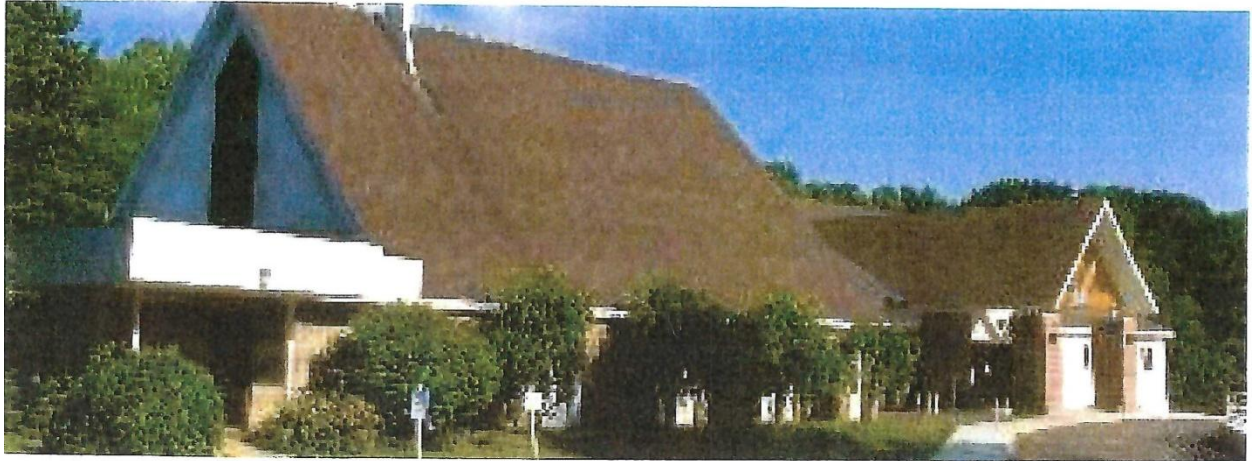




NOVEMBER 2025



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
631 Grand Street, Allegan Michigan



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Pr. Rachael Laughlin – November 1

Susan Ward – November 3

Denny Gorr – November 11

Pat Sweeris – November 11

Laura Compton – November 26



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Jim & Amy Battaglia – November 8

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR OCTOBER

November 2

Reader - Linda Havens
Assistant - Jim Horwath
Counters - Joyce Davis & Rick Bierlein
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs

November 9

Reader - Bernie Leneau
Assistant - Donna Preisler
Counters - Joyce Davis & Mike Aksamit
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs

November 16

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

November 23

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

November 30

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.



To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

- Paul, to the Christian Church in Corinth (1 Corinthians 1:2)

Concerning the cult of the saints our people teach that the saints are to be remembered so that we may strengthen our faith when we see how they experienced grace and how they were helped by faith. Moreover, it is taught that each person, according to his or her calling, should take the saints' good works as an example.

- The Augsburg Confession, Article 21, German Text, BoC (2000), p58

I've finally figured out how to put into words (coherently) what I've been trying to say for more than ten years. However, when I wrote this, it took several pages, so I split it into this reflection and my sermon for All Saints Sunday (02 November 2025).

Who's your favorite saint? My favorite post-Biblical saints are Lawrence, deacon and martyr; and Patrick, bishop and missionary to Ireland.

Lawrence, deacon and martyr, is said to have taken care of the poor and didn't run when he knew the authorities were looking for him (even though his bishop skipped town to avoid capture). He was martyred because he would not leave his charges.

Patrick, bishop and missionary to Ireland, was the first person to succeed in bringing Christianity to Ireland (there were others before him, but they left little legacy).

Over time, the stories around them grew and turned them into supersaints, but I prefer the true pictures as best we've been able to reconstruct them: flawed Christians imperfectly following

but trusting the One to whom they belonged – even (and perhaps especially) in very difficult circumstances.

Patrick almost certainly did not call down fire from heaven, drive the snakes from Ireland, or write “the Breastplate of Saint Patrick.”

Lawrence’s last words, when he was supposedly roasted alive on the grid iron, may not have been “turn me over – I’m done on that side.”

But a closer look at Lawrence and Patrick show followers of Jesus who were trying to be faithful in difficult circumstances. Patrick returned to the place where he had been enslaved, left “civilized” Roman Briton to bring Christianity to the wild, uncivilized Irish. Lawrence could have skipped town, but he chose to keep working with those who had been entrusted to him, those who needed him, those with whom Jesus identified (Matthew 25).

The Apostle Paul, far from perfect himself (see 1 Corinthians 15:9), writes to the very flawed congregation that he helped found in Corinth. You think you’ve been a part of some messed up congregations? Read 1 Corinthians 5. You think you’ve known some people with messed up beliefs? Read 1 Corinthians 15.

I find the real stories of those who have gone before much more inspirational than the stories of folks whom I could never be. I prefer the stories of real Christians who really tried and really struggled and mostly failed over and over and over again.

Because I’m never going to make myself a supersaint. I’m only ever going to make a sinner of myself.

It’s God who makes me a saint. It’s God who joins me to Christ in the waters of baptism and claims me and makes me his own. It’s the Holy Spirit who makes me holy by the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

I get myself nowhere; thanks be to God that it’s not up to me. Because while we are sinners, God makes us saints.

To be continued on All Saints Sunday...

SDG,

Pr. Chris

Notes:

Back in May, the First US Army (Support Command) scheduled our inactive duty training (battle assembly, drill) for 19 – 25 October. While I would normally sign up for synod events as soon as they’re announced, I told the bishop back in August that I would be with the Army, so I would be unable to attend her event 19 – 21 October. When we learned that training might be cancelled, I told Rachel that, if I didn’t go to the Arsenal, I would just stay home. She pouted at me.

Since I love my wife and would prefer to stay married, and since I wasn't planning to be at Immanuel this week anyway, and since the folks in charge of the synod event were (surprisingly) very flexible (they allowed me to register after the deadline passed, and as of the writing of this note, I still haven't technically paid), I went to our synod leadership event Sunday afternoon through Tuesday morning, 19-21 October.

Pancake Breakfast, Saturday, 22 November, 9-11am



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.

VETERANS LUNCHEON: This month Veterans Day falls on the same day as we normally have coffee for Vets so we will be having the luncheon instead. It will take place on Tuesday November 11th and the luncheon will begin after the Allegan Veteran's services end (around 11am to Noon).



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 on Monday November 10th at 5:30pm at the Trestle Stop in Hamilton. This is a great time to get to know one another better over a good meal and the individual discussion of interesting questions. Please come and join us. The signup sheet is on the Round Table.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL will meet Monday evening November 17th 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.



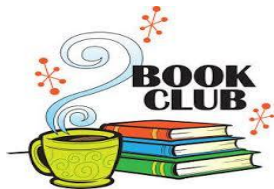
ALL COMMITTEE MEETING: We will be having our quarterly meeting on Monday November 3rd. We begin at 6pm with a light meal and then split into our various committees for discussion. The groups are normally Worship and Music, Mission and Outreach, Stewardship and Finance, Christian Education, and Property-Cemetery. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. Please come and join the group of your choice. We need your input as we make plans regarding the ongoing mission of Immanuel.



Dinner Nite Out will be Saturday November 15th at 5:30pm. The place is yet to be determined and, if you would be willing to choose the restaurant, please sign up on the Round Table. 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 any future month, please see the signup sheet on the Round Table.



BOOK GROUP will meet on Monday November 24th at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall. Watch the Sunday bulletin for the selection chosen for this month. We choose the next month's reading at each gathering. We welcome everyone to come and join us.



YOUTH PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Our young people are already making big plans for 2026 and they are having special events to help sponsor their special outings. Plan now to come to their pancake breakfast on Saturday November 22nd beginning at 9am. If the one last year is any indication, you are in for a *real treat*. There will be lots of pancakes (curtesy of Pastor Chris) egg casserole, sausage, fruit, coffee, and drinks. Donations will all go toward our youth ministry.





DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS at 2:00am Sunday morning, November 2nd. The purpose is to advance our clocks in the spring one hour in order to take advantage of the longer period of daylight during the summer months. This started in 1908 and has continued for 117 years. So remember to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night before you go to bed.

VETERAN'S DAY (also known as ARMISTICE DAY) is a federal holiday in the United States and recognized in several other countries around the world. It is a day set aside to honor everyone that is, or has served in the armed forces. It dates back to when, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, World War I officially ended. In America, the name was changed from Armistice Day to Veterans Day in 1954 at the urging of the major U.S veterans organizations. Pictured at the right is World War I veteran Joseph Ambrose (1896-1988) as he attended the dedication parade for the Vietnamese Veterans Memorial in 1982. He is wearing his original Brodie helmet and Doughboy uniform, plus holding the flag that covered the casket of his son, Clement Ambrose, who was killed in the Korean War.



THANKSGIVING: This has usually been recognized in many parts of the civilized world as a day of thanksgiving for a good harvest. It seems to have taken root in the 16th century shortly after the Reformation (1517). The first documented Thanksgiving celebration in North America was on December 4, 1619. On this day thirty-eight English settlers aboard the ship *Margaret* arrived at Berkley Hundred, Virginia by way of the James River. Their landing was immediately followed by a religious celebration of thanksgiving.



Most of us in the US today think of the story about the Puritans and Pilgrims that settled in New England in the 1620s to 1630s. It is not totally historically accurate, but has all the interesting elements that we tend to celebrate. According to this account, the Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony gathered in 1621 to celebrate a good harvest. The Wampanoag Indians, who had a treaty with the colonists, responded with alarm at the sounds of ceremonial gunfire. Since they were there, the colonists invited them to join in the festivities. After all, it was the Wampanoag Indians that had given the colonists food at the time of scarcity the previous winter. And so it is that we set aside a day to give thanks to God for the food that comes from a good harvest, for the good friends that we have in our life, and we include thanks for the many other blessing we have received from our loving God.

