



The Manger

February 2023

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

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2

Holy Scripture is loaded with references to meals and feeding. It was often an essential element in Jesus teaching. In the early church, the breaking of bread, i.e. sharing a meal, was a sacred thing. It was tied together not only with feeding the body, but food for the soul and a remembering of Jesus last supper and his giving himself up as a sacrifice for the world. It was a simple thing, but highly important, so it was held as sacred, vital, set apart.

Certainly, when we celebrate Holy Communion, we treat it as special, but I wonder how many folks still have their family meals with the same sense of importance? Over the past year, my family and I have been practicing creating a more sacred space for our meal time. As often as possible, we sit down together at the dinner table, phones away or off, television off and we share a meal. We might talk about our days, highs and lows, or we might discuss the week ahead and what we are looking forward to or not looking forward to. But what we have found with this intentionality is that supper time becomes more sacred, more of something we look forward to celebrating together. It has become more important and part of our family ritual. Not that we are able to do this every night, but when we are, meal time has become a far more meaningful experience than before. Not just filling bellies or satisfying hunger, it can be a time of closeness, of fellowship. Quite often we prepare the meal with each of us taking a part to bring it all together. For me, this is sacred time. It has allowed me to be more present with my family. It has allowed me to set aside other things in order to be with them.

Many of you probably have heard that I will be on sabbatical from around May 15th to August 15th. What this means is that I will not be preaching or presiding but rather seeking renewal from some activities that are meant to give me space to go deeper into this question that has been on my heart; How do we go about making our

FOOD FOR THOUGHT *continued...*

breaking of bread (fellowship) more sacred in the life of the church and in our personal lives? One of the activities that I refer to is I will be sitting with and hopefully breaking bread with different cultures; Jewish, Muslim, Hispanic/Latino, Indigenous, Amish & Mennonite. My goal is to speak with folks ingrained in these cultures and ask them what they do to make fellowship more sacred.

While I am away, I invite Immanuel to be examining the same question and dreaming about what we as a congregation could do that involves creating more sacred space around meals and fellowship. What will that look like? It could be a new meal ministry or a bread-baking ministry or a communion bread ministry. The only limit is the limit we place on ourselves really.

Upon my return, I would love to share with you what I learned and how I spent time in spiritual and physical renewal. And then, I would love to hear what ministry Immanuel has undertaken or plans to undertake that will help make our fellowship and breaking of bread a more sacred part of our lives together.

I am excited about what God has in store for all of us, because I know that God is in the habit of making all things new. May God guide and direct our ministries and our way forward and may we grow deeper in our trust that God has something incredible planned out for this body of faith.

Journeying with you,
Pastor Chuck



Featuring: Mission Quilts

The Immanuel LWR quilters will be displaying a sample of the quilts they make during the month of February. Stop by the table set up in the Narthex to see how their efforts benefit the needs of people around the world. And don't forget to keep your eyes peeled for clean fabrics to donate - sheets and lengths of fabric for quilt tops and bottoms, used blankets, mattress pads, and other lofted materials for quilt fillers. We'll have a donation bin in the Narthex for your convenience. And as always, anyone who can tie a knot is welcome to work with us on Thursday mornings, 9-11:30. Thank you!



Lutheran World Relief



Community Connections

A space for a Community of Believers, Movers and Changers

Every month of the year there is a designated “Awareness” or “History Celebration.” They provide us with opportunities to grow and learn, share ideas, books and conversations around these themes. February is Black History Month, as you all are aware, and the Community Connections group has been looking at ways we might celebrate and have meaningful conversations about what that means for us as Christians in Community. Pastor is hosting a movie night at the church with refreshments and conversation. The movie that will be shown is called “Hidden Figures”, the true story of a team of female African-American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program. Even if you have seen it, it is worth seeing again. Date and time tbd. I am sharing a few books below, for young and older folks, that I have read, and feel might be a starting point or an addition to what you may know, but want to understand better. Below is a piece from “Woke”

“What’s in My Toolbox?”

If you are interested in joining us for our monthly Zoom time, or have ideas for the coming months, please know you and your ideas are always welcome.

God’s Peace, *Blanche*, Pastor Chuck, Joni Henretty & Jan Martinich

“What’s In My Toolbox?” By Olivia Gatwood (As taken from the book “Woke”)

We can’t choose the way we’re born.
Some of us are born with two parents, some one, some none.
Some of us are born with legs that we can walk with,
some of us need a little help. Some of us get to eat when
we are hungry, some of us still haven’t. When a person
has privilege, it is a toolbox they were born with,
hammers and nails that make it easier for them
to walk through the world because the world,
in all of its beauty and excitement and variety,
can still be a very hard place in which to live.
Privilege makes it feel easier for some people---

A white person can walk down the street
and not worry about being discriminated against
while a person of color cannot.

Our friends might have a toolbox filled with gadgets
we wish we had, or we might have gizmos we didn’t
even know others don’t have. And even though

it’s true we can’t choose privilege, we still have the toolbox with us all the time.

We can choose to keep the tools for ourselves, or we can choose
to use it to help people who don’t have what we do.

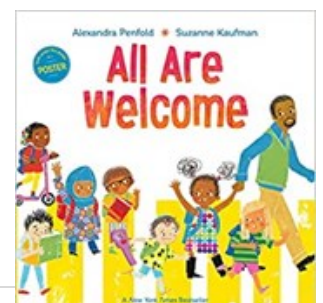
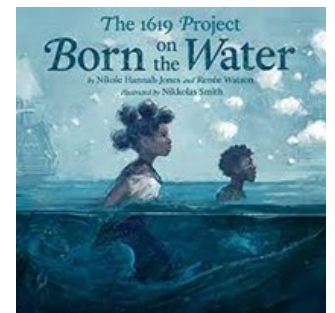
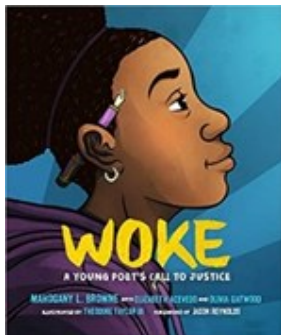
We can ask our parents to pick our friends up from practice if they don’t have a ride,
we can tell our school we need more ramps for kids on wheels,
we can invite friends over for dinner and send them off with a full belly.

Privilege might make it easier for one person to build the house, but that doesn’t mean
they should build it just for themselves. If we have privilege, we must listen.

When we understand each other, we can build a house that fits everyone.

We can use our tools to build the house together.

In this house, the door is always open--- Come in.



COUNCIL CORNER

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the new year. We can say goodbye to 2022 which was a very prosperous for our church family. With the new year here we have had our first official meeting with the new Council. We have elected new officers as well as the support positions. Officers are President Scott Hoornstra, Vice President Blanche Schaudt, Secretary Jane Kitchen, Treasurer Matt Bryant. Counters are Bev Lass, Sharon Catey, Melissa Goschka, Gary Lass, Kris Hernden. Financial Secretary is Julia Hoornstra. I am thankful for everyone that is willing to help our church family week in and week out. We have various teams that we would like to keep going because these teams are the backbone of what makes us tick.

I would like to invite anyone and everyone who wants to get involved in some way in our ministries. At our Ministry Meeting in February, we will be giving a brief description of the different teams and what they do to help our church move forward every day. Preparing Team has really been nonexistent over the last couple of years. With things ramping back up post Covid it is important we revive this team. Teams usually meet once a month and their focus is what helps so much to move us forward. The more folks we have involved in these teams, the more ideas we get to take our church out into our community.

In March I would like to have an open house after church for those who would like to better understand the many opportunities to help during worship, or to prepare for worship ahead of time. This would include ushers, greeters, lay assistants, communion service and the prep that goes into getting ready to serve. I would also like to get more people involved in the technical aspects of our service like soundboard, video for live stream, slides for congregation during service. And there are opportunities for people to be involved with our web and Facebook pages. I do not know that everyone is aware of what goes on to prepare week in and week out. I genuinely believe that the more people we get involved will help fuel our success.

As always if anyone has any questions, comments, or concerns I would really like to talk. I try to make myself available on Sunday mornings. If you need to speak with me I am always there and I truly care about our church family. I can be reached at 517-719-5291 or shoornstra57@yahoo.com. I am looking forward to a prosperous 2023 with you!

Scott Hoornstra

Church Council President



NEWS FROM the SERVING TEAM

Our January noisy offering for **Blessings in a Backpack** was \$148.12. Our February 12 noisy offering will be for the Lutheran Disaster Response. Thanks for your donations to Immanuel's noisy offerings on the second Sunday of each month.

During Lent (February 22- April 9) the Serving Team is requesting donations of cold cereal for the **Grand Ledge Food Bank**. Please bring your donations to church and add them to the grocery cart in the lobby and we will see that they get delivered to the food bank. You might want to donate your favorite cold cereal. This will give the clients variety. Thanks!

Thanks for your donations to the **Grand Ledge Emergency Assistance Program (GLEAP)**. It appears the November donations totaled \$1069.00. GLEAP typically helps with food, prescriptions, medical needs, gasoline, and housing assistance for families in need in the Grand Ledge area. Your donations will assist with some of these needs this winter. Thanks again!

Have you heard about the **Free Community Meal** starting up at the Grand Ledge First United Methodist Church. The first meal is planned for Wednesday, February 1. The plan is for them to host a meal the first Wednesday of each month from 5:30-7:30p.m. The meal will be served from 5:30-6:00p.m. They are inviting people to stay and talk or play games with family and friends until 7:30p.m. For more details call (517)627-3256.

~ Den Graeber

SIMPLY GIVE PROGRAM WITH MEIJER

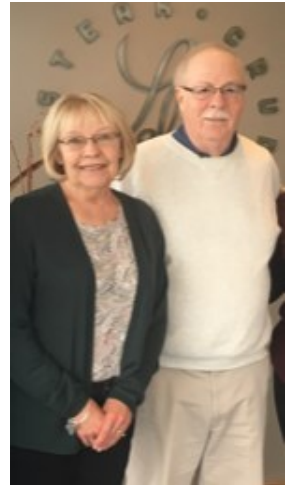
Meijer's is a family-owned company with a focus on enriching lives in the communities they serve. The Grand Ledge store is currently in their **Winter Simply Give Campaign** which runs through Saturday, April 1 with the donation for this first quarter of the year going to the Grand Ledge Food Bank. During this campaign, customers can purchase Simply Give donation cards in the store for \$10 or increments of \$10. Double match days will be held on Saturday, March 4 and Saturday, March 25. For every \$10 Simply Give card purchased on these dates Meijer will provide an additional contribution of \$20, bringing the total to \$30 for a single customer purchase. At the



end of the campaign the final totals are converted into food only gift cards for the food bank to use to purchase food items to replenish the food bank shelves. If you are interested in obtaining a simply give card, prior to shopping, for you to purchase when you go in to shop see Den Graeber, otherwise the cashiers will have them available. Thanks for your support to this campaign which will help the food bank considerably!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jim and Charlene Seifert moved to Lansing from Roseville in 1991. We have two children, Jeff and Kristin, who both live in Minneapolis. We're both semi-retired and also volunteer. Jim is a driver for RSVP and Char volunteers at the food bank. We were members of St. Stephen Lutheran Church until it closed. Everyone at Immanuel has been friendly and made us feel welcome. We feel very grateful and happy to have found Immanuel.



Bob and Claudia Cameron

My journey of faith began in Big Rapids, MI, at Immanuel Lutheran Church where I was baptized, confirmed and married. While attending Ferris State University I met the love of my life, Bob, who was born and raised in Detroit/Royal Oak, MI. After college graduation, Uncle Sam said we want you. The next two years Bob was stationed at Fort Knox, KY and Vietnam. I remained in Big Rapids working as a switchboard operator at a local hospital. January 1970, Bob moved me to Warren, MI, as he got a job with the Federal Government in downtown Detroit for thirteen months; TOO BIG of a city for this small town girl. In May 1972, we moved to Lansing when Bob got a call to work for the State of Michigan-Dept of State

where he finally got the opportunity to make use of the computer skills he learned in college, retiring after 31 years on the job. I kept busy doing various volunteer jobs. We were active members of St Stephen Lutheran Church from October 1980-May 2022, when our church of 42 years was permanently closed. Now our new church home is Immanuel Lutheran, Grand Ledge, MI. We are happy to be new members of this welcoming congregation. God bless us all for HE is always with us!

Brian and Lorri Yusten were former members of St. Stephen Lutheran for over 30 years. Brian was the Church Treasurer for 22 years and enjoyed helping with confirmation and teaching Sunday School. Lorri enjoyed singing on the Praise Team and enjoys singing in Immanuel's choir now. We are originally from Nebraska, where most of our family still resides. We have two married adult children and four grandchildren between the ages of 8 and 4. One set lives in Grand Ledge and the other lives in Plainwell, so getting to spend time with them often is our complete joy. Brian has worked for the State of Michigan for the past 12 years as an Account Analyst and plans to retire the end of April this year. He also does part time accounting work for a friend who has a growing small business in St. Johns. Lorri has worked as an Administrative Assistant for a Financial Advisor office for the past 25 years. Brian and Lorri love camping around Michigan in their camper from spring to fall and usually spend an average of 30 nights in their camper during camping season; hopefully more, once we are both fully retired.



Welcome to the Family



Immanuel Lutheran

Church

Connecting Lives to Christ

501 S. Clinton Street

Grand Ledge MI 48837

Office: 517-627-6310

January 25, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our annual Ministerial Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 12, 2023. It will follow our 10 am service. As with the weekly service, you will be able to attend the meeting either in-person inside, in the parking lot or via live stream. The purpose of this meeting is to review our congregational goals together for the coming year. Remember, every voice matters so we will be doing everything we can to assist people on getting questions or concerns answered. There will be an easel available so we can capture any and all ideas.

Members from each of our Teams---Gathering, Preparing, Serving, Support, and Kitchen Update will share the ministries they're looking forward to working on in 2023.

We are looking at having plans completed to update our current kitchen. After our Kitchen update team has done some research, it has been determined that our church is considered a commercial building so in order for us to move forward we need to have plans drawn up prior to soliciting bids to have the work completed. The cost for these plans is \$5000. These funds will be taken from an account that was collected as part of a donation made while Professional Party Planners was using our facilities as their base of operations. The funds were set aside for maintenance issues that might have arisen before or after the kitchen was reclaimed by our church family. The update will need to be completed for us to use the kitchen for any ministries or events moving forward. This will be decided by a ballot vote that will be handed out at the meeting.

I would like to get the congregation's opinion on changing the way the meeting notices are delivered to the congregation. Under our current Bylaws it is suggested that we mail the meeting notices via United States Postal Service 14 days prior to the scheduled meeting date. Now we are sending out more information electronically, and the current Bylaws support communicating meeting notices via publications the pastor or congregation may periodically use. I would like to see us use electronic methods, saving money on postage and printing of the documents to be mailed out, similar to how the monthly newsletter and team meeting minutes are now communicated. People can still request a mailed copy. We send out 12 packets every month to members who do not use the electronic methods. If we remain with the current method, we will mail out approximately 150 letters. Just an idea to help our church be better stewards of church funds, the environment, and continue to evolve in the ever changing world of more digital communications (paperless).

Prior to the start of Church services on Sunday mornings I intend to make an announcement about the meeting so we are sending the information out to reach as many of our brothers and sisters as we can. I want to reach everyone possible so all are informed and all can participate.

The meeting agenda is on page 2 of this letter.

Sincerely, Scott M. Hoornstra, Council President



MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK. . . .maybe an over-used phrase, but thank you to everyone who helped to end 2022 and helped to start 2023 with your very much appreciated choice to prepare and serve communion. I hope you came away, as I do, feeling grateful for the privilege of assisting to serve the Sacrament of Holy Communion to our sisters and brothers of Immanuel. Please continue to participate in this gratifying act of service, or any of the other many opportunities to serve Immanuel, and please encourage others to experience the joy. ~ Sue Marsh

Dear Immanuel Lutheran,

On behalf of our 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 very much appreciated.

Sincerely, Teresa Ouerkirk , GLEAP treasurer

Dear Friends,

Thank you! At Living Water Ministries, we are dedicated to creating communities to help one another faithfully serve as instruments of Christ's love and God's grace in the world. We are grateful you value the work God is doing through us.

Your gift directly helps us create communities where participants feel loved, accepted, and valued as they are. It's an extremely powerful experience that provides youth and adults the opportunity to know God's love in a way that is both meaningful and relevant. Your gift truly makes a difference in the lives of many.

Thank you for walking alongside us to change the world in the name of Christ and for being an important member of the Living Water Ministries community!

Peace,

C.J. Clark, Executive Director - Living Water Ministries

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,

On behalf of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Inc., its members, sponsors volunteers and bed recipients, we would like to thank you for your generous donation. Many people don't know there are so many kids sleeping on the floor or in other uncomfortable situations and SHP aims to solve this crisis. This would not be possible without your generosity. Our mission is to see that NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!

Again, we greatly appreciate your love and support for our cause and hope that we can continue to work with you in the future.

Sincerely, Sleep in Heavenly Peace

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!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

2 Mike Danes

2 Ethan Childs

5 Maggie Baribeau

5 Sheryl Kurtycz

5 Tyler Hubert

7 Callahan Riggs

8 Emma Shilton

10 Zane Racine

12 Ryan Larson

12 Bev Lass

13 Emma Landry

13 Michelle Pitchford

14 Melissa Goschka

14 Barb Wickerham

16 Joy Powis

16 Ray Baser

18 Cyndee DeYoung

19 Kaydee Foerster

19 Corbyn Polley

21 Steve Karkau

22 Bob Gustafson

22 Gwyneth Ketola

23 Linda Hubert

24 Dennis Martinich

24 Amy Wheeler

25 Cheyenne Dunn

25 Dakota Dunn

25 Sharlean Saxton

26 Andrew Oesterle

27 Ryan Larson


Happy Anniversary!

Tony Holland ~ 2/1

Melissa & John Kingsley ~ 2/5

Sue & Fred March ~ 2/27

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Choir 7:30p	2 Immanuel Quilters 9am	3	4 AA Support Group 8am
5 First Fruits Offering Worship with Communion 10am	6 Sewl Sisters 10:30am-3pm Serving- Team 3:30 Support Team 6:30	7	8 7am Men in the Morning Bible Study Choir 7:30p	9 Immanuel Quilters 9am	10	11 AA Support Group 8am
12 Noisy Offering Lutheran Dis Response Worship with Communion 10am Ministry Meet- ing	13 Kitchen Re- model Team Meeting 3:30	14 	15 7am Men in the Morning Bible Study Choir 7:30p	16 Immanuel Quilters 9am	17	18 AA Support Group 8am
19 Worship with Communion 10am	20 Sewl Sisters 10:30am-3pm Council mtg 6:30pm	21	22 7am Men in the Morning Bible Study Choir 7:30p	23 Immanuel- Quilters 9am	24	25 AA Support Group 8am
26 Worship with Communion 10am	27	28	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.			