



July/Aug 2025 Newsletter



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Immanuel Lutheran Church Contact Information:

Church Phone: (269) 345-8090

Email: ilckalamazoo@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Ailene Buchtrup

Music Director: Sara McGarvey (Coming in July!)

Pastor: Josh Groteluschen (Coming in August!)



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.

*To note in pastoral absence: Several pastors and other knowledgeable contributors offer great articles of interest all throughout the year, and in particular holy seasons. Until a new pastor is found for Immanuel, we will draw upon the knowledge and interesting perspectives of those pastors to provide readers with a section called, **From the Pastor's Desk**. We hope you will find these articles of interest and helpful in your spiritual journey.*



"I hate summer attendance!"

by **Thom S. Rainer**, Founder of
Church Answers



Poor church attendance in the summer is a common phenomenon, often referred to as the "**summer slump**." This decline is attributed to factors like vacations, increased outdoor activities, and a general loosening of routines. Churches often experience a drop in attendance and giving during this period.

The sentence, "*I hate summer attendance*" came from a pastor whose church is consistently down in attendance in the summer. Indeed, his sentiments were echoed in many conversations I had with pastors. The conversation began at the consulting and coaching hub at [Church Answers](http://ChurchAnswers.com). I expanded it with some inquiries via emails, calls, and texts.

The insights these pastors shared were invaluable. Perhaps you can identify with many of them.

1. **A typical average decline is 20 percent.** We used average worship attendance as our metric. The 20 percent number was the response from two of three pastors in this survey. So, for a church with an average worship attendance of 200 during the non-summer months, attendance drops to 160 in the summer.
2. **Snowbird churches tend to have greater fluctuations.** For example, churches in southwest Florida and south Florida tend to have an exodus of attendees in the summer, usually greater than 20 percent. On the other hand, a pastor in Minnesota told us his church's summer attendance was unchanged. Vacationers were offset by returning snowbirds.

3. **Churches in towns dominated by colleges have declines greater than 20 percent.** Of course, this issue is often a reflection of the robustness of the church's college ministry. A pastor in a town where the college makes up a major part of the population told us his church's summer decline was around 50 percent!
4. **Year-round school is impacting the summer slump.** A year-round school system could have a six-week summer break instead of the usual full summer break. Those six weeks of attendance could be down dramatically, well above the 20 percent norm noted by the majority of pastors.
5. **Churches that give a summer break to their small groups typically have a decline greater than 20 percent.** It is absolutely amazing how involvement in groups like community groups, small groups, life groups, and Sunday school classes affect ministry involvement, giving, and attendance frequency positively. When churches keep their groups active in the summer, attendance slumps are not as pronounced.
6. **Many churches have become intentional about battling the summer slump.** Instead of ramping down they, at the very least, keep their regularly-scheduled ministries on the same schedule. But a number of the churches actually introduce new ministries and opportunities in the summer. For example, the tried- and-true Vacation Bible School tends to impact attendance positively for at least two weeks of the summer.

The summer slump can be discouraging for church leaders who are working to maintain momentum and ministry efforts. We are now full into the summer season. I am thankful for these insights on the summer slump from many pastors.



Thom Rainier

Remember: Bibles can be read almost anywhere!



In Our Prayers:

Homebound Ministry:

**Marian Brugh
John Curtiss**

**Ellen Plano
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	Mary Ann Massey , friend of Dotty Smith
Bob Perri , brother of Phil 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	Lucille and Lawrence Fritz , requested by Jonathan Fritz
Vicki Dille , 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 , 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	Jeri Noneman
Gene Jennings	Kay Hecht , John Hecht's mother
Deb —Friend of Sue Steuer	Beth Mitchell
Alice Schley , Jane Schley's granddaughter	Charlie Miller , Marian Brugh's brother
Toni —Jane Schley's cousin	Jason , son-in-law of Sue & Craig Anderson
Sharon S. , requested by Dotty Smith	Karen Petersen , daughter of Cathy & Tom Mollet
Loren Gerber , Sue Anderson's father	Justin Nickels , requested by Justin Beck
Deb , friend of Sue Steuer	Ruth Krueger
Sophie Rose Verile , Brindley's grandniece	Lynne Partridge , friend of Christa Perri
Linda & Scott Spurlock , req. by Esther C.	Merry Linn , Sally Crawford's sister
Mae Westphal , Wayne & Vivian Westphal's granddaughter	Gus Reck , 3 y.o., Maryalice & Bob Reck's grandson
Marilyn Borgeson , Annie Hecht's grandmother	Thomas Nault , Sue Wagner's cousin
Kim N., Kim M., Emilie H., & Sydney B. , all friends of Kim Sharp; and River Lint , Kim's cousin's baby	
All Crossroads Prison Ministry students from all congregations around the country	
Immanuel members: Gail Stewart, Dolly Bryan, Shelly Reynolds, Tina Lauer, Jerome Dirst & John Miller	



July 5	Lindsay Measel
July 5	AnnMarie Miller
July 15	Helen Roekle
July 16	Larry Baumgart
July 17	Caitlin Measel
July 18	Cheryl Schreiber
July 24	Christa Perri
July 28	Stephanie Beck
July 29	Linda Richter
July 30	John Hecht
Aug 2	Allison Haeger
Aug 7	Bill Stewart
Aug 8	Pam Brelje
Aug 10	Maryalice Reck
Aug 21	Eric Baumgart
Aug 23	Daniel Haw
Aug 23	Michaela Hernandez-Haw
Aug 24	Nicholas Brindley
Aug 25	Jonathan Brelje
Aug 28	Justin Beck
Aug 28	Judie Eckert



Our Mission of the Months in July and August are:



LCMS-MI
DISTRICT

"The nature of vocation
is that God sends us
each to different places
to do different tasks."



And



LUTHERAN BIBLE
TRANSLATORS



MEMBERS OF IMMANUEL:

[YOU Support Our Priorities and Projects](#)

Your gifts to allow our missions and teams to fund innovative projects that spread the gospel and meet needs within their ministries and the communities they serve.

[YOU Support Our Workers](#)

Your faithful gifts help workers fulfill their calling to serve Christ through cross-cultural ministry around the world and at home.

Thank you for caring about the world's unreached people groups!!



You are cordially invited to attend the **Installation Service** of our newcoming pastor, **Josh Grotelueschen**, on Sunday, August 10th, at 3:00pm. Following this service, we will have a light reception of cake, cookies, punch and other goodies.



Also save the date for the following **Sunday, August 17th**, directly after the morning worship service, when we will have a "Meet & Greet" reception for all of you to formally meet our new pastor. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served.

(Please sign up so we know how many to plan for.)



A note from our new ILC Music Director, Sara McGarvey:

"I just wanted to take a moment to say hello and introduce myself. My name is Sara McGarvey, and I am so excited to be your new music director and organist at Immanuel. I've had the pleasure of meeting some of you at church or at the Mother's Day Tea. And I can't wait to get to know you all when I start in July. A little bit about myself: I grew up in Traverse City, and graduated from Interlochen Arts Academy. I went to the University of Michigan for my Bachelor of Music, and Bowling Green State University for my Master of Music. I then taught in St. Joseph Public schools as the middle school and high school choir director for three years, before relocating to Kalamazoo 15 years ago. Since then, I have worked in church music as an organist/pianist and choir and music director, taught a private voice studio, and am also a professional singer.

"My favorite place to make music is church and I feel so blessed that God has brought me here." Sara



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



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.

JULY SERMON SCHEDULE

July 6: "A Little Light, Reading"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
The Book of Job is not light reading, but Christians read it in the Light of Christ. (Job 1:8)

July 13: "Fearless and Endless Growing"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola
God's Word grows like a perfect garden, bearing fruit in every season. (Colossians 1:1-14)

July 20: "God's Plan = Jesus"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
God's plans for us are not me-centered; they are Christ-centered. Dr. Zeigler talks with "Soul Surfer" author, Bethany Hamilton. (John 16:33)

July 27: "Getting the Talk Started"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
God's Law-talk prepares us for God's Gospel-talk. Author Tim Carter (The Executioner's Redemption) is featured. (Luke 11:1)

TO NOTE: *There is no August schedule available yet!!*



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.



We have a stack of current/updated church directories in the church office that sit on the shelf directly above the mailboxes. They are immediately updated when I receive changes or additions.

Speaking of which, if you have a new postal or email address or new phone number and you want your current information entered into our church directory, please be sure to email the information to me in the church office at ILCKalamazoo@gmail.com.

Thank-you!
Ailene



Thank-you to Debbie Ernstes of Westwood who created and donated several packets of beautiful greeting cards for church members to use for fellowship purposes! They are located in a box under the light switch in the church office. Please help yourselves!!





We want **YOU** to join us for our **St. Michael Lutheran School - GOLF OUTING** on Monday, August 18th, 2025 at the Pine View Golf Club in Three Rivers.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN for individual golfers **AND** for corporate sponsorships!

Reach out if you have any questions. Can't wait to see you on the golf course!

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Paul Naumann

naumann@mightymessengers.org

269-327-7832



St. Michael Lutheran Church
Making Mighty Messengers for Christ

Worship Assistants/Serving Schedule

	Acolytes	Altar	Usher	Lector	Worship Assistants	Coffee Hour
Sunday 7/6/2025	Genevieve Miller & Adelaide Jefferies	Jane Schley	Kim Sharp	John Krueger	Bill Stewart & Ron Swinehart	Jane S.- <i>coffee</i> Melanie B- <i>Snacks</i>
Sunday 7/13/2025	Maddie Hernandez & Elijah Lawrence	Amber Townsend	John Wagner	Mark Miller	Mark Miller & Andrew Lustila	Sue & John Wagner
Sunday 7/20/2025	Cailyn Hecht & Norah Lawrence	Kim Sharp	Ron Swinehart	John Quardokus	Denny Patzer & John Quardokus	Maryalice Reck
Sunday 7/27/2025	Linus & Ezra Mandrick	Vivian Westphal	John Hecht	Ninah Miller	John Quardokus & John Wagner	Helen & Phil R-- <i>coffee</i> Dotty Smith-- <i>snacks</i>
Sunday 8/3/2025	Elliora & Caviion Beck	Patti Wills	Kim Sharp	Dave Mandrick	Larry Baumgart & Craig Anderson	AnnMarie & Philip Miller
Sunday 8/10/2025	Genevieve Miller & Adelaide Jefferies	Amber Townsend	John Wagner	John Hecht	Bill Stewart & Ron Swinehart	Shelly Reynolds
Sunday 8/17/2025	Maddie Hernandez & Elijah Lawrence	Jane Schley	Ron Swinehart	Andrew Lustila	Mark Miller & Andrew Lustila	<i>Reception for Pastor Josh</i>
Sunday 8/25/2025	Cailyn Hecht & Norah Lawrence	Kim Sharp	John Hecht	John Krueger	Denny Patzer & John Quardokus	Amber & Chuck Townsend
Sunday 8/31/2025	Linus & Ezra Mandrick	Rita Clarke	John Hecht	Mark Miller	John Quardokus & John Wagner	Rita Clarke
Sunday 9/7/2025	Elliora & Caviion Beck	<i>TBA</i>	Kim Sharp	Ninah Miller	Larry Baumgart & Craig Anderson	Maryalice Reck
Sunday 9/14/2025	Genevieve Miller & Adelaide Jefferies	<i>TBA</i>	John Wagner	John Quardokus	Bill Stewart & Ron Swinehart	Sue & John Wagner
Sunday 9/21/2025	Maddie Hernandez & Elijah Lawrence	<i>TBA</i>	Ron Swinehart	Dave Mandrick	Mark Miller & Andrew Lustila	Jane S.- <i>coffee</i> Melanie B- <i>Snacks</i>
Sunday 9/28/2025	Cailyn Hecht & Norah Lawrence	<i>TBA</i>	John Hecht	John Hecht	Denny Patzer & John Quardokus	AnnMarie & Philip Miller

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
3000 West Main Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49006

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 (269) 345-8090 Immanuel Lutheran Church Summer Schedule: 10: 00 am Sunday Communion Service NOTE: All services will be live-streamed on: Facebook and YouTube	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
			July 1	2	3	4	5
	6 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC and online (Pastor Quardokus)	7 Ailene will be out recovering from surgery this whole week...and next	8 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast	9	10	11	12 10-11am "Joy" Bible Study
	13 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC and online (Pastor Couch)	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC and online (Pastor Iqbal)	21	22 10am Wills' Bible Study @ ILC	23	24  Newsletter Deadline	25	26
	27 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC and online (Pastor Couch)	28	29 10am Wills' Bible Study @ ILC	30	31	August 1	2
	3 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC and online (Pastor Iqbal)	4	5 10am Wills' Bible Study @ ILC	6	7	8	9 10-11am "Joy" Bible Study
	10 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC and online (Pastor Couch) 3:pm Pastor's Installation & Reception	11	12 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 10am Wills' Bible Study @ ILC	13	14	15	16
	17 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC and online 11:30am Pastor's Reception.	18	19 10am Wills' Bible Study @ ILC	20	21  Newsletter Deadline	22	23
	24 & 31 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC and online	25	26 10am Wills' Bible Study @ ILC	27	28	29	30