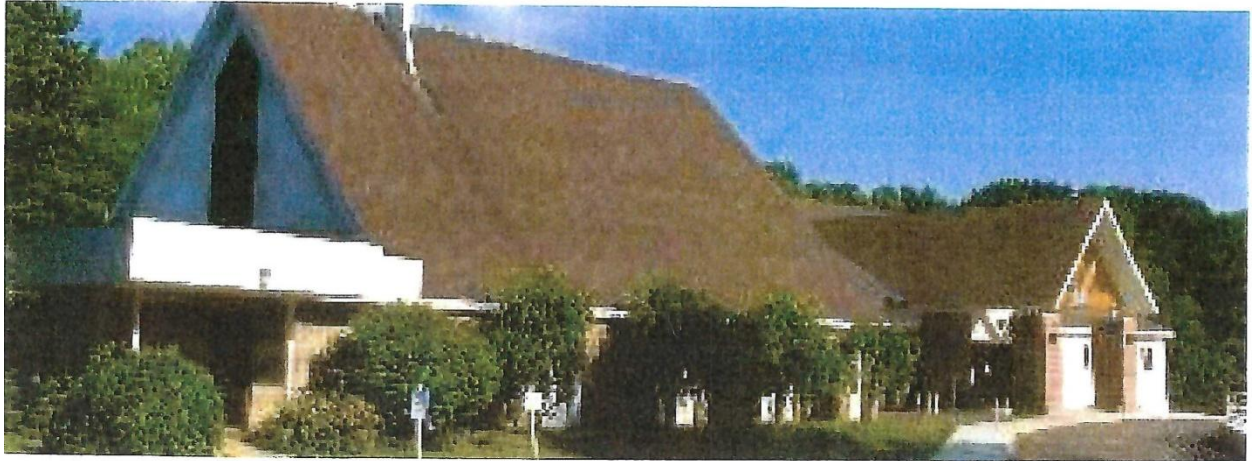




SEPTEMBER 2025

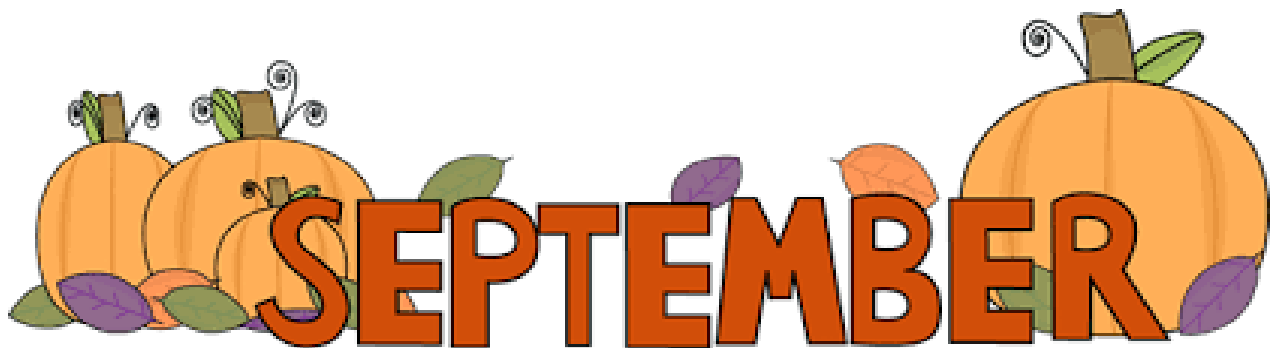


IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
631 Grand Street, Allegan Michigan



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Isabelle Horwath – September 1
Maren VanMelle – September 9
Donna Moeller – September 13
Shelley Busfield – September 15
Carol Maidment – September 16
Norma McDonald – September 18
Craig Van Melle – September 19
Hudson Vance – September 22
Chloe Compton – September 26
Sandra Rankin – September 26
Lisa Sandor – September 28
Ursula Armourillo – September 29



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR SEPTEMBER

September 7

Reader - Linda Havens
Assistant - Rick Bierlein
Counters - Laura Compton & Rick Bierlein
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs

September 14

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

September 21

Reader - Michele Radke
Assistant - Mike Fusillo
Counters - Laura Compton & Sharon Aksamit
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs

September 28

Reader - Sharon Aksamit
Assistant - Mike Aksamit
Counters - Joyce Davis & Jim Combs
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, September 2025: Gratitude / Grateful

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NRSVue

Wait – why am I talking about gratitude in September and not November, the month of THANKSgiving??? Because I have another topic in mind for November – a Reformation-themed topic. Also, because this gives you two months to think about whether or not you want to post something for which you are grateful every day in November... no, not really. (*Stay with me* 😊)

I mean, that exercise is fine, but why just November? Because you want to post about something else the rest of the year! Really, posting something for which you are grateful every day for a month is about reminding yourself and inspiring others how much we all have to give thanks... unless, of course, you're just boasting. In which case, please stop. (*Stay with me* 😊)

Notice, however, that the Apostle Paul does not tell the congregation in Thessalonica to “give thanks for a month.” Instead, he tells them to “give thanks in all circumstances.” Did he really mean *all* circumstances? Perhaps, because Paul was good at being grateful for the strangest things, as he tells the Christian congregation in Corinth: “Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ, for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:10)

While Paul was grateful for whatever he understood to come from God to further his proclamation of Christ, I am not necessarily telling you to show gratitude for hardships. I am saying that gratitude is a state of being. It's a Christian's natural reaction to all that God has given.

I know how hard it can be to be grateful when the world seems against you, when your suffering seems to have no point, or when life just sucks. And so does Paul. He tells the Christians in Rome to “weep with those who weep.” (Romans 12:15) and the Christians in Thessalonica to grieve and comfort *as those who have hope* (1 Thessalonians 4:13, 18).

In this way, Paul demonstrates that gratitude is less what we do or say and more of a posture before God, a way of understanding ourselves and our lives before, and in relationship with a good, holy, and beneficent God. In Christ, we have the hope to give thanks in *all* circumstances, knowing that God brings good from evil:

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. – Romans 8:28-30, NRSVue

I think, in the end, gratitude is also like a muscle that we exercise. The more we do it, the better we are at it, until it becomes a part of us. When it's a part of us, it's a part of our relationship with God. And in Christ, we worship a God who has given us the ultimate gift for which to be grateful: new life in Christ.

SDG,

Pr. Chris

Notes from Pastor Chris

Bishop-elect's visit:

It may seem silly, but it really would have been embarrassing if our attendance had been 45 when Bishop-elect Julie Schneider-Thomas visited. Thank you for packing the house. 😊 Special thanks to Izzy, who served as the bishop-elect's aide, as well as Carter, Hudson, and Lincoln, who went along with my slightly different timing when they cleared the altar.

Bishop's Installation:

You (yes, you) are invited to the installation of the Rev. Julie Schneider-Thomas as our bishop on Saturday, 13 September at Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids; the clergy are vesting in red, and everyone is encouraged (BUT NOT REQUIRED) to wear red for the service. If you are interested in attending, please let me know, as there has been a request for a head count.

Baptism!!!

The baptism of Scarlet Burnett is tentatively scheduled ("penciled in") for Sunday, 28 September, during worship. 😊 We look forward to welcoming Scarlet into Christ's family and Immanuel.

Education:

All Christian education (youth Sunday school, Confirmation, and adult Sunday school) resume on Sunday, 21 September. Youth Sunday school and Confirmation start at 9:15am; adult Sunday school follows worship.

Our next three confirmation fund raisers will be:

Sunday, 21 September: Bake Sale

Sunday, 26 October: lunch after worship

Saturday, 22 November: pancake breakfast

If you are able, please consider bringing a baked good to put up for a free will offering after worship on Sunday, 21 September.

Backpacks:

First, from Laura Feffer, principal of L. E. White Middle School:

Please pass on my sincere gratitude to the congregation. So many backpacks were given out today! [I'm pretty sure she means at the open house; this was confirmed by Izzy Horwath, who was also present.] It felt so amazing to be a school who does things like this. A true Mitzvah as I would say :) The leftovers will go into our Tigers Closet for those who missed open house or may need a backpack during the year. And the extra supplies and bandaids, etc. Incredible!! You guys are a blessing, Laura

Then, from me: THANKS SO MUCH:

- To all who donated supplies or money
- To all who stayed after worship on Sunday, 17 August, to help fill backpacks; I had a great time, and I hope you did, too
- To those who helped deliver backpacks to L. E. White Middle School and North Ward ECC; when we delivered the backpacks to L. E. White, Laura Feffer had to hold back tears and said something like "it means so much, right now, to know that we have people in the community supporting our students and teachers" (she all but kissed our feet).

It also meant a great deal to me how many of you came to hear our bishop-elect preach, and I appreciate that you interacted with her after worship. Thank you.

Pam's Memorial

THANK YOU to everyone who made Pam's memorial ceremony go so well. From the sacristy team to everyone who donated foodstuff or materiel to the luncheon to those who set up before, served

during, and/or cleaned up after Pam's ice cream social. It went as smoothly as I could have hoped, I know Deb was pleased, and her family expressed their gratitude.

Funerals:

First, I have included both a blank copy of the funeral planning worksheet and one that I have filled out for myself as an example (though if I were to die tomorrow, hopefully in some absurdly heroic way, it really is the funeral I would like). I have now officiated at least four since I've been at Immanuel funerals where the family expressed, repeatedly and often, how grateful they were that their deceased loved one had written down their wishes for their funeral.

Is death pleasant to think about? No. But it's coming for all of us whether we like it or not. So, I provide you with the same tools I use myself.

I have also included a copy of our updated **non-member** funeral policy, approved by council during our last two meetings. This is a result of the last two and a half years of people contacting me relatively out-of-the-blue with funeral / luncheon requests. And funerals, especially for people we or I don't know, are a fair amount of work. (If you attend here on the regular, but you're not technically a "member," this isn't intended for you.)

As you read it, it probably sounds harsh – and expensive. I want people to think about what they're asking us to provide, especially in combination. Wanting music from YouTube will mean commercials – do you really want commercials in your loved one's funeral? If not, I have to use my phone and speakers (did you notice the speaker roll off the pew in the middle of Pam's memorial service?). If we live-stream such music on YouTube, then we have to worry about legal (copyright) issues.

Also, to the "expensive" part. I plan to make sure that the folks who do the work are reimbursed. For example: if Joyce runs the livestream, she receives the livestream fee.

People don't think about these things when they plan a funeral; all they know is they're grieving and "(I think) this is what (loved one) would have wanted."

But I also want you to think: yes, this is just for non-members. But are your loved ones members of this congregation? Of course, as a active member of this congregation, your funeral will be what you want. But they won't think about these things in the way that you will because they're not here; you are.

NRSV → NRSVue:

In 1989, the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA released the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible, a translation that was an update of the Revised Standard Version (RSV, 1952), which was an update of the American Standard Version (1901), which was (sort of) an update of the King James (or Authorized) Version. I will spare you on why these updates were felt to be necessary, except to say that our English language has changed over

time (for example, the last words of the theme song to *The Flintstones* were “we’ll have a gay old time.”).

Folks like my mother and Craig Satterlee grew up with the RSV (it’s still true that Craig Satterlee will cite and/or read aloud the RSV because it’s the one he memorized years ago). I grew up with the NRSV. Is it the best translation that ever was or will be? No. Trust me, I know it has flaws (individually and paradigmatically). But it’s the one I grew up hearing, the one I studied in college and seminary, and the one from which I have preached and taught for 15 years, so it’s the one I know the best. It was also the default translation of the ELCA – they don’t mandate that every congregation use it, it’s just the translation of the resources they publish.

In 2021, the National Council of Churches released the NRSV Updated Edition (NRSVue; no, I’m not making this up [I’m not that creative]). Attending ELCA conferences / workshops / trainings, and reading the website of other mainline denominations, I knew that the ELCA seemed to be transitioning to the NRSVue, though its primary worship resource, Sundays and Seasons, to which Immanuel has subscribed since long before I arrived, was still based in the NRSV.

A few months ago, the NCC revoked the licensing agreements for the NRSV. You can’t even buy the protestant versions online (new) anymore. Our electronic and any new printed materials (Sundays and Seasons is both) from the ELCA have switched to the NRSVue, though most of my printed materials from the last 15 years are from the NRSV.

All of this is to say: there may be times when I stumble over the words of the readings. Bishop-elect Julie Schneider-Thomas’ reading was different than what was on the screen because she read from her own printed materials not our screen. I don’t hate the NRSVue, I just don’t know it yet, and it may be a little while (or a few decades 😊) before I learn it (Craig Satterlee says I never will, that the NRSV is too much a part of me).

Nursery attendant:

Makayla Slater came to our Memorial Day luncheon, and when I spoke to her, I learned that she loves children, and after some conversations and meetings: she has accepted our offer to be our nursery attendant starting on the first Sunday in September. Some of you saw her when she stopped by to meet us one Sunday before worship in August. When you see her, please greet her warmly.

Funeral Luncheons

Members do not die on a schedule, but when they die, they sometimes turn to us for a service and a funeral luncheon. (See above and included information on funerals.) Would you be willing to have your name on a list (or, if we have enough volunteers, one of two lists) to provide foodstuffs and / or supplies for member funerals? We’ll probably continue, if at all possible, to have sign-up sheets for set up, break down, and serving.

Norma:

Have you ever been standing at the kitchen sink, doing dishes, up to your elbows in sudsy water, and someone (like your spouse or a child) wants to wash his or her hands? (In my house, this was particularly frustrating, because in this home and in our previous home, there's another sink just a few steps from the kitchen sink – no! go wash in the other sink! Rachel mostly leaves me alone when I do dishes now 😊). In a similar way, Norma asks that you try to avoid Immanuel's building on Friday mornings when she's cleaning. For example, she will shampoo the carpets once or twice a month, and it's best to try to avoid walking on the carpet when they're wet and / or drying.

Prayer List:

As of 24 August, these are the non-members for whom we've been asked to pray:

Katie, Joyce's granddaughter, and her husband, Tyler, gave birth to Elsie, but there were complications, and as I write this, Elsie is still not "out of the woods."

Julie and Linda are Norma's friends.

Jeff Johnson is an Aksamit brother-in-law and has MS.

Theresa is Laura Compton's sister; she was here at Laura and Bernie's wedding.

Pr. Julia continues to help care for her mother, Cheryl, who has a terminal cancer diagnosis

Nichole is Michele's daughter-in-law.

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

Carol was Marie Comb's friend who died just this past week.

I will be at the Rock Island Arsenal on the Mississippi River between Illinois and Iowa for Army duty, leaving on Tuesday, 23 September and returning Friday, 26 September.

I volunteered to host the clergy of the conference (Kalamazoo Conference, from Lake Michigan to Battle Creek, from Allegan to the Indiana border) on Tuesday, 16 September, starting at noon. You don't need to do anything, I'm just letting you know (we'll bring our own lunches).

We're ordering Immanuel shirts! Really, I'm running this as an experiment. Other congregations have shirts, I think we should, too! There are order forms out for polos, hoodies, and t-shirts. Sadly, I do not have prices yet because no one will give me prices until I provide them with a number (the more the number, the lower the price). 😞 If you're interested, I will have a sign up sheet on the round table as soon as I lock down one or two more details.

What You Want Immanuel Lutheran Church to Know about Your Funeral

Current as of 01 January 2023

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Date of Death: _____

Baptismal Date: _____ Marriage Date (if applicable): _____

Funeral Director: _____

Family Member Contact: Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Place of Interment : _____ Graveside service? Yes No

Flowers? Yes No If not, in lieu of flowers: _____

Service: At Immanuel At Funeral Home (Name: _____) Other Location: _____

Eulogies: Yes No

Holy Communion: Yes No

Scripture Readings and Lectors

Old Testament: _____

Psalm: _____

Epistle: _____

Gospel: _____

Special Prayers and Leader: _____

Music:

Hymns: _____

Special Music: _____

Prelude/Postlude: _____

Veteran: Yes No

Memorial Designation, if any: _____

Projection? Y / N (If yes, please help provide someone to advance the slides)

Funeral Scripture Suggestions

Old Testament

Job 19:23-25a *I know that my redeemer lives*
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 *For everything there is a season*
Isaiah 25:6-9 *God will swallow up death forever*
Isaiah 40:1-11, 28-31 *Comfort, O comfort my people*
Isaiah 43:1-3a, 18-19, 25 *I am about to do a new thing*
Isaiah 49:13b-16a *God will not forget you*
Isaiah 54:10 *The Lord has compassion on you*
Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-13 *Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters*
Isaiah 61:1-3 *The spirit of the Lord God is upon me*
Jeremiah 31:8-13 *I will turn their mourning into joy*
Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases*

Psalms

Psalms 23 *The Lord is my shepherd*
Psalms 42:1-7 *As a deer longs for flowing streams*
Psalms 46:1-7 *God is our refuge and strength*
Psalms 121 *I lift up my eyes to the hills*
Psalms 130 *Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord*
Psalms 143 *Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications*

New Testament

Romans 5:1-11 *Peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*
Romans 6:3-9 *Baptized into Christ Jesus*
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 *Who will separate us from the love of Christ?*
1 Corinthians 15:12-26 *Christ, the firstfruits, has been raised from the dead*
2 Corinthians 4:7-18 *We have this treasure in clay jars*
1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, 18 *We do not want you to be uninformed about those who have died*
Hebrews 12:1-2 *We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses*
1 Peter 1:3-9 *A living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*
Revelation 7:9-17 *God will wipe away every tear*
Revelation 21:2-7 *I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem*
Revelation 22:1-5 *The Lord God will be their light*

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-10 *Blessed are those who mourn*
Matthew 11:25-30 *Come to me, all you who are weary*
Mark 16:1-7 *The resurrection of Christ*
Luke 24:1-9, 36-43 *The resurrection of Christ*
John 1:1-5, 9-14 *The light shines in the darkness*
John 6:37-40 *I will raise them up on the last day*
John 10:11-16 *I am the good shepherd*
John 11:21-27 *My sheep hear my voice*
John 14:1-6 *In my Father's house there are many rooms*
John 14:25-27 *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you*

Non-Member Funeral Policy

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Allegan, MI

As of 18 November 2024 – Updated 21 July 2025 & 18 August 2025

The pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church will have the right of first refusal for all funerals which take place on the congregation's property. The Pastor's fee is \$250.

Notwithstanding #1, families or individuals may rent the property for a funeral and ask their own clergy to preside; in that event, our building use policy applies.

If you are not hiring a funeral director, please know that the following obligations are yours:

Grave site preparation

If you want a bulletin other than what Pastor Chris prepares, you are responsible for it.

Any music other than that played by a live musician

Music

Immanuel Lutheran Church's musician, Lori Querback, has right of first refusal for all funerals held at the congregation.

All music must either come from a hymnal or the family must discuss music directly with the musician. The pastor must still approve all music.

The musician's fee is \$100

Luncheons

The cost will be \$200 for the first 50 people and \$100 for each additional 50 people.

Funeral luncheons will consist of sandwiches, salads, and desserts.

Excepting extreme emergencies, the congregation may require one week to plan and execute all funeral luncheons.

If you would like to store food in our kitchen prior to the day of the luncheon, please note that the ongoing ministries of the congregation take precedence.

Grounds

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a congregation with active, ongoing ministries; those ministries take priority (backpacks, weddings, Christmas families, etc.) take precedence.

There will be no pets or emotional support animals in the building; service animals are permitted

There will be no smoking in the building and no alcohol (aside from sacramental use) will be permitted on the church property or in the parking lot. Thus, all funeral luncheons held in the fellowship hall will be "dry."

There is no "open carry" on the grounds of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

There will be no tape on the walls.

The janitor's fee is \$50.

Technology

While we can project the service, someone who is not the pastor must agree to run the PowerPoint.

If you would like a member of the congregation to run the projector, there will be a \$100 fee.

If you would like the service livestreamed, you must provide the person who will start and stop said livestream, and you are responsible for all copyright or licensing issues arising from it. If you would like a member of the congregation to run the livestream, there will be a \$100 fee.

It is expected that the party using the building and its content will be responsible for it, and will absorb the cost for any and all damages incurred during their use of the building and other contents. It is expected that the site itself will be treated with the utmost respect.

What You Want Immanuel Lutheran Church to Know about Your Funeral

Christopher David, 24 August 2025

Full Name: Christopher David Laughlin

Date of Birth: 01 February 1984 Date of Death: ☺

Baptismal Date: 11 March 1984 Marriage Date (if applicable): 23 May 2009

Funeral Director: A competent, committed, funeral director of character

Family Member Contact: Name: Rachel Laughlin Phone [I'm not putting in the newsletter]

Place of Interment: Fort Custer National Cemetery Graveside service? Yes No

Flowers? Yes No In lieu of flowers: Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA World Hunger

Service: At Immanuel At Funeral Home (Name: _____) Other Location: _____

Eulogies: Yes No

Holy Communion: Yes No

Scripture Readings: Old Testament: Isaiah 55:1-11; Psalm: Psalm 27 (yes, all of it, responsively by whole verse); Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Gospel: John 15:1-5; lector: James Smith.

Music:

Hymns: O God Beyond All Praising, WOV #797 for musician, ELW #880 for the congregation; Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word, LBW #230; The Church's One Foundation, LBW #369; all of the verses of all of the hymns (I'm dead – the least you can do is sing all the verses to my favorite hymns one last time)

Communion Hymns: Let Us Break Bread Together, LBW #212; O Living Bread from Heaven, LBW #197; You Satisfy the Hungry Heart, WOV #711; What Feast of Love, WOV #701

Special Music: No

Prelude/Postlude: Prelude: something soft & quiet in the background; recess during the closing hymn

Veteran: Yes No

Memorial Designation, if any: Memorial funds to ILC unrestricted (please don't let them sit unused for more than a year; can be used to pay the bills); ELCA World Hunger must go to feed people now, not into an endowment; also the ELCA federal chaplain scholarship is an acceptable option.

Projection? Y / N (If yes, please help provide someone to advance the slides)

The bishop will preach and preside because I'm a pastor and that's the bishop's job; don't worry, we've already conferred; I want a minimalist, inexpensive, functional bulletin: no pictures of pastures (with or without animals), birds, Scripture, or cute sayings; I have a sufficient amount of life insurance, so my wife can cater the memorial luncheon so that as few people as possible have to work my funeral.

Funeral → luncheon → interment (timing will depend upon the national cemetery's schedule); flag folding & presentation comes before the final blessing because the Church (in this case, the bishop) has the last word (ATP 1-05.02, 2-8, & 2-9; TC 3-21.5; AR 600-25)

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.

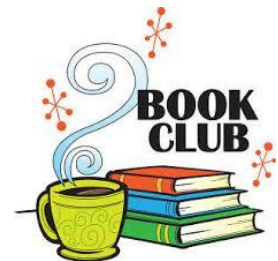


Zumba meets in the Fellowship Hall every Wednesday at 6pm and every Saturday at 10am, unless there is a conflict with a church function.

BIBLE AND BREW will not meet this month because of the Allegan County Fair. We will gather again in October.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL meets Monday evening September 15th 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 September 22nd at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall. This month we will have a discussion of *The Gifted School* by Bruce Holsinger. We choose the next month's reading at each gathering. We welcome everyone to come and join us.



INSTALLATION SERVICE: Rev. Julie Schneider-Thomas will be installed as bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod on Saturday, September 13th at 4:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids (2700 Fulton Street E.).



Dinner Nite Out will be Saturday September 20th 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 group will meet this month on Tuesday September 2nd at the church and Tuesday September 16th at the cemetery. 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.



CHURCH SCHOOL BEGINS: The busy summer is about over, and the public schools are starting back up. Here at Immanuel, our Sunday School will start back on Sunday, September 21st at 9:15 AM. Our teachers have been busy already with new and exciting lessons. Thank you everyone involved in the Christian education of our young people. Pastor Chris also plans to begin the Adult Study Group after worship on the same day. We all have an opportunity to learn and grow in our Christian faith. Join us!



LABOR DAY, celebrated on the first Monday of September, is a U.S.



federal holiday honoring the American labor movement and the contributions of workers to the country's development and prosperity. It originated in the late 19th century, amidst the Industrial Revolution, when workers faced harsh conditions and long hours. The first Labor Day parade was held in New York City in 1882, and it became a federal holiday in 1894.

THE ALLEGAN COUNTY FAIR, established in 1852, is a long-standing tradition in Allegan, Michigan, celebrating its agricultural roots and community spirit. It's known for its nine-day run each September, featuring grandstand entertainment, a historical village, and various attractions. This year the fair begins on Friday, September 5th and runs through Saturday, September 13th.



THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS, commonly known as 9/11, were a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks launched by the Islamic extremist group al-Qaeda against the United States on the morning of Tuesday, September 11, 2001. This single event brought a sense of horror to our nation, and to the entire world, regarding the extreme danger of terrorist groups. Similar to December 7th, the date of September 11th will stand as a very significant date in our minds, and our history.



BACKPACK MINISTRY: *We did it!* We collected nearly \$1,600 and we had so much donated in supplies that we donated 100 backpacks to the L.E.



White Middle School AND fulfilled a last minute request to North Ward Early Childhood Center for 30 backpacks. Our assembly line on Sunday, August 17, with Bishop Elect Julie Schneider-Thomas, was impressive. We had all our work done and cleaned up in less than an hour. I'm sending out a special thank you to Pastor who did a lot of on-line research and ordering as well as in person request at retail stores to ensure we could acquire all we needed within our budget. And also thanks to my Mission and Outreach Committee who helped organize,

deliver, support and help us pull off this huge endeavor. I believe nearly 100% of our congregation participates in this ministry in one way or another. A million thanks to you all, Sharon Aksamit.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE: We have added a couple of names below and will be making other changes to the directory soon. If you need to make a change to your listing or would like to have your photo included, please contact Pam Kraai (616)566-8300 pawbk22@gmail.com.

Bret Dagosstino
318 Cross Oaks Drive
Unit 5
Plainwell, Michigan 49080

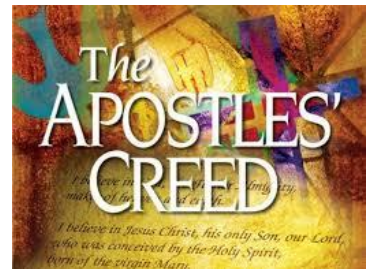
Michael & Susan Zeiler
3731 Baseline Road
Gobles, Michigan 49055

Cell Phones: Mike – (616)502-4608 Sue – (248)549-3946

Emails: Mike – mazeiler@icloud.com Sue – suezeiler@icloud.com



APOSTLE'S CREED: This creed was widely used as a statement of the Christian faith and likely developed as an expansion of the ancient Roman Creed. The title of "Apostle's Creed" is attributed to Saint Ambrose around 390 CE. This suggests the creed was seen as reflecting the teachings of the apostles (and implied that it may have even been composed by the Apostles) and served as a statement of faith at baptism in the early church. The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 says; *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.* Martin Luther even included the Apostle's Creed in his Catechism.



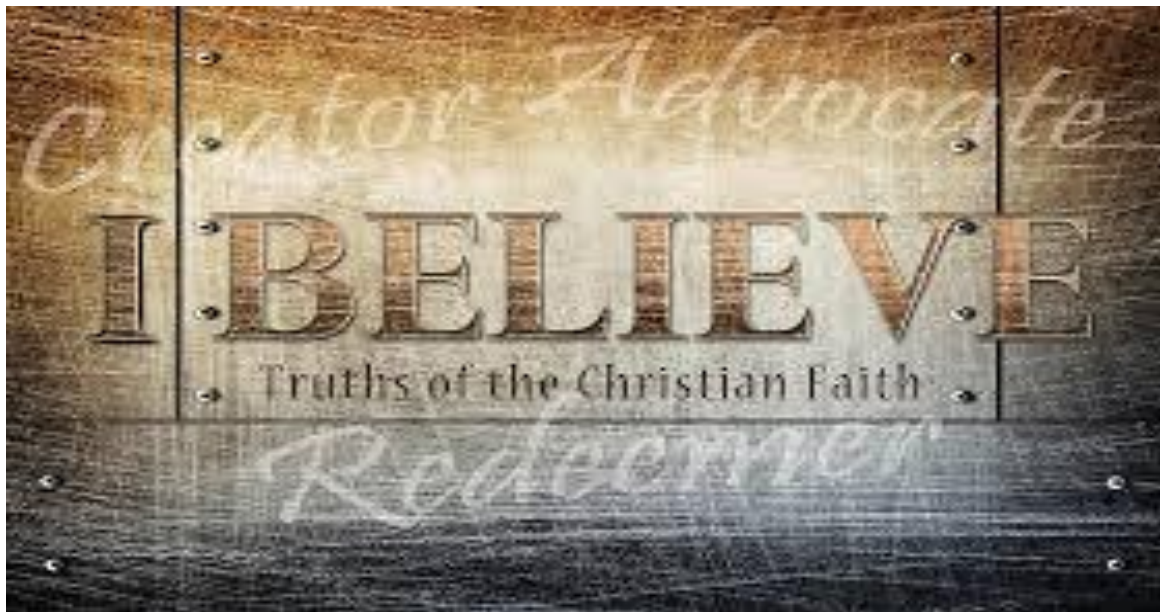
NICENE CREED: This creed originated from the Council of Nicaea in 325 CE. By this time there were many heresies that grew up with the new Christian community and it was their task to declare the true and Biblical faith. The primary emphasis in this creed is in the **TRINITY**. It begins with *We believe in One God.* Next the definition of Jesus is expanded to One Lord Jesus Christ. And He is *begotten, not made; of one essence as the Father.* Also, *Through Him all things were made* which means Jesus was part of creation itself. And finally, the Holy Spirit *proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified.*



ATHANASIAN CREED: This creed was developed during the sixth century and was intended to put an end to the heresy called Arianism. This heresy taught that Jesus was not truly divine. And this creed begins with the very clear threat that *Whoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the catholic faith.* The creed then goes into an exhaustive definition of the Trinity. *The Father uncreated; the Son uncreated; and the Holy Spirit uncreated.* Even so the catholic faith believes that *they are not three Almightyies; but one Almighty.*



And so it is that we confess our faith using all three creeds at various times. And they are the foundation of almost all liturgical Christian faiths.



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