



## WELCOME TO OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA

726 Fuller Ave, Big Rapids, MI 49307

Website: www.immanuelbr.com

Phone: (231) 796-8273

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am Live and on Facebook

Our Office Staff is available Tu - Th from 9am - 4pm

Linda Obermier Office Manager Cindi Morris Office Assistant

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 generousity.

### In this newsletter:

NURSES NOTES
SOCIAL CONCERNS
PRAYER LIST
COMING EVENTS

### PASTORAL SCHEDULE

JUNE 1st Lee Wolken

JUNE 8<sup>th</sup> Rev. Kristine Hahn

JUNE 15<sup>th</sup> Pastor John Brown

JUNE 22<sup>nd</sup> Pastor Dan Ward

JUNE 29<sup>th</sup> Rev. Kristine Hahn

### 2025 COUNCIL MEMBERS

PHYLLIS COUSINEAU	(231) 796-9574
JUDY O'DELL, SECRETARY	(231) 519-1212
NEDRA NEUMANN, TREASURER	(231) 796-0956
STEVE NEUMANN	(231) 796-0956
MELANIE RICHARDSON	(231) 357-0863
CAROL WILSON-JUNGCK	(231) 670-3220
CAROL ZIMMERMAN	(231) 796-2152
DIANE MANOR	(231) 349-6977

### OFFICE STAFF (OFFICE HOURS 9AM - 4PM)

LINDA OBERMIER, OFFICE MANAGER TU-W-TH CINDI MORRIS, OFFICE ASSISTANT TU-TH PHYLLIS LINDSEY, PARISH NURSE (SCHEDULE VARIES)

# INTERNATIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT SOCIAL CONCERNS (RISK-TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE)

LEE WOLKEN - HABITAT FOR HUMANITY (586) 634-9441

### STEWARDSHIP (EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY)

LEE WOLKEN, CHAIRPERSON (586) 634-9441
DAVID SCOTT (231) 250-5067



TODD & DAWN AARDEMA (6/1)
C.(BILL) & BARBARA BALLARD (6/1)
RICK & SHELLY SNAVLEY (6/21)
DAVID & VICKY SCOTT (6/21)
CHRIS & MICHELLE KAUFFOLD (6/25)
TIMOTHY & KRISTIN CONLEY (6/25)

### YTD THROUGH APRIL

MINISTRY FUND

<u>BUILDING FUND</u>

GIVING..... \$43,479.00

GIVING....\$28,754.00

EXPENSES...\$51,385.00

EXPENSES...\$27,688.00

**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 29** 

"Let all that you do be done in love".

1Corinthians 16:14

### WORLD CONCERNS PRAYERS

PEACE FOR THE WORLD - PRAY FOR THE USA IN THESE TRYING TIMES

CLIMATE CHANGE ALL OVER THE WORLD

WILDFIRES (ESPECIALLY RESIDENTS IN CALIFORNIA)

VIOLENT STORMS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY HURRICANE HELENE

VICTIMS

YOUNG PEOPLE PROTESTING GUN VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS HOMELESS, HUNGRY AND HOMEBOUND, THOSE IN PRISON RACIAL JUSTICE - W/ELCA

HEALINGS FOR DIVISION IN OUR COUNTRY
THOSE EFFECTED BY THE TERROR ATTACK IN NEW ORLEANS
SHOOTINGS & SUICIDES IN RETURNING VETERANS WITHIN THE MILITARY AND
THEIR FAMILIES (GENERAL PTSD) (22 SUICIDES EVERY DAY)
FOR ALL THE CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY ABUSED CHILDREN
PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

PRAY FOR PEOPLE IN FORIEGN LANDS, FOR A REPRIEVE TO THEIR PROBLEMS



### **HEALING & HEALTH CONCERNS FOR:**

NANCY MCREYNOLDS, SALLY BARR, MELANIE RICHARDSON, HELEN SHOTWELL-JONES, HELEN ENGSTROM, MARCY NELSON, ANN BIRD, TROY LINDSEY & LINDA OBERMIER'S SISTER NANCY.

### **COMFORT FOR:**

DON NELSON & MARY SUTHERLAND FAMILIES, ROGER BARR (BROTHER), PASTOR GARRELS (BROTHER) DAVID SCOTT (FATHER).

EVERGREEN TERRACE: DOROTHY BURCH,
BILL & FLO PEMBERTON & SHIRLEY SCHUMAKER.
THE BROOK: MARCY NELSON & JOYCE CONLEY

MISSION POINT: ANN BIRD
HOMEBOUND: LEROY LARSON



### **COMMITTEES AND TEAMS**

### **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

JIM LINDSEY	(231) 796-6400
TAMMY LINDSEY	(231) 519-1212
LEE WOLKEN	(586) 634-9941

### CHURCH LIFE

CAROL ZIMMERMAN, CHAIR (231) 796-2152

#### FINANCE

NEDRA NEUMANN, CHAIR	(231) 796-0956
NEDRA NEUMANN, TREASURER	(231) 796-0956
DAVID SCOTT - COUNCIL CHAIR	(231) 250-5067

### <u>PROPERTY</u>

TIM VOGEL, CHAIR (231) 796-3860

### **HERITAGE TEAM**

CAROL ZIMMERMAN (231) 796-2152

### VISION (AND MINISTRY) LEADERSHIP NETWORK

GUNDER MYRAN, CHAIR	(231) 972-7405
LEE WOLKEN	(586) 634-9941

#### **CHURCH PARTNERSHIP TEAM**

GUNDER MYRAN, CHAIR (231) 972-7405

#### WELCOMING

PHYLLIS LINDSEY, PRAYER CIRCLE	(231) 796-6400
DEE NEUMANN, PRAYER CIRCLE	(231) 796-8385
LEAH MONGER, WEBMASTER	(231) 287-7022

#### **WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

DEE NEUMANN, CO-CHAIR (231) 796-8385 JUDY O'DELL, CO-CHAIR (231) 349-2795

#### WORSHIP AND MUSIC (PASSIONATE WORSHIP)

CAROL WILSON-JUNGCK, CHAIR (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

## COMMUNITY CONCERNS -NON-MEMBERS ALL PEOPLE HAVING CANCER TREATMENT & SURGERY

ALL PEOPLE THAT NEED SUPPORT, WORK PEOPLE RECOVERING FROM SURGERY PRAYERS FOR DEMENTIA PATIENTS & FAMILIES/CAREGIVERS

GUIDANCE FOR: ST. ANDREW'S - PASTOR RADHA, AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN IN TUSTIN -HAS SUPPLY PASTOR SHARON VANDAM, ST. PAUL'S RC - SUPPLY PASTORS/LOOKING FOR FULL TIME PASTOR (CONTACT PERSON LORI GREIN)

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN - HAVING SUPPLY PASTORS

UNITED CHURCH - LOOKING FOR FULL TIME

3RD AVE. METHODIST CHURCH - LOOKING FOR NEW PASTOR

FRIENDS OF JOURNEY CLUB, HOPE HOUSE, FORGOTTEN MAN MINISTRIES, SALVATION ARMY & OUR BROTHERS KEEPER



### JUNE 2025 Health News

June is here! May we all enjoy summer! Take a walk, visit a neighbor or friend, mow the lawn, plant flowers, or sit outdoors in a lawn chair. Enjoy!

### Our Health News for June:

- 1. June is National Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month. Pain is the leading reason for a person seeking medical care. Because of the heroin epidemic, professionals are now carefully monitoring who gets what prescription and for what reason. Be sure to keep your prescription medicines locked up to prevent anyone from "accidentally" helping himself or herself to any. Medicines that are no longer needed can be discarded in a bin at the sheriff's office.
- 2. June is another Blood Donor Month (sometimes the ones scheduled for January get cancelled because of inclement weather). The American Red Cross needs blood donors year round for cancer patients, burn victims, and bone marrow receiving patients. 1(800) RED CROSS.
- 3. June is Men's Health and Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Usually prostate cancer grows slowly which gives a person and his physician time to think about treatment. Common side-effects include urinary leakage, bowel problems, and erectile dysfunction. Blood work, a rectal examination and biopsies may be prescribed.
- 4. The American Red Cross shelters, feeds, and provides emergency support to disaster victims, supplies 40% of the nation's blood supply, teaches skills that save lives, and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is not-for-profit and depends on volunteers and generosity of the American public to perform its mission.
- 5. June is Cataract Awareness Month. A cataract is a cloudiness in the eye's lens that diminishes vision. It can occur from an injury, exposure to extreme heat or radiation, or inherited factors. The majority of cases, however, occur in elderly people. Surgery to extract the lens and replace it with an artificial one is an option for treatment and is done by an ophthalmologist.

Blood Pressure Checks will be given when needed.

"Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." ......Matthew 18:20 NIV

Love In Christ

Phyllis Lindsey, Parish Nurse



## June's Movie Matinee

'Since You Went Away' Starring Claudette Colbert & Shirley Temple 1944

Another film highlighting life on the home front during WWII & Carol's favorite June 19<sup>TH</sup> at 3:00 PM

### 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Update

Carol Zimmerman and her team are busily gathering the names of previous members to invite to the celebration. A list is being developed and will be published so that our members can help in the search for current addresses and other contact information of past members. The celebration is scheduled for Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. An invitation is being prepared and other "save the date" publicity will soon be completed. Please let Carol know if you are willing to assist with the mailing project. Other plans include a catered luncheon with a program and picture slide presentation on Saturday, and a special service on Sunday morning led by Pastor Garrels.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! Sunday, June 15th



Proverbs 23:24: "The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him."

# Herrick Fund Scholarship Applications—It's that time of year again! Please share with your family members.

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 the 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 email, or leave a message for Linda and she will mail the paperwork to you.

Contact Carol Wilson-Jungck if you would like additional information.

## Updates from Last Church Council Meeting: May 13, 2025

After serious discussion the council decided to change its meeting date to the first Tuesday of each month at 12:30 pm. The change will provide more flexibility for Sunday mornings, and occur prior to the Worship and Music meeting (2:00pm), to afford easy access for those who are involved in both committees.

·We welcome Diane Manor as a new council member. Diane brings a wealth of experiences to the council and will bring a new voice to council activities.

·At the May council meeting, members reviewed budget paperwork changes currently being proposed, with the goal of eliminating various line items that are obsolete or not being used. Lee, Gunder and Linda O. attended the meeting to offer guidance and input, with the resulting budget paperwork streamlined and more efficient. Council voted to accept the line-item changes and shifting of monies within the accounts to better reflect actual money usage.

Phyllis Cousineau, President

## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Worship and Music Committee

NOTES from May 6, 2025

Members: Dee Neumann, Darrell Corrie, Carol Zimmerman, Phyllis Lindsey, Carol Wilson, Janet Mallet, Lee Wolken, Cindi Neumann

- 1. Review and evaluation of January services; inventory of supplies: Wafers re-ordered, other supplies adequate. Discussion about wafer, team agreed that in the long run the prepackaged wafer will be continued, despite some difficulties opening the wrapper. It is gluten free and does not go stale in the package. Looking ahead, there was a discussion about current setting (one, Green Hymnal) and people are appreciating its familiarity. The slide enhancements, including additional communion dialogue, is appreciated as well. Discussion about paraments, when red should be used (June 7 for Pentecost and June 29), with a switch to green for the duration of the summer.
  - 2. Supply Pastor Worship Schedule going forward. Lee provided an updated list, we have pastors through the end of June. Pastor Ward's last day to preach is June 22nd. Lee is working on July and August.
- 3. Mother's Day—Gunder will provide carnations for the event, along with an opening essay on Mom's.

There being no new business, meeting closed with Lord's Prayer at 2:45 p.m. (Dump and Run in session)

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 3rd at 2:00 p.m. Submitted by Carol Wilson

## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Worship and Music Committee

Agenda, Jun 3, 2025

Members: Dee Neumann, Darrell Corrie, Carol Zimmerman, Phyllis Lindsey, Carol Wilson, Janet Mallet, Lee Wolken, Cindi Neumann

- 1. Review and evaluation of May services; inventory of supplies. Assurance of continued blessing of the elements given Pastor Ward's resignation.
  - 2. Supply Pastor Worship Schedule going forward, July and August
    - 3. Father's Day (June 15th)
    - 4. Participation in June 21st Council/Vision meeting
    - 5. Farewell Fellowship hour for Pastor Ward (June 22nd)
      - 6. Report from Synod Assembly (Carol)

### **SOCIAL CONCERNS 2025**

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE COMMITTEE!
PLEASE NOTE: LILLIAN PATTERSON, OF ST. ANDREW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH, IS WORKING WITH OTHER CHURCHES IN
BIG RAPIDS TO PUT TOGETHER A "CONCERT OF PRAISE" ON
FRIDAY, AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2025. ALL LOCAL CHURCHES WHO WISH
TO PARTICIPATE WILL COME TOGETHER AND SING HYMNS AND
PRAISE SONGS TO GOD. THEY HAVE THE MIDDLE SCHOOL
BANDSHELL RESERVED FOR THAT NIGHT AND THE EVENT IS
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. PLEASE LET THE COUNCIL KNOW IF YOU
ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING!

### **Another tidbit for Social Concerns:**

The Big Rapids Meijer store Simply Give program supporting Project Starburst will be in full swing between March 30 and June 28th on behalf of Project Starburst. And on June 14, Meijer will double match all card purchases, tripling the impact of your donation! This is an excellent way to support Starburst without actually shopping. Cards can be dropped off at the church office for delivery with the monthly food supplies.

TUBA BACH CONCERT SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2025 AT 4:00 PM

### NEWS FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Volunteers are needed to wash windows, fix the deer fence around the Healing Garden and do general gardening care in the Healing Garden and landscape areas

Thank you in advance for your help!

**Dump and Run** is the annual gathering in of Ferris student discards by people from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Ferris State University, The United Church, and New Journey Clubhouse. Items are picked up from the dorms, sorted and repurposed through the following non-profits:

Salvation Army, Project Starburst, Manna Pantry, Our Brother's Keeper, Angels of Action, AAUW, Peacock Realty (school bag project), Hope House Free Medical Clinic, Habitat for Humanity (who received goods as well as provided a truck for Saturday pick up) and New Journey Clubhouse. We want to thank everyone who participated in this event, although we had fewer volunteers this year we managed to recycle much more

than last year. Totals are as follows:

Pounds fally-	
Household Items	789
Clothes, Shoes, Misc	780
Food	486
Cleaning Supplies/Personal supplies	269
Books/CD's	88
Total	2 412







Carol, Pastor Clay, Susan and Vicky

### The Mitten Synod has a new Bishop!

Vicky Scott and I had the privilege of representing Immanuel at the NW Michigan annual assembly in Mt. Pleasant from May 18-20. I have been Lutheran since birth, active in my church most of my life, but never have attended an assembly before. It was an awesome, uplifting event. Two hundred and fifty-four voting representatives and guests from our synod, as well as guests from SE MI and Northern Ohio, came together, led by the Holy Spirit.

The music was new and unfamiliar, yet easy to learn and sing. Words spoken were uplifting and encouraging. The budgeting process and voting went smoothly overall, but the election of the Bishop was the highlight for me.

Voting was conducted using the ecclesiastical method: Every voting member wore a lanyard with their identification clearly legible. For the first ballot, after asking for guidance from the Holy Spirit, we were each asked to write down the name of a rostered member of the clergy we each though could lead us as Bishop. When counted, 254 ballots had chosen 19 different people deemed worthy to lead. For the second ballot, the top seven from the first ballot were included. For the third ballot, the top three ballots were again included, but the order had changed (according to the number of votes received). The fourth ballot took the number to two, and the fifth and final ballot elected the new Bishop, which had to be by a 2/3 margin. We are pleased to introduce to Immanuel our new Bishop, Julie Schneider-Thomas, wife of Bryan Schneider-Thomas, a name familiar to Immanuel as a Pastor in Kent City, who also worked to help design our sanctuary. Reverend Schneider-Thomas will take the reins on September 1 from Bishop Satterlee, who served 12 years as Bishop of the Mitten Synod.

I learned so much from this experience, have been invigorated and eager to share some of the ideas garnered during the event! Vicky and I spent some time catching up with Pastor Clay Bates and Susan, Pastor Clay retires in July and is eager to have more traveling time. Thank you for the opportunity of serving Immanuel in this capacity.

Please reserve Saturday, June 21, from 9:30 to 2:00 for a "Designing Immanuel's Future" planning session at the church. At this workshop, we will address the following questions:

- 1. **Trends analysis**: What are the congregational trends (membership by age group, worship attendance, average unit annual giving at various levels, number watching on Facebook, mortgage status and alternative payoffs, community population trends and income distribution, status of other Big Rapids churches (struggling, thriving?), other trends data
- 2. **Capacity building:** As we consider decisions about Immanuel's future, what do we have the commitment, capacity, energy, and human/financial/technology resources to accomplish?
- 3. **Designing Immanuel's future:** What do we see as our best and most feasible future given that our current pathway is not financially feasible for the long-term? What is the "beacon of light" shining in our future to which we are drawn and to which we should commit ourselves to as a congregation? (1) grow as a "small but mighty" member-led and pastor-supported congregation by investing in a part-time pastor and developing a strategy to pay off the mortgage (for example, engage a real estate firm to secure rental income from local entities); (2) share a pastor and ministries with another congregation; (3) merge with another local or regional congregation; (4) share ownership and/or space with a local educational, governmental, or business organization; (5) sell the current building and site and move to a new location, or (6) disband and contribute the proceeds of the sale of the assets to the Synod or local charities.

### 4. Financial management and long-term strategy

- Financial management (role of staff and CC): Phyllis C, Lee W, and Linda O
   (follow-up on May 13 CC meeting)
- Long-term financial strategy (Lee W. and Gunder M.)
- 5. **Relationships with other churches and organizations:** What steps should we take to strengthen our linkages with other Big Rapids and regional churches and with other organizations such as Angels of Action, My Brothers Keeper, Hope House, Salvation Army, food pantries, etc. Should we identify one year-around community ministry to focus on such as serving the low-income families of Brookside Elementary? What is the future of our Dump and Run ministry?

### 6. What functions of Immanuel need to be strengthened and/or modified?

- Ministries: pastoral leadership, congregational care, worship and music, stewardship, community outreach ministries, education, hospitality, other? \_\_\_\_\_
- Church operations: volunteer development, leadership development, finances, technology, buildings and grounds, staffing, communications, marketing/publicity, other

The proposed schedule for June 21 is as follows: 9:30-10:45: Session One—Items 1 and 2 above

Break—10:45 to 11:00

<sup>7.</sup> Annual ministry growth plan: Taking into account our discussion of the above topics, what are the priorities for our 2025-26 ministry growth plan (September 2025 to August 2026)?



JUNE pork & beans/black beans vegetables- any canned

JULY boxed mac & cheese juice

AUGUST canned green beans peas

SEPTEMBER canned corn mushroom soup

OCTOBER canned carrots sweet potatoes

NOVEMBER cranberry sauce/boxed dressing gravy

DECEMBER canned tomatoes instant mashed potatoes

# Happy June Birthday to:

Linda Obermier (6/1) Judy Misoni (6/5)

Elizabeth Schweitzer Griswold (6/13)

Tim Vogel (6/13) Janet Mallett (6/15)

Sarah Barr (6/20) Pastor Garrels (6/26)

### **EAGLE VILLAGE FOUNDER'S DAY**

Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup> from 2pm - 4pm at Eagle Village 4507 170<sup>th</sup> Ave, Hersey, MI Contact Barbara Frahm to RSVP bfrahm@eaglevillage.org (231) 305-6501

> Senior Enrichment Day



WED. JUNE 25, 2025

9 am - 3 pm

Registration begins at 8 am

## **Senior Enrichment Day**

-Activities

Luncheon

Food

Mini-Seminars

Learning

**FUN** 

Raffles

Big Rapids High School

Please see our website for registration info: www.seniorenrichmentday.com

For more information, please call the Mecosta County
Senior Center:
231-972-2884

Thank you to our organizing sponsors:
Big Rapids Public Schools
Mecosta County Commission on Aging

# JUNE 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Lee Wolken Worship 9:30 am Hospitality 10:30 am	2	3 Office Meeting 10:30 am Council meeting 12:30 pm Worship & Music 2:00 pm	4	5	6	7
8 Pastor Hahn Worship 9:30 am Hospitality 10:30 an	9	10 Office Meeting 10:30 am	11	12	13	14
15 Pastor Brown Worship 9:30 am Hospitality 10:30 an Adult Ed. Session Father's Day	16	17 Office Meeting 10:30 am Knitting Group Noon	18	Movie Matinee 3:00 PM	20	21 Vision Workshop 9:30am - 2:00pm
<b>22</b> Pastor Ward  Worship 9:30 am  Hospitality 10:30 an  O <sup>th</sup> Ann. Team  Tuba Bach 4:00pr	23	24 Office Meeting 10:30 am	25	26	27	28
29 Pastor Hahn Vorship 9:30 am Hospitality 10:30 an Congregational Conversations	30					

## **Immanuel Lutheran Church**

726 Fuller Ave Big Rapids, MI 49307