



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.



JULY 2023

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

July 2, 2023	Lay Minister Lee Wolken/Rev. Mandy England Cole – Video Sermon
July 9, 2023	Lay Minister—Gunder Myran
July 16, 2023	Rev. Robert Garrels
July 23, 2023	Lay Minister Lee Wolken
July 30, 2023	Lay Minister/Video Sermon - Lee Wolken

Join Your Fellow Immanuel Members for an Old-Fashioned Pot Luck!

When: Wednesday, July 26, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Where: Immanuel Fellowship Hall and grounds

Why: For some good old-fashioned food, fellowship, and fun!

Bring: A dish to pass

Sign-up sheet on Communications counter or call Church office

July Readings Schedule

(Readings from New Revised Standard)

July 2nd - 5th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Worship - Lay Minister/Video Sermon - Lee Wolken - In person worship & live stream on Facebook.

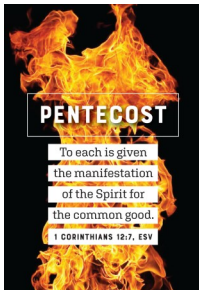


Readings:

Jeremiah 28: 5-9
Psalm 89: 1-4, 15-18
Romans 6: 12-23
Matt. 10: 40-42

July 9th - 6th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Worship - Lay Minister - Gunder Myran - In person worship & live stream on Facebook.



Readings:

Zechariah 9: 9-12
Psalm 145: 8-14
Romans 7: 15-25a
Matt. 11: 16-19, 25-30

July 16th - 7th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Worship - Rev. Robert Garrels - in person worship & live stream on Facebook.

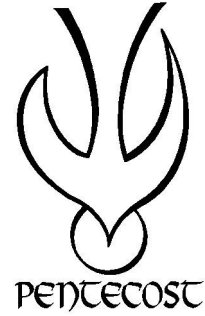


Readings:

Isaiah 55: 10-13
Psalm 65: (1-8), 9-13
Romans 8: 1-11
Matt. 13: 1-9, 18-23

July 23rd - 8th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Worship - Lay Minister - Lee Wolken - In person Worship & live stream on Facebook.



Readings:

Isaiah 44: 6-8
Psalm 86: 11-17
Romans 8: 12-25
Matt. 13: 24-30, 36-43

July 30th - 9th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Worship - Lay Minister/Video Sermon - Lee Wolken - In person worship & live stream on Facebook.



Readings:

1 Kings 3: 5-12
Psalm 119: 129-136
Romans 8: 26-39
Matt. 13: 31-33, 44-52

YTD thru May 2023

Ministry Fund

Giving - \$47,875
Expenses -\$28,769

Building Fund

Giving - \$35,011
Mortgage Payments- \$51,610

IMMANUEL ACTIVITIES



If you were left off this list, or if a birthday or anniversary is listed wrong, please contact the church office.

- 1 Roger O'Dell
- 9 Bonnie Biers
Leroy Larson
- 12 Diane Ludwick
Gary Richner
- 17 Mary Sutherlund
- 18 Megan Smith
- 22 Julie Vanhala
- 24 Troy Lindsey
Char Whitfield
- 26 Scott Weber
- 29 Vickie Vogel

Staff meeting **Tues. July 25 at 10:30 am**

Hymn Planning **Tues. July 25 at 3:30 pm**

Ministry Leadership (MLN) **Sun. July 30 following worship**



Ongoing prayers for: Jean Swarhout and Nancy McReynolds.

Healing & Health Concerns for:

Roger O'Dell, Linda Borton, Charlie Schroeder, Beth Hamelund, Denny Greene, Fred Zimmerman, Pam Panek, Bill Ballard, Barry Borton.

Altarcare Nursing Facility: Elaine White

Assisted Living in Lansing: Len Crystal

Mission Point: Jim Moss, Leddy Wilson

Evergreen Terrace: Dorothy Burch

Homebound: Marcy Nelson, Mary Sutherlund,

Leroy Larson

Comfort:

Rupert family (Mel Richardson's friend)

Lauren's family (Mary daughter's friend)

Phyllis Striho family is having Celebration of Life service for Phyllis Striho (Linda Borton's Mom) on July 1st (Sat.) from 5—9pm at the Depot in Reed City.

World Concerns Prayers:

Our President and Leaders of the Nation

Racism

Prayer of guidance for our neighborhood churches

People hurting, suffering, homeless

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,

North Korea, Iran, Syria, Puerto Rico, Islamic community in New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Ukraine

Families of the mass shootings in US

Shootings & Suicides in returning veterans in Military

& their families (general PTSD) (22 suicides every day)

Wounded Warriors



- 8 Wendell & Chris Weber
- 14 David & Judy Misoni
- 19 Wayne & Anna May Schuberg
- 20 Gordon & Janet Mallett
- 24 Gary & Donna Richner

Meetings in person this month

Sun. July 2 No meetings (Holiday)

Tues. July 4 Church office closed (Holiday)

Council meeting following Worship **Sun. July 9**

Bible Study **Mon. July 10 at 1:00 pm**

Staff meeting **Tues. July 11 at 10:30 am**

Church partnership following Worship **Sun. July 16**

Staff meeting **Tues. July 18 at 10:30 am**

Shepherd's Hooks & Needler **Tues. July 18 at Noon**

Vision meeting following worship **Sun. July 23**

July 23 Fellowship Hall closed at 2:00 pm for private event



PARISH NURSE JULY

Stay safe on the 4th of July.
Our Health News for July:

1. July is skin care during Sunshine month. You also need sunscreen in shaded areas. You will get sunburned faster if you are in the water. Sun exposure is considered the single greatest risk for developing skin cancer. The sun's strongest rays occur between 10am and 4pm. Certain over-the-counter and prescription drugs can elevate your sensitivity to the sun rays...
2. The sun's rays contain 2 types of ultraviolet lights- Ultraviolet A and Ultraviolet B. UVA causes tanning, aging skin, and wrinkles. UVB causes sunburn. Use water resistant or waterproof sunscreen which protects against both UVA and UVB sun's rays and has an SPF of at least 15; apply every 2 hours after swimming or sweating to prevent sunburn.
3. Every time a person gets a skin tan or burn, DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) builds up in the deeper skin layers. If one has 5 or more burns in a life time, the chance of getting skin cancer doubles. Wear sunglasses, a brimmed hat, protective clothes, and use sunscreen SPF of at least 15.
4. If you have children, keep them in the shade on sunny days. Infants under 6 months should not be exposed to the sun. Seek emergency care if a child of any age has a sunburn with fever, blistering, severe pain or listlessness.
5. Risk factors for overexposure to damaging UV rays: 0-2 low, 3-5 moderate, 6-8 high, 8-10 very high, 11 extremely high. Hope you are having a wonderful summer while protecting your skin!

Blood Pressure Checks will be as needed.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in Hope." . . . Romans 15:13

Love In Christ

Phyllis Lindsey, Parish Nurse



Come join us for the Immanuel annual picnic! Gunder Myran and Carol WJ invite you to his home in Canadian Lakes for an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

Sunday, August 27, 12:00 noon to 4:30 pm

Games, boat rides, good old conversation and catching up!

Bring a dish to pass, the main course will be provided. Bring a lawn chair if you are able.

Sign up sheet on the communication counter, or contact the church office. E-mail Carol at carolwj2014@gmail.com. Directions will be provided.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

July:	boxed macaroni & cheese
August:	canned green beans
September:	canned corn
October:	canned carrots
November:	cranberry sauce & boxed dressing
December:	canned tomatoes

Project Starburst - Hello members. Due to a curious set of circumstances, I was selected to join the board of Project Starburst. I know that Immanuel has had a long-term relationship with Manna Pantry, so I hope we can support both. Both pantries provide a similar service with Starburst doing a bit more than just food including diapers and personal hygiene items.

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.

July	Juice
August	Peas
September	Mushroom Soup
October	Sweet Potatoes
November	Gravy
December	Instant Mashed Potatoes

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.

Minutes
Church Council
June 11, 2023

Present: Steve Neumann, Phyllis Cousineau, Judy O'Dell, Carol Wilson-Jungck, Tammy Lindsey, Bonnie Biers, Roger Barr, Nedra Neumann.

Absent: Bonnie Biers, Dave Scott

Guest: Tim Vogel

The Meeting was called to order at 10:53 AM by President Steve Neumann. The minutes from the May 21, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Carol moved for approval. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Nedra Neumann reviewed the Treasurer's report. It was requested that Nedra bring more detailed information from the April to May differences. She also pointed out that the Quick books renewal plus upgrades of the program jumped the cost from \$549.00 to \$1,111.94.

Committee Reports: Worship & Music. Carol announced that the cost of the latest hymnals cost \$24.00 each. If we decide to acquire them, we will search other congregations, and ask for donations.

Tim Vogel, property chairman, reported on status of the shed. He recommended that we discontinue use of the dumpster service. He reported that all the weeded areas have been sprayed with weed killer. He also announced that the Church cleaning contract is coming due.

Old Business: Pastor Bryan needs a minimum of 20hours/week and benefits. He felt that serving two churches would help. Our committee is going to meet with the United Church on 6/11/23 to discuss this.

Carol introduced the proposed fee schedule for church use. We will review at home and discuss at the next meeting.

New Business: We have \$959.00 that needs to be put in some account. We will discuss next month.

Ed Mallett thanked us for use of the church for Tuba Bach programs. He would like to keep the wall up year round, because of the damage that occurs when it is taken down, put up or stored. He is willing to work on modify the wall meet our concerns if possible. Steve Neumann will review this with him.

Dave Scott advises that we discontinue the Sunday morning Radio Broadcasts. This will save \$250.00 monthly. Carol moved that we do this, seconded by Phyllis. Motion carried

Phyllis asked that we ask the congregation to help in cleaning the fans we use in the summer by taking them home to clean. we use these all summer. Each fan taken should be returned within a week. Permission granted.

Meeting closed at 12:00.

Next Scheduled meeting is July 9, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Barr, Secretary

VISION COMMITTEE

Report of the Vision Committee: Included in this issue of the Messenger is a one-page updated summary of Immanuel's five alternative futures. This summary was also presented at the June 18 congregational conversation. At its June 5 meeting, the Vision Committee discussed the following items in addition to Immanuel's alternative futures:

1. *First meeting of the United/Immanuel Joint Study Team: Lee Wolken reported that the United Church team members were positive about expanding shared ministries on an informal basis for now. United is calling a full-time pastor so discussion about a more formal partnership may be delayed until that decision has been made. However, the joint team will continue to meet to explore all options for partnership.*

2. *Call of a part-time pastor: David Scott reported on issues that have arisen in that the expectations of the pastor we planned to call have changed. . David S. will continue to facilitate the process with the hope that a path forward will become possible.*

3. *We will restart the Ministry Leadership Network to put more focus on ministries beyond Sunday morning.*

July meeting schedule: July 2—no meeting; July 9—Church Council; July 16 Church Partnerships Team; July 23—Vision Committee; July 30—Ministry Leadership Network

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Big Rapids, Michigan
June 16, 2023

UPDATED DISCUSSION ON IMMANUEL'S ALTERNATIVE FUTURES

ALTERNATIVE FUTURE ONE: MEMBER-LED, PASTOR SUPPORTED CHURCH. *(small but mighty): Future now being enacted pending dialogue with United Church. Major opportunities and challenges:*

Call of part-time pastor

Building on current excellent Sunday morning worship services, restart fellowship hour programming, strengthen congregational care ministries, and develop "Beyond Sunday Morning Ministries" including ministry events and expanded community outreach.

Incorporate shared ministries with United Church and other regional churches.

Explore rental of spaces in church building, especially lower (terrace level) floor (secure realtor advice? _____)

Information gathering: cost of elevator, kitchen upgrade, and road/sidewalk to terrace level (Steve and Nedra N, _____).

Identify additional possibilities to develop Immanuel as a community resource and cultural center (city, county, FSU, ??) _____

Plan and implement celebration of Immanuel's 80th anniversary in 2025 and the 150th anniversary of the first Lutheran church in the Big Rapids area in 2024.

Other major Future One opportunities and challenges? _____

ALTERNATIVE FUTURE TWO: PARTNERSHIP WITH UNITED CHURCH *(work of United/Immanuel Joint Study Team to explore all options:*

United/Immanuel Joint Study Team develops informal ministry partnership and expands shared United/Immanuel ministries.

United/Immanuel formal covenant agreement—shared pastor, separate identities, separate or shared facilities.

Merger

(If and when an ongoing partnership with United Church develops, most aspects of Immanuel being a member-led, pastor supported church will likely need to continue.)

ALTERNATIVE FUTURE THREE: PARTNERSHIP WITH ST. PAUL'S IN REED CITY OR OTHER CHURCH. (No current exploration; keep options open-- _____).

ALTERNATIVE FUTURE FOUR: SELL FULLER STREET ASSETS AND MOVE TO SMALLER LOCATION. Any interest in exploring this option? Would involve selling all or most of Immanuel's assets; a small margin after sale seems possible. Key questions: How many current members would be interested in participating in a move to a new location? Is such a move feasible and/or desirable? Next step—further study of this alternative future? ____ (also awaits clarification by Schuberg family of deed restrictions).

ALTERNATIVE FUTURE FIVE: DISBAND AS A CONGREGATION. Formally disband, help members find new church homes, sell Fuller Avenue assets to pay off mortgage and contribute margin (if any) to another church, the synod, and/or local charity. If there is no margin, remaining debt is assumed by the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA. No planning is necessary; this is the future we are striving to prevent. (This alternative future also waits clarification by the Schuberg family of deed restrictions.) **Recognizing our emerging aging, membership, financial, and worship attendance issues, the year 2023 is the time period to identify and execute one or more of the above alternatives so that Alternative Future Five can be avoided.**

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

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

Welcoming

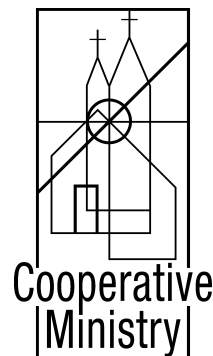
Phyllis Lindsey – Prayer circle (231) 796-6400
Dee Neumann-Prayer Circle (231) 796-8385
Webmaster- Mary Larkin (231) 796-8273
Leah Monger (231) 287-7022

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



Immanuel 
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA

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

2023



JULY