

# The Manger

Connecting Lives to Christ

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA

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## Worship Services:

### Wednesday

7:00 pm Worship

### Sunday

9:30 am Worship **September 2**

10 am Worship **September 9**

8 & 10:30 am Worship Begins

**September 16**



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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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

<sup>2</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. Acts of the Apostles

As summer winds down and we return to our school year routines, I'm sure we all are busy, busy. Many of us have been on different schedules, have been away, or have been doing other things. Getting back into the swing of things might be tough. So, I encourage you to read this text from Acts 1. It speaks of a routine of the early disciples and how *our* worship life has been modeled after this form. It reminds us that coming together as the body of believers is how we ARE church in the world. This counter-cultural thing we do; taking time to worship a God whom we cannot see, giving our income and time for the mission of helping others, partaking of the sacrament of holy communion, living lives of thankfulness. These are all things we do because we are followers of Jesus.

This demonstration of faith, participating in worship and the life of this faith community, are part and parcel of who we say we are as believers, the body of Christ here on earth. Our actions, our choices in this world speak volumes to those around us about what we believe to be the priorities in our lives. When we attend worship or church activities, we send a powerful counter-cultural message that our faith and practicing of that faith are important to us.

And the reason I keep saying *counter-cultural* is because more and more we see the importance of faith, worship and even a relationship with God to be of shrinking importance in our society. It's almost as if faith practices have fallen out of vogue, and of course you want to "fit in" with friends and peers. Ironically, so many people, especially young people, are seeking to be different from the herd. They wish to stand out and so they do things that they believe will make them unique. But what happens is they just become another person who is trying to be unique and end up being the same. Here's a thought, be truly different. Spend more time developing your relationship with Jesus Christ and see what happens. Make it a priority in your life.

*"And I don't wanna spend my life, stuck in a pattern, and I don't wanna gain this world but lose what matters"*

## Pastor's Message continued

This line from the song "Different" by Micha Tyler speaks to truly wanting to break away from the crowd by giving our lives over to God's plan. If you have heard me preach before, I know that you have heard this message. It is there when we sing old and new songs, when we listen to the scripture, when we greet one another with God's peace, when we lift one another up in prayer. We break away from the crowd when we surrender our lives over to God's will and God's plan. And I promise you, God's plan is way better than any other.

So perhaps you would be willing to give the song "Different" a listen. Find a quiet time that you can hear God's voice speaking through this song, calling you back to a faith routine. Be open to God's invitation and come and be truly fed on the bread of life. Looking forward to praising God with you.

**Remember, together, we ARE church.**

Journeying with you,  
Pastor Chuck



## Council Corner by Karen Ketola

Summer is winding down and we want to hold on to all the glorious days we've had the last few months.

I'm still thinking about our outdoor worship at Fitzgerald Park last week. It was so nice to see many members of my church family at the park. Worship had a different feel but it's always good to experience God in a new way. The pavilion was full and I met a new friend. She enjoyed the service, her first time with Immanuel, and told me she'll be back. She didn't think I'd remember her again but I assured her I would. Look around you on Sundays and Wednesdays. Is there someone new you haven't met yet? Take a moment to say hi. You will be remembered.

**God's Work Our Hands is September 9.** We'll connect lives to Christ by supporting our community in many ways. We're also supporting the purchase of a new water well so everyone has access to fresh water. More details are in this newsletter.

*"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."*  
First Corinthians 15:58

As we move into fall our Teams are looking at their 2018 expenses and anticipated budgets for 2019. With thoughtful planning and consistent giving we'll align with our mission plan.

### Noteworthy items from recent Council meetings:

- The focus group has already met and their goal is to examine our worship services, schedules and programs in order to become a more welcoming faith community to families of all ages. We look forward to sharing our ideas and experiences.
- We'll welcome new families to Immanuel on 9/16 after their orientation class the day prior.
- The tips from this year's Common Ground will benefit the youth.



## Preparing Corner!

Cindy Foy, Education Director



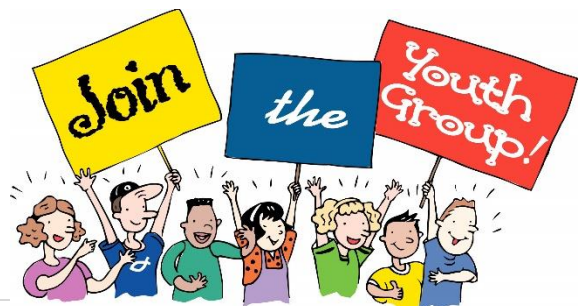
**Immanuel's High School Youth Group** will be getting busy soon! A mailing was recently sent out to all high school families inviting them to a ***Pizza Party Kick Off, September 16, 6-7pm***. Everything is provided! Bring YOUR ideas and thoughts of what you and your student want to see happen this upcoming school year! We want your input! If you did not receive a mailed invitation, 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!

**Christ Connections (Sunday School)** will be starting on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:15am-10:15am. We will be using curriculum from Sparkhouse and it is similar to a VBS rotation, just in one hour! ***I am looking for folks who like to work with children either in music, craft/activity or bible story telling.*** Everything will be provided for you; we just need the bodies to make it happen. If you feel a calling to teach our youth about Christ and the Bible, please contact me. I have a few lined up, but would really like more. Thank you!

**SNL** will be kicking off soon as well! ***Sunday September 16*** (busy day!!) there will be a parent/youth orientation with ***pizza and drinks from 6-7pm***. Please contact Melissa Goschka or Pastor Chuck for more details.

The outdoor worship/Christ Connections sign up at Fitzgerald Park was a big hit! The bounce house was enjoyed by all the kids and there were ice cream cups as well. It was a beautiful morning to worship in the park!

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



## Serving Team Corner by Den Graeber

The August Noisy offering for the Grand Ledge Food Bank was \$66.44. Our next noisy offerings are scheduled for September 5 and September 9 for Blessings in a Backpack. Let's make some noise as we reach out with a backpack of weekend food for some of our local kids. Thanks for your continued support to these local ministries.

Thanks for your support of the Grand Ledge Food Bank through our special monthly food offering. Our September special offering is planned for Sunday, September 16.

The **Kitchen Update Remodel Team** is brainstorming and gathering information about updating the kitchen and continues to meet monthly. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 24 at 6:30 p.m.

The **God's Work Our Hands Team** has been working hard over the summer planning the projects and coordinating the events for **Sunday, September 9** as we celebrate with other ELCA churches. Together we can make a difference! Plan now to participate through worship, lunch and projects. There will also be a tour of Ken Clark's Coat Closet located in our 501 Building. Stop by the table in the church lobby and check out the projects and items needed as we reach out with these service projects. Items purchased for the projects can be left on the table in the lobby at any time. Thanks!

If you are interested in joining a **newly formed funeral luncheon ministry team** contact Jean Folk at 667-0383.

Looking Ahead: A **Bake Sale will be held on Sunday, November 18 for Baskets of Hope** which supports our community outreach to families in need of food and small gifts for Christmas. We are also exploring Immanuel's involvement in the ELCA Good Gifts project this fall/winter. This is a global project that gives us an opportunity to donate animals as gifts with a variety of options. Watch for more details.





## Be a Good Steward

### Stewardship Corner by Fred Koos

The following article was taken from the September 2018 issue of Thrivent.

“Tell us something you learned as a child about how to be a good steward of God’s gifts.” Growing up on a small Wisconsin dairy farm, my parents taught me the value of the soil and how to care for it. Now, 60 years later, I still enjoy this gift from God and lovingly nourish my garden spot.” *S. Furl, Rio Rancho, New Mexico*

Give 10 percent, save 10 percent-plus, and spend and share the balance. Don’t be wasteful. Interest is something we earn, not pay! Don’t spend more than you earn or can pay back. *J. Parsons, Highland Ranch Colorado*

As a child, my oma lgrandmal always used to say. “It is more blessed to give than to receive? She lived generously by these words, and I have found her to be right. *S. Matson, Portland, Maine*”

Take a moment and think back to your childhood and ask yourself what you learned about being a good steward. Also, what have you taught your children about being good stewards? Remember, God’s Work Our Hands is coming soon. This is a great stewardship opportunity.

### Notes from Den Graeber

**Beverly Becker's** new permanent address is C/O Bickford of West Lansing, 6429 Earlington Lane Apt 111, Lansing, MI 48917. Bev will be celebrating her 96th Birthday on September 5 and loves to receive cards.

Remember to *close internal doors* within the church when leaving the building. Thanks! (In case of a fire this may help contain a fire.)

#### **Military and College Address:**

Send your addresses for your family members serving in the military and also for your college kids.

During God’s Work, Our Hands, packages will be prepared to send to as a hello, think of you!

Contact Bill Paulins at [bpaulins@aol.com](mailto:bpaulins@aol.com)



### **Immanuel Lutheran**

Interested in becoming part of this exciting, active faith community known as Immanuel Lutheran?

*Learn the history, ask questions and gather information!*

**September 15: 9:30-1:30**

**Membership Orientation.**

Contact Pastor Chuck for more information.

### **Looking for a way to share your gifts?**

Immanuel’s Funeral Team has many opportunities to serve our community during their grieving time.

**Contact Jean Folk 667-0383**

### **Not receiving the Weekend Reminders or Newsletters???**

Send your email address to [jschaaf@immanuel-gl.org](mailto:jschaaf@immanuel-gl.org)

Immanuel sends the latest and most current information out by email.



**September 9, 2018  
God's Work, Our  
Hands  
Annual Day of  
Serving**

**Join the excitement of reaching out to  
our community and beyond!**

## God's Work Our Hands

*Sunday, September 9 is God's Work Our Hands, our annual day of serving as recognized by the ELCA. At Immanuel we're gearing up to connect lives to Christ and serve those in our community and reach out globally.*

*Our service projects include*

***Clothing items for Ken Clark's Coat Closet*** - KC3 provides free clothing and personal care items for families needing extra support in Eaton County. They also provide a work-based learning environment for students in the GECKO program. We're collecting new socks and underwear and gently used snow pants and boots. KC3 is hosting an open house at the 501 Building that day and we can tour their new space.

***Personal care items for Grand Ledge Public School students*** - All schools have personal care items on hand for students who need them. We're packing your donations of deodorant, hairbrushes, toothpaste and toothbrushes, lip balm, lotion and washcloths.

***Eaton SIREN Shelter*** – This shelter provides a new start to families in need and one way is providing them with household items. Our donations of dish soap (12-ounce bottles), laundry detergent (liquid or powder), AA or 9-volt batteries and tall kitchen trash bags will support those families. Gently used towels, twin size bedding and pots and pans are also needed.

***Care Packages for Immanuel's Military Members and College Students*** – We're supporting our Immanuel family by packing care boxes for our college students and military members. Items needed include single serving packages of nuts, candy, crackers, cookies, granola or protein bars and trail mix. Stop by the designated table that day to sign cards that will be sent with the care boxes.

***Build a Water Well*** – We're collecting loose change to build a freshwater well in areas where it's difficult to get clean drinking water. Immanuel's water well is in the lobby now and you can drop off your loose change there or bring it to the well on September 9 during worship. Our goal is \$2500.

*Thank you for your continued support of God's Work Our Hands. Stop by the information table in the lobby for shopping lists of needed items. You're encouraged to bring donations to the church lobby before 9/9 so we know what we still need to purchase.*

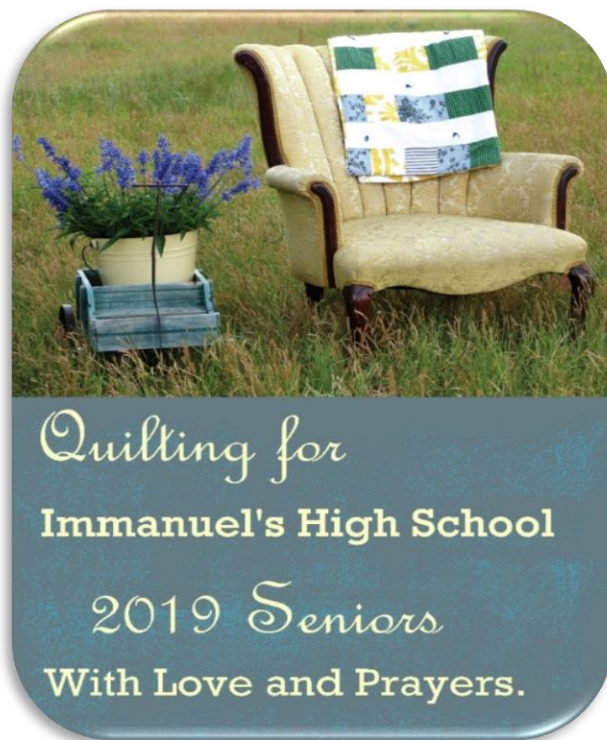
## Calling All Parents of High School Seniors

We are double checking our records to make sure that we have all the names of students who will be graduating from high school in June 2019.

Right now, we have these names on our list: *Claire Blaske, Emily Fedewa, Alex Kingsley, Jakob Proper, Braeden Riggs, and Lucas Smith.*

If you know of someone who is not on the list, please let the church office know soon.

We are lining up our quilters for the graduation gifts and need to make sure we have everyone “covered.” Thanks for your help.



Quilting for  
Immanuel's High School  
2019 Seniors  
With Love and Prayers.

## Save the Date

**Sept. 9** Worship 10 am, God's Work, Our Hands Missions following a light lunch.

**Sept. 15** 9:30 am – 1:30 pm New Members Class

**Sept. 16** 8:00 & 10:30 am Worship, 9:15 am Christ Connection (all ages) and Adult Bible Study.  
6 – 7 pm SNL and High School Youth Group

**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 September 10, 1:00 p.m., at the Hibachi Grill on Saginaw.

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 so we can give the restaurant a count. Would love to have YOU join us.





# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

## WHO'S CELEBRATING

September 2 **Marge Galvin**

September 2 **Enna Jorgensen**

September 4 **Karlene Ketola**

September 5 **Bev Becker**

September 5 **Ernie Nostrant**

September 8 **John Kingsley**

September 8 **James Beitel**

September 10 **Lori Fischer**

September 13 **Lee Burmeister**

September 13 **Bettie Williams**

September 14 **Sarah Baribeau**

September 15 **Clara Van Hoesen**

September 15 **Gregory Hickok**

September 16 **Vera Ford**

September 17 **Finley Turner**

September 17 **Grant Turner**

September 18 **Collin Blake**

September 20 **Jim Balger**

September 20 **Ashley Erickson**

September 20 **Madison Fischer**

September 20 **Denise Proper**

September 21 **Nathan Buchweitz**

September 21 **Bill Gibbons**

September 23 **Dave Rinckey**

September 24 **Allison Landry**

September 24 **Tyler Williamson**

September 25 **Bill Paulins II**

September 26 **Peyton Goschka**

September 28 **Dawn Shilton**

September 29 **Erin Anderson**

September 29 **Pastor Chuck Foerster**

September 29 **Greg Osburn**

September 29 **Aaron Riley**

September 29 **Ron Hoornstra**



September 10 **Larry & Linda Kruth**

September 12 **Todd & Dawn Byers**

September 14 **Nathan & Ellen Flanders**

September 16 **Pastor Chuck & Mary Foerster**

September 16 **Anthony & Sarah Gatewood**

September 19 **Bill & Chris Frysinger**

September 21 **Dan & Allison Landry**

September 21 **Glen & Shar Saxton**

September 25 **Steve & Carmen Karkau**

September 27 **Jeanie Boerger-Dixon & Rick Dixon**

# September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						01 8 am AA
02 <b>First Fruits Offering</b> <b>9:30 am Worship</b>	03 <b>Labor Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  <b>NO Community Meal Night</b>	04 7 am MITM Bible Study	05 7 pm <b>Worship</b>	06	07 8 pm AA	08 8 am AA
09 <u>10 am Worship</u> <b>God's Work,</b> <b>Our Hands Sunday</b> <b>Lunch following</b>	10 1 pm <b>Luther League Luncheon</b> <b>at Hibachi Grill</b>  4:00 -6:00 pm <b>Community Meal Night</b> <b>6:30 pm Team Meetings</b>	11 7 am MITM Bible Study 11-3:30 SEWL Quilting	12 Outdoor Worship 6:30 <b>Hot Dogs</b> 7 pm <b>Worship</b>	13	14 8 pm AA	15 8 am AA  <b>9:30-1:30 pm</b> New Members Class
16 <u>8:00 &amp; 10:30 Worship</u> 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Adult Bible Study Evening SNL & High School Youth Group	17 4:00 -6:00 pm <b>Community Meal Night</b> <b>6:30 Council Meeting</b>	18 7am MITM Bible Study	19 7 pm <b>Worship</b>	20	21 8 pm AA	22 8 am AA
23 <u>8:00 &amp; 10:30 Worship</u> 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Bible Study	24 4:00 -6:00 pm <b>Community Meal Night</b>  6:30 pm Focus Group Kitchen Update Meeting	25 7 am MITM Bible Study	26 7 pm <b>Worship</b>	27	28 8 pm AA	29 8 am AA

30  
8:00 & 10:30 Worship  
9:15- 10:15  
"Christ Connections"  
Classes & Adult Bible Study



## Office Hours

**Jeanie:** Mon –Friday 8 am- 2 pm

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