

July 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**



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

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." ~ Matthew 11:28-30*

I have sensed a weariness in our world and in my own life in the last few months. Part of it seems to be all the events that have occurred in our world lately. Certainly, my father's recent passing has added to what I am feeling. It's as if I am sailing without a foresail and things are just not right. I'm moving, yes, and I am heading in the general direction I want to go. But it doesn't feel like it should. There is something deeply off.

I wonder if you have ever felt that or are feeling it these days? Grief is one of the words we humans use to describe these feelings we might be having. But in that tiny little word is wrapped up so much more than something than can be explained in twelve steps. There are memories, hopes, awakenings, melancholy and sadness just to name a few. Grief or the side effects of it are hard to pin down and sneak up at times and in ways that we cannot possibly predict. Grief is by no means convenient. It follows no time-table and at times can seem to be running the show.

But there is something we can try that really is able to help. That is turning our burdens over to God. Giving God the grief and weariness that threatens to overwhelm us. Letting go and letting God

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT continued...

may be a worn-out old adage, but the truth is that in doing so God has shown us a path so that we might make it through the difficult times and the dark nights of the soul. Being able to let go is difficult at best. Grief can be a lot like those burrs that get tangled in the dog's fur or in your sweater. They latch on so well it is quite hard to extricate them. But the thing is with grief, we are not letting go of the memories or the love or the challenges or our loved ones; but rather we are placing all of those things in the lap of God and crawling up in that proverbial lap so that God may give comfort and rest for our souls.

I pray that this summer might bring you rest, renewal and relaxation. I pray that you are able to give over to God all your burdens, worries and grief. And I pray that you sense the love of God abiding with you and the peace that passes all understanding surrounding you. You, yes you, are a child of God and you are God's beloved. Rest in that awhile.

Journeying with you,  
Pastor Chuck



## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

### Grand Ledge Music in the Park '22

\* Free Concert Series \* Jaycee Park \* Thursdays \* 7pm \* weather permitting\*

- 6/30 ~ **Three men and a Tenor** Easton Childs
- 6/30 ~ **Claim Jumpers** Creature of One
- 7/7 ~ **GL Bums** Rolling Hills
- 7/14 ~ **Global Village** School of Rock
- 7/21 ~ **The Frog King** Neil Diamond Tribute
- 8/4 ~ **Jack Pine Savages** Darrin Larnier Jr.
- 8/11 ~ **Stone Street Revival** Nicholas James Thomasma
- 8/18 ~ **Starfarm** Shelby and Jake



## COUNCIL CORNER

Hello Everyone,

We have made it to the halfway point in the year. Summer is here and with it comes the heat and the mosquitos. Summer in Michigan is a great time to spend time with family and friends and enjoy our beautiful state. Especially with the last couple of trying years and adapting to a new normal.

As we move into the second half of the year, I am asking folks to start giving prayerful consideration about helping lead our church into the next several years and beyond. We are going to need council members. I consider anyone who attends services and other functions to be our church family. Please know though, the one thing our church by-laws require is that to be part of council or hold a leadership position you must be a member. One part I have thoroughly enjoyed about being a part of the church leadership is meeting new people on a weekly basis. We have many people who attend that have many great ideas to help us grow. This is my second time on council; you can serve four years and then are required to take a break. When I was asked to consider returning to council at first I was reluctant thinking I had done my part. I was asked several times and kept refusing. But one day Julie and I were driving somewhere and Julie received a phone call asking me to reconsider. My initial response was again no but as I was driving I had a voice whispering to me that I was needed. I had a feeling in my heart and was excited to see what was next. My term as Council President will conclude at the end of this year. However, I will remain on council for an additional year. I would love the opportunity to work with anyone who might be interested in becoming a leader within the church, either a new council member or even a previous council member. It is a great time to be part of this important mission in our church.



Our church is in a really good place right now. In many areas we are continuing to find ways to reach out into the community. We are currently putting together a church family team to brainstorm how we can make a bigger splash in our community. It is exciting to know we can be part of something special that will help serve others. And even more exciting is that we have folks who are very interested in being a part of this. Several ideas have already been shared. The team will consist of Julia who is on council, Pastor Chuck and several other members of the congregation. I can't wait to hear the couple of ideas they choose to bring to council and the congregation for consideration.

Things that I have been a part of over the several years has helped to revive my spiritual fire; it is burning brighter and hotter than it has in a long time and that helps me feel closer to God and see the rewards of these good works. The smiles and happiness I have seen warms my heart and shows that we can all make difference. I appreciate all of you and thank you for supporting me in my journey.

Your Brother in Christ,

Scott

## NEWS FROM the SERVING TEAM

Our June Noisy Offering for the Grand Ledge Food Bank was \$128.00. Thanks!

Our July 10 noisy offering will be for Stony Lake Lutheran Camp. Stony Lake is trying to send all campers for free this summer. The church council has decided this special noisy offering would be matched. Let's help out this great camping experience!

We would like to remind everyone that the Grand Ledge Food Bank continues to serve the community. If you know of anyone in the Grand Ledge School District that needs assistance with food or clothing call the food bank at (517) 627-4348. Volunteers are available at the food bank on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The food bank is also in need of plastic grocery bags, if you have extras just drop them off in the grocery cart in the church lobby. If you would like to make a food donation you may just drop your donation off in the cart in the church lobby. Thanks!

The Grand Ledge Island Art Fair is scheduled for Saturday, August 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Our church parking lot will be used again this year and a shuttle bus will take our guests to the island. The Serving Team is planning to extend a little hospitality and will help oversee the shuttle bus transportation to the island.

**Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build:** The build is scheduled for Saturday, October 1. See the below detailed article in this newsletter and bulletin announcements. 40 volunteers are needed for the build and we need to raise \$3750.00. Donations for the build can be made throughout the summer. See the table in the narthex to sign up for the build and pick up a special offering envelope for this project. Thanks!

**Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bedding Donations:** In addition to the Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build we will be taking donations of bedding for the twin size beds. Watch for more details later in July. However the basic donations will include twin size sheets, pillows, pillow cases, blankets, comforters and mattress pads (all new).



### **Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build**

This year one of our major projects as a part of Immanuel's response to "Gods Work Our Hands" is a bed build for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. In the past we have sent donations of bedding and funds to this national organization whose motto is "no kid sleeps on the floor in our town."

The bed build is scheduled for Saturday, October 1 with registration beginning at 8:30 am and the build likely ending at approximately 12:15 p.m. We will be providing lunch, sodas and cold water. We need 40 volunteers for the build and have extended

an invitation to some local churches to make this more of a community event. The build will be on the church property come rain or shine as SHP provides tents. A sign up sheet for Immanuel volunteers is on the table in the narthex. A variety of skill levels are welcome from operating power tools to staining beds. We will be gathering up volunteer signatures over the summer.

As we plan for the build we will be taking donations for this project until the build. In order to build 15 beds we are going to need donations totaling \$3750.00. We are encouraging everyone to consider what you can donate and use the designated special offering envelope in your envelope packet or special envelopes available on the table in the narthex. Thanks! The Serving Team



From: Sue Marsh

In my "career" life, I worked with deadlines on a daily basis. Often the deadline would change and then the project became an emergency. I was fortunate to have a group of coworkers willing to jump in and help, and one woman, when I would thank her for her help, would always say, "Many hands make light work."

We are blessed to have "many hands" at Immanuel helping to keep our church home maintained and serving the needs of our "family". We are in need of more hands please.

Communion is a sacrament that we, as Lutherans, hold dear. To assure that communion goes smoothly every week, it takes a person willing to set up the wine trays and prepare the altar, usually the day before. It takes a person to serve and to clean up after service. Each of those tasks, take less than 30 minutes a week. Currently, we have two members volunteering their time to. Ideally, we would like to have 4 or more so each volunteer would serve one Sunday a month. Please consider giving a minimal amount of time once a month to bless your church family with your service.

Someone sent the following prayer to me years ago. I keep it and read it from time to time to remind myself of the responsibility I have to God, to my faith walk and to others in need. I hope it touches your heart the way it has touched mine.

*"You asked for my hands that you might use them for your purpose. I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard.*

*You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice, I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.*

*You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty. I closed them for I did not want to see.*

*You asked for my life that you might work through me. I gave a small part that I might not get involved.*

*Lord, forgive my calculated effort to serve you only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so. Forgive me, renew me, send me out as a useable instrument, that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross."*

Thank you for taking the time to consider and pray about what you can do to enhance your commitment to God and to Immanuel. Helping with communion is only one area where help is needed.

Please contact me at fsmarsh01@comcast.net or via text at 517-331-2353. Thank you for your consideration.

Many hands make light work!



# THANK YOU QUILTERS

## Class of 2022 Graduation Sunday

On Sunday, June 5th, Immanuel hosted our annual recognition of the graduating seniors of 2022. All ten graduates were in attendance. These included: Maggie Baribeau, Olivia Buchweitz, Ethan Childs, Ty Fedewa, Madison Fischer, Amanda Gatewood, Alex Karkau, Evan Landry, Owen Smith, and Mitchell Stoakes. Wearing the blue and gold gowns of Grand Ledge High School, they attended and participated in the service. Pastor Chuck recognized them with words of praise and prayers. Each grad was presented with a quilt from the congregation as a token of support and love, a tradition we have observed for these past ten years.

We wish to offer a special THANK YOU to the awesome women of Immanuel who crafted these cherished gifts for our grads. The dedicated quilters were: Shari Burg, Sharon Catey, Donna Daman, Lyn Danes, Pat Graeber, Jane Kitchen, Judy Koos, Barb Roush, and Annette Ryan. They each spent many hours planning, cutting, piecing, and quilting to make their gift.

The smiles of the students and their families on that Sunday were a wonderful reward for the quilters. But, if you get a chance you might thank them in person for the time and talents that they have volunteered to make this tradition happen.

Congratulations and Many Blessings to our Grads!

Blessings and Happy Sewing to our quilters!



## AROUND IMMANUEL

### Luther League II Luncheon

Monday, July 11th, 1pm

Outback Steak House on Saginaw Hwy.

Luther League II luncheons are open for those who would like to meet for lunch with our church friends. We usually meet on the 2nd Monday of the month at a local restaurant for food and fellowship. We order off the menu, so you can order what you like. We take up a small collection (usually \$1.00 apiece) after lunch to be used, at Christmas, for a charity of the groups choice.

There are many new faces in our congregation, as well as, those we haven't seen in a long time. It would be fun to get acquainted and reacquainted. Look forward to seeing you. Please join us.

Please call Kristine Hernden, 517-712-7185, by Friday July 8th, if you are interested or have questions.

This will give us time to contact the restaurant for reservations.

### JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1 Kathy Carter	17 Sarah Larson
1 Amy Stoakes	17 Blanche Schaudt
3 James Beitel	18 Chelsea Hengesbach
3 Cindy Smith	18 Regis Trella
6 Lonna Blaske	21 George Ryan
7 Margaret Gustafson	22 Alexander Kingsley
9 Reva Swanson	22 Bill LaGrave
12 Donna Daman	23 Ty Fedewa
12 Jayne White	23 Ellianna Larson
13 Keith Storm	24 Nancy Trella
13 Rachel Schneider	26 Claire White
15 Wayne Schaudt	28 Emily Fedewa
16 Hunter Burmeister	28 Jacob Fischer
16 Nathan Goschka	29 Nate Boyers

*Happy Anniversary!*

7 ~ Jan & Dennis Martinich  
22 ~ Annette & George Ryan  
27 ~ Shari & John Burg  
31 ~ Judy & Frank LaFay

# July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>If you have any questions related to upcoming events, please contact the Trisha at the Church Office 517.627.6310</p> <p>or Pastor Chuck at 989.750.4573.</p>					1	2 AA Support Group 8am
3 First Fruits Offering Worship with Communion 10am Grad Day	4 Sewl Sisters 11am-3pm	5 7am Men in the Morning Bible Study	6 Line	7	8	9 AA Group 8am
10 Worship with Communion 10am Noisy offer to Stony Lake camp	11 3:30pm Serving Mtg Meeting	12 7am Men in the Morning Bible Study	13	14	15	16 AA Support Group 8am
17 Worship with Communion 10am	18 Sewl Sisters 11am-3pm	19 7am Men in the Morning	20	21	22	23 AA Support Group 8am
24/31 Worship with Communion 10am	25	26 7am Men in the Morning Bible Study	27	28	29	30