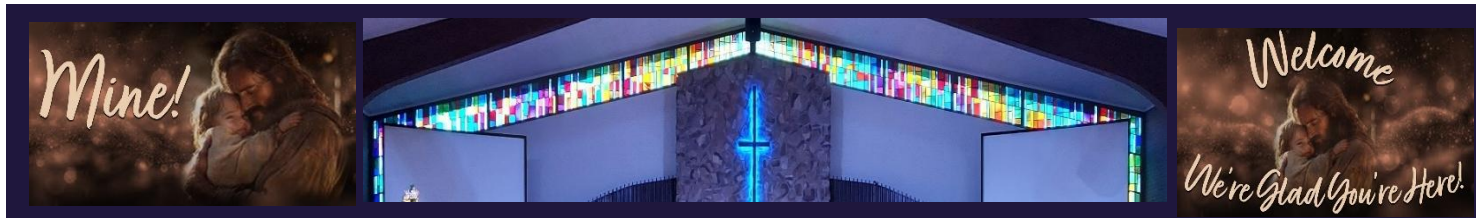




Friday, November 21, 2025

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP WEEKLY



Sunday Worship and Learning Schedule Sunday, November 23, 2025

8:30 am - Divine Worship
9:30 am – Education Hour Pastor
Led Bible Study and
“The Rock” Sunday School
10:45 am – Praise Worship

email:

ilc@immanuelbridgman.org

*Most of our Worship Services are
streamed Live on Facebook
*Immanuel Lutheran Church
Bridgman*, or are posted on our
website:

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

There is a phrase familiar to both preschoolers and powerbrokers. When they see that someone else has something they want, they declare, “That’s mine!” seizing either toys or territory for themselves. This phrase is not unfamiliar to our God either. But where humans are motivated by selfishness, the Lord acts out of love. He claims you as His own because He loves you and He wants you to be with Him for eternity. You are His treasured possession! He will never leave you behind like a toddler may accidentally abandon her teddy bear or neglect you like a king would treat those who supported his rival. When the Lord says, “You are Mine,” you have His pledge of enduring faithfulness, today and unto eternity!

CHURCH NEWS

Voluntary 2026 Pledge ~ Thank you for attending our annual Voters’ meeting which culminated in an approved 2026 budget. We have many concerns which were shared at that meeting with plans to address these issues at the board meetings. One motion in particular stands out. We are asking congregation members to offer their voluntary pledge for donations in the year 2026. This voluntary pledge will be between you and the Lord. We are asking that during the Thanksgiving Eve Worship service on November 26th at 6:00 pm, you take a pledge slip and fill out your pledge for the 2026 church year. It will be sealed in a pledge envelope and kept sealed until the middle of 2026, when it will be given back to you by our Finance Board, for you to determine if you are on track with your pledge. We pray that you will consider filling out a pledge slip in gratitude for all of the gifts and blessings that God has given you!

We Pray You Will Join Us this **Wednesday, November 26th at 6:00 pm** for our Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service. This is our opportunity to show our gratitude to our God for all of the gifts and blessings He has given to us. We hope you will take just one hour out of your evening to give praise to God. Don’t forget to fill out your Pledge Slip for the year 2026.

Church Advent Decorating We hope you can join us this **Saturday, November 29th at 9:00 am** as we set up our Christmas Tree and decorate the sanctuary for the Advent Season. Many hands make light the work, we hope you will take some time out of your Saturday to help the church look festive for the Advent Season.

The Flowers on the Altar today were donated by the Ken Dickinson Family in memory of Ken. Ken passed into the arms of His Lord on November 12th and his Christian Funeral Service was this last Monday. We pray that God will surround the family and friends with His consoling and peaceful spirit to help them while they mourn.

Thank you to everyone who supported and prayed for me while I went through kidney stone surgery this last week, we all need prayer, but your prayers gave me such comfort and peace, I am so grateful. Joyce Hamlin



Our Wonderful Outreach Board along with Shannon Jones have created a very special "Angel Tree" this year. Our "Golden Angels" are the gift recipients this Advent season. If you would like to help with this very special mission, please pick an angel off of the tree, sign your name on the clipboard next to the corresponding Golden Angel you picked. You will find letters beneath the name on your angel, please check the gift list attached to your angel for suggestions of the perfect gift for your angel. Our fantastic "elves" have worked very hard selecting gift suggestions for each "Golden Angel". We are asking you to provide the gift and to deliver the gift to the "Golden Angel" yourself. If you need assistance with the delivery of the gift, please contact the church office for phone numbers and addresses to help you deliver the gift. This congregation has always been so loving, caring and generous, we are very blessed indeed.

Can You Believe Our Advent Season Begins Next Week? Join us **December 3rd, 10th, and 17th** for our **Advent Midweek 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 last 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, movie from Lutheran Hour Ministries surrounding our Advent season. Pastor Krengel will have some discussion questions for us to stimulate discussion among groups. We hope you will take this opportunity to prepare your heart at one of our worship services for the advent of our Lord and Savior!

We are looking for families, individuals or groups of people to provide our **Midweek Advent Meals**: Light lunches will be served after the 12:15 pm worship service and/or light suppers at 5 pm. before the 6 pm. service. If you would like to host a lunch or supper, please sign up on the sheets located on the table in the narthex. These meals are a great way to enjoy fellowship and prepare for the coming of our Lord!

Mark the date Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service will be on **Wednesday, December 24th at 3:00 pm**. This will be a very special worship service filled with praising God through song sharing our love and joy at the birth of our Savior! We will start the service early at 2:30 pm with the congregation shouting out hymns that are also familiar carols. Pastor will announce which hymn we are singing and our invaluable Pastor Fischer at the organ will play that chosen hymn to usher in this very special candlelight worship service. There will be only one service this very special day, so we hope you will join us in this candlelight service, created to celebrate the coming of our Lord and Savior.

Poinsettias for Christmas are ready to be ordered! Can you believe we are looking at ordering our poinsettias for the Advent Season already? 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 ½" pots and are \$8 each. All dedication forms must be completed and turned into the church office by December 21st. Thank you for showing your love for your family and friends by placing a plant in the altar area.

Do You Love Christmas Carols? Every year we enjoy going store to store during the Holiday Village event in Bridgman to share some song and Christmas Cheer with the shoppers in the store and then add to the tree lighting event. On **Saturday, December 6th at 4:45 pm** we will meet in the Life Center to go a-caroling through Bridgman, why don't you join us?



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.



Are You Interested? We are asking your opinion about a new church directory. Would you be interested in having a professional photographic portrait done of you as an individual or your family for a new church directory? Please sign your name up on the sign up sheet on the table in the narthex. The more interested parties, the more likely we can get a new church directory.

Holiday Village will be **Saturday, December 6th**. We will host the Holiday Village Pop-up Market in our gymnasium, our LWML will sell some delicious food to the shoppers, bake some delicious treats to sell to the shoppers, and offer a prayer table for those in need. Anyone who would like to volunteer their time for the Holiday Village Pop-Up, please contact the Outreach Board. We are also looking for people to dress up for the Live Nativity, you are not really outside that long and you are usually very warm, and we get such a great response from the Holiday Village shoppers! We hope you will volunteer to help us raise awareness of the reason for the Christmas Season! Let us know if you can help! Please mark this special date and join in the festivities!

ECDC NEWS

Thanksgiving preparations are in full swing, all the students are preparing for our Thanksgiving Feast for the students and their families this coming Tuesday. The children make the decorations for the tables and show how much they have learned this year so far. Their cutting skills and glueing skills as well as their printing and letters for their names and messages to their family. This is such a wonderful time of sharing and love right before they go on to their Thanksgiving Day with their family.

Our active fours had an exciting week because they received visits from our community helpers (first responders). Bridgman City Police and Fire departments along with their K-9 division joined in the celebration with their vehicles and uniforms, allowing the students to sit in their fire engines and police cars. Berrien County Sheriff and Michigan State Police came as well to help the children see how many people are around them to protect them.

Their Bible story this week was "The Road to Bethlehem".

Our threes worked on turkeys, creating all different kinds of turkeys with scissors, glue, feathers and crayons. They studied the letter "O" by making a very dark Owl. Their Bible story was "A Wife for Isaac"

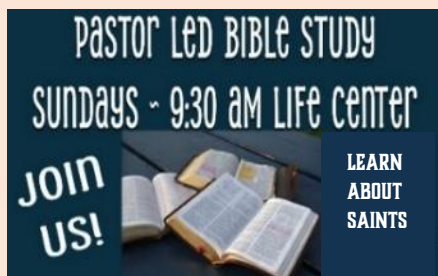
Our GSRP room was very busy with conferences with their parents and teachers. They did manage to make Turkey headbands, completed their Tree Study by reviewing what they learned about trees and studied the letters "Q" and "C".

Our Toddler room was very busy with preparing for the Thanksgiving Feast next week. They made placemats, colored their own Thanksgiving Day Turkey, made playdough and their own animal creations, They made sugar cookies and shared them with the teachers in the other rooms and they made pumpkin pie slices that they were able to share with their families. They were able to visit with the firemen outside on a walk, when they came to visit the Skill Builder classroom. They enjoyed sitting in the fire trucks. They made "apple Donuts" with apple rings and icing, really yummy! Their Bible story was the Ten Lepers and One Gave Thanks.

Our Infant Room learned about Thanksgiving this week and will work on that theme next week. They made footprint pumpkin pie slices for their parent keepsake. Their shape was a moon where they colored the moon in orange. They read about Thanksgiving with the teachers reading to the infants about the first Thanksgiving and why we should give thanks to our God for all the blessings He has given us. Their Baby Sign Language word was "Sun" and their Bible story was "Jesus Came to Save Sinners" with Toby the Tiger helping to tell the story to the infants.

All of the preschool classrooms are also working hard on the Children's Christmas program "The Legend of the Candy Cane", learning their lines and where to stand for the performance.

Kids! Join us!
"The Rock"
 Sunday School
 New Time 9:30 am



"The Rock" Sunday School

Today at The Rock, Saul was very jealous of David. Saul wanted to catch David, but God always kept David safe. Even when David had opportunities to harm Saul, he chose to wait for God's perfect plan. David needed a place to hide and went to a town called Nob. There, the kind high priest Ahimelech gave him food and even a special sword that belonged to a giant named Goliath! But when Saul found out, he was very angry and punished the priests for helping David. Even when things were hard, David showed courage by saving the city of Keilah from the Philistines, who were cruel enemies. When Saul learned David was in that city, God told David to run away to stay safe. Later, David was hiding in the wilderness of Engedi while Saul searched for him with 3,000 soldiers! One night, David and his friend Abishai sneaked into Saul's camp. Abishai wanted to hurt Saul, but David said no. He knew it was better to trust God and not seek revenge. Many times, David had opportunities to get back at Saul, but he chose to be kind and forgiving rather than mean. The Bible teaches us that it's good to show love and forgiveness. Just like David, let's try to be kind to others and trust that God will help us make the right choices!

LUTHERAN'S WOMEN MISSIONARY LEAGUE NEWS

LWML Annual Cookie Sale: The annual cookie sale is approaching fast. This year's date for the sale is Sunday, **December 14th** before and after both worship services. We need your cookies to continue making this a huge success. Any kind of cookie would be fabulous, if you can manage two dozen cookies we will feel blessed! Last year we had a sell out with some individuals wanting to buy more...so we need even more of your great homemade cookies this year. Packing of the cookies is Saturday, December 13th at 10:00am. Thank you in advance for your help. God's blessings to all you talented cookie bakers!

Ladies Our Advent Tea will be on **Sunday, December 14th at 3:00 pm in our Life Center**. Our theme this year is "Come To My Heart, Lord Jesus" where we will enjoy a traditional tea with our hostesses providing a refreshment for their table. Decorations are up to the hostess and the LWML will share special gifts with all of the participants. We will enjoy a short skit in honor of the birth of our Lord. If you would like to be a hostess for an Advent Tea table or would like to partner with another hostess for one table, please sign your name on the sign-up sheets on the table in the narthex. If you would like to join us for the Advent Tea, please sign your name on the attendance sheet for the event indicating which table you would like to sit at. This event has always been a relaxing, joyous time filled with fellowship, won't you please consider joining us? Sign up today!

"Adult Sunday Morning Bible Study: Starting at 9:30 AM on Sundays in the Family Life Center, Pastor Krenzel will lead a Bible Study about the Saints. This topic was requested by those currently attending the Bible study hour."

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 \$22.50 if you order by December 14th, the subscription price after December 14th is \$24.50. Please put your subscription money into the church office. This subscription no longer includes **Michigan In Touch** online magazine.



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, Dave Arndt, 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

John Stine

Lorraine Jasper (eye infection treatments)

Pastor Krengel, Chris Damaske, and Betty Korcek, visited this week:

Myra Clark, Linda Miller, Kay Cornwell, Harry Rock, Geraldine Wooley, Norma Linn and Donna Springs

Healing Needs for the Month

Lou Kendrick, Karen Burger, Denny Lawrenz, Vicki Ott, Paul Graves, Dave Kramer, Cameron Magro, Gerald Kuhn, Alex Varvel, Craig Wendzel, Georgia Hildebrandt, Darrell Gast, Brett Germain, Sharon Korcek, Jim Benjamin, Karl Kaeding, Carla Weiser, Jeff Rodewald, Debbie Miller, Natalya Gaidukevich, Christie Ott Hartzler, Janet Lamb, Alex Dixon, Beth Vigansky Cuzio, Andy Benjamin, Pastor Carl Bassett, Leon Schmaltz, John Stine, Jeffrey Nemitz, Harriet Fester, 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, Devin Hays (Army Reserve), 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

November 16, 2025 offerings and donations:

Offering Envelopes: \$7,841.00 Year to date: \$301,118.00

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

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,

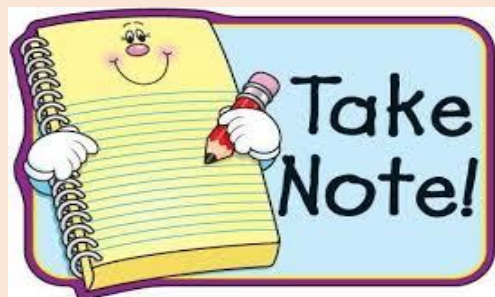
Oldenburg & Sons
EXCAVATING INC



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for all your Digging Needs!*

269-426-4519





Special Days

Birthdays: Craig Hanke (11-23), Chris Hampton (11-28), Tammy Kanous (11-28)

THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL

- Sun. Nov. 23rd** - Divine Worship Service – 8:30 am
Education Hour Pastor Led Bible Study 9:30 am
“The Rock” Sunday School – 9:30 am
Praise Worship Service - 10:45 am
- Mon. Nov. 24th** - Bible Study led by Gerry Vigansky – on hiatus
Handbell Choir Practice – 6:00 pm
AA Meeting – 7:00 pm
- Tues. Nov. 25th** – Spiritual Council Meeting – 6:00 pm
Business Council Meeting – 7:00 pm
- Wed. Nov. 26th** – Wednesday Bible Study led by Elsie Hanke 10am
Thanksgiving Eve Worship - 6:00 pm
- Thurs. Nov. 27th** – Happy Thanksgiving Day – Church Office Closed
- Sat. Nov. 29th** – Decorating the Church for the Advent Season – 9am
- Sun. Nov. 30th** – Divine Worship Service with Holy Communion - 8:30 am
Education Hour Pastor Led Bible Study 9:30am
“The Rock” Sunday School with Holy Communion – 9:30 am
Praise Worship Service – 10:45 am

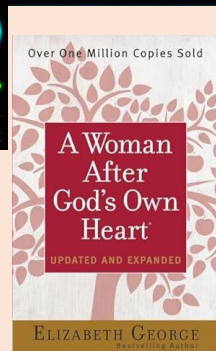
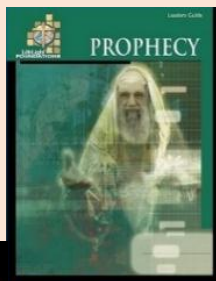
Noteworthy Dates in the Next Few Weeks

- ♥ Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service – Wednesday, November 26th at 6:00 pm
- ♥ Decorating Event for Advent – Saturday, November 29th at 9:00 am
- ♥ Advent Midweek Services – Wednesdays, December 3rd, 10th and 17th at 12:15 pm and 6:00 pm
- ♥ Holiday Village Pop-up – Saturday, December 6th, 1-5pm in our gymnasium
- ♥ Christmas Cantata Unity Service – Sunday, December 7th one worship service at 10:00 am.
- ♥ Christmas Children's Program – Sunday, December 14th at 10:45 am

Need to make an appointment with Pastor Krengel? You are invited to call him on his cell phone at **832-257-5437** or email him at krengeld@gmail.com. Pastor Krengel has posted his hours on his office door.

Thrivent Choice Dollars are available to Thrivent Financial customers and you can assign your choice dollars to any non-profit organization you choose. Please look at your benefit statement and assign your choice dollars every 3 months to the non-profit of your choice. Make your money work for you! Thank you for your generosity in sharing your gifts with people helping people!

Thank you to Chris Dow for providing the children's busy bags for our worship services. She has given the bags and the busy items inside and changes out the items every church season. We appreciate the time and talent you share with us!



We Have Some Really Great Bible Studies here at Immanuel! **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. Please take advantage of a bible class on Wednesday mornings Elsie Hanke leads a Bible class at 10:00 am and they are studying "A Women After God's Heart". In addition, Men's Network Breakfast is on the third Saturday of each month and a great opportunity for men to come together to study many aspects of our faith in addition to a delicious breakfast made by men for men. Our Monday morning Bible Study is on Advent hiatus and will be back after the holidays, this group is starting a new Bible study on the book of Daniel, they meet every Monday at 10:00 am. Why not spend an hour or two out of your week to join these wonderful learning opportunities!

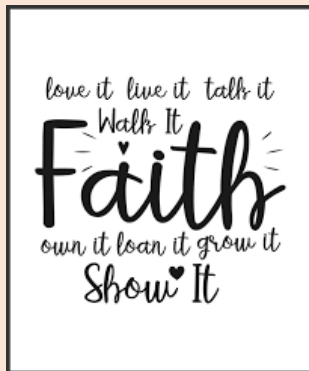
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, family and friends of Pastor Barz, Pastor Barz is retiring after serving St. Paul's Lutheran Church Buchanan as Pastor for 15 years and St. Paul's Lutheran Church Niles as Vacancy Pastor for the last 14 months. His last service as Pastor for St Paul's Lutheran Church Niles/Buchanan Dual Parish will be a joint Communion service on November 30th at 10:30 am at St Paul's Lutheran Church at 212 W. Front Street in Buchanan. Luncheon will be provided immediately following the service in the fellowship hall. Please join us to thank and honor Pastor Barz for serving our congregations. God's blessings for Pastor Barz and Ann and his family. The Congregations of St. Paul Buchanan and Niles

Thank you to Susan Foster, Ellen Yeske and Cheryl Music for using your time and talents helping to put away and organize the Share Closet. We have had many blessed donations in the last few months and we appreciate you spending your time hanging, folding and organizing the closet so the "shoppers" can see all the wonderful items. You are a blessing to this mission!

Bridges: Connecting God's Love from Sunday School to Our Seniors Bridges is more than just a new name; it's a heartfelt initiative designed to foster connections between the children at The Rock and the senior members of our church community. This program aims to bridge generations by creating delightful take-home treats and engaging projects that will be shared during visits to church members who are homebound. In previous years, The Rock has brought joy and warmth to our seniors by making thoughtful gifts for holiday celebrations, including Christmas presents, Valentine's treats, Easter goodies, and summer activity packets. Now, we proudly adopt the "Bridges" name as our mission—uniting youth and seniors through the gift of God's love and creativity.

Do you love the scriptures? We are looking for lay readers for our 8:30 am worship service. Some of our readers have taken a step back from reading the scriptures during worship services and we are looking for some people to serve as readers each Sunday. We accommodate comfort levels of all our readers. If you are willing to serve in this capacity, please contact the church office at 465-6031. Thank you for your willingness to serve!

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!



Those Serving in Church This Week

Greeters: Don & Marion Burch and Nancy Kirk (8:30 am); Immanuel's Praise Team (10:45 am)

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

Lay Reader: Karen Pedde

Immanuel's Choir: Directed by Sara Oldenburg, Elsie Hanke, Mark Heyn, Kurt Hanke, Chris Hampton, Kathy Hanke, Nancy Kirk, Judy Roush, Jeannie Dehring, Karen Pedde, Ilene Nemitz, Cheryl Fischer, Debbie Zimmerman, Kim Schmitz

Handbell Ensemble: Susan Foster, Cheryl Music, Doug Hamlin, Joyce Hamlin, Kathy Michener and Kim Schmitz

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

Guitarists: John "Mac" McElligott, Kurt Hanke

Praise Speaker: Shannah Smith

Keyboardist/Guitarist: Kunwarjit Singh Multani "Sid" & Lanny Duffel

Altar Guild: Judy Roush, Kathy Hanke, Diane Kanous and Bev Barnes

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

Greeters needed for 2026! It's time again, to round up volunteer Greeters for next year. If you were a Greeter in 2025, 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 8:00 am 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.

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!

Today's Hymns: LSB 905, 549, 611

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Scriptures: Deuteronomy 8:1-10; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 17:11-19

Next Week's Scriptures: Ezekiel 3:16-21; Romans 10:8b-18
John 1:35-42a

Sunday Attendance: November 16, 2025

8:30 am - 81; 10:45 am -

Wednesday Evening Worship Service -
Wednesday Bible Study - 8

Rev. Dr. Douglas A. Krengel, Sole Pastor

Please contact Pastor Krengel for any Pastoral needs.

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