



Friday, December 12, 2025

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP WEEKLY

Prepare for
Christmas
With
John the Baptist



WELCOME! To Our
Children's
Christmas
Program
The Legend of the Candy Cane

Sunday Worship and Learning Schedule

Sunday, December 14, 2025

8:30 am – Divine Worship

9:30 am – Education Hour

Pastor Led Bible Study and

“The Rock” Sunday School

**10:45 am – ECDC Children's
Christmas Program**

**11:45 am – Reception for ECDC
Families in the Life Center**

email:

ilc@immanuelbridgman.org

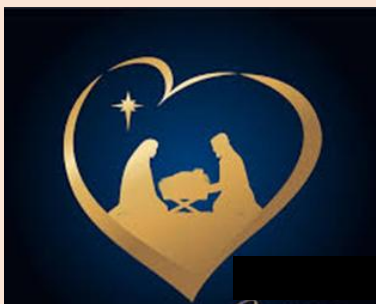
*Most of our Worship Services are
streamed Live on Facebook

[Immanuel Lutheran Church](https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchBridgman)

[Bridgman](https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchBridgman), or are posted on our
website:

www.immanuelbridgman.org

Please Join Us For Our
Children's
Christmas
Program
The Legend of the Candy Cane
Sunday, Dec. 14th at 10:45 am



LWML
**Annual Cookie
Sale**

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

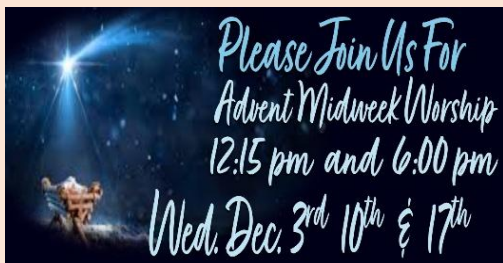
This morning, we will continue to prepare for Christmas with the help of John the Baptist. John the Baptist was Jesus' relative. The Virgin Mary's relative (Luke 1:36) was Elizabeth. Elizabeth was John the Baptist's mother. While serving in the temple in Jerusalem, John the Baptist's father, a priest named Zechariah, received the good news from the angel Gabriel that they, an elderly couple, would be blessed with a baby boy. While John the Baptist had the right to become a priest, he instead served as the last of a long line of prophets who pointed souls forward to the Savior of the world (Luke 1:76-79). After Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, and after Jesus recruited his disciples, and began his public ministry, John the Baptist sent his own disciples to discern the truth, that Jesus of Nazareth was the One, the Savior, the Messiah, the Christ. Christmas is the celebration of this same truth that Jesus is God. May the Holy Spirit bless us as we prepare to celebrate the Christmas Gospel that God came in flesh in Jesus for us and for our salvation.

CHURCH NEWS

Our Children's Christmas Program is TODAY! At 10:45 am in the sanctuary we will watch our Early Childhood Development Center students perform a Christmas Play. We hope you can join us for a wonderful presentation of "The Legend of the Candy Cane". This is a very inspirational tale of how the candy cane was made and formed all in memory of the sacrifice that Jesus made for our sins! Our teachers and children have been working very hard on this program, learning songs and hand motions to show some of the skills they have learned in school this far. So many hands have helped to make this production possible, our set technicians who set up the risers, backdrops and props, our fabulous director who acted as a director of this production and to our awesome teachers who spent so much time practicing with the students. Thank you to Pastor Krengel for offering the very special Children's Message. We know that our parents and their families will enjoy this very special Christmas program, there will be a reception with refreshments following the presentation today in the Life Center. Thank you to the Fellowship Board for setting up the refreshments. We hope you will come, meet the families and enjoy the children's acting skills!

Ladies Our Advent Tea is TODAY 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 refreshments for their table. Decorations are up to the hostesses 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 Jesus. This event has always been a relaxing, joyous time filled with fellowship, won't you please consider joining us? You are still welcome to come even though you did not sign up to attend. Please join us at 3:00 pm in the Life Center today!

TODAY is the LWML Annual Cookie Sale and this is your opportunity to taste and enjoy the wonderful, creative cookies that our bakers have made. The boxes are 1.25 pounds per box and have so many delicious and festive cookies to enjoy. Each box is only **\$8, much less than the bakeries are selling their cookies for**, we hope you take this time to stop and purchase a box of cookies. This also saves you from having to bake for this season. Let us make your holiday a little easier by selling you a box of cookies!



G. L. Wasko & Sons is a 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.

From Our Wonderful Outreach Board There are still some Christmas Angels on our Angel Tree at Immanuel! We are so fortunate to have a tradition of gifting others during December – especially members who may be homebound or just unable to come to church often. This year the Board needs your help in a BIG way. Please choose an angel and write your name next to the angel you have selected on the clip board on the side table next to the tree. **In addition to choosing a name from the angel tree, this year the Board is also asking that you deliver the small gift you have chosen.** In years past, members of the Outreach Board have done the deliveries, and it has proven to be a huge undertaking for us, involving many hours. We want to continue reaching our homebound members and we need your help. Just one delivery for you and a special connection for a shut-in. What a blessing!

Praise God for all of the wonderful people who participated in the Holiday Village events last weekend. Our awesome hard-working trustee, Paul Jaeger led a group of members to setup the large stable in front of the church giving us just the right touch to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Thank you to all the men who gave of their time and talents! We appreciate you! Pastor Krengel manned the Prayer Table with Deb Jaeger and managed to share some prayers with some of the crafters and shoppers. The LWML served refreshments and lunch to the crowd and some stalwart congregation members and children joined in Christmas caroling through Bridgman and the businesses sharing Christmas Joy! Thank you to John “Mac” McElligott and Rich Kubsch for the guitar music and getting the crowd involved in the singing, well done gentlemen!

Today is the Third Sunday in Advent We hope you will join us on **December 17th for our last 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 a family-oriented Advent activity which has been developed especially for your family. Pastor Krengel will introduce the activities and give us some ideas on how to bring Advent preparations to our homes. 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!

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.

Please join us at Immanuel on Christmas Day at 10:00 am for a joint worship service with Trinity Lutheran Church, Sawyer. Pastor Brandon Wittig will be delivering the message for this wonderful service on Christmas Day. Pastor Krengel will be our officiant. While this day is for sharing gifts with our family and with others, we should remember the reason for the season and that is our gratitude to God for the birth of His Son so our sins can be forgiven. We hope you will take a small portion of your day to give praise to God.



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



Thank you for the Special Music today at the 8:30 am service, the lovely voices of Jeannine Marks and Sara Oldenburg added to our worship and we thank them both for sharing their voices with us.

ECDC NEWS

The excitement has been building all week as our students are learning about the birth of Jesus and what Christmas is really all about! They have been practicing their parts and working very hard on practices all week long and doing a marvelous job!

Our Infant room worked on the theme of Holiday, singing Christmas songs and reading some really great books about the birth of Jesus. They continued making wonderful gifts for their parents, all of them wonderful keepsakes. Our lead teacher Erin is very gifted and always does research to find new keepsakes for parents. Their baby sign language word was "Baby".

Our Toddler Room was busy making gifts for their parents, the smart teachers switched the toys out from storage to keep those children busy. They have a large climbing castle in their room and they get to watch birds eat out of the clear bird feeder on their window. They made a felt Christmas tree with felt ornaments that the children can take off and put on the tree wherever they would like. They made a smash painting and made paper Christmas "candies" with dot markers. They also made and enjoyed banana sushi, great creativity teachers!

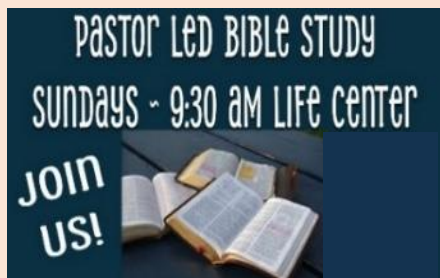
Our GSRP room worked hard on their gross motor skills this week in the gym because of the weather this week. They learned how their bodies moved, they stomped their feet, they started hopping and they learned how to walk like a crab. They started using jingle bells for their Christmas music which is a precursor to their study of Music next month. They used their fine motor skills to cut out ornaments for their paper Christmas Trees. They created snowballs for their names to get the letters in the correct order. Thank you teachers for your wonderful skills in creative teaching!

Our three year olds were super busy making so many gifts for their parents, we can't share with you what those presents are, but it involved finger prints in colors using patterns to create a great piece of art as a keepsake. They worked on their letter sounds and how to spell their names by building a Christmas Tree with letters. Their Bible story this week was The Birth of Jesus. They finger painted with red and green to see which colors they create.

Our four year olds learned more about the number 6 this week, the letter "K", the color green, and the shape of the star. They practiced creating a pattern out of beads by making candy canes to hang on their Christmas Tree. They have been working really hard on practicing writing their name and making a number book to help them keep their numbers in order.

"The Rock" Sunday School

"The Rock" will be working on the story of Jesus' birth for the season of Advent. Miss Shannon along with her assistant teachers will be creating projects and art pieces to help the students learn about the birth of our Lord and Savior. Why God chose Mary to be Jesus' mother, how the shepherds came in to witness the miracle and pass the good news along to the rest of the world. This message is familiar to us all but may be the first time some of these young students are hearing about the event. Thank you for keeping our teachers and students in your prayers while they learn about our God.



Voluntary 2026 Pledge ~ Our Finance Board and the voters at the last voters' meeting have asked that you pray about making a voluntary pledge to the Lord for next year's donations to Immanuel. This voluntary pledge will be between you and the Lord. We are asking that you fill out the slip inside the envelope given to you by our greeters today. Please insert the completed slip back into the envelope, seal it and place your pledge in the offering plate. 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. 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.

Thank you to Pastor Krengel and our prayer warriors who manned the Prayer table at the Holiday Village Pop-up Market. You offered consolation and peace to the shoppers. Great outreach opportunity! Thank you also to our LWML board members; Karen Oldenburg, Karen Pedde and Jeannie Dehring for their hard work offering lunch to the shoppers at Holiday Village Pop-up market. Another "thank you" goes out to our Sewing For Missions members and especially to Suellen Klein, for earning money through a raffle for the Holiday Village Pop-up Market shoppers. They worked hard all year to make beautiful quilts to sell for the extra funds needed to fill and back the pieced quilts they create for Lutheran World Relief. What a great effort to keep this mission going forward!

Sewing for Missions earned some funds from their raffle this past Saturday 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!

Thank you to Nancy Seldomridge for the delicious meals she provided and to the people who helped Nancy put together those wonderful meals. Karen Oldenburg and Deb Jaeger were a big help with the set up and clean up of the meals. They came together and offered a well rounded meal including desserts and decorations for both the luncheon and supper. This made the meal very special and full of fellowship! Thank you for going the extra mile, making this a very festive time of fellowship.

Men's Network Breakfast is this coming Saturday, December 20th at 8:00 am. Calling all you men to take a break from this busy Christmas shopping season and enjoy a breakfast made by men and then a current topic which they can learn from. Many of these Bible study leaders look for current concerns that men face. We hope you will join this wonderful group and enjoy some men's fellowship

LUTHERAN'S WOMEN MISSIONARY LEAGUE NEWS

LWML Annual Cookie Sale: Thank you to all the fabulous bakers and packers who gave of their time and talent to pack so many cookie boxes making them ready for all of our members and families to purchase for their Christmas celebrations!

Lutheran Witness Magazine Subscriptions are still 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 you're 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, Elizabeth Rock, and Donna Mach

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

Jeffrey Nemitz (cancer treatments)
Barb Soos Stelter (prayer for healing)
Tina Laminack (Back surgery on 12-17)
Edie Paul (neck surgery next week)
Vern Nitz Jr. (hospitalized with infection from burns)
Family and Friends of Dennis Ruff (Richard Ruff's brother)

Visitations this week with Pastor Krengel, Elder Mark Heyn and Chris Damaske:

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, 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

December 7, 2025 offerings and donations:
Offering Envelopes: \$8,828.00 Year to date: \$327,335.00

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

Oldenburg & Sons
EXCAVATING INC

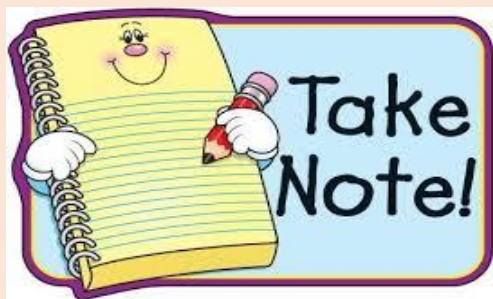


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God Made
You
Very Special!



Special Days

Birthdays: Dollie Schmaltz (12-14), Jeanne Miller (12-14), Timothy Heimbuch (12-14), Dillon (Buster) Jasper (12-15), Stephanie Hasse (12-15), Stephanie Smith (12-15), Mae Melvan (12-17), Ryan Ruff (12-18), Sarah Hays (12-18), Myron Heyn (12-20)

Anniversaries: J Martin Wappler & Barbara Wappler on December 18th, 43 Years Ago Irwin & Margaret Poschke on December 20th, 67 Years Ago

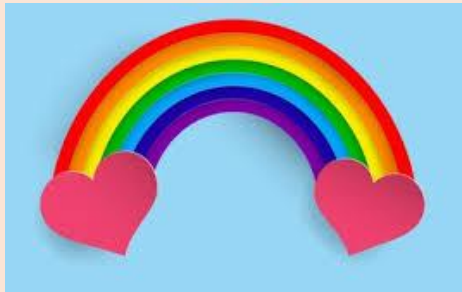
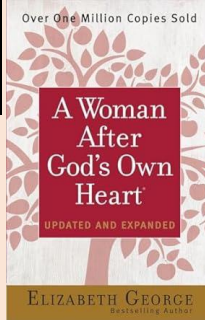
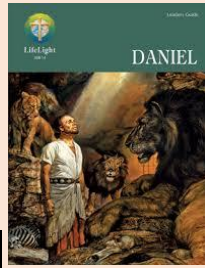
THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL

- Sun. Dec. 14th – Divine Worship 8:30 am**
Education Hour Pastor Led Bible Study 9:30 am
“The Rock” Sunday School – 9:30 am
Children’s Christmas Program – 10:45 am
Reception for the families and students in the Life Center
Advent Tea in the Life Center – 3:00 pm
- Mon. Dec. 15th - Bible Study led by Gerry Vigansky – on hiatus**
Handbell Choir Practice – 6:00 pm
Handbell Ensemble – 7:00 pm
AA Meeting – 7:00 pm
- Tues. Dec. 16th – Spiritual Council Meeting – 6:00 pm**
Business Council Meeting – 7:00 pm
- Wed. Dec. 17th – Wednesday Bible Study led by Elsie Hanke 11am**
Midweek Advent Worship Service – 12:15 pm
Advent Luncheon – 1:15 pm
Advent Supper – 5:00 pm
Midweek Advent Evening Worship – 6:00 pm
Choir Practice – 7pm
- Thurs. Dec 18th – Breakfast with Jesus at Rochefort’s - 8:00 am**
Praise Team Practice – 6:30 pm
- Sat. Dec. 20th – Men’s Network Breakfast – 8:00 am**
- Sun. Dec. 21st – Divine Worship – 8:30 am**
Education Hour – Pastor led Bible Study – 9:30am
“The Rock” Sunday School – 9:30 am
Praise Worship with Holy Communion – 10:45am

Noteworthy Dates in the Next Few Weeks

- ♥ **Advent Midweek Services** – Wednesday, December 17th at 12:15 pm and 6:00 pm. Advent meals will be at 1:15 pm and 5:00 pm in our Life Center.
- ♥ **Christmas Children’s Program** – Sunday, December 14th at 10:45 am
- ♥ **Men’s Network Breakfast** – Sat. Dec. 20th - 8:00 am
- ♥ **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service** – Wednesday, December 24th starts at 2:30 pm Carol Sing ~ Worship Service 3:00 pm
- ♥ **Christmas Day Joint Worship Service** – Sunday, December 25th at 10:00 am at Immanuel.
- ♥ **March for Life Event** – Saturday, January 24, 2026 at 11:00 am.

The Trinity Trekkers are looking ahead to spring, they are inviting all interested parties on an adventure to Branson MO April 21-26, 2026! If you are interested in a trip to Branson, please call Trinity in St. Joseph at 269-983-5000, today is the last day to express your interest.



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 Woman 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 will meet January 12, 2026 and every Monday at 10:00 am after that until Lent. Why not spend an hour or two out of your week to join these wonderful learning opportunities!

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!

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!

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,

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.

love it live it talk it
Walks It
Faith
own it loan it grow it
Show It



Greeters: Corky & Jeannie Dehring and Larry & Diane Kanous (8:30 am)
Immanuel's Praise Team (10:45am)

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

Lay Reader: Ilene Nemitz

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

Duet: Sara Oldenburg and Jeannine Marks

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

Guitarists: John "Mac" McElligott, Kurt Hanke

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

Accompanist: Pastor Tom Fischer

Altar Guild: Sandy Vigansky, Ellen Yeske and Vicki Ott

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 Kregel

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!

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!

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.

Offering Envelopes and Statements will be in your mailboxes the week between Christmas and New Year. Thank you for your patience.

Today's Hymns: LSB 338, 345

Midweek Scriptures: *Deuteronomy 6:1–9, Romans 6:1–14, John 1:9–14*

Next Week's Scriptures: *Isaiah 7:10–17, Romans 1:1–7, Matthew 1:18–25*

Last Sunday's Attendance: One worship service - 128

Midweek Worship: 12:15 pm - 35 ; 6 pm - 23
Wednesday Bible Study – 10

Rev. Dr. Douglas A. Kregel, Sole Pastor

Please contact Pastor Kregel for any Pastoral needs. Pastor Kregel's Cell Phone: 832-257-5437 email: kregeld@gmail.com