



Friday, September 5, 2025

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP WEEKLY



## Sunday Worship and Learning Schedule

Sunday, September 7, 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](mailto: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](http://www.immanuelbridgman.org)

*Join Us in Celebrating Patriot's Day!*

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 14<sup>TH</sup>**

**9:30 AM**

**PATRIOTIC WORSHIP SERVICE**

*Please Plan on Joining Us!*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Congregational Retreat**

**Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**

**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

The God of the Bible is Pro Life. The Lord specifically calls us in today's Old Testament reading to "choose life." Furthermore, the Savior teaches us this morning that He is our life. In contrast to those who choose life and believe God to be their life, the Lord warns us about the other possible path in life – the path that follows other gods, the way of those who will perish, the road that leads to death. The God of the Bible wants all to live now and forever through His grace and mercy. May the Holy Spirit bring us to love the Lord and to walk in his ways both now and forevermore. Amen.

## CHURCH NEWS

**Our Patriotic Worship Service is next Sunday.** 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 at 9:30 am** we will enjoy some of the same elements of our Patriotic Worship Services in the past. **There will be only one service this day.** 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, he serves as the director of the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces and we are honored to have him as our guest speaker. Please join us for the wonderful "Picnic" lunch put together by our hard-working Fellowship Board and you wonderful cooks and bakers here at Immanuel. We would like to offer a variety of salads and desserts to go along with the brats and hotdogs so we hope you will sign up on the table in the narthex for what you would like to bring for this meal. We hope you will spread the word about the worship service and picnic to 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*



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE** who wished Dorothy Ott a Happy 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday last Saturday. Dorothy and her family are very grateful to everyone who extended their good wishes to Dorothy this last week through cards and calls! Well done Immanuel!

**LWML Progressive Dinner is back!** – Ladies, we are going to enjoy a progressive dinner again this year, here at Immanuel! On **Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> 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 for joining our Midweek Family Worship services on Wednesdays.** We will continue to 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.

**Thank you to Pat Stelter** for her delicious zucchinis and green peppers, twice she has given us the abundance from her garden and was generous enough to share with us all. 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](mailto: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](http://thrivent.com/social) for important disclosures.



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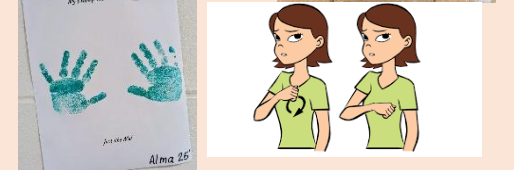


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# WE ♥ OUR TEACHERS



## ECDC NEWS

**PRESCHOOL HAS BEGUN!** Another school year has begun, and our students are all excited to start their educational journey with our preschool teachers leading them towards the beginning of learning the basics and their relationship with the Lord,

Stevie Hill is heading up our Skill Builders classroom this year and has created a wonderful learning area for her students. She has quite the challenge this year with a class of mostly very active boys. Please keep her in your prayers as well as her assistant teachers, Emily and one helper yet to be chosen. They all enjoyed an open house with students and their parents, getting to know each other and the rules of the room.

They got to know the schedule they would follow in the classroom, starting to recognize and write their names as well as sing the ABC song, their color this week was red, their letter they were learning about the letter "C" and the number "0". They started their journey by listening to the Bible story of how God created the world. Such a busy time and one that requires much patience for teachers and students alike.

Our Early Learners classroom concentrated on new relationships in their room with the addition of new students from the toddler room. They read the book *Kissing the Hand with Chester the Raccoon*. It's a story about how a mother raccoon gave her little son Chester a comforting kiss in his hand to carry her with him as he ventured from home for the very first time. This book helped the children to know that a kiss given to them by a parent will carry them to uncomfortable situations away from home. Most of the children have not had a classroom experience and this was a very valuable lesson for the young students. They also made a raccoon out of their handprints and paper plates, very creative of our teachers!

The students worked on the upper case and lower case letter "A" and created a paper apple to show off their knowledge.

Our Great Start to Readiness Program had their open house on Friday and the families and students got to know each other. Pastor Kregel was on hand to greet the families and wish them well on the start of their educational journey. We have two new teachers in the GSRP room this year, Ms Sara and Ms Tanya we welcome them to our ECDC staff and pray that they are able to reach the children and share their knowledge with them.

Our Toddler Room enjoyed a week of "All About Me". They made handprints that showed how unique each print was. They created a self portrait using crayons to color their eyes and hair. Their creative teachers developed a flower growth chart marking the height of the children with some beautiful paper flowers. They also played with popcorn kernels in their sensory table, great fun!

Our Infant Room also had a week where they explored "All About Me", by singing songs like "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" they read the Bible story "God Wants Us to Pray" with Marvin the Monkey helping to tell the story, they used dabbing markers to color their smiley faces too. Their Baby Sign Language this week was the word "Sorry". They made keep sake handprints for their families too and their shape this week was a diamond and their color was yellow. We are so grateful to our teachers and their loving creative souls!

## "The Rock" Sunday School

We are very much looking forward to the start of our Sunday School year. This year we will have a little later start and a new time to meet. We will have our first class on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 9:30 am. The children can go to our worship service at 8:30 am or after the "Rock" meets they can worship with their families at our contemporary worship service at 10:45 am. We are looking forward to an exciting new year discovering the Word of the Lord and how it shows God's love.



**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? Experienceing 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 7<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**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 11<sup>th</sup>, from 5 – 7 pm** please come and enjoy a genuine Diner Dinner of open-faced beef or turkey 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 slices of layer cake and fruit pies to choose from and rootbeer floats for \$1. The children's meal will be macaroni and cheese and mini corn dogs with ice cream sandwiches as their dessert! In addition, we are so blessed that the Outreach Board has offered to create a life sized Candyland Game in the Life Center to keep the kids busy while their parents enjoy the diner atmosphere. 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 a beautiful mystery item. 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

Craig Wendzel (Patty Green's brother, hospitalized)  
Allee Bauer

Linda Totzke (Cancer Treatments)  
The Family and Friends of Jackie Krieger  
The Family and Friends of Fawn Gitersonke-Mills

**Pastor Krengel and Betty Korcek, visited this week:** Elizabeth Rock, Pat Ott, Dorothea Crocker

## Healing Needs for the Month

Georgia Hildebrandt, Darrell Gast, Delora Rathbun, Fawn Gitersonke-Mills, 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 Ciuizio, 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 31, 2025 offerings and donations:  
Offering Envelopes: \$3,817.00 Year to date: \$227,017.00

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

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## Special Days

**Birthdays:** Adeline Miller (9-07), Char Schram (9-07), Kandin Shuler (9-07), Mae Foster (9-09), Marion Burch (9-09), Dan Reifschneider (9-10), Andy Korcek (9-11), Chad Ackerman (9-12)

## THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL

**Sun. Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> - 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. 8<sup>th</sup> – Bible Study led by Gerry Vigansky – 10am**

**Worship Board Mtg – 5:00 pm**

**Handbell Choir Practice – 6:00 pm**

**AA Meeting – 7:00 pm**

**Tues. Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> – Progressive Dinner – 6:00 pm**

**Wed. Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> – Children's Chapel – 9:15 am**

**Wednesday Bible Study led by Elsie Hanke – 10am**

**Midweek Evening Family Worship in the Sanctuary - 6:00 pm**

**Choir Practice – 7:00 pm**

**Thurs. Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> - Breakfast with Jesus at Rochefort's – 8am**

**Praise Worship Practice – 6:30 pm**

**Sun. Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> – Patriotic Worship Service – 9:30 am**

**"Picnic" Lunch in the Gym – 11:30 am**

**ONLY ONE WORSHIP SERVICE THIS SUNDAY!**

## 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 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 beginning at 9:30 am

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

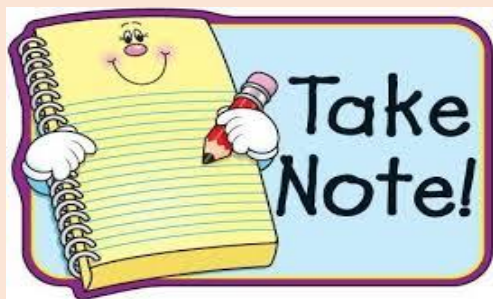
♥ **Diner Dinner** – Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm, Silent Auction preview, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

**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. Please take advantage of a bible class on Monday mornings at 10:00 led by Gerry Vigansky and on Wednesday mornings Elsie Hanke leads a Bible class at 10:00 am. Come join these wonderful learning opportunities!

**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!

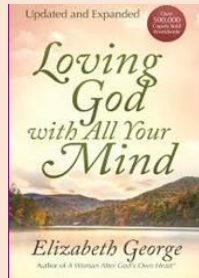
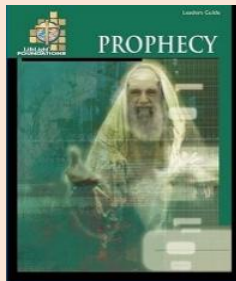


Join Us in Celebrating Patriot's Day!  
**SUNDAY, SEPT. 14<sup>TH</sup>**  
**9:30 AM**  
**PATRIOTIC WORSHIP SERVICE**

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







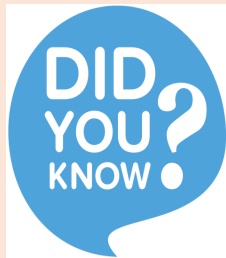
## Those Serving in Church This Week

**Greeters:** Sherry Vonk, Makenzie Vonk & Madison Vonk and Lori Wesner (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:** Pastor Tom Fischer  
**Pianist:** Pastor Tom Fischer and Susan Foster  
**Soloist:** Ilene Nemitz  
**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" & Lanny  
**Altar Guild:** Karen Oldenburg, Susan Foster, Cheryl Music and Cheryl Fischer  
**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Mondays 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 688, 851, 685, 707, 918

**Next Week's Scriptures:** *Ephesians 6:10-20*

**Sunday Attendance:** August 31, 2025

8:30 – 60 ; 10:45 – 51

**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

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