

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

14"Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. **15**"If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Joshua 24

Volunteerism rates in the U.S. have either stagnated or been on the decline since 2006. It's possible that these numbers don't reflect community organizing or other forms of giving back to the communities we live in. But nonetheless, it is reason for concern. Serving others has always been a foundational element of a Christian's faith journey and numerous examples are found in the Bible. It is reflected in most other major religions in the world as well. So why are we seeing a decline in this core value? What is behind a drop in volunteerism even while we are supposedly more connected in our world and more aware of national and international needs?

Perhaps we have strayed too far from the foundation. Maybe we no longer hold the teachings of Jesus as relevant when he says, "*as you did it unto the least of these, so you did it for me*". I don't have a degree in social statistics or cultural trends and movements. But I do recognize the same trends in our places of worship. The old adage that 20% of the people do 80% of the work, still hold true nowadays.

How do we reverse this trend? How can we be more connected to the body of Christ and help others to connect? I believe one of the ways is to get involved in something happening at church. Big or little, great or small, there is room for all of our gifts to be used by God in some way. We have to be the ones to step up and say, I will! No longer can we afford to watch and wait and hope that someone will jump in. The call is for us to jump in, with both feet. I think the flip side is that we have to be willing to invite others into ministry with us and also to accept others help in ministries that already exist. The biggest downer for someone who answers the call to serve in the church is for someone else to say, "*we already have enough people doing that, we don't need your help.*" And yet, I've heard it here before. We need to welcome people's gifts and their willingness to share them. We cannot just expect that the folks who have always jumped in to save the day will continue to do so. Now this may not be a popular topic with everyone and some of you may not like what I've got to say; but if we don't engage in ministry and help others to

PASTOR'S MESSAGE *continued*:

connect to ministry, we will fade away like a pair of old blue jeans. Slowly but surely becoming more torn and washed out, eventually not useful.

Rise up church! Choose this day whom you will serve, and then give that service with everything you can muster and do so in the joy of the Lord. Let us answer the call and choose God over all the other trivial things that come our way. Praise be to God, now and always.

Journeying with you,
Pastor Chuck

Pastor Chuck

Council Corner

Karen Ketola

Spring is here and we're in a time of renewal in ourselves and at Immanuel. There are many upcoming opportunities for you to step in, work together and support our ministries so that we may *connect lives to Christ*.

The Support Team has organized our annual Spring Clean Up. There are many ways to tidy up our buildings, inside and out, and our grounds to always be a welcoming presence to everyone entering our building every day of the week. Please stop in the narthex to see the "to do" list. How can you help? Get a friend, choose a task and work at your pace and schedule.

There are other ways of supporting our ministries.

- The Serving Team is our lead for showing appreciation of our Grand Ledge First Responders. Snack items will be collected and delivered to them in May.
- The Youth Group is hosting *A Night in the Movies* on Saturday, May 12, as a fundraiser for their July trip to National Gathering in July.
- Immanuel will be gearing up for our annual day of service, God's Work Our Hands, on Sunday, September 9. We can make a positive impact on our local and global communities.

These opportunities for ministry are noted in detail in this newsletter.

2 Corinthians 9:11

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Blessings to you always,
Karen





Preparing Corner!

Cindy Foy, Education Director



Our last **Christ Connections** class is May 20! We have some fun things planned that morning so please make sure your children don't miss out! We have had a good year of learning and growing in God and we are excited to see what God has in store as we move forward in this style of Christian Education. We will be recognizing all the volunteers that helped out this year during the 10:30 worship on Sunday May 20. If you volunteered your time any time this year with Christ Connections, please join us on our last day to celebrate what God is doing with us and through us!

May 20 is also Confirmation Sunday with a special coffee hour to honor our students. Everyone is invited to join us in the fellowship hall after 10:30 service!

Stony Lake is coming up in July and we have 10 campers attending! For any questions about Stony Lake camp, please contact Karlene Ketola.

Our National Gathering group is getting closer to their event date and also much closer to their fundraising goal! We are so grateful to the congregation for all of your support! Please join us on **Saturday May 12 at 7pm for the rescheduled "A Night in The Movies".**

Bring your mom as a Mother's Day evening!

Concessions will be available. The kids are excited to finally put on a show which they have spent a good deal of time rehearsing along with the Immanuel Drama Team. Cost of admission is a free will offering!

The Silent Auction was a great success along with the *Grounds for Change* coffee and tea fundraiser and the can and bottle donations! Thank you for your donations and purchases.

We are excited to announce something *totally* different for this summer! **Adventure Day Camp** will be the week of July 16-20 from 1:30pm to approximately 5:45pm, ending each night with a community meal. **Adventure Day Camp** is a *Living Water Ministries* program led by counselors from Stony Lake. They come to us and provide a camp experience right here on our property. They bring music and new camp songs, crafts, Bible study and so much more. Although the camp counselors lead the activities, we will still need your help to make this week a success. **Watch for a "Sign-Up Sunday"** coming soon so that you have the chance to reach out to our youth and the youth of our community with this message of hope. There is room for everyone's gifts! We are so looking forward to this wonderful and unique opportunity to be witnesses for God in our community.

If you feel God is calling you to go further in forming and **shaping the young people** of Immanuel, consider helping out on an event or different Preparing Team opportunity, to see if this way of serving God's mission fits the gifts God has provided you.

Planning and Support Begins Christmas Dinner 2018



What a blessing Immanuel is to our community. This was the recurring theme that we heard during our 2017 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!

Serving Team Corner

Our April **Noisy Offering for Lutheran Disaster** Response was \$115.44. Our next noisy offerings will be Wednesday, May 9 and Sunday, May 13 for the Grand Ledge Food Bank.

Thanks for your continued response to the Monthly **Grand Ledge Food Bank Donation Offerings** held the Third Sunday of each month. Also, thanks for your on-going support for the food bank by dropping of items in the grocery cart in the church lobby. Special thanks to the Hickok family for their recent generous donation of ground beef to the food bank. The Lenten/Easter laundry soap donation of 16 bottles to the food bank will be divided up into 166 units to go out in client orders. Together as a community we continue to reach out and help our neighbors in need.

We have another opportunity to donate to the Grand Ledge Food Bank through the **Postal Carrier Food Drive scheduled for Saturday, May 12**. Just leave non-perishable items for your postal carrier to pick up. They will pick up your donation and deliver it to the food bank and volunteers at the food bank will take it from there. This food gathering is typically the food banks largest food drive for the year and offers a lot of support for the summer.

We hope you enjoyed the Easter Breakfast. Special thanks to Teresa Barcy and the youth that helped on Saturday and early Sunday morning. Thanks for your donation to the love gift of \$231.00 for the National Youth Gathering.

May is Appreciation Month for First Responders, Firemen and Police Officers. Immanuel will be showing our appreciation by putting together treat boxes. Boxes will be available in the church narthex from Sunday, May 6 through Sunday, May 20 for us to bring in goodies. Suggested goodies include trail mix, granola bars, candy bars, protein bars and sandwich crackers, etc. (be creative as long as all items are individually wrapped). A poster will be available for everyone to sign and kids in Christ Connections will be drawing pictures and making cards. The Serving Team will deliver the snacks on May 23.

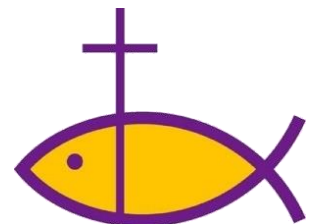
God's Work Our Hands is scheduled for **September 9**. The Gathering, Preparing, Serving and Support Teams will be recruiting a team member to work on this year's God's Work Our Hands Team. In addition, this year we are reaching out to the congregation looking for more interested team members to plan the day's events and the service projects that we all will be taking a part in. Please call Den Graeber 517-224-8888 to volunteer as a team member and get in on the planning this year. Your help will be much appreciated, thanks!

SNL Families,

One more class, May 6, 2018. SNL students be sure to finish up the year strong and get all of your requirements fulfilled.

We will have ten 8th graders getting confirmed this year on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at the 10:30 service. Please help support these young people in their next journey with Christ. There will be a special coffee hour in their honor immediately following the 10:30 service.

Thank you, SNL families for supporting your children through the SNL program and helping them grow their faith in Christ.



Stewardship

Summer will soon be upon us and it is the time families travel or get away for the weekend. Our Church Mission Work still continues even though we may not be in attendance. How can we maintain or exceed our support of the churches mission? Sacrificial giving.

(From www.stmarymagdalen.org)

“What is Sacrificial Giving? From the beginning of time, our Creator has given humankind the gifts of life and unconditional love. One day God saw fit to give the first fruits of love for us, the sacrificial gift of an only son, Jesus. Jesus gave his own life for us on the cross. He set an example for us of giving unconditionally and of sacrificing so that others might live. We walk in the footsteps of Christ when we give sacrificially a part of our substance so that others might live.

The starting point for Sacrificial Giving is the basic principle of Christian stewardship-that everything we have is a gift from God. In gratitude for God’s generosity, we dedicate a portion of these gifts-our time, talent and money-to furthering God’s Kingdom.

If we truly believe that God gives us all that we have, gratitude is one response. Trust is another. When we realize that God has provided for us and will continue to do so, we recognize that our real security lies in God. Our God, who has given us all, will take care of our future.

There are Five Elements of Sacrificial Giving: Sacrificial Giving Is Planned, Proportionate, Sacrificial, A Prayer of Thanksgiving, and A Gift. “Our proportionate gift becomes sacrificial when it comes from our substance rather than our abundance. When we give out of our substance, we are changed in the process. We have given away something we thought we needed for ourselves, thus changing our lifestyle. We have acted on our belief that our security lies not in our material resources but in God.””

The Stewardship Committee thanks you for your continued support of our churches mission work. Please prayerfully consider your continued stewardship support of Our Mission as you enjoy your summer.



It's Spring Clean Up Time

Immanuel family – it is time to clean up, spruce up, and make our Immanuel home sparkle. We are taking a different approach to Spring Clean Up this year. We would like to give everyone an opportunity to help out. Rather than a specific date, as we have done in the past, the clean-up tasks will be completed based upon your time schedules.

The Support Team has developed a list of “clean up” tasks and we are asking that you sign up for one or more of the tasks. Clean up tasks may be completed by a family, an individual, or a group of families or individuals working together. You decide what you would like to do and when and then just sign up.

All we ask is that all tasks are **completed by June 15.** Spring is in the air – let’s make our Immanuel shine.

Jeanie will be coordinating the task list, so please contact her at 517-627-6310 with your chosen task or sign-up on the board in the Narthex. Please bring your cleaning materials for the task that you have signed up to complete.

Up Coming High School Youth National Gathering Fundraiser Events

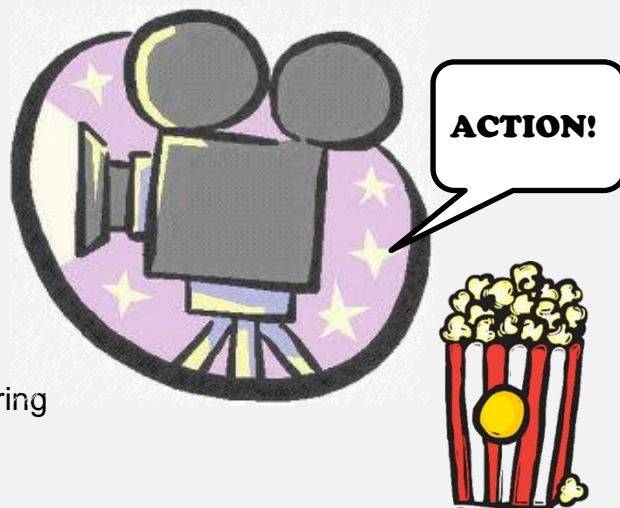
A Night in The Movies

When: Saturday, May 12, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

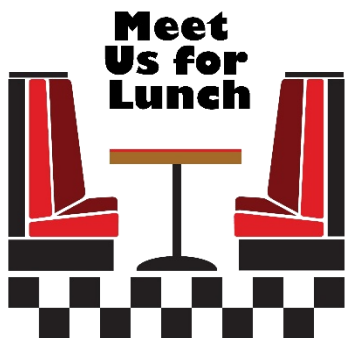
Where: Immanuel Lutheran Church

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. The High School Youth and Drama Team will be acting out scenes from movies. There will be plenty of opportunities for you to get involved. This is Fun for the Whole Family!



Luther League II **Food/ Fellowship/ Laughter**

Luther League II will meet for lunch, **May 14 at 1:00 p.m.**
We will meet at Fireside Restaurant on the corner of Lansing Road and Canal, Dimondale.

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.

Save the Date

May 6 SNL 6-7:30 pm

May 12 "A Night in the Movies"
Fundraiser

May 18 SNL Confirmation Evening ?-
11:30 pm Check with Pastor for time.

May 20 Confirmation Sunday at 10:30
Worship

May 27 Only One Worship 9:30 – Summer
schedule begins!

June 3 Recognition of Graduates

June 26-July 1 High School National
Gathering in Houston

MAY BIRTHDAYS

CELEBRATING:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| May 2 Taegan Byers | May 11 Kristin Ward |
| May 2 Margo Hoornstra | May 13 Lynne Fracker |
| May 2 Katelynn Wheeler | May 13 Payton Burmeister |
| May 3 Barbara Jetmore | May 14 Jakob Proper |
| May 4 Britni Williamson | May 14 Kai Thomas |
| May 6 Amari Racine | May 15 Judy Koos |
| May 7 Mary Matzke | May 16 Geoff White |
| May 7 David Houseman | May 16 Lynn Bennett |
| May 7 Benecio Vasquez | May 17 Dianna Dunn |
| May 8 Ellen McKenzie | May 19 Jenelle Thomas |
| May 8 Alex Baribeau | May 20 Mary Van Hoesen |
| May 8 Brendan Ketola | May 22 Ethan Mandeville |
| May 8 Alex Karkau | May 24 Sandy Love |
| May 10 Dick Berner | May 25 Barbara Ostler |
| May 10 Barb Paulins | May 27 Caylee Blake |



May 01 Geoff & Kelly White
May 05 Den & Pat Graeber
May 16 Matt & Kate Cermak
May 23 Mike & Lori Fischer
May 30 Alan & Melissa Goschka

May 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | | 01 7 am MITM Bible Study 11-3:30 SEWL Quilting | 02 Wednesday 7 pm Worship | 03 7:30-8:30 pm Choir Practice | 04 8 pm AA | 05 8 am AA |
| 06 First Fruits Offering <u>8:00 & 10:30 Worship</u> 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Bible Study SNL 6-7:30 pm | 07 1:00 pm Luther League II at 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night | 08 7 am MITM Bible Study | 09 Wednesday 7 pm Worship | 10 7:30-8:30 pm Choir Practice | 11 8 pm AA | 12 8 am AA 7pm "A Night In The Movies" Youth Fund-raiser |
| 13 <u>8:00 & 10:30 Worship</u> 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Bible Study | 14 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 6:30 pm Team Meetings | 15 7 am MITM Bible Study 11-3:30 SEWL Quilting | 16 Wednesday 7 pm Worship | 17 7:30-8:30 pm Choir Practice | 18 8 pm AA SNL Faith Story Night | 19 8 am AA |
| 20 <u>8:00 & 10:30 Worship</u> 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Bible Study Confirmation Sunday at 10:30 | 21 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 6:30 Council Meeting | 22 7 am MITM Bible Study | 23 Wednesday 7 pm Worship | 24 7:30-8:30 pm Choir Practice | 25 8 pm AA | 26 8 am AA |
| 27 <u>9:30 am Worship</u> Summer Worship Schedule Begins | 28 No Community Meal Night Memorial Day  A Day for Remembering | 29 7 am MITM Bible Study | 30 Wednesday 7 pm Worship | 31 7:30-8:30 pm Choir Practice | | |



Office Hours

Jeanie: Mon – Friday. 9am- 3pm

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