



October 2025 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

Why Church?

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

Hebrews 10:23-25

Have you heard people say that they can be a Christian and not go to church? This seems to be a common sentiment among many Christians here in America. They say things like "I can worship God anywhere", or "I feel his presence more in nature than in the building." Oftentimes, it is hard for us as Christians to respond to such statements. Even some who come to church weekly can have a hard time explaining exactly why we need to come to church when we are talking with such people. So, I wanted to spend some time discussing why we go to church, and what separates going to church on Sunday from worshipping God on the golf course.

The first thing we need to recognize is it is commanded by God to meet together regularly. The third commandment is to honor the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy. This did not mean just taking a rest from work, but to devote that specific day to God. The Israelites were not to find rest in inactivity, but to find their rest in him. This is why he commanded that there would be worship services, and priests to run them.

But why would God command such a thing as regular worship once a week in a building if we could pray to him while fishing, or read our Bible by ourselves out in the woods? Our God is not a God who commands things needlessly, he commands things for our benefit. Therefore, it must be beneficial for us to attend church regularly. But what are those benefits? Well, we see some of them in Hebrews 10 as we are encouraged to meet regularly at church to hold fast to the confession of faith, and to encourage one another to love and do good works.

We live in a world that wants us to forget God and not follow him. We live in a world of distractions, heartaches, and tragedies. Therefore, we need one another to keep going in the Christian faith. God never asks us to do faith on our own, but to be surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who will remind us of what God has done, and what he will do. He has died to save us from our sins, and he is coming back to bring us to dwell with him forever. In a world that wants us to forget we need one another to remind us of this truth.

But our God is not just one who has worked in the past and will come again on the last day. He is active and present *today*. He is active most especially at church. It is at church where he pronounces the forgiveness of sins through the Pastor. It is at church where he washes away all sins and adopts us as his children through baptism. It is at church where he feeds us to strengthen and nourish through his Body and Blood in Holy Communion. It is at church where he guides through his Holy Word. It is at church where our faith is guarded and kept through the proclamation of the creeds, and the singing of the hymns. It is at church where we lay all our burdens upon him and know that he is listening through prayer. He is active and present always, but especially at church.

So why do we go to church? To be with God. To have a special significant time when we are focused on him, and we know that he is present giving us all of his good gifts. The gifts of Word and Sacrament, of fellowship and song. So come to church and be with your God and receive all that he desires to give you to guard and protect you in this life and bring you into the next.

Pastor Grotelueschen



Oktoberfest @ ILC!!

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025

5:00pm Social Hour

6:00pm Dinner

**Join us for German food & beer
and great fellowship!**

Check out the poster in the
narthex and sign up to
attend & bring some
German food with you too!
German beer and wine will
be available!



...this is an "Adults Only" party!

*Be assured there will
be other beverages
available for your enjoyment.*



We are collecting food for
Loaves and Fishes that
evening so please bring
along canned or boxed
items to donate. *Thanks!*



The Mary and Martha Guild
will be hosting our annual

"Sip & Shop"

(New name!!)

Sunday, October 12, 2025
(after the worship service)



The funds raised will be used to
take care of our church family;
whether it is a meal, a prayer shawl, or items
needed in crises.

We'll have cider, etc. while we shop!!
Share Your Talents!!!

Can you sew? Can you grow?
Can you make? Can you bake?
Can you brew? Can you stew?
All Talents... WE NEED YOU!!

*Below are examples of
donated items to consider making for the Annual
Sip & Shop:*

- Hand-made crafts
- Wooden puzzles/toys
 - Ornaments
 - Christmas stockings
- Home-made baked goods, candies, nuts,
jellies, frozen pizzas, soups, stews
- Home-crafted beers and wines
 - Flower arrangements
 - Christmas cards



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



Oct. 1	Sally Crawford
Oct. 4	Allyn Miller
Oct. 7	Gary Foster
Oct. 12	Steve Askew
Oct. 14	Frederick Miller
Oct. 17	Dotty Smith
Oct. 22	Jonathan Measel
Oct. 24	John Curtiss
Oct. 29	Matthew Lopacki
Oct. 30	Paul Graham



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

Our Mission of the Month in **Oct** is:
St. Michael Scholarship Fund:

A NOTE FROM PRINCIPAL GREG JOHNSON

"Tuition Assistance – Investing in Children"

"Helping families with tuition costs by way of the tuition assistance fund is a critical component to the school ministry at St. Michael. While our tuition is one of the most affordable among area private schools, it can still be a challenge for some families, especially if they have multiple children or only one income. The availability of tuition assistance to qualifying families is often enough to allow them to attend our school. It is important that we keep tuition assistance fully funded. We attempt this through special events like the annual Golf Outing, proceeds from the Gerri Wheeler Scholarship fund, and many generous donations. Due to recent economic challenges and significant increases in school enrollment, the tuition assistance fund has nearly been depleted and is sorely in need of funds for the 2025-2026 school year. Because our school is now accredited, this opens the opportunity for participating employers to match funds that are given for tuition assistance. Please check with your employer to see if they participate in such a program."

"In the current school year, we have 23 families who qualify for assistance, which translates into 33 students. Families who are eligible to apply for assistance include everyone in the K-8 program. Since I came to St Michael over 20 years ago, just shy of \$700,000 of tuition assistance has been awarded to qualifying families and over 200 individuals have come into membership with St. Michael Lutheran Church through school programs. Not everyone who applies receives tuition assistance. It is awarded only to those families who demonstrate a need and a degree of sound financial management."

"I would like to challenge you to consider giving a tax deductible gift to the tuition assistance fund, participate in the golf outing, or consider sponsoring a child for a school year. It is an investment in ministry and mission that touches the lives of numerous children each school year."

In Christ,
Greg Johnson, Principal, St. Michael Lutheran School

Why Is a Christian Education Important?

Christian education is important because it provides a holistic, values-based education that integrates faith with academic learning to develop students' character, intellect, and spiritual growth. It fosters a strong moral compass rooted in biblical principles, encourages critical thinking and discernment, and builds a supportive community of believers with wise mentors and peers. This approach aims to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and virtues necessary to live a purposeful life, serve others, and positively impact their communities and the world through a Christian worldview.



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.

October 5: "Every Age Has a Stage"

Guest Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola](#)

Every age has a stage, not just a stage of life, but also a stage on which to perform and to serve. (Numbers 8:23-26)

October 12: "When a Cakewalk Becomes a Crucible"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)
Forgiveness isn't a formality with God. Forgiveness is formative. It changes us. (Numbers 14:30-31)

October 19: "God's Help Dwells in Us"

Guest Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez](#)
The Holy Spirit is the Helper who comes to dwell in and with us, to encourage and empower us. (Numbers 11:29)

October 26: "Worn In"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)
Are you feeling worn down or worn out? Through faith, God conforms us to the pattern of Christ. (Numbers 20:13)



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.

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



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

Come join us in the Fellowship Hall and make a **Family Advent Wreath**

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.



Bible Study w/Paul Wills

Join us **Tuesday mornings at 10am at Immanuel** for a new Bible study as we explore the book of Matthew, the first Gospel in the New Testament. Often called "the Gospel of the Kingdom," Matthew presents Jesus as the long-awaited Jewish Messiah who fulfills Old Testament prophecy. Through His teachings, miracles, parables, and the transformative Sermon on the Mount, we will discover what it truly means to be a disciple of the King. All are welcome.

Bible Study w/ the Baumgarts:

Tuesday nights at Immanuel—at 7pm.

Our study will be one of the Minor Prophets—Hosea. All are welcome to join us and learn about God's relentless love for his people!

If you have any questions, please contact Melanie or Larry Baumgart.



Bible Study with Pastor G:

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Sunday after the worship service, please join Pastor Josh as we begin to dive into the mysterious book of Hebrews in Bible Study.

We will be pondering what is really going on when we come to Church, the necessity of the Old Testament even today, exploring the differences and similarities in worship between Old Testament and New Testament times, and so much more all through the book of Hebrews. Plan on Bible Study beginning at 11:30 am, or shortly after our morning service! Hope to see you there!

***LIKE YOUR VITAMINS...
BIBLE STUDY IS
GOOD FOR YOU!!***



The next Voters' Assembly Meeting will be held on **NOVEMBER 9, 2025** after the morning service.

Reasons to attend a voters' assembly meeting:

To guide the congregation's direction

Congregational meetings are where the local church's mission, policies, and priorities are discussed and set. These meetings involve making decisions on a wide range of issues that directly impact the church community and its members.

To elect congregational leaders

Members have the opportunity to vote on who will serve in leadership positions, such as the church council, board members, and other congregational officers. This is a crucial way to ensure the church is led by individuals who represent the members' values and vision.

To approve the church's budget

Voters' assemblies review and approve the congregation's annual budget. Attending allows you to have a say in how the church's financial resources are allocated to support its ministries, staff, and building maintenance.

To stay informed about church affairs

Meetings provide a transparent way to hear reports from officers and committees on the church's activities, challenges, and successes. This allows members to stay up-to-date and participate in communal spiritual discernment.

To participate in a democratic and spiritual process

Many Lutheran churches follow parliamentary procedure (like *Robert's Rules of Order*) for their meetings, ensuring fair and orderly debate. This provides a structured way for members to voice their opinions, propose ideas, and vote on motions. The process is rooted in the belief that all members have equal rights and a duty to prayerfully contribute to the church's future.

OCTOBER ILC CALENDAR

Mission of the Month: St. Michael Scholarship Fund

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Mission of the Month in March is...St. Michael Scholarship Fund			1	2	3	4  5:00pm Social Hour 6:00pm Dinner
5 8:30am Choir Practice 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC & online 11:30am Adult Class 11:30am Children's Choir	6	7 10am Wills' Bible Study 5:30pm Mary/Martha 7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC		9	10	11 10-11am "Joy" Bible Study
12 8:30am Choir Practice 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC & online 11:30am Adult Class 11:30am Children's Choir	13	14 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 10am Wills' Bible Study 7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC	15	16 10:00a-5:00p Ron Eastman's Celebration of Life in the Garden Level	17	18
19 8:30am Choir Practice 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC & online 11:30am Adult Class 11:30am Children's Choir	20	21 10am Wills' Bible Study 7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC	22 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	23	24	25
26 8:30am Choir Practice 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Communion Service @ ILC & online 11:30am Adult Class 11:30am Children's Choir	27	28 10am Wills' Bible Study 7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC	29	30	31	

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

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**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**

FALL TREASURE SALE ANTIQUES HOUSEWARES UNIQUE FINDS

**Friday, Oct 3 7:30-5:00
Saturday, Oct 4 7:30-2:00**

**Second Christian Reformed Church
3015 Nichols Rd, Kalamazoo**



All proceeds benefit KDC
to provide a helping hand
to those who are in need.

