



THE MESSENGER

Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA
726 Fuller Avenue, Big Rapids, MI 49307
Website: 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
Mary Larkin (Administrative Assistant) marylar726@gmail.com
Shirley Hamelund (Office Assistant/Receptionist) 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.

DECEMBER 2022

Pastoral Schedule for December 2022 (in-person)



Dec. 4, 2022	Pastor Phil Van Dam
Dec. 11, 2022	Rev. Teresa Foster
Dec. 18, 2022	Pastor Phil Van Dam
Dec. 24, 2022	Rev. Robert Garrels
Dec. 25, 2022	Carols and Readings Service

(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.



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Big Rapids, Michigan

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 27, 2022

NOVEMBER 2022 NOTES FROM THE VISION COMMITTEE AND THE CHURCH PARTNERSHIP TEAM

The **Vision Committee** is addressing the following items:

Immanuel's alternative futures with a focus on:

Alternative Future One: Becoming the best possible member-led church (small but mighty)—the pathway that Immanuel is on now.

Alternative Future Two: covenant agreement with another church (shared pastor?)—United Church or St. Paul's (or combine Future One and Future Two)—see "B" below.

(A few other alternative futures are being explored as well.)

Balance a focus on exploring alternative futures with a focus on ministries for current active members, "lapsed" members who have desire to return, and community outreach.

Establish a three-year window for decisions regarding Immanuel's future with emphasis on decisions to be made during the next three, six, and twelve months.

Changes in logo, letterhead, signage, etc. to increase Immanuel's identity in the community.

Have an appraisal done of the value of Immanuel's assets (approved by the Church Council).

Contact with the Shuberg family regarding deed restrictions on the Fuller Avenue property (first contact made)

Contact with the Mission Investment Fund (ELCA) to review guidelines related to each alternative future.

Identify organizations other than churches that might rent or share space at Immanuel to produce additional revenue.

Explore upgrading of the building (kitchen upgrade, elevator, roadway to lower floor) to increase possibility of rental of space to community organizations.

Agenda for the December 4 congregational conversation.

The **Church Partnerships Team** is addressing the following items:

Get examples of other covenant agreements between churches from the Synod.

Planning for small-group meeting with United Church (a first contact has been made and next steps are being considered).

Preparation for first small-group meeting.

Agenda for meeting.

Preparation for initial contact with St. Paul's Lutheran in Reed City (update existing document).

Explore partnerships with other churches in the Big Rapids region.

General discussion: What strengths do we bring to a partnership with another church? What are we willing to give up? Do we have missions, values, and goals that are compatible? Are there ecumenical agreements and/or compatible doctrines?

~Gunder Myran

I said a Christmas Prayer for you because the season's near.

I didn't ask for riches but for gifts so much more dear.

I asked for joyful gatherings with your family all around.

And for Carols to inspire you with their old familiar sound.

I asked for quiet moments in your heart on Christmas morn

for a special time to celebrate the Savior who was born.

I asked for friends to send their best that you might know they care...

I asked for peace, love and hope; And I know God heard my prayer.

~Shirley Hamelund

If you have a current email address, could you call the office and notify us for future mailings. You may also email Shirley at shirleyh403@gmail.com.

DECEMBER Readings Schedule (Readings from New Revised Standard)

December 4th - 2nd Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Worship - Pastor Phil Van Dam - In person worship & live stream on Facebook.



Readings:

Isaiah 11: 1-10
Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19
Romans 15: 4-13
Matt. 3: 1-12

December 11th - 3rd Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Worship - Rev. Teresa Foster - In person worship & live stream on Facebook.



Readings:

Isaiah 35: 1-10
Psalm 146: 5-10
James 5: 7-10
Matt. 11: 2-11

December 18th - 4th Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Worship - Pastor Phil Van Dam - in person worship & live stream on Facebook.



Readings:

Isaiah 7: 10-16
Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19
Romans 1: 1-7
Matt. 1: 18-25

December 24th - Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Worship - Rev. Robert Garrels - In person Worship & live stream on Facebook.



Readings:

Isaiah 9: 2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2: 11-14
Luke 2: 1-14 (15-20)

December 25th - Christmas Day

9:30 am Worship - Carols & Readings - In person worship & live stream on Facebook.



Readings:

Isaiah 62: 6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3: 4-7
Luke 2: (1-7) 8-20

YTD thru October 2022

Ministry Fund

Giving - \$98,314
Expenses -\$101,267

Building Fund

Giving - \$90,067
Mortgage Payments- \$85,125

IMMANUEL ACTIVITIES



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

- 3 Sandy Brogan
- 10 Len Crystal
- 15 Donna Richner
- 22 Evelyn Bowen
- 26 Wendell Weber
- 28 Bonnie Switzer



- 29 Bruce & Nancy Spengler

Meetings in person this month

- Congregational conversation **Sun. Dec. 4**
following worship
- Staff meeting **Tues. Dec. 6 at 10:30 am**
- Worship & Music comm. **Tues. Dec. 6 at 2:00 pm**
- W/ELCA Christmas party **Fri. Dec. 9 at 6pm**
- Staff meeting **Tues. Dec. 13 at 10:30 am**
- Christmas Decorating **Sat. Dec. 17 at 10:00 am**
- Tubabach Christmas concert **Sun. Dec. 18 at 4:00 pm**
- Staff meeting **Tues. Dec. 20 at 10:30 am**
- Shepherd's Hooks & Needles **Tues. Dec. 20 at Noon**
- Christmas Eve Worship **Sat. Dec. 24 at 7:00p**
- Christmas Day Carols & Reading Service **Dec. 25 at 9:30am**
- Staff meeting **Tues. Dec. 27 10:30 am**
- Hymn Planning committee **Tues. Dec. 27 at 3:30pm**



Ongoing prayers for: Jean Swarthout, Elaine White, Len Crystal, Nancy McReynolds

Healing & Health Concerns for:

Roger O'Dell, Judy O'Dell, Phyllis Obermier-Striho, Linda & Barry Borton, Bob Krueger, Lucy Fredrick, Marcy Nelson, Carol Wilson-Jungck, Pastor Dan Ward's wife Susan.

Comfort:

Rev. Bob Garrels (daughter Julia passed)
Norwood (Woody) Neumann 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





PARISH NURSE DECEMBER

The snow is coming down in big snowflakes—makes for a beautiful winter wonderland! As our advent season has begun, let us prepare our hearts for Christmas. The 25th of December is the day Jesus our Savior was born. Let's keep Christ in Christmas!

Our Health News for December:

1. This Week, December 5-11, 2022 is National Handwashing Awareness Week. One of the best ways to prevent getting sick and spreading germs to others is to keep our hands clean by washing them with soap and water or using a 60% alcohol sanitizer. Examples include before and after preparing food, before eating food, before and after caring for someone who is sick, after using the toilet, after changing diapers, feeding pets, and after handling garbage. Wet hands with soap and water, wash every part of the hands while singing Happy Birthday twice. Rinse hands with water and dry with a clean towel.
2. December 5-9, 2022 is Older Driver Safety Week. As a person ages, one can have visual, cognitive, and movement difficulties. The American Automobile Association (AAA) recommends contacting occupational therapy driver rehabilitation specialists for comprehensive evaluation. These assessments can identify areas for improvement and keep people able to drive safely.
3. December is National Influenza Awareness Vaccination Time. For those of you who have not yet received your "flu shot", this is a good time to have it. Everyone six months and older needs a flu vaccine injection every year. If you haven't had yours, this is a good time to do it.
4. December is World AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) Awareness Month. AIDS is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). AIDS is the last phase of the disease, when the body is unable to fight a disease or infection. An estimated 1,189,700 people in the United States had HIV at the end of 2019, the most recent year for which this information is available. In 2020, 30,635 people received an HIV diagnosis in the US and dependent areas. The annual number of new diagnosis decreased 8% from 2016 to 2019.

Blood Pressure Checks will be given when needed.

"May grace, mercy, and peace be with you in truth and love, from God our Creator and from Jesus Christ, God's only Begotten Son." ...2 John 1:3

*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

President's Ponderings

At our annual meeting, we had a number of people step up to the plate and either continue on church council, or take a term. This was great news as people are willing to step up and serve in various capacities in the church. We also passed our budget for the next year which I know in the past could get contentious, but it went smoothly. Thank you for that! Since our meeting, I've heard that the financial commitments are looking steady for next year, so with God's grace, we can continue to make our mortgage payments and also pay the bills! A big thank you to all who filled out the forms.

As we move into 2023, I expect there will be some important milestones that will occur. The partnerships team will start more dialogue with a potential partner church (see their report in the newsletter) and we will probably have more lay-led services as Pastor Ward will be staying home in Holland for the winter. I plan to investigate a more permanent solution to the cameras which will allow a better streaming experience for our folks still watching from home. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

As we enter the holiday season, I wish you all the best and hope for a wonderful time with families and friends.

In His Name.

Dave

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. They will have need of mittens, caps and other things throughout the school year.

Our Brother's Keeper is seeking support to assure housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness who need a safe place to stay as they transition into more permanent housing. 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. We serve a 4 county area, Mecosta, Osceola, Newaygo and Lake. 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 via PayPal.



Salvation Army "Angel Tree" – is up in the Narthex with tags of toys, etc. you can buy for a needy child. Gifts need to be back at the church by **December 13th**. Check with Roger Barr for questions: Roger Barr 248- 675-7871.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing - Immanuel time will be **Dec. 10th from 9:00am - 4:00 pm at Big Lots door**. There will be sign-up sheet on the counter to pick the hour you would want. We need a minimum of 7 people to sign up for the time slots.

Upcoming Free Concerts:

Dec. 10 - "Melody Makers & Men's Chorus" Holiday Concert at the Castle in Canadian Lakes at 3:00 pm.

Dec. 11 - "Holiday Gala Band Concert" at Ferris State Univ. auditorium at 4:00 pm.

Dec. 18 - "Tubabach Christmas Concert" at Immanuel Lutheran at 4:00 pm.

Community Events

St. Mary - St. Paul Christmas Bazaar

December 3, 2022 (Saturday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm) Coffee & donuts available 9 am—11 am Hearty lunch served from 11 am—2 pm

Handmade crafts, Grandma's Attic, Jewelry Booth, Fresh Greens in Wreaths, Swags & Holiday Centerpieces, Basket Raffle (tickets 6 for \$5.00), Bake Sale, Book Sale. Cash & Checks only.

December 4, 2022 (Sunday from 8:30 am to 11:30 am)

Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast is open to the public - everyone is welcome!

All this is to be held in the St. Mary Parish Center, 919 Marion Ave., Big Rapids (sponsored by Parish Council of Catholic Women (PCCW)). Please call (231) 796-5202 for more information.

St Andrew's Holiday Cookie Walk, Saturday Dec. 3rd from 10 am till crumbs! St. Andrew's, 323 S. State St., Big Rapids, MI.

Fill a box Small \$8.00, Large \$18.00

Voca Lyrica, the Big Rapids-based women's choir founded by artistic director Ginny Kerwin, is pleased to present its **22nd annual holiday concert, "There Has to be a Song," on Sunday, December 4, at 4 p.m. at the Big Rapids High School Auditorium**. The program will feature both sacred and secular music to usher in the holiday season. Katie McInnis will be the guest conductor for the performance. Voca Lyrica will be joined by the TrebleMakers Youth Choir and the Con Brio Voce Brass Quintet. Dr. Andrew Focks will be the pianist for the concert. **Tickets are \$12.50 for adults and \$5 for children ages pre-kindergarten through 12th grade**. Tickets can be purchased at the Old Pioneer Store and Emporium, Patterson's Flowers, The Purple Plum in Canadian Lakes, from any Voca Lyrica member, or at the door.

2022 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
Judy O'Dell	(231) 823-2845
Melanie Richardson	(231) 357-0863
Megan Smith	(231) 287-7022
Carol Wilson-Jungck	(231) 670-3220
Phyllis Cousineau	(231) 796-9574
Steve Neumann	(231) 796-0956

Committee Council Liaisons

Roger Barr - Property committee

Megan Smith – Social Concerns committee

Carol Wilson-Jungck – Celebrate Immanuel (CIF), Healing Garden, Worship & Music

Dave Scott – Finance Committee, Property committee

Steve Neumann - Worship & Music committee

Tammy Lindsey - Stewardship committee

Mel Richardson - Worship & Music committee

Phyllis Cousineau - Healing garden

Judy O'Dell - Church Life committee, W/ELCA

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 (2021)

Phyllis Lindsey	(231) 795-6400
Shirley Hamelund	(231) 796-7763
Steve Neumann	(231) 796-0956

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

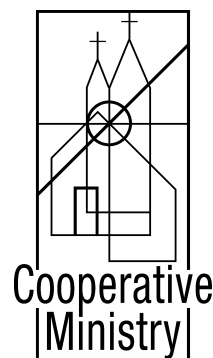
Phyllis Lindsey – Prayer circle	(231) 796-6400
Dee Neumann-Prayer Circle	(231) 796-8385
Webmaster- Mary Larkin	(231) 796-8273
Leah Monger	(231) 287-7022

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





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

2022



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE STAFF: Mary Larkin, Shirley Hamelund,
Phyllis Lindsey, Janet Mallett, Lee Wolken, Rev. Teresa Foster, Rev. Bob Garrels.