



July/August 2026 Newsletter



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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

“Come Near”

But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:13

Oh summer, the time of vacation and fun! It is the time when everyone is scattering away from home and trying to go somewhere nice! It truly is a wonderful thing to be able to get away for a little bit; away from the responsibilities and the stress, away to disconnect. We need this time; we need to be able to unplug and just enjoy the fruits of creation that God has given us as we travel with those that we love.

Yet for many this is the only goal of life. Work is just something to be used to pay for our vacations and summer weekends. We live to get away and to relax. As Loverboy once sang “Everybody’s working for the weekend”. We work hard so that we can relax hard, we work hard so that we can play hard. But once the work is done then it is time to run away. We run back to our homes with their four walls, we run off into vacation. Our coworkers and those around us are those that we have to daily walk with in order to run away and be with the people we truly want to be with.

While it is important to get relax and have time with friends and family, we cannot forget what Jesus has done. He found us while we were scattered, he found us while we were separated and he united us with himself. As Paul makes abundantly clear- he brought us in that we might be one with one another, reconciled with one another where sin used to divide.

Christ is bringing us together. The people at your work are not people to run away from, but rather are people that Jesus has brought you into contact with. Why has he brought you into contact with them? So that they might come into contact with him. That they might be reconciled with him, that they might be one with him even as we are one with him.

Therefore, this summer as you go off and enjoy your vacation also start to think about those that God has brought into your life that you are going to be going back to. Remember God did not bring people into your life just that you might work with them. He has brought you to them that they might know him. Who in your life still needs to get to know Jesus? Who do you know that might feel distant or far off, and needs to hear that Jesus is bringing them near? Pray for those people, and when you return, go and talk with them. See how God can use you in their lives, and trust that his goal in bringing them near- even as he is using you to do it!

Pastor Grotelueschen



IMMANUEL PRAYER LIST

LONG TERM CONCERNS:

Rose Maxum , requested by Chuck and Amber Townsend	Susan & Gregory Fritz , Stephanie Beck's parents
Jeff Baker , requested by Esther Cleason	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 Fritz , requested by Jonathan Fritz
Vicki Dilley , requested by Christa & Phil Perri	Bill Brink , Christie Sidwell's brother
Joanne Cleason , Esther Cleason's daughter	Melissa , friend of Dotty Smith and daughter Laura
Judy & Fred Lorenz , brother & sister-in-law of Esther Cleason and Nancy Barksdale , Esther's niece.	Amy Stillwell , sister of Dave Reynolds and daughter of Mary Reynolds
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
Gene Jennings	Jeri Noneman
Loren Gerber , Sue Anderson's father	Kay Hecht , John Hecht's mother

Sharon S. , requested by Dotty Smith	Otto , Pastor Quardokus' grandson
Laura Mattson Hugill , former ILC member	Charlie Miller , Marian Brugh's brother
Deb , friend of Sue Steuer	Jason , son-in-law of Sue & Craig Anderson
Sophie Rose Verile , Brindley's grandniece	Karen Petersen , daughter of Cathy & Tom Mollet
Linda & Scott Spurlock , req. by Esther C.	Justin Nickels , requested by Justin Beck
Merry Linn , Sally Crawford's sister	Marilyn Borgeson , Annie Hecht's grandmother
Mae Westphal , Vivian's & Wayne's granddaughter	Lynne Partridge , friend of Christa Perri
Thomas Nault , Sue Wagner's cousin	Gus Reck , grandson of Bob & Maryalice Reck
Rita Presdorf , Stephen Presdorf's mother	Theo Yoakam , Cheryl Schreiber's great grandson
Marian Brugh and son Brian	Nicholas Jackson
Kim N., 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, Beth Mitchell & Dotty Smith	



Shown here are all who are 75 years and "better"!!



Looking forward to many more years ahead!

Happy Birthday July and August Creations!!

Lindsay Measel	July 5
AnnMarie Miller	July 5
Deanna Bronson	July 11
Helen Roekle	July 15
Larry Baumgart	July 16
Caitlin Measel	July 17
Cheryl Schreiber	July 18
Stephanie Beck	July 28
Linda Richter	July 29
John Hecht	July 30
Haeger, Allison	Aug 2
John Sidwell	Aug 6
Luke Sidwell	Aug 6
Bill Stewart	Aug 7
Pam Brelje	Aug 8
Maryalice Reck	Aug 10
Nicole Bennett	Aug 12
Eric Baumgart	Aug 21
Michaela Hernandez-Haw	Aug 23
Nick Brindley	Aug 24
Justin Beck	Aug 28
Judie Eckert	Aug 28



Prayer Walk

The Outreach committee invites you to “walk in the footsteps of Jesus” as we walk around our Westwood neighborhood and pray for our neighbors. The Prayer Walk will take place on Sunday,

August 30th, directly after the morning service and refreshments. Make sure to wear comfortable shoes! In case of rain, we will have a “Popcorn Prayer” vigil indoors.

Please sign up in the narthex no later than August 18th.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask Pastor, Beth Mitchell, Pam Brelje, or Linda Richter.



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 5, 2026 "Bloom Where You're Planted"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)
Blessing, in a Biblical sense, means God's favor in any circumstance, no exceptions, because there is no place or circumstance in which God does not belong.
Genesis 39:21

July 12, 2026: "Knight, Death, and the Devil"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)
Jesus has triumphed over all the powers of death and hell and He has pledged Himself to be your protector and the armor that you wear. Ephesians 6:12

July 19, 2026: "From Groans to Glory"

Guest Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Glenn Nielsen](#)
A day will come when the grief will end, the groans will be silenced. Jesus will return and the dead in Christ will arise with bodies glorified. Romans 8: 21-27

July 26, 2026: "Worth the Wait"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)
The certainty that Jesus offers is not theoretical or experimental. It's the certainty of a promise, of a secure relationship.
Matthew 13:44

There are no published Sermons for August as of the writing of this newsletter....sorry!



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



Please join us for our
upcoming...

CRAFT DAY.....



COMING UP....

Saturday, July 11th
10am-3pm

Come create with us!!

Bring your crafting supplies with you
and we'll have lunch together.

Let us know you're coming and how
many people will be coming with you
by signing up! If you can help provide
salad fixings or other foods/goodies for
the group, please sign up for that too.

*(Feel free to invite your family, friends, and
neighbors!)*

Baptism day for McKenzie and Hunter



Trinity Sunday
May 31, 2026



Farewell to Lustilas...

*We will
miss you*



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026

@ ST. MICHAEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
7211 Oakland Drive,
Portage, MI

July 13-17 Mon-Fri, 9am – Noon

Join us on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where the northern lights shine over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and sparkling glaciers. As they trek the tundra, they'll discover how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Guiding them towards Jesus, our True North VBS reveals that He is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North!

"Children journey through the Book of Matthew to discover how Jesus is their guiding light, offering unwavering faithfulness throughout life's challenges."

Small groups or "crews" of kids (Potty Trained) 4 Years - 5th Grade will rotate through stations together-worshipping and singing at Sing & Play Peak, digging into the day's Wild Bible Adventures, experiencing God's creation through science at Imagination Station, and playing games that reinforce the day's Bible Point. You can expect a full week of faith discoveries, memorable music, and epic adventures that help kids grow in friendship with Jesus!

Don't know others attending? It's OK. We will help connect everyone. Sign up to meet new friends!

Registration is Required. OPEN NOW
for (Potty Trained) 4 Years-5th Grade!

https://vbspro.events/p/events/smlctruenorth/sessions/102394/participants/new?is_early=true

Our Mission of the Months in July and August are:



**LCMS-MI DISTRICT
(July)**



Junior High Gathering
Bavarian Inn
Frankenmuth, MI
July 28-30



Lutheran Adult
Gathering
Grand Hotel
Mackinaw Island
October 9-11

And...



**LUTHERAN BIBLE
TRANSLATORS
(August)**

**Dr. Becky Grossman,
Serving Liberia and Sierra Leone**



Thank-you Immanuel for your Missions giving!!

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Mission of the Month in July is... LCMS Michigan District						
			July 1	2	3	4 
5 10 am Communion Service 11:30am Bible Study w/ Pastor	6	7	8	9	10	11 10-3pm Mary/Martha Craft Day
12 10 am Communion Service 11:30am Bible Study w/ Pastor	13	14 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast	15	16	17	18
19 10 am Communion Service 11:30am Bible Study w/ Pastor	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10 am Communion Service 11:30am Bible Study w/ Pastor	27	28	29	30	31	August 1

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Mission of the Month in August is... Lutheran Bible Translators						
2 10 am Communion Service 11:30am Bible Study w/ Pastor	3	4	5	6	7 2:30p Grotelueschen Wedding	8 10-3pm Mary/Martha Craft Day
9 10 am Communion Service 11:30am Bible Study w/ Pastor	10	11 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast	12	13	14	15
16 10 am Communion Service 11:30am Bible Study w/ Pastor	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 10 am Communion Service 11:30am Bible Study w/ Pastor	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10 am Communion Service 11:30am Bible Study w/ Pastor	31					

Worship Assistants/Serving Schedule

	Acolyte	Altar	Usher	Lector	Worship Assistant	Coffee Hour
Sunday 7/5/2026	Cailyn & Kyrie Hecht	Rita Clarke	Kim Sharp	John Krueger	Denny Patzer & John Quardokus	Jane Schley— Coffee Melanie B.-Snacks
Sunday 7/12/2026	Linus & Ezra Mandrick	Kim Sharp	Randy Horneber	Mark Miller	Larry Baumgart & Craig Anderson	Shelly R—Coffee Vivian W--snacks
Sunday 7/19/2026	Eliora & Caviion Beck	Amber Townsend	Ron Swinehart	Ninah Miller	John Quardokus & Ron Swinehart	Rita Clarke
Sunday 7/26/2026	Genevieve Miller & Rory Beck	Vivian Westphal	John Hecht	John Quardokus	Mark Miller & Andrew Lustila (?)	Amber & Chuck Townsend
Sunday 8/2/2026	Maddie & Ellie Hernandez	Amber Townsend	Kim Sharp	Dave Mandrick	Denny Patzer & John Quardokus	TBA
Sunday 8/9/2026	Cailyn & Kyrie Hecht	Jane Schley	Randy Horneber	John Hecht	Larry Baumgart & Craig Anderson	TBA
Sunday 8/16/2026	Linus & Ezra Mandrick	Vivian Westphal	Ron Swinehart	John Krueger	John Quardokus & Ron Swinehart	TBA
Sunday 8/23/2026	Eliora & Caviion Beck	Kim Sharp	John Hecht	Mark Miller	Mark Miller & *Denny Patzer	TBA
Sunday 8/30/2026	Genevieve Miller & Rory Beck	Rita Clarke	Ron Swinehart	Ninah Miller	Larry Baumgart & Craig Anderson	TBA

**Worship Assistants: Please note that the lineup changes slightly beginning in August with Andrew Lustila's departure. Specifically, Mark Miller will now be paired with Denny Patzer going forward. If Andrew leaves prior to 7/26/26 when he is next scheduled, someone will have to dub in for him.*

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

July/ August Newsletter
Volume 55, No. 7



**Immanuel
Lutheran
Church**

**(269) 345-
8090**

**10:00 am
Sunday
Communion
Service**

**11:30am Adult
Bible Study**

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

SOLID GROUNDS MINISTRY IS BACK IN ACTION....

INVOLVEMENT

COLLEGE AGED OR ENROLLED IN COLLEGE

Every **Monday evening from 6-8pm** we gather those who are college aged or enrolled in college (Master's students or non-traditional aged students are welcome too!) for a delicious dinner and a discussion centered around God's Word. We regularly have 8-10 students from a number of different colleges or career paths! Please join us if you fall into this category!

Jump onto our socials for the most accurate info!
<https://linktr.ee/solidgrounds.wmu>



YOUNG ADULTS

Anyone aged 22-39 (roughly) can join us for our Young Adult nights! We meet once a month for social time and Bible discussion. Some months we'll meet for a service project as well. To receive information on when we meet, reach out to Aaron at 269-271-2848 or dcegrube21@gmail.com.

SUPPORT

We have so many ways for you to help our outreach to this large population!

-Provide a meal: <https://signup.com/go/gauGEEV>

-Provide supplies:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/22RHQBGGQQ7NTT/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2

Pray that students and workers in our community connect with Solid Grounds or another campus ministry.

Volunteer opportunities vary! Reach out to Aaron Grube.

Donate <https://www.kindridgiving.com/app/giving/zionkazoo>
select "Solid Ground."



SOLID GROUNDS - 1720 W. MICHIGAN AVE KALAMAZOO MI
SOLIDGROUNDS-ZION.ORG