

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

9:15 am Christ Connection

9:15 am Adult Bible Study



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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...a note from your Pastor

¹⁵See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. ¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. 1 Thessalonians 5

What a wondrous time of year; the crisp days and nights, harvest season, the leaves changing, football, deer season, folks busy preparing for the coming winter. There is so very much to be thankful for in our lives. And speaking of being thankful, are you growing in that area of your life? Is it even on your radar?

This month at Immanuel, we are going to be hearing and learning more about the stewardship of our lives. We will hear from families that have committed to tithing and have found joy in doing so. Their stories, and others like theirs, are living proof that when we surrender our resources to God, God can do incredible things. We become more trusting of God because we experience God’s faithfulness to us as we let go of the things that we tend to grasp so tightly. Now if you have been brave enough to read to this point, please stay with me for a bit longer.

Why do I associate thankfulness with stewardship you might ask? Because I believe that we are thankful to the level that we understand what God has done and is doing in our lives. Our thankfulness naturally flows to our giving because we realize that everything already belongs to God and we are merely “stewards” of what God has given us. Our giving thanks to God is part of our stewardship and our stewardship is part of giving thanks to God. I’m not saying that if you are not tithing, that you are not thankful. Stewardship is our whole lives; time, talent, resources, even the choices we make in purchasing things. But I believe that the deeper our relationship grows with God, the more we develop into thankful people who feel so blessed to be able to tithe and are able to do so with joyful hearts. It is a benchmark, I believe, on our level of trust in God.

So again, how are you growing in the thankfulness department in your life? Do you feel you are more thankful than you were a couple years ago? What steps have you taken to grow? Do you practice thankfulness each day? I believe it is a valuable step to practice this attitude of gratitude in all situations, like Paul says. Giving thanks is not a date on a calendar, but rather it is a way of living into God’s kingdom that places the creator at the heart of our lives. It is not a debt to be repaid, but rather an outward sign of an inward joy and desire to deepen that relationship with the divine.



Pastor's Message continued

So, give thanks in all circumstances; practice being thankful with your family, your time and your talents, your resources. Let your life be a living testimony to what God has done and continues to do through you. And may the God of all the cosmos create in you a new heart, filled with a sense of abundance, thanksgiving and joy as we care for all that God has made and all that God has given us.

Remember, together, we ARE church.

Journeying with you,
Pastor Chuck



Council Corner by Karen Ketola

Positive changes are making the rounds at Immanuel. You may have noticed our new Coffee Cafe in the lower lobby. I see new and familiar faces every week and we strive to be more welcoming to all who come through our doors. Small changes can make a big impact and it's nice to see members and visitors mingling in the lobby after services. If you'd like to help with the cafe or volunteer as a host/barista please talk to me or Cindy Foy.

Thank you to those who tidied up the lobby making it easier to highlight our ministries.

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.
Philippians 4:6 – 8

Noteworthy items from recent Council meetings:

- Gathering Team made recommendations for necessary changes to our outdated sound system. These changes will allow us more flexibility and provide a higher quality system. The purchase will be made from their mission plan. Both Support and Council agreed to the improvements.
- Many Council members' terms will end in December creating a need to fill those positions. A Council term is 2 years with the expectation of offering input and leadership for Immanuel. We meet the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. Council members also have the opportunity to join one our Teams -- Gathering, Preparing, Serving and Support -- to gain a better understanding of our ministries and support them. Teams meet the 2nd Monday of the month. If you'd like more information I'd be happy to answer any questions.



Preparing Corner! Cindy Foy, Education Director



Christ Connections/Sunday School has kicked off! We had a fun hour of silly songs, balloons, hearing the story of Creation, making get well cards for a little girl, and of course the kids' favorite part: snack! Thank you all who shared your children with us, and for our awesome volunteers! Please join us each week starting in the sanctuary at 9:15am promptly! (There is a schedule posted on the Elementary bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall!) Our high school youth group met for pizza and planning on Sept. 16. We have an outing and service project planned for each month through December! Thanks to all who showed up to plan our time together, and to serve others! Looking forward to a great year! Parents are encouraged to participate with this group....let's keep our youth group going strong for future high schoolers!!

SNL kicked off with pizza and orientation on Sept. 16 as well. Classes started Sept. 23; class time is 6-7:30 on Sunday evenings. Please see the class schedule for the dates. Melissa will post a schedule on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall as well. We are using a new curriculum this year and are excited to see how it helps us grow in our faith journey. Classes will be led by Pastor Chuck with Scott Hoornstra assisting, as well as a parent helper. Let's make this a great learning experience for our middle schoolers!

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

Serving Team Corner by Den Graeber

The September Noisy Offering for Blessings in a Backpack was \$328.63. Our next noisy offerings are scheduled for Wednesday, October 10 and Sunday, October 14 for the Lutheran Disaster Response. Let's continue to make some noise as we support this ELCA sponsored program.

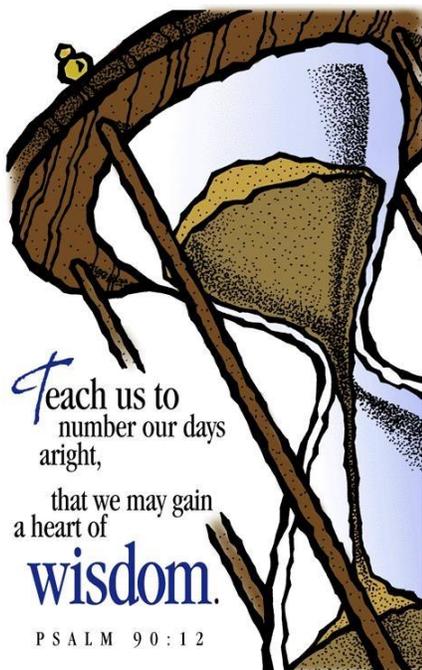
Thanks for your support of the **Grand Ledge Food Bank** through our special monthly food offering. Our October special offering is planned for Sunday, October 21.

Immanuel responded well to the **God's Work Our Hands Event on Sunday, September 9**. We had approximately 80 people at the luncheon and great responses to the service projects. Take some time to look at the God's Work Our Hand's bulletin board to see the response to each of the projects. Hope you took advantage of the opportunity to tour Ken Clark's Coat Closet now at Immanuel's 501 Building. What a great ministry. Please see the separate detailed report in this newsletter to learn more about how Immanuel responded! Thank You!

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Baskets of Hope Bake Sale on Sunday, November 18. This year this will be a cookie sale. We hope to help six families identified by GLEAP as families that could use some assistance. Envelopes will be in the pews and in addition you may use one of the designated giving envelopes in your envelope packet designating your donation to Baskets of Hope. All donations will be used to purchase food items and small gifts for these families. Thank You!

As a congregation Immanuel will be giving everyone an opportunity to participate in the ELCA Good Gifts Program. The Serving Team is planning on coordinating this around Advent from November 25 through December 16. We are looking at offering animal gifts between \$15 and \$100. With ornaments of the animals donated displayed on a small Christmas tree. Plan now to participate!

Stewardship Corner



And now, just like that, it has been 17 years and two weeks since the tragedy 9/11/2001. Even as the days have turned to years, the slow-motion moments of that day are etched into our memories. Along with scars in our memories and wounds in our hearts we have learned many valuable lessons as a result of that insanity.

We have learned to turn panic into organization and paralyzing fear into action. Hopefully, we have learned a lesson about how precious and fleeting the time is that we have here on earth to accomplish God's mission.

Whatever it is that the Spirit is encouraging you to do with your Time/Talents/Treasure, I would say, "Let's move boldly and generously." God has invested everything into us. Let us respond to His love and grace with gladness.

Respectfully,
Rick Merrifield



New Members:

Jane Kitchen, Theodore, Sarah, Ryan and Ellianna Larson,
James LeMay, Margaret and Bob Gustafson



God's Work, Our Hands - September 9



God's Work Our Hands 2018

Summary

Immanuel Lutheran Church held the 2018 God's Work Our Hands Sunday on September 9, 2018. Worship was held at 10 am, with a luncheon for everyone following worship. We had a lovely lunch of pulled pork sandwiches prepared by Shar Saxton and Teresa Barcy. We served about 80 people, with most of them staying to help with the service projects.

Eaton Siren Shelter – Eaton Siren Shelter houses individuals or families who are in need of housing and are given any household product that they need. Immanuel collected 290 items for them, including dish soap, laundry soap, batteries, towels, washcloths, bedding, pots & pans, tote bags, trash bags and gift cards.

Care Packages for College & Military - Twelve boxes were packed and ready for mailing or hand delivery. The boxes each contained about 32 individually packaged snacks, for a total of 384 items. Greeting cards from the congregation were also included in the packages. There were two large envelopes packaged and filled with cards for two of the young people who could not accept the food snacks.

Building a Water Well – We have been collecting loose change to be used to help a third world country build a water well in a region where they have little access to clean and safe drinking water. Our goal is \$2,500 to build the well. As of this date we have about \$ 303.90. This is an ongoing project. We will continue collecting until we reach the goal.

Ken Clark's Coat Closet – The following items were taken over to Ken's Closet by the many members who went over there for an Open House to see how the organization is set up to serve the community. The Director, Sarah Mida, also addressed the congregation during worship by giving a little information about what they do. She explained that they provide clothing for anyone, any age, in the community who needs something. Immanuel gave many packages of new underwear and socks for all ages in addition to gently used clothing, for a total of 277 items.

School Personal Care Items – These will be delivered to Grand Ledge School District to be distributed to students as the need arises. The 1072 items donated include toothpaste, toothbrushes, washcloths, lotion, deodorant, Chapstick, pillowcases, mouthwash, soap, feminine hygiene products, hairbrushes and hair ties.

Totals - for all projects, there were 1,356 items donated from Immanuel.

We want to thank those Thrivent members who applied for Thrivent Action Dollars which gave us "seed money" to get started on each project and to fill in the gaps where there was a shortage of certain donations. A big THANK YOU goes out to the congregation for their generous gifts of donations to the various charities and to make a difference in the lives of many. We thank those who donated, as well as those who sorted, counted and packaged items to be delivered. Your 2018 God's Work Our Hands Committee, Den Graeber, Barb Roush, Karen Ketola, Teresa Barcy, Shar Saxton, Cindy Foy, Dan Landry





Save the Date

October 1 Women's Bible Study 7 pm,

October 8 1 pm Luther League Luncheon at Eaton Pub – 2 pm Stewardship Meeting, 6:30 pm Team Meetings

October 15 Council Meeting 6:30 pm

October 28 Reformation Sunday

SNL Dates Oct. 7, 14 and 28 – 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Come join the group!!
Adult Choir
Thursday Evenings
7:30- 9:00 pm
Sanctuary

Not receiving the Weekend Reminders or Newsletters???

Send your email address to jschaaf@immanuel-gl.org
Immanuel sends the latest and most current information out by email.

Southeast Michigan

WELCA is holding their bi-ennial convention **Saturday, Oct. 27, 2018** at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church Madison Heights, MI.

We will start at 9am - 2pm. There are two workshops in the morning and two in the afternoon.

Cost is \$20 All are welcome! Lunch is included.

If you have any questions see **Barb Jetmore** or call me at home. **517-731-6939**

Luther League II Food/ Fellowship/ Laughter

Luther League II will meet on October 8, 1:00 p.m., at the Eaton Pub & Grill 214 S. Cochran Ave, Charlotte

Would love to have some new faces as well as our familiar faces. We enjoy good food and even better company. Come Join us.

Please call Kris 712-7185 or Richard/Sharon

627-2538 **Peanut Butter Pie will be ordered. Call, so we can order enough delicious *PIE!***

Would love to have YOU join us.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

WHO'S CELEBRATING

October 1 **Brandon DeWitt**

October 2 **Barb Rinckey**

October 3 **Lydia Williams**

October 4 **Jennifer Roesch**

October 4 **Landyn Roesch**

October 7 **Sue Balger**

October 8 **Kris Hernden**

October 11 **Jessica Burg**

October 11 **Bonnie Kirchen**

October 12 **David Kurtycz**

October 15 **Lewis Wood**

October 18 **Rick McKenzie**

October 18 **John Weigel**

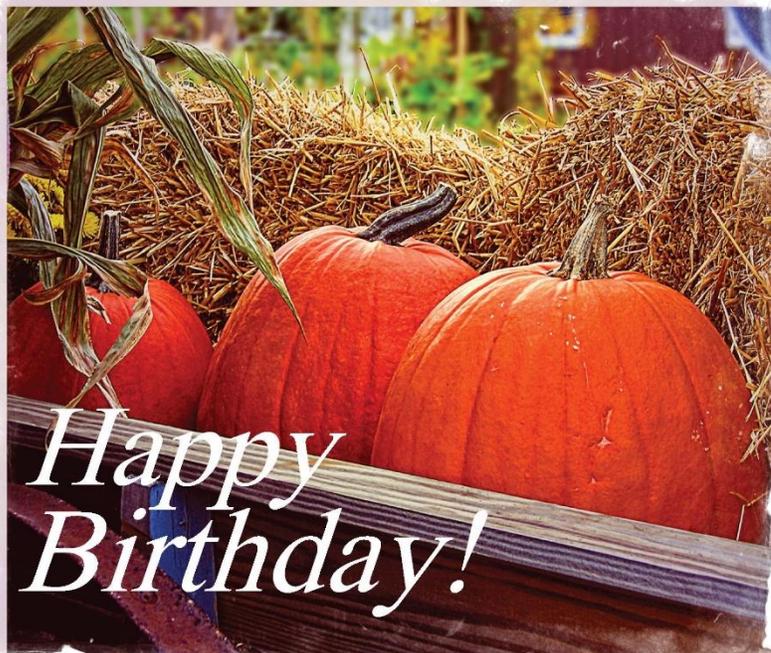
October 23 **Jan Martinich**

October 26 **Michael Wheeler**

October 27 **Russ Riggs**

October 28 **Adrianna Saxton**

October 31 **Sharon Wolf**



ANNIVERSARIES

October 05 **Allan & Lonna Blaske**

October 10 **Mike & Jean Folk**

October 12 **Steve & Lynn Colby**

October 14 **Ken & Mindy Turner**

October 16 **John & Carol Weigel**



October 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	01 Community Meal Night	02 7 am MITM Bible Study 11-3:30 SEWL Quilting	03 7 pm Worship	04 7:30 pm Choir Practice	05 8 pm AA	06 8 am AA
07 First Fruits Offering 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Bible Study 6-7:30 pm SNL	08 1 pm Luther League Lunch 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 6:30 pm Team Meetings	09 7 am MITM Bible Study	10 7 pm Worship	11 7:30 pm Choir Practice	12 8 pm AA	13 8 am AA
14 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Bible Study 6-7:30 pm SNL	15 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 6:30 Council Meeting	16 7 am MITM Bible Study 11-3:30 SEWL Quilting	17 Outdoor Worship 6:30 Hot Dogs 7 pm Worship	18 7:30 pm Choir Practice	19 8 pm AA	20 8 am AA 9:30-1:30 pm New Members Class
21 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Adult Bible Study	22 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night	23 7am MITM Bible Study	24 7 pm Worship	25 7:30 pm Choir Practice	26 8 pm AA	27 8 am AA
28 Reformation 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Bible Study 6-7:30 pm SNL	29 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 6:30 pm Focus Group Kitchen Update Meeting	30 7 am MITM Bible Study	31 7 pm Worship			

Office Hours

Jeanie: Mon –Friday 9 am- 3 pm

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