



Friday, June 27, 2025

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP WEEKLY

Preserving the Gospel
TRUTH



Welcome
We're Glad You Are Here!

Sunday Worship and Learning Schedule

Sunday, June 29, 2025

8:30 am – Divine Worship Service
w/Holy Communion

9:30 am – Education Hour Pastor
Led Bible Study

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

email: ilc@immanuelbridgman.org

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

Free for All



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

Peter and Paul were both apostles. However, they came to be apostles by two different routes: Peter by walking with Jesus; Paul by the hand of the resurrected Christ Jesus on the road to Damascus. While both Peter and Paul were raised in the Jewish faith, Peter was a fisherman, while Paul was a highly educated theologian with a strong academic background, and with the ability to speak several languages. Peter was from Capernaum next to the Sea of Galilee and was one of the first disciples to be called by Jesus. Paul was the last apostle to be called by Jesus. Paul was originally not from Israel but was from Tarsus in what is now known as Turkey. The listeners will learn that even two apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ experienced disagreements and difficulties. However, both Paul and Peter worked through these disagreements, while praying to the Lord Jesus for His direct intervention and for reconciliation in the name of Christ. Peter and Paul ended their apostolic ministries in Rome (according to tradition). Both were martyred for the faith; Peter was crucified upside down; Paul was decapitated (according to tradition). It is my intention to include pictures I will have taken while touring Greece and Turkey in late April and early May. In the end, while Peter and Paul did have their disagreements, the two apostles united together to preserve the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ – an effort that has now lasted 2,000 years with God using both apostles' writings to inspire billions of souls to convert to Christ and to enter the joys of heaven by grace through faith in Jesus.

CHURCH NEWS

FREE FOR ALL: Thank you to everyone for bringing your reusable items for the "Free for All". As always this was an enormous success with over 80 people entering the gym at 8am. This event was open to anyone in need, and items were free of charge. We were able to provide gently used, serviceable, working items such as electronics, tools, furniture, kitchen gadgets, clothing, bedding, toys, footwear, etc. to people in need in our community. This event is a large part of our ministry and it takes so many generous volunteers to make this work. Thank you to everyone who spent any time making this such a success. Those who donated items, unpacked and arranged the items, to the ones who kept the tables neat and orderly and to the ones who packed up cleaned up and delivered items to another charitable organization. We especially thank Kevin, Sue and Kayla Berk for all that they do to make this mission such a wonderful event.

Bridgman Days is coming up on July 12th, 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 members.



New Worship Times!

8:30 am ~ Traditional Service
9:30 am ~ Education Hour
10:45 am ~ Praise Worship



Planning Committee Update: A diverse group of Immanuel members—the Planning Committee—was formed to reflect on the insights gathered from last fall's Congregational Planning Retreat and the recent reconciler report. This committee has met twice since the May Voter's meeting. The feedback confirmed what many of us already knew: the members of Immanuel are deeply committed to living out their faith by sharing the love of Christ and serving both the congregation and the broader community. At the same time, it became evident that our current governance structure, originally designed for a larger congregation, no longer supports our ministry effectively. Rather than enabling our mission, it has often become a barrier. In response, the Planning Committee has been actively exploring governance models that are better suited to the size and needs of our congregation. Our goal is to develop a right-sized structure that empowers the congregation to grow and thrive in Christ—now and into the future. A key aspect of the models under consideration is a streamlined core governance framework, complemented by the flexibility to form additional committees as needs arise. We seek a model that not only reflects our current identity but also enhances our capacity to faithfully carry out our mission in the years to come. Transparency remains a priority. We are committed to keeping the congregation informed and engaged throughout this process, and you can expect regular updates like this one in the church bulletin. Looking ahead, we plan to bring forward recommendations for a right-sized governance model at the 2025 Congregational Planning Retreat (CPR), which we hope Pastor Johnson will facilitate. This retreat will provide a dedicated space for listening to congregants' thoughts and concerns—particularly those related to governance. As we continue this important work, your prayers, questions, and voices are not only welcome—they're essential.

Vacation Bible School 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 VBS 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. We can always use the extra hands and skills our generous volunteers offer!



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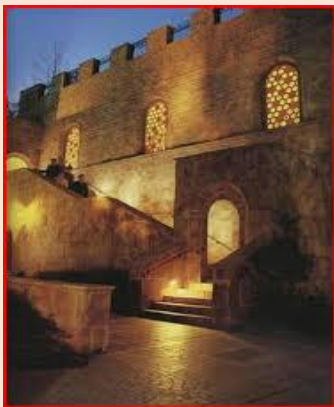


Please keep in your prayers the family and friends of Betty Dehring. Betty was called to her heavenly home on Friday, June 20, 2025. Her coronation service of celebration will be held on Saturday, July 19, 2025 at 11:00 am here at Immanuel. Friends can meet with family prior to the funeral service at 10am. We pray that God will give consolation and peace to those who are grieving.

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

What a fun, busy week for our students and staff! Pajama day was today where everyone exists in a relaxed mode where they lounged around and watched movies in the Life Center. (The weather was too hot for the children to go outside and their beach field trip was canceled). Our primary room and school age room often work together on craft projects and field trips. They both enjoyed movie/pajama day. They were able to play outside for a portion of their beach week. The school age room enjoyed the new splash pad outside and built sandcastles making a small towns out of sand. We are so grateful to our creative hard working teachers for creating wonderful experiences for the children in our care. Our primary room was able to create their own necklaces this week with string and pony beads. They created ice cream with construction paper and small beads for sprinkles, while not very appetizing they looked great! Our toddler room was busy inside and out side with their week concentrating on their Construction theme. They took all their construction tractors, bull dozers, diggers and trucks and pretended to build structures in the sand outside. They got to be very creative by making chalk drawings on the cement pads outside. Lead teacher Ms. Lindsey built craft stick structures with painters tape and gave them to the toddlers to deconstruct, she noticed during her work with the toddlers that they love to take things apart. They really enjoyed this exercise in fine motor skills tearing the tape off the sticks to deconstruct the building! We have the best teachers ever! They also colored construction signs to make them aware of what red, yellow and green signs mean when there is construction areas. Their Bible story was how to pray to God. They practiced folding their hands and talking to God! Wonderful! Our infant room worked on their theme of the ocean. They talked about what animals live in the ocean, they used their paint dotter to color paper seahorses yellow and used their handprints to make keepsakes for their families that resembled jellyfishes! They used their water sensory table inside, because of the hot weather and they splashed and played with water in the table. They read books about the ocean and sang songs about the ocean and seas. Their Bible story was God Made Everything with Leo the Lion puppet telling the story of how God made the ocean and seas including each one of us. A great week to work on water themes in all of the classrooms. We have so blessed to have so many creative, innovative teachers! It is so hard to keep children occupied for hours on end and our teachers spend extra hours finding new and innovative ways to keep the children in our care engaged and active. The Free For All was a great resource for all or our teachers, they were able to find some wonderful items!



We are so blessed! We are so grateful to God for the many members of our congregation who share their time and talents so willingly and consistently! Thank you to the crew who installed the wire barrier fence to keep the children and their playthings out of the poison ivy in the woods! Thank you to the Smith Family, who took the time to redesign the nursery into a multiuse restful area for children and adults alike. We praise God for you!

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. Thank you for your support of sunglasses, jump ropes, yo-yos, puzzles and craft kits for the month of May. We want to continue to support this inspirational mission. **In July we are collecting slinkies, stickers, cars, small character toys, and mini frisbees.** 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

Pat Heyn (hospitalized in Kalamazoo with large cell cancer);
Brett Germain (Shelly Yuran's brother recovering from a car accident severe head injury at University of Chicago)
Sharon Korcek (Betty's daughter in law undergoing cancer treatments)
Nancy Hudson (Deb Jaeger's Mother);
Jim Benjamin (Parkinson's Disease),
Karl Kaeding (Cancer treatments), Jeff Delvaux,
Family and Friends of Mike Hahaj

No Visitations this week.

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

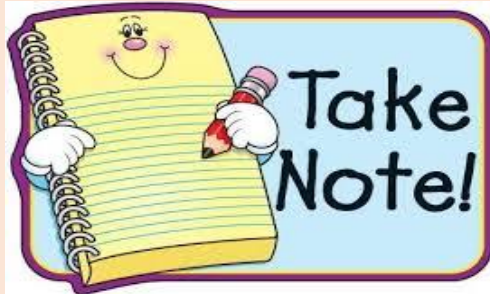
June 22, 2025 offerings and donations:
Offering Envelopes: \$4,665.00; Year to date: \$167,620.00

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

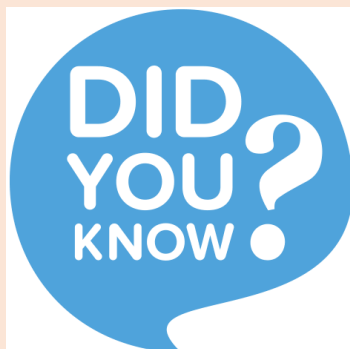
Welcome Visitors! We are blessed you are joining us today! Thank you for spending your time in worship to join us in prayer, study and song. Please take some time to share your contact information with us by signing the guest book in the narthex. God bless your time with us!

The Service of the Word revolves around hearing God's Word read and preached. The service of the Sacrament revolves around receiving God's Word "in, with and under" bread and wine, that is, the Lord's Supper. A Sacrament is a gift from God that combines His Word with the physical element, in this case bread and wine, and the forgiveness of sins.

God Made
You
Very Special!



**FREE FOR
ALL**



Special Days

Birthdays: Nancy Seldomridge (6-29), Tim Lemon (6-29), Jeff Svoboda (6-30), Michael Catania (6-30), Emma DeKoster (7-01), Colton Yoder (7-02), Diana Prittinen (7-02), John Gelesko (7-02), Kathy Michener (7-02), AnnaMae Yaeger (7-03), Mollie Allmond (7-03), Donna Weaver (7-05), Lauren Wheeler (7-05)

Anniversaries: Karl and Carol Kaeding (7-01, 19 years)

THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL

Sun. June 29th – Divine Worship Service w/Holy Communion
8:30 am
Pastor led Bible Study in Life Center – 9:30 am
Praise Worship Service w/Holy Communion -
10:45 am

Mon. June 30th – Bridge Club - 12:30 pm
AA Meeting – 7:00 pm

Wed. July 2nd - Midweek Evening Family Worship – 6:00 pm

Thurs. July 3rd - Breakfast with Jesus at Rochefort's – 8am
Praise Worship Practice – 6:30 pm

Fri. July 4th – HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE FOURTH OF JULY
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED.

Sun. July 6th – Divine Worship Service w/Holy Communion
8:30 am
Pastor led Bible Study in Life Center – 9:30 am
Praise Worship Service w/Holy Communion
10:45 am

Noteworthy Dates in the Next Few Weeks

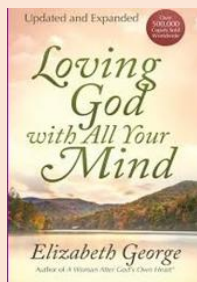
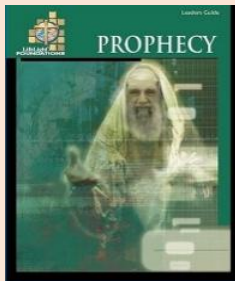
- ♥ **Wonder Junction Vacation Bible School – July 7th – 10th**
5:20 pm Kid Friendly Family Dinner; then 6:00 pm VBS
- ♥ **Annual Church Picnic – Sun., Aug. 3rd Unity Service 10am**

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

Outreach is renovating again! Take a look at the renovated space that was the nursery. Thank you to the Smith Family for creating a restful space for children and adults to come to for some quiet time during the worship service.



email: krengeld@gmail.com