



## 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.



**March 10, 2024**

## March 2024

**Pastoral Schedule for March 2024 (in-person)  
(Live stream on Facebook)**

March 3, 2024	Pastor Dan Ward
March 10, 2024	Pastor John Brown
March 17, 2024	Pastor John Brown
March 24, 2024	Presiding Lay Minister Gunder
March 31, 2024	Rev. Robert Garrels

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The referral will be passed on to a leader of the church.**

## March Readings Schedule

(Readings from New Revised Standard)

### March 3rd - 3rd Sunday in Lent

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



#### Readings:

Exodus 20: 1-17

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

John 2: 13-22

### March 10th – 4th Sunday in Lent

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



#### Readings:

Numbers 21: 4-9

Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2: 1-10

John 3: 14-21

### March 17th - 5th Sunday in Lent

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



#### Readings:

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Psalm 51: 1-12

Hebrews 5: 5-10

John 12: 20-33

### March 24th - Passion/Palm Sunday

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



#### Readings:

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

Psalm 31: 9-16

Philippians 2: 5-11

Mark 14: 1—15: 47

### March 31st - Resurrection of Our Lord

9:30 am Worship - Rev. Robert Garrels - in person Worship & Live Stream on Facebook



#### Readings:

Acts 10: 34-43

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

Mark 16: 1-8

## YTD thru January 2024

### Ministry Fund

Giving - \$14,407

Expenses - \$ 4,490

### Building Fund

Giving - \$ 6,844

Mortgage Payments- \$ 6,922

# IMMANUEL ACTIVITIES

## Lenten Season Update:

We are mid-way through the Lenten season; our mid-week services are going well. Those attending are enjoying the soup and bread meals (with dessert, of course) and lots of great conversation! The lay-led services use the Holden Book of Prayer as their basis, with members reading the scripture and the message.

This year, we are participating with St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, The United Church of Big Rapids, and First United Methodist Church in ecumenical services for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The Maundy Thursday service will be held at St. Andrew's on March 28, 6:00pm and will include communion, hand/foot washing, and a potluck agape dinner. March 28-29, 6pm – 9am An all-night prayer vigil will be held at St. Andrew's. Sign up for a 30-60 min slot to sit and pray with Christ.

Good Friday services will be held at First United Methodist Church beginning at 12:00 noon and include scripture, prayer, and meditation on the cross. Pastor Bob Garrels will lead the Easter Sunday Service on March 31st, 9:30 a.m. Stay tuned for more information regarding an Easter brunch following the service—it is still in the planning stages!

Don't forget the Book study, "Windows on Easter", to be led by Phil Keating on March 17th and 24th. Sign up sheet on the communication counter, books are becoming scarce, we will need to know if another order should be placed. It is a most interesting, alternative look at characters surrounding the passion. Please plan to attend!

## Events coming up at Immanuel

We will be continuing Wednesday evening services on Wednesday, March 6 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



## Meetings in person this month

**3rd Sunday in Lent Mar. 3 at 9:30 am/Pastor an Ward presiding**

Staff meeting **Tues. Mar. 5 at 10:30 am,**  
Worship & Music committee meeting **Tues. Mar. 5 at 2:00 pm**

Weekly Lenten Service **Wed. Mar. 6 - March 20 at 7:00 pm/with Bread & Soup served at 5:45 pm**

**4th Sunday in Lent Sun. Mar. 10 at 9:30 am/Pastor John Brown presiding**

Tubabach Concert **Sunday Mar. 10 at 4:00 pm**

Staff meeting **Tues. Mar. 12 at 10:30 am**  
Weekly Lenten Service **Wed. Mar. 13 - March 20 at 7:00 pm/with Bread & Soup served at 5:45 pm**

**5th Sunday in Lent Sun. Mar. 17 at 9:30 am/Pastor John Brown presiding**

Book Discussion "Windows on Easter" led by Phil Keating **Sun. Mar. 17 during Fellowship hour**  
Tubabach Concert **Sun. Mar. 17 at 4:00 pm**

Bible Study **Mon. Mar. 18 at 1:00 pm**  
Staff meeting **Tues. Mar. 19 at 10:30 am**  
Shepherd's Hooks & Needles **Tues. Mar. 19 at Noon**

Weekly Lenten Service **Wed. Mar. 20 at 7:00 pm/with Bread & Soup served at 5:45 pm**

AAUW Book Sale, **Fri. Mar. 22 from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm**  
& **Sat. Mar. 23 from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm**

Passion/Palm Sunday **Sun. Mar. 24 at 9:30 am with Presiding Lay Minister Gunder Myran**

Book Discussion "Windows on Easter" led by Phil Keating **Sun. Mar. 24 during Fellowship hour**

Staff meeting **Tues. Mar. 26 10:30 am**  
Hymn Planning comm. **Tues. Mar. 26 at 3:30 pm**

**Maundy Thursday Mar. 28 6:00 pm at St. Andrew's Church, There will be Communion, hand/foot washing and a potluck agape dinner..**

**Good Friday Fri. Mar. 29 Noon at 1st United Methodist Church.**

**Resurrection of Our Lord Sunday Mar. 31 at 9:30 am/ with Rev. Robert Garrels presiding**



## PARISH NURSE

### MARCH

The wintery days have been milder for February. Come and worship with us and enjoy the soup & bread meals on Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m. started on Feb 21<sup>st</sup> with Lenten Service at 7pm. March suppers will be on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>. Easter is March 31<sup>st</sup>.

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. **Intellectual Disability (Mental Retardation) Month.** This is a disorder which appears early in life; it includes a component relating to mental functioning and also a component relating to being able to function in one's own environment. There may be delays or difficulties

in oral and social skills, problem-solving skills, and self-help ability.

Possible causes include genetics, fetal alcohol syndrome, problems during pregnancy, lack of oxygen at birth, exposure to infectious disease or to toxins (lead and/or mercury), and iodine deficiency.

5. 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 as 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

### **Social Concerns (Dump and Run Meeting) February 28, 2024**

Present: Linda Greene, Leah Monger, Phyllis Cousineau, Frank Hartley, Bonnie Biers, Patricia McHugh, Roger Barr.  
Absent: Carol Wilson-Jungck

Contact Fonda Kazee & Lisa Ortiz: Roger contacted Lisa Ortiz and received authorization to run D&R. He will contact Fonda for bags and containers.

Publicity: Leah Monger brought a sample of the advertisement. We reviewed it and gave the go ahead to get Ferris approval.

D & R dates are April 29 thru May 4. We will put containers in the Resident Halls on Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Maps and Car passes: Roger got 6 car passes for the collection week. Ferris did not print maps this year. Linda will get some printed from the 2023 map.

WE discussed collection of the items contributed by the students. United Church is joining with us on this project. New Journey club will also collect. Roger will contact Habitat to see if they will help .

Residence Halls: we will collect from 14 halls. A list was given to the people present at the meeting. Other Items: We will check the containers and replace any torn or missing content signs.



## Social Concerns Committee

It is that time of year, planning has begun for Dump and Run—dates this year are April 29 through May 4<sup>th</sup>. The United Church will once again participate and provide drivers and other workers as needed. Roger Barr heads the team, and will begin reporting on activities soon.

Our partnerships with Manna Pantry, Project Starburst and Brookside School continue, During the month of March we will be collecting various canned pastas for Manna Pantry and any kind of canned fruit for Project Starburst. Starburst also takes clothing, you may drop off clothing donations at the United Church.

Brookside School has asked for boy's and girl's underwear sizes appropriate for grade school age kids, as well as socks. They also need small sizes of toiletries. The SC Committee is contemplating enlarging the

scope of the Brookside ministry to include two other local grade schools in great need.

Linda Greene has joined the SC team; we are saying goodbye to Bonnie Biers, who will be leaving the area in April. Please join us if you have the heart to assist your fellow community members in need.

scope of the Brookside ministry to include two other local grade schools in great need.



## 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

# IMMANUEL ACTIVITIES



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

- 12 Carol Zimmerman
- 17 Cameron Hayden
- 20 Bill Ballard
- 24 Diane Manor
- 29 Denny Schuberg



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

## February 2024 Progress Report: Vision Committee and Ministry Leadership Network

The Vision Committee has prepared an updated worksheet on 2024 ministry growth plans based on input from the congregation at the recent congregational conversation. Plans include the redesign of the total Sunday morning experience, including a new “sharing time” prior to the beginning of worship services to introduce a new “pass the peace” minute, recognize birthdays and anniversaries, and make announcements. There is interest in expanding support for an expanded spiritual discipline ministry including bible study, prayer, service to others, and hospitality. Also being explored is a new community-based ministry in partnership with other organizations, perhaps as an expansion of our current partnerships with Brookside Elementary School, Starburst, and Manna Pantry.

The Anniversary Celebration Team (ACT) has been formed and is being led by Carol Zimmerman and Ron Decker. ACT is planning events this year to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the first Lutheran church in the Big Rapids area, and to celebrate in 2025 the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the merger of three churches to form Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Immanuel hosted eleven events during the Festival of the Arts, most of which featured musical performances. Such events indicate that Immanuel is becoming a valued cultural and educational center in the community.

The Ministry Leadership Network is sponsoring a number of ministry programs and events during the winter and spring months. The January 27 chili cookoff was a great success with almost one-half of the participants joining us from St.

Paul’s Lutheran Church in Reed City. A workshop on advanced directives was held on January 20 thanks to Bonnie Biers’ leadership. Other ministries planned include bible studies, the re-start of Dinner 6s (rather than Dinner 8s), a men’s coffee gathering, a program for widows or singles, and the continuation of the monthly potluck dinners (after Easter).



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

### Healing & Health Concerns for:

Barry Borton, Linda Borton, Denny Greene, Nancy Pennington, Gary Berg, Bonnie Biers, Yvonne Kilbourne, Susan Bates, Jim Lindsey, Cameron Hayden, Philip Neumann.

Altarcare Nursing Facility: Elaine White  
 Evergreen Terrace: Dorothy Burch  
 The Fields Assisted Living: Marcy Nelson

### COMFORT: Charlie Schroeder family Mike Ells family

#### 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**

Dave Scott, President	(231) 250-5067
Tammy Lindsey, Vice Pres.	(231) 519-1212
Roger Barr, Secretary	(231) 972-8276
Nedra Neumann, Treasurer	(231) 796-0956
Steve Neumann	(231) 796-0956
Judy O'Dell	(231) 349-2795
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	(586) 634-9941

### **Celebrate Immanuel (CIF)**

### **Christian Education**

### **Church Life**

Carol Zimmerman, Chairperson	(231) 796-2152
Kitchen Coordinator	

### **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	(586)634-9941

### **Stewardship (Extravagant Generosity)**

Lee Wolken, Chairperson	(586) 634-9941
David Scott	(231) 250-5067

### **Vision (and Ministry Leadership Network)**

Gunder Myran, Chairperson	(231) 972-7405
Lee Wolken	(586) 634-9941

### **Church Partnership Team**

Gunder Myran, Chairperson	(231) 972-7405
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### **Welcoming**

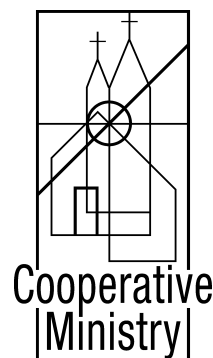
Phyllis Lindsey – Prayer circle	(231) 796-6400
Dee Neumann-Prayer Circle	(231) 796-8385
Webmaster- Mary Larkin	(231) 796-8273
Leah Monger	(231) 287-7022

### **Women of the ELCA**

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

### **Worship and Music (Passionate Worship)**

Carol Wilson-Jungck, Chairperson	(231) 670-3220
David Scott, A/V team	(231) 250-5067
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



*Immanuel*   
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
ELCA

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

MARCH 2024

