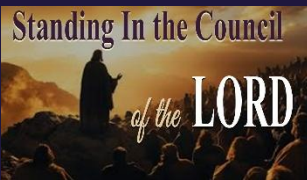




Friday, August 15, 2025

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP WEEKLY



Sunday Worship and Learning Schedule

Sunday, August 17, 2025

8:30 am - Divine Worship with Holy Communion

9:30 – Education Hour Pastor Led Bible Study

10:45 am – Praise Worship with Holy Communion

email: 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



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 focus on the third literary genre in the Old Testament: the prophets. The prophet Jeremiah teaches us that each of God's people has a special life story. The book of Jeremiah contains the messages of a prophet whose calling to speak the Word of the Lord brought him great distress and many difficulties. Known as the "weeping prophet," Jeremiah lived out his life faithfully in challenging historical times. Places associated with him and his life can still be seen by travelers to Jerusalem, including the cave pit where he was imprisoned and the grotto where, according to tradition, he wrote the book of Lamentations. God gave Jeremiah the ability to carry out his mission, saying: "Behold, I make you this day a fortified city . . . and iron pillar" and promised him: "I am with you . . . to deliver you" (Jeremiah 1:18–19). God's working through faithful people in each generation brings us the treasure of His Word proclaimed faithfully to this day. Jeremiah received the Word of God as he stood in the Council of the Lord. May we join Jeremiah in so standing in the faith faithfully.

CHURCH NEWS

Our Midweek Family Worship will be moving locations on Wednesday, September 3rd, with a slight change in format. We will use our sanctuary for the service and use only hymnals with no assistance from our technology, piano or organ. We hope you will take advantage of this casual, respect filled service every Wednesday at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary.

Our Patriotic Worship Service has moved. This year we will celebrate our veterans, military and first responders around Patriot's Day which is September 11th. So, on **Sunday, September 14, 2025** we will enjoy some of the same elements of our Patriotic Worship Service. We are hoping to include the Honor Roll which is a video tribute to all veterans, military persons and first responders. The Reverend Craig Muehler will be our honored guest speaker for this very special service. Chaplain Craig Muehler, is a retired US Navy captain, serves as the director of the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces and we are honored to have him as our guest speaker. We hope you will spread the word about the worship service and invite those who might not be aware of the service.

Christ Family Fun Festival is coming up this Saturday! Please think of joining us on Saturday, August 23rd at Christ Lutheran in Stevensville. The gates open at 4:00 pm and you can enjoy some really great music by Echo Grace a local group of singers and band members who enjoy Christian music, our own Praise Team will have a chance to sing as the opening group, please come and show your support for our Praise Family. In this day and age, when very few things are free, why not take advantage of a free family festival with music, kids games, petting zoo, robot demonstrations, science experiments and of course food trucks! Please show your support for this wonderful outreach event!



Thank you to the anonymous gardeners who shared their yellow squash with our congregation and to Rich and Judy Kubsch for their sweet delicious cherry tomatoes from their garden. We are so very blessed that you are sharing the abundance of your hard work and God's gifts with all of us.

AGE 55-70? Join us for an informational workshop. Savvy Tax Strategies

Learn how to avoid common mistakes when it comes to your investment portfolio, health care and estate strategies. Join us for Savvy Tax Strategies, a workshop that provides answers to the critical tax questions you must answer before retirement. Explore how to help dodge the Social Security "tax trap" and more. This workshop will be held at Silver Harbor Brewing Company, 721 Pleasant Street, St. Joseph, MI on Wednesday, September 17, 2025. Doors open at 5:30 pm at 6:00 pm. It's hosted by North Pier Financial Consultants of Thrivent. Please call 269-983-0217 or email

joanne.abbott@thrivent.com to reserve a place for yourself and a guest. Seating is limited. Dinner will be served. Cash bar. No products will be sold. Thrivent and its financial advisors and professionals do not provide legal, accounting or tax advice. Consult your attorney or tax professional. See thrivent.com/social for important disclosures.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Berrien County Youth Fair this last week. We pray that you enjoyed your time at the fair competing with all the other exhibitors while you showed the wonderful talents and gifts God has given to you!

Calling everyone young and old! We are looking for ideas to enhance our gymnasium with inspirational scripture and graphics to showcase on our walls. Currently we have nothing in the gymnasium except one banner donated by the Jaeger's which show who we are and what our mission is. We are looking for scripture suggestions and artwork to enhance those scriptures. Please share your ideas with Kurt Hanke or the church office. We are blessed with many talented and creative members, we hope you will share your talents!

Do we have your contact information? Please consider filling out an update to information form. In some cases if your landline has been discontinued we do not have any way to contact you via cell phone or email. If you would, please fill out an update to your contact information sheet to add to our directory. You can turn those completed sheets into the church office or put in the offering box in the narthex, or hand to an usher or leader. Thank you for your assistance!

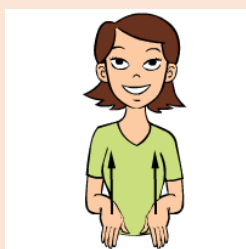


G. L. Wasko & Sons family owned transportation and warehousing company that now includes the third generation of the Wasko family. We think of ourselves as "your dedicated carrier" because we are dedicated to treating our customers like we treat each other, with respect.



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Thank you to all who volunteered at the Berrien County Youth Fair hosting with Trinity Berrien Springs in the outreach booth at the fair and to the volunteers as well, who helped in the Korn Dog Booth. We will receive compensation for the hours served in the Korn Dog Booth which goes to our Mission Fund. This fund sent three people to the LCMS National Youth Convention last month, what a blessing. Thank you for sharing your talents and gifts to forward the mission of our church.

ECDC NEWS

THANK YOU! We would like to thank Oldenburg & Sons for donating, delivering and spreading the new clean sand for our outdoor play area! Our State Licensing examiner marked us deficient because the sand in the play area was not clean. Oldenburg & Sons stepped up and not only ordered, delivered and spread the sand, but they donated the sand to the ECDC. We are so blessed and grateful for their generosity and love.

The hot summer continues on and our students have jumped into fair week with gusto! Some of our ECDC families took some vacation time with their children and attended the Berrien County Youth Fair for some great exhibits, entertainment, animals, fair rides and food trucks. What great memories and fun! Our infant room studied Summer Fun this week and sang songs about summer and read some great books about children having fun in the summer. The children used paint dots to make "seeds" on watermelons, they created out of paper, they used pompoms to make imaginary ice cream cones. They enjoyed Zoe the Zebra telling them the Bible Story "God Is Good". Studying shapes and colors, they were able to finger paint a star shape in purple paint. They spent a lot of time outdoors playing in the new sand that was put down by Oldenburg & Sons. Their baby sign this week was the word "Bed". We have the best teachers, who truly care for the little ones in their care. We are blessed!

Our Toddlers have had a really busy week, they were able to watch the sand being spread by little and big equipment through their classroom window, enjoying the movements and sounds made by the equipment. They continued with their study of community workers by making their own police badges and learned about firefighters and police, how they should not be afraid of these community helpers. They were able to go to City Hall by stroller and take a tour of Bridgman City Fire Department. They put out their own chalk fire (drawn on the cement by their creative lead Teacher Ms. Lindsey) with water spray bottles. They used their handprints to create painted fire flames

Our Primary room enjoyed "Water" week outside most of the time they were able playing in the splash pad. In addition, they were getting really worn out by chasing the bubbles from a bubble machine. They enjoyed some indoor time by playing in the gym during the sand delivery, then they got to go outdoors for some sand castle building with water and sand buckets. They made some great water color paintings too ! The had Chapel every morning singing the VBS songs they learned and really love to sing, great fun!

Carnival Week was the theme for the School age room and they enjoyed carnival games in the gym, circus bingo, face painting and a picnic at Toth Park after a brisk walk, taking their lunches along they got to eat and play on the equipment at the park. A change in venue is always a plus. Thank you to all of our teachers and staff for going the extra mile, keeping the children busy and active during inclement weather and sometimes having to deal with staff shortages. **THANK YOU!**



LWML Progressive Dinner is back! – Ladies, we are going to enjoy a progressive dinner again this year, here at Immanuel! On **Tuesday, September 9th at 6:00 pm** we will move through a four course dinner. appetizers, salad, main dish and dessert. These dinner journeys are so enjoyable and we get to sample some really delicious dishes offered by our hostesses. We hope you will sign up to join us in this fun evening of fellowship, delicious food and friendship. Please sign up on the sheets on the table in the narthex so the hostesses providing the dinner courses will know how many to expect. If you have never experienced this type of dining we hope you will come and join us!

Women's Retreat and Soul Spa Day at Trinity Ministry Center, Lighthouse Café on **Saturday, September 27, 2025 from 10am until 3pm.** Ladies, if you are feeling like life is complicated and a bit overwhelming? Perhaps feeling a bit stuck? Experienceing a season of change or loss? Or simply in need of a day to be refreshed? As women of any age, we know we need to take the time to care for our souls, as well as our bodies. Join Christian author and speaker, Sharl Fritz, know for giving thousands of women the tools to dig into Scripture, for a day to get away from it all and nourish our souls. Enjoy spiritual renewal, Christian fellowship, door prizes, and more! There is a fee for the event, \$20 per person. Please fill out the event registration along with your payment by September 7th. The registration forms are on the table in the narthex for you to fill out, if you turn it into the church office with the registration fee, we will get those registrations to Trinity for you.

HOORAY! Our roof replacement is finished. Future Construction has finished the roof! Thank you to everyone who gave from their generous hearts for this necessary repair. Thank you to Joe Rydwelski for overseeing this project and making sure it was completed in good order.

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. In **August we are collecting pencils, pencil sharpeners, markers, scissors and glue sticks (no liquid glue please).** Thank you for your support of all items for these very important gift boxes. We want to continue to support this inspirational mission. We hope you can and will take some time to shop for the box.

Planning Committee Update

The Planning Committee met again in July to continue their work on church governance. Building on the research we've done, we are now in the process of blending the Constitution models we studied into a version we believe will better support the needs of Immanuel. Our aim is to present a draft of a possible Constitution and By-Laws at the Congregational Planning Retreat (CPR) in late September. This retreat will give members an opportunity to review the draft, offer feedback, and help shape a shared vision for our governance structure. Input from the CPR will be incorporated into the final documents, which we hope to include in the Voter's Packet for the fall congregational meeting.

The committee remains committed to keeping the congregation informed and working closely with members to ensure the final documents reflect our shared mission and values. We're deeply grateful for the prayers, questions, and thoughtful input many of you have already shared—it's been a meaningful part of our work. As we continue this process, we welcome your continued support, feedback, and especially your prayers as we move forward with this important work.



Homebound and Continuing Care Facilities

Homebound: Dollie Schmaltz, Edith Weed, Edna Holt, Irwin and Margaret Poschke, Terry Graves, Kay Cornwell, Joanne Argue, 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

Georgia Hildebrandt (Brad Hildebrandt's sister in law, Heart issues)
Earl Schmitz (on hospice in Illinois)
Michael Schmitz (recovering from back surgery)

Elder Mark Heyn, Chris Damaske, Paul & Deb Jaeger, Pastor Krengel and Betty Korcek, visited this week: Buster & Lorraine Jasper, Edna Holt, Bill Gast, Lydia Joachim, Christy Hartzler, Harriet Fester, Linda Miller, Ray & Jackie Krieger,

Healing Needs for the Month

Darrell Gast, Delora Rathbun, Linda Totzke Fawn Gitersonke Mills, Doug Hamlin, Manfred Moneta, Brett Germain, Sharon Korcek, Jim Benjamin, Karl Kaeding (Cancer treatments), 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 Ciuizio, Dave Kramer, Andy Benjamin, Pastor Carl Bassett, Leon Schmaltz, Darrell Gast, John Stine, Jeffrey Nemitz, Harriet Fester, Ray Krieger, 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, SGT Devin Hays, 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

August 10, 2025 offerings and donations:
Offering Envelopes: \$8,432.00 Year to date: \$214,567.00

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

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Special Days

Birthdays: Deb Jaeger (08-17), Ginni Marschke (08-18), Richard Gorski (08-18), Andrew Green (08-19), Malia Yeske (08-20), Dave Arndt (08-21), Joe Rydwelski (08-21), George DeShong (08-22), Harriet Fester (08-22), Tiffany Ruff (08-22), Christine Schwerdt (08-23)

Anniversaries: Manfred & Carol Moneta (08-17) 62 years; Mathew & Regan Wendzel (08-18) 24 years; Roy & Cheryl Baggett (08-19) 53 years; Doug & Hamlin (08-19) 47 years

THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL

Sun. Aug. 17th - Divine Worship Service w/Holy Communion
8:30 am

Education Hour Pastor Led Bible Study 9:30 am

Praise Worship Service w/Holy Communion
10:30 am

Mon. Aug. 18th - Bridge Club - 12:30 pm

Worship Board Meeting – 5:00 pm

Handbell Choir Practice – 6:00 pm

AA Meeting – 7:00 pm

Tues. Aug. 19th – Spiritual Council – 6:00 pm

Business Council – 7:00 pm

Wed. Aug. 20th – Midweek Evening Family Worship - 6:00 pm

Thurs. Aug. 21st - Breakfast with Jesus at Rochefort's – 8am

Praise Worship Practice – 6:30 pm

Sat. Aug. 23rd – Christ Family Fun Festival – 4:00 pm

Sun. Aug. 24th – Divine Worship Service – 8:30 am

Pastor Led Bible Study in Life Center 9:30 am

Praise Worship Service 10:45 am

Noteworthy Dates in the Next Few Weeks

♥ **Christ Family Fun Festival** – Saturday, August 23rd starting at 4:00 pm FREE EVENT!

♥ **LWML Progressive Dinner** – Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 6:00 pm here at Immanuel.

♥ **Patriotic Worship Service** – Sunday, September 14th, 2025 beginning at 9:30 am

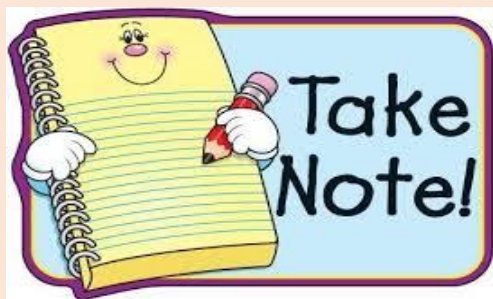
Our Bible Studies are taking a hiatus or summer break.

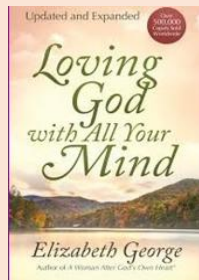
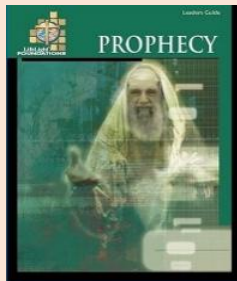
However, they will be back after Labor Day! **Pastor Kregel is offering a Bible Study during our new Education Hour on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in the Life Center.** In addition, every Thursday morning at 8:00 am Breakfast with Jesus meets at Rochefort's in Bridgman. After Labor Day Gerry Vigansky leads a bible class on Monday mornings at 10:00 and on Wednesday mornings Elsie Hanke leads a Bible class at 10:00 am. Come join these wonderful learning opportunities!

One of our members who is blind, is looking for someone to mow her lawn once per week or as needed and also a couple of times per week, complete some simple errands. If you know of someone or would like to help with this request, please contact Kay Cornwell at 269-612-7622 or Regan Cornwell at 269-325-0459. The work will be compensated.

***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!*

God Made
You
Very Special!





Those Serving in Church This Week

Greeters: Craig & Suellen Klein and Ellen Yeske (8:30 am);

Immanuel's Praise Team (10:45 am)

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

Lay Reader: Ilene Nemitz

Pianists: Susan Foster and Pastor Tom Fischer

Women's Ensemble: Ilene Nemitz, Judy Roush, Sara Oldenburg and Kim Schmitz

Flautists: Lori Sukupchak and Brianna Schmitz

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

Guitarists: John "Mac" McElligott, Kurt Hanke

Praise Speaker: Shannah Smith

Keyboardist/Guitarist: Kunwarjit Singh Multani "Sid" & Constantine

Altar Guild: Beverly Barnes, Liz Zilke

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

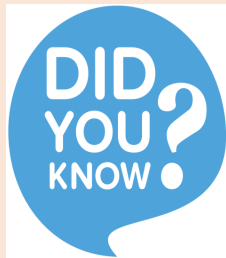
Elders: Larry Kanous, Denny Barnes, Paul Jaeger, Mark Heyn, Eric Ott, Steve Schmitz

Organist: Pastor Thomas Fischer

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Douglas Krengel

New Worship Service Times Don't forget, we have changed our Sunday worship times to 8:30 am for traditional worship and 10:45 for Praise Worship. In addition, we have added a **Midweek Family Worship on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm**; For the next few weeks we will still meet in the Life Center, however the service scheduled for Wednesday, September 3rd will be in our sanctuary and continue in the sanctuary going forward. The theme for the sermon will be the same as the theme provided the Sunday before; however, the liturgy will come from the hymnal with hymns sung, without the aid of technology, piano or organ. The dress code is come-as-you-are. Our prayer for Family Worship is still that the families attending the Immanuel Childcare, VBS families, the families that are visiting Bridgman for a summer vacation, and the families who prefer an evening service, will enjoy Family Worship. Please let your neighbors and friends know about this relaxed, casual worship service.

Special request We are not sure you are aware that we have no full-time janitorial staff here at Immanuel and some of our spaces are cared for only by the Fellowship Board or paid staff, some of whom are not here on a full-time basis. We have noticed that with all of our rooms that are being used for meetings, Bible Study and Midweek services are not being cleaned and straightened after they are used. We respectfully request that you clean up after yourself. If you have spilled on a table, please clean it up, if you drop some food on the floor, please pick it up, if you see the garbage is full, please take it out. If you see books, Bibles or writing utensils left on tables, please put them away. Our staff have been taking the time to clean up, but that is taking away from their normal duties. We would really appreciate your assistance with this issue. Thank you!



Please consider donating to a special fund to help the victims of the floods in Kerr County, Texas from the rains impacting the Guadalupe River and one specific area, Camp Mystic, which lost 27 campers and counselors. Thrivent will match up to \$250,000 to aid the 132 plus victims of this flood. Please consider donating some funds to this special need. You can write your check to Immanuel and put in the memo section "Texas Floods". We will send all donations to Thrivent to receive any matching funds available.

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 be a part of the celebration planning, please sign up on the sheet on the table in the narthex.

Handbell practice begins on Monday at 6:00 pm this is a little earlier than in the past and is in preparation for our patriotic worship service in September. To all our Handbell "Ding-a-lings" please make sure you have all the music for practice and that it is marked for your bells. The Chimes Ensemble will practice right after the handbells meet. We are so grateful for Pastor Fischer and our leadership for voting for Pastor Fischer to work with our handbell choir in order to keep playing. Not many churches have handbells nor have a larger handbell choir to use as part of their music program. We are grateful and feel very blessed to be able to use the instruments to enhance our worship services. Thank you Lord!

Did you know? Our Share Closet and the Free For All have offered so many wonderful items to many community families in need. The Share Closet is filling up again, what a blessing! We received several monetary donations, people that are so grateful for the free items they shared what little money they had to help our mission. The newspaper showed up at our Free For All and interviewed Dorothy Ott and volunteers who provided the background information of the history of the Free For All and how it has grown through the years. With the money that was collected, it was decided that more shelving units could be used for the Share Closet. Thank you, Ellen Yeske, Susan Foster and Cheryl Music for taking the initiative and time to put together the new shelves. We are so grateful for the Ott Family, the Berk Family, and all the volunteers for their dedication and hard work planning, gathering, organizing and storing the items that we are able to give away and share our many blessings from our God!

Today's Hymns: LSB 578, 655, 637, 633, 582

Next Week's Scriptures: *Isaiah 66:18-23, Hebrews 12:4-24 (25-29); 12:1-3, Luke 13:22-30*

Sunday Attendance: August 10, 2025
8:30 – 69; 10:45 – 49

Wednesday Evening Worship Service – 5

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