

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:
Wednesday
7:00 pm Worship
Sunday
9:30 am Worship



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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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

The LORD said to Moses: ²Tell the Israelites to take for me an offering; from all whose hearts prompt them to give you shall receive the offering for me. ³This is the offering that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, ⁴blue, purple, and crimson yarns and fine linen, goats' hair, ⁵tanned rams' skins, fine leather, acacia wood, ⁶oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing-oil and for the fragrant incense, ⁷onyx stones and gems to be set in the ephod and for the breastpiece. Exodus 25*

The topic of what we give to God as our offerings comes up frequently enough in the life of the church that some people tend to tune out whenever they hear or read anything about our financial stewardship. I hope this is not the case as you read this brief article.

The scripture calls us to be cheerful givers; something that for a long while eluded me personally. I gave, but I did so hesitantly, almost begrudgingly because I believed the more I gave, the less I had. I viewed my tithe as pieces of a pie. As I gave more to the church, there would be less for my family. Simple. The other reason I believe that a sense of cheerful giving took longer for me to understand is that I saw my offering as something that the church “needed” in order to function. It became about paying bills and about what I was doing to help pay the bills of the church. Now, I don’t know about you, but when I pay the Consumers bill, I don’t find much cheerfulness in doing so. It just has to be done. It is a cost.

I wonder if we changed our attitude about our giving, if perhaps we could actually become these cheerful givers that the Bible calls us to. I’d like to suggest that our giving is simply a reflection of our trust in God; it is an alignment of our priorities with what we understand are God’s priorities. As we trust that God has our best interest in mind, we can let go of the false notion of control and this letting go provides such a sense of joy and peace, that our giving becomes cheerful. It is the exact same feeling you get when you help someone in need. It is that sense that you DO make a difference in the world. You DO have an impact on the beauty of this world.

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

As we jump right into summer, I invite you to consider your giving; is it done out of a sense of trust or a sense of guilt? God does not ask for our *guilt*; God wants our trust and faith that God will provide for us, God's beloved creation. Trust that God loves you beyond your comprehension. This opens the way to your giving growing into a joyful reflection of faith. Once you let go of all that weighs you down may you realize how filled to overflowing your cup is. May you discover this sense of abundance in your offering and the true blessings of God be yours.

Journeying with you,
Pastor Chuck

Pastor Chuck

Council Corner

Karen Ketola

The school year may be winding down but we're not slowing down at Immanuel. We're revving up with many opportunities to connect lives to Christ.

We look forward to our summer schedule of one worship service at 9:30 on Sunday mornings and a 7 pm service on Wednesday. If you'd like to host a simple meal before Wednesday worship please call Glen or Shar Saxton at 517.626.6637 or Jeanie at 517.627.6310. Hosting the meal outside brought passersby to our ministry and worship and we're hopeful to continue.

Noteworthy items from recent Council meetings:

Pending contract approval ILC is pleased for the opportunity to have Ken Clark's Coat Closet (KC3) occupy the 501 Building. KC3 provides free clothing and personal needs items to children and families in Eaton County. KC3 also provides a work based learning environment for special education students in Giving Eaton County Kids Opportunities (GECKO). This opportunity to work with Ken's Closet aligns with our ministries in so many ways. Stay tuned for an update.

Upon recent receipt of 2017 Common Ground earnings Council voted to designate National Youth Gathering as benefactor of \$2,100.

Mike Pitchford shared our Endowment Fund activity. There are different ways ILC can plan for the best use of our resources when they're needed. These can include increasing individual giving and changing the way funds are invested long term resulting in a higher return.

Funds from the Memorial Committee were used for the installation of a new cement pad near the main entrance. Benches will be purchased soon to complete this sitting area.

ILC continues our spring clean up to tidy our grounds and buildings. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex as well as an electronic sign up emailed earlier in May. *How can you help?*

I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart. I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. Psalms 9:1

Sincerely, Karen



Christ Connections creating cards for First Responders



Reflections on 2018 Synod Assembly

Be thou my vision Oh Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

This has always been one of my favorite songs and hearing it being sung (and many other favorites) by 300+ people at the Monday morning Eucharist was just one blessed moment at the Synod Assembly this year.

As we practiced using our hand held voting devices, one of the questions asked of everyone to respond to was “What has been the best part of this Assembly?” And it was an overwhelming number who responded with “Worship.”

Webster states that one definition for worship is to “show reverence and adoration for God.” Beyond the resolutions proposed and voted on; beyond the budget that was discussed and decided on; beyond any discomfort one might have been feeling; beyond any sad news that was shared and prayed on, Worship was highlighted with the hope in Christ by ordained ministers and lay persons together under one roof. That, too, was my favorite part. And it began on Sunday evening with a service highlighted by the Reverend Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton, who spoke about what our vision should be. I hope that this sermon becomes available for everyone to listen to, because it touched on many of the concerns, hopes, joys, and moving forward ideas that as Christians/Lutherans we should all be about.

She also spoke about “dehumanization” which is something that I have pondered on intently at times, and read about and understand to be one of the biggest problems we face today as human beings. But she followed up with this at a Meet and Greet we were able to have with her and Bishop Satterlee during lunch on Monday. Besides what Micah 6:8 tells us to do, she stated “You need to love God and love each other. When new people come into your church, smile and be welcoming. Don’t smile and welcome them, and then say, ‘But you can’t sit there because that is our place to sit every Sunday.’ Be the person that when others look at you, they see God in your facial expressions, your verbal expressions and in your actions.” This is what we all need to be about.

Thank you for allowing me to sing with, and learn from some of the kindest people to be with, praising God; Praising the work that is being done by the ELCA around the world; and praising one another for the very good work that is being done in our own congregations. It is all about building the kingdom of God here on earth.

Blessings,
Blanche



Preparing Corner! Cindy Foy, Education Director



Our last Christ Connections class for this season was May 20th. We celebrated with Bible Bingo, ice cream sundaes and other games. That same day we recognized and gave thanks for all the great Christian Ed volunteers. We so appreciate everyone's help. Along with the *Affirmation of Baptism* for ten of our young people, it was a tremendous day of praising God!

On Sunday, June 3rd, we will recognize our graduates and celebrate with cookies and punch after worship. Be sure to take time to congratulate our graduates on a job well done!

Stony Lake is coming up in July and we have 10 campers attending! For any questions about Stony Lake camp, please contact Karlene Ketola.

We are excited to be doing something totally different for bible school this summer. **Adventure Day Camp** will be the week of July 16-20 from 12:30pm to approximately 5:30pm with a free community meal following. This day camp is led by **Living Water Ministries** camp counselors from Stony Lake. LWM comes and provides a camp experience with a variety of activities, worship and music similar to what campers would experience at Stony Lake. There will be a "Sign-Up Sunday" soon to give everyone the opportunity to volunteer in some way, shape or form. We pray that you will consider taking part in this new and exciting outreach.

Looking ahead, (mark your calendars) we are kicking off next school year's Christian education on **August 19th** with outdoor worship and picnic at Fitzgerald Park. Watch for more details to come!

Preparing Team welcomes teammates who are inspired to help prepare our youth for life in Christ with a strong foundation through Christian Education and service. Do you feel called to this ministry?



Day Camp for Kids

Serving Team Corner by Den Graeber

May's Noisy Offering for the Grand Ledge Food Bank was \$119.33. The June noisy offerings are scheduled for Wednesday, June 6 and Sunday, June 10 for Blessings in a Backpack.

Thanks for your continued support of the special monthly offering of food for the Grand Ledge Food Bank. Our May special offering totaled approximately 50 items. The grocery cart for our ongoing support through food donations is always available in the church lobby. Our next special food donation offerings are Wednesday, June 13 and Sunday, June 17.

As a community we had an opportunity to reach out to families in need of food through the Postal Carriers Food Drive. Approximately 4400 items were donated to the Grand Ledge Food Bank and will especially help with food orders over the summer months. Thanks! Thanks for your support to Immanuel's Appreciation/Recognition to the Grand Ledge First

Responders, Firemen and Police Officers. A nice variety of treats were donated and some members of the Serving Team delivered the goodies along with the thank you posters and pictures and cards. They were very much appreciated. Thanks to the kids in Christ's Connections for the pictures and cards they made. Nice Job!

Special thanks to our quilters who created 6 graduation quilts for our High School Graduates. These will be presented on Sunday, June 3, please take some time to congratulate these graduates and admire their quilts as a gift from their Immanuel family.

God's Work Our Hands is scheduled for September 9. Representative from the Gathering, Preparing, Serving and Support Teams will be working on this year's God's Work Our Hands Team. In addition, we are reaching out to anyone in the congregation that may be interested in volunteering to be a part of this team that will plan the day's events and service projects. If interested please call Den Graeber (517) 224-8888. Our first meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 4 at 6:30p.m. Thanks!

Stewardship Corner

Ways that Immanuel practices healthy Stewardship (with your tithes and offerings)

- ❖ Use credit card points to purchase office supplies
- ❖ Had Consumers install updated programmable thermostats and LED lightbulbs to save on energy costs. (*this was free from Consumers*)
- ❖ Only using energy heat/cool/lights when there are planned activities in the building
- ❖ Purchased our copier outright to avoid high priced maintenance contract
- ❖ Recycling whenever possible
- ❖ Buying any needed supplies only when on sale
- ❖ Utilizing the screens for worship to reduce paper and ink costs
- ❖ Seek volunteers for tasks that would otherwise require extra (paid) custodial hours

"A Night In the Movies"
Fundraiser for the High School
National Gathering
May 12, 2018



Emily Fedewa, Jennifer Roesch, Jessica Roesch, Payton Goschka, Drew Karkau, Emma Landry, Brandon Foy, Bill Paulins, Mary Matzke and Alan Goschka



2018 Confirmation

Margaret Mary-Kathryn Baribeau
Caylee Nicole Blake
Olivia Marie Buchweitz
Ty Lucas Fedewa
Madison Paige Fischer
Amanda Katherine Gatewood
Alexander John Karkau
Evan Richard Landry
Owen Patrick Smith
Mitchell Evan Stoakes





June Coffee Hours

June 3 – Preparing Team will sponsor a Coffee Hour to honor the 2018 Graduates. Following the worship, you are invited to celebrate our six graduates with cookies and punch in the Narthex or entry area.

June 24 – The High School Youth will sponsor a Coffee Hour to thank the whole congregation for their support raising funds for their trip to the National Gathering in Houston, Texas.



Delaney Fedewa

Open House
Sunday, June 10
5-8 pm
7001 Old River Trail
Delta Twp

Membership Orientation

Interested in becoming part of this exciting, active faith community known as Immanuel Lutheran?

Learn the history, ask questions and gather information!

Coming soon – Membership Orientation.

Contact Pastor Chuck for more information.

Please join us in celebrating the graduation of
Callahan Riggs

Sunday, June 3rd
10:30 am – 1:30 pm
Immanuel Lutheran Church



Erin Anderson

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, June 10

1 pm – 4 pm

Immanuel Fellowship Hall

Hal

Please join us in this exciting celebration in Erin's life!

Save the Date

June 3 Recognition of Graduates, Cal Rigg's Open House Here!

June 4 God's Work, Our Hands, Kitchen Update Meetings 6:30 pm

June 10 Erin Anderson's Open House Here!
Delaney Fedewa's Open House

June 24 Thank You Coffee Hour presented by Youth going to National Gathering

June 26-July 1 High School National Gathering in Houston

July 8-13 Stony Lake Camp

July 16-20 Adventure Day Camp Here!

Luther League II

Food/ Fellowship/ Laughter



Luther League II will meet for lunch, **June 11 at 1:00 p.m.** We will meet at Outback Restaurant on Saginaw.

Join us for great food and fellowship. Please call Kris 712-7185 or Richard/Sharon 627-2538.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

WHO'S CELEBRATING

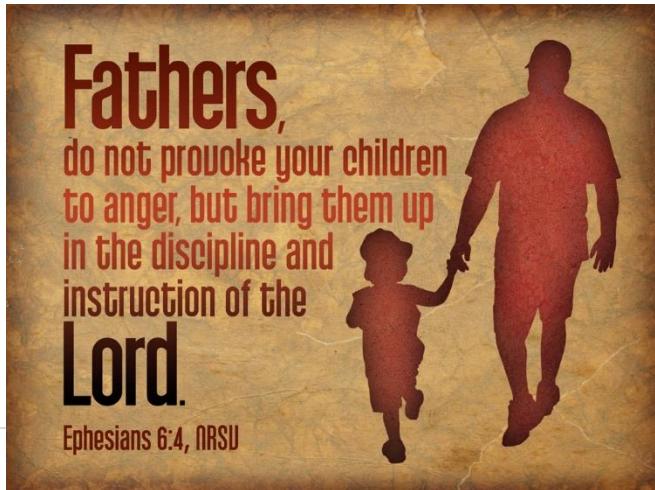
June 2 **Morgan Bonette** June 12 **Mary Jo Stein**
June 2 **Timothy Hubert** June 13 **Pat Anderson**
June 2 **Evan Landry** June 13 **Bob Cermak**
June 2 **Dana Schueller** June 16 **Tonya Bonette**
June 2 **Barb Walker** June 21 **Patsy Galvin**
June 3 **Nadene Emery** June 24 **Anthony Ward**
June 3 **Daniel Landry** June 26 **Jim Espie**
June 4 **Tucker Schneider** June 26 **Jackie Fedewa**
June 5 **Clare Blaske** June 27 **Jim Drown**
June 7 **Lori Van Hoesen** June 28 **Tom Bennett**
June 9 **Teresa Barcy** June 28 **John Burg**
June 10 **Lydia Dinsmore** June 29 **Lynne Erickson**
June 11 **Jean Folk**



June 17 **Jim and Sue Balger**
June 18 **Fred and Barb Roush**
June 22 **Richard and Sharon Catey**
June 22 **Greg and Karlene Ketola**
June 25 **Gary and Bev Lass**

June 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					01 8 pm AA	02 8 am AA
03 First Fruits Offering <u>9:30 am Worship</u> Celebrating Graduates	04 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 6:30 pm Kitchen Update/remodel & God's Work, Our Hands Meetings	05 7 am MITM Bible Study Ledge Craft Luncheon Fellowship Hall	06 Wednesday 7 pm Worship	07	08 8 pm AA	09 8 am AA
			Barry/Eaton County Health Dept. Hearing Testing 8-3:30			
10 <u>9:30 am Worship</u> "Farewell & Godspeed" for Bill & Deb DeWitt	11 1 pm Luther League Luncheon at Outback 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 6:30 pm Team Meetings	12 7 am MITM Bible Study	13 Wednesday 7 pm Worship	14	15 8 pm AA	16 8 am AA
17 <u>9:30 am Worship</u> Father's Day	18 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 6:30 Council Meeting	19 7 am MITM Bible Study 11-3:30 SEWL Quilting	20 Wednesday 7 pm Worship	21	22 8 pm AA	23 8 am AA
24 <u>9:30 am Worship</u> High School Youth present Immanuel with a Thank YOU! Coffee Hour	25 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night	26 7 am MITM Bible Study	27 Wednesday 7 pm Worship	28	29	30
		June 26 – July 1 Youth Gathering Houston, TX	Kitchen in use by member Wed. & Thurs. All Day			



Office Hours

Jeanie: Mon –Thurs. 8am- 2pm

Pastor Chuck: Monday – Thursday
9:00 am – 5:00 pm