



July 2023 Volume 1, Issue 7

*Beach
Please*



**Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA
631 Grand Street, Allegan, MI**



Happy July Birthday to:

Renee Steffey - July 3
Maribella Armourillo - July 9
Gerald Armourillo - July 11
Walter Karakula - July 11
Mary Ann Fusillo - July 14
Grady Armourillo - July 19
Shepard vanMelle - July 23
Meri Gorr - July 25



Happy
BIRTHDAY

Happy July Anniversary to:

Harold & Renee Steffey - July 3
Ken Kinsey & Dottie Steffey - July 10



July Activities

Hearts and Hands will meet on Monday, July 10th at 1pm at the church.

Bible and Brew will meet on Monday evening, July 10th in Hamilton.

Coffee for Vets will be held on Tuesday, July 11th from 9:00-11:00am. All veterans and active duty personnel are welcome to attend.

Bible Study meets every Wednesday morning at 10:00am.

The Church Council meets on Monday evening, July 17th at 6:30pm

Book Group meets on Monday, July 24th at 1:00pm here at church. The book selection for the month is entitled "Hang the Moon" by Jeannette Wall

The restaurant selection for July 15th at 5:30pm is University Roadhouse in Kalamazoo. The signup sheet is on the round table

Pastor Chris' Travel Schedule in July and August:

Phoenix with other ELCA chaplains from 17-21 July. He will not miss worship at Immanuel on Sunday, 16 July and Pastor Julia Humenik has agreed to be on call for pastoral emergencies.

Ft. Jackson, SC from 30 July-12 August - Pastor Jim Foster will be our supply pastor on 30 July and Pastor David Sprang on Sunday, 6 August. Pastor Nicole Smith has agreed to be on call for pastoral emergencies.



Worship Volunteers for July

July 2

- Assistant - Mike Fusillo
- Reader - Linda Havens
- Flowers - Norma MacDonald
- Counters - Joyce Davis and Linda Scott

July 9

- Assistant - Donna Preisler
- Reader - Linda Scott
- Greeters - Jim and Marie Combs
- Flowers - Open
- Counters - Laura Compton and Pam Hopkins

July 16

- Assistant -
- Reader - Michele Radke
- Flowers - Mike & Laura Wathen
- Counters - Joyce Davis and Linda Scott

July 23

- Assistant - Jim Horwath
- Reader - Pam Hopkins
- Greeters - Jim and Marie Combs
- Flowers - Ken & Lyn Kingsbury
- Counters - Laura Compton and Pam Hopkins

July 30

- Assistant - Mike Fusillo
- Reader - Ken Kingsbury
- Flowers - Open
- Counters - Joyce Davis and Jim Combs

If there is anyone who would like to serve as a communion assistant, please see Pam or Pastor.

Pastor's Page-July 2023: Faith and Patriotism (or: God, America, and the Church)

You are to have no other gods:

What is this? Answer:

We are to fear, love, and trust God above all things.

- Luther's explanation of the First Commandment from the Small Catechism

It should come as no surprise that I consider myself a patriotic American.

What does that mean? I love my country. I think it's the greatest in the world, and I think our ideals of equality and freedom are worth the cost of my life (in living and dying). I have no problem with the phrase "God bless America" because I really do want God to help us live up to our own ideals and principles.

That does *not* mean my country is perfect. I want my country to be better, and I want (and I believe that we need) God's help getting there. I pray that God will help us live into the things that we say are important to us, because we haven't always been good at that.

It also does *not* mean all other countries are somewhat inferior or less than us: no, I expect people in France to say "God bless France" and people in Tanzania to say "God bless Tanzania" and the people in China to say...well, you get the point. God's blessings are infinite, so really, he can bless us all (even in different ways - I leave that to God and the people of whatever country are asking him to bless them.)

More important than all of that, though - most important, in fact - God is still more important than my country.

My first allegiance is to my God - above and beyond all other earthly allegiances. Family, country - everything is second (at best) to God. God gave me life, created me in his own image, called me by name before the twinkling of the first star in the sky, sent his only Son to die for me, saved me from myself and made me his own in the waters of baptism, empowers me for life in this world by the Holy Spirit, and will never, ever, ever let me go (in spite of how terrible I am.)

My country did not create me. My country cannot save me from my own sinful, self-absorbed, short-sighted, destructive and self-destructive inclinations and ways. My country will not last forever.

As Christians, we must always remember that there is no higher allegiance or calling than to love of, faith in, and service to God.

I believe that God calls us to be good citizens. God wants us to pray for leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-3), to be good citizens (Romans 13:1-7, 1 Peter 2:13-14), and even to pay our taxes (Jesus himself says so: Matthew 17:24-27, Mark 12:13-17). God also wants us to remember that we are his and that we are to fear, love, and

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trust him above all else.

Happy Independence Day

SDG,

Pastor Chris

*Thank
you!*

"On behalf of myself and my entire division, we would like to thank you and your [congregation] so very much for the wonderful cookies! They were all a hit and greatly appreciated! We wanted to get a picture of them being devoured but that wasn't possible, unfortunately. Just know they were all sampled and were all extremely good! From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU. ..From SFC Rebecca Sirkel"

"Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,

We are so very grateful for your generous donation to our residents at Grand Ravine. It was truly a blessing!

Sincerely,

Anna Zatzke, Manager

A note about what we do in worship:

One Sunday a month (depending on our schedules), I invite Maryann to the front of the sanctuary during worship (after we distribute communion but before you stand) to bless her communion kit. For Lutherans, lay people from a congregation take Holy Communion to their home-based members as an extension of the congregation's celebration of Holy Communion. So, it's important to remind all of us what Maryann is doing on our behalf and to send her with our love, support, and blessing.

Backpack Ministry Update

As we ramp up for our backpack ministry this year, the principals have made requests for their students' backpacks. As always, you are welcome to give directly to Immanuel and designate your offering for backpacks. If you would like to buy the items directly, we ask that you keep to the specifications (color, brand, ruled, etc.) so that each student receives essentially the same items:

Paper Folders

Black dry erase markers

Loose leaf paper filler, 150 pack, wide-ruled, 3-hole punched

24 pack Crayola pre-sharpened color pencils

Blue Bic stick pens, medium point

Black marbled Composition books

Meade spiral notebooks (wide-ruled)

24 pack of Crayola crayons

Ticonderoga Yellow Wooden Unsharpened #2 pencils

Purple glue sticks

You can also buy from the Amazon list that Alison has posted to our Facebook page.

We're working toward greater organization this year than we had last year, and part of being more organized means giving ourselves more time; so we request that all money and donations be in by 15 July.

