

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.

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

11 The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.”

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. 12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. 1 Kings 19

Sometimes, God’s voice can be heard in the smallest whisper. I have to admit that there are times when I don’t pay close enough attention to the details. At those times I like to say that I am a big picture kind of person, but the reality is that paying attention to the details can yield a clearer big picture. So, I’m learning to lean into things more; more listening, more focused, more intentional. I have found that when I am able to do this, the results are that my spirit is calmer and I feel like I gain an understanding that I did not have before. There is a sense of wonder and peace that can come when we take one thing, one activity and put all of our energy into it, rather than our usual multi-tasking, going in a hundred directions at once, style of operating. The Buddhist would call this “mindfulness”. For example, focusing on our breathing as a way of meditating, slowing our heart rate and simply just breathing in and out is a way of centering oneself. It is also a good way for us to engage our inner spiritual nature. The one that is at peace, is calm, is focused, is content; not the nature that is freaking out over this or that. It truly is amazing how clear we can be

FOOD FOR THOUGHT continued...

when we engage this part of our inner nature. We become more aware of God's incredible presence and creation around us. We welcome the mystery of God's divinity and striving for answers to life's questions is no longer as important as receiving the Holy Spirit in our lives. We can sometimes hear God's quiet whisper, "You are not alone; You are loved." It is a practice of being open to God and leaning into God's grace. As we do this, our spirit becomes so filled with the awesomeness of God, we sense his grace surrounding us and we are overwhelmed by how much God cares for us and about us.



I hope this day that you take the time to just breathe. I hope that you are able to quiet your heart and mind and become more open to the Spirit. I pray that you become more aware of God's presence; in the changing leaves, in the cry of a baby, at the graveside of a loved one, in the warmth of an embrace, in the chill of a fall morning and the brilliance of the stars at night. And I hope that in doing so, you would receive this Holy Wonder and the courage to lean into God's grace which is everywhere.

Journeying with you,
Pastor Chuck



Trunk or Treat

Thursday, October 31st, 5-6:30pm

Immanuel is hosting a free meal for the community and a trunk or treat!

What is a trunk or treat? Volunteers will decorate their car trunks and hand out candy or treats to trick or treaters in our parking lot. (It's a great opportunity for smaller children who may not be able to walk the neighborhoods.)

What do we need?

VOLUNTEERS: To decorate their car trunks and hand out candy and treats, friends to help organize the meal, set up and clean up.

DONATIONS: of candy or toys to hand out (think carnival prizes)

YOU: to spread the word and come join us to welcome the community!

When: October 31, 5-6:30 (or until folks are done eating and trunk or treating)

Where: Fellowship Hall for the meal, parking lot for Trunk or Treat

Please call Chris (989-400-5092) or Maggie (989-400-3251) for information and to help out.



News from the Serving Team

Our September 8 **noisy offering** for the Grand Ledge Food Bank was \$171.74. Our October 13 noisy offering will be for Blessings in a Backpack. Let's make some noise as we help fill back packs for students in the Grand Ledge Schools whose families need a little extra help.

Immanuel's next **Community Meal** is scheduled for Monday, October 14, 5:00-6:00 p.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 as a gift 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 remembered in our prayers. Each shawl has a prayer tag for the person you are reaching out to. Any donated shawls can be placed in the communication room until prayer tags are attached. Thanks for sharing your gifts through this ministry.



Thanks to Jane Goebel and Ellen McKenzie for preparing the special skit for **God's Work Our Hands Sunday**, "We Love a Parade." Thanks to everyone who participated in the parade that highlighted the ministries at Immanuel and pointed out to everyone the many opportunities to serve. Also special thanks to Glenn and Shar Saxton for grilling the hot dogs for the potluck which included a great variety of good food! The fellowship was great. Also thanks to everyone for the many donations of bedding and towels for this year's two projects! (See the separate God's Work Our Hands Report for more details.)

Looking Ahead: The Serving Team will be requesting donations for this year's Baskets of Hope community outreach project. We will be requesting the names of ten individuals/families provided through the Grand Ledge Emergency Assistance Program that need a little assistance for Christmas. During the period of November 3-17 additional donations would be greatly appreciated. Watch for more details as we approach the month of November. Thank You!

Email Updates

Recently it was brought to our attention that there is still an issue with emails coming from news@immanuel-gl.org. Please take a moment and make sure that you have this email address in your contacts, so that you receive the information that is going out from the church office.

Thank-you!



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



September gave us plenty of opportunities to ask for forgiveness, show mercy and grace, and look at ways we could & should care for each other. Flexibility was key in rearranging Sunday worship services, so that we could still worship and commune safely in the middle of an unexpected exposure, for many of our members, to Covid. Meetings and Bible studies were rescheduled in order to hold them safely, and God's Work Our Hands celebrations were also moved to the next available Sunday, which meant that some of our members could not attend.

Forgiveness

There was a lot of work being done behind the scenes preparing the worship space, purchasing communion kits, putting together props and narratives for the skit, and checking in on our members to make sure they were doing alright; asking if they needed anything.

Mercy & Grace

Celebrating GWOH was uplifting, enlightening, hope-filled, humorous, and delicious. Many hands, and feet, working together to ensure that worship and song were meaningful, and that people were being taken care of in body and soul. Many donations were made and sent into the community as a strong indication of how we care for our community.

Caring for Each Other

I have been thinking about forgiveness a lot, these days. I believe for many of us it is easier to ask for forgiveness, than it is to forgive someone else. Richard Rohr writes:

"When we forgive, we choose the goodness of others over their faults, we experience God's goodness flowing through ourselves, and we also experience our own goodness in a way that surprises us. Grace re-creates all things; nothing new happens without forgiveness."

Let's continue to offer and ask for forgiveness; show grace and mercy when it is called for, and care for each other as we are called to do each and every day.

Blessings,

Blanche Schaudt, Council President





Luther League II Luncheon

Monday, October 14th, 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, Oct. 12th, if interested or have questions.

Free Community Meal

Monday, October 14th,

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 .



Updating Chili Champs!

Someone has volunteered to update the chili cook-off plaque and would like to know if you remember who the winners were from the following years. 2017, 2018, & 2019.

There was not a cook-off again until this past year, and the champ was Tammy Sampson.

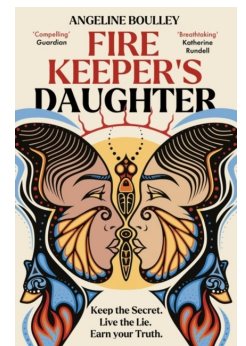
If you have information about who the past winners were, please let the office know.

And watch for when the next one takes place. We know someone who is planning to make "revenge chili."



Book Read

Grand Ledge Community Book Read will be taking place in January 2025. The selection that has been chosen is "Fire Keeper's Daughter" by Angeline Boulley and Immanuel will be participating in the community discussion again. The author will be at the Wharton Center on October 24th as part of a panel of Michigan authors. This event is free to the public, but registration is required.



We will share more information as the details for the discussion dates are finalized. All are welcome.

~ Blanche Schaudt

God's Work, Our Hands

The Serving Team coordinated the plans for Immanuel's response to God's Work Our Hands held on September 22. Thanks to Jane Goebel and Ellen McKenzie for preparing the special skit for the worship service; "We Love a Parade". The church service opened with the parade that highlighted the ministries at Immanuel and pointed out to everyone the many opportunities to serve. Thanks to all that participated in the parade! We had some fun!

After the church service we had a great potluck using a picnic theme and enjoyed grilled hot dogs and great food and fellowship. Approximately 68 people participated.

We reached out to Sleep in Heavenly Peace with bedding donations for twin size beds. This years donations included 31 sets of sheets, 15 mattress pads, 6 mattress waterproof protectors, 13 comforter sheet kits, 10 pillows, 10 throws/blankets and 2 comforters.

We also reached out to the Grand Ledge Community Services, Food, Clothing, and Household Items Bank. We donated 94 bath towels, 98 hand towels, 142 wash cloths, 36 dish towels and 18 dish cloths. The plan is to make some of these available daily throughout the year.

Thanks for your generous donations and thanks to the Thrivent members who applied for action dollars which gave us a total of \$500.00 for the two projects. Together we made a difference! Thanks again!



Sleep in Heavenly Peace Opportunity

On September 22, our church celebrated God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. One of the service projects was the collection of bedding for the local Sleep in Heavenly Peace chapter. It was another huge success! We have been working with this group for four years now. Over this time, we have provided enough bedding for about 55 complete beds (comforter, sheet set, mattress pad, and pillow) and enough sheet sets for another 100 beds. WOW! We also hosted a bed build in our parking lot on October 1st in 2022. Our volunteers helped to build 43 twin beds for the children in the Greater Lansing Area. It was a great day of serving and fellowship!

You can see that this has become a passion for our congregation. If there are any among you who would like to do more on a regular basis, here is a new opportunity. SHP now has a warehouse in Haslett where they build and store the beds and bedding for delivery to local homes. The second Saturday of each month is devoted to building beds, and the fourth Saturday of each month is for delivering beds to homes. According to Jarrod Olsen, the chapter president, *the greatest need right now is help with delivery*. In fact, in November and December, they will pause building and concentrate on delivering beds so that children in the area can have them for the winter. They are looking for volunteers, especially anyone who has a truck, SUV, or van, who can help with this part of their work. They will pair you with an experienced volunteer to show you the ropes. If you feel called or moved to help with this mission you can reach out to one of these contacts:

website – www.shpbeds.org (then click on Michigan local chapters – Lansing)

Email – jarrod.olsen@shpbeds.org Facebook - @shplansing

You can also ask anyone on the Serving Team for more information. Together we can make a difference and make sure that "No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town!" (motto of SHP)



Quilting Sunday!

Sunday, October 6 has been designated as **Quilt Sunday** again this year, and we are looking forward to seeing a sampling and blessing of the almost 200 quilts that were lovingly prepared by the Immanuel Quilting Group in the past year. This diligent group of ladies has spent countless hours gathering, prepping, sewing and tying fabric together to make the 60" X 80" quilts that will be shipped through Lutheran World Relief in a couple of weeks. We thank them and all the donators of fabric and materials for their commitment to this much needed ministry and applaud their dedication. Please take time to examine their work and if you see the quilters, thank them! Dorothy Luethjohann, Elaine Schwanz, Jo Long, Barb Rinckey, Mary Murphy, Mary Burris, Cindy DeYoung.



Lutheran World Relief quilters may be some of the best people to teach us the power of bringing together remnants and making them multiply, as Jeremiah writes; God says, "I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of the lands . . ." How many times have you walked by the quilting room, or seen pictures LWR posts online of mission quilts that are lovingly pieced together from scraps? The amount of time and care that goes into each quilt by taking discarded remnants of fabric and stitching them together echoes the care that God has in bringing the remnant into the promised

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy

- 1 Brandon DeWitt
- 2 Barbara Rinckey
- 3 Lydia Williams
- 4 Jennifer Roesch
- 4 Landyn Roesch
- 5 Glen Saxton
- 5 Sue Marsh
- 6 Jim Couser
- 7 Robert Kunc
- 8 Kris Hernden
- 8 Pam Muenchausen
- 9 Elizabeth Kunc

Birthday!

- 11 Nancy Kuhlman
- 11 Jessica Burg
- 12 David Kurtycz
- 18 Rick McKenzie
- 19 Jon Luethjohann
- 23 Jan Martinich
- 23 Dorothea Floeter
- 25 Tamra Williams
- 26 Michael Wheeler
- 28 Lisa Pung
- 30 Maggie Polley
- 31 Sharon Wolf

Happy Anniversary!

- Lonna & Allan Blaske ~ 10/5
Jean & Mike Folk ~ 10/11
Lynn and Steve Colby ~ 10/12
Denise & Mike Proper ~ 10/14



OCTOBER

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>		1	2	3 Quilters 9am Handbells 6pm Praise Team 6:45pm Choir 7:30pm	4	5 AA Support Group 8am
6 First Fruits Offering Worship 10am Quilting Sunday	7 Serving Team 3pm Support Team 6:30 Sewl Sisters 10:30am-3pm	8	9 Zoom Bible Study 7pm	10 Quilters 9am Handbells 6pm Praise Team 6:45pm Choir 7:30pm	11	12 AA Support Group 8am
13 Worship 10am Noisy offering Blessings in a Backpack	14 Bible Study 10:30am Community Meal 5-6pm	15	16 Zoom Bible Study 7pm	17 Quilters 9am Handbells 6pm Praise Team 6:45pm Choir 7:30pm	18	19 AA Support Group 8am
20 Worship with Communion 10am	21 Bible Study 10:30am	22	23 Zoom Bible Study 7pm	24 Quilters 9am Handbells 6pm Praise Team 6:45pm Choir 7:30pm	25	26 AA Support Group 8am
27 Worship with Communion 10am	28 Bible Study 10:30am	29	30 Zoom Bible Study 7pm	31 Dinner and Trunk or Treat Handbells 6pm Praise Team 6:45pm Choir 7:30pm		