

# The Manger

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
*Connecting Lives to Christ*

April 2019

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA

517 S Clinton Street  
 Grand Ledge, MI 48837

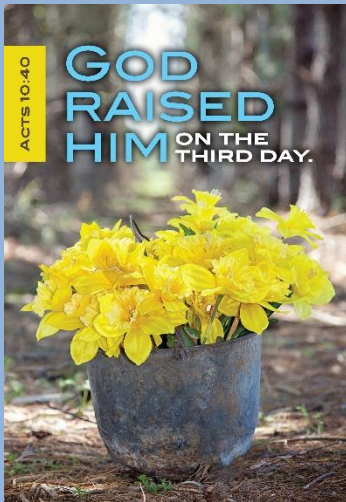
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 Immanuel-gl.org

## Worship Services:

### Sunday

8 & 10:30 am Worship  
 9:15 am Christ Connection  
 9:15 am Adult Bible Study  
 6:00 pm Alternative Worship



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

*Then he called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile. Mark 7*

There are many studies and books that have been written on the *Art of Listening*. Some sociologists believe that modern society has lost this art for several reasons, one of them being our tendency towards visual stimuli. We watch television with subtitles, the sound off or down low. We text and Facebook and tweet and Instagram messages rather than calling someone on the phone. And we feel like we are communicating better because of these conveniences, but the truth is, nothing can replace face to face conversation. In the more real exchange of real conversation, we hear the emotion and depth in a person's voice. We can empathize with them better and this becomes one of the steps to listening more deeply. Another key step in being a better listener, is to focus on what the other is saying, rather than formulating what you will say back. Active listening means that you are able to discern what message the other person is sending and truly hear what their heart is saying.

Scripture is filled with the word "**Listen**". Jesus uses it quite often before or after his teaching. The Greek word translates as *hear, understand, obey, follow*. How often, I wonder, do we "hear" something and never really listen. How often do we say, "oh yeah, I've heard that before." But then we go on our own way disregarding what we have heard. So, we could say that really listening requires more of us than just our ears.

I believe listening to God and to God's will for our lives, also requires our heart, our body and our ears. It requires our heart because if we are burdened with the worries of our lives, our hearts may be closed and we will have a difficult time focusing on what God wants to say. It requires our bodies, because if we are anxious or agitated, we might not be able to be still enough to listen for God's voice. And it requires our ears; because the noise of the world can get in the way of hearing God's voice calling to us.

Try this; when you are calm, settled, have 10 minutes and a quiet place to sit, read aloud a favorite Bible passage or one at random. Then, ask God to open your heart and mind to His Word and to be able to hear what God would say. And then listen! With your whole being, with all of you. Distractions will come, let them come and go. Your goal is to listen for

that still small voice of the one who created you. God is constantly reaching out to us. Can we hear God's message for us? Can we be active listeners of God's desire? Can we follow where God calls us? It all starts with listening. Following is difficult enough, made more so if we are unable to hear. If we practice listening to God, we might find that God's voice rings out clear above the noise of the world. Like the Tanzanian song in our hymnal, #513 says. *"Listen! Listen God is calling, to the world inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort and joy."*

May we be hearers and doers of God's word. May we find a deeper love of God as we practice listening. And may God reach us with words that transform our lives and bring light into our darkness.

Listening with you,

Pastor Chuck



At our March meeting we discussed many changes at Immanuel. With Professional Party Planners' move out of ILC, we had anticipated having a food service license lapsing at the end of April. However, we trusted God's plan. By meeting time, we learned Shar Saxton and Jim Nama accepted the request of being certified kitchen managers. This allows ILC to continue serving meals to the community on Mondays and our Christmas dinner among other opportunities for ministry.

*We're very thankful for all of the love and dedication Teresa Barcy gave to us. She made it possible for us to care for so many people.*

An updated contract with Waste Management was approved and signed which affords us significant savings on trash service with no recycling. Taking care of our recyclables will now be managed within our congregation.

There was discussion of whether hiring a new choir director is feasible right now. Both Support and Council felt it best to put a pause on the position and it will be evaluated by the end of the second quarter as we keep an eye of our mission plan. Volunteer vocalists will have rehearsal time with Jim and Carmen on hymns and songs of praise.

Much of our meeting centered on our financial picture. Many factors contribute but key is that giving is down. All of the teams have done very well in keeping expenses in check and have made changes to cut costs. We're thankful to many ILC members who volunteer their time, talents and energy to our building and grounds.

We're aware that more items may also need to be adjusted in our mission plan. At our November meeting we prayed and trusted that we would move our ministries forward. How is God moving us to mission? Stewardship is managing all of the resources God provides to us. Pray and trust.

Are you part of a club that needs a meeting space? Do you want to host an event at ILC? Do you know someone who needs space to work or hold a class? Opportunities are waiting.

*Lord Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.*  
-- Psalm 84:12



## Preparing Corner! Cindy Foy, Education Director

Christ Connections (Sunday School) classes continue every Sunday at 9:15am! Please share your child(ren) with us on our path to learning more about God and His word!

VBS/Day Camp is July 22-26 and we are slowly starting to plan for this event! We have the wonderful counselors from Stoney Lake leading the way again this summer! Put this week on your calendar and look for a volunteer board in the near future! It will be here before we know it, along with warmer weather! There is no class April 7<sup>th</sup> for spring break and also Easter Sunday, April 21. Our last class is May 19<sup>th</sup> with lots of fun planned!

Remember each classroom is tithing for certain charities so please encourage your child to bring their change in to class! Thank you!

Have a great month!



## Serving Team Corner



Our March Noisy offering for Blessings in a Backpack was \$89.42. Our next noisy offering will be Sunday, April 14 for the Lutheran Disaster Response. Let's continue to make some noise as we reach out within the United States and globally.

Our special offering of food for the Grand Ledge Food Bank is scheduled for Sunday, April 21. Thanks for your continued food donations that seem to just appear in the cart in the church lobby! Nice Job!

You are invited to the Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 21 which will be held between the two church services. This year's breakfast will be a Continental style breakfast. The menu will be fruit breads, muffins, bagels, yogurt, fruit, juice and coffee. The Serving Team is reaching out to the congregation to provide some of the food. We are asking everyone in the congregation to please donate fruit breads, muffins, bagels, granola and candy for the Easter Egg Hunt. Please see the sign-up sheet in the church lobby. (Please sign up no later than April 7.) If you signed up to bring food please drop it off at the church at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, April 20. Plans have been made for an Easter Egg Hunt for kids. We will be taking up a love gift for restocking the kitchen with some needed utensils and supplies. Come and enjoy the breakfast and the fellowship as we celebrate the Resurrection!

God's Work Our Hands is planned in the Evangelical Lutheran Churches in America on Sunday, September 8. The Serving Team is reaching out to the other teams and to the congregation for people to get involved in planning this event. This year we are hoping to get one or two people to chair the event. Please consider this and contact Den Graeber at (517) 224-8888 to join this team. We will be planning projects and the day's events as we reach out to others. Thanks for considering how you could respond to this ministry. This team will need to begin meeting late May or early June. Thanks!

Looking Ahead: May is appreciation month for First Responders, Firemen and Police Officers. Immanuel will be showing our local appreciation by putting together boxes of goodies to be delivered by the Serving Team. We will be asking for snacks to be donated by our members for this cause. Watch for more details.

Den Graeber

## Immanuel's Usher Schedule April - May

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
4/7	Lyn & Cindy Smith	Scott Hoornstra
4/14	George & Annette Ryan	Julia Stornant
4/21	Greg & Karlene Ketola	Mike Fedewa
4/28	Riggs Family	
5/5	Mike & Denise Proper	Cindy Smith
5/12	Jan Martinich & Jean Folk	Linda Hubert
5/19	Karen Ketola & Sue DeWitt	Jackie Fedewa
5/26	Gary & Bev Lass - Carol Espie	



### Upcoming Events:

**Friday, May 17:** 6-11 pm Confirmation Interviews

**Sunday, May 19:** Confirmation Sunday

**June 2:** Recognition of Graduates

**July 7-12:** Stoney Lake Camp

**July 22-26** VBS Day Camp here

### **Luther League II**

#### **Food/ Fellowship/ Laughter**

Luther League II will meet for lunch at Log Jam at 1:00 p.m.,  
Monday, April 8

Please call Kris at 517-712-7185 or Richard/Sharon 517-627-2538 to let us know if you can make it.

We enjoy good food and GREAT fellowship.  
We would love to have YOU join us.

# APRIL BIRTHDAYS

## WHO'S CELEBRATING

**April 02** Addison O'Brien

**April 03** Bill Frysinger

**April 03** Jessica George Beitel

**April 05** Barb Roush

**April 06** Sandy Couser

**April 07** Annette Ryan

**April 09** Elaine DeClercq

**April 09** Angelia Marsh

**April 09** John VanHoesen

**April 10** Norah Williams

**April 11** Gilberto Baptista

**April 11** Jeff Everts

**April 12** Eva Dinsmore

**April 12** Tom Sullenburger

**April 14** Avery Riggs

**April 14** Roger Wickerham

**April 17** Pat Graeber

**April 17** Lucas Smith

**April 20** Olivia Buchweitz

**April 23** Katie Bryant

**April 24** Delaney Fedewa

**April 24** Erin Hubert

**April 24** Mike Pitchford

**April 25** Anna Baribeau

**April 25** Owen Smith

**April 26** Jeffrey Mandeville

**April 27** Allan Blaske

**April 27** Carisa Flanders

**April 27** Chris Frysinger

**April 29** Alan Goschka

**April 30** Angie Blake

**April 30** Donna Gibbons

**April 30** Abby Osborn



**April 01** Donna & Bill Gibbons  
**April 07** Rick & Linda Merrifield  
**April 17** Tom & Nicole Sullenberger  
**April 19** Tim & Linda Hubert  
**April 22** Nate & Lacy Boyers  
**April 28** Jim & Carol Espie



# April

# 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	01 4:00 -6:00 pm <b>Community Meal</b> 7 pm <b>Women's Bible Study</b>	02 7am <b>MITM Bible Study</b> 11-3:30 <b>SEWL Quilting</b>	03	04 7:30 pm <b>Choir Practice</b>	05 8 pm <b>AA</b>	06 8 am <b>AA</b>
07 <b>First Fruits Offering</b> <u>8:00 &amp; 10:30 Worship</u> 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Bible Study 6:00 pm <b>Alternative Worship</b>	08 4:00 -6:00 pm <b>Community Meal</b>  <b>6:30 pm Team Meetings</b>	09 7 am <b>MITM Bible Study</b>	10	11 7:30 pm <b>Choir Practice</b>	12 8 pm <b>AA</b>	13 8 am <b>AA</b>
14 <b>Palm Sunday</b> <u>8:00 &amp; 10:30 Worship</u> 6:00 pm <b>Alternative Worship</b>	15 1 pm <b>Luther League Lunch at</b>  4:00 -6:00 pm <b>Community Meal</b> 6:30 <b>Council Meeting</b>	16 7 am <b>MITM Bible Study</b>  11-3:30 <b>SEWL Quilting</b>	17	18  <b>Maunday Thursday Worship 7pm</b>	19 8 pm <b>AA</b> <b>Good Friday: Noon Worship</b> 5:30 pm <b>Walk the Cross</b>	20 8 am <b>AA</b>
21 <b>Easter</b> <u>8:00 &amp; 10:30 Worship</u> 9:15- 10:15 <b>Easter Breakfast</b>	22 4:00 -6:00 pm <b>Community Meal</b>	23 7am <b>MITM Bible Study</b>	24	25 7:30 pm <b>Choir Practice</b>	26 8 pm <b>AA</b>	27 8 am <b>AA</b>
28 <u>8:00 &amp; 10:30 Worship</u> 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm <b>Alternative Worship</b> 6:30-7:30 pm <b>SNL</b>	29 4-6 pm <b>Community Meal</b>	30 7am <b>MITM Bible Study</b>				

## Office Hours

**Jeanie:** Mon –Friday 9 am- 3 pm

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

