



March 2024

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.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT...a note from Your Pastor

The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing. Isaiah 51

You may already be aware of the beautiful Memorial Garden we have on the east side of the church building. It has been part of Immanuel for a long time, both as a place of inurnment and a place of quiet meditation and conversations. The folks that have worked on it over the years and the ones that continue that ministry, have done a wonderful job tending to God’s creation in our little garden.

At our Congregational Ministry Meeting in early February, I spoke briefly about a project for the Memorial Garden. It is called a Columbarium and it is granite structure that has niches for a loved one’s cremains. Once the urn (or urns) is placed in the niche, it is sealed up with a granite plate and then another granite cover over every four of the niches. After this has been done, the decedent’s name would be engraved on that cover. The columbarium would be an enhancement to the beauty of the garden and would include a bench seat for quiet meditation and prayer. It is also a practical decision and I believe good stewardship.

One of the main reasons we are putting forth this project, is because the earthen cross where forty-three of our past members are inurned, is running out of room. A granite columbarium such as the one we are looking at would provide forty-eight niches for a loved one’s cremains along with spaces for memorializing loved ones that are interned elsewhere.

At our recent retreat, the council agreed to move forward with “phase one” of this project which entails coming up with a cost estimate for one (48 space) columbarium with concrete foundation per manufacturers specifications with space reserved for a second columbarium adjoining somewhere in the future. We will outline

FOOD FOR THOUGHT *continued...*

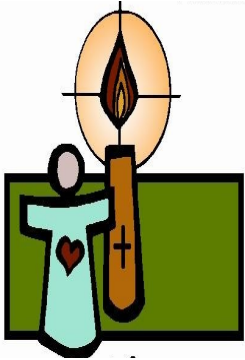
costs for members who would like to have cremains interred there and any stipulations necessary to make this all work. After that step, we will begin to move forward with funding, via pre-purchases of niches, Thrivent sources and private donations. A rough estimate for phase one cost is thirty-thousand dollars. However, at some point in time the pre-purchases will cover all costs and actually create a reserve. (perhaps for phase two!)

I am excited about this project because I believe it will further enhance the already beautiful Memorial Garden and offer folks another reason to visit Immanuel. It could be a source of outreach for “non-members” who need a place close by to visit and remember their loved one.

If you would like more information, see some pictures, hear more about costs and recouping those costs, please come and visit me and I’d be happy to share all the information I have. God is with us each step of the way and I believe will continue to guard and guide us so that the body of Christ, known as Immanuel, will thrive and excel in taking on God’s kingdom work. Blessed be the Name of the Lord!!

Journeying with you, Pastor Chuck

Altar Colors



Lent is the season of the church following the season of Epiphany. During Lent, we read and learn about God’s grace. We prepare, through faith, for the joy of Easter. We are led to examine our hearts and lives during Lent, and scriptures and teachings are about God’s grace and His love. The color of Lent is Purple.

Holy Week begins the week before Easter with Palm Sunday and concludes on Good Friday. The altar for Holy Week is White. Good Friday is the day of darkness, where we reflect on the crucifixion of Jesus. It is a day of mourning and reverence, quiet and solemnity. The altar is bare, and the Cross is draped in black.

Three days later is Easter Sunday, where with Joyful Hearts we Celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, new life and Re-birth. The altar color on Easter is White

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 24th, 10am ~ Palm Sunday worship, will begin in the Narthex with the Triumphal Procession with the palm branches.

Maundy Thursday, March 28th, 7pm ~ Worship on Maundy Thursday, will be a fairly simple service with hand washing and communion.

Good Friday, March 29th, 12 Noon ~ will be a Service of Shadows. There will also be a Community Worship Service at Trinity Episcopal Church at 7pm, 201 E. Jefferson St. in Grand Ledge.

Easter Sunday, March 31st ~ Breakfast at 8:30am, Worship at 10am: a Celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord! Inside, Drive-In and Livestream Worship.



COUNCIL CORNER

*Let us build a house where love can dwell, and all can safely live.
A place where saints and children tell, how hearts learn to forgive.*

*Built of hopes and dreams and visions. Rock of faith and vault of grace.
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions.*

All are welcome, All are welcome, All are welcome in this place.

(I know, you will probably be humming that all day, now.)

I thought of this song today after church. Not only from hearing the message, Pastor Chuck shared, but also in my conversations with people. Many are looking to participate in the ministries at Immanuel, with some new ideas of their own. All ideas are welcome.



Why - The Purpose
What is your cause? What do you believe?

How - The Process
Specific actions taken to realize Why.

What - The Result
What do you do? The result of Why. Proof

At our Council Retreat last Saturday, we all had an opportunity to get to know each other more and think about what we would like to see happen at Immanuel in 2024. We discussed the concept of the Power of Why, which led to conversations around the plans we made. What do we believe and what is our purpose?

We created a list of activities and projects that came from the Spiritual Gifts Survey, and those that council members wanted to do, as well.

These are just a few of them: Grief Support Group, Weekend Men's Breakfast, Personal Needs Sunday and Monthly Book Club. (If you are interested in seeing the entire table of ideas and who on council will be heading each one up, please send me an email and I will get that to you.)

There is now council representation on each team, as well as being involved with other ministries of the church, ie. Choir, Bell Choir, and Ushering.

Support: Chris Polley

Property Work Group: Ron Hoornstra

Gathering: Melissa Kingsley, Gordie Larkins

Serving: Barbara Jetmore

Preparing: Blanche Schaudt



Please remind us daily, Lord, that our labors are not in vain if you are the reason why we do the work we have been called to do.

Blessings, Blanche

NEWS FROM the SERVING TEAM

The February 11 noisy offering for the **Lutheran Disaster Response** was \$204.66. The March 10 noisy offering will be for the Grand Ledge Food Bank. Let's make some noise as we reach out to help this community ministry.

Our next **Free Community Meal** is Monday, March 11, 5:00-6:00p.m. All are welcome to join for soup and sandwiches and dessert. Donations of cookies and cakes would be appreciated. We are looking for people to volunteer to make sandwiches. We would like to get enough volunteers to establish a rotation and lighten the load. To volunteer to provide desserts or get in to the sandwich making rotation contact Annette Ryan at 517-627-9511. Thanks!

Donations for **Ken Clark's Coat Closet**: During Lent we are taking donations of personal care products for Ken Clark's Coat Closet. They are in need of deodorant, toothbrushes (adult and child), toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner, bar soap, liquid hand soap and feminine hygiene products. Your donations can be dropped off in the boxes on the table in the church lobby through Easter Sunday. Thanks!

The Church Council recently designated the Lenten offerings for the **Immanuel Lutheran World Relief Quilters**. This will help support this ministry which last year made 150 quilts that were shipped out globally. Here's a great opportunity for us to support this Immanuel ministry that reaches out globally.

The **Grand Ledge Food Bank** recently received a gift of \$31,190.00 from the Meijer Simply Give Program. Thanks to the community which includes many of you for supporting this program during the fourth quarter of last year. This will go a long way when purchasing food to stock the shelves from week to week. Thanks again!

The **Kitchen Update/Remodel Team** met on February 8 to review final architectural design plans with a few details to be resolved. The team will be working on plan reviews to be presented to the Barry-Eaton District Health Department and the City of Grand Ledge. The team is also working on obtaining an updated estimate as to how much the project will cost taking the remodel and equipment including kitchen equipment like sinks and a commercial dishwasher in to account. Progress is being made!!

The Church Council approved creating a **Kitchen Remodel Fund** at their February 17 meeting. We appreciate their quick response to the request to establish this fund. If you choose to make a donation to this fund write on your envelope or pew envelope "Kitchen Remodel Fund". All donations are greatly appreciated as this is a major project! Thanks! ~ Den Graeber

Youth Minister

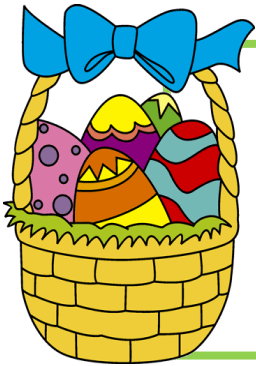
Immanuel continues to look for a Youth Ministry Leader who would:

- * 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.

Sidewalk Chalk is Back!

Calling young people and families to help draw a sidewalk chalk greeting for Easter Sunday, March 31st. Please meet at Immanuel parking lot on Saturday, March 3th, 10am. (unless rain or snow)

Chalk is provided! Questions? Please call or text Sandy Couser at (419) 996-9604.

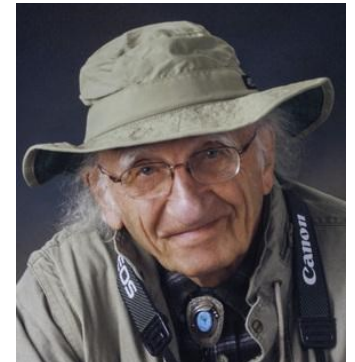


Easter Basket Drawing

Take your chances and enter the free drawing to win an Easter Basket full of goodies! In the lobby after 3/10, fill out the provided paper with your contact information (one per person please.) There are 4 baskets available. The winners will be chosen on Palm Sunday, March 24th. Please see Barb Jetmore for more information.

Did You Know? by Gordie Larkins

Our congregation has photographs on the walls in the fellowship hall. I am sure we have all noticed them. But there is a lot to know about these pieces of art. First of all, the pictures were taken by long time member Ernst Floeter. These pieces of art serve a greater purpose as they help dampen the sound level in the fellowship hall. Ernst was well know throughout the community, and the Grand Ledge Area District Library honors Ernst with an online memorial gallery. You can copy this link to learn more about Ernst and his photography and view many of the photo's Ernst took over the years. <https://gladl.org/floeterphotos/>



Ernst was also remembered in a story written about him by Fox47 and can be found here:

<https://www.fox47news.com/neighborhoods/delta-township-grand-ledge/grand-ledge-library-eaton-county-historical-commission-honor-local-beloved-photographer-ernst-floeter>

Luther League II Luncheon

Monday, March 11, 1pm

Sophia's House of Pancakes, 1010 Charlevoix Dr. in Grand Ledge

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, March 9th, if interested or have questions.



If you missed our recent Chili Cook-Off, you missed a good time in food and fellowship.



There were eight chili's that participated and all of them tasted yummy! But the top three that would bring home the medals were:

- Tammy Sampson
1st place
- Amy Larkins
2nd place
- Bettie Willams
3rd place

Thank you to all who came and all that brought chili and snacks to go along with the chili. And Congratulations to the top 3! Way to go! There will be upcoming opportunities for Fun Food Fellowship and we hope you are able to join in the festivities! Need more information or want to become a part of Food Fellowship ministry, contact Gordie Larkins at papagass@gmail.com
You are welcome and appreciated!

Community Connections

A Community of Believers

Movers and Changers

Our church community is not the only one we have connections to. We are also connected to our neighborhood, city, state and the world as a whole. Keeping that in mind, there are members of our faith family who would like to do some projects throughout the year that reach out into the larger community we are part of.

We will be looking at Personal Hygiene Products for “Helping Women Period” beginning the end of March (Women’s History Month) which will be distributed in late April. In May we will be collecting diapers for the Capital Area Diaper Bank. Other projects that are being considered are Undie Sunday, Personal Needs Sunday, Celebrate a Child’s Birthday Sunday, and others. This will not replace what is already being planned by various teams but will be in addition to them.

We are called to feed the hungry, care for the needy and reach out to those who are considered marginalized. If you have any thoughts or ideas about this, please speak with Blanche Schaudt, Karen Ketola or Melissa Kingsley.

Working together to make a difference!

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Happy Anniversary!

Ron & Margo Hoornstra ~ 3/2

Jim & Sherrie Bryant ~ 3/9

Wayne & Blanche Schaudt ~ 3/10

HELLO 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>				1 Immanuel Quilters 9am	1 HPA Sewers 9:30am	2 AA Support Group 8am
3 First Fruits Offering Worship with Communion 10am	4 Sewl Sisters 10:30am-3pm Serving-Team 3:30 Support Team 6:30	5 Boyscouts 6:30	6 MITM 7am Line Lent Service 7pm	7 Immanuel Quilters 9am	8 HPA Sewers 9:30am	9 AA Support Group 8am
10 Noisy Offering GL Food Bank Worship with Communion 10am	11  Community Dinner 5-6pm	12 Boyscouts 6:30	13 MITM 7am Lent Service 7pm	14 Immanuel Quilters 9am	15 HPA Sewers 9:30am	16 AA Support Group 8am
17 Worship with Communion 10am	18 Sewl Sisters 10:30am-3pm Council mtg 6:30pm	19 Boyscouts 6:30	20 MITM 7am Lent Service 7pm	21 Immanuel-Quilters 9am	22 HPA Sewers 9:30am	23 AA Support Group 8am
24/31 Easter Breakfast 8:30am Worship with Communion 10am	25	26 Boyscouts 6:30	27 MITM 7am	29 Immanuel-Quilters 9am Maundy Thursday Service 7pm	29 Good Friday Service 12noon	30 AA Support Group 8am