

April 2022

# The Manger

Connecting Lives to Christ

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA

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## About Us

Our purpose as a faith community is connecting lives to Christ, serving God and neighbor, and living our faith. We exist to connect people to Jesus, his message of hope and his saving love.

Because we believe that the power of God's love transforms us, Immanuel seeks to be a place that welcomes, nourishes and empowers all people to grow in faith. Join us each Sunday at 10 a.m. for worship.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
**517 S. Clinton Street**  
**Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837**  
**517.627.6310 • [www.immanuel-gl.org](http://www.immanuel-gl.org)**



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

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." Isaiah 55*

There is an old tune by the late, great Tom Petty called "The Waiting" and the tag line to the song is "the waiting is the hardest part." I think Tom was onto something there. As a species, we are not necessarily adept at waiting. Patience may be a virtue, but it is one that grows in few people's gardens. As the pace of our world increases, it would seem so do our attention spans. We desire most things to be in snapshot form, bullet lists, Reader's Digest Condensed Versions. Get to the point already. What is lost I fear is our ability to allow the full picture or story to develop. In our haste, we cut to the chase, and miss out on the journey.

In this season of Spring, we have had some false starts, followed by some really cold snaps. Many of us, self-included, are wondering when Spring is going to be here for real. But perhaps like God, the seasons, the weather, doesn't always go like we plan it or want it to. Has there ever been a time in your life when you felt like you were still waiting for God to answer? Almost like you were on hold for a very long time. That waiting is very difficult. But, the fact is we don't exactly know how God is at work or how God answers our prayers.

We only see dimly, remember. I don't think it is the connection we have or that we are not trying hard enough or praying hard enough. I think it is we don't like waiting. It might be sometimes that we don't like the answer we are getting, so we are hoping if we hang around, we will get a different one.

But God tells us that God's word will not come back empty. That God, yes, the same one who is making all things new, has a plan and God's will shall be accomplished. Sometimes though, it means we have to wait for it. In the meantime, we don't have to sit on our hands.

We all want to change the world, but we can't control it. We all want this to be better and that to be better. So, what can we do? I'd like to think we can do something. Are you upset about the war in Ukraine? Give to a charity that is helping. Are you upset by all the violence in the world? Work towards mending relationships in your purview. Are you angered by injustice? Work with others to create a more just society. Think globally, act locally. We can love our neighbor. We can defend them, shine the very best light on them. Not too tough when we agree with them or really like them. How about when they are very different from us; different skin color, different political party, different religion, different ethnicity? We can BE the change we wish to see in the world. One neighbor, one hungry person, one injustice at a time. I think it is then that we realize that what we thought was waiting was our not seeing God active in our world.

Here is to the new life that spring brings, whenever it comes! Praise God!

## Journeying with you, Pastor Chuck

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

*(A space for a Community of Believers, Movers and Changers)*

Walking through the Wilderness is just one caption for a picture of Lent. During this time we are called to self-examination, repentance and returning to the heart of God as we prepare for the events of Holy Week. The journey might not be comfortable and at times painful, but it is important to recognize that God is with us every step of the way, as we are called to offer hope to others.

Immanuel is doing many things to offer this hope, as you have seen in this newsletter, both locally and globally. Providing food, clothing, personal needs items to families in need. And recently, offering monetary aid for those in the Ukraine. God's love shines through our actions.

Walking through the Wilderness is still a daily challenge for many of our brothers and sisters of color. Their journey began over 400 years ago, and they are still walking towards that freedom many of us take for granted. Today, March 29th, the President of the United States signed into law the Emmett Till Anti-lynching Act, 67 years after 14 year old Emmett was abducted and hanged. Sometimes the journey is long and hard, but a ray of hope and God's love, shines through.

If you are interested in joining some of us in the journey of learning more, so we can do more, please consider a future book discussion or visit to the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia at Ferris State University in May. We would love to learn and grow together with you.

"We are called to fast from apathy and move from prayer to action."

(Walking in the Wilderness, Seeking God During Lent. B. Richardson, pg. 21.)

Blessings on your journey, Blanche Schaudt



## COUNCIL CORNER



Hello Brothers and Sisters,

We have made it to spring! Well at least on the calendar ... so from a calendar standpoint we are into spring. However, we live in Michigan so last Saturday morning we woke to weather that made us question if it was still January. With the melting snow we can see what we didn't quite finish last fall. The remaining leaves are still on the ground, limbs that have fallen in the winter snow and cutting winds (ok, maybe that's my yard!) It is truly a prelude to the rebirth that our world is getting ready to experience from its winter slumber. Soon God will take out his brush and start spreading all the colors of spring everywhere. It is truly a wonder every year and makes some people stop and absorb the newness of everything around us. Sadly, some are too busy to take the time to notice the wonder of it all.

With spring, it is time to finish the odds and ends that were left behind when winter started to usher everyone inside to get out of the cold and blowing winds. We tell ourselves that it can wait till the weather warms up, but it never really gets warm enough again or we find indoor projects to keep us busy. For the last couple of years, we have spent far too much time inside with the fear of COVID. Now that we are returning to a new normal, we are really looking forward to getting back to spending time with friends and family. Being able to have parties and gatherings without the fear of becoming sick or making others sick.

We know that we have things to do around our church as the weather warms up also. We all need to understand that we all can and should lend a hand. Too many times we rely on just a few people to do most of the work. We have many folks that can pitch in and make things look nice and a church we can all be proud of. I guess I am asking that we all roll up our sleeves and get a little dirt under our fingernails. Even 15 minutes of help before or after church will make a difference. I believe that sometimes when we work together, not only do we get the work done, but we also learn things about each other. I have never really been able to work and just say nothing. Even if I am working alone, I usually will make comments to myself. It may sound weird, but I learn things about myself. Usually, it is something that I knew but had to be reminded. Sometimes I even preface it in my mind with a "this was a bad idea" to do this alone or even "I am going to feel this tomorrow".

I am also looking to make sure that we don't ask the same people to do things all the time. I want to encourage people to say no, we should not feel obligated to do everything. I want everyone to be able to spend time with family and friends. We must understand that some people think that if they say no things won't get done, but I have learned over the years that things will get done. Sometimes the ones who are not asked to help realize that they have an opportunity to lend a hand. I am so thankful to be able to work and talk with people who believe in God and know that everything we do, day in and day out, can be things to glorify his name.

I hope everyone has a great spring and an even better summer with the new normal.

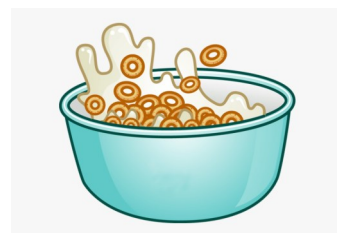
Your Brother in Christ

Scott

## NEWS FROM SERVING TEAM

Our March Noisy Offering for the Lutheran Disaster Response, "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" was \$159.77. Our April 10 noisy offering will be for the Grand Ledge Food Bank.

During Lent the Serving Team continues to request donations of cold cereals for the Grand Ledge Food Bank. You may want to donate your favorite cold cereal as this will add to the variety. Cereals will be collected through April 10 (Palm Sunday). Just drop off your cold cereal in the grocery cart in the church lobby. What a great response at this time! Thank You!



You are invited to participate in a Silent Auction of four Easter Baskets (2 for girls and 2 for boys). Look for the display in the church lobby. Just write your name, phone number and bid on a piece of paper and insert your bid in the appropriate box. The baskets and boxes are numbered to match. The Silent Auction will continue through Palm Sunday. The highest bid winners will be announced after church on Palm Sunday.

The proceeds from the Silent Auction will be donated to Hannah's House of Lansing. Hannah's House provides homeless expectant mothers with food and shelter. Their goal is that every mother who leaves Hannah's House has a home, as well as parenting and life skills necessary to be a contributing member of the community.

**Thank You**  
**First**  
**Responders**  
**Stay Safe**



Looking Ahead: May is appreciation month for First Responders, Police and Firemen. Immanuel will be showing our appreciation by putting together boxes of goodies to be delivered by the Serving Team. Snacks can be donated May 1 – May 22. Suggested goodies include trail mix, granola bars, candy bars, and protein bars and snack crackers, etc. (be creative as long as they are individually wrapped.) Watch for more details to follow!

Also the ELCA has established Sunday, September 11 as our annual day of service for God's Work Our Hands. The Serving Team is interested in reaching out to the congregation to see if interested members might like to join us to coordinate and plan events or projects for this year.

If you are interested contact Den Graeber (517) 224-8888. Thanks!





### **Palm Sunday, April 10th**

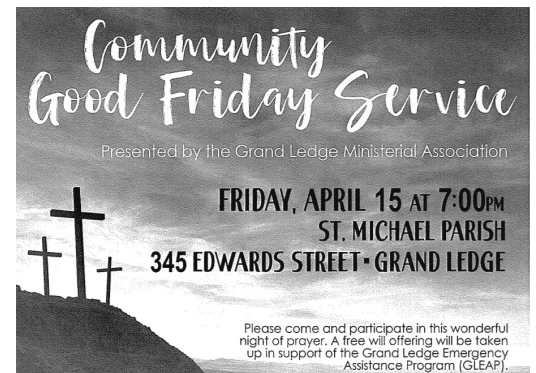
Palm Sunday, 10am worship, will begin in the Narthex with the Triumphal Procession (entry) with the palm branches. During worship, the scene will shift from triumphal entry to the Passion of our Lord. Inside, Drive-In and Livestream Worship.

### **Maundy Thursday, April 14th**

Worship on Maundy Thursday, 7pm, will be a fairly simple service with hand washing and communion. Inside worship.

### **Good Friday, April 15th**

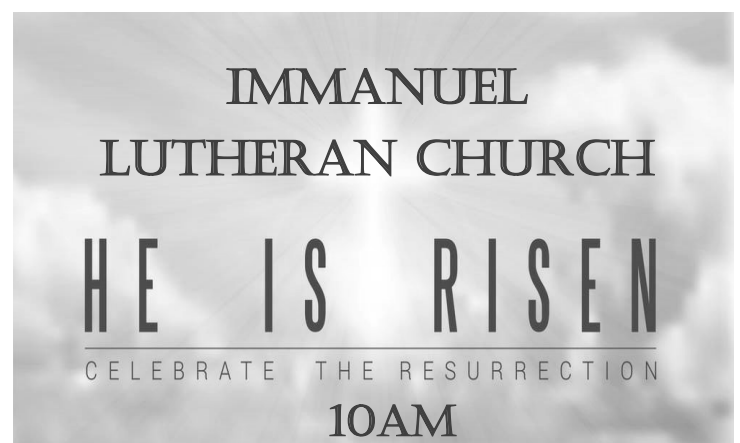
Noon worship at Immanuel, will be a Service of Shadows. In the evening at 7pm you are invited to St. Michael's Parish, 345 Edwards Street in Grand Ledge for a Community Good Friday Service. (Community Worship will be available via Livestream)



In addition, from Great Lakes Christian college: You are invited to join us on April 15th as we walk the final week of Jesus' life on earth – a week of triumph and tragedy, of devotion and deceit, of bonding and betrayal; this is the journey to the cross. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and a reception in the Legacy Cafe will follow.

### **Easter Sunday, April 17th**

Worship at 10am,  
Celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord!  
Inside, Drive-In and Livestream Worship.



## IMMANUEL QUILTERS



Quilting is continuing as we make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We always welcome anyone who has interest - remember, if you can tie a knot, we need you! Thursday mornings from 9-11:30am in the Fellowship Hall is our meeting time. You can drop in for some or all of that time. (If Grand Ledge schools are closed for inclement weather, the Immanuel Quilters will not meet.)

Also, if you got new sheets, blankets, tablecloths, etc. for Christmas and want to donate your used ones, we can use them! (Or if you're cleaning out your closets). Any larger pieces of fabric, in almost any material except upholstery fabric is usable. The donation bin is in the back of the Fellowship Hall, next to the tall cabinets.

## MEN IN THE MORNING

Men in the Morning (MITM) is Bible Study and support for guys. We have been supporting one another for over 25 years. We meet at 7 a.m. on Zoom on Tuesdays February 1, 8, 22, and Thursday 2/17. We are open to men of any church or no church, and now from any location, near or far.

MITM has some standards and practices. Give us a call and your questions will be answered. Watch for our meetings on Immanuel's calendar. This may be your good time, too. Please contact

Fred Koos (517.881.0644) or Orv Erickson (517.282.8198) or Pastor Rick (517.627.6202)

## Free to a Good Home!

*Donna Gibbons has an Lowrey Holiday Organ and Stool that is available Free for Pick-up!*

*If interested, please call Donna at 517-230-0611*





thank  
you!

Dearest Immanuel,

**Thank you** for your sincere and kind expression of sympathy. It was deeply appreciated. No words can adequately express our gratefulness for the outpouring of love from Immanuel at the death of our son, father, brother Austin McKenzie. To be surrounded by this community of faith at his service and the dinner afterwards means everything to us. Thank you to all the helpers, before and after the service, the beautifully prepared and delicious food, the support and leadership of Pastor Chuck, the set-up and clean-up—those who came—Immanuel—God was and truly is with us.

We love you— Rick, Ellen, Erin, John, Keelyn, Roman, Mason, Chris, & Tracy

**Thank you** to my home congregation for all the thoughts, cards, and prayers as Jesus walked me through my cancer journey. And, Pastor Chuck for his phone calls, thoughts and prayers. I have finished chemo and had my surgeon tell me the tumor is completely gone for now. Thank you to the Lord God Almighty!! Will keep a close eye on me, and will have MRI and Cat scan end of March! Gordie and I are both so grateful! We are rejoicing!!

Your friends in Christ, Marty And Gordie Woodman

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### Happy Anniversary!

William & Donna Gibbons ~ 4/1

Rick & Linda Merrifield ~ 4/7

Tom & Nicole Sullenberger ~ 4/17

Nate & Lacy Boyers ~ 4/22

Jim & Carol Espie ~ 4/28

3 Jessica Beitel

5 Barb Roush

6 Sandy Couser

7 Annette Ryan

9 Angelia Marsh

9 John Van Hoesen

10 Norah Williams

12 Eva Dinsmore

12 Tom Sullenberger

13 Keelyn McKenzie

14 Roger Wickerham

14 Avery Riggs

15 Kelly LaGrave

17 Harper Beckwith

17 Pat Graeber

17 Lucas Smith

20 Olivia Buchweitz

23 Katie Bryant

24 Delaney Fedewa

24 Erin Hubert

24 Mike Pitchford

25 Anna Baribeau

26 Owen Smith

27 Allan Blaske

29 Alan Goschka

30 Lyla Beckwith

30 Angie Blake

30 Donna Gibbons

30 Abby Osburn





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>If you have any questions related to upcoming events, please contact the Church Office at 517.627.6310 or Pastor Chuck at 989.750.4573.</p>						
					1	2  AA Support Group 8am
3 First Fruits Offering Worship with Communion 10am	4 Sewl Sisters 10:30am-3pm  6:30pm Support Mtg Meeting	5  7am Men in the Morning Bible Study  6:30pm Serving Meeting	6  Line  Lenten Ser- vice 7pm	7 Immanuel Quilters 9am	8	9 AA Support Group 8am
10 Noisy Offering Blessings in a backpack  Palm Sun- day Worship w/ Comm 10am	11	12  7am Men in the Morning Bible Study	13 Line Dance 10 –12p  Comm Con- nections 10:30am	14 Immanuel Quilters 9am  Maundy Thursday- Service 7pm	15 Good Friday service 12pm  St. Micheals community service, 7pm	16 AA Support Group 8am
17  Easter- Worship with Communion 10am	18 Sewl Sisters 10:30am-3pm  6:30pm Council Mtg	19  7am Men in the Morning Bible Study	20  Line Dance 10 –12p	21 Immanuel- Quilters 9am	22	23 AA Support Group 8am
24  Worship with Communion 10am	25	26  7am Men in the Morning Bible Study	27 Line Dance 10 –12p	28 Immanuel- Quilters 9am	29	30 AA Support Group 8am