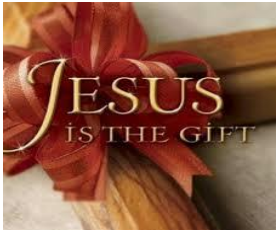




IMMANUEL LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP WEEKLY



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

Sunday Worship and Learning Schedule Sunday, December 8, 2024

- 9:00 am – Divine Worship Service
- 10:30 am – Children’s Christmas Program
- 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

AS WE GATHER

In our modern culture, Christmas decorations fill the shelves of the local stores as the community is encouraged to beautify its homes. The marketplace puts out its finery in an attempt to increase sales. However, the church is not a store. Rather, the church sees the world from God’s perspective. In this three-part Advent sermon series, we are learning how God defines beauty so that we may all truly enjoy a beautiful Christmas.

CHURCH NEWS

We Thank You for joining us for Worship Today! We are so blessed that you have come to join us as we prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord and Savior! During this Advent season we have been blessed with several talented instrumentalists who are willing to share their talents playing before the worship service begins. We would appreciate it if you would be respectful of the music offerings and take any conversations you need to have with others, out to the administration hallway. We appreciate your help with this request.

Nicene Creed (LSB p.191) The creeds of the church grow directly from the teachings of Scripture. Many resources are available to explain this in more detail. **Offertory** (LSB pp. 192-93): Either before or during the offering, the congregation sings this setting of a portion of Psalm 51. It implores God to work through the Word just preached to cleanse and purify the heart as God’s people gather their sacrificial offerings and partake of His Supper. **Offering:** An Early Church father, Tertullian, reported that pagans were amazed at how Christians cared for one another. “See how they love one another,” the pagans said. The Bible bears this out. The Old Testament Hebrews provided for their priests. In the New Testament, St. Paul exhorts his congregations to take up offerings for the church, to provide both for church workers and all the brothers in need (1 Cor.16:2; 2 Cor 9:5-7; Gal.6:6-7).

We are so excited today at the 10:30 am Worship Service, our sweet ECDC students will display their dramatic talents while performing The Christmas Children’s Program **“Jesus Is My Christmas Gift”**. Why not come to see these little angels sing about the coming of our Lord Jesus and what it means to us. If you cannot come to the performance, how about joining us after the performance for refreshments with the children and their families. Come to the Life Center around noon, sample some delicious refreshments and enjoy getting to know our ECDC families. We hope to see you there.

Did You Get Your Christmas Cookies? Please stop by the LWML Cookie Table for your box of Christmas Cookies. Let us help you this holiday season by offering you the most delicious assortment of homemade Christmas Cookies made with love! Pick up yours today!



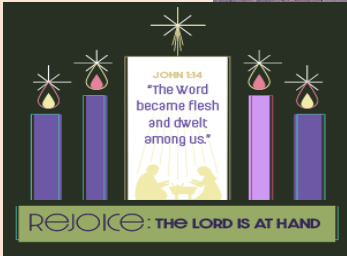
Immanuel Lutheran Ministries
9650 N. Church St.,
Bridgman, MI 49106
269-465-6031 Church Office

WHO IS THE MOST AWESOME PERSON TODAY?



Thank you Joe Rydwelski and Family for all of your hard work completing the patio. It looks so beautiful and welcoming. Thank you for working so hard to make sure it was completed before the winter months set in. We appreciate your time and talents. We are looking forward to Spring and people using the patio!

Thank you to Cheryl Music, for spending some of your time again this busy week, helping to put away and organize the Share Closet. We are always getting donations, and we appreciate you spending some time hanging up, folding and organizing the closet so the shoppers can see all the wonderful items. You are a blessing!



Midweek Advent Meals: Join us **December 11th, and 18th** for Midweek Advent Meals. Light lunches will be served after the 12:15 pm worship service and/or light suppers at 5 p.m. before the 6 p.m. service. These meals are a great way to enjoy fellowship and prepare for the coming of our Lord!



Poinsettias for Christmas are always a beautiful way to share your love for special people in your lives. If you would like to order a poinsettia plant to honor a loved one and to help us make the sanctuary look festive for the Advent Season, please pick up your form on the table in the narthex. The plants are 6 1/2" pots and are \$8 each. All dedication forms must be completed and turned into the church office by December 22nd. A list of all memorials and honorariums will be in the December 24th worship service newsletters. Thank you for showing your love for your family and friends by placing a plant in the altar area.



We are looking for Carolers! We are looking for people to sing familiar Christmas Carols through the City of Bridgman on **Saturday, December 14th**. **We will gather in the Life Center at 4:45 pm** and everyone with our talented guitarist, Pastor Tom Fischer, will tour Bridgman businesses, sharing our songs to the local shoppers and businesses. This is always such a great outreach and we hope you can join us!



Let Us Make
Your Car Run
Like New!
269-588-
5102



G. L. Wasko & Sons is a family-owned transportation and warehousing company that now includes the third generation of the Wasko family. We think of ourselves as "your dedicated carrier" because we are dedicated to treating our customers like we treat each other, with respect.



ECDC News

For the next few weeks we will be introducing you to our staff in our ECDC. We hope this will encourage you to come down to the classrooms and introduce yourself and get to know our excellent, loving staff and their outstanding students!

Get to Know



Our wonderful assistant Teachers in our preschool are hardworking as well! Please meet Adelynn Joy Marie Hovorka, or as she likes to be called "Addie" Addie was born in Battle Creek and then moved to South Haven. Her family is blessed to be in a blended family with biological siblings, Alissa, Victor Jr. and Alastair as well as her step-siblings, Margo, Cora, Josiah and a new sibling on the way. Sadly, Addie's mother has passed away, but she has her father Victor and stepmother, Jessica to spend family time with. Addie lives with her boyfriend, Payne and they rent a home in Benton Harbor. Payne works for the Brick Layers Union and travels all over the United States using his skill to build new buildings. That makes Addie responsible for keeping the home fires burning because he is away so much. Besides working with the children, Addie loves to read books, especially mysteries, romance and sci-fi, she also loves using her artistic abilities by coloring in adult coloring books. Addie also enjoys the online game "Disney Dream Light" playing the game with others online. Addie recently lost a pet, her cat but she has some other friends to keep her company while Payne is away, she enjoys her two-year-old shepherd mix puppy, Ozzy and her cockatiel Nugget. Addie also loves to take Ozzy on the trails around her home and loves the South Haven/Kalamazoo trail to walk and play fetch with Ozzy. Addie has some goals for the future, she is studying to become a teacher but is taking a break from her studies at LMC. She would like to buy a home, specifically a farm, find a church to worship at and eventually become a mother. Addie works with Ms. Abby and Ms. Erin (their bios were in last week's newsletter) in the Skill Builders Classroom and also with the school age children. Addie loves getting to know the children at our ECDC, she loves to work with the children, helping them to learn new skills and watching as they grow! We are so fortunate to have Addie as part of our teaching team here and we praise God for leading her to our center!



Please meet Sara Luther! Another one of our very important assistant Teachers. Sara works in our Early Learner room with Ms. Angie and Ms. Racheal. Sara is married to David who is a hard-working farmer they grow soy beans and corn. They live on their farm with their three children in Three Oaks. Sara has an older son Austin Gaul who graduated with a computer science degree, her other two children are Savannah Luther who is a freshman attending Bridgman High School and Lane Luther who is attending Reed Middle School in Bridgman. Sara became acquainted with our ECDC because Savannah and Lane had Barb Ackerman as their preschool teacher. God always has a plan and we are grateful that God has led the Luther Family here to Immanuel. Living on a farm is very hard work and also involves many responsibilities, among those are two cats; Chloe and Franny, a bearded dragon, a leopard Geko, a blue Quaker Parrot, two fish, three dogs; Willow, Lola and Charlotte, assorted chickens and a turkey named Frank, who is Lane's pet turkey. They also have rabbits which they raise in their 4-H group, Rainbow Tracks and take to the Berrien County Youth Fair. Sara is also blessed with a blended family, she has her stepfather Earl and mother Sherry Swank and her father Rick and stepmother Vicky Priest. Sara has a brother Rick with stepsister Jessica and two stepbrothers. Sara and her family attend Hope Church in Niles and they go to their camper at Fuller's Campground in Buchanan to get away from home and relax. They do travel down to Florida to visit with her father as well. Sara enjoys going to yard sales, craft shows and watching movies in her spare time. Sara's daughter, Savannah is hoping to focus her studies on becoming a Marine Biologist. The Luther Family could use our prayers, Lane was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy when he was three years old. With medications and therapy Lane is still able to walk and work on the farm, but sometimes he does get tired and needs to rest and reset. He is in pain from the disease often and through therapy they can work through it, but it is a struggle sometimes and hard to see a child in pain. Please keep this courageous family in your prayers as they find a way for Lane to live with this debilitating disease. Thank you, Sara, for sharing your time and talents with our students here at our Early Childhood Development Center and we value your loving care spirit. We hope you can take some time to come down and meet our wonderful teaching staff.





The Angel Tree is up this year and waiting for you to choose an angel. We have our Golden Angels as well as children in need! Please have your Angel Gifts back to the church by December 18th at the latest for the children. If you have a Golden Angel and you are delivering it yourself there is no due date, the church office can tell you who your Angel is, if you are not delivering the gift yourself, please have it here by December 15th. You are a blessing! Thank you for sharing this gift of LOVE.

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, Bev Gast, 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

Betty Korcek (heart valve replacement); Annette Ott (back surgery this Thursday); Karen Oldenburg (recovering from surgery); John Stine

Friends and Family of Barbara Wallace (Shannon Jones' Mother)

Healing Needs for the Month

John "Mac" McElligott, August Zilke (Tiffany Rydwelski's Father) Pastor Carl Bassett, Leon Schmaltz, Darrell Gast, Marion Winter, Jared Simpson, Merry Sneed, Terry Combs, Dorothy Ott, Georgia Hildebrandt, Nancy Akright, Karl Kaeding, 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, Sarah Hogue, 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, Taylor Joachim

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

Finance News

December 1, 2024 offerings and donations:
Offering Envelopes \$7,211.00 Year to date: \$357,060.00

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

Oldenburg & Sons
EXCAVATING INC

Call Oldenburg Excavating
for all your Digging Needs!
269-426-4519



LUTHERAN'S WOMEN MISSIONARY LEAGUE NEWS



**WHO IS THE
MOST AWESOME
PERSON TODAY?**



LWML Annual Cookie Sale: The annual cookie sale is HERE! Thank you to all the bakers who contributed their delicious homemade cookies! Last year we had a sell out with some individuals wanting to buy more...so we got you to make even more of your great homemade cookies this year. Thank you to all of the volunteer LWML members who helped with the packing of the cookies yesterday. We are so very grateful and blessed.

Holiday Village will be this **Saturday, December 14th**. We will host the Holiday Market in our gymnasium, sell some delicious food for the shoppers, bake some delicious treats to sell to the shoppers, offer a prayer table for those in need and create the Live Nativity for outside of the church. Anyone who would like to volunteer their time for the Holiday Village Pop-Up or the Live Nativity, please contact Deb Jaeger or Nancy Seldomridge. Please mark this special date and join in the festivities!

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.

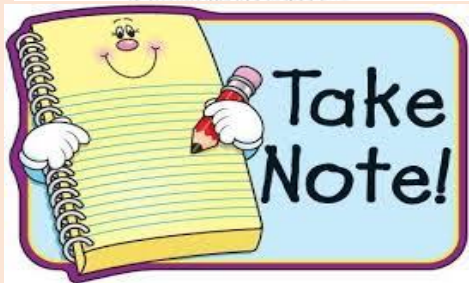
A Challenge Has Been Issued. A generous congregation member has issued a challenge to the congregation as incentive to raise funds for the roof repair/replacement project. This member will match dollar for dollar donations made to the roof fund up to \$20,000. If you were blessed this year with some extra money and would like to see matching funds given to the roof fund, please donate what you can to take advantage of this challenge. Please note on your check that your donation is for the Roof Fund Challenge. Thank you as always for being a very generous congregation who donates above and beyond their weekly offerings, we are so very blessed!

Beyond the Walls Choir has been singing at some continuing care facilities presenting their "Heaven Has Come" presentation bringing the Christmas spirit to people in continuing care facilities. The Beyond the Walls Choir will be presenting "Heaven Has Come" to our congregation on **December 22nd at the 9:00 am worship service**. Thank you to Sara Oldenburg for directing the choir and Pastor Fischer for doing all the organizing and membership gathering. We are so blessed with your efforts!

Bake Sale Bakers Needed! Can you help with the Holiday Village Pop-up Market Bake Sale table? We could use some of your delicious baked goods to offer to the shoppers at the Holiday Village in three weeks, if you can help supply some baked goods that can be packaged and sold to the shoppers. Please contact Ellen Yeske if you can help!

Men's Network Breakfast will be this Saturday, December 15th at 8:00 am. Won't you come and join this group as they explore current topics, eat a great breakfast and enjoy fellowship? We hope to see you there!

Thank You to Nancy Kirk who changes out the décor in the Women's Bathroom seasonally for us. We appreciate the lovely decorations that brighten our restroom! Thank you for taking the time to put up the devotions and scripture as well, you are a loving, giving servant of the Lord,



Special Days

Birthdays: Jackie Krieger (12-08); Matthew Mabry (12-09); Sherri Skorupa (12-10); Jonathan Gelesko (12-11); Shannah Smith (12-12); Marilyn Krieger (12-13); Dolly Schmaltz (12-14); Jeanne Miller (12-14); Timothy Heimbuch (12-14)

Anniversary: Wally & AnneMarie Mojsiejenko (12-12) 66 years

This Week at Immanuel

Today, Dec. 8th – Divine Worship Service – 9:00 am
ECDC Children's Christmas Program _ 10:30 am
Reception for the ECDC Families – 12:00 pm

Mon. Dec. 9th – Handbell Choir Practice – 6:00 pm
AA Meeting – 7:00 pm

Tues. Dec. 10th – Business Council – 7:00 pm

Wed. Dec. 11th – Wed. Bible Study – 11:00 am
Advent Midweek Worship Service – 12:15 pm
Advent Fellowship Luncheon – 1:15 pm
Advent Fellowship Supper – 5:00 pm
Advent Midweek Worship Service – 6:00 pm
Board of Elders Meeting – 6:30 pm

Thurs. Dec. 12th – Breakfast with Jesus at Rochefort's – 8:00 am
Praise Worship Practice – 7:00 pm

Sat. Dec. 14th – Holiday Village Pop-up Market Set-up – 9:00 am
Holiday Village Pop-up Market – 1:00 pm
Live Nativity – 2:00 pm

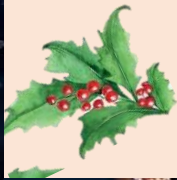
Sun. Dec. 15th – Unity Worship Service Cantata – 10:00 am

Noteworthy Dates in the Next Few Weeks.

- ♥ **Advent Midweek Worship Service** – Wednesday, December 11th at 12:15 pm. Fellowship Luncheon following the worship
- ♥ **Advent Midweek Service** – Wednesday December 11th at 6:00 pm in the Life Center
- ♥ **Children's Christmas Program**- Sunday, December 8th at 10:30am
- ♥ **Reception for ECDC Families** – Sunday, December 8th at 12:00pm in Life Center
- ♥ **Holiday Pop-Up Market** – Saturday, December 14th 1-5pm. in Immanuel's gymnasium.
- ♥ **Christmas Cantata** – Sunday, December 15th Unity Service at 10:00 am **Only one worship service this Sunday**
- ♥ **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services** – Tuesday, December 24th Traditional Worship – 2pm Praise Worship Service – 5pm
- ♥ **Christmas Day Joint Worship Service** at Trinity Lutheran Church Sawyer – 9:30 am

Do You Have a Prayer Partner?

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!

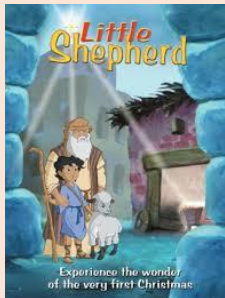


SIGN UP FOR A PRAYER PARTNER



~Volunteers~

Serving God with Gladness!



Those Serving in Church This Week

Greeters: Brad and Debbie Hildebrandt and Mark Heyn (9am); Immanuel's Praise Team (10:30 am)

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

Lay Reader: Karen Pedde (9am)

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

Handbell Choir: Directed by Laurie Ulmer, Susan Foster, Suellen Klein, Melissa Barker, Cheryl Music, Bev Barnes, Rebekah Hettig, Lori Sukupchak, Kathy Michener, Joyce Hamlin, Steve and Kim Schmitz

Guitarists: John "Mac" McElligott, Kurt Hanke and "Sid"

Keyboardist: "Sid"

Altar Guild: Sue Berk, Judy Kubsch, Diana Prittinen and Lori Wesner

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, Steve Schmitz

Organist: Laurie Ulmer

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Douglas Krengel.

Advent Midweek Services this year are Wednesdays, with two services. One service will be a traditional service at 12:15 pm and a light luncheon following the service. The evening service will be the same format as Lent this year. You can come and enjoy a delicious dinner prepared by our members at 5:00 pm and then starting at 6:00 pm, we will enjoy viewing a short, animated movie from Lutheran Television about our Advent season. Pastor Krengel will have some discussion questions for us to stimulate discussion among groups at this service. We hope you will take this opportunity to prepare your heart for the advent of our Lord and Savior by attending our worship services!

Children's Christmas Program today was directed by Barb Ackerman (our awesome ECDC Director) and produced by Deb Jaeger. Thank you for the hours you gave to set up the background, practiced with the children and created the great presentation which made this performance so very special! A special thank you goes out to Kunwarjit Singh Multani or "Sid" for playing the piano background music and songs so beautifully! We appreciate you sharing your talents with us. Thank you to the Outreach and Fellowship Boards for putting together the refreshments and treat bags for the children! You all are amazing servants of the Lord!

We hope you can join us for this year's Christmas Cantata. This will be **one worship service starting at 10:00 am on Sunday, December 15th**. This worship service focuses on sharing our love of the Lord through our musical talents. We are very blessed at Immanuel with musicians and vocalists. We praise the Lord for bringing such wonderful people together to Praise His Name!

Sunday School Teachers.
THANK YOU!



"The Rock" News

Over the next few weeks at The Rock, we will learn and work towards something extraordinary. We have busy hands and full hearts! We will be preparing our hearts during Advent for the birth of Jesus. We will make advent countdown calendars to help us count the days until Christmas and a gift for our families. Each year, The Rock kids enthusiastically enjoy creating Christmas crafts and learning about the Christmas story. This year, we will also be making a wonderful gift for all of the Shut-ins for Christmas on the Angel Tree.

Lutheran Witness Magazine Subscriptions are available through the LCMS District. This year the price has increased substantially. If you have received this magazine in the past, you might want to receive it again or if you have never received this magazine, it is the official magazine of The Lutheran Church. The annual subscription is \$21.20 if you order by December 9th, the subscription price after December 9th is \$23.20. Please put your subscription money into the church office. This subscription no longer includes **Michigan In Touch** online magazine.

Greeters needed for 2025! It's time again, to round up volunteer Greeters for next year. If you were a Greeter in 2024, we'd love to have you continue. If you need a break, we understand and if you'd like to join our happy group, we will welcome you with open arms! There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you can let Sherry Vonk know. Her cell phone is 269-208-4323 (text or call) and email is glwasko@aol.com. We ask that volunteers arrive by 8:30 on the Sunday you are scheduled. If there are some dates you are not available, let Sherry know so you are not scheduled on those days.

Calling All Seniors you are invited to a Christmas Party in your honor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Glendora on Sunday, December 15th at noon. You will enjoy pizza from Pizza Hut, breadsticks, build your own salad, fruit and dessert. You will be able to worship and take communion at a service beginning at 1:30 pm and to top it off you can party with Wil Smaka and his polka band. Please use the sign-up sheet in on the table in the narthex to sign up by December 9th for this special party.

Rev. Dr. Douglas A. Kregel, Sole Pastor

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

Today's Hymns – LSB 343; LSB 344 , LSB 331

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 Midweek Advent Service
Holy Scripture: *1 Corinthians 15:1-10*

Sunday, December 15th, 2024 Scriptures: *Luke 1:26-33;*
Luke 1:34-38; Luke 2:1-7; Luke 2:8-12; Isaiah 35:1-2, 5-6, 10

Sunday Attendance: December 1, 2024

9:00 am – 74 ; 10:30 am – 50

Wednesday Bible Study - 8

**DID YOU KNOW? There is an easy way to give your offering!
You can go to www.immanuelbridgman.org and give your offering via our electronic giving. Check it out today!**