



Immanuel Lutheran Church

www.immanuelbaycity.com

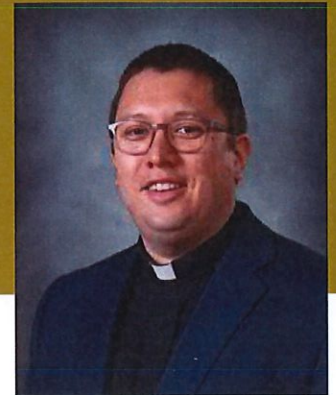
From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

A season of celebrations are before us. As we continue celebrating the resurrection of our Lord we also prepare for Confirmation and Graduation on Sunday, June 9th . We are also celebrating Miss Betsy and her many years of service as Parish Assistant on Sunday, June 2nd . I ask that you save these two dates in your calendar to make sure you can be a part of these celebrations.

This year our confirmation class is small but mighty. We have three awesome students: Adalyn, Cailyn, and Carter who will be confirmed. Cailyn, if you haven't heard, is our sole 8 th grader at Immanuel this year. Carter and Adalyn attend Cramer Jr. High and have been faithful participants in our non-day school confirmation program for the past two years. Because of the small size of our confirmation class and graduation class, we've decided this year to combine these two milestones to be recognized on the same day. Please keep these students in your prayers as they prepare for their exam coming up soon with the Elders. And join me in giving thanks to God for His faithfulness exemplified in these fine students. Miss Betsy has been supporting families and helping raise fine students for many years here at Immanuel. Not only is her energy unmatched, but her love for Jesus and for people of all ages is too! We have been blessed by God with her faithful ministry here at Immanuel and want to recognize her efforts as she plans to retire from Immanuel this summer. Yes, we will have one more Miss Betsy VBS, so don't forget to sign up your students and come on out to help volunteer! Please join me in giving thanks to God for Betsy's faithfulness among us and for the upcoming transition that she has so faithfully prepared for. In all of these celebrations we see Jesus continuing to work among us! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

-Pastor Gracia



Rev. Chris Garcia
Senior Pastor



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

Worship Opportunities
Saturday @ 5pm
Sunday at 10am

April Service Assistants

† Saturday, April 6

Elder: Warren Abbs
Usher: Warren Jacobs
Layne Scharich
Pat Tucker
Communion Asst: Dennis Datte
Broadcast: Gary Bremer

Sunday, April 7

Elder: Wayne McAlpine
Usher: Bill Noonan
Nancy Greene
Karen Andrzejewski
Fellowship: PTL

† Midweek Communion Service
Wednesday, April 9 at 1:30pm
Service Assistant: Gary Bremer



Saturday, April 13

Elder: Wayne McAlpine
Usher: Jim Kern
Karen Kern
Nancy Greene
Special Music: 6-8 Grade Band
Broadcast: Karen Couture

† Sunday, April 14

Elder: Layne Scharich
Usher: Gordy Bushong
Communion Assistant: Brian Young
Acolyte: Carter Lock
Usher: Gia Derocher
Special Music: Cherub K-1 Choir
Fellowship: Brian & Melissa Rachwitz

† Saturday, April 20

Elder: Dennis Metevia
Usher: Bob Samyn
Communion Asst: Dan Kretchman
Special Music: Adult Choir
Broadcast: Tom Jacobs

Sunday, April 21

Elder: Don Haynes
Usher: Nigel Mills
Sandy Johnston
Jessica Gohs
Special Music: Sunday School Students
Fellowship: Ron & Betsy Bourassa



Saturday, April 27

Elder: Bill Noonan
Usher: Jim Kern
Karen Kern
Pat Tucker
Broadcast: Gary Bremer

† Sunday, April 28

Elder: Wayne McAlpine
Usher: Gordy Bushong
Communion Assistant: Randy Tomke
Acolyte: Adalyn Howard
Usher: Kylie Pollum
Special Music: Cantate (4-8) Choir
Fellowship: Board of Discipleship

APRIL 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Church Office Closed	2 9am Bible Study	3	4 1pm Cards	5	6 8am Handbells 3pm Praise & Worship 5pm Communion
.....Spring Break for Immanuel Lutheran School						
7 8:45am Bible Study 10am Worship	8 6pm Board of Elders 6pm Board of Ed 7pm Friendship Guild	9 9am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Board of Mission & Outreach	10 8am Chapel 1:30pm Midweek Commu Bd of Communications	11 Noon Ladies Aid 6:30pm Choir	12	13 <i>Men's Break-fast & Study</i> 8am Handbells 3pm Pr & Wo 5pm Worship
14 8:45am Bible Study 10am Communion	15 7pm Church Council	16 9am Ladies Bible Study	17 8am Chapel 1pm New Hope Bay	18 1pm Cards 6:30pm Choir	19	20 8am Handbells 3pm Praise & Worship 5pm Communion
21 8:45am Bible Study 10am Worship	22	23 9am Ladies Bible Study	24 8am Chapel	25 1pm Cards 6:30pm Choir	26	27 8am Handbells 3pm Praise & Worship 5pm Worship
28 8:45am Bible Study 10am Communion	29	30 9am Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm VBS Meeting				

Save the Date!



THE PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR THE UPCOMING
RETIREMENT CELEBRATION FOR OUR OWN

BETSY BOURASSA.

SHE WILL BE RETIRING AT THE END OF JULY, 2024.

PLEASE KEEP JUNE 2, 2024 AVAILABLE ON YOUR CALENDAR
AS WE PLAN TO THANK OUR HUMBLE SERVANT FOR BEING A
TREMENDOUS
BLESSING TO IMMANUEL!!

***“Do you have a
heart for infants
and toddlers?”***

New Committee Forming!

The Board of Parish Life is creating a committee to serve our Littlest Lutherans. Committee members will work together to mail “Nursery Roll” packets to newly baptized infants and toddlers. They will also plan and/or facilitate a Sunday morning class for parents and little ones that are not yet old enough for Sunday School. If you have an infant or toddler, or have a heart for infants, toddlers and their parents, please pray about joining this new ministry! If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Liz Garcia.

garcia.elizabethann@gmail.com

Thank You for being so “Sweet”

A great big THANK YOU is extended to so many of you who donated Easter eggs and candy for this year’s Easter Egg Hunt. As with so many of our children’s ministries, we could not offer these events without your help; thank you for sharing the “sweet kindness” for our children!

Sincerely,
Miss Betsy



Bible Study Opportunities for All Ages!

Adult Sunday Morning Bible Study

8:45-9:45am

Multi Purpose Room

Rev. Chris Garcia, Margaret Mills

LESSONS FROM SCRIPTURE

"A Longer Look at the Lessons"

Sunday mornings open up a deeper understanding to the weekly lessons: Old Testament, the Epistle reading and the Gospel message. 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 are just starting your walk of faith in bible exploration, this is a perfect study for you.

Sunday Morning Bible Study for Parents

Sunday mornings 8:45-9:30am

Parish Hall Area

Ellen Pett, Class Facilitator

Parenting Isn't for Wimps

Parenting Group Discussion Bible Study

Join with other parents for a group discussion, set in a bible study format, around the joys and challenges of parenting children in today's world.

Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study

Tuesdays mornings in the Multi-Purpose Room

9:00-10:00am

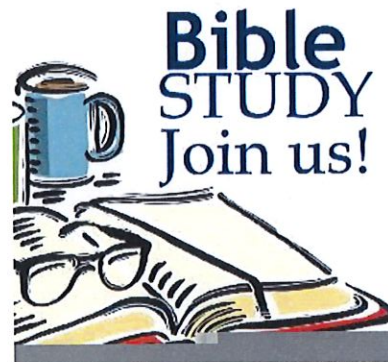
Bonnie Young, Class Leader

The Unexplained

"Faith on the Edge" Series

Beginning on Tuesday, April 16

"The Unexplained" bible study explores the fascination people have with miracles, mysticism, near-death experiences, and similar topics. It will help you understand the mysteries of life from God's perspective and live with certainty in an uncertain world. Chris Halbert, the author, is a researcher specializing in angelology and apologetics. He was a divinity student at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO. Join with other ladies to delve into "The Unexplained".



Youth Bible Study

Sunday Mornings

8:45am-9:45am

Youth Room

Betsy Bourassa, Class Leader

Grades 7-12

Last Class is May 5

The Easter Generation

Walking from the Empty Tomb into the World

The battle is won! Jesus' victory over sin, death and the power of the devil; He is Risen, He is Risen indeed, Alleluia! Now, what are YOU going to do as an Easter Generation youth... Go Out, Catch Fire, and Love Others! What a joy filled Youth Bible Discussion hour awaits all of our young adults as they venture into their own personal walk with Jesus!!



RaiseRight™

FORMERLY KNOWN AS SCRIP

RaiseRight is a gift card fundraiser that earns money for special projects at Immanuel Lutheran Church and School! You can purchase gift cards for yourself or someone else and use them on everyday purchases or special items.

With 750+ brands to choose from, there is a brand for every household need or wish list. (Think gift giving, but also weekly grocery shopping!) You can pick from eGift cards or physical gift cards. Every purchase gets instant earnings.



Purchase gift cards for yourself or others.
Support Immanuel Lutheran
Church and School.



WWW.RAISERIGHT.COM

ENROLLMENT CODE: 322834D72164

Church Rummage Sale

Immanuel Lutheran
Church Parking Lot
Rain or Shine!

**Sat. June 1st
9am-2pm**

Want to sell your items?
\$10 to the church office will
reserve your space.
You will keep all profits
from your sale.

(Reservation fees will go to
Immanuel's General Fund.)



Kingdom Kids Sunday School Share the Great News of Jesus!

He is Risen He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

Such a joyous time to be a child of God; serving a Risen Savior and following in His life example of love, kindness, mercy and forgiveness. Your children meet Jesus each and every Sunday morning at Kingdom Kids Sunday School; yet it is a joyous time to be a Kingdom Kid!

As a staff, we want to update you on the weeks ahead and the events that will be taking place for your son or daughter:

April Lesson and Specials:

- April 7: The Proof Room—Jesus appears to Thomas. Celebrating Monthly Events Unit 9 Begins “Jesus sends the Church”
- April 14: A Revealing Restoration—Jesus appears in Galilee. Kindness Focus
- April 21: A Walking Wonder—Peter and John heal a lame man. Students lead in Children’s message and sing “Everybody Oughta Know”
- April 28: A Centurion Converts—Peter and Cornelius. Let’s get creative and Craft Day.

Closing Awards Ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 5. Awards, certificates and year end papers will be distributed. A special lesson on “God’s Family and You” will begin this busy morning and conclude with cupcakes and fellowship. Families are invited to attend this special morning.

VBS (Vacation Bible School) offers another opportunity to learn, grow and have fun with friends at SCUBA VBS 2024. Registrations will be accepted beginning Wednesday, April 17th. Watch for the registration forms in Notes and News, Fast Direct, and through your son’s or daughter’s home flyers. **(Dates for VBS are scheduled for June 24-27).**

Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 8, 2024.

It continues to be such a blessing to teach your children as we meet and greet them each and every Sunday morning. Please regularly go over Parent’s Pages with them and encourage Sunday morning worship as a family. God holds each young one in the Palm of His Hand with special care and loving direction as they grow up in His beautiful creation. Thank you parents for guiding them to learn about His love through their Sunday School attendance ... such a great gift you give them each Sunday morning!

Kingdom Kids Staff

If you have any questions or would like to become involved (in any aspect) of Kingdom Kids Sunday School, please give me a call at 893-4088.

Miss Betsy

Thank You From Kingdom Kids

A word of thanks is extended to those families who helped support our Sunday School students effort to raise funds to purchase 3 sheet for Villages in Africa.

Because of our students and your help, many families will now have nutritious milk for essential protein and a means to raise money through wool they provide for warmth.

Thank you from Kingdom Kids! Thank you Immanuel!!



April SNAG Rail Trail Clean Up

Rock Solid Youth Group Community Service Project Saturday, April 27 at 10am

Teaming with Bay Area Community Foundation
Jesus Fingerprints—Monthly Devo's
Look Outside Yourself

*“We each need
to take care of
God’s World.”*

Genesis 2:15—We each need to take care of God’s World. We will have devo’s outside with our pizza lunch. **Rail Trail Cleanup and Walk A Thon** with outdoor pizza pick me up to follow event.

Please meet in the Little Caesar’s Parking Lot on Center Avenue

- Bring Rubber Gloves
- Bring 3 large heavy duty garbage bags
- Dress for weather conditions



Youth Group Announces Rail Trail Clean Up

Walk-A-Thon donations are due on or before
Thursday, April 25 for the annual
Rail Trail Cleanup and Walk-A-Thon



It's that time to once again work with the Bay Area Community Foundation for the annual Rail Trail Cleanup Community Service Project.

Plan to meet in the Little Caesar's parking lot no later than 10am on Saturday, April 27th. While we are cleaning up the trail, we will also be "walking" as part of a fund raiser for Immanuel's Radio Broadcast Ministry Program. All youth need to have forms completed by this Thursday, April 25.

NOTE: Do not bring your donated funds with you to this event. All donations need to be turned in prior to the event—due date is Thursday, April 25.

We are all caregivers of God's beautiful creation. While each day our responsibility is to do just that, this morning has been set aside for YOU to join with your Youth Group friends to work together as a team.



Come prepared to "get down, get dirty and get the job done"!!

Youth Group Walk-A-Thon

Youth Group Walk-A-Thon
In conjunction with the Rail Trail Clean-Up Project
Saturday, April 27

(Note: All Youth need to pick up their pledge forms from Miss Betsy.)

If you would like to sponsor one of our active youth members as they "walk" to raise funds for Immanuel's Broadcast Ministry, please contact Miss Betsy at the church office 893-4088, through Fast Direct or through personal contact with one of our awesome young adults.

Because these teens actively support Immanuel's ministries, they are looking forward to "walking for you" as part of this spring fund raiser for one of our out-reach ministries.

"We will walk the pavement so that God's Word hits the airwaves!"



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Let me introduce you to this year's VBS theme and the exciting beginnings of this summer Outreach Ministry for children!

SCUBA

"Diving into Friendship with God"

Monday through Thursday Evenings—June 24-27

5:00-8:00pm

Supper Included—No Cost

Open to ALL children in grades Preschool through Grade 6 in the fall



Get ready to go way down in the deep where children will dive in and discover what a friend they have in God. So get out your flippers, get out your breathing apparatus, get out your wet suits because Miss Betsy is about to take you on a DEEP SEA ADVENTURE at SCUBA VBS 2024! I am thrilled to introduce this year's VBS program to each of you as April is the month that work begins bringing this children's ministry. I am pleased to share with you that all of our station leaders are set in place and ready to set sail with your children. April ushers in the month of preparedness and with that in mind I am putting our preliminary needs we are looking for.

Staff Needed

- Preschool Aids
- Kitchen Help
- Craft Aides
- Dreamscape Builders Set Up and Tear Down Team
- Community Ice Cream "Under the Sea" Party Scoopers
- Crew Leaders

Items Needed

- Kayak or Canoe
- Fish netting
- Snorkel gear
- Scuba gear
- Large blue tarps
- Bight pool noodles (we will need to cut these) I need around 20
- 3 HUGE boxes (think refrigerator size)



Items to pick up now

- 4 oz. water bottles (I will need 150 per day x 4 days)
- Bottles of bubbles (single size bottles—they typically come in a 4 or 6 pack)
- Brown paper bags (I will need 180 per day x 4 days)
- 20 boxes of regular graham crackers (Kraft)
- Zip Lock bags (lunch and snack size)
- Goldfish crackers (6 large boxes at Gordon Food Service)



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Scuba VBS 2024

NOTE: An entire listing of all food items needed for donation will be in next month's newsletter.

I will offer my thanks already for so many of you who have come to me and asked "what can I donate for food needs?" It is because of you that we can offer "each year" a nutritional meal to children each day for 4 days. For many years now, we had children who have not had much to eat before coming. We feed them (and for some it may be the first meal of the day) with nutritional food and then with God's Word . . . VBS is such an important outreach to the community, so thank you Immanuel, for helping us make it financially possible to offer each year!

Captain Betsy of the LR "friend-ship"
VBS Superintendent



How Can I Help?

"A wonderful question—that I have an answer for!!"

VBS Needs

Many of you have come forward with the question of where and how you can help for this year's VBS program..... A question I always welcome!

Along with the need for volunteers (that are listed in the VBS article in this month's newsletter), we are in need of financial help. With the great rise in food costs, any little offering will certainly help.

As time goes on, I will have specific food items to help us out as well. If you find that you would like to help defer the cost of foods needed to feed our children, you can help through a financial donation made to: Immanuel Lutheran Church. In the memo section, please note "VBS". Place it in an envelope and make sure it is designated to VBS—Miss Betsy.

For any help received, for any financial donations, for any prayer offered, please accept my very sincere and heartfelt thank you!!

Miss Betsy "I can't wait to share God's Word with the kiddo's in June!"