

JULY 2024



Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA
631 Grand Street, Allegan Michigan



Renee Steffey - July 3
Maribella Armourillo - July 9
Gerald Armourillo - July 11
Maryann Fusillo - July 14
Lennon Goodyke - July 17
Grady Armourillo - July 19
Shepherd VanMelle - July 23
Jeremy Vance - July 29



Harold & Renee Steffey - July 3
Ken Kinsey & Dottie Steffey - July 10
Michael & Laura Wathen - July 15
Michael & Sharon Aksamit - July 26

Worship VOLUNTEERS FOR JULY

July 7

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

July 14

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

July 21

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

July 28

- Assistant - Mike Fusillo
- Reader - Sharon Aksamit
- Counters - Joyce Davis & Jim Combs
- Flowers - **OPEN**
- Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs



Pastor's Page, July 2024: New Folks, Part 2: We're Not Who We Were

*See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth, I tell you of them.*

- Isaiah 42:9

Last month, I began my pastor's page with these words:

"... 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."

Upon further reflection, when we consider folks who have returned and new folks who have not joined but worship with us regularly, that statistic jumps to over one-third.

That means that "we" aren't necessarily "us" anymore.

What? 😏

When many members of the congregation refers to "us" as a congregation, I'm not sure anyone's picture of the congregation is entirely accurate. "We don't like this" or "we think like that" or "we've done this / we've never done that" may not be the case.

To be sure, congregations have a culture, and folks who dislike the culture of a congregation will probably not stick around for more than a worship service or two.

Going even farther back in my pastor's pages (to May 2022!), I wrote that God is doing a new thing at Immanuel – more than two years later, it feels even more true. It's exciting.

And it means change. New people won't all think the same way, and they won't know the patterns or have the same expectations.

You may look around one Sunday morning and not recognize everyone in worship, and that's a good thing. 😊

We aren't the same as we were three years ago. And that's a blessing from God.

SDG,

Pr. Chris

A note about our sermon series:

I decided several months ago to take some time this summer to preach a sermon series on the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20 & Deuteronomy 5). Luther believed that the Ten Commandments were the foundation of Christian teaching – it's the beginning of his catechisms and he believed that every Christian, even the "young and unlettered," should have them memorized. He taught that preachers should preach on them regularly, and I've decided that a review of the basics never hurts. I'm not preaching them in order, as I am trying to choose the Commandment based on the readings (though I admit that they don't always align perfectly... or even at all... 😊). Here's what I've done and what I plan to do:

02 June: 3 rd Commandment	09 June: 2 nd Commandment	16 June: 9 th and 10 th Commandments
23 June: 1 st Commandment	07 July: 4 th Commandment	14 July: 5 th Commandment
21 July: 6 th Commandment	28 July: 7 th Commandment	11 August: 8 th Commandment

Different traditions interpret (break down) the Ten Commandments differently:

Jewish

1. I am the LORD your God.
2. You shall have no other gods.
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not kill.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire anything that is your neighbor's.

Lutheran¹

1. You shall have no other gods.
2. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God.
3. Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not murder.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

Other Protestants²

1. You shall have no other gods.
2. You shall not make for yourself a graven image.
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not kill.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire anything that is your neighbor's.

Notes:

My travels:

While I will lead worship at Immanuel every Sunday in July, I return from vacation on 6 July and leave for Army duty after worship on 28 July. I will be gone for vacation on 30 June and 01 September and for Army duty on 08 August. At that time, Pastor Vicky Blough will supply for me.

If you should see what appears to be a random digital watch sitting outside our glass doors in the sun, please leave it there and do not block it from the sun – this is Pastor’s watch, and it charges in the sun. 😊

We’ve restarted an old practice to see how it goes: prayer partner letters! The bishop’s office publishes a quarterly list of congregations they call the “synod prayer partners,” offering every other congregation in the synod the opportunity to pray for them (the list moves alphabetically by city name). We will also send each congregation (one per week) a letter to let that congregation know that we prayed for them. These letters will be on the rectangular table, under the sacraments stained-glass window. If you feel so moved, please sign the letter on your way into or out of worship.

The children’s Sunday school is collecting used greeting cards for an upcoming project. Please bring any cards to the basket on the round table.

As the weather is warmer (at times, much warmer), Pastor’s office door may be closed when he is in his office. It’s not that he doesn’t like you or doesn’t want visitors or has suddenly become anti-social; it’s just that he’s trying to keep the air conditioning in his office. Please feel free to knock.

We will continue our backpack ministry this summer! Dawson and North Ward have responded, and they have requested the following supplies:

North Ward	Dawson
Pencils	1 pair Fiskar Scissors
Glue sticks	10 glue sticks
Crayons (16 count)	2 boxes of Crayola broad-tipped markers
Markers	2 boxes of Crayola crayons
Colored pencils	2 highlighters
Spiral Bound Notebooks	1 set of black, low-odor dry erase markers
Highlighters	2 large boxes of tissues
	2 containers of Clorox disinfecting wipes
	1 container of hand sanitizer
	1 Spiral Notebooks (70 sheets)

You are welcome to leave these supplies in the large blue tote next to the mailboxes or donate to “backpacks” in your normal Sunday offering.

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 alternating Tuesdays 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 July 16th and July 30th. Bring rakes, gloves, and other necessary tools.

THE BOOK CLUB will meet Monday July 22nd at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall. Watch the Sunday bulletin for the name of this month's book.

BIBLE AND BREW will meet at the Trestle Stop in Hamilton on Monday July 8th at 6pm. We invite you to bring a friend as we enjoy some good food, lively fellowship, and some interesting questions and answers. See article on the next page.

Coffee for Vets will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday July 9th at 9am.

Dinner Nite Out will be Saturday July 20th at 5:30pm. The hosts for this month are Jim and Sandi Horwath. Watch the Sunday bulletin for details. We need hosts for the upcoming months which means you will choose the restaurant and let them know the number coming. The signup sheet is on the round table.

The Church Council meets Monday July 15th at 6:30pm.

EVENTS CONTINUED:

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

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC will be on August 11th. There is a brochure with a map on the back on the signup table. Always a fun day and we hope to see everyone there.

The Birth of Beer and it's Biblical Impressions:

First let's roll back time to the cradle of civilization, where the earliest traces of beer were discovered. Ancient Sumer (now Southern Iraq) is home to the earliest known recipe for beer. This beverage was an integral part of society, and it was revered as a gift from the gods. And here is where the Biblical connection comes in. In the Bible, there's no specific word for *beer*. However, that doesn't mean it was absent. Numerous verses refer to *strong drink* or *fermented beverages* other than wine, and historians believe this could include beer. The keyword *Beer in the Bible* takes on a new meaning when we understand the cultural context of these biblical times.



HOLIDAY EVENT FOR JULY



THIS HOLIDAY commemorates the passage of the *Declaration of Independence* by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. The Congress had voted in favor of independence from England on July 2nd, but did not actually complete the process of revising the *Declaration of Independence*, originally drafted by Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and William Livingston, until two days later.

In the early stages of the revolutionary movement in the colonies during the 1760s and early 1770s, patriots used such celebrations to proclaim their resistance to Parliament's legislation while lauding King George III as the real defender of English liberties. However, the marking of the first days of independence during the summer of 1776 actually took the form in many towns of a mock funeral for the king, whose *death* symbolized the end of monarchy and tyranny, and the rebirth of liberty.





JOYFUL SUMMER EVERYONE

If you would, 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

CORRECTIONS:

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Laura Beckwith
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Dawn Doornhaag
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New Phone: [\(269\)676-2916](#)

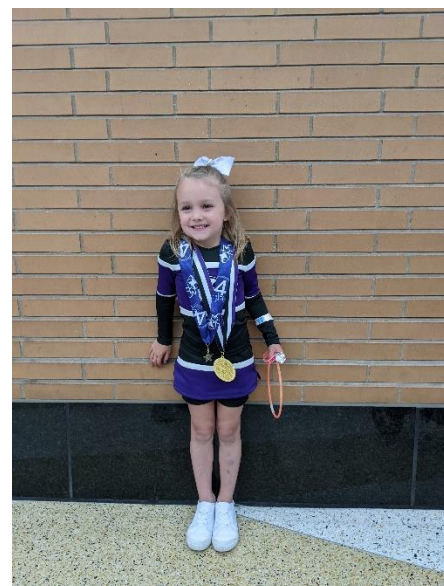
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ADDITION:

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OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Lennon Goodyke is age 4 and will be starting kindergarten in August at Northwood Elementary in Parchment. She enjoys cheerleading, gymnastics, and riding her two wheeled bicycle. She did play soccer, but as the photo clearly shows it is not her favorite thing to do. Her cheerleading group, the Richland Royalty, earned 4th place in the Michigan state competition for her age group. Her birthday is coming up on July 17th and she would like to have everyone wish her a *Happy Birthday*. Her favorite food is pizza!



Grady Armourillo and Carter Vance in their first doubles tennis match.

