



April 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

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

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶ I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸ I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them. Isaiah 42

You know, I never expected that I would have a middle school daughter at this point in my life. But I must confess; it has been a wonderful experience to once again see the world through a child's eyes! To marvel at the awesome power in a thunderstorm or sit in quiet reverence as the stars show forth in the heavens. To pick up an autumn leaf and be amazed at the colors. To see the potential in almost everything; this is one of the blessings that our ten-year old daughter has brought to us.

God is God of surprises. He surprises us by re-making promises after we have broken them. He surprises us with a love that comes "while we were yet sinners" and rescues us from our own sin. We are startled that he would go to such great lengths to restore the relationship with us, and we sit in awe to discover that the tomb is empty and even death could not hold Jesus. Now, if you are at all like me, you may have read this paragraph and not had the sensation of being struck by God's awesomeness and grandeur. And I wonder if it because we have stopped looking at God through the eyes of a child. We have lost the sense of mystery and wonder when we see our world and thus we have lost the sense of mystery and wonder of God. I was reminded of this the other evening, when we were on our way home and the western sky was lit up in a beautiful glow with orange and reds and yellows. My wife said to our daughter, "Look at that". "God did that; and you know something, even if you were the only person on earth, God would have still put that event in motion for you!"

Just imagine! That truth extends to what God did through Jesus. If you were the only person on earth, God would still have sent his Son to die for you! Can you fathom the love contained in that statement? Does that not just blow your mind? God loves ME that much? Can you begin to perceive?

PASTOR'S MESSAGE *continued:*

the awesomeness of our God? When we open our hearts and minds, our eyes and ears and our lives to God, we can begin to comprehend the incredible nature of our God. We follow a God who causes trees to communicate with one another and animals to bring forth offspring when the time is right. We worship a God who created trees that make their own rain and flowers that can grow even when nothing else does. OMG, literally!

We follow an amazing God and upon perceiving the cosmic significance of the divine, all we can say is "Wow. God sure is awesome!" May your life continue to bring you moments in which you are moved to praise God and may your eyes be opened to the newness of life that God is causing to spring forth in your life!

Journeying with you,
Pastor Chuck



Council Corner

Karen Ketola



I was inspired at our March meeting. We engaged in discussions of how we can encourage others to connect lives to Christ. What can *we* do? What can *you* do?

Some things we can all do are invite others to worship and community events we host. Pray -- for each other, for the sick, the hurting, for our leaders, for our children and for Immanuel. Choose a ministry you might be interested in - providing dessert for Monday's community meals, greet at the front entrance on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, plan for kitchen upgrades or lead or help with Christ Connections Sunday mornings. Help with our annual spring clean-up. These are just a few ways you can support our ministries.

I also encourage everyone to introduce yourself to someone during worship whom you may not know. This person could be another member you don't see often or someone who's visiting for the first time or second time. Wearing your name tag is a good way for someone else to approach you.

We've walked during the dark days of Lent. It's been a time of self-reflection and perhaps purposeful living with more time in prayer. We're walking toward resurrection and hope. John 11:25-26 states *Jesus said to her "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"* I do.



Christ Connections

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.





Preparing Corner!

Cindy Foy, Education Director

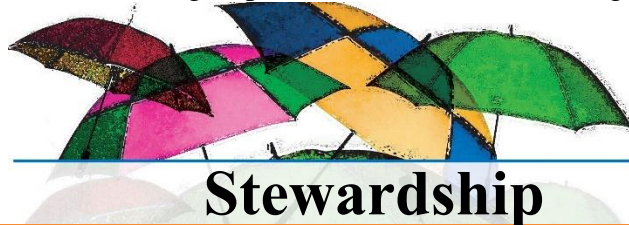


Christ Connections is moving along each week with attendance being steady. Parents have been volunteering their time to assist with leadership and I have been very grateful for the help!! There is no class Sunday April 1 due to Easter breakfast and also April 8 due to second weekend of Spring Break. I know families will be returning from vacations or long weekends. We will be returning to class Sunday April 15 at 9:15! Christian Education will be winding down May 20 for the school year with our annual ice cream social and other surprises!! Please be sure to have your child(ren) in attendance for the short time we have left. The new format has been working out wonderfully!

Speaking of new formats, we are offering something very different for Immanuel and also the community that we are very excited about! July 16-20 we will be hosting **Adventure Day Camp** here at Immanuel with times to be announced. We are leaning towards the time frame of 1:30-5:45 with community dinner following. Of course, to make this event a total success, we will be asking for volunteers in all capacities. Although the camp counselors from Stony Lake will be “leading” the day camp, we will need volunteers for each group of

children, snack time and of course the big community meal. Please keep your eyes out for sign up opportunities and also information in newsletters and bulletins. Lots of details to figure out, but again very excited to introduce something new!!

The **National Gathering** group has been working on their parts for the fundraiser April 14 “A Night in the Movies”. Start time is 7pm here at Immanuel and admission is a free will offering. Concessions will be available too. Come out and support our youth with assistance from the Drama Team to make this evening a fundraising success! Their trip to Houston is fast approaching! We will also be having a car wash or two and one other fundraiser before the end of June. You can also support this group by taking an envelope off the Sanctuary windows that have an amount written on them and return it in the offering plate during worship. Also, don’t forget about the ongoing pop can drive! The barrel is in the entry way and every little bit helps! Our coffee/tea fundraiser and silent auction were a big success! Thank you so much from all of us parents and kids for supporting them! Immanuel has an awesome group of people!



Stewardship

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

Serving Team Corner

Our March Noisy Offering for Blessings in a Backpack was \$105.85. Our next noisy offerings will be Wednesday, April 4 and Sunday, April 8 for the Lutheran Disaster Response. Let's continue to make some noise as we reach out within the United States and globally.

Thank you for your response to the March Monthly Food Donation Offering, we gathered approximately 80 items for the food bank. Our next special offering is scheduled for April 15. Please remember that the grocery cart is always available in the church lobby for donations of food for the Grand Ledge Food Bank. Thanks!

As we celebrate Easter on Sunday, April 1 you are invited to the Easter Breakfast held between the two church services. Teresa Barcy will be providing much of the breakfast along with the Serving Team. Plans have been made for an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids. We will be taking up a love gift which will be donated to the Youth for the National Gathering. Come and enjoy the breakfast and the fellowship as we celebrate the Resurrection!

Just a reminder of a couple of ways you can reach out to others that may be sick, hospitalized, or shut-in. We all have friends and family that we can reach out to at a time when they can use some love and support.

Immanuel has a couple of ministries in place that you need to be reminded of. One is *Teddy Bears in the Pews*. The teddy bears are there for you to take to friends and family to extend your love and support. The other is the *Prayer Shawl Ministry*. The prayer shawls are also available on the racks in the narthex for you to take to those that might appreciate the warmth and comfort of the prayer shawl and to be reminded of the power of prayer at a difficult time.

Looking Ahead: May is appreciation month for First Responders, Firemen and Police Officers. Immanuel will be showing our local appreciation by putting together boxes of goodies to be delivered by the Serving Team. We will be asking for snacks to be donated by our members for this cause. Watch for more details!

God's Work Our Hands is scheduled for September 9. We will be organizing service projects that we all can take a part in as we reach out to others.



LAUGH YOUR WAY TO A BETTER MARRIAGE

FREE! Video Series with MARK GUNGOR

DATE: April 20 – Friday Evening 7-9:30 pm
April 21 – Saturday Morning 9-Noon

Location: Immanuel Lutheran Church
517 S. Clinton Grand Ledge

Contact Info: 517-627-6310

Both sessions are suggested to attend.
This video series will help couples open
Up communication, together!

Do You
Promise to
Love Me
Warts and All?

- This is not one of those Let's beat up on women seminars.
- Tale of Two Brains
- Sex
- Why Does He/She Do That?
- How to Stay Married & Not Kill Anybody





CARRYING OF THE CROSS TO IMMANUEL ON GOOD FRIDAY



Up Coming High School Youth National Gathering Fundraiser Events



Sunday, March 18, 2018

Many different items and services were auctioned off to help raise funds for the 7 High School Youth and 2 Chaperones for the 2018 National Gathering. With your generous bids, we raised over \$1,000.

A few items remain in Pastor Chuck's office waiting for their new owners to claim!



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 "A Night in the Movies" on Saturday, April 14.



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

Luther League II Food/ Fellowship/ Laughter

Luther League II will meet for lunch on **April 9, 1:00 p.m.** Bob Evan's is the place to meet.

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.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

CELEBRATING:



April 02 Addison O'Brien

April 03 Bill Frysinger

April 03 Jessica George Beitel

April 05 Barb Roush

April 07 Annette Ryan

April 09 Elaine DeClercq

April 09 Angelia Marsh

April 09 John VanHoesen

April 10 Norah Williams

April 11 Gilberto Baptista

April 11 Jeff Everts

April 12 Eva Dinsmore

April 12 Tom Sullenburger

April 14 Avery Riggs

April 14 Roger Wickerham

April 17 Pat Graeber

April 17 Lucas Smith

April 20 Olivia Buchweitz

April 23 Katie Bryant

April 24 Delaney Fedewa

April 24 Erin Hubert

April 24 Mike Pitchford

April 25 Anna Baribeau

April 26 Jeffrey Mandeville

April 25 Owen Smith

April 27 Allan Blaske

April 27 Carisa Flanders

April 27 Chris Frysinger

April 29 Alan Goschka

April 30 Angie Blake

April 30 Donna Gibbons

April 30 Abby Osborn



April 01 Donna & Bill Gibbons

April 07 Rick & Linda Merrifield

April 17 Tom & Nicole Sullenburger

April 19 Tim & Linda Hubert

April 28 Jim & Carol Espie

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Easter Breakfast 9:15-10:15 am	02 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night	03 7 am MITM Bible Study 11-3:30 SEWL Quilting	04 Wednesday 7 pm Worship	05 7:30-8:30 pm Choir Practice	06 8 pm AA	07 8 am AA
08 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Bible Study	09 1:00 pm Luther League II at 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 6:30 pm Team Meetings	10 7 am MITM Bible Study	11 Wednesday 7 pm Worship	12 7:30-8:30 pm Choir Practice	13 8 pm AA	14 8 am AA 7-9 pm "Night In The Movies" fundraiser
15 10 am Worship Congregational Meeting to discuss Missions SNL 6-7:30	16 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 6:30 Council Meeting	17 7 am MITM Bible Study 11-3:30 SEWL Quilting	18 Wednesday 7 pm Worship	19 7:30-8:30 pm Choir Practice	20 Laugh Your Way to A Better Marriage Session 8 pm AA	21 8 am AA Laugh Your Way to A Better Marriage Session
22 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes SNL 6-7:30	23 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night	24 7 am MITM Bible Study	25 Wednesday 7 pm Worship	26 7:30-8:30 pm Choir Practice	27 8 pm AA	28 8 am AA
29 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes SNL 6-7:30	30 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night					



Office Hours

Jeanie: Mon – Friday. 9am- 3pm

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