



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

7:00 pm Worship

Sunday

8 & 10:30 am Worship

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



February 2 Ground Hog's Day

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...a note from your Pastor

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! Romans 7

So, be honest; did you make a New Year's resolution? Have you kept it? Truth be told, more resolutions are broken than are kept. (80% failure rate!) As a species, we struggle with change even when we know it is the best thing for us. Like the apostle Paul, we seriously **try** to do well, to do the very best we can. Somehow, it just falls short and we often end up doing exactly what we did not want to do.

However, if we just accept this as human nature, we limit our ability to grow in Christ. If we simply resign ourselves to the notion that Paul was right and there is really nothing we can do to change, we might end up going down a path that was never ours to take. But when we continue to read Paul's words, we discover that Paul is saying that **WE** cannot accomplish this right living on our own. Left to our own devices, we stumble, fall and fail. Thus, is the nature of sin.

However, when we realize that we are named and claimed heirs of God, spiritual beings, living lives in the flesh, we can begin to work in partnership with God and the plan that God has for us. We begin to see that although God accepts us as we are, God does not just leave us there. God has so much more in mind for us and loves us into this new creation that God is daily forming and shaping. Each day we wake up, the divine is working on the path that has been laid out since the beginning of time for us. Each day, a new beginning, seeking to live into the desire of the creator. That is why Paul asks and then answers the question, "who can rescue me from this body of death"? Jesus Christ, of course is the answer. Jesus has saved us from ourselves and from the sin that leads to ultimate death. We cannot do it on our own, that is why we need a savior. Salvation comes from the Lord, not from ourselves!

(Continued on page 2)

PASTOR'S MESSAGE *continued:*

So how about this; next time you resolve to do anything of import, any endeavor that is worth the time, anything that is vital and life giving, pray. Pray that God would lead the way and you would be given the strength to follow. Trust in God to bring about what is best for your life and then seek the path that God would lead you down. Pray without ceasing, casting your cares, resolutions, thanksgivings and burdens on the one who has promised to bear all things. The one we call LOVE, Jesus, Lord and Savior.

Journeying with you,
Pastor Chuck

Council Corner

Karen Ketola

Our new Council met in January and we voted on these officers:

Karen Ketola, President
Cindy Foy, Vice-President
Blanche Schaudt, Recording Secretary

Appointments were made with Matt Bryant as Treasurer, Julia Hoornstra as Financial Secretary and Bev Lass & Sharon Catey as counters.

Pastor and I are hosting a cottage meeting on **Tuesday, February 6 at 6:30 pm** at Immanuel ahead of our annual ministerial meeting. The purpose of the cottage meeting is to answer questions and discuss ideas of connecting lives to Christ. At our annual meeting on **Sunday, February 11** -- one worship service at 10 am with the meeting to follow -- we'll begin the work of focusing on our hopes and dreams for 2018.

I am confident that we'll continue to support each other in our ministries and have a strong presence in our community this coming year.

I am honored to serve as your Council President. If you have any questions, concerns or praises you want to share with me, please do.

Sincerely,
Karen Ketola
Council President





Preparing Corner!

Christ Connections continues to go well with steady attendance! Thank you to all parents who have volunteered so far, this year! There is a calendar of class dates next to the sign-up poster in the Fellowship Hall. Also, everyone was emailed one through news@immanuel . If you are not receiving those emails, please be sure Jeanie has your email address so you can stay connected! **First Communion** went very well January 21. Thank you Melissa Goschka and Kris Hernden for manning the cake/punch table! It was a nice dessert after the yummy soup lunch from the SNL kids!!

The **National Gathering students are selling coffee/tea** through a company called Grounds for Change. The fundraiser will be wrapping up February 18th . Please see the following students to order: Emily Fedewa, Emma Landry, Brandon Foy, Drew Karkau, Jenny Roesch, Peyton Goschka or Jessie Roesch. The kids are also gearing up for the **February 1 spaghetti dinner to raise funds** for their trip! The dinner is from 5-7 complete with spaghetti, meatballs, garlic toast, salad, and dessert. Tickets are \$10 for ages 11 and up, \$5 for kids ages 4-10 and 3 or younger eats free! Please come and support the kids to help get them to Houston the end of June. The **returnables** container continues to get filled up with bottles and cans to fund their trip as well. Every little bit helps so please help with that if you can! Thanks to everyone who has already donated! Families have been taking turns returning them....☺ We have other fun events planned to raise funds so please read your announcements to be in the loop!

Have a most blessed month!
Cindy Foy, Christian Ed Coordinator



Souper Sunday, January 21

Serving Team Corner by Den Graeber

The **January Noisy offering** for the Lutheran Disaster Response was \$75.47. Our next noisy offerings are February 7 and February 11 for the Grand Ledge Food Bank.

Thanks for your response to the **January Monthly Food Donation Offering**. We gathered 110 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 much appreciated by the Grand Ledge Food Bank. Our February Monthly Food Donation **Noisy Offerings** are scheduled for Wednesday, February 14 and Sunday, February 18. Thanks for your ongoing support!

The season of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14. This year's **Lenten offerings** will be split with the **Lansing City Rescue Mission and the Grand Ledge Food Bank**. Thanks!

First Communion Sunday, January 21



FEBRUARY IS HEART MONTH

and statistics show Giving from the Heart . . .

. . . lowers blood pressure.

. . . reduces depression.

. . . makes you happier.

. . . promotes positive behaviors in teens.

. . . gives one a sense of purpose and satisfaction.

What a Great Way to Kick Start 2018!

“Giving from the Heart” will be our stewardship theme for the month of February. The need in our community is great! The Grand Ledge Emergency Assistance Program (GLEAP) is experiencing an unexpected financial need. Nancy Oliver, a board member of GLEAP, will be at Immanuel’s 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services on Feb 4th to speak about the role of GLEAP in our community. Our goal is to collect much needed money for this ministry in February. A “Giving from the Heart” envelope will be given to you as you enter the sanctuary or be in the pews every Sunday in the month of February. It may be put into the collection plate during the offering.

“There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.”

Thanks for giving!

Stewardship Team

Congregational Ministry Meeting

Mark your calendars now for our annual **Ministry Meeting on February 11th**. There will be **one worship that day at 10am**. Immediately following we will hold our Ministry Meeting proclaiming our Hopes and Dreams for this congregation for 2018.

In preparation for this meeting, there will be a **cottage meeting on Tuesday, February 6th at 6:30pm**. The purpose of this cottage meeting will be to answer questions, discuss ideas and brainstorm along with other committed and concerned folks regarding how we should best accomplish the Mission that God has set before us.



February 14

Ashes to Go 7 -9 am
Noon Worship
7 pm Worship

Do You....

Do You have creative ideas for Immanuel's worship space?

Do You enjoy preparing our sanctuary to reflect the special worship holidays?

Do You like to think out side of the box when it comes to worship?

YOUR GIFTS are needed!
Call PC (Pastor Chuck)
989-750-4573



Lenten Mid-Week Wednesday Worship 7pm

*To prepare our lives for Christ, we invite you to Wednesday Lenten Worship:
A simple worship with scripture, music, images, prayer and communion.*

February 21st: Open My Eyes, Lord

How does our perspective change when we view the world through the eyes of Christ?

February 28th: Open My Hands, Lord

Jesus used his hands for healing and for deeds of great power, and the psalmist reminds us that we are always held fast in God's hands.

March 7th 3: Open My Ears, Lord

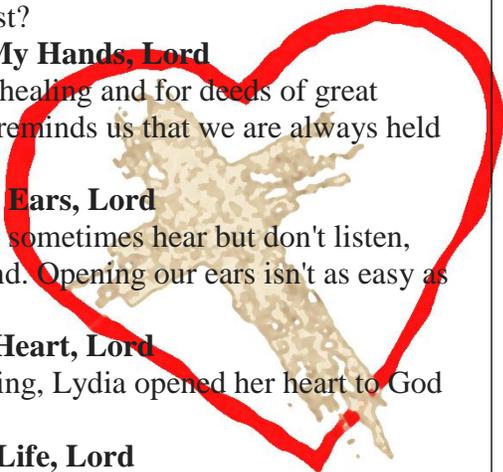
Jesus reminds us that we sometimes hear but don't listen, listen but don't understand. Opening our ears isn't as easy as it sounds.

March 14th: Open My Heart, Lord

Listening to Paul's teaching, Lydia opened her heart to God and was baptized.

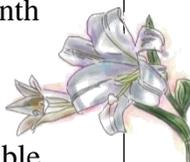
March 21st: Open My Life, Lord

Writing to the Galatians, Paul tells us that we have died to the law so that we might live to God. It is no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us.



Order your Easter Flowers

\$12.50 (all in 6-inch pots)
Red, White, Yellow, Pink Tulips
Pink, White and Lavender Hyacinth
Yellow Daffodils
Easter Lilies
Order by March 19
Order forms are located on the table in the Narthex.



Luther League II Food/ Fellowship/ Laughter

Luther League II will meet for lunch on **February 12, 1:00 p.m. at the Cuginos** 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.



Huge Rummage and Bake Sale @ Serenity Place

216 S Clinton Street from 9-3 pm February 3,
Saturday.

All proceeds go to medical expenses for Jeff Craig, Serenity Place Supervisor who had a lung transplant.



**Saturday
Feb. 24
5:30 Potluck
6:00 "Let the
Games Begin"
See Mike
Fedewa**



Cost:
\$8 Adults, \$5 Kids 4-10,
Free 3 & Under

5 - 7 pm

February Event: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, February 28, 2017

Come and eat famous potato pancakes, regular pancakes, sausage and applesauce. Proceeds will go towards camp scholarships for our middle and high school youth.



National Youth Gathering Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Thursday, Feb. 1 (5-7 pm)

11 yrs. & up \$10

4-10 yrs. \$5

3 & under Free

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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

WHO'S CELEBRATING

February 02 Mike Danes

February 02 Hanna Espie

February 05 Sheryl Kurtycz

February 05 Maggie Baribeau

February 06 Samantha Flanders

February 07 Callahan Riggs

February 08 Jennifer Dodge

February 08 Emma Shilton

February 09 Sarah Cermak

February 10 Zane Racine

February 11 Ellen Flanders

February 12 Bev Lass

February 13 Michelle Pitchford

February 13 Emma Landry

February 14 Barb Wickerham

February 14 Melissa Goschka

February 15 Herman Kruger

February 15 Diego Vasquez

February 16 Joy Powis

February 16 Dawn Byers

February 17 Matt Herriff

February 19 Terry Schaaf

February 19 Kaydee Foerster

February 20 Dan Harris

February 21 Steve Karkau

February 22 Ken Turner

February 22 Gwyneth Ketola

February 23 Linda Hubert

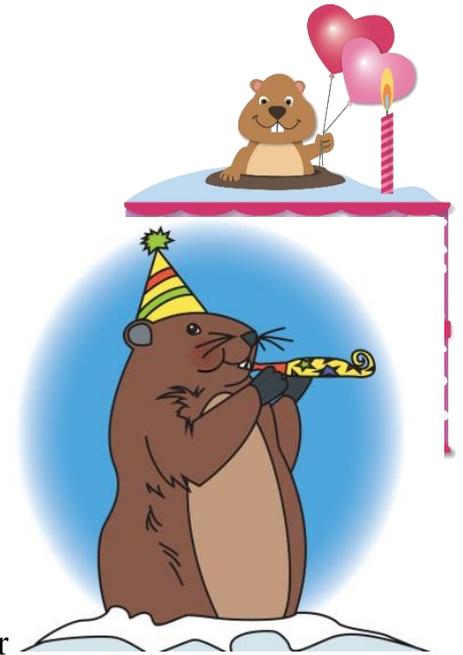
February 23 Kanan Byers

February 24 Dennis Martinich

February 25 Shar Saxton

February 25 Dakota Dunn

February 25 Cheyenne Dunn



February 1 Tony & Toni Holland

February 5 John & Melissa Kingsley

February 23 Tom & Angie Blake

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				01 High School Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser 5-7 pm	02 8 pm AA	03 8 am AA
04 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Bible Study	05 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night	06 7 am MITM Bible Study 11-3:30 SEWL Quilting 6:30 pm Cottage Meeting	07 Wednesday 7 pm Worship	08 7:30-8:30 pm Choir Practice	09 8 pm AA	10 8 am AA
11 10 am Worship Congregational Meeting to discuss Missions SNL 6-7:30	12 1:00 pm Luther League II at 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 6:30 pm Team Meetings	13 7 am MITM Bible Study 11-3:30 SEWL Quilting 5-7 pm Shrove Pancake Supper	14 Ash Wednesday 7-9 am Ashes to Go Noon & 7 pm Worship  Happy Valentine's Day!	15 7:30-8:30 pm Choir Practice	16 8 pm AA	17 8 am AA Council Retreat
18 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes	19 10:00 am Frozen Chosen 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night	20 7 am MITM Bible Study	21 Wednesday 7 pm Worship	22 7:30-8:30 pm Choir Practice	23 8 pm AA	24 8 am AA 5-9 pm Trivia Night
25 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes SNL 6-7:30	26 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night	27 7 am MITM Bible Study	28 Wednesday 7 pm Worship			

Office Hours

Jeanie: Mon – Friday. 9am- 3pm

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