

# 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

*6 The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 1 Corinthians 9*

You probably have noticed that Immanuel does not do a yearly “Stewardship Campaign” or drive like many congregations do. (Please keep reading) Instead, we bring up the topic of our stewardship as something to celebrate how God is working year around through our giving. If we were to make it an annual “drive,” we believe what happens is we make our stewardship of all God has given us, into yet another thing, act, an action, a chore that you have to do if you want to be a “good Christian.” Like part of some checklist.

But the fact is that stewardship is meant to be a daily habit in the life of a Christian. It is meant to be part of our DNA, not a yearly commitment to the budget, rather a way of life that we adopt because we trust that God has provided for our needs and will continue to provide for our needs. So, we give as a way of building up our trust in God. Our giving away what is “precious” to us is a sign of a growing trust in God’s plan for our lives, rather than our own plan. God has promised that the plans that God has for us are meant for our good. I had a professor in seminary that wrote a book on the topic of stewardship (Giving to God) and he said that we are willing to surrender everything over to God except the last thing we cling to, our money. He continues, as if we believe God would do a worse job with our finances than we have! Although humorous, it hits home, too.

Back to our stewardship at Immanuel; over the last couple years there have been some very generous gifts given. We celebrate the ministry that those gifts have allowed and will allow us to do. It is

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT continued...

wonderful to be able to do things without having to worry about how we can pay for it. (parking lot, new furnace, drain issue) But the truth is we cannot go to that well to supplement our weekly giving for the budget that we voted unanimously to approve last November. If we do, that well will dry up quickly and we will find ourselves unable to continue to grow our outreach and ministry in God's kingdom here in this community. In the last 6 months, we have found that our regular giving has been down below the threshold of our proposed budget.

It takes great courage to envision a congregation like Immanuel having an even greater impact in this growing area we live in. It takes courage to trust God and being willing to sacrifice to help enlarge that vision. But that is where we are headed. Our little quiet town of Grand Ledge is growing quickly with many families moving to this area. Through prayerful giving, donation of time and talent and a desire to serve God in this community, we are having an impact on those in need and those searching for hope. Through our financial stewardship, we will be able to reach further with the Good News and bring the light of Christ to those who need it most.

Therefore, I invite you to consider not only your financial giving, but your life of stewardship. I invite you to prayerfully discern areas of your life that you struggle to surrender to God. Then I invite you to test God (Malachi 3:10) and find out for yourself if God is indeed faithful in all things.

May God bless your discerning, your faith walk and your ability to let go and let God. Like the words to one of my favorite choir anthems go, "Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out! He NEVER failed me yet!" Gods' peace surround you.

Journeying with you,

Pastor Chuck



Immanuel has our church directory available online through an app or the website  
**Instantchurchdirectory.com.**

### **To Access this Online Directory on a Computer:**

1. Go to the website [instantchurchdirectory.com](http://instantchurchdirectory.com)
2. Click on Member sign-in
3. To set-up account, Click First Time Signing in/Create Login
4. Enter the email you have on file with us. This will allow you to create an account with a personalized password. Do this, then click Blue Submit button and you should be in!



### **To put an App on your phone to access the Directory:**

1. Go to the App Store for your device (Apple App Store or Google Play Store.)
2. Search for INSTANT CHURCH DIRECTORY and download this FREE app. (the App logo looks like the above church graphic)
3. 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.)

# NEWS FROM the SERVING TEAM

The March 10th noisy offering for the **Grand Ledge Food Bank** was \$250.00. The April 14th noisy offering will be for Blessings in a Backpack. **Blessings in a Backpack** helps provide additional food for the weekend for some students in the Grand Ledge School District needing a little additional assistance. Thanks for your support to these community outreach ministries.

Our next **Community Meal** is scheduled for Monday, April 8, 5:00-6:00 p.m. All our welcome! Invite a friend! Donations of cookies and cakes would be appreciated. To help out with this ministry in any way contact Annette Ryan at (517) 627-9511.



Thanks for your great response with all of the donations of personal care products for Ken Clark's Coat Closet. The Serving Team will see that these donations get delivered to them during the week of April 1st. Thanks Again!

The **Kitchen Update/Remodel Team** is working on some additional details for the remodel and new kitchen equipment. The team is working with the architect to get plan reviews into place. An easy to interpret floor plan is now available in the fellowship hall near the kitchen serving window. Please help your self to a copy. The Church Council has approved creating a "Kitchen Remodel Fund." Some donations are beginning to come in. All donations are greatly appreciated as we begin to take donations for this major project. You may use your regular offering envelopes or envelopes available in the pews just designate your donation to the Kitchen Remodel Fund. Thanks!!



**Looking Ahead:** May is appreciation month for First Responders, Police and Firemen. Immanuel will be showing our appreciation by putting together boxes of goodies to be delivered by the Serving Team. Snacks can be donated from May 5 – May 19. Watch for more details to follow.

Den Graeber  
Serving Team Leader



## COUNCIL CORNER

**Communication:** An exchange of information. At our last meeting, the council discussed how we might do a better job of communicating between Ministry Teams, and wondering if we are getting information out to the membership in ways that are being seen and read.

Since the Ministry Teams all meet on a different day and at a different time, it is important that the lines of communication are open, especially between the chairpersons of each one. This will continue to be discussed, in order to be more inclusive in the plans and work of the church by everyone. A gentle reminder: All of us together are Christ's body, and each of us are a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27 (Paraphrased)

A recent conversation between the Bylaw Update group, Serving Ministry Team and Gathering Ministry Team, resulted in updating/creating a new Facebook page. It includes the organizational chart for Immanuel, the "go-to" people for a variety of opportunities to serve, and other projects at Immanuel. A big thank you to Maggie for her creativity and work on this. There are also conversations around updating the website, as well. Here is the link to copy and paste to the Facebook Group Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/752923343470273/?ref=share>

Several ideas for the entryway and narthex to better accommodate space and visitation were also considered. It has been brought to our attention that Sunday mornings can be a bit noisy with people getting their nametags, and the excitement in sharing "good mornings" with our faith family and that it can often carry into the church (nave). Let us all be mindful of the quiet time before the service, when Carmen is bringing us together in song.

And speaking of nametags, **Please** wear your nametag, as we have new people still trying to put names with faces. And we are getting to know them, as well. Some of us remember what it was like to run home and look up pictures in the directory. Now the online directory can be helpful with that. ( See the instructions to upload the directory to your devices in this newsletter) If you need a new nametag, or a lanyard, let the office know and Trisha will get one for you.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please let me or another council member know. Your voice always matters.

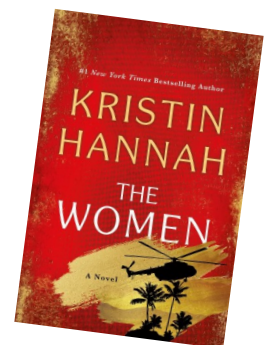
Blessings on your days ahead. Blanche Schaudt, Council President

## Coming Up in May...

### Zoom Book Read

If you'd like to join us for a Book Discussion via Zoom in May, pick up a copy of "The Women" by Kristin Hannah and read it in April. A Zoom invite will go out to interested persons once a date and time is decided on.

Cindy Smith & Blanche Schaudt



## Did You Know

Most of us when we arrive for worship, usually march right up the stairs. I know I do. I'm usually either looking down at the stairs so I don't trip, or looking ahead, scanning the Narthex for friends in which to interact. On Wednesday night of Holy week, I had purchased Easter Breakfast food on my way to church. It was on my way for a Wednesday night choir rehearsal. I was bringing in my purchases and Blanche happened to be in the parking lot. We walked in together and I had decided to let Blanche use the elevator before me. I had a minute and I was looking around the entryway. Did you know we have artwork above the stairs? I found wooden art depicting the cradle Jesus would have been laid in, and a bright star with beams shining upon the new baby. The sign below it reads, "He will be called Immanuel". Pretty cool. Later that night, it occurred to me I should have taken a picture. I did that on Maundy Thursday. The timing to take the picture was absolutely perfect. The sun was shining upon the stained glass window across the way, causing the most amazing colors to shine upon the cradle. In my head I heard a voice saying " This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased".  
Happy Easter everyone. He is risen!!



## Sanctuary Flowers

Are you interested in providing flowers for Immanuel's Sanctuary on Sunday? You will sign up, then order the flowers delivered, or bring yourself.

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

There is a sign-up sheet of open Sundays in the narthex or see Bev Lass.



## Community Connections

We continue to make a difference in the way we support our community.

During April we're collecting items to support **helping women period**.

From HelpingWomenPeriod.org the agency's mission is to provide no cost menstrual products to those experiencing homeless or low-income disparity.

1 in 5 menstruators in Michigan between the age of 12 and 44 live below the Federal Poverty Line. That's over 2 million Michiganders. 1 in 4 menstruators in Michigan report having missed school or work within the last year due to a lack of menstrual products.

State and federal safety-net programs cannot be used to purchase period supplies.

During April please bring in packages of menstrual pads and liners and place them in the collection boxes in the lobby. These will fill the greatest needs at this time. If you'd like to make a monetary offering instead please note Helping Women Period on your giving envelope.

More fact sheets and information will be in the lobby.

## Luther League II Luncheon

Monday, April 8th, 1pm

Tony M's on Creyts

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, April 6th, if interested or have questions.

## Free Community Meal

Monday, April 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 .



## 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, altar care, 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. You are welcome and appreciated!

## Lessons in Spiritual Growth Class:

Starting Monday, April 15th,

10-11:30am in the Immanuel Library (all materials provided)

### **Outline of Class:**

Week 1 ~ Introduction "Becoming Aware"

Week 2 ~ The Holy Spirit and You

Week 3 ~ Moving in the Spirit (Spirituality)

Week 4 ~ A Look at "Some of the Greats" and how their writings relate to you today.

(Further Sessions may be added)

Please contact Tina Martzke with questions:(517) 627-2686 or (517) 614-3048



thank  
you!

**Dear Immanuel Family:**

Thank you to everyone who helped in some way at Roger's funeral and luncheon.

You were such a blessing to our family with your prayers and generous giving.

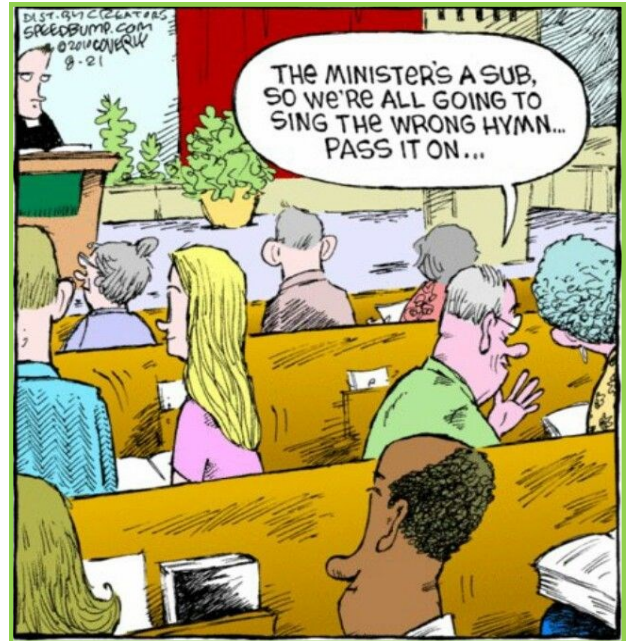
~ Barbara Wickerham and family

Laughter  
is an  
instant  
vacation.  
- Milton Berle

## Kitchen Remodel

This is a reminder, that for now, if you want to donate additional funds for the kitchen remodel, please write "kitchen remodel" on a pew envelope.

There are a few fundraising ideas being considered, and the congregation will be informed when



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### Happy Anniversary!

William & Donna Gibbons ~ 4/1  
Rick & Linda Merrifield ~ 4/7  
Tom & Nicole Sullenberger ~ 4/17  
Nate & Lacy Boyers ~ 4/22  
Jim & Carol Espie ~ 4/28

3 Jessica Beitel	17 Lucas Smith
5 Barb Roush	20 Olivia Buchweitz
6 Sandy Couser	23 Katie Bryant
7 Annette Ryan	24 Delaney Fedewa
7 Charlotte Polley	24 Erin Hubert
9 Angelia Marsh	24 Mike Pitchford
9 John Van Hoesen	25 Anna Baribeau
10 Norah Williams	26 Owen Smith
12 Eva Dinsmore	27 Allan Blaske
12 Tom Sullenberger	29 Alan Goschka
13 Keelyn McKenzie	30 Henry Polley
14 Avery Riggs	30 Angie Blake
15 Kelly LaGrave	30 Donna Gibbons
17 Harper Beckwith	30 Abby Osburn
17 Pat Graeber	





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed  Serving-Team 3pm  Support Team 6:30	2  Boy Scouts 6:30pm	3 7am Men in the  Line Dance 10am	4  Immanuel-Quilters 9am	5	6 AA Support Group 8am
7  First Fruits Offering Worship with Communion 10am	8 Sewl Sisters 10:30am-3pm   Community Meal 5-6pm	9  Boy Scouts 6:30pm	10 7am Men in the Morning Bible Study  Line Dance 10am	11 Immanuel Quilters 9am	12	13 AA Support Group 8am
14 Worship 10am Noisy offering Blessings in Backpack	15  6:30pm Council Mtg Meeting	16  Boy Scouts 6:30pm	17 7am Men in the Morning Bible Study  Line Dance 10am	18 Immanuel Quilters 9am	19	20 AA Support Group 8am  Funeral 11am
21  Worship with Communion 10am	22 Sewl Sisters 10:30am-3pm	23  Boy Scouts 6:30pm	24 7am Men in the Morning Bible Study  Line Dance 10am	24 Immanuel-Quilters 9am	25	26 AA Support Group 8am
27  Worship with Communion 10am	28	29  Boy Scouts 6:30pm	30 7am Men in the Morning  Line Dance 10am	If you have any questions related to upcoming events, please contact the Church Office at 517.627.6310 or Pastor Chuck at 989.750.4573.		