

October 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**  
**517.627.6310 • www.immanuel-gl.org**



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT...a note from your Pastor

There are many exciting things happening around Immanuel! I wanted to make sure you were aware of them and to also ask for your prayers when it comes to where God is leading this body of faith.

First off, I'm sure you are aware of the parking lot re-surfacing. Besides looking great, being much safer to walk into the building, it is a way for us to welcome visitors, seekers and others that might be using our building for ministry. It is a positive improvement with potential to use it for other ministries as well. It is not just for looks, but think of how it could aid our ministry and outreach. With God, all things are possible.

We are currently working on replacing one of the furnaces/air conditioning units. This is part of regular maintenance that we need to keep up on to maintain the facility. This particular change will allow for some extra storage space in the kitchen and a mop sink station that the health department wants us to have. So, with this project, we move forward slowly with our kitchen remodeling project, one step at a time.

The other big news change that I wanted to remind you of is we are still searching to hire a Youth Leader. As you may know, we received an incredibly generous gift from a family that is earmarked for this position. It allows us to pay this person a living wage for 3 years. Before, we might not have had the financial strength to make this happen, but because of this gift, we now do. However, in our

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT continued...

searching, we have not had a great deal of success bringing forth candidates. This is a church wide issue. There are fewer people going into the ministry and fewer young people answering the call to Youth Leadership. I would like you to pray about the this; I believe God is already preparing someone to come to Immanuel to take lead on the ministry. However, we have not discovered that person as of yet. Please pray that God would reveal this person and that we would welcome them into this body of Christ as we continue to work in God's kingdom to share the message of hope that comes in the Gospel. Please pray for this body of faith that we strive for God's will and trust in God's plan to bear fruit among us.

It's what we do; Connecting Lives to Christ. May we be strengthened in our mission and in our commitment to being God's hands and feet in this community and beyond.

Journeying with you,



Pastor Chuck

### God's Work Our Hands 2023

The Serving Team coordinated the plans for Immanuel's response to God's Work Our Hands on September 10. What a great response from the congregation!

We reached out to Sleep in Heavenly Peace with bedding donations for twin size beds. Last year we helped build beds for this national organization that makes beds for children. Their motto is "No kid sleeps on the floor in our town."

This year the donations included 30 sets of sheets, 10 beds in a bag, 9 mattress pads, 3 comforters, 5 sherpa blankets and 6 pillows.

We also reached out to the four elementary schools in Grand Ledge by donating school supplies which will help when supplies are low or the student is not able to provide supplies. The following items were donated:

81 pocket folders, 30 school kits with various supplies, 95 glue sticks and 21 Elmer's glue, 35 rulers, 357 pencils  
57 boxes of crayons (24 count), 101 dry erase markers, 60 pens, 47 black and white composition books, 37 kid's scissors, 21 pencil boxes, 10 little pencil sharpeners, 28 boxes of colored pencils, 26 cap erasers and other erasers, 41 wide lined note book paper packages, 31 spiral notebooks, 4 packages of construction paper, 6 rolls of tape, 1 package of index cards.

Thanks for your generous donations and thanks to the Thrivent members who applied for action dollars which gave us a total of \$500.00 for the two projects. Together we can make a difference!

The Serving Team

# News from the Serving Team

The August noisy offering for the **Lutheran Disaster Response** has been updated to \$108.49.

The September noisy offering for the **Grand Ledge Food Bank** was \$144.80.

The October 8 noisy offering will be for **Blessings in a Backpack**. Blessings in a Backpack is packing every two weeks as we move into the 2023/2024 school year.

Our **next community meal** is scheduled for Monday, October 9 from 5:00-6:00p.m. You are invited to come and join in and invite others! Eat in our take out!



It's time to be coordinating plans for high school **graduation quilts** for 2024. Anyone with a 2024 graduate should contact Lyn Danes (517) 243-4730. Thanks!

Thanks for your response to the two **God's Work Our Hands** projects what a great response! See the God's Work Our Hand's report for more details.

Looking Ahead: As we approach November and December we are looking at Immanuel's participation in the local **Christmas Gift Baskets** to individuals and families in need. The names of these individuals and families will be provided to us through the Grand Ledge Emergency Assistance Program (GLEAP). For many years Immanuel has called this project Baskets of Hope. To support this ministry this year we are going to need some additional donations and will be coordinating this for November. Watch for more details!

The Grand Ledge Meijer, in its deep routed hunger relief efforts will be kicking off the **Holiday Simply Give Campaign** in October. This will run from Sunday, October 1, 2023 through Saturday, December 30, 2023 with the donation designated 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 and the store will match the donation. During the campaign the Double Match Day opportunity will be held on Saturday, December 16. For every \$10 Simply Give card purchased on December 16, 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 weekly to replenish the food bank shelves. Thanks for your support to this campaign which will help the food bank considerably!



## Council Corner

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to fall everyone! Can you believe when you receive this newsletter, we will only be a few days from the beginning of October? I know some of us may be saddened to see summer end (but is it really?? The forecasted temperatures would beg to differ!) But there are also many great things that only fall can bring. We will soon be basking in the beauty of the fall colors that God has painted for all of us. We have a Fifth Friday including food (who doesn't love food) and a nice bonfire outside. And rumor has it we have a Chili Cookoff in the works ... can't wait to try everyone's unique chili recipes!!

With fall comes a return of familiar routines. The kids are back in school, and they are writing yet another new chapter in their book of life. Remember the excitement that came with finding new clothes and school supplies for the new year? And getting to see friends you haven't seen in several months?

With fall comes the excitement of sports. For me personally, this year I am most excited to watch my Detroit Lions. I still have my original love in MSU Football, I grew up going to the football games with my grandfather. Unfortunately, this year has all the feelings of a challenging and frustrating year for the Green and White.

And with fall comes the Cider Mills. Fresh apples and apple cider. Fresh made donuts coated with cinnamon and sugar. Carmel apples. Carving pumpkins (and feeling the guts squish between your fingers!)

And with this fall comes the close of my chapter as your Council President. To say it has been an honor to help lead our church would be an understatement. I have grown in so many ways, both in spirit and as a human. The most enjoyable part for me, though, through these last few years as President was getting to know and building relationships with all of you. You all have enriched my life in so many ways, and I am eternally grateful for the bond in Christ that we will always share.

As I close, I hope all is well with you and your families. Remember, we are always here for one another. If you need help or support in any way, please make your needs known. Let us pray for you and help relieve some of your burdens.

Your brother in Christ,

Scott

*"Softly the leaves of memory fall.  
Gently we gather and treasure them all.  
A thought, a prayer, are all we can give.  
These you will have, for as long as we live."*



## Blessing of the Quilts Sunday, October 8th

The ladies of Immanuel's LWR Quilting Group have done it again! This year they have made 175 quilts that will be packed and shipped to Lutheran World Relief for distribution around the world. This is no small effort - here are some approximate usage stats for the 175 quilts:

1,680,000 square inches of fabric (or 1,296 square yards)  
854,000 square inches of filler/batting  
84,000 inches of tying string  
4,000 yards of thread  
Countless labor hours



Please join us on Sunday, October 8, at the 10:00 a.m. service to celebrate this wonderful achievement and to help in blessing the quilts. The pews will be decorated with samplings of them and you will have a chance to see first hand this labor of love - another ministry to be proud of! We hope you'll join us.



### Luther League II Luncheon

**Monday, October 9th, 1pm**

**Tony M's restaurant**

3420 S. Creyts 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, Oct. 7th, if interested or have questions.

### Immanuel Memorial Garden

Immanuel Lutheran's Memorial Garden (on East side of building) is a quiet place to mediate, remember and pray. There are currently forty remains of the saints that have gone before us interred in the Memorial Garden. The urns are buried in the cross shaped flower bed at the north end of the garden. The south end features a gazebo sitting area recently updated and painted.

The south entrance to the garden features a wrought iron gate crafted by a church member. The garden is kept up during the growing season by just a couple volunteers and we so greatly appreciate the love and dedication that has been given to keep the memorial garden a beautiful place to ponder and pray and remember those saints who have gone on to heavenly glory. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, either in administration or in caring for the garden itself, please let Pastor Chuck know.

## Community Connections

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

I don't know about you, but it wasn't until I was much older that I looked at different opinions as being important to fuller and richer conversations, decisions and outcomes. You mean, I have to listen to someone who doesn't agree with me? That what they have to say is just as important as what I have to say? Yes, if we want to be a community of believers, changers and movers, this is exactly what we need to do. But...we need to do it in love. It is what we are tasked to do by the God who is in each of us. Each and every one, no matter the color of our skin, the gender we claim, or the political stand we take, God is in each of us.

This month a small group of us will be gathering to discuss what we have learned while reading the book "Waking up White" by Debby Irving. There are other small groups in our community of Grand Ledge who will be doing the same, and we will gather together afterwards to share thoughts, ideas and what might be next.

It isn't to late to get in on the conversation. Just let Pastor Chuck or the office know. And remember, your voice and opinion matters, if it is tempered in love. Blessings,

~ 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.



## 2024 Giving Envelopes

Would you like to have a packet of giving envelopes for next year? If so, please take a moment to put your name down on the sign-up sheet. See Bev Lass for more information.



## Free Community Meal

**Monday, October 9th,  
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 .



Thank you to those who created this welcoming Chalk Art for our  
Fall Kick-off Sunday!



## October Birthdays & Anniversaries

### *Happy Birthday!*

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Brandon DeWitt   | 11 Nancy Kuhlman   |
| 2 Barbara Rinckey  | 11 Jessica Burg    |
| 2 Christine Person | 12 David Kurtycz   |
| 3 Lydia Williams   | 18 Rick McKenzie   |
| 4 Jennifer Roesch  | 19 Jon Luethjohann |
| 4 Landyn Roesch    | 23 Jan Martinich   |
| 5 Glen Saxton      | 25 Tamra Williams  |
| 5 Sue Marsh        | 26 Michael Wheeler |
| 6 Jim Couser       | 28 Lisa Pung       |
| 7 Robert Kunc      | 30 Maggie Polley   |
| 8 Kris Hernden     | 31 Sharon Wolf     |
| 9 Elizabeth Kunc   |                    |

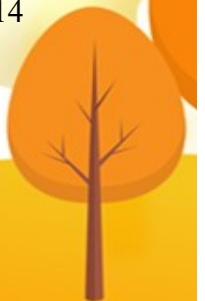
### *Happy Anniversary!*

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 First Fruits Offering Worship with Communion 10am	2 Women's Bible Study 10am Sewl Sisters 11am-3pm Serving Team Mtg 3pm	3 Boyscouts 6:30	4 MITM 7am Comm Book Read Zoom 10:30am Handbells 6:15pm Choir 7:30pm	5 Quilters 9a-11:30	6	7 AA Support Group 8am
8 Worship with Communion 10am with Blessing of Quilts Noisy Offering: Blessings in a Backpack	9 Women's Bible Study 10am  Community Dinner 5-6pm	10 Boyscouts 6:30	11 MITM 7am Comm Book Read Zoom 10:30am Handbells 6:15pm Choir 7:30pm	12 Quilters 9a-11:30	13	14 AA Support Group 8am
15 Worship with Communion 10am	16 Women's Bible Study 10am Sewl Sisters 11am-3pm Council Mtg 6:pm	17 Boyscouts 6:30	18 MITM 7am Comm Book Read Zoom 10:30am Handbells 6:15pm Choir 7:30pm	19 Quilters 9a-11:30	20	21 AA Support Group 8am
22 Worship with Communion 10am	23 Women's Bible Study 10am	24 Boyscouts 6:30	25 MITM 7am Comm Book Read Zoom 10:30am Handbells 6:15pm Choir 7:30pm	26 Quilters 9a-11:30	27	28 AA Support Group 8am
29 Worship with Communion 10am	30 Women's Bible Study 10am	31 Boyscouts 6:30	<p>If you have any questions related to upcoming events, please contact Trisha at the Church Office at 517.627.6310.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Trisha Office Hours: Mon &amp; Fri, 9a - 2p, or Pastor Chuck at 989.750.4573.</p>			