



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 and on Facebook

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 2024

Pastoral Schedule for May 2024 (in-person & Live - streamed on Facebook)

May 5, 2024

Pastor Dan Ward

May 12, 2024

Pastor John Brown

May 19, 2024

Rev. Robert Garrels

May 26, 2024

Presiding Lay Minister Lee Wolken

Please call the church office (231) 796-8273 in case of an emergency.

May 5, 2024

Acts 10: 44-48 *The Spirit poured out on the Gentiles*

Psalm 98:4 *Shout with joy to you all you lands*

1 John 5:1-6 *The victory of faith*

John 15: 9-17 *Christ the friend and lover*

May 12, 2024

Acts 1:15-17, 1-26 *Matthias added to the apostles*

Psalm 1: *The Lord knows the way of the righteous*

1 John 5:9-13 *Life in the son of God*

John 17: 6-19 *Christ's prayer for his disciples*

May 19, 2024

Acts 2:1-21 *Filled with the spirit to tell God's deeds*

Ezekiel 37:1-14 *Life to dry bones (alternate)*

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b *Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth*

Romans 8: 22-27 *Praying with the Spirit*

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 *Christ serves the Spirit of Truth*

May 26, 2024

Isaiah 6:1-8 *Isaiah's vision and call*

Psalm 29: *Worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness.*

Romans 8:12-17 *Living by the Spirit*

John 3:1-17 *Entering the reign of God*

school this year as well as other schools in need. A collection box will be 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

- 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

Project Starburst -

- May Spaghetti sauce
- June Vegetables (any canned)
- July: Juice
- August: Peas
- September: Mushroom soup
- October Sweet Potatoes
- November Gravy
- December Instant Mashed Potatoes

YTD through March 2024

Ministry Fund

Building Fund

Giving - \$37,545
Expenses -\$ 36,248

Giving - \$ 24,029
Mortgage Payments- \$ 20,766

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 only the 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 30, 2024**. Paperwork is available by e-mail, or leave a message for Mary and she will mail the paperwork to you. Contact Carol Wilson-Jungck if you would like additional information.

May In-Person Activities

Dump & Run April 29 to May 4, see event calendar
WELCA Board meeting **10:00 a.m.**
Congregational Conversation **May 5, 10:45 am**
Office Staff meetings **Tues. May 7, 14, 21, 28, 10:30 am**
Worship & Music Committee **Tues. May 7 at 2:00pm**
Council meeting **May 12, 10:45 am**
Bible Study **Mon. May 13 at 1:00 pm, everyone invited, contact Phyllis Lindsey for more information**
Shepherd's Hooks & Needles **Tues. May 21, 12-2:00 pm**
Hymn Planning committee **Tues. May 28 at 3:30 pm**

Sunday morning worship services —9:30 a.m., followed by Hospitality at 10:30 a.m.

Check the monthly calendar on page 7 for more information.

An Update from the Property Committee

I. New Control System for Heating and Cooling of Church Building

The past 9 months the Property Comm. has priced new control system for the Carrier HAVC system. Why? The Carrier HAVC control system has reached planned obsolescence. As of January 2025, this control system will no longer have pieces and parts available to service this Carrier Control System. The ILC control system was installed by Seaman's Company, and they have serviced this product during this time. They have done a particularly excellent job for ILC.

We received two estimates for the system:

Seaman's: \$21,000, new Controls plus \$2631 for soft start Total\$ 23,631.

Gateway Refrigeration: \$16,944 total for new Controls and soft start.

Gateway is from Clare Mi. We have interviewed them several times and checked with local reference (Mecosta County Court House) positive. We had additional assistance from Ferris State College of Technology instructor Joe Compton who sat in on both interviews and told us that from his review both proposals are equal.

Based upon these efforts we are recommending Gateway Refrigeration Inc., Clare Mi. for \$16,944.

A couple of limitations to be aware of:

1. Pricing will go up 32% June 1st.
2. The Controls are the computer that runs these systems. The equipment they run, in most cases, is 20 years old and at some point, will need to be repaired or replaced as well.
3. There will be an additional expense involved for the church to have a computer programmer install the new controls on the churches computer system.

II. A Bad Boy lawnmower was purchased from Voelker's to replace the one stolen last fall. We are in the process of

Our Health News for May:

1. May is National Arthritis Awareness Health Month. Arthritis (there are about 100 different types) is a major cause of disability in the United States (1 in 5 adults and 500,000 children). The two main types are osteoarthritis, which affects the cartilage (breaks down and thins) and results in pain, swelling and stiffness. The second most common type is rheumatoid arthritis; it is an autoimmune disease which attacks a healthy body as if it were foreign and then destroys it. RA mostly affects joints, but can damage bone, tendons, and ligaments as well. Medications that affect the function of the immune system are part of the therapy.
2. May is Stroke Awareness Month. Stroke is the 4th leading cause of death in the United States; it can cause long term disability to those who survive. Remember "F A S T" if you think someone is having a stroke—FACE—ask the person to smile and check if one side of the face is drooping (not good). ARMS—ask the person to raise both arms up in the air (OK) or is one arm unable to be raised (not good). SPEECH—can the person say "the sky is blue" distinctly (good) or not (not good). If any of the above directions are "not good", it is TIME—TIME TO CALL 911!
3. May is Mediterranean Diet Awareness Month. The Mediterranean Diet and daily exercise are touted as being healthy choices. Imagine a pyramid—the top is small and one is supposed to eat red meat and sweets sparingly. The next step down is wider and one can eat poultry, eggs, cheese, and yogurt, skim milk moderately. The next step down is for fruit, vegetables, whole grains, brown rice pasta, potatoes, beans olive oil, and legumes even more moderately. The last step down is for spices (avoid too much salt), seeds, nuts, and herbs; enjoy and don't forget to exercise!
4. May is Foster Care Awareness Month. Foster care is designed to provide help to families in crisis and who need help until the family can get back together again. The system strives to ensure that children have all their needs met and are safe and secure. Foster parents provide food, shelter, and clothing but also provide for educational and emotion needs.

Blood Pressure Checks will be available as needed.

"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." ...Galatians 5:25 KJV

Love In Christ

Phyllis Lindsey, Parish Nurse



Immanuel has an AED, (automatic external defibrillator). Do you know where it is located and how to use it? Would you be interested in learning? If there is enough interest, we will hold a hands-on class for our church members.

The Vision Committee is currently discussing the following action priorities:

1. Facility and site master plan in cooperation with the Property Committee
2. Brainstorming optional timetables for the paying off the mortgage—envisioning a future for Immanuel without a debt
3. Preparing for congregational discussions about the future of Immanuel by addressing the following questions as we strengthen our “Small but Mighty” church:
 - a. What are we doing now that is not working or declining in impact?
 - b. What are we doing now that is “future proof”—that will have future value?
 - c. What are the major demographic, economic, political, technological, financial, and cultural trends and forces in Big Rapids and the surrounding area that will impact Immanuel’s future?
 - d. What will be the preferred ways of doing things in 2030—what is our preferred future 5 years from now?
 - e. What disruptions of today’s way of doing things must Immanuel undertake to shape our best future?
4. Immanuel’s alternative futures:
 - a. Alternative Future One: Small by Mighty church—member-led and pastor supported—*the future we are creating now* (envision mortgage paid off, creating our best future with membership growth and community-based partnerships with other churches and community organizations)
 - b. Continuing to explore other alternative futures: partnership with United Church and partnership is St. Paul’s. Strive to foreclose other less desirable alternative futures: selling the Fuller Ave. property and moving to another smaller location, disbanding Immanuel as a congregation.

Anniversary Celebration Committee (ACT) Plans

The Anniversary Celebration Committee, co-chaired by Carol Zimmerman and Ron Decker, is planning two celebrations:

1. A 2024 celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the first Lutheran church in the Big Rapids area
2. A 2025 celebration of the of the 80th anniversary of the founding of Immanuel Lutheran Church through the merger of Swedish, Danish, and Norwegian churches.

Sharing Time—A new part of Sunday morning worship services

The Worship and Music Committee is planning to introduce a new part of our Sunday morning worship services—Sharing Time. This will be brief time before the Call to Worship 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 graduations and travel experiences, and community outreach opportunities. Sharing Time will be launched on May 26, and updates will be provided on the Sundays prior to the launch.

Congregational Conversation on May 5

A congregational conversation will be held on Sunday, May 5, in the Fellowship Hall immediately after the worship services. Topics for discussion will include updates on the facility and site master plan, the celebrations of Immanuel’s anniversaries, and the new Sharing Times part of the Sunday morning worship services. We will break into table groups to discuss these topics plus becoming “futures thinkers” as we address the questions about our future listed in the notes from the Vision Committee above.

Please plan to attend!



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

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



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 5/12 Nedra and Steve Neumann

Graduates:

Jason Stockmeyer graduated with a Bachelors degree in zoology from Michigan State University. Jason is the grandson of Carol Wilson Jungck and a recipient of a Herrick Fund scholarship



Please be Praying for...

Ongoing prayers for: Nancy McKeynolds, Jean Swarouth, Linda Proefrock (WELCA), Cindy Carr, Austin Barnes, Cameron Hayden, Philip Neumann

Healing & Health Concerns for:

Linda Borton, Denny Greene, Nancy Pennington, Gary Berg, Shirley Hamelund

Altercare Nursing Facility: Elaine White

Evergreen Terrace: Dorothy Burch

The Fields Assisted Living: Marcy Nelson. Yvonne Kilbourn

Homebound: Mary Sutherlund, Leroy Larson

**COMFORT: Charlie Schroeder family
Cindy Carr family**

World Concerns Prayers:

Our President and Leaders of the Nation

Those affected by the war in Hamas/Israel

Freedom for the hostages begin held in Palestine and Russia

Racism

Prayer of guidance for our neighborhood churches

People hurting, suffering

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

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
 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

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 (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
 Shirley Hamelund co-chair (231) 796-7763

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

