

JUNE 2024



Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA  
631 Grand Street, Allegan Michigan



### **New Folks, Part 1: Visitors**

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

- Hebrews 13:2 (referring to Genesis 18:1-8)

At our last quarterly report from Trevor, I corrected him – but he was right and I was wrong. That means that, when I look out at the congregation, it could well be that 25% of the people looking back at me were not members 3 years ago.

This fact has a lot of implications, and I will cover one this month and one next month; this month, let's talk about how we welcome people we don't recognize. (I may cover other ramifications in the months to come).

When I interviewed at Immanuel, the call committee and the council told me that one of Immanuel's core values was to be welcoming. As the Aksamits have attested publicly, we do that well.

At the beginning of March, a seminary classmate and pastor friend joined us for worship. At the end of March, Mom moved into a condominium around the corner from Immanuel and she started attending Immanuel regularly starting during Holy Week. Each of them was greeted the same way:

“WHO ARE YOU?!?!”

Neither my mother nor Pr. Mark was put off, in part because Mom had worshipped with us before and Pr. Mark is pastor (and he lives in Oregon, and he wasn't considering us as a possible congregational home, and he knew that he may never return...).

Honestly – it's a good thing if we don't know everyone around us in worship – it means we're growing! And, if we hope to continue to grow, we need to consider that not

everyone appreciates such a direct introduction. 😊 We have had at least 3 sets of visitors who never returned, and while we do not know their reasons, we still need to treat each of them as well as we can.

With two potential exceptions, everyone currently at Immanuel was once a visitor (I think only two were born into this congregation). How were you greeted when you came here the first time? Striking a balance between being over-bearing and being cold is hard – a task at which I often fail.

And, as the author of Hebrews reminds us, it is a vital task. We have no idea who will walk through our doors, so we need to show hospitality to each stranger who visits us.

SDG,

Pr. Chris

Notes:

Pastors are already in short supply, and two more local pastors recently retired. How does that impact Immanuel? The bishop needs Pr. Jim Foster to go to one of them to be stated supply, so he will no longer be able to come to Immanuel. The bishop and I are working to fill in those gaps. Pastor Vicky Blough, a friend and colleague, has agreed to supply on 30 June before she goes to be stated supply at the other congregation with a retiring pastor. In October, I've worked with Rachel so that her unordained student (intern) will be here to preach and lead worship (good experience for her), which means we won't celebrate Holy Communion. While I hope to return to some semblance of consistency next year, for the rest of 2024, I ask you to be flexible and warm with the leaders I am able to find.

It's time to gear up for backpacks! Mr. Alan Bosker, the principal at Dawson, has gotten back to us about what his students need, and he would like each backpack stuffed with:

- 1 pair of Fiskars scissors
- 10 glue sticks
- 2 boxes of Crayola broad-tip markers
- 2 boxes of Crayola crayons
- 2 highlighters

- 1 set of black, low-odor dry erase markers
- 2 large boxes of tissues.
- 2 containers of Clorox disinfecting wipes
- 1 Spiral notebook (70 sheets)

You are welcome to buy these supplies and bring them to Immanuel when they go on sale in the June-July timeframe, or you can designate donations to “backpacks” in the offering plate or online. Mr. Bosker has asked that he provide the backpacks by 20 August for their open house, so Pastor will purchase any supplies we need from Amazon or Meijer in late July. Pastor will request a Thrivent grant and a donation from Meijer, and we ask that two other people also request Thrivent grants (all Thrivent grants will need to coordinate so that the requests to Thrivent don’t overlap). Please see Pastor, Joyce, or Sandie with any questions. At this time, we plan to work with Dawson for our Christmas families.





**Tammy Reed - June 3**  
**Mike Acosta - June 7**  
**Dottie Steffey - June 7**  
**Lori Querback - June 7**  
**Steve Monroe - June 15**  
**Gail Harper - June 21**  
**Marie Kuntz - June 23**  
**Jared Krug - June 24**



**Daniel Jr. & Jessica Doornhaag - June 7**  
**Russell & Joyce Davis - June 11**  
**Ivan & Shelley Busfield - June 12**  
**Neal & Joy Winger - June 15**  
**Pr Dan & Susan Ward - June 16**

## **WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR MAY**

### **June 2**

Assistant - Jim Horwath  
Reader - Linda Havens  
Counters - Laura Compton & Linda Scott  
Flowers - **OPEN**  
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs

### **June 9**

Assistant - Donna Preisler  
Reader - Linda Scott  
Counters - Joyce Davis & Mike Aksamit  
Flowers - Mike & Karen Acosta  
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs

### **June 16**

Assistant - Joyce Davis  
Reader - Michele Radke  
Counters - Laura Compton & Linda Scott  
Flowers - Laura Compton  
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs

### **June 23**

Assistant - Mike Fusillo  
Reader - Ken Kingsbury  
Counters - Joyce Davis & Jim Combs  
Flowers - Laura Compton  
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs

### **June 30**

Assistant - Rick Bierlein  
Reader - Donna Preisler  
Counters - Joyce Davis & Laura Compton  
Flowers - **Open**  
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs

# UPCOMING

**Quilting Group** meets every Tuesday in the Quilting Room at 9am.

**Bible Study Group** meets every Wednesday at 10am

**Praise Team** Practice meets every Wednesday at 4pm.

**Zumba** meets in the Fellowship Hall every Wednesday at 6pm and every Saturday at 10am.

**GOD'S GARDEN GROUP:** This is a new project for us to gather for ONE hour on the first and third Tuesday of each month to tend to some landscaping around the church. For the summer months we will try to beat the heat and meet at 9am and end at 10am with coffee and fellowship For this month we will meet June 4<sup>th</sup> and June 18<sup>th</sup>. Bring rakes, gloves, and other necessary tools.

**The Mandala Group** will meet Monday June 10<sup>th</sup> at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**Bible and Brew** will meet at the Trestle Stop in Hamilton on Monday June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. We often ponder very deep questions such as *is a hot dog really a sandwich?*

**Coffee for Vets** will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup> at 9am.

**Graduation Party** for Maribella Armourillo in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.

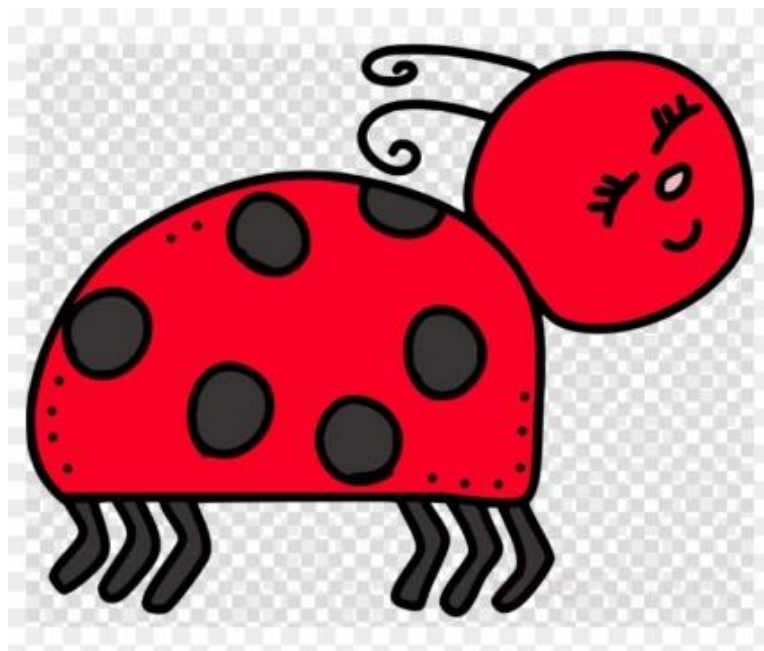
**Dinner Nite Out** will be Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. The place this month is TBD. We need a host for the evening which means you will choose the restaurant and let them know the number coming. The signup sheet is on the round table. We are also seeking a host for August through December.

## ***EVENTS CONTINUED:***

The Church Council will meet Monday June 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

The Book Club will meet Monday June 17<sup>th</sup> at 1pm (not the fourth Monday as we normally meet). The book we will be discussing this month is *The Little Liar* by Mitch Alborn.

Save this Date: We are planning to attend the White Caps Game on Saturday August 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Please reserve your seat now by signing up at the Round Table. Tickets are \$16 each. **Signup deadline is July 14<sup>th</sup>.**





## ***HOLIDAY EVENTS FOR JUNE***

**FATHER'S DAY** June 16<sup>th</sup>. It was proposed by Sonora Smart Dodd in 1909 and the first celebration was held in the YMCA in the Spokane Washington in 1910. Her Father was a Civil War Veteran who raise his six children as a single parent. Sonora felt that since we had a day to celebrate Mothers, we should also have a day to celebrate Fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of Fathers on our society. Over the following years there were several attempts to make it an official National Holiday by President Woodrow Wilson, President Calvin Coolidge, and Maine Senator Margaret Chase Smith. But Congress felt it was simply a commercial ploy and rejected the idea. Finally President Lyndon Johnson issued a presidential proclamation in 1966 declaring the third Sunday in June as Father's Day and President Richard Nixon signed it into law on April 24, 1972. So *Happy Fathers Day*.



**FLAG DAY** June 14<sup>th</sup>. Established June 14, 1777 by the Second Continental Congress. The Resolution states *"That the Flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new consellation"*. A Grade School teacher named Bernard Cigrand pushed to observe Flag Day at Stoney Hill School in Waubeka Wisconsin in 1885. He later moved to Chicago and continued to promote the recognition of the Flag in the schools. Finally on the third Saturday in June of 1894 the Chicago Public School system celebrated Flag Day with 300,000 children participating. President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation in 1916 that officially established June 14 as Flag Day. Congress approved the vote declaring it a National Holiday on August 3, 1949. At one point in 1795 we added two additional stars and stripes for a total of fifteen stars and stripes for Kentucky and Vermont. However, by 1818 it was decided that adding an additional stripe for each new state would make the flag totally unwieldy so Congress passed an act



returning the flag to thirteen stripes representing the thirteen original colonies. Pastor Chris is also proud to note that June 14<sup>th</sup> is celebrated as the birthday of the U.S. Army. The American Continental Army was approved June 14, 1775.



## **FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE - MARYANN FUSILLO RN BSN**

What is a Faith Community Nurse? A Faith Community Nurse ( FCN) is a licensed , registered nurse who practices wholistic health for self, individuals and the community using nursing knowledge combined with spiritual care. FCNs function in paid and unpaid positions as members of the pastoral team in a variety of religious faiths, cultures and countries. The focus of a Faith Community Nurse's work is on the intentional care of the spirit , assisting the members of the Faith community and other faith-based organizations to maintain and /or regain wholeness of body, mind and spirit. ( Westberg Institute, 2024)

Six years ago , upon completion of the 34 hour Foundations in Faith Community Nursing I began my role at Immanuel. What activities do I do as an FCN? I do Communion Visits and I do phone calls and texts to members experiencing health challenges. I've planned presentations on grief and loss, suicide prevention , active shooter in the church and a presentation on a meditation through coloring mandalas. I lead our church book group and Hearts and Hands. I've initiated gift making by the Sunday school students for the home based members to help them learn to care for people who are Immanuel members but cannot attend church in person.

I'm a member of the Lakeshore Parish Nurses and attend monthly meetings. I'm also a member of the Lutheran Faith Community Nurses and attend the continuing education presentation they provide.





Would you please manually write these Updates and Additions into your current Directories. All updates will be printed in the yearly update coming out in December. If anyone has updates, additions, or corrections, please contact me by phone, text, or email. I will make sure they get in the new Update.

Pam Kraai (616)566-8300 or [pawbk22@gmail.com](mailto:pawbk22@gmail.com)

#### **CORRECTIONS:**

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Laura Beckwith  
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Dawn Doornhaag  
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#### **ADDITION:**

Emily Ottinger  
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## ***SPECIAL EVENTS***

**Maribella Armourillo** is a 17 year old senior that is graduating with high honors on May 30th. She plans to pursue a degree in the medical field and has been selected into the premed program, Lyman Briggs at Michigan State University. Maribella has grown up at Immanuel Lutheran Church. She was baptized, confirmed and communed at Immanuel. The church and the members have always been a great support for her! Thank you! Maribella danced for many years and excelled at Jestina's Dance Studio. She had a traumatic knee injury with the timing and extent made it so she couldn't continue her senior year. Maribella loves the beach, Starbucks, painting, and hanging out with friends and family. She plans to spend the summer doing all of those fun things before heading to college in the fall. Please join us on June 8, from 3-6:30pm to celebrate all she has accomplished. *This is just the beginning.*



### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:**

We at Immanuel are well known for our enjoyment of a party, and especially when it is celebrating the official welcome of these special new members into our church family. Welcome to Mike and Karen Acosta; Jim and Marie Combs; Mike and Sharon Aksamit.



**RUMMAGE SALE:** This year we received a total of \$1,092.94 that will go toward the Backpack Ministry. Our thanks to all those that helped out this year and especially to Michele Radke who spearheaded the project.

