



## **THE MESSENGER**

Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA  
726 Fuller Avenue, Big Rapids, MI 49307  
Website: [www.immanuelbr.com](http://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](mailto:immanuelbigrapids726@gmail.com)  
Mary Larkin (Administrative Assistant) [marylar726@gmail.com](mailto:marylar726@gmail.com)  
Shirley Hamelund (Office Assistant/Receptionist) [shirleyh403@gmail.com](mailto:shirleyh403@gmail.com)

**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.

## **MARCH 2023**

### **Pastoral Schedule for March 2023 (in-person)**

March 5, 2023      Pastor Dan Ward  
March 12, 2023      Lay Minister Lee Wolken  
March 19, 2023  
March 26, 2023      Pastor Dan Ward

### **(Live stream on Facebook)**

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.

**MARCH Readings Schedule**  
**(Readings from New Revised Standard)**

**March 5th - 2nd Sunday in Lent**

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



Readings:

Genesis 12: 1-4a  
Psalm 121  
Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17  
John 3: 1-17

**March 12th - 3rd Sunday in Lent**

9:30 am Worship - Lay Leader Lee Wolken - In  
person worship & live stream on Facebook.



Readings.

Exodus 17: 1-7  
Psalm 95  
Romans 5: 1-11  
John 4: 5-42

**March 19th - 4th Sunday in Lent**

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



Readings:

1 Samuel 16: 1-13  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5: 8-14  
John 9:1-41

**March 26th - 5th Sunday in Lent**

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



Readings:

Ezekiel 37: 1-14  
Psalm 130  
Romans 8: 6-11  
John 11: 1-45



**YTD thru January 2023**

**Ministry Fund**

Giving - \$12,090  
Expenses - \$ 9,912

**Building Fund**

Giving - \$ 5,389  
Mortgage Payments- \$21,922

# IMMANUEL ACTIVITIES



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

- 1 Beth Krueger
- 12 Carol Zimmerman
- 17 Cameron Hayden
- 20 Bill Ballard
- 24 Diane Manor
- 29 Christina Root  
Denny Schuberg



- 4 Tom & Nancy Pennington
- 5 Bob & Cheryl Schweitzer

## Meetings in person this month

Lenten Midweek Worship **Wed. Mar. 1 at 7:00 pm**

Congregational conversation **Sun. Mar. 5 following worship**

Worship & Music committee **Tues. Mar. 7 at 2:00 pm**

Lenten Midweek Worship **Wed. Mar. 8 at 7:00 pm**

Staff meeting **Thurs. Mar. 9 at 10:30 am**

Council meeting **Sun. Mar. 12 at 10:45 am**

Staff meeting **Tues. Mar. 14 at 10:30 am**

Visitation & Memorial service for Rev. Jerry Switzer  
**Wed. March 15 at 10:30 am. Catered lunch following**

Lenten Midweek Worship **Wed. Mar. 15 at 7:00 pm**

Staff meeting **Tues. Mar. 21 at 10:30 am**

Shepherd's Hooks & Needles **Tues. Mar. 21 at Noon**

Lenten Midweek Worship **Wed. Mar. 22 at 7:00 pm**

Staff meeting **Tues. Mar. 28 at 10:30 am**

Hymn Plan committee **Tues. Mar. 28 at 3:30 pm**

Lenten Midweek Worship **Wed. Mar. 29 at 7:00 pm**



**Ongoing prayers for:** Jean Swarhout, Len Crystal, Nancy McReynolds, Virginia Schuberg, Leroy Larson.

### **Healing & Health Concerns for:**

Roger O'Dell, Judy O'Dell, Phyllis Obermier-Striho, Linda Borton, Marcy Nelson, Carol Wilson-Jungck, Charlie Schroeder, Bonnie Biers, Elaine White, Sara Koch Jordan.

### **Comfort:**

**Lucy Fredrick family**

**Bob Krueger family**

**Rev. Jerry Switzer family**

### **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, devastating tornadoes (Kentucky) and wildfires

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



St. Patrick's Day

March 17, 2023



## PARISH NURSE MARCH

Our Lenten Season has begun. Recently it was Ash Wednesday and now in 6 weeks it will be Easter. Have snowy days!!! Do something special for others during Lent. Call people, send notes, visit homebound!! Blessings to each of you.

Health news for March will include:

1. **Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month.** Traumatic brain injury occurs when an external mechanical force causes brain dysfunction such as a severe blow to the head or a bullet wound. Mild symptoms can occur immediately or days or weeks after the traumatic event. Possible symptoms include loss of consciousness, confusion or disorientation, loss of memory or concentration, headache, nausea and vomiting, loss of balance, mood swings, and sleep disturbances. It's best to have a physician examine a person who has had a recent head trauma.
2. **Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.** Colon cancer is cancer of the large intestine, whereas rectal cancer is cancer of the last several inches of the colon—together they are called colorectal cancers. Most cases of colorectal cancer start as harmless clumps of cells or polyps which later can become cancerous. This is why colonoscopy is recommended—to check for polyps and remove them before they can become colon cancer. When was your last colonoscopy?
3. **Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month.** Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is a nervous system disease that affects the brain and spinal cord by damaging the myelin sheath (material covering and protecting nerve cells). This damage can include visual disturbances, muscle weakness, balance and coordination problems, sensations such as numbness or “pins and needles”, and thinking and memory problems. It may be an autoimmune disease, where the immune system mistakenly attacks healthy cells in the body. MS occurs more in women than men. There is no cure, but medication, physical and occupational therapy can help to control some of the symptoms.
4. When one visits his/her health care provider, one's VITAL SIGNS will be checked; they include temperature, blood pressure, heart rate (pulse), respiratory rate, and now the 5<sup>th</sup> vital sign, PAIN (which is usually rated on a scale of 1 to 10, one being the least and 10 the most). Vital signs can vary with age, weight, gender, and overall health. Blood oxygenation saturation may also be monitored.

Blood Pressure Checks will be when needed.

“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be full.” .....John 15:11

Love In Christ

Phyllis Lindsey, Parish Nurse

**Stewardship** – We thank all the individuals and families who have submitted their financial Estimate of Giving form for 2023. If you haven't, it is not too late to submit it. If you elect not to make an estimate of your giving, please check the box “I will pray for the congregation and do the best I can” and submit the Estimate for Giving form. Extra copies are on the counter in the narthex.

Put the form in an envelope and indicate Attention: Mary Larkin. If you need to change your estimate for giving at any time, simply notify Mary Larkin. Thank you so much for your past support and all the ways you bring glory to God and the achievement of Immanuel's ministries.  
~Lee Wolken

**Giving envelopes are detained. A notice will be put out when we get them.**

**Vision/Church Partners - no report this month**

### **AAUW Book Sale**

AAUW of Big Rapids is collecting gently used books, CDs, and DVDs for its annual used book sale to be held **April 14-15** at the First United Methodist Church. A donation bin will be in the narthex until just before the sale. Proceeds from the sale fund scholarships for Ferris State University students. Call 231-598-0872 for more information.

**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, hand sanitizer, surface wipes will be needed. As winter approaches there will probably be a need for hats, gloves, mittens, Underwear sizes 4-8, Winter clothing sizes 4-8.

**Our Brother's Keeper** is seeking support to assure housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in a 4 county area, Mecosta, Osceola, Newaygo and Lake. Donations in any amount are welcomed but if you could at least send \$33.00 it will provide a single day of meals, shelter, and advocacy for an individual experiencing homelessness. Your donations may be mailed to Our Brother's Keeper, P.O.Box 1642, Big Rapids, MI 49307, or donations can be made online through their website at [www.obkshelter.org](http://www.obkshelter.org) via PayPal.



# Church Council Meeting Minutes

## Feb. 12, 2023

### Revised 2/18/23

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

**Guest:** Phyllis Lindsey, Tim Vogel.

The Meeting was called to order at 10:40 AM by President Steve Neumann. The minutes from the January 8, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Mel Richardson moved approval. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** A Written report was reviewed. Nedra, highlighted some entries and the report was approved.

Phyllis Lindsey reviewed the **Nurse's report**. A copy of her report is on file. Phyllis reported that Jerry Switzer has Pancreatic Cancer. Mel requested we pray for her friend Kyler who has Brain Cancer.

### Committee Reports:

Worship Committee: Carol explained how the Lenten services will, and what materials will be used.

Social Concerns: Roger gave a verbal report on this committee.

### Old Business:

Church Usage: Carol led a discussion on this subject with the updated forms we would use. Discussion will continue next meeting.

Mary's Printer: A new printer was purchased for checks etc.

### New Business:

Building Concerns: Tim Vogel the Property Chairman, discussed an alarm system sent by the Insurance company. It is to be used in case someone comes in carrying a weapon. We will

review whether or not, this is needed. If we decide to use it an easy access location to turn the switch on.

Pastor referral: The Synod has suggested a possible candidate for Sunday Worship. He is a pastor who is going into the private sector and would like to preach on Sundays. Dave notified the Synod that we were interested.

Inquiry to lease the church: A new startup congregation is interested in leasing time for services. The Council reviewed the request and decided that some of their doctrine was not in line with ours. The request was denied.

**Next meeting will be March 12, 2023.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Roger Barr, Secretary

## Looking ahead to Lent:

The year is moving swiftly, and Lent is a bit earlier this year. The Worship and Music Committee is working to prepare a meaningful Lenten season for Immanuel. We will be worshipping on Wednesdays beginning **March 1<sup>st</sup> through March 29<sup>th</sup>**, and need leaders for each Wednesday. The Holden Book of Prayer will provide the service framework, together with a Bible study of the Psalms provided by the ELCA—more information will be available next week. We have been invited to participate with St. Andrews Episcopal – at their Church on Maundy Thursday (**April 6**) at 6:00 pm with a potluck at 7:00 pm. Thereafter return to the sanctuary for the stripping of the altar. A ‘washing of hands’ will be included. Pastor Garrels will be offering a message and Pastor Jeremy will be participating as well. The community Good Friday (**April 7**) service at Noon has been changed to Immanuel. Pastor Radha will be preaching but the United Methodist church will provide readers and the choir director/accompanist for the community choir. Choir will rehearse here at Immanuel prior to the service (11:00).

**March 12, 2023**  
(set clocks ahead one hour)



Immanuel Lutheran Church  
 Big Rapids, Michigan  
 February 28, 2023

**March 5 Congregational Conversation—Alternative Futures Worksheet**

Alternative Futures	Projects	Leader(s)
<p>Alt Future One: Member Led/Pastor Supported Church (small but mighty)</p> <p><i>(important to emphasize even if we develop a partnership with other churches or choose other futures)</i></p>	<p>Ongoing ministries—future we are creating right now—worship services, various ministries. Explore rentals and shared use partnerships?</p> <p>Develop building as community cultural and resource center?</p> <p>Renovate kitchen, install elevator, and redesign lower floor?</p>	<p>Explore more rentals?</p> <hr/> <p>Research renovations?</p> <p>Steve and Nedra N.</p>
<p>Alt Future Two: Partnership with United Church</p> <p>Informal sharing of ministries, Or, covenant agreement while maintaining two separate identities (shared pastor, other formal understandings)</p> <p>Explore other future options, including merger</p>	<p><u>Informal</u>—Shared Lenten services, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Dump and Run ministry, book club, etc.</p> <p><u>Exploration of covenant agreement</u>—United/Immanuel joint study team; Pastor Garrels sessions on doctrine and worship styles, Immanuel congregational self-assessment</p>	<p>Church Partnerships Team, Pastor Bob, Lee W., Worship and Music Committee, Gunder, ??</p>
<p>Alt Future Three: Partnership with St. Paul’s Lutheran or other church</p>	<p>Keep possibility open. David S. will make contact to test St. Paul’s interest.</p>	<p>Church Partnerships Team</p>
<p>Alt Future Four: Sell Fuller Street assets and move to a smaller location</p>	<p>Completed appraisal of value of Fuller Street assets without furnishings: \$930,000. Some margin after sale is likely. Further discussion? Clarifying deed restriction on sale—dialogue with Shubert family has started</p>	<p>Carol W. secured appraisal, is in contact with Shubert family</p>
<p>Alt Future Five: Disband as a congregation, help members find new church homes, donate proceeds of sale of Fuller Street assets as desired (to the extent that there is a margin after mortgage is paid off)</p>	<p>No plans. Alternative future we will strive to avoid. Further discussion?</p>	
<p>Other alternative futures? United Churches of Big Rapids (partnership of three or more churches)? Other?</p>	<p>??</p>	

## **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  
Judy O'Dell—Church Life, WELCA

## **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**

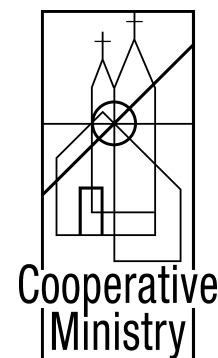
Phyllis Lindsey – Prayer circle (231) 796-6400  
Dee Neumann-Prayer Circle (231) 796-8385  
Webmaster- Mary Larkin (231) 796-8273  
Leah Monger (231) 287-7022

### **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

