

Immanuel Lutheran Church

www.immanuelbaycity.com

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

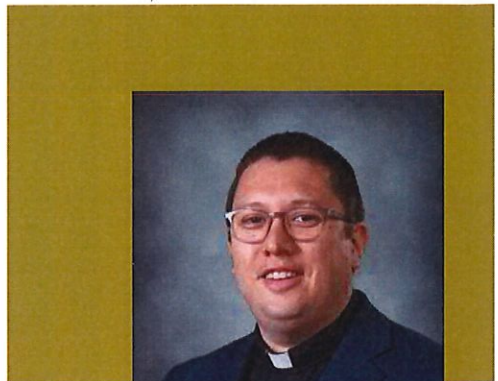
Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:
"Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all."
Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be
praised.
-Proverbs 31:28-30

This month we celebrate Mother's Day. (Sunday, May 12th) This isn't a religious holiday but one that I think Christians should participate in wholeheartedly. In the scriptures we see the value given to women by God. Certainly a value co-equal with men, where even in creation woman was the only creature seen fit for companionship with man. As husband and wife Adam and Eve were given authority over all the rest of creation for its care and flourishing. They were also commanded to be fruitful and multiply, with children who would join in the daily worship of God by caring for others.

After the fall, God's promise of salvation would come through a woman. Mary was blessed to carry in her womb God incarnate. In the Book of Judges we see Deborah acting as a judge for God's people, a critical role in the community. Jesus himself had disciples who were women, and we know from the Gospels some of them were the first to see the empty tomb and the resurrected Lord. Dorcas was a matriarch in the early church who showed care for those in need. Lydia was a patron who used her lucrative business to fund the ministries of the early church. Mother or not, all women are precious in God's eyes and we as Christians should share that vision.

Yet on Mother's Day I want to recognize the women who have been blessed to be called mom. Luther considers motherhood to be the highest calling of a woman, just as fatherhood is the highest calling of a man. Being a mom is hard work too. If you read all of Proverbs 31, you hear of a woman who is industrious, kind, compassionate, and most importantly of all "fears the Lord." In all that she does she is selfless for her God and, in proper order, her family and community as well. To quote Jane Austen's Elizabeth in *Pride and Prejudice* "she would certainly be a fearsome thing to behold." And that is exactly what Solomon is saying in Proverbs 31. Faithful Christian mothers ought to have their children rise up and call her blessed. Husbands should praise their wives for their motherhood. You moms are a blessing. Your calling in life as mom is not easy. Your reliance on God is an example of God's provision for us.

"Many women have done excellently, but you have surpassed them all."
Happy Mother's Day! -Pastor Garcia



Rev. Chris Garcia
Senior Pastor



MAY SERVICE ASSISTANTS

† Saturday, May 4

Elder: Warren Abbs
Usher: Warren Jacobs
Pat Tucker
Karen Andrzejewski
Communion Asst: Dennis McNeal
Broadcast: Karen Couture

Sunday, May 5

Elder: Don Haynes
Usher: Nigel Mills
Sandy Johnston
Nancy Greene
Fellowship: Sunday School Staff
Special Music: Jubilate Choir

† Midweek Communion Service

Wednesday, May 8 at 1:30pm
Service Assistant: Gary Bremer

Saturday, May 11

Elder: Layne Scharich
Usher: Jim & Karen Kern
Karen Andrzejewski
Broadcast: Tom Jacobs

† Sunday, May 12

Elder: Wayne McAlpine
Usher: Gordie Bushong
Communion Asst: Randy Tomke
Acolyte: Cailyn Waibel
Usher: Emma Shorkey
Fellowship: Board of Trustees
Special Music: Cherub Choir
Jubilate Choir
All Mothers

† Saturday, May 18

Elder: Dennis Metevia
Usher: Bob Samyn
Sharon Metevia
Flo Ricker
Communion Asst: Dennis Datte
Broadcast: Gary Bremer
Special Music: Gloria Handbells

Sunday, May 19

Elder: Bill Noonan
Usher: Don Haynes
Sandy Johnston
Gary Bremer
Fellowship: Sandy Johnston
Jim Hadaway
Special Music: Alleluia Handbells


Saturday, May 25

Elder: Warren Abbs
Usher: Warren Jacobs
Pat Tucker
Karen Andrzejewski
Broadcast: Karen Couture

† Sunday, May 26

Elder: Wayne McAlpine
Usher: Gordie Bushong
Communion Asst: Dan Kretchman
Acolyte: Alexis Trelewski
Usher: Peyton Vincent
Fellowship: Memorial Day Weekend

MAY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8am Chapel 6:30pm Small Group Bible Study	2 1pm Cards 3pm Staff Bible Study 6:30pm Choir	3	4 11am Music Luncheon 3pm Praise & Worship 5pm Communion
5 8:45am Bible Study 10am Worship	6 6pm Bd. of Trustees North & East Pastor's Conference	7 9am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Bible Study 6pm Bible Study 6pm Bd of Miss.	8 8am Chapel 1:30pm Midweek Communion 6:30pm Small Group Bible Study	9 6:30pm Choir	10	11 3pm Praise & Worship 5pm Worship
12 8:45am Bible Study 10am Communion	13 6pm Bd of Educ. 7pm Friendship Guild and Ladies Aid 7pm Board of Elders	14 9am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Bible Study 6pm Bible Study	15 8am Chapel 6:30pm Small Group Bible Study	16 1pm Cards	17	18 3pm Praise & Worship 5pm Communion
19 8:45am Bible Study 10am Worship	20 7pm Church Council	21 9am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Bible Study 6pm Bible Study	22 8am Chapel 6:30pm Small Group Bible Study	23 1pm Cards	24 No School Church Office Closed	25 3pm Praise & Worship 5pm Worship
26 8:45am Bible Study 10am Communion	27 Memorial Day	28 9am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Bible Study 6pm Bible Study	29 8am Chapel 6:30pm Small Group Bible Study	30 1pm Cards	31	

The Playlist Link for Praise & Worship Weekend

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfPuG3Z5VCA11Q14P6kGluKhXKxoLFnct&si=-JBfICJs03qcG937>

Thank You!



Thank you to our church family for donating food items for the Easter Food Distribution, which was held on March 23rd.

31 families, which included 67 children, received food to be used in preparing a nice Easter dinner.

We appreciate your support in helping others!

~The Immanuel Food Pantry Volunteers

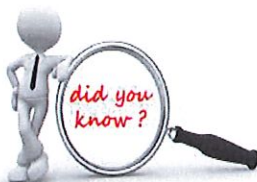


News From Our School

We are blessed to be growing as a school. For this reason, we are looking for a 3rd or 4th grade teacher for the 2024-2025 school year.

We are looking for someone who loves to work with children and wants to share the love of Jesus with them daily. Qualified candidates should hold a Michigan teaching certificate. If you know of anyone who might be a great addition to our faculty, please let us know by calling the school office (989) 893-8521) or by emailing Heath Vincent (heathv@immanuelbaycity.com).

Did You Know?



- Our Monthly Immanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter can be emailed to you. If you are not receiving the monthly newsletter, and would like to, you can email Jenni in the church office at ilc@immanuelbaycity.com to be added to the email list.
- Our Radio Broadcast is a wonderful outreach for our ministry. Since May of 1926 Immanuel has been sharing the Gospel to the home-bound via the radio broadcast. The radio broadcast costs Immanuel \$200 per week. YOU could help our congregation, and share the Word of God, by underwriting a radio broadcast! You could sponsor a broadcast in memory of a loved one, in celebration of an anniversary or exciting event, in thanksgiving for blessings, or just because. Contact the church office if you would like to underwrite a radio broadcast.
- There is a baby changing table in the bathroom that is located in the cry room for parents with little ones needing a diaper change.

Bible Study 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 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

"The Unexplained" bible study explores the fascination people have with miracles, mysticism, near-death experiences, and similar topics.

Small Group Bible Studies

Ellen Pett will be leading a group at her home on Tuesday evenings. All are welcome, however there is not a separate space for children. This class will be going through "The Chosen" Season 3.

Pastor Garcia will be leading a group at his home on Wednesday evenings. Children are welcome and can play together during the study. This class will also be going through "The Chosen" Season 3.

NEW!!! Chloe Haynes will be leading a group at the church on Tuesday evenings. This group is geared towards high school seniors through 20-somethings. This class will begin with "The Chosen" Season 1.

Youth Bible Study

Sunday Mornings

8:45-9:00am Teen fellowship and morning munchies

9:00-9:45am Get in the Word

Courage—That Defies Death?

Are there times you wish you had more courage? Courage to face your fears, courage to stand up for someone who is being mistreated, courage to make things right? If so, then this is a perfect way to begin 2024—studying people in scripture who needed courage, found courage, and demonstrated courage in situations you face today. Get with your friends on Sunday morning and discover you have all the courage you need when it comes from the right source of strength.....JESUS!

Thank You Miss Betsy

Hey KIDS! Miss Betsy is retiring this summer and we want to send her off with a great big "THANK YOU!" from Immanuel's students.

We would like to have students participate in her special retirement service on Sunday, June 2nd.

Parents, please add this to your calendar, and let either your students' teachers or Mrs. Geikas know you'll be participating.

There will be a pizza party with hand scooped ice cream sundaes and cotton candy after the service in the Multi Purpose Room (and outside, weather permitting.)



You're Invited!

Kingdom Kids Sunday School
Closing Ceremony & Awards
Sunday, May 5
8:45-9:30am
Immanuel School Cafeteria

*We are once again at that time of year where we find ourselves
having to say Good-Bye to your children for a while as
Kingdom Kids draws to its 2023-2024 conclusion.*

With great joy, we celebrate the passage of yet another school year for our Kingdom Kids students and the faith-filled walk they have taken with their Savior, Jesus. It has been an incredible year filled with exciting crafts, meaningful lessons from Scripture, praise and worship songs, featured monthly activities, "Kindness Counts" awareness and special performances during worship services.

Now is the time to Celebrate God's blessings over this past academic year!

We want to invite your family to join with us on Sunday, May 5 at 8:45am for the Closing Ceremonies. During this special morning Awards and Certificates will be distributed and final words will be extended to our Kingdom Kids participants. Please make every effort to attend this very special morning with your children.

Thank you for the privilege of teaching your son or daughter and helping them establish, grow, and nurture "roots of faith" as part of their Christian growth and development at Immanuel; it has been our sincere joy to be part of their faith-filled walk with Jesus!

~Miss Betsy and our entire Immanuel Lutheran Kingdom Kids Staff
Miss Lucy, Miss Stacy, Mr. Chris, Miss Nicole, Miss Kim, Miss Jan

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Graduation—2024

The Youth Ministry Committee requests information regarding the 2024 High School, College, and Vocational School Graduates from December 2023 through August 2024.

Please supply the church office with the following information:

- Graduate's Name
- Where the student is graduating from
- Awards / Special Achievements
- Degree earned (if applicable)
- Future Plans



This information will be published in the June newsletter.

Please submit all information by May 10.

Also, would you consider submitting a graduation photo so we may add them to the "Graduation Display" in the narthex for June 8 & 9. You can drop your photos off in the church office or you may email them to Jenniw@immanuelbaycity.com.

One more thing, Saturday and Sunday, June 8 & 9 is "Graduation Recognition Weekend". All graduates are asked to attend one of the services and to wear your gowns as part of this special celebration of the new and exciting path you are about to venture into. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to recognize this Memorable event in your lives!

Congratulations Graduates!

Immanuel Lutheran School's 8th Grade Graduation will take place on Sunday, June 9.

NEXT MONTH
A new look at Confirmation Weekend / Graduation Sunday
Sunday, June 9, 2024
10:00am Worship Service

This year, the Rite of Confirmation, along with Immanuel Lutheran School Graduation will take place in June. Both of these very special events will be held on: Sunday, June 9.

This year our confirmation 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 8th 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. Please join me in giving thanks to God for His faithfulness exemplified in these fine students.



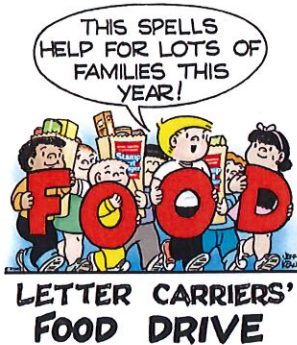
Immanuel's 2024 Graduate

Cailyn Waible

Immanuel's 2024 Confirmation Class

Adalyn Howard, Carter Lock and Cailyn Waible

Letter Carriers' Food Drive



Mark your calendar for **SATURDAY, MAY 11TH**. Please hang or place a bag of non-perishable food donations on or by your mailbox that day to help members of our community in need. Your mail carrier will pick them up.

That's the date of our annual National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Donations remain here in our area and are distributed to local food pantries, including Immanuel, to assist our neighbors in need.

Thank you!

Immanuel Food Pantry Volunteers

May 6, 2024

At

6:30pm

Bay Circuit Announces Ascension Service

Please join us at St. Paul for the first annual Ascension service of the Bay City circuit on Thursday, May 6, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Sanctuary Care Committee

The Board of Elders is seeking volunteers who would be willing to serve on the Sanctuary Care Committee. This is a great way to serve the church with your time and your hands, but not have any obligations for monthly meetings or terms. This committee would coordinate volunteers for two purposes:



The Altar Guild – whose primary task is to clean and prepare the sanctuary for worship on a regular basis. This would include making sure the chancel is in good order, altar linens are cared for and clean, paraments are well maintained and utilized according to the liturgical season, as well as church banner use and rotation, and that the pews are also clean and well supplied with envelopes.

The Seasonal Decoration Team – whose primary task is to coordinate seasonal decorations in the narthex and church halls.

If you are interested in helping coordinate these efforts, volunteering on either the Altar Guild or the Seasonal Decoration Team, please contact Wayne McAlpine, Chairman of the Board of Elders at waynemcalpinebosco1234@gmail.com or call/text (989) 798-7428.

Sunday Morning Youth Bible Study

Sunday Morning Youth Bible Study Senior Students and Senior High Youth
 "Going out for Breakfast with Miss Betsy"

Sunday, May 19th

Mandy's Diner

819 Saginaw Street

Bay City, MI 48708

Please meet at Mandy's at 8am sharp
 (please RSVP to Miss Betsy by: Thursday, May 16th)



A special morning for our Immanuel Senior High Youth graduating members and Senior Bible study students has been set aside for sharing memories and future plans. Miss Betsy will host this breakfast meal with morning devotions and prayer, along with words of encouragement for these wonderful students. Plan to meet at Mandy's at 8:00am sharp to assure a table. (Each attending student will cover their own cost of the meal.)

Kingdom Kids Closing Ceremony & Awards—School Cafeteria

For Students and Parents

Sunday, May 5

"Celebrating the Blessing of Children"

Jesus said, "Let the children come to Me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

We are once again at that time of the year where we find ourselves having to say, "Good-bye" to your little ones for a while as the summer months grace our lives. Your children have grown so greatly in their knowledge and devotion to their Lord and Savior; we are so excited for them! It has been wonderful to be part of their faith-filled walk with Jesus. Each year, the ILC teaching staff joins together to lift high the name of Jesus and bring a greater understanding of His redeeming love to your children. We feel this past academic year has been a reflection of individual student growth, as well as a solid group exploration into new and exciting ways to learn about God.

Thank you for the privilege and blessing to be part of your children's lives in the study of God's Word. Your children mean so much to us and we thank you for allowing them to be part of this special ministry for children at Immanuel Lutheran Church. God's blessings to your family as we part for a short while over the joy-filled and carefree summer months. Please remember to encourage your children to continue in their understanding and devotion to their Heavenly Father through worship opportunities on Saturday evenings or Sunday mornings at Immanuel. We greatly look forward to seeing your children return to us in the fall when Kingdom Kids return on Rally Day—Sunday, September 8.

*Kingdom Kids Staff: Miss Lucy, Miss Stacy, Mr. Chris, Miss Nicole,
 Miss Kim, Miss Jan and Miss Betsy*

May God Bless and Keep you until we see one another again!

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Vacation Bible School — Next Month!

SCUBA

“Diving into Friendship with God”
Monday through Thursday evenings
June 24-27 ~ 5:00-8:00pm

Light picnic supper meal included
No cost for any student

Open to all children ages Preschool (age 3) through
students entering grade 6 in the fall
(Featuring a Thursday evening “Under the Sea” ice cream party)

Calling all kids to join me for 4 nights of tons of fun
discovering God’s Friendship in your lives.

LET’S GO!!!!

Are you ready to go Deep Sea Diving into God’s Amazing Friendship?! Great, cause I have the diving instructions for each child to open up.....Jump in.....and Dive deep, deep, deep, deep into SCUBA VBS! As the Captain of the LR “friend-SHIP,” I can’t wait to take all children with me into the coral reefs and the underwater world as we together explore God’s love and friendship to all children! REGISTRATION IS OPEN AND ONGOING THROUGHOUT MAY AND JUNE! You will find a registration form in the church narthex. Please fill it out and drop it off in the church or school office to assure your child a spot at “SCUBA VBS”.

If you are on FACEBOOK, I am asking you to help our team get the GREAT NEWS out to our community by posting the dates, times, locations and any information regarding VBS. Let’s work together to call all children and invite them to this wonderful children’s ministry that truly uplifts the Gospel message!

I want to remind everyone of the needs that are presently facing our staff for this wonderful 4 night children’s outreach ministry program.

Staffing Needs

Kitchen Help

Craft Helpers

Preschool Aids

Set Up Team (contact Miss Betsy for dates and time) lots of help is needed!

Tear Down Team (Thursday, June 24 at 8:00pm)

Youth Students in grades 6-12 to serve as Crew Leaders

Please consider the following food donations

160 Ziploc sandwich bags – 160 x 4 days

160 Ziploc snack bags 160 x 4 days

Brown paper lunch bags / additional bags for crafts of 120

8 oz. water (150 per day x 4 days)

Individual bags of chips (or large bags) 160 x 4 days

5 of the large size boxes of Goldfish Crackers for crafts

4 large size “family or party size” bags of plain M&M’s for crafts

Cookies – lots and lots – no peanut type please for food allergies

Bottles of bubbles (single size for bubbling up God’s Gospel Message)

during Thursday nights Under the Sea Ice Cream Party

3 large containers of white icing from GFS for crafts

DURING VBS week we will need apples, cutie oranges, bananas, carrots
(we will not collect these until the week before VBS)





Please consider a Financial Donation to Help in Craft and Food Costs

As we try to meet the varied costs of this outreach ministry, we gratefully and truly thank you for financially supporting the needs of VBS. If you would like to support VBS financially, please make your check payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church and in the memo section write VBS.

If you can help, or donate any items, it would be so greatly appreciated! This event hosts so many children and is one of Immanuel's ministries to spread God's Word to families. Call today, (989) 893-4088 and sign-on as part of the VBS team that reaches out to children from our entire community!

Thank you for wanting to help out in this summer ministry for children!
Miss Betsy, VBS Superintendent

I would like to extend my personal and most heartfelt thank you to the numerous individuals who, year after year, step forward with food donations, financial support, and time given so freely and willingly to make this children's ministry program a reality at Immanuel Lutheran Church. To each and every one of you THANK YOU, you are a blessing to me and our church family!

After 26 years, this will be my last VBS and I can't wait to once again share the love I have found in my Savior Jesus, the friendship I have in God Almighty, and the joy I experience each day through the power of the Holy Spirit with ALL CHILDREN. I can't wait to take kids diving into God's Undersea World of Love and Friendship!



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.)






Please Join Us

as we celebrate the retirement of
Betsy Bourassa, Parish Assistant
& Director of Christian Education.

We request the pleasure of your company on Sunday,
June 2, 2024 for the retirement celebration for
"Miss Betsy". We have planned a very special worship
service at 10am followed by a pizza party luncheon, ice
cream sundaes and cotton candy for the children in our
Multi Purpose Room.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
300 N. Sheridan Street
Bay City, MI 48708
(989) 893-4088
www.immanuelbaycity.com





IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Lincoln Avenue at Tenth Street Bay City, Michigan 48708

Rev. Chris Garcia
Senior Pastor
PastorG@ImmanuelBayCity.com

Church Office: 989-893-4088
300 N Sheridan Street
ILC@ImmanuelBayCity.com

Mr. Heath Vincent
Principal
heathv@ImmanuelBayCity.com

Immanuel Learning Center
989-893-3457
Kassie Tyvela, Childcare Director
LearningCenter@ImmanuelBayCity.com

Mrs. Betsy Bourassa
Parish Assistant
BetsyB@ImmanuelBayCity.com

School Office 989-893-8521
247 N Lincoln Street
ILS@ImmanuelBayCity.com

Dear Immanuel Families,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. This communication provides updates from the Board of Christian Education regarding Immanuel Lutheran School and staffing for the 2024-2025 school year. The plan will be:

Kindergarten: Ms. Kris Jacobs
First Grade: Ms. Kristin Haynes
Second Grade: Ms. Ellen Pett
Third Grade: Ms. Kari Gakstatter
Fourth Grade: Open
Fifth/Sixth Grade: Ms. Katie Fehn
Seventh/Eighth Grade: Mr. Chris Samsell

With the recent passing of the 2024 budget by the Immanuel Lutheran Church congregation, the Board of Christian Education has begun the search for a 4th grade teacher. If you know of an individual who would like to join our Immanuel school family, please have them contact the school office at (989)893-8521.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me or Mr. Vincent and we would be happy to help.

Sincerely,

Sara Schabel
Board of Christian Education Chair



The Sweetest @ Fundraiser Around!

Order Online May 1-31, 2024
Pick up orders at Michigan Cream & Sugar*

Hello, Immanuel Lutheran Parents!

If you LOVE ice cream, you are sure to love this fundraiser. Michigan Cream & Sugar Ice Cream Company has just launched a new program to help our schools raise money simply by placing online orders of locally sourced ice cream. **The entire program is online**, making it easy for students to share with friends and family in the Saginaw/Bay City area.

How it works:

1. Visit michigancreamsugar.com/store to view flavors and sizes.
2. Place orders using our **school code: ILBCMAY24**
3. **Your family and friends pick up their orders*** at Michigan Cream & Sugar's scoop shop in Uptown Bay City at their convenience. No need to deliver!
4. We get **15% of all purchases** made using our school code.
5. Proceeds to be used to purchase new classroom chairs.

Visit our store!



Thank you for your support and participation!

*Your family and friends can pick up their freshly churned ice cream at their convenience (please allow minimum of 24 hours after ordering). Michigan Cream & Sugar is located at 160 Uptown Drive in Bay City, across from Real Seafood Company.

Made from scratch in small batches

Established in 2019, Michigan Cream & Sugar Ice Cream Company creates freshly churned ice cream and brings families and farms together. We celebrate Michigan's agricultural diversity - and every scoop we sell supports local farm families.

Proud Michigan School Partner_04152024

