



SEPTEMBER 2024



Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA  
631 Grand Street, Allegan Michigan



Isabelle Horwath - September 1  
Charles Scott - September 7  
Maren VanMelle - September 9  
Donna Moeller - September 13  
Shelley Busfield - September 15  
Aaron Rogers - September 15  
Carol Maidment - September 16  
Norma McDonald - September 18  
Craig VanMelle - September 19  
Hudson Vance - September 22  
Chloe Compton - September 26  
Sandra Rankin - September 26  
Ursula Armourillo - September 29



George & Donna Preisler - September 22

## **WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR SEPTEMBER**

### **September 1**

Reader - Linda Scott  
Assistant - Jim Horwath  
Counters - Laura Compton & Linda Scott  
Flowers - Mike & Karen Acosta  
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs

### **September 8**

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

### **September 15**

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

### **September 22**

Reader - Donna Preisler  
Assistant - Mike Fusillo  
Counters - Joyce Davis & Jim Combs  
Flowers - George & Donna Preisler  
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs

### **September 29**

Reader - Sharon Aksamit  
Assistant - Mike Aksamit  
Counters - Laura Compton & Ken Kingsbury  
Flowers - **OPEN**  
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs



Pastor's Page, September 2024, *Boundaries, Part 1*

*(This page will end abruptly because it begins this month and will end next month 😊)*

*“Or who shut in the sea with doors  
when it burst out from the womb?—  
when I made the clouds its garment,  
and thick darkness its swaddling band,  
and prescribed bounds for it,  
and set bars and doors,  
and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther;  
and here shall your proud waves be stopped’?  
- Job 38:8-11*

Long ago and far away in county by Lake Huron, there was a little congregation with a new pastor. Unfortunately, in a rural community, everybody knows everybody else's business, so when the pastor's wife ran around on him, everybody knew it. This pastor told his friends – who were also parishioners, members of the congregation – about his marital woes, apparently not leaving out much detail. These parishioners were uneasy about the pastor unloading on them, but he was their friend – could they turn away their friend, who was also their pastor?

They knew something was amiss, but they didn't have the language to describe what was wrong. Today we would say that this pastor had problematic or porous (of, in this case, non-existent) boundaries.

Over the last few months, I preached on the Ten Commandments, which are God's laws. They are also boundaries – they help us live safely together in community, like lines on the road, stop signs, and stop lights. Customs are boundaries. Expectations are boundaries.

But boundaries are more than that.

Think of boundaries as lines on a page for a young child. Will the police come for that child if he or she colors outside the lines, or writes horizontally across the page? No. It might be a problem if the child colors or writes off the page entirely and gets crayon, marker, or ink on the table, but there is no rule or law that says the child *has* to stay within the lines. But the picture or the essay looks better and is easier to read if the child stays within the lines.

Why don't you call me at 10pm? Because I set a time boundary when I asked you not to call *me before 7am or after 9pm*. Why won't you find an altar call or a rebaptism during a Lutheran worship service? Because Lutherans set those theological boundaries 500 years ago. What is one reason I don't post about politics on my Facebook page? Because the Hatch Act sets

political activities boundaries around all federal employees, especially uniformed service members (I also think it might do serious harm to my/our witness to Jesus).

This is why I wrote one of my first pastor's pages about how I don't have friends among my parishioners. I treat my friends very differently than I treat my parishioners (if you're thinking of the opening story, no, I'm not trying to tell you that I'm having marital issues – stay with me, don't get caught up in the example and take it too far 😊). I have strong pastoral boundaries when it comes to you – not because I don't love you, but because I'm trying to protect you, the congregation, and the Office of Pastor. Pastors who have porous (or nonexistent) boundaries can do (and often do) a great deal of damage to congregations.

Continued next month...

SDG,

Pr. Chris

Notes:

Backpacks 2024 was a huge success! We collected:

- 104 Notebooks
- 7 sets of dry erase markers
- 7 boxes of tissues
- 284 glue sticks
- 92 boxes of markers
- 54 scissors
- 104 boxes of crayons
- 58 highlighters
- 77 boxes of colored pencils
- 150 cards with a note from Immanuel on it
- \$250 Thrivent grant

These numbers include all donations of supplies and money prior to Sunday, 18 August, the morning we packed backpacks (I was not able to count the things that came in on Sunday morning).

We packed 140 backpacks full of supplies.

We delivered them to North Ward (Monday, 19 August) and Dawson (Tuesday, 20 August).

We raised \$1,460.94 this year and carried over \$273.37 from last year for a total of \$1,734.31; we also carried over a few supplies from last year. Going into next year, we will carry over more supplies and \$0.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU! The schools were very grateful for our donations, and the supplies will now go to students who need them.



## ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

**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:** Everyone willing and able to join us for ONE hour on alternating Tuesdays of each month to tend to some landscaping around the church is invited to come. For the summer months we will try to beat the heat and meet at 9am and end at 10am with coffee and fellowship. This month we will meet on September 10th and September 24<sup>th</sup>. Bring rakes, gloves, and other necessary tools.

**BIBLE AND BREW** will not meet this month because of all the activities at the Allegan County Fair.

**Coffee for Vets** meets on the second Tuesday of every month in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and fellowship. If you know of a Vet who might like to participate, please invite them.

**HEARTS AND HANDS** meets Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you are able to knit or crochet you are needed as part of this group. We create items needed in our community such as baby blankets, slippers, hats, gloves, scarves, etc. If you have questions please check with Maryann Fusillo. Hope to see you there.

**OFFICE HOURS DURING FAIR WEEK:** September 9<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> the office will close at 12:30pm to give me time to get to my volunteer post at the Historical Village by 1pm.

**SCAM ALERT:** Some local churches have received emails supposedly from their pastor requesting gift cards or other donations. Pastor Chris stresses that he will *NEVER* make such a request. **DO NOT REPLY!**

## ***EVENTS CONTINUED:***

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS** will be held at the church Sunday afternoon the 15<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Pastor says it will be "rain or shine" and "you are welcome to bring whatever pet you have that will not get away from you or harm someone". This is always a special event and we invite you to participate. It is a good time to invite a friend or neighbor.

**Dinner Nite Out** will be Saturday September 21st at 5:30pm. The host and place are to be determined (TBD) for this month. We also need hosts for the upcoming months of November, and December. To be the host means that you will choose the restaurant and let them know the number coming. The signup sheet is on the round table.

**THE CHURCH COUNCIL** meets on Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** resumes on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and begins at 9:15am. We have planned for an exciting program and hope to see everyone there.

**BOOK CLUB GROUP** will meet at the church on Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. This month we will be reading *BRAIDING SWEETGRASS* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Come and join us.



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 you have any updates, please contact Pam Kraai (616)566-8300 or [pawbk22@gmail.com](mailto:pawbk22@gmail.com)

## **CORRECTIONS:**

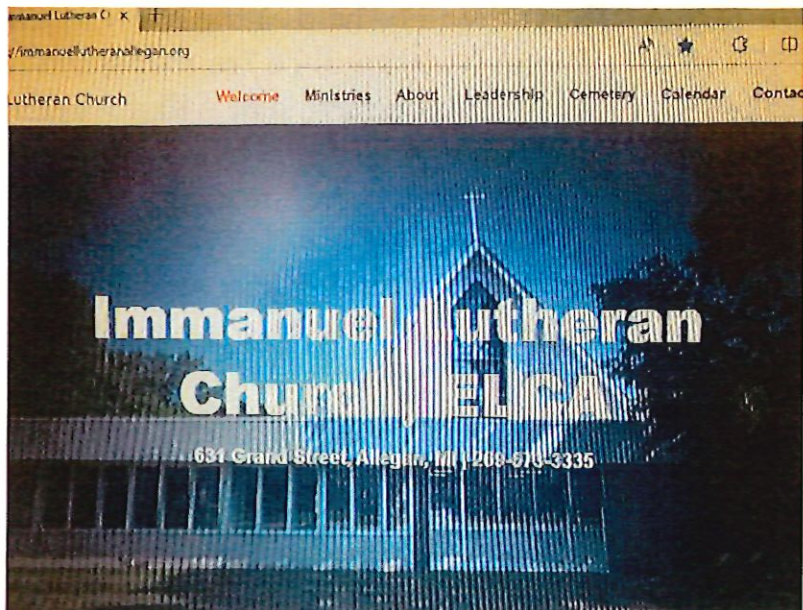
Pam Hopkins

2346 Aurora Pond Drive SW, Wyoming Michigan 49519

Cell: (269)447-0949 email: [pameladhopkins42@gmail.com](mailto:pameladhopkins42@gmail.com)

Ken Kingsbury email: [ken.kingsbury74@gmail.com](mailto:ken.kingsbury74@gmail.com)

## ***CHURCH WEB PAGE UPDATE***



**WELCOME PAGE:** Notice at the bottom of this page we now list the next ten current events. This is automatically updated every day.

**MINISTRIES PAGE:** There are several updates to this page that should be of interest to everyone. First, all the newsletters are available for 2023 and 2024, and this is updated monthly. Second, the worship services are posted for each service on *YouTube* including several back services. Space limitations will only allow us to post the readings and the sermon. Third, the Sunday Bulletin is updated every Thursday. Fourth, there is now a link to the brochure with a listing of all the activities that Immanuel is involved with (thank you Laura Compton for this). And finally, we are beginning to update the photo section. Please check it all out.

**ABOUT PAGE:** We have added two links to this page. The first link will open the 62 page History of Immanuel Lutheran Church (printed copies still available on the round table) and the second link is to the Synod website.



**LEADERSHIP PAGE:** This page will give you a list of the council leadership roles, a listing of the church staff, and a link to some special videos provided by Pastor Chris. All this information has been updated.

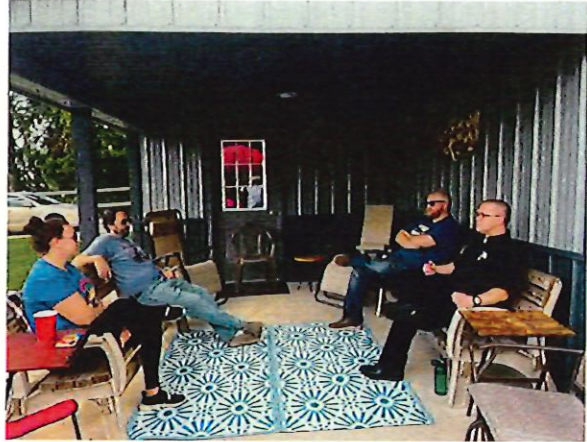
**CEMETERY PAGE:** The information has been updated and now there is a link to the *FIND-A-GRAVE* web site for *Sheep of the Good Shepherd* cemetery. This is a free program that is maintained by several genealogists. When the page opens, all you need to do is type in the last name and hit search. We invite you to take a look at this special program. It also gives links to some additional local cemeteries. If you have any corrections or additions that you would like to have made to your family, we will be glad to help.

**CALENDAR PAGE:** This has been completely updated and gives you the chance to see what is currently on the Church calendar for several months. If you are aware of any changes or corrections, please let us know in the office.

**SPECIAL THANKS:** This is a wonderful tool that we have for our congregation and we owe Pat Jones a huge thank you for setting it up for us and for taking the time to teach us how to maintain it. **THANK YOU PAT.**



# CHURCH PICNIC



# BACKPACK MINISTRY



# WINDOW REPAIRS

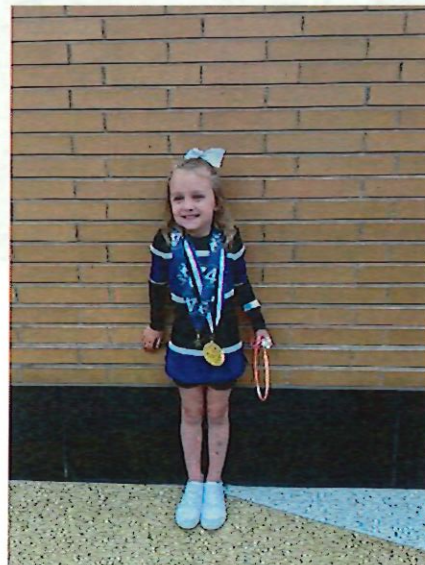
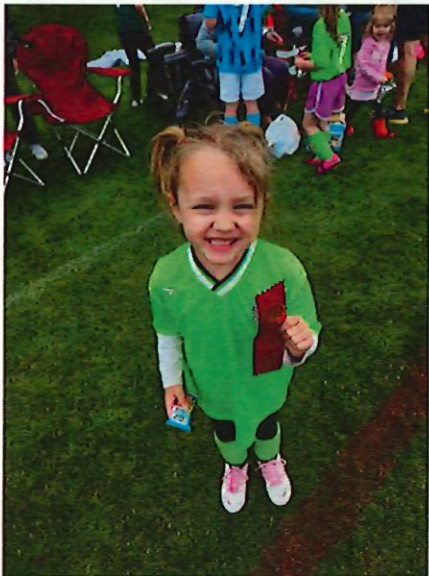


***BIBLE & BREW - ANNIVERSARY - DINNER NITE OUT  
@ HORWATH'S - WORSHIP***



## ***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 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Michigan state competition for her age group. Her birthday is coming up on July 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

