



## November 2025 Newsletter

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Music Director: Sara McGarvey  
Sound Technician: AnnMarie Miller



*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.*



### Giving Thanks

*"Now Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen"* Hebrews 11:1

Happy November! When I reflect on the month of November Thanksgiving is always a highlight. It is a feast that we look forward to, as it is a time with family, friends and wonderful food. However, Thanksgiving is the only holiday this month, we also have All Saints Day.

I find it ironic that these two holidays, Thanksgiving and All Saints Day, appear in the same month. We begin the month by reflecting on death and all those that we have lost but end the month thanking God for everything that he has given us. How can we do either of these things? Through Faith. Faith is the great link between these holidays. For faith enables us as Christians to give thanks to God always, even in times of death and loss.

As a child I never really appreciated All Saints Day, but with each passing year it grows in meaning. Each year we lose more and more people that we long for. As the years go on the company around the Thanksgiving table changes. One year you have Grandma bustling around the kitchen, Grandpa carving the turkey while you are off playing with the cousins. Then suddenly you are the grandma and grandpa getting the meal prepared, while it is your grandkids running around the house. While you rejoice in the people who you have in the house this year, you also wish that the people you spent your first Thanksgivings with were there as well.

But this is why we have All Saints Day. It is on this day that we rejoice that God named himself *I AM* in that burning bush as he spoke to Moses. God did not say he *was* the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob but *I AM*. This is because our God is not the God of the dead, but of the God of the living. Therefore, all who die in him, in his Son's death and Resurrection, are alive in him *today*.

Therefore, we can *long* for them in faith. As we gather around the Thanksgiving Table we see in *faith* the great heavenly meal that is to come. At this meal there will be all the saints from past, present and future. On that day we will not have to worry about empty chairs, or think back on who we miss because they will be present with us again. This is why Christ died, so that we could give thanks to God together forever and ever at the heavenly table.

So this November, give thanks to God. Give thanks to what he gives to us today; our house and home, spouse and children, job, retirement, good food, whatever it is you want to give thanks for do it! But give thanks as well that because of what he has done we know that there is an even greater Thanksgiving to come. This Thanksgiving will be better than any we have had already, for it will have all the saints together praising God and delighting in the gifts he will continue to give to us forever.

Pastor Grotelueschen

## A Prayer of General Thanksgiving

(from the Lutheran Book of Worship)

“Almighty God,  
Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and all whom you have made.

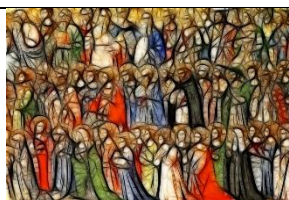
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world  
by our Lord Jesus Christ,  
for the means of grace,  
and for the hope of glory.

And we pray,  
give us such an awareness of your mercies  
that with truly thankful hearts  
we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips,  
but also in our lives,  
by giving up ourselves to your service,  
and by walking before you in holiness  
and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages.

## Laundry Soap Mission at Immanuel



Please keep bringing in your milk and distilled water jugs!! As you can see from the picture above, the Andersons have been loading up their trunks and delivering laundry soap to several places in the area that serve the needy. So far this year they have delivered **1771** jugs of laundry soap, and they're not done yet!!



We honor the witness of those who died in the faith this past All Saints year, including:

**Sandy Clarke Shairer**, Ted Clark's sister, died 11/2/2004  
**Dixon Pulver**, ILC member, died 1/9/2025  
**Jan Wilson**, ILC member, died 2/10/2025  
**Marlys Olson**, ILC member, died 2/10/2025  
**Vince Marshall**, ILC member, died 2/15/2025  
**Bob Mitchell**, ILC member, died 2/18/2025  
**Rev. Paul Maier**, author, speaker, and professor emeritus at Western Michigan University, died 2/27/2025  
**Anne Kingsley Dean**, Jane Schley's cousin, died 4/11/2025  
**Ruby Flickinger**, ILC member, died 6/20/2025  
**Toni Kingsley**, Jane Schley's cousin, died 7/22/2025  
**Dwanna "Suzie" Brink**, Christie Sidwell's mother, died 8/24/2025

...and all others we hold in our hearts and those not spoken aloud.



# In Our Prayers:

## Homebound Ministry:

Marian Brugh  
John Curtiss

Ellen Plano  
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 Dilley</b> , requested by Christa & Phil Perri	<b>Bill Brink</b> , Christie Sidwell's 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>Sharon S.</b> , requested by Dotty Smith	<b>Charlie Miller</b> , Marian Brugh's brother
<b>Loren Gerber</b> , Sue Anderson's father	<b>Jason</b> , son-in-law of Sue & Craig Anderson
<b>Deb</b> , friend of Sue Steuer	<b>Ruth Krueger</b>
<b>Sophie Rose Verile</b> , Brindley's grandniece	<b>Justin Nickels</b> , requested by Justin Beck
<b>Linda &amp; Scott Spurlock</b> , req. by Esther C.	<b>Karen Petersen</b> , daughter of Cathy & Tom Mollet
<b>Mae Westphal</b> , Westphal's granddaughter	<b>Lynne Partridge</b> , friend of Christa Perri
<b>Thomas Nault</b> , Sue Wagner's cousin	<b>Merry Linn</b> , Sally Crawford's sister
<b>Mary Reynolds</b> , mother of Amy Stillwell	<b>Gus Reck</b> , 3 y.o., Maryalice & Bob Reck's grandson
<b>Marilyn Borgeson</b> , Annie Hecht's grandmother	<b>Candace Graham</b> , former ILC member
<b>Otto</b> , Pastor Quardokus' grandson	<b>Helen Roekle</b>
<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	



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Nov. 1	Kurt Noneman
Nov. 4	Nevina Beck
Nov. 4	Genevieve Miller
Nov. 7	Robert Brindley
Nov. 7	Julie Jackson
Nov. 11	Loden Krueger
Nov. 12	Melanie Baumgart
Nov. 12	Avery Jackson
Nov. 16	Kelly Quardokus
Nov. 18	Gary Eckert
Nov. 23	Bill Bennett
Nov. 23	Jerome Dirst
Nov. 27	Phil Roekle
Nov. 28	James Dirst



## 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

***"One cannot think well, love well, sleep well,  
if one has not dined well."***

Virginia Woolf





**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).

### **November 2: "The Way Out"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

Jesus alone is the Way out, rescuing us from sin, despair, and death. He calls us to live as people "on the way." (1 Corinthians 10:13)

### **November 9: "The Lead of Life"**

Guest Speaker: Pastor Ryan Tinetti  
The lead (or 'lede') of a news story conveys the most essential information. What is the lead of the Good News, the Gospel? (Luke 20:27-40)

### **November 16: "The Name on the Front"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)  
Mercy is an others-focused attitude because God is an others-first God. (Romans 12:5-6)

### **November 23: "An Unlikely King"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies  
Christ is the King of an unlikely kingdom. Dr. Chad Lakies describes that kingdom's seemingly upside-down, illogical logic. (Philippians 2:5-11)

### **November 30: "Rise and Shine"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)  
Belief in the resurrection of Jesus is no siesta. It's a 5am wake-up call, a jolt out of bed that will turn your world upside down. (Romans 13:11)



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).



### ***The Wonderful Impossibility of Giving Thanks***

*by Tom Eggebrecht, Contributor*  
*Excerpt from Lutheran Witness Magazine*  
*November 20, 2018*

"What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of salvation, and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem." (*drawn from Ps. 116*)

It was Thanksgiving Day, and my wife and I had no family in town. We were in the midst of a very busy time and didn't plan ahead for a traditional meal. In search of Thanksgiving lunch, we headed out to look for an open restaurant. The only nearby place we could find with its lights on, though, was Steak 'n Shake.

"Why not?" we thought, and sat down for a burger and fries.

I felt such immense gratitude (and a little guilt, too) toward the waitress who gave up her own Thanksgiving to take care of us that I left her a very generous tip when the meal was over. It was a small token of my deep thanks to her.

*"What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?"*

We sing these words from Psalm 116 in church when we return thanks to God with our gifts and tithes. The psalm calls it "a sacrifice of thanksgiving," but what does this mean? It's impossible to thank God for all his benefits. Nonetheless, as Martin Luther indicates in his explanation of the First Article of the Apostles'

Creed, we offer up thanksgiving, praise, service and obedience. These things are but a tiny token of thanks for the benefits the Lord sacrificed his Son to give to us. Here are three benefits that Psalm 116 mentions:

1. **His cup.** In the Garden Jesus said: “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will” (Matthew 26:39). It was the Father’s will that Jesus drink of the cup of death. He spilled out His blood on the cross. By way of the Sacrament of the Altar his blood is given into your mouth to drink for the forgiveness of your sins. A cup of salvation, indeed! (See Psalm 116.) It’s wonderfully impossible to give thanks to the Lord for this eternal benefit. But we thank, praise, serve and obey Jesus because his salvation flows over the brim into our empty cup.
2. **His name.** Psalm 116 urges us to “call on the name of the Lord.” That isn’t difficult to do when His name has been stamped on your forehead in Holy Baptism: “I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Wherever His name is, there He is. Now wherever you go, whatever you do, not only is His name upon you, but He is with you. Call upon His name, and He is right there to answer your prayer and to listen to your complaint. He is nearer than near to give you comfort and deliver peace. It’s wonderfully impossible to give thanks to the Lord for this temporal benefit. But we thank, praise, serve and obey Jesus because He has given us his holy name.
3. **His people.** When we come to the Lord’s house we are “in the presence of all his people...” (Psalm 116:18). There is no such thing as solo Christianity. God always puts us together with His people. In the Old Testament, He took for Himself a people when he called Israel out of Egypt and led them into the Promised Land. Jesus called together a group of twelve individuals to learn together, lean on one another and change the world with the Word of God — and then He sent them out to bring more people into the story. The benefits of being in the presence of God’s people today includes “mutual conversation and consolation.” God’s people speak the truth in love, lend helping hands, encourage each other in the faith and pray for any and every need that arises. It’s wonderfully

impossible to give thanks to the Lord for this incarnational benefit. But we thank, praise, serve and obey Jesus because he has gifted us with his people.

*“What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?”*

It’s wonderfully impossible to thank the Lord fully and completely for all his benefits. But by God’s grace, we thank, praise, serve and obey him. What a wonderful way to celebrate Thanksgiving every day.

*Tom Eggebrecht is Senior Pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church in Casselberry, Florida, where he enjoys preaching the salvation of Jesus, proclaiming His name and serving His people. Follow Tom’s personal blog at [www.tomeggebrecht.com](http://www.tomeggebrecht.com).*



**Mary/Martha:**

**November 8  
in the Garden Level  
from 10am-3pm**

We are planning a **Craft Day** where ladies can bring and work on any handcrafting they choose and fellowship with others. Members can invite a guest(s) too. M&M will serve lunch. We will discuss with those attending the possibility of having more Craft Days scheduled.



We are desperately in need of more volunteers to help us with our Coffee Hour. We are down to only a handful of faithful Coffee Hour volunteers now and without adding new volunteers, we may need to reduce our offerings to every other Sunday, or no Coffee Hour at all. If you would like to volunteer to bring snacks or make coffee on a Sunday, please **contact our coordinator Jane Schley** in church or by emailing her at [AJSchley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:AJSchley@sbcglobal.net). Our wonderful tradition of sharing coffee, snacks, and conversation together after church is worth saving! Please consider helping! Thank-you!



## "Stamps for Mission" Project— A Fundraiser for Becky Grossman's Work with Lutheran Bible Translators

### WHAT IS IT?

This is a fundraising initiative where you can donate used postage stamps in an effort to raise funds to support Becky's work with Lutheran Bible Translators. With Christmas cards and letters coming right around the corner, it's a good time to start saving the used stamps.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

When you turn in your used stamps, volunteers will collect, clean, and sell the stamps, with the proceeds going to Lutheran Bible Translators. The most profitable stamps include foreign, rare, old, and commemorative stamps.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- As stamps are re-sold by the pound, please trim all the stamps as close as possible to the stamp but avoid cutting the stamp itself. (If you don't, someone has to sit for hours cutting off the excess. *Can you imagine that job?*)
- Jane has a box in the Narthex marked "Stamps for Becky Grossman—LBT". Please place your used, trimmed stamps in it.
- If you have any questions, feel free to call Jane at (269) 599-4789 or email her at [AJSchley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:AJSchley@sbcglobal.net) or just see her in church.

**Sunday, November 23:  
Mark Your Calendars!!**



**Join Us to Make an  
Advent Wreath!  
Starts at 3:00pm:**

**ALSO**

**Men's Chili Cook-Off  
Starts at 4:30pm**

*(after the Advent Wreath-Making)*

- **Everyone** is welcome to come to both events...get the kids involved! Never had an Advent Wreath or Wreath Banner? This is the place to make your first one!! Invite your friends and family...and **please** sign up!
- There is a **sign-up poster in the Narthex** for both wreath/banner-making and chili-making. You can also sign up to bring other foods, such as corn bread, crackers, corn chips and desserts. (Beverages will be provided.)
- We have candles and wreaths for **10 wreaths**; there will be a nominal fee required for each.
- **One wreath per family please.**
- We will provide the four Advent candles (3 purple, 1 rose), a wreath form and some decorations...keeping to the theme of white, gold, and silver. You can bring any decorations you prefer as well.



**If you have recently  
changed your phone  
number, postal  
address, or email  
address, please let  
Ailene, our secretary,  
know so she can  
update the church  
directory.**

**Thank-you!!**

# NOVEMBER ILC CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Mission of the Month: Edison Initiative</b>						
<b>2</b> 8:30am Choir Practice 9:15am Sunday School 10am Communion Service 11:30am Bible Study w/ Pastor	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10am Wills' Bible Study at ILC 5:30 Mary/Martha Meeting 7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC	<b>5</b> 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10-3pm Mary/Martha Craft Day 
<b>9</b> 8:30am Choir Practice 9:15am Sunday School 10am Communion Service <b>11:30am Voters' Assembly Mtg.</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 10am Wills' Bible Study at ILC 7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 8:30am Choir Practice 9:15am Sunday School 10am Communion Service 11:30am Bible Study w/ Pastor	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10am Wills' Bible Study at ILC 7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8:30am Choir Practice 9:15am Sunday School 10am Communion Service 11:30am Bible Study w/ Pastor <b>3:00pm Advent Wreath-Making</b> <b>4:30pm Men's Chili Cook-Off</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10am Wills' Bible Study at ILC 7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC	<b>26</b> 7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	<b>27</b> 	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8:30am Choir Practice 9:15am Sunday School 10am Communion Service 11:30am Bible Study w/ Pastor	<b>31</b>					



# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

November 2025 Newsletter  
Volume 54, No. 10



**Immanuel  
Lutheran  
Church**

**(269) 345-8090**

**10:00 am  
Sunday Communion  
Service**

**11:30am Adult Bible  
Study**

**11:30am  
Children's Choir  
Practice**

NOTE:

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



Martin Luther wrote extensively about the importance and nature of giving thanks to God as a central aspect of the Christian faith. Key elements of his views on gratitude include:

- **Gratitude is a spontaneous response to God's gifts, not an obligation.** He argued that true thankfulness arises naturally from the recognition of God's unearned gifts (grace), rather than feeling forced to say "thank you" out of a sense of duty or law.
- **"Unthankfulness is theft".** Luther emphasized that a lack of gratitude means failing to acknowledge the source of all blessings, effectively "stealing" the credit from God.
- **Everything is a gift from God.** In his *Small Catechism*, in the explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed, Luther lists all aspects of life (body, soul, food, drink, family, etc.) as gifts from God for which we owe "thanks and praise, service and obedience".
- **Thanksgiving leads to service.** The result of recognizing God's gifts and feeling true gratitude is a desire to serve and obey Him, which extends to caring for others.

***"Whatever happens, give thanks, because it is God's will in Christ Jesus that you do this."***

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (God's Word)