

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

Dear Parents with Young Children in Church,

You are doing something really, *really* important. I know it's not easy. I see you with your arms overflowing, and I know you came to church already tired. Parenting is tiring. Really tiring. I watch you bounce and sway trying to keep the baby quiet, juggling the infant car seat and the diaper bag as you find a seat. I see you wince as your child cries. I see you anxiously pull things out of your bag of tricks to try to quiet them. And I see you with your toddler and your preschooler. I watch you cringe when your little girl asks an innocent question in a voice that might not be an inside voice let alone a church whisper. I hear the exasperation in your voice as you *beg* your child to just sit, to be quiet as you feel everyone's eyes on you. Not everyone is looking, but I know it feels that way. I know you're wondering, is this worth it? Why do I bother? I know you often leave church more exhausted than fulfilled. But what you are doing is so important. When you are here, the church is filled with a joyful noise. When you are here, the Body of Christ is more fully present. When you are here, we are reminded that this worship thing we do isn't about bible study or personal, quiet contemplation but coming together to worship as a community where all are welcome, where we share in the Word and Sacrament together. When you are here, I have hope that these pews won't be empty in 10 years when your kids are old enough to *sit quietly and behave in worship*. I know that they are learning how and why we worship now, before it's too late. They are learning that worship is important. I see them learning. In the midst of the cries, whines, and giggles, in the midst of the crinkling of pretzel bags and the growing pile of crumbs, I see a little girl who insists on going two pews up to share peace with someone she's never met. I hear a little boy slurping (quite loudly) every last drop of his communion wine out of the cup, determined not to miss a drop of Jesus. I watch a child excitedly color a cross and point to the one in the front of the sanctuary. I hear the echoes of "Amens" just a few seconds after the rest of the community says it together. I watch a boy just learning to read try to sound out the words in the worship book or count his way to Hymn 672. Even on weeks when I can't see my own children learning because, well, it's one of *those* mornings, I can see your children learning. I know how hard it is to do what you're doing, but I want you to know *it matters*. It matters to me. It matters to my children to not be alone in the pew. It matters to the congregation to know that families care about faith, to see young people... and even on those weeks when you can't see the little moments, it matters to your children.

It matters that they learn that worship is what we do as a community of faith, that everyone is welcome, that *their* worship matters. When we teach children that their worship matters, we teach them that they are *enough* right here and right now as members of the church community. They don't need to wait until they can believe, pray or worship a certain way to be welcome here, and I know adults who are still looking to be shown that. It matters that children learn that they are an integral part of this church, that their prayers, their songs, and even their badly (or perfectly-timed, depending on who you ask) cries and whines *are* a joyful noise because it means they are present.

I know it's hard, but thank you for what you do when you bring your children to church. Please know that your family — with all of its noise, struggle, commotion, and joy — are not simply tolerated, you are a vital part of the community gathered in worship. (From a blogpost from Jamie Bruesehoff, used by permission, www.iamtotallythatmom.com)

Growing with you,
Pastor Chuck



Council Corner by Karen Ketola



At the meeting in January our new Council voted on these officers for 2019:

Karen Ketola, President
Cindy Foy, Vice-President

Appointments were made with Julia Hoornstra as Financial Secretary and Bev Lass & Sharon Catey as counters. Gary Lass & Melissa Goschka will serve as back-up counters.

You're invited to our annual ministerial meeting on **Sunday, February 10** which immediately follows one morning service at 10 am. We'll review our congregational goals for the coming year.

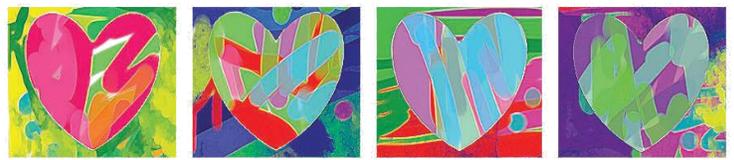
The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Exodus 33:14

Preparing Corner!
Cindy Foy, Education
Director

Greetings! Classes have resumed for Christ Connections/Sunday School! Please bring your child(ren) to 9:15am class as we move through the New Testament of stories, songs and a craft of some sort.... oh, and snack! The kids' favorite part!!

I am still looking for volunteers to fill in some dates as either a music leader or craft/activity leader. Everyone is qualified to do this; it isn't hard....☺ I have everything for you; please let me know if you can help out! Thanks!

Our high school students are looking for leaders to be with them from 9:15-10:15 (approx.). Could you spare some time to talk with them, or bake with them for the community meal.... or go for coffee and chat about what's on their hearts and minds? Again, anyone is qualified.... it's minor leadership that can make a major difference to them.... please let Carmen or Cindy know if you feel called to do this. Parents of students are especially welcome!
Thanks!
Have an amazing month!

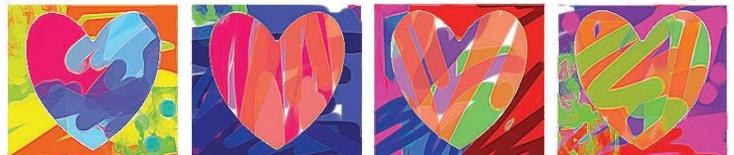


Serving Team Corner by Den Graeber

The January Noisy Offering for the Lutheran Disaster Response was \$163.78. Our February Noisy Offering is scheduled for Sunday, February 10 for the Grand Ledge Food Bank. Thanks for making some noise in 2018 for our three noisy offering projects. We were able to donate \$353.01 to the Grand Ledge Food Bank, \$767.74 to Blessings in a Backpack and \$468.07 to the Lutheran Disaster Response. Let's continue to make some noise in 2019!

Our special offering of food for the Grand Ledge Food Bank is scheduled for February 17. Thanks for your ongoing support for the food bank as they continue to reach out weekly to provide food to families that need some assistance.

Our recently reorganized funeral luncheon ministry team is looking for members who may want to assist by working at the luncheon and/or providing food. If you would like to help with this ministry and have not recently gotten involved, contact Blanche Schaudt (627-5456) and let her know how you can assist. Thanks!



February 10 10 am Worship & Annual Ministerial Meeting following worship

Stewardship Corner

February is the month of love with Valentine's Day. Again, this year, the Stewardship Committee is promoting their **"Giving from the Heart" campaign**. The ministry we would like to bring before the congregation is VBS (Vacation Bible School). This ministry is for K-5 and is open to all youth in the community. This is an important ministry for our church and community. Cindy Foy, Parish Education Coordinator, will talk briefly about VBS at the February 10th worship service. Look for "Giving from the Heart" envelopes in the pews in February.

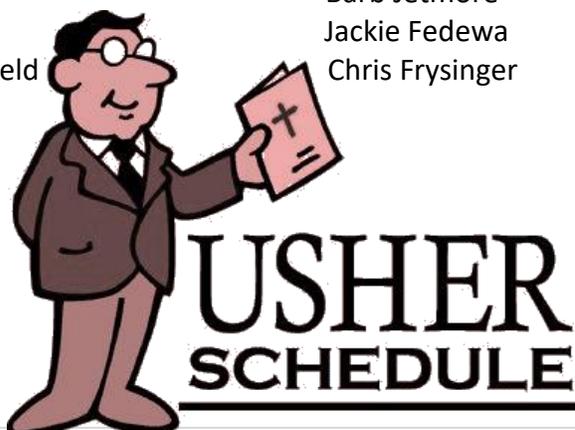
Immanuel's Usher Schedule February - March

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
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





Funeral Luncheon Help

If you are interested in helping out with funerals at Immanuel, by either serving in the kitchen or bringing a salad or dessert, please contact Blanche Schaudt at: 517-627-5456 or bls_u@yahoo.com
 We are making plans and would like to include you if you are interested.
 Thank you for considering.

Save the Date

March 5, 2019
 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
 5 – 7 pm
 Cost: \$8 Adults, \$5 Kids 4-10, Free 3 & under
 Here at Immanuel!
 Proceed will go toward camp scholarships for Middle & High School Youth



Stoney Lake Camp

SNL Souper Sunday
 With Immanuel's support, SNL raised \$276 for the Grand Ledge Food Bank!

Saturday, Feb. 16: Council Retreat
July 7-12: Stoney Lake Camp
July 15 – 19 VBS Day Camp here

Luther League II
Food/ Fellowship/ Laughter
 Luther League II will meet for lunch at Bob Evans at 1:00 p.m.,
 Monday, February 11.
 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.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

WHO'S CELEBRATING

February 02 Mike Danes

February 02 Hanna Espie

February 05 Sheryl Kurtycz

February 05 Maggie Baribeau

February 07 Callahan Riggs

February 08 Emma Shilton

February 10 Zane Racine

February 12 Bev LASS

February 12 Ryan Larson

February 13 Emma Landry

February 13 Michelle Pitchford

February 14 Barb Wickerham

February 14 Melissa Goschka

February 15 Diego Vasquez

February 16 Joy Powis

February 16 Dawn Byers

February 19 Terry Schaaf

February 19 Kaydee Foerster

February 20 Dan Harris

February 21 Steve Karkau

February 22 Ken Turner

February 22 Gwyneth Ketola

February 22 John (Bob) Gustafson

February 23 Linda Hubert

February 23 Kanan Byers

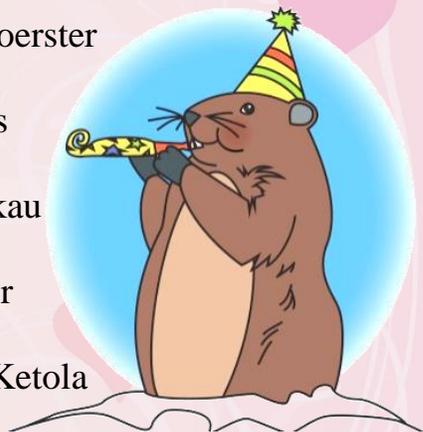
February 24 Dennis Martinich

February 25 Shar Saxton

February 25 Cheyenne Dunn

February 25 Dakota Dunn

February 26 Andrew Oesterle



February anniversaries

February 1 Tony & Toni Holland

February 5 John & Melissa Kingsley

February 23 Tom & Angie Blake



February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					01 8 pm AA	02 8 am AA
03 First Fruits Offering 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Bible Study 6:00 pm Alternative Worship 6:30-7:30 pm SNL	04 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal 7 pm Women's Bible Study	05 7 am MITM Bible Study 11-3:30 SEWL Quilting	06	07 7:15 pm Choir Practice	08 8 pm AA	09 8 am AA 6-9 pm High School Party
10 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 am "Christ Connections" Classes & Bible Study 6:00 pm Alternative Worship 6:30-7:30 pm SNL	11 1 pm Luther League Lunch at Bob Evans 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal 6:30 pm Team Meetings	12 7 am MITM Bible Study	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 8 pm AA	16 8 am AA Council Retreat
17 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm Alternative Worship	18 4:00 -6:00 pm Community Meal 6:30 Council Meeting	19 7am MITM Bible Study	20	21 7:15 pm Choir Practice	22 8 pm AA	23 8 am AA
24 8:00 & 10:30 Worship 9:15- 10:15 "Christ Connections" Classes & Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm Alternative Worship 6:30-7:30 pm SNL	25 4-6 pm Community Meal	26	27	28 7:15 pm Choir Practice		

Office Hours

Jeanie: Mon –Friday 9 am- 3 pm

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

