



THE MESSENGER

Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA
726 Fuller Avenue, Big Rapids, MI 49307
Website: www.immanuelbr.com

Facebook: @immanuelbr Instagram: ILCbigrapids
Phone 231/796-8273 Fax 231/796-9599

Sunday Morning Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Live on Facebook

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday – 9:00 am to Noon and 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm - Closed on Friday

Office Staff: Mary Larkin, Administrative Assistant is in the office Tuesday – Thursday 9 am – 4 pm. Shirley Hamelund, Office Assistant is in the office Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9 am – 4 pm. The Church office is closed on Friday.

Office e-mail addresses:

Church: immanuelbigrapids726@gmail.com
Mary Larkin (Administrative Assistant) marylar726@gmail.com
Shirley Hamelund (Office Assistant/Receptionist) shirleyh403@gmail.com

Please call the church office (231) 796-8273 in case
of an emergency. The referral will be passed on to a leader of the church

MISSION: To inspire members to grow in loving devotion to Jesus Christ, caring concern for one another, welcoming outreach, and loving service to our neighbors.

VISION STATEMENT: Immanuel Lutheran Church will be known for welcoming hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity.



December 2023

Pastoral Schedule for December 2023 (in-person) (Live stream on Facebook)

December 3, 2023	Pastor Dan Ward
December 10, 2023	Lay Presiding Minister Lee Wolken/with video sermon
December 17, 2023	Pastor John Brown
December 24, 2023	Christmas Eve 7:00pm Rev. Robert Garrels
December 31, 2023	Lay Presiding Minister Gunder Myran

December Readings Schedule (Readings from New Revised Standard)

December 3rd - 1st Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Worship - Pastor Dan Ward - In person worship & live stream on Facebook.



Readings:

Isaiah 64: 1-9
Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1: 3-9
Mark 13: 24-37

December 10th - 2nd Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Worship - Lay Presiding Minister Lee Wolken w/video sermon - In person worship & live stream on Facebook.



Readings:

Isaiah 40: 1-11
Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3: 8-15a
Matt 1: 1-8

December 17th - 3rd Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Worship - Pastor John Brown - in person worship & live stream on Facebook.



Readings:

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24
John 1: 6-8, 19-28

December 24th - 4th Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Worship - Hymn Sing Worship, no communion - In person Worship & live stream on Facebook.



Readings:

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16
Luke 1: 46b-55
Romans 16: 25-27
Luke 1: 26-38

December 24th—Christmas Eve Candlelight

Worship—7:00 pm—Rev. Robert Garrels. In person Worship & live stream on Facebook.



Readings:

Isaiah 9: 2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2: 11-14
Luke 2: 1-14 (15-20)

December 31st—1st Sunday after Christmas—

9:30 a.m. Worship -Lay Presiding Minister Gunder Myran - in person Worship & live stream on Facebook.

Readings:

Isaiah 61: 10—62: 3
Psalm 148
Galations 4: 4-7
Luke 2: 22-40

YTD thru October 2023

Ministry Fund

Giving - \$85,661
Expenses -\$77,272

Building Fund

Giving - \$65,024
Mortgage Payments- \$86,220

IMMANUEL ACTIVITIES

Brookside School remains in need of small sized personal use items such as Kleenex, toothpaste, mouth wash, tooth brushes, etc. In December we will be collecting both boy's and girl's underwear.

The Salvation Army Angel Tree will appear on Sunday, November 26, adorned with tags for children from infancy to almost adult age. The earlier date will allow more time for shopping, so pick up your tags and have fun finding those things suggested. Be sure to "sign out" the tags and "check off" when you return your gifts by **Dec. 14th**.

Immanuel members will be Bell ringing for the Salvation Army on **Saturday, December 9th**. A sign up sheet will be on the Communication Counter in the Fellowship Hall. Help is needed for all but 12-2:00 pm. Grab a friend or your spouse and be the face of Immanuel for an hour, it is great fun and rewarding. While you're at it, sing a Carol or two and put a smile on those shopping faces! Also on **December 9th**, if you are unable to assist with bell ringing, Immanuel will be decorating the church for the Christmas season and we need your help! Fun will begin at ten a.m., with tree trimming in the Sanctuary and green hanging in the Narthex and elsewhere, followed by a light lunch of homemade soup and bread. Social Concerns welcomes new members, watch for new events in 2024!

Adorn the Altar with a Christmas Poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one. The cost of the poinsettia is **\$8.00** and must be paid to the office by Dec. 25th and mark your envelope "special flowers". A sign-up sheet for this is also at the Communications counter. You may pick up your poinsettia following the Candlelight /Christmas Eve Worship Service on Dec. 24th.



Ongoing prayers for: Jean Swarthout and Nancy McReynolds, Diana Brondyke, (Welca), Cindy Carr, Mrs. Dan Ward recovering from pneumonia

Healing & Health Concerns for: Charlie Schroeder, Denny Greene, Barry Borton, Nancy Pennington, Gary Berg, Ken Root (Chad's father), Beth Hamelund

Altarcare Nursing Facility: Elaine White
Evergreen Terrace: Dorothy Burch
The Fields Assisted Living - Marcy Nelson
Homebound: Mary Sutherland, Leroy Larson

Comfort for:
Fred Zimmerman family
Lucia Hanson
Roger O'Dell family
Ed Schneider family

World Concerns Prayers:
Our President and Leaders of the Nation
Racism
Prayer of guidance for our neighborhood churches
People hurting, suffering, homeless abusive
People in poverty (hunger, homeless)
Military troops in the U.S. and abroad
Victims of Human Trafficking
Victims of natural disasters here & abroad
Victims of shootings, bombs, terrorist groups
Victims of hurricanes, flooding, earthquakes, volcanoes, hate crimes, racial justice
North Korea, Iran, Syria, Puerto Rico, Islamic community in New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Ukraine, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, Kurdish people
Families of the mass shootings in US
Shootings & Suicides in returning veterans in Military & their families (general PTSD) (22 suicides every day)
Wounded Warriors



PARISH NURSE DECEMBER

The snow is coming down—makes for a beautiful winter wonderland! As our advent season begins on Dec 3, let us prepare our hearts for Christmas. The 25th of December is the day Jesus our Savior was born. Let's keep Christ in Christmas!

Our Health News for December:

1. This Week in December is Handwashing Week. One of the best ways to prevent getting sick and spreading germs to others is to keep our hands clean by washing them with soap and water or using a 60% alcohol sanitizer. Examples include before and after preparing food, before eating food, before and after caring for someone who is sick, after using the toilet, after changing diapers, feeding pets, and after handling garbage. Wet hands with soap and water, wash every part of the hands while singing Happy Birthday twice. Rinse hands with water and dry with a clean towel.

2. December is National Influenza Awareness Vaccination Time. For those of you who have not yet received your "flu shot", this is a good time to have it. Everyone six months and older needs a flu vaccine injection every year. If you haven't had yours, this is a good time to do it.

3. December is Older Driver Safety Month. As a person ages, one can have visual, cognitive, and movement difficulties. The American Automobile Association (AAA) recommends contacting occupational therapy driver rehabilitation specialists for comprehensive evaluation. These assessments can identify areas for improvement and keep people able to drive safely.

4. December is World AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) Awareness Month. AIDS is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). AIDS is the last phase of the disease, when the body is unable to fight a disease or infection. More than 44,000 people in the USA were infected with HIV in 2014.

5. December is National Quit Smoking Day—just in time for your New Year's resolution. You can do it to improve your health and extend your lifespan. It will also help you improve your self-confidence and increase the amount of money in our wallet. Trust me. **YOU CAN DO IT!**

Blood Pressure Checks will be given when needed.
"May grace, mercy, and peace be with you in truth and love, from God our Creator and from Jesus Christ, God's only Begotten Son." ...2 John 1:3

Love In Christ

Phyllis Lindsey, Parish Nurse

Meetings in person this month

1st Sunday of Advent Dec. 3 at 9:30 am/Pastor Dan Ward presiding

MLN meeting **Sun. Dec 3 following Worship**

Staff meeting **Tues. Dec. 5 at 10:30 am**

Worship & Music committee **Tues. Dec. 5 at 2:00 pm**

Hymn Planning **Tues. Dec. 5 at 3:30 pm**

W/ELCA Christmas Party **Fri. Dec. 8 at 6:30 pm**

SALVATION Army Bell Ringing **Sat. Dec. 9 at 9:00 am**

Decorate Church **Sat. Dec. 9 at 10:00 am**

2nd Sunday of Advent Dec. 10/Lee Wolken presiding

Church Council meeting **Sun. Dec. 10 following worship**

Bible study **Mon. Dec. 11 at 1:00 pm**

Staff meeting **Tues. Dec. 12 at 10:30 am**

3rd Sunday of Advent Dec. 17 at 9:30 am/Pastor JohnBrown presiding

Tubabach Concert **Sun. Dec. 17 at 4 pm (Haywood Banks comdian)**

Church Partnership team **Sun. Dec. 17 at 10:45 am**

Staff meeting **Tues. Dec. 19 at 10:30 am**

4th Sunday of Advent/Hymn Sing/no Communion 9:30 am/Worship 7:00 pm Christmas Eve with Rev, Garrels presiding

Church Office closed **Christmas Day Mon. Dec. 25**

Staff meeting **Tues. Dec. 26 at 10:30 am**

Hymn Planning **Tues. Dec. 26 at 3:30 pm**

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Social concerns - Go and Do Likewise: We will support the Brookside grade school this year. A collection box will be in the narthex for donations from the Congregation. Such things as Kleenex, shampoo, conditioner, dental floss, toothpaste in all travel size.

Social Concerns committee is undertaking a joint program with Manna Pantry beginning with the month of April. You will see that a calendar is attached showing an entire year with a different product listed for each month. The focus will last for entire month. There is a tote near the office for donation. Bonnie Clark asked that we be cautious not to donate outdated products. Let's all lend a helping hand to Manna Pantry.

Manna Pantry

January:	canned luncheon (meat or chicken)
February:	pancake mix and syrup
March:	tuna
April:	Macaroni or spaghetti & sauce
May:	canned pasta
June:	pork & beans and black beans
July:	boxed macaroni & cheese
August:	canned green beans
September:	canned corn
October:	canned carrots
November:	cranberry sauce & boxed dressing
December:	canned tomatoes

Project Starburst -

So just like there are certain items for Manna, here is a list of items for Starburst. I hope you will consider contributions for both.

Jan.	Soups (any kind)
Feb.	Cereal
Mar.	Fruit (any kind)
Apr.	Mac & cheese
May	Spaghetti sauce
June	Vegetables (any canned)
July:	Juice
August:	Peas
September:	Mushroom soup
October	Sweet Potatoes
November	gravy
December	Instant Mashed Potatoes

Minutes Church Council November 12, 2023 Revised
Nov.14,
2023

Present: Dave Scott, Steve Neumann, Phyllis Cousineau, Carol Wilson-Jungck, Tammy Lindsey, Roger Barr, Nedra Neumann, Mel Richardson

Absent: Judy O'Dell, Bonnie Bier

The Meeting was called to order at 10:45 AM by President Steve Neumann.

There were no minutes for October.

Parish Nurse: Phyllis Lindsey submitted a written report (attached) and commented on some of the patients she saw.

Treasurer's Report: Nedra Neumann Reviewed the monthly report and answered questions from council members. Her report is attached to the Secretary's copy of the minutes.

Committee Reports: Worship & Music. Carol commented on her report that is attached. Social Concerns: Roger commented on the recent meeting. He will make sure there is a copy of his report attached to the Secretaries minutes. Old Business: Tuba Bach Contract: Ed Mallett rejected the proposed Tuba Bach contract that the council proposed. The council will revise the proposed contract and re-submit to Ed.

Security System: Dave will ask Tim Vogel to review the various systems available and select what he thinks best. He will advise the Council. The council will then act on it.

Roof: Dave asked Tim to also get at least three bids to re-roof the church. Revise Church Constitution: Dave handed out copies of the proposed changes to the bylaws. We were asked to review this for the next meeting.

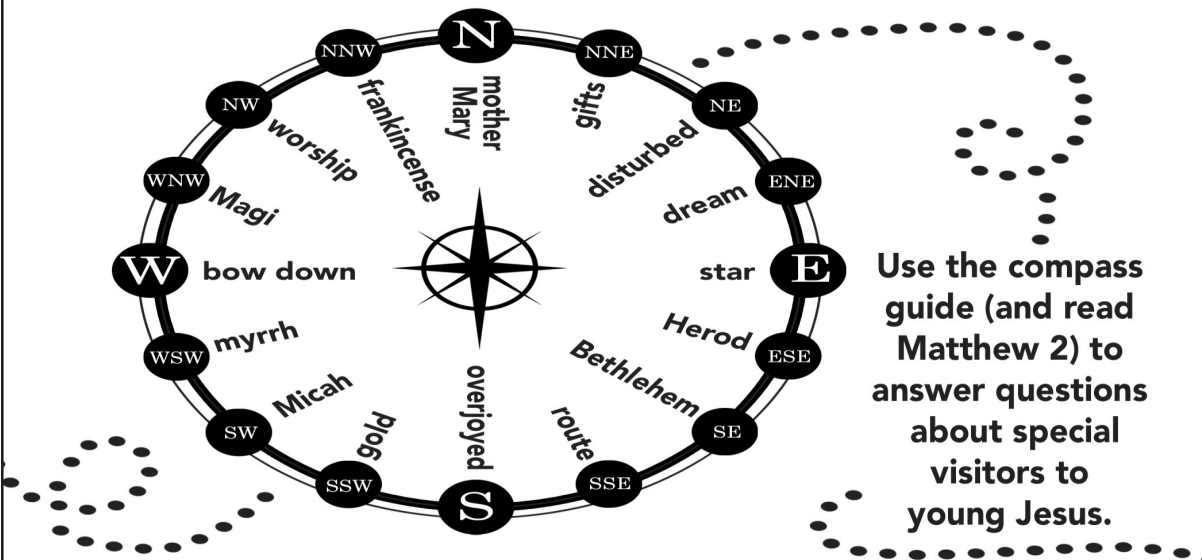
New Business: Rental of the Basement: Steve talked to a Lady that treats Autistic children. Steve will contact her to get her credentials. After that we will make a decision renting her space.

Cameras & Video Equipment: This would cost \$25,000.00. Tammy moved proceed with the project. Motion Carried. Phyllis reminded the committee that a big thank you was in order to Tom Manor for building the Garage out back. Carol Zimmerman's grandson would like permission to skate board in the parking lot. Permission granted,

Next Scheduled meeting is December 10, 2023 after church service

Respectfully submitted, Roger Barr, Secretary

Puzzle!



Use the compass guide (and read Matthew 2) to answer questions about special visitors to young Jesus.

1. Who was king at the time of Jesus' birth? _____ (ESE)
2. Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? _____ (WNW)
3. How did King Herod feel about Jesus' birth? _____ (NE)
4. Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? _____ (SW)
5. In what city would Christ be born? _____ (SE)
6. King Herod lied to the wise men, telling them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? _____ (NW)
7. What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? _____ (E)
8. When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? _____ (S)
9. Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His _____ (N)
10. Before they worshiped the child, what did the Magi do? _____ (W)
11. Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus.
_____ (SSW) _____ (NNW) _____ (WSW)
12. These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as _____ (NNE)
13. What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A _____ (ENE)
14. The Magi had to return to their country by another _____ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod; 2. Magi; 3. disturbed; 4. Micah; 5. Bethlehem; 6. worship; 7. star; 8. overjoyed; 9. mother Mary; 10. bow down; 11. gold, frankincense, myrrh; 12. gifts; 13. dream; 14. route

2023 Council Members

Steve Neumann, President	(231) 796-0956
Tammy Lindsey, Vice Pres.	(231) 519-1212
Roger Barr, Secretary	(231) 972-8276
Nedra Neumann, Treasurer	(231) 796-0956
Dave Scott	(231) 250-5067
Judy O'Dell	(231) 823-2845
Melanie Richardson	(231) 357-0863
Carol Wilson-Jungck	(231) 670-3220
Phyllis Cousineau	(231) 796-9574
Bonnie Biers	(231) 796-1701

Council Liaisons: Roger Barr – Property
Mel Richardson – Social Concerns
Carol Wilson–Jungck – Healing Garden
Dave Scott – Finance
Steve Neumann – Worship & Music
Tammy Lindsey – Stewardship
Bonnie Biers – Church Partnership
Phyllis Cousineau – Healing Garden

Committees and Organizations

Audit Committee

Jim Lindsey	(231) 796-6400
Tammy Lindsey	(231) 519-1212
Lee Wolken	(231) 972-7756

Celebrate Immanuel (CIF)

Christian Education

Church Life

Carol Zimmerman, Chairperson	(231) 796-2152
Kitchen Coordinator	
Irene Schuberg, Funeral lunch	(231) 796-7814

Finance

Nedra Neumann, Chairperson	(231) 796-0956
Nedra Neumann, Treasurer	(231) 796-0956
Roger Barr – Gifts/Memorials	(231) 972-8276

Nominating Team (2023)

Property

Tim Vogel, chairperson	(231) 796-3860
Healing Garden Min.	
Carol Wilson-Jungck, co-chair	(231) 670-3220
Heritage team:	
Carol Zimmerman	(231) 796-2152

Office Staff

Mary Larkin, Administrative Asst. (Tues.-Thurs.)	
Shirley Hamelund, Office Asst. (Mon, Tues, Thurs.)	
Phyllis Lindsey, Parish Nurse (schedule varies)	

Intentional Faith Development

Social Concerns (Risk-Taking Mission and Service)

Roger Barr, Chairperson	(231)972-8276
Lee Wolken –Habitat/Humanity	(231)972-7756

Stewardship (Extravagant Generosity)

Lee Wolken, Chairperson	(231) 972-7756
David Scott	(231) 250-5067

Vision (and Ministry Leadership Network)

Gunder Myran, Chairperson	(231) 972-7405
Lee Wolken	(231) 972-7756

Church Partnership Team

Gunder Myran, Chairperson	(231) 972-7405
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Welcoming

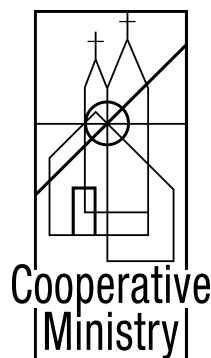
Phyllis Lindsey – Prayer circle	(231) 796-6400
Dee Neumann-Prayer Circle	(231) 796-8385
Webmaster- Mary Larkin	(231) 796-8273
Leah Monger	(231) 287-7022

Women of the ELCA

Dee Neumann, co-chair	(231) 796-8385
Shirley Hamelund co-chair	(231) 796-7763

Worship and Music (Passionate Worship)

David Scott, A/V team	(231) 796-4618
Dee Neumann, Altar Guild	(231) 796-8385
Carol Zimmerman, Altar Guild	(231) 796-2152
Readers (Volunteer)	
Phyllis Lindsey, Worship Asst.	
and Intinction Asst.	(231) 796-6400
Dee Neumann, Weddings	(231) 796-8385
Shirley Hamelund, Weddings	(231) 796-7763





726 Fuller Ave.
Big Rapids, MI 49307
Address Change Requested

December 2023

I said a Christmas Prayer for you because the season's near.
I didn't ask for riches but for gifts so much more dear.
I asked for joyful gatherings with your family all around.
And for Carols to inspire you with their old familiar sound.
I asked for quiet moments in your heart on Christmas morn for a special time to celebrate the Savior who was born.
I asked for friends to send their best that you might know they care...
I asked for peace, love and hope; And I know God heard my prayer.
~Shirley Hamelund

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE STAFF: Mary Larkin, Shirley Hamelund, Phyllis Lindsey,
Janet Mallett, Lee Wolken, Rev. Bob Garrels.**