



Friday, January 9, 2026

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP WEEKLY



**WELCOME!**

*Thank You For Joining  
Us Today!*

## Worship Schedule Sunday, January 11, 2026

8:30 am - Divine Worship  
9:30 am - Adult Bible Class  
led by Pastor  
Krengel in the Life  
Center  
9:30 am - "The Rock" Sunday  
School  
10:45 am - Praise Worship  
email:  
[ilc@immanuelbridgman.org](mailto: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](http://www.immanuelbridgman.org)



Immanuel Lutheran Ministries  
9650 N. Church St.,  
Bridgman, MI 49106  
269-465-6031 Church Office

*A weekly publication of our announcements from our church leadership, staff and Early Childhood Development Center of Bridgman*

## AS WE GATHER

During the season of Epiphany, that is from today through Sunday, February 8, the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, we will consider the theme "Spiritual Conversations" as described by Lutheran Hour Ministries. As the Lord Jesus reached out to the Magi as he beckoned them into his presence by means of a star, so during the season of Epiphany we will strive to prepare ourselves to serve as priests in the Priesthood of All Believers. More specifically, we will strive to prepare ourselves to joyfully engage in Spiritual Conversations with those who do not yet know the comfort of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. May God bless our study. Amen.

## CHURCH NEWS

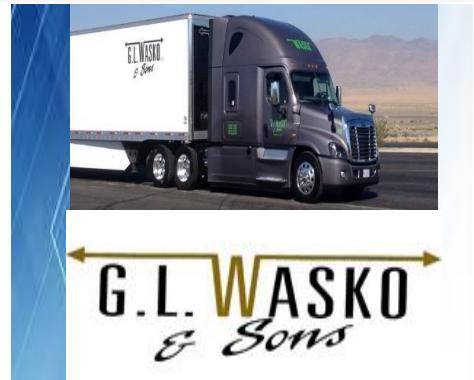
**In Celebration of Immanuel's 130<sup>th</sup> Year** we urge you to watch the announcement screen in the sanctuary and the monitor in the administration hallway of some of the years you may remember, watch for relatives and friends in church activities, help us to remember some of the servants of the Lord that were working for Immanuel over the last 130 Years!

**March for Life** is only a few weeks away! We hope you put this great inspirational event on your calendar and plan to attend! Join us on **Saturday, January 24, 2026** for this event when we show our community our support for the unborn. We will also have a Diaper Drive where we will bring in diapers for distribution to LifePlan and their three locations. We will enjoy an inspirational time of sharing in the sanctuary and then proceed to walk to the flagpole in Bridgman with signs and banners proclaiming our support for the unborn. We will walk back to the church to enjoy some delicious homemade soup and chill! Please plan on being a part of the March for Life!

**Congratulations!** Debbie Hildebrandt on her retirement after 9+ years serving Immanuel faithfully as the ECDC secretary. We were blessed with Debbie's skills helping out wherever she was needed, including cleaning the school rooms and hallways, gymnasium and Life Center, we were so blessed with you sharing your time and talents to help in Immanuel!

**We are looking** for wedding photos for the month of February. We are celebrating our history at Immanuel and with Valentine's Day as the theme we would like you to share your wedding photo! Please take a picture with your phone of your favorite wedding photo and send them to the church office via email [ilc@immanuelbridgman.org](mailto:ilc@immanuelbridgman.org) or text 269-612-8811. It doesn't matter where you were married, we would just love to celebrate the sanctity of marriage for February! We would love to see you on the big screen!

**Operation Christmas Child** Thanks to your support, Immanuel Lutheran sent 108 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child in 2025! Can we fill even more this year? The Outreach Board has set an ambitious goal of 150 shoeboxes for 2026. Please consider helping to reach the goal as we collect different items each month. In January, we are asking for toothbrushes, combs and hairbrushes. There is a decorated collection box in the back of the church. Thank you for your generous hearts! We are blessed with a loving, caring congregation!



**GL Wasko & Sons** is a family-owned transportation and warehouse company, that now includes a 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 and concern for getting every detail right.

**Griefshare** is a program for any person who is enduring the feelings of grief in their life. There is a local group at the Village Church in Berrien Springs in their fireside room and they meet on Tuesdays beginning February 17<sup>th</sup> to May 5<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 – 8 pm. If you would like to be a part of this very special group you can sign up online or when you attend your first meeting you can sign up at that time. We hope you will take advantage of this wonderful outreach program.

**Voluntary 2026 Pledge** ~ Thank you to everyone who offered their 2026 Pledge to the Lord., This voluntary pledge will be between you and the Lord. It will be kept sealed in that pledge envelope 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. You are still able to pledge to the Lord, The Pledge envelopes are on the table in the narthex. 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! Thank you for your generosity in giving this last year and we pray that we will continue on with our mission here at Immanuel.

**Did You Know?** Immanuel will be 130 years old in 2026. We would like to do a little reminiscing. Do you have photos of church life with your family? We would like to take a picture of your photos for display on our big screens in the month of January. If you can help, please submit them to the church office via email [jlc@immanuelbridgman.org](mailto:jlc@immanuelbridgman.org) or text 269-612-8811.

**Thank you to** Gerry Vigansky for his many years of service, providing an informative and insightful Bible Study from the Life Light series every Monday for many years. We are so grateful to Gerry for all his work preparing and revealing the Word of God from the Bible. Going forward, Patty Green has agreed to lead the Monday Bible Study group in their new Bible Study from Life Light "Daniel". Please come and enjoy this Bible Study

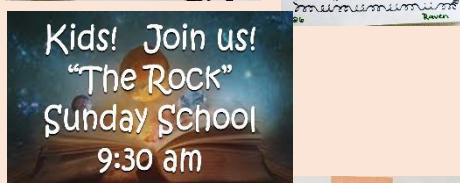
**We Have Some Really Great Bible Studies** here at Immanuel! **Pastor Krenge** is offering a Bible Study during our Education Hour on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in the Life Center. In addition, every Thursday morning at 8:00 am Breakfast with Jesus meets at Rochefort's in Bridgman. Please take advantage 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, with Patty Green leading the discussion, they will meet every Monday at 10:00 am until Lent and then pick up again after Easter. Why not spend an hour or two out of your week to join these wonderful learning opportunities!

**Can you be a scripture reader?** We are looking for people to read the scriptures at the 8:30 am worship service on Sundays. You will receive the scripture assignment before the service so you can practice reading them. If you can serve in this manner, please contact the church office at 269-465-6031. Thank you for helping with this very special way to serve.

**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.



**WE  OUR  
TEACHERS**



**Can You Help?** We are looking for helpers for our Sunday School room. We could use your expertise with children and teaching them about our Lord and Savior using curriculum designed to make an impact on these young minds. Won't you consider helping with our Sunday School room. They meet at 9:30 am between our two worship services. In addition, everyone is welcome to come into the Sunday School room on Sunday and watch these wonderful children learn about Jesus! We hope you will take this opportunity to visit our Sunday School room.

### **ECDC NEWS**

Everyone is back and getting to know the rules of the room again and getting along with fellow students and their teachers. Two weeks is a long time in the life of a preschooler. Our four-year-olds have been busy reviewing the weeks before they left for Christmas break. Their teacher Ms. Stevie did a great job teaching them, they remembered their lessons! They were introduced to a study called "Let's Investigate", where the children are given tools and clues to solve a mystery, with the help of magnifying glasses, scales and tweezers to uncover the clues. They studied the letter "P" upper and lower case, the color green, the star shapes the number 9. Their Bible story was "The Wise Men Found Jesus". They also followed a recipe to make their own slime. Their art project involved finger painting star shapes. Well done! Our three-year-olds have been busy making snowmen, discussing winter,(even though it was very unseasonal this week) and creating a parrot out of the letter "P". Their Bible story was about the Wise Men, appropriate for the season of Epiphany. They worked very hard this week on relearning the rules of the classroom, listening to their teachers and respecting their fellow students. Our teachers are especially equipped with extra patience and love to be able to keep reeducating our young students. Thank you, teachers, for all that you do! Our GSRP room started a new learning series about music, our talented teacher Ms. Heather is a musician herself and will be able to get these students special equipment to experiment with for this series. Their teachers built a music booth with a turntable so the children can see how music is developed. They worked on new letters this week T,M,H, L, learning to recognize each letter and the sound each one makes. Officer Higgs from the Michigan State Police made a visit to their classroom to teach the children about their 5 rules to keep them safe. They "played" with Pop-its to help them with their math lessons and worked on their gross motor skills. Our Toddler Room received two new students from our infant room and their room is very busy! They made their own paper mittens and one of the mittens was placed in the room somewhere and the students had to find their match. They made their own puffy paint to make their own illustration of "The Snowy Day". They made piano Handprints as keepsakes for their parents and enjoyed their new study of music and movement. Our infant room received two new infants and have been kept very busy getting to know their new students! Thank you Teachers!

### **"The Rock" Sunday School**

We have been learning about a boy named David. God chose David to be the next king after King Saul. A lot has happened since then. David fought a huge man named Goliath and defeated him with a sling and a stone. After that, David worked for King Saul. He played music for the king and helped him. God helped David with everything, and King Saul became jealous. King Saul even tried to hurt David, but God kept David safe. David also made a good friend named Jonathan, who was King Saul's son. Last week, we learned that David had to run away from King Saul, who chased him everywhere. Sometimes, David could have hurt King Saul, like when Saul was in a cave or sleeping, but David did not do it. David wanted to wait and trust God to make him king at the right time. Today at The Rock, we will talk about 4 more things that happened to David before he became King. God was happy that David trusted Him and waited. David finally became king of all the people of Israel. God helped David take care of everyone. David picked a new city called Jerusalem to be the special city for God's people. Jerusalem became very important for God's people and for the whole world!



## Homebound and Continuing Care Facilities

**Homebound:** Dollie Schmaltz, Edith Weed, Edna Holt, Irwin and Margaret Poschke, Terry Graves, Kay Cornwell, Joanne Argue, Harry Rock, Wally & AnneMarie Mojsiejenko, Elizabeth Rock, and Donna Mach

**Continuing Care Facilities:** Pat Ott, Geraldine Wooley, Don Metzger, Norma Linn, 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

Jeffrey Nemitz

Lily Barker (Lyme Disease)

Family and Friends of Marjorie Daugherty (Kim Schmitz's Aunt)

**Visitations This Week:** Pastor Krengel, Chris Damaske and Betty Korcek visited with Harry Rock, Edith Weed, Denny and Debbie Lawrenz, Don Metzger Edna Holt and Sharon Stine.

## Healing Needs for the Month

Larry Ott, Manfred Moneta, Pastor Greg Lorenz, Vern Nitz Jr., Jeffrey Nemitz, Lou Kendrick, Karen Burger, Denny Lawrenz, Vicki Ott, Paul Graves, 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 Ciuzio, Andy Benjamin, Pastor Carl Bassett, Leon Schmaltz, 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

## Finance News

January 4, 2026 offerings and donations:  
Offering Envelopes: \$6,364.00 Year to date: \$6.364.00

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

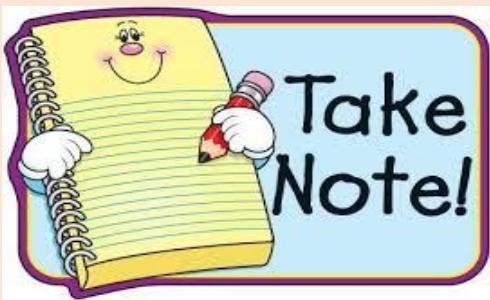
**Oldenburg & Sons EXCAVATING INC** Call Oldenburg Excavating for all your Digging Needs!



269-426-4519



# God Made You Very Special!



## Special Days

**Birthdays:** Jeff Sukupchak (1-13), Debbie Hildebrandt (1-14), Ingrid Gaul (1-14), Suzanne Malm (1-14), Carol Kaeding (1-17), Wren Timmons (1-17)

## THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL

**Sun. Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>** – Divine Worship - 8:30am  
Adult Bible Class led by Pastor Krengel – in the Life Center - 9:30 am  
“The Rock” Sunday School – 9:30 am  
Praise Worship – 10:45 am

**Mon. Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>** - Bible Study led by Patty Green – 10 am  
Worship Bd Meeting – 5:00 pm  
Handbell Choir Practice – 6:00 pm  
Handbell Ensemble Practice – 7:00 pm  
AA Meeting – 7:00 pm

**Wed. Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>** – Wed. Bible Study led by Elsie Hanke – 10 am  
Elders Bd Meeting – 6:30 pm  
Choir Practice – 7:00 pm

**Thurs. Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>** – Breakfast with Jesus at Rochefort’s – 8am  
Praise Team Practice – 6:30 pm

**Sun. Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>** – Divine Worship with Holy Communion - 8:30 am  
Education Hour Pastor Led Bible Study 9:30 am  
“The Rock” Sunday School – 9:30 am  
Praise Worship with Holy Communion – 10:45 am

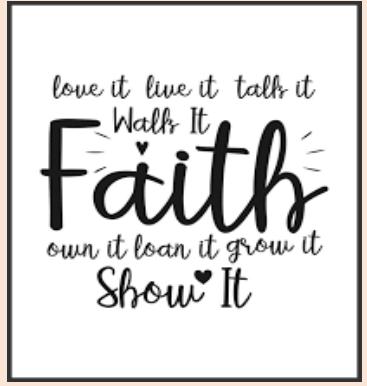
## Noteworthy Dates in the Next Few Weeks

♥ **March for Life Event** – Saturday, January 24, 2026 at 11:00 am.

**March for Life** will be on **Saturday, January 24, 2026 at 11:00 am.** This is a wonderful day of praising the Lord for the gift of Life and marching to show our support of those who are protecting lives of the unborn. We will begin in the sanctuary, listen to some wonderful speakers about their missions to protect lives, hear a great message from Pastor Krengel and enjoy some very delicious warm food after the march. We hope you will take this opportunity to join us and make your voice heard!

**Sewing for Missions** earned some funds from their raffle at the Holiday Village Pop-up Market, which brought them \$90 to use for future sewing needs. The three quilts raffled all went to congregational members to enjoy. Our next sewing morning is **Friday, January 30 at 9am.** Hope you can make it either with a quilt top or just willing hands to help. God's blessings for a wonderful Christmas season, celebrating Jesus' birth!

**We can always use members who wish to share their musical talents.** Maybe one of your New Year's resolutions could be to join one of our Choirs or our Praise Team. Everyone is welcome to join, we enjoy fellowship and fun while using our unique talents to add beauty to worship. If you have a voice you can sing, if you can count you can play bells, if you play an instrument we can use you too. Our Handbell Choir practices on Monday at 6:00 pm. Our Choir practices on Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Our Praise Team practices on Thursday at 6:30 pm. There is also the Beyond the Walls Choir which is seasonal. If you play an instrument, (any instrument!) we would like to invite you to join us also. Let's use our many talents to praise our Lord and Savior.



## Those Serving in Church This Week

**Greeters:** Nancy Kirk and Kathy Hanke (8:30 am) Immanuel's Praise Team (10:45am)

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

**Handbell Choir:** Susan Foster, Cheryl Music, Debbie Zimmerman, Melissa Barker, Suellen Kline, Bev Barnes, Doug Hamlin, Kathy Michener, Joyce Hamlin, Steve Schmitz and Kim Schmitz

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

**Praise Speaker:** Shannah Smith

**Guitarists:** John "Mac" McElligott, Kurt Hanke

**Keyboardist/Guitarist:** Kunwarjit Sigh Multani "Sid" & Lanny Duffel

**Altar Guild:** Susan Foster, Cheryl Music, Karen Oldenburg

**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, Larry Smith, Doug Hamlin, Steve Schmitz

**Organist:** Pastor Thomas Fischer

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

*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!*

**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!

**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](mailto:krengeld@gmail.com). Pastor Krengel has posted his hours on his office door.

**On the 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.

**Today's Hymns:** LSB 407, 412, 537

**Next Sunday Scriptures:**?

**Last Sunday's Attendance:** 80 - 8:30 am; 45 -10:45 am

**Wednesday Bible Study – 10**

**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)**