

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
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Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...a note from Your Pastor

"28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11

If you didn't already know, I am planning on taking a sabbatical during the summer of 2023, with the blessing of Council. What is a sabbatical? Some might say it is a paid vacation, others say it is time off for the pastor to travel and still others just can't understand how the pastor could take off for almost three months! A sabbatical is where a pastor, the spiritual leader of a congregation, is allowed space and time for spiritual, physical and emotional renewal without the fear of financial ruin. In the ELCA it is recommended that the congregation provide a sabbatical to their pastor every seven years of service. I have been a pastor now going on sixteen years (about half of that time with Immanuel) and have not yet experienced the renewal that can come from taking a sabbatical.

Why is this important? Brent Bill, associate director of the Indianapolis Center for Congregations, quotes a recent study by the Alban Institute, "The Leadership Situation Facing American Congregations," which says that American clergy and congregations are "caught in a sea change of turmoil and ferment, crisis and opportunity." Bill says: "The turmoil and crisis shows itself in things such as a shortage of clergy across the American religious landscape, a lowering of the quality of pastoral leadership, the lack of retention of women in clergy ministry, and the fact that 40 percent of clergy report that they are facing burnout or severe burnout. These all demonstrate the need for taking a serious look at pastoral sabbaticals. Our work with congregations shows that well-planned sabbaticals strengthen both pastors and congregations by giving pastors an opportunity for renewal through intentional study, rest and reflection as they step

FOOD FOR THOUGHT continued...

away, for a brief period, from the daily demands of congregational life. Pastors return from their sabbaticals with a renewed sense of pastoral purpose and reenergization for the work they feel called to do. That in turn renews and reenergizes the congregation. It's a win-win situation for both parties."

So that is the what and why, now about the "how." From about mid-May till mid-August of 2023, I will be out of touch with the congregation unless there is a death in the congregation. During my absence, pastoral coverage, leading worship and pastoral care will be handled by "supply pastors", most likely ones that you already are familiar with. Creating this space between will allow me the rest and renewal that a sabbatical is designed to accomplish. A sabbatical is also about time for the congregation to reflect and dream about where God might be calling us to as we move forward. It can be a time of spiritual discovery and awakening and renewal of gifts as well.

As part of my sabbatical, I am (along with council) writing for a Clergy Renewal Grant which would allow for some extended travel in conjunction with what I have chosen for my theme for my sabbatical. My sabbatical will be geared towards a re-discovery of sorts in the sacredness of Food & Fellowship. I hope to accomplish this by visiting different socio-economic groups and having meals with them, maybe even preparing meals with them. During my time with these folks, one of my questions is, "where in table fellowship (meals, eating, preparing, chatting etc) do you find the sacred." We humans tend to take things that are sacred, and make them into convenience or mundane. But our Holy Communion, and the invitation to that is neither. It is holy, set apart, sacred. And guess what, Holy Communion all began with a meal, with the breaking of bread and the pouring of wine. A holy meal. It is my belief that if we are intentional about our table fellowship, we can reclaim meal time as sacred time in our lives.

In the coming months you will be hearing more about this and if you would like to chat with me about it, let's sit down at table and spend some sacred time in fellowship. I would love to learn more about you!

Journeying with you,

Pastor Chuck

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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

Grand Ledge United has organized a tour of the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia at Ferris State University in Big Rapids to take place on May 18. The museum is open from noon to 5:00 and our reserved tour time is 1:00-3:00 PM. Interested parties may register to join the GLU tour through this link: <https://signup.com/go/yMNnrHB>. Additional information, including details on the museum and how to obtain a free parking pass, is included on the sign-up form. (Rachel Kuntzsch)

Blessings on your journey, Blanche Schaudt



NEWS FROM the SERVING TEAM

Our April Noisy Offering for Blessings in a Backpack was \$114.80. Our May 8 noisy offering will be for the Lutheran Disaster Response.

Thank you for your donation of cold cereal for the Grand Ledge Food Bank during Lent. Together we were able to donate 53 boxes of cold cereal. Nice Job! Thanks Again!



This year the postal carriers from Grand Ledge will be doing a food drive on Saturday, May 14. To participate in this food drive all you need to do is place non perishable food items in your mail box. The mail carriers will pick them up and bring them to the Grand Ledge Food Bank at the end of their route. Food Bank volunteers will be sorting, shelving and boxing items on May 15 and May 16. If you would be interested in volunteering for this project see Den Graeber or Jean Folk for more information.

Thank You
First
Responders
Stay Safe



Appreciation for Police, First Responders and Firemen: May is appreciation month for Police, First Responders and Firemen. Immanuel will be showing our appreciation by putting together boxes of goodies to be delivered by the Serving Team. Look for the boxes and thank you posters set up in the church lobby. Snacks can be donated May 1 - May 22. Suggested goodies include trail mix, granola bars, candy bars, chips and snack crackers, etc. (Be creative as long as they are individually wrapped). Thanks for participating in this community appreciation event.

Congratulations to our nine high school graduates who will be recognized on Sunday, June 5 during the worship service and presented with the gift of a quilt. The Serving Team is planning on hosting a coffee hour in their honor. Come join in the celebration! Also thanks quilters for all of your hard work and creativity making these quilts as a gift for these graduates as they continue their journey.

The Grand Ledge Island Art Fair is scheduled for Saturday, August 6. A simple hospitality station will be planned for those using Immanuel's parking lot.

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!

YOU'RE INVITED....

Delta Community Choir Spring Concert:

Sunday, May 15th at 4 pm at Our Savior Lutheran Church,
7910 E. Saint Joe Hwy.

There is no cost but a free will donation for the Our Savior Food Pantry will be collected.

The title of the show is "Folk Songs, Fake Songs and Fun" and it is directed by Ellen McKenzie.

Many ILC members are also part of Delta Community Choir. Come and join us!



MEN IN THE MORNING (MITM) is Bible Study and support for guys. We have been supporting one another for over 25 years. 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 in May via zoom or in person. Please contact

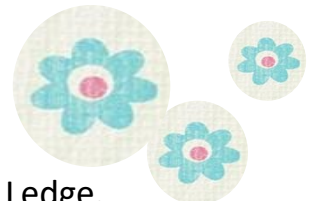
Fred Koos (517.881.0644) or Orv Erickson (517.282.8198) or Pastor Rick (517.627.6202)

From William & Donna Gibbons:

There is a memorial and celebration
of life service for my mother
Joyce Marguerite Gibbons,
on May 14, 2022 at 12:30 p.m.

It will be at Joyce Park located at 115 East Lincoln St. in Grand Ledge.

There will be a luncheon following the service at Bridge and Main from 1:00-4:00 p.m. in downtown Grand Ledge. For more information, please see the friends of Joyce Park website at www.fojp.org.



BEING GOD'S HANDS AND FEET

ALTAR GUILD

Altar Guild historically has been a group of women (we will gladly take men or couples) who have taken a month at a time, 2 times per year (for example every Sunday in January and June) to perform the following service:

- change the paraments according the church season
- replace the altar candles when they become short
- fill the baptismal font for baptisms and non-covid times for the sign of the cross
- fill common cups with wine and wafers during non-covid times (currently another group is filling individual cups) this can be done the day before
- clean up common cups post service during non-covid times
- alert Altar Guild organizer when supplies are low

We are also looking for a new Altar Guild Coordinator If you are interested in joining the Altar Guild team, please contact Shari Burg at 517.896.7314.

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Beautiful flowers are blooming everywhere, and they need your attention!

Immanuel's Memorial Garden is a beautiful setting to pray, remember past members, take church special occasion pictures or just sit and enjoy the day. Anyone can pull weeds and water, no special talent is required besides caring. There is no schedule, you can work in the Memorial Garden any time of day. If you are interested in helping, please contact

Shari Burg at 517.896.7314.



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! We meet on Thursday mornings from 9-11:30am in the Fellowship Hall is You are welcome for some or all of that time.

Also, if are spring cleaning and have sheets, blankets, tablecloths, etc., we can use them! Fabric in almost any material (except upholstery fabric) is usable for quilting. The donation bin is in the back of the Fellowship Hall, next to the tall cabinets.

IMMANUEL SPRING CLEAN-UP

Our annual spring clean-up is Saturday, May 14 starting at 9 am. Some outside tasks include tidying up the grounds of sticks and trash, cleaning out gutters, and weeding the memorial garden. Inside tasks include cleaning out the communication room, coat rooms and other spaces. Please contact Karen Ketola at 517.927.4834.

Thank You!

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the board of directors of the Grand Ledge Emergency Assistance Program, I would like to thank you very much for your monetary gift. Your donation will be used to provide emergency assistance such as food, gasoline, utilities, and rent to Grand Ledge families.

Your generosity is a fine example of the caring spirit of the Grand Ledge community and your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Teresa Ouderkirk

GLEAP Treasurer

Dear Immanuel,

Denny and I would like to thank you for all the well wishes for his surgery and recuperation. It has been an ordeal for him before surgery. Two ruptured tendons and a rotator cuff tear basically grounded him. But he is well on the road to recovery. Many thanks! ~ Jan Martinich

Dear Friends at Immanuel,

I just wanted to thank you for all of your prayers, cards and well wishes regarding my recent "tumble." I am healing very well and getting around independently. Your support has meant a lot to me. God bless you all!

MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES




1 Haley Kunc	10 Barb Paulins
2 Margo Hoorstra	13 Payton Burmeister
2 Katelynn Wheeler	14 Joan Hoffman
3 Barbara Jetmore	14 Jakob Proper
3 Mitchell Stoakes	14 Kai Thomas
3 Sandra Williams	15 Judy Koos
4 Britni Williamson	16 Geoff White
6 Amari Racine	17 Dianna Dunn
7 Mary Matzke	18 Gordy Woodman
7 Benecio Vasquez	20 Mary Van Hoesen
8 Alex Baribeau	22 Ethan Mandeville
8 Alex Karkau	24 Sandy Love
8 Holly Ketola	27 Caylee Blake
8 Ellen McKenzie	27 Marty Woodman
9 Linda Kruth	29 Marlin Kitchen
10 James LeMay	31 Trisha Lack

Happy Anniversary!

- 1 Geoff & Kelly White
 - 5 Den & Pat Graeber
 - 12 Tyler & Erin Hubert
 - 13 Robert & Elizabeth Kunc
 - 30 Alan & Melissa Goschka
- 



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 First Fruits Offering Worship with Communion 10am	2 Sewl Sisters 10:30am-3pm 6:30pm Support and Serving Mtg	3 7am Men in the Morning Bible Study	4 Line Dance 10 –12p Choir 7:30p	5 Immanuel- Quilters 9am	6	7 AA Support Group 8am
8 Noisy Offering Lutheran Disaster Worship with Communion 10am Mother's Day	9	10 7am Men in the Morning Bible Study	11 Line Dance 10 –12p Choir 7:30p	12 Immanuel Quilters 9am	13	14 AA Group 8am Immanuel Spring Clean-Up 9am Car Wash 11a –2p
15 Worship with Communion 10am Confirmation Sunday	16 Sewl Sisters 10:30am-3pm 6:30pm Council Mtg Meeting	17 7am Men in the Morning Bible Study G.L. Garden Club 1-5pm	18 Line Dance 10 –12p Community Connections Museum tour Choir 7:30p	19 Immanuel Quilters 9am Marge Galvin Memorial Service and Luncheon 11am	20	21 AA Support Group 8am
22 Worship with Communion 10am	23	24 7am Men in the Morning Bible Study	25 Line Dance 10 –12p Choir 7:30p	26 Immanuel- Quilters 9am	27	28 AA Support Group 8am
29 Worship with Communion 10am	30 Office Closed memorial DAY 	31 7am Men in the Morning Bible Study		If you have any questions related to upcoming events, please contact the Trisha at the Church Office 517.627.6310 or Pastor Chuck at 989.750.4573.		