

INSIDE IMMANUEL



Faithful to God's Word – we receive, celebrate and share Jesus Christ.

What Sort of Master Is This?

And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' Matthew 13.27

The servants assume that the master sowed bad seed in the field without knowing it. What sort of farmer is this guy? He can't even tell what the good seed or bad seed are! The servants know that they did their job well, they went out and sowed the seed given them by the master. Now there are weeds everywhere, it must be the master's fault! This parable of Jesus hinges on the character of the master.

If the master is a fool then the servants are correct, he put the wrong seed in the field. If the master is good, then he sowed the right seed and an enemy came and sowed bad seed in the field. The question of the parable is, is the master faithful or a fool?

So which is God? As you look out at the world, the country, the community and your life, which is God? Is there not all manner of evil all over? You hear about it on the news, you see it in the community and it affects you in your life. Is God a fool? Does He not care? What is He doing sowing bad seed everywhere?

To the world the church looks weak. It looks like our Master has no idea what He's doing. His Word must not be working. After all, if God is God couldn't He make His church more powerful or more popular? Wouldn't He make His church more in line with the culture or more relevant to the times? To the world it looks like God sows only bad seed.

But with the right kind of eyes you can see the truth. Through faith you simply trust that your Master does not sow bad seed. He only sows good, and you know it! You've seen the sort of seed that He sows. He has given you faith to trust all that He has done. You hear of the goodness of the Master through His Word. You hear about how He would not withhold His only Son, but give Him up for you. Such love the Master has for you that Jesus would die in your place on the tree. No greater love has one than this!

You hear of the mercy of the Master as you hear His Word of forgiveness. The Master delivers this to you in a concrete way- through the Divine Service. He declares to you that all your sins are forgiven. He is faithful to you only giving you the best! You receive the mercy of the Master through your Baptism. You are given the best as you are joined to the death that Jesus died and forgiven. The Master does it all for you. You know that the Master is working powerfully!

You receive the mercy of the Master as you come to His table. He prepares the feast before you. He gives You the body and blood of His Son, that you would eat and drink. You have what Jesus declares, "The forgiveness of our sins." Here is the best, given for you again by your Master. Where are all these bad seeds that the Master is alleged to have sown? In your life He gives you grace upon grace!

You receive the fulfillments of the promises of the Master. That good seed, all the good things the Master does for you, come to fruition. He does not sow bad seed, but gives you life. This life springs from your Baptism, flowing from the cross, and lasting eternally. Even when your body wears out, you receive better life with the Master. His Word is good, so good to forgive you now and give you life forever.

All will be revealed in the end. All will know what you see then. Those who despise the grace of your Master and think ill of Him will know that it was He who was gracious to you and forgive your sins, giving you life eternal. Your faith will be proven correct, the trust you placed in the Master's goodness will be obvious. Of course your Master is trustworthy and true! The evil one may spread bad seed here and there, but what of it. Your Master gives you only the best.

In the Name of Jesus,
Pastor Boyer

G.L.U.E “God Loves Us Eternally”

Isaiah 6:9

And he said, “Go, and say to this people: “Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.” (ESV)

Is this verse understood by Christians when we attend church services? Are we showing proper reverence to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ as we sit, stand and sing to the Lord, or are we just going through the motions for the short period of time we are in church?

I often wonder if I am really listening to the sermon, or am I doing other things like watching others, thinking about what I’m going to be doing after church, or checking my watch to see how long the sermon is, or reading the bulletin. Or, am I listening intently to the sermon and truly ‘hearing’ the Word of God? That is, am I showing reverence to the Lord or just going through the motions?

When I’m singing, am I just voicing the words, or truly understanding them? When I’m saying the prayers, am I truly understanding and absorbing the meaning of the words, or just saying them.

When I’m standing during songs and prayers, am I even singing to the Lord, or just following along, or just waiting for the song to end? During prayers, do I fold my hands in prayer, or am I leaning on the pew in front of me with my hands spread apart? Am I just going through the motions?

I remember growing up, we always folded our hands during prayer. Is that too much to ask today in paying reverence to the

Lord? When we come into church are we even saying, and meaning, an opening prayer? Are we praying after the Lord’s Supper when we get back to our seats? And, prior to leaving church are we saying a closing prayer? Am I truly showing reverence to my Lord?

Listening to the sermon, singing, and praying is paying reverence to Jesus Christ for saving us from our sins. Is it too much to ask to truly listen, sing and understand the words and fold our hands as we pray? Can we not give one hour of our lives to Jesus each week without thinking about all the other worldly things that are going on, or that we have to do? I pray that I can!

It is God’s Word for us to truly hear, showing reverence and understanding that “God Loves Us Eternally!”

In Christ!
Jim Bratton

OWLs



For the past twelve months, the committee has planned monthly visits with our members in assisted living and retirement homes. It was decided, for various reasons, that private home visits would be done by requests only. Contact any committee member for an in-home visit.

Committee: Sally Rievert, Barbara Neuman, Nancy Brown, Pat Seabrook, or Doug Forsberg (Still have an opening for another member).

Official Acts

DEATHS

July 16 **Roy Allen Wightman**

Treasurer’s Report

MONTH OF JUNE 2024

Receipts	\$ 65,145.60
Less Expenses	<u>- 56,549.75</u>
Operating Income	8,595.85
Deficit Reduction	<u>1,150.00</u>
Net Income	9,745.85

CASH IN BANK & ON HAND

Petty Cash	100.00
Independent Checking	56,237.60
Independent Savings	56,832.07
Ind Bank 2 new CDs	150,000.00
Ind Band CD	150,000.00
Restricted Savings	<u>-209,831.27</u>
Total	\$203,338.40

Day 41 Is Coming!

There are seasons in all of our lives in which we struggle through dark and uncertain times. We start to think that our season of struggle will never end, and we are tempted to give up hope. Those seasons can last from 40 days to 40 years. But, the good news is that God stands firmly in control and Day 41 (or Year 41) is coming when our season of struggle will end.

Reprinted below is an Internet article (Credit: McKenzie Miller) that holds out hope that after 40 days of heartache and sorrow, Day 41 is coming when God will deliver and rescue you:

“In the Bible, it rained for 40 days and 40 nights. Day 41 came and the rain stopped. Moses committed murder and hid in the desert for 40 years. Year 41 came, and God called him to help rescue Israel. Moses went up on the mountain for 40 days. On Day 41, he received the Ten Commandments. The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Year 41, they walked into

the Promised Land. Goliath taunted Israel for 40 days. Day 41 came, and David slew him. Johan preached a message of repentance to Ninevah for 40 days. On Day 41, God stopped His plan to destroy them. Jesus fasted and was tempted for 40 days. Day 41, and the Devil fled. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples for 40 days. On Day 41, He ascended into Heaven. All this to say...don't quit! The rain will stop, the giant will fall and you will enter your "promised land". Don't give up at 40. Day 41 Is Coming!"

Submitted by Jim Bunke

Council Meeting July 15

Elders: Transferring in to Immanuel is Jerry Nitz from Faith Lutheran Bay City. Transferring out is Mary Eifert to Our Shepherd Birmingham. Mark your calendars for the Outdoor Service and Elder Breakfast coming up on September 8, 2024. Our Immanuel Website will have a new look soon. A new Music Director contract was offered to and accepted by Barbara Bleck.

Trustees: Lots of little projects are going on at the school this summer from floors to paint and rearranging classrooms. New bleachers for the gym are being looked into.

Stewardship: Welcome to new members Kelly Dufty and Anne Bell. Alicia Truemner is the new co-chairman. Thank you cards have been written to our lawn crew, former board members and other church helpers. There is a 25 day Advent devotional by Zac Zender we will be pre-selling for anyone interested.

Evangelism: We are still trying to gather picture of new members to update the Welcome

board by the elevator. Sugar Festival float plans have already begun for next year! The sign in front of the church has been updated to the correct service times...thank you Jim! A Justified Concert is being planned for December 1, 2024.

Youth: no report this month

School Board: The first day of school for the 2024/2025 year will be August 19. New reading curriculum (at least 3 years worth) has been purchased using EANS money. CTK Scholarships have been given out: \$14,000 divided among 13 families/22 children.

Principal's Report: Technology updates are being done with some of the remaining EANS money. Katie and Jen are working on getting the paperwork in place to apply for grants for the upcoming school year. We will be getting a shared counselor from Wellspring 1 day every other week.

President's Report: The opportunity for Immanuel to host an AARP Safe Driver class has been offered to us, we are looking into it.

Pastor's Report: June 30, 2024 Pastor Garrett celebrated his 20th year in ministry! September 22 will be Seminary Day at Immanuel with Fort Wayne Seminary members coming to share with us during Bible Study.

* Next council meeting will be Monday, August 12 at 7:45pm.

September Newsletter Deadline: Monday, August 19



School News

Greetings!

I hope this summer finds you all doing well. It is going by quickly, and before you know it, we will be back in school! I am excited to be serving as your interim principal for the 2024-2025 school year.

We had to make a few changes to the plan that was announced in June. We had hoped to move grades K-1 to Sebewaing and make Unionville an Early Childhood Center. We had a couple hiccups, which prevented us from doing that, so for now, grades K-2 will be in Unionville. Grades 3-8 will remain in Sebewaing.

We are excited to welcome Mr. John Markiewicz as our 7th grade homework teacher, who will also have grades 6-8 for science this year. He is excited to be here as well and has great ideas for the year ahead. He and our 5th grade teacher, Miss Hannah Volz, will be getting married later this year.

Registration is set for August 12, with school starting August 19. Teachers have been busy getting their classrooms ready, and the custodians have been doing a great job of getting the schools cleaned and polished.

Blessings on your month,
Jen Yoder
CTK Interim Principal



Musical Notes

Welcome back! Summer is two-thirds over and it's time to put our fall rehearsal times on our calendars.

I'm sure you've enjoyed your time off doing all kinds of fun stuff with family and friends.

In a few weeks it will be time to have fun with your church family through music. The first rehearsals of the season will be as follows: Adoration Choir, Wed. Sept. 4th, 7 p.m. / Christ's Messengers, To Be Determined / Glory Ringers, Wed. Sept. 14th, 6 p.m. I look forward to making music for Jesus! I'll see you there!

I was at Western Carolina University for a week long workshop of recorder and early music. It was a wonderful experience. I met wonderful folks with the same interest coming from numerous states. We spent our meals together conversing about the very thing we were all there for: music. I spent several hours in

class each day learning about ensemble technique and new music. I returned home feeling inspired with a strong desire to further my own skill, and, of course, my travel bag included a big stack of "new" music. I'm glad there was no weight limit for my carry-on bag.

Immanuel's own recorder ensemble (Servants of God) has been rehearsing, and you will hear from us soon. If you know of anyone who would care to play the recorder and join us, please have them speak with me.

Barbara Bleck,
Director of Music

Memorial & Gifts

IMMANUEL GENERAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF ALICE POMMERENKE

Floyd & Karen Winchell

IN MEMORY OF GRETCHEN HAIST

Myrna Born

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD RICHARDS

Roger & Linda Engelhardt

IN MEMORY OF ROY WIGHTMAN

Irena Rodd
Virginia Nitz
Janet & Dave Sharpsteen

ENDOWMENT FUND

IN MEMORY OF GRETCHEN HAIST

David & Irene Gehring
Marlene Schubert

LADIES AID

IN HONOR OF MAREL STAISIL

Janet Sharpsteen

CHRIST THE KING

IN HONOR OF BOB & VERNITA KUHLE'S 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mike & Lorene Zagata

IN MEMORY OF LIBBY TREIBER

Ev Adam – scholarship
Roger & Dorothy Gremel
Jim & Kathy Hofmeister – athletics

CTK SCHOOL LIBRARY

IN MEMORY OF EDWARD BUNKE

Jim & Connie Bunke & family

IN MEMORY OF ROY WIGHTMAN

Mary Bauer



Scrip Order Form, Christ the King Lutheran School

Has Cards Order Cards

Name: _____ Account to Apply to: _____ Phone: _____

Chain Stores	Profit	Amt	Quantity	Total	Gas	Profit	Amt	Quantity	Total
Ace Hardware	4%	\$25			Marathon	3%	\$100		
Amazon	1.7%	\$100			Marathon	3%	\$25		
Amazon	1.7%	\$50			Shell	1.5%	\$25		
Amazon	1.7%	\$25			Speedway	4%	\$25		
American Eagle	10%	\$25			Sunoco	1.5%	\$50		
Auto Zone	7%	\$25			Miscellaneous	Profit	Amt	Quantity	Total
Barnes & Noble	8%	\$25			Build a Bear	8%	\$25		
Barnes & Noble	8%	\$10			Dave & Busters	13%	\$25		
Bath & Body Works	12%	\$25			Delta Airlines	4%	\$250		
Bath & Body Works	12%	\$10			I Tunes	5%	\$15		
Best Buy	4%	\$25			Pet Smart	5%	\$25		
Cabelas	8%	\$100			Thirty-One A. Bell	5%	\$25		
Cabelas	8%	\$25			Visa	1.25%	\$50		
Claire's	9%	\$10			Visa	1.25%	\$100		
Dicks Sporting	8%	\$25			Restaurants	Profit	Amt	Quantity	Total
Disney	3%	\$25			Applebees	8%	\$25		
Disney	3%	\$100			Arby's	8%	\$10		
Dunhams	8%	\$25			Bob Evans	10%	\$25		
Famous Footwear	8.0%	\$25			Bob Evans	10%	\$10		
Five Below	2.5%	\$25			Buffalo Wild Wings	8%	\$25		
Gap/Old Navy	14%	\$25			Burger King	4%	\$10		
Gordon's Food	4%	\$25			Happy Moments	8%	\$25		
Home Depot	4%	\$100			Chili's	11%	\$25		
Home Depot	4%	\$25			Chipotle	9%	\$10		
Jc Penny	5%	\$25			Cold Stone Creamery	11%	\$10		
Joann Fabrics	6%	\$25			Cracker Barrel	8%	\$10		
Kohls	4%	\$25			Dairy Queen	3%	\$10		
Kohls	4%	\$100			Dardens/Olive Garden	8%	\$25		
Lowe's	4%	\$25			IHop	8%	\$25		
Macy's	10%	\$25			Jimmy Johns	8%	\$25		
Marshall/TJ Maxx	7%	\$25			McDonalds	2%	\$25		
Maurices	7%	\$20			Little Ceaser's	8%	\$20		
Meijer	3%	\$100			Outback Steakhouse	8%	\$25		
Meijer	3%	\$50			Panda Express	8%	\$25		
Meijer	3%	\$25			Panera Bread	8%	\$25		
Menards	3%	\$100			Panera Bread	8%	\$10		
Menards	3%	\$25			Pizza Hut	8%	\$10		
Micheals	4%	\$25			Red Lobster	8%	\$25		
Shutterfly	9%	\$25			Starbucks	4.5%	\$25		
Staples	5%	\$25			Starbucks	4.5%	\$10		
Target	2.5%	\$25			Subway	6%	\$10		
Ulta	7%	\$25			Taco Bell	5%	\$10		
Under Armour	11%	\$25			Texas Roadhouse	8%	\$25		
Wal-mart	2.5%	\$100			Tim Horton's	5%	\$10		
Wal-mart	2.5%	\$50			Uno Chicago Grill	12%	\$25		
Wal-mart	2.5%	\$25			Wendy's	4%	\$10		

Other: _____ Amt: _____

Total: _____ \$

For a complete list, download the RaiseRight App

Cash: _____ or Check # _____

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
800 E BAY ST
SEBEWAING, MI 48759

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Officers of Immanuel

President: Tom Williamson
Secretary: Heather Kuhl
Financial Secretary: Lorene Zagata
Elders Chairman: Matt Bumhoffer
Board of Ed Contact: Ashley Bumhoffer
Youth Chairman: Lori Sweetman
Finance Chairman: Tracy Kemp
Usher Head Captain: Peter Boyer
Radio: Chuck McGathy & Dustin McKellar

Vice President: Jim Bratton
Treasurer: Joanne Harder
Assistant Financial Secretary: Pat Holland
Trustees Chairman: Joel Fiebig
Stewardship Co-Chairs: Ursula Gangler & Alicia Truemner
Evangelism Chairman: Nancy Brown
OWLs Chairman: Doug Forsberg
Scholarship Committee: Darlene Werschky
Endowment & Capital Fund Chairman: Jeff Williamson

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Flower Chairman Lorene Zagata				1 Bulletin Deadline 12 Noon	2	3
4 7:15 Elders 9:00 WORSHIP/C – 5 10:15 Bible Class	5 5:00 Finance 6:30 WORSHIP/C	6	7 7:00 Men's Study 7:00 WEBS	8 Bulletin Deadline 12 Noon	9	10
11 8:00 ELF Breakfast 9:00 WORSHIP/C – 6 10:15 Bible Class 7:30 Youth Board	12 CTK Registration 5:00 Finance 6:30 WORSHIP/C 6:30 Trustees 6:30 Stewardship 7:15 Evangelism 7:45 Church Council	13	14 7:00 WEBS	15 Bulletin Deadline 12 Noon	16	17
18 9:00 WORSHIP/C – 7 10:15 Bible Class	19 CTK First Day 8:00 Opening Chapel Newsletter Deadline 4:00 5:00 Finance 6:30 WORSHIP/C	20	21 7:00 WEBS	22 Bulletin Deadline 12 Noon	23 CTK No School	24
25 9:00 WORSHIP/C – 8 10:15 Bible Class	26 5:00 Finance 6:30 WORSHIP/C	27	28 8:00 Chapel 7:00 WEBS	29 Bulletin Deadline 12 Noon	30 CTK No School	31

August Birthdays

AUGUST 1

Janet Ewald
Feather Reige

AUGUST 2

Gary Loeffler
Joanna Matthews

AUGUST 3

Gregory Lupp
Alexdria Walz

AUGUST 4

Darwin Nitz

AUGUST 5

Eleanor Matthews
Nancy Pommerenke

AUGUST 6

Wyatt Heckroth

AUGUST 7

Mark Krauss
Gloria McKellar

AUGUST 8

Lincoln Bloomer
Charlotte Lewis
Theresa Nitz
Patrick Stecker

AUGUST 9

Gregory Eremia
Victor Roemer

AUGUST 10

Lincoln Haag
Aaron Krauss
Hunter Zuzga

AUGUST 11

Joanne Eremia

AUGUST 12

No birthdays

AUGUST 13

Fran Balzer
Harlon Neumann Sr
Ally Sweetman
Adam Vogel

AUGUST 14

Chloe Beringer
Leighton Fritz
Luke Gremel
Michael Gremel
Paul Kemp
Emmeline Kotenko
Ethan Pommerenke
Zachary Weeks

AUGUST 15

Jessica Dressler
David Mammel
Toby Stock
Jennifer Millerwise

AUGUST 16

June Richards
Katherine Ricker
David Wildner
Pamela Winter

AUGUST 17

Colten Claerhout
Lawson Weber

AUGUST 18

Jake Fiebig
Bethany Hornbacher

AUGUST 19

Lacie Eurich
Ralph Maurer
Bradley Sting

AUGUST 20

James Bohn
Natasha Dubs

AUGUST 21

Sarah Kemp
Preston Pitt

AUGUST 22

Erica Hartman
Ella Vermeersch

AUGUST 23

Jacob McDaid
Cane Weinlander

AUGUST 24

Jodi Smith
Lynette Walz

AUGUST 25

Erin Jubar

AUGUST 26

Nicole Bauer
Cindy Wildner

AUGUST 27

Mya Sweetman
Michael Walz

AUGUST 28

Noel Cain
Marilyn Calopisis
Grady Gainforth
Arlene Gremel
Vickie McDaid

AUGUST 29

Fred Bauer
Suzanne McGathy
Austin Nieschulz

AUGUST 30

Laura Abke
Addison Pommerenke

AUGUST 31

Beth Gainforth
Dee Haag