



Friday, December 5, 2025

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP WEEKLY



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

## AS WE GATHER

This morning, the Second Sunday in Advent, we will begin a new sermon series for the Advent season. This year we will prepare for Christmas as we learn about John the Baptist who prepared the way of the Lord. One of the best ways to prepare for Christmas is through music. This morning, as a joint effort of the numerous musical groups with which we are blessed at Immanuel, we will prepare for Christmas with songs and carols in our annual Christmas Cantata. May the Lord send us His Holy Spirit during the Advent season so that we may truly be prepared to meet Jesus this Christmas and in the glories of heaven itself.

## CHURCH NEWS

**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 ushers 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.

**With Gratitude to God** for all of the beautiful music shared today at our Christmas Cantata. We are so grateful for all of the time and talents shared here today in celebration of the birth of Christ. Our church is blessed with so much musical talent and all of the people who are willing to share their talents and abilities to the glory of the Lord. A special thank you to Debbie Kroenig for her talents on the trumpet and to Pastor Tom Fischer for organizing the vocal and instrumentalists, and of course his abilities on the piano and organ.

**Poinsettias for Christmas** are ready to be ordered! Can you believe we are looking at ordering our poinsettias for the Advent Season already? If you would like to order a poinsettia plant to honor a loved one and to help us make the sanctuary look festive for the Advent Season, please pick up your form on the table in the narthex. The plants are 6 1/2" pots and are \$8 each. All dedication forms must be completed and turned into the church office by December 21<sup>st</sup>. Thank you for showing your love for your family and friends by placing a plant in the altar area.

**"Adult Sunday Morning Bible Study:** Today will start at 11:00 AM t in the Life Center, Pastor Krengel will lead a Bible Study about the Saints. This topic was requested by those currently attending the Bible study hour."

*Thank you for your prayers during my recent battle against an aggressive eye infection. Your prayers sent God's healing spirit to me to heal my infection. Thank you for your love and support. Lorraine Jasper.*

*Thank you for your prayers, food offered, for the flowers, and cards given to me. I was very grateful to God for my church family who offered so much to me during my treatments. I am so blessed! Vicki Ott*

### Sunday Worship and Learning Schedule

Sunday, December 7, 2025

10:00 am – Christmas Cantata  
with Holy Communion

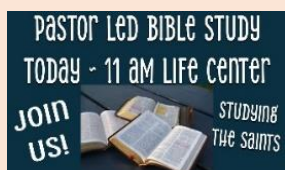
11:00 am – Education Hour  
Pastor Led Bible Study and

email:

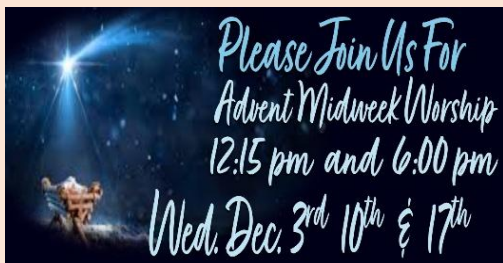
[ilc@immanuelbridgman.org](mailto:ilc@immanuelbridgman.org)

\*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



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 lots of Christmas Angels 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. The Outreach Board wants to continue the Angel Tree project in 2025. And 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!

**Today is the Second Sunday in Advent** We hope you will join us on **December 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> for our 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!

**Thank you to our fabulous Fellowship Board** for the delicious meals they provided for our last Advent Meal. 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.

**Mark the date Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service** will be on **Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

*Thank You to Pastor Krengel and the Fellowship Board for their love, care and concern they shared with our family during the Funeral Service for Ken Dickinson. Pastor's visitations and message for the funeral were comforting and consoling to us all. The Fellowship Board worked so hard on the food and the tables which provided a time for us to share memories of Ken with each other. The Family of Ken Dickinson*

**Thank you** to Edie Paul for her generous donation to our Sunday School to support **Bridges: Connecting God's Love from Sunday School to Our Seniors. You are a blessing!**





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



**Are You Interested?** We are asking your opinion about a new church directory. Would you be interested in having a professional photographic portrait done of you as an individual or your family for a new church directory? Please sign your name up on the sign up sheet on the table in the narthex. The more interested parties, the more likely we can get a new church directory.

## ECDC NEWS

Last week our ECDC were busy preparing and enjoying their Thanksgiving Feast which was held the Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

All dishes were prepared by teachers, and the student families with the children's favorite dishes as the focus for the feast. Each family was asked to bring a dish which represents their child's favorite food. Macaroni and cheese seems to have been the overwhelming favorite with the children. But there were some great food selections like fresh fruit and salad that were offered as well.

The school rooms were busy practicing their songs for their families, each classroom learned a song thanking God for all of the blessings He has given us. They sang "If I were a Butterfly" and the "Turkey Hokey Pokey" to entertain their families. They also made costumes from paper bags and headbands from construction paper. These very creative teachers also had the students working on their table place settings, they made placemats that were laminated for keepsakes for their families and centerpieces. Most of the decorations were focused on the iconic turkey, very appropriate for this season. They enjoyed a raffle for each school room of things the families can use for a movie night. They played a word game passing a leaf to the right or the left when that word was read in the story. All in all a great Thanksgiving Feast! Our teachers worked so hard to set up for the feast, setting up 25 tables and over 100 chairs for their guests, not to mention the food they prepared for the feast. Thank you to our amazing teachers who gave so much of their time to help our center celebrate Thanksgiving with their families and show gratitude to God for our blessings.

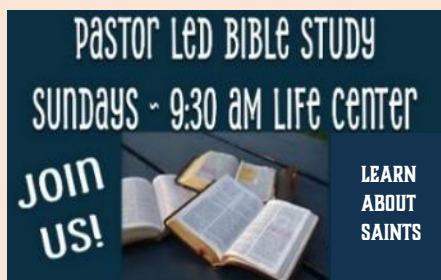
Our Toddler Room had to create their own celebration for Thanksgiving. They made paper Turkeys and side dishes to celebrate the day. They read books about the first Thanksgiving and how the pilgrims celebrated with the local Indians the gifts that God has given us. They sang songs about Thanksgiving and colored pages of turkeys to share with their families.

Our Infant room celebrated Thanksgiving by coloring Turkeys with their finger paints, they sang a lot of songs about being grateful, how to be thankful and songs about God's gifts. Their baby sign language words was star last week preparing for their next learning unit which is the birth of Jesus.

We do have many things to be grateful for; our teachers are something we are grateful for as congregation members that would like to see our mission continue. God has provided some really creative, wonderful teachers that continue to share our love of Christ with the students we are teaching!

## "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.



**Thank you** to Pastor Kregel 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!

**Thank you to** John McElligott and Deb Jaeger and our wonderful "Carolers" who walked through Bridgman singing to the shoppers and Holiday Village participants. They also sang during the lighting of the tree for Bridgman. What an inspirational and inviting outreach experience for everyone!

### LUTHERAN'S WOMEN MISSIONARY LEAGUE NEWS

**LWML Annual Cookie Sale:** The annual cookie sale is approaching fast. This year's date for the sale is Sunday, **December 14<sup>th</sup>** before and after both worship services. We need your cookies to continue making this a huge success. Any kind of cookie would be fabulous, if you can manage two dozen cookies we will feel blessed! Last year we had a sell out with some individuals wanting to buy more...so we need even more of your great homemade cookies this year. Packing of the cookies is Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. Thank you in advance for your help. God's blessings to all you talented cookie bakers!

**Ladies Our Advent Tea** will be on **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 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 a refreshment for their table. Decorations are up to the hostess 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. **WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR HOSTESSES FOR our Advent Tea table** or would like to partner with another hostess for one table, please sign your name on the sign-up sheets on the table in the narthex. If you would like to join us for the Advent Tea, please sign your name on the attendance sheet for the event indicating which table you would like to sit at. This event has always been a relaxing, joyous time filled with fellowship, won't you please consider joining us? Sign up today!

**Lutheran Witness Magazine Subscriptions** are 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 14<sup>th</sup>, the subscription price after December 14<sup>th</sup> is \$24.50. Please put your subscription money into the church office. This subscription no longer includes **Michigan In Touch** online magazine.

**Church Advent Decorating** was done by the Hanke Family this Year. Our usual decorating team had made other plans for the time slot, so the Hanke Family was ready and willing to take on the task. Thank you, Hanke Family, for using your time and talents to help us get ready for the Advent season! We are indeed blessed.

**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.





## *Pastoral* VISITATION MINISTRY

*Please Keep  
In Your  
Prayers*



## 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)  
Vern Nitz Jr. (hospitalized with infection from burns)  
Family and Friends of John Stine  
Family and Friends of Ruth Dishop (Elsie Hanke's sister)  
Family and Friends of Pat McElligott (John McElligott's brother)

**Visitations this week with Pastor Krengel, Chris Damaske and Deb Jaeger:** Edna Holt, Lynn & Dolly Schmaltz, Bill Gast, Terry Swedenburg, Denny & Debbie Lawrenz, Larry & Vicki Ott, and Donna Mach

## 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

November 26 and 30, 2025 offerings and donations:  
Offering Envelopes: \$1,692.00 Year to date: \$318,507.00

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

**Oldenburg & Sons**  
**EXCAVATING INC**



*Call Oldenburg Excavating  
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## Special Days

**Birthdays:** Matthew Mabry (12/09), Sherri Skorupa (12/10), Jonathan Gelesko (12/11), Shannah Smith (12-12), Marilyn Krieger (12/13)

**Anniversaries:** Ron & Marilyn Gelesko on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 57 years ago; Wally & AnneMarie Mojsiejenko on December 67 years ago

## THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL

**Sun. Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Cantata – 10:00 am**  
Education Hour Pastor Led Bible Study 11:00 am  
**Only one worship service TODAY**

**Mon. Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> - Bible Study led by Gerry Vigansky – on hiatus**  
Worship Bd Mtg – 5:00 pm  
Handbell Choir Practice – 6:00 pm  
Handbell Ensemble – 7:00 pm  
AA Meeting – 7:00 pm

**Wed. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> – 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 12<sup>th</sup> – Breakfast with Jesus at Rochefort's - 8:00 am**  
Praise Team Practice – 6:30 pm

**Sat. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> – LWML Cookie Gathering – 10:00 am**

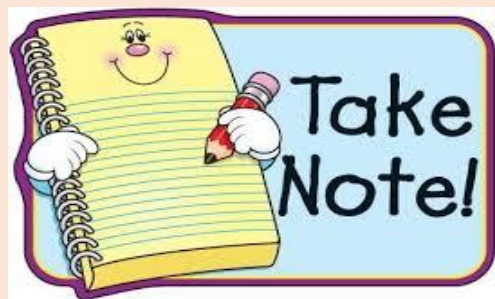
**Sun. Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> – Divine Worship – 8:30 am**  
Education Hour – Pastor led Bible Study – 9:30am  
"The Rock" Sunday School – 9:30 am  
Children's Christmas Program – 10:45 am  
Reception for ECDC families – 12:00 pm  
Advent Tea – 3:00 pm

## Noteworthy Dates in the Next Few Weeks

- ♥ **Advent Midweek Services** – Wednesdays, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 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 Cantata Unity Service** – Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> **one worship service** at 10:00 am.
- ♥ **Christmas Children's Program** – Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 am
- ♥ **Men's Network Breakfast** – Sat. Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> - 8:00 am
- ♥ **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service** – Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> starts at 2:30 pm Carol Sing ~ Worship Service 3:00 pm
- ♥ **Christmas Day Joint Worship Service** – Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at Immanuel.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,** The Dual Parish Board would like to extend an invitation to you and your family to attend the Installation Service of Pastor Michael Holmen as Dual Pastor for St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Niles and Buchanan. The service will be held on December 7, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. in Niles at 1340 Sycamore Street. Immediately following the service, please join us for dinner in the Family Life Center. In order to assist with the preparation for food, please call 269-683-0771, to indicate the family name and number of people who plan to attend. Grace and Peace, *St Paul's Lutheran Church Dual Parish Board of Directors*

God Made  
You  
Very Special!



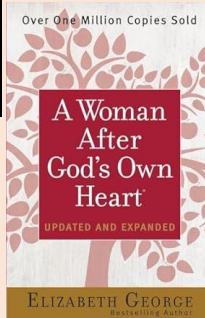
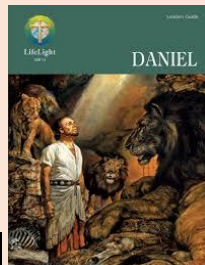
*Christmas Cantata*  
*Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am*  
*Only One Worship Service this Sunday*

*Please Join Us For*  
*Advent Midweek Worship*  
*12:15 pm and 6:00 pm*  
*Wed. Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>*

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

*Join Us*  
*Christmas Day*  
*at 10:00 am*  
*as We Celebrate*  
*Jesus' Birth!*





**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 meet every Monday at 10:00 am. 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](mailto: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



**Please contact Pastor Krengel for any Pastoral needs. Pastor Krengel's  
Cell Phone: 832-257-5437 email: [krengeld@gmail.com](mailto:krengeld@gmail.com)**