

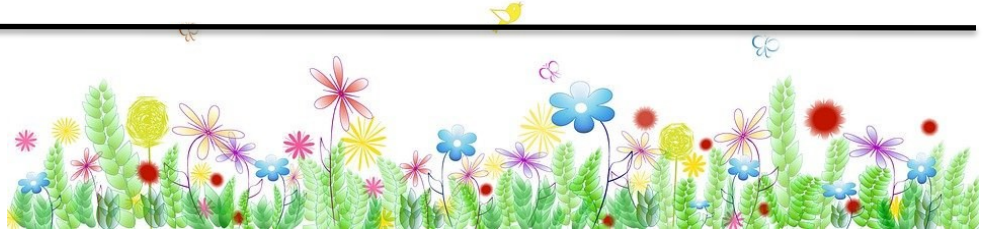
The Manger

Connecting Lives to Christ

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...a note from Your Pastor

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41

Watching one of those “finding my ancestors shows”, I was reminded how resilient we can be as humans. There are so many stories of how this person or these people, in spite of all odds, made it across the ocean and landed in the United States. Even after landing here, they had to deal with numerous hurdles in order to just survive. But so many of them did survive, and even thrive and this is why we are the United States that we are today; because of all those who came here (and continue to come!) But I wonder if we sometimes take the “pull yourself up by your own bootstraps” thing a little too far. What about the times when we run face first into something that is obviously bigger than we are and stronger than we can be? If we have only learned to rely on ourselves, what to do then? It’s easy to say trust in God, but it doesn’t feel like that is our first go-to when things hit the fan. We still often feel like we need to fly solo.

Perhaps we can learn a different way. One that recognizes that we are all human and we are inter-connected, inter-dependent, one with each other. When one of us falls, we all fall. When one of us succeeds, then we as the human race, succeed. When we learn to count on one another we become stronger, not weaker as a society. When we act in conjunction with what is best for my neighbor, we become better communities, better people. In turn, when we figure out that we are not in this alone, we begin to allow ourselves to trust God, to turn to God because we cannot do this on our own.



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.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT continued...

There is a tune playing on Christian radio these days called “Dear Younger Me”. In it the singer muses on what he would tell his younger self if he were able to. He goes through some of the common pieces of advice until he gets to this line, “Dear younger me, It’s not your fault, You were never meant to carry this beyond the cross.” This is my favorite lyric! It reminds me that whenever I encounter obstacles in my life, I am called to lay them down before God. Even the ones that happened years ago and are still carried as burdens. Lay them down before God, you weren’t meant to carry them anyway. We don’t need to do this life on our own. We are inter-connected with all other humans and we are connected with God through Jesus Christ. So let us learn, again, to lean on one another and to turn to our trust in God when this world sends obstacles. God has not failed us yet!

Journeying with you,

Pastor Chuck



A Prayer for Mother's Day

Loving God, source of all life,

You knit us together in our mother’s womb and we give you thanks for our mothers who are co-creators in giving us life.

We thank you for the mothers who have blessed us with nourishment, love and security and we pray for the mothers who for reasons of their own were unable to provide care for their children.

We praise you O God for the blessing of adoptive mothers and grandmothers.

We give you thanks for the women who have responded to the call to provide mothering care as they service as foster parents.

We thank you for the mothers who teach us, guide us, and encourage us to become all that you’ve created us to be; our birth mothers and other women, who through their generous love and compassion, have filled that role.

We pray for the mothers who have lost a child through death, and for those who are unable to have children of their own; grant them strength and comfort.

We remember the mothers who have died and not live eternally with you and in our heart; grant us healing and wholeness that we might honor them and reminisce with love.

Loving God, we lift up all women, everywhere, that they may be blessed and follow your example of giving of themselves in sacrificial love, and in doing so, be nourished by your love and grace. Grant this we pray. Amen.

NEWS FROM the SERVING TEAM

The April 14 noisy offering for **Blessings in a Backpack** was \$206.86. The May 12 noisy offering will be for the Lutheran Disaster Response. The Lutheran Disaster Response reaches out quickly to respond to disasters both in the United States and globally! Thanks for your support monthly to Immanuel's noisy offerings.

Our next Free **Community Meal** is scheduled for Monday, May 13, 5:00-6:00 p.m. All are welcome! Invite a friend! Donations of cookies would be appreciated! To help out with this ministry in any way contact Annette Ryan at (517) 627-9511.



The **Grand Ledge Food Bank** is in need of more 8 oz plastic bottles for dividing up products. If you have this size bottles that can be washed out and repurposed drop them off in the grocery cart in the church lobby. Extra plastic or paper bags would be appreciated also.

Appreciation for First Responders, Firemen and Police: May is appreciation month for First Responders, Firemen and Police. Immanuel will be showing our appreciation by putting together treat boxes for them. Boxes will be available in the church lobby from Sunday, May 5 through Sunday, May 19 for us all to bring in goodies. Suggested goodies include trail mix, snacks, granola bars, candy bars, protein bars, and sandwich crackers, etc. (be creative as long as all items are individually wrapped). Thank you posters will be available to sign! The Serving Team will deliver the snacks the week of May 20.



Thanks!

High School Graduation Recognition: The signing of pillow cases for the three graduates will occur on May 19 and May 26. Thanks to the quilters for making the quilts to present to the seniors as a gift from Immanuel. Graduation Recognition is set for June 2 and the Serving Team will be coordinating a coffee hour.

Den Graeber

Serving Team Leader



Council Corner

It has been a very busy month for the council whom you have elected and entrusted with making important decisions. I think we all seem to forget what goes into the work being done behind the scenes on behalf of the church and our work in the community, and I have decided to share a few things with you here.

*At our last meeting we had 5 items in Old Business and 8+ items in New Business. This is not shared as a complaint, but rather an honor to treat each item as important to the work of the church.

*Each member of the council represents a Ministry Team, and also any projects that may be brought to the table.

*The two projects we are focusing on right now are that of the Kitchen Update/Remodel and the Columbarium. The council members volunteering to work on them are Gordie Larkins and Melissa Kingsley. As you will see in this newsletter, we also have others from the congregation volunteering for the fund-raising for the remodel.

Sometimes the decisions we make are not popular with some people, but I assure you that they are made with everyone's best interests at heart. I shared the following with this amazing group of people as we dove into New Business.

How we treat others matters in the middle of making hard decisions. It's not just about the decision-making itself. It never is. ***It's about loving God and loving others as we make that decision.***

Today, as we are facing a few decisions, let's pull back the lens and gain perspective. This is not just about the decision in front of us; it's about the souls in front of us. It's about loving God in this space, acting in loving ways towards other human beings, refraining from complaining and grumbling, and doing so all with a humble heart. ***Grace must be the blanket that wraps around any decision-making process. They are doing the best they can. And so are you.***

(from "How You Treat People Matters in [the] Decision-Making Process by Amy Sieffert)

Blessings,

Blanche Schaudt-Council President

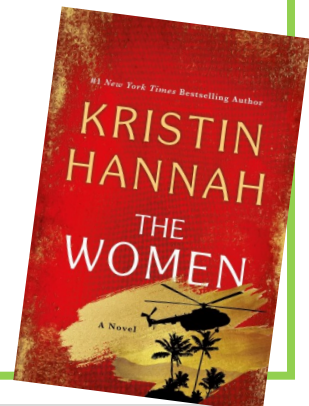


Coming Up May 28th

Zoom Book Read

You are invited to a Zoom discussion about this book on Tuesday, May 28th at 6:30 pm.

If you would like to join us, please let Blanche Schaudt or Cindy Smith know, so they can send you the Zoom link. All are welcome!





Community Connections

A Community of Believers, Movers and Changers

Last year when I attended the Delta Community Choir concert, I heard of a non-profit “Capital Area Diaper Bank” that resonated with the work I used to do with families, and the needs they had with very few resources available to them. “Parents cannot place their children in childcare without sufficient diapers, which might lead to losing work or not attending school. It might also mean juggling between purchasing food, paying bills or providing for their basic needs.”

In conversation with my sister, who is a Hospice Social Worker in a northern community, there is also a need for adult diapers or briefs, for people with disabilities, in Hospice care, for aging adults along with those with disabilities. “Incontinence is the 2nd leading cause of institutionalization. Seniors unable to afford enough incontinent supplies often become homebound, which could lead to depression.”

Diapers can be a heavy financial burden for families, whether for babies/children or adults, so our Community Connections project for May will be a Diaper Drive for The Capital Area Diaper Bank. From Birth to Death or as I like to call it, “The Bookends of Life.”

We will be collecting size 3-7 baby/children’s diapers and size Medium and Large adult diapers/Depends beginning May 5th and taken to Cardboard Prophets the last week of the month. Watch for more information to come. Blessings!



Did You Know?

By Gordie Larkins

Did you know that Immanuel has an AED defibrillator? It is located on the street level, at the foot of the stairs, right hand side when ascending. I had not really noticed this device being in the building, until as a council member I was told the battery within the device was no longer working. I followed up on this immediately and am happy to report, it is once again working properly.

I learned that having and utilizing an AED on someone in need stands a 70% chance of full recovery, versus not having one and awaiting upon EMT's to arrive, which is a 30% chance of a full recovery. This device is meant to be easy to use. There is a pad within the box of the AED that you place on the patient. Then there is a start button. The machine then tells you what you need to do.

I am not familiar with how to use an AED. I am considering contacting the Red Cross to set up a class for members of our congregation. I need feed back from you to let me know if you too would like to learn how to use an AED. Send me an email at papagass@gmail.com if you would. I am thinking of finding a Saturday to have a class, but that will be dependent upon instructor availability. It's my hope to hear from at least a dozen people who would be willing to learn. I also believe it would be a good idea to learn CPR at the same time.

Luther League II Luncheon

Monday, May 13th, 1pm

Olive Garden

8440 W. Saginaw 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, May 11th, if interested or have questions.

Free Community Meal

Monday, May 13th,

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 in the fellowship hall.

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



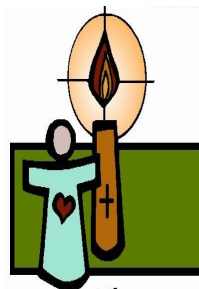
Serving on Sundays

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for volunteers on Sunday mornings. There are many ways to contribute, including needs 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!

Kitchen Remodel

At a recent council meeting, it was decided that a **Fund-Raising Group** needed to be established to assist in gaining funds for the Kitchen Remodel. There are two people from the Remodel Group who have volunteered and 2 members of the congregation, to help in this, but they would like to see if a few others might be willing to join them in this endeavor. If you feel this is something you might like to help with, please contact Gordie Larkins or Brian Yusten. Donation envelopes are available in the pews if you would like to give toward this project.



Altar Colors

The Day of Pentecost begins on the seventh Sunday after Easter Sunday (May 19th.) It commemorates the descent of the Holy spirit upon the Virgin Mary and the Apostles and other followers of Jesus. Readings during Pentecost will focus on the teachings of Jesus.

The Color for the First Sunday of Pentecost is Red. After the first Sunday, the color on the altar will be replaced with Green, symbolizing new life. Pentecost is the longest season in the church calendar, lasting until October.

Youth Room Furniture

The furniture in the youth room downstairs needs to go. If you donated any of the furniture, and want it back, please let the office know. Otherwise, it will be donated or thrown away.

Immanuel Memorial Garden

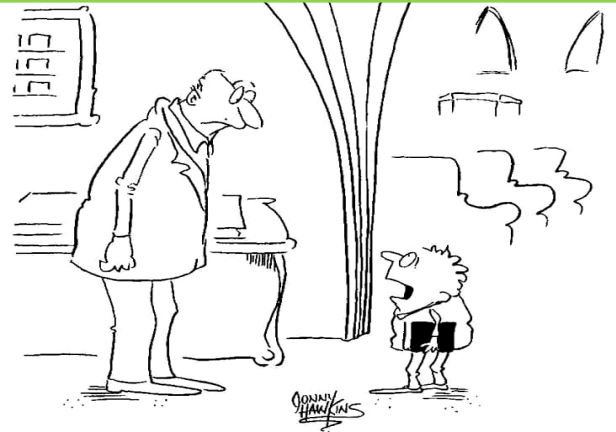
Immanuel Lutheran's Memorial Garden (on East side of building) is a quiet place to mediate, remember and pray. There are currently forty remains of the saints that have gone before us interred in the Memorial Garden. The urns are buried in the cross shaped flower bed at the north end of the garden. The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

Reminders....



If you use the room downstairs with the toys, during church services or any other time, please clean up afterwards. It is helpful to the teachers doing Children's Church/Sunday School. Thank you

If you are the last to leave the building, please turn off all lights and lock up!



"I slept in church because I'm striving to be more like God, and on the seventh day He rested."

MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Haley Kunc | 13 Lorri Yusten |
| 2 Margo Hoornstra | 14 Joan Hoffman |
| 2 Katelynn Wheeler | 14 Jakob Proper |
| 3 Barbara Jetmore | 15 Judy Koos |
| 3 Mitchell Stoakes | 16 Geoff White |
| 3 Sandra Williams | 17 Dianna Dunn |
| 4 Britni Williamson | 18 Gordy Woodman |
| 5 Sarah Larkins | 19 Amy Larkins |
| 8 Alex Baribeau | 20 Mary VanHoesen |
| 8 Holly Ketola | 22 Ethan Mandeville |
| 8 Alex Karkau | 27 Caylee Blake |
| 8 Ellen McKenzie | 27 Marty Woodman |
| 9 Linda Kruth | 29 Marlin Kitchen |
| 10 James LeMay | |

Happy Anniversary!

- | | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | Geoff & Kelly White |
| 5 | Den & Pat Graeber |
| 7 | Gordie & Amy Larkins |
| 12 | Tyler & Erin Hubert |
| 24 | Robert & Elizabeth Kunc |
| 30 | Alan & Melissa Goschka |



may

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>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.</p>			<p>1 7am Men in the Morning Bible Study</p> <p>Line Dance 10am</p>	<p>2 Immanuel-Quilters 9am</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 AA Support Group 8am</p>
<p>5 First Fruits Offering Worship with Communion 10am</p>	<p>6 Sewl Sisters 10:30am-3pm ServingTeam 3pm Support Team 6:30</p>	<p>7 Boyscouts 6:30pm</p>	<p>8 7am Men in the Morning Bible Study</p> <p>Line Dance 10am</p>	<p>9 Immanuel Quilters 9am</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 AA Support Group 8am</p>
<p>12 Worship 10am Noisy offering Lutheran Disaster Response Mother's Day</p>	 <p>13 Community Meal 5-6pm</p>	<p>14 Boyscouts 6:30pm</p>	<p>15 7am Men in the Morning Bible Study</p> <p>Line Dance 10am</p>	<p>16 Immanuel Quilters 9am</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 AA Support Group 8am</p>
<p>19 Worship with Communion 10am</p>	<p>20 Sewl Sisters 10:30am-3pm 6:30pm Council Mtg Meeting</p>	<p>21 Boyscouts 6:30pm</p>	<p>22 7am Men in the Morning Bible Study</p> <p>Line Dance 10am</p>	<p>23 Immanuel-Quilters 9am</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 AA Support Group 8am</p>
<p>26 Worship with Communion 10am</p>	<p>27 Office Closed</p> 	<p>28 Boyscouts 6:30pm</p>	<p>29 7am Men in the Morning</p> <p>Line Dance 10am</p>	<p>30 Immanuel-Quilters 9am</p>	<p>31</p>	