



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.

MAY 2023



Pastoral Schedule for May 2023 (in-person)

May 7, 2023	Pastor Dan Ward
May 14, 2023	Lay Leader Gunder Myran
May 21, 2023	Rev. Robert Garrels
May 28, 2023	Pastor Dan Ward

(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.

May Readings Schedule

(Readings from New Revised Standard)

May 7th - 5th Sunday of Easter

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



Readings:

Acts 7: 55-60
Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2: 2-10
John 14: 1-14

May 14th - 6th Sunday of Easter

9:30 am Worship - Lay Leader Gunder Myran - In person worship & live stream on Facebook.



Readings:

Acts. 17: 22-31
Psalm 66: 8-20
1 Peter 3: 13-22

May 21st - 7th Sunday of Easter

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



Readings:

Acts 1: 6-14
Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5: 6-11
John 17: 1-11

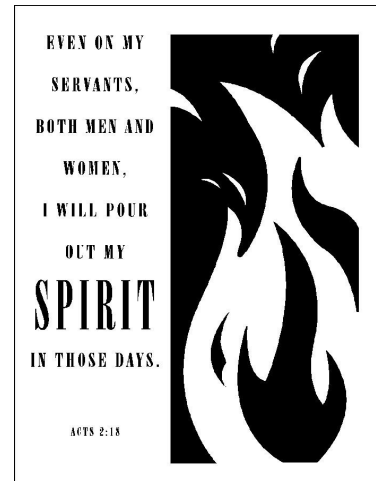
May 28th - Day of Pentecost

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



Readings:

Acts 2: 1-21
Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13
John 20: 19-23



Acts 2: 18

YTD thru March 2023

Ministry Fund

Giving - \$33,275
Expenses -\$33,600

Building Fund

Giving - \$21,194
Mortgage Payments- \$35,766

IMMANUEL ACTIVITIES



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

3	Nancy Spengler
5	Joyce Conley
8	Jeremy Scott
10	Tom Manor
11	Denise Moulter
	Anna May Schuberg
12	David Scott
22	Matt Windquist
28	Dick Brown



12	Steve & Nedra Neumann
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Meetings in person this month

Dump & Run Event **Mon. May 1 - Sat. May 6**

Staff meeting **Tues. May 2 at 10:30 am**

Worship & Music comm. **Tues. May 2 at 2:00 pm**

Staff meeting **Tues. May 9 at 10:30 am**

Bible Study **Mon. May 15 at 1:00 pm**

Staff meeting **Tues. May 16 at 10:30 am**

Shepherd's Hooks & Needles **Tues. May 16 Noon**

W/ELCA Board Meeting **Sat. May 20 at 10:30 am**

Council meeting **Sun. May 21 at 10:45 am**

Staff meeting **Tues. May 23 at 10:30 am**

Hymn Planning **Tues. May 23 at 3:30 pm**

Staff meeting **Tues. May 30 at 10:30 am**



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

Comfort:

Rev. Jerry Switzer family

Phyllis Striho family

Virginia Schuberg family

Pam Nyman family

Healing & Health Concerns for:

Roger O'Dell, Judy O'Dell, Linda Borton, Marcy Nelson, Charlie Schroeder, Elaine White, Beth Hamelund, Pastor Roseanne Anderson, Denny Greene, Fred Zimmerman, Pam Panek.

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

MAY

May is a month of graduations. Both High School and College graduations are happening. Big Rapids High School has graduation on May 18th. This is a month of hope and excitement.

Our Health News for May:

May is National Melanoma/Skin Cancer Awareness Month. Skin cancer is uncontrolled growth of abnormal skin cells. It occurs when too much ultraviolet radioactivity from sunlight or tanning beds trigger mutations in the skin cells causing them to grow rapidly and form malignant cells. Protect skin: 1) Seek shade between 10-4 p.m., 2) Do not burn, 3) Avoid tanning beds, 4) Cover with sunscreen before going out in the sun and then every two hours, 6) Use 2 tablespoons of the above sunscreen every two hours while swimming, 7) check your skin periodically for unusual growths, 8) See your dermatologist yearly or as needed.

May is National Arthritis Awareness Month. More than 50 million Americans have arthritis, making it the #1 cause of disability in the U.S. Arthritis causes pain and stiffness in the joints as a result of inflammation. The two major types of arthritis are osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis, a more debilitating types. There is also juvenile arthritis (300,000 cases in the U.S.). Two more types are gout, a painful inflammatory form (4% of American adults have it) and psoriatic arthritis (permanent joint and tissue damage); more than 1 million have it.

May is Better Hearing-Speech Month to raise awareness about the causes and treatments of hearing loss and speech disorders. During this month hearing care professionals offer education about hearing loss and offer free or reduced price hearing tests and learn about the new hearing aid technology. About 54 million Americans have hearing loss and young people are experiencing more because of loud noise exposure. Hearing aids can keep our hearing ability from getting worse.

May is Mental Health Month. Mental health includes emotional, psychological, and social well-being. Millions of American adults and children experience mental health conditions each year, such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Check out MentalHealthAmerica.net/feelslike.

Blood Pressure Checks will be when needed.

“Honor everyone. Love the family of believers.” . . .
. I Peter 2:17

Love In Christ

Phyllis Lindsey, Parish Nurse

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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

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.

FOSTER HOME

Join our dynamic team of foster parents! We offer lots of support, training, and flexibility. Foster homes are needed for youth ages 8 to 17. We have need for respite care and short placements. Foster parents can be married or single, rent or own, and work full or part-time. Payment is provided. Please call Jodie Garner, 42nd Circuit Court—Family Division, 989-832-6398 for a packet of information.



May 5, 2023

Herrick Fund Scholarship Applications

Attention, returning college students: If you have completed one year of college successfully, you are eligible to apply for a grant from the Herrick Fund for Higher Education. Established in 1989 to honor the memory of the Late Myrtle A. Herrick. The grant is administered under the direction of Church Council. Using interest from the endowment fund, the amount distributed varies depending upon the number of applicants and amount of interest available.

The grant is available to any student, including non-traditional students, pursuing an established curricula of his/her choice. The beneficiaries of this Fund “shall be selected without regard to race, age, location of, or type of higher learning institution.” Herrick Fund applications are due in the church office no later than June 15, 2023. Paperwork is available from Mary Larkin—contact Carol Wilson-Jungck if you would like additional information.

Church Council Minutes April 16, 2023

Present: Dave Scott, Steve Neumann, Nedra Neumann, Phyllis Cousineau, Judy O'Dell, Carol Wilson-Jungck, Tammy Lindsey, Melanie Richardson, Bonnie Biers.

Absent: Roger Barr

The Meeting was called to order at 10:55 AM by President Steve Neumann. The minutes from the March 12, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Dave moved approval. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: A Written report was reviewed. We were overspent for the month. Dave questioned year to date expense of \$ 35, 766. Nedra will look into it.

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

Committee Reports:

Social Concerns: Carol reviewed the written report in the packet.

Old Business: Carol reviewed the fee schedule for use of the church. This is tabled until the May meeting. Tammy is trying to contact the health dept. for information on upgrading the Kitchen.

New Business:

Bob Krueger Memorial Fund: The family said it is not to be used for the mortgage. Steve suggested the \$25,000.00 gift be put in Pastoral fund. Dave made a motion to do so. Phyllis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Projector Repair: Dave will send it out this week. Dave's opinion is that if replacement is required, that we replace both of them.

The interview with a potential Pastor was on Saturday. As a result, Judy moved to approve him, Mel seconded the motion. Motion Approved.

Kitchen: Phyllis pointed out that the Garbage Disposal needed repair. She will arrange to have it looked at.

Lee will give a status report for pastor compensation.

Meeting closed at 11:15AM.

Next meeting will be May 14, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Barr, Secretary, Thank you Tammy for the notes,

Update on Building Changes

It has been a long winter, but spring has arrived and a window of opportunity has opened to begin the work in the narthex. The week of May 8th Ed Mallett will move the narthex cabinetry into the Fellowship Hall. The cabinets must be emptied and contents stored prior to the move. Once completed, the painting of the narthex and other ceilings will occur, followed by the carpet tiles in the narthex.

Our offer to sell the desks has not been fruitful. If you know of anyone who might be interested please contact Carol Wilson, or leave a message in the office. Price is extremely negotiable.

As soon as we can move the desks, we will begin installing the shelves left in the conference room into the vacated area for our library and historical areas.



Did you know that, in addition to “Portals of Prayer,” Immanuel has available two excellent little booklets—“The Lutheran Prayerbook”, chock full of prayers for all aspects of daily living and stresses, and “The Lutheran Message,” which contains colorful stories, poetry Bible passages and artwork designed to lift your spirits. You can find them on the carousel (check it out, there’s plenty to see), or on the table next to the offering plate.



Seeking the story

Angels joyfully announced a special arrival in Bethlehem at Christmas.

Directions: Find the words listed below. Then unscramble the intersecting letters to complete Luke 2:11, NIV.



WORD BANK

Shepherds
Child
Nazareth
Census
Baby
David
Mary
Travel
Town
Register
Born
Night

T	B	W	Y	A	Z	K	E	S	H	N	G	D	J	K
Q	O	Y	A	P	R	A	L	B	F	P	I	C	Q	L
N	R	W	X	B	E	Y	R	M	B	D	M	O	E	E
S	N	O	N	W	G	A	I	B	A	C	D	O	T	D
R	G	X	J	F	I	W	M	V	B	R	R	C	E	O
P	S	C	E	N	S	U	S	H	Y	U	Y	F	P	N
O	T	P	I	G	T	Q	C	N	T	G	M	U	S	T
O	A	N	D	B	E	C	H	I	L	D	N	Z	F	A
A	T	B	A	U	R	W	H	G	F	V	A	B	U	M
T	R	A	V	E	L	J	C	H	V	O	Z	G	N	H
F	B	Q	I	W	D	X	P	T	E	N	A	O	L	Q
Z	C	R	D	Q	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	V
R	U	V	Y	K	N	I	R	T	K	G	E	Y	I	R
K	V	A	Z	X	L	S	H	Y	T	P	T	J	S	K
L	L	E	S	M	J	Z	L	Q	R	U	H	V	W	X

“Today in the town of David a _ _ _ _ _

has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

LUKE 2:11, 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
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

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

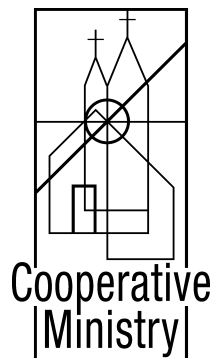
Phyllis Lindsey – Prayer circle	(231) 796-6400
Dee Neumann-Prayer Circle	(231) 796-8385
Webmaster- Mary Larkin	(231) 796-8273
Leah Monger	(231) 287-7022

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

