



January 2024 Newsletter



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Pastor David (and Christie) Sidwell
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Pastor has "drop-in-able" office hours Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:30-11:30 am; all afternoons and evenings by appointment. Pastor is off on Fridays.



This newsletter has many contributors. If you'd like to submit an article of interest or an announcement of an upcoming event, please contact Ailene Buchtrup, Secretary, in the church office via phone or email. For those with email, an electronic copy of the newsletter will be sent to you. For those with no email or who would prefer to receive a paper copy, we will continue to mail the newsletters via U.S. Postal Services.

FROM THE PASTOR



Le Fin!!

According to family legend, after my mother fell off the porch at our house in Pontiac, she soon became pregnant for me and I was eventually born. I have never explored the "something shook loose" assertion and I can't now even if I wanted to. The year 1957 was the height of the baby boom. The year 2024 will see an estimated 12,000 Americans turn 65 every day. That baby boom that filled Sunday school at Immanuel in 1957 is the same baby boom that will fill its Columbarium (someday). Between now and then is a time of retirement that involves its own contributions to the church for many of you. For me it must involve my leaving.

My Concordia Seminary class now has about 50% of its graduates still active in pastoral ministry. I will stand in the middle of that "bell curve." It is the place I always wanted—in the middle of pastoral ministry. All I ever wanted to do was to baptize, marry and bury as the people of God needed. Although I never minded the idea of being "successful," I was never ambitious for larger churches or ministries. I am proud in the best sense of the word to have been a small church pastor.

American movies have two main forms of nostalgic endings. The first is to tell you where all the young characters end up as they grow old. For example, Bluto of Animal House must, of course, become Senator Blutarsky. As you have heard me say before, I will end up in ashes and dust. If you prefer, think of me sitting on a rock in Wyoming surrounded by mountains.

A second type of ending that explores the conclusion of an era or a life shows flashback images of all the key moments. Given how visual my brain works, I am easily dizzy with the swirl of pictures that fill my memories. I have had the privilege of joining the people of God in the most personal, private, and important moments of their lives. Those memories still overwhelm me emotionally and spiritually.

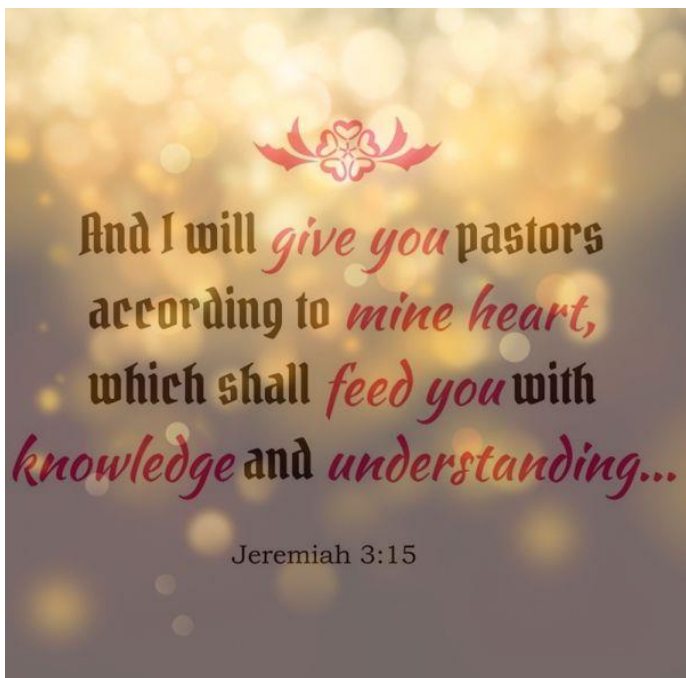
Of course, the best ending for a movie is the French way—the action just cuts to FIN. The future is for the next film.

I am confident in the future of the Church because Christ has promised to take care of it. I believe the denomination, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, will continue to argue with itself over what it means to be a European thinking church living in the American experience. It is an unresolvable internal contradiction. The Michigan District remains well served and well run. It understands the state, its churches, and its people. I am confident in Immanuel and its leadership. The challenge in ministry is always to use the past for the purpose of the future—neither refusing to leave the past nor forgetting its lessons. Immanuel has a good past and I expect it to have a good future.

It is your church. You called me to serve your church and promised to help me. I am returning your call with gratitude.

In most contexts, praying for your successor would be seen as a bit of an insult to your employer. In our context, it is the most important and well-meaning task of the moment. Let us all pray for the Pastor that our Lord knows we need and has already prepared—for just this time and place.
In Christ's love and service,

Pastor Sidwell



Mary & Martha Guild meetings will resume in January. Plan to join us for our first meeting on Tuesday, January 3rd.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month @ **5:30pm** in the ILC kitchen.

All ladies of the congregation are invited to all of our meetings and we welcome new members at any time! We enjoy planning activities and fund-raising projects for our special projects. Please come and see what's happening! We'd love to have you join us!



FEED THE HUNGRY

KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES

ONGOING FOOD DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

Food donations are accepted
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday - Friday at
901 Portage Street (KLF)

Other donation locations are listed below:

Family Dollar

(Select Locations)

Kalamazoo First Presbyterian Church

321 W South St

Rollerworld

7491 Stadium Dr., Kalamazoo

James 2:15-16

“Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?”



The **Lutheran Hour (LHM)** is broadcast every Sunday morning at 6:30 a.m. on 105.7 FM or accessible anytime on the Web at www.lutheranhour.org.

JANUARY SERMON SCHEDULE

January 7: **"As We Forgive"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Dr. Michael Zeigler discusses forgiveness--what it is and what it isn't. (Matthew 6:12; Luke 11:4)

January 14: **"How Could She Ever Forgive Him?"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Dr. Michael Zeigler explains why it's not a contradiction to offer forgiveness while insisting on justice. (Matthew 18:27)

January 21: **"The Battleground of Forgiveness"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(Psalm 32:1)

January 28: **"Forgiveness Is a Gift from Far Away"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola
(Psalm 103:11-12)



If you prefer more modern music with the Lutheran Hour message, a special broadcast has been developed for the AFN at www.lutheranhour.org/AFN. You can also hear a message of hope *when you need it* by listening to your favorite LHM programs by downloading our Podcasts (audio files), free of charge, to your computer or portable devices.

Our Mission in JANUARY is...



Promoting a Hunger-Free Community

Grocery Pantry Program

The Grocery Pantry Program (GPP) is our primary food assistance distribution program. Last year, the GPP served over 100,000 food orders to over 28,000 unduplicated individuals.



Mobile Food Initiative

The **Mobile Food Initiative**, one of Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes' food programs, makes an impact for many in this community.

The goal of this program is to get additional grocery items into the hands of people who need them in Kalamazoo County and surrounding communities. Food is distributed on a first-come-first-served basis. As with most other KLF programs, there are no eligibility requirements or paperwork to fill out. If the distribution site is at a school, you do not need to have a child at the school to attend.

Food is free to local residents.

Each MFI distributes various approximately 5-7 perishable and non-perishable food items, including fresh fruits and vegetables, at specific sites throughout the county. Specific food items vary among dates and locations. This program distributes food at over eight sites each month with additional pop-up locations periodically.

THANK-YOU FOR YOUR THOUGHTFUL GIVING!



In Our Prayers:

Homebound Ministry:

Marian Brugh	Jan Wilson
Marlys Olson	Ellen Plano
Ruth Miller	Beverly Fisher
John Curtiss	Vince Marshall
Jerome Dirst	

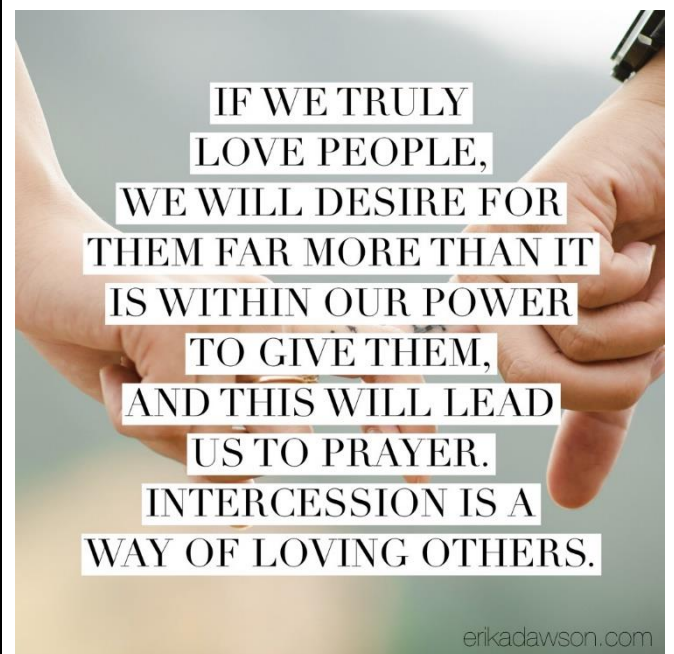
LONG TERM CONCERNS:

Rose Maxum , requested by Chuck and Amber Townsend	Susan & Gregory Fritz , Stephanie Beck's parents
Amy Stillwell , sister of Dave Reynolds	Charles and Carol Quandt , Christa Perri's parents
Beverly Fisher , Susan Wagner's mother	Lucille and Lawrence Fritz , requested by Jonathan Fritz
Bob Perri , brother of Phil Perri and Phil Perri , husband of Christa Perri	Craig Rennhack , requested by Bob & Maryalice Reck
John Blasko , requested by Elizabeth Blasko	Mindy Mitchell , sister of Shelly Reynolds
Kyle Reinbold Family , requested by Kyle's sister, Sonya DeVary	James Leo Brown , requested by Shelly and Dave Reynolds
Karen McDougall , requested by Sue Steuer	Jim Sabo , friend of Susan Steuer
Katie VerKow , former member of Immanuel, requested by Phil Roekle	Karen Petersen , daughter of Cathy & Tom Mollet
Vicki Dilley , requested by Christa & Phil Perri	Suzie Brink , Christie Sidwell's mother and Bill Brink , her brother
Joanne Cleason , Esther Cleason's daughter	Melissa , friend of Dotty Smith and daughter Laura
Marie Winberg , godmother of Bill Bennett	Hannah Bayer , 4 y.o., requested by her father
Lisa and David Wentzel , Sue Steuer's cousins	Jerry and Sandi McKenzie , friends of Dotty Smith
Ware Washam , requested by Brian Long	Sandy Hale , requested by Stephen Presdorf
Caroline Barkow	Jordyn Reed , Nicole Bauman's niece

Mark Westphal	Jason , friend of Renee Anderson
Ted Benson , Kim Sharp's friend's brother	John Hecht's mother, Kay Hecht
Margaret & Loren Gerber , Sue Anderson's parents	Cherri Mitchell , friend of Ted & Rita Clarke
Alice Schley , Jane Schley's granddaughter	Pam Hills , requested by Kim Sharp
Toni —Jane Schley's cousin	Fran Rodammer , former ILC member
Sharon S. , requested by Dotty Smith	Lori Gardner , Kim Sharp's friend
Ted Benson , Kim Sharp's friend	Jeri Noneman
Deb , friend of Sue Steuer	Ruth Krueger
Jason Nichols , requested by Justin Beck	All Crossroads Prison Ministry students

Immanuel members: Gail Stewart, Dolly Bryan, Cathy Mollet, Shelly Reynolds, Tina Lauer, and John Miller

"Lord Jesus, we ask you to give our loved ones all around peace in mind, body, soul and spirit. We want you to heal and remove everything that is causing stress, grief, and sorrow in their lives. Please guide their paths through life and make their enemies be at peace with them. We pray this for ourselves as well."



Born in January

Nancy Rankin	January 2
Susan Wagner	January 6
Ninah Miller	January 11
Amber Townsend	January 11
Ruby Flickinger	January 15
Bob Reck	January 16
Hirving Hernandez-Gomez	January 18
Pastor Sidwell	January 23
Ellen Plano	January 29

**HAPPY JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS!!!**



*However old you are is
the new 30!*

Pastor is...ALMOST...



**Sunday, January 21st
1:00-4:00pm
Location St. Michael Lutheran
Church Gymnasium**

**Join Us as We Celebrate
Pastor's Retirement from Ministry
at Immanuel Lutheran Church**

*Please sign up in the narthex if you're
planning to come so we can provide the
caterer with our expected number of guests!*

***Last chance to sign up
to attend is Jan. 7th!***

*Grilled chicken breast and a carved ham
will be served as the main courses!*



*Please note: Pastor prefers
that any gifts given would be
from individuals and/or
families instead of a
"congregational gift". Your
"gift" to him would simply
be your presence at his
farewell gathering!*

Worship Assistants/Serving Schedule

Date	Acolyte	Altar	Usher	Lector	Worship Assistant	Coffee Hour
Sunday, New Year's Eve 12/31/2023	Cailyn Hecht & Norah Lawrence	Jane Schley	John Wagner	Dave Mandrick	Phil Roekle & John Wagner	Helen & Phil Roekle
Sunday 1/7/2024	Linus Mandrick & Rory Beck	Jane Schley	Phil Roekle	John Hecht	Larry Baumgart & Mark Miller	Jane Schley
Sunday 1/14/2024	Eliora Beck & Caviion Beck	Patti Wills	John Wagner	Andrew Lustila	Bill Stewart & Ron Swinehart	Sue & John Wagner
Sunday 1/21/2024	Genevieve Miller & Adelaide Jefferies	Vivian Westphal	Ron Swinehart	John Krueger	Craig Anderson & Andrew Lustila	Beth Mitchell
Sunday 1/28/2024	Maddie Hernandez & Elijah Lawrence	Sally Crawford	John Hecht	Sylvia Marshall	Denny Patzer & John Quardokus	Amber & Chuck Townsend
Sunday 2/4/2024	Cailyn Hecht & Norah Lawrence	Vivian Westphal	Phil Roekle	Mark Miller	Phil Roekle & John Wagner	TBA
Sunday 2/11/2024	Linus Mandrick & Rory Beck	Patti Wills	John Wagner	Ninah Miller	Larry Baumgart & Craig Anderson	TBA
Ash Wednesday 2/14/2024	NA	Jane Schley/ Rita Clark	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sunday 2/18/2024	Eliora Beck & Caviion Beck	Kim Sharp	Ron Swinehart	John Quardokus	Bill Stewart & Ron Swinehart	TBA
Wednesday 2/21/2024	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sunday 2/25/2024	Genevieve Miller & Adelaide Jefferies	Rita Clarke	John Hecht	Dave Mandrick	Mark Miller & Andrew Lustila	TBA

To all Immanuel board directors, church members and volunteers that serve so dutifully throughout the years to keep our church and worship services running smoothly, we offer you our sincere thanks and wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year in 2024!

Your Immanuel Church Family

January 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

January's MISSION: Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes

	1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2 <i>5:30pm Mary/Martha Meeting</i> <i>7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC</i>	3	4	5	6 <i>The Epiphany of Our Lord</i>
7 <i>The Baptism of Our Lord</i> <i>9:15am Sunday School</i> <i>10:00am Communion Service @ ILC & online</i> <i>11:30 Adult Class</i> <i>11:30 Children's Choir</i>	8	9 <i>6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast</i> <i>7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC</i>	10	11	12	13
14 <i>9:15am Sunday School</i> <i>10:00am Communion Service @ ILC & online</i> <i>11:30 Adult Class</i> <i>11:30 Children's Choir</i>	15	16 <i>7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC</i>	17	18 <i>7:00pm Church Council Meeting</i>	19 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	20
21 <i>9:15am Sunday School</i> <i>10:00am Communion Service @ ILC & online</i> <i>11:30 Children's Choir</i> <i>1:00-4:00pm Pastor's Retirement Luncheon @ St. Michael Lutheran Church</i>	22	23 <i>7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC</i>	24	25	26	27
28 <i>9:15am Sunday School</i> <i>10:00am Communion Service @ ILC & online</i> <i>11:30 Children's Choir</i>	29	30 <i>7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC</i>	31			

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
3000 West Main Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49006
(269) 345-8090

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**Immanuel
Lutheran
Church**

Schoolyear Schedule:

9:15-9:45am
Children's
Sunday School

10:00 am Sunday
Communion
Service

11:30am Adult Class
11:30am Children's
Choir Practice

NOTE:
All services will
be
live-streamed on:
Facebook and
YouTube



*Advent Wreath-Making
and Tree Decorating....*

...Such concentration!



The Winner: Chuck Townsend

*Men's Chili
Cook-Off...*

*...So many great
recipes but it
came down to a
couple of
winners!*



Second Place: John Hecht

*Thank-you to everyone who participated!
(If you missed the event, you missed a great time!)*