



Friday, June 20, 2025

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP WEEKLY

From Living Among the Tomb  
To Living  
After the  
Tomb



## Sunday Worship and Learning Schedule

Sunday, June 22, 2025

8:30 am – Divine Worship Service

9:30 am – Education Hour Pastor  
Led Bible Study

10:45 am – Praise Worship Service

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



**Free for All**  
Come and See  
What is for Free!  
June 27 & 28<sup>th</sup>  
8am to 2pm in the Gym!



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

“From Living among the Tomb to Living after the Tomb.” A man living in the country of the Gerasenes had a demon. This demonic possession drove the man to leave the city, and to not live in a house, but rather to live among the tombs. The demon, as in other cases of demon possession, knew exactly who Jesus was – namely, the Son of the Most High God. After Jesus exorcised the legion of demons from the man, the man was in his right mind. However, this new lease on life, this new gift of health, came at a cost – the self-destruction of a herd of pigs. The demonic leads people to self-harm. The demonic leads churches to self-harm. Only the Son of the Most High God is able to exorcise the demonic spirits from individuals, or from the church. The listener will discover that the church today is still completely dependent on the Son of the Most High God as the salvation he, and he alone provides to our sinful souls. The congregants will be called to pray that our sins will be placed on something else beside our own selves. The parishioners will be invited to rejoice that God has placed the guilt of our many sins not upon ourselves, and not upon a herd of pigs, but upon the son of the Most High God, in our stead and for our sake without any worthiness or merit in us. The current trend of mentally compromised individuals to hurt themselves, to cut themselves, and even to commit suicide will also be discussed as the text is applied to the congregation.

## CHURCH NEWS

**Please Keep In Your Prayers** Pastor Krengel and Larry Smith as they attend the LCMS Michigan District Convention today through Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> in Ann Arbor. Larry Smith is attending as our Lay Congregational Delegate and Pastor as our Pastoral Delegate. We pray that God will protect you on your journey and that your time with our LCMS District is fruitful.

**FREE FOR ALL:** Don't forget to bring your reusable items for the “Free for All” scheduled for this Friday, June 27 and Saturday, June 28 during the hours of 8 am to 2 pm in the gym. This event is open to anyone in need, and items are free of charge. We will take any gently used, serviceable, working items such as electronics, tools, furniture, kitchen gadgets, clothing, bedding, toys, footwear, etc. (Please no car seats older than 3 years or mattresses). Items can be dropped off at the church's gym on **June 25 and June 26 from 1 pm – 6 pm**. If you have some time to help June 23-28, please join us.

**Bridgman Days** is coming up on July 12<sup>th</sup>, and we are looking for some volunteers to help our Outreach Board share our blessings and reach out to the community when we offer free hotdogs, chips and water to the people enjoying Bridgman Days. We could use people to set-up tables and chairs outside, cook and serve the food, clean up crew, staff kids' games and share prayers at a prayer table. Something for everyone to participate for every skill set. Please sign up on the sheet on the table in the narthex. We are so blessed with so many willing congregation members



*In Our  
Prayers*

*New Worship Times!*

**8:30 am ~ Traditional Service**

**9:30 am ~ Education Hour**

**10:45 am ~ Praise Worship**



G. L. Wasko & Sons 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.

**Please Keep In Your Prayers** the Family and Friends of Betty Dehring. Betty was called to her heavenly home to be with her loving Lord this last Friday. Funeral services for Betty are being planned. We pray that God will be with Betty's loved ones as they celebrate Betty's long life and the memories they cherish.

**New Worship Service Times** Our traditional or early worship will start at 8:30 am, then we will have an Education Hour beginning at 9:30 am, with Pastor Krengel leading a Bible Study in the Life Center and Sunday School (when it is back in the fall) start time will be at 9:30 am as well. Our Praise Worship service starts at 10:45 am.

**Family Worship will be on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm;** the pattern of informal, casual, worship we have enjoyed for the last few Midweek Evening Worship services in Advent and Lent. The theme for the sermon will be the same as the theme provided the Sunday before; however, the liturgy will be very simple like unto a family devotion, or a devotion shared at Family Camp (45-50 minutes). The message will be offered in brief segments. In between each segment will be a Gospel Activity. There will be one Praise Song at the beginning and one Praise Song at the end of each Family Worship service (recorded music will be used). The dress code is come-as-you-are. Our prayer for Family Worship is 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.

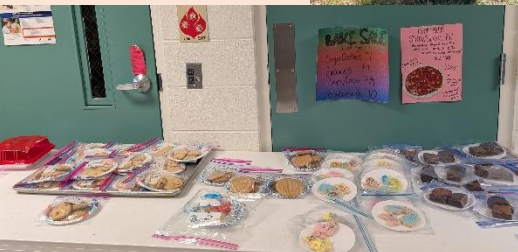
**Vacation Bible School** will be starting before you know it. This year's Vacation Bible School will focus on the life of Jesus, they will learn about him, his ministry and how to live for his glory. This Bible school is unique in that the children will learn about apologetics, which is a skill the 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 **Today at 11:45 am** in the Life Center. We can always use the extra hands and skills our generous volunteers offer!



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This Week's  
Plant Growth



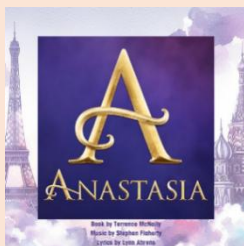
**Welcome Visitors!** We are blessed you are joining us today! Thank you for spending your time in worship to join us in prayer, study and song. Please take some time to share your contact information with us by signing the guest book in the narthex. God bless your time with us!

**VBS** will be here before you know it and we are looking for some decorations for the stage. We are looking for some wagon wheels and burlap bags filled with straw or crumpled up paper. Our theme this year is the wild West and we could really use these great props. If you can let us borrow these items we would be very grateful. Please drop them off at the church office, we will label them so they can be returned to you. Thank you for helping us make this a great experience for the children!

### ECDC NEWS

Hot weather and poor air quality this week has kept the students inside for some of the week, but they managed to get some time outside to go on a field trip to Stover's Farm to pick some juicy sweet strawberries. Both the school age and the primary rooms enjoyed some time outside seeing how strawberries are grown and when to pick strawberries, and why they are called strawberries. They brought the delicious berries back to school to work on their most important project this week and that is their annual Bake Sale. The School Age room made fresh strawberry pies to sell, they look delicious! The students work hard to make all kinds of goodies to sell to the parents and staff for special trips, creative projects and supplies for their summer activities. The Primary Room made some cookies and brownies for their contribution to the bake sale. They are also doing a great job with their flower seeds as their plants are getting taller and starting to look like a mature plant. The children were also looking forward to their bicycle day out in the parking lot riding around and showing their skills on their bicycles.

Our toddlers were finishing up on their travel study, they created a very realistic picture by creating some clouds on blue paper and then glueing a paper airplane to the clouds. This took two days of being patient while their picture dried so the glue on the airplanes would work. Well done teachers for creating such a great project for these busy hands. This room welcomed two new students Addie and Isabelle, from the infant's room this week. Always a challenge getting to know new friends and teachers, along with new rules and expectations. What a blessing to watch these beautiful children grow and develop and of course move along on their life's journey. They are getting excited for next week when they do things with water, really great time since we are expecting some really warm weather! The infant room studied travel this week, they sang songs about wheels and buses and flying away while the teachers read them stories about traveling and the wonders they can find when they travel. They glued white cotton balls to represent clouds on a picture of an airplane. They drove cars, tractors and trains down a track to show how vehicles travel through space. Two of their little ones are starting to develop new skills, Juniper started to take steps and Dalton has started pulling himself to a standing position with the help of table and chair legs. Their art project involved painting grey stars on to a circus elephant and their Bible story was "God Is In Charge of Everything" with Ginny the Giraffe helping to tell the story. They have also been enjoying the new play set generously donated by the Skip Linn Family in his memory. We have been so blessed and we praise God for His never ending love and care for us all!



**Did You Know?** Our own Ilene Nemitz is appearing in the musical “Anastasia” at Twin City Players Theater June 6<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. She is playing the Imperial Duchess and will be singing as well. We have all benefited from the blessing of Ilene’s voice in our worship services. Please take some time to enjoy a wonderful performance.

**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 fun band aides, washcloths, nail clippers and nail files for the month of May. We want to continue to support this inspirational mission. **In June we are collecting sunglasses, jump ropes, yo-yos, puzzles and craft kits (no liquid glue).** We hope you can and will take some time to shop for the box.

**The Old Kindergarten/Café Room** has been redecorated and now is transformed into a welcoming meeting place. The Outreach Board would like to award this space with a new name. They are proposing the name “Upper Room” for this beautiful space. What a great name!

### The Meaning Behind the “Upper Room”

By Rebekah Hettig

#### *Sinners, Saved by Grace, spreading God’s Love Through Faith*

In the Bible, the “upper room” was described as the area where Jesus and the twelve disciples met for the last supper before Jesus would be crucified. But the story of this room does not end there. When the disciples met again in the same room after Jesus rose from the grave, He appeared to them even though the doors were locked. Then, again appeared to them the next day when Thomas, the one who said he would not believe Jesus rose until he saw His hands and touched the slash in His side, was also there. Who would have thought a room full of God’s chosen people, would start the amazing journey of these men and women of all ages, backgrounds, and couriers would be the inspiration for us, thousands of years later, to honor and pursue the Great Commission.

We may not ever walk on Lake Michigan like Peter did in a sea of water much wider and deeper. May may never feel a physical human hand laid upon us with all our hurts, sorrows and illnesses just disappearing. We may wonder where God is in the sinful and corrupt world we live in today. However, He is there! We must have faith that He is our only true God. He is the only one that can use faith to move mountains.

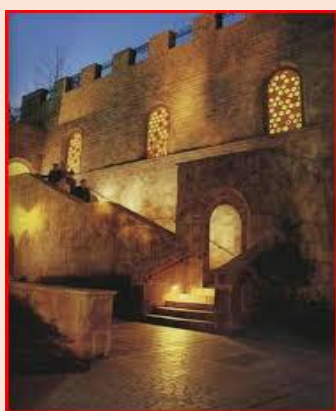
A beautiful stained glass window sanctuary with an altar clothed in colorful fancy fabrics is not a “church”. This room with chairs around a simple wood table that has a sign outside these walls that says, “Immanuel Lutheran Church”, is still not the church without the Children of God spreading the Word of Him to all.

Just as the disciples that were gathered in the “Upper Room” with Jesus physically sitting with them listening to every word He spoke, we are called to ignite our lights together and fuel each other’s faith. However, the story doesn’t end in this room! Our faith journey may start here but is not meant to be kept to ourselves. Just as the disciples left that room energized and ready to spread the new of what they have experienced, as children of God, we too are called to respond to the Great Commission, “Make disciples of all nations”. (Matthew 28:19-20)

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## 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, 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

Nancy Hudson (Deb Jaeger's Mother); Pat Heyn (uterine cancer);  
Jim Benjamin (Parkinson's Disease),  
Karl Kaeding (Cancer treatments), Jeff Delvaux,  
Family and Friends of Betty Dehring

**Visitations this week** by Pastor Krengel, Chris Damaske, and Betty Korcek: Myra Clark, Duane Vigansky, Dorothea Crocker, Ray & Jackie Krieger, Karen & Dick Gorske and Beth Germaine,

## Healing Needs for the Month

Norma Krumrie, Marion Winter, Steve Dehring, Edie Paul, Phyllis Emery, Norma Linn, Carla Weiser, Marcia Hanke, Jeff Rodewald, Debbie Miller, Denny Lawrenz, Natalya Gaidukevich, David Harrison, Christie Ott Hartzler, Erica Anstey, Janet Lamb, Larry Ott, Alex Dixon, Beth Vigansky Cuzio, Dave Kramer, Andy Benjamin, Pastor Carl Bassett, Leon Schmaltz, Darrell Gast, John Stine, Jeffrey Nemitz, Ray Michener, Harriet Fester, Ray Krieger, Marilyn Gelesko, Tom Ulmer, Roger Mojsiejenko, Terry Graves, Irwin & Margaret Poschke, Dick Gorske,

## Serving in the Military

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

## Finance News

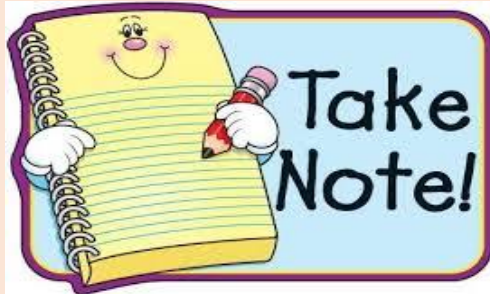
June 15, 2025 offerings and donations:  
Offering Envelopes: \$4,553.00; Year to date: \$162,955.00

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

**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)

**On our scripture readings:** During the Babylonian Captivity, the Israelites were stripped of all their customary means of worshiping God – the tabernacle, the ark, everything was taken from them. All they carried with them into Babylon were their scrolls containing God's Word. The synagogue originated in the practice of gathering on the Sabbath to hear that Word read aloud. What a wonderful tradition!

God Made  
You  
Very Special!



**FREE FOR  
ALL**



## Special Days

**Birthdays:** Janet Boyd (6-23); Bobbie Wall (6-24); Rebeka Enders (06-24; Riley Wark (6-24); Lila Nitz (6-25); McKenna White (6-26); Lindsey Yack (06-27)

**Anniversaries:** Mike & Tammy Kanous (06-22, 34); Darrell & Betty Gast (06-25, 65); Ralph & Linda Lohraff (06-27, 10); Larry & Vicki Ott (06-28, 56)

## THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL

**Sun. June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Divine Worship Service - 8:30 am**

**NEW TIMES Education Hour – 9:30 am**

**Praise Worship Service - 10:45 am**

**VBS meeting 11:45am Life Center**

**Mon. June 23<sup>rd</sup> – Bridge Club - 12:30 pm**

**AA Meeting – 7:00 pm**

**Wed. June 25<sup>th</sup> - Midweek Evening Family Worship – 6:00 pm**

**Thurs. June 26<sup>th</sup> - Breakfast with Jesus at Rochefort's – 8am**

**Praise Worship Practice – 7:00 pm**

**Sun. June 29<sup>th</sup> – Divine Worship Service w/Holy Communion  
8:30 am**

**NEW TIMES Education Hour – 9:30 am**

**Praise Worship Service w/Holy Communion  
10:45 am**

## Noteworthy Dates in the Next Few Weeks

♥ **Free For All** – Friday and Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

♥ **Wonder Junction Vacation Bible School** – July 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> 5:20 pm Kid Friendly Family Dinner; then 6:00 pm VBS

♥ **Annual Church Picnic** – Sun., Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> Unity Service 10am

**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 8am Breakfast with Jesus meet at Rochefort's in Bridgman. Come and join these wonderful learning opportunities this summer!

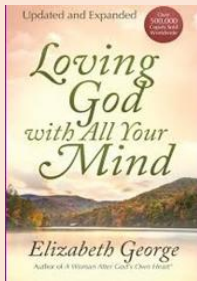
**Please put on your calendars** the annual church picnic. This year we will enjoy the outdoors and picnic food on August 3, 2025. Starting at 9:00 am we will enjoy an old fashioned hymn sing then move on to an informal worship service with contemporary music. We will have the potluck dishes shared along with grilled meats expertly grilled by Gerry Vigansky and Larry Kanous. We haven't forgotten about the kiddos, we will have the large water slide for all ages. Please join us in this wonderful sharing of fellowship!

**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)

**Outreach is renovating again!** The renovation on the old kindergarten/café room was so successful, Outreach Board is looking at updating the nursery furniture, and toys. They will be removing/donating the older furniture and toys to the Free for All unless someone would like the items they donated returned. They would like to start this project by June 24<sup>th</sup>. Interested parties should contact Amie Smith at 269-277-2965





**Greeters:** Kathy Hanke, Karen Pedde & Steve Pedde (8:30 am);  
Immanuel's Praise Team (10:45 am)  
**Ushers:** Don Burch, Brad Hildebrandt, Dave Neal, Paul Jaeger, Joe  
Rydwski, Larry Smith, and Ken Dickinson

**Soloist:** Karen Pedde (8:30 am) Shannah Smith (10:45 am)

**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

**Praise Speaker:** Shannah Smith

**Altar Guild:** Diane Kanous, Kathy Hanke, Judy Roush

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

**Trustees:** Joe Rydwelski, Dale Marschke, Art Brunke, Brad Hildebrandt and Paul Jaeger

**Organist:** Pastor Tom Fischer

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Douglas Krengel

**Our Patriotic Worship Service has moved.** This year we will celebrate our veterans, military and first responders around Patriot's Day which is September 11<sup>th</sup>. 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. We will focus more on the worship service this year to praise our Lord for providing these heroes who have protected our freedom to worship our Lord. We hope you will spread the word about the worship service and invite those who might not be aware of the service.

**On the Alleluia Before the Gospel:** From the earliest days of the church, Christians have sung the Alleluia before the Gospel reading. Another ancient tradition is for the Alleluia to fall silent during Lent, to mark the penitential nature of the season and to acknowledge that, this side of heaven, “by Babylon’s sad waters mourning exiles now are we? (Alleluia, Song of Gladness, LSB 417). Interestingly, Martin Luther opposed the practice of omitting the Alleluia during Lent: “For the Alleluia is the perpetual voice of the church, just as the memorial of His passion and victory is perpetual” (LWE 53:24).

**Today's Hymns:** LSB 913, 718, 643

June 29<sup>th</sup> Scripture Readings: 1 Kings 19:9b-21  
Galatians 5:1, 13-15; Luke 9:51-62

**Sunday Attendance: June 15, 2025**

8:30 – 78, 10:45 – 47

**Wednesday Evening Worship Service - 17**

**Rev. Dr. Douglas A. Kregel, Sole Pastor**

***Please contact Pastor Krenzel for any Pastoral needs.***

**Pastor Krengel's Cell Phone: 832-257-5437**

**email: [krengeld@gmail.com](mailto:krengeld@gmail.com)**