



# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP WEEKLY



## Sunday Worship and Learning Schedule Sunday, July 20, 2025

- 8:30 am – Divine Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 9:30 am – Education Hour Pastor Led Bible Study
- 10:45 am – Praise Worship Service with Holy Communion

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

\*Most of our Worship Services are streamed Live on Facebook [Immanuel Lutheran Church Bridgman](https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchBridgman), 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

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

### AS WE GATHER

Last Sunday we learned that we have been appointed by the risen Lord Jesus to serve, like the seventy-two, as his emissaries in this fallen world. Over the next three weeks we will continue to learn from the Gospel of Luke about ways we may live out our Christian vocations. This morning, we will learn about neighborliness. In the weeks to come we will hear the Lord invite us to be hospitable and to be prayerful. May the Lord bless our time in His Word.

### CHURCH NEWS

**Vacation Bible School** was a HUGE success! Our volunteers went out of their way to tell about the life of Jesus to all these young people willing to learn about Jesus' love for us! Thank you, to everyone who spent many hours organizing, decorating, cooking, baking and cleaning up the after the many children who came to our VBS this year. Many hands made this VBS very special since our numbers who attended this year grew; they did not decrease in number throughout the week as they usually do. During the day we were able to provide a VBS for both the Primary and School age rooms as well as a portion to the toddler room. There were 39 children who participated in the daytime VBS. In the evening we managed to provide 41 children with the Wonder Junction curriculum, focusing on the life and ministry of Jesus. Our numbers grew throughout the week and it wasn't the smallest members, but our preteens who wanted to come. It made us realize that we are providing a very necessary component for this community! Well done everyone!

**Bridgman Days** last Saturday was a great success and we want to thank our volunteers and Outreach Board who worked so hard to share our blessings and reach out to the community. Thank you to Mike Hoover who stood over the grill to cook so many hotdogs! Thank you to Steve Pedde and Steve Schmitz for setting up the canopy tent for the people eating lunch on the lawn. Thank you to Chris Damaske, Deb Jaeger and Pastor Kregel for manning the prayer table. We also thank our Outreach Board who worked hard to serve the food, including the clean-up crew, and everyone who shared prayers at a prayer table. We had something for everyone to participate in, for every skill set. We are so blessed with so many willing members who take the time from their busy schedules to help.

**Please keep in your prayers** Amie Smith, Abby Rydwelski and Jessa Rydwelski as they travel to the LCMS National Youth Convention in New Orleans! They will join over 19,000 youth from across the country and learn more about their faith and serving our Lord. Thank you to everyone for your support and work to get these young people an inspirational experience in serving the Lord. May God keep you safe on your journey!

**Thank you to** Jeannine Marks for providing the beautiful song today during the 8:30 am worship service. Thank you for sharing your wonderful voice raised in praise with us. We are blessed.

*Lord,  
Hear Our  
Prayer*



**Extra prayers are needed**, please keep in your prayers the Family and Friends of Ray Michener, who passed away on Friday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. His Coronation Service of Celebration will be Saturday, August 2, 2025 here at Immanuel at 11:00 am. Friends can meet with the family at 10:00 am, prior to the service. We pray that God will surround Ray's family and friends with His loving, consoling arms during their time of grieving.

**More prayers are needed** for this little boy Auggie who can use all the prayers he can get. Auggie is suffering from cancer, however, he now has sepsis and cannot receive his cancer treatments until he is cured of the sepsis. Please pray for this little one, so he can get back to healing his cancer.

**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 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.

**Christ Family Fun Festival** is coming up soon! Please think of joining us on Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> 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. In this day and age when very few things are free, why not take advantage of a free family festival with music, kids games, robot demonstrations, science experiments and of course food trucks!

**We need your help** to select hymns for our hymn sing at our picnic on Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 9:00 am. This is your chance to pick your favorite hymn for everyone to sing. Please list your favorite hymn on the sheet on the table in the narthex to get your choice sung! It doesn't matter which hymn you pick, we are blessed with a wonderfully talented musician who can play whatever you pick, thank you Pastor Tom Fischer, we are blessed.

**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!

*You are Invited Here To Our:  
Annual Church Picnic  
Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>  
9 am Hymn Sing ~ 10 am Worship*

**Christ Lutheran Stevensville**  
Sat. Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> 4:00 pm  
Music Kids Games Food Trucks  
**Family funfest**  
Free



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**Korn Dog Booth and Outreach Opportunity.** Berrien County Youth Fair Volunteers Needed: Trinity, Berrien Springs, is hosting an outreach booth at the fair. They are inviting our members to help host this opportunity to share the Gospel. The Friends of Berrien Springs Korn Dog Booth is looking for volunteers as well. We do receive compensation for the hours served in the Korn Dog Booth which goes to our Mission Fund. This fund is sending three people to the LCMS National Youth Convention this month, what a blessing. This year the sign-up procedure is different, you would have to go online to reserve your space/hours in the Korn Dog Booth. You can come to the church office to sign up if it is easier for you or you can sign up on your own by going to [2025 Korn Dog Shift Schedule - Volunteer Schedule - original - Google Sheets](#) to sign up for your shift. Berrien County Youth Fair is August 11<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup> this year, don't forget you get into the fair for free if you work the Korn Dog Booth. Contact Amie Smith, the Chairwoman of the Board of Outreach, if you would like to serve.

### ECDC NEWS

Our rooms were back to business this week. The School Age Room enjoyed a Sports Theme this week. They made foam fingers to wave at their games, they competed in relay and foot races and their friends rooted them on with the foam fingers they made. They designed and created their own team jerseys, first designing them on paper and then creating them on T-shirts. On the really hot days, they enjoyed their slip and slide and their splash pad. On the really, really hot days, they stayed inside and put together jigsaw puzzles. On Friday they got to go on another field trip to "Power In Motion", where they learned some new tumbling and acrobatic moves, played on trampolines and gymnastic equipment and generally enjoyed movement.

Our Primary room tried to keep cool too by enjoying water tables, making and sailing sponge sailboats in the water tables, watching to see how long their sponge boats would float for. They made robots out of toilet paper rolls, and decorated crosses with cut up construction paper. With the warm weather this week, they spent the hot days in the gym playing in the cool large space. We are very grateful we have that cool place to play. Our children here have very active agile minds and keeping them busy can be a monumental job. Our teachers spend many hours looking for projects to keep the children busy and help them to not get bored. We are so very blessed to have the staff we have, who continue to keep our children safe, happy and secure.

Our toddler room enjoyed more of their water study. They made pretty little goldfish out of their handprints, making it look like a goldfish in a bag of water, what a great keepsake for their families. They talked about what animals live in water, what they eat, how they rest, and what makes them prey for other animals. They painted with spray bottles, taking paint and putting it into spray bottles making some really great art pieces. They went to Starbuck's Blueberry Farm to pick some blueberries for their family and to eat here as a snack. They watched as blue water dropped from an eye dropper spread out into clear water, great experiment! They also played with watercolor, coloring a black and white line drawing print by applying water onto dried colors and creating their own colors of paint.

Our infant room studied bubbles and balls this week. Their baby sign language word this week was "Ball" along with songs they sang like "Roll, Roll, Roll the Ball" and read books like "The Friendship Ball". They worked on rolling the ball to their teachers and putting a ball in a basket, all great gross motor skill exercises. They painted with bubble wrap and got to walk bare foot over bubble wrap. Their Bible story this week was "God Is Good" with Zoe the Zebra puppet helping to tell the story.



**HOORAY!** Our roof replacement has started. We will be blessed this week again with a work crew who will be replacing our roof and skylights in the Life Center and old portion of the school. Please be patient with the noise and mess created from roof replacement. Please refrain from parking in the handicap spot against the Life Center during the week, the crew is afraid of damaging vehicles parked under where they are working. We pray for the safety of the men working on the roof and for a quick completion. Thank you to everyone who gave from their generous hearts for this necessary repair.

**Organ repair** will be completed this week. Thank you for the donations that made this repair possible! Our organ was bought used many years ago and needs many repairs to keep it in working order. We are blessed!

**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!

**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 July we are collecting slinkies, stickers, cars, small character toys, and mini frisbees.** Thank you for your support of sunglasses, jump ropes, yo-yos, puzzles and craft kits for the month of June. 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:** *A diverse group of Immanuel members—the Planning Committee—was formed to reflect on the insights gathered from last fall's Congregational Planning Retreat and the recent reconciler report. This committee has met twice since the May Voter's meeting. The feedback confirmed what many of us already knew: the members of Immanuel are deeply committed to living out their faith by sharing the love of Christ and serving both the congregation and the broader community. At the same time, it became evident that our current governance structure, originally designed for a larger congregation, no longer supports our ministry effectively. Rather than enabling our mission, it has often become a barrier. In response, the Planning Committee has been actively exploring governance models that are better suited to the size and needs of our congregation. Our goal is to develop a right-sized structure that empowers the congregation to grow and thrive in Christ—now and into the future. A key aspect of the models under consideration is a streamlined core governance framework, complemented by the flexibility to form additional committees as needs arise. We seek a model that not only reflects our current identity but also enhances our capacity to faithfully carry out our mission in the years to come. Transparency remains a priority. We are committed to keeping the congregation informed and engaged throughout this process, and you can expect regular updates like this one in the church bulletin. Looking ahead, we plan to bring forward recommendations for a right-sized governance model at the 2025 Congregational Planning Retreat (CPR), which we hope Pastor Johnson will facilitate. This retreat will provide a dedicated space for listening to congregants' thoughts and concerns—particularly those related to governance. As we continue this important work, your prayers, questions, and voices are not only welcome—they're essential.*

*"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it!"*



## 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

Linda Totzke (Cancer diagnosis)  
Family and Friends of Betty Dehring  
Family and Friends of Ray Michener

**Pastor Kregel, Chris Damaske, Betty Korcek and Tim Ott visited this week;** Irwin and Margaret Poschke, Donna Mach, Edna Holt, Bill Gast, Terry Swedenburg, Ralph Lohraff

## Healing Needs for the Month

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 Ciuzio, Dave Kramer, Andy Benjamin, Pastor Carl Bassett, Leon Schmaltz, Darrell Gast, John Stine, Jeffrey Nemitz, Ray Michener, 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 to Behran in the Middle East.**

## Finance News

July 13, 2025 offerings and donations:  
Offering Envelopes: \$9,337.00; Year to date: \$190,515.00  
Door Fund - \$25

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

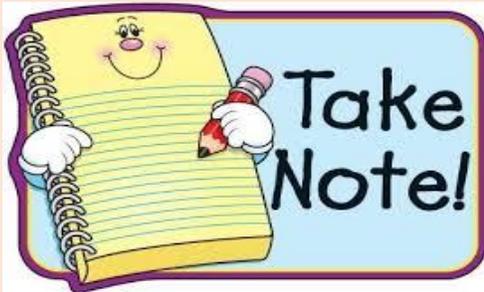
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## Special Days

**Birthdays:** Oakley Allmond (7-20), Sherry Vonk (7-20), Dane Scheffler (7-21), Karen Oldenburg (7-21), Susan Oldenburg (7-21), Samantha Soulard (7-22), Cathy Reifschneider (7-23), Erica Mitchell (7-23), Kevin Berk (7-24), Ryan Oldenburg (7-24), Aubrey DeKoster (7-25), Betty Korcek (7-25), Donna Springs (7-26)

**Anniversaries:** Larry & Amie Smith on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 21 years Ago  
Bill & Cindy Linn on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 55 years ago

### THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL

**Sun. July 20<sup>th</sup> – Divine Worship Service w/Holy Communion – 8:30 am**  
**Pastor Led Bible Study in Life Center – 9:30 am**  
**Praise Worship Service w/Holy Communion 10:45 am**

**Mon. July 21<sup>st</sup> – Bridge Club - 12:30 pm**  
**AA Meeting – 7:00 pm**

**Wed. July 23<sup>rd</sup> – Midweek Evening Family Worship - 6:00 pm**

**Thurs. July 24<sup>th</sup> - Breakfast with Jesus at Rochefort's – 8am**  
**Praise Worship Practice – 6:30 pm**

**Sun. July 27<sup>th</sup> – 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

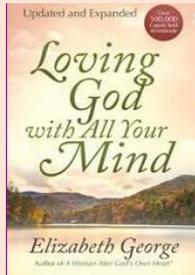
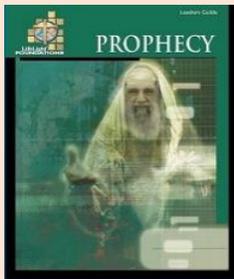
- ♥ **LCMS National Youth Gathering** in New Orleans, Louisiana on July 10 - 24
- ♥ **Annual Church Picnic** – Sun., Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> Hymn Sing at 9am and Unity Service 10am
- ♥ **Christ Family Fun Festival** – Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> starting at 4:00 pm FREE EVENT!

**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 8am 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!

**Please put on your calendars** the annual church picnic. This year we will enjoy the outdoors and picnic food on August 3, 2025. Starting at 9:00 am we will enjoy an old-fashioned hymn sing then move on to an informal worship service with contemporary music. We will have the potluck dishes shared along with grilled meats expertly grilled by Gerry Vigansky and Larry Kanous. We haven't forgotten about the kiddos, we will have the large water slide for all ages. Don't forget to sign up for your favorite hymn. Please join us in this wonderful sharing of fellowship and God's great creations!

***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!*

## Those Serving in Church This Week



**Greeters:** Don & Marion Burch 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:** Karen Pedde (8:30 am)

**Soloist:** Jeannine Marks (8:30 am) Cyndi Pedde (10:45 am)

**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 Sigh Multani "Sid" & Constantine

**Altar Guild:** Sandy Vigansky, Ellen Yeske and Vicki Ott

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

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

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

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

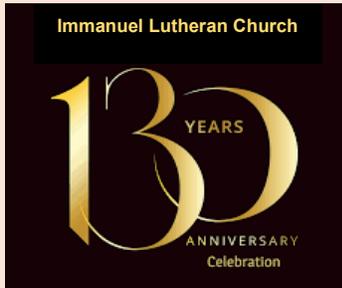
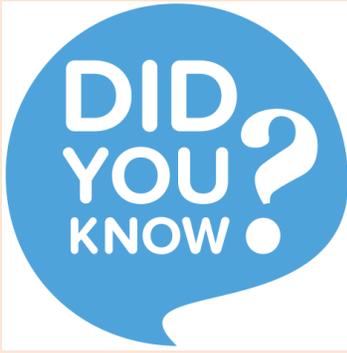
**Elders:** Larry Kanous, Denny Barnes, Paul Jaeger, Mark Heyn, Eric Ott, Steve Schmitz

**Organist:** Pastor Tom 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**; this week the service will take place in room #6. The pattern of informal, casual, worship. The theme for the sermon will be the same as the theme provided the Sunday before; however, the liturgy will be very simple like unto a family devotion, or a devotion shared at Family Camp (45-50 minutes). The message will be offered in brief segments. In between each segment will be a Gospel Activity. There will be one Praise Song at the beginning and one Praise Song at the end of each Family Worship service (recorded music will be used). The dress code is come-as-you-are. Our prayer for Family Worship is 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!



**Free for All**



**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.

**Outreach is renovating again!** Take a look at the renovated space that was the nursery. Thank you to the Smith Family for creating a restful space for children and adults to come to for some quiet time during the worship service.

**Our Patriotic Worship Service has moved.** This year we will celebrate our veterans, military and first responders around Patriot's Day which is September 11<sup>th</sup>. 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. We will focus more on the worship service this year to praise our Lord for providing these heroes who have protected our freedom to worship our Lord. We hope you will spread the word about the worship service and invite those who might not be aware of the service.

**Handbell practice begins on Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> 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 pick up your music for the Patriotic Worship service on the table in the narthex. 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. Most recently there was a family who came to the Free For All that had children sleeping on the floor of their bedroom because they had no bed to sleep in. They came to the Free For All to pick up some clothing for their young ones and happened to see a twin bed frame and were so very grateful to get a bed for free so their children would not have to sleep on the floor anymore. This is just one story of many, that shows what a wonderful blessing and mission the Free For All and Share Closet truly are. 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 868, 818, 636, 652, 923

**Sunday Attendance: July 13, 2025**

**8:30 – 80 , 10:45 – 68**

**Next Week's Scriptures** *Genesis 18:17-19, 20-33;*  
*Colossians 2:6-19; Luke 11:1-13*

**Wednesday Evening Worship Service - 14**

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

**Please contact Pastor Kregel for any Pastoral needs.**

**Pastor Kregel's Cell Phone: 832-257-5437**

**email: [kregeld@gmail.com](mailto:kregeld@gmail.com)**