



## 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)

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.

## February 2024

### Pastoral Schedule for February 2024 (in-person) (Live stream on Facebook)



February 4, 2024 Pastor John Brown

February 11, 2024 Pastor Dan Ward

February 18, 2024 Rev. Robert Garrels

February 25, 2024 Pastor John Brown

# LEAP YEAR

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.

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

**February 4th - 5th Sunday after Epiphany**  
9:30 am Worship - Pastor John Brown - In person worship & live stream on Facebook.



**Readings:**  
Isaiah 40: 21-31  
Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c  
1 Corinthians 9: 16-23  
Mark 1: 29-39

**February 11th - Transfiguration of Our Lord**  
9:30 am Worship - Pastor Dan Ward - In person worship & live stream on Facebook.



**Readings:**  
2 Kings 2: 1-12  
Psalm 50: 1-6  
2 Corinthians 4: 3-6  
Mark 9: 2-9

**February 18th - 1st Sunday in Lent**  
9:30 am Worship - Rev. Robert Garrels - in person worship & live stream on Facebook.



**Readings:**  
Genesis 9: 8-17  
Psalm 25: 1-10  
1 Peter 3: 18-22  
Mark 1: 9-15

**February 25th - 2nd Sunday in Lent**  
9:30 a.m. Worship - Pastor John Brown - In person Worship & live stream on Facebook.



**Readings:**  
Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16  
Psalm 22: 23-31  
Romans 4: 13-25  
Mark 8: 31-38



**YTD thru December 2023**

**Ministry Fund**

Giving - \$102,760  
Expenses - \$93,562

**Building Fund**

Giving - \$96,396  
Mortgage Payments - \$117,064



# IMMANUEL ACTIVITIES

## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 30, 2024

In Philippians 2:1-2, St. Paul writes about being united in Christ and being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit, and of one mind. There is incredible power when the Immanuel fellowship of faith is on the same page, such as when we united as a congregation to build the Fuller Avenue church and the bell tower. We are now called to unite around a shared set of ministry growth priorities during 2024. Tim Vogel pointed out that we are now in the post-pandemic period, that we need to recognize that everything has changed, and that we need to adapt to those changes. At the January 28 congregational conversation, those participating shared the following commitments to action during 2024:

Reinvent the total Sunday morning experience, including welcome, sharing, worship, and fellowship hour. Members want to return some of the practices of the past such as sharing the peace, and also favor a planned sharing time prior to the beginning of worship to make announcements, celebrate birthdays and anniversaries, etc. It was recognized that the Sunday morning experience must be uplifted in parallel to growing our ministries beyond Sunday morning, including greater uses of our digital capability (accommodate those who do not want to travel in the evening and those who are working).

There was enthusiasm for beginning a new year-around ministry for low-income families, perhaps with a focus on single moms or single parents. This could build on our current ministry with Brookside Elementary School and could also include the Eastwood Elementary School in Big Rapids.

There was full support for the 2024 ministry events and programs planned by the Ministry Leadership Network (MLN) such as the annual Dump and Run ministry and the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the first Lutheran Church in the Big Rapids area and the 80th anniversary of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

The need for ministry leadership development (identifying the next generation of leaders) was recognized. Suggestions were made for improving the way leaders and volunteers are recruited and their roles clarified.

The members appreciate the importance of the ongoing work of Lee Wolken, Phyllis Lindsey, and the Pastoral Leadership Circle in providing pastoral and congregational care leadership. Pastor John Brown suggested that many churches are, in the post-pandemic era, thriving without a full-time pastor.

Members appreciate the work of the Property Committee and the contributions of the Marliss Myran Memorial Fund (replace main door, new storage shed, upgrade of the narthex, etc.) and would like to see further plans for the keeping Immanuel's facility up to date (such as the roof replacement and equipment upgrades).

The members are enthusiastic about continuing to explore partnerships with United Church and St.

Paul's Lutheran in Reed City and continuing to develop Immanuel as a community cultural and educational resource.

Members know it is important to explore alternatives for the long-term future of Immanuel, including seeing a feasible plan for paying off the debt on the building (provide us with a vision of Immanuel after the debt is paid).

Other actions discussed were reinventing the marketing and community identity program and the member communications program (Messenger, digital, phone, other).

~Gunder Myran  
Congregational Conversation

## Meetings in person this month

**Sat. Feb. 3 at 10:30 am** W/ELCA Board meeting

**5th Sunday after Epiphany Feb. 4 at 9:30 am/Pastor John Brown presiding**

Congregational conversation **Sun. Feb. 4 following worship**  
Immanuel's 150th Anniv. Planning meeting following  
Worship **Sun. Feb. 4 at 10:45 am**

Staff meeting **Tues. Feb. 6 at 10:30 am,**  
Worship & Music committee meeting **Tues. Feb. 6 at 2:00 pm**

Transfiguration of Our Lord **Sun. Feb. 11 at 9:30 am/Pastor Dan Ward presiding**

Church Council mtg following worship **Sun. Feb. 11**

Bible study **Mon. Feb. 12 at 1:00 pm**  
Staff meeting **Tues. Feb. 13 at 10:30 am**  
**Wed. Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday**

**1st Sunday in Lent Sun. Feb. 18 at 9:30 am/Rev. Bob Garrels presiding**

Staff meeting **Tues. Feb. 20 at 10:30 am**  
Shepherd's Hooks & Needles **Tues. Feb. 20 at Noon**  
Advanced Directives Workshop, **Tues. Feb. 20 at 3:00 pm**

Weekly Lenten Service **Wed. Feb. 21 - March 20 at 7:00 pm/with Bread & Soup served at 6:15 pm**

**2nd Sunday in Lent Sun. Feb. 25 at 9:30 am with Pastor John Brown presiding**

Staff meeting **Tues. Feb. 27 10:30 am**  
Hymn Planning comm. **Tues. Feb. 27 at 3:30 pm**



## PARISH NURSE FEBRUARY

February is our month to have the Festival of the Arts with programs and activities scheduled for every day. Check out the booklet to see what you may desire to participate in.

February is our Heart Healthy Month.

### Heart Attack Warning Signs:

Chest discomfort. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.

Discomfort in other areas of the upper body. Pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.

Shortness of breath. Can occur with or without chest discomfort.

Other signs may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness. If you or someone you're with has one or more of these signs, call 9-1-1 immediately. Get to the hospital! Patient—do not drive yourself.

Cardio vascular disease is the number 1 cause of death for both men and women. Heart disease takes more lives of women than any type of cancer, chronic respiratory disease, Alzheimer's and accidents combined (420,000 vs. 39,500 a year). Chest pain or pressure is a common symptom of a heart attack in both men and women, some women don't have this symptom; instead they may have fatigue, shortness of breath, a pounding heartbeat, nausea, and/or pain in the jaw, neck, shoulder, back, or ear. If you have these symptoms or an overpowering feeling of anxiety, call "911".

Be good to your heart: Avoid smoking, keep your blood pressure 120/80 or less, keep your cholesterol levels in a desirable range, diet and exercise can improve your levels, check your blood sugar levels, eat a healthy diet, cut back on sodium, control your weight, stay active, if you drink—no more than 2 for men, 1 for women daily.

Symptoms when the heart is weakened:

- Fatigue
- Limited activities
- Chest congestion
- Edema (ankle swelling) and
- Shortness of breath.

Blood Pressure Checks will be as needed.

"I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from?. My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." .....Psalm 121:1-2

Love In Christ

*Phyllis Lindsey, Parish Nurse*

## FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS ACTIVITIES AT IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

FOTA 2024 Opening Ceremony, **Fri. Feb. 2 at 7:00 pm**

FOTA Musical Evangeline by Comic Opera Guild, **Sat. Feb. 3 at 7:00 pm ( CANCELLED DUE TO ILLNESS WITH THE PLAYERS)**

FOTA Jazz Piano and Percussion **Sunday Feb 4 at 4:00 pm**

FOTA Solo and Ensemble Performances by High School students **Wed. Feb. 7 at 7:00 pm**

FOTA An Afternoon with Angela Lansbury presented by Barbara Pillsbury **Thurs. Feb. 8 at 1:00 pm**

FOTA An Evening of Classical Brass presented by Morgan Hare on **Fri. Feb. 9 at 7:00 pm**

FOTA MSU Jazz Octets, with Jazzmeia Horn presented by MSUFCU and Tubabach **Sun. Feb. 11 at 4:00 pm**

FOTA Romance is Just Around the Corner presented by Ed Mallett and Co., **Fri. Feb. 16 at 7:00 pm**

FOTA Kentucky Center for Traditional Music Concert presented by The Mountain Music Ambassadors **Sat. Feb. 17 at 7:00 pm**

FOTA Guitar Concert presented by Matt Thomas **Sun. Feb. 18 at 4:00 pm**

FOTA MSU Salsa Verde Concert presented by Tubabach **Fri. Feb. 23 at 7:00 pm**

### Events coming up at Immanuel

Festival of the Arts (FOTA) events held at Immanuel in February 2024 are many. See above list.

Chili Cook-Off results:

28 members and guests enjoyed Nine different chili entries, as well as salad and dessert! A grand total of \$420 was raised, which will be equally divided between ELCA World Hunger, Project Starburst and Manna Pantry.

Social Concerns is sponsoring an Advance Directives Seminar for the community, to be held on **Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.** Steven Balkema of the Jordan Balkema Elder Law Center will be presenting. Come and receive answers to your most pertinent questions! Refreshments will be served.

## 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



## Congregation Council Minutes January 14, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Steve at 10:41AM

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

Steve apologized for forgetting to discuss Christmas bonuses at the December meeting. This was brought to his attention so he approved the bonuses to be paid out based on the 2023 budget.

Rental space for the counseling of Autistic children was discussed. There are many steps to be taken and costs incurred to lease space in a non-profit facility to a for profit organization. It can affect our non-profit status. We would need an Attorney to get all the answers to this. At this point we feel it would be cost prohibitive and a motion was made by Tammy and seconded by Dave to drop the project. Motion carried.

Council discussed maybe taking this to the congregation later to get their thoughts on this.

Council voted to have the lights in the sanctuary replaced with LED lights.

David got an estimate for moving the electrical downstairs. None of this work will begin until after Easter.

**Next meeting is Sunday February 11, 2024 after Church service.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

Roger Barr, Secretary

Immanuel has been invited to participate in St. Andrew's Lenten service this year. They provide a drive through imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday Feb. 14 from 9:30 to 11:30 in their parking lot, and a 12:00 communion service. Please plan to join them, as well as other area churches.

We will be having Wednesday evening services beginning on Wednesday, February 21, through March 20th. The Worship and Music Committee will sponsor a soup and bread meal prior to each service, which will use the Holden Book of Evening Prayer for the service framework. **Supper at 5:45, service at 7:00.** Watch for sign up sheet on Information Counter

A Bible Study is planned for Sundays, March 17 and 24th, during Fellowship Hour. Presented by Phil Keating, it is entitled "Windows on Easter". Booklets will be available soon, it is intended that those who choose to attend obtain the booklet and read the chapters prior to the dates. It is a most interesting, alternative look at characters surrounding the passion. Please plan to attend!



# IMMANUEL ACTIVITIES



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

- 16 Nancy Pennington
- 22 Chris Decker
- 27 Nedra Neumann



No Anniversaries reported this month

**Immanuel Happenings....**As 2024 begins, it is time to turn our thoughts to completion of the various changes that need to occur in our building to accommodate our lessees and congregational needs.

So far we have succeeded to clear the Garrels' room except for the hutch which will eventually move to the office area. We have found homes for the two desks in the office area. The floor repair and new carpet looks beautiful and the walls will be painted soon. New furniture will be installed. The Communication area fits well in the fellowship area and hopefully the bulletin boards will be put to use. Kitchen changes are being considered. The refrigerator needed repair, a reminder that all the appliances are nearly 20 years old. A Spring kitchen clean-up is being planned.

Bids are going out for a new roof and we must consider the aging of our heating and cooling system. The council is considering how best to approach these much needed expensive replacements.

More later, Carol & Phyllis



**Ongoing prayers for:** Nancy McReynolds, Jean Swarthout, Diana Brondyke (WELCA), Linda Proefrock (WELCA), Cindy Carr, Austin Barnes.

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

Barry Borton, Denny Greene, Nancy Pennington, Gary Berg, Bonnie Biers, Yvonne Kilbourne., Susan Bates

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

**COMFORT:** John Betts family  
Irene Schuberg family  
Julia Schuberg family  
Charlie Schroeder family  
Lisa Herrick family (Anna May Schuberg)

## **World Concerns Prayers:**

Our President and Leaders of the Nation

Racism

Prayer of guidance for our neighborhood churches

People hurting, suffering, homeless

Concern for the Coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading in the US/Foreign Countries and people suffering losses during Covid-19 Pandemic

People in poverty (hunger, homeless)

Military troops in the U.S. and abroad

Shootings & Suicides in returning veterans in Military & families

Wounded Warriors

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

## **2024 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**

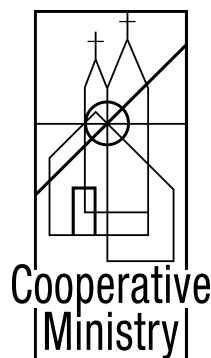
Phyllis Lindsey – Prayer circle	(231) 796-6400
Dee Neumann-Prayer Circle	(231) 796-8385
Webmaster- Mary Larkin	(231) 796-8273
Leah Monger	(231) 287-7022

#### **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



Immanuel  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ELCA

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

FEBRUARY

2024



February