



Friday, November 22, 2024

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP WEEKLY



## Sunday Worship and Learning Schedule

Sunday November 24, 2024

9:00 am - Divine Worship Service

10:30 am – Praise Worship Service

10:45 am – “The Rock” Sunday School

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

Since All Saints Day, the sermons offered at our Sunday services have been focused on various aspects of giving thanks to God. You might call it “A Month of Thanksgiving”. This sermon-series will conclude this coming Wednesday, at the Eve of Thanksgiving Service, November 27, 2024, at our 6 PM worship service. This morning, we join Saint Paul in saying, “Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!” As we join the joy of the Apostle, we do so freely in response to the Lord’s goodness and mercy. In no way is our response of faith and life motivated by some form of compulsion. May the Lord send us His Holy Spirit through His Word to create and sustain saving faith in our hearts until that day our faith will give way to sight as we continue to give thanks to God for all eternity in heaven

## CHURCH NEWS

**Service of the Word:** *We Hear God’s Word and Confess Together.*

Strengthened by the speaking of God’s Word, we together, as the Body of Christ, pray the **Prayer of the Church**. We give thanks to God for His gifts, especially the preaching of God’s Word. The prayer also ties the worship service to the life of God’s people, bringing our petitions before Him for the church, for those in our homes and for the world. **Gloria Patri** (LSB p. 186): A common refrain used in various parts of the service., it is usually associated with a Psalm. It echoes the words of Baptism in its use of the full Triune name (Matt. 28:19). It glorifies God in echoes of the songs of angels. “Glory to God in the highest” (Luke 2:14). **Kyrie** (LSB p.186): “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David,” the Canaanite woman begs (Matt. 15:22). “Lord, have mercy on my son,” pleaded a nameless man for his son (Matt. 17:15). “Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David,” cried out two blind beggars (Matt. 20:30). We also cry out in faith for our Lord to grant us mercy and healing.

**We Hope You Can Join Us** this Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm for our Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service. This is our chance to thank the Lord for all of the gifts and grace He gives to us every day!. We hope you can join us!

**The Flowers on the Altar Today** are in memory Robert Charles Argue, donated by his family. Robert is the son of Joanne Argue our long time member at Immanuel. Robert was called to his heavenly home on November 13<sup>th</sup> to be with his Lord. We pray for his family, that God will console them during their time of grieving.



**Midweek Advent Meals:** Join us **December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>** for Midweek Advent Meals. Light lunches will be served after the 12:15 pm worship service and/or light suppers at 5 p.m. before the 6 p.m. service. If you would like to host a lunch or supper, please sign up on the sheets located on the table in the narthex. These meals are a great way to enjoy fellowship and prepare for the coming of our Lord!

**Poinsettias for Christmas** are always a beautiful way to share your love for special people in your lives. 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 ½" pots and are \$8 each. All dedication forms must be completed and turned into the church office by December 22<sup>nd</sup>. A list of all memorials and honorariums will be in the December 24<sup>th</sup> worship service newsletters. Thank you for showing your love for your family and friends by placing a plant in the altar area.

**Operation Christmas Child boxes are on their way!** You worked to fill 79 boxes this year! Thank you to all of you who gave from your heart to fill these boxes for this wonderful mission. And thank you to all who contributed to the door offering last week to mail the boxes. We collected \$697.00 for mailing costs. A special Thank you goes out to Larry and Amie Smith who delivered the boxes to the collection site. Operation Christmas Child is a very special way to share the love of Christ with children all over the world.

**We are looking for Carolers!** We are looking for people to sing familiar Christmas Carols through the City of Bridgman on **Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**. **We will gather in the Life Center at 4:45 pm** and everyone with our talented guitarist, Pastor Tom Fischer, will tour Bridgman businesses, sharing our songs to the local shoppers and businesses. This is always such a great outreach and we hope you can join us!



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*Wow! I cannot say enough about my family at Immanuel – your many calls, thoughts, prayers, cards and visits have boosted my mood and spirits as I recover from my recent fall. Thank you All for the encouragement and love!!*

**Dorothy Ott**

### **ECDC News**

**For the next few weeks we will be introducing you to our staff in our ECDC.**

We hope this will encourage you to come down to the classrooms and introduce yourself and get to know our excellent, loving staff and their outstanding students!

### **Get to Know**



Our Skill Builder, 4-year-old classroom Lead Teacher and School Age after school/summer program, Abigail Simpson. Abby is a born and raised in Michigan, she was born in St. Joseph and went to elementary school in Coloma. Abby is married to Jared and they live in Niles with their two dogs, 3 year old, Atlas, pit-bull/lab mix and their Chihuahua/Terrier mix Bella who is 12 years old. They also enjoy Teddy, "The Classroom" Holland Lop eared rabbit. Teddy became the ECDC "Classroom Rabbit" when Miss Abby was hired three years ago. They also take care of a Ghost Ball Python named Phillip and a Cockatiel named Marlee.

They have many wonderful pets to be grateful for! Abby's husband, Jared works for Lakeside Construction as a project manager, and recently was on our prayer list with a very bad saw injury to his hand. He is recovering nicely with the help of

our medical community and of course your prayers. Abby has many other responsibilities as well as her husband, pets and job. Abby volunteers for her church, Hope Community Church in Niles. She is the Director for their Mission Vacation Bible School at her church and participates in Mission Trips to Indian

Reservations to give those children the Vacation Bible School experience, recently she helped a group to give children in Costa Rica the chance to learn about our loving God through Vacation Bible School outreach. She is also their Sunday School teacher for four years and their Youth Group Leader for 4 years as well. Abby loves to crochet, especially hat, glove, and scarf sets, she also has brought her crafting talents to the classrooms for the School Age after school group. Abby's family has lost their father to COVID, and we pray for her family's loss. But she does have her sister, Sam and mother who lives in Byron Center.

Abby is an Aunt to 5 nieces and nephews as well. Abby loves to camp, hike, kayak, cardio exercise, baking, cooking, working on her art skills, travel (she has been to 26 states and 5 countries to date) and looks forward to earning her bachelor's and master's degree in the future. We are very blessed to have Miss Abby as our teacher!

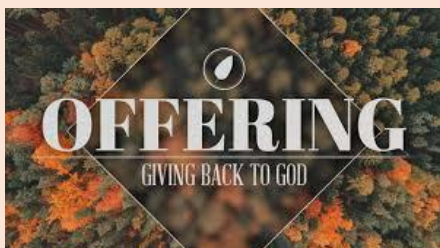


Along with Miss Abby is her assistant teacher, Erin Lillian Riggs. Erin was born in Indiana but raised in Sawyer on a horse farm. Erin is married to Jacob Alexander Riggs and he works for CR Landscaping in Baroda. Jacob and Erin have recently been blessed with their sweet daughter, 3-month-old Quinn, God is good! Also living with the Riggs is their dogs; Reme, who is a King Shepherd and Emmie who is an English Shepherd, the Riggs Family have a Ball Python too, by the name of Kaa. Erin had a wild mustang she trained herself and was involved in the Berrien County Youth Fair, and 4-H groups; Just Hors'in Around and Great

Expectations. Her horse's name was Reno, who and was originally captured in Antelope Valley, Nevada. Erin sold her horse when she got married and Reno lives close enough now for her to go and see him. Erin also grooms dogs on the weekend for extra money, and she would like to groom dogs as a profession in the future. Erin loves to craft and garden, she likes to flower garden and is planning a vegetable garden next year. Erin likes to attend area churches such as Lakeside Church and sometimes attends Granger Community church as well.

Erin has one sister and six sibling-in-laws. She is Aunt to two nephews part of her sister Sam's family and has 5 nieces and 2 nephews on her husband's side of the family. Erin and Jacob are planning on having one more child and would like to move to a farm eventually. Erin's Grandmother and Mother-in Law babysit for her little daughter Quinn while Erin shares her teaching skills with our fortunate students. Erin's grandmother has had some health issues lately and we pray for God's healing spirit to surround her. Thank you Erin for all of your hard 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, Bev Gast, Geraldine Wooley, Don Metzger, Skip & Norma Linn, Barry Vance (out of state), MaryLou Svorec (out of state), Rose Briggs, Betty Dehring, Dorothea Crocker, Bill Gast, Duane Vigansky, and Harriet Fester

*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

Darrell Gast (hospitalized in Chandler Arizona)

## Healing Needs for the Month

Marion Winter, Jared Simpson, Merry Sneed, Terry Combs, Dorothy Ott, Georgia Hildebrandt, Nancy Akright, Karl Kaeding, Rick Russell, Mike Dick, John Stine, Mike Stine, Denny Lawrenz, Tim Smith, Derek Davis, Connie Randall, James Petty Sr., Scott Mulvihill, Char Schram, John Stine, Natalya Gaidukevich, Jeffrey Nemitz, Sarah Hogue, Ray Michener, Tiffany Prosser, Michael Dick, Harriet Fester, Ted Joachim, Tara Deam,, Kathy Burkett, Ray Krieger, Jane Tym, Gavin Hanson, Sara Buist, Harvey Burnett, Charles Boreland, Dave Kramer, Marilyn Gelesko, Beth Vigansky Ciuizio, Tom Ulmer, Brenda Cangelosi, Ralph Palmer (Nancy Gast's Son), Laura Laube, Roger Mojsiejenko, Jeff Delvaux, Terry Graves, Irwin & Margaret Poschke, Dick Gorske, Taylor Joachim

## Serving in the Military

Isaac Maze (Army) SFC Casey LeFever,  
MAJ Kenneth Stice, Nathan Anderson, MM1 Timothy Ott,  
Jacob Lomoro, SGT Devin Hays, Tom Shepard, Dan Woodruff,  
SPC David Helfman, Arthur Gatchel, Ryan Skibbe,  
MAJ Joe Chappel, FN Sebastian Kirk MMN3

## Finance News

Last week's offering and donations:  
Offering Envelopes \$6,875.00 Year to date: \$345,320.00  
Roof Fund: \$500.00

*Thank you to the members of Immanuel who continue to give their offerings when absent on Sunday.*

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**WHO IS THE  
MOST AWESOME  
PERSON TODAY?**



## **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 8<sup>th</sup>** before and after both worship services. We need your cookies to continue making this a huge success. Any kind of delicious cookie will do, 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 December 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. Thank you in advance for your help. God's blessings to all you cookie bakers!

**Thank you to our LWML** for their hard work preparing and making 118 prayer pillows and prayer books for our ECDC students as our Christmas gift to our youngest students learning about the love of Jesus Christ! A special Thank You goes out to Elizabeth Emery, Phyllis Emery, Suellen Klein and Shannon Jones for organizing and sewing all of the pillows. Thank you to Barb Ackerman for her loving preparation of the prayer book!

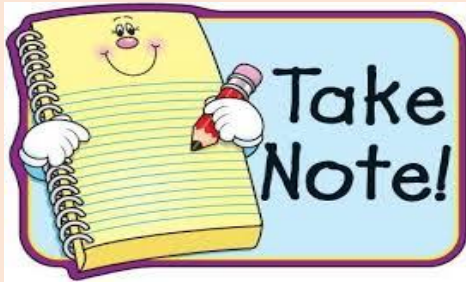
**Holiday Village** will be **Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**. We will host the Holiday Market in our gymnasium, sell some delicious food for the shoppers, bake some delicious treats to sell to the shoppers, offer a prayer table for those in need and create the Live Nativity for outside of the church. Anyone who would like to volunteer their time for the Holiday Village Pop-Up or the Live Nativity, please contact Deb Jaeger or Nancy Seldomridge. Please mark this special date and join in the festivities!

**We are collecting funds for our roof.** The Parking Lot Resurface Fund and the HVAC Fund are taking a back seat while we collect funds for our roof repair. The old portion of the school and Life Center roof are in need of repair and resurfacing or possibly replacement. We have had several more leaks appear every year and it has taken a priority place on our maintenance list. The other funds will still exist, however we will be collecting for roof repair/replacement. Thank you to everyone who donates above and beyond their weekly offerings, we are so very blessed!

**Thank you to Susan Foster, Cheryl Music, and Ellen Yeske** for continuing to spend some of your time this week, helping to put away and organize the Share Closet. We are always getting donations and we appreciate you spending some time hanging up, folding and organizing the closet so the shoppers can see all the wonderful items. You are a blessing!

**Beyond the Walls Choir** are looking forward to singing for the residents of Provision Living on **December 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 pm**. Come spend a lovely afternoon visiting those in continuing care facilities and listen to a delightful presentation by the Beyond the Walls Choir. They will also be presenting "Heaven Has Come" to our congregation on **December 22<sup>nd</sup> at the 9:00 am worship service**. Thank you to Sara Oldenburg for directing the choir and Pastor Fischer for doing all the organizing and membership gathering. We are so blessed with your efforts!

**Bake Sale Bakers Needed!** Can you help with the Holiday Village Pop-up Market Bake Sale table? We could use some of your delicious baked goods to offer to the shoppers at the Holiday Village in three weeks, if you can help supply some baked goods that can be packaged and sold to the shoppers. Please contact Ellen Yeske if you can help!



## Special Days

**Birthdays:** Craig Hanke (11-25), Christine Hampton (11-28), Tammy Kanous (11-28), Eric Kubsch (11-30), Jamie Starbuck (11-30), Joel Trapp (11-30)

## This Week at Immanuel

**Today Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> – Divine Worship Service - 9:00 am**  
**Praise Worship Service - 10:30 am**  
**"The Rock" Sunday School - 10:45 am**

**Mon. Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> – Bible Class/Café - 10:00 am**  
**Bridge Club - 12:30 pm**  
**Hand Bell Choir - 6:00 pm**  
**AA Meeting – 7:00 pm**

**Tues. Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> – Business Council – 7:00**

**Wed. Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> - Bible Class – 10:00 am**  
**Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service – 6:00 pm**  
**Choir Practice – 7:00 pm**

**Thurs. Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> - HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY Thank you God!**

**Sat. Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> – Advent Church Decorating – 9am**

**Sun. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> – Divine Worship Service w/HC – 9:00 am**  
**Praise Worship Service w/HC - 10:30 am**  
**"The Rock" Sunday School – 10:45 am**

## Noteworthy Dates in the Next Few Weeks.

- ♥ **Thanksgiving Eve Worship-** Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm
- ♥ **Decorate the Church for Advent –** Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am
- ♥ **Advent Midweek Worship Service –** Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 pm. Fellowship Luncheon following the worship
- ♥ **Advent Midweek Service –** Wednesday December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Life Center
- ♥ **LWML Annual Cookie Sale-** Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> before & after both services
- ♥ **Children's Christmas Program-** Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am
- ♥ **Reception for ECDC Families –** Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm in Life Center
- ♥ **Holiday Pop-Up Market –** Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 1-5pm. in Immanuel's gymnasium.
- ♥ **Christmas Cantata –** Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> Unity Service at 10:00 am

**We could use your help** to decorate the Sanctuary for Advent. On **Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am**, please join us as we decorate the Sanctuary for the Advent Season. Many hands make light the work, we hope you can help us with this wonderful time of Fellowship and serving the Lord!

## *Do You Have a Prayer Partner?*

**Everyone Needs Prayer!** We still in need for people to sign up to be Prayer Partners with our teachers in the ECDC. Recently we have hired new teachers and we need some prayer partners for them. Those very dedicated women work very hard to teach our littlest members of our community to know and love God. We are asking the Prayer Partners to drop a note to their partner, share small gifts like a small treat, Bible verse, or a quick text to know they are being thought of. Each Prayer Partner will receive a "Favorites" list to help them get to know their partner better. Please sign up today!



**SIGN UP FOR A PRAYER PARTNER**



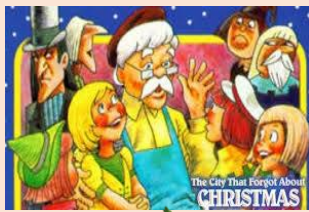
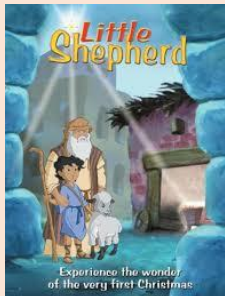




*~Volunteers~*

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## Those Serving in Church This Week

**Greeters:** Don & Marion Burch, the Rydwelski Family (9am); Immanuel's Praise Team (10:30am)

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

**Lay Reader:** Kim Schmitz (9:00 am) Suellen Klein(10:30 am)

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

**Immanuel Choir:** Directed by Sara Oldenburg. Elsie Hanke, Kurt Hanke, Rich McClintock, Mark Heyn, Chris Hampton, Nancy Kirk, Kathy Hanke, Judy Roush, Jeannie Dehring, Karen Pedde, Ilene Nemitz, Cheryl Fischer and Kim Schmitz

**Pianist:** Pastor Tom Fischer

**Guitarists:** John "Mac" McElligott, Kurt Hanke and "Sid"

**Keyboardist:** "Sid"

**Altar Guild:** Bev Barnes, Liz Zilke

**A/V Techs:** Chad Hettig, Lucas Oldenburg, Cyndi Pedde, Pattie Neal, Steve Schmitz, Karl Hanke and Eric Kubsch

**Counters:** Karen Pedde, Craig Klein, Karen Oldenburg, Carol Berndt and Cheryl Music

**Office Assistants:** Lorraine Jasper, Melissa Barker, Suellen Klein, Cheryl Fischer

**Trustees:** Brad Hildebrandt, Paul Jaeger, Joe Rydwelski, Art Brunke

**Elders:** Larry Kanous, Paul Jaeger, Allan Barker, Steve Schmitz

**Organist:** Pastor Tom Fischer

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Douglas Krengel.

**Advent Midweek Services** this year will begin on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> with two 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 Lent this 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 viewing a short, animated movie from Lutheran Television about our Advent season. Pastor Krengel will have some discussion questions for us to stimulate discussion among groups at this service. We hope you will take this opportunity to prepare your heart for the advent of our Lord and Savior by attending our worship services!

**Children's Christmas Program** is set for Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 am worship service. We hope you can join us as we watch our little students perform the Christmas play "Jesus is My Christmas Gift". This worship service is always filled with the families of our ECDC children so you might want to come early to claim your seat. After the worship service, we are inviting everyone to the Life Center for refreshments and a gift bag for the children. We hope you can enjoy this special service with our ECDC families.

**We hope you can join us** for this year's Christmas Cantata. This will be **one worship service starting at 10:00 am on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**. This worship service focuses on sharing our love of the Lord through our musical talents. We are very blessed at Immanuel with musicians and vocalists. We praise the Lord for bringing such wonderful people together to Praise His Name!



## **"The Rock" News**

Over the next few weeks at The Rock, we will learn and work towards something extraordinary. We have busy hands and full hearts! We will be preparing our hearts during Advent for the birth of Jesus. We will make advent countdown calendars to help us count the days until Christmas and a gift for our families. Each year, The Rock kids enthusiastically enjoy creating Christmas crafts and learning about the Christmas story. This year, we will also be making a wonderful gift for all of the Shut-ins for Christmas on the Angel Tree.

**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 \$21.20 if you order by December 9<sup>th</sup>, the subscription price after December 9<sup>th</sup> is \$23.20. Please turn your subscription money into the church office. This subscription no longer includes **Michigan In Touch** online magazine.

**Greeters needed for 2025!** It's time again, to round up volunteer Greeters for next year. If you were a Greeter in 2024, 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 8:30 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.

**Calling All Seniors** you are invited to a Christmas Party in your honor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Glendora on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at noon. You will enjoy pizza from Pizza Hut, breadsticks, build your own salad, fruit and dessert. You will be able to worship and take communion at a service beginning at 1:30 pm and to top it off you can party with Wil Smaka and his polka band. Please use the sign-up sheet in on the table in the narthex to sign up by December 9<sup>th</sup> for this special party.

**Rev. Dr. Douglas A. Krengel, Sole Pastor**

***Please call the church office for any Pastoral needs.  
Church Office 269-465-6031***

Today's Hymns – LSB 915, LSB 804, LSB 918

Thanksgiving Eve November 27, 2024 Scriptures:  
Old Testament: Deuteronomy 8:1-10 Epistle: Philippians 4: 6-20, Holy Gospel Luke 17: 11-19

Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 Scriptures: Old Testament:  
Jeremiah 33: 14-16 Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13 , Holy Gospel: Luke 19: 28-40

**Sunday Attendance: November 17, 2024**

**9:00 am – 82; 10:30 am – 56  
Wednesday Bible Class – 14**

**DID YOU KNOW? There is an easy way to give your offering! You can go to [www.immanuelbridgman.org](http://www.immanuelbridgman.org) and give your offering via our electronic giving. Check it out today!**