

The Manger

Connecting Lives to Christ

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA

Inside This Issue

A Note from your Pastor.....1
 Altar Colors.....2
 News from Serving Team.....3
 Luther League Luncheon.....3
 Council Corner.....4
 Community Outreach.....5
 Around Immanuel.....6
 Birthdays and Anniversaries.....7
 Calendar of Events.....8



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

And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." Revelation 21

Another New Year upon us. We never know what it will bring. We hope and wish for ourselves, our families and others that it brings peace and health, prosperity and joy. But it is always a tenuous wish for we really don't know. It could be a year that is filled with true joy and peace, or it could be a year that has some major struggles and times of grief.

But that is why there is hope; and I'm not talking about the wishy-washy, long shot, distant hope. I'm talking about a hope that God is still with us, still active in our world, still making all things new! This kind of hope is what our faith is built on, bit by bit. As God keeps God's promises, we begin to sense and see that indeed God is making all things new, including US! Even while our outer nature is getting wrinkly and we notice more aches and pains, God is at work in our hearts bringing peace and love.

As we look at our congregation, we see some ministries that have dissolved while at the same time we see new ministries popping up and new folks willing to be a part of the life of this body of faith. As folks get connected, they see how important this community is not only to themselves, but to our greater community. We answer God's call when we become God's voice, God's hands and feet in the world. We can be the light shining in the darkness for so many people! Sure, it will take more involvement, more people making that connection,

FOOD FOR THOUGHT continued...

more time spent in serving others, but as we do this, we help usher in God's kingdom and in doing so the scripture comes true; God is making all things new, in us and through us!

It is my fervent prayer for this congregation that in the coming year, the actions we take, the outreach to others, the love that we share, that we will be even more bold as Ambassadors of Hope, bringing the light of Christ to others through mercy, invitation, forgiveness and welcome. We do that for one another and we do it for those that we do not yet know. This, sisters and brothers, is what it means to BE CHURCH.

So may we be church to each other and to the stranger. May we welcome those different than we. May we rise up as this body of faith known as Immanuel until all shall know the love of Christ is for them.

A blessed and prosperous and healthy New Year!

Journeying with you,

Pastor Chuck

ALL
THINGS
NEW



Altar Colors



Epiphany is the season of the church year following Advent. It begins the Sunday following the New Year and it lasts until Lent. Because we focus on the development of our faith before we begin the season of Lent, and our penitence of sins. Epiphany discloses the Savior to the world. Christians are encouraged to reflect on the nature of God's physical manifestation on earth.

Epiphany is also called Pre-Lent season of the church. We aim to reinforce our faith during Epiphany in anticipation of the joy of Easter and God's unfailing Love. Through the Word and teachings during Epiphany, we gain the courage to examine ourselves with sincerity, and to embrace our forgiveness by the Grace of God, given freely to us. The season of Epiphany leads us to show and tell of Christ as God's gift of GRACE and of salvation for all. Some call this the continuing works of Christmas. The altar color for Epiphany is GREEN because we focus on the development of our faith.

News from the Serving Team

The **December 10th Noisy Offering** for the Grand Ledge Food Bank was \$406.09. The January 14th noisy offering will be for Blessings in a Backpack. They are currently packing for approximately 145 students in the Grand Ledge School District and are providing additional food for the weekend.



Our next **Community Meal** is scheduled for Monday, January 8 from 5:00-6:00p.m. You are invited to come and join in and invite others! Eat in or take out!

Special thanks to the volunteers that delivered the **Meijer gift cards** for the ten families that Immanuel assisted this year thru our **Baskets of Hope** ministry. Thanks to everyone that donated to Baskets of Hope. We were able to provide \$50 per person in each family which totaled 25 people. This community Christmas outreach ministry is coordinated by volunteers from the Grand Ledge Emergency Assistance Program (GLEAP) and reaches out to families needing a little assistance. Thanks Again!

Thanks to the Gathering Team for coordinating the **Reverse Advent food donations** for the Grand Ledge Food Bank. Thanks to everyone who participated with your generous donations of food. A total of 700 items were donated. Great Response! Thanks!

The Serving Team is looking forward to the new year as we reach out to each other in our church family. As a congregation we will continue to plan to reach out to both community and global ministries.

Luther League II Luncheon

Monday, January 8th, 1pm

Cracker Barrel Restaurant

608 Commercial Dr. 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. We would love to have you join in!

Please call Kristine Hernden, 517-712-7185 by Saturday, January 6th, if interested or have questions.

Council Corner

Council Meeting, December 18th, 2023

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept November's report was made by Dan, 2nd by Julia. The council approved. Different formats for this report were discussed.

Support Team: The new furnace has been installed in the room adjacent to the kitchen. The sewer lines have been cleared. Bids are being received for waterproofing and repair of the basement wall in building 501. Fred Roush, Karen Ketola, and Scott Hoornstra are leaving the Support Team after many years of service. They are to be thanked for all they have done.

Serving Team: Baskets of Hope donations have been collected. The donations are being sent to families in need. The Christmas meal is being served on Christmas day. You will be able to eat in or have a meal delivered. Graduation quilts are being made.

Gathering Team: The music for the Christmas and Advent services has been planned and now they are working on post-Christmas music and services. This year a reverse Advent Calendar was planned.

Pastor's Report: The pastor will be on vacation from 1-9 January. There will be a new members class in January or February.

Congregational Concerns or Questions: it was brought up to a council member that the entry to the church could be remodeled to make a coffee and fellowship area that is more accessible for those who have trouble with stairs. This idea was discussed. As a reminder, if you have an issue or question see any council member to have it brought up at our meetings.

Old Business:

Kitchen Remodel: The new furnace is in and now the architect can continue with the revised plan.

Youth Ministry Program: The team is exploring other options.

By-Law Update: The committee working on this has a projected time of completion for after the February Mission meeting.

Columbarium for Memorial Garden: An informational meeting was held before the 20 November council meeting in the sanctuary. The city only require a permit to pour the concrete footings. The pastor will give a presentation to the congregation at the February Mission meeting.

The Ten Commandment plaque that used to be displayed in the entry way of the church is being replaced with an updated display. This is being researched at the present time.

New Business:

1. A request to use the fellowship hall on 15 June for a graduation open house was received. Julia made a motion to approve, and Barb seconded, council approved.

The next council meeting is January 15, 2024, at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall.



Community Connections

A Community of Believers Movers and Changers

Happy New Year! No resolutions, just looking ahead at all the opportunities we may have in fellowship, learning, growing and including. *Often times the changes we seek lie within each of us if we only step forward in faith.* And one group of women have been thinking about ways to do just that. There are also a few ideas from recent conversations I had with some of the younger members of our congregation.

- * Having a Book/Bible Study with a Zoom component or alternate time to include other women and their time commitments.
- * Doing a Food Train or re-establishing "Frozen Chosen" to take a meal to those in need.
- * Offering a variety of cooking classes to those going to college, or anyone who might want to try new recipes.
- * Getting together for a craft day, teaching new skills like knitting, crocheting, etc.
- * Being intentional about introducing ourselves in church to new people, or members we have yet to meet.
- * Establishing an Inter-Generational Sunday School, after church with a potluck meal included.

Our work continues in welcoming new members, and one thing that has been created is a Spiritual Gifts handout. This will be given to established members after the first of the year as well, to refresh and remind us of the talents and ideas we have as a community of believers doing the good and necessary work we are called to.

The Work of Christmas by Howard Thurman

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among the people,
To make music in the heart.*

always
put your
hope in
God.

Wishing you and Healthy and Hope-filled 2024!



Thank you Immanuel family for all of the time, energy and dedication in support of our Community Christmas dinner.

We were blessed with so many cookies and pies to share with others. We had plenty of food and blessed over 100 people with dinner, dessert, a welcoming smiles and kind hearts. Thank you!

Sincerely, Karen Ketola

Offering Envelope Packets

2024 Giving Envelope Packets are available in the Lobby for picking up. They are displayed alphabetically with your last name. If you don't have an assigned packet, please notify the office and we will assign you a number.



Immanuel Building Use

Did you know?

Our Building is used in various ways throughout the week, including:

Quilting, Sewing, Bible Studies, AA meeting, Boy Scouts, Line Dancing, Team Meetings, as well as the occasional reception, shower, open house...

If you are interested in using the building, please contact the office for a Building Use form. After completing the form, return to the office and it will go to Council for approval.

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.



Free Community Meal

**Monday, January 8th,
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.

We offer a specialty soup as well as sandwiches, drinks and desserts.

You can stop on by for take-out or stay and eat here.

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



Coming Up....

Chili Cook-Off

January 27th, at 5 pm.

Please email Gordie Larkins (papagass@gmail.com) to indicate if you are plan to provide a chili, if you plan to attend or if you have any questions. In addition to eating chili, I believe we should also bring games to play after we eat.



Are you looking ways to plug in at Immanuel?

There are opportunities for volunteers on Sunday mornings and many ways to contribute, including ushers, inside and outside, lay readers, communion helpers, greeters, providing flowers, learning the sound table or power-point, and coffee fellowship, etc..

In addition, there are opportunities outside of Sunday morning, including helping with our Community Meal, our building and grounds upkeep, altar care, the memorial garden, etc. Please see a Council member or the office for information!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1 Ryan Dinsmore	11 Edward Williams
2 Christine Wood	12 Levi Boyers
3 Edward Hill	17 Tom Blake
4 Mark Wolf	19 Drew Karkau
6 James Ostler	19 Fred Koos
8 Donald Jubb	19 Tyler Schneider
9 Zachary Shilton	20 Linn Smith
11 Conner Blake	23 Jo Long
11 Lacy Boyers	26 Lloyd Kleinhenz
11 Josh Hengeshbach	28 Bruce Williams
11 Jim Nama	29 Greg Ketola
11 Britney Sullenberger	30 David LaGrave
11 Teddy Williams	31 Judy LaFay

Happy Anniversary!


Mike & Cheryl Pitchford ~ 1/7

David & Sheryl Kurtycz ~ 1/9

Dave & Barb Rinkey ~ 1/22

Joe & Patty Riley ~ 1/24

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3	4	5 HPA Sewers 9:30am	6 AA Support Group 8am
7 First Fruits Offering Worship with Communion 10am	8 Sewl Sisters 11am-3pm Serving Team 3pm Community Dinner 5-6pm Support Team 6:30	9 Boyscouts 6:30	10 MITM 7am Line Dancing 10am Handbells 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm	11 Quilters 9a-11:30	12 HPA Sewers 9:30am	13 AA Support Group 8am
14 Worship w/ Comm 10am Noisy Offering: Blessing in a backpack	15 Council Mtg 6:30pm	16 Boyscouts 6:30	17 MITM 7am Line Dancing 10am Handbells 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm	18 Quilters 9a-11:30	19 HPA Sewers 9:30am	20 AA Support Group 8am
21 Worship with Communion 10am	22 Sewl Sisters 11am-3pm	23 Boyscouts 6:30	24 MITM 7am Line Dancing 10am Handbells 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm	25 Quilters 9a-11:30	26 HPA Sewers 9:30am	27 AA Support Group 8am Chili Cook-off 5pm
28 Worship with Communion 10am	29	30 Boyscouts 6:30	31 MITM 7am Line Dancing 10am Handbells 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm	<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>		