

Rev. Kevin Jones

Immanuel Lutheran Church

300 N. Sheridan
Bay City, MI 48708
(989) 893-4088

www.immanuelbaycity.com



Rev. Chris Garcia

January 2023

From the Pastors Desk

Dear Members of Immanuel Lutheran Church and School,
Greetings in the name of our Christmas Lord, Jesus Christ!

I sincerely apologize for the delay in the monthly newsletter for January 2023. I pray that it did not cause too much trouble. The purpose for the delay was to time the monthly newsletter with the announcement I made after services December 31 and January 1. Between the worship announcements and the newsletter article the majority of the Immanuel members should be aware of coming pastoral change.

After much prayer, discussion with the Michigan District, and leadership here at Immanuel, I have decided to announce my retirement as Senior Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church & School, effective December 31, 2023. I have announced this decision to the Board of Elders, the church and school staff and the Church Council. I have just announced it to the congregation after services this weekend. The chairmen of the congregation and the Board of Elders will be establishing a call committee to spend the next 12 months establishing a smooth and efficient transition for Immanuel. There are numerous options for the congregation to consider for filling the office of senior pastor. The committee will be tasked with exploring those options and making recommendations which council and congregation may act on. At my retirement I will have served Immanuel for over 12 years. A nice, biblical number. When I received the call to Immanuel on Palm Sunday, 2011, the office of senior pastor was specifically tasked with a number of things the congregation felt necessary for the continued ministry of Immanuel Church and School. Reflected in the Michigan District's Congregational Self-Study and outlined in my call:

- Establish within Immanuel's leadership, worship and teaching an adherence to Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod doctrine and practice.
- Establish a healthy atmosphere of trust, communication, and effective leadership at Immanuel Lutheran School. Working especially with the families, Board of Christian Education and the faculty for a unified, team approach to this area of ministry.
- Establish within the congregation and its leadership an understanding of discipleship value for the students, and commitment to support excellence in education at Immanuel Lutheran School. Also, to see our ministry setting as Immanuel Lutheran Church and School.

Upon arrival it was my privilege to work with gifted lay leaders who supported and encouraged my ministry at Immanuel. As situations settled down, Immanuel ministry has been able to add pastoral staff and expand its outreach through a daycare. We have been blessed to work foresighted leadership to leverage endowments, investments, and various funds and funding to offer real-time financial support without compromising the trust of the donors or the principal entrusted to them. As well as revising the Immanuel Constitution for clarity, accountability, and member involvement. I have always looked at a facet of my ministry in each of the three congregations I've served as preparation for the pastor that follows me. As we enter a new year, I look to help guide the congregation of Immanuel in assessing its strength and growth areas, and evaluating what they feel is important for the future of the ministry here. There have been no concrete plans made for me following my retirement. I am exploring service areas in the Michigan and other districts as well as the Lutheran Church - Canada, our sister synod to the north. I would ask that you keep me and my family, as well as our family at Immanuel in your prayers.

In Christ,
The Reverend Kevin C. Jones

January Service Assistants

Saturday, January 7

Elder: Bob Ricker
Usher: Dave Howard

† Sunday, January 8

Elder: Wayne McAlpine
Usher: Gordie Bushong
Communion Asst: Randy Tomke

† Midweek Communion Service
Wednesday, January 11 at 1:30pm

† Saturday, January 14

Elder: Dennis Metevia
Usher: Bob Samyn

Sunday, January 15

Elder: Don Haynes
Usher: Bob Ricker
Flo Ricker
Karen Andrzejewski

Saturday, January 21

Elder: Warren Abbs
Usher: Warren Jacobs

† Sunday, January 22

Elder: Layne Scharich
Usher: Gordie Bushong
Communion Asst: Dennis Datte


† Saturday, January 28

Elder: Bill Noonan
Usher: Dave Howard

Sunday, January 29

Elder: John Johnston
Usher: John Nyquist

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
New Years 1 Day 10am Worship	No School 2 Church Office Closed	No School 3 9am Ladies Bible Study	4 8:10am Chapel	5 1pm Cards 3:30pm Staff Bible Study	6	7 8am Handbells 3pm Pr. & Worship 5pm Worship
Installation 8 8:45am Bible Study 10am Communion	9 6pm Board of Elders	10 9am Ladies Bible Study	11 8:10am Chapel 1:30pm Midweek Communion	12 Noon Ladies Aid	13	14 8am Handbells 3pm Pr. & Worship 5pm Communion
15 8:45am Bible Study 10am Worship	No School 16 6pm Board of Christian Education	17 9am Ladies Bible Study	18 8:10am Chapel	19 1pm Cards	20	21 8am Handbells 3pm Pr. & Worship 5pm Worship
22 8:45am Bible Study 10am Communion	23 7pm Church Council	24 9am Ladies Bible Study	25 8:10am Chapel 6pm Bingo/Trivia Night	26 1pm Cards	27	28 8am Handbells 3pm Pr. & Worship 5pm Communion
29 8:45am Bible Study 10am Communion	30	31 9am Ladies Bible Study				



Sincere Thank You

Members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, School & Learning Center,

Thank you for your generous help while I continue to battle my cancer. Being able to set aside some financial worries with the gift cards for food and gas brings such comfort. Thanks to your support I will be able to draw from these funds while I am off for my surgery in the coming months. Our church members, school and Learning Center families are a true blessing to me.

I am truly humbled by your generosity, thank you!

With much love,

Jenni Wilkinson

Thank You from Our Food Pantry

Immanuel's Food Pantry would like to thank the congregation for food donated to help us provide 28 local families (120 people) in our neighborhood with groceries during the Christmas season. It brought many smiles to the faces of those picking up their food! Thank you for your support!

The Immanuel Food Pantry will be initiating something new, beginning in January 2023. Each month, we will feature grocery items most needed to replenish our pantry. It will be posted on the food box in the narthex. If you would like to help, please leave your donations in the box. This is an ongoing ministry to help our local neighbors. Our referrals are received from the Bay County Emergency Food Pantry.

January Needs

Canned Chicken or Tuna

Boxed Tuna Helper

Boxed Hamburger Helper



It's a New Year and New Opportunities to serve await YOU!

As a Congregation, Parish School and Learning Center, we are indeed blessed to have our members and friends support the many ministries of Immanuel. Thank you for helping us spread the Gospel message each and every day! Now that 2023 has graced our days, you may ask yourself and wonder where and how I can get involved, or get 'more' involved at Immanuel. Let me assure you there are many great opportunities to serve—get involved—and become even more active and they all await YOU! Make 2023 the year you and your family step out in faith, together growing as a family of God. There are so many opportunities, with varied amounts of time and commitment, open to each one of us. Please consider the joy you will receive back when your hands are extended outward spreading His love through service and stewardship at Immanuel. If you have that simple desire to get involved, or get back in the swing of things, please give me a call and let's see together where you can bloom as Immanuel's ministries continue to grow, giving God all of the glory and praise!



Looking forward to hearing from you, Miss Betsy 893-4088.

Church Un-Decorating

Sunday, January 8 beginning immediately after service.

While it took many hands to make Immanuel Parish bright and festive for Christmas, it also takes many hands to "un-decorate".

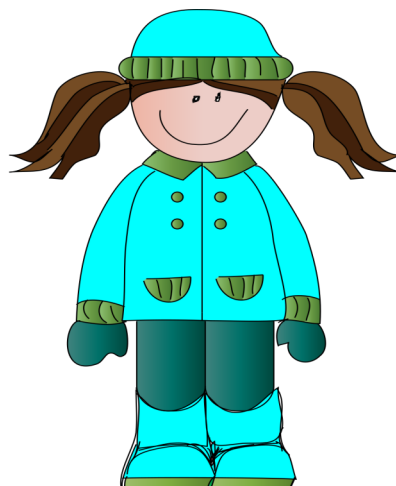
Please share a bit of your time on Sunday, January 8th immediately after service for this task.....

Your help is needed and greatly appreciated! Thank you for any bit of help.

Please contact Betsy at 893-4088 for questions or details.



January 2023



Something to put on your calendars for Second Sunday in January

Installation Sunday January 8, 2023 during the 10am service

- For newly elected Church Officers and Board Members
- Recognition of Officers and Board Members who have completed their terms of service
- Recognition of those members who will be continuing their terms of service

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men Ephesians 6:7

If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 4:11

-to love the Lord your God and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul. Deuteronomy 10:23

Wonderful words from Scripture to begin this new year of service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; God's rich blessing to you as you enter into a new beginning found in the "gift of service"! As newly appointed leaders, as well as members who have recently completed your term of service at Immanuel Lutheran Church and those continuing in service, please be reminded of the following dates:

Installation Sunday, January 8, 2023 during the 10am service Newly Elected Officers and Board Members: During the service, you will be asked to come forward to the front of the church to be installed for the office in which you were called to serve.

Continuing service members and those who have completed your term: During this service, you will be asked to stand for a special acknowledgement of gratitude for continued service and for completion of service.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this information, please do not hesitate to give me a call anytime at (989) 893-4088. We thank you and appreciate the time you offer in service to Immanuel Church in these leadership roles. May God bless you as you help the various ministries of our church grow and flourish through the offering of your time; to God be the glory for the gift of service. He has blessed Immanuel through your time and talents, thank you for taking the call of service.

In His Leading,
Betsy Bourassa
Parish Assistant

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

Class Resumes JANUARY 8

8:45-9:45am

Multi Purpose Room

Rev. Kevin Jones, Rev. Chris Garcia and various leaders

Lessons from Scripture "A Longer Look at the Lessons"

Everyone is encouraged, welcome and invited to attend this wonderful study that will help you understand the readings from Scripture. Whether you have regularly studied the bible, or just starting your walk of faith in bible exploration this is a perfect study for you.

Sunday Morning Youth Bible Study

Youth Room

Class Resumes on January 8

Sunday Mornings 8:45-9:45am

Miss Betsy, Class Leader

Every Picture Tells A Story

What picture are you drawing for others to see?

Creative Drawing, Writing, and Art Design

Each Sunday, students will view an obscure black and white picture, one that will challenge them to think about: life, themselves, God's World and God's Word. With use of creative writing, drawing and art design, youth will find themselves teaching the very lesson the picture represents to them. After large group sharing, the study will look at what Scripture says about the way we look at ourselves and our world. Let's go and creatively get into God's Word!

Parenting Class

If you ever second guessed yourself as to your suitability as a parent, please join us in a new Bible class offered on Sunday mornings while your children are in Sunday School: PARENTING ISN'T FOR WIMPS! Sunday mornings 8:45- 9:45am in the Multi Purpose Room (west or kitchen side) If you have children younger than Sunday School age, bring them along! We will discuss, encourage, support, and strengthen each other with our experiences, victories, defeats, and most of all, God's Word. Questions? Please call Ellen Pett (989) 225-1864.

Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study

9-10am

Multi Purpose Room

Class resumes on Tuesday, January 10

Bonnie Young, Class Leader

LUKE ~ God's Word for Today

Luke's carefully written Gospel, compiled from both oral and written accounts, points to God's gracious salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. The study of Luke is a wonderful way to begin 2023; following the life of Jesus. The most wonderful child, the Galilean Ministry, the Messiah, Sins forgiven, the Passover Lamb, and the Triumphant Savior, all centered around the Gospel of Luke—mighty news to be spread to all nations. Join with other ladies as you begin 2023 following the life of Jesus, a wonderful journey that will prepare you for the Lent season.

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Welcome Back Kingdom Kids!

Happy New Year 2023

January News

The Clues of Christmas Pointed us to Jesus
The Gift that fills our lives today and always.

The Savior has been born—The Savior has been born, a resounding anthem that our little ones expressed on Christmas Eve is now so much of what we continue to celebrate and find great peace in. Welcome back all Kingdom Kids, we've missed you! This New Year brings so many wonderful opportunities to grow and learn more and more about your
Heavenly Father who loves each and every one of you.

January Schedule—Classes resume to regular hours 8:45-9:45am

January 1: No Classes—Winter Break

January 8: The Promising Prophet Isaiah, Celebrating Monthly Events, Special Treats, Kindness Focus

January 15: The Enduring Exile, Israel Goes into Exile, Let's Get Creative

January 22: The Sackcloth King Hezekiah Prays, Craft Day

January 29: The Restoring King-King Josiah and the Book of the Law
Prayer Focus: Leading others to Jesus

Parents: Just a few reminders

We are now continuing our lessons from “Enduring Faith”. Kingdom Kids Sunday School offers the students a thorough walk through of Scripture that follows the church calendar year in a 3-year rotation, allowing your child a wonderful and strong foundation in God's Word. Thank you for making the decision to encourage your children's Christian growth and understanding of Biblical truths.

Make 2023 the year that your entire family attends Bible Study opportunities. When you drop off your children, join with other parents and adults in the multi purpose room to grow in your faith filled walk through the study of His Word. *Be reminded that a parenting based bible study takes place during the same time your children are in Sunday School.*

May God's peace fill your New Year and may you find great solace in the knowledge that your children are loved, cared for and are being taught the lessons of Scripture each and every Sunday morning—in a fun and happy way! For information or questions, please give Miss Betsy a call at the church office 893-4088.

Kingdom Kids Sunday School Staff

Youth Group Scoop for January 2023

Youth Committee Meeting Sunday, January 15th at 11am

The weather outside is frightful, but Youth Group is so insightful! HEY, it's 2023 and we are ready to 'rock out' for another great year of youth events, servant events and mission outreach.

Come on! Be part of ROCK SOLID. It'll change you and rock your world! (Any student in Grades 6-12 is welcome and encouraged to be part of this uplifting and Christ-centered ministry.) Please call Betsy at the church office for all the exciting details 893-4088.

January Devotions: "Fear Not, For Behold I Bring You Good News".....how are YOU spreading the Good News??!!

Check out January—Girls Event!
(Youth SNAG for all Youth is a two part next month in February)

January Events: S.T.R.O.N.G.

Staying True Regardless Of Negative Garbage ~ Girl's Empowerment Day

Saturday, January 28

11am-3pm

Open to young ladies in grades 6-12

Must be registered by January 20 to attend for supply needs.

Event Leader: Miss Betsy

Sectionals Include:

Picture Board "Art-A Reflection of You"

Mirror Mirror On the Wall—Makeup, Appearance, Hygiene

You are your best friend—Journaling

Body Blasts—Let's Get Going Workout

A Day in the Life of....."Self Talk"

God and You

Let's Get Cookin' Recipe Time (You make your own lunch)

Goulash, Salad, Rolls, Cake and Beverage



As STRONG motivated young ladies in today's world, you may be faced with daily challenges, (either from others, or from yourself), that can change the way you feel and think about yourself. With that said, plan to get together with your "Girlfriends" and put any negative garbage in the trash can and discover the unique person you are, loved by your Heavenly Father and created for a very special purpose!

Remember, you need to register for this event by: January 20 to attend.