



March 2023

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-gl.org



FOOD FOR THOUGHT...a note from Your Pastor

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12

As we look at this body of faith, we cannot help but see the working of the Holy Spirit. All around us ministry is happening and more of it happening as we move forward. Ministries that were dormant, now coming back to life, and many folks interested in being a part of those ministries. Community Meals, Congregational Caring, Youth Leaders, Easter Breakfast, folks signing up for worship assistants, communion helpers! The list goes on. Some of these ministries may look different than before, but things change, and as we are able to change with them, we are able to grow! Connecting Lives to Christ, our Mission Statement, is not just about visitors getting connected to the body, but we ourselves, using the varieties of gifts from the Holy Spirit, participating in ministry in some way shape or form for the common good of the body of Christ and the sake of the Gospel.

Our goal as this body of Christ is to offer an opportunity for folks to use those gifts; Ministry anytime, anywhere, by anyone is the tag line of a book I re-read recently. "The Permission Giving Church" by Bill Easum. As a congregation, we certainly are striving to move toward that model. Easum writes, "A permission giving church makes a commitment to see in people what God sees in them that they haven't seen in themselves, helps them discover it, and then gets out of their way." In other words, a permission giving church does not seek control over ministries, but still holds people accountable to the mission while letting folks engage in ministry as the spirit moves them. This requires trust and mutual respect and a fair bit of being able to let go of the previous model. We need to be able to accept the ideas of others in order that we can grow as a body. We need to

FOOD FOR THOUGHT *continued...*

be able to let go of old patterns to have room to embrace innovative ideas. And the result can bear such incredible fruit for the kingdom especially when we can get out of the way of “this is the way we have always done it.” It is true those ways may have worked then, and may in part, work now, but in order to involve more people in ministry and mission, we need to be about allowing the spirit to do the spirit’s work, rather than having folks conform to our model of how we think things are supposed to be.

This is a very exciting time to be the church! God has something planned for us and I am so looking forward to see that all unfold. I hope that you share that feeling and that the spirit connects you to some ministry to share God’s love and message of hope. You have gifts! And you have been called to use those gifts in the name of Jesus of Nazareth till all know of God’s grace.

I am renewed in my excitement 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



Community Connections

**A space for a Community of
Believers, Movers and Changers**

(meeting monthly on the third Wednesday 10:30am via zoom)



Immanuel showed the movie Hidden Figures this past weekend with around 15 people attending and discussing afterwards.

It was a great movie that might be considered a perfect movie for Black History Month. And I would like to say, it is also a great movie to celebrate Women’s History Month in March.

Often times we see the overlap of themes in our daily lives, and paying attention to what men and women have done to make this world a better, safer, healthier and more equitable life for everyone, is important to know about and share.

Grand Ledge United is undergoing an organizational transition. As they work through this, it was decided that it would be a good idea to start working on the Community Read for October over the next several weeks. A group of interested persons will meet to discuss what books might be of interest to the community. So far they have come up with the following:

*Born a Crime by Trevor Noah (study guide included)

*I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness by Austin Channing Brown (it's a first person narrative and rather short)

*Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You a Remix by Ibram X Kendi and Jason Reynolds

*The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How we can Prosper Together by Heather McGhee

We would love for you to join us. God’s Peace, **Blanche, Jan, Joni and Pastor Chuck**

COUNCIL CORNER

Hello Everyone,

Well, we have reached the Easter season which means spring is just around the corner. Spring can also mean a time of rebirth and renewal. We have several exciting ministries coming back to Immanuel. First, a meeting was held after church on Sunday February 26th. We are bringing back the Community Meal on March 13 from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The group is going to bring things back slowly. We need to dip our toes into the water before diving right back into the deep end right away. We have planned only this meal at this point, as we want to see how it goes. This time everyone agreed to break tasks up to make it easier for people to support this ministry; originally everyone believed that the only way that people could participate was for the entire time. This time there will be a group that shows up to set things up and start preparing the meal. Another group will be there to serve the meals to visitors in the Fellowship Hall. Finally, the last group will be there to clean up and take out the trash. Sometimes the tasks may overlap and that's ok, we want to grow the fellowship and allow everyone to get to know each other while working to help our community.

Another ministry we are bringing back to Immanuel is the Easter Morning Breakfast. This was brought up at the Ministry Meeting on February 12. Later that same week, we were contacted by a volunteer to head up the Easter Breakfast. Gordie Larkins and Brian Yusten were leaders of the Easter Breakfast at St. Stephens for 30 years. And they want to bring their ministry to Immanuel. This is a true blessing to all of us! I plan on rolling up my sleeves to do whatever I can to help them and make the return a true success. It is such a wonderful thing to have these two gentlemen, who have been led by God, share their passion to continue with something they enjoy doing. This is a very large undertaking and the more hands we have the lighter the workload. I want to send a big thank you to all who are ready to step up and make this a truly wonderful fellowship opportunity for those who make the food, but also for all of us as we partake in this special event.

At the last Council meeting we talked about renewing a third ministry. We will be bringing back "Care for the Congregation". Each council member will have a list of people from the congregation. Council members will be making connections with people to see how they are doing. Someone may need some extra prayers, or someone may just enjoy a nice five-minute conversation. We are compiling a list of those who we haven't seen for a while we need to reach out to. Also, if you know of any college students or service members who should be on the list let us know. It may sound funny to some, but I have developed some very special friendships and it is my responsibility as a brother to reach out to them.

The last couple of years around Immanuel have been blessed with new church family member and ministries being brought back. It has been very exciting to watch and be a part of. Spring is a lovely reminder of how beautiful change and growth can truly be. I thank you all so much for helping and guiding me over the years.

Scott Hoornstra

Church Council President



NEWS FROM the SERVING TEAM

Our February noisy offering for the **Lutheran Disaster Response** was \$184.11. The March 12th noisy offering will be for the **Grand Ledge Food Bank**. Thanks for your donations to noisy offerings that continue to reach out to three ministries: The Lutheran Disaster Response, Grand Ledge Food Bank and Blessings in a Backpack.

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 donate your favorite cold cereal. This will give the clients variety. Thanks!



Have you heard about the Free Community Meal starting up at the Grand Ledge First United Methodist Church. Their second meal is planned for Wednesday, March 1. They are hosting the meal the first Wednesday of each month from 5:30 - 7:30p.m. The meal is served from 5:30 - 6:00p.m. Everyone is invited to stay and talk or play games with family and friends until 7:30p.m.

For more details call (517) 627-3256.

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

Gordie and Amy Larkins

along with their youngest daughter Sarah are former members of St. Stephen. Amy's heritage at St. Stephen dates back to her grandmother Thelma joining just two weeks after being founded. Gordie and Amy were married at St. Stephen in May of 1988. In addition, our daughters Samantha and Sarah were baptized here. Daughter Samantha and Ryan were married at St. Stephen in September, 2017. Gordie was active on the church council, the former men's group, organized several Easter breakfasts and sang in the choir/praise team. Amy was involved in the choir/praise teams in addition to a very active women's group. Gordie works for Alro Steel as an IT professional. Amy is an administrative assistant helping to manage five branches in Michigan for Benesch, a design firm for road bridges and highways. Sarah works full time for Granger Waste Services as a call center representative, along with taking classes at Lansing Community College. Our family has a travel trailer and we love to go camping with our friends. We average 40 nights a year at various camp sites throughout Michigan. From our first day at Immanuel, we have felt welcome and are enjoying getting to know our fellow congregants.



David Millsop: I am happy to be officially joining Immanuel. I am a divorced Dad of one son, Michael, a passionate surfer who lives and works in Maui. Michael is a golf course turf expert. I recently started a new company Advancing Renewable Energy Inc. based here in Grand Ledge. I provide direct land acquisition services for commercial scale renewable energy projects in the US. The new company will also expand in to the Advocacy side of moving Renewable Energy forward at a grassroots level. I love to golf. I am a certified golf club fitter. I work part-time with Wilson Golf at summer demo days and course fitting sessions. I am looking forward to getting to know the congregation and contribute in ways I can.

Hey there, We are the **Polleys**. We are new not only to Immanuel, but to Grand Ledge as well. We have all adjusted pretty well to our new town and our new church and love being here. Maggie works for the State of Michigan in the Student Scholarships Grants and Outreach Program. I work for Grand Ledge Public Schools at Holbrook Elementary as a Parapro, and am really enjoying it. I hope to one day soon be a math teacher (I just have to get certification). Our kids are Corbyn, Henry and Charlotte. Corbyn has just turned 18, and is a junior at Chippewa Hills High School. He enjoys video games, and reading and watching fantasy and sci-fi. Henry is 11 years old and in the 6th grade at Hayes Intermediate. He likes sports, sports, and sports. He loves Football, Basketball, and has recently taken up Lacrosse. Charlotte is out 6 year old firecracker. She is a first grader at Holbrook, and has recently taken up dance and really likes it. Feel free to talk to us and get to know us. Thank you for welcoming us to Immanuel!



Welcome
to the
Family

AROUND IMMANUEL

Luther League II Luncheon

Monday, March 13th, 1pm

Bob Evans in Lansing

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 March 10, if you are interested or have questions.

Fifth Friday Fellowship

Please join us at church on

Friday, March 31st

Doors open at 6 pm, dinner starts at 6:30. Bring a dish to share and a white elephant gift in a brown bag (can be either a lunch sack or a grocery bag). After dinner we'll play an easy game to win or trade the gift.

My hope is to enjoy a good meal, each other's company and have some laughs on the fifth Friday of the month.

Thank you, Karen Ketola

Immanuel is Offering a

Free Community Meal

Monday, March 13, 5-6pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Please see Annette Ryan for more information.



Easter Sunday

April 9th, 8am

Immanuel Lutheran will be celebrating Easter 2023, starting with an 8 am breakfast. All are invited. You are encouraged to invite friends and family. Members of the congregation are being asked to donate breakfast style baked goods. Please bring your breakfast goodies to the kitchen a little early, as our crew will need time to cut and place them on serving platters before 8 am. Contact Gordie Larkins @ 517.525.5015 with questions.



Care for the Congregation

Do you know of College students, Military members or others who we can communicate with and serve?

Please share their contact information with a Council member or send to the office at

Office@immanuel-gl.org.

SLEEPY HOLLOW CAMPING



Do you like pot luck dinners? Do you like campfires? Do you like to go camping? If you answered yes to at least one of these, please read on. Gordie Larkins organizes a yearly "shake down" camping trip with several families. This annual activity first started in the 1990's as a St. Stephen fellowship event. Our group will be camping at Sleepy Hollow May 5, 6 and 7, in the South loop. We will have a pot luck meal on Saturday at 2 pm and a continuous campfire Friday and Saturday. You are invited to join us for all or part of these activities. Contact Gordie Larkins for more information - papagass@gmail.com - 517.525.5015.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Elaine Schwanz | 14 Phil Hill |
| 2 Carol Espie | 15 Anthony Gatewood |
| 3 Genevieve Ketola | 16 Julie Hoornstra |
| 3 Christopher Kuhlman | 17 Mike Folk |
| 5 Jane Goebel | 18 Gary Lass |
| 5 Lyn Danes | 21 Alisha Kuch |
| 6 Fred Roush | 22 Scott Hoornstra |
| 7 Scarlett Hubert | 23 Virginia Balgoyen |
| 7 Mary Murphy | 24 JoAnn Cole |
| 7 Brad Matzke | 25 Jessica Proper |
| 8 Trey Williams | 25 Sarah Holland |
| 9 John Burg | 26 Betty Hoffner |
| 10 Lydia Williams | 27 Theodore Larson |
| 10 Mike Wesley | 29 Jacob Hickok |
| 10 Anna Matzke | 29 Tony Holland |
| 11 Carol Weigel | 30 Amanda Gatewood |
| 12 Patty Riley | 31 Oakley Schneider |
| 12 Adam Van Hoesen | |

Happy Anniversary!

- Ron & Margo Hoornstra ~ 3/2
Jim & Sherrie Bryant ~ 3/9
Wayne & Blanche Schaudt ~ 3/10
Jim & Carolyn Drown ~ 3/15

March



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>If you have any questions related to upcoming events, please contact the Trisha at the Church Office 517.627.6310</i></p> <p><i>or Pastor Chuck at 989.750.4573.</i></p>			<p>1</p> <p>Lenten Service 7pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Immanuel Quilters 9am</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>AA Support Group 8am</p>
<p>5 First Fruits Offering</p> <p>Worship with Communion 10am</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Sewl Sisters 10:30am-3pm</p> <p>Serving Team 3:30</p> <p>Support Team 6:30</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7am Men in the Morning Bible Study</p> <p>Lenten Service 7pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Immanuel Quilters 9am</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>AA Support Group 8am</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Noisy Offering</p> <p>GL Food bank</p> <p>Worship with Communion 10am</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Free Community Meal 5-6pm</p> <p>Kitchen Remodel Team Meeting 6:30</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7am Men in the Morning Bible Study</p> <p>Comm Connections 10:30am</p> <p>Lenten Service 7pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Immanuel Quilters 9am</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>AA Support Group 8am</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Worship with Communion 10am</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Sewl Sisters 10:30am-3pm</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7am Men in the Morning Bible Study</p> <p>Lenten Service 7pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Immanuel-Quilters 9am</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>AA Support Group 8am</p> <p>Council Retreat</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Worship with Communion 10am</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Lenten Service 7pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Immanuel-Quilters 9am</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Fifth Friday Fellowship 6pm</p>	