

JUNE 2026



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

631 Grand Street, Allegan Michigan



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Tammy Reed - June 3
Michael Acosta - June 7
Dottie Steffey - June 7
Lori Querback - June 7
Marie Kutz - June 23
Michael Zeiler - June 25
Ezra Mintz - June 29
Amy Battaglia - June 29
Jim Battaglia - June 30





JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Daniel Jr. & Jessica Doornhaag - June 7

Russell & Joyce Davis - June 11

Ivan & Shelley Busfield - June 12

Neal & Joy Winger - June 15

Pr. Dan & Susan Ward - June 16



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR JUNE

June 7

Reader - Jennifer Vance
Assistant - Jim Horwath
Counters - Laura Compton & Nancy Brauer
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs

June 14

Reader - Bernie Lenau
Assistant - Donna Preisler
Counters - Joyce Davis & Sharon Aksamit
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs

June 21

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

June 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, June 2026: Things That Aren't in the Bible, Part VI: "Jehovah"

Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.' " God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

*This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.*

- Exodus 3:13-15

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF): "Jehovah" is not a real word that does not actually appear anywhere in the Bible.

You can take my word for it, or you can keep reading, but I warn you, I'm about to go pretty deep into Hebrew and translation issues.

This is how God's name appears in the Hebrew text that we call the Old Testament: יהוה?

It is a form of the Hebrew word "Is" (in English, "to be"), as God is both the source of *being* and simply *is*. He is beyond our ability to describe with words or even conceive, so when Moses asks for his name, a way to claim him, God refuses, and instead says "I AM WHAT I AM."

Our translations (and most modern translations) follow the pattern set by the King James Version – יהוה? was translated as LORD (see above from Exodus 3). LORD God and Lord GOD are variations on this theme when that word appears with other words.

Because God commanded us not to misuse his name (in what we call the Third Commandment, "You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God" [Exodus 20:7]), modern Jews do not pronounce this word, a practice that I follow. I use (steal) words like "the Divine Name" or "the Tetragrammaton" (which literally just means "the four letters"). It gets transliterated (brought from the characters of the Hebrew alphabet into the characters of the Latin alphabet that we use) as "YHWH" or "YaHWeh" (Hebrew did not originally have vowels – "vowel points" were added about fifteen hundred years ago, in this case, to tell the reader to pronounce

this word with a circumlocution - Adonai, or “my Lord”). To add to the confusion, since most Biblical scholars were German, it might have been “JHVH” or “JaHVeH.”

About five hundred years ago, Petrus Galatinus added the vowels from “adonai” / “my lord” to give us the pseudoword “Jehovah.” It was used to translate the divine name in the American Standard Version (ASV) in 1901 and gained acceptance from there.

This is why we sing “Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer” instead of “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” – because we like rest of the hymn, but the word was wrong, so we fixed it.

This concludes my series on “Things That Do Not Appear in the Bible” / “Things that Neither the Bible nor Jesus Say.” Next month, I will begin the series “Things That I Wish Were Not in the Bible or That I Wish Jesus Had Not Said.”

SDG,

Pr. Chris

Notes from Pastor Chris:

Retirement:

As I announced to the congregation on Sunday, 03 May, it’s official: on 28 April, the Army published my retirement orders, effective 31 December.

As I promised last month, I will include a brief note on what that means in each month’s newsletter.

Retired Soldiers go into what my orders call the “retired reserve.” This makes me eligible for Tricare Retired Reserve (which Prince of Peace will continue to pay – more on that later), but also means that, technically, the Army can recall me back into the active reserve (or even to Active Duty) until 2033. It is not likely, and the longer I’m retired, the less likely it is to happen. (It would take a HUGE WAR, and they would recall retired Active Duty chaplains before they would recall me, and ... well, I’m just making the point that while it is possible, it’s not very likely.) But it is important to know that I will still technically be a lieutenant colonel, meaning I can still wear the uniform, administer the oath of office, etc. I’m just on a different list.

Intern Kathleen!

Since the 1970s (or so), when we train our Lutheran pastors, we require two years in the classroom, a year as an “intern pastor,” and another year in the classroom to learn the Master of Divinity. You may remember Emma from about a year and half ago, as she supplied for me when I was not here. This year of internship is paid, so the congregations that host interns are the congregations that can afford interns, and Prince of Peace in Portage is one of those congregations.

Then the new pastor, having experienced a large congregation in that practical year, almost always accepts a first call to a small congregation that can barely afford a newly ordained pastor.

Thus, Pastor Rachel has asked us to host her intern, Intern Kathleen Robinson, for a week to see what ministry is like in a congregation much more akin to what she will serve in her first call and much less like Prince of Peace. So she will join us for Bible and Brew, Veterans Coffee (she is, herself, a Navy veteran), and then the following week, 15 – 21 June. She will preach on Sunday, 21 June.

Please do not mention her to anyone else. Aside from my pastor's report to council, this will be the only notice of her presence among us. I will not include her in the announcements and I have asked Ken to leave her out of all other announcements and calendars.

Next Youth Fundraiser

Following Confirmation on Sunday, 14 June, the confirmands will host fundraiser-lunch, just like we did after Danny's confirmation. At this time, we plan for this to be our final fundraiser for the summer.

Please note: every penny these confirmands (Carter, Grady, and Izzy) raise going forward will go toward the ELCA National Youth Gathering in July 2027 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Backpacks!

It's time to start thinking about backpacks!

Laura Feffer, the middle school principal, got back to me within hours and has requested very similar supplies to the one she requested last year; in June, we will begin to collect deodorant, brushes and combs, bandages, and travel packs of tissues.

I have also reached out to the elementary school, but as I write this, they have been slow to respond.

Wine Sunday

We will host our next Wine Sunday on Sunday, 7 June 2026. The sacristy team requests that you bring either Manischewitz or Mogen David, and I request that you bring it before 9:55am that morning.

Sign Dedication!

On Sunday, 28 June 2028, we will dedicate our new electronic sign in memory of Mike Melms. Our rain date will be 12 July (and if it rains both days, bring an umbrella 😊).

The Weather Has Changed!

I am not a fan of heat and I have control over the temperature in exactly three places: my home, my car, and my office (which also means Ken's office – sorry, Ken! 😊). This means that my room door may be closed in order to keep the air conditioning in my office and my office at a wonderful temperature. But if my door is closed, please knock! If I'm in my office and don't want to be disturbed, I'll close the blinds.

Prayer List as of 19 May 2026:

I added Bishop Julie Schneider-Thomas (recovering from a mosquito-borne illness), I added Bev Uetrict (liver disease), Joyce Davis added Jennifer L, Ken Kingsbury added Zandra Kingsbury, Donna Moeller added Gail Brindley, her neighbor, Meri Gorr added Barbara, Laura Compton added Linda and Vicki, Maryann added Jeff, Sandy Foster (Pr. Jim Foster's wife) fell and broke her ankle and elbow, Dennis is Dawn Doornhaag's brother (he has prostate cancer), Lynda is Lori's sister, Chris Brown is Sally Stiver's son-in-law, Pat Sweeris attends our Bible study, Dinner Night Out, and Bible & Brew and is having leg issues, Nicole Pearson is a friend of mine from college who has cancer, Kathy was added by Maryann Fusillo, Mike is Laura Compton's neighbor with Alzheimer's (and Lisa is his wife), and the rest are members.



Church Council Meeting Minutes 4/20/26



1. Call to order and prayer at 6:30pm.
2. Council attendance - Ursula and Trevor excused absence
3. Old minutes, 3/16/26 reviewed and accepted.
4. Treasurers Report - The Church accounts were hacked and recovered due to a non-credible check. We are opening a new account and the bank needs more of our info for it. Trevor has listed what we need to do and is closing the old account. We need the EIN number and who is allowed on the account, Trevor is recommending himself Trevor Horwath, Meri Gorr and Joyce Davis. Motion to add Meri Gorr and Joyce Davis to the Ignite Credit Union Account is seconded and passed. Norma has asked for her check 010380 to be refused and the amount added to the next check for a total of \$180 on the new check written. We will be asking if a police report has been filed by us and if the bank has started an investigation into the account hack. The Thrivent Fund is back in the positive side again this month. For March (after deducting the \$10,000.00 we withdrew) our loss was \$7,257.37. For April our gain thus far is \$8,562.85 so we are ahead. Our adjusted income for this calendar year thus far is \$7,703.81.
5. Noisy offering - Mike Aksamit and Jim Combs.
6. Pastors report - P. Chris spent a lot of time with John and John is not sure if he is going to restart his music gig after back surgery but is grateful that it's open. Rachel has asked if her intern can shadow P. Chris so her intern Kathleen will be with us 15-21 of June. P. Chris will be in an online course 12-14 May so no Sundays missed. His Oct 2026 trip will have no Sunday missed. Confirmation is 14 of June.
7. Committee reports
 - a. Worship and music - Shelley - The cleanup crew is joined by the daughters of the VanMelle and Horwath families. Joyce Davis says we have 6 loaves and 2 large bottles of wine. Meri Gorr is retiring from setting things up in the kitchen so we need to find someone else to make the loaves. We are back to music practice at 4pm on Wednesdays. We will be looking for a new palm supplier because Ecopalm delivered too early and the palms molded and died.
 - b. Education - Rick - Rick expressed concern for safety about the kids leaving service and will be checking/keeping an eye on them when they leave. We are wanting to do cake or something nice for the kids at the end of the year. Confirmation will have a year off for 2026-27. There will be new ground rules for parents, no cancelling at the last minute.
 - c. Mission and outreach - Sharon - The tigers closet collection went well. The picnic host Laura, need to revisit with her about this year, believe this is year 4 of 5 that she agreed to do, usually in august. For backpacks we need supply list before 1st Monday in May. We finally got grant money to feed and Sharon took fresh groceries to Grand Ravine, \$150 worth, and got certificates for 3 families. The blessing box gets \$200. We are exploring the possibility of a Memorial Day luncheon. .

d. Faith community nurse - Maryann - The AED has been checked and documented. March book club is moved to April. The salt dough ornaments are made and delivered to Sandy R. Keith S. and Dottie and Ken. The care team connected with members that have been absent for 3 consecutive Sundays. We will not get a BP cuff because we don't want to be liable and for the same reasons we are not going to do a life screening event.

e. Property - Mike - Dishwasher was inspected by Midwest Food Equipment and we don't need a new dishwasher, it just needs to get cleaned from time to time and new instructions have been posted. They inspected it, tuned it and removed the stuck debris in the drainage area, and we were charged \$145 for the visit. We will need to replace a rubber part from time to time. God's garden met 7 and 21, they will be working on the lawn and in may will do some spring cleaning at the cemetery. P.Chris will find the flags on the 4th of may, if he doesn't find them we can get them from home depot. Some trees may need to be cut in the old cemetery and will look into that in May. We are looking into a young guy Carson Wendt to cut the lawn \$75 for old/new cemetery and \$60 for church. He can also do tree removal: \$275 to get the tree into the woods or \$475 for complete removal, we have gone with complete removal. We have plow priority Wednesday and Sunday. Bill will call and tell the old people we don't want them anymore. The new guy Carson is insured and Carl will finish the sign stuff.

8. All reports motioned and accepted.

9. Old business

a. Youth gathering - July 2027 MN, registration open in November

b. Church camp payment Aug 2-7, \$500 per kid paid by July, motion for congregation to pay half with offer to sponsor is seconded and accepted. Willow will be attending camp this year.

10. New business

a. All committee meeting - May 4 @ 6pm - Sandi won't be there

b. Hillside would like to use the sanctuary for graduation and hall for mingling, graduation is in June. The rehearsal is Wednesday June 17 at 10-12pm and Thursday June 18 at 12-2pm is graduation. There are 5 graduating and expecting 80 to attend.

c. We will be putting chairs up on the tables for Norma, this can be done after bible study.

Next meeting 5/18/26 at 6:30pm

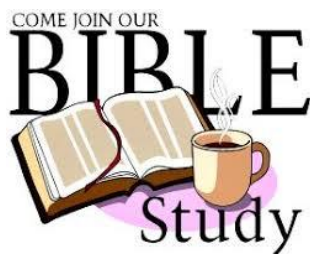
Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Quilting Group meets every Tuesday in the Quilting Room at 9am. Immanuel has been known over the years for our support and participation in the quilting ministry. These quilts are sent all over the world through Lutheran World Relief, including some for the homeless here in the United States. If you are willing, please join us for three hours on Tuesday mornings.



Bible Study Group meets every Wednesday at 10am in the Study Room.



We discuss the Bible Readings for the upcoming Sunday Worship Service. If you would like to be placed on the email list to receive an advance copy of the readings, please contact the church office. We always have a lively and interesting discussion and we encourage you to join us if you are able.

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 at 9am for coffee, cinnamon rolls, and fellowship. If you know of a veteran, please invite them to join our group. This is a great way for them to have fellowship and discuss shared experiences.

GOD'S GARDEN: This group will meet on the First and Third Tuesday of every month. Now that the weather has changed, we will work again on the church landscaping and the church cemetery grounds. We plan to limit our work time to about *One Hour* each day. Please join us if you are able as many hands make the work load light.



BIBLE AND BREW will meet on Monday June 8th 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 at 6:30pm on Monday June 15th in the Adult Bible Study Room. If anyone has a report to be presented at the council meeting, please send it to the church office before Noon and we will print copies for you. Anyone is welcome to attend the council meeting, especially if you have something that they need to know about.

BOOK GROUP will meet on Monday June 29th at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall. Note that this is the 5th Monday of the month. We will discuss the book *We Were The Mulvaney's* by Joyce Carol Oates. We always choose the next month's reading at each gathering so join us and share your favorite book. You will also find all the selections, including those for last year, on our church web page under *Ministries*.



DINNER NITE OUT: For June we will meet at 5:30pm on Saturday the 20th. We plan to gather at Joe Shmoes in Alamo Township and there is a signup sheet on the Round Table. If you are willing to sponsor the dinner for future months, all that is required is for you to choose the restaurant, make a reservation, and give a final count to the restaurant the week before the date. This is an excellent way for others to enjoy your favorite restaurant.



CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE: Please make the following changes to your directory for Sandy Rankin:

- Delete old phone (269)370-8726
- Change to new number of (269)686-5175



For any updates be sure to contact Pam Kraai at (616)566-8300 or pawbk22@gmail.com.

RUMMAGE SALE SUCCESS: There are too many people to name individually, but a special shout-out goes to our rummage sale leader, Michele Radke, along with everyone who helped make this year's sale such a success!



Thanks to your generosity and hard work, we raised \$858 this year – up from \$590 last year. These funds will go toward our backpack ministry.

Thank you again to everyone who donated items, helped set up, worked the sale on Friday, packed up afterward, or delivered the leftover items to Heart to Heart in Hamilton. Your time and efforts are truly appreciated!

WHITECAPS GAME: Spring has finally arrived and we look forward to what has become our annual gathering to see the game. Bill Cronkhite has reserved several great seats for the game on August 15th and there is a signup sheet on the Round Table. The cost is \$16 per person due by August 1st. This is always a fun event.



CONFIRMATION: We are excited to have Bishop Julie here at Immanuel on Sunday June 14th to be a part of the Confirmation of Carter Vance, Grady Armourillo, and Izzy Horwath. It will be an exciting day and the confirmands will host a luncheon immediately after the service. This will be a fundraiser for our youth ministry and we encourage everyone to remain for it.



DEDICATION OF OUR NEW DIGITAL CHURCH

SIGN: We have been blessed to have received our special digital sign out front as a memorial from the estate of Mike Melms. We plan to dedicate the sign on Sunday June 28th so please plan now to be present that day and stay a bit after our worship service for this dedication.



JUNETEENTH: is a holiday that commemorates the emancipation of enslaved people in Texas, specifically in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865. It's the longest running African American holiday and is celebrated to honor the freedom and perseverance of Black Americans. Juneteenth became a recognized national holiday in 2021. This year it is celebrated on Friday June 19th.



FATHER'S DAY: Sonora Smart Dodd was born in 1882. Her mother died in 1898. So, Sonora and her siblings were raised by her Civil War Veteran father. Upon hearing a rousing Mother's Day sermon one Sunday morning, Sonora decided to begin promoting a day to honor fathers. In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge began to urge state governments to recognize Father's Day. Finally in 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a proclamation establishing Father's Day as a national holiday. Therefore, on Sunday June 21st we honor those who serve as *Fathers* in our communities.

