



Friday, August 30, 2025

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP WEEKLY

Established In
Righteousness



Sunday Worship and Learning Schedule

Sunday, August 31, 2025

8:30 am - Divine Worship with Holy Communion

9:30 – Education Hour Pastor Led Bible Study

10:45 am – Praise Worship with Holy Communion

email: ilc@immanuelbridgman.org

*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

Join Us! 6:00 pm
Every Wednesday
MIDWEEK FAMILY
WORSHIP SERVICE

Join Us in Celebrating Patriot's Day!
SUNDAY, SEPT. 14TH
9:30 AM
PATRIOTIC WORSHIP
SERVICE

Please Plan on Joining Us!
2nd Annual Congregational
Retreat
Saturday, September 27th
9:00 am to Noon

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

This morning, we conclude the August sermon series which surveyed the three types of literature collected in the canon of the Old Testament: history, poetry, and prophecy. This morning, poetry is our focus – more specifically, Hebrew proverbs. As we listen to the LORD, we will learn that He and He alone establishes righteousness. On this Labor Day weekend, we will discover that the Word of God calls for both ownership and labor to find true righteousness in Jesus.

CHURCH NEWS

Our Midweek Family Worship will be moving locations on Wednesday, September 3rd, with a slight change in format. We will use our sanctuary for the service and use only hymnals with no assistance from our technology, piano or organ. We hope you will take advantage of this casual, respect filled service every Wednesday at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary.

Our Patriotic Worship Service has moved. This year we will celebrate our veterans, military and first responders around Patriot's Day which is September 11th. So, on **Sunday, September 14, 2025** we will enjoy some of the same elements of our Patriotic Worship Service. We are hoping to include the Honor Roll which is a video tribute to all veterans, military persons and first responders and the wonderful "Picnic Lunch" tribute to all who attend the worship service. The Reverend Craig Muehler will be our honored guest speaker for this very special service. Chaplain Craig Muehler, is a retired US Navy captain, serves as the director of the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces and we are honored to have him as our guest speaker. We hope you will spread the word about the worship service and invite those who might not be aware of the service.

"Annual Congregational Planning Retreat: On Saturday, September 27, 2025, from 9 AM to noon, all members of Immanuel Lutheran Church are invited to attend the second Annual Congregational Planning Retreat. Participants do not need to be elected officers of the congregation. Youth are also invited to participate. The Congregational Planning Retreat is not a Voters' Assembly, or a Board Meeting, or a Council Meeting. Rather, the Congregational Planning Retreat is a workshop designed to listen to the counsel of the whole church in order to promote a continuous effort toward improving the overall ministry of the congregation. Last year, the focus of the Congregational Planning Retreat was a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats). This year the Planning Committee will be providing the congregation with a working document regarding the formation of a new form of church governance. The Planning Committee chose this focus for the Congregational Planning Retreat in response to the feedback it received from the District Reconciler earlier this year. Please read over the working document when it is made available by the Planning Committee. Please reserve the morning of 9/27/2025 for this workshop led by Pastor Randy Johnson from the Michigan District (he also led last year's Congregational Planning Retreat). Please pray for the Lord to guide our congregation with His wisdom. *In Christ's service, Pastor Krengel*



PLEASE HELP US wish Dorothy Ott a Happy 95th Birthday. Her family is asking that we send Birthday Cards this week to Dorothy whose 95th Birthday is Saturday, September 6th. Dorothy does not want a party so please help us show Dorothy how much we love her. Please mail the cards to Dorothy Ott

3988 Snow Road
Bridgman, MI 49106

LWML Progressive Dinner is back! – Ladies, we are going to enjoy a progressive dinner again this year, here at Immanuel! On **Tuesday, September 9th at 6:00 pm** we will move through a four course dinner. appetizers, salad, main dish and dessert. These dinner journeys are so enjoyable and we get to sample some really delicious dishes offered by our hostesses. We hope you will sign up to join us in this fun evening of fellowship, delicious food and friendship. Please sign up on the sheets on the table in the narthex so the hostesses providing the dinner courses will know how many to expect. If you have never experienced this type of dining we hope you will come and join us!

Thank you to Pastor Krengel and our Immanuel Family for your prayers and support during our time of grieving for Ray. We are grateful for all the visits from the ministry team, a consoling funeral service delivered by Pastor Krengel as well as all the work and care from the fellowship team for the wonderful luncheon. We pray that your ministry continues for all of those in need. The Ray Michener Family

Thank you to Sherry Vonk for her wonderfully sweet tomatoes and cherry tomatoes and Pattie Neal for her juicy peaches. We are so grateful and blessed with your generosity, hard work and thoughtfulness, we are very blessed by the Lord!

**AGE 55-70? Join us for an informational workshop.
Savvy Tax Strategies**

Learn how to avoid common mistakes when it comes to your investment portfolio, health care and estate strategies. Join us for Savvy Tax Strategies, a workshop that provides answers to the critical tax questions you must answer before retirement. Explore how to help dodge the Social Security “tax trap” and more. This workshop will be held at Silver Harbor Brewing Company, 721 Pleasant Street, St. Joseph, MI on Wednesday, September 17, 2025. Doors open at 5:30 pm at 6:00 pm. It's hosted by North Pier Financial Consultants of Thrivent. Please call 269-983-0217 or email

joanne.abbott@thrivent.com to reserve a place for yourself and a guest. Seating is limited. Dinner will be served. Cash bar. No products will be sold. Thrivent and its financial advisors and professionals do not provide legal, accounting or tax advice. Consult your attorney or tax professional. See thrivent.com/social for important disclosures.

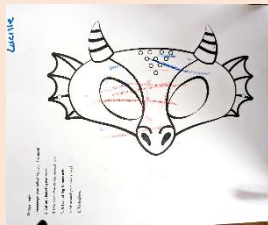
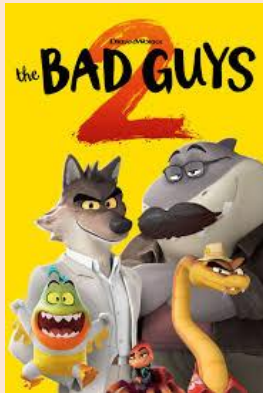


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WE ♥ OUR TEACHERS



ECDC NEWS

THANK YOU! We would like to thank Oldenburg & Sons for donating, delivering and spreading the new clean sand for our outdoor play area! Our State Licensing examiner marked us deficient because the sand in the play area was not clean. Oldenburg & Sons stepped up and not only ordered, delivered and spread the sand, but they donated the sand to the ECDC. We are so blessed and grateful for their generosity and love.

Public School has begun so please be aware of the little ones who enjoy a walk to and from school. Our school age and primary rooms enjoyed a lot of outdoor time this week with the very lovely weather as the teachers prepare for our preschool start this year after Labor Day. With the author of this newsletter away from the office most of this week the activities noted in this edition are from last week. The school age room and primary rooms enjoyed a movie this week to go and see the movie *Bad Guys 2*. "[The Bad Guys 2](#)" is a benignly rambunctious cartoon about a quintet of critters — the debonair Mr. Wolf, the goofy/bad guy Mr. Snake, the flatulent Mr. Piranha, the disguise expert Mr. Shark, and the brainiac Ms. Tarantula — who are famous for being bad guys (they're known as "the Bad Guys"), but when you come right down to it they're actually pretty good guys. They're bad guys the way that Gru, from the "Despicable Me" films, is a "bad guy" — a notorious troublemaker who's really just trying, on his own terms, to do right. These characters show the children how to choose the right path even though they see a different way to go. Great lesson for the children.

Our school age room also did some self portraits of each other, they paired off and drew a portrait of their friend, great fun! The primary room enjoyed some finger paint, some chalk paintings and a really busy bike day on Monday. Today the two rooms will go to the splash pad in St. Joseph and go to Jets Pizza for lunch, a great way to end the summer fun times before school starts.

Our toddler room studied Dentists and Doctors this week. Their creative teachers printed out pictures of a mouth with teeth so the children could practice their teeth brushing skills with blue toothpaste and toothbrushes. They talked about healthy foods and how to get enough sleep to help their bodies reset for the next day activities. They spent a lot of time outside with the wonderful weather and enjoyed the one day in the gym with the older children. They read their Big Bible Book together and read through the whole book fascinated by the pictures and story from the cute animals who talked about God and His love for us. Two of the children were able to visit with their new preschool teachers as they move up to a new room. They are about to move forward to step up in their education and development.

Our infant room was playing "Make Believe" this week. They created dragon masks made by their own creative crayons and paper. Their shape this week was a square and their color was green and they sang a song about five little dragons. Their Bible story was "God Is In Charge of Everything" with Ginny the Giraffe telling the story. They have been working on teaching the infants Baby Sign Language and their sign for this week was Grandmother. We would appreciate your prayers for our preschool and daycare as they start a new school. We are always looking for teachers and substitutes for the teachers, in our classrooms that qualify for the educational requirements and background checks. Our ECDC is our mission at Immanuel and we need your prayers! Thank you!



Women's Retreat and Soul Spa Day at Trinity Ministry Center, Lighthouse Café on **Saturday, September 27, 2025 from 10am until 3pm.** Ladies, if you are feeling like life is complicated and a bit overwhelming? Perhaps feeling a bit stuck? Experiencing a season of change or loss? Or simply in need of a day to be refreshed? As women of any age, we know we need to take the time to care for our souls, as well as our bodies. Join Christian author and speaker, Sharl Fritz, known for giving thousands of women the tools to dig into Scripture, for a day to get away from it all and nourish our souls. Enjoy spiritual renewal, Christian fellowship, door prizes, and more! There is a fee for the event, \$20 per person. Please fill out the event registration along with your payment by September 7th. The registration forms are on the table in the narthex for you to fill out, if you turn it into the church office with the registration fee, we will get those registrations to Trinity for you.

Trinity Lutheran in St. Joseph is seeking to hire a custodian (with maintenance knowledge preferred). This can be a full time or part time position depending on the right candidate. Please call Trinity's church office at 269-983-5000 for more information, or a detailed job description.

HOORAY! Our roof replacement is finished. Future Construction has finished the roof! Thank you to everyone who gave from their generous hearts for this necessary repair. Thank you to Kurt Hanke, Paul Jaeger, Brad Hildebrandt and Joe Rydwelski for overseeing this project and making sure it was completed in good order.

Operation Christmas Child 2025: We are still collecting items for our Operation Christmas Child boxes. All items collected will be added to our boxes for November. Today is the last day **we are collecting pencils, pencil sharpeners, markers, scissors and glue sticks (no liquid glue please).** **September has some safety items you are shopping for such as small flashlights, batteries, small notebooks and index cards.** Don't forget we are putting together the boxes in November so this is your opportunity to add to the boxes if you have not been able to shop during the summer months. Thank you for your support of all items for these very important gift boxes. We want to continue to support this inspirational mission. We hope you can and will take some time to shop for the box.

Please mark your calendars for our Diner Dinner. On Saturday, October 11th, from 5 – 7 pm please come and enjoy a genuine Diner Dinner of open faced beef or chicken on Texas Toast with mashed potatoes and homemade gravy over the entire dish. We have some delicious cole slaw and corn to accompany this original diner dinner. For dessert we will have chocolate layer cake and apple pie to choose from and rootbeer floats for \$1. This event is a fund raiser to start raising money for replacement doors for the emergency exits in the sanctuary. In addition to all of this great food we will have baskets for silent auction put together by our Boards and Councils with lots of great unexpected goodies for you to bid on. There will be two raffle items, a repurposed bench and side table. Tickets will be available soon!

Calling everyone young and old! We are looking for ideas to enhance our gymnasium with inspirational scripture and graphics to showcase on our walls. Currently we have nothing in the gymnasium except one banner donated by the Jaeger's which show who we are and what our mission is. We are looking for scripture suggestions and artwork to enhance those scriptures. Please share your ideas with Kurt Hanke or the church office. We are blessed with many talented and creative members, we hope you will share your talents!

Welcome Visitors! *We are blessed you are joining us today! Thank you for spending your time in worship to join us in prayer, study and song. Please take some time to share your contact information with us by signing the guest book in the narthex. God bless your time with us!*



Homebound and Continuing Care Facilities

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

Continuing Care Facilities: Pat Ott, Geraldine Wooley, Don Metzger, Norma Linn, Marylou Svorec (out of state), Rose Briggs, 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

Allee Bauer

Linda Totzke (Cancer Treatments)

Pastor Krengel and Betty Korcek, visited this week: Terry Graves, Norma Linn, Geraldine Wooley, Diane Pritinen, Marion Winter

Healing Needs for the Month

Michael Schmitz, Georgia Hildebrandt, Darrell Gast, Delora Rathbun, Fawn Gitersonke Mills, Doug Hamlin, Manfred Moneta, Brett Germain, Sharon Korcek, Jim Benjamin, Karl Kaeding, Carla Weiser, Jeff Rodewald, Debbie Miller, Denny Lawrenz, Natalya Gaidukevich, David Harrison, Christie Ott Hartzler, Erica Anstey, Janet Lamb, Larry Ott, Alex Dixon, Beth Vigansky Ciuzio, Dave Kramer, Andy Benjamin, Pastor Carl Bassett, Leon Schmaltz, Darrell Gast, John Stine, Jeffrey Nemitz, Harriet Fester, Ray Krieger, Marilyn Gelesko, Tom Ulmer, Roger Mojsiejenko, Terry Graves, Irwin & Margaret Poschke, Dick Gorske,

Serving in the Military

USN Military Police Brady Leimbach,
Specialist 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

Please keep in your prayers USN Military Police, Brady Leimbach (Larry and Vicki Ott's Grandson) who is being deployed.

Finance News

August 24, 2025 offerings and donations:

Offering Envelopes: \$4,006.00 Year to date: \$223,200.00

Parking Lot: \$1,000

Thank you to those that give their offerings when absent on Sunday.

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Special Days

Birthdays: Katy Starbuck (8/31), Nancy Kirk (8/31), Katie Lemon (9/01), Kathy Hanke (9/01), Allison Reifschneider (9/02), Jeff Wasko (9/02), Dorothy Ott (9/06), Karl Hanke (9/06)

Anniversaries: David and Shelly Ott on September 2nd, 24 years ago; Richard and Karen Gorske on September 5th, 61 years ago.

THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL

Sun. Aug. 31st - Divine Worship Service with Holy Communion – 8:30 am

Education Hour Pastor Led Bible Study 9:30 am

Praise Worship Service with Holy Communion - 10:30 am

Mon. Sept. 1st – HAVE A SAFE LABOR DAY! Church Office Closed

Handbell Choir Practice – 6:00 pm

AA Meeting – 7:00 pm

Wed. Sept. 3rd – Midweek Evening Family Worship in the Sanctuary - 6:00 pm

**Thurs. Sept. 4th - Breakfast with Jesus at Rochefort's – 8am
Praise Worship Practice – 6:30 pm**

**Sun. Sept. 7th – Divine Worship Service w/Holy Communion– 8:30 am
Pastor Led Bible Study in Life Center 9:30 am
Praise Worship Service w/Holy Communion 10:45 am**

Noteworthy Dates in the Next Few Weeks

♥ **LWML Progressive Dinner** – Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 6:00 pm here at Immanuel.

♥ **Patriotic Worship Service** – Sunday, September 14th, 2025 beginning at 9:30 am

♥ **2nd Annual Congregational Retreat** – Saturday, September 27, 2025 from 9am to Noon

♥ **Diner Dinner** – Saturday, October 11th, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

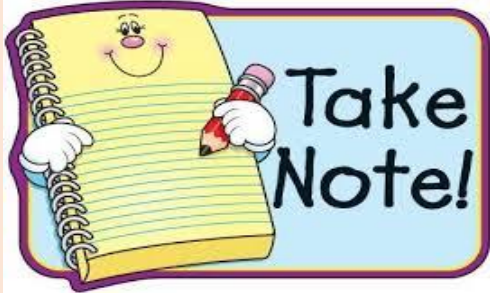
Our Bible Studies are taking a hiatus or summer break.

However, they will be back after Labor Day! **Pastor Krengel is offering a Bible Study during our new Education Hour on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in the Life Center.** In addition, every Thursday morning at 8:00 am Breakfast with Jesus meets at Rochefort's in Bridgman. After Labor Day Gerry Vigansky leads a bible class on Monday mornings at 10:00 and on Wednesday mornings Elsie Hanke leads a Bible class at 10:00 am. Come join these wonderful learning opportunities!

One of our members who is blind, is looking for someone to mow her lawn once per week or as needed and also a couple of times per week, complete some simple errands. If you know of someone or would like to help with this request, please contact Kay Cornwell at 269-612-7622 or Regan Cornwell at 269-325-0459. The work will be compensated.

Do we have your contact information? Please consider filling out an update to information form. In some cases if your landline has been discontinued we do not have any way to contact you via cell phone or email. If you would, please fill out an update to your contact information sheet to add to our directory. You can turn those completed sheets into the church office or put in the offering box in the narthex, or hand to an usher or leader. Thank you for your assistance!

God Made
You
Very Special!

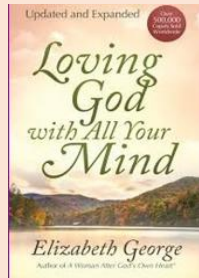
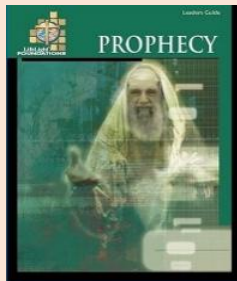


Join Us in Celebrating Patriot's Day!
SUNDAY, SEPT. 14TH
9:30 AM
PATRIOTIC WORSHIP SERVICE

Please Plan on Joining Us!
2nd Annual Congregational Retreat
Saturday, September 27th
9:00 am to Noon

CAN YOU HELP?





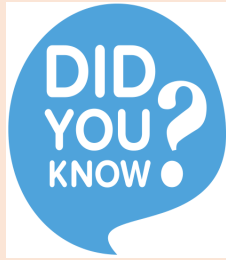
Those Serving in Church This Week

Greeters: Gerry & Sandy Vigansky and Nancy Seldomridge (8:30 am); Immanuel's Praise Team (10:45 am)
Ushers: Don Burch, Brad Hildebrandt, Dave Neal, Paul Jaeger, Joe Rydwelski, Larry Smith, and Ken Dickinson
Lay Reader: Kim Schmitz
Pianist: Pastor Tom Fischer and Susan Foster
Soloist: Karen Pedde
Praise Team: Team Leader, Deb Jaeger; Rich Kubsch, Mark Heyn, Karen Kerlikowske, Lori Sukupchak, Sharon Stine, Melissa Barker, Pattie Neal, Amy Krengel and Shannah Smith
Guitarists: John "Mac" McElligott, Kurt Hanke
Praise Speaker: Kurt Hanke
Keyboardist/Guitarist: Kunwarjit Singh Multani "Sid" & Constantine
Altar Guild: Beverly Barnes, Liz Zilke
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,
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
Organist: Pastor Thomas Fischer
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Douglas Krengel

New Worship Service Times Don't forget, we have changed our Sunday worship times to 8:30 am for traditional worship and 10:45 for Praise Worship. In addition, we have added a **Midweek Family Worship on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm**; For the next few weeks we will still meet in the Life Center, however the service scheduled for Wednesday, September 3rd will be in our sanctuary and continue in the sanctuary going forward. The theme for the sermon will be the same as the theme provided the Sunday before; however, the liturgy will come from the hymnal with hymns sung, without the aid of technology, piano or organ. The dress code is come-as-you-are. Our prayer for Family Worship is still that the families attending the Immanuel Childcare, VBS families, the families that are visiting Bridgman for a summer vacation, and the families who prefer an evening service, will enjoy Family Worship. Please let your neighbors and friends know about this relaxed, casual worship service.

Special request We are not sure you are aware that we have no full-time janitorial staff here at Immanuel and some of our spaces are cared for only by the Fellowship Board or paid staff, some of whom are not here on a full-time basis. We have noticed that with all of our rooms that are being used for meetings, Bible Study and Midweek services are not being cleaned and straightened after they are used. We respectfully request that you clean up after yourself. If you have spilled on a table, please clean it up, if you drop some food on the floor, please pick it up, if you see the garbage is full, please take it out. If you see books, Bibles or writing utensils left on tables, please put them away. Our staff have been taking the time to clean up, but that is taking away from their normal duties. We would really appreciate your assistance with this issue. Thank you!

*The Heavens declare the glory of God
 and the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Psalm 19:1*



Please consider donating to a special fund to help the victims of the floods in Kerr County, Texas from the rains impacting the Guadalupe River and one specific area, Camp Mystic, which lost 27 campers and counselors. Thrivent will match up to \$250,000 to aid the 132 plus victims of this flood. Please consider donating some funds to this special need. You can write your check to Immanuel and put in the memo section "Texas Floods". We will send all donations to Thrivent to receive any matching funds available.

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 be a part of the celebration planning, please sign up on the sheet on the table in the narthex.

Handbell practice continues on Monday at 6:00 pm this is a little earlier than in the past and is in preparation for our patriotic worship service in September. To all our Handbell "Ding-a-lings" please make sure you have all the music for practice and that it is marked for your bells. The Chimes Ensemble will practice right after the handbells meet. We are so grateful for Pastor Fischer and our leadership for voting for Pastor Fischer to work with our handbell choir in order to keep playing. Not many churches have handbells nor have a larger handbell choir to use as part of their music program. We are grateful and feel very blessed to be able to use the instruments to enhance our worship services. Thank you Lord!

Did you know? Our Share Closet and the Free For All have offered so many wonderful items to many community families in need. The Share Closet is filling up again, what a blessing! We received several monetary donations, people that are so grateful for the free items they shared what little money they had to help our mission. The newspaper showed up at our Free For All and interviewed Dorothy Ott and volunteers who provided the background information of the history of the Free For All and how it has grown through the years. With the money that was collected, it was decided that more shelving units could be used for the Share Closet. Thank you, Ellen Yeske, Susan Foster and Cheryl Music for taking the initiative and time to put together the new shelves. We are so grateful for the Ott Family, the Berk Family, and all the volunteers for their dedication and hard work planning, gathering, organizing and storing the items that we are able to give away and share our many blessings from our God!

Today's Hymns: LSB 660, 837, 708, 628, 809

Next Week's Scriptures: *Deuteronomy 30:15–20, Philemon 1–21*
Luke 14:25–35

Sunday Attendance: August 24, 2025
8:30 – 80 ; 10:45 – 44

Wednesday Evening Worship Service – 4

Rev. Dr. Douglas A. Krengel, Sole Pastor

Please contact Pastor Krengel for any Pastoral needs.

Pastor Krengel's Cell Phone: 832-257-5437
email: krengeld@gmail.com