



March 2018

# The Manger

Connecting Lives to Christ

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA

517 S Clinton Street  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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(517) 627-6310

WEBSITE:  
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## Worship Services:

### Wednesday

7:00 pm Worship

### Sunday

8 & 10:30 am Worship

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



March 11, 2018  
Daylight Saving  
Time Begins

## Inside ....

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**Bell Ringers see page 5**

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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

*'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes\* to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed\* by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. John 10*

Recently, my family and I borrowed an incubator to hatch some fertile eggs and have some new chicks this spring to add to our flock. Kaydee has been paying close attention to the eggs; turning them twice a day, singing to them and marking their progress on a website that is all about chickens. Each day, although we cannot see it, the chicks are progressing in their stages of life, preparing to break forth from their shells and begin their lives outside of their birthplace.

As we move forward into spring and closer to the celebration of our Lord's resurrection, I would like to take this moment to remind you; YOU belong to God! Whether you are here or there, young or old, short or tall, you belong to God and God is doing something incredible in your life. There may be seasons of our lives that we do not *recognize* that God is busy making all things new or bringing to fruition God's plans for our lives. But just because you cannot see the seed below the ground, does not mean it is not growing. God is in the business of bringing forth new life, especially when it seems there is none.

I believe the same thing is happening in our faith community here. (Immanuel) I believe that God is bearing fruit through our generosity, ministry, time, talent and dedication to the Gospel. God is using us to bring about God's kingdom plan and what God desires will always come about. God's will cannot be thwarted.

Recently, some of us took a Congregational Vitality survey. It was a snapshot of how you feel the church is doing in areas such as worship, conflict resolution, welcoming new folks and social justice. Although the number of respondents was fairly small, (37) the survey pointed to a couple things; we are doing many things well, such as our worship life and reaching out to be a positive force in the community. But we also have room to grow in some areas such as conflict resolution, connecting people to ministry and equipping folks with the tools they need to boldly witness to the amazing things God is doing in our lives. All this to say that our congregation is mission minded and expressing signs of vitality in many areas. Even when we don't see them, we can be assured that God is bringing forth fruit from our efforts. Remember, God is all about making all things new!

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE *continued:*

I don't want to give you the impression that our work is complete or that we can rest on our success; the harvest is still plentiful and sometimes the laborers are few. But we are connected to the vine that is Jesus Christ and God is bringing forth a harvest of our lives even as the winter gives up to spring. Abide in the vine, bear fruit for the kingdom and you will bear witness to the power of God to bring life from that which was dead!

Journeying with you,  
Pastor Chuck



### Council Corner

Karen Ketola

We had the opportunity to share our hopes for Immanuel and I'd like to thank you for sharing your thoughts. We're fortunate that so many are enthusiastic about Immanuel.

During the cottage and ministry meetings conversation focused on different topics. *How we can strengthen our Christian education and youth group?* Most agreed that we should be intentional in our support of a child/teen at Immanuel. Choose one to pray for, send a note so they feel encouraged and cared for.

*Are we a praying church?* How and when do we pray? How and when should we? If we're not comfortable, can we learn a better way to pray? Prayer should be kept in everything we do at Immanuel.

*How do we become stewards of our time, talent and treasures?* While we finished 2017 with positive financial stewardship we noticed some members had stepped away from roles they had served for some time.

*How do we experience worship life?* Worship of congregation is unique to church and is relatable across age groups and socio-economic backgrounds. Ideas we shared included having more varied instruments during worship, having an in-house worship service at Serenity Place, having a children's choir and hosting a holiday concert with community groups.

*How can we best use our facilities?* Ideas we shared were enhancing the kitchen, availability of space at the 501 building, using existing space at church for mom's groups, support groups or as a center for learning.

Other shared ideas were a transportation ministry and employing a youth leader.

At our recent leadership retreat we focused on ministries we do well and how we can also improve upon them. We'll be ready to work on these as we *connect lives to Christ*.

## Christmas Dinner 2017

What a blessing Immanuel is to our community. This was the recurring theme that we heard during our Christmas Day meal service. A few statistics:

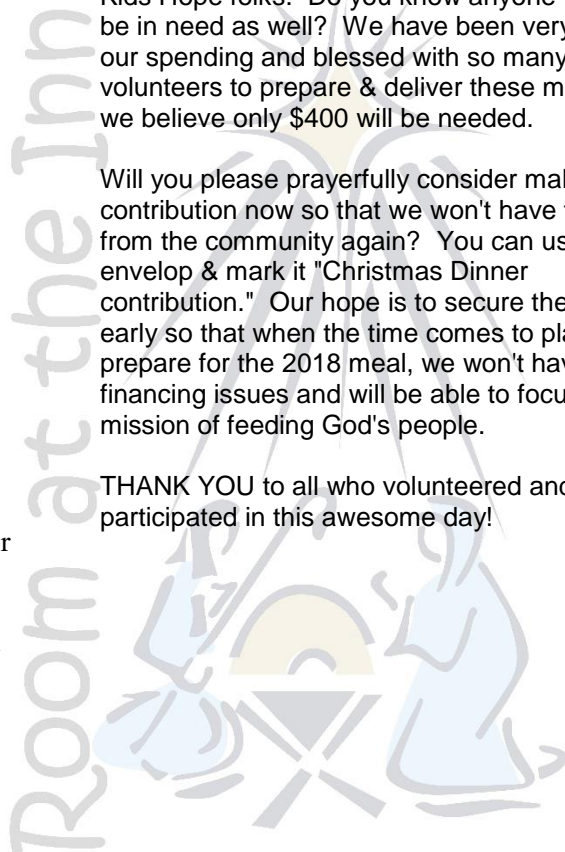
Approximately 240 meals served/lives touched,  
including a station set up at Serenity Place  
Total cost of this mission: \$975.21  
Volunteers involved: 30

We have been fortunate that this mission has been largely funded by donations from area merchants and Thrivent Action Team dollars. The good news is that we are in need of only about \$400 for next year!

For the 2018 dinner, we're looking for assistance from you. We will be soliciting names/addresses of those who are in need of a Christmas Day meal via the Grand Ledge Food Bank, Blessings in a Backpack, Baskets of Hope recipients and the Kids Hope folks. Do you know anyone who might be in need as well? We have been very thrifty in our spending and blessed with so many volunteers to prepare & deliver these meals, that we believe only \$400 will be needed.

Will you please prayerfully consider making a contribution now so that we won't have to solicit from the community again? You can use a pew envelop & mark it "Christmas Dinner contribution." Our hope is to secure these funds early so that when the time comes to plan & prepare for the 2018 meal, we won't have any financing issues and will be able to focus on the mission of feeding God's people.

THANK YOU to all who volunteered and participated in this awesome day!



## Preparing Corner!

Cindy Foy, Education Director



**Christ Connections** is going along well.....hard to believe we will wrap up the year in May! That's not too far away. We still have dates available for leaders/co-leaders to help on Sunday mornings. Please check out the sign-up poster on the fellowship hall bulletin board. Your help is greatly appreciated and crucial to keep our Sunday morning lessons going. Thank you to all who have volunteered so far!

**SNL** still meets every other Sunday night and they too will be wrapping up a school year in May. More details to follow about their year-end events.

The **pancake supper** on February 13 was very successful! Thank you everyone for helping raise money for Stony Lake Camp! \$580 was earned by the middle school kids towards their week at camp this summer. Food was wonderful and all the help/donations was very appreciated!

**High School/National Gathering group** wrapped up their coffee/tea fundraiser February 18<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to everyone who ordered. Details to come on how much was raised. The next event is scheduled for March 18 at church. This is a Silent Auction....viewing and bidding will be between services with bidding continuing after the 10:30 service. Final bids and awards of items with 30 minutes of final bids. Donations are needed for this event and of course bidders! Keep watch for more details in the bulletin, projector screen announcements at church and also posters the kids are making. Please join us and continue to help get these kids to Houston in June! The group will hold a fundraising event in April; date and time TBA.

Have a blessed month and thank you for your continued support with events and fundraisers!



**SNL Families**, we are on the down side of classes for SNL this season. Please make every effort to be to the class times and remember your Bibles, Small Catechisms and paper and pencil.

Also, remember to turn in your sermon notes to Pastor Chuck, everyone needs 5 notes per year.

Save the Date: **Confirmation Sunday**  
**Sunday, May 20, 2018** at the 10:30 service.



## Serving Team Corner

Den Graeber

The **February Noisy Offering** for the Grand Ledge Food Bank was \$57.98. Our next noisy offerings are Wednesday, March 7 and Sunday, March 11 for Blessings in a Backpack. Let's make some noise!

Thanks for your response to the **January Monthly Food Donation Offering**. 110 items were collected for the Grand Ledge Food Bank. Our March monthly food donations are Wednesday, March 14 and Sunday, March 18.

**Sunday, March 4, is Scout Recognition** at Immanuel. We are looking for all current and past Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of all ages and past or present leaders to join us in some special recognition at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Wear your uniforms if you would like. Also bring a scout friend if you'd like. There will be a special cookie coffee hour following the service.

Looking Ahead: You are invited to attend **the Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 1** held between the two church services. You may want to make plans now to attend and celebrate!

## Stewardship Corner

Stewardship is the giving of our time, talent, and treasure. How has and how can your time, talent, and treasure support our ministry to others? One way is our continued support of the Blessing in a Backpack ministry. This ministry involves packing backpacks with food for 225 children in the Grand Ledge School District each week. This provides access to food for the weekend. Our congregation supports the program both financially and physically.

Another ministry we support is the Grand Ledge Food Bank. Immanuel currently has 11 volunteers working at the food bank in the kitchen preparing food orders or in the office interviewing clients. Our congregation donated approximately 1600 food items and 300 non-food items in 2017. The SNL Youth group hosted a soup luncheon and from love offerings donated \$200 to the food bank.

These are just two of the many ministries we support with time, talent, and treasure. If you want to become more involved in these ministries, just contact the serving team. Experience the joy and rewarding feeling of giving and serving others.

Stay tuned as the Stewardship Committee highlights our ministry to serving others. "The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart." Luke 6:45



### WALK THE CROSS

through Grand Ledge

Good Friday – March 30 at 6:00 pm

Family, friends, co-workers

all are welcome to walk

Come...feel the weight of the cross,

just as Jesus did

The walk begins at Jenne St & M43  
and ends at Immanuel.

Look for signup sheets in the  
entryway.

### 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.*

#### March 7<sup>th</sup>: 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 14<sup>th</sup>: Open My Heart, Lord

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

#### March 21<sup>st</sup>: 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.



## Up Coming High School Youth National Gathering Fundraiser Events



### Silent Auction and Special Coffee Hour

**Sunday, March 18, 2018**

Many different items and services will be auctioned off to help raise funds for the 7 High School Youth and 2 Chaperones for the 2018 National Gathering. Come see what you cannot live without whether it be for yourself or a gift to someone special.

Items will be on display starting at **9:00 a.m.** with bidding starting then as well. **We will close the bidding at 12:15 p.m. and will announce the winners.** Payments can be made immediately to the cashier, cash or checks only, payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church.



Good  
Friday's  
7 pm  
Worship



### A Night In The Movies



**ACTION!**

**When:** Saturday, April 14, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Immanuel Lutheran Church

**Why:** To raise funds for the 2018 Youth National Gathering

**Free Will Donation  
Concessions available**

Enjoy a night of entertainment by our talented High School Youth and the Immanuel Drama Team and help them earn their way to Houston, TX to the 2018 National Gathering this summer.



Popcorn and Concessions

### Calling All Bell Ringers

During Immanuel's Community Good Friday 7 pm Worship, UCC and others will be ringing! Interested in joining the group? Contact Pastor Chuck!

## Youth National Gathering

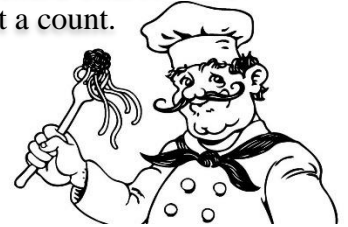
How can you support our youth in their personal Christian growth? Help send Immanuel's High School Youth to Houston this summer!

1. Take an envelope off the window, before entering worship. Put money into it and place it into the offering plate.
2. Come to the Silent Auction, Sunday, March 18 and "A Night in the Movies" on Saturday, March 19.

March 14

## Luther League II Food/ Fellowship/ Laughter

Luther League II will meet for lunch on **March 12, 1:00 p.m. at the Cugino's** 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.



## 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**

## Stoney Lake Camp Fund

Thank you for supporting our SNL kids at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!

**We raised \$580** for the kids to go to Stony Lake Camp this summer. Thank you for donating griddles, coming to eat, and to all of the helpers!!

God's Peace!  
Melissa



## **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

*Thurs. March 29 at 6 pm*

*Join us for a delicious meal  
catered by*

**ZAYTOON Mediterranean**

**\$10 per plate, \$5 kids under 10**

**Worship & Stripping of the Altar  
at 7 pm**



Christ Connections!

# MARCH BIRTHDAYS

## WHO'S CELEBRATING

March 03 Carol Espie

March 12 Patty Riley

March 03 Genevieve Ketola

March 12 Adam Van Hoesen

March 05 Fay Boerger

March 14 Phil Hill

March 05 Jane Goebel

March 15 Anthony Gatewood

March 05 Noah Bailey

March 15 Adam Fracker

March 06 Fred Roush

March 16 Julia Hoornstra

March 28 Grace Bucholz

March 06 Lyn Danes

March 17 Mike Folk

March 29 Tony Holland

March 06 Mindy Turner

March 18 Gary Lass

March 29 Jacob Hickok

March 07 Brad Matzke

March 18 Kody Wood

March 30 Amanda Gatewood

March 07 Brandi Coffman

March 20 Jeanie Schaaf

March 07 Scarlett Hubert

March 22 Scott Hoornstra

March 09 John Burg

March 23 Virginia Balgoyen

March 10 Mike Wesley

March 25 Jake Ward

March 11 Carol Weigel

March 25 Jessica Proper

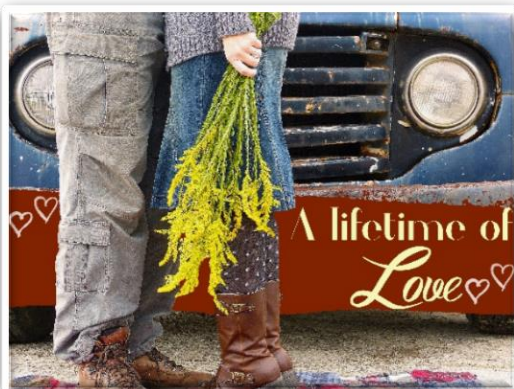
March 11 Anna Matzke

March 26 Helen Kollman

March 26 Betty Hoffner



"Get Your  
Cupcakes  
On!"



March 09 Jim & Scherrie Bryant  
March 10 Wayne & Blanche Schaudt  
March 12 Rick & Lynne Fracker  
March 15 Jim & Carol Drown

# March 2018

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday                               |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|
|   |   |  |  | 01   | 02<br>8 pm AA   | 03<br>8 am AA                          |
| 04<br><b>8:00 &amp; 10:30 Worship</b><br>9:15- 10:15<br>"Christ Connections"<br>Classes & Bible Study<br><br>Scout Recognition<br>Sunday      | 05<br>4:00 -6:00 pm<br><b>Community Meal Night</b>  | 06<br>7 am MITM<br><b>Bible Study</b><br><br>11-3:30 SEWL<br><b>Quilting</b> | 07<br><b>Wednesday</b><br>7 pm<br><b>Worship</b> | 08<br><br>7:30-8:30 pm<br><b>Choir Practice</b>                  | 09<br>8 pm AA   | 10<br>8 am AA                          |
| 11 <b>Daylight Savings Begins</b><br>10 am <b>Worship</b><br>Congregational Meeting to discuss Missions<br><b>SNL 6-7:30</b>                  | 12<br>1:00 pm <b>Luther League II at Cugino's</b><br><br>4:00 -6:00 pm<br><b>Community Meal Night</b><br><b>6:30 pm Team Meetings</b> | 13<br>7 am MITM<br><b>Bible Study</b><br><br>11-3:30 SEWL<br><b>Quilting</b> | 14<br><b>Wednesday</b><br>7 pm <b>Worship</b>    | 15<br><br>7:30-8:30 pm<br><b>Choir Practice</b>                  | 16<br>8 pm AA   | 17<br>8 am AA                          |
| 18<br><b>8:00 &amp; 10:30 Worship</b><br>9:15- 10:15<br>"Christ Connections"<br>Classes<br><b>Silent Auction – Youth Gathering Fundraiser</b> | 19<br>10:00 am <b>Frozen Chosen</b><br>4:00 -6:00 pm<br><b>Community Meal Night</b><br><b>6:30 Council Meeting</b>                    | 20<br>7 am MITM<br><b>Bible Study</b>  | 21<br><b>Wednesday</b><br>7 pm <b>Worship</b>    | 22<br><br>7:30-8:30 pm<br><b>Choir Practice</b>                  | 23<br>8 pm AA   | 24<br>8 am AA                          |
| 25 <b>Palm Sunday</b><br><b>8:00 &amp; 10:30 Worship</b><br>9:15- 10:15<br>"Christ Connections"<br>Classes<br><b>SNL 6-7:30</b>               | 26<br>4:00 -6:00 pm<br><b>Community Meal Night</b>  | 27<br>7 am MITM<br><b>Bible Study</b>  | 28<br><b>Wednesday</b><br>7 pm <b>Worship</b>    | 29<br><b>Maundy Thursday</b><br>6 pm Meal<br>7 pm <b>Worship</b> | 30<br><b>Good Friday</b><br>Noon & 7 pm<br><b>Worship</b> | 31<br><b>Easter Vigil</b><br>7 – 10 pm |

## Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, March 25 - **Palm Sunday**  
 Wednesday, March 28 - **7 pm Worship**  
**Maundy Thursday**, March 29 – 6 pm Meal, 7 pm Worship  
**Good Friday**, March 30 – Noon & 7 pm Community Worship  
 Saturday, March 31 **Easter Vigil** 7-10 pm  
 Sunday, April 1 – **Easter Worship** 8 & 10:30 am, Easter Breakfast 9:15-10:15 am

## Office Hours

**Jeanie:** Mon – Friday. 9am- 3pm  
**Pastor Chuck:** Monday – Thursday  
 9:00 am – 5:00 pm