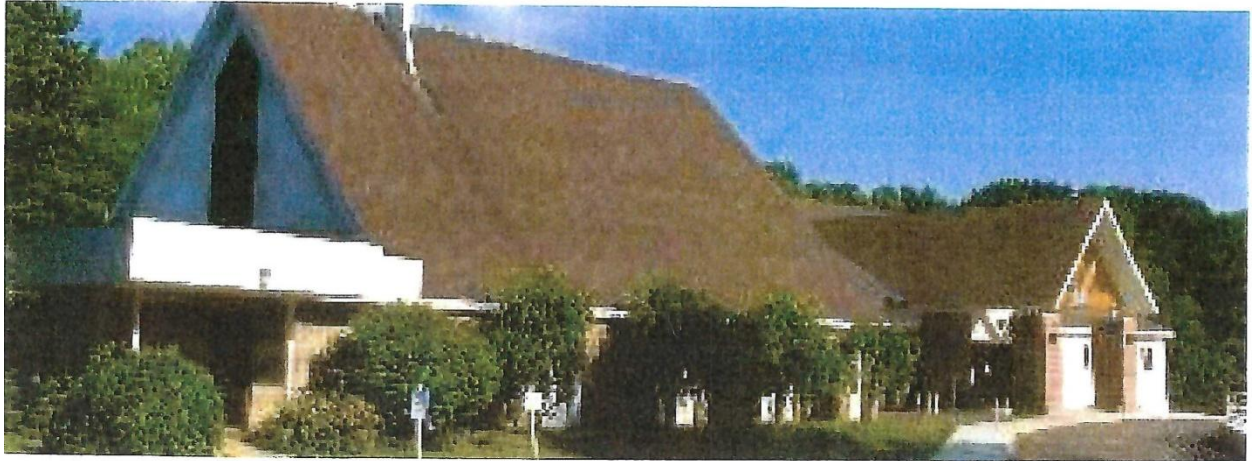




AUGUST 2025



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
631 Grand Street, Allegan Michigan



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Leland Shafer - August 2
Daniel Doornhaag III - August 8
Linda Havens - August 8
Jessica Doornhaag - August 20
Neal Winger - August 27





AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Jim & Sandy Horwath - August 3

Bob & Jan Teske - August 20

Immanuel's 147th - August 28



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR JULY

August 3

Reader - Michele Radke
Assistant - Jim Horwath
Counters - Ken Kingsbury & Linda Scott
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs

August 10

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

August 17

Reader - Linda Havens
Assistant - Mike Fusillo
Counters - Linda Scott & Sharon Aksamit
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs

August 24

Reader - Sharon Aksamit
Assistant - Mike Aksamit
Counters - Joyce Davis & Jim Combs
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs

August 31

Reader - Donna Preisler
Assistant - Rick Bierlein
Counters - Laura Compton & Rick Bierlein
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS: We really appreciate everyone that serves during our worship service and *would love to have more people involved*. If you would like to serve as a reader, worship assistant, counter, or greeter, please talk to Pastor Chris or Ken Kingsbury. We can be reached in the office Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 1pm.



Pastor's Page, August 2025: "Member(ship)"

What does it mean to be a member?

According to our congregation's constitution, a "voting member" is someone who has been confirmed and who has received Holy Communion and given a contribution of record in the current or previous calendar year.

Let's be honest: some non-members attend worship, and are more a part of the life of the congregation, than some members.

Early in my time at Hope Lutheran Church in Marlette, MI, a couple in their eighties asked me if they should join the congregation. I asked them if they were planning on getting married or going to seminary. No, they said, it seemed to be a little late for those kind of life changes. I asked if they wanted to serve on council or to vote at the annual congregational meeting. No, they spent 6 months of the year in Florida, including during the time of the annual congregational meeting. So, I promised them that we would treat them like members when the time came for their funerals, and we agreed that membership wasn't necessary. (Ironically, they sold their house in Florida several years later, decided they wanted to vote at the annual meeting, joined the congregation, and then Carl died.)

I'll be honest – I don't care *that much* about congregational membership (until someone I've never met starts demanding something that I give to members without question – like my time...) unless there's a reason to care. I've enforced rules out of habit, and that has definitely been a mistake here at Immanuel; I'd like to think I've figured out that's not as helpful here (and I'll just hope it never becomes a real issue).

If I'm going to continue being honest, however, it's been nice to add so many new members to our parochial records and report these last 3 years... and, we pray for non-members because, as I said (wrote) in a previous newsletter, we are a praying people.

But there is a membership that does matter: being a member of the body of Christ:

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.... ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.... ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

All people are created in God's own image (Genesis 1:27); all baptized Christians are members of Church, Christ's Body on earth. That's what it means to be a member.

SDG,

Pr. Chris

The Prayer List as of 24 July 2025:

Raymond and Linda were placed on the prayer list by Norma.

Jeff and Mike were placed on the prayer list by Sharon.

Theresa (who was at Laura and Bernie's wedding) was placed on the prayer list by Laura Compton.

Pastor Julia Humenik is the pastor of Allegan United Methodist Church; she is helping to care for her mother, Cheryl, who has terminal cancer.

Nichole was placed on the prayer list by Michele.

Sara, Rae, Judy, and Philip were all placed on the prayer list by Maryann.

UPCOMING

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

Bible Study Group meets every Wednesday at 10am in the Study Room. We discuss the Bible Readings for the upcoming Sunday Worship Service.

Praise Team Practice meets every Wednesday at 4pm. Watch the Bulletin and the church web page for changes during the holidays.

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.



Zumba meets in the Fellowship Hall every Wednesday at 6pm and every Saturday at 10am, unless there is a conflict with a church function.



BIBLE AND BREW will meet Monday August 11th at the Trestle Stop in Hamilton. We meet at **5:30pm** for a meal, fellowship, and a lively discussion on random questions on a wide variety of subjects. It is a lot of fun and we hope to see you there. *Please note the time!*

THE CHURCH COUNCIL will meet Monday evening August 18th at 6:30pm. If you are interested in the activities of the congregation or have an issue you would like to have the council consider, you are welcome to attend this meeting.

BOOK GROUP will meet on Monday August 25th at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall. The book for this month will be determined at the July meeting. Watch the Sunday bulletin for more details. We welcome everyone to come and join us.

Dinner Nite Out will take place Saturday August 16th at 5:30pm. The place we meet is yet to be determined. This is a great way to visit different restaurants in our area. We always have a great time and lively informal discussions. If you would like to host and choose the restaurant for this month, or any future month, please see the signup sheet on the Round Table.

GOD'S GARDEN GROUP has been very busy and our property has been blessed with the fruits of their labor.



The cemetery cleanup was very successful and the new plants next to the church look great. The group will meet this month on Tuesday August 5th and Tuesday August 19th. Please join us for **one hour** of work to beautify our church grounds followed by a relaxing period of coffee and dessert together. Many hands make the work light. The sign-up sheet for refreshments is on the Round Table.



RIVER FLOAT & PICNIC at the home of Pastor Jim and Sandy Foster's River-house home Saturday August 9th. For those wishing to do the river trip please meet at 10am. If you are coming just for the picnic arrive by Noon. The address is 695 River Road, Otsego. There is a signup sheet on the Round Table and informational brochures.



IMMANUEL'S ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC will be held on Sunday August 10th after worship services at the home of Bernie and Laura, 1822 30th Street, Allegan. Hamburger's, hot dogs (are they a sandwich??), and brats will be provided, and everyone will be asked to bring a dish to pass. There will be a signup sheet on the Round table. This is always a great time for one and all. Games will be provided for the young and young at heart.



QUARTERLY ALL COMMITTEE MEETING will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Monday August 4th. We begin at 6pm with a light pot luck dinner and then gather into our respective groups for discussion. We normally have five groups: Worship & Music; Stewardship & Finance; Education; Property-Cemetery; Mission & Outreach. Everyone is welcome and this is a great way to learn what is going on in your congregation.

NEW BISHOP ELECT Julie Schneider-Thomas is schedule to be here at Immanuel on Sunday August 17th. She will be giving the sermon during our worship service and then plans to stay and help with the filling of the backpacks. This is a great opportunity to meet and get to know a little about our new bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod of the ELCA.



HISTORY OF IMMANUEL: In the mid 1800s, the area of Watson Township had an influx of settlers from Sweden. They brought with them their strong Lutheran faith, their love and knowledge of the Bible, a strong regard for the sacraments, and their profound love of their church. On August 28, 1878 they met in the home of Sven Peterson and officially formed the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sandhem. Over the years the name would change and eventually become Immanuel Lutheran Church. Therefore, this year we celebrate our 147th year of worship and mission to the Allegan community. Copies of our full history are located on the Welcome Table.



WHITE CAPS BASEBALL: It's batter up and time for our outing to the White Caps game in Grand Rapids. The game is on Saturday August 23rd at 7pm and, if you do not have your tickets, please see Bill Cronkhite. We look forward to this event as it is always a great time.



CHURCH WEB PAGE: If you have not checked out this valuable resource, you need to do so. We are *very thankful* to Pat Jones for creating this phenomenal web site for us, and we see that all the information is current



every week. There are tabs for *Welcome, Ministries, About, Leadership, Cemetery, calendar, and Donate*. We have recently added more information under the Ministries tab and includes the copies of all the monthly newsletters for 2024 and 2025, YouTube videos of the worship service going

back many months, the church bulletins for the past five Sundays, and several photos of church activities. The web site is <https://immanuellutheranalleган.org>.

SPECIAL THAN YOU: We would like to thank everyone who attended our wedding and witnessed our love and commitment to each other. A



special thank you to all who helped with setting up, taking care of the food and serving it and doing all the cleanup afterwards. The luncheon ran smooth because of all of your hard work and it is so much appreciated. Who would have known when I first walked through Immanuel's doors at such

a difficult time in my life that 3 and 1/2 years later, I would walk through those door again for a most joyous occasion. We are both so blessed to be part of the Immanuel family and to consider all of you friends.





Our backpack ministry project is well underway thanks to all of you! You've donated many personal care items, school supplies and also provided us funds. (The thermometer keeps rising!). The baskets keep getting filled up, and then emptied so we can fill them again!

There are still tags to be taken from our giving tree of necessary school supplies. Those are due back no later than August 3, to allow us time to shop for any items still needed.



By August 17 we will be ready to fill 100 backpacks for the middle schoolers! Please plan to join us after church, along with our Bishop-elect Julie Schneider-Thomas for a fun assembly line finale to this project. If you have any questions, check in with Sharon Aksamit or Pastor Chris.





ALLEGAN COUNTY NEWSPAPER: Immanuel Lutheran is in the newspaper rather often these days and below are some of the articles. We appreciate them for publishing these events as a community service.



Book Box on Grand Street

Immanuel Lutheran Church youth members created a Book Box that is available to all who wish to take a book to read or leave a book for others. The gesture can help pass the warm summer days and begin wonderful conversations. It was a group effort as the children painted and decorated the box then made it accessible to those walking down Grand Street near the Airport, or those who just wish to park in the drive and step over to the box. Youth involved: Front - Hudson Vance and Lincoln Vance. Rear - Grady Armourillo, Carter Vance, Isabelle Horwath, Willow Goodyke, and Lennon Goodyke. Not pictured, but equally involved - Emma Horwath, Lillian Horwath, Weston VanMelle, Shepherd VanMelle, and Maren VanMelle.

Tues., July 8, 2025, 9am: Coffee for Vets
Lutheran Church, 631 Grand Street, Allegan
ALL veterans who have served or are currently serving in our military forces can gather for fellowship with other vets, share conversation, and enjoy coffee and donuts/rolls. Please come and see what this is all about and share this with others you feel might like to come. Questions: please call (269)673-3335.

Children's Book Box – Immanuel Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church 631 Grand Street Allegan
Children can find free books in the Book Box constructed by the Sunday School Youth. Check it out.

STONEY LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP







HAVE A GREAT SUMMER

