



# June 2025 Newsletter



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### Immanuel Lutheran Church Contact Information:

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 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.*



# The Holy Trinity

By President Stuckwisch  
 Indiana District – LCMS

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. (Genesis 1:1-3)*

We believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the person who brooded over the waters in the beginning. We believe in the Son of God, the Word by whom all things were made, who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven...and was made man. In short, we believe in the one Creator, who is three distinct, fully-divine persons. We believe in, and we must believe in, the Holy Trinity, for this is God's revelation to us.

Strangely, the original earth started as formless, void and dark. When the Father rendered it no longer formless, void and dark, man was created to be lord of this world. Sadly, when Adam then rebelled against the Creator, the earth in a devilish way reverted to a formless, void and dark condition. Through Jeremiah God speaks of this when He describes His wayward people thus: *They are 'wise' – in doing evil! But how to do good they know not. I looked on the earth, and behold, it was without form and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light (Jer. 4:22f).* But then comes the Son of God, taking upon himself this horrible darkness of mankind's curse, and once again—when the Son bursts from the tomb—the Father speaks, "Let there be light!" So the light of love and life-eternal burst forth upon—yes even from—the formless and void earth. Yet, sadly, the darkened souls of men could not comprehend it.

Nonetheless, empty, void and darkened individuals need to receive and even begin to realize this light. With God all things are possible. The Son, because of His death and resurrection, is authorized as a man to accomplish this task of distributing the salvation He earned. He employs His limitless authority to create the Sacrament of Holy Baptism,

commissioning His Church to make disciples by baptizing in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Though it is appropriate for us to invoke any single person of the Godhead, yet whenever there is a Baptism the Holy Trinity is uniquely invoked.

Consistent with the original creation, once again the Spirit must brood over the face of the waters. Such Spirit-brooding gives new birth to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death. The Lord Jesus had prophesied this wondrous watery new birth, explaining that we must be *born of water and the Spirit*. Appropriately on the Christian Pentecost, the forgiven, foremost Apostle lovingly commanded, *Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit* (Acts 2:38). And the former persecuting Apostle explains, *He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit* (Titus 3:5). The Spirit is thus observed again to be brooding, now brooding over the waters of Holy Baptism.

As the Spirit broods over the waters of every Baptism, He establishes each baptized person as a new creation—for if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation. In these waters He takes a formless person and gives the form of Christ. He takes a void (empty) person and gives the fullness of Himself—the Spirit of Christ. He takes a person who naturally dwells in the darkness of Satan’s domain and that person hears the Father exclaim, “Let there be light,” and there is light. In short, the Son of God—sent by the Father and conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Blessed Virgin—has ordained Holy Baptism to bestow the gifts He earned at the cross and the empty tomb, so that spiritually formless, empty and dark people are blessed with a new beginning. And behold it is very good.



*In the Beginning...*



# In Our Prayers:

**Homebound Ministry:**

**Marian Brugh**

**Ellen Plano**

**John Curtiss**

**Jerome Dirst**

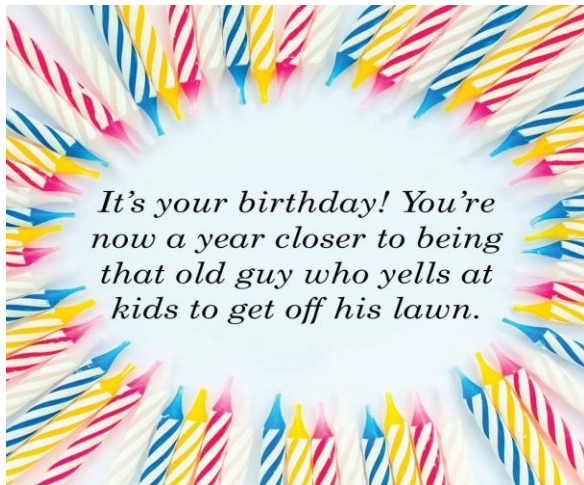
## LONG TERM CONCERNS:

<b>Rose Maxum</b> , requested by Chuck and Amber Townsend	<b>Susan &amp; Gregory Fritz</b> , Stephanie Beck’s parents
<b>Amy Stillwell</b> , sister of Dave Reynolds	<b>Mary Ann Massey</b> , friend of Dotty Smith
<b>Bob Perri</b> , brother of Phil Perri	<b>Craig Rennhack</b> , requested by Bob & Maryalice Reck
<b>John Blasko</b> , requested by Elizabeth Blasko	<b>Mindy Mitchell</b> , sister of Shelly Reynolds
<b>Kyle Reinbold Family</b> , requested by Kyle’s sister, Sonya DeVary	<b>James Leo Brown</b> , requested by Shelly and Dave Reynolds
<b>Karen McDougall</b> , requested by Sue Steuer	<b>Jim Sabo</b> , friend of Susan Steuer
<b>Katie VerKow</b> , former member of Immanuel, requested by Phil Roekle	<b>Lucille and Lawrence Fritz</b> , requested by Jonathan Fritz
<b>Vicki Dille</b> , requested by Christa & Phil Perri	<b>Suzie Brink</b> , Christie Sidwell’s mother and <b>Bill Brink</b> , her brother
<b>Joanne Cleason</b> , Esther Cleason’s daughter	<b>Melissa</b> , friend of Dotty Smith and daughter Laura
<b>Marie Winberg</b> , godmother of Bill Bennett	<b>Hannah Bayer</b> , requested by her father
<b>Lisa and David Wentzel</b> , Sue Steuer’s cousins	<b>Jerry and Sandi McKenzie</b> , friends of Dotty Smith
<b>Ware Washam</b> , requested by Brian Long	<b>Sandy Hale</b> , requested by Stephen Presdorf
<b>Caroline Barkow</b>	<b>Jeri Noneman</b>
<b>Gene Jennings</b>	<b>Kay Hecht</b> , John Hecht’s mother
<b>Deb</b> —Friend of Sue Steuer	<b>Beth Mitchell</b>
<b>Alice Schley</b> , Jane Schley’s granddaughter	<b>Charlie Miller</b> , Marian Brugh’s brother
<b>Toni</b> —Jane Schley’s cousin	<b>Jason</b> , son-in-law of Sue & Craig Anderson
<b>Sharon S.</b> , requested by Dotty Smith	<b>Karen Petersen</b> , daughter of Cathy & Tom Mollet
<b>Loren Gerber</b> , Sue Anderson’s father	<b>Justin Nickels</b> , requested by Justin Beck
<b>Deb</b> , friend of Sue Steuer	<b>Ruth Krueger</b>
<b>Sophie Rose Verile</b> , Brindley’s grandniece	<b>Lynne Partridge</b> , friend of Christa Perri
<b>Linda &amp; Scott Spurlock</b> , req. by Esther C.	<b>Merry Linn</b> , Sally Crawford’s sister
<b>Mae Westphal</b> , Wayne & Vivian Westphal’s granddaughter	<b>Gus Reck, 3 y.o.</b> , Maryalice & Bob Reck’s grandson
<b>Marilyn Borgeson</b> , Annie Hecht’s grandmother	<b>Thomas Nault</b> , Sue Wagner’s cousin
<b>Kim N., Kim M., Emilie H., &amp; Sydney B.</b> , all friends of Kim Sharp; and <b>River Lint</b> , Kim’s cousin’s baby	
<b>All Crossroads Prison Ministry students</b> from all congregations around the country	
<b>Immanuel members:</b> Gail Stewart, Dolly Bryan, Shelly Reynolds, Tina Lauer, Jerome Dirst & John Miller	



*(If your birthday has been missed, please know it wasn't missed intentionally and be sure to let Ailene know by emailing her at [ILCkalamazoo@gmail.com](mailto:ILCkalamazoo@gmail.com))*

Jonah Haw	June 4
Linda Swinehart	June 4
Olivia Salinas	June 16
Philip Miller	June 17
Candace Graham	June 19
Randy Horneber	June 22
Nick Yoakam	June 22
Ron Swinehart	June 23
Jimmy Brown	June 24
Kyrie Hecht	June 25



*It's your birthday! You're now a year closer to being that old guy who yells at kids to get off his lawn.*

*Trivia Question:  
"Get off my land!" (from which movie?)*

Our Mission of the Month

in June is:

**SHALOM!**

*Thanks Immanuel members for your generous giving to support Shalom Kalamazoo!*

**In case you ever want to do more:**

## Volunteer Opportunities



**SHALOM Connection Depot Thrift Store**

Open Fri and Sat 9-3.  
Hours/days are flexible based on your schedule. You have the opportunity to serve others and the community through the sale of donated goods and SHALOM woolery and farm products.

*(Donations are always welcome too!)*

**SHALOM Woolery**

Open Monday through Thursday 10-2.  
Hours/days are flexible based on your schedule. You have the opportunity to work alongside and serve adults living with developmental disabilities creating a variety of projects and products out of wool and craft materials.

**SHALOM Farm**

Open Monday through Friday 10-2  
Hours/days are flexible based on your schedule. You have the opportunity to work alongside adults living with developmental disabilities caring for our animals, gardening, building projects and other farm-related work.



## DID YOU KNOW?....

...That we have a “Free Store” located here in the Westwood neighborhood?

Did you know that some Immanuel members volunteer their time at and/or offer their donations to the Free Store to help needy neighbors?

The Westwood Neighborhood Free Store is located in the lower level of **Community Presbyterian Church**  
**811 Gorham Lane.**  
(All are welcome!!)



Just look at the volunteers in this picture...look closely....Yup! The one on the left is none other than our very own **Beth Mitchell!**

If you would like to donate any gently used clothing, shoes household items, toiletries, cleaning supplies, or the like, we

would be thrilled to have your donations. Donations can be brought in on **Wednesday mornings from 9 until noon** or **any Saturday that the store is open.**



***Thank-You for supporting your neighborhood community!***



You are cordially invited to attend the **Installation Service** of our newcoming pastor, **Josh Grotelueschen**, on **Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup>**, 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 17<sup>th</sup>**, 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.)*



## Welcome our Newest ILC Music Director, Sara McGarvey!

Sara has been a professional church musician for decades, as her favorite place to make music is in the Lord's House. Along with being a church Music Director, she is also a professional singer, organist/pianist, choir director and voice teacher. Raised in the Lutheran Church, her first time singing for church was at the ripe age of three, and she's never stopped since. Sara is a graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy, the University of Michigan (Bachelor of Music), and Bowling Green State University (Master of Music). She lives in Kalamazoo with her husband Mike and two darling children, Scarlet and Jameson.

Sara will begin playing for Immanuel in July!!



Thank you very much for your prayers for our grandson, Gus! He is doing better every day and is on daily antiseizure medication. We are

thankful for the care given to Gus by physicians at the LaSalle and Green Bay hospitals. Also, John, Audrey, Roy, Ike and little Gene appreciate your prayerful support!

Thank you,  
Robert and Margaliez



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](http://www.lutheranhour.org).

### JUNE SERMON SCHEDULE

June 1: "God's Gumbo"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The Church is like a pot of Louisiana gumbo, a diverse stew bound together by the power of Jesus' love. (John 17:20-21)

June 8: "Ticket Stubs Turned to Joy"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The Holy Spirit calls us to turn from the darkness of a self-centered life and come into the light of Jesus' self-giving love. (John 16:20)

June 15: "Nothing He'd Rather Be Doing"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Jesus is a tireless Searcher with an affinity for finding lost people. (Psalm 8:4)

June 22: "Should I Be Worried About the Devil?"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Germán Novelli Oliveros

The devil is real, but rather than fretting about the evil he can do, we rejoice in all that Christ has done to defeat him. **(Luke 8:26-39)**

*Nothing is scheduled for June 29 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](http://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 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

	<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Altar</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Worship Assistants</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
Sunday 6/1/2025	Genevieve Miller & Adelaide Jefferies	Kim Sharp	Kim Sharp	Ninah Miller	Bill Stewart & Ron Swinehart	Shelly Reynolds
Sunday 6/8/2025	Maddie Hernandez & Elijah Lawrence	Rita Clarke	John Wagner	John Quardokus	Mark Miller & Andrew Lustila	Helen & Phil R—coffee Dotty Smith--snacks
Sunday 6/15/2025	Cailyn Hecht & Norah Lawrence	Patti Wills	Ron Swinehart	Dave Mandrick	Denny Patzer & John Quardokus	Jane S.-coffee Melanie B--snacks
Sunday 6/22/2025	Linus & Ezra Mandrick	Sally Crawford	John Hecht	John Hecht	John Quardokus & John Wagner	Amber & Chuck Townsend
Sunday 6/29/2025	Elliora & Caviion Beck	Vivian Westphal	Ron Swinehart	Andrew Lustila	Larry Baumgart & Craig Anderson	Amber & Chuck Townsend
Sunday 7/6/2025	Genevieve Miller & Adelaide Jefferies	Jane Schley	Kim Sharp	John Krueger	Bill Stewart & Ron Swinehart	<b>TBA</b>
Sunday 7/13/2025	Maddie Hernandez & Elijah Lawrence	Amber Townsend	John Wagner	Mark Miller	Mark Miller & Andrew Lustila	<b>TBA</b>
Sunday 7/20/2025	Cailyn Hecht & Norah Lawrence	Kim Sharp	Ron Swinehart	Ninah Miller	Denny Patzer & John Quardokus	<b>TBA</b>
Sunday 7/27/2025	Linus & Ezra Mandrick	Vivian Westphal	John Hecht	John Quardokus	John Quardokus & John Wagner	<b>TBA</b>
Sunday 8/3/2025	Elliora & Caviion Beck	Patti Wills	Kim Sharp	Dave Mandrick	Larry Baumgart & Craig Anderson	<b>TBA</b>
Sunday 8/10/2025	Genevieve Miller & Adelaide Jefferies	Amber Townsend	John Wagner	John Hecht	Bill Stewart & Ron Swinehart	<b>TBA</b>
Sunday 8/17/2025	Maddie Hernandez & Elijah Lawrence	Jane Schley	Ron Swinehart	Andrew Lustila	Mark Miller & Andrew Lustila	<b>TBA</b>
Sunday 8/25/2025	Cailyn Hecht & Norah Lawrence	Kim Sharp	John Hecht	John Krueger	Denny Patzer & John Quardokus	<b>TBA</b>
Sunday 8/31/2025	Linus & Ezra Mandrick	Rita Clarke	John Hecht	Mark Miller	John Quardokus & John Wagner	<b>TBA</b>

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

June 2025 Newsletter

Volume 54, No. 6



(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*

## Mary Martha Tea Party—May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025



## A Good Time Had by All!



Ladies: We had a  
wonderful turnout! Let's  
do this again sometime!!