



November 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

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with humans. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God will be with them as their God. Revelation 21

So, if I am honest with myself and you, I am not all that fond of change. Sure, I talk a good game when it comes to the changes we must deal with frequently, both in the congregation, at home, in life. But recently, when faced with the advent of a new laptop for myself at church, I told a friend, I've grown comfortable with my old one (with all the quirks and glitches) Once those words were out of my mouth, I thought to myself, "I'm in the same boat as many folks are." I mean come on, this is a new laptop and it will be better than the one I have now, right? What is up with my reluctance? Then, I realized the ancient truth; there is something universal about our rejecting change, even when it will be better somehow for us.

But God is constantly making things new. Yes, it may be that our bodies are aging and we have more aches and pains than we did 10 years ago, but God is all about making things new, reforming, re-shaping; a transformation of hearts and lives, sometimes so gently, we hardly even recognize it. Other times, like being whacked with a two by four! Either way, it is sure, God is active in our lives and world. God is active in our congregation as well. Things are happening and folks are getting involved in ministry. Plenty of room for other new and exciting ministries as well!

This month, at our **Annual Congregational Mission Meeting, (Nov. 13th after worship)** you will have the chance to hear more —



about our plans to onboard a *Youth and Family Minister*. Although this process can take some time (we want to get it right!) It is moving forward in the right direction. This will be a change for us and it might not be easy for everyone to understand the why's and wherefores of this decision. However, Immanuel's leadership believes this is a positive direction for us to head toward in order to be intentional about our youth and to provide families a stronger foundation for Christian education. At each stage along the way, we will do our utmost to communicate to the congregation what is going on with this position. At this point, we are still forming the search team which will have the responsibility of refining boundaries and parameters for this ministry position and then serving as an actual "call committee." A great and very important task.

There is one thing about change that I find I am able to be excited about; God has a plan for us and God is in the lead. God has something in store for this congregation to do God's kingdom work.

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



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

October brought good conversations around the chosen community book read this year. Besides learning how to be better human beings, another gift in doing this each year, is in the sharing of opinions and experiences, as well as having open and respectful conversations around differences, acceptance, change and grace. Another gift this year was that other churches joined in the conversation, seeing the need for more opportunities to learn and grow in understanding our differences, how we came to be as a nation, and what we want for our children and grandchildren's future. "Jesus urges us to trust in the goodness we see in the world and contribute to it, even if our actions seem small and we can't yet see the full result." (Christ in Our Home)

Planting seeds of justice and love and understanding and truth is what we all need to be doing. Even if we are not here when the fruits are harvested. And as Christians we need to consider what our role is in the upcoming vote. Maybe this is one reminder.

"The church should be a place where people with divergent political views can coexist and be in fellowship because our unity in Christ supersedes our political and partisan loyalties. As the Apostle Paul reminded the Galatian church, in Christ "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (A. R. Taylor)

God's Peace

Blanche Schaudt



The Serving Team coordinated the plans for Immanuel's response to God's Work Our Hands. As a congregation we reached out to Sleep in Heavenly Peace which is a national organization with a satellite office in Lansing that makes beds for children. Their motto is "No kid sleeps on the floor in our town." We started by taking donations for the October 1 bed build over the summer with a goal of raising \$3,750.00. By the end of August \$4,390.00 had been raised. What a great response!

We also took bedding donations for the twin size beds for 6-8 weeks and had a great response from the congregation. In addition, Thrivent Action Dollars (\$250.00) were used for this project and with all of the donations from the congregation the following items were donated:

- 20 pillows
- 18 sets of sheets
- 22 mattress pads
- 7 comforter sets
- 4 blankets
- 9 throws
- 2 packages of steel wool and
- 17 gallons of vinegar used for a finish for the beds.



The bed build was held on Saturday, October 1. We reached out to local churches and two churches responded with additional volunteers, the First Congregational United Church of Christ and the Wacousta Community United Methodist Church. At one point during the bed build we probably had 85 volunteers actively participating in the assembly line production of the beds. Apparently we set a record by making 43 twin size beds in 2 ½ hours. It was great to meet and work with volunteers from the Grand Ledge community. Together we were able to reach out into the community doing "God's Work with our hands."

We also learned from the Sleep in Heavenly Peace staff that our bed build resulted in the Lansing Chapter this year exceeding over 500 beds. What a response to this community outreach ministry!

Thanks for your generous donations and for volunteering for this year's event. Together we made a difference!

The Serving Team



NEWS FROM the SERVING TEAM

Our October noisy offering for Blessings in a Backpack was \$33.69. Our November 13 noisy offering will be for the Lutheran Disaster Response which is currently responding to the recent hurricanes.



The Grand Ledge Emergency Assistance Program (GLEAP) is in need of some additional support: Immanuel along with other local churches recently received a letter from the GLEAP board. The letter thanked Immanuel for our continued support. Also the letter shared that the increase in paying for necessities, gas, food and most retail items has resulted in a need for more assistance in the community. GLEAP typically helps with food, prescriptions, medical needs, utilities, gasoline, and housing assistance for families in need in the Grand Ledge area. Special giving envelopes are available in the pews and on the table in the narthex. You may also use your regular offering envelopes and designate giving to GLEAP. Donations

for this community outreach ministry will be taken up during the period of November 6-20 with a plan to make our donation from Immanuel asap.

Each year Immanuel has an opportunity to reach out into the community by providing Christmas Gift Baskets to individuals and families in need. We have called this **Baskets of Hope** for many years. We receive the names of those individuals and families through the Grand Ledge Emergency Assistance Program (GLEAP). Because of your generous donations last year to this community outreach project it will not be necessary to donate funds to this ministry. However, it will be necessary to recruit volunteers to shop for these families in December or we may be providing a Meijer gift card to the families. The Serving Team has decided we should be able to assist 10 families and at this time we are in need of 7 more volunteers to shop for these families. Please consider shopping for these baskets and contact Jean Folk if interested at 517-667-0383. The baskets usually consist of food and small gifts especially for the children. The plan is that the contacts will be provided to us by December 6 with hopes of the volunteers delivering the baskets to these individuals or families by December 21.

Thanks!

Den Graeber



AROUND IMMANUEL

Serving on Sundays

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for volunteers on Sunday mornings. There are many ways to contribute, including space for ushers, inside and outside, lay readers, communion helpers, greeters and coffee fellowship. You can volunteer occasionally or regularly.

Worship is a huge part of our life together, so, please consider how you can be connected to the life of this body of faith.

You are welcome and appreciated!

QUILTING, QUILTING, QUILTING!

Hopefully some of you saw on October 9th that the sanctuary was decorated with some of the quilts that our group made in the last year. Pastor and the congregation blessed them and we packed and shipped over 160 of them to Lutheran World Relief. Are we done? No! We started immediately making more quilts for next year.

If you have any interest in being a part of this wonderful and friendly ministry, please consider joining us. We meet on Thursday mornings from about 9am-11:30am. Mostly we tie quilts that day, but so much work goes on during the week. Fabric is washed, cut and sewn to size, pieces are connected and quilt bindings are sewn. If you like to sew, you can work from home if you prefer - we always can use help sewing and/or cutting. Or, you can sew on Thursday mornings with us. We have a machine for you to use. Either way, you'll find a welcoming group of ladies who solve world problems! (Well, we discuss some of them anyway.) Our motto is: "Come when you can, leave when you must." Not everyone comes every week - some of us are snowbirds, and sometimes life gets in the way. But whenever we are able, we show up.

We'd love to have you.

We will be meeting on Thursday mornings through November 17th, then we'll take a break for the holidays and resume January 5th. We'd love to be a part of your New Year's resolution! Questions? Call either Barb Rinckey or Dorothy Luethjohann.

Men's Bible Study & Support Group

Men In the Morning (MITM) will be starting again the Tuesday after Labor Day. September 6 to be exact. Made up mostly of men from Immanuel, we are open to all guys. We study Scripture or read a spiritual book; we support each other in our personal walk; we pray for each other and all our needs. We meet in-person in Immanuel's fellowship hall and/or via Zoom. We meet weekly. On Sept. 6 we will catch up, plan our Fall Study, discuss our meeting times and schedule and pray together. WE ARE OPEN AND WELCOMING to new brothers in our group. See you at 7 a.m. BYOBreakfast.

Contact Pr. Rick (517.626.9545 or fish.buddy01@gmail.com) or Fred Koos (517.881.0644) for a Zoom invitation & questions.

Funeral Luncheon Volunteers Needed

Because we are having more requests for luncheons after funeral services, lately, we are looking at updating our volunteer list, and would like to include you if you are interested.

If you are able to help in setting up, serving, or bringing a dessert, that would be appreciated. We understand you might not always be able to help, so let us know what you might be able to do, days you are available and the best way to contact you. Annette Ryan works closely with Pastor and the family, and then lets Blanche Schaudt know so that she can reach out to those on the list. Your willingness to serve in this ministry is appreciated.

Annette Ryan: 517-290-8459
ryan2375@aol.com

Blanche Schaudt: 517-410-1545
bls_u@yahoo.com



THIS MONTH AT IMMANUEL

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

All Saints Sunday is November 6th

We are asking for photos of your loved ones who have gone on to heavenly glory in the past year or so. Please email them to office@immanuel-gl.org or drop them off here at church with name, date of birth and death and relationship to you. They will be recognized on Sunday morning.

Mission Plan Meeting is November 13th

Congregational Mission Plan meeting is on November 13th, 2022, following worship.

In this meeting, members vote on 2023 Mission Plan (budget) and discuss the financial position of the congregation. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending.



Luther League II Luncheon

Monday, November 14th, 1pm

The Eaton Place in Charlotte

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 Thursday 11/10, if you are interested or have questions.



November 27th following worship

Join in and get help us get our church building ready to greet the Newborn Savior! Lunch will be provided!

During the Hanging of the Greens we adorn the sanctuary with Advent and Christmas decorations, especially with evergreen garland (a symbol of eternal life,) placement of the handmade Crismons on the Crismon Tree and preparing the Advent wreath for the Sundays of Advent and Christmas Eve.

You are Invited:



Grand Ledge Community Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 22nd, 7pm at

Delta Mills United Methodist Church

6809 Delta River Dr. in Lansing

517-321-8100

(Immanuel's own Pastor Chuck Foerster giving the message)

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy

- 1 Richard Van Glider
- 3 Mara Carter
- 4 Chris Morrall
- 4 Hannah Kunc
- 5 Joe Riley
- 6 Bryce Dunn
- 7 Lily Beitel
- 8 Cheryl Pitchford
- 8 Ella Landry
- 11 Amanda Pitchford
- 12 Marian Bennett

Birthday!

- 12 Cindy Buchweitz
- 13 Larry Kruth
- 13 Julie Stornant
- 13 Pamela Hill
- 15 Mike Proper
- 16 Karen Ketola
- 18 Jim Bryant
- 20 Cindy Crooks
- 22 Sharon Catey
- 23 Rodney David
- 30 Kelly Love

Happy Anniversary!

- 9 ~ Jo & John Long
- 24 ~ Lynne & Orv Erickson
- 30 ~ Pamela & Phil Hill



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