

The Manger

Connecting Lives to Christ

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA

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Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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WEBSITE:
Immanuel-gl.org

Worship Services:

Wednesday

7:00 pm Worship

Sunday

9:30 am Worship



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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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

For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3

I read recently an article titled, "The TOP TEN ways that churches drive away first time guests." Of the reasons that this author discovered in his poll, there was one, that for me, stood out from the rest; unfriendly church members. I know, shocking, right? If we are the body of Christ, the least you would expect is that everyone is friendly. And I would guess as you are reading this, you thought, "this does not apply to us; everyone comments on how friendly we are."

However, part of the pit-fall of thinking that it's not our problem is that we may not be able to see it from a visitor's perspective. I'm guessing that there are times *we think we are being friendly* and yet we might be sending an unfriendly message. Let me give you a couple examples; greeting and chatting with people we already know while visitors are left standing alone, body language or expressions that imply disapproval, ministry groups that don't accept anyone else into them, (we have been together for 20 years!) churchy language that folks outside of Immanuel wouldn't understand. These are just a few of the ways that we can send a "you're not welcome here" message. Of course, we can go overboard and end up fawning over visitors. Neither too much or too little attention is a healthy approach. But rather if we can remember that it took a tremendous amount of courage just to step over the threshold, we might respond accordingly. Some visitors want to remain anonymous at first, so a friendly hello, or welcome is enough. Greet them, introduce yourself and let them guide the conversation if there is any. The more often we recognize someone, the more likely they are to feel welcome.

I believe when we see ourselves as **united in Christ**, all across this great big world, we no longer need to see our faith community as a club in which someone needs to belong to in order to receive the love of the community. Rather, as all have received God's love and mercy, we all are covered under God's grace.

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Pastor's Message continued

There is no longer member/non-member, but we are all heirs of God's promise, all equal, all broken, in need of a savior. This can be at the root of our welcome to others; we welcome sinners of all kinds, for we are all in the same boat. I hope that we continue to be a welcoming body of faith **AND** that we grow in our welcome so that all may know the love of Christ through us.

Remember, together, we ARE church.

Journeying with you,
Pastor Chuck



Adventure Camp
Evening Baptism

Council Corner by Karen Ketola

I hope you're all enjoying the warm, lazy and busy days of summer. I think we've all had a mix of them.

It's been affirming and encouraging to see Immanuel's youth active and engaged in church life in many ways - attending National Youth Gathering, camp at Stony Lake and at Adventure Day Camp. These are engaging ways to connect our young ones to Christ.

Mark your calendar:

Outdoor worship with potluck at Fitzgerald Park on August 19 and *God's Work Our Hands* on Sunday, September 9.

I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. Psalm 9:1

Noteworthy items from recent Council meetings:

- A focus group has been established and it will examine our worship services, schedules and programs in order to become a more welcoming faith community to families of all ages.
- We welcome all visitors to our worship services every week. It's important to wear our name tags so we make a positive impression to those visitors and to help others connect our faces to our names.
- If there are teams that meet on a regular basis meeting minutes should be written and then emailed to the Office Administrator (Jeanie). She'll send them to Council so we're aware of the ministries the groups are working on.



Preparing Corner!

Cindy Foy, Education Director



Adventure Day Camp went very well! We had a very packed week of camp and community meals....attendance each day for camp increased as the word spread around town! Our four Stony Lake counselors were amazing with the kids! If your child missed out this year, plan on attending next year! A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped make the week possible. We had so many donations of food for snacks and meals, housing offered for the counselors, and all the wonderful volunteers that were there every day (or whenever they could help!) to make the week go smoothly! Thank you again for doing God's work!

Our **high school youth group** will be getting busy soon! A schedule of events (some with dates, some with dates TBD) went to all high school families recently. If you did not get one, please let me know and I will get one to you. We have many fun things planned for the upcoming school year and we want all the high schoolers to join us! **August 19th is our Christian Education kick off** day with outdoor worship, potluck and the return of the bounce house! All of this is at Fitzgerald Park, Pavilion 1 where it was last year. We will also have popcorn and popsicles! Please join us and register your student for Christian Ed for the 2018-2019 school year!

SNL will be kicking off soon. Look for emails from Melissa Goschka.

Have a very blessed month and thank you for sharing your child(ren) with us at Immanuel!



Stoney Lake Camp Counselors

Serving Team Corner by Den Graeber

The July Noisy Offering for the **Lutheran Disaster Response** was **\$79.75**. Our next noisy offerings will be August 8 and August 12 for the Grand Ledge Food Bank. Thanks for your support to these outreach ministries.

Our third Sunday of the Month Special Offering of food for the Grand Ledge Food Bank will be held on **Sunday, August 19**.

Thanks for your food donations collected on the third Sunday each month and through-out the month by leaving items off in the grocery cart in the church lobby.

The **Grand Ledge Island Art Fair** will be held on **Saturday, August 4**. Our church parking lot will be used again this year with shuttle buses taking our quests to the island. We will be opening Immanuel's doors as a hospitality station providing iced water and restrooms and a place to wait for the shuttle bus. Serving Team members will be hosting the event.

The next **Kitchen Update/Remodel Meeting** is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 14** at 6:30 p.m. This entire process is in the very early stages, so anticipate this taking some time. Thanks!

Plan now to participate in Immanuel's response to **Gods Work Our Hands**, on **Sunday, September 9** with **worship at 10:00 a.m.** and a luncheon to follow. Be sure to stop by at the tables in the church lobby to look at the various service projects planned and decide how you may want to respond to the needs of the projects! Items donated for each project will be collected through-out the month of August and on September 9. Please see the separate God's Work Our Hands article in this newsletter for more details. Thanks!



2018 Youth Gathering Houston, TX

God's Work Our Hands

As you already know, Sunday, September 9, 2018 is our annual God's Work Our Hands day. We hope that everyone can participate, as many exciting things are planned. We hope that you will wear your gold God's Work Our Hands T-shirts or any color Thrivent shirt. Our worship service will be held at 10 am, with a luncheon to follow. Then we will dive right into the projects.

Ken Clark's Coat Closet has moved into our 501 Building and they will be hosting an Open House on Sept. 9 so that Immanuel members can go through and see how they serve the community. We will also be collecting items that they can use for the people they serve.

Personal Care Items for Public School kids – We will be collecting select items and delivering them to the schools for kids that need them.

Build a Water Well – this is a global project. We collect money to build a water well in areas where it is difficult to get clean drinking water. Save your loose change. You can deposit money for the well weekly or save it up in a water bottle, piggy bank or milk jug and bring it on Sept. 9.

Care Packages for Immanuel's Military and College Students – this is a way our congregation can stay connected to those who have gone off to college or are serving in the military by sending snacks or other items in care packages to them.

Eaton Siren Shelter – we reach out to the Shelter by gathering items that are needed by people who find themselves homeless or in need of personal or household items. They will be distributed to the needy by the Siren staff.



KEN'S COAT CLOSET

Welcome new tenant to the 501 Building

Ken Clark's Coat Closet (KC3) has been serving the Grand Ledge community for the past 6 years, with a twofold mission : 1. Providing free clothing, personal care items, and other items to the Grand Ledge community 2. Provide a work based learning environment for special education students in our Giving Eaton County Kids Opportunities (GECKO) program.

Donated clothing ranging in size from infants to adults are accepted. Special education students wash, sort, hang, and maintain the items in the closet year-round. Clothing is free to all. Often requests come from school counselors and other school personnel for individual student needs. GECKO students then fill the order and it will then be delivered to the school involved.

The Closet has strong partnerships with Community Mental Health, GLEAP, Volunteers of America, local employers in the area, and the Grand Ledge Shopping Tour. The past year over 750 items were distributed for the Tour including winter coats, boots, hats, and personal care kits. All of the above named agencies work closely together to provide clothing for all who are in need. GECKO students come from various high schools in Eaton County, not just Grand Ledge.

Until now KC3 has operated in the Sawdon building of the Grand Ledge Schools. However Sawdon is being renovated and KC3 had to move.

Save the Date

Aug. 4 8:00 am – 5:00 p.m. Island Art Fair

Aug. 15 7 pm Outdoor Worship and 6:30 pm Hot Dogs

Aug. 19 10:00 am Outdoor Worship and Lunch at Fitzgerald Park

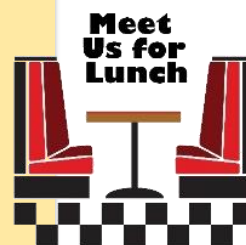


Luther League II Food/ Fellowship/ Laughter

Luther League II will meet for lunch, **August 13, 1:00 p.m.** at **Tony M's Restaurant on Creyts Road.**

Join us for great food and fellowship. Please call Kris 712-7185 or Richard/Sharon 627-2538 so we can give the restaurant a count.

The Card Ministry is being re-activated at Immanuel. If you have any Sympathy, Get Well or Thinking of You cards that you would like to donate, please bring them to the church and give them to Jeanie. There will also be a bag in the mailroom for them. If you know someone who would appreciate a card of some kind, please let Jeanie or Pastor know. Thank you!



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

WHO'S CELEBRATING

August 1 Beckett Herriff	August 16 Amy Kurtcz
August 3 Luke Bucholz	August 18 Mike Fischer
August 4 Amy Osburn	August 17 Rick Merrifield
August 5 Lauren Blaske	August 19 Emily Hill
August 6 Madison Osburn	August 20 Den Graeber
August 7 Nicole Folk	August 22 Mike Fedewa
August 8 Sue DeWitt	August 22 Nathan Flanders
August 9 Braeden Riggs	August 22 John Roesch
August 12 Kaitlyn Anderson	August 23 Ty Fedewa
August 12 Shari Burg	August 25 Haley Kingsley
August 14 Ian Henretty	August 27 Mary Gehlhaar
August 16 Nick Baribeau	August 28 Raymond Harris
August 16 Richard Catey	August 29 Redmond Riggs



August 3 Scott & Julia Hoornstra
 August 5 Ryan & Michelle Dinsmore
 August 5 Greg & Amy Osburn
 August 7 Roger & Sandy Love
 August 9 Mike & Lyn Danes
 August 10 Pr. Rick & Ellen Mckenzie
 August 17 John & Lori Van Hoesen

ANNIVERSARIES

August 19 David & Margaret Houseman
 August 20 Michael & Nikki Racine
 August 20 Roger & Barbara Wickerham
 August 21 Gilberto & Lisa Baptista
 August 23 Bill & Barbara Paulins II
 August 25 Jack & Sharon Wolf
 August 26 Fred & Judy Koos
 August 28 James & Barbara Ostler (64 yrs)

August 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			01 7 pm Worship	02	03 8 pm AA	04 8 am AA GL Island Art Fair
05 First Fruits Offering <u>9:30 am Worship</u>	06 Community Meal Night	07 7 am MITM Bible Study	08 7 pm Worship	09	10 8 pm AA	11 8 am AA
12 <u>9:30 am Worship</u>	13 1 pm Luther League Luncheon at Tony M's 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 6:30 pm Team Meetings	14 7 am MITM Bible Study 11-3:30 SEWL Quilting	15 Outdoor Worship 6:30 Hot Dogs 7 pm Worship	16	17 8 pm AA	18 8 am AA 10 am -2 pm High School Youth Car Wash
19 <u>10:00 am Worship</u> <u>Outdoor Worship at Fitzgerald Park</u>	20 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 6:30 Council Meeting	21 7am MITM Bible Study	22 7 pm Worship	23	24 8 pm AA 7pm Men's Night Foerster's	25 8 am AA
26 <u>9:30 am Worship</u>	27 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night	28 7 am MITM Bible Study	29 7 pm Worship	30	31 8 pm AA	



Office Hours

Jeanie: Mon –Thurs. 8am- 2pm

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