

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



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

We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, 23 and not only the creation, but we ourselves. 24 For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Audacity, noun, -courage or confidence of a kind that other people may find shocking or rude:

I’d like to borrow the title of a book by former President Obama to speak to you about what I believe is an incredible gift that Christians have been given. The Audacity of Hope!

I believe that as followers of Jesus Christ, we have been bestowed with this incredible spirit that in the face of wars, tragedies, divisive words, fear mongering, declining church attendance, doubt, systemic societal failures, personal set backs and illness...in light of all these things, we have been empowered with the Holy Spirit and the audacity of hope. I say that this hope is audacious, because there are many who would call us fools for gathering together each week to praise God. Giving our time and talents to further the kingdom. Many have already shown their feelings by ceasing to attend, yet we still gather because of this hope. Some no longer find this community “suits their needs” and have other more pressing things. But we gather because there is yet a part of us that believes that this hope is that which will redeem us and the entire cosmos. And this hope is audacious,

FOOD FOR THOUGHT continued...

because by human standards, it is shocking, or too good to be true, or no longer relevant in the daily chaos of our world.

This hope draws us into this community of faith because we sense that we need to gather together, to be renewed and refreshed in this hope. Not because everyone here is perfect or the worship is sensational every time, but because we comprehend our brokenness and hang on to the belief that God will yet take this brokenness and transform it for the good of the kingdom.

It is true that there are many wonderful things happening at Immanuel. Ministries being reborn, new ministries sprouting up, people excited to experience what God is doing in our midst. All the while maintaining this sense of audacious hope; even when there are set backs, or failures, or missteps, because we hold on to this hope not based on what WE can do, but based on that with God, nothing is impossible!

As we enter into the fall season, traditionally a re-start for the congregation from summer activities, I invite you to recommit to this community of faith. To attend worship as you are able. To be connected to a ministry as you can and to share that audacity of hope with all you meet. Although it may be shocking to some and not vitally important to others, we have come to understand that it is through Christ, living, breathing, acting in this community, that our hope is restored; through worship, fellowship, ministry, caring and compassion for one another and for the stranger. May your hope continue to be restored and may you invite others to join with you in this audacious hope in a world that seems bereft of anything resembling that which the Holy Spirit renews in us daily.

Hoping with you, Pastor Chuck



Teddy Bear Ministry

What are these teddy bears doing in some of the pews? This is our Teddy Bear Ministry that makes cuddly bears available in the pews for anyone to take and give to people who they feel could use a hug, friend, or comfort. To keep the ministry going, we are accepting new or almost new teddy bears. Please leave donated bears on the pew in the narthex and I will tag them and put them in the sanctuary. ~ Annette Ryan



The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a ministry for women who knit or crochet. These shawls are for anyone to give to a person they feel would be comforted by a warm shawl

to remind them of God's love and that they are being remembered in our prayers. Each shawl has a tag with a prayer for the person receiving the shawl. Completed shawls can be placed in the communication until they get a tag attached. Then they are placed on a quilt rack in the narthex.

News from the Serving Team

Our August 11 noisy offering for the **Lutheran Disaster Response** was \$64.92. Our September 8 noisy offering will be for the Grand Ledge Food Bank. Let's make some noise as we reach out to help support this community ministry!

Immanuel's next **Community Meal** is scheduled for Monday, September 9, 5:00-6:00p.m. All are welcome! Invite a friend! If interested in making sandwiches for this meal or helping out by donating cookies, please contact Annette Ryan at (517) 627-9511.

Immanuel's **Teddy Bear Ministry** is back. This ministry makes cuddly bears available in the pews for anyone to take and give to someone they feel could use a hug, friend or comfort. To keep this ministry going, we are accepting new or almost new teddy bears. Please leave donated bears on the pew in the narthex, they will be tagged and put in the sanctuary.

You may have noticed **prayer shawls** on the stand in the narthex. This ministry is for women who knit or crochet. The shawls are available for anyone to give to someone they feel would be comforted by a warm shawl to remind them of God's love and that they are being remembered in our prayers. Each shawl has a prayer tag for the person you are reaching out to. Any donated completed shawls can be placed in the communication room until prayer tags are attached. Thanks for supporting this ministry!

Clients at the **Grand Ledge Food Bank** are in need of bath towels, washcloths, hand towels and dish towels. Both new and gently used towels and washcloths would be appreciated. We have received Thrivent Action dollars for both of these projects. Help yourself to the remaining Thrivent T-shirts on the table in the narthex and if you'd like wear your T-shirt on September 8 as we celebrate our response to these two projects and the many Immanuel Ministries. Thanks for your donations!



God's Work Our Hands: The Serving Team is requesting donations for this year's two outreach projects: New twin size bedding (sheets, pillowcases, comforters and mattress pads) for Sleep in Heavenly Peace and towels for the Grand Ledge Community Services, Food, Clothing and household items bank. Donations will be taken through September 8, "God's Work Our Hands" Sunday.

God's Work Our Hands Potluck: There's some grilling going on so bring a dish to pass and join us for some good food and fellowship for an indoor picnic following the worship service on September 8. Plan now to attend as we come back together after our busy summer!

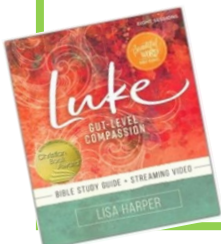
Fall Bible Study

Fall Bible Study on Luke, beginning September 9th.

There will be 2 meeting options:

- ~ 10:30 Monday mornings in person at Immanuel
- ~ 7:00 pm Wednesday evenings via Zoom

If you are interested, please let Jane Kitchen or Blanche Schaudt know.



We will be starting up "Coffee Hour" after church in September. I will have a sign up schedule in the gathering area if you would like to host.

I hope you will sign up to host this activity and use the chance to meet your church family and enjoy fellowship with friends.

Thanks. ~ Tina Martzke.



Council Corner



Fall is just around the corner, and so many new things are happening. A new school year for teachers and students; new music for the choirs, directors and musicians; new Bible studies starting back up; plans for renovating and organizing areas of the church; new members joining our faith family; and we are already talking about next year's Mission Plan.

"Upon recommendation of the Support Ministry Team, [the Church Council] will prepare a budget for submission to the Annual Congregational Meeting of this congregation."

The Ministry Teams are already looking at what programs and projects they would like to offer next year, and how to be faithful stewards of the offerings given and designated for these programs/projects. If you have ideas, let someone know, as new ideas are always welcome.

There will be opportunities to vote this year at the annual meeting, also. We will not only be looking at the Mission Plan for 2025, but we will have an opportunity to vote on proposed bylaw updates, and also vote for new council members. We would like to have voting members who are livestreaming be given the opportunity to vote from home on that day. The council is working out a plan for that and will let you know when it is finalized. If you are someone who regularly worships from home via Livestream or Facebook page, could you let the office know? That way the council will be aware when it comes time to vote.

Take time to read through the newsletter this month, because "there's something happening here." And it is an exciting time to be part of that.

Blessings,

Blanche Schaudt, Council President

Music Ministry

Music Rehearsals will begin Thursday, September 5th



Hand Bell Choir: 6-6:45

Praise Team: 6:45-7:30

Senior Choir: 7:30-8:30



Please join us if you'd like to play and have fun praising God with music!

Any questions, contact our music leaders:

Bell Choir and Praise Team: Nancy Storm (517) 881-8568

Praise Team and Senior Choir: Maggie Polley (989) 400-3251 and Carmen Karkau (517) 391-6524

Luther League II Luncheon

Monday, September 9th, 1pm

Old World Buffet & Grill

5002 W. Saginaw, 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, Aug. 10th, if interested or have questions.

Free Community Meal

Monday, September 9th,

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 .



Altar Colors

The Season of Pentecost begins on the seventh Sunday after Easter Sunday (May 19th) and continues through November. 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 altar colors are primarily green, but do change to red on Reformation Day and white on Christ the King Sunday. If you would like to help with the Altar Committee, please see Sue Marsh.

It's Quilting Time Again!

The Immanuel Quilting Group will be starting again on Thursday, September 5th and meet each Thursday, except during holidays, from 9am - 11:30am. This is a wonderful old-fashioned-type quilting bee! We spend the morning tying premade quilt tops/batting/bottoms and finishing off the bindings. All completed quilts are stacked and prepared to box up to ship to Lutheran World Relief in October. This year's haul will be well over 150 quilts! That's a lot - we can make more if we have more help! Our saying is, "If you can tie a knot, you can help!" We're a friendly, accepting group. Drop in whenever you can during that time frame. Weekly attendance is not required.



REMEMBER, Always on our donation wish list are: Cotton fabrics/scrap (larger than 36", if possible), Old blankets, sheets, mattress pads - clean White crochet cotton (thin). A red/green Rubbermaid donation bin is located in the back of the fellowship hall next to the wooden closets. Thank you!

This fall we will have a "blessing of the quilts," where we will display many of our quilts on the pews for you to see, pray over and send off around the world with your blessings!

Community Connections

A Community of Believers, Movers and Changers

Ken Clark's Coat Closet has been serving the Grand Ledge community at our 501 Building on the north end of our property since 2017. Prior to that time KC3 was housed at the Sawdon Building close to the high school. Eaton County is fortunate to have a thriving mission of outreach from Sarah Mida and the devoted volunteers and supporters who keep it running.

From their website (www.kenscoatcloset.org) Ken's states:

Not only do we provide clothing, shoes, outerwear, housewares, and personal care items free of charge to those in need, we are an integral part of the Giving Eaton County Kids Opportunities (GECKO) Program that specializes in preparing students with special needs for their post school transition to the world of work. Vocational, communication, transportation, and many other soft skills that students need are able to practice with a job coach while students assist customers, sort donations, ride public transportation, and complete productive meaningful work.

The other half of our mission is to help our community by providing items to those in need free of charge. We work closely with school counselors and educational staff to help ensure that students in Eaton County have the supplies, clothes, outerwear, and items needed to be as successful as they can be. KC3 is open to the public and we have items from infant to adult sizes, bedding, winter gear, shoes, and many other items. Since we rely on donations, our inventory varies based on the items coming in.

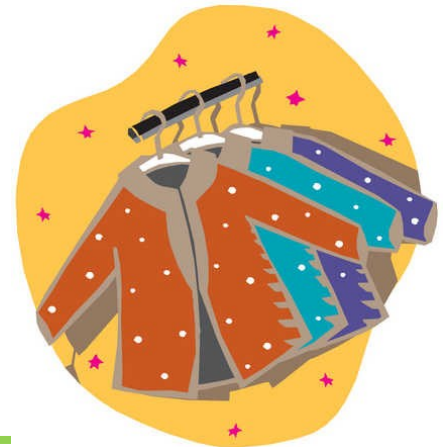
KC3 does not have any paid employees, and relies on volunteers, community support, and family to keep us up and running. We hope to continue to provide our community with services for years to come.

KC3 recently held a backpack & school supplies giveaway. Guests were lined up ready to receive them and all were gone within an hour. The need for these local resources continues and our church family continues to support Sarah and the mission of KC3.

We are doing church outside our four walls. I am the liaison between ILC and KC3 for program and facility support.

I'll share more information for their needs in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Karen Ketola





Church Drama – Something’s Comin’

Could be...who knows...

There’s somethin’ due any day...

I [we] will know right away, soon as it shows...

A few weeks ago, ILC congregational President Blanche stated that she wanted the congregation to share our spiritual gifts in keeping with the mission to be “God’s Work, Our Hands”, both to Immanuel and our surrounding community.

Jane Goebel and Ellen McKenzie said “yes” and are answering the continuing call of and command of God’s Work Our Hands—with Pastor Chuck and the Gathering Team—to proclaim the Gospel to this congregation and the larger community through the theatre arts.

If you are interested in being involved in drama ministry, reader’s theater or somethings of that nature, please contact Ellen McKenzie or Jane Goebel or Pastor. Thank you!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy

Birthday!

Happy Anniversary!

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 3 Jerry Damon | 21 Nathan Buchweitz |
| 4 Karlene Ketola | 21 Bill Gibbons |
| 5 Matthew Bryant | 23 Dave Rinckey |
| 8 John Kingsley | 24 Allison Landry |
| 10 Lori Fischer | 26 Peyton Goschka |
| 13 Bettie Williams | 28 Dawn Shilton |
| 13 Lee Burmeister | 29 Pastor Chuck Foerster |
| 15 Gregory Hickok | 29 Erin Anderson |
| 15 Clara Van Hoesen | 29 Aaron Riley |
| 18 Collin Blake | 29 Nancy Storm |
| 20 Denise Proper | 29 Ron Hoornstra |
| 20 Madison Fischer | 29 Greg Osburn |
| | 30 Lisa Hetchler |

- 4 ~ Sarah & Ryan Larson
- 10 ~ Linda & Larry Kruth
- 16 ~ Sarah & Tony Gatewood
- 16 ~ Mary & Pastor Chuck Foerster
- 21 ~ Sharlean & Glenn Saxton
- 21 ~ Allison & Daniel Landry
- 22 ~ Rachel & Blake Schneider
- 25 ~ Carmen & Steve Karkau
- 25 ~ Nancy & Regis Trella



September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 First Fruits Offering Worship 10am	2 Office Closed 	3	4	5 Quilters 9am Handbells 6pm Praise Team 6:45pm Choir 7:30pm	6	7 AA Support Group 8am
8 Worship 10am Noisy offering GL Food Bank	9 Serving Team 3pm Support Team 6:30 Community Meal 5-6pm	10	11 Zoom Bible Study 7pm	12 Quilters 9am Handbells 6pm Praise Team 6:45pm Choir 7:30pm	13	14 AA Support Group 8am
15 Worship with Communion 10am	16 Bible Study 10:30am Sewl Sisters 10:30am-3pm Council Mtg 6:30pm	17	18 Zoom Bible Study 7pm	19 Quilters 9am Handbells 6pm Praise Team 6:45pm Choir 7:30pm	20	21 AA Support Group 8am
22 Worship with Communion 10am	23 Bible Study 10:30am	24	25 Zoom Bible Study 7pm	26 Quilters 9am Handbells 6pm Praise Team 6:45pm Choir 7:30pm	27	28 AA Support Group 8am
29 Worship with Communion 10am	30 Bible Study 10:30am	<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>				