



October 2026 Newsletter



TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the Pastor: <i>“Celebrating”</i>	1
“Joining Jesus on His Mission” Breakfast 10/24/26	2
October Birthdays	2
A “PIG Thank-you” to Townsends (Pig Roast)	2
Immanuel Prayer List	3
Mission of the Month: St. Michael Lutheran School	3
Lutheran Hour Ministries Sermon Schedule	4
Upcoming Mary/Martha Craft Day—October 10th	4
Oktoberfest at Immanuel: Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026	5
Mary/Martha Sip and Shop: Sunday, Oct. 25, 2026	5
Advent Wreath-Making & Chili Cook-off 11/22/26	6
Pastor Josh & Rosie the Comfort Dog: Oct. 22, 2025	6
Church Movie Outing: Daniel Oct. 6, 2026	6
Church Calendar for October 2026	7
All Saints Day 11/1/2026-- Get names submitted	8

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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.

FROM THE PASTOR

“Celebrating”

“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 10:24-25

Happy October! This is the time when we celebrate Reformation Day, the day when Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenburg, Germany, letting everyone know where the Church had gone wrong. It is the day where we celebrate the free gift of the Gospel of Jesus Christ- that he has died to save us from our sins!

Growing up Reformation Day was always one of my favorite services. It had a certain energy behind it, most likely due to the hymns we sing on that day such as *A Mighty Fortress* and *Thy Strong Word*. It is beautiful day, and a beautiful service that I am truly looking forward to!

But so often we take that message that Martin Luther rediscovered and we fail to live in the joy of that message. We still live according to the law. We live in the condemnation of our sins, rather than rejoicing in the freedom of Jesus’ forgiveness. We isolate ourselves in our own faith, rather than seeing the community that God has given us to grow and nurture our faith- the Church.

But the author of Hebrews is clear. Faith is not meant to be grown just by us. Even Martin Luther said that we cannot come to faith on our own, we need the Power of the Holy Spirit as he works through the Church.

I am certain that the Holy Spirit will be working at Immanuel Lutheran Church this month, bringing us the joy of the Gospel. Through Bible studies we will be hearing God’s Word and hear the faith proclaimed through books like Matthew, Daniel, John and 1 Peter. Sundays after Church, and Tuesday Mornings and Evenings. We will be reexamining our catechisms on October 17th as we review the first article of the Apostles Creed and the 10 commandments. We will be seeing how God can be at work in our lives, communities, and neighborhoods October 24th as we hear about Jesus’ Mission. We will then be at work in our neighborhoods through Trunk or Treat October 31st. We will be rejoicing in the Fellowship that God has given us as we have Craft Day October 10th and Oktoberfest October 24th. We can gather together in prayer and comfort as we meet October 22nd with Rosie the comfort dog.

We will be receiving God's grace and mercy as well as all of his wonderful gifts every Sunday as we gather in Worship to receive the Word and Sacrament together as God's People.

This month there are countless opportunities for you to be gathered together in community with fellow Christian brothers and sisters, rejoicing in the Gospel, building one another up, reaching out into the community, and basking in the presence of our God. I urge you to take part in these opportunities as not only will God use them to bless you, but God will use your presence as well to bless everyone else there as well. This is why it is commanded that we ought not to neglect meeting together! So let us meet together as often as we can this month in light of the Gospel. For it is Christ who has brought us together, and we rejoice in the community that he has given us; this community centered on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Grotelueschen



Happy Birthday October Peeps!

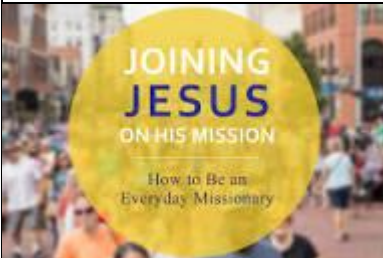
Sally Crawford	Oct. 1
Allyn Miller	Oct. 1
Gary Foster	Oct. 7
Steve Askew	Oct. 12
Frederick Miller	Oct. 14
Dotty Smith	Oct. 17
Jonathan Measel	Oct. 22
John Curtiss	Oct. 24
Jameson McGarvey	Oct. 24
Mathew Lopacki	Oct. 29
Paul Graham, Jr.	Oct. 30

*If you've "still got it"
Haunt it!!*

*(You may be old enough to haunt
your own house now!)*

A "PIG Thank-You" to
Amber and Chuck Townsend
for putting on many years of
pig roasts at their home!

Everyone who attended had
a nice time this year!



Joining Jesus on his Mission: Jesus commanded the Church to make Disciples of all Nations. This can seem like a daunting task! Who am I to

make disciples of all nations? However, by giving this command Jesus is also telling us to make disciples right here in Kalamazoo among your friends, neighbors and family. If you have been wanting to be a better evangelist, if you are curious how to share God's Word with people in your life, or if you just want a good breakfast please join us Saturday, **October 24th at 9 am** in the Church Fellowship Hall as we learn about *Joining Jesus on his Mission*. This is a book that was written by Greg Finke, and it has several wonderful insights for us in how to share the Gospel in our everyday lives. No need to read ahead, just bring yourself and a willing spirit to learn!



Also: **Adult Catechism Classes** resume October 17th at 9 am. and will be held the third Saturday of every month thereafter, unless otherwise noted. The first session will be

the **First Article of the Creed and the Ten Commandments.**



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
Lynne Partridge , friend of Christa Perri	Lucille Fritz, requested by Jonathan Fritz
Bill Brink , Christie Sidwell's brother	Gus Reck , grandson of Bob & Maryalice Reck
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, and Mary's great-grandson, Dallas .
Jason , son-in-law of Sue & Craig Anderson	Jerry and Sandi McKenzie , friends of Dotty Smith
Ware Washam , requested by Brian Long	Sandy Hale , requested by Stephen Presdorf
Rita Presdorf , Stephen Presdorf's mother	Lisa and David Wentzel , Sue Steuer's cousins
Loren Gerber , Sue Anderson's father	Marian Brugh and son Brian
Laura Mattson Hugill , former ILC member	Charlie Miller , Marian Brugh's brother
Deb , friend of Sue Steuer	Jeri Noneman
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
Otto , Pastor Quardokus' grandson	Vicki Dilley , requested by Christa & Phil Perri
Thomas Nault , Sue Wagner's cousin	Mae Westphal , Vivian's & Wayne's grandchild
Kim N., Emilie H., & Sydney B. , all friends of Kim Sharp; and River Lint	
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, Dotty Smith, Helen Roekle, Gene Jennings, Beth Mitchell, Linda Swinehart, & Brian Long	

Our Mission in the month of **October** is....
the St. Michael Lutheran School
Scholarship Fund

St. Michael Lutheran School

Education with Christ at the Heart

7211 Oakland Drive, Portage MI | 269-327-0512 | www.stmichaelschool.org



TUITION ASSISTANCE CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NEEDED FOR THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR.

Each school year almost \$50,000 dollars is needed as support to qualifying families who seek tuition assistance for Education with Christ at the heart of it. It is important to keep tuition assistance fully funded. Due to recent economic challenges and significant increases in school enrollment, the tuition assistance fund is sorely in need of dollars for the 2026-2027 school year.

All donations are tax deductible and because our school is now fully accredited, participating employers may also match funds that are given toward this program. Please check with your employer to see if they participate in such a program. 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 the only reason they can attend our school. 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 the coming school year. It is an investment in ministry and mission that touches the lives of numerous children each school year.

We thank the Immanuel congregation for your continual support through the years!

In Christ, Greg Johnson, Principal

Church Office (269-327-7832)

School (269-327-0512) or there's more information at mightymessengers.org



LUTHERAN
HOUR
MINISTRIES

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 4, 2026: "Embrace Life"

Guest Speaker: **Rev. Germán Novelli Oliveros**

Jesus offers His abundant life to people plagued by pain and problems. John 10:10-11

October 11, 2026: "Covered"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Michael**

Zeigler. Proper Attire Required: how God covers us with the robe of Christ's perfect righteousness.

Matthew 22:11-12

October 18, 2026: "The Heart of the Matter"

Guest Speaker: **Pastor Ryan Tinetti**

How do you respond to tough questions about God and faith? Hear how Jesus delivers us from the tightest of tight spots and keeps us from falling into a trap.

Matthew 22:15-22

October 25, 2026: "Relief"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Michael**

Zeigler. You don't have to earn God's favor. It is the relief waiting to find us before we even knew we had a problem.

Romans 3:23-24



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..... and Brunch



COMING UP....

Saturday, October 10th
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 food for our brunch for the group, please sign up for that too.

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



Saturday, October 17, 2026

5:00pm Social Hour

6:00pm Dinner

Immanuel's Fellowship Hall

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 too.)*



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

Thanks!

**How good are you at Trivia?
Come find out!!**

*(It's not about Oktoberfest this year, so you
can't look back at last year's trivia!!!)*

The Mary and
Martha Guild
will be hosting
our annual



Sunday, October 25, 2026
(after the worship service)

*We'll have cider, etc.
while we shop!!*

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.



In Preparation:
***Share your talents & donate
items so we have lots of
things to sell!!!***

**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:

- Hand-made crafts, wooden puzzles/toys
- Ornaments, Christmas stockings, bows
- Home-made baked goods, candies, nuts, jellies, frozen pizzas, soups, stews
 - Home-crafted beers and wines
 - Flower arrangements
- Oven mitts, Scarves, mittens, and hats

**Sunday, November 22:
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**

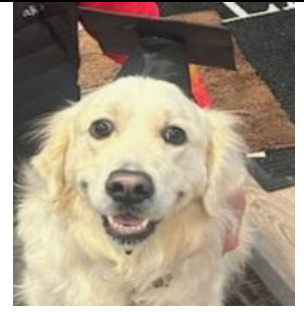


ALSO

**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 **several 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.



Prayer and Comfort. We have a God who is present not just in the good times, but also in the rough times. We can go to him both for strength, but also for comfort since we call him Father.



On October 22nd
from 6-7 p.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church will be open if you need to come and have some time in prayer with **Pastor Josh and Rosie the Comfort Dog**. Maryalice Reck has graciously offered up Rosie's services to anyone who can use the extra comfort and love that God has to offer during this time. If you know you can make it, please reach out to Pastor Josh so we can look forward to your coming!



Church Movie Outing: *Daniel and the Fiery Furnace*

Join your church family for a special movie outing on **the morning of October 6th** to see Daniel and the Fiery Furnace on the big screen! This powerful, scripture-based film brings the early story of the prophet Daniel and his companions to life as they face trials of absolute faith in Babylon

Where: Celebration Cinema Crossroads (6600 RING RD, PORTAGE)

Details: The movie is rated PG-13 with a runtime of 1 hour and 48 minutes. (Please note theater policy: guests 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult after 5:00 PM).

Tickets & Showtimes: Families can coordinate and purchase tickets directly on the **CELEBRATION CINEMA WEBSITE:**

<https://www.celebrationcinema.com/cinemas/Celebration-Cinema-Crossroads>

Invite a neighbor, bring a friend, and let's enjoy a time of fellowship together!

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Mission of the Month: St. Michael Lutheran School Scholarship Fund						
				1 7pm Church Council Mtg	2 1-7:30pm Church Directory Pictures	3 10-4:30pm Church Directory Pictures
4 8:30 Choir Practice 9:15 Sunday School 10:00 Communion Service 11:30 Children's Choir 11:30 Adult Bible Class	5	6 5:30pm Mary/Martha 10:00am Wills' Bible Study at ILC 7:00pm Baumgarts' Bible Study @ ILC	7	8	9	10 10-3pm M/M Craft Day
11 8:30 Choir Practice 9:15 Sunday School 10:00 Communion Service 11:30 Children's Choir 11:30 Voters Assembly Mtg	12	13 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:00am Wills' Bible Study at ILC 7:00pm Baumgarts' Bible Study @ ILC	14	15	16	17  5:00pm Social Hour 6:00pm Dinner
18 8:30 Choir Practice 9:15 Sunday School 10:00 Communion Service 11:30 Children's Choir 11:30 Adult Bible Class	19	20 10:00am Wills' Bible Study at ILC 7:00pm Baumgarts' Bible Study @ ILC	21	22  Newsletter Deadline	23	24 9:30am Brunch to start new study: "Joining Jesus on His Mission."
25 8:30 Choir Practice 9:15 Sunday School 10:00 Communion Service 11:30 Children's Choir 11:30 Mary/Martha Sip & Shop 11:45 Adult Bible Class	26	27 10:00am Wills' Bible Study at ILC 7:00pm Baumgarts' Bible Study @ ILC	28	29	30	31 <u>Halloween</u> 5-7pm Trunk or Treat

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

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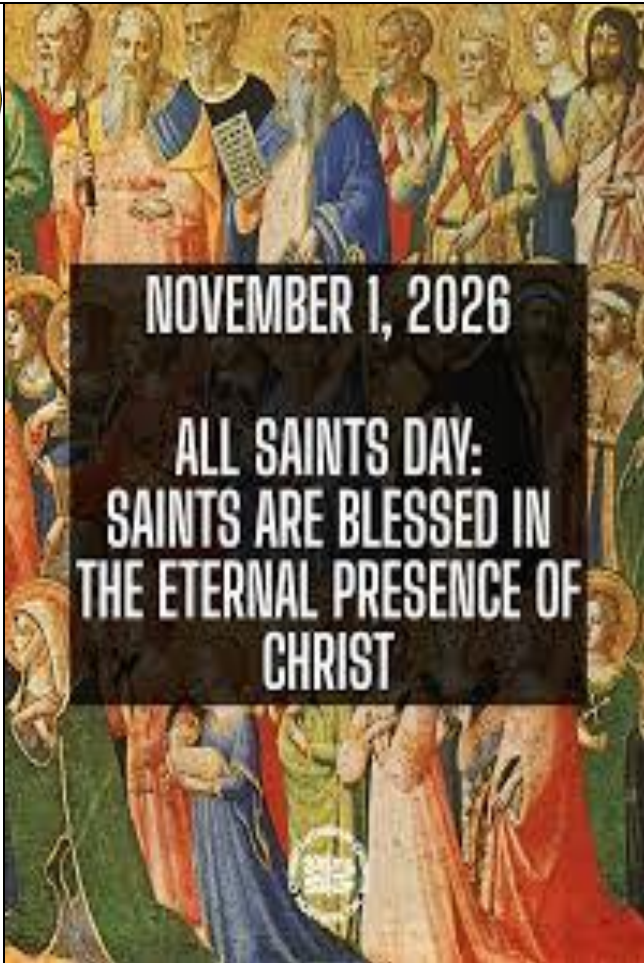
**Immanuel
Lutheran
Church**

**(269) 345-
8090**

**10:00 am
Sunday
Communion
Service**

**11:30am Adult
Bible Study**

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



Overview of All Saints' Day in the Lutheran Tradition

Core Meaning: Lutherans teach that we are made saints not by our own good works, but because Jesus sets us apart and makes us holy (sanctification). The day honors the "communion of saints"—both the living and those who have died in Christ.

Traditions: Many congregations light candles to remember loved ones who have passed away and celebrate the eternal homecoming of believers.

If you would like a loved one to be remembered on All Saints Day, be sure to notify Ailene in the church office either by calling the church phone **#(269) 345-8090** or by emailing her at Ilckalamazoo@gmail.com. She will need your loved one's name, relationship to you, and date of death. She will also need this information **no later than Monday, October 25th** in order to get it into the church bulletin for Sunday services on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026.