

September 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 Lutheran Church
517 S. Clinton Street
Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837



FOOD FOR THOUGHT...a note from your Pastor

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. Isaiah 55

It is good to be back from my sabbatical and be amongst the body of Christ known as Immanuel. Thank you so much for the gift it was! Now, I have to tell you; I had some big plans for that time away. It included a couple trips and visits to places where I could engage with new friends and colleagues. But it seems that God had a different plan. Guess whose plan wins out?

Although I did not have the chance to travel as much as I had planned, still, my sabbatical was renewing and restful. It allowed me a chance to spend more time with family and friends and to spend a good deal of time reading and meditating. It allowed me time to spend in deep prayer for this congregation, for those I knew were in need, for family members and it allowed me to listen more carefully

FOOD FOR THOUGHT continued...

for God's reply. Funny thing is, when you take time to listen to God's response to your prayers, it can be an awakening of sorts.

I'm still discerning what my listening more closely has brought to my awareness in regards to what God is doing in my life and the life of this congregation. But I am sure of one thing; God has a plan for God's people (all y'all) and God will not send out any thing that does not ultimately serve God's purpose. I believe God is working within our individual lives, shaping and transforming us to God's purpose in the kingdom. I believe God is doing the same thing for this body of faith we call Immanuel. God is opening doors and windows and is preparing us for something even greater than what we had imagined.

In the midst of the aftermath of the recent storm, the cleanup, the repairs and the effort may seem like a losing battle, but God is yet present with us. In the middle of the storms, in the middle of the struggle, in the middle of our tears. Immanuel-God with us. And God has a plan and purpose for this congregation. The Holy Spirit is busy at work in our midst bringing about ways that we can live and work for God's kingdom.

So may we live into those promises and place our trust firmly on the foundation of Jesus Christ. May God's purpose and plan for us be revealed in God's timing and may we be granted the strength and commitment to answer the call.

Journeying with you,

Pastor Chuck



Kick-off 2023 Celebration

Returning to Church from our Summer Activities

After the service on **September 10th**, we will have a Kick-Off Celebration. Gordie Larkins will be bringing grilled hamburgers and hotdogs. Plates, utensils, napkins and cups will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass.

Volunteers are needed for helping with set-up and clean-up. Please email Gordie at papagass@gmail.com with any questions and to volunteer. Thanks!



News from the Serving Team



The August noisy offering for the Lutheran Disaster Response was \$8.49. The September 10 noisy offering will be for the Grand Ledge Food Bank. Let's make some noise to support this community outreach ministry!

Immanuel's next community meal will be Monday, September 11 5:00-6:00p.m. Come and join in and welcome others!

The IV Team (Immanuel Visitation Team) is back in place and ready to reach out to our members that are shut in or for various reasons are not able to get out to worship. IV Team members have had some training to provide communion and prayer when they visit. It is important to contact Pr. Chuck to keep him informed so he can reach out or team members can reach out to keep us connected. Pr. Jim Couser included a commissioning service in the worship service of July 30. Those commissioned to serve include Jean Folk, George and Annette Ryan, Barb and Fred Roush and Jean and Greg Vicary. Thank you for reaching out to visit and offer communion through this ministry.

The Kitchen Update/Remodel Team recently met with the architect to work on final plans for remodeling the existing kitchen and the adjacent room. After a few more details are resolved the team will be close to putting the job out for a bid. ~ Den Graeber, Serving Team Leader

The Serving Team has been coordinating plans for us to respond to **God's Work Our Hands** this year. We have decided on two outreach projects that reach out in to the community:

Sleep in Heavenly Peace: Last year we had a great response from Immanuel for the bed build. This year we are taking donations of new bedding for this national outreach program that builds twin size beds and provides bedding for families in need. The needed bedding includes twin size sheets, pillows, pillow cases, comforters and mattress pads (all new).

School Supplies for Elementary Schools: For this project we are taking donations of school supplies for elementary students in the Grand Ledge School District. The specific needs for this project include: pocket folders, glue sticks, Elmer's glue, yellow #2 pencils, Crayola crayons (24 count), dry erase markers (black), black and white marble composition books, plastic pencil boxes, kids' scissors, construction paper, cap erasers, wide lined notebook paper and colored pencils. These items will be distributed to the various elementary schools for the teachers to use as an extra source of supplies when needed.



We are collecting items for both outreach projects through **Sunday, September 10**. Tables are set up in the church lobby for donations. It's great to see our response to date! Thank You!

We have received Thrivent Action Dollars for both of these outreach projects. Thank You Thrivent! Some Thrivent T-shirts are available in the lobby, please help yourself!

Please consider how you might respond to God's Work Our Hands! Thank You!

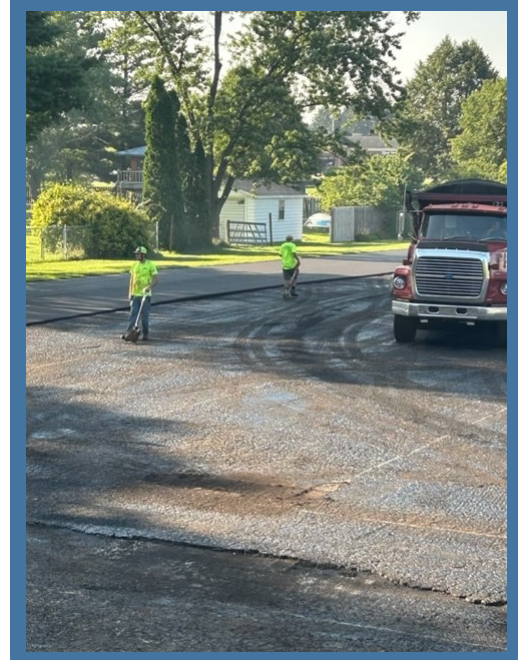
The **Kickoff 2023 Potluck Celebration on September 10** after worship will also be a time for us to celebrate our response to the God's Work Our Hands projects. Grilled hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass! This will be a great opportunity for some fellowship after our busy summer.

Council Corner

Hello everyone,

welcome to the end of summer. There has been a lot of things going on at Immanuel to close out our summer months. If you have not noticed, our parking lot received a new surface and the parking lines are visible once again. I would like to thank Greg Vicary and Gary Lass for the time that they spent watching over this important project. Trish was also around and took some pictures showing how things progressed. I believe she will be including some of those photos in this newsletter.

I'd like to mention a couple of new things now that the parking lot has been done and restriped. Please avoid parallel parking under the large tree that is closer to Clinton St. We have had a couple of instances where cars were blocked because the parallel vehicles were too close for people to back out of the parking spots safely and without damaging other cars around. We also added an additional handicap parking spot up near the church. A new sign will be installed shortly but the lines are in place for anyone who needs to use it.



We have welcomed Pastor Chuck back from his sabbatical. It is a good feeling to know that he is back. I look forward to hearing about the moments of enlightenment and the activities Pastor was able to enjoy while he was away from our congregation for rest and renewal. I would really like to extend our appreciation to the four Pastors who stepped in to help serve our church while Pr. Chuck was away.

I want to thank Pr. George Ayoub, Pr. Jim Couser, Pr. Rick McKenzie, Pr. John Schleicher, along with their wives, for the time and care that they shared with our congregation during Pastor's sabbatical. Working with them in Pastor's absence truly showed me a look at God's presence and I have really enjoyed being able to work with 4 very remarkable men who truly share God's gifts with us all. I thank them all from the bottom of my heart.



In early September we have a dedicated Sunday for God's Work Our Hands. Following that service, we have the ever-popular congregational potluck as a kickoff to fall. I am very much looking forward to trying out new recipes and spending time with all of you. Then not too far after that, we will have our Congregational Meeting in November where we will vote on new council members and a new mission plan for Immanuel heading into the 2024 year. More information will be provided on that as we get closer to November.

Your brother in Christ, Scott

Instant Church Directory



We'd love to see your smiling face!

If your picture is missing from Immanuel's online directory, please send a photo in to Trisha at the office, or have Barb Rinckey take your picture on Sunday morning.

Our online church directory is an ongoing project! We can instantly make additions and changes, so please let us know if you have a new email address, mailing address, change of phone numbers, new family member, or other change of information.

You can call the church office or email any of this information to office@immanuel-gl.org.

Also, don't forget that we have an app that can be easily be used by members to access member contact and other information from your mobile device. You must have an email on file with us to access this app, but we are happy to add one for you if you give it to us. Here's a reminder of how it works:

- Simply go to the App Store (Apple or Android)
- Search for INSTANT CHURCH DIRECTORY and download the FREE app to begin.
- You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.
- If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office, (517) 627-3810.

It's Quilting Time Again!

The Immanuel Quilting Group will be starting again on Thursday, September 7 and meet each Thursday, except during holidays, from 9am - 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 stacked and prepared to box up to ship to Lutheran World Relief in October. This year's haul will be well over 150 quilts! That's a lot - we can make more if we have more help! Our saying is, "If you can tie a knot, you can help!" We're a friendly, accepting group. Drop in whenever you can during that time frame. Weekly attendance is not required.



REMEMBER, Always on our wish list are: Cotton fabrics/scrap (larger than 36", if possible), Old blankets, sheets, mattress pads - clean White crochet cotton (thin) A red/green Rubbermaid donation bin is located in the back of the fellowship hall next to the wooden closets. Thank you!

This fall we will have a "blessing of the quilts," where we will display many of our quilts on the pews for you to see, pray over and send off around the world with your blessings!

Community Connections

A space for a Community of Believers, Movers and Changers

The Community Book Read & Discussion is upon us already, and the community of Grand Ledge will have an opportunity to read the book, "Waking up White" by Debby Irving. Immanuel will be hosting the Wednesday morning 10:30 Zoom discussion, as it gives working folks the opportunity to participate, by using the time as their lunch hour, break, etc. There will be other in-person opportunities as well. The Grand Ledge District Library will be posting that information on their Events page, so if you would rather do this in person, please look at their page.

Many people have asked or are wondering why we are even considering these October reads, as "I don't see any issues in Grand Ledge." Let me share what a local minister shared with facilitators just last month.

"We all know that Grand Ledge strives to be a community that chooses kindness and inclusivity. We are a loving and welcoming community. But, as you know, we continue to have situations where people of color are not fully included and welcomed. For example, a Black teacher at the high school left this year because of the way that parents and people in the community treated her. Most people in Grand Ledge are surprised to hear this because they, themselves, work hard to be inclusive. So our group has chosen Waking up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race by Debby Irving. It's a book by a white author who was deeply committed to racial equity and inclusion, but who discovered that there were ways that she accidentally was causing harm. Many of us who read it found that we identified with her struggles and found hope and wisdom in her advice."

The GLU group is planning an event afterwards to bring all the readers together, including high school students, to discuss and plan for what happens next.

Please consider joining us for this discussion.

~ Blanche, Jan,
Joni, Pastor Chuck

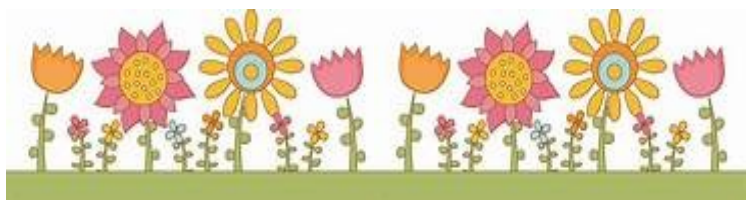


Sanctuary Flowers

Are you interested in providing flowers for Immanuel's Sanctuary on Sunday?

You can commemorate a special event or anniversary, or "just because."

There is a sign-up sheet of open Sundays in the narthex.



Women's Bible Study

Mondays at Immanuel

You are welcome and it's not too late to join in on this Women's Bible Study.

We will meet at the church on Monday mornings at 10:00 beginning September 11th. The book we will be reading, along with a study guide, is "Authentically, Uniquely You" by Joyce Meyer. We will be purchasing them for everyone who has expressed an interest.



God didn't create you to imitate someone else. He created you to be "authentically, uniquely you"

If you have any questions or want to be a part, please contact one of us, and we will be happy to answer them as we are able to.

Jane Kitchen at bj.kitchen@outlook.com

Blanche Schaudt at bls_u@yahoo.com

Calling all Singers!

Immanuel Choir starts Sept. 6th

From Christian author Robert J. Morgan:

"Look what I found in today's Washington Post—an article about the benefit of church choirs, the physical & mental health benefits of singing with others. Choirs are large families, said the paper. Singing in them promotes social bonding & joy. Choir members are more optimistic, less lonely, more likely to contribute positively to community. A sense of achievement comes from creating notes with the body & working together to master a work. The text is often inspiring & beautiful, so despite the day's travails, choir members leave rehearsals feeling 'this is a very positive thing that I can be a part of.' The Bible knew that all along. Choirs are a biblical part of God's scheme of worship! Don't miss it in your church!"

The article Mr. Morgan is referencing: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/wellness/2023/06/25/singing-with-others-mental-physical-health/>

Obviously, even the Washington Post believes singing with Immanuel's Church Choir is a great idea!

Come join us!

We rehearse each Wednesday from 7:30-8:30 in Immanuel's sanctuary, and on the weeks we sing for church, we also rehearse Sunday at 9 AM to work out any last minute kinks. We usually sing two times per month.

We will begin our rehearsals Sept 6th.

ALL are welcome. If you've ever thought about joining a church choir please consider it; we'd love to have you join us! If you have any questions call or text Maggie at 989-400-3251, or get in touch with any of our current choir singers!

Time to Ring Those Bells!

Immanuel's Handbell choir will start on Wednesday October 4th from 6:15-6:45.

All are welcome! Whether you have played before or never have played & want to learn!



Questions?

please contact Nancy Storm at
nstorm0929@yahoo.com

Or text 517-881-8568

Free Community Meal



**Monday, September 11th,
5-6pm**



All community and Immanuel folks are welcome to this monthly meal served in our fellowship hall on the second Monday of each month.

If you are available to help serve on this evening, please call Annette Ryan at 517-627-9511 .

Fifth Friday Fellowship

**Please join us at church for
Fifth Friday Fellowship
September 29th**

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

Luther League II Luncheon

Monday, September 11th, 1pm

Spud's Restaurant

611 Waverly Rd. 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 take up a small collection (usually \$1.00 apiece) after lunch to be used, at Christmas, for a charity of the group's choice.

There are many new faces in our congregation and 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 Saturday, Sept. 9th, if interested or have questions.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy

3 Jerry Damon
4 Karlene Ketola
5 Ernie Nostrant
5 Matthew Bryant
8 John Kingsley
10 Lori Fischer
13 Bettie Williams
13 Lee Burmeister
15 Gregory Hickok
15 Clara Van Hoesen
18 Collin Blake
20 Denise Proper
20 Madison Fischer


Birthday!

21 Nathan Buchweitz
21 Bill Gibbons
23 Dave Rinckey
24 Allison Landry
25 Bill Paulins
26 Peyton Goschka
28 Dawn Shilton
29 Pastor Chuck Foerster
29 Erin Anderson
29 Aaron Riley
29 Nancy Storm
29 Ron Hoornstra
29 Greg Osburn
30 Lisa Hetchler

Happy Anniversary!

4 ~ Sarah & Ryan Larson
10 ~ Linda & Larry Kruth
16 ~ Sarah & Tony Gatewood
16 ~ Mary & Pastor Chuck Foerster
21 ~ Sharlean & Glenn Saxton
21 ~ Allison & Daniel Landry
22 ~ Rachel & Blake Schneider
25 ~ Carmen & Steve Karkau
25 ~ Nancy & Regis Trella



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> <p>Trisha Office Hours: Mon & Fri, 9a - 2p, or Pastor Chuck at 989.750.4573.</p>					1	2 AA Support Group 8am
3 First Fruits Offering Worship with Communion 10am	4 Office Closed 	5	6 Choir 7:30pm	7 Quilters 9a-11:30	8	9 AA Support Group 8am
10 Worship with Communion 10am Noisy Offering: G.L. Food Bank Kick-Off Celebration Potluck	11 Women's Bible Study 10am Serving Team Mtg 2:30pm Community Dinner 5-6pm	12	13 Choir 7:30pm	14 Quilters 9a-11:30	15	16 AA Support Group 8am
17 Worship with Communion 10am	18 Women's Bible Study Sewl Sisters 11am-3pm Council Mtg 6:30pm	19	20 Choir 7:30pm	21 Quilters 9a-11:30	22	23 AA Support Group 8am
24 Worship with Communion 10am	25 Women's Bible Study 10am	26	27 Choir 7:30pm	28 Quilters 9a-11:30	29 Fifth Friday Fellowship 6pm	30 AA Support Group 8am