



## **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 and on Facebook**

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

**Office e-mail addresses:**

**Church: [immanuelbigrapids726@gmail.com](mailto:immanuelbigrapids726@gmail.com)**

**Mary Larkin (Administrative Assistant) [marylar726@gmail.com](mailto:marylar726@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.**



### **Pastoral Schedule for July, 2024 (in-person & Live - streamed on Facebook)**

July 7, 2024	Pastor Dan Ward
July 14, 2024	Presiding Lay Leader Linda Greene
July 21, 2024	Pastor Dan Ward
July 28, 2024	Presiding Lay leader Gunder Myran

A total of five scholarship applications were received. It is a wonderful testament to young people who have made a commitment to their future! Scholarship amounts and announcement of awardees will occur in August. Recently, a member of the Herrick family, Thomas Herrick, made a contribution to the endowment, reminding us of how much education meant to his parents. As a congregation, we are blessed to be able to award scholarships in their memory; if you are committed to the education of our young people we invite you to contribute to the Herrick Fund, part of the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA.

### **Building/Grounds Update**

The work on the HVAC system has been completed. An orientation to the new system was held in June, with 7 attendees. The system is simplified and easy to operate.

SLD Read has vacated the Garrels room due to retirement. They have donated a like new projector to Immanuel, which is a welcome back up to those in place since 2005. They also left books for pre-schoolers that we plan to re-gift to day care centers and pre-schools. We will be seeking a suitable renter for the room.

### **Grounds Assistance**

We have an urgent need for members willing to pitch in and assist with weeding in the front and healing gardens. We do not want our grounds to look untended! Remember, we are all volunteers and the more people willing to assist the less work for all. Thanks to Gill Flores, Shirley Hamelunds's son in law, who has assumed responsibility for mowing the lawn. If you see him, please thank him! (By the way, he can really jockey that new mower around!)

### **Office Hours:**

Mary Larkin is recovering from shoulder surgery and will not keep her normal office hours. Members will

### **June In-Person Activities**

**Thursday, July 4, Happy Fourth, office closed**

**Sunday, July 7, Worship 9:30 a.m. followed by Hospitality at 10:30 a.m.**

**Every Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting**

**Sunday, July 14, Worship, 9:30 a.m. followed by Hospitality, no council meeting**

**Tuesday, July 16, 12 noon, Shepherds Hooks & Needles**

**Sunday, July 21, Worship 9:30 a.m. followed by Hospitality 10:30 a.m.**

**10:45 a.m. Vision**

**Sunday, July 28, Worship service —9:30 a.m., followed by Hospitality at 10:30 a.m.**

**10:45 a.m. MLN**

**August 25, Church Picnic (save the date)**

**September 22, 150th Anniversary Celebration**

**Check the monthly calendar page for more information.**

### **TWO MORE OFFERING COUNTERS NEEDED**

Please volunteer to count the offering one Sunday monthly. Two counters per Sunday are needed to record the checks and cash received. Written instructions will be provided, estimated time it will take is 30 to 40 minutes. Contact Lee Wolken if you are willing to assist!

### **Council Meeting Overview**

- Next meeting August 11th following service
- Church picnic August 25 (save the date)
- Discussion regarding Garrels room, loss of income, finding new lessee.
- Review of May income/expenses, discussion regarding streamlining various categories. Dave will confer with Mary Larkin when she is back to work.
- Coverage in Shirley Hamelund's absence





In preparation for our anniversary celebrations in 2024 and 2025, it was decided that we needed to clean out and tidy up our facility, especially since many visitors would be joining us to celebrate. In order to “clean house,” we needed a plan—what to keep, give away, discard. The result of this discussion was for us to not only clean the church, but to ask our members to do the same, spring clean their homes and donate their unwanted/unused items to the church for a congregation-wide yard sale! As we contemplated the enormity of this undertaking it became clear that it would take great organizational skills and experience with yard sales, and someone to lead the charge; Phyllis Cousineau and Carol Zimmerman filled the bill as leaders, with Linda Greene, Judy O’Dell and myself as the cheerleaders/workers.

Members cooperated by dropping off their donations, and on Sunday, June 16 the process of setting up began. Jim Lindsey worked to bring items from the basement to the fellowship hall, and a cadre of members took down chairs and installed/arranged tables. By Monday we were ready to begin pricing, placing and creating order out of the chaos, and this process continued right up to the Thursday evening open house for members. We opened our doors to the public on Friday at 9 a.m., and a steady stream of customers purchased more than \$1600.00 worth of goods.

Stories to share: Phyllis had a conversation with a navy veteran who was delighted to share his stories of serving in the same arena in which her father had served. It was so interesting to listen to his stories. A young man who taught piano to underprivileged kids in Kalamazoo played ragtime on the Keyboard Gunder donated; we were happy to sell it to him for next to nothing, since he was paying it forward to one of the kids who didn’t have a way to practice.

A Dad came in on Friday and looked over the old drum set that we had hauled out of the basement and Ed Mallett set up for us. He said he would be back on Saturday after he and his son thought about it. Dad played drums and son wanted to learn, and Dad knew how to fix the broken snare drum stand. We had halved the price just prior to their arrival and they were delighted to be able to afford it.

Many customers had never been to Immanuel, and were in awe of our baptismal font and the loveliness of the facility. Of course we invited them back.

The Yard Sale Team wants to thank all of you who contributed, and helped in other ways. Of course there were lessons learned, the gals who worked every day were really tuckered out! And thank you to Steve and Nedra for assisting with boxing things up and returning chairs in the fellowship hall.

Carol Zimmerman took a carload of leftovers to her yard sale to see if she would have any better luck with a different set of buyers. We will report a final dollar amount within a week or so. Habitat for Humanity sent its truck on Tuesday morning, and left with everything in tip top shape!

Our next step will be to contact District Ten Health Department experts, who will share their knowledge of

Summer has officially been here for ten days and I trust your summer is going well. Continue to enjoy the long hours of daylight! We need prayers for everyone with our racial discourse and our COVID-19 global pandemic. With all the racism here in the U.S., we need to examine ourselves as to how we feel about racism. The Bible verse from Micah 6:8 reads “And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

Health news for July includes:

1. According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) in 2022 the ten leading causes of death are 1) heart disease (702,880), 2) cancer (608,371), 3) accidents (227,039), 4) COVID-19 (186,552), 5) stroke (165,393), 6) chronic lower respiratory diseases (147,382), 7) Alzheimer’s disease (120,122), 8) Diabetes (101,209), 9) Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, & nephrosis (57,937), 10) Chronic liver disease & cirrhosis (54,803). Life expectancy in 2022 = 77.5 years.
2. In 2022 the number of US births was 3,661,220 or 56.1 births per 1000 women aged 15 -44 years. The highest rate of births occurred during morning and midday hours. Births on Saturday and Sunday were more likely to occur in late evening and early morning hours than births Monday through Friday.
3. July is Myasthenia Gravis (MG) Awareness Month. MG is either an autoimmune or congenital neuromuscular disease which leads to fluctuating muscle weakness and fatigue. Muscle weakness is noticed shortly after birth, as the baby has poor sucking instincts. Treatment may include medications, removal of the thymus gland and plasma exchange.
4. July is National Juvenile Arthritis (JA) Awareness Month. JA is any form of arthritis or arthritis related condition present in children under 16 years old. JA is a chronic autoimmune disease affecting about 220,000 children and teens in the US; the most common type is juvenile rheumatic arthritis. In most cases JA is caused by the body attacking its own health cells and tissues which causes the joints to become inflamed and stiff.

Blood Pressure checks will be when needed.

The gracious, self-giving love of God in Christ Jesus is the ground of our confidence and source of our freedom to love our neighbor as Jesus has commanded. “The only thing that counts is faith working through love.” .....Galatians 5:6

involved in discerning God’s plan for the future of Immanuel and designing our preferred future.

<p><b>A--FIRST CURVE</b>—Today’s declining ways of doing things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declining membership</li> <li>• Declining number of volunteers</li> <li>• Concerns about paying off mortgage.</li> <li>• Need to streamline committee and team structure.</li> <li>• Lack of a marketing strategy</li> <li>• Congregation not in tune with the digital transformation</li> <li>• Speed up pace of ministry innovation.</li> <li>• Redesign pastoral leadership model.</li> <li>• Expand community-based ministries.</li> <li>• _____</li> </ul>	<p><b>D--SECOND CURVE</b>—Tomorrow’s way of doing things—our preferred future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build up and support current members.</li> <li>• Reinvent plan to pay off mortgage.</li> <li>• Expand community and church partnerships (second major community ministry—Single Moms and Kids?)</li> <li>• New pastoral leadership design</li> <li>• Next generation of leaders/volunteers</li> <li>• Spiritual growth (spiritual disciplines)</li> <li>• Growth—specific ministries and events</li> <li>• Become a digital enterprise.</li> <li>• Community cultural center:</li> <li>• Rentals: _____</li> <li>• Membership growth strategy</li> </ul>
<p><b>C--SECOND CURVE</b>—Today’s signals and innovations that will shape Immanuel’s future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declining membership in churches</li> <li>• Big Rapids may be “over churched.”</li> <li>• Big Rapids population is declining but Battery plant—population growth?</li> <li>• Potential to be a cultural center.</li> <li>• Potential to rent facility.</li> <li>• Links to Ferris faculty and staff?</li> <li>• Why have past members left ILC?</li> <li>• _____</li> </ul>	<p><b>B--FIRST CURVE</b>—Today’s ways of doing things that have future promise (residual assets from today):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent Sunday morning worship services; quality digital support</li> <li>• Beautiful/functional building and site</li> <li>• Strong leadership core</li> <li>• Congregational care (P. Lindsay, others)</li> <li>• Dump and Run ministry.</li> <li>• Members committed to ILC’s mission.</li> <li>• Parish nurse ministry</li> </ul>

**Specific “futures thinking” questions to be addressed by the Immanuel congregation:**

- First Curve (A): What is not working today at Immanuel? (if we could do things differently, what would we change?)
- First Curve (B): Which of our current practices are attuned to the future (residual assets)?
- Second Curve (C): What are the major Big Rapids region demographic, economic, technological, and social signals (trends, forces) that will impact the future of Immanuel?
- Second Curve (D): What is the preferred, feasible, and sustainable future of Immanuel?

## Birthdays

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

7/9 Leroy Larsen  
7/12 Diane Ludwick  
7/12 Gary Richner  
7/17 Mary Sutherland  
7/22 Julie Vanhala  
7/24 Troy Lindsey  
7/24 Char Whitfield  
7/26 Scott Weber  
7/29 Vickie Vogel

### JULY ANNIVERSARIES

7/8 Chris & Wendell Weber  
7/14 Judy & Dave Misoni  
7/19 Anna May & Wayne Schuberg  
7/24 Donna & Gary Richner

#### CELEBRATE DURING SHARING TIME!

Sharing Time has been in place for the past month or so, and seems to be going smoothly. This brief time prior to the Call to Worship is meant to share announcements, information about upcoming ministry events and programs, call for volunteers for upcoming ministries, expressions of appreciation and thanks to members, recognition of birthdays and anniversaries, family news such as the birth of a grandchild, graduation, etc. and community outreach opportunities. *If you would like to share some information, complete one of the Sharing Time postcards located next to the offering plate or on the Communication Counter. Please indicate the date on which you would like to share the information, preferably at least one Sunday prior to the event, for inclusion on your preferred Sunday morning. We want this time to be for YOU!*

Sharing Time re-introduces "Passing of the Peace," and includes a song during which the candles will be lit. **Please do your part, and be sure to have your information be shared during this new process!**



Pennington, Gary Berg, and Melanie Richardson, Comfort for the Hamelund Family.

**Altercare Nursing Facility:** Elaine White  
**Evergreen Terrace:** Dorothy Burch  
**The Fields Assisted Living:** Yvonne Kilbourn  
**Homebound:** Mary Sutherland, Leroy Larson

#### Local & World Concerns Prayers:

Our President and Leaders of the Nation

Those affected by the wars in Hamas/Israel and the on-going strife in the Ukraine

Freedom for the hostages being held in Palestine, Russia, and other countries

End to Racism

Prayer of guidance for our neighborhood churches

People hurting, suffering, mentally depressed

Concern for those COVID-19 long haulers, and people suffering losses from Covid-19.

People in poverty (hunger, homeless, jobless)

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 mass shootings in the world

Those suffering from famine and drought

Support for poll workers and others involved in providing us with free and fair elections.

Our synod leadership

The safety of our democracy

**July 7, 2024**

Ezekiel 2:1-5  
Psalm 123  
2 Corinthians 12:2-10  
Mark 6:1-13

**July 14, 2024**

Amos 7:7-15  
Psalm 130  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
Mark 6:14-29

**July 21, 2024**

Jeremiah 23:1-6  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 2:11-22  
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

**July 28, 2024**

2 Kings 4:42-44  
Psalm 145:10-18  
Ephesians 4: 1-16  
John 6: 24-35

school this year as well as other schools in need. A collection box is in the narthex for donations from the Congregation. Such things as Kleenex, shampoo, conditioner, dental floss, tooth brushes, toothpaste in travel sizes, underwear, socks, etc.

Our joint programs with Manna Pantry & Project Starburst continue. The following calendar includes the different products requested for each month through the end of the year. There are totes near the office for donations. No outdated products please. Let's all lend a helping hand to those in need.

**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 -**

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



**YTD through May, 2024**

**Ministry Fund**

Giving \$ 53,647  
Expenses \$ 50,820

**Building Fund**

Giving \$ 35,590  
Mortgage Payments \$ 24,610



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

Council Liaisons:

Roger Barr—Property Committee  
 Mel Richardson – Social Concerns  
 Carol Wilson—Jungck – Healing Garden  
 Dave Scott – Finance  
 Steve Neumann – Worship & Music  
 Tammy Lindsey – Stewardship  
 Phyllis Cousineau – Altar Guild  
 Judy O’Dell—Church Life, W/ELCA

**Committees and Teams**

**Audit Committee**

Jim Lindsey (231) 796-6400  
 Tammy Lindsey (231) 519-1212  
 Lee Wolken (586) 634-9941

**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  
 David Scott-Council Chair (231) 250-5067

**Nominating Team (2024)**

**Property**

Tim Vogel, chairperson (231) 796-3860  
 Heritage team:  
 Carol Zimmerman (231) 796-2152

**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

**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

**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, Parish Nurse /  
 Homebound visits (231) 796-6400

