

October 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.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT...a note from Your Pastor

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Romans 8

If you have ever gone through hardship and loss, and who hasn't, this passage (a snippet of the whole) can be a steady reminder that God's love in Christ is a constant and never-failing foundation. As we pray for those in Florida and Cuba and elsewhere who recently experienced (and are still cleaning up from) one of the worst hurricanes ever, we can convey a sense of hope in the midst of loss and destruction that in spite of what the news stations show, that God is present and at work in the recovery and rebuilding of towns, cities and lives.

That is what hope means. For in another passage. Paul writes about hope as something that is "not yet seen," but the faith of the ones hoping is that the creator will bring to fruition what has been promised. I think Paul rightly says, "who hopes for that which is already seen?" Because we understand hope in God and God's promises to be that which carries us through these hard times but it may not yet have been fully realized. We are not defeated by these dangers, yes, driven to the brink, as close to the edge of no return as we can be, but not beyond the redemption of Christ's love. Through Jesus' redemption, sacrifice and love, we have won a victory, that rescues us from complete and total despair.

So, our hope does not rest in that we will avoid the dangers and hardships that this world will bring, but that the seed of hope

FOOD FOR THOUGHT *continued...*

which has been planted in us by the power of the Holy Spirit will take root and bear fruit in our lives. This is what God's love can do. When we are in the middle of crisis, or we know someone who is or we see it on TV, we can take heart in our fervent prayer. God, let your love and mercy be revealed in these lives and be reflected in how I am in the world, until the whole world hears of this hope which cannot be extinguished. May hope abound in the most difficult times and may we be allowed to be ambassadors of that hope that is found in Jesus Christ.

Trusting that God is calling all of us to something greater than we can imagine or understand, we press on in hope and faith that God is indeed making all things new and beautiful and God's timing is perfect. To God be all the glory!

Journeying with you,

Pastor Chuck



In ALL these things
WE ARE MORE
than
CONQUERORS
through HIM who
♥ LOVED us.

ROMANS 8:37

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The October Community Book Read begins next week. This year, Grand Ledge United, GL Library and area Pastors, have decided on "You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacy." As stated on the cover,

"This timely and timeless book is hilarious, insightful, aggravating, and comforting in equal measure."

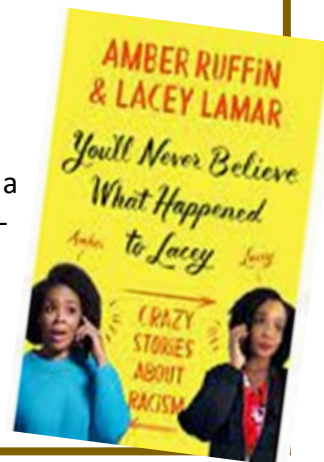
This book tackles modern-day racism with the perfect balance of levity and gravity.

If you are interested in joining our Zoom Read, please email Blanche at bls_u@yahoo.com or let Pastor know. We will be meeting on Wednesday mornings at 10:30: October 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th.

The library has extra copies, if you would like to check one out. Please join us. If this is not a good time for you, there are other times and places available to join people in the community in this eye opening and at times sadly funny, true story told by 2 sisters.

Blessings,

Blanche



COUNCIL CORNER

Greetings Everyone,

It is official!! Fall has arrived, days are getting shorter, the leaves are turning and falling all over the ground. Oh boy!!

We are getting ready to get our Mission Plan drafted so that it can be shared and approved at our November meeting. We will be sending out the information via email and going by our bylaws we will also send out a hard copy to everyone via snail mail. It will include the minutes from last year's meeting and the agenda for this year's meeting. I hope you will give prayerful consideration to what we are trying to do in the coming year. I also want to encourage everyone to bring questions to make sure that we get it right. I want to stress that everyone is included in this meeting. We are all church family, and everyone is included whether you have been a member for a month or 20+ years. We are all God's children, and everyone matters.

I also want us to start thinking about church leadership. We need council members, and all our members are eligible to run for council. This past year we had Jerry Daman who was part of council, and he was very involved and help us to become a stronger church every week. I invite all those who are interested.

I have been the council President for the last two years. I have one year left and would enjoy just being a council member and helping wherever I can. I hope you all will give this some thought and pray on it. I was on council years ago and was the Vice President. I was asked to return to council by a couple of people. Due to experiences I had back then, I vowed that I had been on council and did not need to do anything more. People continued to ask me to return for the good of the church and help with issues that were causing a divide in our church family. Julie and I were driving somewhere, and Julie received a phone call during that trip asking if I would please consider being on council again. We talked and again I was very reluctant to be back on council and I again said no. As we were driving my mind wandered off in another direction. I was overtaken by a feeling that said, "I need your help." I told Julie to tell them that I would accept returning to council. The first year I was on council I served as the Vice President under Karen Ketola. She was an incredible influence on me and continues to support me to this day. She is truly a very special person and has done more for our church family than anyone will ever know.

I guess I am asking for you to pray just a little and listen and you might be amazed at what you hear. I just want people to know that I have enjoyed helping our church the last couple of years, it has been a great experience and I want to see us continue this incredible journey.

Thank you all for your support. Let's keep the positive vibe going.

Your Brother in Christ

Scott



NEWS FROM the SERVING TEAM

Our **September Noisy Offering** for the Grand Ledge Food Bank was \$167.95. Our October 9 noisy offering will be for Blessings in a Backpack. We recently received a thank you letter from Blessings in a Backpack for a June donation of \$549.31 Thanks for your continued support to Immanuel's noisy offerings and the ministries they assist.



Thanks to everyone for your generous response as we gathered up new twin size bedding donations for **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**. What a great response! Also thanks to Thrivent for the Community Impact Card of \$250.00. Together we donated: 21 pillows, 18 sets of sheets, 22 mattress pads, 7 comforter sets, 4 blankets and 9 throws. In addition, we collected 17 gallons of vinegar and 2 packages of steel wool used to finish the beds. Nice Job!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the **9/11 Remembrance Event**. Thanks to the adult choir and Jacob Hoskins who played TAPS. Also thanks to Dan Landry and the scouts for the color guard. Thanks to Pr. Chuck for his message and prayers. We invited the Grand Ledge Fire and Police Departments however they got called out on an emergency just prior to the event and called to apologize for not being able to attend.

Looking Ahead to November: Immanuel (along with other local churches) received a letter from the Grand Ledge Emergency Assistance Program (GLEAP). The letter thanked Immanuel for our continued support. They also shared that the increase in paying for necessities, gas, food and most retail items has increased and their funding has decreased causing concern. We decided that Immanuel respond with a donation to assist this ministry. Look for special envelopes for this during the period of November 6 through November 20. Watch for more details!

Looking Ahead to December: Immanuel will be participating in our Baskets of Hope ministry that reaches out into the community by providing Christmas Baskets to individuals and families in need. Thanks for your generous support last year which leaves us with sufficient funds to assist 10 families this year. We are going to need individuals or families to respond by shopping for these families in December. GLEAP will provide us with a list of those in need as we assist with this community outreach ministry which we have responded to for many years. Watch for more details!

Den Graeber



AROUND IMMANUEL

Luther League II Luncheon

Monday, October 10th, 1pm

Sophia's House of Pancakes in Grand Ledge

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 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 Oct. 7th, if you are interested or have questions.

Men's Bible Study & Support Group

Men In the Morning (**MITM**) is meeting weekly on Wednesday mornings at 7am (BYO Breakfast.) Made up mostly of men from Immanuel, we are open to all guys. We study Scripture; we support each other in our personal walk; we pray for each other and our needs.

We meet in-person in Immanuel's fellowship hall and/or via Zoom.

WE ARE OPEN AND WELCOMING
to new brothers in our group.

Contact Pr. Rick (517.626.9545
or fish.buddy01@gmail.com)

or Fred Koos (517.881.0644) for a
Zoom invitation and any questions.

IMMANUEL'S PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Did you know that our directory can be updated almost immediately? We have the software to make changes or additions at any time. And, it is easily accessible online or on your tablet or smart phone using the Instant Church Directory app. Directions are following.

If you have changed address, phone, email or added members to your family, please let us know by either calling or emailing the church office. Also, if you don't have a picture in the directory or want to update a current photo, you can send that as well. Barb Rinckey is happy to be your "official" picture-taker for the directory if you don't have one to submit. Just see her after church or email her at rinckeybarb@comcast.net to make arrangements. Having your photo along with contact information helps new members become better acquainted with you!

Here's how to use ILC's Instant Church Directory:

TO VIEW ONLINE: Go to <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/>

You will be asked to enter your email address as it's listed in our directory. If your email address isn't listed in the directory, email your address to directory@immanuel-gl.org or call the church office at 517-627-6310 so it can be added. We will update that information, then once you enter your email at the above address, follow the direction on-screen to complete the log-in process. After you sign in, you'll see the most up-to-date directory for our church. Any time updates are made (they can be done as soon as we receive any changes/additions), they will show on the Online Members' Website, too.

TO VIEW ON APP:

Download the FREE mobile app available for download at the Apple App Store in iTunes, Google Play store and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for "Instant Church Directory" to get the download. Follow directions to create your own private and safe login and password.

Sunday Mornings

Are you available to take a turn at a serving job at Immanuel on Sunday Mornings?

We have various volunteer opportunities, including communion helpers, readers, greeters and ushers inside and out. Something for everyone!

Please see the sign-up sheets in the Narthex and let us know what works for you.

Calling all Singers!

Immanuel's "adult" choir is meeting Wednesday evenings at 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (except for the week of October 2nd when we will meet on Thursday, October 6, due to the Grand Ledge Band Exhibition on the 5th)

This Choir meets weekly to share the love of adding to worship (approximately twice a month) through song. At the end of rehearsals this small group ministry lifts up each other, this community, the congregation, and the world in prayer.

If you are interested in adding your voice, please contact 517.627.6202.

The process for finding an outstanding Director is on target to interview candidates in the next couple of weeks. How exciting to see where this journey goes! ~ Ellen McKenzie

Immanuel Quilters

The Immanuel Quilters are meeting Thursdays from 8:30am to 11:30am. This is a wonderful old-fashioned-type quilting bee! We spend the morning tying premade quilt tops/batting/bottoms and finishing off the bindings. All completed quilts are shipped to Lutheran World Relief in October. We're a friendly, accepting group. Drop in whenever you can during that time frame. around the world with your blessings! We hope you'll join us.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy

- 1 Brandon DeWitt
- 2 Barbara Rinckey
- 3 Lydia Williams
- 4 Jennifer Roesch
- 4 Landyn Roesch
- 5 Glen Saxton
- 5 Sue Marsh
- 6 Jim Couser
- 7 Robert Kunc
- 8 Kris Hernden
- 9 Elizabeth Kunc
- 11 Nancy Kuhlman

Birthday!

- 11 Jessica Burg
- 12 David Kurtycz
- 15 Lewis Wood
- 18 Rick McKenzie
- 19 Jon Luethjohann
- 23 Jan Martinich
- 25 Tamra Williams
- 26 Michael Wheeler
- 28 Lisa Pung
- 28 Adrienne Saxton
- 31 Sharon Wolf

Happy Anniversary!

- Lonna & Allan Blaske ~ 10/5
Jean & Mike Folk ~ 10/11
Lynn and Steve Colby ~ 10/12
Denise & Mike Proper ~ 10/14



OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 SHP Bed Build 8am—1pm
1 First Fruits Offering Worship with Communion 10am	3 3:30pm Serving Meeting 6:30pm Support Meeting	4	5 MITM 7am Community Book Read 10:30am	6 Quilters 8:30-11:30 Choir 7:30pm	7	8 AA Support Group 8am
9 Noisy Offering Blessings Backpack-Worship w/ Communion	10 Luther League Lunch 1pm	11	12 MITM 7am Community Book Read 10:30am Choir 7:30pm	13 Quilters 8:30-11:30	14	15 AA Support Group 8am
16 Worship with Communion 10am	17 Sewl Sisters 11am-3pm 6:30pm Council Meeting	18	19 MITM 7am Community Book Read 10:30am Choir 7:30pm	20 Quilters 8:30-11:30	21	22 AA Support Group 8am
23 Worship with Communion 10am	24	25	26 MITM 7am Community Book Read 10:30am Choir 7:30pm	27 Quilters 8:30-11:30	28	29 AA Support Group 8am
30 Worship with Communion 10am	31	<p>If you have any questions related to upcoming events, please contact Trisha at the Church Office at 517.627.6310.</p> <p>Trisha Office Hours: Mon & Fri, 9a - 2p, or T-Th via email: office@immanuel-gl.org or Pastor Chuck at 989.750.4573.</p>				