



January 2019

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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New Year's Message

FROM THE PASTOR

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

5 And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' 6 Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. 7 Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. Revelation 21

As we move into a New Year, with all its changes, all the resolutions, we remember all the things that have gone and the loved ones who have gone on to glory. We anticipate all the things to come and we rejoice over all the things to celebrate. This verse from Revelation comes immediately to mind; It tells us that God is in the business of **NEW**, of making all things new. God's plan is to transform everything that is not part of his kingdom, including things that are within us and our world.

Change is never easy; sometimes we hold on to the past because it gave us some sense of comfort or happiness. Other times, it might have been because it was simpler, more relaxed. But change comes whether we wish it or not. It becomes a matter of how we deal with it, plan for it and embrace it.

2019 will certainly see some changes for us here at Immanuel. Hopefully you have heard about our **Alternative Worship** moving from Wednesday night to Sunday night at 6pm. We are hoping this move will give more young people and families the opportunity to come and worship God in a unique and more contemporary style. We are kicking it off on January 13th, starting with a pot-luck at 5:30pm. Worship will center around praising God, music, digging into the Word and presenting the message in different ways.

There are new council members and team members that have come on board to help lead this body of faith. They will have new ideas and a different perspective on some things. Visitors, new members will join this community and with them, new traditions, ways of being church and points of view.

Another change you might notice is that we will be phasing out the "pew pads" and using a tool that is more specific to our needs and hopefully more user friendly. The Connecting Card, blue in color, will be used for four (4) very specific purposes; to Connect visitors with this body of faith, to update current contact info, to request a visit or information regarding I.L.C. and to serve as a prayer request card.

It will not be used as an attendance record or record of communion. Our statistical needs do not require specific names for record keeping. And frankly, it is my hope and prayer that if you notice someone you do not know that you kindly say to them, "*Hi, I'm not sure we have met, my name is _____*". In regards to folks who seem to be absent, again, I would pray that if you notice that, you would call them

New Year's Message

FROM THE PASTOR

and check on them and then let me know of your concern. I believe that this is a more relational way of **being church**. It is how we are called to be present for one another more than just on Sunday.

The thing about change is it is one of the ways that God uses to cause us to grow, to stretch beyond where we were. God indeed loves us “where we’re at” but loves us so much that he won’t just leave us there. Remember, God is about making all things new again! So how will God grow us this year? Where is God seeking to transform our lives, hearts and minds. It may not always be comfortable, but then growth is part of life. How much we grow might just have to do with how open we are to what God has in store.

I pray this year finds your health (spiritual, physical, mental) improving. I pray that God’s blessings abound in your life and the life of your family. I hope and pray that you will see this new thing that God is doing and that you will praise God in the midst of change. Behold, God says, I make all things new! Praise God!

Growing with you,
Pastor Chuck

Council Corner by Karen Ketola



We look forward to 2019 as we continue to Connect Lives to Christ.

With the new year brings change to our Church Council. We’re thankful to Mike Fedewa, Callahan Riggs, Terry Schaaf, Ray Baser and Bob Shilton for their service. We welcome Joan Hoffman, John Burg, Mike Wesley and Britt Riggs for a new term. Cindy Foy, Bill Paulins and I remain on Council for one more term.

A Council retreat is planned for February 16 so we can plan for the year ahead in our ILC family.



Stewardship Corner

Where Does My Offering Go? Have you ever asked yourself that question? Included in this newsletter is information from the ELCA on what churchwide ministries are supported by your Mission Support. As a congregation we support the ELCA churchwide ministries with 10% of our giving.

Thank you for your support of our churches’ ministry in 2018. Time-Talent-Treasure. Prayerfully consider what your stewardship commitment will be for 2019.

“Where Does My Offering Go?” can be found on pages 4 & 5.



Preparing Corner!

Cindy Foy, Education Director

Happy New Year to everyone from Christian Education! The kids did an amazing job performing at the Christmas program on the 16th! Such talent! Classes resume January 6 at 9:15.....see you then!!

SNL NEWS

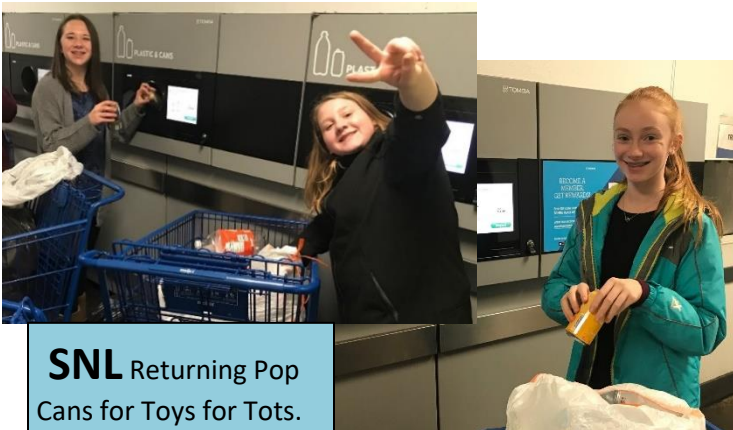
Happy New Year! The first class of the new year is Sunday, January 6, 2019, 6:00-7:30 pm. See your schedule for upcoming events and class dates. God's Blessings to you in 2019

Our Annual Toys for Tots was a huge success again this year!

Thank you for all of your support whether you donated cans, money or toys!

A BIG thank you to the Ketola, Landry and Shilton Families!! You are making a difference!

Gods Peace,
Melissa



SNL Returning Pop Cans for Toys for Tots. Thank you for your support, Immanuel!



Serving Team Corner by Den Graeber

The December Noisy Offering for Blessings in a Backpack was \$205.88. Our January Noisy Offering is scheduled for Sunday, January 13 for the Lutheran Disaster Response. Let's make some noise!

Our special offering of food for the Grand Ledge Food Bank is scheduled for Sunday, January 20. Thanks to everyone who donated food in December it was greatly appreciated as the food bank reached out into the community to provide food for families that needed some assistance this December. Thank You!

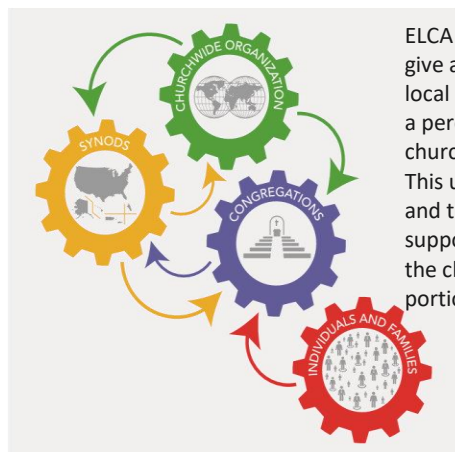
Thanks to everyone that provided baked goods and funds for the Baskets of Hope Project that reached out to 7 families this Christmas. Awesome! The funds provided food and small gifts to these families. Special thanks to those that purchased items for these baskets from the funds raised and delivered the baskets to the families. Thanks!

Our new global outreach project this year at Immanuel went very well. The ELCA Good Gifts Program helps to grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. As a congregation along with ELCA Matching Funds on Giving Tuesday we were able to donate: 11 piglets at \$30 each, 27 sets of 10 chicks at \$10 a set, 7 roosters at \$15 each, 16 sets of honeybees at \$20 a set, 8 goats at \$50 each and 10 shares of a cow at \$50 each which equals one cow. Nice Job! Thanks for all of your support!

The Serving Team is looking forward to the new year as we reach out to each other, reach out to the community and reach out globally.



WHERE DOES MY

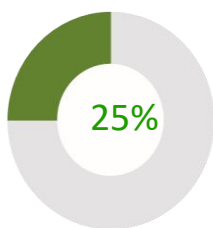


ELCA members in more than 9,300 congregations in the United States and Caribbean give approximately \$1.75 billion in regular offering to support ELCA ministries in their local communities and worldwide. When members give through their congregations, a percentage of that money is then shared with the local synod and the national churchwide organization.

This unrestricted giving, called Mission Support, gives us both the foundation and the fuel to do God's work in the world and a portion of the gifts circle back to support ministries in synods and local congregations. Of these unrestricted gifts, the churchwide organization receives around 2.6 percent. This represents the largest portion of the ELCA churchwide organization's operating budget

Your Mission Support helps fund the following churchwide

Grow the ELCA in the United States

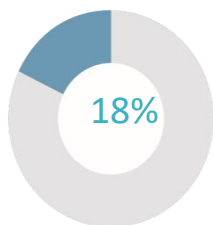


Plant and support
357 new
congregations.

357

- Enable congregations to renew their ministries and reach out to their surrounding communities.
- Work together with our African Descent, American Indian and Alaska Native, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Latino/Latina members to develop networks and resources for ministry.
- Develop and share resources for faith, discipleship, prayer and worship

Grow the Lutheran church around the world

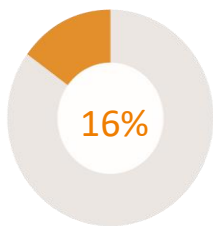


Send 230 missionaries
in more than 48 countries,
and more than 84 Young
Adults in Global Mission in
11 country programs.

230

- As a member of The Lutheran World Federation, we're in communion with 145 member churches and directly connected to 85 companion churches in other countries.
- Accompany new Lutheran churches, expand ministries, and train leaders and evangelists.

Provide coordination and support for churchwide ministries

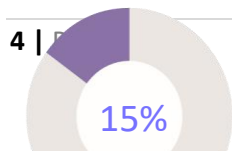


1.1 million

Maintain constituent
database, including 1.1
million records of rostered
and lay leaders, members,
donors and congregations.

- Preserve and maintain archives and historic records of the ELCA and its predecessor bodies.
- Provide office space, equipment and human resources for staff and operations.
- Process 150,000 gifts to ELCA ministries.
- Equip congregations and synods with resources to assist in risk management and legal matters.

Support and develop current and future leaders in the ELCA



9,900

Recruit, prepare and
implement a system

- Support the work of seven ELCA seminaries and 26 colleges and universities.
- Identify, connect and provide ministry resources and opportunities for networking for lay leaders.

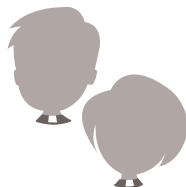
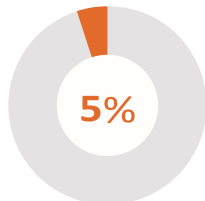
Invest in technology and communications



Design and maintain **communications tools** to strengthen our Lutheran identity and grow awareness of our church and its mission and ministries.

- **Connect members with one another** through new technology and systems.

Provide governance and leadership

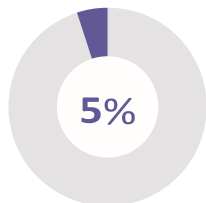


65

Coordinate meetings and support for 65 synodical bishops.

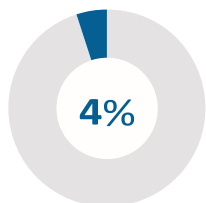
- **Organize lay and clergy leaders from across the church to serve** on the governance boards and committees that provide guidance and oversight for ELCA ministries.

Grow and sustain financial resources



Develop and promote efforts related to stewardship education, financial literacy, mission interpretation and growth in giving to all church ministries.

Address social issues and work for justice

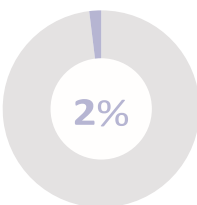


1 in 50

Support social ministry organizations, such as Lutheran Services in America, to impact the lives of **1 in 50** Americans.

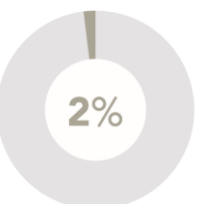
- **Engage** in churchwide study and deliberation to create social statements and resources that address social, political, environmental and other public issues.
- **Equip** members and leaders to advocate with lawmakers in order to support policies that promote justice and peace. *Your designated gifts to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response provide additional funds annually to address hunger, poverty and suffering around the world.*

Engage in research and strategic planning



Research and analyze trends that impact the ELCA and develop innovative strategies to improve mission and ministry in the 21st century.

Sustain ecumenical and interfaith relationships



Facilitate dialogue and common action among communities of other faiths, including the development of resources and communications for ELCA congregations.

- **Seek unity in faith and life with all Lutherans and six full communion partners.**

Immanuel's Usher Schedule

January - March

Thank you to everyone who volunteers to be ushers. It has been trying for some of you for not knowing for sure if you are scheduled for a certain Sunday. Hopefully this new approach will alleviate any questions. I am providing information to Jeanie to put in the newsletter who is scheduled for each Sunday and we will post it on the bulletin board for at least a quarter of the year at a time. This is primarily for the 2nd service (10:30), the early service (8:00) handles itself. Generally, 2 ushers are all that is needed for a Sunday. A greeter at the entrance is appreciated also. If it is a large crowd, the greeter and anyone in the congregation can help with the service.

If you have any questions about responsibilities, needing to change Sundays with someone or would like to be added to the usher list contact Dale Stein @ 627-3875.

Schedule:

Date	Ushers	Greeter
1/6	Linn & Cindy Smith	Scott Hoornstra
1/13	George & Annette Ryan	Dan Landry
1/20	Greg & Karlene Ketola	Mike Fedewa
1/27	Dale & Mary Jo Stein	Rick Merrifield
2/3	Mike & Denise Proper	Julia Hoornstra
2/10	Orv & Lynne Erickson	Linda Hubert
2/17	John & Shari Burg	Karen Ketola
2/24	Gary & Bev Lass	Bill Frysinger
3/3	Scott & Julia Hoornstra	Linn Smith
3/10	Jean Folk & Jan Martinich	Barb Jetmore
3/17	Jim & Scherrie Bryant	Jackie Fedewa
3/24	Carol Espie & Rick Merrifield	Chris Frysinger



Get High School Christmas Party



Luther League II **Food/ Fellowship/ Laughter**

Luther League II will meet for lunch on Monday at the **House of Hsu** in Grand Ledge, at **1:00 p.m.** on **January 14, 2019**. We look forward to good food and great fellowship to begin the new year. **Please contact** Kris - 712-7185 or Richard/Sharon - 627-2538, if you would like to join us. We would love to have you start the New Year with us.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

WHO'S CELEBRATING

January 1 **Jim Osborn**

January 1 **Ryan Dinsmore**

January 2 **Christine Wood**

January 3 **Edward Hill**

January 4 **Mark Wolf**

January 6 **Jim Ostler**

January 9 **Zachary Shilton**

January 11 **Connor Blake**

January 11 **Lacy Boyers**

January 11 **Josh Hengesbach**

January 11 **Jim Nama**

January 11 **Edward Williams IV**

January 12 **Levi Boyers**

January 15 **Elaine Mattson**

January 17 **Tom Blake**

January 19 **Drew Karkau**

January 19 **Fred Koos**

January 21 **Allison Ward**

January 25 **Easton LaRocque**

January 25 **Waylon LaRocque**

January 26 **Orv Erickson**

January 29 **Greg Ketola**



January 3 **Charlie & Tea Peiffer**

January 7 **Brad & Mary Matzke**

January 7 **Mike & Cheryl Pitchford**

January 22 **Dave & Barb Rinckey**

January 24 **Joe & Patty Riley**

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		01	02	03	04 8 pm AA	05 8 am AA
06 First Fruits Offering 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Bible Study 6-7:30 pm SNL	07 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal 7 pm No Women's Bible Study New date TBD	08 7 am MITM Bible Study 11-3:30 SEWL Quilting	09	10 7:15 pm Choir Practice	11 8 pm AA	12 8 am AA 6-9 pm High School Party
13 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 am "Christ Connections" Classes & Bible Study 6:00-6:30 pm Alternative Worship	14 1 pm Luther League Lunch at 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal 6:30 pm Team Meetings	15 7 am MITM Bible Study	16	17	18 8 pm AA	19 8 am AA
20 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Adult Bible Study 6:00-6:30 pm Alternative Worship 6-7:30 pm SNL	21 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal 6:30 Council Meeting	22 7am MITM Bible Study	23	24 Choir Practice	25 8 pm AA	26 8 am AA
27 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Adult Bible Study 6:00-6:30 pm Alternative Worship	28 4-6 pm Community Meal	29	30	31		

Office Hours

Jeanie: Mon –Friday 9 am- 3 pm

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

