



# The Manger

February 2024

Connecting Lives to Christ

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA

## Inside This Issue

A Note from Your Pastor.....	1
Youth Minister.....	2
Council Corner.....	3
News from Serving Team.....	4
Luther League Luncheon.....	4
Welcome New Members.....	5
February Ministry Meeting.....	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.



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

*“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so My ways are higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts...Isaiah 55*

It burns my toast that we are once again in the political cycle of campaigning. So many things are said through the media and it is hard to believe what is true and what is balderdash. It seems more often than not, a politician makes a speech and come to find out it is loaded with lies and half-truths. It can cause us to be cynical about so many things we hear. However, I do know that it is sure and for certain that we can rely on God's promises. God's word is true and trustworthy.

As we look forward to our ministry meeting on February 11th (right after worship) we look forward to what God might be up to in our midst. I like the phrase, “What's God got in store for '24?” Now we cannot know for absolutely sure what God will bring or how God might steer us, but when we trust in God, we know that God has something better in mind for us, something to prosper our ways, not harm us, says the scripture. God has a way of guiding our lives for God's purpose, like clay before a potter, we are molded and shaped by God's hands.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT *continued...*

At the ministry meeting you will probably hear a bit about what the year past has brought us, but hopefully you will hear even more about ministries that Immanuel is looking forward to and how you might get connected to what God is doing through this body of faith. There is a great deal to be excited about when we imagine 2024 and beyond at Immanuel. With God leading the way, the possibilities are endless. I hope that you are looking forward to this year and that the spirit moves you to a deeper faith and a more fervent love for Jesus. I hope you feel the push toward involvement in ministry and perhaps even coming up with your own ideas on how to serve God in this community. God's peace be with you!

A blessed and prosperous and healthy New Year!

Journeying with you,

Pastor Chuck



### Altar Colors



**Altar Servers**

Epiphany is the season of the church year following Advent. It begins the Sunday following the New Year and it lasts until Lent. 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.

The altar color for epiphany is Green because we focus on the development of our faith. If you would like to be a part of the Altar team, please see Sue Marsh.

### Youth Minister

**Immanuel continues to look for a Youth Ministry Leader who would:**

- \* be Primary leader of programs and opportunities directed toward Jr. High to High School Youth.  
Develop & facilitate a consistent outreach ministry to Immanuel's graduates.
- \*Partner with volunteers and Senior Pastor to increase participation in Youth Ministry.
- \*Prioritize time as defined by Immanuel to also help develop K thru 5th grade programs.
- \*Effectively communicate these programs to the congregation.

## COUNCIL CORNER

*“For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.”*

It is a new season at Immanuel, as we transition from one council to another. Members who bring to the table a variety of gifts which God has blessed them with, and who will be installed during the 10:00am service on February 11th. Our Annual Ministry Meeting will also take place on this Sunday right after the service. ( Yes, it is also Superbowl Sunday so we will be mindful and good stewards of the time.)

These members worship with you on Sunday morning, they serve with you in ministries, supply food for funeral luncheons and Easter breakfasts, send out cards, sing in the choir, and do things, or make repairs behind the scenes, as that is how they do the work they are called to do. The work we are all called to do which is to build up the Kingdom of God here on earth, in love, grace and forgiveness.

Let me introduce them to you:

Blanche Schaudt—President

Gordie Larkins - Vice President

Cindy Smith—Recording Secretary

Matt Bryant -Treasurer

Barbara Jetmore

Christopher Polley

Melissa Kingsley

Ron Hoornstra

Sarah Larkins



Some of them will be reaching out to you as Council continues the ministry of Caring for Our Congregation this year. And they will be meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup> at their annual retreat to look at Hopes and Dreams, Plans and Schemes to keep the momentum going that began under the important and exceptional leadership of the recent council, and the wonderful ideas shared by members of the congregation. God is truly at work among us.

Let me end by praying these words with you from Hebrews 10: 24

*Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works, Amen*

~ Blanche Schaudt

## NEWS FROM the SERVING TEAM

The January 14 noisy offering for Blessing in a Backpack was \$173.78. The February 11 noisy offering will be for the Lutheran Disaster Response. The Lutheran Disaster Response reaches out to help out with disasters in the United States and globally.

Our next community meal is scheduled for Monday, February 12, 5:00-6:00p.m. You are invited to come and join in and invite others! Eat in or take out!

We are hoping to get more people involved with the community meal ministry. You can help out by providing cakes or cookies for dessert. Or you can help by offering to get into a sandwich making process for the month. The hope is to get more people involved in making and serving sandwiches monthly so there is a monthly rotation in place. (To help out contact Annette Ryan at 517-627-9511.) Thanks!

The Serving Team will be coordinating a project during Lent to support Ken Clark's Coat Closet. They are in need of personal care products. The items needed include deodorant, tooth brushes (both adult and child), tooth paste, shampoo and conditioner, bar soap, liquid hand soap and feminine hygiene products. Donations can be made starting Sunday, February 18 through Easter Sunday. Look for boxes in the church lobby as we begin to gather up donations and reach out to support them in this much needed community outreach!

Looking Ahead: Gordie Larkins and Brian Yusten are planning an Easter Breakfast! Stay tuned as plans develop and thanks guys!

~ Den Graeber

### Luther League II Luncheon

**Monday, February 12, 1pm**

**Outback Steakhouse**

617 N. Canal (Corner of Canal and Saginaw)

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, February 10th, if interested or have questions.

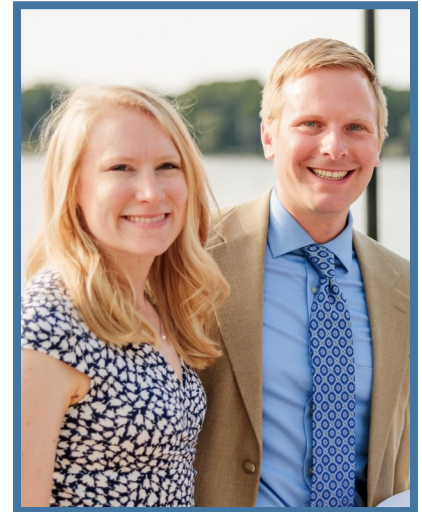
# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

## Hailey & Andy Barrus

Hailey and Andy have lived in Grand Ledge since 2016 and have recently transferred from Martin Luther Chapel in East Lansing.

Andy is a math teacher at Laingsburg High School and Hailey is a communications specialist at the State of Michigan's Center for Data and Analytics. Outside of work, Andy likes cooking, trivia, following MSU sports, and vegetable gardening. Hailey likes reading, maintaining their landscaping, and generally working on creative projects. Both of them enjoy trying new foods/restaurants and travelling. They will be taking on a different kind of adventure this spring as they anticipate the birth of their first child in April.

Andy and Hailey are both from Michigan and are alumni of Michigan State University where they met as freshman in 2007. They will be celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary in June. They look forward to getting to know everyone and getting involved in the ministries at Immanuel!



## Hello Immanuel Lutheran Church!

We are Pam and Gary Muenchausen. We joined Immanuel late in 2023.

We moved to the Lansing area two weeks before the pandemic lock down of 2020. We relocated here to be closer to our Daughter, Kristin, her husband Anthony, and their family. We have two beautiful Granddaughters, Vivian and Lillian, and you will get a chance to get to know them at those times they accompany us to various events and worship.

We relocated from Rochester Hills, where we attended Abiding Presence Lutheran Church. We are both retired. Pam from Accession Hospital and Gary from DTE Energy.

We both look forward worshipping and working with all of you!

Welcome  
to the  
Family



Immanuel Lutheran

## Church

*Connecting Lives to Christ*

501 S. Clinton Street

Grand Ledge MI 48837

Office: 517-627-6310

January 26, 2024

**Dear Immanuel Family,**

Our Annual Ministry Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2024. It will immediately 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 and consider any new ideas you may have.

Members from Serving, Support, Gathering and Preparing will briefly share what they have planned so far, and Council will also speak to what they have been working on which carries into 2024. It is also a time when those participating in the meeting, may make suggestions and ask questions of Pastor, the team members and council. Please know that your voices and ideas matter to the health of Immanuel, as we grow in God's love for each other and those in our community.

We look forward to seeing you and/or hearing from you on Sunday, February 11th.

Blessings, Blanche Schaudt, Council President

### **Ministry Meeting Agenda** February 11, 2024

Opening Devotions & Prayer by Pastor Chuck

Approval of 2023 Ministry Meeting Minutes

Request for Additions to the Agenda: Motion made by \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_

Review Ministry Goals made for 2023 & Goals for 2024

\* Pastor - Updates about Gathering, Preparing, Youth Ministry Leader & Columbarium

\* Den Graeber - Moving forward with Serving Team/Kitchen Renovation

\* Gary Lass - What has Support been up to and what are the plans for 2024

\* Blanche Schaudt - Bylaw updates in process, Voting by absentee ballots with regard to livestream

- Caring for Our Congregation

New Business

Closing Prayers

## 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.

## Church Keys

Do you have keys to Immanuel's exterior or interior doors that you no longer use or need?

If so, could you return to the church office along with a note for what key it is.

Thank you!  
~ Trisha



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Mike Danes          | 18 Cyndee DeYoung    |
| 2 Ethan Childs        | 19 Kaydee Foerster   |
| 5 Maggie Baribeau     | 19 Corbyn Polley     |
| 5 Sheryl Kurtycz      | 19 Memphis Schneider |
| 5 Tyler Hubert        | 21 Steve Karkau      |
| 7 Callahan Riggs      | 22 Gwyneth Ketola    |
| 8 Emma Shilton        | 23 Linda Hubert      |
| 10 Zane Racine        | 24 Dennis Martinich  |
| 12 Bev Lass           | 24 Amy Wheeler       |
| 13 Emma Landry        | 25 Cheyenne Dunn     |
| 13 Michelle Pitchford | 25 Dakota Dunn       |
| 14 Melissa Goschka    | 25 Sharlean Saxton   |
| 14 Barb Wickerham     | 26 Andrew Oesterle   |
| 16 Joy Powis          | 27 Ryan Larson       |
| 16 Ray Baser          |                      |

### Happy Anniversary!

Tony & Toni Holland ~ 2/1

Melissa & John Kingsley ~ 2/5

Sue & Fred Marsh ~ 2/27

# February

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>				1 Immanuel Quilters 9am	2 HPA Sewers 9:30am	3 AA Support Group 8am
4 First Fruits Offering Worship with Communion 10am	5 Sewl Sisters 10:30am-3pm  Serving-Team 3:30 Support Team 6:30	6  Boyscouts 6:30	7 MITM 7am  Line  Handbells 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm	8 Immanuel Quilters 9am	9 HPA Sewers 9:30am	10 AA Support Group 8am
11 Noisy Offering Lutheran Dis Response  Worship with Communion 10am Ministry Meeting	12  Community Dinner 5-6pm	13  Boyscouts 6:30	14 MITM 7am  Ash Wed. Services 12pm & 7pm	15 Immanuel Quilters 9am	16 HPA Sewers 9:30am	17 AA Support Group 8am  Council Retreat 10a-2p  Euchre Night 6pm
18 Worship with Communion 10am	19 Sewl Sisters 10:30am-3pm	20  Boyscouts 6:30	21 MITM 7am  Lent Service 7pm	22 Immanuel-Quilters 9am	23 HPA Sewers 9:30am	24 AA Support Group 8am  Baby Shower 12-5
25 Worship with Communion 10am	26	27  Boyscouts 6:30	28 MITM 7am  Lent Service 7pm	29 		