



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.

FEBRUARY 2023

Pastoral Schedule for February 2023 (in-person)

Feb. 5, 2023 Rev. Frank Rothfuss

Feb. 12, 2023

Feb. 19, 2023 Rev. Robert Garrels

Feb. 26, 2023



Feb. 14, 2023

(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.

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

February 5th - 5th Sunday after Epiphany

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

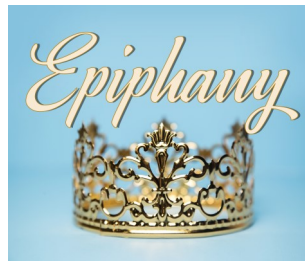


Readings:

Isaiah 58: 1-9a (9b-12)
Psalm 112: 1-9 (10)
1 Corinthians 2: 1-12 (13-16)
Matt 5: 13-20

February 12th - 6th Sunday after Epiphany

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

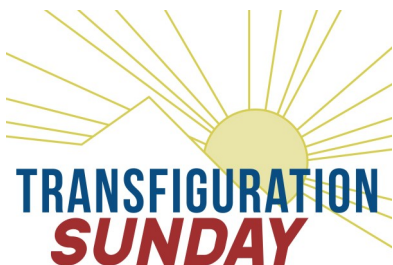


Readings:

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20
Psalm 119: 1-8
1 Corinthians 3: 1-9
Matt 5: 21-37

February 19th - Transfiguration of Our Lord -Last Sunday after Epiphany

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



Readings:

Exodus 24: 12-18
Psalm 2
2 Peter 1: 16-21
Matt 17: 1-9

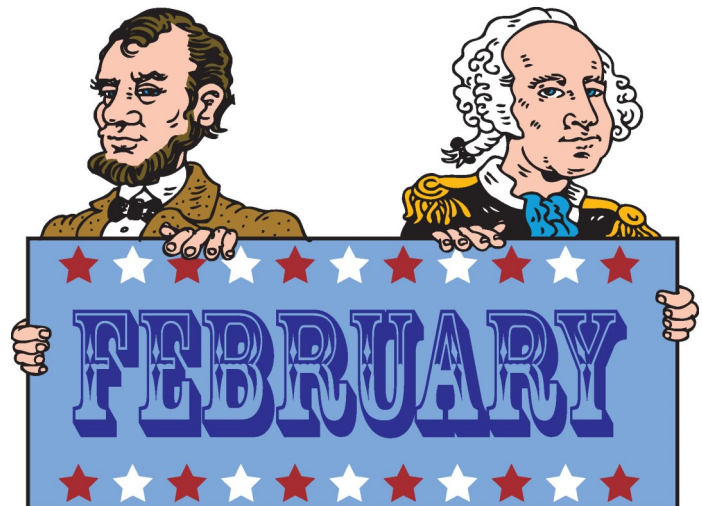
February 26th - 1st Sunday in Lent

9:30 a.m. Worship - - In person Worship & live stream on Facebook.



Readings:

Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5: 12-19
Matthew 4: 1-11



YTD thru December 2022

Ministry Fund

Giving - \$110,198
Expenses -\$118,470

Building Fund

Giving - \$119,730
Mortgage Payments- \$101,169

IMMANUEL ACTIVITIES



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

2 Virginia Schuberg
16 Nancy Pennington
22 Chris Decker
27 Nedra Neumann



No Anniversaries reported this month

Meetings in person this month

FOTA Opening Ceremony **Fri. Feb. 3 at 6:00pm**

FOTA Concert **Fri. Feb. 3 at 7:00 pm**

Congregational conversation **Sun. Feb. 5 following worship**

FOTA concert **Sun. Feb. 5 at 4:00 pm**

Staff meeting **Tues. Feb. 7 at 10:30 am**

FOTA Solo and Ensemble Performances by High School students **Wed. Feb. 8 at 7:00 pm**

FOTA Korean Children's Songs a la Jazz presented by Lisa Sung **Fri. Feb. 10 at 7:00 pm**

W/ELCA Board Meeting **Sat. Feb. 11 at 10:30 am**

Church Council mtg following worship **Sun. Feb. 12**

FOTA Piano concert presented by Sergei Kvitko, **Sun. Feb. 12 at 4:00 pm**

Staff meeting **Tues. Feb. 14 at 10:30 am**

FOTA An evening with Cary Grant presented by Barbara Pillsbury **Thurs. Feb. 16 at 7:00 pm**

FOTA Concert presented by Lisa Selene Donahue **Fri. Feb. 17 at 7:00 pm**

FOTA Concert Con Tempus Quartet **Sun. Feb. 19 at 4:00 pm**

Staff meeting **Tues. Feb. 21 at 10:30 am**

Shepherd's Hooks & Needles **Tues. Feb. 21 at Noon**

Ash Wednesday **Wed. Feb. 22**

Classic Film Night: "Casablanca" introduced by Barb Pillsbury **Thurs. Feb. 23 at 7:00 pm**

Bossa and Beyond presented by Chico Pinheiro (jazz guitarist) & Greg Jasperse (jazz vocalist/pianist) **Fri. Feb. 24 at 7:00 pm**

Staff meeting **Tues. Feb. 28 10:30 am**

Hymn Planning comm. **Tues. Feb. 28 at 3:30 pm**



Ongoing prayers for: Jean Swarthout, Len Crystal, Nancy McReynolds, Virginia Schuberg, Leroy Larson.

Healing & Health Concerns for:

Roger O'Dell, Judy O'Dell, Phyllis Obermier-Striho, Linda Borton, Marcy Nelson, Carol Wilson-Jungck, Charlie Schroeder, Bonnie Biers, Elaine White, Sara Koch Jordan.

Comfort:

Lucy Fredrick family
Bob Krueger 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 FEBRUARY

Our shortest month of the year! Enjoy all the Festival of the Arts in Big Rapids this month. Remember this is our Healthy Heart Month and Valentine's Day!

Our Health News for February:

1. February is Healthy Heart Awareness Month. The heart is a hollow muscular organ (size of a person's fist) lying to the left of the midline of the chest; it has 4 chambers (an atrium and a ventricle on the right side and an atria and ventricle on the left side). The heart is a pump controlling blood flow in 2 circuits; the pulmonary (sending deoxygenated blood from the right side of the heart to the lungs to exchange carbon dioxide for oxygen) and the systemic (sending oxygenated blood from the left side of the heart to the systemic circuit body as a whole). The septum (perpendicular line between the right and left heart) with special cells in the right atrium and some of its own make up the pacemaker; it contracts continuously without tiring to form the heart beats.
2. February is Heart Awareness Month. Coronary heart disease is the number one killer in the United States of America, killing more than 360,000 people yearly. Heart attack signs include chest discomfort, pressure, squeezing or pain, discomfort in other parts of the body (back, neck, arms, jaw or stomach, shortness of breath with or without chest discomfort, breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea, or lightheadedness. Call 911 for help!
3. February is Heart Awareness Month. The American Heart Association recommends physical therapy for overall cardio-vascular health:
 - 1) At least 30 minutes of vigorous aerobic activity daily or
 - 2) minutes of vigorous activity at least 3 days a week
 - 3) Moderate high intensity muscle strengthening at least 2 days/week
4. February is Heart Awareness Month. Five Amazing Facts About The Human Heart.
 - 1) The blood vessels in your heart are the most likely to clog.
 - 2) Nearly half of all heart attacks have no symptoms. No symptom attacks are more common in men but deadlier in women.
 - 3) Maybe the best food for your heart? It might be bananas.

- 4) Spare parts for your heart may come from outer space.
- 5) A great sport for your heart? Grab a racket.

Blood Pressure Checks will be when needed.

"Whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God above."James 1:17 NLT

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

Giving envelopes are detained. A notice will be put out when we get them.

Vision/Church Partners - no report this month

Community Events

Drop off a personalized Valentine card to send to a hero overseas, now through Feb. 3rd. Drop cards off at: Daggett-Gilbert Funeral Home, 13985 Northland Dr., Big Rapids, MI 231-796-3611.
Hours are Monday – Friday 10am – 4pm
(Cards cannot include glitter, food or candy)

AAUW of Big Rapids is collecting gently used books, CDs, and DVDs for its annual used book sale to be held **April 14-15** at the First United Methodist Church. A donation bin will be in the narthex until just before the sale. Proceeds from the sale fund scholarships for Ferris State University students. Call 231-598-0872 for more information.

Church Council
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2023

Present: Dave Scott, Steve Neumann, Nedra Neumann, Phyllis Cousineau, Roger Barr, Tammy

Lindsey, Judy O'Dell, Mel Richardson, Carol Wilson-Jungck, Bonnie Biers.

Guest: Phyllis Lindsey, Megan Smith.

The Meeting was called to order at 10:47 AM by President Dave Scott. The minutes from the

December 11, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Carol Wilson-Jungck moved approval. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: A Written report was reviewed. Nedra, highlighted some entries and the report was approved.

Phyllis Lindsey reviewed the Nurse's report. A copy of her report is on file.

Committee Reports:

Worship Committee: Carol announced that a preliminary report of the church value will be ready this coming week.

Social Concerns: A copy of the report is on file.

Other: The council will review joining the Chamber of Commerce. We will discuss further next meeting. We will ask the congregation if anyone would attend the Chamber meetings.

Update Fees: We will discuss usage fees next month.

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
Judy O'Dell—Church Life, WELCA

Election of Officers:

President, Steve Neumann

Vice – President, Tammy Lindsey

Secretary – Roger Barr

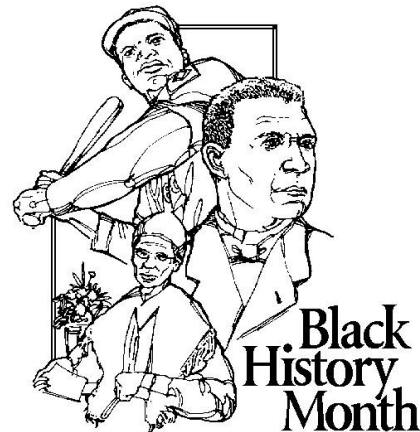
Installation is scheduled for Sunday January 15, 2023

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Next meeting will be February, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Barr, Secretary



Past President Ponderings!

This marks my last note to you as I am no longer President of the Congregation Council. I'd like to thank Steve Neumann for stepping up and taking on the role that I've had for the past 2.5 years. And what a time it was! We have navigated the resignation of our interim pastor, a global pandemic, and declining membership. Yet the spirit of the congregation remains strong. I'm encouraged by the work so far of the church partnership team who is beginning a dialogue with the United Church to determine our next steps. They are in a similar position to us with an older congregation and declining membership. Perhaps some sort of combination will benefit both of us. Pastor Garrels will lead the congregation in a conversation on January 29 that explains our similarities to the United Church's sponsoring denominations. Likely this conversation has occurred by the time you are reading this, but there will likely be more forthcoming.

I'd like to thank you for the trust you put in me over the past few years and I look forward to seeing where we progress. As usual, I'm always looking for someone to take on the streaming or sound responsibilities. Let me know if you are interested. Keep Steve in your prayers as he embarks on his new position.

~Dave Scott



Feb. 22, 2023

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. As winter approaches there will probably be a need for hats, gloves, mittens, Underwear sizes 4-8, Winter clothing sizes 4-8.

Our Brother's Keeper is seeking support to assure housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in a 4 county area, Mecosta, Osceola, Newaygo and Lake. 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. 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.



PUZZLE

F M K N L A D E G S C E J A T S

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A I N G F I P H S C I B E J H A

What's in a name?

An angel told Joseph what to name Mary's baby. Solve the puzzle to discover the name's meaning.

Directions: Begin at the circled H below and follow the arrows. Circle every other letter, and then place them in order to complete Matthew 1:21.

“S_e w_ll _ _ve b ir_ _

to _ s_n, and _ _u a_e to

gi_e _i_ the _ _me J_ _us,

b_c_u_ _ he _ll s_e his

_ _op_e f_o_ t_ _ir s_n_.”

MATTHEW 1:21, NIV

←
←
START HERE
→

Answer: “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21, NIV

2023 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
Steve Neumann	(231) 796-0956
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
Judy O'Dell—Church Life, WELCA

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 (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

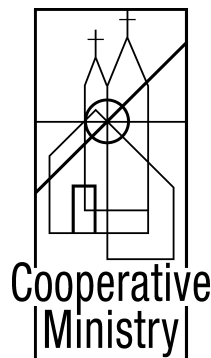
Phyllis Lindsey – Prayer circle	(231) 796-6400
Dee Neumann-Prayer Circle	(231) 796-8385
Webmaster- Mary Larkin	(231) 796-8273
Leah Monger	(231) 287-7022

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





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

2023

