



September 2023 Volume 1, Issue 9



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

September Birthdays

Isabelle Horwath - September 1

Charles Scott - September 7

Donna Moeller - September 13

Shelley Busfield - September 15

Norma MacDonald - September 18

Craig vanMelle - September 19

Sandra Rankin - September 26

Ursula Armourillo - September 29



September Anniversary

George & Donna Preisler -

September 22, 1973





Hearts and Hands will meet on Monday, Sept 11th at 1pm at the church.

Bible and Brew will not meet in September due to it being Fair Week.

Coffee for Vets will be held on Tuesday, September 12th 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, September 18th at 6:30pm

Book Group meets on Monday, September 25th at 1:00pm here at church. The book selection for the month is "Take My Heart" by Dolen-Perkins-Valdez.

The restaurant selection for September 16th is Brewster's Smokehouse & Grill, located at 1420 M-89 in Otsego and the time is 5:30pm. There will be a sign-up sheet on the round table to make your reservation.

Children's Sunday School will start with a party on Sunday, September 24th immediately following the service. We will have a pizza and cupcake lunch, crafts, games, singing. There will be no 9:15am class that day. The next week, October 1st we will have the class at the 9:15am time before the service. Adult Sunday School is scheduled to begin on Sunday, October 1st immediately following the worship service.

On Saturday, September 23rd, beginning at 10:00am, Pastor Jim and Sandy Foster have invited all Immanuel and Prince of Peace members to their home, located at 695 River Road in Otsego for a River Float and a picnic starting around noon or earlier. Floaters are encouraged to bring a kayak or canoe, if you have one. Everyone is to bring a dish to pass, your own beverage and lawn chair. A sign-up sheet, along with an informational flier are located on the round table.

Worship Volunteers for September

September 3

Assistant - Jim Horwath
Reader - Linda Havens
Flowers -
Counters - Joyce Davis and Linda Scott
Greeters: Jim and Marie Combs

September 10

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

September 17

Assistant - Jim Horwath or Mike Fusillo
Reader - Michele Radke
Flowers - Norma MacDonald
Counters - Joyce Davis and Linda Scott
Greeters - Jim and Marie Combs

September 24

Assistant - Mike Fusillo
Reader - Ken Kingsbury
Greeters - Jim and Marie Combs
Flowers -
Counters - Laura Compton and Jim Combs

Important*Directory Update**

Because I will be traveling earlier this year, I will need to do the Church Directory Update earlier than in the past. EVERYONE, please let me know if you want or need any changes. Those with children might consider a new picture as I'm sure they've grown up a bit in the last 5 years!!! Please check your current directories to make sure that all your information is correct! Text me, Phone me, 616-566-8300 or email me, pawbk22@gmail.com with your changes. If you'd like a new picture, you can text or email me one or let me know you'd like me to take one for you at church after services. **DEADLINE OCT 15th**

Pastor's Page for September 2023: A Cultural Challenge

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

- Exodus 20:16 (The Eighth Commandment)*

Besides that, they learn to be idle, gadding about from house to house; and they are not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not say.

- 1 Timothy 5:13*

Every report, then, that cannot be adequately proved is false witness. Therefore, no one should publicly assert as truth what is not publicly substantiated. In short, what is secret should be left secret...

- Martin Luther, Explanation of the 8th Commandment, Large Catechism*

God, Paul and Luther all knew that gossip is detrimental to the household of God.*

Yes, I know that every organization, including every congregation, has a certain level of gossip; it is human nature. It was clearly present in the earliest congregations, which is why it winds up in the New Testament. Selfishness is also human nature, and has existed since the dawn of time - that doesn't mean it's good or excusable.

My recent revelation on gossip at Immanuel: why, when something goes wrong in a member's life, does that member not want to share with their fellow members of Immanuel? After all, we are part of a family? When they share, we can pray for them right?

Individuals haven't wanted to share because they knew that the rumor mill will start.

(This also makes it harder for the person to come back to Immanuel after an absence... but that's a pastor page for another time...)

So, we must work to stop gossiping and end the rumor mill.

I will work on this:

I will try to stop talking about other people;

I will kindly but firmly ask others to do the same;

and I invite you to join me.

In this way, we can work to follow Scripture and create a healthier congregation.

SDG,

Pr. Chris

*In each of the three above citations, there is more happening and a greater context. But the point, even if buried in a larger, different point, is clear; gossip is detrimental to the life of faith, both individually and collectively.

Memories of Church Picnic - August 13, 2023



