

# Immanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA



## Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA

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### Third Sunday in Lent 9:30 a.m. Worship Service    March 8, 2026

Welcome! We're glad that you are here, and we hope this service of worship will be a blessing to you. Welcome Packets are available in the entryway

*In the ELCA we welcome all believers to receive the Holy Communion. Communion elements for our service include: Pre-packaged wafers (they are also gluten free), individual cup of wine or grape juice.*

Restrooms are located through the entryway and to the left (signs are posted).



Assisted Listening: The Hearing Loop system in place for the hearing impaired will allow hearing aids equipped with a telecoil to serve as wireless loudspeakers, delivering sound right inside the ear. By activating a switch on your hearing aid, the sound is transmitted directly to your ears.

**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.

**Third Sunday in Lent**  
**Lutheran Book of Worship      Holy Communion Setting 1**  
**March 8, 2026**

**GATHERING**

**Prelude**

**Bells**

**Sharing Time**

**Passing the Peace**

**Candle Lighting**

**Transition Song: “God Is Here!” WOV#719**

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,  
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share;  
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts  
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

*\*(Please stand as you are able)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

A: In today’s gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God’s grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God’s mercy and forgiveness.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Gracious God,

**C: Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

**C: Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

**C: Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:  
Gracious God,

**C: Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdainning the living water  
Christ offers: Gracious God,

**C: Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For disregarding voices from the margins, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope  
in the world: Gracious God,

**C: Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come  
forth to life: Gracious God,

**C: Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God,  
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins  
are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's  
love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

**C: Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN      "Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty" ELW 777 Red Hymnal**

**GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy  
Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

# KYRIE

A musical score for a Kyrie, consisting of ten staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The score is divided into alternating sections marked with 'A' and 'C'.  
Staff 1: [A] In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
Staff 2: [C] Lord, have mer - cy.  
Staff 3: [A] For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.  
Staff 4: [C] Lord, have mer - cy.  
Staff 5: [A] For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,  
Staff 6: and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.  
Staff 7: [C] Lord, have mer - cy.  
Staff 8: [A] For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
Staff 9: let us pray to the Lord.  
Staff 10: [C] Lord, have mer - cy.  
Staff 11: [A] Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord.  
Staff 12: [C] A - men

## Prayer of Day

P: Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*\*(Please be seated)*



<sup>10</sup> Forty years I loathed that gener- | ation, saying,  
‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not | know my ways.’  
<sup>11</sup> Indeed I swore | in my anger,  
‘They shall never come | to my rest.’”

## Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11

<sup>1</sup> Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. <sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*\*(Please Stand if you are able)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 4th chapter, vss. 5 through 42.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*(Please be seated)*

**Gospel: John 4:5-42**

<sup>5</sup> [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.<sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. <sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."<sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."<sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."<sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,'<sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"<sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet.<sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.<sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."<sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?"<sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,<sup>29</sup> "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"<sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something."<sup>32</sup> But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."<sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?"<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.<sup>35</sup> Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.<sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.<sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and

another reaps.’<sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.”<sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.<sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word.<sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON:            Pastor John Brown**

*\*(Please stand as you are able)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY : “Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross” ELW 335 Red Hymnal**

**P:** Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle’s Creed.

**C: APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*\*(Please be seated)*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Response following each petition:*

A: Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*\*(Please stand if you are able)*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving for Offerings**  
**LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL**

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**A:** Let us pray.

**A:** O God, maker of heaven and earth ,

**C:** Your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

**MEAL**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

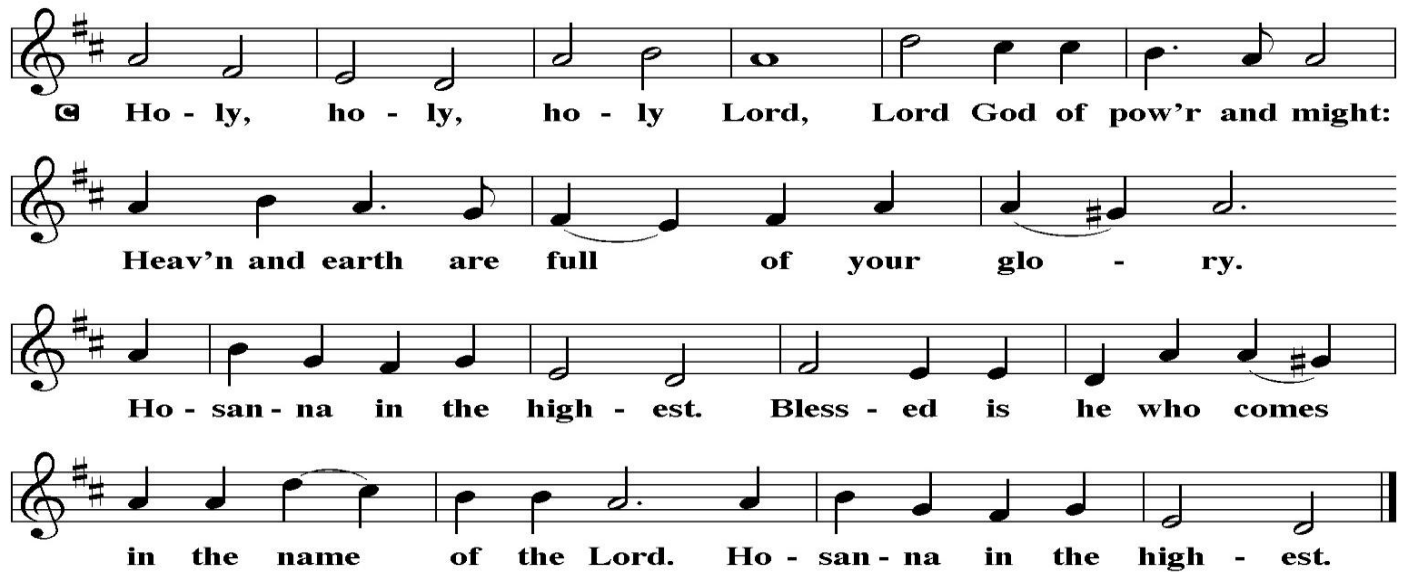
**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**PREFACE:**

**P:** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## CONSECRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

**P:** : Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take this and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**P:** Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**C:** **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

## COMMUNION

In the ELCA we welcome all believers to receive the Holy Communion. Communion elements include this morning: Pre packaged wafers (they are also gluten free), individual cup of wine or grape juice.

## LAMB OF GOD



♩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMN: “Come, Let Us Eat” ELW 491 Red Hymnal

*\*(Pease stand if you are able)*

## COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
C: Amen.

## POST COMMUNION CANTICLE “Lord, now you let your servant go in peace”



♩ Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful- filled.  
My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre- pared in the  
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re- veal you to the  
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.  
Glo- ry to the Fa- ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Spir - it,  
as it was in the be- gin - ning, is now, and will be for- ev - er. A - men

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

A: Let us pray.

A: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN: "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" ELW 623 Red Hymnal**

## **PRAYER**

A: Let us pray together Immanuel's Opening Doors prayer.

**C: Dear Lord, we thank and praise you for your everlasting love and enduring mercy. Continue to send your holy spirit: To bless us, to watch over us and to guide us in all that we do so that we grow in: Our love for you, our love for each other and our love for those in our community.**

**Grant us the courage to be bold in opening doors by inviting and welcoming others in our community to God's church. Give us strength: To trust in you and to have faith and hope in your plans for God's church. In Jesus name we pray. Amen**

## **DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

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The congregation and ministries of this church rely on your weekly offerings and gifts. We encourage you to continue your tithing to Immanuel. If you have a key, you may stop by & leave them in Cindi's mailbox or slip them under her door. You may also mail them to Immanuel at 726 Fuller Ave. Big Rapids, MI. Thank you to everyone who has been sending in your offerings.

*~Stewardship Committee*

**Please join us for fellowship in the Fellowship Hall following Worship today! (on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month, cake will be served for all birthdays celebrated in the month.)**

**Serving in Sunday Worship Service**

**Musician: Janet Mallett**  
**Altar Duty: Carol Zimmerman, Phyllis Cousineau**  
**Presiding Minister: Pastor John Brown**  
**Worship Assistant: Jim Lindsey**  
**Cantor: Vicky Scott**  
**Greeter: Phyllis Lindsey**  
**Usher: Phil Keating**  
**Reader: Linda Greene**  
**Sound Technician: David Scott**  
**A/V Projection Technicians: David Scott**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Birthdays this week** – Carol Zimmerman (3/12)

**Happy Anniversary** – None to Report

**Altar Flowers** by Grazyna Ulrich, in honor of Sofia Pantyke.

**Readings for March 15th:**

**1Samuel 16:1-13**  
**Psalm 23**

**Ephesians 5:8-14**  
**John 9:1-41**

**Upcoming In Person meetings**

MLT Meeting **Sun. March 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:45am**  
Staff Meeting **Tues. March 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am**  
Soup & Bread **Wed. March 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm**  
Lenten Service **Wed. March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**  
Movie Matinee **Sat. March 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm ‘Anchors Away’**



**Helpful Hints from Parish Nurse Phyllis Lindsey –**

Mar 8: 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?



**Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

This month’s Movie Matinee is ‘Anchors away’ (1945) starring Gene Kelly & Frank Sinatra, about two sailors on a four day Hollywood shore leave.



Shepherd’s Hooks & Needles now meet on the third Tuesday of the month. The next session is **Tues. March 17<sup>th</sup> at Noon.**

**Community Events**

**Manna Pantry:**

March: Tuna  
April: Macaroni or spaghetti & sauce

**Project Starburst:**

Fruit – any kind  
Mac & Cheese

**Grade School**

Kleenex, shampoo, toothpaste/brushes, soap, underwear, sweatpants (neutral colors), socks. Sizes for children to fifth grade. Also hats, mittens, scarves, sweatshirts

**Please Note:**

The Big Rapids branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is collecting gently used books, CDs, and DVDs for its annual book sale. Donation bins are located at Artworks, Immanuel Lutheran Church, First United Methodist Church, the United Church of Big Rapids, Conley’s Bakery, Canadian Lakes Pharmacy, Coldwell Banker Lakes Realty, and the Mecosta County Commission on Aging and Activity Center. Please, no textbooks or encyclopedias. The sale will be held Friday, April 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 304 Elm Street, Big Rapids. Proceeds fund scholarships for nontraditional Ferris students. For more information, call or text 231-287-7022.



# BOOK SALE

**April 17, 9am-5pm**  
**April 18, 9am-2pm**

**First United Methodist Church**  
**304 Elm Street**

Now collecting donations of *gently* used books, CDs, & DVDs  
(no encyclopedias or textbooks) at these locations:

- Artworks
- First United Methodist Church
- The United Church of Big Rapids
- Immanuel Lutheran Church
- Conley's Bakery
- Canadian Lakes Pharmacy
- Coldwell Banker Lakes Realty
- Mecosta County Commission on Aging and Activity Center

**Proceeds fund scholarships for Ferris students.**  
**For more information, call or text 231-287-7022.**

## DINNER EIGHTS RE-BOOT

The Ministry Leadership Team would like to invite interested members to be part of the Dinner Eights re-boot, beginning in April, 2026. Dinner Eights was designed as a groups of eight people who wanted to get to know one another better outside of Sunday mornings. The groups of eight met at one another's homes, pot luck style, or a restaurant of the coordinator's choice. They met monthly, on a date chosen by the group, for three months, then the groups were scrambled so that for the next three months different people were together in groups of eight, and so on. This is our re-boot proposal:

We will be Dinner Sixes! We have become smaller so the number can be smaller! Nedra Neuman and Carol Wilson will initiate Dinner Sixes, first with a preference survey, and then selection of the first groups of sixes. If we end up with odd numbers, no worries, we will absorb so that at least six will be together. This can be a couple, single, friends, family, etc. that would like to know more about their neighbors in the pew.

So...If you would be interested in being part of such a team, complete the survey that will be available in your bulletin for the next four weeks, and then watch for additional information in the March Messenger. The goal is to begin meeting in April for the months of April, May and June. "Guidelines" will be presented after the survey is completed.

Please complete the survey, even if you aren't interested in participating. It will help our Ministry Leadership Team plan and develop future events as well as Dinner Sixes.

## Ministry Leadership Team Meeting Schedule

March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Adult Education session
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	MLT Meeting to finalize
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Congregational Conversation and potluck. Implementation of 2026MGAP.
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Commitment Sunday – member pledges of support for 2026MGAP.



**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
Sunday, March 8, 2026