



July 2018

# The Manger

Connecting Lives to Christ

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA

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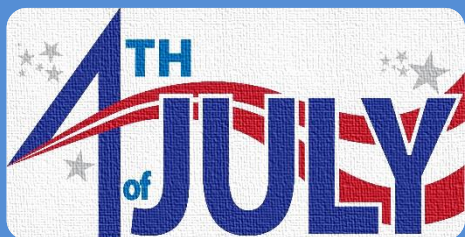
## Worship Services:

### Wednesday

7:00 pm Worship

### Sunday

9:30 am Worship



## Inside ....

Pastor Chuck.....	p.1,2
Council Corner.....	p.2
High School Youth Corner.....	p.3
Preparing, Serving.....	p.4
Stewardship, Card Ministry.....	p.5
Coming Events.....	p.6
Birthdays .....	p.7
Anniversaries.....	p.7
Calendar .....	p.8

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God— what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12*

A member recently sent me a letter where they described a conversation amongst a group of church goers discussing “important things” regarding church. (*not Immanuel, but could there be some similarities?*) The conversation ranged from who was going to mow the grass in the cemetery, how much would new cupboards for the kitchen cost, allowing artificial flowers, all the way to whether the new hymnal was liked by anyone and what kind of polish to use on the furniture. The author of this letter then posed the question, what if we were having conversations similar to these and Jesus showed up and said, “*What are you discussing? I’d love to join in the conversation.*”

Do you think Jesus would just jump in weigh in on these topics? Would Jesus deem these questions as of primary importance to the mission of the body of Christ? Or would Jesus remind us that worship is meant for honoring, praising and thanking God for what God has done. Would Jesus redirect our attention away from these *little* things to the greater vision of sharing the message of hope and salvation of His life, death and resurrection with everyone and that the church is called to be His body on earth? What “church matters” do you think Jesus would say are most important?

Although these matters might be of some import, they are not *vital*. I believe it is easy for us to forget what is vitally important. Being human, our tendency is to fall back into what is familiar and comfortable; what is traditional and stirs old warm emotions. We look back with fondness and we dream about how things were and how we could be in that place again or feel the way we did. It is called nostalgia and we all have it at one time or another, to one degree or another. But the issue with nostalgia is that it is impossible to travel back in time. As much as we might like to, we cannot. And recreating that experience is next to impossible; maintaining it for any length of time, even more impossible. Ever been to Mackinaw Island when they are repairing roads? See what I mean?

The fact is that we are moving forward in time; we cannot go back, we cannot freeze it in the moment, our only choice is to **move forward**. How shall we move forward as a body of Christ known as Immanuel, with God’s calling at the forefront? In response to this

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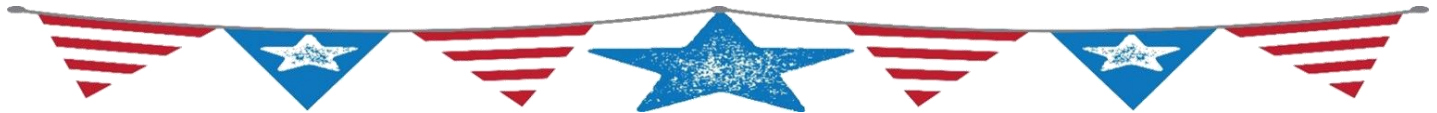
question, we are commissioning a **focus group** to address changes in our worship and Christian Education. It is no secret that in a few short years we will experience a deficiency of young people. Although we have had a number of families visit, we, like many other mainline churches, are shrinking. So, what can we do with our worship and education structure that will be more attractive and welcoming to families with children?

This is primary vital question that will be placed before this focus group. This group will examine and research numerous possibilities and then put forth a recommendation based on their findings. They will focus mostly on worship times and styles, family schedules, methods of outreach and areas of growth. This will be an honest, sometimes tough look at our church body, but again, with the goal of furthering the Gospel and sharing a message of hope with generations to come. For us who are nostalgic, we may find it painful or upsetting. For those who wish to see God's kingdom outreach grow through this community of faith, it will be challenging.

This focus group will begin as soon as possible. It will consist of 5-7 people from the congregation and will report to the Gathering Team and then to the Council. I hope that you will be engaged as we undertake this process together as a body of faith. If you are feeling called to be part of this ad hoc focus group, please contact me very soon. I know you are busy, but this is of vital importance.

**Remember, together, we ARE church.**

Journeying with you,  
Pastor Chuck



**Council Corner by Karen Ketola**

### **Immanuel has a busy summer ahead.**

We've been enjoying Wednesday night worship outdoors with uplifting experiences. The HS youth have traveled to Houston for National Youth Gathering.

The Common Ground Music Festival fundraiser is in early July -- thank you for your volunteer support! Younger campers and Pastor Chuck are heading to Stony Lake in July and we're hosting Adventure Day Camp July 16 - 20. There are so many opportunities for us to connect lives to Christ. *How can you help?*



### **Noteworthy items from recent Council meetings:**

- The contract with Ken Clark's Coat Closet (KC3) has been signed. Their staff has been moving in to the 501 Building and unloading from their storage pod on the parking lot. The Closet will be up and running soon. As a gesture of good will ILC will cover their utilities for the first six months. After that KC3 will pay their own on a separate account.
- Those who volunteer at the Common Ground festival will designate the recipient(s) for both tip money and profits from our fundraising.

Enjoy the warm summer days. Be thankful for the small wonders around us.

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; His love endures forever. 1 Chronicles 16:34*

Sincerely,  
Karen Ketola

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH CORNER:

***THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! We simply could not have made this trip to Houston for the ELCA National Youth Gathering a reality without you.*** We appreciate all the love and generous support you have given us this year during our many fundraisers! We are SO excited to go to Houston. God's Grace Changes Everything.

Most of our time will be spent at the NRG stadium complex...along with 30,000 youth from around the country. During Synod Day, we will spend time worshipping, learning and growing in our faith with our Michigan Synod friends. Another day will be spent in the 700,000 sq ft. Interactive Center doing things such as donating hair, blood and helping build 3 houses for Habitat for Humanity. We will also hang out in the Community Life Center, spending time in Bible Studies, singing karaoke, listening to Christian music, dancing, and just relaxing in the Hammock Village as we connect with other Lutheran teens from around the country. Gods Call Changes Everything

Service Day may be one of our most rewarding days, somewhere in the city. As you know, there was a hurricane there last year, so we could be helping rebuild from that. Houston has a huge literacy campaign going on right now, so we could also be leading Bookfairs and providing books to young kids. And of course, there may be shelters that we may work at. We won't know until we get there, but we will share with you when we return home. Gods Hope Changes Everything!

Mass Gathering worship is every night with all 30,000 people. There will be fantastic speakers from around the world, such as Pastor Tuhina Rasche and Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber, and wonderful music from Christian bands such as Agape and Tenth Avenue North. Gods Love Changes Everything!

Please consider watching the livestream of some of the afternoon Bible Studies (3:30-5:30) and Evening Mass Gatherings (7:30- 9:15). Sunday morning you can worship with us between 9:30 and 11:30. The link to the livestream is <https://www.elca.org/gathering>. All times are in the Central time . Please pray for us. Jesus Changes Everything!

We hope when we return home, Jesus will have opened our hearts, our minds, and our souls...allowing us the opportunity to grow in our faith as we share that with others, including you. "This Changes Everything"!

In Gods Peace,

Carmen Karkau, Mike Fedewa, Emily Fedewa, Peyton Goschka, Brandon Foy, Drew Karkau, Jennie Roesch, Jessie Roesch, and Emma Landry







## Preparing Corner!

Cindy Foy, Education Director

There is a LOT going on with our youth this summer! Stony Lake camp is right around the corner on July 8<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup>. Adventure Day Camp will be the week of July 16-20 from 1:00pm (registration begins at 12:30pm) to 5:30pm with a community meal immediately following on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This day camp is a Living Water Ministries camp led by counselors from Stony Lake. They come to us to provide a camp experience with activities, songs and worship centered around the theme of *God's Universe*. We still need guides and helpers to make this Day Camp a success. We need YOU. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far with food donations, housing and group guides. We are very excited to bring this camp opportunity to our church and community. Please help spread the word about it. Any questions or to register, please call the office at 627-6310. Online registration should be available soon.

Looking ahead (mark your calendars!) we are kicking off next school year's Christian education on August 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am, with outdoor worship and a picnic at Fitzgerald Park. More details coming soon!

Preparing Team is all about attending to the present and looking to the future of our young people and bringing them up with the faith. We invite you to prayerfully consider whether you are being called to be a part of this team or to offer up your help to prepare our young people on their continuing faith journey. Together, we ARE the church!



# Day Camp for Kids

**July 16-20**  
**1:00pm to 5:30pm**

## Serving Team Corner by Den Graeber

The June Noisy Offering for Blessings in a Backpack was \$127.38. Our next Noisy Offering will be July 8 for the Lutheran Disaster Response. Thanks for your support to these ministries.

As we continue to reach out with support for the Grand Ledge Food Bank our Third Sunday of the Month special offering for July will be July 15. Thanks also for your support by adding items to the grocery cart in the church lobby. With kids home from school for the summer the food bank is attempting to increase the amount of food provided to families with children needing assistance this summer.

Special thanks to our quilters for the beautiful quilts presented on Sunday, June 3 to our high school graduates. What a beautiful gift to remind the graduates of their Immanuel family.

The Grand Ledge Island Art Fair will be held on Saturday, August 4. Our church parking lot will be used again this year with shuttle buses taking our quests to the island. We will be opening Immanuel's doors as a hospitality station providing iced water, restrooms and a place to wait for the shuttle bus. Serving Team members will be available to host the event.

Thanks to everyone that helps provide the Monday Night Community Meal. In addition to the meal this has become a great social event.

**There will not be a meal provided on Monday, July 2 due to the Fourth of July Holiday.**

Mark your calendar now and plan on taking part on September 9 for God's Work Our Hands. The first planning meeting has been held and service projects have been identified with details to follow. We anticipate setting up tables in the church lobby identifying the projects and how you can help and get involved in this event as we reach out to others joining other Evangelical Lutheran Churches in America.

The next Kitchen Update/Remodel Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 10 at 6:30p.m. This entire process is in the very early stages. Please anticipate this taking a long time, thanks!

## Stewardship Corner

Why do we give? Is it from a sense of mission, commitment, guilt, joy, or something else? That is a question we can only answer on a personal level. I give because God has blessed me, and I want to support the mission work of our church, so others can feel God's blessing in their lives. I know of some who have had the experience that when they give they have received much more.

As a Stewardship committee we continue to promote the mission of the church. Without our gifts, the support of our various missions may not be able to be realized. We must not fail in our churches commitment to serve others. During the summer time our financial commitment to supporting our churches mission seems to diminish. Because we are not attending worship regularly we may fall behind in our stewardship support.

We can overcome that challenge by attending the Wednesday night worship service or mailing in our stewardship support. What ever you may choose, please continue to support the mission of the church. Immanuel realizes that all members are important through their commitment of time, talent, and treasures. There are many opportunities here this summer that need those various treasures you have to offer. Find out which one you will support to further God's work here at Immanuel.

God has called us to be good stewards. Ponder this summer on how stewardship can change your life and/or the life of someone else.



The Card Ministry is being re-activated at Immanuel. If you have any Sympathy, Get Well or Thinking of You cards that you would like to donate, please bring them to the church and give them to Jeanie. There will also be a bag in the mailroom for them. If you know someone who would appreciate a card of some kind, please let Jeanie or Pastor know. Thank you!

### **4<sup>th</sup> of July Wednesday Outdoor Worship**

Hot Dogs at 6:30 pm and Worship at 7pm



### **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.*



### **2018 Graduates and Gift of Quilts**

**Callahan Riggs, Morgan Bonette, Delaney Fedewa, Erin Anderson,  
Lydia Willams, Abby Osburn**

### **Save the Date**

**June 26-July 1** High School National Gathering  
in Houston

**July 4<sup>th</sup>** 7 pm Outdoor Worship and 6:30 pm  
Hot Dogs

**July 8-13** Stony Lake Camp/ Pastor at camp!

**July 16-20** Adventure Day Camp Here!

**July 25** 7 pm Outdoor Worship and 6:30 pm  
Hot Dogs

**Aug. 15** 7 pm Outdoor Worship and 6:30 pm  
Hot Dogs

**Aug. 19** 9:30 am Outdoor Worship and Lunch  
at Fitzgerald Park



### **Luther League II** **Food/ Fellowship/ Laughter**

Luther League II will meet for lunch, **July 9**  
at **1:00 p.m.** We will meet at **Denny's**  
Restaurant on Saginaw.

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



# JULY BIRTHDAYS

## WHO'S CELEBRATING

July 1 <b>Kathy Carter</b>	July 18 <b>Chelsea Hengesbach</b>
July 1 <b>Amy Stoakes</b>	July 21 <b>George Ryan</b>
July 3 <b>James Beitel</b>	July 22 <b>Alexandery Kingsley</b>
July 3 <b>Cindy Smith</b>	July 23 <b>Connor Williams</b>
July 6 <b>Lonna Blaske</b>	July 26 <b>Claire White</b>
July 9 <b>Reva Swanson</b>	July 26 <b>Carol Wright</b>
July 12 <b>Jayne White</b>	July 28 <b>Emily Fedewa</b>
July 15 <b>Wayne Schaudt</b>	July 28 <b>Jacob Fischer</b>
July 16 <b>Hunter Burmeister</b>	July 28 <b>Margaret Houseman</b>
July 16 <b>Nathan Goschka</b>	July 28 <b>Carmen Karkau</b>
July 17 <b>Blanche Schaudt</b>	July 31 <b>Tara Scoggins</b>

July 7 **Dennis and Jan Martinich**

July 22 **George and Annette Ryan**

July 27 **John and Shari Burg**



Outdoor Worship  
6:30 pm Hot Dogs  
7 pm Worship



# July 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 <b>First Fruits Offering</b> <u>9:30 am Worship</u>	02 <b>NO Community Meal Night</b>	03	04 <b>Outdoor Worship</b> 6:30 pm Hot Dogs 7 pm Worship	05	06 8 pm AA	07 8 am AA GL Island Art Fair
08 <u>9:30 am Worship</u>	09 1 pm Luther League Luncheon at Denny's 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 6:30 pm Team Meetings	10 7 am MITM Bible Study  6:30 pm Kitchen Update Meeting	11 <b>Wednesday</b> 7 pm Worship	12	13 8 pm AA	14 8 am AA
<b>Stony Lake Camp July 8-13 Pastor at camp</b>						
15 <u>9:30 am Worship</u>	16 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 6:30 Council Meeting	17 7 am MITM Bible Study 11-3:30 SEWL Quilting	18 <b>Wednesday</b> 7 pm Worship	19	20 8 pm AA	21 8 am AA
<b>Adventure Day Camp 1-5:30 July 16-20</b>						
22 <u>9:30 am Worship</u>	23 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night	24 7 am MITM Bible Study	25 <b>Wednesday</b> <b>Outdoor Worship</b> 6:30 pm Hot Dogs 7 pm Worship	26	27 8 pm AA	28 8 am AA
29 <u>9:30 am Worship</u>	30 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night	31 7 am MITM Bible Study				

## Office Hours

**Jeanie:** Mon –Thurs. 8am- 2pm

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