



Friday, May 9, 2025

## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP WEEKLY



### Sunday Worship and Learning Schedule Sunday, May 11, 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](http://www.immanuelbridgman.org)



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

“Therefore, as God’s chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful.” (Colossians 3:12-15 CSB)

### CHURCH NEWS

**Thank you, Pastor Tom Fischer** who will be leading us, in worship again today while Pastor Krengel is celebrating his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday touring Greece. We are so grateful to Pastor Tom for leading us in worship while Pastor Krengel is away and for his generosity in sharing his multiple talents with his church family.

**Please Welcome our Guest Organist Today**, Karen Schaeffer. We were blessed with Karen’s talent last Sunday and she has graciously agreed to help us this Sunday while Pastor Fischer is filling in for Pastor Krengel. Karen lives in LaPorte, Indiana. And is the wife of LCMS Pastor Ken Schaeffer and has even played for Trinity Lutheran Church in Clarkston, Michigan as their organist. We are so blessed that Karen has agreed to play today, while Pastor Fischer fulfills his commitments as guest Pastor here. We are very blessed.

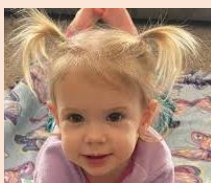
**Happy Mother’s Day!** To all women who have given birth to tiny miracles from God or if you have acted as a “Mom” in someone’s life. God has blessed you with the unique gift of tender, nurturing care and love. We praise our loving God for all those gifts and pray that He will continue to sustain you in your daily lives caring for those you love.

**Semi Annual Voters’ Meeting & Voters Packets** is set for **Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at noon**. Please pick up your Voters’ Packets which are on the table in the narthex, so you will be prepared for the Voters’ Meeting. We hope you will join us for this important meeting.

**Join us for Quilting Friday, May 23 at 9am**. Even if you have never sewn, you can help assemble quilts for missions and lap blankets for nursing home residents. It’s always a fun morning with sisters in Christ!

**LWML Hymn Sing** on Monday May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at Woodland Terrace in Niles. We will join this St. Joseph Zone traditional hymn sing in honor of Mother’s Day and this will serve as our May meeting for our LWML group. They plan to sing to the residents of Woodland Terrace in Niles and then enjoy a dinner at Transit Pizza downtown Niles. Please consider joining this outreach evening as we share the joy of motherhood and God’s gifts through song. We hope to see you there!

Field Code Changed



*Dear Church Family, I appreciate and felt all the love and prayers the day I went into surgery. Special thanks to Pastor K, for getting up at the crack of dawn to have a heartfelt prayer with us before surgery. My recovery and rehab are going well (Don't ask Dave Ha! Ha!) All the cards, meals & prayers have definitely helped with this healing process. Hope to be worshipping with you all soon!*  
*Your sister in Christ, Pattie Neal*

**We have been blessed with** the Eva Martin Project again this year. In memory of Eva, we (the church and ECDC) will together have a stuffed animal/comfort blanket drive in Eva's honor. There is a labeled barrel in the narthex for new, (with price tags still on) stuffed animals and comfort blankets. The boxes will be placed in the narthex on May 1<sup>st</sup> and will remain until May 30<sup>th</sup>. These will be distributed to local hospitals for children to provide them comfort to help soothe them during their hospital stay. Please consider donating to this wonderful non-profit mission. Eva is a relative of one of our ECDC teachers. Let's support our local causes. For more information, please go to [theevamartinproject.org](http://theevamartinproject.org).

**Vacation Bible School** will be starting before you know it. This year's Vacation Bible School will focus on the life of Jesus, they will learn about him, his ministry and how to live for his glory. This Bible school is unique in that the children will learn about apologetics, which is a skill the children will develop to use reasoned arguments and evidence to defend our faith and address objections that other people offer. This will help to strengthen their faith as well as offer to others a reasonable explanation to doubts. The children get to experience the Old West with crafts, science, Bible study and snacks all geared to enjoy the western theme. We hope you will sign up the young'un in your life. Registration forms are available on the table in the narthex and can be turned into the church office or Shannon Jones, our fabulous VBS organizer! Please consider joining the volunteers to provide instruction, help with games, crafts or get creative with the snacks. Please join us for our next meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30 am in the Life Center. We can always use the extra hands and skills our generous volunteers offer!



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## ECDC NEWS

Teacher appreciation week was well attended and appreciated by all the staff here at Immanuel! Monday was donuts "We DONUT know what we would do without you!" Tuesday was Taco day "TACO 'bout Great Teachers & Staff" Wednesday was a candy buffet "You Are the Sweetest" Thursday was a soup and salad bar "BAR NONE You're the Best" and Friday was Pizza "You Have a 'PIZZA' our Heart" What a fabulous way to honor our hardworking staff! Well done Barb Ackerman, Shannon Jones and Cheryl Petty, thank you for all of your love and care for our staff!

With school starting to wind down, the children were concentrating on preparing their final "exams". They have been completing their workbooks and journals, finishing up their projects and of course Mother's Day gifts for their very special moms.

Our Skill Builders were busy folding and cutting for a beautiful paper plant for Mom and the flowers were special messages from their student. Wonderful gift! They also worked on their letter book finishing up several letters cutting, pasting and decorating each letter to look like an animal or thing. Next week the children will enjoy "Show and Tell" week, always a resounding favorite with the kids.

Our Early Learners classroom is anxiously waiting for their chicks to hatch which will be next week. They concentrated on finishing their handprint alphabet book. They were able to incorporate their handprints into an item from each letter of the alphabet, how creative! They also worked on a very special "garden bug" to decorate their mother's garden, so cute! Their Bible story was Zacchaeus and how he got Jesus to notice him even though he was so small.

Our GSRP were able to go and visit the Bridgman Elementary School Kindergarten classroom with their teachers. The kindergarten teacher praised the students for their well-ordered behavior which says so much about the structure given to them in their classroom at our ECDC! Well done Ms. Heather and Ms. Stevie! The students walked in line to the elementary school and enjoyed a tour of the building and classroom, meeting their kindergarten teachers for next year. They enjoyed a snack and then walked back to our ECDC. Great field trip! They potted flowers in small pots for their moms for Mother's Day!

Our Toddler Room was still working on their study of weather by hanging up the cloud/raindrop mobile in the ceiling that they made last week and they created clouds in empty water bottles, good job Ms. Lindsey, showing your students a really innovative experiment! Their Mother's Day gift was painting flowers with their fingerprints on ceramic tiles, adorable and a great keepsake for their Mom! Their Bible story was Jesus feeds the five thousand a miracle to be sure. Our infant room made butterflies out of their footprints and a Mother's Day message out of their handprints, another great keepsake. They spent a lot of time outside on the nice days and walks throughout the city of Bridgman. Their Bible story was "God is So Good" with Zoe the Zebra lending a hoof to tell the story. Thank you teachers for remaining so true to your mission teaching our youngest followers.

## "The Rock" Sunday School

Thank you to our Sunday School teachers and students who worked so hard on their Easter gifts to our shut-ins and members in continuing care facilities. They were grateful to receive the Easter message and the creative artwork! What a great outreach to those who have so little!





### Homebound and Continuing Care Facilities

**Homebound:** Dolie 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, Norma Linn, Marylou Svorec (out of state), Rose Briggs, Betty Dehring, Dorothea Crocker, Bill Gast, Duane Vigansky, Harriet Fester, and Marion Winter

**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

Debbie Miller (sepsis)  
Denny Lawrenz (eye surgery)  
Jeannie Dehring (health testing)  
Cheryl Fischer

Dante & Hailey Silva-Lewis (motorcycle accident & upcoming baby arrival) (Family of ECDC teacher Racheal Harrison)  
Jeff Rodewald (Barb Ackerman's brother-in-law) (Lymphoma)

**Visitations this week** by Chris Damaske, Elder Mark Heyn, Betty Korcek, Elder Paul Jaeger & Deb Jaeger: *Joanne Argue, Denny & Debbie Lawrenz, Gerri Wooley, Bill Gast, Edna Holt, Dolly & Lynn Schmaltz.*

### Healing Needs for the Month

Carla Braun, Keith Schmitz, Natalya Gaidukevich, David Harrison, Pattie Neal, Gerry Wasko, Ted Joachim, Christie Ott Hartzler, Erica Anstey, Janet Lamb, Larry Ott, Alex Dixon, Beth Vigansky Ciuizio, Dave Kramer, Andy Benjamin, Pastor Carl Bassett, Leon Schmaltz, Darrell Gast, Denny Lawrenz, John Stine, Jeffrey Nemitz, Ray Michener, Harriet Fester, Ray Krieger, Marilyn Gelesko, Tom Ulmer, Roger Mojsiejenko, Jeff Delvaux, Terry Graves, Irwin & Margaret Poschke, Dick Gorske,

### Serving in the Military

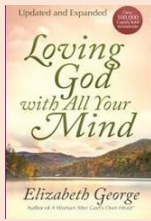
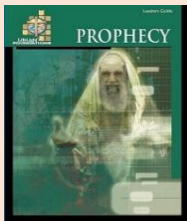
Isaac Maze (Army) SFC Casey LeFever,  
MAJ Kenneth Stice, Nathan Anderson, MM1 Timothy Ott,  
Jacob Lomoro, SGT Devin Hays, Tom Shepard, Dan Woodruff,  
SPC David Helfman, Arthur Gatchel, Ryan Skibbe,  
MAJ Joe Chappel, FN Sebastian Kirk MMN3

### Finance News

May 4, 2025 offerings and donations:  
Offering Envelopes \$10,886.00 Year to date: \$141,895.00

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

**The Share Closet is open.** Did you know, we are so blessed to have this ministry? 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 Abby Verslage, 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!



**Did you notice** the beautiful banner hanging in the chancel area on the east wall? That banner is a traveling banner which was created at the Michigan state LWML Convention last year. Groups of LWML ladies created this lovely banner using the theme "Taste and See that the Lord is Good" Psalm 34:8. This banner inspires us to experience God's goodness and grace as we grow spiritually, being nourished by His Word. Thank you to the St. Joseph Zone for sharing this beautiful banner with all of the churches in the zone. We are able to have this banner for about one month, and we are grateful.

**Operation Christmas Child 2025:** Like last year, we will be collecting each month, items to add to our boxes for November. Thank you for your support of small combs, hairbrushes and hair accessories for the month of April. We want to continue to support this inspirational mission. **In May we are collecting fun bandaides, washcloths, nail clippers and nail files.** We hope you can and will take some time to shop for the box.

**Thank you for the Board Reports for Voters' Packet.** Thank you to all of the Chairs of the Boards who submitted their reports for the Voter's Packet and of course the pictures you included. The Voters' Packets are out for you to read **TODAY** so you will be prepared for the **Voters Meeting at 12:00 noon on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.** As always, thank you for sharing your time and talents for the leadership of this church, you are faithful and giving servants of the Lord.

**FREE – For – All:** This year's Free-For-All will be June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Please start saving your donations. Your clean, gently used items such as clothing, books, hardware, toys, kitchenware, electronics and furniture, etc... will be available to our community at no cost. Donation drop-off dates and set-up times will be published soon. This is a big event for Immanuel and we thank you for your support!

**Don't forget about our Bible Studies** that are available for everyone, Mondays at 10:00 am led by Gerry Vigansky, and Wednesdays at 10:00 am (11am during Lent) led by Elsie Hanke. Every Thursday morning at 8am Breakfast with Jesus meet at Rochefort's in Bridgman. Men's Network Breakfast on the third Saturday of the month is going on hiatus early but will be back in October. Come and join these wonderful learning opportunities!

**Thank you** to our trustees for all the repairs completed lately, Paul Jaeger for fixing the Toddler Room door and window, to Art Brunke for fixing the boy's restroom urinal and to Brad Hildebrandt for working on the boiler motor. We appreciate all the work you do to help defray our cost to maintain our facilities and share those very valuable talents that God has gifted you with. We are so blessed you are in our church family!

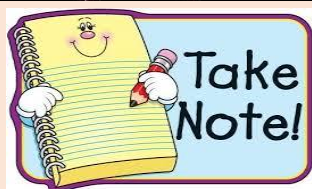
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### Special Days

**Birthdays:** David Ott (5/11), Terry Eichler (5/11), Ryan Hadley (5/12) Susan Enders (5/12), Waldemar Mojsiejenko (5/12), Derrick Miller (5/13), Isabella Oldenburg (5/13), Betty Nielsen (5/14), Jennifer Soper (5/14), Lori Sukupchak (5/14), Richard Ruff (5/15), Esme Vandenbrink (5/17), Scott Hadley (5/17)

**Anniversaries:** Donald & Sherri Skorupa on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 46 years, Andy & Ellen Korcek on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 19 years, Terry & Sue Enders on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 33 years, Joe & Tiffany Rydwelski May 16<sup>th</sup>, 27 years, Jeff & Lori Sukupchak on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 38 years, Frank & Jennifer Clark on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 6 years, Brian & Tracy Blanchette on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 21 years, Ellen & Walter Yeske on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 45 years.

### This Week at Immanuel

**Sun. May 11<sup>th</sup> – Divine Worship Service – 9:00 am**  
**Praise Worship Service - 10:30 am**

**Mon. May 12<sup>th</sup> – Bible Class led by Gerry Vigansky – 10am**  
**Worship Board – 5pm**  
**Handbell Choir – 6:00 pm**  
**AA Meeting – 7:00 pm**

**Wed. May 14<sup>th</sup> - Bible Class Café led by Elsie Hanke – 10am**

**Thurs. May 15<sup>th</sup> - Breakfast with Jesus at Rochefort's – 8am**  
**Praise Worship Practice – 7:00 pm**

**Sun. May 18<sup>th</sup> – Divine Worship Service with Holy Communion – 9:00 am**  
**Praise Worship Service with Holy Communion - 10:30 am**  
**"The Rock" Sunday School – 10:45 am**  
**Voters' Meeting – 12:00pm**

### Noteworthy Dates in the Next Few Weeks

- ♥ **Semi-Annual Voters Meeting – TODAY** May 18<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Life Center.
- ♥ **Confirmation Sunday Unity Service – Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am ~ **Only One Service this Sunday****
- ♥ **Free For All – Friday and Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**Confirmation Sunday** is June 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am and we are blessed with two wonderful young ladies this year, Avery Barnes and Brooklyn Wheeler. Please join us in a Unity Worship Service and reception after the service to get to know the newest members of our congregation! Only one worship service this Sunday.

**Did you know?** Worship Anew Worship Services are now broadcasted on **South Bend – CW 1.25 (FOX) Sunday 11:30 am.** For those of you who missed the inspirational programing we are grateful to CW for offering this worthy program. Why not take a peek?

**Immanuel has access** to a child car seat for 0-6 months, in full working order and has not expired. This seat is free for anyone who has a need. Please let the church office know that you would like to have this seat. Car seats can not be sold, so they are giving it away. Please call 269-465-6031 if you are interested.



### Those Serving in Church This Week

**Greeters:** Gerry & Sandy Vigansky and Nancy Seldomridge (9 am); Immanuel's Praise Team (10:30 am) **Greeters:** Nancy Kirk and the Berk Family (9 am); Immanuel's Praise Team (10:30 am) **Greeters:** Nancy Kirk and the Berk Family (9 am); Immanuel's Praise Team (10:30 am)

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**Lay Readers:** Karen Pedde 9:00am, Deb JaegerXXX (10:30)

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

**Flautists:** Lori Sukupchak, Brie Schmitz

**Immanuel's Handbell Choir:** Susan Foster, Suellen Klein, Melissa Barker, Cheryl Music, Bev Barnes, Rebekah Hettig, Doug & Joyce Hamlin, Lori Sukupchak, Kathy Michener, Kim & Steve 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" & Constantine

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

**A/V Techs:** Chad Hettig, Lucas Oldenburg, Cyndi Pedde, Pattie Neal, Steve Schmitz, Karl Hanke Brianna Schmitz 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:** Joe Rydwelski, Dale Marschke, Art Brunke, Brad Hildebrandt and Paul Jaeger

**Elders:** Larry Kanous, Denny Barnes, Paul Jaeger, Mark Heyn, Eric Ott, Steve Schmitz

**Communion Assistance:** Mike Hoover

**Organist:** Karen Schaeffer

**Pastor:** Reverend Thomas Fischer

**Semi Annual Voters Meeting** has been called by President Kurt Hanke for **Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Life Center**. Come see what Immanuel is planning for the future and get the opportunity to ask questions about what is happening at Immanuel. This is a wonderful chance to find out the answers to your questions. We hope you will take the opportunity to spend an hour with us in fellowship and love.

**Did you know?** Immanuel Lutheran Church will be 130 Years old on June 14, 2026! We are looking for some congregation members to head a committee which will look at ways we can celebrate our 130 years. If you would like to help with the celebration, please contact the church office at 269-465-6031 or email at [ilc@immanuelbridgman.org](mailto:ilc@immanuelbridgman.org)

**Today's Hymns:** LSB 465, LSB 478, LSB 547, LSB 474, LSB 517 vs 1,12,3 **Today's Hymns:** LSB 490, LSB 709, LSB 864

**Hymns:** LSB 490, LSB 709, LSB 864

, May 18<sup>th</sup> Scripture Readings: Acts 11: 1-18;  
Revelation 21:1-7; John 16: 12-22

**Sunday Attendance: May 4th, 2025**  
9:00 am – 75: 10:30 am - 55