



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP WEEKLY



Sunday Worship and Learning Schedule

Sunday, January 26, 2025

9:00 am – Divine Worship Service
10:30 am – Praise Worship Service
10:45 am – “The Rock” Sunday School

*Most of our Worship Services are streamed Live on Facebook [Immanuel Lutheran Church Bridgman](https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchBridgman), or are posted on our website: www.immanuelbridgman.org



Please Join Us for Our
MARCH FOR LIFE

Saturday, January 25th 11:00am



Immanuel Lutheran Ministries
9650 N. Church St.,
Bridgman, MI 49106
269-465-6031 Church Office

A weekly publication of our announcements from our church leadership, staff and Early Childhood Development Center of Bridgman

AS WE GATHER

Today we turn to the third sermon in our Epiphany sermon series, “Motherhood and the Story of Salvation.” In this morning’s Gospel lesson, we discover Jesus returning from being tempted in the wilderness by Satan. As part of Jesus’ return to Galilee “in the power of the Spirit” (Luke 4:14), Jesus stood up to read, and sat to down to teach, all those in attendance at his own “home congregation” in Nazareth. One might fairly assume that Jesus’ mother, the Blessed Virgin, was present for his first sermon in their family’s local synagogue. Jesus chooses to preach about motherhood and the story of salvation as it is written in 1 Kings 17. The mother Jesus refers to is not his own mother. The mother Jesus refers to is not even an example of a Jewish mother. Instead, Jesus directs the attention of the congregation to a poor Gentile mother who was starving to death. The Lord demonstrates that it is His will to share Gospel good with all people – a lesson from Scripture that almost brought Jesus’ ministry to an end just as it was beginning. May the Holy Spirit work through Holy Scriptures to allow us to see God’s wisdom blessing those in the vocation of motherhood and many other such godly callings.

CHURCH NEWS

Please keep in your prayers the family and friends of Juanita Blosser. Juanita was called to her heavenly home on Tuesday this last week. Friends can meet with the family today from 2-4pm at Pike Funeral Home, The Boyd Chapel. The Coronation Service of Celebration will be Monday, January 27, 2025 at 11:00 am. There will be a Fellowship Luncheon after the committal service at Graceland Cemetery. We pray that God will grant His consolation and peace to the family as they grieve for Juanita.

March for Life yesterday was fantastic! We enjoyed an inspirational time of sharing in the sanctuary, Lyndon Azcuna shared the progress that LifePlan is achieving, an insightful devotion from Pastor Kregel, and our Praise Team offered two inspirational songs that supported us as we walked. We walked to the flagpole in Bridgman for prayer with signs and banners proclaiming our love of all lives that God has created. We then walked back to the church and enjoyed some fellowship and warmed up with delicious homemade soup and chill, salad and dessert! Thank you to our very hard-working Outreach Board who organized, baked, cooked and created this very inspirational event! Well done!

Thank you, Susan Foster for shoveling out the ramp to the exit of the ECDC so, the children were able to leave safely! We appreciate you!



To Immanuel Lutheran Church Members

We would like to thank the members of Immanuel Lutheran Church for always being there for Jon when he was having medical issues. Thank you all for your love, care and concern!

The Crocker Family

Dear Pastor Kregel and Immanuel Lutheran Church Community, On behalf of our Family, we want to express our deepest gratitude for your care and support during this difficult time.

Pastor Kregel, your thoughtful words and heartfelt blessing for Ralf were truly a comfort to us all. You went above and beyond to ensure that our Family – especially Deb, Taylor and Bailey – felt supported and uplifted during the service. Your compassion and guidance made such a difference, and we cannot thank you enough for your kindness. To the Fellowship Committee, thank you for your efforts in preparing the luncheon and ensuring everything ran smoothly, your support and generosity were felt by everyone in attendance and provided a much-needed space for comfort and connection.

We are also deeply grateful to everyone who reached out with cards, calls, condolences and check-ins. Though the days ahead will undoubtedly be challenging. Knowing we have such a caring and supportive Church Family at Immanuel, gives us strength and hope. While our hearts ache at the loss of our son, Ralf, we take solace in knowing that he has been called home to the Lord. This light will continue to shine in our memories and his spirit will remain with us always.

Our Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of Ralf's life and the time we shared with him. Though our hearts are heavy with grief, we trust in Your promises and take comfort in knowing that Ralf rests in Your eternal care. Please guide and sustain us as we move forward, surrounding us with your peace and love. Amen.

With heartfelt appreciation,

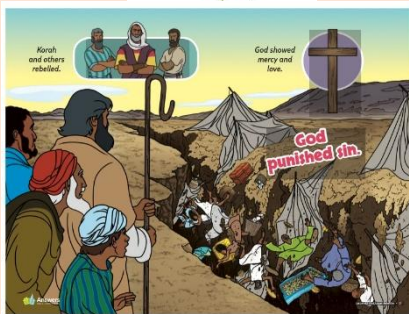
The Joachim and Scharnowskę Families



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ECDC NEWS

We are asking for your prayers for our ECDC. We have had one third of our staff sick since coming back from the holidays. Those who are still trying to get well to come back to the center are Barb Ackerman, Cheryl Petty (working while sick) and now Sherry Vonk is ill. Staff shortages have left our teachers frustrated and challenged trying to teach their students (some of those students are sick as well). This week for the newsletter we are praising the teachers and staff who have persevered and spent extra time and effort trying to help keep our ECDC open. We THANK GOD for the dedicated teachers who work tirelessly to teach our young ones! Not only did the teachers have sick staff and students to deal with, but below zero temperatures, snow events and failed car engines. So, with no public school in session, Martin Luther King Day, it left one day of preschool this week. Our staff did an awesome job keeping the children occupied with craft projects, movies, reading books, playing games and cooking. They popped popcorn, made snacks for the movies, drew, painted, colored, strung beads, macramed bracelets, cut, pasted and in general kept busy through the day. Our GSRP teacher Ms. Heather just got back to work after being sick for three weeks. Their students had one day back, and that was spent trying to get back into the rhythm of school.

Hopefully next week, they get back to work on their studies and preparing for their journey through public school. The infant and toddler rooms were the most challenged, with missing staff and teachers they were stretched to the limit. Shout out to Melissa Barker who remained patient, understanding and flexible enough to be in the most challenging rooms throughout this week, we are so blessed, thank you. Ms. Angie is very much appreciated for coming every day from Wakarusa, Indiana in frigid temperatures and snow to be at school to help keep our center stay open. Yes, dedication certainly, we are doubly blessed!

We will return to the interviews of our teaching staff next week, when we interview our very hard-working teachers in the GSRP room, Ms. Heather and Ms. Stevie. Please remember, we would not have a school except for the dedication and hard work from our teachers and staff, please come down to the ECDC and say express your gratitude.

"THE ROCK" Sunday School

God Judges Rebellion, Numbers 16:11, 20:10-11 What happens when you don't follow your parents' directions? Maybe your mom asked you to clean up your mess or remove the trash, but you didn't. Perhaps when your dad asked you to help a sibling, you ignored him and stayed in your room instead. Mom and Dad wouldn't be happy with your choices and actions. God gives us people who care, help, teach, and guide us. Some of these people are our parents, grandparents, and teachers. It pleases God when we obey and respect each of them. Today at The Rock, we learn about three men who rebelled against God and Moses' leadership. This made God unhappy. Oh, no! God opens a hole in the earth and swallows the rebellious men up. What a lesson! We must ask God to help us respect and obey our parents and teachers. Memory Verse: Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.



Homebound and Continuing Care Facilities

Homebound: Dollie Schmaltz, Edith Weed, Edna Holt, Irwin and Margaret Poschke, Terry Graves, Kay Cornwell, Joanne Argue, Ray Michener, Harry Rock, and Elizabeth Rock

Continuing Care Facilities: Pat Ott, Geraldine Wooley, Don Metzger, Skip & Norma Linn, Barry Vance (out of state), Marylou Svorec (out of state), Rose Briggs, Betty Dehring, Dorothea Crocker, Bill Gast, Duane Vigansky, and Harriet Fester

For information on how to connect with our church family please call the church office at 269-465-6031

Prayers of the Church for Today

AnneMarie Mojsiejenko hospitalized
Ashley and Landon Ackerman, Barb Ackerman, Sherry Vonk
Family and Friends of Juanita Blosser

Healing Needs for the Mont

Erica Anstey, Sarah Hogue, Marion Winter, August Zilke (Tiffany Rydwelski's Father) Pastor Carl Bassett, Leon Schmaltz, Darrell Gast, Jared Simpson, Merry Sneed, Terry Combs, Georgia Hildebrandt, Rick Russell, Mike Dick, Mike Stine, Denny Lawrenz, Tim Smith, Derek Davis, Connie Randall, James Petty Sr., Scott Mulvihill, Char Schram, John Stine, Natalya Gaidukevich, Jeffrey Nemitz, Ray Michener, Tiffany Prosser, Michael Dick, Harriet Fester, Ted Joachim, Tara Deam,, Kathy Burkett, Ray Krieger, Jane Tym, Gavin Hanson, Sara Buist, Harvey Burnett, Charles Boreland, Dave Kramer, Marilyn Gelesko, Beth Vigansky Ciuzio, Tom Ulmer, Brenda Cangelosi, Ralph Palmer (Nancy Gast's Son), Laura Laube, Roger Mojsiejenko, Jeff Delvaux, Terry Graves, Irwin & Margaret Poschke, Dick Gorske,

Serving in the Military

Isaac Maze (Army) SFC Casey LeFever,
MAJ Kenneth Stice, Nathan Anderson, MM1 Timothy Ott,
Jacob Lomoro, SGT Devin Hays, Tom Shepard, Dan Woodruff,
SPC David Helfman, Arthur Gatchel, Ryan Skibbe,
MAJ Joe Chappel, FN Sebastian Kirk MMN3

Thank you to the members of Immanuel who continue to give their offerings when absent on Sundays

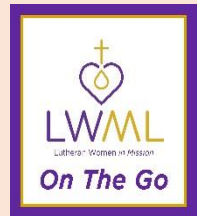
Finance News

January 19, 2025 offerings and donations:
Offering Envelopes \$5,784.00 Year to date: \$29,064.00
Roof fund \$385

Today's Hymns: LSB 798 vs 1,3,5; LSB 533, LSB 798 vs 7,9

Sunday, February 2, 2025 Scriptures: 1 Samuel 1:21-28;
Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

Sunday Attendance: January 19, 2024
9:00 am – 57 ; 10:30 am – 44



LWML NEWS

Sewing for Missions: Sewers will meet this Friday, January 31st at 9am-1pm. You are welcome to join the women in the Life Center to help assemble quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Come and see the beautiful quilts being made.

Sorry, no BINGO. Our capricious Michigan weather has gotten the best of us again and this event was cancelled due to safety concerns with driving. We are looking forward to game night 2026! Keep an eye on the newsletter and LWML news, they are looking for a relaxation night with a venue to give our ladies an evening of women's fellowship and rest with a chance to renew. Keep looking at this section of this newsletter for more details.

Valentine Give-Away on Friday, February 7th from 2:00 – 5:00 pm in the front of Harding's Friendly Market in Bridgman is such a wonderful Outreach. Our hard-working Outreach Board has joined our ECDC students in preparing special handmade Valentine's greetings to give away to shoppers at Harding's Market. We are sharing the love of Christ to anyone who is willing to receive a free Valentine and sweet treat. We are reaching out to our community to share the loving Words of our Lord.

2024 Offering Statements are available by request through the church office by calling 269-465-6031 or email us at ilc@immanuelbridgman.org. Let us know if that is something you would like for your records.

We are collecting funds for our roof. The Parking Lot Resurface Fund and the HVAC Fund are taking a back seat while we collect funds for our roof repair. The old portion of the school and Life Center roof are in need of repair and resurfacing or possibly replacement. We have had several more leaks appear every year and it has taken a priority place on our maintenance list. These on going issues are maintenance for our large facility and we appreciate everyone who gives so generously to our maintenance.

GOD IS GOOD! We are so very grateful for all of the generous donations that were given in these last weeks for the Donation Challenge that was issued by one of our congregation members! Through your generosity we have met the \$20,000 challenge and the matching funds will be coming soon to add to our growing totals. In addition, another anonymous member has donated an additional \$20,000 to our roof fund, which makes us truly grateful and humble by the outpouring of donations to repair our roof. We are still trying to get additional bids for the roof replacement/repair, but we feel that from the bids we have received we may need \$200,000 to replace the roof. We are off to a great start, however, please refer to the poster in the narthex for how much further we have to go before we have the needed funds. We are so grateful and feel that God is INDEED with us!

Well Done Immanuel!

Get Your
FREE
VALENTINE
in Harding's Market Lobby
Fri. February 7th 2-5 pm

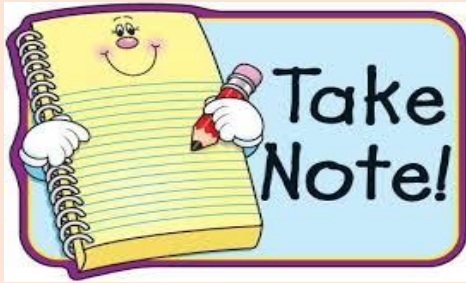


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Special Days

Birthdays: Dale Marschke (1-26), Marcia Hanke (1-26), Debra Ruff (1-27) Ethen Korcek (1-29), Chris Reck (1-30), Devin Hays (1-30), Emily Kerlikowske (1-30), Christine Hein (1-31),

This Week at Immanuel

Today. Jan. 26th – Divine Worship - 9 am
Praise Worship -10:30am
“The Rock” Sunday School – 10:45 am

Mon. Jan. 27th – Bible Class led by Gerry Vigansky – 10:00 am
Coronation Service of Celebration for Juanita Blosser, Visitation – 10am; Service – 11am
Bridge Club – 12:30 pm
Handbell Choir – 6:00 pm
AA Meeting – 7:00 pm

Tues. Jan. 28th – Spiritual Council - 6:00 pm

Wed. Jan. 29th - Bible Class Café led by Elsie Hanke – 10am
Choir Practice – 7:00 pm

Thurs. Jan.30th – Breakfast with Jesus at Rochefort’s – 8am
Praise Worship Practice – 7:00 pm

Sun. Feb. 2nd – Divine Worship Service - 9:00 am
Praise Worship Service - 10:30 am
“The Rock” Sunday School – 10:45 am

Noteworthy Dates in the Next Few Weeks

- ♥ **Valentines Give Away** – Friday, February 7, 2025, 2-5pm
- ♥ **Men’s Network Breakfast** – Saturday, February 15th, 8am
- ♥ **Ash Wednesday** – March 5, 2025

Everyone Needs Prayer! We still in need for people to sign up to be Prayer Partners with our teachers in the ECDC. Recently we have hired new teachers and we need some prayer partners for them. Those very dedicated women work very hard to teach our littlest members of our community to know and love God. We are asking the Prayer Partners to drop a note to their partner, share small gifts like a small treat, Bible verse, or a quick text to know they are being thought of. Each Prayer Partner will receive a “Favorites” list to help them get to know their partner better. Please sign up today!

Goodlife Choir - We are so grateful to everyone who participated in the Beyond the Walls Choir. They are looking ahead to 2025 the next practice will be tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, February 22, 2025 and Saturday, March 1, 2025.** Practices will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Bridgman from 10:00 – 11:15 am. The theme for this year’s program is “He is Risen.” Watch the bulletin for further details.

Operation Christmas Child 2025: This past year Immanuel Lutheran Church was able to send over 70 filled boxes to children who might not receive a gift or hear about Jesus’ birthday! Thank you to all who contributed throughout the year. We want to continue supporting this wonderful ministry so in **January we will be collecting socks and toothbrushes.** From top to bottom – we want to show Jesus’ love! **February Operation Christmas Child collection will be small stuffed animals.** This should be relatively easy with Valentine’s Day coming up on the 14th. There are sweet little stuffed animals everywhere for you to send some love to children who do not know the love of God.

Those Serving in Church This Week



Greeters: Brad & Debbie Hildebrandt and Mark Heyn(9 am);

Immanuel's Praise Team (10:30 am)

Ushers: Don Burch, Brad Hildebrandt, Dave Neal, Paul Jaeger, Joe Rydwelski, Larry Smith, and Ken Dickinson

Lay readers: Ilene Nemtitz (9am)

Pianist: Pastor Tom Fischer

Choir: Director, Sara Oldenburg, Elsie Hanke, Kurt Hanke, Rich McClintock, Mark Heyn, Kathy Hanke, Chris Hampton, Nancy Kirk, Jeannie Dehring, Judy Roush, Karen Pedde, Ilene Nemtitz, Cheryl Fischer, and Kim Schmitz

Women's Ensemble: Sara Oldenburg, Ilene Nemtitz, Judy Roush and Kim Schmitz

Praise Team: Team Leader, Deb Jaeger; Rich Kubsch, Mark Heyn, Karen Kerlikowske, Lori Sukupchak, Sharon Stine, Melissa Barker, Pattie Neal, Amy Kregel and Shannah Smith

Guitarists: John "Mac" McElligott, Kurt Hanke

Keyboardist/Guitarist: Kunwarjit Singh Multani "Sid"

Altar Guild: Kathy Hanke, Diane Kanous, Judy Roush

A/V Techs: Chad Hettig, Lucas Oldenburg, Cyndi Pedde, Pattie Neal, Steve Schmitz, Karl Hanke and Eric Kubsch

Counters: Karen Pedde, Craig Klein, Karen Oldenburg, Carol Berndt and Cheryl Music

Office Assistants: Lorraine Jasper, Melissa Barker, Suellen Klein, Cheryl Fischer

Trustees: Brad Hildebrandt, Paul Jaeger, Joe Rydwelski, Art Brunke

Elders: Larry Kanous, Paul Jaeger, Allan Barker, Mark Heyn, Eric Ott, Steve Schmitz

Organist: Pastor Thomas Fischer

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Douglas Kregel.

We can always use member's who wish to share their musical talents. Maybe one of your New Year's resolutions could be to join one of our Choirs or our Praise Team. Everyone is welcome to join, we enjoy fellowship and fun while using our unique talents to add beauty to worship. If you have a voice you can sing, if you can count you can play bells, if you play an instrument we can use you too. Our Handbell Choir practices on Monday at 6:00 pm. Our Choir practices on Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Our Praise Team practices on Thursday at 7:00 pm. There is also the Beyond the Walls Choir which is seasonal. If you play an instrument, (any instrument!) we would like to invite you to join us also. Let's use our many talents to praise our Lord and Savior. If you have any questions you can contact Pastor Fischer or the Church office.

The Share Closet is open. Did you know, we are so blessed to have this ministry? Again this year, Harbor Country Missions put a call out for warm clothing to give to the people in need in Bridgman. We were able to answer that call with so many coats, boots and warm blankets. If you look in the Share Closet, it is filled with plenty of items! That's just one story of many that shows how much this ministry is needed! If you have some time to spare, come and look at the closet and see the great ministry that is going on! Thank you to Cheryl Music, Susan Foster and Ellen Yeske for continuing to help organize and clean up the closet. Thank you for all your donations for this great Outreach!

Rev. Dr. Douglas A. Kregel, Sole Pastor

**Please call the church office for any Pastoral needs.
Church Office 269-465-6031**