

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

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.' Isaiah 40

This may seem odd to some, but Advent is one of my favorite times of the year. There seems to me to be such a tremendous hopefulness in much of our world that is sorely lacking. It's almost as if we once again believe that with God, anything is possible. Now, don't ask my wife, because she will tell you that I'm a bit of a grinch when it comes to Christmas. However, Advent is a totally different story! But isn't Advent just getting "ready" for Christmas? Well, no, not really. Ok, then how do you explain Advent then?

From the ELCA resource, Sunday's and Seasons: *Advent is a season of hoping, waiting, yearning, and preparing, but for what or whom and how? The word "advent" is from the Latin adventus; it means "arrival" or an awaited coming. It's a season of big promises. We wonder, "Will God keep ancient promises or has God forgotten us?" During these four weeks, the future and the past mingle together as we celebrate the Christ who came and is yet to come. Advent is a season largely forgotten by our culture of immediate gratification, and likewise we've forgotten what it means to wait well. In all of this waiting, God is creating desire within us. And we trust it's worth the wait. Along the way, there are a few things for which we're not yet ready, because when God comes close it's almost always accompanied by surprise or scandal. This is God's story. This is our story.*

God's story! A story that **we are part of** because of Jesus. How cool is that! Most times I find it difficult to wait, but for God's promises to be fulfilled, I am eagerly straining forward in anticipation. Yes, I'll wait, but with a sense of hope within me that chases the darkness and provides strength for the journey.

As part of our Advent celebration, we will be using a worship series called "**Welcome to the Waiting Room**". During Advent, our worship will include other elements such as a prayer wall, hopes and dreams and a couple surprises! All meant to help us anticipate and prepare for God's coming to us again. As we wait, we have time to examine, reflect, ponder and wonder at the mystery that is our God.

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Pastor's Message continued

Why would God stoop down and become human? How is it that God loves us so much he was willing to send his son to die for us?

Behold, God is doing something new, do you not sense it? Prepare the way! Prepare your hearts and lives! The king is coming and you are part of His story! May you experience Advent like never before as you wait in anticipation of God's surprises.

Waiting with you,



Council Corner by Karen Ketola

I'm thankful for serving as Council President this past year. I look forward to working with the 2019 Council as we move Immanuel forward and continue making a positive impact with worship and serving our community to show others the love of Jesus.

Notes from recent Council meetings:

- With the recent resignation of our choir director, plans were put into place to have Elizabeth Kunc fill in to lead ILC's choir through the end of 2018. She's already working with Carmen, Jim and the worship team.
- Advent offerings, those in envelopes and loose on Wednesday evenings, are designated to GLEAP.
- Our 2019 Mission Plan was approved at our congregational meeting in November. The 2019 ILC Council includes John Burg, Cindy Foy, Bill Paulins, Dale Stein, Barb Roush, Britt Riggs, Mike Wesley, Joan Hoffman, Karen Ketola, Blanche Schaudt, Secretary and Matt Bryant, Treasurer. We give thanks to Ray Baser, Mike Fedewa, Cal Riggs and Terry Schaaf for their service to ILC.





Preparing Corner!

Cindy Foy, Education Director

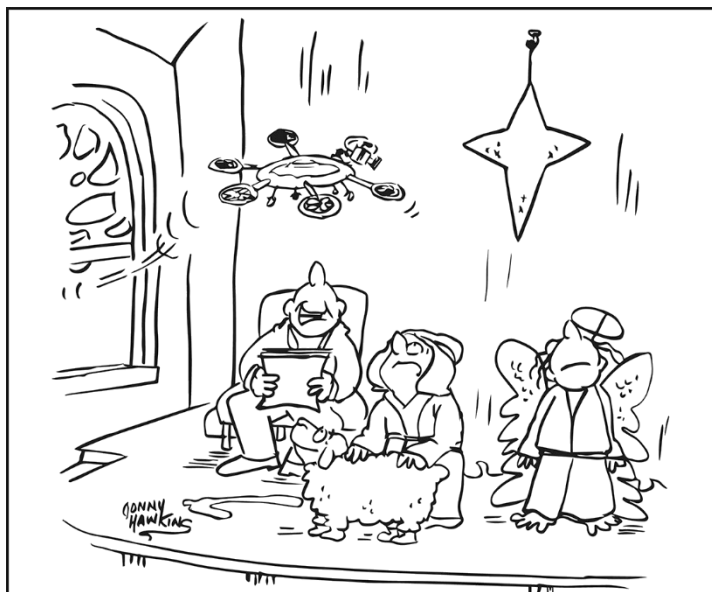


We are closing in on the Christmas Program! The date for that is December 16 during 10:30 worship. This year we are doing a showcase of music to honor Jesus and the talents He has given each of us! Please make sure your Christ Connections (Sunday School) youth are in attendance that morning as we have many opportunities for them to serve! Also, we will do our annual coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall right after service.

Reminder to parents that we have class December 2, 9 and 16 with no class December 23 or 30. This is our holiday break!

Some of our high school youth did some baking at the Foy's house Saturday November 24; we delivered cookies and brownies to Serenity Place and they were very appreciative! We said we would do this again around Christmas as it's a wonderful service project!

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!



"First Church will do anything to steal our Christmas pageant surprises!"

Serving Team Corner by Den Graeber

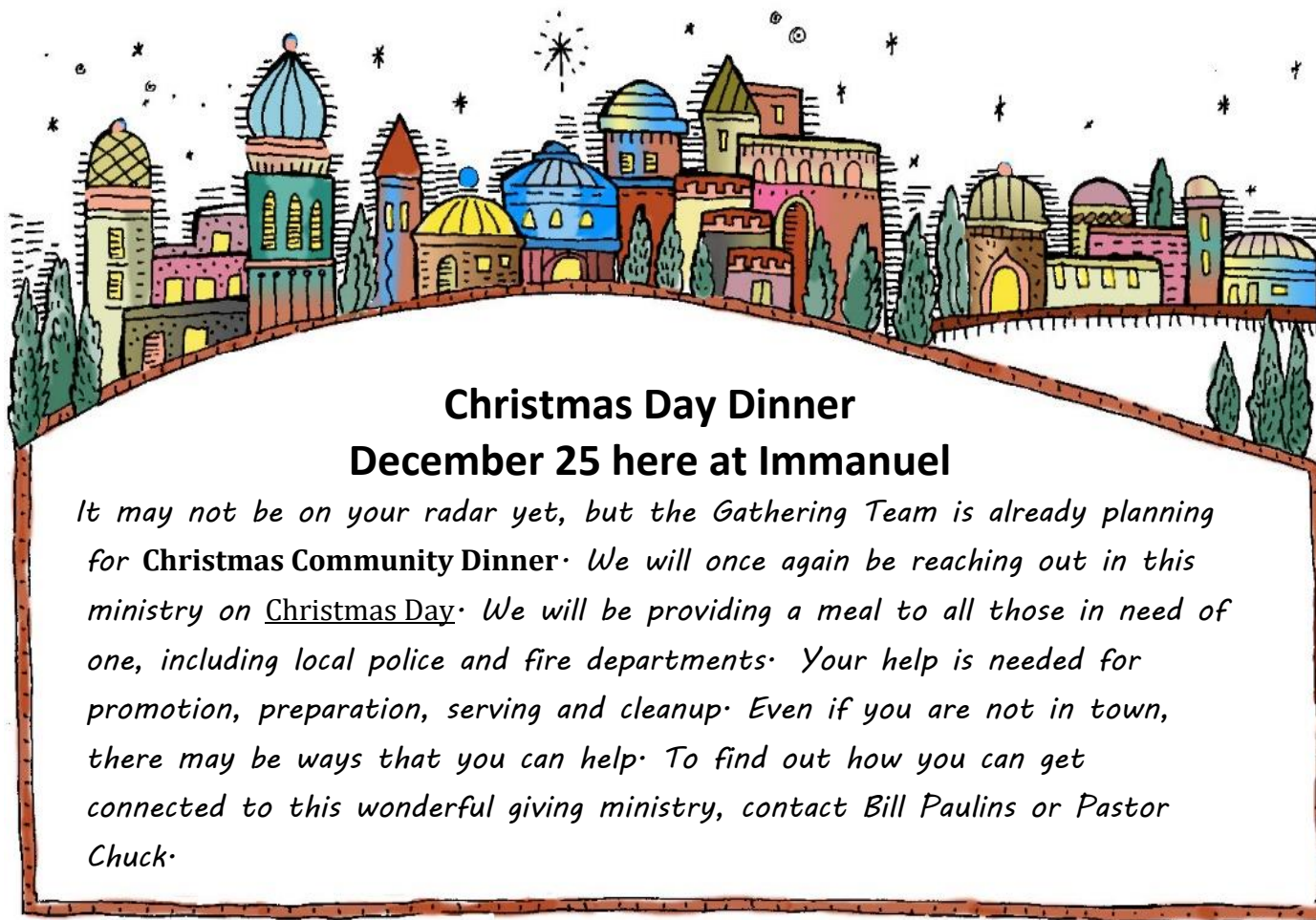
The **November Noisy Offering for the Grand Ledge Food Bank was \$109.26.** Our December noisy offerings are scheduled for Wednesday, December 5 and Sunday, December 9 for Blessings in a Backpack.

Our special offering of food for the Grand Ledge Food Bank is scheduled for Sunday, December 16.

Just as a reminder the grocery cart is always in the church lobby for your food donations. As you are out shopping this month keep the food bank in mind as it continues to reach out to those in need of food this holiday season. Thanks!

Thanks for supporting the **Baskets of Hope Bake Sale and special designated giving.** These funds, a total of **\$402**, will be used to reach out to 6 or 7 families in need in our community. The funds will be used to provide food and some small gifts for the families. We are looking for people to shop for the baskets using the funds raised and deliver the baskets before Christmas. If you are interested in doing this contact Jean Folk (667-0383).

Immanuel's new **Global Outreach Project** is in progress. Look for a table with a small Christmas tree on it with animal ornaments and stop by and look it over and decide what you might want to donate: Chicks, a rooster, honey bees, a piglet, a goat or a share of a cow. The project is part of the ELCA Good Gifts Program. The animal donations range between \$10 and \$50. A sheet to record your donation is available and we are asking everyone to complete this and use the envelopes provided on the table to make your donation which can be cash or a check payable to Immanuel Lutheran with a memo of ELCA Good Gifts. Take an ornament to hang on your Christmas tree to remind you of your donation. This project will wrap up on December 16 with one inventory form going in to the ELCA later to reflect our total donation. Serving Team members will be available to assist you with this project. Have some fun with it!



Christmas Day Dinner December 25 here at Immanuel

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.

Luther League II Food/ Fellowship/ Laughter

Luther League II will meet for our Christmas Luncheon on Monday, December 10, 1:00 p.m. at OutBack Restaurant on the corner of Saginaw and Canal.

Please bring a \$5.00 gift for our gift exchange. We enjoy good food and wonderful fellowship.

Please call Kris at 517-712-7185 or Richard/Sharon at 517-627-2538 so we can give the restaurant a count. We would love to have you join us.

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 a 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!

IMMANUEL'S ADVENT ACTIVITIES

SNL – Toys for Tots Drive
Sunday, Nov. 25 – Dec. 9
Pop Can Drive –Nov. 25 Dec. 2

Families may drop off empty cans into the designated container. The monies will be used to purchase toys. Your family may place new toys in the designated box in the entry area.

Donations can be placed in the offering tray, labeled as Toys for Tots Drive or given to the church office by Sunday, Dec. 9.

The SNL youth group will use the donations to purchase new toys in December.

TOYS FOR TOTS



U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE
For more information visit www.toysfortots.org

Decorating the Outdoors -
Dec. 1 at NOON

Hanging of the Greens -
Sunday, December 2th

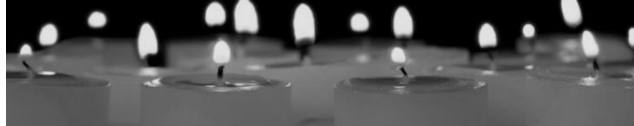
Come join the excitement in transforming Immanuel into a Christmas vision following the 10:30 am service. The decorating and laughter will ignite your Christmas spirit.



Holiday Service of Remembrance
Sunday, Dec. 2

Join us at 3 pm here at Immanuel.
Refreshments will be served
following the service.

Presented by Holihan-Atkin-Barclay



Wednesday, Nov. 28 – Dec. 19
Advent Worship 7 pm

Sunday, December 23
10:00 am Worship

Sunday, December 30
Christmas Songs & Lessons

Sunday, December 16

Join the Celebration
at Immanuel's
10:30 am Worship



**Children's
Program**

Christmas Eve Worship
Wednesday, December 24

4:00 pm Worship
7:00 pm Special Music
7:30 pm Worship
10:00 pm Worship

Christmas Day Dinner
Tuesday, Dec. 25
12-2 pm

**JOIN US FOR A FREE MEAL
AND WARM**



**FELLOWSHIP...ALL ARE
WELCOME!**

Save the Date

Dec 1 Decorating Outside of Church 2pm – contact Dan Landry 517-214-3904

Dec 2 Noon – Hanging of the Greens – contact Dan Landry

3 pm Holiday Service of Remembrance
6-7:30 pm SNL

Dec 8 High School Party 6-9 pm

Dec 9 Children's Christmas Rehearsal

Dec 16 Children's Christmas Program at 10:30 worship
Coffee Hour following program

Dec 23 Only one worship at 10 am

Dec 24 4, 7 & 10 pm Christmas Eve Worship

Dec 30 Only one worship at 10 am



High School Party-
Karkau's House
6-9 pm Dec. 8
Bring a white elephant gift (\$10) and snacks to share.
We will go out caroling.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

WHO'S CELEBRATING

December 1 **Kim Oesterle**

December 2 **Aaron Boyers**

December 2 **Steve Colby**

December 3 **Mary Foerster**

December 5 **Lynn Colby**

December 5 **Emily Ketola**

December 8 **Lisa Baptista**

December 10 **Russell Oesterle**

December 10 **Carol Nama**

December 11 **Michael Roesch**

December 12 **Janet Henretty**

December 12 **Melissa Kingsley**

December 12 **Britten Riggs**

December 12 **Jack Wolf**

December 13 **William Sanford**

December 14 **Scherrie Bryant**

December 14 **Kelly White**

December 16 **Grayson Sullenberger**

December 17 **Carolyn Drown**

December 17 **Nikki Racine**

December 18 **Robert Buckley**

December 18 **Jayden Roesch**

December 18 **Martin Roesch**

December 18 **Dale Stein**

December 21 **Nicole Sullenberger**

December 23 **Cameron Turner**

December 23 **Sue Schnarr**

December 26 **Michelle Dinsmore**

December 28 **Sarah Gatewood**

December 28 **Jessica Roesch**

December 30 **Jeanie Boerger-Dixon**

December 31 **John Crambell**

December 31 **Sherry Harris**

December *Anniversaries*



December 13 **Terry & Jeanie Schaaf**

December 18 **Linn & Cindy Smith**

December 18 **Dale & Mary Jo Stein**

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						01 8 am AA
02 First Fruits Offering <u>8:00 & 10:30 Worship</u> 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Bible Study 3pm <u>Service of Remembrance</u> 6-7:30 pm SNL	03 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 7 pm No Women's Bible Study New date TBD	04 7 am MITM Bible Study 11-3:30 SEWL Quilting	05 7 pm Worship Holden Evening Prayers	06 7:15 pm Choir Practice	07 8 pm AA	08 8 am AA 6-9 pm High School Party
09 <u>8:00 & 10:30 Worship</u> 9:15- 10:15 am "Christ Connections" Classes & Bible Study Children's Rehearsal For Christmas	10 1 pm Luther League Lunch at 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 6:30 pm Team Meetings	11 7 am MITM Bible Study Choir Practice	12 7 pm Worship Holden Evening Prayers	13	14 8 pm AA	15 8 am AA
16 <u>8:00 & 10:30 Worship</u> 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Adult Bible Study 10:30 Children's Christmas Program 6-7:30 pm SNL	17 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal Night 6:30 Council Meeting	18 7am MITM Bible Study 7pm Community Thanksgiving Worship 1 st United Methodist	19 7 pm Worship Advent Holden Evening Prayers	20 Choir Practice	21 8 pm AA	22 8 am AA
23 10 am Worship	24 No Community Meal <u>Christmas Eve</u> 4:00 Worship 7:00 pm Worship 10:00 pm Worship	25 Christmas Day Community Dinner	26 No Worship	27	28 8 pm AA	29 8 am AA
30 10 am Worship	31 No Community Meal	Office Hours Jeanie: Mon –Friday 9 am- 3 pm Pastor Chuck: Monday – Thursday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm				