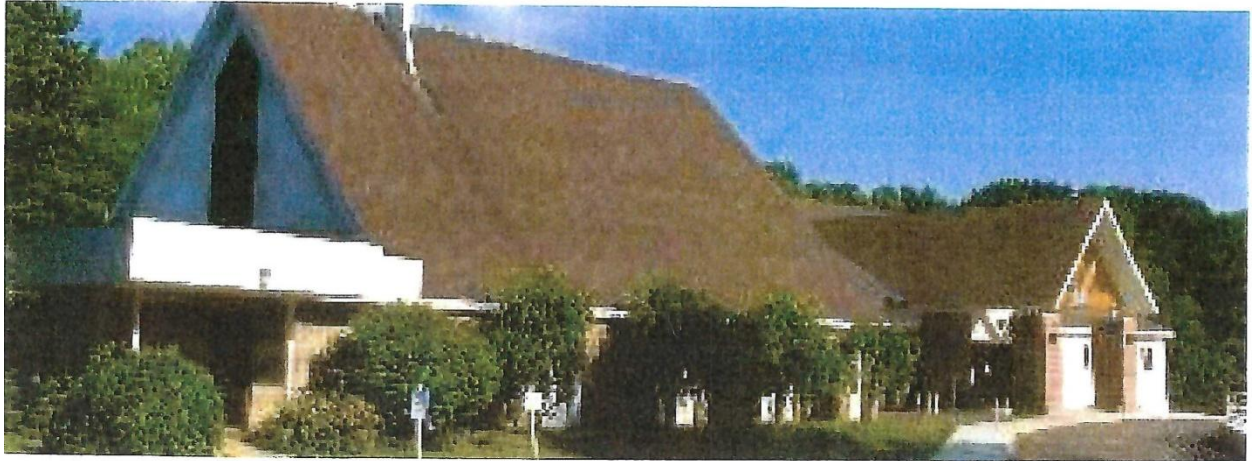




AUGUST 2026



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
631 Grand Street, Allegan Michigan



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Leland Schafer – Aug 2
Daniel Doornhaag III – Aug 8
Jacquelyn Burnside – Aug 17
Jessica Doornhaag – Aug 20
Neal Winger – Aug 27





AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Jim & Sandi Horwath - Aug 3

Alan & Lori Querback - Aug 22

Immanuel Lutheran Church 148th - Aug 28



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR AUGUST

August 2

Reader - Jennifer Vance
Assistant - Jim Horwath
Counters - Joyce Davis & Mike Aksamit
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs

August 9

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

August 16

Reader - Michele Radke
Assistant - Mike Fusillo
Counters - Joyce Davis & Nancy Brauer
Greeters - Jim & Marie Combs

August 23

Reader: - Bernie Lenau
Assistant: - Linda Scott
Counters: - Laura Compton & Jim Combs
Greeters: - Jim & Marie Combs

August 30

Reader: - Karen Acosta
Assistant: - Mike Acosta
Counters: - Laura Compton & Joyce Davis
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 2026: Things I Wish Jesus Hadn't Said, Part II:

Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

- Matthew 19:21

Yes, I definitely wish Jesus hadn't said this. Please note: I've never heard a pastor tell his or her parishioners to sell all they have and give the proceeds to the poor, and I'm not telling you to do this; you should be suspicious of any pastor who does.

And you might say to yourself: "but Pastor, Jesus was talking to a specific person in a specific time and place – Jesus *isn't* talking to us." If you were to say this, there would certainly be a way in which you were absolutely correct. It is also true that this is how the earliest disciples lived (Acts 2:43-47 & 4:32-37), and James has sharp words for the rich (James 1:9-11; 2:1-6; 5:1-6).

You might be thinking to yourself "well then, it's a good thing I'm not rich!" But the Apostle Paul clearly defines "rich" and "poor" as "those who have enough to eat" and "those who don't have enough to eat," respectively. Into which category do you fit? Because one look at the scale and I *know* my category.

And that's why I really don't like it that Jesus said these words – because there's no way around them.

We simply have to throw ourselves on Jesus' mercy, confessing that we are not living up to his standards here.

Good thing he already knew that. Blessedly, we serve a merciful God. Does he expect us to share? Yes. Does he know that we hoard? Yes. Does he want us to repent and lessen our grip on our stuff? Yes.

Sorry, no clean wrap-up this month. If you find this unsettling, I'm glad, because Jesus said these words, and I think we were supposed to find them unsettling.

So, "give the money to the poor..."

SDG,

Pr. Chris

Notes from Pastor Chris:

On Army Retirement, Part IV:

Since 2009, our health insurance has come from Tricare Reserve Select, and the congregations we serve have paid the minimal premiums. When I retire, I will no longer be eligible for Tricare Reserve Select, so we will switch to Tricare Retired Reserve. Prince of Peace will continue to pay these premiums.

Also, while I will have earned a pension, I will not collect it until I turn 60 (because that's just how it works for reservists).

My Travel in August

I will be at camp with Immanuel's campers from 2-6 August. Rachel and I will be on vacation 7-14 August, and Pastor Jim Foster will preach and lead worship for us on Sunday, 9 August.

Thank You Note

Intern Kathleen Robinson, who was with us in June and preached on Sunday, 21 June, wrote us this thank you note:

Dear Pastor Chris and Immanuel Congregation –

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly and allowing me to intern with you last week. I am truly grateful for your kindness, encouragement, and the chance to learn from your ministry.

It was a blessing to spend time with your church family, and I will take all that I learned with me, remembering this experience with gratitude.

With Sincere appreciation –

Kathleen Robinson

Bible and Brew

When Bible and Brew started, the questions were less “draw from a basket” and more “stump the pastor.” If you have a question that you would like the table to consider, you are welcome to ask it. 😊

Pastor Nicole

It is now public knowledge, and I want you to have accurate information from me instead of hearing it through the grapevine:

Pastor Nicole is in the process of becoming an Army Reserve chaplain.

This will mean that, at some point (*I don't know when exactly yet*), she will have to attend Chaplain Basic Officer Leader Course (CH-BOLC) for approximately 13 weeks. During that time, the bishop will help Hope find supply preachers for Sunday mornings, but there might be a time or two when they ask me to make a hospital call or officiate a funeral. I will assist as I am able.

On Inclusion in the Newsletter

You do not need my permission to publish information in the newsletter. I like to know that it's coming, so please include me when you ask Ken to publish it, but I don't want to become the guardian of the newsletter – it belongs to the congregation.

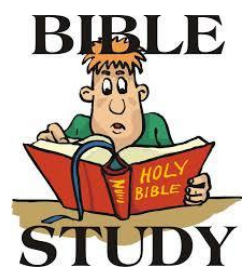


UPCOMING EVENTS

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. This was first instituted in 2019 by Bill and Jessie Cronkhite while Pastor Ward served as our interim Pastor. It has continued to grow over the years. If you know of a veteran, *please invite them to join our group*. This is a great way for our Veterans to have fellowship and discuss shared experiences.



GOD'S GARDEN: *Please take a moment when you pull up to the church to appreciate the beautiful landscaping.* We have a dedicated group that



meets on the First and Third Tuesday of every month. They tend to limit the work time to about **One Hour** each day. If you are able, please join us as many hands make the work load light.

BIBLE AND BREW will meet on Monday August 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. Pastor Alex Steward started this in 2014 as a Question and Answer program and it developed into this discussion group. Please come and join us. The signup sheet is on the Round Table.



THE CHURCH COUNCIL will meet at 6:30pm on Monday August 17th 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 August 24th at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall. For this month we will be reading *Thy Will Be Done* by John Garrison Marks. 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**.



WHITECAPS GAME: The date is coming up soon 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. We will need a final count soon so please sign up now. The cost is \$16 per person due by August 1st. This is always a fun event.

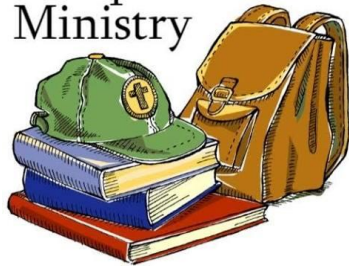


STICKING DOORS: With the summer months we must contend with higher levels of humidity. And that humidity causes our doors and frames to expand, sometimes making the doors fail to latch. As you leave the church building (especially if you are the last to leave) *please* insure that the door locked behind you. Thank you!



BACKPACK MINISTRY UPDATE: We are supplying 100 total backpacks to Allegan elementary and middle school students this year (50 each). Thankfully, we have some funds from the rummage sale and mid-

Backpack Ministry



week Lenten services. Pastor is using those funds to purchase some of the more expensive items such as water bottles, a backpack for each child, and 50 Case It binders (over \$800 to buy those in bulk for the best pricing).

There are plenty of items we still need. Apple tags have been created which are hanging on our giving tree at the church entrance for additional items in quantities that are more manageable, such as 12 packages of colored pencils or 25 folders. Please return these items in the white baskets by the tree by Sunday, August 2. We will then inventory what we have collected thus far. We will pack the backpack's on Sunday, August 16 after church in an efficient assembly line with everyone's help.

Thank you for your continued support of this project. We want every child to have the school supplies they need to succeed. If you have any questions, please ask Pastor or Sharon Aksamit.



CHURCH CALENDAR: We have an amazing web page that was



originally created by our own Pat Jones and is maintained by Ken Kingsbury. The link is <https://immanuallutheranallegan.org>. Check it out.

Today I will draw your attention to the church calendar link. We do our best to ensure that it is *always* current, so if you have any questions about what is coming up this should be the first place you check. This online tool allows you to view any month of the year.

YOUTH CAMP We have a number of young people that will be attending youth Camp again this year. Many of us can remember with fond memories our time at camp and ask for your prayers that Immanuel's youth have such an experience. Thank you for your ongoing support of our young people. They will leave after worship on Sunday August 2nd and return home Friday evening.



148TH ANNIVERSARY OF IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH occurs on Friday August 28th. Plans are already underway for the celebration of our 150th anniversary in just two short years. We have a wonderful history of God's work in the Allegan community and printed copies are available on the welcome table. We update the booklet at the end of each calendar year.





UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH
MICHIGAN MEDICINE



The University of Michigan Transplant Center is pleased to invite you to a kidney transplant educational program on living donation. The program includes information on ways to help you or your loved one find a potential living kidney donor. We hope you will be able to join us for this session. The program is open to patients, families, friends, or anyone interested in learning more about living donation.

*Facts and Myths of Living Donation and How
to Find a Living Donor*

Program will include “Explore Living Donation” video, patient and donor stories, and a panel of transplant experts.

Thursday, August 6, 2026
6:15-8:00 p.m.
Virtual

Registration is required.
Please go to <https://michmed.org/9ZG8N> to register or
scan QR code below.



For questions, please contact:
transplantoutreach@med.umich.edu or (734) 936-7093.

MUSIC AT MAHAN-SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Downtown Allegan, 101 Brady Street

2026

Information:

269-993-7678

Talent Line Up

July 11: Boomer Brothers
7:00 pm—9:00 pm Rock and Roll, Oldies, Country Favorites. Local band.

July 18: The Vinyl 5 7:00 pm—9:00 pm Sit back and let this band transport you back to the 60's, 70's & 80's. Classic, Country & Rock.

July 25: J. Michael & the Heavy Burden. 7:00 pm —9:00 pm Performing Alt Americana with roots in rock. Known for blending folk-inspired acoustic melodies with pop infused choruses. From the Ann Arbor area.

Aug. 1: Ellis and M.E. 7:00 pm—9:00 pm A trio passionate about their music. Creative song-writing, sometimes whimsical, life inspired songs performed with vocal harmonies and a relaxed delivery. Kalamazoo area.

Aug. 8: Blue Roads 6:00 pm—8:00 pm Traditional Bluegrass. S.East MI.

Aug. 15: Schrock Brothers 7:00 pm—9:00 pm High energy original Americana/country/soul/blues.

Aug. 22: Root 66 6:00 pm—8:00 pm Performing country style music & crooning songs from yesterday.

Aug. 29: The Williams Family 6:00 pm—8:00 pm. Slightly bluegrass, a little country, traditional Americana.

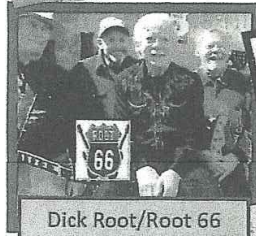
Sept. 5: The Whateverly Brothers 6:00 pm—8:00 pm One of our favorite bands. Rock & Roll at it's best. Covers and oldies. All the way from Indiana.



J. Michael & the Heavy Burden



The Schrock Brothers



Dick Root/Root 66



The Whateverly Brothers



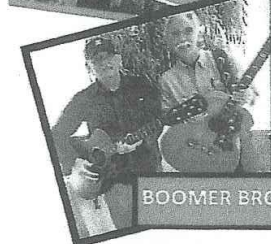
The Williams Family



Ellis and M.E.



BlueRoads (Bluegrass)



The Vinyl 5



BOOMER BROTHERS

ANNUAL
ROTARY
BARBECUE
AUG. 29
5:00 —7:00

Thank you to our Sponsors:

The Delano Foundation

Tibbitts Financial Consulting

Waanders Concrete

Rapa Electric/Ron and Cathy Rapa

C-Com, Allegan

Broken Arrow

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church (also rain location, 101 Walnut)

City of Allegan

Wilcox News



ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

WHEN: Sunday, August 9

TIME: Following Worship Service

WHERE: 1822 30TH Street, Allegan



Don't miss out on a fun day at Immanuel Lutheran's Church Picnic.

Burgers, hotdogs and brats will be cooking on the grill. Water, Lemonade and Iced Tea will be provided, as well as condiments and paper products. Each family is asked to bring a dish to pass (or a small bag of ice) and your choice of drink if you prefer something else.

No need to bring chairs...there is plenty of seating for all.

There will be activities for kids of all ages...there is a swing set, sandbox, badminton/volleyball, cornhole and more; and each child will leave with a goodie bag.

Mark your calendars for a fun time. See you there!!

