



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. The Church office is closed on Monday and Friday.

Office e-mail addresses:

Church: immanuelbigrapids726@gmail.com

Mary Larkin (Administrative Assistant) marylar726@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.



October 2024

Pastoral Schedule

(in-person) (Live stream on Facebook)

October 6, 2024	Lay Leader Lee Wolken
October 13, 2024	Rev. John Brown
October 20, 2024	Rev. Dan Ward
October 27, 2024	Rev. Robert Garrels

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 ACTIVITIES

Herrick Fund Update

Mike Herrick, son of the founders, stopped in Big Rapids to say hello and get an update on the Herrick Fund. He is extremely happy with not only the number of scholarships awarded, but the growth of the fund itself. We promised to send him an in-depth report and an invitation to next year's 80th Anniversary celebration.

Building/Grounds Update

The parking lot project has been completed. The center office project is nearing completion, and contains our Immanuel library and heritage area, as well as a small meeting area. Picture albums will be located in the Fellowship Hall for members to peruse during Hospitality or at their leisure. Stop in and check it out!

Office Hours:

Our office hours will continue Tues. through Thurs. until a receptionist/assistant is hired. The job has been posted and we will begin interviews soon.

Welcome back, Narcotics Anonymous

The NA group, who used our lower level lounge area prior to COVID, have requested to return once weekly. The lounge area has been cleaned. The furniture is showing its age, and really should be updated. Let Carol WJ or Phyllis C know if you would be interested in supporting this effort. A contract with NA is in process and they should be occupying the area sometime in October.

October In-Person Activities

Tuesday, Oct. 1, Worship & Music 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 6, Worship 9:30 a.m. followed by Hospitality at 10:30 a.m. and Congregational Conversation Every Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Sunday, Oct. 13 Worship, 9:30 a.m. followed by Hospitality, and Council meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 15, Shepherds Hooks & Needles 12 noon

Thursday, Oct. 17, Monthly Matinee, 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, Oct 20, Worship, 9:30 a.m. followed by Hospitality and Vision Committee meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 22nd, Hymn Planning, 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 27, 9:30am Worship

10:30am Annual meeting of congregation

*Fall Tuba Bach series will be on Saturdays at 7:00 p.m. and Sundays at 4:00 p.m. throughout October

Added this year is an invitation to come and listen to rehearsals from 10a-12noon on Saturday

Annual Meeting Notice:

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held immediately following the service on Sunday, October 27th. Be prepared to stay and vote as we discuss and approve the budget for 2025, select council members, and appoint members to represent us at the synod assembly in Mt. Pleasant on May 18-20, 2025. If you are willing to serve on council or represent us at the assembly, please contact David Scott or Phyllis Lindsey. Step up and be courageous in your support of Immanuel!



Autumn is here! Remember to get your vaccinations (Flu, Shingles, COVID, RSV, and Pneumonia) soon!! Check with your Doctor to insure you are a good candidate for the vaccinations.

Our Health News for October is:

1. National Mental health Awareness. If you believe you have a mental health problem, it may be helpful to talk about your problem(s) with a person you can trust. It may seem scary at first, but it's often the first step to get help so you can heal, grow and recover. Community Mental Health: 231-796-5825.
2. Back Care Month: Care of the back includes exercising (walking, swimming, especially the back stroke, and bike (including stationary bike) riding, bend at the knees and hips, not the back, do not bend and twist at the same time, stand with straight posture, sit up straight in a chair with a backrest and with both feet on the floor, lose excess weight, and use a mattress suitable to your age, weight, and height.
3. Healthy Lung Month: Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (COPD) includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis and is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States (heart disease, cancer, and stroke are first, second, and third). Avoid smoking tobacco or anything else, avoid air pollution (including some chemical vapors), exercise often to increase lung capacity, eat more cauliflower, cabbage, kale, and broccoli, get your annual flu shot, and have your home checked out for radon (get the kit at the Health Department).
4. Fire Safety and Prevention Month: If burning outdoors, contact your local fire department and get a permit and have water handy to completely extinguish the fire when ready. If you have a fire (unintended), first call **911** and if you have a fire extinguisher (about \$15.00 at Meijer), remember **PASS**, which stands for **POINT**, **AIM**, **SQUEEZE** (top lever) and **SWEEP** (back and forth at the base of the fire). It is best, for a kitchen fire, not to pour water on the flames, as they may spread unexpectedly. **FYI**: The fire department can refill the canister of the fire extinguisher.

Fight Flu.

1. Get vaccinated.
2. Watch what you touch. Flu viruses spread mainly from person to person when someone coughs, sneezes or talks.
3. Wash your hands often. Soap and water are fine. Scrub for at least 20 seconds.
4. Cover up. Cover your nose & mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Or cough into your elbow.
5. Stay away. If you do not feel well, stay home.
6. See your health-care provider. If you develop flu symptoms—fever, cough, sore throat, headache, stuffy nose, chills, body aches, fatigue—get medical attention.

Blood pressure checks will be when needed.

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."
I Thessalonians 5:11

Love In Christ

Phyllis Lindsey,
Parish Nurse

150th Anniversary Celebration, September 22, 2024



Thanks for your participation!

.....And now on to planning for the 80th anniversary celebration in 2025!

It is never too early to begin thinking about what we would like to see happen during our 80th. The first step is to choose a date, and then alert our congregation, former members, previous pastors, scholarship winners, those who have been married, baptized, confirmed at Immanuel, and the community at large that we are welcoming them all to this celebration! If we begin early and each person contributes in some way we will have a wonderful event. Put on your "thinking caps" as our teachers would say, and generate ideas for what YOU would like to see occur for this event. Step up and volunteer to assist during the year as we assemble mailing lists, determine how large (or small) this event should be, and what, as a congregation, we can contribute to our community in honor of Immanuel's 80th! We need EVERYONE to participate! Carol Zimmerman will accept any and all offers of assistance.

IMMANUEL PRESENTS MATINEES WITH BARBARA!

Over the years, many of us have enjoyed the expertise of Barbara Pillsbury regarding vintage/ classic films, and she has graciously agreed to share her extensive collection with us. Working with Swank Motion Pictures, Barbara has secured copyright licensing for each film she will feature! This month we will be viewing “Keeper of the Flame,” with Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn, the second film of the “Tracy/Hepburn”9 films.



When: Thursday October 17, beginning at 3:30 p.m. sharp.

Cost: Free to those attending, popcorn & lemonade will be served.

Barbara has chosen films for the entire next year—check the list posted in the Fellowship Hall, or pick up a brochure on the communications counter.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA hosted at Immanuel!

Immanuel’s church women welcomed the NW Lower MI Synod WELCA members to their fall gathering on Saturday, Sept. 28th. Church-wide speaker Lorie Garcia and Pastor Chrissy Bright from the W. MI Synod office provided the Bible study and messages, and a special outreach to Angels of Action yielded a wealth of supplies for the children they serve. Kim Easler, A of A Executive Director, described their outreach and many of the programs they support. Officers were elected, Judy O’dell is our rep. from Immanuel. Phyllis Lindsey and Dee Neumann have been active in WELCA for many years. Thanks to everyone who provided food and hospitality for this event!





OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

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

- 10/5 Dawn Aardema
- 10/11 Barbara Ballard
- 10/12 Shelly Snavley
- 10/13 Gunder Myran
- 10/13 Christina Weber
- 10/14 Annoura Bowen
- 10/17 Dennis Schuberg
- 10/22 Toni Windquest
- 10/24 Jason Lindsey
- 10/25 Marcie Nelson

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 10/26 Sally & Roger Barr



Healing & Health Concerns for: Nancy McReynolds, Jean Swarhout, Char Whitfield, Denny Greene, Nancy Pennington, Gary Berg, Sally Barr, Helen Jones, Millie Gilles, Phillip Neumann and Melanie Richardson. Comfort for the families of Shirley Hamelund, Elaine White and

Yvonne Kilbourn.

Evergreen Terrace: Dorothy Burch

Homebound: Mary Sutherland, Leroy Larson

Marcy Nelson has moved to The Brook

Local & World Concerns Prayers:

Our President and Leaders of the Nation

Support for poll workers and others involved in providing us with free and fair elections.

The safety of our democracy; End to racism

Those affected by the wars in Hamas/Israel and the on-going strife in the Ukraine and Africa

Freedom for the hostages being held in Palestine, Russia, and other countries

Prayer of guidance for our neighborhood churches

People hurting, suffering, mentally depressed

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/ those suffering from PTSD

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 injustice; those suffering from famine, drought & fires.

Families of mass shootings in the world

“God of peace, in a world so wired and interconnected, our anxious hearts are pummeled by an endless barrage of troubling news (bomb threats, hate speech, divisions among community members). We are daily aware of mor grief, O Lord, than we can rightly consider, of more hostility, hatred, horror and injustice. But you are not disquieted by news of cruelty. You are neither anxious nor overwhelmed. You carried the full weight of the suffering of the world all the way to the cross. You carry it, still. When the cacophony unsettles us, remind us that you are present with us. Justice & mercy, healing and redemption are the work you are doing in the world. Guard us from shutting down our empathy or walling off our hearts. Give us discernment to know when to act, when to speak out, when to place our anxiety at your feet, and when to pray that your kingdom of peace be present within our world.” Amen (from “a Liturgy for Those Flooded by Too Much Information,” *Every Moment Holy*, vol 1.

Updates from the Church Council Meeting:

- **Phyllis reviewed her written report and answered questions pertaining to the health of members.**
- **Reviewed the proposed budget for 2025 and made suggested revisions.**
- **Approved the resurfacing of the parking lot.**
- **Accepted resignation of Mary Larkin effective year end.**
- **Approved thank you letter to Gunder Myran for donation to the Marliss Myran Fund**
- **Reviewed council members term limits, will notify nominating committee to search for 2 new members.**
- **Job description for receptionist reviewed, Lee Wolken, Carol WJ and Tammy will interview prospects.**

September Readings and Psalms
(Readings from New Revised Standard Version)

September 1, 2024

Deut. 4:1-2, 6-9
Psalm 15
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8; 14-15;21-23

September 8, 2024

Isaiah 35:4-7a
Psalm 146
James 2:1-10 (11-13); 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

September 15, 2024

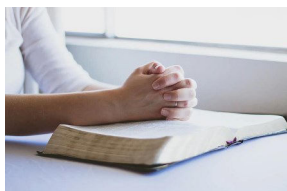
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 116:1-9
James 3:1-12
Mark 9:30-37

September 22, 2024

1 Kings 8:22-30
Psalm 46
1 Peter 2:1-9
John 10: 22-30

September 29, 2024

Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3
Psalm 103:1-5, 20-22
Revelations 12:7-12
Luke 10:17-20



Social Concerns:

We will continue to support grade schools in need, Manna Pantry, and Project Starburst.

Manna Pantry

September: canned corn
October: canned carrots

Project Starburst -

September: Mushroom soup
October Sweet Potatoes

Grade Schools:

Kleenex, shampoo, toothpaste/brushes, soap, underwear, sweat pants (neutral colors) socks. Sizes for children to fifth grade.

A New Giving Opportunity

Third Avenue United Methodist Church has begun a new giving opportunity, a Basic Needs Pantry! This is open to anyone, but aimed at their local residents. This ministry is collecting basic needs items to be shared via a cabinet in front of the church, open 24/7. They are looking for: cleaning supplies, all types, hygiene items (lotions, body wash, etc., bandaids and antibiotic ointment, feminine hygiene products, diapers and wipes. A more complete list is posted in the fellowship hall.

Third Avenue is located at 226 N. Third Ave. Many items are not allowed to be purchased through MDHHS "SNAP" cards.

If you are interested in supporting them with a cash gift, contact Carol Wilson, who will also be collecting any donated items via a bin in the Narthex.

***The Social Concerns Committee need new members!
Come and join this community-focused team!***

YTD through July, 2024

<u>Ministry Fund</u>		<u>Building Fund</u>	
Giving	\$ 68,566	Giving	\$ 50,019.
Expenses	\$ 81,731	Mortgage Payments	\$ 52,454
Average attendance: 36			

Stewardship Appeal –

The theme for this fall’s stewardship appeal is from 2 Corinthians 9:11 (NIV) *“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”*

Just what does this passage mean? From bibleref.com the following explanation is given: “A Christian's willingness to give allows the believer to participate in what God is doing. It is about more than simply getting people fed. It is also about increasing God's righteousness on earth—bringing more thankfulness to Him. Charitable Christians have the privileged opportunity to participate in God's work simply by generous giving.”

You should be receiving in the mail during the first week of October a stewardship letter and the estimate of giving document. On October 13th we invite you to bring the Estimate of Giving document with you to worship and join us in offering them to God as our expression of thanksgiving and joy for God’s generosity to us.

September 2024 Progress Update—Vision Committee

Current discussion and action items of the Vision Committee (draft outline for congregational discussion on a Vision 2025 Congregational Development Action Plan):

- Redesign and streamline of Immanuel’s committee and team structure.
- Update the Pastoral Leadership Circle (thriving as a congregation without a full-time pastor)—include evangelism and membership growth strategy, congregational care ministries (support the parish nurse ministry of Phyllis Lindsey), and support of spiritual growth ministry.
- Update the framework for our community engagement ministries and community partnerships. Next steps, developing Immanuel as a community cultural and educational resource (beyond Tuba Bach, Festival of the Arts). Identify a year-around community ministry that complements the Dump and Run ministry with Ferris State University—ministry for low-income moms and their young children? Or?
- Update Immanuel’s image in the community—enhance community identity, marketing Leadership of our spiritual growth ministry (growth of members in spiritual disciplines, fruits of the spirit—include Bible studies and other Christian education.
- Update of structure for management of ongoing church operations (church operations team or administration and finance team?).
- Update facility and site master plan (with Tim Vogel and the Property Committee)
- New approach to leadership and volunteer development.
- Strategy to pay off mortgage early to free up funds for pastoral leadership and ministry growth.
- Next steps in becoming a digital enterprise (making virtual communications and programming an integral part of Immanuel).
- Rethink total Sunday morning and the “beyond Sunday morning” experience—Sunday: arrival, welcome, sharing time, worship service, fellowship hour. What mix of meetings and Christian education during fellowship hour? What ministry and non-ministry activities and meetings during the week? How can we avoid being a “Sunday morning only” church (according to Bishop Satterly, a sure sign of the decline of congregations).
- Ways we can improve in being “church” to current members, show appreciation to current members.
- Linking our plans for ministry growth and community outreach to celebrating the 80th anniversary of the 1945 merger of three congregations to form Immanuel Lutheran Church (*“Celebrating our Heritage, Anticipating our Future”*).

2024 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
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—Property Committee
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

Office Staff

Mary Larkin, Administrative Asst. (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	(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
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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
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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

