



January 2018

The Manger

Connecting Lives to Christ

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA

517 S Clinton Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

☎PHONE:
(517) 627-6310

WEBSITE:
Immanuel-gl.org

Worship Services:

Wednesday

6:00 pm Potluck
7:00 pm Worship

Sunday

8 & 10:30 am Worship
8:15-10:15 am Christ Connection
(All Ages)



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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

FOOD FOR THOUGHT....a note from your Pastor

*For auld lang syne, my jo, For auld lang syne, We'll take a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne. And surely ye'll be your pint-stowp! And surely I'll be mine!
And we'll take a cup o' kindness yet, For auld lang syne.*

This famous poem/song, traditionally sung at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve, comes from the Scottish poet Robert Burns. The title, Auld Lang Syne could be translated as "for old' times sake" and it reminds us not to forget the friends and loved ones of our past as we move forward in the future. It is a melancholy song and I believe it is more so because we often struggle letting go of the past. There is a part of us that does not want to move forward and anything that represents change is difficult. But change is unavoidable; times waits for no one, the adage reminds us. Perhaps how we deal with the change is the key to how much we grow.

Along those lines, I propose that this body of faith, Immanuel, move forward in Christ by undergoing a **Vitality and Renewal** program. The program involves a congregational vitality survey designed to identify strengths and growth areas, discussion starters regarding renewal, how to read the survey, outlines to create and implement a congregational plan in each area and follow up evaluations to assess growth.

I hope that we can undertake this project beginning in January, 2018 and continue to utilize these tools to become a stronger, healthier congregation as we grow into God's plan for us. Look for more information coming your way as we move forward.

We all struggle with change at some point in our lives and the same struggle can happen in our faith community. What I'm suggesting is that we manage the change by being proactive and anticipating what new things God might be calling us to in this body of Christ known as Immanuel. It can be frightening, but at the same time it is exhilarating to know that God has a plan for us to reach out more and more with the Gospel and to proclaim release to those in prison, hope to the hopeless and new life to those who live in darkness. The good news is for all people and our mission is to share that message with everyone possible. Most often, that requires reaching out beyond where we might be comfortable.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE *continued:*

So here is hoping that our hearts and minds are open to God making all things new in our midst and that our resistance melts away like snow in the spring. May 2018 find us healthy, overflowing with joy and hope and filled with the Spirit.

Journeying with you,
Pastor Chuck

Council Corner

Karen Ketola

We welcome 2018 as we move forward in anticipation to Connect Lives to Christ.

With the new year brings change to our Church Council. We're thankful to Orv Erickson, Erin Hubert, Gary Lass and Shar Saxton for their service as Immanuel leaders. We welcome Barb Roush and Bob Shilton to Council and welcome back Dale Stein as he begins a new term.

At our January meeting we'll elect a new President and fill any open positions. A Council retreat is planned for February 17 with a guest speaker as we prepare for Immanuel's vision and also spend time getting to know each other so we can work together connecting lives to Christ.

Sincerely,
Karen Ketola
Council Vice-President



Christian Education/Preparing Corner!



Serving Team Corner by Den Graeber

The December Noisy offering for Blessings in a Backpack was \$149.38. Our next noisy offerings are Wednesday, January 10 and Sunday, January 14 for the Lutheran Disaster Response.

Thanks for your response to the December Monthly Food Donation Offering. We gathered approximately 50 items for the Grand Ledge Food Bank. This monthly special offering of food along with the ongoing contributions using the grocery cart in the church lobby has been great and much appreciated by the Grand Ledge Food Bank. Immanuel now has eleven people volunteering at the food bank! Our January Monthly Food Donation Offerings are scheduled for Wednesday, January 17 and Sunday, January 21. Thanks for the ongoing support!

Special thanks to everyone for the support of the Baskets of Hope project this year. With the bake sale and the great response through designated giving we raised \$995.48. We were able to help provide food and small gifts to six families that included a total of 23 people this year. Awesome! Thanks to those of you that shopped for these baskets and delivered them to the families in need!

Hope you were able to attend the Concert of Service on Saturday, December 9. The Hayes Select Choirs and Immanuel's Adult choir joined together for a fun concert to benefit the Grand Ledge Emergency Assistance Program. What a great turn out, it was good to see a packed church. Special thanks to Deb DeWitt and Carmen Karkau and the Hayes Middle School Choir Director for all of their hard work putting the program together and thanks to all of the musicians that performed. We raised \$1,111.00 for GLEAP. What a great response!

Dec. 1 GL Parade – Simple Gift of Love”



“Simple Gift” Hot Chocolate Project

Steaming cups of hot cocoa, cookies, and candy canes were passed out to over 200 chilly parade spectators at the Grand Ledge Holiday Parade.

The generosity, love and compassion of Christ was shared thru warm smiles, hugs, laughter, and a warm cup of cocoa. In total, 11 volunteers helped prepare and serve. Left over hot cocoa was donated to the Ronald McDonald House.

This project allowed us to generously serve members of our community and share the love of Christ.

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”

Dear family and friends, 2017 has been a year of God making all things new in our family and in our Foerster household. Here are some highlights:

Amanda and Martin welcomed a new daughter, Rosilyn Grace Quinn, to their family and now have three daughters. I’m suggesting they start a wedding fund now! They continue to make many improvements to the home they purchased.

Morgan was married to her best friend, Zach Meier, in Midland this past August. I was proud and honored to walk her down the aisle and preside at the wedding. They are house hunting in the area for something with more “elbow” room.

Michael moved back up to da UP so he could be closer to his daughter, Emily, and also because I think he said we don’t get enough snow down here. His Schwann’s route takes him all over and still lets him spend more time with his growing daughter.

Anna took a short break from school but now is back at the books undertaking her Masters of Social Work through Ferris. Between her studies, working and being a new home owner, she has a full plate. She is confident it will all be worth it in the long run.

Steven is working a job where he is learning the ups and downs of small business and has gained some experience in welding, operating a forklift, deadlines and production issues. He continues to impress his bosses with his work ethic & commitment.

Kaydee was busy studying and qualified to go to the National Bible Bee competition held in San Antonio this past November. She made it to the third round of the semi-finals, 8th place in her age group out of 120 students invited to Nationals! She also started at Our Savior Lutheran school this fall and is enjoying making new friends.

Mary completed a new job working for the State of Michigan this summer. She took the job as a temp/part time and won rave reviews from her supervisors. She is continuing her studies at GLCC along with tutoring other students, and she is headed back to the work force for the State again. No doubt they will adore her!

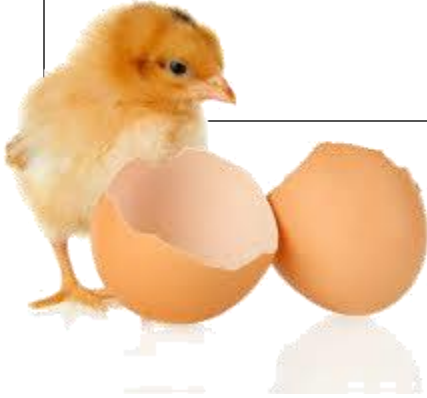
I’m continuing to organize my pole-barn in order to create a place to engage in woodworking. I have a long way to go, but it is coming along. Ministry at Immanuel continues to be such a blessing with God showing up in surprising ways.

That’s the snapshot: May God bless and keep you, may your Christmas celebration be filled with joy and may the New Year bring Hope! With love from the Foersters

Kids for Goats Project

What a blessing! With the money raised by the Immanuel family, people purchasing the salsa from our Mission Kitchen Fundraiser, the support from Thrivent and the matching of funds from ELCA, Immanuel purchased 16 goats and 40 chickens.

Sounds like a start to a mini farm! With your support we can keep this mission growing. Pigs next time??



Luther League II Food/ Fellowship/ Laughter

Luther League II will meet for lunch on **January 8, 1:00 p.m. at the House of Hsu**. Join us for great food and fellowship. Please call Kris 712-7185 or Richard/Sharon 627-2538 and start your new year with us.

Please call Kris at 712-7185 or Richard/Sharon at 627-2538 so we can give the restaurant a count.

Ushers & Greeters



Ushers Needed

Seeking a way to become more Christ like through the ministry of hospitality?

Contact Dale Stein to discover how you can part of welcoming people to worship here at Immanuel.

Cell: 627-3875

Email: gupstein@hotmail.com

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

WHO'S CELEBRATING

January 1 **Ryan Dinsmore**

January 1 **Chad Huson**

January 1 **Jim Osborn**

January 2 **Christine Wood**

January 3 **Edward Hill**

January 4 **Mark Wolf**

January 6 **Jim Ostler**

January 7 **Jaren Scoggins**

January 8 **Neven Byers**

January 9 **Zachary Shilton**

January 11 **Connor Blake**

January 11 **Emily Fracker**

January 11 **Josh Hengesbach**

January 11 **Jim Nama**

January 11 **Edward Williams IV**

January 15 **Elaine Mattson**

January 17 **Tom Blake**

January 19 **Drew Karkau**

January 19 **Fred Koos**

January 21 **Allison Ward**

January 23 **Emmett Herriff**

January 25 **Easton LaRocque**

January 25 **Waylon LaRocque**

January 26 **Orv Erickson**

January 29 **Greg Ketola**

January 30 **Todd Byers**



January 3 **Charlie & Tea Peiffer**

January 7 **Brad & Mary Matzke**

January 7 **Mike & Cheryl Pitchford**

January 22 **Dave & Barb Rinckey**

January 24 **Joe & Patty Riley**

January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	01 10:00 am Frozen Chosen 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night	02 11-3:30 SEWL Quilting	03 Wednesday 6:00 Meal & 7 pm Worship	04	05 8 pm AA	06
07 <u>8:00 & 10:30 Worship</u> 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes SNL 6-7:30	08 1:00 pm Luther League II at House of Hsu 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 6:30 pm Team Meetings	09 7 am MITM Bible Study	10 Wednesday 6:00 Meal & 7 pm Worship	11 7:30-8:30 pm Choir Practice	12 8 pm AA	13 8 am AA 3
14 <u>8:00 & 10:30 Worship</u> 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes	15 10:00 am Frozen Chosen 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 6:30 pm Council Meeting	16 7 am MITM Bible Study 11-3:30 SEWL Quilting	17 Wednesday 6:00 Meal & 7 pm Worship	18 7:30-8:30 pm Choir Practice	19 8 pm AA	20 8 am AA SNL Service <u>Project</u> <u>First Communion</u> Class 9:30-2pm
21 <u>8:00 & 10:30 Worship</u> 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes SNL 9:15-1 pm	22 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night	23 7 am MITM Bible Study	24 Wednesday 6 pm Meal & 7 pm Worship	25 7:30-8:30 pm Choir Practice	26 8 pm AA	27 8 am AA
28 <u>8:00 & 10:30 Worship</u> 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes SNL 6-7:30	29 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night	30 7 am MITM Bible Study	31 Wednesday No Worship			

Office Hours

Jeanie: Mon – Friday. 9am- 3pm

Pastor Chuck: Monday – Thursday
9:00 am – 5:00 pm