



Friday, January 23, 2026

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP WEEKLY



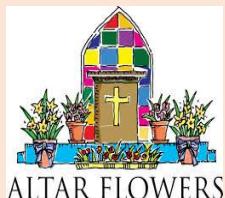
## Worship and Learning Schedule Sunday, January 25, 2026

**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)



**WINTER WARMUP** **FREE SOUP SALAD DESSERTS**  
**SAT. FEBRUARY 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**4:30 to 7:00 PM**



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 this season of Epiphany, we are learning how to participate in Spiritual Conversations. In the first two weeks of this sermon series, we have learned how to engage individuals who are unreceptive to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This morning, we will move on to discover how we may engage those who are receptive to the Gospel message as we share Jesus' work in our lives and affirm his relevance as we give the Good News to others.

## CHURCH NEWS

**A Special Voters' Meeting** has been called by Congregational President Kurt Hanke for Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 am. This special meeting is to vote on money needed to repair the heating/cooling unit for the ECDC. During the recent cold weather, the heating system for the ECDC has been compromised. In order to repair the unit, it will be in excess of \$5,000 and according to our Constitution and Bylaws, we need the voters to approve the expenditure. We will meet in the sanctuary immediately following the 8:30 am worship service. We hope you can join us!

**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!

**Winter Warm Up and Soup's On...Us!** Doesn't it sound inviting to share a warm meal with neighbors during the cold of winter? The Outreach Board wants to offer a free meal to our community on **Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> from 4:30pm-7:00pm**. There will be a variety of soups, salad, and desserts for all who attend. There will also be board games available if people want to play. This event is open to everyone - congregational members as well as the community. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church to indicate you will be coming. Also, your help is needed to make this event happen! There are sign-up sheets for donations of soups and desserts, as well as helpers to set-up and clean-up. We hope you put this on your calendar to Come In, Warm Up, and Have Fun with our community.

**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!

**The Flowers on the Altar** today are in memory of Mark Seldomridge from his loving wife, Nancy Seldomridge. If you would like to honor someone or a special event in your life, why not offer altar flowers? What a special way to share your love with others!



**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.**

**Please Keep In Your Prayers** the family and friends of Donald Metzger. Don was called to his heavenly home on Wednesday, February 21, 2026. His Christian Funeral service will be on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 11:00 am here at Immanuel. Family and friends may gather one hour prior to the church service from 10:00 to 11:00 am at the church. We pray that God will surround His loving arms around his family during their time of grief.

*Thank you to all my friends, family and church family members who supported me during my recent illness. I am so grateful for the prayers that were offered and were so much a part of my healing, and comfort. I am grateful. Karl Kaeding.*

*Hello to all, this time of the year when it's cold and snowy outside is the perfect time to quilt! Please come Friday, January 30 to help assemble some beautiful quilts. We'll start at 9:00am. I have two full-size tops to sandwich and tie and could use help. If you have some tops ready to go, bring them and we can work to put them together. I just received information from Lutheran World Relief highlighting the distribution of quilts in the USA and around the world in 2025. It's amazing to me how God uses our efforts here in SWMI to give joy and help to so many people in so many countries. Hope to see you the 30th!*  
*Suellen Klein*

**We REALLY Need Your Help!** We struggled in Advent this year to provide the meals for the Advent Midweek services, and leadership was considering eliminating the meals for the Midweek Services. They have decided to move forward and still offer the meals during the midweek services. If you can help, either your family or group here at the church would like to volunteer to host a meal we would be very grateful! Please sign up on the sheets on the table in the narthex. Thank you!

**Can You Help?** We are looking for helpers for our Sunday School room. We could use your expertise 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.

**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 [ilc@immanuelbridgeman.org](mailto:ilc@immanuelbridgeman.org) or text 269-612-8811.

**January Planning Committee Update** The Planning Committee met again this month and continues to make steady progress. We have begun reviewing the feedback gathered during the Congregational Planning Retreat (CPR) held in late September, and we are grateful to everyone who participated and shared thoughtful input. As part of this work, we have added a section to the draft governance documents to ensure that the responsibilities of both the Board of Elders and the Board of the Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) are accurately reflected. We have also met with the Board of Finance to gather additional feedback and ensure that all financial needs are being fully considered and accounted for throughout the planning process. In the coming months, we will continue reviewing CPR feedback and will work to provide clearer explanations of how the Action Team process will function. Thank you for your continued prayers, input, and support as we seek to discern the path God is leading us on together.

**A Special Thank You** to Paul Jaeger for not only shoveling all week long, but for moving the snow so we had more room to place the snow we shoveled all week to keep the walkways into church as clear as possible. We are so blessed with very dedicated servants of the Lord.

# WE OUR TEACHERS



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



## ECDC NEWS

You may have heard some information circulating around about our ECDC Director Barb Ackerman. Barb has recently been diagnosed with Myeloma, also called multiple myeloma, is a cancer of plasma cells (a type of white blood cell) that develop abnormally in the bone marrow. Barb's mother was also diagnosed with myeloma. Barb begins her treatments this Tuesday and we ask that you keep her and her family in your prayers. We know that God is with her and prayer goes a long way to seeing to her comfort and peace during her time of treatment.

Many challenges faced our teachers and students this week. God has gifted us with some wonderful winter weather, but has postponed the learning process for our school. The teachers have tried throughout the roller coaster of attendance and illness to persist in the lesson plans. We are blessed with so many wonderful people who share their love of Christ and children.

Our infant room worked on "In the Kitchen" as a theme this week. They made "music" with kitchen utensils, they pushed grocery carts around and "shopped" for plastic fruits and vegetables. They glued white circles on black paper and played with the new fallen snow in their sensory table inside the classroom. Their Bible story was "God is Good" with Zoe the Zebra puppet telling the story. Their baby sign language this week was "Please" Thank you to our wonderful teachers who bring new and creative ideas to their students.

Our Toddler Room has their lead teacher out sick, but Debbie Zimmerman stepped up to provide wonderful activities for their music and instruments study this month. Debbie brought in a xylophone and zither for the children to play music on and learn how music is made on those instruments. They visited one of our pianos and looked at the insides while it was being played. They blew up balloons and danced to music while playing with the balloon creating a balloon dance. They also filled their sensory bins with snow to make snowmen and snow castles. They made kazoos out of toilet paper tubes, rubber bands and wax paper. Their Bible story was Jesus Comes to Save Sinners".

Our three year olds for the few days they were in the classroom worked on the letter "R", they talked about winter and snow, and what animals live in a winter climate and what they eat. They cut out and glued on rain drops and created clouds out of cotton balls to show rain coming from clouds working on the letter "R". They made Polar Bears out of paper showing what kind of animals live in a winter climate.

Our four year olds practiced their names this week, writing the letters of their name over and over. They worked on their numbers by identifying numbers on their 100 day chart, counting the days they have been in school so far this year. They worked on the sounds of letters and drew some self-portraits. Their Bible story this week was "Joseph and His Brothers". They continued with their investigation unit by looking at dry fall leaves and what uses they might have. God has blessed us with much snow and colder temperatures, but He also gave us a glimpse of Spring a couple of weeks ago, we know it will be soon!

## "The Rock" Sunday School

David became king. David loved God and wanted everyone to remember that God was with them. In Jerusalem, David built a palace for himself and made plans to bring the ark of God there. David wanted to build a beautiful house, called a temple, for the ark of God. He told Nathan the prophet about his plan, but God sent a message to David through Nathan. God said David *would not build the temple because he had been a man of war. Instead, God promised that David's son, Solomon, would one day build the temple for God.* God gave David a very special promise, called a covenant. God said that one day a great King would come from David's family. That King was Jesus, who would be the King of kings forever! David was a good king who loved God and wanted to do what was right. He built a palace and had a big family. But even good people can make mistakes. Later, David made a very big mistake and tried to hide it from everyone. Have you ever done something wrong and tried to hide it? That's what David did in this story. Today at The Rock, we are going to find out what happened next from, 2 Samuel 12:1-5.



## Homebound and Continuing Care Facilities

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

**Continuing Care Facilities:** Pat Ott, Geraldine Wooley, 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

Barb Ackerman (diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma)

Kay Cornwell (Hospitalized/Hospice)

Karl (Amy Krengel's Father with a broken arm)

Family and Friends of Don Metzger

Family and Friends of Jeffrey Nemitz

**Visitations This Week:** Pastor Krengel, Chris Damaske, Elder Paul Jaeger and Deb Jaeger, Betty Korcek visited with Myra Clark, Terry Graves, Duane Vigansky, Rich and Karen Gorske, Dorothea Crocker, Bill Gast, Nancy Koebel and Dave Arndt

## Healing Needs for the Month

Karl Kaeding, Larry Ott, Manfred Moneta, Pastor Greg Lorenz, Vern Nitz Jr., 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 18, 2026 offerings and donations:  
Offering Envelopes: \$6,552.00 Year to date: \$19,168.00

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

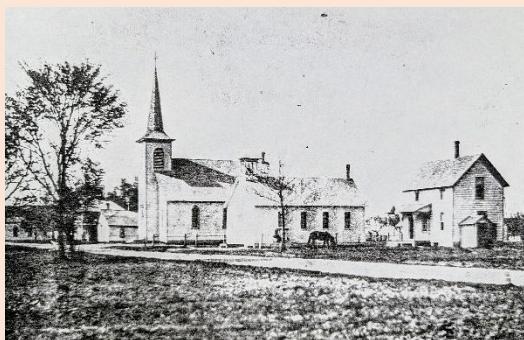
**Thank you to our "snow angels"** Paul Jaeger, Dave Neal and Ryan Hadley who used their time and talents to help us dig out from the latest dumping of snow we received. We appreciate you giving of yourselves to help keep our sidewalks and parking lot cleared of snow to make our lives easier to get around each day! Thank you!



*Call Oldenburg Excavating  
for all your Digging Needs!*

**269-426-4519**





### A poem written by Myra Clark:

Silent snowflakes drifting to the ground.. no one hears.  
Icicles glistening like polished mirrors.  
Soft winds sweeping low to caress the drifts.  
Winter--- in all it's glory.

Ice storms making the world a shimmery glass.  
Weather unpredictable, it will not last.  
Snowflake ballerinas waltzing with gentle winds.  
Winter----in all it's glory.

Powder puff clouds sprinkled over deep blue skies.  
Snowdrifts melting down with gentle sighs.  
Moonlight giving the world a special glow.  
Winter----in all it's glory.

### A Musing from Denny Barnes:

Cold and snow so sat down and read an old church paper  
July 19, 1953. Yep still have the original paper now just 72 years  
old.

Couple highlights of services offered.  
7:00 am morning service, attendance 38 (Bev was baptized at  
this service)  
9:00 am German service attendance 37  
10:45 am English service attendance 86 total 161 Sunday  
School attendance 52

Announced July 26 for annual church picnic 2pm to 7pm -  
Walter League was booming at this times with many events, a  
beach party. Bring 35 cents for food. The next week was a field  
day.

- Immanuel sponsored the Lutheran Worship service on the  
radio.
- Berrien Springs was in midst of their building program
- Vacation Bible was held at St. Paul's in Niles.

Just some interesting info from the past *Denny Barnes*

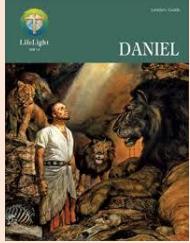
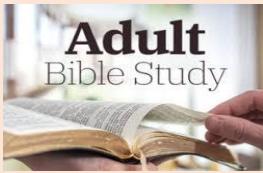
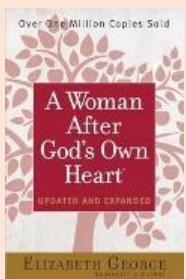
**Thank you to Lori Sukupchak for sharing her lovely talent for the flute during today's worship service. We can always use members who wish to share their musical talents.** Maybe one of your New Year's resolutions could be to join one of our Choirs or our Praise Team. Everyone is welcome to join, we 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.

**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.

# God Made You Very Special!



**Mark Your Calendar!**



## Special Days

**Birthdays:** Caitlin Yoder (1-25), Elizabeth Rock (1-25), Dale Marschke (1-26), Marcia Hanke (1-26), Debra Ruff (1-27), Ethan Korcek (1-29), Devin Hays (1-30), Emily Kerlikowske (1-30)

## THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL

**Sun. Jan. 25<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. 26<sup>th</sup>** - Bible Study led by Patty Green – 10 am  
AA Meeting – 7:00 pm

**Wed. Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>** – Wed. Bible Study led by Elsie Hanke – 10 am  
Visitation for Donald Metzger – 10:00 am  
Christian Funeral Service for Donald Metzger – 11:00 am  
Choir Practice – 7:00 pm

**Thurs. Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>** – Breakfast with Jesus at Rochefort’s – 8am  
Praise Team Practice – 6:30 pm

**Sun. Feb. 1<sup>st</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

- ♥ Ash Wednesday ~ February 18<sup>th</sup> 12:15 pm & 6:00 pm
- ♥ Winter Warm-Up ~ February 21<sup>st</sup> ~ 4:30 pm
- ♥ Midweek Lenten Worship Services ~ February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25 at 12:15 pm and 6:00 pm
- ♥ Midweek Lenten Meals February 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25 at 1:15 pm and 5:00 pm

**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.

**We Have Some Really Great Bible Studies** here at Immanuel! Pastor Krengel 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 Bridgeman. 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 sharing 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!

## Those Serving in Church This Week



**Greeters:** Brad & Debbie Hildebrandt and Sherry, Madison and Makenzie Vonk (8:30 am) Immanuel's Praise Team (10:45am)

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

**Flautist:** Lori Sukupchak

**Accompanist:** Pastor Tom Fischer

**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:** Kurt Hanke

**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

**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, and 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!

**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.

**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.

**Today's Hymns:** LSB 913, 854, 920

**Next Sunday Scriptures:** Micah 6:1-8, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Matthew 5:1-12

**Last Sunday's Attendance:** 54 - 8:30 am; 47 -10:45 am

**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)**