

The Manger

Connecting Lives to Christ

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA

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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

"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." John 12:24

During this month of waning autumn weather, with harvest being finished up, we turn towards preparing for the cold and snow of winter. Our houses, cars, generators and equipment must be winterized to get ready for the "big one". We dig out winter clothes that have been in storage. We recognize the appearance of trees and lawns and flower beds; dead, seemingly lifeless, soon to be under a blanket of snow. For many, these days can be gray and listless. Meanwhile, farmers have been busy tilling the soil and *planting!* In preparation for spring the winter wheat is planted and remains dormant until spring; essentially, appearing dead.

I think this provides us a powerful image of what it means to be a follower of Christ. Like the grain of wheat, we too, are called to die to self in order to bear fruit for God's kingdom. Indeed, at the heart of baptism, is the understanding that we are washed by those waters in order that the old us might die and a new child of God be born. Baptism is also linked with the funeral rite in our tradition, because we believe that as children of God, we too, will inherit a new eternal life in the one beyond this earthly life. But what about the now?

If you are like me, this time of year tends to bring on more feelings of loss, apathy and the blues. In the midst of this melancholy, I can find myself fixating on the apparent sense of lifelessness around me; the mortality of things, a shuttering of exuberance, a dormancy of incredible joy. But, all the while, I strive to keep remembering, no matter where I am in life, this is only a season and this allows an anticipation for what is to come next. There exists a potential for our lives that is beyond any dark season. There is a hope that lives in each one of us; a hope placed there by the Holy Spirit. It is a growing awareness that this season of gray is not the signal for the end, but rather for new beginnings. It is a season to assess, to examine, to discern and to remember for certain. But it is also a time for us to lean into God's promise of new life.

Lest I get ahead of myself, the dying does come first. Before we jump into spring, first must come the cold hard ground, first must come the gray and the dark. That, is certainly the hardest part about having this hope; waiting for that which we believe is coming and enduring the difficulties that we face.

The second hardest part I believe is being able to see the potential for new life within ourselves and within others. Because in some cases, it doesn't appear as if anything is growing; it may seem like a barren landscape. But the divine mystery is that in the midst of this lack and in the midst of this lifelessness, God is working to bring about some-

Continued on page 2



Pastor's Message continued

thing new in our lives. God is constantly in the process of bringing forth fruit from our lives in order that God's kingdom may come. Right now, as you read this, the Holy Spirit is working (below the surface?) to germinate that which may be dormant in your life. The spirit is tending to that grain of faith that is within you to bear abundant fruit for God's mission here and now. It may not be readily apparent, but it is happening.

So, may this season, be a season of discernment, of figuring out what has been dormant in your life. May it be a time of preparation and remembering. And may you lean into God's promises and bear great fruit for God's kingdom.

Remember, together, we ARE church.



Council Corner by Karen Ketola

I invite you to our annual Congregational Mission meeting on Sunday, November 11. We're all worshipping together at 10 am and the meeting will begin promptly afterward. The purpose of this meeting is twofold - to nominate and vote on your 2019-2020 Council Members (your elected congregational leaders) and reviewing & voting to commit our financial resources by accepting the 2019 Mission Plan. Our Teams have been planning for the upcoming year by looking at their ministries and looking forward to the future with intention.

It's nice to see so many more familiar faces during worship. Please remember to wear your nametag and introduce yourself to a new friend you haven't met yet.

Galatians 6:9

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Noteworthy items from recent Council meetings:

- We've been diligently planning to fill the vacant Council positions that will be vacant at the end of this year. Ballot voting will be done at our meeting on November 11. A Council term is 2 years with the expectation of offering input and leadership for Immanuel. Council meets 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 at 6:30 pm.



Preparing Corner! Cindy Foy, Education Director



Christ Connections continues to go well each Sunday morning! We have been having steady attendance, and enjoying the musical talents of Anna Foerster, Avery Riggs and her guitar, and the Middle School kids helped us a couple Sundays too! Thanks to all the volunteers for being there each Sunday and making the morning of Christian Education go smoothly! You are very appreciated! We are nearing November which means December is right around the corner, along with the Christmas program! We will be starting our song rehearsals very soon so please be sure to have your children attend and learn the songs! The congregation loves to hear the youth sing! Christmas program is December 16 during 10:30 worship, followed by a special "Jesus' Birthday" coffee hour! More details to come! The high school youth group has been meeting each Sunday with Carmen (Thank you Carmen!). If you haven't attended yet, you're missing out on great conversations so grab your coffee and join them! SNL is going well, meeting Sundays 6-7:30. They have activities coming up so be sure to get involved and help out, parents.... we love having you there! Remember, November 11 is a half hour class for Christ Connections due to one service at 10 (Ministry Meeting following worship). Also, no class on Sunday November 25 due to the Thanksgiving break! Enjoy that long week kids!

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

Serving Team Corner by Den Graeber

The **October Noisy Offering for Lutheran Disaster Response was \$197.39**. Our November noisy offerings are scheduled for Wednesday, November 7 and Sunday, November 11 for the Grand Ledge Food Bank. Let's make some noise.

As you consider noisy offerings to the **Grand Ledge Food Bank** or any other donations to the food bank it is important that you are aware of our monthly food order from the Greater Lansing Food Bank. In that order the average cost per pound of the food that is ordered is 33-34 cents. So, the dollar goes along way. The grocery cart in the church lobby and our special third Sunday of the month donation also is a visible way to show our support to the food bank. Thanks for your support to this community ministry.

Lyn Danes continues to need mentors for **Kids Hope USA** as they reach out to students at Wacousta Elementary School. Mentors continue to reach out to students for an hour a week who are in need of love and support. Talk to Lyn if you are interested in mentoring.

Thanks to those of you who recently volunteered to be a part of a newly formed **funeral luncheon ministry team**. It's great to see the interest in this and many hands make this come together easily.

Baskets of Hope Bake Sale and Donations, Sunday, November 18, please see the details in the separate article in this newsletter.

ELCA Good Gifts Program: This is a new global outreach project this year for Immanuel. We will have an opportunity to donate animal gifts. The program will run from November 25 through December 16. (Please see the details in the separate article in this newsletter.)

Stewardship Corner

Legacy: A gift by will especially of money or other personal property:
Bequest.

Endowment: An income or form of property given or bequeathed to someone.

Have you considered what you can do to support short or long-term ministries? Did you know that Immanuel has an Endowment Fund?

The purpose of the Immanuel Lutheran Church Endowment Fund (ILCEF) is to use its funds to increase, enrich or support the present and future ministries of the Church. The funds shall be used as specifically required by the particular gift instrument if so designated. Unrestricted gift proceeds will be allocated as needed by the Endowment Fund committee (EFC).

It is the desire of our congregation to encourage, receive and administer these gifts in a manner consistent with the loyalty and devotion of our Savior, and in accord with the Bylaws of this congregation.

ILCEF is NOT intended to provide for the Church general operating expenses. The Fund may accept both cash and non-cash gifts and bequests. Non-cash gifts may include corporate stock, mutual funds, bonds, bank deposits, real estate interest, precious gems and metals, and other items deemed acceptable by the EFC.

The above information is taken from the Endowment Charter. If you are interested in more information on this fund, you can obtain a copy of the document from the church office.

The Stewardship Committee asks that you prayerfully consider this option in your estate planning. God provides for our needs. What can we do help support ministries that help others?



Council President, Karen Ketola presents Pastor Chuck with appreciation gifts from Immanuel's congregation.



*It may not be on your radar yet, but the Gathering Team is already planning for **Christmas Community Dinner**. We will once again be reaching out in this ministry on Christmas Day. We will be providing a meal to all those in need of one, including local police and fire departments. Your help is needed for promotion, preparation, serving and cleanup. Even if you are not in town, there may be ways that you can help. To find out how you can get connected to this wonderful giving ministry, contact Bill Paulins or Pastor Chuck.*

**Baskets of Hope Bake Sale and Donations
Sunday November 18**

Each year Immanuel has an opportunity to reach out into the community by providing **Christmas Gift Baskets** to individuals and families in need. We receive the names of these individuals and families through the Grand Ledge Emergency Assistance Program (GLEAP). Funds raised on **Baskets of Hope** Sunday are used to purchase items to help brighten Christmas for these local residents. Immanuel's Serving Team is hosting a bake sale on **Sunday, November 18**. Please consider donating cookies for the bake sale. Please bring your cookies to church on November 18. When donating cookies, they can be packaged in plastic bags in sets of 3, 6 or 12.

Also designated giving envelopes may be used to contribute to this very worthwhile community outreach program. You will find designated giving envelopes in your envelope packet. Be sure to write Baskets of Hope on the envelope. In addition, envelopes specifically for Baskets of Hope will be available in the pew racks. Anyone interested in purchasing items for the baskets from the funds raised and delivering the baskets please contact Jean Folk at 667-0383. Thanks, from Immanuel's Serving Team as we look forward to the bake sale and reach out to the community!

**Baskets of Hope
Cookie Bake Sale
Sunday, Nov. 18**



ELCA Good Gifts Program

This is a new global outreach project for Immanuel this year. The Serving Team is coordinating this during the period of November 25 through December 16. We will have an opportunity to donate animal gifts. The gifts will include Chicks for \$10, a Rooster for \$15, Honey bees for \$20, Piglet for \$30, Goat for \$50 and a share of a Cow for \$50. Christmas Tree Ornaments have been designed that will be on an artificial tree and as donations are made you will be asked to take the appropriate ornament home to hang on your Christmas tree to remind you of your gift that will reach out globally. We will keep all donations together and send in one form for Immanuel with all of our gifts after December 16. All checks should be payable to Immanuel Lutheran with a memo of ELCA Good Gifts. Look for the table and stop by to participate in this fun project. Thanks!

Piglet
\$30



Cow \$500
Or
Share of Cow \$50



Goat
\$50



Honeybees
\$20



Rooster
\$15



Chicks
\$10



Save the Date

November 4 All Saints Day
Potluck Noonish!

November 5 Women's Bible
Study 7 pm

November 10 SNL Day
Retreat

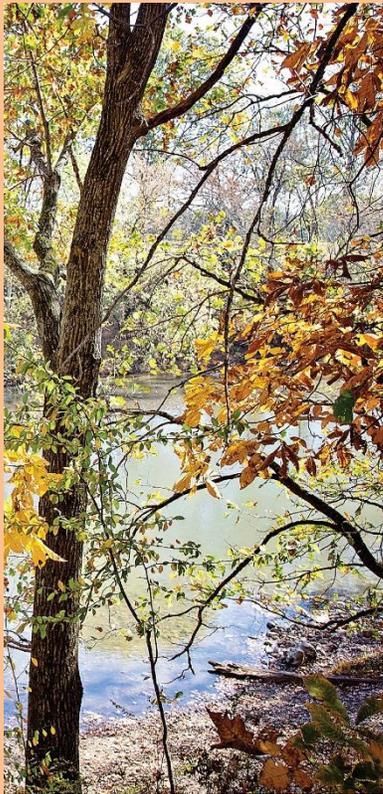
November 11 Annual
Congregational Meeting

November 12 1 pm Luther
League Luncheon at Bob Evans
6:30 pm Team Meetings

November 18 Baskets of Hope
Cookies Bake Sale

November 19 6:30 pm Council
Meeting

November 20 Community
Thanksgiving Worship
7 pm Grand Ledge First United
Methodist 411 Harrison St.



Luther League II Food/ Fellowship/ Laughter

Luther League II will meet on November 12 – 1 pm at Bob Evans on Saginaw.

Join us for good food and fellowship. We have an awesome group and would love to have **YOU** join us. Please call Kris 712-7185 or Richard/Sharon 627-2538 so we can make reservations.

**All Saints Sunday
November 4th Potluck**
(Following the 10:30 am
worship)

Join Immanuel in honoring our family members and friends who have gone before us by bringing a photo of your loved one(s) to place on the table. Gathering Team will provide drinks. Bring a potluck dish to pass. Also, bring your own table serve (plates, silverware, napkin.)

Come join the group!!

**Adult
Choir**

Thursday Evenings
7:30- 9:00 pm
Sanctuary



**Sunday, Nov. 4
12 am
Set Your Clocks
Back
One Hour**

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

WHO'S CELEBRATING

November 1 **Tim Hubert**

November 1 **Richard Van Gilder**

November 4 **Chris Morrall**

November 5 **Joe Riley**

November 6 **Bryce Dunn**

November 6 **Ella Landry**

November 7 **Lily Beitel**

November 8 **Cheryl Pitchford**

November 11 **Amanda Pitchford**

November 12 **Marian Bennett**

November 12 **Tressa Harmon**

November 13 **Pamela Hill**

November 13 **Yvonne Koos**

November 13 **Larry Kruth**

November 13 **Julie Stornant**

November 15 **Mike Proper**

November 16 **Karen Ketola**

November 18 **Jim Bryant**

November 20 **Cindy Foy**

November 19 **Tenell Hubert**

November 20 **Greg DeWitt**

November 21 **Rick Fracker**

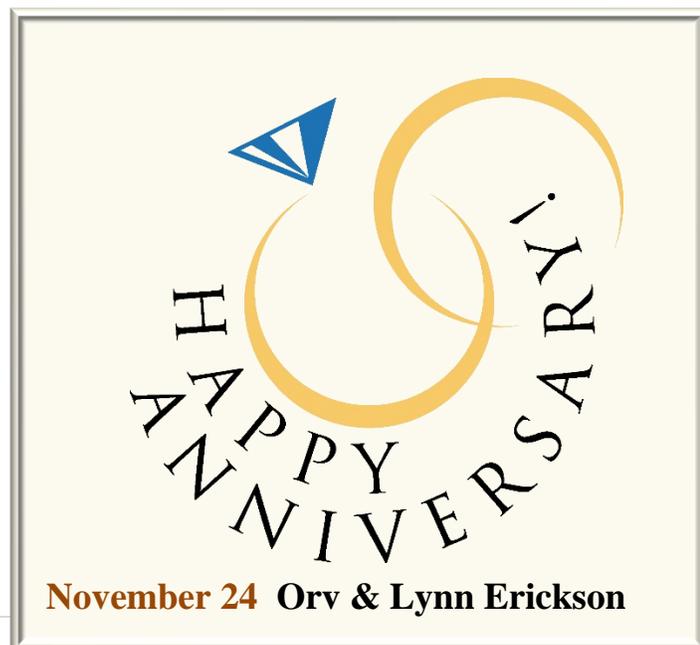
November 22 **Sharon Catey**

November 24 **Alice Van Harris**

November 28 **Tenell Hubert**

November 29 **Tea Peiffer**

Happy Birthday!



November 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				01 7:30 pm Choir Practice	02 8 pm AA	03 8 am AA
04 First Fruits Offering 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Bible Study 6-7:30 pm SNL	05 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 7 pm Women's Bible Study	06 7 am MITM Bible Study 11-3:30 SEWL Quilting	07 7 pm Worship	08 7:30 pm Choir Practice	09 8 pm AA	10 8 am AA 10am-10pm SNL Retreat
11 10:00 Worship 9:15- 9:45 "Christ Connections" Classes & Bible Study Annual Congregational Meeting following Worship	12 1 pm Luther League Lunch at Bob Evans 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 6:30 pm Team Meetings	13 7 am MITM Bible Study	14 7 pm Worship	15 7:30 pm Choir Practice	16 8 pm AA	17 8 am AA
18 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Adult Bible Study Baskets of Hope Cookie/Bake Sale 6-7:30 pm SNL	19 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 6:30 Council Meeting	20 7am MITM Bible Study 7pm Community Thanksgiving Worship 1st United Methodist	21 <i>Thanksgiving Blessings</i>	22	23 8 pm AA	24 8 am AA
25 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Bible Study	26 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 6:30 pm Kitchen Update Meeting	27 7 am MITM Bible Study	28 7 pm Worship Advent Begins	29 7:30 pm Choir Practice	30 8 pm AA	

Office Hours

Jeanie: Mon –Friday 9 am- 3 pm

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

