's Usher Schedule March - April

Thank you to everyone who volunteers to be ushers. It has been trying for some of you for not knowing for sure if you are scheduled for a certain Sunday. Hopefully this new approach will alleviate any questions. I am providing information to Jeanie to put in the newsletter who is scheduled for each Sunday and we will post it on the bulletin board for at least a quarter of the year at a time. This is primarily for the 2nd service (10:30), the early service (8:00) handles itself. Generally, 2 ushers are all that is needed for a Sunday. A greeter at the entrance is appreciated also. If it is a large crowd, the greeter and anyone in the congregation can help with the service.

If you have any questions about responsibilities, needing to change Sundays with someone or would like to be added to the usher list contact Dale Stein @ 627-3875.

#### Schedule:

Date	Ushers	Greeter
3/3 3/10 3/17 3/24 4/7 4/14 4/21 4/28	Scott & Julia Hoornstra Jean Folk & Jan Martinich Jim & Scherrie Bryant Carol Espie & Rick Merrifield Lyn & Cindy Smith George & Annette Ryan Greg & Karlene Ketola Riggs Family	Linn Smith Barb Jetmore Jackie Fedewa Chris Frysinger Scott Hoornstra Julia Stornant Mike Fedewa
	US	HEDULE

#### **Upcoming Events:**

Friday, May 17: 6-11 pm Confirmation Interviews

June 2: Recognition of Graduates

July 7-12: Stoney Lake Camp

July 22-26 VBS Day Camp here

#### **Funeral Luncheon Help**

If you are interested in helping out with funerals at Immanuel, by either serving in the kitchen or bringing a salad or dessert, please contact Blanche Schaudt at: 517-627-5456 or bls\_u@yahoo.com

We are making plans and would like to include you if you are interested.

Thank you for considering.

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

WHO'S CELEBRATING

March 03 Carol Espie March 12 Patty Riley

March 03 Genevieve Ketola March 12 Adam Van Hoesen

March 03 Christopher Kuhlman March 14 Phil Hill

March 05 Jane Goebel **March 15 Anthony Gatewood** 

March 05 Noah Bailey

March 06 Fred Roush March 16 Julia Hoornstra

March 06 Lyn Danes March 17 Mike Folk

March 06 Mindy Turner

March 07 Brad Matzke

March 07 Brandi Coffman March 20 Jeanie Schaaf

March 07 Scarlett Hubert

March 09 John Burg

March 10 Mike Wesley

March 11 Carol Weigel

March 11 Anna Matzke

March 15 Adam Fracker

March 18 Gary Lass

March 18 Kody Wood

March 21 Alisha Kuch

March 22 Scott Hoornstra

March 23 Virginia Balgoyen March 29 Jacob Hickok

March 24 Brandon Foy

March 25 Jake Ward

March 25 Jessica Proper

March 26 Helen Kollman

March 26 Betty Hoffner

March 27 Theodore Larson

March 28 Grace Bucholz

March 29 Tony Holland

March 30 Amanda Gatewood



March 09 Jim & Scherrie Bryant March 10 Wayne & Blanche Schaudt

March 15 Jim & Carol Drown



2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					01 8 pm <b>AA</b>	02 8 am <b>AA</b>
03 First Fruits Offering 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Bible Study 6:00 pm Alternative Worship	04 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal 7 pm Women's Bible Study	7 am MITM Bible Study 11-3:30 SEWL Quilting 5-7 pm Shrove Pancake Supper	06 Ash Wednesday 7- 9 am Ashes to Go 12 & 7pm Worship	O7 Clergy Conference Here 7:15 pm Choir Practice	08 8 pm <b>AA</b>	09 8 am <b>AA</b>
10 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 am "Christ Connections" Classes & Bible Study 6:00 pm Alternative Worship 6:30-7:30 pm SNL	11 1 pm Luther League Lunch at  4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal 6:30 pm Team Meetings	12 7 am MITM Bible Study	13	14 7:15 pm Choir Practice	15 8 pm <b>AA</b>	16 8 am <b>AA</b>
17 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm Alternative Worship	18 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal 6:30 Council Meeting	19 7am MITM Bible Study	20 First Day of Spring	7:15 pm Choir Practice	22 8 pm <b>AA</b>	23 8 am <b>AA</b>
24& 31 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15-10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm Alternative Worship 6:30-7:30 pm SNL on the 24th	25 4-6 pm Community Meal	26 7am MITM Bible Study	27	28 7:15 pm Choir Practice	29 8 pm <b>AA</b>	30 8 am <b>AA</b>



#### **Office Hours**

Jeanie: Mon – Friday 9 am- 3 pm Pastor Chuck: Monday – Thursday

9:00 am – 5:00 pm