



September 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

"Greetings!"

The Heart of Man plans his ways, but the Lord establishes his steps. Proverbs 16:9

Hello everyone and thank you for the gracious and warm welcome you extended to me these past few weeks! I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your greetings! Thank you as well for everyone who came to the installation, and fellowship time after my first Sunday here, especially all you who volunteered to put it together! I can already tell how wonderful this congregation truly is, and I am delighted that God has brought me here to be among you as your new Pastor.

I just thought I would introduce myself briefly in this first newsletter. Though I was born in Crown Point, Indiana, I consider Kalamazoo, Michigan to be my hometown. I grew up right next to the Fish Hatchery, went to Church at Trinity Lutheran in Paw Paw, Michigan, and went to Paw Paw High School. So it is truly exciting to be back!

After graduating from high school in 2011, I went to Concordia College in Chicago and got my bachelor's degree in theology. Immediately thereafter, I went to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis where I studied to be a pastor. My first call was to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School in Janesville, Wisconsin, and most recently I have served at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School in West Allis, Wisconsin. I served as an associate pastor in both of these congregations, focusing especially on Youth and Outreach. I am so grateful for the time God gave me in Wisconsin, where I met amazing people and learned a lot about what God can do. However, never in my time in any of these places did I think God would be calling me back to Kalamazoo, Michigan—but you never know what the Lord has in store!

I ask that you continue to pray, as you have been doing, for the Lord's work to be done here. I still do not know what he has in store for us in our time together in Kalamazoo, but I am excited to participate in the Lord's ministry with you. For he has already

been at work here and will continue to work through us. I know that he will be opening up many doors to serve our community and share His word among people who truly need to hear it. God's grace, love and mercy is for all people and we never know whose hearts he has already prepared for us to give the Gospel to!

For those who might be curious about what I like to do in my free time, I have a wide variety of interests. I love running and biking, disc golfing (and am slowly getting better at real golfing), board games, movies, and reading. But I especially love doing these things with family and friends. If any of you share in these interests let me know, I would love to do them with you! Or I would love to learn your interests as well! Recently, a good friend of mine, who is also a pastor, and I have started a podcast called Hidden Theology where we explore film and literature and discuss how Christ might be seen in these pieces of art. So far, we have covered the Chronicles of Narnia, as well as Dune when that movie came out, but we are always looking for other books to discuss! It has truly been an enlightening and devotional process for me.

So once again, thank you all for your wonderful welcome and support. I have truly been enjoying how God has been at work here at Immanuel and am so excited to witness and participate in His work here!

God Bless you all!
Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen



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



*Pastor G and parents at
the Installation Service*



*Pastor Craig Bickel,
Presiding Minister, with
Pastor Grotelueschen*



Pastor G with Pastor Sidwell



*District pastors
standing with
Pastor G at his
installment*



District pastors welcome Pastor Grotelueschen into the district



Rev. Dr. Mike A. Iannelli Jr. giving the sermon at Pastor G's Installation service

A Meet and Greet the Pastor was held Sunday, August 17th @ ILC



A good time was had by all at Pastor's Meet & Greet. (A lot of food was had by all too!!)



Many thanks to all those who helped at both the Installment Service and the Meet and Greet.

The "grazing table" above was the result of many hands of both men and women making lighter the work. (Not all pictured!) The group effort produced a winning spread!!



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	
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	



Sept. 13	Sylvia Marshall
Sept. 13	Becky Patzer
Sept. 16	Lori Bayer
Sept. 16	Kim Sharp
Sept. 17	Dolly Bryan
Sept. 17	Jerry Daniels
Sept. 19	Rebecca New
Sept. 27	Shelly Reynolds



Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church:

Thank-you so much for the gallons and gallons of laundry soap! What a creative way to serve our community! Your soap is greatly appreciated by the customers and volunteers at Eleanor's Pantry—it makes people so happy!

Thank you again and again!

The Volunteers and Staff of Eleanor's Pantry

Our Mission of the Month in September is: Crossroads Prison Ministries:

Crossroads Prison Ministries has recently updated its curriculum to better prepare incarcerated individuals for reentry into society and deepen their faith. New courses include "Returning Home" for reentry preparation and "A Renewed Mind" to challenge destructive thinking. These updates, along with a new "What is a Mentor?" course, are designed to enhance the mentoring experience and support students. A new video series called "Doing Time" is also available on computer tablets in many facilities.

Here's a more detailed look at the changes:

- **New Reentry Course:**

A course called "Returning Home" is now available to help students prepare for a successful return to society after release.

- **New Faith-Based Course:**

"A Renewed Mind" challenges students to adopt a Christ-centered mindset and abandon destructive thinking patterns.

- **Mentor Training:**

A new course, "What is a Mentor?", prepares students for one-on-one mentoring relationships.

Video Series:

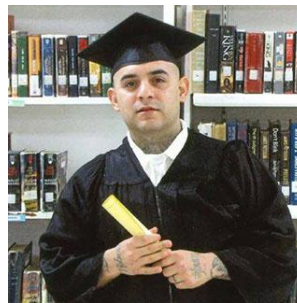
The "Doing Time" video series is now available on computer tablets in many correctional facilities, offering another way for students to engage with the curriculum.

Curriculum Updates:

The English program in the U.S. has been updated, with Spanish and international updates to be announced later.

If you would like to consider becoming a mentor in this extremely valuable ministry, please call Ailene in the church office and she can get you started.

Testimonials from CPM Inmates:



Isaac: Crossroads student in Texas:

"I didn't know who I was when I came to prison. I only knew who I was a part of. I had a reputation to keep as a thug, a gangster who was ready to kill in a heartbeat.

"I can't say I had this awesome God encounter one day. But my relationship with God came in intervals. . . . I have come to understand who I am and whose I am. I am a child of the most High God, an ambassador of Christ. I am more than a conqueror, a saint, part of the royal priesthood. A believer!"



ZoAnn: Crossroads student in Minnesota:

"I used to think I didn't have a testimony, but now I know I do. God has brought me through so much. When I first received my federal sentence of twenty-four years for dealing meth, I was so devastated. But each day God showed me He was with me in the way He has taken care of my four children and how He has given me strength to make it in here. I now know that God is the only way. The life I was leading before was the path to nowhere."



Shawn: Crossroads student in New Jersey

"It took for me to be in and out of jail to see what was happening to me. The devil had me blindfolded to the things I was doing. He stole many years of my life. This time in jail, God opened my eyes. God is great. In 2014, I stopped using drugs and drinking. I don't have the urge to do any of these things anymore."



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.

September 7: "Dying, We Live"

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

God's love finds His people in the wilderness, the place where God gives bread from heaven, water from a rock, and streams in the desert.

(Numbers 14:19-20)

September 14: "It's All on God; It's All on Us"

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

A paradox doesn't make sense, mathematically. But it can be an accurate description of real-life experience. (Deuteronomy 1:31)

September 21: "Someone Worth Having"

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

We lost God's name along the way, but God found us and gave us the Name by which we can know Him: Jesus--"God saves." (Numbers 6:27)

September 28: "On the Way, Already Home"

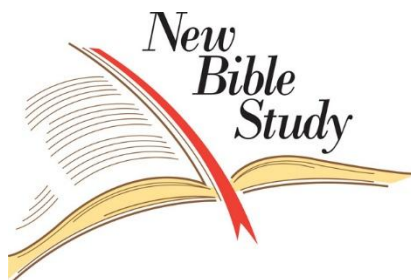
Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

God made us to move--toward Him in faith and toward our neighbor in love. (Numbers 9:18)



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.

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.



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.

Beginning September 7th, 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!

Bible Study



Bible Study continues w/ the Baumgarts:

Tuesday nights at Immanuel starting Sept. 16—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.



Martin Luther and the Scriptures:

Martin Luther strongly emphasized diligent, personal Bible study, seeing it as God's direct, accessible Word that teaches justification by faith, not by works. He encouraged reading the Bible frequently and in detail, even suggesting readers memorize passages, believing the text's clarity makes it understandable without needing numerous other books or relying solely on church authority. His translation of the Bible into German for the common people underscored his conviction that Scripture is the ultimate authority for faith and life.

SEPTEMBER ILC CALENDAR

Mission of the Month: Crossroads Prison Ministries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 <i>5:30pm Mary/Martha Meeting</i> <i>10am Wills' Bible Study at ILC</i> <i>7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC</i>	3	4	5	6
7 <i>9:15am Sunday School</i> <i>10:00am Communion Service @ ILC & online</i> <i>11:30 Children's Choir</i>	8	9 <i>6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast</i> <i>10am Wills' Bible Study at ILC</i> <i>7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC</i>	10	11	12	13
14 <i>9:15am Sunday School</i> <i>10:00am Communion Service @ ILC & online</i> <i>11:30 Children's Choir</i>	15	16 <i>10am Wills' Bible Study at ILC</i> <i>7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC</i>	17	18 <i>7pm Church Council Mtg.</i>	19 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	20
21 <i>9:15am Sunday School</i> <i>10:00am Communion Service @ ILC & online</i> <i>11:30 Children's Choir</i> <i>11:30 Voters' Assembly Mtg</i>	22	23 <i>10am Wills' Bible Study at ILC</i> <i>7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC</i>	24	25	26	27
28 <i>9:15am Sunday School</i> <i>10:00am Communion Service @ ILC & online</i> <i>11:30 Children's Choir</i>	29	30 <i>10am Wills' Bible Study at ILC</i> <i>7:00pm Baumgart Bible Study @ ILC</i>	OCT 1	2	3	4  <i>5:00pm Social Hour</i> <i>6:00pm Dinner</i>

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

Summer Schedule:

9:15am
Sunday School

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*



***Save the Date for
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!